Death Penalty Week continues

Events on capital punishment organized

By MADDIE HANNA
Assistant News Editor

With an awareness week on the subject underway, organizers say the death penalty's contentious nature gives it special significance on Notre Dame's Catholic campus, a sentiment echoed by professors who attest to the issue's controversy.

"It is important for any Catholic institution — university, school, parish — no matter how big, to put the matters of life and death front and center," said Jay Johnson, president of the Notre Dame Student Catholic Action and member of the Senate Diversity Committee responsible for the week.

"I feel this week is important for Notre Dame as a first step towards greater tolerance and respect for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people in the University and community as a whole," said Chris Vierig, organizer and member of the Senate Diversity Committee responsible for the week.

"It's cool to be a part of something bigger than yourself," said Wieland.

"It's something I wanted to try," said Zahm freshman Sean Wieland.

Preliminary rounds begin today at 6 p.m. in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse. The tournament culminates with the finals on Mar. 19.

The original boxing club began in 1950s under guidance of former football coach Knute Rockne. Bengal Bouts, founded by coach Dominic "Nappy" Napolitano once said, "Strong bodies fight, that weak bodies may be nourished." This has become the motto of Notre Dame boxing.

"It's cool to be a part of something bigger than yourself," said Wieland.

All profits from the Bengal Bouts are donated to the Holy Cross Missions for the missionary work in Bangladesh. Besides ticket sales, munny is raised through program advertising, program sales, T-shirt sales and donations. A general admission pass for all days is $10.

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INSIDE COLUMN High profile

At Notre Dame, perfection is a dirty word.

On a campus teeming with strivers - where every roommate captained his high school baseball team, every professor earned six diplomas and every classmate boasts a ward of AP credits in her über-renowned fist - the pressure to live up to an ideal is daunting.

The pursuit of Notre Dame-brand perfection leads students to do everything in extremes. Are the midterm Wednesday, sneak into the bar Thursday. Do eight hours of community service Friday, sulfage endlessly Saturday, attend 10 a.m. Mass. Constantly aiming for perfection wreaks mental and physical tolls that for many mean there is no room for error.

Perhaps the most important thing I've learned during my two-and-a-half years at The Observer is that perfection is not necessary. When I wrote my first column for the newspaper, I worried about the weight of high profile, the pressure to live up to the standards my two-and-a-half years at The Observer, the pressure to live up to every roommate's captained his high school baseball team, every professor's earned six diplomas and every classmate boasts a ward of AP credits in her über-renowned fist.

If there's one thing I've learned during my two-and-a-half years at The Observer, it is that perfection means different things to different people. To some readers, it's as simple as spelling their names right or capitalizing the third word of their professional title - truth about identity. To others, it is printing a story with bias - truth as they see it. To others, it is including perspectives from every single angle in every single article - an impossible but necessary duty.

While I've encountered all these truths and more - through my own mistakes and triumphs - one instance of one woman's truth sticks out in my mind.

It was early October. Her 68-year-old father died at a horse football game on Saturday, and The Observer ran a story about his collapse on Monday. In my attempt to tell readers the story of his life in a way that was more than an obituary or a story about Notre Dame, I wrote that he "was a low profile figure." It was the worst phrase I have ever written.

I didn't realize it at the time. But two months later, when his wife looked up my address and sent me a Christmas card detailing the man's long, full life - and her immense pain upon realizing that her husband was 90 years old and not a low profile figure - I was hit with the weight of my words.

For ever since, "true" has taken on a different meaning.

So has "perfect." And take over today as Editor in Chief, it is tempting to look at The Observer's talented pool of staff and ideas - and at Notre Dame's perfectionism, and my own - and expect to put out a flawless paper every day for the next year. But I have to stop and remind myself that if we are shooting for extremes, there are far more important ones - fairness, consistency, accountability, quality, transparency, compassion - truth to concentrate on first.

Perfection doesn't even come close.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Contact: Claire Heininger at chaising@nd.edu

QUESTION OF THE DAY: IF YOU COULD FIGHT ANYONE IN BENGALI BOUTS, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

Amber McMillin, Eric Kimbuede

"Each other, and I would win!"

John Henry III, freshman St. Edward's

"Charlie Weis - just to see what he's made of!"

Meg Boyle, junior Badin

"Rachel Polinski! Consider this a challenge. P.S. Craig is coaching me!"

Prince Lowe, junior Carroll

"Lee Regner because he could not get Carlos Beltran to the Cubs."

Danielle Stealy, junior Watch

"Martin Stone, the women's wrestling coach. After last week, a soft uppercut would do him some good."

Andrew Collier, junior Knott

"I would fight a zebrafish because they start talking when you puch them."

Head football coach Charlie Weis thanked students at the basketball game Sunday for their school spirit. Weis had more than 80 football recruits in town this weekend touring the campus.

OFFBEAT Japan claims longest overland tunnel TOKYO - Japan created what engineers here call the world's longest overland tunnel on Sunday, when railway workers blasted through a final layer of rock with a governor and other dignitaries looking on.

The 16.4 mile Hakoda Tunnel will become part of a new bullet train line under construction to link Tokyo with the northern city of Aomori about 360 miles to the north. The tunnel burrows under Mount Hakoda in Aomori prefecture.

Local television showed 600 or so people sitting in the ribbon-festooned tunnel as they watched officials press a button to clear the last yard of rock with two large explosions. "This is an incredible feeling, it's an incredible memory," Aomori Gov. Shingo Mimura said.

Coroner wins approval for shrink-wrap machine BOSTON - Wait 'til next year, Jeter! A New York Yankees fan whose $2,325 bid won an eBay auction giving him the one-day naming rights to the Fenway Stadium Center in Boston wanted to call it the "Derek Jeter Center," after the Yankee shortstop and captain.

But instead, Manhattan lawyer Kerry Konrad agreed Friday to call it the "Jimmy Fund Center," after a Boston friend and Red Sox fan donated an additional $8,275 to the charitable effort.

Boston real estate developer Jerry Rappaport Jr. offered to trump his buddy's bid. The total of $9,600 is in recognition of 86 years between Boston's World Series victories.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Alan Bewell, professor of English at the University of Toronto, will be giving the lecture "Traveling Natures" Monday from 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 in 220 Malley Hall. The talk is co-sponsored by The Department of English and Nineteenth-Century Contexts. An Interdisciplinary Journal.

Susan Maxman will be giving the lecture "Taking the Long View: Designing for a Sustainable Future" from 4:30 to 5:30 in 104 Bond Hall Monday. The talk will be followed by the panel discussion "The Death Penalty in Indiana."

Bud Welch, president of Murder Victims Families for Human Rights, will give a presentation entitled "Oklahoma City Bombing: Two Fathers & Forgiveness" Tuesday from 12 to 1:15 in the Coleman-Morse lounge.

Marvin D'Lugo of Clark University will hold a seminar Thursday in 207 DeBartolo Hall from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30. This seminar is in conjunction with the screening of "La Mala educacion: Regular Education." The talk is at 7 p.m. the same evening.

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

In the staff editorial in the Feb. 25 edition of The Observer, a recently graduated basketball player wrote to his former teammates that every player who donned a Blue and Gold jersey will forever hold a special place in his heart. This letter was written to the Notre Dame community and will appear in The Observer's upcoming issue.
LaVoi studies athletic trends
Director of sports education develops programs for coaches

Special to the Observer

News from the world of sports can be downright depressing these days. Acquisitions and confiscations of steroids use have run rampant through professional baseball. Coaches and parents with perspective, they're reporting admission to a grand jury that his once bulky body was artificially acquired, to the unsettling, unsubstantiated and — often — unbelievable charges made by former big-leaguer Jose Canseco in a new book titled "Juiced."

In the NBA, members of the Pacers and PistonsTigers, punches with each other as well as with Detroit fans, who themselves behaved like barbarians. And in the league formerly known as the NFL, the greed and short-sightedness of both owners and players has led to a season-long strike. These and other instances of (mostly) boys behaving badly are enough to make many wonder if the games people play are worth their time and attention.

But not Nicole LaVoi, an assistant professor of psychology and director of sports education program at Notre Dame. To her, the trouble on and off the fields of play is a challenge. "A lot of it," she says, "I think we can do better, and that we have a responsibility to educate our kids to do better."

For LaVoi, that means developing programs to help adults — parents and coaches — create a positive atmosphere for youth sports leagues. After all, if kids today learn proper sporting behaviour from well-trained coaches and parents with perspective, they're less likely to act out in future athletic endeavors. "Athletes are in a flawed system, because there is little to no training given to youth coaches for how to provide a nurturing climate for kids," LaVoi said. "If you want to build character and sportsmanship, you have to intentionally create a climate that fosters these attitudes and behaviors. Most youth coaches have no idea how to do that."

"There's a real lack of quality coach education based on social science research in this country. It's amazing, especially when you look at the training given to other people who deal with kids, and then look at the lack of training for coaches."

Parental training is equally important. LaVoi's work involves the latest research on developmental and sports psychology. Created in association with the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association, PACT — Parents And Coaches Together — an initiative based on the latest research from developmental and sports psychology. Created in association with the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association, PACT is aimed at parents and coaches with the tools necessary to help young athletes develop character, well-being, satisfaction and — most importantly — strong athletic skills.

"Coaches and parents create a climate that influences young athletes' sport enjoyment and participation," LaVoi said. "Unfortunately, sometimes climate is toxic, rather than positive. What happens is that parents can lead to burnout, dropout, competitive anxiety, loss of enjoyment, and poor sportsmanship."

PACT and other Play Like A Champion programs emphasize the development of young athletes. "I'm pursuing winning by focusing on competence in the sport, care and concern for teammates, and making good choices," LaVoi said.

LaVoi's scholarly interests are both broad and intensive in participation in athletics. A three-sport athlete in high school, she played tennis collegiately at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, where she was part of the Division III national championship team in her junior year. She went on to coach tennis for six years at Carrollton and Wellesley Colleges, then began her pursuit of a graduate degree in psychology. She now focuses on sport psychology and sociology.

"I'm strongly still wanted to coach coaches to do their jobs more effectively," she said. "That became my passion."

LaVoi earned her master's degree and doctorate degrees from the University of Minnesota and joined the Notre Dame faculty in 2002, doing research and conducting research in association with the University's Center for Educational Ethics and Development. That focuses on educational ethics from the perspectives of sport, schools and society and was named for the Institute for Educational Initiatives.

In order to keep her own competitive fires burning, LaVoi plays in local women's tennis leagues. She also served as the director of the Notre Dame Tennis Club at St. Joseph High School in South Bend in spring 2004, a position that underscored the importance of the coaching profession as a positive influence.

"I felt that I was losing my edge as to what it's like in the trenches," she said of taking on the coaching duties at St. Joe. "I felt I was becoming irrelevant."

"I strive to keep one foot on the playing floor and the other in research. I believe that everything we do needs to have a practical purpose," she said, "and don't want to do research just for the sake of research."

Special to the Observer

Easterday wins Slavic studies regional essay

The amount of scholarship aid awarded to undergraduate students by Notre Dame for the current academic year is nearly 10 percent more than was distributed the previous year and has more than doubled over the last five years, according to an annual report prepared by the University's Office of Student Financial Services.

University-administered scholarships go to undergraduate students in both the undergraduate and graduate programs, and are funds that are provided free and clear to students. Awards are made to students on the basis of academic merit, need, or a combination of both.

Scholarships go up by 10 percent

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Play continued from page 1

Vokaty. "It was really an eye-opening experience and really makes me realize that these things happen everywhere.

"Many people believe that only those who share our ideals, that Ryan's speech is a good opportunity for students and faculty to gain understanding on the issue of the death penalty.

"The events planned were not intended to promote homosexuality, but as the term "awareness week" implies, simply to raise awareness, Coleman said.

"Students will most likely encounter homosexuality in their lives after Notre Dame. Whether they are OK with it or not, they need to be aware of it," Coleman said.

Both Coleman and Vierig said that while the campus has the reputation of not being overly welcoming to homosexuals, the situation seems to be improving.

"The administration, by allowing this week and the gay film festival, seems to be open to encouraging discourse about this issue and that is encouraging," Coleman said.

The planning committee hopes the week will challenge students to evaluate their beliefs.

"I personally feel that Notre Dame students generally have neutral feelings towards gay, lesbian and bisexual peers," Vierig said. "We want everyone to feel a welcome part of the Notre Dame family. Holding a certain belief is worthless unless you've challenged it. I hope this week will give students that opportunity to challenge their beliefs and realize the richness of cultures that make up Notre Dame."

As part of GLBQ week, Michiana performer Bradley Bogaert will speak tonight about his experiences and challenges as a gay man at 7 p.m. in 119 DeBartolo Hall.

On Wednesday, students will wear orange to show support and solidarity for gay, lesbian, bisexual and questioning students. Theology on Tap will discuss homosexuality within a Catholic context at 10 p.m. on Legends.

The Laramie Project will be performed Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.

Contact Maddie Hanna at mahanal@nd.edu

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Bush continued from page 1

that NDSP does not comment on "security measures for any special events nor security for any dignitaries.

In his weekly radio address to the nation, the president said he

will be visiting Indiana this week, according to a transcript on the White House Web site.

Bush last visited the state during his presidential campaign in May, when he spoke in South Bend as part of a Michigan-Ohio swing. The president served as Notre Dame's commencement speaker in 2001, and has visited the area six times since 2000.

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Want to write for The Observer? Call 1-5323 for info.

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GLBQ continued from page 1

"It seems as though a lot of people do not realize homosexuality is present at Notre Dame, and they need to be aware of that," Coleman said.

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The Riley Prize in Art History and Criticism

The Department of Art, Art History and Criticism is pleased to announce its annual competition for the Riley Prize in Art History and Criticism. Current Notre Dame undergraduate and graduate students are invited to submit essays on any topic in the history of art or art criticism for consideration in the competition. Essays must deal with the visual arts. They may be written in conjunction with a course taken at the University, but need not have been.

Rules governing the competition are available at the Art Department Office, 306 Riley Hall.

Two copies of the submission must be delivered to the Art Department Office by 3:00 PM, Monday, March 21st to be eligible.

A student may only submit ONE entry.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Fourteen die in rebel ambush KATMANDU, Nepal — Suspected communist rebels in southern Nepal ambushed an army truck, shot a police chief and attacked villagers Sunday, killing at least 14 people a day after a highway bombing that crippled the flow of essential supplies in protest of a government peace process.

The rebels ambushed an army truck carrying soldiers on patrol near Patanali, about 160 miles south of Katmandu, killing eight of them, police said.

Affirmative

Saddam's half-brother handed over

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Sunday that peace efforts with the Palestinians would be frozen if they do not crack down on militant groups, the wake of a weekend suicide bombing that killed five Israelis at a Tel Aviv nightclub.

Sharon and his inner circle to Los Angeles international Airport

WASHINGTON — President H. W. Bush is scheduled to arrive in Los Angeles on Thursday for the opening ceremonies of the 2005 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, which the White House says is aimed at promoting diversity and unity.

Police arrest suspected BTK killer

JUNEAU — Police arrested a 59-year-old man as a suspect in the BTK serial killings of four women in Kansas.

Police said the suspect, who was identified as William A. Halsey, was arrested without incident.

He faces charges of murder, attempted murder and robbery.

Sharon to halt peace efforts

Palestinians must take action against terror or peace moves will not progress

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Sunday that peace efforts with the Palestinians would be frozen if they do not crack down on militant groups, the wake of a weekend suicide bombing that killed five Israelis at a Tel Aviv nightclub.

"We're now working on the orders of the state of Israel," Sharon said Sunday.

"I don't think the state of Israel is interested in entering into a new agreement until the Palestinians show they are serious about ending terror," Sharon said.

Sharon blamed the attack for possibly ending any peace initiative between Israel and the Palestinians.

Fifteen died on the island of Manhattan

NEW YORK — Ten people were injured and one killed in a violent outburst in the sports barn and on the streets.

The shooting was reported at about 2 a.m. near a supermarket on Manhattan's Upper East Side.

The suspect is a 21-year-old man who was arrested on a robbery charge.

The shooting occurred about 100 yards from a demonstration by anti-war protesters.

The suspect was arrested after a police chase.

His identity was withheld pending the results of a DNA test.

The police said the suspect was armed with a knife and a gun.

He was taken to a hospital and was expected to recover.

National News

Hahn's re-election bid tainted

LOS ANGELES — Mayor James Hahn's re-election bid suffered — along with the image of honesty he worked hard to cultivate — amid accusations he let corruption and fraud flourish at City Hall.

County prosecutors have been investigating allegations that Hahn supported shook down companies that wanted to do business with the city by tying public contracts to political contributions.

Federal prosecutors have opened their own investigation.

The city has not been implicated and denies knowledge of any potential wrongdoing, but the investigations touch whole segments of city government and are notable from members of Hahn's inner circle to Los Angeles International Airport and the water and power department.

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Local News

Bidders snag pieces of the good life

The day's auction attracted more than 1,000 bidders to the hotel.

A local businessman, who attended the auction, said he was not surprised by the opening bid of $53,500.

"It's a good price," he said. "I expected it to go for more than $50,000."
Bouts
continued from page 1
request of Pope Pius IX. Now the Holy Cross missionaries are responsible for many projects including school construction and maintenance of other sanitary facilities. The hallmark of the Bangladeshi mission is education programs. Missionaries build village schools and provide education for catechists and village teachers in a predominantly Muslim state.

Returning boxing alumni have a series of scheduled events for the finals weekend. A welcome reception in the stadium press room open house, mass in the JACC monogram room and maintenance of wells and infrastructure.

Community events part of our duty to build that consensus (to end the death penalty) was tied deeply to Catholicism. I believe that's the mission of the Church to seek reconciliation with all people and with God," Landry said.

Regarding the Catholic perspective, Leahy said that recent events where Pope John Paul II has spoken out against the death penalty directly impact Notre Dame students.

"I think events like this are important to show that there are all kinds of reasons we should get rid of it — moral, economic and legal."

VATICAN CITY — Touching his throat fitted with a breathing tube, Pope John Paul II on Sunday made a surprise first public appearance after surgery, appearing at his hospital window just moments after a Vatican official stood on the steps of St. Peter’s Basilica to read the pontiff’s appeal for prayers.

The 84-year-old pope did not speak during his one-minute greeting from Rome’s Gemelli Polyclinic hospital, but sent an impulsive and powerful message about his determination to maintain continuity in the church.

However, despite these shifts in opinion, Campbell noted that at no point were a majority of Americans not in favor of the death penalty, which is currently practiced in 38 states.

"I would be surprised if public opinion in the U.S. were any different to our lifetimes, changes against the death penalty," Campbell said.

Pope makes surprise appearance
While Pope John Paul II made a surprise appearance at Rome’s Gemelli Polyclinic hospital, Palestinian Christians receive communion at the Church of the Nativity, the said birthplace of Christ.

Finlen, you’re 21. No need to secret drink anymore. See you in the Shaggin’ wagon.

Associated Press

The Observer • NEWS
Monday, February 28, 2005

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Saturday, March 19th, 2005

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MCAT at Notre Dame

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MCAT at Kaplan Center

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Call or visit us online today to register!
Wall Street no longer favors radio

ipods and commercial-free satellite broadcasts slow profits and growth of industry

Associated Press

NEW YORK — For years, investors loved the radio business. Its sky-high margins were among the best in the media industry and changes in ownership rules a decade ago encouraged merger deals. Prospects for growth seemed great.

These days, Wall Street would rather hear something else. Growth in advertising has slowed, listeners seem to be switching off their radios in favor of IPOd and a new threat is emerging from commercial-free channels offered by satellite radio.

This week, media giant Viacom Inc. disclosed that it wrote down the value of its radio business by $1.1 billion and the nation's largest radio chain, Clear Channel Communications Inc., said it lost $4.7 billion in the fourth quarter, mostly due to an accounting charge.

Industry observers say many of the problems reflect the industry's focus on profits and Wall Street, rather than consumers. Specifically, they point to cost-cutting that compromised the quality of programming, and a tendency to put more advertising on the air, alienating listeners with what's known as advertising "clutter."

In the early years of the late 1990s, radio stations benefited from the transition away from traditional advertising from Internet companies, and many increased the amount of time, or "inventory," as it's called, in the time slot, to accommodate the surging demand.

"It was a boom time," said Tom Taylor, the editor in chief of Inside Radio, and its sister magazine owned by Clear Channel. "Then came the drop."

Desperation led to a dropoff in demand for radio ads since then, Taylor said, "There's too much inventory out there."

Radio revenues are now edging higher, but nothing like the growth they enjoyed in the 1990s. Last year, radio advertising climbed about 2 percent, and in 2003 it rose just 1 percent, according to figures from the Radio Advertising Bureau.

In order to beef up its own radio portfolio, Viacom, which had come under criticism for running its stations too loosely, is selling off stations that aren't in the top 20 markets and investing more money into the ones that it's keeping. Viacom also owns CBS, MTV and the Paramount movie studio.

Meanwhile, San Antonio-based Clear Channel is trying to curtail clutter by reducing ads each hour by about 20 percent, cutting the amount of traditional 60-second spots and selling more 30-second spots, and charging more for them.

Clear Channel acknowledges that it will likely take a short-term financial hit for its "Less Is More" program, but it says the strategy will pay off in the long run by bringing listeners back. "We know that shorter-length commercials work," John Hogan, chief executive of Clear Channel Radio, told analysts on a conference call Friday to discuss the company's quarterly earnings.

A federal rule change in 1994 led to a wave of merger activity, leaving 2,000 of the nation's 12,000 stations — many in large markets — concentrated in the hands of a small group of public companies.

"The industry started running out of business for the analysts and investor community, rather than its listeners," said Ed Christian, the CEO of Saga Communications Inc., a publicly held company in Groove Point Farms, Mich. — based owns about 80 stations. "It led to buying because you were rewarded for buying."

Yet even as Clear Channel and Viacom address their own issues, external threats are creeping closer.

ChoicePoint Inc., a data warehousing firm, had learned that as many as 140,000 consumers may have had their personal information compromised. "I hope this latest incident at least will bring the issue closer to home so Congress will pay better attention to the rapid erosion of privacy rights that ordinary Americans are facing as more and more of their personal and financial information is collected and sold on databases that too often have too few privacy protections," Leahy said in a statement Friday.

Bank of America loses data tapes

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Bank of America Corp. has added to its list of computer data tapes containing personal information on 1.2 million federal employees, including some members of the U.S. Senate. The latest data leak includes Social Security numbers and financial information that could make customers of a federal government contractor's account information program vulnerable to identity theft.

Sen. Pat Leahy, D-Vt., is among those senators whose personal information is on the missing tapes, spokeswoman Tracy Schmaler said.

"There were some senators' Visa credit card accounts involved," Schmaler said. "We don't know how many, but he was one of them."

The bank issued an apology.

"We deeply regret this unfortunate incident," said Barbara Desauer, who is in charge of technology, service and fulfillment for the Charlotte-based bank.

"The privacy of customer information receives the highest priority at Bank of America, and we take our responsibilities for safeguarding it very seriously," Leahy has been a leader of calls this week for a Senate Judiciary Committee inquiry into whether more regulation of companies that buy and sell personal data is needed. That came after the disclosure that ChoicePoint Inc., a data warehousing firm, had learned that as many as 140,000 consumers may have had their personal information compromised.

"I hope this latest incident at least will bring the issue closer to home so Congress will pay better attention to the rapid erosion of privacy rights that ordinary Americans are facing as more and more of their personal and financial information is collected and sold on databases that too often have too few privacy protections," Leahy said in a statement Friday. U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said he was told the data backup tapes were likely stolen off of a commercial plane by baggage handlers in December.
Viewpoint

Monday, February 28, 2005

Bush's media policy mirrors Putin's

President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin may finally found something in common. Anyone who tuned in to last week's diplomatic talks between the two world leaders at the Eastern European "oasis" of Bratislava, Slovakia, would have probably noticed the cool, sober tone with which both men conducted themselves, due in large part to the long history of disagreement between the two nations in most areas of global policy. However, in its non-customary efforts to adore the proliferation of American democracy throughout the world, Bush may have accidentally stumbled upon one area of domestic policy in which Russia and America actually bear striking similarities — "freedom" of the press.

On Thursday, Bush offered a vague attack on the democratic values of Putin's state when he said, "Democracies have certain things in common. They have a rule of law and protection of minorities, a free press and a viable political opposition." All gripes over proper definitions of democracy aside, though, these hypocritical comments did at least prompt a Russian journalist to ask Putin why he didn't challenge Bush and "talk a lot about violations of the rights of journalists in the United States, about the fact that some journalists have been fired."

How then, did our noble president respond to this? Is there an integrity on the integrity of the democratic ideals of his proud country? As far as I'm concerned, he lied. "I don't know what journalists you are referring to," he said, turned toward the American reporters in the audience and helpfully added, "Any of you still have your jobs?"

I guess he was lucky that Mary Mapes of CBS News was not present either. This hero of the Abu Ghraib prison scandal is now collecting unemployment checks because she and Dan Rather questioned the president's dubious military history. Without a doubt, these were the journalists to whom the Russian reporter was referring, and unless Bush hasn't been keeping up on the news in his own country, I'm pretty sure he was aware of this, too.

It's unfortunate, though, that the criticisms of Putin's direct control over the Russian news were not met with a similar question about the White House's authoritarian involvement in the American media. Perhaps this would have helped elucidate an issue in which they have something in common.

While Putin pursues news organizations like Channel One and Russia TV, Bush controls a few media minorities of his own — namely Armstrong Williams, Maggie Gallagher, "Jeff Gannon" and probably a few more to be named later.

In case you have forgotten, Williams is the syndicated columnist and television commentator who was bribed $240,000 by Bush's Department of Education to promote the president's learning initiatives in the public. Likewise, Gallagher is the syndicated columnist who was hired $21,500 by Bush's Department of Health and Human Services to endorse the president's traditional-marriage proposals.

Finally, "Gannon" is the alias-using, soft-core pornovigilante, Robert Novak and a Justice Department infringement upon freedom of the press, they certainly don't have their jobs. I guess he was lucky that Mary Mapes of CNN News was not present either. This hero of the White House press briefings under a false name so that he could ask Bush easy questions that would not challenge the poor president's Yale-educated belle. If you ask me, this kind of authoritarian media manipulation would be enough to get even Stalin, Castro and Maoistos to admit, "This Bush guy is GODLY!"

How, then, can the president of the United States of America justify dropping bombs around the world over innocent civilians in the name of democracy? He himself admitted that the lack of a democratic state is the preservation of "a free press," yet while he was busy digging the pits of free Iraqi voters in purple ink, he was also restricting the freedoms of American voters by regulating what was printed in the black ink of their newspapers. And there you have it. Only in America could a man wage a war in the name of democracy abroad while simultaneously waging a war against democracy at home and get away with it. Kim Jong-il of North Korea never had the world's respect because of the nonexistent free media of his own country. Putin can't do the same respect because his iron fist is squeezing tighter and tighter around the last remaining vestiges of free and independent news in Russia. And Bush? He was rewar ded with a resounding reelection victory and an overwhelming mandate for a second term in office.

Or at least that's what I heard on Fox News.

Joey Falco is a sophomore American Studies major. He can be contacted at falco@nd.edu.

The virus expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
The destruction of the World Trade Center (WTC) towers had an emotional impact on everyone. As structural engineers, we too felt the pain of the lives taken, those who gave their lives in service and the loss of a great achievement. It has come to our attention that "conspiracy theories" regarding the collapse of the WTC are being perpetuated on the Internet by individuals who are not structural engineers. As students of the art, we would like to present a few facts to dispel some of these "myths."

On Feb. 23, Leslie Robertson, structural engineer for the WTC, gave a presentation entitled "The Merging of Structural Engineering and Architecture." The WTC was not the subject of his talk, though he generously answered a question regarding tall structures and terrorism. In his opinion, modern structures should not be designed to withstand intentional aircraft impacts. No amount of design would yield a structure that is 100 percent indestructible and cost effective.

The following comments are our response to the letter to the editor entitled "Sept. 11 collapses not with lies" that appeared on Feb. 27.

The WTC was designed and constructed according to national standards and codes in place during its design. The original analysis considered the impact of a Boeing 727. However, the assumption was that the plane would not be fully fueled, would be low flying and would not have the intent of crashing into the building (as in 1945 when a B-25 bomber crashed into the Empire State Building under similar circumstances).

The fires that occurred in the WTC were initially sparked by jet fuel, which ignited other sources (desks, carpet, etc.). In 2004, NIST recreated the conditions and found temperatures reaching 1800 degrees Fahrenheit. The steel used in construction was tested under ASTM E119 (a controlled laboratory test, not a certification procedure) and could withstand such temperatures without melting. However, temperatures of this magnitude would cause the steel to undergo thermal expansion, deforming under the existing load. Deformations from thermal expansion create extremely large stresses in the entire assembly, which would cause connections to fail.

The design of the WTC was revolutionary. It consisted of an outer tube around an inner core. The inner core was not designed to withstand wind loads. It was designed to carry gravity loads from the floor system. This "truss" theory supposedly states that the floor system rigidly connected the outer tube to the inner core. In reality, the floor system was not rigidly connected because the core was not designed to withstand the loads imposed on the outer structure. The failure of the WTC was a result of the compromised outer tube undergoing large thermal stresses.

The collapse of the WTC was a result of progressive failures. Many believe visual evidence of the buildings collapsing vertically indicates the buildings were brought down by a controlled demolition. In reality, the buildings collapsed vertically because the structure could not longer withstand the force of gravity. There were no other forces on the building at the time to cause it to fall any other way.

The FEMA report was comprehensive and does not represent a government conspiracy. Conspiracy theorists who state that the FEMA report is wrought with lies serve only to harm the reputation of engineers who went beyond the call of duty on Sept. 11 and since. What should be remembered about the WTC is that it was the initial impact so that thousands of people could evacuate.

The FEMA report can be found at http://www.fema.gov/library/wtcstudy.shtm. The NIST report can be found at http://wtc.nist.gov/.

Kyle Butler
Graduate Student
Structural Engineering Graduate Students of Notre Dame
CE 40/1561 Structural Systems Class
Feb. 27

Academic controversies merit discussion

An important, revealing and highly entertaining pair of controversies has recently erupted in the world of academia recently, and from what I can tell, there has been little mention of either so far in these pages, so I would like to take the honor myself.

The first involves a professor at the University of Colorado, a man named Ward Churchill. He teaches in one of the "studies" departments, home of all that is serious, intellectually rigorous and objective. It turns out he lied to get his job and is quite unqualified even to teach in a "studies" department, but that is not the story Churchill made to the victims of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 to "little Americans," as well as some other quite noxious and hurtful remarks. He did not quite say "God bless those terrorists" — no good liberal would say "God bless" in regard to anyone, even terrorists. But he made it clear that between the terrorists who hijacked the planes and the people who died at their jobs that terrible morning, the bad guys were the folks in the towers, not the ones in the cockpits.

Meanwhile, one Lawrence Summers, president of Harvard, was participating in a discussion about women in the sciences. He suggested some possible reasons why the very highest level in the fields of math, science and engineering are so male-dominated. He dared to cite differences of aptitude as one of the possible reasons. He did not say women are dumber, less stable or inferior in any way. Rather, his hypothetical reaction of feminists to his comments might make one think they already knew it.

What I find so amusing and so relevant is not either of these controversies alone (though watching Summers growl and abuse himself is sort of fun), but rather the contrast to reactions to them within academia. Around Churchill, the faculty wagons have circled. Some schools have actually invited him to come speak. Professors were of a "chilling effect" if Churchill is disciplined at all for his hateful rhetoric. Meanwhile, Summers is being torn to pieces, not only at Harvard, but in the New York Times and other liberal outlets. He will probably lose his job. So the lesson seems to be: praise terrorists and insult their dead victims, fine — aademic freedom, after all; suggest there may be some natural differences between men and women, and you are unapologetically evil and ignore scientific evidence validating the idea that while women are in general better at verbal skills (somehow nobody throws a temper tantrum at this suggestion), men tend to be better at the sort of abstract reasoning central to fields like math and physics. Then you are the mind — the modern American university is no longer a place where the truth is sought, but where agendas are forward-minded. I noticed that this paper did a recent round of excellent reports on faculty bias. I encountered too many examples of such bias as an undergrad, I am embarrassed to admit too many to list here. This bias is also one issue conservatives have been using over the years. This parallel set of controversies could not have been dreamed up any better by any arch-conservative to reveal the depth of that bias. It is certainly rele­vant to anyone considering an aca­demic career, and it should be of interest to anyone in college.

David Morse
Class of '99
Feb. 27

Democracy grows in Middle East

While reading Gary Caruso's column in an Army Morale, Recreation and Welfare (MWR) facility in Baghdad, I could only chuckle at his indignation at a camera angle and his offering of a couple of now-tired jabs at the states of Florida and the Supreme Court.

Caruso, I wish you could be over here right now to see what I'm seeing. It was my honor to witness the birth of democracy in Iraq when on Jan. 30, 8 million Iraqis bravely and proudly stood in line to tell the insurgents that a new Iraq was born. I wish you could see the new hospitals, schools, and businesses that are springing up daily. But mostly, Caruso, I wish you could see the hope of the Iraqi people. It's infectious. It's the dream that life will be better, that the era of fear is headed for the history books. Iraq will finally be able to regain its place in the pantheon of nations that it has been prevented from entering for so many decades — often because of the complacency or outright collusion of the Europe you so desperately want us to mend fences with.

Amazingly too, this hope has not been confined to Iraq. In the last several weeks, we have been watching the embattled democracies of the Middle East and the rest of the world. These are tenous fires to be sure and they might still be blown out, but from Libya to Saudi Arabia to Lebanon to Palestine, people are looking to Iraq and saying, "If they can do it there, why can't we do it here?"

In each of these countries, we have seen the people demand from their governments greater freedoms and a seat at the table of democracy. The Middle East is at a crossroads and those crossroads do not run through Paris.

If the price of this historic and amazing change is democracy, the price of the Middle East is a few insulted Europeans, that's a price I'm willing to pay. More importantly, the people of the Middle East are showing us that it's a price I'm willing to pay as well.

Christopher J. DesBarres
Class of '93
Baghdad, Iraq
Feb. 27
After committing heinous crimes and sundering around the Philip Studio Theatre without remorse, it’s hard for a death row inmate like Matt Poncelet to gain the sympathy of a wide audience.

So why were so many of them crying at the end of “Dead Man Walking?”

The experimental performance, based on the novel and movie by Sister Helen Prejean and adapted by Tim Robbins, plunges the viewer into a morass of emotion in two intense hours. The play is performed as a semi-staged reading where the cast members sit in a circle of chairs, with the audience seated around them. The format emphasizes the raw human emotions of everyone involved in capital punishment.

“Dead Man Walking” is being performed as part of the Spring ArtFest: Tolerance and Reconciliation, a two-week presentation of the theatre and discussion. The ArtFest also includes the production of “The Laramie Project.”

Prejean (Siri Scott) begins by talking about how she came to be a pen pal for death row inmate Poncelet (Mike Dolson). Prejean’s work with those sentenced to deathificados this a natural extension of her work, since the death row inmates are too poor to be able to afford good legal counsel.

The lights go down as Poncelet’s letter to Prejean is read. In the letter he describes how he doesn’t receive letters or visitors. Poncelet’s first appearance when Prejean visits him in his cell is an unpleasant scene Dolson perfectly captures his character, who is unlikeable on the first day. The audience has vague information about his crimes of murder and rape. As the story unfolds more of the grisly details are revealed, but even before the bodies of the young victims are described there is a disturbing and horrible quality about Poncelet.

Dolson felt that this was an essential aspect of portraying the conflict in the debate, and that it is better for viewers if they’re not quite sure how they feel in the end.

“You wouldn’t have learned in the same way if you came and it was just an attempt to be very sympathetic,” Dolson said of his character’s relationship with the audience. “You should be torn about the character at the end.”

Publicity surrounding his case, Prejean is understandably bombarded from all sides by people who question her motives for becoming involved with such a brutal con.

She herself admits she is trapped in a way, and is not able to effectively present his case to the outside world. His first appearances evolve into more personal, even when he speaks of his young daughter in fact he is less offensive language about her mother and his frequent racial slurs turn the audience away.

“The point of a good play is to make you think,” Dolson said. “So why were so many of them crying at the end of “Dead Man Walking?”

So why were so many of them crying at the end of “Dead Man Walking?”

The scene in which the two lawyers present their cases for and against Poncelet highlights the multiplicity of moral issues such as capital punishment. Both sides are persuasive and logically presented, until the two men are speaking at the same time with equally emphatic tones and neither can hear over the other. Adding to the conflicting sides of the issue are the appearance of the parents of the victims. Prejean must face the involvement in many people, but is deeply affected by the families of the victims. Scott said that one of the hardest aspects of her character was her need to balance both sides. Everything is very gray, there is no black and white,” Scott said. “What he did was horrible, nobody’s saying it wasn’t, and you look at the parents’ pain, and you don’t know what to say.” There’s a line in the play, “Every person is worth more than his worst act.”

Director: Siri Scott, Jay Shelton
Writer: Adapted by Tim Robbins from “Dead Man Walking” by Sister Helen Prejean
Starring: Siri Scott, Mike Dolson, Mary Ann Moran, Paul Bertinetti, Bryce Cooper

Poncelet’s execution, and said that there is a place for this type of discussion at Notre Dame.

“I think there are a lot of things that Notre Dame people in particular just accept without thinking about it, and don’t ever challenge their views,” Cooper said.

“I am never going to force a debate on this. I don’t think it is good for the country or good for people,” Scott said. “It’s sort of a side of Catholicism that I think someone overlooked, a more compassionate side,” Dolson said. “The outstanding compassion that Christ asked for... it just allows you to think about that.”

“I don’t think a staged reading would work with everything, but I think it works with this because the kind of way it’s made–I think Tim Robbins is used to doing things with movies so he has those flash-in, flash-out things that you couldn’t really do much with...” Cooper said. “I think it’s easier to do this way where you can just change the lights a little bit and make it a little more dramatic... it’s better in this type of situation.”

By CHRISTIE BOLSEN
Scenic Writer

“Dead Man Walking” will be performed Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Regis Philbin Studio Theater. Tickets are $10 for students, $15 for faculty, staff and seniors and $32 for the general public.

Contact Christie Bolen at cbolsen@nd.edu

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Siri Scott
actor

“It’s important for students to start to get involved and start to form their opinions. They’re ready to start looking at things we do in country and judging for themselves.”

Siri Scott
director
LOS ANGELES — "Diary of a Mad Black Woman" got its revenge against mixed critics' reviews by earning $22.7 million and taking first place at the weekend box office.

The drama-comedy is based on a script by Tyler Perry from his play of the same name and also features him cross-dressed as a gun-toting grandmother and in two other supporting roles. The film's strong debut pushed Will Smith's romantic comedy "Hitch" to the second spot with a weekend haul of $21 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Films contending for top honors at the Academy Awards also continued to draw healthy audiences with best picture nominees "Million Dollar Baby," "The Aviator" and "Sideways" ranked among the top 11 films.

Final figures were to be released Monday.

"Diary of a Mad Black Woman" follows Kimberly Elise's character, Helen, who is kicked out of her house by her husband on their 18th wedding anniversary so his longtim e mistress can move in. Helen recovers from heartbreak by reconnecting with her cantankerous grandmother Madea, played by Perry, and by relying on her faith. The film received some poor reviews, with The Associated Press giving it a single star in its four-star rating system and National Public Radio describing it as "half inspired and half really, really terrible."

Showing in 1,483 theaters, "Diary of a Mad Black Woman" averaged a healthy $15,307 a cinema.

Perry, who has gained a strong following among blacks with his plays, should be given credit for the film's success, said Tom Ortenberg, president of Lions Gate Films Releasing.

"The performance of the film is really a testament to Tyler Perry," Ortenberg said. "He's a cultural phenomenon that is taking America by storm. In the next few weeks, those unfamiliar with Tyler will become familiar with Tyler."

Audiences in exit polls gave the film an A-plus rating and the vast majority said they would recommend the PG-13 rated film to others, Ortenberg said.

"Every once in a while there is a film that comes out of nowhere and grabs the No. 1 spot and certainly 'Diary of a Mad Black Woman' has done that," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations. "It shows the power that the urban audience wields at the box office."

"Hitch," another PG-13 rated film, played widely in 3,571 theaters and its $122 million over three weeks made it the first film in 2005 to crack the $100 million mark.

"Million Dollar Baby," which stars best-actress nominee Hilary Swank as a bullheaded boxer, ranked sixth with an estimated $7.2 million. Fellow best-picture nominees "The Aviator," a biopic about Howard Hughes, finished in ninth with $3.9 million, while the drinking road-trip movie "Sideways" ranked 11th with $3.5 million.

The latest Wes Craven horror film, "Cursed," debuted in fourth place with $9.6 million, while the weekend's other new film, the action-comedy "Man of the House" starring Tommy Lee Jones, opened in fifth place with $9 million.

Revenues from the top 12 movies were estimated at $105.4 million, down 24.6 percent from the same weekend last year. The comparison was skewed because Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ" debuted last year with $83.4 million.

"Diary of a Mad Black Woman" hits top of box office

Surprise smash hit pushes 'Hitch' to No. 2

Photos courtesy of Patrick Ryan

Helen (Kimberly Elise) is shocked to discover that her husband wants to leave her for her best friend near their 18th wedding anniversary.
Irish defen se and pitch­ ing hit a cold stretch in hot Artz- teri.
Notre Dame (4-3) suffered back-to-back losses this week­ end for the first time since a two-game series at Pittsburgh last April 25th and 26th. Previously dominant, the Irish pitchers failed to close out the final two games against the Dayton Flyers (5-3) after junior pitcher Tom Thornton allowed just two runs on six hits in six innings and 92 pitches of work in the opening loss, which the Irish won 10-2.
Notre Dame lost 13-9 in 11 innings in the second Saturday game and fell again Sunday in a nail-biter 11-10.
"There were a lot of guys that just didn't throw well. That's the cold facts of it. And we get a win in the opener, and, then, in the second game of the doubleheader, we took a 7-5 lead at the break. The Irish defense and pitch­ ing hit a cold stretch in hot Artz- teri," coach Mainieri said.
"So in some ways you're excited about the way that guys are swinging the bats, but, on the other hand, you don't let yourself get too excited because they didn't do enough to win," Routh jogged. Freshman Greg over leading the Irish with a 421 bat­ ting average after a solid week­ end, and Brzovsky comes in a close second, batting 414.
While most student-athletes were sitting during spring break, the Irish will do anything but take it easy.
Though it's early, the squad enters one of the toughest stretches of the season during the break. The Irish head to Texas to face perennial powers Rice (10-2) and Texas A&M (7-3) as well as Texas State, who defeated Rice last year in the opening game of the Houston Regional — (10-3), southwest Missouri State — a 2003 College World Series qualifier — (2-1) and Oral Roberts (5-3) — the 25th ranked team in the nation.
Mainieri knows his team is up to the challenge.
"There were a lot of things that went wrong against (Dayton) and things that didn't go our way. We didn't hit the ball, we didn't do the things that we used to do," Thomas said. "We didn't get to the plate and protect the pitching. We had a difficult time moving the base runners and we didn't have any," Thomas said.
"I think UCLA made us look bad in the first half, but we didn't execute and we were always kind of behind the eight-ball a little bit."
But by the time Brey found the combination of Thomas, Quinn, Flaherty, Jordan Farmar and Teri Mann into the team's offense, it was too late. "It's not a horrible loss from an NCAA tournament standpoint," Brey said. "It's a horri­ ble loss as far as some of the things we need to do better ... It would have been a very good win added to the resume."
In the end, there's a chance the Irish may not drastically hurt their hopes for the season.
MEN’S LACROSSE

Notre Dame destroys Penn State in opener

A trio of Irish players turn hat tricks while Walsh hits milestone

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer

Playing on the road against a top-25 team is not an easy way to start a season. So when No. 10 Notre Dame hosted No. 22 Penn State on Saturday, Irish coach Kevin Corrigan was impressed.

"Yes, I was surprised," Corrigan said about his program's largest margin of victory ever against a ranked team on the road. "It is the maturity of this series is close. It's a positive start for us.

"Crosland also played well and we did a great job on ground balls."
The Irish achieved numerous personal bests this weekend in the Boilermaker with the two-day tournament at Purdue, but they left the pool disappointed.

The meet was scheduled as an end-of-the-year goal for several younger swimmers, while also giving the swimmers on the bubble for the Championships. "For [Stephens] and [Johnson], we'll have to wait and see. But all of them gave a great effort," Weathers said.

"If Sunday's show down proved anything, it's that national rankings mean nothing in a body-contested match. Playing with determination, the No. 24 Notre Dame tennis team took No. 2 Virginia (10-1) to the limit before falling in a 4-3 decision.

Playing on the road for just the third time this season, the Irish (10-3) stayed in the match from the start. Notre Dame split two early singles matches and won the doubles point to take an early 2-1 lead. It took a growing three-set singles match at the No. 2 slot to decide Virginia's narrow margin of victory.

With the match score tied 3-3, sophomore Stephen Bass and Virginia's Ryan Rizza, ranked No. 38 in the nation, played a lengthy match that ended with Rizza's 6-3, 6-7 (4-7), 6-3 win. Bass dropped the opening set but battled back in the second, setting up the crucial third set.

"Rizza jumped out to an 3-0 lead before Bass closed the gap to 4-2 and a break point in the seventh game. Bass forced Rizza to serve out the match before finally falling to Virginia junior 6-3 in the last set.

"Stephen Bass was the last one out on the court," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "He knew what we were up against in the match."

Although the Irish have dropped the doubles point in four of their last six matches, they came out strong against Virginia. Senior captain Brent Devvarman and freshman Ryan Kerkley posted a 9-7 victory over Virginia's duo of Rizza and Nick Meyerblu. The Irish also won the pivotal doubles match at the No. 2 slot, as junior Eric Langenkamp and freshman Sheeva Parbhu upset the No. 23-ranked team of Somdev Devvarman and Treat Huey in 8-5 decision.

"We played really well at the net, which is a good move for him and shows a lot of progress in his game. He lost but he played very hard and very well. He's a guy we definitely wanted out there at that point in the match."

Bayliss says. "We won those two doubles and it was great to take the 2-1 lead with four matches remaining. We knew what we were up against but we still had to make the best of it.

Notre Dame's two singles victories came from the heart of their lineup, in the No. 4 and No. 5 slots. In the No. 5 slot, Sophomore Irackli Akhvlediani put the Irish on the board first while also posting the team's top individual victory. He upset Virginia's Darrin Cohen, ranked No. 36 in the nation, 7-5, 7-6 in his first collegiate victory over a nationally-ranked opponent.

"They were both really good matches and we had chances in both of them," Bayliss says. "Irackli played very well.

Contact Rama Gottumukkala at rgottum@nd.edu
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**Baseball**

**Big East Conference**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Conf.</th>
<th>Overall</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notre Dame</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connecticut</td>
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<td>Georgetown</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>St. John's</td>
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**Softball**

**Big East Conference**

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<tr>
<td>Dyeacrosse</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Villanovae</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John's</td>
<td>4-5-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boston College</td>
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<td>Notre Dame</td>
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<td>Seton Hall</td>
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<td>Connecticut</td>
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<td>Pittsburgh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Providence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rutgers</td>
<td>4-6-0</td>
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**ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25**

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<th>Team</th>
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<th>Prev. Rank</th>
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<td>Arizona</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>California (FL)</td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>5-0-0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UCLA</td>
<td>5-2-0</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LSU</td>
<td>4-1-0</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon State</td>
<td>3-0-0</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temple</td>
<td>10-1-0</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Louisiana-Lafayette</td>
<td>10-1-0</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M</td>
<td>10-0-0</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>10-0-0</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Texas</td>
<td>8-2-0</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iowa</td>
<td>7-3-0</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>10-4-0</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
<td>12-2-0</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Texas A&amp;M (20-5, 10-4)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>7-5-0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oregon State</td>
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<td>Florida State</td>
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<td>Georgia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Minnesota</td>
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<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach State</td>
<td>7-3-0</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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**ND SOFTBALL**

**Irish top Volunteers to end weekend slide**

By RYAN DUFFY

Sports Writer

Though most of the weekend didn’t go as planned, Notre Dame proved once again they still have the talent to go out with a bang. The Irish opened the Palm Springs Classic with four losses on Friday and Saturday, but came back on Sunday to post a 5-2 upset win over No. 5/6 Tennessee. It was the third time this season that Notre Dame had knocked off a nationally ranked team, with wins over No. 21 South Florida and No. 19 Florida in the GRI Classic earlier in the year.

The Irish handed Tennessee their first loss of the tournament thanks in large part to a three-run homer than turned out the most inopportune time. Leading 1-0 into the sixth inning, the Volunteers were never able to get closer than eight.

The Bruins had six players in double figures, led by Arron Afflalo’s 17 points. UCLA forward Dijon Thompson struggled with his shot but ended up with 16 points and 10 rebounds.

Chris Quinn led the Irish with 17 points, while Chris Thomas and Turin Francis were the only other Irish players to end up in double figures. Brett went deep into the bench playing with nine, with eight scoring at least 10 minutes of playing time.

**Notes:**
- Thomas became the third player in college basketball history to accumulate 2,000 points and 800 assists in his career. His 800th assist came on a Francis dunk in the second half.
- "I really don’t have any thoughts about it. It is what it is. It’s something to be proud of, more of pride of if you get the win," Thomas said. "I think this way. I don’t think about achievement. I don’t think if it’s a milestone at point guard to look to get. I’m in the company of two other great guards, and it’s an honor to be there with them.”

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E A D
L P U T T A
33 King Cole
31 Make up (for)

"If you really loved her," she said, "you'd buy me a dog.

So he bought her a dog.

It was not too long before the dog wished he had never become involved.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
36. Lama Ding Dong (1961 romanian hit)
37. Huileys
38. Author Forster
39. Mrs. in Madrid
40. Like the weather around lighthouses, often
41. Open as a package
42. Ed of "The Honeymooners"
43. Carnes
44. Golf attendants
45. Prayer book
46. Country pumpkins
47. Part of "Lawrence of Arabia"
50. Part of a college address
51. Like a native
52. Make up (for)
53. King Cole
55. Bro's sibling

DOWN
1. Baby's mealtime glue
2. Alore
3. Naughty
4. "case-by-case basis"
5. Tiny puncture
6. Scotts
7. Fusess
8. Stephan of "The Crying Game"
9. Drinker's place
10. Antiquated
11. Drilling tool
12. Like a rabbit's foot, supposedly
13. Deuce toppings
14. Sand hill
15. Priest's robe
16. "... of roses"
17. Economic cycle
18. Mrs. Chaplin
19. Unreliable
20. Rumple
21. King's time on the throne
22. Apple's apple and Chernov's chervon
23. Win by
24. Levy impresor
25. Tape deck
26. Ham it up
27. Asian holiday
28. Rooming house
29. Tehran native
30. Perfect
31. Tints
32. "Jazz style"
33. "... of a college address"
34. "... of roses"
35. "E walnuts"
36. "... of roses"
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65. "... of roses"

Horoscope

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY (The Observer, 2 Jan. Howard Hesseman, 75; Robert Pattinson, 26; Frank Oz, 70; Jennifer Garner, 42; Fred Thompson, 80; Cady McClain, 35)***

SCOTT ADAMS

DILBERT

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THIS GESTURE EITHER MEANS 'HELLO' OR I LIKE TO SEE YOUR MITTENS ON MY BEDROOM FLOOR, BABY.

PEANUTS

CHARLES SCHULZ

If you really loved her, she said, you'd buy me a dog.

So he bought her a dog.

It was not too long before the dog wished he had never become involved.

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter each in a square to form four ordinary words.

RUSUY
DOTUB
NYWRT
SITMIF

Saturday's Jumbles Answer: GIVEN CARGO DAKLA GLENY

WHORTZT

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): An opportunity to take part in a function will lead to something quite inspirational. Someone from your past will remind you of the love you once shared. Enjoy the moment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Married life will become initiating as your marriage will begin to blossom. A good friend will be able to provide you with a lot of love and support.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): When it comes to emotional matters, you may feel quite isolated. You may need to open up to others and share your feelings with them.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Not everyone will be thinking the same way you are today. Keep your emotions in check and try not to let them control your actions.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Not everyone will be thinking the same way you are today. Keep your emotions in check and try not to let them control your actions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'd be surprised who you can meet through church or church-related activities. A new friend may develop into a close confidant.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Not everyone will understand what it is you are trying to do. Stay calm and don't let others get you down.

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SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Take time out to have fun with friends or family. You need to let yourself enjoy the moment and not worry about the future.

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SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Partnerships will be what count today. Bend over and take the position that suited you best. You are only a stone's throw away from a final check to make sure you haven't left out something important. Every detail will count, so you will need to get everything just right.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You might take a look at a new destination that will inspire you to do something quite different.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You might take a look at a new destination that will inspire you to do something quite different.

TUESDAY'S JUMBLE

SATURDAY'S JUMBLE

ANSWER: what the detectives did when they spotted the answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: what the detectives did when they spotted the answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

She said, "If you really loved her..."

Saturday's Jumbles Answer: GIVEN CARGO DAKLA GLENY

ANSWER: what the detectives did when they spotted the answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.


In answer to previous puzzle

THE OBSERVER

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

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State

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Answer: what the detectives did when they spotted the answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

THE OBSERVER • TODAY

page 19
Men's Basketball

Trouble's Bruin

Since last season's disappointing NIT appearance, Mike Brey and his team have emphasized defense. It let them get off the non-conference cupcakes during the early-season shooting woes. It kept them in games by emphasizing defense. "We weren't shooting well," Chris Tip, Notre Dame never held a defensive end. To their credit, they were better defensively, and we've been pretty defensively. "I can't answer that right now.

Meanwhile, the Irish offensive flow never got going as the Bruins built a 15-point halftime lead — the largest game of the season — giving up a season-high 88 points to the Bruins. On Sunday, the Irish let the Bruins (16-9) shoot the lights out as UCLA made 14-of-23 3-pointers. The Bruins were able to shoot such a high percentage from behind the arc by getting into a comfortable offensive flow that saw their outside shooters get wide-open looks coming off screens.

"Fourteen 3-point shots kind of stagger us. That's not something they've been doing but I give them credit," Brey said. "I thought defensively, I was disappointed we weren't guarding the ball screen and guarding shooters off stagger screens.

"We obviously have to get better before we play Rutgers. We talked about that, being better defensively, and we've been pretty defensively. "I can't answer that right now.

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Notre Dame lacks a sense of urgency as season comes to close

It is difficult to qualify a non-conference loss to a top-50 BPI team as a "bad loss." Even on Sunday, Notre Dame eventually found an effective lineup and showed signs of life down the stretch. While the loss to UCLA does not affect Notre Dame's post-season status, the 10-point defeat does show that these Irish lack a sense of urgency in one of the most crucial segments of their season.

This week, Notre Dame knew they had only three opponents left on the regular season.

Photos by CLEMENT SUHENDRA

Football

Powlus may return for front-office position

By JUSTIN SCHUVER / Assistant Sports Editor

Former Irish signal caller Ron Powlus could replace Jimmy Gonzalez as director of personnel development for the Irish football team, according to Blueandgold.com and Irisheyes.com on Sunday.

Powlus would take over for Gonzalez, who left to accept a job with Oklahoma State shortly after Irish head coach Charlie Weis replaced Tyrone Willingham.

As director of player development, Powlus would be responsible for recruiting administration and player development for the Irish, along with additional duties associated with the program. "From what I have learned talking to past personnel directors, the job is primarily an organizational one," Mike Frank of Irisheyes.com said. "This is the person who's responsible for organizing travels for the recruits, junior days, campus visits and maybe even collecting transcripts and phone numbers.

Powlus is one of a handful of former Irish student-athletes who have discussed the possibility of returning to the school in some capacity, including former Irish receiver Tim Brown and ex-Irish running back Jerome Bettis. But elected to remain involved in professional football.

Powlus was one of the most highly recruited quarterbacks in the country when he signed with Notre Dame as a freshman in 1993. A broken collarbone postponed the start of Powlus' career with the team, but the quarter- back assumed the starting role in 1994 and played until 1997.

By the time of his final game in an Irish uniform, Powlus held the Notre Dame career marks for passes attempted (969), passes completed (558), percent passing (57.6), touchdowns (55) and fumbles (10).

But despite the statistical accolades, Powlus and his teams had a difficult time maintaining consistency. During his career, the Irish amassed a 30-17-3 record, and did not contend for a national championship.

Powlus was signed by the Philadelphia Eagles and spent several years in that organization, but never saw the field in a regular-season NFL game.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu