Panel discusses ‘Passion of the Christ’

By MATT BRAMANTI

Less than a week after “The Passion of the Christ” was released to his public, Bishop D’Arcy, of South Bend, talked to Notre Dame students and faculty convened for a panel discussion entitled “Why All the Controversy?” In a packed Louis J. St. Martin auditorium, theology professor Rabbi Michael Signer moderated a panel of Catholic and Jewish faculty members, who discussed the controversial Mel Gibson film.

Signer prefaced the discussion by saying the movie should be deeply analyzed. “To have seen the film is far from having come to an understanding of the film,” he said. “We need to come to grips with this powerful cultural force.”

Panelists included Father Jerry Neyrey, a theology professor and Jesuit priest; Peter Holland, chairman of the faculty of theology, television, and theater department; Father John Steele, Morrisey rector and assistant director of campus ministry, Larry Cunningham, acting chair of the theology department; and Frank Santoni, coordinator of ecumenical activities for campus ministry.

Neyrey blasted the film’s gruesome violence as unnecessary and historically inaccurate. “Gibson has sucked all the meaning out of [the Passion],” he said. “This is excess. This is over the top.”

He said the film’s focus on physical torture is misguided, and that the real suffering of Jesus was the shame endured.

Neyrey said that in the original Greek text of the Gospels, Jesus was crowned with thorns. “The Gospel writer does not see ABUSE/page 4

Cloning raises ethics questions

By ANDREW THAGARD

When South Korean scientists announced one early stage human embryo, some hailed the success as the first step toward “the age of human cloning” and subsequent cures to debilitating diseases. But Notre Dame science and humanities professors said the announcement also raises new moral and ethical concerns.

Lead researchers Wook Suk Ihwang and Sin Yong Moon of the Seoul National University made the announcement Feb. 12 at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Their findings were published the following day in the journal “Science.”

News of the cloning brought vocal but mixed reactions from fellow scientists, politicians and religious leaders around the world—some wary of the implications of such a breakthrough, others cautiously optimistic that the technology can be used to treat diseases like Parkinson’s, diabetes and Alzheimer’s.

The scientists produced the clone by first collecting

For break, ‘Survivor Days’ mean safety

By KEVIN ALLEN

In an attempt to prevent health problems that result from stereotypical spring break activities like binge drinking and sleep deprivation, several University departments have collaborated to organize “Spring Break Survivor Days.” The event is sponsored by the Health Center, the University Counseling Center, the Office of Alcohol and Drug Education and RecSports.

Since Monday, the lobby of the Health Center has housed information presented in the theme of the popular “Survivor” television show. Wall displays exhibit vignettes about healthy spring break activities that can help students be spring break “survivors,” as well as stories about unhealthy behavior that will get them “voted off the island.”

As a component of the program, students can enter a raffle for prizes and will receive free gift bags with items, such as sunscreen, that can help them have a safe spring break. Handouts with information about body image, alcohol abuse, sexual assault, sunburn and driving fatigue will also be available. Free food and “mocktails” non-alcoholic fruit drinks—have been available throughout the week and will be served until

see SURVIVE) R/page 4

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s

VOLUME 38 ISSUE 103

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2004

Mooney gears for transition

By ANNELEISE WOOLFORD

While preparing for a smooth transition into office June 1, Saint Mary’s President-elect Carol Ann Mooney continues to remain active both in the campus community and in setting personal goals. She is pleased and excited by what I am learning and look forward to the time when it is possible to spend full time at Saint Mary’s, Mooney said. “Right now, I have ongoing duties at Notre Dame and need to tend to those responsibilities as well.”

Mooney, currently vice president and associate provost at Notre Dame, visits the Saint Mary’s campus two or more times each week. Every visit varies, Mooney said, though each has included private meetings with current President Marilou Eldred, the Administrative Council and other members of the College with whom she expects to work.

Mooney also met with several of Saint Mary’s College committees and has attended various student events since her Notre Dame appointment. One of the most instrumental visits, she said, was spending two full days on campus when the Board of Trustees held its meeting last month.

see MOONEY/page 4

Professor reviews sex abuse

By ANGELA SAOUD

In connection with Friday’s release of two reports pertaining to sexual abuse allegations in the Catholic Church, the Diocesan Review Board recently awarded special commendations to eight of the nearly 200 U.S. Catholic dioceses. The work was done in compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Young People.

The Charter for the Protection of Young People was done in compliance with Vatican directives that South Korean scientists have cloned a human have sparked renewed debate.

News of the cloning also raised new moral and ethical concerns. Lead researchers Wook Suk Ihwang and Sin Yong Moon of the Seoul National University made the announcement Feb. 12 at a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Their findings were published the following day in the journal “Science.”

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The scientists produced the clone by first collecting

see CLONING/page 4
An unlikely superhero

I'm afraid of you. I'm afraid of you, and I don't even know who you are. Worse yet, you don't even know who I am. So why am I afraid? I have a dirty secret. I'm your faithful Tuesday Night Viewpoint. I've never written anything I've ever seen anything I've written. We desperately needed an Inside Column for today, so here I am, an entire paragraph done, and I haven't even said anything. Hey, this is easier than I thought.

With the first paragraph done, I find myself curiously short on column fodder. I can't use an entire column as an introductory paragraph, or the Assistant News Editor will have my head. What, then? Then, the Man, that benevolent entity that watches over struggling copy editors everywhere, strikes me. It hurts. But more to the point, I've got an idea now. What if I write a whole series of columns, none of which has any concrete point? I could call it "Brain Smatterings," or something to that effect, and just write a whole lot of nothing. There wouldn't even be a very obvious "I'm a copy editor - to smarter, come to think of it.

I think this could work. I just write random, disconnected paragraphs and nobody notices it. Everyone is too damn busy creating writing works of genius behind their computer screens to notice that I have yet to say a single thing worth reading. It's like I'm not there. I'm not a Superman. I'm not cool enough to be a super hero, but darned if I can't be that weird cousin that nobody talks about, right?

And hey, now that I've established familial ties with another group of people, I kind of have two identities, just like Clark Kent. The only question I have is: Will FAFSA help me out any more than this one, if given the opportunity? It's only fair, right? I mean, Mom and Pop Kent don't pull Meek exterior of a copy editor — to

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The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Alyssa Brauweller at obrauwel@nd.edu.

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at obrauwel@nd.edu so we can correct our error.

The Observer • PAGE 2

Wednesday, March 3, 2004

IN BRIEF

The film "Dr. Strangelove" will be shown today in the Kroc Institute Auditorium in the Hesburgh Center at 7 p.m. There will be a brief introduction by Professor Dan Lindley, highlighting how the film’s lessons about nuclear proliferation and nuclear accident remain timely. This Stanley Kubrick film is the American Film Institute’s third best U.S. comedy ever and the American Film Institute’s 26th best 50 Film.

Irish Idol 2 auditions will be held tonight from 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. in the Crowly Hall of Music.

Mitchell Scholarship information sessions will be held today at 10 a.m. in DeBartolo 217 and at 11 a.m. in DeBartolo 116. Anyone interested in applying for the Rhodes, Marshall, or Fulbright at some point in the future is encouraged to attend. A representative of the program will be on hand to provide details and answer questions.

Werever Liking and the Ki-Yi Mobb Dance and Song group will perform tonight at 8 p.m. in Washington Hall.

Come hear Fran Day, whose son’s fiancé was killed in the Sept. 11 WTC attacks, relay her story: how her family reached out from their sorrow to work for peace. The event will be held from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Center for Social Concerns.

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

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Senate gun control bill fails

By LAUREN SIEGEL

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans scuttled their election-year gun-control bill Tuesday after Democrats succeeded in winning approval of amendments to extend an assault weapons ban and require background checks on all buyers at private gun shows.

A 90-0 vote against the bill handed Democrats and gun control advocates a significant victory in the GOP-controlled Congress. It all but eliminated any chance of gun legislation this year.

"Twenty-four hours ago, I knew of no one who would have said we would be sitting where we are right now," said Mike Barnes, president of the Brady Campaign gun-control group. "The NRA's highest legislative priority was just defeated."

Beginning in September, the gun industry can resume making, importing and selling military style semiautomatic weapons that were outlawed a decade ago. Nonetheless, Democrats say they now have the votes to press for reporting the assault weapons ban by a 52-47 vote even though other Democratic leaders have vowed they won't allow the bill to consider it this year.

"I am lucky that I can get a break from the South Bend weather and go home through Florida's great weather," said Saint Mary's sophomore Megan Carr. "I just don't have to pay any extra money to stay in a beautiful place because my hometown is considered a vacation spot."

According to Rev. Jim Wallis, "Michael Lerner is one of America's most important spiritual leaders, a contemporary prophet whose insightful and visionary thinking has already had a profound impact on American culture and thought."

Rabbi Michael Lerner to Discuss the 'Politics of Meaning'; the Election and Faith

Rabbi Michael Lerner, founder/editor of Tikkun magazine and leading American intellectual, will speak on "The Politics of Meaning," a concept that he used for the title of his 1995 groundbreaking book.

Rabbi Lerner, one of the most important religious persons of our time, will speak on March 25

Ganey Award and Grants

Ganey Award and Grants D nomes Due March 22.

The Center for Social Concerns is now accepting nominations for the Ganey Award, a monetary award of $5,000. Nominations should be regular faculty who have completed one or more research projects that address a need of a South Bend area community organization. To Learn more, go to the CSC website. Nominations should be submitted by 5 p.m., Monday, March 22, 2004.

Ganey Mini-Grant Applications Due March 22

The Center for Social Concerns is now accepting applications for two mini-grants of $5,000 each. Awarded in two phases, the mini-grants support joint faculty-student-community research partnerships that address a social challenge articulated by a community organization. The purposes of the mini-grants are to foster faculty-student-community partnerships that result in measurable, positive impact in the South Bend area; reflect the investment of faculty expertise in the local community; and offer students community-based learning opportunities that promote civic responsibility. To Learn more, go to the CSC website. The proposal should be submitted by 5 p.m., Monday, March 22, 2004.

Applications for Teamwork for Tomorrow Due March 19

Teamwork for Tomorrow is an after-school mentoring program for South Bend students. The program involves two sites; one site serves a predominantly Hispanic community and the other an African-American community. Both sites run four hours a week. For more information, please visit the Teamwork website at www.nd.edu/ tft or contact Ann Finch, recruitment coordinator, at aftch1@nd.edu.

Applications for fall 2004 are available on the website and due by March 15.
Cloning
continued from page 1

 donated human eggs. Each egg contains a haploid nucleus, composed of half the genetic information, in its somatic or body cell nuclei. During fertilization, this nucleus fuses with that of a sperm cell to regenerate a complete genome.

The Korean team instead removed the haploid nucleus and replaced it with one from a surrounding cumulus cell using somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT) technology.

The cell divided and grew until it became a blastocyst, an early stage of embryonic development, at which point the researchers harvested a pluripotent embryonic stem cell line.

The results are significant because the derived stem cell line can potentially develop into almost any tissue within the body through the use of therapeutic cloning. The same technology, however, could conceivably be used in reproductive cloning to generate a human clone.

"If there going to be some unscrupulous, idiot dictator that will use it to copy a com­　．　．” Bender said.

"It would be exorbitantly expensive to use this willy-nilly for reproduction," he said, adding that the low success rate of the process — about one in 20 in the Korean experiment — presents additional difficulties.

But the issue raises practical moral questions as well. The cloned blastocyst, for example, represents a curve ball to moral ethiticians. Because the cells contain no genetic contribution from either a sperm or an egg, some could question whether it was even an embryo at all according to the traditional definition.

"In the case of human cloning, there is no dad or mom. There is no fertilization in the historical sense," Bender said. "It's a new wrinkle for (moral ethicists) to grapple with.

The news, Bender said, also brings exciting new possibilities. "[The goal is to] develop specific issues to overcome deficien­ces in patients suffering from [diabetes like] diabetes and Alzheimer's disease, because the idea is replacement tissue rather than transplantation," he said. "There are hundreds of patients with hemoglobin problems — to be able to overcome something that is very exciting."

Helen Bowden of the ethical concerns about the human clone. "I think this opens up a new possibility," she said. "But, I also see the moral con­cerns about the kind of research involved in the human clone."

"I believe that Bishop D'Arcy, a biology professor and director of the Human Genetics Program at Notre Dame. "I think it is very unjust to someone to enter into a new community and attempt to make changes before hav­ing the opportunity to get to know the community from the inside out," she said. "If I have the advantages of being an alumna and of having lived and worked in close proximity to the College for a long time, I will begin my presidency with a strong knowledge base."

"But," Mooney added, "I need to be careful not to assume that I know the same as when I was a student or that what I have

Abuse
continued from page 1

part of the solution. I wanted to try to do something about this issue and bring it to the Church to do the right thing," said Incandela, who believes that everyone has the right to be abuse.

Bisho p D'Arcy and the dio­

Mooney
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She also plans to attend two summer seminars designed specifically for new presidents as they transition into office.

Despite means of prepara­tion, Mooney said she is still early to begin thinking about what changes need to be made at Saint Mary's. "I think it is very unwise for someone to enter into a new community and attempt to make changes before hav­ing the opportunity to get to know the community from the inside out," she said. "If I have the advantages of being an alumna and of having lived and worked in close proximity to the College for a long time, I will begin my presidency with a strong knowledge base."

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According to Pat Brubaker, assistant director of Clinical Services, the need for such an informational program has been apparent for years at Health Services and the Counseling Center.

"We found that when spring break was over, there was a huge increase in needs related to "inappropriate behavior," Brubaker said. "We decided to get into prevention medicine."

Brubaker said a census was taken to determine the most common situations that arise as a result of spring break events. The response is those issues currently targeted with the Survivor event.

The Spring Break Healthy event debuted last year, and Helen Bowden of the Ethical Concerns about the Saint Mary's community. She credits her regular visits to cam­

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Rebel leader takes charge in Haiti
PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Rebel leader Guy Philippe declared himself the new chief of Haiti’s military, which was disbanded by a court during the trial of deposed Chamberlain Aristide, and pledged Tuesday that rebel forces will disarm.

Philippe then said he would arrest Prime Minister Yvon Neptune on corruption charges.

He said he was “not interested in politics” and that the new interim President Boniface Alexandre, chief justice of the Supreme Court, who was installed Sunday.

China to legalize property rights

BEIJING — Communist China is changing its constitution to embrace the most basic tenets of private property rights, for the first time since the 1949 revolution.

China’s parliament is meeting in an annual session starting Friday to endorse the change, already approved by Communist Party leaders who want privatization as a way to continue the country’s economic revolution and help tens of millions of poor Chinese.

It will bring China’s legal framework in line with its market-oriented ambitions by providing a constitutional guarantee for entrepreneurs, once considered the enemy of communism but now pivotal in generating jobs and wealth.

NATIONAL NEWS

Mayor charged in gay weddings

NORTH HAVEN, Conn. — The mayor was charged Tuesday with 19 criminal counts for scheduling marriage ceremonies for gay couples.

Jason West was charged with solemnizing marriages without a license, a misdemeanor under the domestic relations law, according to Ulster County District Attorney Donald Williams.

Although West could face a maximum penalty of a year in jail, Williams said a jail term wasn’t being contemplated at this point.

West performed wedding ceremonies for 25 gay couples Sunday, giving them the same blessing he gives to heterosexual couples.

GOP senators drop gun bill

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans scuttled an election-year bill to immunize the gun trade from legal liability after Democrats amended it to extend an assault weapons ban.

More than 30 couples have been married in San Francisco.

The National Rifle Association began pressuring senators to vote against the bill after Democrats won votes on the two key gun control measures. The 90-8 vote against the bill virtually ends any chance for gun legislation to make through Congress this year.

Democrats won close votes on their amendments to change the Republican legislation, a strategy aimed at pressuring the GOP to “accept the restrictions to gain passage of the gunmaker-immunity bill.”

State News

Students begin lunchtime walks

GARY — Children are walking away from the vending machines as part of a new program that began Monday, students are encouraged to walk for 30 minutes during their daily lunch hour.

The program is sponsored by the Salvation Army and the Urban League of Northwest Indiana. About 100 students participate in the program’s first day at Lucke Elementary School. All 20 Gary elementary schools are expected to participate.

Urban League Chairman Oliver Crawford developed the concept about six months ago to help reduce child obesity.

IRAQ

Terrorists kill 143 on holy day

Suicide attacks hit Shiite religious sites; U.S. officials probe al-Qaida connection

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Suicide bombers carried out simultaneous attacks on Shiite Muslim shrines in Iraq on Wednesday.

In one attack, 50 wurden wounded in the holy city of Karbala.

In Karbala, women tripped over their long, black robes as they ran.

Police went at the sight of the mangled and torn bodies of pilgrims, their blood pooling in the streets.

“I was walking away from the tea stand, when I heard someone shouting ‘Allahu Akbar.’ I turned my head, and there was a tall, bearded man,” said Ali Haidar. “A split second later, he exploded, his clothes flying upward. The sound was deafening. Bodies, feet, arms were everywhere. Pieces of flesh flew at me.”

In Baghdad, wooden carts for ferrying elderly pilgrims were used instead of impromptu gurneys, stacked with the wounded and dead.

Tens of thousands of pilgrims from Iraq, Iran and other Shiite communities were massed around the golden-domed Imam Hussein mosque in the holy city of Karbala and the Kazimiyah shrine in Baghdad, where the explosions went off about 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 3, 2004

Several bombs exploded Tuesday in the Shiite Muslim holy city of Karbala, killing scores of pilgrims and wounding hundreds. The suicide attacks coincided with similar blasts in Baghdad and Pakistan.

Associated Press

ATLANTA — John Edwards, whose Southern charm and oratorical flair transformed the Democratic presidential campaign, finally turned in an ultimate victory and was declared the winner of the primary contest on Tuesday, bowing out with the same unbridled optimism that has characterized his candidacy.

“We always knew there would be a little engine that could,” the North Carolina senator told supporters as he signaled he was abandoning his challenge to front-runner John Kerry. He planned to announce his decision by dropping out of the race on Wednesday in Raleigh, N.C.

Edward plans to continue his campaign for president, though he will not participate in next month’s Democratic race with a string of strong second-place finish to be the last major challenger to Kerry.

Associated Press

Kerry, in turn, credited Edwards for bringing “a compelling voice to our party, great eloquence... and great promise for leadership for the years to come.”

Edwards appeared in independents and other potential swing voters who could be instrumental in a close contest in the fall. Although he made millions as a plaintiff’s trial lawyer before running for the Senate for the first time in 1998, Edwards emphasized his humble origins as the son of a textile mill worker who had lost his job when his factory closed.

That, and his ability to clearly lay out issues, enabled Edwards to connect easily with most audiences. His campaign pitch that there are two Americas — one for the rich and powerful and one for everybody else — resonated with audiences.

Several Democrats said Edwards’ campaign skills and performance should earn him consideration as Kerry’s vice presidential running mate.

Edwards did not specifically address his status in his Tuesday night speech to supporters, but left no doubt that he was dropping out.
Court strikes down FCC rules

WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court on Tuesday struck down rules designed to foster competition for local telephone service, handing a major victory to Verizon, SBC, BellSouth and Qwest.

A three-judge panel of the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously overturned the rules adopted last August by the Federal Communications Commission. The judges said the FCC acted improperly by leaving it to state regulators to decide whether to spur competition between the former Bell companies and others wanting to provide local phone service.

It is the third time courts have invalidated FCC attempts to write rules for local telephone service competition. The judges decreed the FCC’s “apparent unwillingness to adhere to prior judicial rulings.” The court put its decision on hold for 60 days to hear motions to reconsider its decision.

Congress mandated in 1996 that the FCC write rules to encourage competition with the former Bell phone companies, which have held a near monopoly in local markets. In a bitter contested 3-2 decision last August, the FCC voted to let state regulators require Verizon, BellSouth, SBC and Qwest to lease parts of their networks to competitors like AT&T and MCI at low prices.

The idea was that competitors couldn’t afford to build their own networks but allowing them to use existing infrastructure would make it attractive to build a local network. The former Bell companies say that left the rules to disadvantage and took away the incentive to build better networks.

The court said the responsibility for encouraging competition rests with the FCC, not the states. “It is clear here that Congress has not delegated to the FCC the authority to pass the responsibility elsewhere,” the court said.

The FCC commissioners who backed the new rules — Republican Kevin Martin and Democrats Michael Copps and Jonathan Adelstein — said they would appeal the Supreme Court.

In the past, the Supreme Court has made clear that the FCC has significant discretion in ensuring that the local telephone markets are open to competition, they said in a joint statement.

FCC Chairman Michael Powell, who was on the losing side of the court’s decision, praised the court’s decision and said he already had ordered the FCC staff to begin working on new rules.

The court said the court “restored the opportunity to bring about the level of competition and true competition that will bring consumers choice and innovation” because new companies would have to offer something different, rather than sell the same local service on the same phone lines as the Bells do.

Powell also welcomed the decision. “Today’s court decision is an important step toward getting the telecommunications industry back on a sound footing,” he said. Mike Glover, the company’s senior vice president and deputy general counsel.

Nuclear weapon talks progressing

WASHINGTON — North Korea agreed in the latest nuclear weapons talks to consider a U.S. demand that it dismantle its programs based both on plutonium and uranium, the chief U.S. negotiator told lawmakers Tuesday.

“The North Koreans came to the table denying a uranium enrichment program,”blescribed the senior U.S. negotiator, told lawmakers Tuesday.

Referring to the U.S. partners in the six-nation talks, Assistant Secretary of State Kelly cited the “impartial and build our confidence, that none of these nations is intent on attacking them or destroying them.”

There was a good deal of progress, the negotiator said. “We have not gotten where we wanted to be,” he said, “but what I am especially pleased about is that we have institutionalized now the process with working groups and mechanisms getting ready for the next working session.”

Only Monday in Seoul, however, South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun spoke of “sweeping the area.” While the Bush administration has started up concessions to North Korea as a payoff to end its nuclear weapons program, Powell said without elaborating, “I want to help the people of North Korea, who are in such difficulty now.”

The Office of Student Affairs is now accepting nominations for the Denny Moore Award for Excellence in Journalism

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

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

For a nomination form, please visit our website at:
http://osa.nd.edu

Nominations are due by March 16, 2004.

Turning 21...
So Hot
Right Now!

 HAPPY BIRTHDAY KATIE! Love, Your Roomie
**CORPORATE SCANDAL**

**Stewart lawyer wraps up case**

**Defense attorney says Martha is innocent; prosecutor blasts ‘phony cover story’**

NEW YORK — The government says she lied to investigators about the sale by concocting a cover story — that they had struck a deal before Dec. 27 to sell Stewart’s shares when ImClone stock dropped below $60.

On Monday, prosecutor Michael Schachter called that story “phony,” “silly” and “simply an after-the-fact cover story.”

“Martha Stewart probably thought she would never get caught,” Schachter said during closing arguments. But she “left behind a trail of evidence.”

Schachter said that trail included contradictory statements, an altered telephone log and the testimony of Stewart’s former assistant, Douglas Faneuil.

Faneuil, the star prosecution witness, testified that at Stewart’s request, he told Stewart that ImClone CEO Sam Waksal and his family were dumping the stock.

But Stewart’s lawyer attacked Faneuil’s credibility for more than two hours Monday, saying his cooperation with the government to avoid prosecution gave him “an incredible advantage to live.”

As he continued closing arguments Tuesday, lawyer Richard Strassberg suggested that Stewart could not have learned about the sale of ImClone shares before Dec. 27 because she had not heard from Faneuil by then.

Strassberg also stressed Baca­novic’s reputation as a trusted­worthy, meticulous broker and said Baca­novic would never have risked his career for the Stewart trade, which earned him just $450 in commissions.

Taking such a risk “makes no sense,” Strassberg said.

He is “here because he’s not a lawyer,” Strassberg said in clos­ing argument. “And so his life is on the line here, ladies and gentlemen, before you.”

Embattled homemaker tycoon Martha Stewart arrives Tuesday at federal court in New York to stand trial on charges of obstruction of justice.

The remaining counts against Stewart carry up to 20 years in prison, although federal sentencing guidelines could mean a sentence of just a year or so if she is convicted on all counts. The charges against Baca­novic carry 25 years, but the guidelines would similarly reduce his sentence.

**APPAREL**

**Blue jean maker slips into the red**

The shoddy accounting isn’t related to allegations of financial chicanery raised in a wrongful termination lawsuit filed last year by two former top managers. The former employees, Richard Schmidt and Thomas Walsh, allege Stewart’s $50 million in legal fees was used to cover up shoplifting.

The accounting blunders drew a rebuke from the company’s independent auditor, KPMG, which cited management for “material weakness in internal controls.”

Levi’s has changed chief financial officers since the accounting problem cropped up, replacing Bill Chisson with Jim Fogarty in December.

Fogarty joined Levi’s as part of a turnaround firm, Alvarez & Marsal, hired to help save the 151-year-old company.
After fantasizing all winter about slender, bikini-clad vixens basking in the scorching Caribbean sun, delicately oiling their gentle skin while slowly applying chapstick to their soft, crimson lips...

Where was I going with this? I don't even remember. The point is, Spring Break 2004 is finally upon us, and in the tradition of classic television masterpieces like "MTV Spring Break 2001," "MTV Spring Break 2002," and "Bosom Buddies," many Notre Dame students will be packing up their green T-shirts and shower sandals and heading for a hedonistic, Flex Point-free world of decadence and debauchery where the only currency in plastic heads and the only source of salubrious nourishment comes in a shot glass.

However, not every Domer shows up at Miami Beach or South Padre Island expecting to be rolled up into a human taco with a half-naked 14-year-old named Stacia. Believe it or not, not every Domer even stamps his passport with cities like Cancun or Mazatlan in the hopes of donning his passport with cities like Cancun or Mazatlan in the hopes of donning.

On the contrary, at least one Notre Dame student, hypothetically using the pseudonym Domer Dave, will certainly attend this spring's festivities with the full intentions of abiding by the divinely-mandated covenant that binds all Domers to the moral standards of the University — du Lac. As they approached the voluptuous mound of vulnerability, one of the young tempresses awoke from her drunken stupor and confronted the horde of pleasure-seekers. Upon seeing the cheap green beads hastily strewn about Domer Dave's neck, she proceeded to unlace her already-unbuttoned blouse, revealing a dripping wet bikini skinny in the front of thousands of horny onlookers. Immediately, with all the candor and slyness of an R.A., he ushered the unwelcoming females out of his hotel room and breathed a hearty sigh of du Lac relief.

As night approached, the thankful parlor of semi-conscious females that clearly appeared to be about as sober as the Bush twins. As they approached the voluptuous mound of vulnerability, one of the young tempresses awoke from her drunken stupor and confronted the horde of pleasure-seekers. Upon seeing the cheap green beads hastily strewn about Domer Dave's neck, she proceeded to unlace her already-unbuttoned blouse, revealing a dripping wet bikini skinny in the front of thousands of horny onlookers. Immediately, with all the candor and slyness of an R.A., he ushered the unwelcoming females out of his hotel room and breathed a hearty sigh of du Lac relief.

How many midterms do you have? Upon stepping onto the blistering, sunburned sand and heading for a hedonistic, Flex Point-free world of decadence and debauchery where the only currency in plastic heads and the only source of salubrious nourishment comes in a shot glass, Domer Dave's mind could not stray from a single phrase that was implanted in his head with the perspicacity of an ace of Base song. "These policies and procedures apply to all students... whether the behavior occurs on or off campus." Yes, he thought to himself, I will remain loyal to du Lac throughout Spring Break.

Moments later, his friends emerged bearing gallons of the sweet ambrosia of the Mexican gods, better known as tequila. However, just as Domer Dave was preparing to quench his longing with a serving of the gold-encrusted tequila, he recalled, "Intoxication by any student, regardless of age, whether in public or private, is prohibited."

"Instantly," he turned his back on this vile temptation and instead extinguished his thirst with a rasperry-iced tea. Later that day, Domer Dave and his posse, came across a rabble of unconscious females that clearly appeared to be about as sober as the Bush twins. As they approached the voluptuous mound of vulnerability, one of the young tempresses awoke from her drunken stupor and confronted the horde of pleasure-seekers. Upon seeing the cheap green beads hastily strewn about Domer Dave's neck, she proceeded to unlace her already-unbuttoned blouse, revealing a dripping wet bikini skinny in the front of thousands of horny onlookers. Immediately, with all the candor and slyness of an R.A., he ushered the unwelcoming females out of his hotel room and breathed a hearty sigh of du Lac relief.

And the moral of this story? Have a fantastic, du Lac-free Spring Break! Just try not to pull a Britney Spears and get hitched in the process.

Joey Falco is a freshman political science and Spanish major. His column appears every other Wednesday. He can be contacted at jfalco@nd.edu.

The Observer is the independent, daily newspaper published in print and online by the students of the University of Notre Dame. It is a student organization, and the views expressed in this column are the opinions of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
It's a Monday morning on the campus of Notre Dame, and I'm walking to class thinking about which classes I don't want to go to and the work that I should have done weeks ago. I'm in no particular hurry, just walking to class, and there are only a few days before Break and the Mexican sunshine. I've got a hot coffee, and suddenly it appears to me that the most interesting things at the moment are the characterless sidewalk and the easiest way to keep from walking in the lakes that have accumulated in Southern Quadrangle. I've got a few more minutes before class, and I tend to walk more slowly to reflect on things happening in life when I have time. But the slower I walk, the more I look around, and see hundreds of people, just like me, hailing toward their next class, oblivious to all the potential friends they are walking by.

Why is it that I never say hello to any of these people? They drop like I do in the same school as I do, party like I do, stumble and fall like I do. But if you are like me, you tend to shy away from any potentially awkward situation because you're scared of the perception of being the random person on the quad who said hello to a complete stranger instead of saying goodbye. Sometimes you go up front that all you want is another friend, it is automatic to assumed that by friend you mean "friend." And when that assumption is made, it's as if you've contracted a serious case of the plague and have been blacklisted from all circles of existence. Of course, though, there is the saving grace of the friendships that you already have. Every once in a while, you see a familiar face, smile and say "Hello," and they say, "Hi!" But then I have to be tough. It should be worth the threat, especially at a time of your life that warrants meeting new and interesting people.

So what's wrong with that? Why can't we just go up to someone without having to overcome the societal stigma of an inferior motive? And on the flip side, if we never had the social pressures of introversion, most of us assume the worst. Why is that?

The reason: fear. We live in a society today that presumes the worst, expects the nightmares we see on the nightly news, and demands a written contract of good intentions before we begin to trust anyone.

And so, some instances promote that kind of behavior because we have been hurt by those we have trusted in the past. We have all the more reason to buckle down and continue to shun people because they are unfamiliar and therefore untrustworthy.

So, how do we cast aside this socially debilitating trend? Listen to the people you see a familiar face, smile and say "Hello," maybe throw in a "You feeling alright?" or "You a new person?" It could change the result of the introduction is; is it why we choose to let our fears of embarrassment and acceptance reign any chance we have of meeting of people who could potentially turn out to be great friends?

What would happen if I just said "Hi" to a stranger today? It could change the future of that relationship.

Adam Cahill is a senior history and American studies major. His column appears every other Wednesday. He can be contacted at cahillf@duke.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Don't pass it off as a 'romantic comedy'

By CHRIS KEPNER
Senior DVD Critic

Lost in Translation documents the experiences of two Americans in Japan, where the culture shock forces them both to look at their lives a little differently. Charlotte (Scarlett Johansson) is a recent Yale graduate and wife of two years who is struggling to find her calling in life and finding that she and her husband (Giovanni Ribisi) might not have been the best match. Bob Harris (Bill Murray) is a moderately successful actor who says he's in Japan for a few reasons: "Taking a break from my wife, forgetting my son's birthday and getting paid two million dollars to endorse a whiskey when I could be doing a play somewhere." Sounds like your typical love story, right? It shouldn't come as much of a surprise that writer and director Sofia Coppola (The Virgin Suicides) won this year's Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay. The dialogue is superb. There isn't a single line in the film that sounds awkward or in any way unnatural. The themes are dealt with tastefully and the points driven home without being overdone. Coppola should be applauded for creating a romance that is surprisingly original among a seemingly endless drone of formulated cheese.

The beautiful imagery will both shock and inspire you. The skyline shots of Tokyo are simply amazing, and Charlotte's curious explorations provide a provocative glimpse of the country and its culture. These days, too many American films that take place in cities outside of the United States either depict the culture in a disgustingly American way or ignore it entirely. It is obvious that Coppola's intention was to go against this trend, and she certainly succeeds at doing so. She must have spent a great deal of time in Japan prior to making this film.

Lost in Translation is neither pro-Japanese nor anti-Japanese, but it strives to portray Japan as a place that, as Bob says, is "very, very different." It is left up to the viewer to judge for himself or herself one way or the other.

Bill Murray puts on a performance that was worthy of an Oscar nomination, and for many he was the pick to win Best Actor. One opinion as to why Sean Penn was picked over him is that Bob Harris' character is too similar to Murray himself. Johansson (The Horse Whisperer, The Man Who Wasn't There) is extremely impressive to watch. She plays Charlotte with such gracious realism that it takes a great deal of effort on the part of the viewer to avoid falling in love with her. Giovanni Ribisi (Boiler Room, Saving Private Ryan) also plays his role wonderfully as Charlotte's husband, John, the photographer who gradually alienates his wife as he becomes more and more full of himself and his work.

The video and audio qualities of the DVD are both fantastic, as can be expected from most DVDs these days. A few deleted scenes are available, but nothing terribly exciting. In the actual film, Bob Harris appears on a Japanese talk show called Matthew's Best Hit TV. On the DVD, one of the bonus materials allows you to watch the talk show as it would have been broadcasted, which is actually really funny. There is also an interesting conversation with Murray and Sophia Coppola that gives their personal insights into the film.

Lost in Translation is highly recommended addition to your DVD collection.

Contact Chris Kepner at ckepner@nd.edu

‘Elephant’: A film you won’t soon forget

By MEGE CONROY
Senior Writer

It's been almost five years since the tragic events in Littleton, Colo. at Columbine High School, but the memory and impact of those events still live on. Through similar events depicted in both books and films, society continues to deal with the issue of school violence. In 2003, director Gus Van Sant released Elephant, a film commenting on high school violence that won the best picture and best director awards at the prestigious 2003 Cannes Film Festival. His film brings the audience back to high school to try to understand how and why these boys kill — and, on a larger scale, why anyone kills. The film does not try to boldly provide a single answer for the problem of school violence but rather deals with the issue through multiple perspectives.

This film helps audiences reevaluate school violence and its ongoing impact on society. Although Columbine may have occurred over 4 years ago, issues of school violence continue to persist across the globe, the country and even in South Bend, raising various questions. And as Van Sant suggests with his film, there may not be a definitive answer. It is usually impossible to allocate just one cause for violent actions. Humanity, as Van Sant shows, is unpredictable.

The only things that can be attributed to all issues of school violence are their destructive psychological and emotional power and the need to prevent them.

Elephant runs 81 minutes and will be shown at 7 p.m. tomorrow evening in Carey Auditorium, located in the Hesburgh Library. This film is part of the ND Cinema series and is sponsored by the Film, Television and Theatre department.

Contact Mee Conroy at mconroy1@nd.edu
**Movie Review**

**Humor takes a vacation from ‘Club Dread’**

By C. SPENCER BEGGS

It seems that the comedic inspiration behind Broken Lizard’s recent hit Super Troopers went on vacation for the production of the comedy troupe’s latest feature, Club Dread. From the anticipation-fueled follow-up, Club Dread.

The plot of Club Dread comes out of a Rumble in the Bronx basement. A group of partiers arrive for a weekend of B&R and T&A — at the never-ending booze fest Pleasure Island run by the Jimmy Buffet-esque Coconut Pete. When employees start turning up dead with cryptic messages etched into their flesh, the staffers realize that they must find the killer before it’s too late. Roscoe, blood and blood follow but not many laughs.

Chandrasekhar, Steve Lemme, Kevin Heffernan, Paul Soter and Erik Stolhanske, the five members of Broken Lizard, met at Colgate University, where they started a comedy sketch troupe called The Broken Lizard. After college, the group made a short film for an NYU film student. In 1996, the group made their first feature-length film, Puddle jumper, which went on to become an industry hit at the 1997 Sundance Film Festival. The group’s second film, 2001’s Shiggo: A Story of Budget and Spoof, was discovered by Fox Searchlight pictures at that year’s Sundance Film Festival and received limited national distribution, inspiring a cult following as well as putting in over $18 million at the box office. Banking on the indie success of Super Troopers, the group got a real budget from Fox and began work on Club Dread. Though much anticipated by fans, Club Dread is an unfortunate overhyped follow-up to the independently produced Super Troopers.

One of the major problems with Club Dread is that moviegoers have seen this movie twice before and have seen it done better. Club Dread doesn’t master either the screwball zaniness of slasher spoofs like the Scary Movie series or the self-reflexive ironic tone of the Screen series.

Club Dread isn’t brimming with the all-too-quaint forms of silliness that made Super Troopers a college-stoner-cinema favorite. In part, this is due to the who-done-it storyline that actually requires a bit of attention from the audience and isn’t partly due to the compelling script. Unlike the Scary Movie series, Club Dread

is partly a horror movie, including a number of jump-out-of-your-seat and graphic images. In one scene, a decapitated head bleeding from the eyes is found revolving on a turntable while creepy, distorted music plays over the speakers. It’s hard to go from that image to laughing at one-liners. The result is a half-cam­py, half-morbid movie that leaves the audience unsure of whether they should be laughing or not — most will choose the latter.

The Broken Lizard boys do, however, manage to demonstrate that they are versatile comic actors. Each member of the group takes a severe turn from the roles played in Super Troopers and turns in a unique performance.

In the end, Club Dread looks like a cookie cutter Hollywood comedy, almost completely lacking the quirky, intensely self-serious sense of humor that rocket­ed Super Troopers to indie success. Hopefully it will be chucked up as a symptom of a burgeoning comedy troupe’s growing pains as they expand into full-bodied Hollywood production and corruption.

Contact C. Spencer Beggs at beggs.3@nd.edu

**DVD Review**

**Beating the conventions of a genre**

By MARK BEMENDERFER

Oh, the irony of movies. Only in the entertainment industry will we ever find loveable criminals. Over the past decade, various criminal roles have been brought to the silver screen. John Cusack was great as a hitman in Grouse Pointe Blind. Steve Martin and Michael Caine were terr­ible con artists who the audience loved in Dirty Rotten Scoundrels.

However, there is a trick that Hollywood uses to make the viewers sympathize with the criminals and that is to make him a love­able one. The latest foray into this niche is Ridley Scott’s Matchstick Men.

Nicolas Cage, a man known for playing reluctant criminals, plays yet another in this con movie. The cons in this movie seem to be recycled from other movies. But while faithful to other conventions, the movie was not one based upon the genre’s standard. A one-star review is not due to the movie’s box office success. The film was discovered by Fox Searchlight pictures at the 1997 Sundance Film Festival and received limited national distribution, inspiring a cult following as well as putting in over $18 million at the box office. Banking on the indie success of Super Troopers, the group got a real budget from Fox and began work on Club Dread. Though much anticipated by fans, Club Dread is an unfortunate overhyped follow-up to the independently produced Super Troopers. One of the major problems with Club Dread is that moviegoers have seen this movie twice before and have seen it done better. Club Dread doesn’t master either the screw­ball zaniness of slasher spoofs like the Scary Movie series or the self-reflexive ironic tone of the Screen series.

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Contact C. Spencer Beggs at beggs.3@nd.edu
NFL

49ers release Garcia, allow Owens to seek trade

Receiver pursues trade after missing contract deadline

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Terrell Owens has been given permission by the San Francisco 49ers to seek a trade after the fourth-quarter Pro Bowl round in exchange for allowing Owens to become a free agent. Owens was given permission by the 49ers, pending a grievance deadline last month to void the final three seasons of his contract. He still has four years left on his contract with the 49ers, pending a grievance filed by his agent, David Joseph. "I think it's very improbable that he would be back," Donahue said Tuesday. "Both parties have agreed to pursue a trade very actively in the next 72 hours."

San Francisco general manager Terry Donahue also will try to trade Owens, who missed training camp last month to void the trade Owens, who missed a Pro Bowl receiver forgot to seek a trade after the four-time Pro Bowl receiver signed with the team. Owens has been given permission to become an unrestricted free agent.

Owens to become an unrestricted free agent

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Quarterback Jeff Garcia was released by the San Francisco 49ers on Tuesday, ending his five-year tenure with the team. The 49ers also released two-time Pro Bowl guard Rim Stone in exchange for a late-game pick. Garcia, a three-time Pro Bowler, was unable to agree on a restructured contract with the 49ers, who wanted to reduce his salary from the $9.9 million he was scheduled to earn in 2004. Instead, San Francisco will save $1.7 million against the salary cap by dropping Garcia. "It's a local product who holds the franchise's single-season record for passing yardage. He has been the 49ers' starter since 1999, but Tim Rattay is expected to take over next season as San Francisco clears room under the salary cap.

The San Francisco 49ers released Pro-Bowler Jeff Garcia on Tuesday, ending his five-year tenure with the team.

General manager Terry Donahue delayed his expected Monday announcement to hold a last-ditch negotiation session with Garcia's agent, Steve Baker. "We made this decision based primarily on cap ramifications," Donahue said. "As we see it, we're going along with a plan we've established. In our view of things, we took the long-term view. This isn't anyone's fault, there are just things we've got to do.

Garcia was about to enter the fourth season of a six-year contract. Instead, he becomes one of the most attractive free agents on the market.

Batty, Garcia's longtime back-up, probably will lead a rebuilt San Francisco squad that will bear little resemblance to the team that won the NFC West and reached the conference semis in 2002.

Rattay, Garcia's longtime back-up, probably will lead a rebuilt San Francisco squad that will bear little resemblance to the team that won the NFC West and reached the conference semis in 2002.

"As we see it, the future looks really bright," Donahue said. "This team now belongs to [Batty], the job is his to keep."

Four-time Pro Bowl receiver Terrell Owens is all but certain to depart, while running back Garrison Hearst and offensive lineman Derrick Brown also have been waived. More veteran starters, including safety Zack Branson, are expected to be released soon — and others will leave as free agents.

Manning agrees to contract with Indianapolis Colts

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts agreed Tuesday to a $98 million, seven-year contract that makes him the highest-paid player in NFL history. Manning was scheduled to earn in 2004.

"There was a lot of pressure because we're getting close to the Super Bowl," Irsay said. "If you don't think Manning is going in a dramatically different direction, and our chances are reduced."

By agreeing to a deal before March 17, the Colts can remove the exclusive franchise tag on Manning's fifth season. If they had to keep the tag, it would have cost the Colts a salary-cap hit of $18.4 million against the cap.

Last week, Polian set a Monday deadline for finishing the team's deal. Tuesday morning, the two sides agreed to the deal. "Now we can look ahead and start talking about the draft, getting a couple guys in here that they're interested in that I'm kind of curious about myself," Manning said.

General manager Bill Polian said last week that if Manning didn't agree to a new deal that there would "major revisions" involving the roster. Indianapolis also was racing against a Wednesday deadline to comply with next year's salary cap of $80.6 million.

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Saint Joe's finishes with flawless record

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Un-de-feat-ed!
Jameer Nelson scored 25 points and Chet Stachits added a career-best 16, leading second-ranked Saint Joseph's to an 82-50 victory over St. Bonaventure in the Hawks' final home game Tuesday night.
"They're far from finished. We got nine games left," Hawks coach Phil Martelli said. Only the Atlantic 10 tournament stands in the way of a perfect season for Saint Joseph's (27-0, 16-0 Atlantic 10). The NCAA considers conference tournaments part of the regular season, though no one associated with the school seemed aware of the fact. The A-10 tourney starts March 10.

No team has entered the NCAA tournament unbeaten since UNLV in 1991. Top-ranked Stanford (25-0) has two games remaining before it starts the Pac-10 tournament.
"It's been a special season, but we have unfinished business here," said Nelson, who learned after the game that his No. 14 will be retired.

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**Men's College Basketball**

**Big East Conference**

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<th>Team</th>
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**West Virginia** 6-9  14-12  
**Boston College** 8-6  19-8  
**Ferris State** 10-15  1  15-16  3  
**Pittsburgh** 12-3  26-3  
**St. John's** 1-13  6-19  
**Connecticut** 12-3  24-5  
**Lake Superior** 6-16  5  8-17  7  
**Western Michigan** 12-12  3  16-15  4  
**Alaska Fairbanks** 14-13  1  16-16  1  
**Miami** 16-7  3  19-11  4  
**Syracuse** 3-13  8-20  
**St. John's** 4-12  18-17  
**Rutgers** 10-6  18-10  
**Providence** 11  4  20-6  
**Seton Hall** 6-10  14-13  
**Miami** 4-11  14*15  
**Northern Michigan** 11-13  2  16-14  4  
**Notre Dame** 13-10  3  17-11  4  
**Ohio State** 16-11  0  20-14*0  

**Women's College Basketball**

**Big East Conference**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Conf.</th>
<th>Overall</th>
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<td>28-4</td>
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<tr>
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<td>12-4</td>
<td>18-9</td>
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<td>Villanova</td>
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**Bear Bonds refuses to speak to the waiting media as he leaves the Giants' training camp on Tuesday. The San Francisco Chronicle reported that Bonds received steroids from a nutritional supplement lab. Bonds implicated in steroid distribution**

**Men's Hockey**

**CHCA Standings**

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<tr>
<th>Team</th>
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<td>Kent State</td>
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**Barry Bonds returns for hearing**

**Eagle, Colo.** — With his accuser's testimony delayed, Kobe Bryant returned for a closed-door hearing Tuesday in which attorneys were expected to argue over whether his statement to police should be barred from his sexual assault trial.

The 19-year-old woman accusing the NBA star of rape has been expected to testify, but she has been suffering from anxiety and stress. 

Citing information it said was given to federal investigators August 1, the San Francisco Chronicle reported that Bonds received steroids from a nutritional supplement lab. 

**Bonds implicated in steroid distribution**

**IN BRIEF**

**Bryant returns for hearing**

EAGLE, Colo. — With his accuser's testimony delayed, Kobe Bryant returned for a closed-door hearing Tuesday in which attorneys were expected to argue over whether his statement to police should be barred from his sexual assault trial.

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**Cincinnati's Schott dies**

CINCINNATI — Marge Schott, the tough-talking, chain-smoking owner of the Cincinnati Reds who won a World Series and was repeatedly suspended for offensive remarks, died Tuesday.

She was 75.

Schott was hospitalized about three weeks ago for breathing difficulties and repeatedly needed treatment for lung problems in recent years. Christ Hospital spokeswoman Dana Buckler did not release a cause of death.

Schott kept a low profile after she sold controlling interest in the club in October 1999. She remained a limited partner in the team's ownership group, but had no say in the team's operations.

She loved to mingle with fans and gave generously to charitable causes, but got in trouble because she couldn't watch her words. She reportedly used racial slurs to describe her players and repeatedly praised Hitler despite admonitions to keep quiet.

"I guess I always thought of her as a tragic figure," former baseball commissioner Fay Vincent said. "I think she tried very hard to do the right things for baseball, but she had some enormous limitations and she had some difficulty overcoming them."

Her outspokenness as the Reds owner became her legacy and her downfall. "I think people are remembered for the good things they do when they're gone," Reds shorthand Barry Larkin said.
Fencing

Continued from page 20

exploits of the Notre Dame fencing team have gone largely unnoticed. The lack of attention gets frustrating for seniors like Danielle Davis.

"I think sometimes people don't understand the sport that well," she said. "They take for granted how much work we put into it and how hard it is to be the national champion in fencing."

Fresman folkie Frankie Bontempo hoped that coming to a school with a track record of success like Notre Dame would provide him with a more knowledgeable fencing environment.

"I figured that most people would make an effort to go out and watch just because it's like a big dynasty that we have," he said. "The fencing team is always really, really good, so I kind of expected that more people would have gone to see it or know a little bit more about it."

Even more knowledgeable fans like senior Sarah Fournier do not have much of a grasp beyond the basics. "I know that there are three kinds: epee, foil and saber," she said. "They're hooked up to these electric wires so that every time they get touched it makes a light go off. I know slightly more than average, just from knowing the manager."

What makes this general lack of awareness even more per­plexing is the popularity of the fencing elective included in the physical education program.

"It was one of those things that I'd never tried and being from that background, it was kinda cool." sophomore Dan Carey said. "It was a new challenge [but] I loved every minute of it."

However, Carey said the appeal soon wore off, saying, "I follow it a little bit, just the articles that I read and just through The Observer basically."

The lack of exposure to fencing appears to be one of the biggest hurdles in overcoming various preconceptions.

Bontempo felt some enthusiasm among his friends who came to watch the Irish fence in their lone home bout of the season on Jan. 31.

"I thought people were really surprised about what they saw," he said. "Once they saw it, they were all pretty excited about what was going on once they started to actually under­stand it a little bit."

But even fencing at home was not enough to stimulate a fenc­ing revival.

Another factor working against the fencers is that their sport does not have a substan­tial following in America com­pared with other sports. Most fencers hone their skills at pri­vate clubs, outside of the public eye. And most of what the pub­lic eye ever sees is dramatized in Hollywood.

"I think it is an interesting sport," Kroup junior Joe Harmon said, "but more in James Bond [Die Another Day] -- it was kinda cool."

Irish fencing, despite all of its success -- the women are ranked No. 1 -- still remains in the shadows. The Irish would have a chance to emerge from that darkness as they host the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships at the Joyce Center on Saturday; however, the hosts will be without a large student contingent to help kick off their postseason bid for a repeat title, as the student body will be gone on spring break.

But for these fencers, going alone is the way it has always been.

contact Matt Money at
mmoney@nd.edu

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For more information go to
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Due date for proposals is April 19, 2004

Direct questions to Mary Beckman at mbeckman@nd.edu

Hollowell continued from page 20

couraged early on and we cap­tains always try to give them encouragement and help them going.

As a high school scholar-ath­lete at Roncalli High in Indianapolis, Hollowell particip­ed in both wrestling and track and field. As co-captain of his school's football team, Hollowell helped lead Roncalli to an undefeated state champi­onship his senior year.

Other honors Hollowell collect­ed during his four years included advancing to the semi-state round in wrestling and being named to the city's pole-vaulting champion in his senior year.

His freshman year, Hollowell advanced all the way to the finals before losing to Josh Coleman. In a previous round, Hollowell had defeated team captain and former champion Matt Fumagalli.

"My loss freshman year was tough," Hollowell said. "But it got me motivated for the next year. If I had won, it would have maybe gotten my head a little big."

"It kept me intense, focused and motivated to get after it the next year."

During his sophomore year, Hollowell again fell short of the championship, losing to eventual champion T.J. O'Agostino in the second round. Again, Hollowell was further motivated by the loss and was determined not to fall short the next year.

All that preparation and hard work finally paid off in Hollowell's junior year, as he was named captain for the first time.

"Being a captain for the first time was great," he said. "There is a level of respect from the guys that can make you pompous if you aren't careful, but it is an awesome honor if you take the job with humility."

In addition to his first time as team captain, Hollowell finally got his championship as well, defeating Bill Wuest in the final round.

"It was a great feeling," Hollowell said. "At the same time, though, it wasn't the most euphoric of experiences. Even though I like my championship jacket, see years from now that won't be what I remember about the Bouts."

"What I'll remember is going down to practice every day, hearing the crack of the punching bag and seeing my friends and cracking a few jokes. That's what I'll remember most."

Although having to live with the fact that he will be unable to defend his title is difficult for Hollowell, he won't complain. He hopes to take his degree in Environmental Science and Technology and eventually become either a high school teacher or coach, or perhaps enter medical school following his years at Notre Dame.

Hollowell said that his time with Bengal Bouts has made a big impact on his overall work ethic and outlook on life, even when he leaves campus.

"There's no doubt that the Bengal spirit character," Hollowell said. "They teach you how to respond to challenges, how to prepare and how to respond to adversity and hardship."

"Plus, there's the camaraderie and friends that you get, you see these guys every day and you really care about them and become close friends. That sort of thing is something you can't learn in a classroom."

Contact Justin Schuver at jshuver@nd.edu
Undergraduate members of the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community are invited to apply for membership on the 
Standing Committee for Gay and Lesbian Student Needs.

APPLICATIONS are now available in the Office of Student Affairs (316 Main Building) or on the 
Standing Committee web site http://www.nd.edu/~scglsn/

Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 
March 5, 2004, and can be submitted at the 
Office of Student Affairs.

Contact Heather Van 
Hoogarden at 
ivanhoog@nd.edu
Gaston honored for stellar weekend debut

By CHRIS FEDERICO Sport Writer

Sean Gaston isn’t off to a bad start with the Irish.

The National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association named the freshman catcher the National Co-Hitter of the Week for his 10-of-12 hitting performance in Boca Raton, Fla., last weekend.

"I never would have thought this would have happened this fast in my career," Gaston said.

Gaston also collected six RBIs, scored seven runs and stole two bases in two games in his first weekend of collegiate baseball action.

"It was a pretty awesome start to a college career," Irish coach Paul Mainieri said. "If he gets 10 hits out of every 12 at bats, I’m going to go out on a limb and say that’s going to be a pretty good career."

Gaston, currently the Irish backup at catcher behind senior tri-captain Javi Sanchez, was 4-for-5 with an RBI and three runs scored Saturday against Florida Memorial in his first game. In Notre Dame’s come-from-behind 19-7 victory over Minnesota Sunday, Gaston led the way for the Irish by hitting 5-for-6 with a pair of doubles, three runs scored and three RBIs.

In that game, Gaston became the first Irish freshman to get five hits in a game since 1994. He also became the second freshman to earn Big East Player of the Week honors.

"I’m not surprised at all that he got off to a good start," Mainieri said. "I’m surprised that anybody would go 10-for-12. That’s ridiculous."

Contact Chris Federico at cfederico@nd.edu

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IRISH TENNIS

Irish dominate Spartans

By KATE GALES Sport Writer

Irish coach Bobby Bayliss described his team’s play with one word — "great."

After a pair of close losses last weekend, the men’s tennis team bounced back to crush rival Michigan State 7-0 in the season’s last home match.

"For several guys, it was the best match of the year," he said.

"I’m pretty ecstatic."

Senior tri-captain Luis Haddock and the freshman doubles tandem of Ryan Keckley and D’Amico had all suffered injuries recently and were questionable for Tuesday’s match.

"[D’Amico] had shin splints, his forearm was sore and during the match, his hip was bothering him," Bayliss said. "But somehow he was able to summon the ability to play his best."

The Irish came out strong in doubles, sweeping all three to clinch the point, and never looked back. At No. 1, the Stephen Bass-Eric Langenkamp duo remained undefeated with four wins. D’Amico and Keckley clinched the point for the Irish at No. 3, and Haddock and fellow senior tri-captain Matthew Scott put up a 9-7 win for the Irish.

"We really set the tone in doubles, and it carried over to singles," Scott said. "It was nice to see us win out and use our momentum."

Keckley was the first off the courts at No. 5, despite his questionable status due to a quadriceps injury, recording a 6-1, 6-3 win.

Senior tri-captain Matthew Scott, who has seen significant playing time at No. 1 this season, was next, with a 6-1, 6-2 win at No. 2. Haddock clinched the match for the Irish at No. 1, winning 7-5, 7-5 after missing the last three matches due to injury.

Bass remained consistent with a 6-4, 6-4 win at No. 4 and Eric Langenkamp won 6-2, 7-6 (7-0) at No. 6. D’Amico was the only three-set match, coming back from losing the first set to win 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 at No. 3.

"I’m glad we’re going to end the season will be rescheduled.

NO. 43 NOTRE DAME 7, NO. 47 MICHIGAN STATE 0 at the ECK PAVILLION

Doubles

No. 1: Luis Haddock (ND) d. Andrew Formanzyk (MSU) 6-4, 6-4
No. 2: Matthew Scott (ND) d. Cameron Marshall (MSU) 6-1, 6-3
No. 3: Brent D’Amico (ND) d. Chris Mitchell (MSU) 6-4, 6-3, 6-4
No. 4: Stephen Bass (ND) d. Eric Simonton (MSU) 6-3, 6-4
No. 5: Ryan Keckley (ND) d. Joseph McWilliams (MSU) 6-0, 6-3
No. 6: Eric Langenkamp (ND) d. Michael Flowers (MSU) 6-0, 7-6 (7-0)

Singles

No. 1: Luis Haddock (ND) d. Andrew Formanzyk (MSU) 7-5, 7-6
No. 2: Matthew Scott (ND) d. Cameron Marshall (MSU) 6-1, 6-2
No. 3: Brent D’Amico (ND) d. Chris Mitchell (MSU) 6-4, 6-3
No. 4: Stephen Bass (ND) d. Eric Simonton (MSU) 6-3, 6-4
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Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu
BENGAL BOUTS

Competition intensifies during semi-final matches

By LUKE BUSAM
Sports Writer

135-pound class
Action began tonight at 6:30 with the first fight of the 135-pound weight class. No. 1-seeded junior Jon Valenzuela will meet junior Matt Schmitt in a challenging contest in senior Pedro Alves. Alves’ experience and 3rd seed Bobby Schmitt takes on senior Pedro Alves. Alves’ dissimilarity in his quarterfinal round opponent, Tim Jaeger, in two rounds.

In the second 135-pound bout, sophomore Bobby Schmitt takes on junior Lawrence Hofman. Both have already beaten ranked opponents in the tournament this year. Schmitt overcame third-seeded Andrew McGill and Hofman beat No. 2 seed Michael Fedunski on Monday. Both wins came in split decisions, and this fight should be a close one.

145-pound class
Two experienced, skilled fighters met in the first bout of the 145-pound division. Luke Dillon, who received the lone bye for the division, beat James Russel on Monday in a unanimous decision. Dillon takes on fellow senior Mark Pfizenmayer, who used his reach advantage to secure a unanimous-decision win over Ed Liva Monday. Neither of the veterans have advanced to the finals.

Todd Strobel has been impressive in his first Bengal Bouts, beating Matt McConnell in the preliminaries and edging out fellow four-quarterfinalist, sophomore Clayton Lougee Monday. He will face his most difficult opponent, Paul Robinson. Robinson has been tough as he moved through the early rounds and stands firmly in the way of Strobel’s finals hopes.

150-pound class
Freshman Jordan Runge has proven to be a contender thus far in the tournament by beating junior Kevin Rycyna and senior David Harmon. He faces one of the best in the battle, senior T.J. D’Agostino, who danced his way past freshman Clayton Lougee Monday.

In the other semi-final, junior captain Galen Loughey established himself in last year’s tournament as a superb defending champion, rarely taking an uncontested shot on his head. He faces Jon Prihaz, an opponent who has shown he can capitalize on an open punch opportunity. Prihaz floored his opponent, Jon Brewis, just 40 seconds into round one on Monday with a left hook that is the strongest punch of the tournament thus far. Loughey has put in extra time working with left-handed fighters to prepare for the fight.

153-pound class
Ryan Duffey is looking for his second career trip to the finals this year, but junior Bobby Gorynski currently stands in his way. Last year, Duffey lost a split decision to law student Paul Harris in the 145-pound finals. On Monday, Duffey defeated sophomore Michael Dolan and Gorynski earned a win by beating Nathan Schomas.

Tim Huml and Corey Harkins received first-round byes and showed spectators why with convincing unanimous decisions victories on Monday night. Huml defeated senior Don Zimmer and Harkins defeated sophomore Joe Belhmann. Both have similar styles and should match up well in tonight’s semifinal.

155-pound class
Junior captain Nathan Lohnemyer was relentless in a unanimous decision victory over sophomore Paul Hagan on Monday night. Lohnemyer is the No. 1 seed in the 155-pound division and that victory was his first fight of the tournament. He faces sophomore Mark Busch, who beat senior Sean Sullivan in the quarterfinals. Both fighters are seeking their first career trips to the finals.

Both junior Mike Panzica and senior Brandon Gasser beat tough opponents in the quarterfinals to advance to the semis — Panzica won against veteran Tim Huml and Gasser beat a stiff competitor in Matt Knust.

160-pound class
Senior captain Jim Christoforetti faces freshman Clayton Lougee Monday. He will have to utilize that appearance in this year’s tournament, one of the toughest in the tournament. Senior Bill Phillip faces his last appearance in the tournament. He faces Doug Pope to start off the heavyweight division.

Contact Luke Busam at busam@nd.edu
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

Guess the word: SPOKE

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THE OBSERVER

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FENCING

Faceless champions

By MATT MOONEY
Sports Writer

Few students acknowledge the accomplishments of Maggie Jordan and her fencing teammates, even though the Irish won a national title a year ago.

For over a year now, the super-sized numeral atop Grace Hall has remained an illuminated fixture in the night sky of Notre Dame. It serves as a beacon of achievement, proclaiming to the Irish faithful that one of their teams is the best in its field.

But despite the notoriety of the Irish lock up at the Joyce Center, Hernandez scored six points.

Irish lock up flawless home season in ugly Senior Night win

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

Poor shooting and a slow tempo can spell doom for a women's basketball team, and Tuesday night's game seemed doomed after 39-plus minutes of dull basketball.

Cue Irish senior Anne Weese. With 3 seconds remaining in the game, Weese laid the ball up and in while falling underneath the basket to send the Irish fans out of their seats for the first time all night.

"I don't really know what happened on that last play, but the ball went in, so that was exciting," Weese, a walk-on, said of her only basket of the game.

In their senior night and final regular season home game, the Irish (17-4 overall, 12-4 in Big East play) prevailed against Syracuse.

Monique Hernandez launches a 3-pointer during Notre Dame's 7-4 win against Syracuse Tuesday. In her final regular season game at the Joyce Center, Hernandez scored six points.

BENGAL BOUTS

Sitting this year out

Injuries keep Hollowell from boxing, but haven't knocked out his spirit

By JUSTIN SCHUYER
Associate Sports Editor

For 140-pound weight division captain Tony Hollowell, this year's Bengal Bouts will be the first time he watches as a spectator. Hollowell, currently a Stanford resident assistant, did not participate in the Bouts this year because of a concussion he suffered a week before the physical.

There has been a different experience for Hollowell to accept the fact that he can't fight this year.

"It was kind of a shock," Hollowell said. "You go out there and watch the competition, and you just kind of get thoughts going through your head to where you wonder if you could win another title now that your competition is a year older and better.

"There's always that nagging feeling that maybe you've left some unfinished business." Despite the fact that he has been unable to fight in the ring, Hollowell has continued with the rest of his normal captaincy duties.

"It's sort of nice to just watch the other guys and hope they do well," Hollowell said. "As a captain, you really want to go out there and get these guys to appreciate the sport.

"A lot of guys get dis...

see HOLLOWELL/page 15

Seniors leave their mark on teammates, not the stat book

There are no All-Americans in Notre Dame's senior class. Just like there are no Big East first- or second-team candidates, and no consistently dominating players.

This group won't be remembered for having the most skill or talent, but rather for proving the leadership — in different ways — that has helped make Notre Dame a serious threat to travel deep into the NCAA Tournament. Each of the four seniors has provided something different that has molded and shaped the Notre Dame football team.

By ANDREW SOUKUP
Senior Staff Writer

Trent Walters, who has coached the Irish secondary since Tyrone Willingham was named head coach, resigned Monday to take an assistant coaching job with the Philadelphia Eagles, the NFL team announced Tuesday.

Neither Walters nor Willingham could be reached for comment, and it's not clear when the Irish plan to name a replacement.

Before coming to Notre Dame, Walters coached for eight years with the Minnesota Vikings and spent a year with the Cincinnati Bengals in 1984. But 27 seasons of Walter's long coaching career have been spent at the college level.

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see HOLLOWELL/page 15

FOOTBALL

Assistant flying to NFL's Eagles

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Contact Andrew Soukup at asoukup@nd.edu

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