Committee selection starts provost search

Jenkins, five faculty members, one student assemble to find Hatch’s successor

By CLAIRE HEININGER
News Editor

Notre Dame took its first official step towards hiring a new provost Tuesday when the University’s Academic Council selected a seven-member committee to direct the search process.

Chairman by University President-elect Father John Jenkins, the committee is now charged with finding the successor to current Provost Nathan Hatch, who will leave Notre Dame July 1 to become the president of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, N.C.

The provost, the second-ranking officer in the Notre Dame administration, oversees the direction, coordination and development of the University’s academic affairs.

Hatch, who took over the post in 1996, is the third person to serve as provost since the office was created in 1976.

After a "cumbersome" process that required each of the 46 voting Academic Council members to nominate three candidates for the search committee, the council chose five faculty members and one student, said Jean Ann Linney, vice president and associate provost.

The committee will immediately open a "full and extensive" search for both internal and external candidates for the post, but must be careful to keep those candidates’ identities confidential, Linney said.

"One of the challenges in a committee like this … is that any candidate we look at already has a pretty big job," she said. "The committee members have to do most of their work out of the public eye."

They will also have to do their work quickly.

The University would like to find a new provost "as soon as possible without sacrificing the depth and quality of the search," she said. "We have to have a staff of six," he said. "The committee has to do most of their work out of the public eye."

The committee has to do most of their work out of the public eye.

Grad prep underway on campus

By JARRETT LANTZ
News Writer

With graduation just three months away, many behind-the-scenes groundwork for commencement are already underway at Saint Mary's and Notre Dame.

Seniors busy with résumés and job searches now have added senior week preparation and graduation anticipation to their schedules.

Members of this year’s graduating class at both schools have numerous requirements to complete in order to make their May commencement ceremonies a success. Each senior, among other tasks, must order and mail invitations, reserve ceremony tickets and have caps and gowns fitted.

Traditionally, students at

SMC grad oversees major trial

By MEGAN O’NEIL
Assistant News Editor

United States District Court Judge and Saint Mary’s alumna Denise Cote will make history once again when she is chosen for a new trial.

Cote, 58, set the tone for the high profile court battle over WorldCom accounting fraud and will make history once again.

"We tend to focus on the mundane, but it’s the major trial cases that make a difference," said Cote, an M.A. in English from Notre Dame.

"It’s a great opportunity to serve our country and make a difference," she said.

Cote is one of the four cases that were selected for a new trial.

"We’re looking forward to the new trial," said Cote, who is one of the four cases that were selected for a new trial.

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"We’re looking forward to the new trial."
Hefty eaters unite

Let's all take a moment, if you will, to recognize those among us who possess the incredible ability to eat-out everyone around us.

I used to be kind of embarrassed about this, but then I realized that it should be a source of pride, because then all of us hefty eaters could band together and eat up brownyes. Last week I was at Borch's, reveling in my spectacular ability to eat an entire bag of breadsticks in one sitting, so I went over to my friends at another table to brag about my astonishing accomplishment. After making my announcement, I discovered that everyone at their table had already done the same thing, even my skinny friend Mary.

People who eat too much aren't always so accepted, though. Maybe you've gone to CJ's and the rest of your friends were talking about how they couldn't finish their giant burgers, just as you were handing your empty plate back to the waitress and asking them if they were going to finish their fries. Also, maybe sometimes other people will want to dance at the Backer, and nobody keeps you company as you slowly edge toward the popcorn machine, just to taste you over until you can convince everyone to go to HUP.

Luckily we live in a society today where girls aren't really expected to survive on salad and carrot sticks, although we still have a long way to go before we achieve eating-expectations equality. Going out to dinner with someone can be an internal struggle, because the truly hefty eaters always have the uncontrollable urge to cash in on free food, but most of us want to win over people with our sparkling personalities and not our horrifying intake of breadstrokes. When an appetizer intended to serve a party of six is mere child's play, sometimes you prefer dining with your closest friends who are required to like you anyway.

With the Lenten season upon us and Spring Break lurking around the corner, sometimes it's easy to revert to feelings of guilt as a hefty eater, when it seems like everyone is swearing off chocolate or trying out Atkins for themselves. "I have yet to read a good math book."

Even with the Lenten season upon us and Spring Break lurking around the corner, sometimes it's easy to revert to feelings of guilt as a hefty eater, when it seems like everyone is swearing off chocolate or trying out Atkins for themselves. "I have yet to read a good math book."

**QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK?**

**Alexandra Pennington**
**Caitlin White**
**Patty Cain**
**Peter Hadley**
**Rosa Jimenez**
**Sheena Bowman**

**Spoiler:**
"I can't think of one because I haven't yet to read a good math book."

**Assistant: Christie Bosen**

**Scenes Editor**

Mrs. White squash had a message. That's what thousands of people have done after seeing his num ber scrawled on a dry-erase board in a Crape & Barrel catalog photo last fall.

Horowitz, a conceptual artist in San Francisco, was working as a photo assistant on a shoot for the catalog when he came up with an idea for an art project that would question social barriers and maybe make the world a little smaller.

The dry-erase board looked blank, so he decided to write his cell phone number on it — and, if anyone called, maybe take a break to look at it. He put it on a wall to the left of a clothesline at the Great Hall of O'Shaughnessy Hall.

"It's about illuminating the importance of communication between strangers," Horowitz said. "We just plug into our computers and think that's the way to live, but old-fashioned face to face is what it's all about."
Food services director wins culinary award

Prenkowski honored at international level

Special to the Observer

David R. Prenkowski, director of food services at Notre Dame, has been awarded the prestigious International Foodservice Manufacturers Association’s (IFMA) Silver Plate Award in the college and university division. He will be honored at the IFMA’s 21st annual Gold and Silver Plate Celebration on May 23rd (Monday) at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers in Chicago.

The Silver and Gold Plate Awards are considered the highest honors in the food service industry. An independent jury selects Silver Plate winners who are outstanding operators in nine categories based upon nominations from colleagues, suppliers, partners, and employees. The jury will announce one Silver Plate honoree as the Gold Plate winner at the award celebration.

The criteria for the awards are: strong leadership in food quality and menu creation, successful employee training programs and providing superior career development opportunities, utilization of strong financial and operational management techniques, promotion of the food service industry, and community service.

"People in the industry often say that Dave is a progressive thinker who has created numerous benchmarks for excellence," said one nominator about Prenkowski. A native of South Bend, Prenkowski was appointed Notre Dame’s director of food services in 1990 after previously directing food service operations for the University of Utah and the University of Michigan’s housing division. He holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in restaurant, hotel, and institutional management from Purdue University.

North Korea

Leader celebrates 63rd birthday despite nuclear tensions

Associated Press

SEOUL — North Korea marked the 63rd birthday of its “dear leader” Kim Jong Il on Wednesday with feasts of pheasant and venison for the capital’s chosen elite amid heightened tension on the Korean peninsula after the North flaunted the will and capability to push the confrontation with the U.S. to a new level.

North Korean nuclear issue is in the pilot stage.

The Clinton administration signed the protocol in 1997, but the U.S. Senate refused to ratify it, citing potential damage to the U.S. economy and insisting that it also cover countries with fast-growing economies such as China and India.

"We have been calling on the United States to join. But the country that is the world’s biggest emitter has not joined yet, and that is regrettable," Kim Jong Il’s South Korean foreign minister, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hwang Jang-Yop, told reporters.

In Japan, the host of the 1997 conference and a tireless supporter of the pact, the enactment was being met with a mixture of pride and mounting worry that the world’s second-largest economy is unprepared to meet its emission reduction targets.

Under Kyoto, the targets vary by region: The European Union is committed to cutting emissions to 8 percent below 1990 levels by 2012, the United States agreed to a 7 percent reduction before President Bush denounced the pact in 2001.

North Korea flaunted the will of the international community and defied the U.S. by unveiling its nuclear weapons program.

If the U.S. recklessly opts for a war of aggression despite the repeated warnings of the nations with the greatest stake in this region, he said, "I am not limiting my consideration to the North Korean nation, my country, and the United States. I think the entire world will lose its safety guarantee."

The group will establish a school in Romania teaching local entrepreneurs essential business skills necessary to bring their products to market.

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Cote
continued from page 1

The case, which includes prominent defendants such as auditor Arthur Anderson and investment banks J.P. Morgan Chase and Deutsche Bank, originally brought against WorldCom. The action is popular with judges around the country because it involves accounting practices, and many feel that the legal defense before Clinton was quite forceful. 

"I always had great confidence in her abilities," Obermaier told The New York Times. "She didn't bring every detail to me. I felt comfortable in delegating to her enormous amount of responsibility."

Legal struggles surrounding WorldCom were set into motion in 2002 when the company filed for bankruptcy, making WorldCom the largest company ever to do so in the United States. The estimated $11 billion in accounting fraud at WorldCom cost thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars lost in investment money. The criminal trial for WorldCom chief executive Bernard Ebbers has already begun in another New York courthouse.

"Some people said it's popular with the students and faculty here," Leaha said. "Some others didn't wait until today to find out. Thanks to her, she's got a lot of respect from us and for the university."

Webber is the Assistant Director for Operations for the International Studies Program. Unlike Kane and Wilson, she was confident throughout her application process. "I think my chances are all right. I've got to get the opportunity to fill in."

"If there are programs that fit certain majors better, but most of our programs accommodate," he said, "it becomes more difficult to work abroad."

Contact Peter Leaha at pleaha@nd.edu

Contact Jarrett Lante at jlante2@nd.edu
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Chinese miners killed in explosion

FUXIN, China — Three years after a promised overhaul of China’s workplace safety system to prevent explosions deep in a coal shaft killed 203 miners and left 12 more missing, the government said Tuesday it had finally reported mining disaster since communist rule began in 1949.

Rescuers worked through the night in freezing temperatures to try to reach the miners who may have been trapped by Monday’s blast in the Sunjiguan coal mine in northeastern Liaoning province.

The blast, which went off about 794 feet below the surface, was under investigation, state media said.

A thick cloud of men in matching dark coats and helmets stood side by side blocking the road as cars full of paramilitary police patrolled the site.

A line of cars was sent to transport any wounded to hospitals in Fuxin, a gritty, sun-covered city where mining is the main industry.

Venezuela and Colombia end fight

CARACAS, Venezuela — The presidents of Venezuela and Colombia said Tuesday they had reached a diplomatic agreement that ended a dispute that erupted when a Colombian rebel was seized on the streets of Caracas, agreeing to resume trade agreements and improve security along their common border.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said after a four-hour meeting with President Alvaro Uribe that the two “decided to turn the page on a crisis.”

Uribe said the two countries were committed to bolstering border security. “This implies cooperating so sovereignty is not affected.”

NATIONAL NEWS

Supremacists arrested by feds

WASHINGTON — Federal agents arrested three men on gun and explosives charges Tuesday, including a white supremacist who once served time for plotting to kill Martin Luther King Jr.

Keith Gilbert, 65, a former associate of late Aryan Nations founder Richard Butler, was arrested at his Seattle home, FBI spokesman R. Tony Montana said.

William D. Heinrich, 50, a former aide to Butler and John P. Heba, 44, were also arrested.

Heroin ring runs out of power

WASHINGTON — Federal authorities said Tuesday they had broken up a drugs-trafficking ring that shipped heroin from Guatemala to the United States hidden in car batteries.

Operation Jump Start has resulted in 100 arrests since October 2003, including those of the drug ring’s leaders on Tuesday, Drug Enforcement Administration Karen Tandy said.

Authorities arrested 19 people in Colombia, Guatemala and New York.

The heroin was produced in Colombia, then placed in car batteries in Guatemala, Tandy said. From there, the cars were driven through Mexico and across the U.S. border.

“We brought an entire operation that was using this route to move Colombia heroin to a dead end,” Tandy said. Colombia is a major supplier of heroin to the United States.

LOCAL NEWS

Women arrested after caning cops

ANAPU, Brazil — Thousands of people, from peasants to politicians, converged in this remote Amazon town Tuesday to bury the bullet-ridden body of 68-year-old Catholic nun killed in the struggle to protect the Amazon rain forest and its poor residents from illegal loggers and ranchers.

Over an all-night vigil, mourners filed slowly past the simple, flag-draped coffin holding the remains of Dorothy Stang in the small shingle-roofed church of Anapua, the jungle town of 7,000 residents that Stang adopted as her own.

“I feel like a river without water, a forest without trees. It’s like losing a mother,” said Fernando Anjos da Silva, who said Stang helped him get medical care after a logging accident that left him in a wheelchair.

Nearly 1,000 miles to the south, in the capital of Brasilia, Cabinet ministers compared Stang’s death to the heroes of Brazil’s independence fighters.

“Chico died for the same reason, killed by people with no respect for life or the law,” said Environment Minister Marina Silva.

Brazilians have tried for centuries to conquer the Amazon, which covers more than half the country. But the jungle frustrated ventures even by Henry Ford and German billionaire Daniel Ludwig, and some Brazilians call it “the green hell.”

Brazil’s 1964-85 military government built the Trans-Amazon Highway and gave people free land in an attempt to populate the region. The plan drew settlers from the arid northeast as well as land speculators who took control of much of the rich stands of timber — mahogany, massaranduba and ipe.

Loggers and ranchers grew strong by backing local politicians, and by hiring gunmen to eliminate opponents.

Thousands attend U.S. nun’s funeral

Associated Press

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Israel ready to begin peace talks

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon declared a truce to end bloodshed and said the Israeli military was prepared for a wider peace settlement with Palestinians.

“I don’t see any security advantage for Israel in continuing these operations,” Sharon said Tuesday. “I believe that it is better to use the army's strength in a more productive fashion.”

He said he hoped that after the Israeli pullout, Gaza would be under the control of the Palestinian Authority and not Hamas or Islamic Jihad.

Sharon said Gaza would be coordinated by the Palestinians, with Israel providing security.

“Disengagement from Gaza will be coordinated with the Palestinians,” Sharon said, in his clearest statement yet on the subject.

Sharon said his plan would solidify Israel’s grip on main settlement blocs in the West Bank, which “will be part of the Jewish state in the future.”

Sharon also said Russia informed him that it would sell advanced missiles to Syria, despite Israeli objections.

“Understand that they are going to sell this kind of weapon to the Syrians,” Sharon said.

“No one can tell me that, and I don’t think that should have happened,” Sharon said. “I warned that such weapons could ‘fall into the hands of the terrorist organizations,’ despite Russian President Vladimir Putin’s assurance.”

In spite of Sharon’s positive assessment of the peace process, Israeli and Palestinian negotiators were locked in a dispute Tuesday over a withdrawal from the West Bank town of Jericho.
Hackers breach computer files
California-based company warn potentially affected consumers

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A company that collects consumer data warned thousands of California residents that hackers penetrated the company’s computer network and may have stolen credit reports, Social Security numbers and other sensitive information.

"California is the focus of the investigation," said Nick Akerman, partner and co-chair of the computer fraud division of law firm Dorsey & Whitney, "I’d be like robbing a bank that wasn’t FDIC insured so the robber wouldn’t have to worry about prosecution by the FBI." When ChoicePoint discovered the crime in October, it closed the suspect accounts, restricted access, strengthened site verification, informed law enforcement agencies and cooperated in their investigation.

Since the law went into effect in July 2003, organizations have alerted customers whenever "unencrypted personal information was, or is reasonably believed to have been, acquired by an unauthorized person." Identity theft is the country’s fastest-growing crime, and more than 9.9 million Americans were victims last year. The crimes cost a total of $5 billion, not including lost productivity, according to the U.S. Postal Inspection Service.

I’ve never heard of a hacker doing something just to make a company comply with a state statute — that’s ridiculous," said Nick Akerman, partner and co-chair of the computer fraud division of law firm Dorsey & Whitney. "I’d be like robbing a bank that wasn’t FDIC insured so the robber wouldn’t have to worry about prosecution by the FBI." When ChoicePoint discovered the crime in October, it closed the suspect accounts, restricted access, strengthened site verification, informed law enforcement agencies and cooperated in their investigation.

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Office of the Governor of California

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Prof. Kathleen Cummings
Department of History

Campus Ministry for American Catholicism

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DIRECTOR at writing@ud.edu

Please recycle the Observer.
Marketers targeting older women

Associated Press

Sue Ellen Cooper thought she would enter her golden years quietly, working on her garden and cooking. Instead, the former graphic designer accidently launched a dynamic social network for older women which has caught the eye of businesses eager to tap the buying power of a huge demographic group long neglected by marketers and advertisers.

The Red Hat Society traces its roots to 1998, when Cooper gave a friend a red hat along with a copy of a poem called "Warning," which begins: "When I am an old woman, I shall wear purple / With a red hat which doesn't go, and doesn't suit me. / And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves."

Cooper found that other friends wanted red hats too, and soon they were going out, having a ball and attracting attention from others who wanted to join.

The groups started to proliferate, and today the Fullerton, Calif.-based Red Hat Society counts more than 800,000 members and 36,000 chapters in the United States. The women, who are mainly over 50, go to the theater, have tea, play cards and generally have a good time.

The 60-year-old Cooper, who has dubbed herself the Exalted Queen Mother of the Red Hat Society, said she still thinks of her flock as a play group for adults. "I have worked for my kids' school, my church, raised money for the local children's center, and of course we love to do those things. But someone has got to give these women permission to take a whole day or a weekend and just go off," she said.

The business ventures started small, as the group found that new members wanted to buy official Red Hat regalia, including pins, boas, and, of course, hats, to mark their membership. Rut soon the Red Hatiers found themselves entertaining offers from companies eager to reach older women through the powerful means of a word-of-mouth social network, which happens to be a hot topic among marketers these days. 
Meeting results in drug monitoring board

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government is setting up a special monitoring board to keep an eye on medicines once they're on the market, responding to complaints that officials reacted too slowly to reports linking prescription painkillers to heart attack and stroke.

Plans for the board were announced Tuesday on the eve of a three-day scientific meeting on the safety of painkillers such as Vioxx and Celebrex, drugs that blossomed into a $5 billion-a-year business before risks from potential side effects came to light.

Meanwhile, a medical journal questioned whether continued use of such products was justified.

Vioxx was pulled from the market in September after a study showed an increase in heart attacks and strokes among people using it. Other studies have also raised questions of heart problems with the similar drugs Celebrex and Bextra.

"Because there are well-established options for treatment of all the approved indications for these drugs, it is reasonable to ask whether the use of the drugs can now be justified," Dr. Jeffrey M. Drazen, editor of the New England Journal of Medicine, wrote in an editorial published online. "That is the question facing the Food and Drug Administration's arthritis and drug safety and risk management advisory committees at their meeting beginning Wednesday.

The new drug safety board was announced by Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt, who said it has become clear that people want more oversight and openness from the FDA.

"They want to know what we know, what we do with information and why we do it," Leavitt said, promising to create "a new culture of openness and enhanced independence."

The board will recommend what information and updates to put on the government's Drug Watch, resolve disputes over drug safety issues, and oversees the development of a drug safety policy. It will include FDA employees and medical experts from other government agencies and will consult with outside medical experts as well as consumer and patient groups.

WASHINGTON — The United States pulled its ambassador from Syria on Tuesday, expressing "profound outrage" over the assassination of a Lebanese leader who had protested Syrian influence in his country.

In Lebanon, noisy street processions mourned former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri a day before the funeral that will bring international leaders to Beirut. Angry Lebanese attacked Syrian workers in his hometown of Sidon, injuring several and shattering the windows of a Syrian-owned bakery.

Many Lebanese are pressing Syria to withdraw its 15,000 soldiers — in the country for more than a decade.

"We believe the Lebanese people must be free to express their political preferences and choose their own representatives without intimidation or the threat of violence," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said in announcing the imminent return of U.S. Ambassador Margaret Scobey.

Administration officials stopped short of directly accusing Syria of carrying out the murder. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said the assassination was the "proximate cause" of the ambassador's recall.

Asked if the United States would punish Syria with new economic sanctions, Rice said, "We will continue to consider other options."

"The Syrian problem is a serious problem," Rice said. "Our problems with the Syrian government are not new."

Among the problems, Rice said, were support for terrorism and for insurgents in Iraq. "The Syrian government is, unfortunately, on a path right now where relations are not improving but are worsening," she said.

Scobey's return does not break diplomatic relations with Syria, a country the United States has accused of exporting terrorism. Syria took no immediate reciprocal action, such as recalling its own ambassador from Washington.

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LEBANON

Officials suspect suicide bomber as assassin

Lebanese mourn in streets after death of ex-premier, many blame attack on Syrians

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Lebanese mourned their slain ex-premier Tuesday with noisy street processions, while the country's interior minister suggested a suicide bomber aided by "international parties" may have been behind the assassination of Rafik Hariri. Lebanon's government, still in shock from the bombing that left Hariri and 16 others dead, came under mounting pressure to bring the assassins to justice.

Many in Lebanon blamed the attack on Syria.

International leaders are expected to join tens of thousands at Hariri's funeral on Wednesday as the outpouring of grief and anger following the billionaire tycoon's death continued.

Dozens of angry Hariri supporters attacked Syrian workers in the former leader's hometown of Sidon, in southern Lebanon, lightly injuring five and shattering the windows of a Syrian-owned bakery. Syria has denied involvement and condemned the attack, but many Lebanese have increased demands on Damascus to withdraw its 15,000 soldiers from the country.

Syria deployed its forces to Lebanon during the 1975-90 civil war to stop the country from falling apart and remained after the conflict ended. Its continued presence is a source of frustration for many Lebanese and for the international community, particularly in the eastern Bekaa Valley.

Interior Minister Suleiman Franjieh suggested a suicide bomber may have targeted Hariri's heavily protected motorcade as its cruised through Beirut's Ein- Meslekh neighborhood. He said the location of the crater in the middle of the road indicated the bomb-laden car was approaching the motorcade, attempting to ram it or to bypass it.

"For sure, someone was driving the car. He could be a suicide bomber who blew himself up," the minister said, hinting of a network behind the assassination.

Franjieh, however, said he could not confirm the suicide attack theory and was awaiting DNA results from those killed.

While most suspicion has fallen on Syria or its supporters here, possibilities include rogue Syrian intelligence operatives, or even factions among Lebanon's myriad religious groups. Responsibility claims by previously unknown Islamic militants were not considered credible, with Justice Minister Adnan Addoum warning they could be an attempt "to mislead the investigation."

At the bomb scene, explosives experts combed rooftops and the street, searching for evidence as residents cleared debris from their balconies.

Thousands of mourners marched through Beirut's streets in separate processions to pay tribute to Hariri and his killers. "Syrians Out!" chanted several hundred protesters wearing business suits, while motorcades of supporters elsewhere honked car horns while driving through the capitol in cars pasted with Hariri's pictures.

Influenza puts trial on hold

Jackson's visit to ER delays jury selection

Associated Press

SANTA MARIA, Calif. —

Michael Jackson was taken to an emergency room with flu-like symptoms Tuesday, delaying jury selection in the pop star's child-molestation case for a week.

The entertainer was being treated for a "flu-like illness with some vomiting," Dr. Chuck Merrell said during a brief news conference at Marian Medical Center about five hours after Jackson's lawyer, Mesereau Jr. announced his client would not answer questions.

Jackson's brother Randy told reporters the entertainer would spend the night in the hospital.

Earlier, as potential jurors filled into the courtroom — including a few who were scolded by bailiffs for being late — Jackson's seat remained empty. Nearly 20 minutes after the singer was scheduled to arrive, Judge Rodney S. Melville announced that Jackson had been taken to a hospital.

He said the 46-year-old singer would need three or four days to recover and noted that several members of the jury pool were out with the flu and that it appeared to be going around.

The judge said Jackson had been on his way to court but was taken to a hospital emergency room instead.

Outside the hospital, about two miles from the courthouse, a growing crowd of about 50 fans and reporters gathered. Police officers guarded all entrances, stopping anyone who appeared to be with the news media, while hospital officials put up white fabric to hide what was going on in the emergency room.

Jury selection had already been delayed for a week because of the death of a defense attorney's wife.

The two sides are selecting 12 jurors and two alternates, who will decide whether Jackson molested a teenage cancer patient at his Neverland Ranch and plied the youngster with alcohol. The trial could last about six months.

Jackson carried tissues and was wiping his nose when he arrived at court Monday — the first day of questioning of prospective jurors. Jackson's lawyers also announced they may try to call such stars as Elizabeth Taylor, Jay Leno, Quincy Jones and Kobe Bryant to the stand.

Defense attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. told the judge that Jackson was feeling ill Monday and that the symptoms continued Tuesday, delaying jury selection to the courthouse. Leaving court, another Jackson attorney, Brian Duman, said: "He's doing OK. He's been admitted to the hospital."

Before the court session ended Tuesday, the judge rejected a request from Mesereau to question jurors for more than 10 minutes, saying that was plenty of time.
EDITORIAL CARTOON

**How do the Vagina Monologues address sexual assault and violence against women?**

**Kamariya Porter**

Lose in the Rains

**Can you say it? Vagina.**

Every year, around this time, V-Day participants speak about the experiences of sexual assault and rape.

**Kaitlyn Redfield** comments, "After three years of being involved, I've come to understand that being silent on this issue is perpetuating the problem." By denouncing the pervasiveness of sexual assault, we isolate the victims and fail to tackle the problem.

At Notre Dame, our illusions of being a 'family,' parietals and rules against pre-marital intercourse seem to erase from our consciousness issues of sexuality in general and sexual assault specifically. Junior Kaitlyn Redfield sees the Vagina Monologues as a forum for victims, friends and all people concerned with violence against women to find healing and seek answers.

**Emily Livingstone**

Do the Vagina Monologues belong at Notre Dame?

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

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"We cannot change anything until we accept it. Condensation does not liberate, it oppresses."

**Carl Gustav Jung**

psychologist
What it means to be Conservative Catholic

In recent days, Conservative Catholics have been blasted because of their stance on the Queer Film Festival and the Vagina Monologues. I would like to clarify a few things so that people do not solidify in their minds wrongful stereotypes of what it means to be a Conservative Catholic.

First off, it should be clarified that "conservative" means the word is used so much that the meaning of it tends to be lost. In the context of Catholicism, being "conservative" is generally considered as believing in the traditional teachings of the Catholic Church. Since Vatican II, there have been many theologians who have dissociated from Church teachings, especially in matters of sexual morality, and Conservative Catholics seek to defend the Church in the face of these opposing theologies.

Secondly, I think many people need to realize that Catholic teaching is not a composition of arbitrary decisions, opinions or regulations picked randomly out of a hat and subsequently passed down through the ages. The Church is not asking us to accept marriage, contraception, pornography or anything else simply because it has a tradition of doing so. There is a beautiful logic to it all that many tend not to understand or appreciate, and it is a truth that does not become obsolete over time. I would truly be interested to know how many people who disagree with the Church really understand its teachings on human sexuality. Surely, you know that the Church thinks homosexuality is "disordered," but do you understand this teaching in the full context of the Christian meaning of sex? If you don't understand what the Church says, then how can you disagree with it?

Thirdly, Conservative Catholics are of the mindset that the "love" commonplace in our American society is a false love and an incomplete love. If Conservative Catholics are criticized for being close-minded or intolerant, it is because we do not accept the misguided ideal of love posited by our society. The message "you do want you want to do and I won't criticize you for it" is not the message that Jesus communicated to us in the Gospels. To settle for being nice and tolerant of everyone falls grossly short of the love Jesus has called us to.

Finally, I hope that people get out of their heads that if you defend Church teaching that you will necessarily hate those who disagree with it or do not live up to it. We are all sinners; to hate others for sinning would be completely hypocritical. And if you meet someone like that, then you are not talking to a Catholic.

In the spirit of love and understanding, I hope that you do not dismiss all the Conservative Catholics so quickly with the perception that we are prudish or closed-minded.

David Cook
vice President, Notre Dame Queer Film Festival
Feb. 14

Revealing inaccuracies

This letter is in response to Bishop John D'Arcy's Feb. 10 piece regarding the second annual Queer Film Festival. While we have tremendous respect for the bishop, his office and his opinion, we believe that there are a few inaccuracies in his statement that need to be addressed.

D'Arcy claims that "no place has been made at this seminar for the Catholic viewpoint in our "future of gay marriage" panel. The Notre Dame Queer Film Festival welcomes people from all viewpoints to come together and engage in an academic discussion. Next year, the bishop is certainly invited to present the Church teachings in our panels, or he can appoint someone to do so for him.

Ultimately, we did find a hyperson that agreed to present the Catholic viewpoint in our "future of gay marriage" panel. The Notre Dame Queer Film Festival welcomes people from all viewpoints to come together and engage in an academic discussion. Next year, the bishop is certainly invited to present the Church teachings in our panels, or he can appoint someone to do so for him.

Secondly, the four-time Tony award winning playwright that the bishop refers to, Terrence McNally, screened a film adaptation of his play, "LOVE! VALOUR! COMPASSION!" The piece is about a group of friends who give each other love and support in the face of many of life's challenges — including AIDS.

The compassion the men show each other is consistent with the catechism of the Catholic Church community to be treated with respect, compassion and sensitivity.

The theme of the festival was one of tolerance and education, not promotion of any sort of gay agenda. Our films were carefully selected to incorporate historical elements, award-winning film-making and religious issues. The purpose of a university education is to be presented with various viewpoints and to be able to have an honest open discussion about difficult issues.

For the bishop to claim otherwise or to state that something of this sort should not happen at the University of Notre Dame because the students need to in some way be shielded from such things subverts the true meaning of education.

This year we enjoyed a tremendous amount of success and it could not have been possible without the support of the entire South Bend community and the University. We especially commend the hard work of the Department of Films, Television and Theater for their tireless energy. Thanks to everyone who came out to see the films and we look forward to seeing you all next year!

Liam Darcy
Director of Operations
Notre Dame Queer Film Festival
Feb. 14

Federal cuts hurt students

Whether you love or hate the Bush administration, most students should be able to agree on one thing: They should stop cutting educational grants.

The latest assault on federal financial aid comes in the form of Perkins Loans and requiring stricter eligibility. Students who receive Pell Grants. The administration has championed the cuts as student-friendly because the maximum Pell award increased by about $100 in recent years. But this one positive aspect does not counteract all the downsides.

It will be significantly harder to qualify for a Pell Grant, so while the students who do receive them will get slightly more money — although $100 won't even cover textbooks for the semester — many other needy students will be left with nothing.

Several thousand NYU students and millions of youths across the country depend on Pell Grants to help finance their educations. Now, they will be forced to seek monetary assistance elsewhere, and NYU's financial aid program simply doesn't have deep enough pockets.
Chicago Auto Show gets 97th exhibit puts impressive cars on display at McCormick Place in Chicago this year's 97th Chicago Auto Show held at McCormick Place in downtown Chicago became the largest in North America.

After entering McCormick Place and the main Auto Show level, one was immediately struck by the dazzle and shine of all the cars parked in seemingly haphazard arrangements, the strong flashes and streaks of color from the walls and the huge projection screen that all make up the various surrounding exhibits. Upon entering the show, it seemed as if the Ford Motor Company had received the luckiest location. With its placement right at the entry of the main Auto Show level, one was immediately struck by the dazzle and shine of all the cars parked in seemingly haphazard arrangements, the strong flashes and streaks of color from the walls and the huge projection screen that all make up the various surrounding exhibits.

Next came one of the best exhibits at the show — provided by Buick. While it's true Buick is not exactly the most interesting of cars, the exhibit was one of the classiest with a fountain of dancing water, free coffee and hot chocolate, and some very well displayed Lucerne CXS models. These sporty family cars are making their world debut in Chicago, and the setup certainly seems to befit such an honor. Unless a person is interested in everyday cars, it is easy to go quickly through the majority of the exhibits set up by Chevy, Pontiac, GMC and Dodge, stopping only to look at some of their sportier models such as the Corvette and Viper. The Vipers are displayed on the regular show floor so it is possible to get in and see what it feels like to sit in a nearly $90,000 car. Seeing the most powerful Corvette engine ever ($100,000 pickup truck capable of towing 14,000 pounds, the 5axis Scion tC, which was a basic Scion tC model that had been upgraded by 5axis.com to include six TV monitors, a 48-inch flat screen TV in the rear and a huge, powerful stereo system by Pioneer, a screen that all make up the various surrounding exhibits.

The Chryslers, Jeeps, Mitsubishis, Nissans, Hondas and Toyotas also provide little in the way of entertainment. With the exception of a few new models like the Nissan Z Roadster that caught my eye. One exciting thing Jeep and Chrysler do provide, however, is a test track. The track provides an opportunity to ride in the new model cars as they are driven over a terrain that has imitated putholes, noise zones, huge puddles, steep inclines and heavy rain so one can experience the handling of the car under all those conditions.

The second large room of the show consisted of more upper-level cars such as Porsche, Mercedes, VW, Audi, BMW, Bentley, Ferrari and Maserati, as well as more specialty vehicles such as International Truck, Mini Coopers, Scions and Smart cars. While it is impossible to talk about all of the cars in this room, some of the most significant are the International MXT Concept Truck, which was basically a $100,000 pickup truck capable of towing 14,000 pounds, the 5axis Scion tC, which was a basic Scion tC model that had been upgraded by 5axis.com to include six TV monitors, a 48-inch flat screen TV in the rear and a huge, powerful stereo system by Pioneer, a convertible Mini Cooper, a Ferrari 612 Scaglietti and two Bentley Arnage models affordably priced at around $250,000.

A return to the center of the main room allows a stop at the highlight of the Auto Show, the Shell Exotic Cars. Within the carefully roped off and guarded Shell exhibit sits some of the nicest cars ever made, including two Lotus Models, a Lamborghini Gallardo and the greatest car in the entire show, the brand new Lamborghini Murcielago. Priced at just more than $319,000, the Murcielago may not be the most practical of cars, but one look at it and any person, car enthusiast or not, is sure to fall in love. The only sad thing about this display is it must be viewed from such a distance — a distance that cannot even be crossed despite begging and trying to bribe the guards. But just being even that close to those cars is well worth it.

A final trip around reveals one of the most unique exhibits in the entire show sitting directly across from the Shell cars. This exhibit features a Volvo XC90 made entirely out of LEGOs. Weighing 2,930 pounds and containing 201,425 LEGOs, the car took three LEGO designers three weeks to design and five builders two months to build working fulltime. The Auto Show runs through the 20th and is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. every day except Sunday when it will close early at 8 p.m. Regular price tickets are a relatively high $10 a person given that parking is an additional $14 a car, but discount tickets can be bought at most new car dealers. Even the regular price tickets are well worth it, however, as the show is sure to provide a full day's worth of entertainment.
There was a point in Notre Dame history when V-Day might have meant candy and cards. That day is rapidly fading in memory. "The Vagina Monologues" and other events promoted by V-Day, an organization that works to stop violence against women in countries around the world, are becoming a spring tradition. Tonight's performance of the play will mark its fourth year on campus, and interest does not yet seem to be fading.

Since its first performance the play has moved up in the Notre Dame world, from DeBartolo Hall to Washington Hall to the SESP Center. This year the performance will be held in the Leighton Concert Hall at the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts, its most prestigious location to date. Student participation in the show has also grown. Skits performed by single actresses in the past, such as "My Short Skirt," have been restructured for several performers to accommodate the number of students interested in participating in this year's show.

This year, Notre Dame's performance has drawn the particular attention of "The Vagina Monologues" author Eve Ensler. Ensler arrives on campus today in the last visit of her college tour, which has included universities such as Yale and the University of Chicago.

Ensler will be part of a panel discussion with history professor Gail Bederman and English professor Glenn Hendler, moderated by film, television and theatre professor Jessica Chalmers. The panel will be held in the Leighton Concert Hall at 3 p.m. The author plans to participate in the performance of "The Vagina Monologues" at 7 p.m. and will be present for a book signing after the show around 9:30 p.m.

As student interest in "The Vagina Monologues" has grown, organizers have also increased their efforts to integrate other awareness-raising events promoted by V-Day with the performance. This year students from the play organized Project Black: Confronting Silence, in which students stood in silent protest outside DeBartolo Hall and North Dining Hall in protest of violence. Students also sold T-shirts and hung posters in honor of V-Day.

Few students or administrators would argue against the goals of an organization that seeks to stop violence against women. "The Vagina Monologues" themselves, however, have not been received happily by many students and organizations on campus. As some students and organizations voice their support for the play, others protest its messages on sexual issues and its use of language and situation that is often deemed taboo.

The content can be both meaningful and difficult for the actresses in the play, who are not always cast in the skits they hoped for when they auditioned. The most controversial skits especially can be hard for some actresses to connect with and perform.

Senior Erin Clarke decided to audition for the performance after seeing the play performed and thinking about it. "At first I didn't know about performing the skit," Clarke said. "But the way I think about it, it's a true story. As I've thought about it, it's a positive experience."

Other participants have found skits that speak to them more directly. Sophomore Beckie Rodriguez was cast in a skit entitled "The Memory of Her Face," which focuses on violence against women in different countries. The skit takes on a taste of reality, since the actress appears in her own very short skirt that made its first appearance in "Silence, in which students stood in silent protest outside DeBartolo Hall and North Dining Hall in protest of violence. Students also sold T-shirts and hung posters in honor of V-Day.

The content can be both meaningful and difficult for the actresses in the play, who are not always cast in the skits they hoped for when they auditioned. The most controversial skits especially can be hard for some actresses to connect with and perform.

Senior Erin Clarke decided to audition for the play after seeing the performance and getting interested in the organization during her sophomore year. "I was really interested in what the movement was about," Clarke said. "I saw the show and decided it was a good thing."

However, being cast in one of the play's most controversial skits about a sexual encounter between a formerly sexually abused teenager and a 24-year-old explains the character.

"At first I didn't know about performing the skit," Clarke said. "But the way I think about it, it's a true story. As I've thought about it, it's a positive experience."

Other participants have found skits that speak to them more directly. Sophomore Beckie Rodriguez got involved with the play after seeing fliers and the website for an organization that spoke to her own personal experiences.

"This organization can contribute a lot, not just to society as a whole, but to Notre Dame," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez was cast in a skit entitled "The Memory of Her Face," which focuses on violence against women in different countries. The segments of the skits are set in Baghdad, Islamabad and the Mexican border town of Juarez. The town has lost around 300 young women in unexplained murders over past decade, and was the site for last year's V-Day events.

Rodriguez, who lives in the southern Texas border town of Weslaco, was asked to perform the skit in last year's show and requested it again this year. The skit focuses on a woman named Esther, who keeps a scrapbook of the women who have died.

"I'd like to say I've enjoyed the skit," Rodriguez said. "Not in that it's fun or uplifting, but because it's important to me."

Many actresses see themselves as not necessarily speaking about the other acts, but to the entire goal of the play. Senior Molly Savage decided to audition for the play after seeing the performance and being cast in a skit entitled "The Memory of Her Face." Savage had seen the play for three years, and during the third performance made the decision to audition as a senior. A

There are certain things no one really talks about but every single woman can relate to," Savage said. "The play is all about bringing all these issues to light and making people comfortable with them. Between laughing and crying, we said we absolutely had to do this."

Savage was cast in "My Short Skirt," a skit that asserts that a skirt, no matter how short, is not an invitation or a provocation for unwanted advances. The skit takes on a taste of reality, since the actress appears in her very own short skirt that made its first appearance at the Alumini Wake.

"I've felt a ton of sexism on this campus, that you are judged from the moment you come in the door," Savage said. "It's a true story. As I've thought about it, it's a positive experience."

As the only remaining class to witness the beginning of "The Vagina Monologues" at Notre Dame as it prepares to graduate, the organization is welcoming newcomers. Many freshmen and sophomores auditioned for this year's performance and seem ready to carry on the torch. For better or worse, it seems "The Vagina Monologues" are here to stay.
COLUMBUS, S.C. — Terrence Kinsey scored 17 points and Carlos Powell had 16 in the second half to lead South Carolina to a rare victory over No. 3 Kentucky.

It was the first home win for the Gamecocks (14-8, 6-5 Southeastern Conference) over the Wildcats (19-3, 10-1 since 1992) and it was just South Carolina's second victory in 41 meetings against Kentucky, which never looked in synch.

Fans poured onto the court after the victory, arguably South Carolina's first in coach Dave Odom's tenure, and Kinsey stood on press row, slapping high-fives with celebrating students.

The Wildcats, who had won 19 straight games against SEC opponents, had a season-high 21 turnovers and Chuck Hayes was held to just one point. Keleuna Azubuike led Kentucky with 16 points.

The near capacity crowd finally had something to cheer about after the Gamecocks' disappointing 74-71 home loss to Auburn on Saturday. South Carolina added a high-profit win as it attempts to build its NCAA tournament resume.

The Gamecocks were 0-4 against ranked opponents coming into Tuesday's matchup, but they still have a game against No. 18 Alabama. South Carolina built a 52-45 lead with 4:16 left after an 8-0 run, but the Wildcats pushed the margin to 67-54 with 4:07 left, only to have the Gamecocks' leader scoring who had just been held to just two points in two previous meetings.

But South Carolina pounded the ball inside to Powell and Kentucky had no answer.

The Gamecocks had built a 37-point lead on some key last-second shots by Kinsey, who was averaging 17 points a game, vs 3 points a game the last two seasons. South Carolina was averaging 9.5 points a game in conference play before Kinsey scored 17 points and nine rebounds after halftime to help No. 18 Connecticut turn back feisty Providence.

Kentucky's Randolph Morris blocks South Carolina guard Tarence Kinsey's shot during Tuesday night's game.

10 conference victories for only the second time in the past eight seasons. The latest win came even though Wake Forest had its lowest point total since December, 18 points shy of its average of 86 per game.

Ernie Williams and Chris Paul each scored 13 points for Wake Forest, and Justin Gray added 11.

Guillermo Diaz led the Huskies with 20 points, and Harris had 14. Robert Hite totaled six, 12 below his average.

The Hurricanes shot 47 per cent in the first half but finished at 39, shooting 12-for-36 in the second half. They finished 3-for-18 from three-point range.

Allan Bay made four 3-pointers and scored 22 points to lead the 25th-ranked Wildcats to a victory over Bucknell on Tuesday night.

Mike Nardi, who also hit four 3-pointers, added 14. Cass Melancon had 14 points and Jason Frazer grabbed eight rebounds to round out the starters.

"It was more of a wake-up call," Nardi said. "As fast as the top teams are playing, we're quickly it goes. That's why you don't want to have those losses. You just worry about the team and you're trying to go."
MLB

Defending champions prepare for fresh start

After satisfying fans with title, Boston is hungry for another

Associated Press

FORT MYERS, Fla. — Number one proclaiming the Red Sox as World Series winners finally hung from lamp posts outside their spring training ballpark 86 years after their last championship.

Inside, the winning pitcher in the game that clinched the title, Terry Francona, was ready to give his new team.

"Change was all around City of Palms Park on Tuesday, as Derek Lowe’s departure from the Los Angeles Dodgers camp in Vero Beach to decorations that represent challenges as well as congratulations.

Can Boston win consecutive titles?

"I’m a greedy person. I want as many as I possibly can get," right fielder Trot Nixon said. "I want to be one of those guys also that has an opportunity to take a picture and have four or five rings on my finger with this team."

Even Lowe, who was disappointed with the way his seven full seasons with the Red Sox ended without a solid offer from the club, wished them well.

"You root for the guys," he said. "You hope they stay healthy. You hope they have a good year. You hope they get to the World Series. There’s no bitterness toward the players because these guys are great guys."

"It wasn’t their decision why I’m not here, so why wish bad things upon them?"

Lowe, who lives in Fort Myers, thanked the Red Sox for letting him work out in their stadium. He planned to go to Vero Beach on Wednesday, one day before Boston’s pitchers and catchers are due to report. The entire team is due in Monday, with its first full-squad workout next Tuesday.

Lowe won the clinching game of each of the three postseason series. "I was really proud of him," manager Terry Francona said Tuesday. But he knew Lowe’s days were numbered back in July when the Red Sox shopped him around before the trading deadline.

When he was left out of the playoff rotation he had more incentive to finish his Boston days on a high note.

"In any profession, when somebody tells you you don’t do something, it motivates you to go out there and prove that you can," Lowe said.

That’s something he shares with his former teammates.

The Red Sox swept St. Louis in the World Series, but baseball magazines have picked them to finish second in the AL East behind the Yankees for the eighth straight season. On paper, their rebuilt rotation seems weaker than New York’s. Perhaps Boston’s comeback from a 3-0 deficit to the Yankees in the AL championship series was just a fluke.

It may have been if Red Sox players report to camp with inflated egos and stomachs resulting from too much time in the offseason spotlight and too little in the gym.

"I’d be real disappointed if guys came in thinking they could slack off," Nixon said. "Once January came around you should realize that, hey, this is my profession. This is what I love to do. I don’t want to play and then retire after winning a championship."

He was the only returning player from last year’s championship team at the ballpark on Tuesday. Pitchers Wade Miller and Matt Mantei, acquired in the offseason, also have been working out. Miller is coming back from an injury-plagued season.

Francona sees Mantei as a pitcher who can make a strong middle relief corps even stronger.

"If there’s the bases loaded in the seventh inning and we need a strikeout, I think Matt Mantei’s going to have a pretty good chance of being successful," Francona said.

Two new starting pitchers, David Wells and Matt Clement, hadn’t arrived by the time players, including minor leaguers, had finished working out on Tuesday. The heightened emphasis on steroids is another addition to spring training.

"I’d be real disappointed if the guys game in thinking they could slack off."

Trot Nixon
Boston outfielder

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Pro golfers demonstrate talent, staying power

Unlike past seasons, this year's tour has had an exciting start

Associated Press

Be careful not to judge a PGA Tour season by the first few months. It was only three years ago that Tiger Woods won 10 weeks without winning and endured endless questions about a slump. By summer, he had become the first player in 30 years to capture the first two legs of the Grand Slam. Or look at Vijay Singh last year.

He won just one tournament (Pebble Beach) through the Masters, and had only three trophies heading into August. By the end of the year, Singh became only the sixth man in PGA Tour history with at least nine victories.

This promised to be a granddaddy year in golf with so many top players either hitting or regaining their stride. So far, it has not disappoint ed.

The first six winners are all ranked in the top 20. All but one (Stuart Appleby) are major champions.

Singh got off to such a strong start that he should have won the Mercedes Championships and did win the Sony Open. It looked as though he would be No. 1 for the rest of his life, or until retirement, whichever came first.

Then it was Woods turn. His victory the following week at Torrey Pines was his first stroke-play title on the PGA Tour in about 16 months, and most people figured it was only a matter of time before Woods established himself anew as the player to beat.

But that was before Phil Mickelson won back-to-back at Phoenix and Pebble Beach, setting a slew of records along the way. He tied the course record on the TPC at Scottsdale (60), broke the record at Spyglass Hill (62) and became the first wire-to-wire winner over 72 holes in the 68-year history of Pebble Beach.

"I don't know what specifically is driving everybody to play so well," Mickelson said. "But I think it's exciting for the game to see all the top players contending." Next up is Riviera, which also has some intriguing possibilities.

The Nissan Open is the first PGA Tour event Woods played, as a 16-year-old, and it remains the only tournament he has played at least four times without winning. He returns to Riviera this week needing only to finish fourth to tie the No. 1 ranking away from Singh.

Plus, Mike Weir has a chance to become the first player to win three straight years at the Nissan Open. Canada's Lefty is coming off one of the best rounds of the year, birdying every hole and missing only one green in the rain and wind at Pebble Beach.

With so many players doing so well, Mickelson has high hopes for rare drama at the Match Play Championship, where two players from the top 10 have reached the finals only once since it began in 1999.

"I think there is a good chance this year a lot of the top guys will win the first few matches and square off later in the final rounds," Mickelson said.

The only player missing from the mix is Ernie Els, in more ways than one. He hasn't won, although the Big Easy has finished in the top 10 every time he has played. And after three stops on the PGA Tour, he departed for his global travels and won't return to the PGA Tour until the middle of March.

"Many of the big names on tour ... are off to great starts in 2005," Woods said in his monthly newsletter. "That's good for golf and should make the Masters even more exciting.

How long it lasts is another story.

And one thing to keep in mind as the West Coast Swing wraps up over the next two weeks is how many of the top players will be around when the Tour Championship arrives.

Two years ago, Els won the first two PGA Tour events, then Woods won in his first start after knee surgery. By the end of the year, Ben Curtis was the British Open champion, and Shaun Micheel won the PGA Championship.

Not until after the Masters, probably the U.S. Open or maybe as late as the British Open will anyone be able to get a firm grasp on how this season is shaping up.

The No. 1 spot in the world ranking could change every week from now through the end of March, with the two-year system favoring Singh during that stretch.

Right now, the only sure thing looks to be Mickelson. Woods won at Torrey Pines, but the way he nearly whiffed a 2-iron on the 18th hole left some questions about how confident he is with his swing changes. Perhaps those will be answered in the next two months.

Despite his hot start, Singh is using a new driver and has a different clubhead. He has gone three straight finishes out of the top 10, and last week he missed the cut for the first time in a year.
NBA

Hill ‘magical’ against Clippers in 99-94 win

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Grant Hill heads to the All-Star Game this weekend with a feeling he hasn’t had in five years: He’s playing — and he’s playing well.

Hill, who will start in Sunday’s game in Denver after missing most of the last four seasons with an ankle injury, scored a season-high 29 points to help the Orlando Magic to a 99-94 victory over the slumping Los Angeles Clippers.

It was the Magic’s third win in four games, while Los Angeles has lost six straight.

Steve Francis, left, of the Orlando Magic is blocked by Lionel Chalmers of the Los Angeles Clippers in the second quarter of Tuesday night’s game. The Magic won 99-94.

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Wednesday, February 16, 2005
The Observer • SPORTS
Steroid discussion dominates spring training

With 45 days until their season opener, players are defensive

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Usually, the start of spring training is a time of clean slates, sun-splashed fields and endless hope. Not this year.

Players were the No. 1 topic Tuesday, when the new Washington Nationals, the New York Yankees and the Cincinnati Reds opened camp.

"It doesn't go away, unfortunately," Yankees manager Joe Torre said in Tampa, Fla.

Pitchers and catchers on seven more teams report Wednesday, and workouts begin Thursday. 45 days before the World Series champion Boston Red Sox and Yankees play the major league opener April 3.

The Minnesota Twins will be the last team to report, on Sunday. Ken Griffey Jr. ran for the Red Sox's medical staff in Sarasota, Fla., showing how far he has recovered from surgery on his torn right hamstring.

Pedro Martinez, an early arrival at the New York Mets' camp, worked out in Port St. Lucie, Fla. And Trot Nixon kept up the Yankees-Red Sox animosity, saying of Alex Rodriguez: "He can't stand up for baseball." Red Sox manager Terry Francona said in Fort Myers, Fla.

Still, baseball's new drug-testing agreement — calling for harsher penalties and more frequent testing — remains in the drafting phase. Baseball management expects the new rules to be in place by the mandatory reporting date, March 1.

"I know that we were well on our way to having serious steroid testing, drug testing, and we still are and we didn't need a book to come out and tell us that we needed to do something," Nixon said.

Baltimore shortstop Miguel Tejada, among the players accused by Canseco, denied that he used steroids.

"Any inference made by Jose Canseco that I used steroids is complete false," Tejada said in a statement. "I barely know lose during his career, so it is ridiculous for him to suggest we ever had discussions regarding their use. I work very hard to keep in shape and any sugges-

 tion that I use steroids, or any banned substance, is insulting and not worth discussing fur-

ther." At Boston's camp, Nixon wasted ed little time in adding some heat under baseball's most heat-

ded rivalry, joining Curt Schilling in the criticism of Rodriguez.

"He's done some great things on the field. He's one of the best baseball players in the game and probably will be when it's all said and done," Nixon said.

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BELLES HUNGRY TO GET BACK IN PLAYOFF RACE

Team hopes to recover from five-game losing streak at Kalamazoo

By KEVIN BRENNAN
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's needs to stop the bleeding.

Just three weeks ago, the Belles stood in a three-win tie for fourth place in the MIAA. The team's main concern was finishing alone in the coveted fourth place and holding a first-round tournament berth. After losing its next five games, the Belles now find themselves seventh in the league, out of contention for a first-round tournament bid.

Belles guard Allison Kessler remembers Kalamazoo as her team's toughest test. "This game is extremely important along with our attitude tomorrow if we want to win the game.

Belles freshman Allison Kessler remembers Kalamazoo for its aggressive style of play that's hard to explain, because they are so aggressive," Kessler said. "They really overplayed our guards on Saturday," Kessler said of a match-up with Tri-State.

"We just haven't been playing well. We are definitely looking to turn that around tomorrow. Kalamazoo and come out solid and play a whole game," Boyce said.

"We really need to get in the playoffs and try to win ball games," Boyce said. "Because we actually knew that we were going to have to play the bottom team in the conference and before, we didn't know. So going into last year, we were definitely playing well before we even started.

"Last year was even worse," pitcher Zach Day said. "Because we actually knew what we were going to have to play before, we didn't know. So going into last year, we were definitely playing well before we even started.

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NBA

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

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**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

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**MLB**

Wendy Borchardt talks with Los Angeles Dodgers senior vice president Tommy Lasorda during spring training last March.

Canseco's book third on best seller list

Associated Press

**NEW YORK — Jose Canseco's autobiography that accuses several top players of steroid use and charges baseball management long ignored performance-enhancing drugs got off to a fast start on its first day of publication.**

The book had an initial printing of 150,000 copies but it was unclear how many copies were bought. Bunch Books does not disclose sales figures, but it was reported to have sold about 50,000 copies on its first day. Regan Books does not disclose sales figures, either. But Amazon.com listed "Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'Roids, Smash Hits, and How Baseball Got Big" as third on its best seller list Monday.

"This book is a wake-up call to all baseball fans. It's time to stop the madness. Juiced is the truth. I don't think it's a good thing, obviously, because it's bringing a bad light to the game," New York Yankees player Derek Jeter said Monday. "This is a time, obviously, baseball is in a negative light and Jose is not helping out. In terms of his accusations, the only people that know are him and whoever he is accusing. The unfortunate thing is, if it's not true, you're looking at guys having to defend themselves over something they haven't done."

Mark McGwire, one of the former teammates Canseco accused of using steroids, issued a written denial. "The relationship that these allegations portray couldn't be further from the truth," McGwire's statement said. "I also worry how these false allegations will taint the accomplishments of the Oakland Athletics' coaches, players and executives who worked so hard to achieve success during the seasons that ordered Ricky Williams to repay the Dolphins $8.6 million was thrown out. The reports will be made available to the public on Feb. 28.

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Big East
continued from page 24

"Our focus for the season has been to see if we could win our first Big East Championship," coach Tim Welsh said. "For the next week, we need to focus only on what we can control and what we can't control. We're paying no attention to the scoreboard and trying to race as well as we can in the morning and again at night.

The Big East Championships involve a rigorous schedule spread out during the next four days. Starting with one session on Wednesday night, the Irish team will compete in two sessions per day on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The morning sessions determine which swimmers advance to the evening's final events with the opportunity to score points.

"The biggest challenge is to swim fast in seven sessions in a row," Welsh said. "We have to qualify in the right positions in the morning and then win the places at night."

The stiffest challenge for Notre Dame will come from Pittsburgh, the eight-time defending conference champion. Last February, the Irish posted their highest-ever point total and finished second to the Panthers.

"Obviously we look at Pittsburgh as the defending champion, and they have been the mark of excellence in our conference," Welsh said. "But we don't want to make the mistake of assuming this is a two-team race because maybe someone else is going to swim great. We want to swim as fast as we can seven times in a row and then say, 'This is the best we can do. Can anybody beat this?'

The Irish edged out the Panthers in their only meeting during the regular season. Winning by a sliver of 155-145, Notre Dame edged Pittsburgh in the 400-yard freestyle relay by 0.4 seconds for the victory.

The team's depth that kept them close in the Pittsburgh win will again be a crucial factor in this week's competitions.

"What makes us a contender is that we have a balanced set of entries in every swimming event and every diving event," Welsh said. "If we're going to win seven sessions in a row, it's going to take everyone of us and that's the way it's been all year."

While winning the Big East title is their main goal, the Irish also would like to qualify swimmers for the NCAA Championships, which take place in March. Both goals of team and individual success intersect with the team's performance over the next days.

"We have a team goal to win the Big East but we also want to send some swimmers to the national championships as well," Welsh said. "And the road to both of them is the same. We only get to do one or both of them by swimming faster than we ever have in our lives."

The wait is over. A year's worth of hard work has put the Irish in position to compete for the Big East title.

"It's exciting to do something you've been preparing to do for a long time and we are fired up about that," Welsh said. If it doesn't work — if we swim faster than we ever have in our lives — and someone swims faster, we'll say 'Congratulations, nice going and we'll try again next year.' But swimming faster than we ever have in our lives is what this meet is all about."

Contact Rama Gottumukkala at rgottamuk@nd.edu

Attention First-Year MBAs
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The William G. McGowan Charitable Fund has just awarded two MBA programs a grant that covers full tuition for the second year for two MBA students.

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Tradition
continued from page 24

at least 40 points ahead of the competition in both events.

Also leading the Irish charge will be sophomore Katie Carroll and junior Christel Bouvron.

Carroll is the defending Big East Champion in the 200 individual medley, and has posted NCAA cuts in both the 200 and 400-meter medleys. Her 200 IM time of 2 minutes, 37.3 seconds against Michigan earlier in the season is the fastest in the Big East this year.

Bouvron also owns one of the fastest Big East times this year. Her mark of 2:02.26 in the 200-meter butterfly — also against Michigan — was by far the best in the conference. Bouvron is a two-time Olympian for her native Singapore, and she finished 32nd

in the 200 butterfly at the 2004 Olympics Games in Athens.

The Irish and their Big East opponents will swim the 200-meter medley and the 800-meter freestyle relay the first day. Last year, Notre Dame took fourth and second place finishes respectively in those events last year.

On Thursday the Irish will swim the 500-meter freestyle, 200 IM, 50 free and 200 free relay. The Irish will compete in the 400 IM, 200 freestyle, 100 butterfly, 100 breaststroke, 200 medley relay and 100 backstroke on Friday.

And on the final day of competition, the 1,600 and 100 freestyle, the 200 backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly, as well as the 400 freestyle relay will take place.

"It's going to be pretty interesting," Weathers said.

Contact Mike Tennant at mttennant@nd.edu

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continued from page 24

take it to the basket and be aggressive I was going to try it.

Notre Dame struggled shooting the ball early, making just one of its first 12 shots, which allowed Boston College to take a 16-3 lead at the 9:12 mark. Batteast and LaVere each missed their first three shots, while Kindyll Dorsey drained two 3-pointers to help push the Eagles to a double-digit advantage.

Boston College opened a 26-11 lead on Dorsey's third 3-pointer with 1:57 remaining. But the Irish ended the half with four much-needed points when Batteast hit a jumper and Borton sank two free throws with 2:23 left to put Notre Dame ahead 44-43.

The Irish offense must remain patient, however, because it cannot give the ball back immediately to a patient and poised Hoyas offense, Brey said.

Georgetown is led by forward Brandon Bowman, who averages a team-high 15.3 points and 6.7 rebounds per game. Cook, Jonathan Wallace and either Darrel Owens (seven starts) or Hibbert (15 starts) join Bowman in the starting lineup, along with 6-foot-8, 225-pound freshman Jeff Green.

Green (13.2 points, 7.2 rebounds) earned Big East Rookie of the week honors for the fifth time this season last week, with 21 points and nine rebounds in a 67-60 win over West Virginia Saturday.

Notre Dame had beaten Georgetown four straight times before losing at the MCI Center in January. The Irish, who have played five of their last seven games on the road, will play four of their last six regular season games at home starting tonight.

The Irish and Hoyas tip off at 8 p.m.
**Crossword**

**ACROSS**

1. Blast from the past? (5)
2. Art in Manhattan area (6)
3. Fast control brand (8)
4. Off coupon (4)
5. Orbit (5)
6. 6 ½ west of the Isle of Man (8)
7. Ad come-on #1 (9)
8. It’s west of the Virgin Is., e.g. (7)
9. The Virgin Is., e.g. (7)
10. Washington’s observer in your home (9, 9)

**DOWN**

1. Coolers, for short (5)
2. Sir Lanka export (9)
3. Irish desert region (7)
4. Ad come-on #3 (7)
5. With 29-Down, e.g. (5)
6. Lover of Aphrodite (7)
7. "That Devil Called Love" (8)
8. Don’t make (10)
9. Eventide (5)
10. Get intelligence from (11)
11. Intelligence gap (5)
12. Table scrap (7)
13. Born in France (7)
14. Surrender (9)
16. Endurance (12)
17. With 31-Across, ad come-on #2 (7)
18. Explorer (5)
19. Vespucci (8)
20. Stays current (12)
21. Car rental info (9)
22. See 51-Across (9)
23. Hockey teams, e.g. (5)
24. School mo. (3)
25. Louis XIV, e.g. (28)
26. Tan color (5)
27. Short hours of operation (10)
28. Glen’s symbol (17)

**Horoscope**

**EUGENIA LAST**

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:


Happy Birthday! Don’t look for trouble this year. Do whatever is necessary to keep the peace and enjoy activities that will bring you in contact with people who can help you thrive. This can be a productive year for you as long as you don’t special yourself too thin. Your numbers are 10, 21, 31, 33, 38, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Concentrate on what you can do, not what you can’t. You will impress those around you if you remain positive and focused on your goals.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Get your act together and prepare for the future. You have a great opportunity to seize.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Get a full advantage of whatever is offered today. The chance is too good to pass up.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): This will be a pleasant time for you. Focus on ways to improve your life. You are on a roll.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Be careful with what you wish for. You may have more than you can handle. Be prepared to compromise.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can go a long way today, or take a bit of a chance.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The responsibility will be on you — especially if you have overspent or been overspending. You can make changes to ensure that you are more efficient, leading to a much better future. Love is apparent even if you have made some mistakes or are guilty of a sin.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22): Focus on communication and getting ahead work-wise. Be ready to share your personal views, but be prepared for the possibility that you may not be able to do something for a friend or lover. You can make it up to them.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep your thoughts and ideas to yourself and do your very best to avoid any trouble.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You are in a loving mood. Make plans to engage in a fun activity. Expand your horizons through the people you meet.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You have too much running through your head. Don’t take too much for granted or take it too much. Concentrate on what you know you can control, and do it well.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Someone may try to get you to do something that is not good for you. Keep your thoughts and ideas to yourself and do your very best, and you will succeed regardless.

Birthday Baby: You are very capable of doing something extraordinary with your life. You are a humanitarian who will always go the extra mile for a cause you believe in. You are a true visionary.

Check out Eugenia’s Web sites at astralwisdom.com and eugeniafast.com.

**THE OBSERVER**

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**Dilbert**

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**Peanuts**

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**Charles Schulz**

CHARLES SCHULZ

ND WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Dynamic duo

Batteast, Duffy lead team to 54-47 victory after trailing by 15 points in first half

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Writer

After Boston College dominated Notre Dame in the first half of Tuesday’s game, coach Muffet McGraw turned to the team’s top leadership for help.

Junior guard Megan Duffy raced past Boston College’s Dufour for a basket and a foul. Duffy chipped in 14 points in the 57-47 Irish victory.

Muffet McGraw turned to the team’s top leadership for help.

ND WOMEN’S SWIMMING

Notre Dame hopes to continue tradition

Team seeks ninth straight Big East Championship title

By MIKE TENNANT
Sports Writer

Fresh on the heels of breaking 11 school records at last weekend’s ACC Championships, the Irish are ready to defend their ninth straight Big East title this year.

Senior guard Megan Duffy races past Boston College’s Kinhil Dorsey to recover the ball in Tuesday night’s game.

Duffy chipped in 14 points in the 57-47 Irish victory.

Men’s Swimming

Team races for the Big East title

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA
Sports Writer

The hours of laps in early morning and evening swim meets are over. The light at the end of the tunnel is visible for the Notre Dame men’s swimming and diving team.

Notre Dame hopes to continue tradition

This is what they have been working for all year.

This year, Notre Dame begins its quest for a ninth straight Big East Championship title.

Men’s Basketball

Irish look to contain Hoyas offense

Brey prepares team for Georgetown’s use of the patient Princeton offense

By PAT LEONARD
Associate Sports Editor

Fans in the Joyce Center may catch themselves rubbing their eyes tonight.

When Notre Dame (14-7, 6-5 Big East) meets Georgetown for the second time this season, the visiting third-place Hoyas (16-6, 8-3) will run the methodical Princeton offense, a series of backdoor cuts and perimeter passes.

The offense, new to the Big East, slows down games and creates a tempo uncommon to the often up-and-down style characteristic of the conference’s play.

“If a team wants to play in the 50s, they’ve got to play in the 50s,” Irish coach Mike Brey said. “We’ve got our guys mentally ready to understand that we can win the game 57-55, and it still counts.

Georgetown is every bit as powerful a game for our resume as Connecticut, Villanova or Boston College.”

In the first meeting between the Irish and Hoyas on Jan. 23, Notre Dame lost 55-54 on a buzzer-beater dunk by Georgetown center Roy Hibbert. Colin Falls hit a 3-pointer seconds before to send the Irish up one, but Hoyas guard Asanti Cook went the length of the court and dished to Hibbert for the bucket and the win.

Notre Dame has won its share of close games, beating Seton Hall (Jan. 5) with a Falls 3-pointer, St. John’s (Jan. 15) with late-game defense and Connecticut (Jan. 30) with steady play down the stretch. But the Irish are coming off one of a few tough close defeats after losing to Pittsburgh, 68-66.

Saturday, "You look at all our Big East games and almost every one of our games has been down to our play. The thing that’s hurt us this year is that it’s the little things that we’ve got to improve on.

Quinn led Notre Dame with 25 points on 10-of-15 shooting against Pittsburgh, combining with Chris Thomas to provide the majority of the team’s offense.

Riley is pleased the Irish offense has become more balanced after seeing the team so has Pittsburg,” Weathers said. “I think this one’s going to be pretty hard.”

Leading the way for the Irish in their championship charge will be senior All-American diver Meghan Perry-Eaton and a host of young and talented swimmers.

Perry-Eaton has won three conference titles for the Irish, taking the 3-meter board title last year and the 1-meter board each of the last two years. She was also named the Big East Championship’s Most Outstanding Diver in the last two years.

Last year Perry-Eaton dominated the competition, finishing first in nine of the 11 events.

This year, Perry-Eaton’s dominance continued, finishing first in eight events. The only event she did not win was the 1-meter, where she finished second.

The Belles are looking to turn around a five-game losing streak.

Steroid tell-all

fan book

AP

Sports Writer

The Washington Nationals, baseball’s recently relocated franchise, is ready for their first season.

Magic 99

Clippers 94

All-Star Grant Hill powered Orlando over the struggling L.A. team with 39 points.

PGA

Golfers prepare for championship

After an exciting few months, golfers are ready for the tour championships.