To said, "It's been hard finding consistent throughout the dorm," the rector but the wireless isn't con­installation.

four dorms currently undergoing wireless Internet and cable lives in Lyons H all, one of the felt isolated from her off-cam­
effective ways to protest and pre­
storm ideas in response to John Jenkins' invitation to con­
Cable installation to cause longer dark periods

W e want to show [Jenkins] that there is an extraordinarily large contingent on this campus that supported the right to free speech, (as concerned about con­strains on academic freedom and will fight for this cause," said senior Kaitlyn Redfield, who organized the meeting. Redfield led the discussion that produc­of Ireland and the Queer Film Festival have added a degree of uncer­
fledging campus presence — a notorious underage drink­

Without a reliable Internet connection to chat on Instant Messenger, senior Lisa Ts has felt isolated from her off-cam­
friends since she returned to school from winter break. In lives in Lyons Hall, one of the four dorms currently undergo­
wireless Internet and cable installation. "It’s been hard because I've gotten a wireless card from my ro­tor but the wireless isn’t con­
consistent throughout the dorm," To said. "It's been hard finding the hot spots and staying on the wireless."
Dancing queen

This Saturday, I was trying to explain to people why my impromptu Friday night dance performance on a coffee table is unusual. Dad, I know you're reading this online, and I swear to you, it's not what you think. I have nothing against dancing in public, on any surface, although after a couple of decades of frivolous, I try to avoid it whenever possible. Why don't you? Well, when your moves include the infamous "churning the butter" and "the sprinkler," it's hard to avoid unflattering comparisons to more coordinate friends. It could be left-over self-consciousness from when my social life was crippled by Coke-bottle glasses. But finally, after over two decades of awkward moves on the dance floor, and approaching my final SBR, I have realized where I can squarely place the blame for my lack of dance-floor table is unusual. (Dad, I know you're developing sweet moves on the dance floor. I won't tell anyone, I promise.)

Yes, you read that correctly, and if you realize where I can squarely place the blame for my lack of dance-floor coordination: the American system of Catholic education.

Counting this year, I've spent 16 years in the Catholic education system. In some ways, this is great. I can advocated answer the Bible questions on "Jeopardy!" and love collared shirts. Unfortunately, I have a long history of extremely awkward school dances, which I believe directly correlate to my school's parochial affiliations.

It dates back to middle school, when Dad would chaperone my seventh-grade dances. As if being 13 isn't awkward enough, your father is watching your moves at home, that's two guardian angels, my geometry teacher advocated courses and realizing that we didn't have to wear skirt to wear shirt to wear skirt. After taking some more advanced religion courses and realizing that we didn't actually need room for our guardian angels, my geometry teacher advocated a new criterion: All dancers must remain more than 135 degrees from the ground. You have to leave space for your guardian angels. For anyone keeping score at home, that's two guardian angels who need room between the couple, and from my recollections, school policies were ropes pretty big.

You would think high school would be easier, given the reputation that Catholic school girls have to uphold. However, I assure you that my small town high school was having none of that. After taking some more advanced religion courses and realizing that we didn't actually need room for our guardian angels, my geometry teacher advocated a new criterion: All dancers must remain more than 135 degrees from the ground. You have to leave space for your guardian angels. For anyone keeping score at home, that's two guardian angels who need room between the couple, and from my recollections, school policies were ropes pretty big.

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Resolution recommends drastic increase in library hours

By MADIE HANNA
Associate News Editor

A resolution proposed by the Student Senate’s Academic Affairs committee intended for night owls who like to study past 2 a.m. passed with little controversy at the group’s Wednesday night meeting.

Committee member and Carroll senator Jim Grace presented the resolution, which recommends the Hesburgh Library stay open 24 hours a day from 8 a.m. Sunday until 2 a.m. Thursday and open 24 hours during the unofficial midterm week before spring break.

Given dorm overcrowding, inadequate study space around campus, resources specific to college life, the committee argues, it would be reasonable to extend Library hours.

"Some students are getting swept out of the Library — not literally, but figuratively," committee chair Chris Harris said.

Currently, the Hesburgh Library is open from 7:30 a.m. to 1 a.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. Sunday.

While the hours requested in the resolution are the "best case scenario," Harris said his committee would be willing to compromise.

Several senators questioned the logistics of extending the hours, but Grace explained that Library officials wanted to see a Senate proposal before digging into the matter.

Grace said he was told the finances for the project would "most likely" come from the Library’s budget to buy new books and that keeping one floor of the Library open later was not feasible due to fire codes.

Knott senator Jacques Nguyen wondered if Library officials had already considered the potential of drawing "unwanted visitors" by keeping the library open 24 hours.

In other Senate news:

♦ Student body president Dave Baron said he would like Senate to respond to University President Father John Jenkins’ request to start dialogue about academic freedom at Notre Dame.

Consequently, the University Affairs, Gender Issues and Academic Affairs committees each will begin to explore this topic.

"It’s to get as many ideas "out on the floor as possible, so Father Jenkins can hear them," Baron said. "That’s what he asked us to do."

♦ Students will not make a presentation at next week’s Board of Trustees meeting in Rome, but student government will still send a brief report, student body president Lizzi Shappell said.

The report will update trustees on student government’s activities since the October Board meeting and will mention community relations issues, the Transpo agreement, Eating Disorders Awareness Week, the Catholic Think Tank speaker series and the proposed cultural competency requirement, among other topics.

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Supreme Court will hear injection appeal

Death row inmate Clarence Hill argues lethal injections are unnecessarily painful

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Hours after staying the execution of an inmate who was already strapped to a gurney, the Supreme Court said Wednesday it would hear arguments from the man who claims the drug cocktail used in lethal injections can cause excruciating pain.

Lethal injections are used in most states that have capital punishment, and there’s been a growing dispute over the way they are carried out.

The Supreme Court has never ruled on the specific form of execution to be cruel and unusual punishment, and the latest case from Florida does not give court members that opportunity. The justices will, however, spell out what options are available to inmates with last-minute challenges to the way they will be put to death.

Florida inmate Clarence Hill, who filed the appeal, had been strapped to a gurney with intravenous lines running from his arms into his hands Tuesday night when he won a temporary Supreme Court stay. The stay was signed by Justice Antonin Scalia.

The full court announced Wednesday that the stay would be lifted and the justices decide whether an appraisal is needed to prevent Hill from challenging the lethal injection method.

The argument is expected April 26, with a ruling before July.

"What a fantastic day. What a magnificent day," said Hill's attorney D. Todd Doss, who relayed the news to his client. "He was happy, he was glad. We get to go and present this to the U.S. Supreme Court."

Hill is on death row for killing a Pensacola, Fla., police officer during a bank robbery in 1982. Hill has consistently maintained his innocence and taken the name Raazq Muhammad, although he does not use that name in court filings.

A Florida Department of Corrections spokeswoman said Hill would be moved off death row during a court order placed adjacent to the execution chamber, and back to death row.

Hill argues that the doses of three chemicals used in Florida executions — sodium pentothal, pancuronium bromide and potassium chloride — can cause pain. The first drug is a painkiller, the second one paralyzes the inmate and the third causes a fatal heart attack.

The final drug, potassium chloride, “burns intensely as it courses through the veins toward the heart,” Doss wrote in the appeal. He said there is “a foreseeable risk of the gratuitous and unnecessary infliction of pain.”

Hill’s case allows the court to revisit a 2004 ruling in an Alabama death case, in which justices said David Larry Nelson could pursue a last-ditch claim that his death by lethal injection would be unconstitutionally cruel because of his damaged veins.

While Hill does not have damaged veins, his appeal cites medical studies about the cocktail of drugs used by Florida and other states.

“The court may be willing to broaden what can be considered as a civil rights claim,” said Richard Dieter, executive director of the anti-capital punishment organization National Penalty Information Center.

Dieter predicted that arguments in the Hill case will be similar to an appeal filed in California in 2003 but settled before the Supreme Court had ruled.

“I don’t think he’s overly concerned that at all,” Solomon said. “Jenkins was concerned with administration, sticking to the Hill case. The wider world thinks about the future of Notre Dame. We’re not trying to please everybody — what he’s trying to do is have some integrity of truth at the heart of the Catholic tradition.”

Jenkins said the stuff about perception is a red herring brought forward by Father Jenkins’ critics who don’t realize how serious he is. “We’re concerned about what kind of University we should be,” Jenkins established that serious tone even before he spoke a single word, Solomon said.

“The tension in the room [Monday] before the speech was quite remarkable,” Solomon said. “I don’t recall when a president at Notre Dame has commanded the attention of the faculty quite the way Father Jenkins did. In the importance of the community, I don’t think we’ve had anything quite like it since [University President Emeritus] Father [Theodore] Hesburgh announced the ‘Fifteen Minute Rule’ [placing restrictions on student protest in 1960] so many years ago.”

The ‘Fifteen Minute Rule’ drew a flood of national attention and sparked a slew of national mitigants as panicking universities across the country looked to Notre Dame’s example of where to draw the line on campus unrest, and now the University’s national reputation hinges in part on Jenkins’ even-handed approach.

“I think that the opportunity for Notre Dame to deal constructively and respectfully with this issue in a straightforward fashion, respecting the views of all members of the community ... would reflect very well on the community,” Burish said.

But when the discussion ends, possibly somewhere between six and eight weeks from now, Jenkins will be forced to make a decision that will test the patience of both satisfiers and dissatisfiers.

The less obvious answer is what effect a decision — should Jenkins decide that the future of Notre Dame won’t be threatened, or that it will be? — would have on the type and caliber of students and faculty Notre Dame attracts.

English Department chair Stephen Fredson said he interviewed several candidates for a national convention in December for fiction jobs at Notre Dame who asked him directly about the campus climate toward gay and lesbian students and faculty. He mentioned the presence of "The Vagina Monologues" and "Queer Film Festival on campus.

"If word gets out that these artistic events are forbidden in the future, it will be much harder to recruit high-quality candidates — both Catholic and non-Catholic and our faculty," Fredson said.

He said he has also seen a letter from a distressed mother concerned that her freshman daughter might not be able to perform in "The Vagina Monologues." "She was trying to encourage her daughter to stay at Notre Dame and not transfer, but felt it would be hard to continue doing so if her daughter were denied the educational opportunity that performing in 'The Vagina Monologues' would afford her," Fredson said. "I can't imagine that this reaction by a student and her parent would not be repeated many times over, should be seen as a school thatrestricts academic freedom in such ways."

No matter what course Jenkins pursues, he currently sees the impact of his decision on Notre Dame’s reputation in a somewhat fuzzy light.

"We’re at an early stage and I haven’t looked down that road, but I think what we have to do is reframe the first is declare who we are and be true to that, and I think that is what will attract students, not any manufactured presentation," Jenkins said.

Contact Maddie Hanna at mmahana@nd.edu

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**Four Future continued from page 1**

**The Observer**

NEWS

Thursday, January 26, 2006

**Janey 26**

**A Little Knowledge is a Dangerous Thing: So, Come to Meet Us!**

Office of Undergraduate Studies, introduction of advising team.

Hammes Student Lounge, Coleman Morse.

Door prizes — MP3 player, DVD player and more! Must be present to win.

Contact information:

Office of Undergraduate Studies, 104 O’Shaughnessy, 1-7098.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Pope's firstencyclical stresses love

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI said in his firstencyclical Wednesday that the Roman Catholic Church has a duty through its charitable work to influence political leaders to promote peace and goodwill.

The document, "God Is Love," also warns against sex without unconditional love, which he said risked turning men and women into merchandise.

It had been eagerly anticipated because inaugural encyclicals offer clues about a pontiff's major concerns. The 71-page docu-

THE VIRUS IS NOT DYING OFF AMID THE RECENT WEATHER," SHE SAID. DOGS ARE OUT MORE, AND WARMER TEMPERATURES.

more, and warmer temperatures.

scrubbing down the shelter in an effort to shelter has had dozens of dogs suffering around distant stars are larger than Earth.

Adoptions for a week. Fort Wayne Animal

outside our own solar system.

ets, researchers said. The discovery also

found what may be the smallest and most

OFTEN CONCEALED.

The defense had argued that Druce was a "big shot" in prison.

planned the murder for weeks so he could wear wounded.

investigate the possibility that "foreign hands" were responsible for Tuesday's blasts inside a bank and outside a state environmental agency building. Forty-six people were wounded.

New planet possibly discovered

NEW YORK — Astronomers say they've found what may be the smallest and most distant planet known to be orbiting a star outside our own solar system.

The work suggests that such small rocky or icy planets may be more common in the cosmos than Jupiter-sized gas giant planets, researchers said. The discovery also indicates the power of a relatively new method of finding such "exoplanets."

All of the exoplanets discovered so far around distant stars are larger than Earth. The newly found planet is about 5.5 times the mass of Earth, making it much smaller than most previously known exoplanets.

Local News

Animal shelter deals with fatal virus

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — The city animal shelter has had dozens of dogs suffering from a respiratory virus and has stopped dog adoptions for a week. Fort Wayne Animal Care and Services Director Gary Doan said Thursday that of the 32 dogs scratched down the shelter in an effort to kill the virus, "We think it's part of this stretch of mild weather," she said. Dogs are out more, and the virus is not dying off amid the recent warmer temperatures.

L. WORTHINGTON, W.Va.

More than three weeks after a deadly underground explosion, the mine's 12 trapped workers was considered safe enough Wednesday for federal mine-safety officials to begin gathering evidence inside.

Hazardous levels of carbon monoxide and other gases had to be vented before investigators could get in, Mine Safety and Health Administration spokesman Dirk Fillipot said.

It wasn't clear how long the entire recovery process would take.

A few federal investigators had accompanied a mine-rescue team over the weekend that entered the Sago Mine for the first time since the bodies of the dead miners and one survivor were removed Jan. 4, more than 41 hours after the explosion. The team restored water pumps and repaired damaged ventilation systems.

Investigators will likely search for such things as search marks and melted plastic, examine equipment for signs of a short circuit, establish whether the methane detectors were working and take air samples to check for highly combustible coal dust. They also will track the victims' footprints and look through the miners' lunch pails or other gear left behind.

The cause of the explosion has yet to be determined by the mine rescue team.

International Coal Group Inc. has said it occurred in an area of the mine where methane had been sealed in for at least 41 hours after the explosion.

December.

The sole survivor, Randal McCoy Jr., 26, has been slowly emerging from a coma at a Morgantown hospital. Doctors there said he is able to respond to simple commands and follow movements with his eyes, but remains unable to speak.

He may have suffered brain damage from the carbon monoxide exposure in the mine, but the extent of that damage is not yet known.

The accident at Sago was followed by an underground conveyor belt fire that killed two miners at the Aracoma Coal Alma No. 1 mine in Melville. Eddy Harfield, 47, and Don E. Bragg, 33, died of smoke inhalation, the Department of Health and Human Resources spokesman John Law said Wednesday.

The 14 deaths have prompted calls for tougher mine safety rules at the federal and state levels. A bill shepherded through the Legislature with unusual speed this week by Gov. Joe Manchin requires mine operators to call for help immediately if an incident, keep extra breathing packs underground and equip miners with personal tracking devices.

MEXICO

Smugglers disguised as soldiers

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexico insisted Wednesday that the men in military-style uniforms who crossed the Rio Grande River and confronted Texas law officers with guns drawn earlier this week were drug smugglers, not soldiers.

Mexican presidential spokesman Ruben Aguilar said the FBI supported that view.

A U.S. law enforcement official confirmed Aguilar's account, saying the FBI asked him if he found any evidence that the men in uniform were Mexican soldiers. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the matter is politically sensitive.

"These were not Mexican army soldiers," as the U.S. government itself acknowledged. Aguilar said at a news conference. "It is known that these are drug traffickers using military uniforms and they were not even regulation military uniforms."

Aguilar said both countries were investigating the incident.

The incident has raised tensions between the United States and Mexico, which were already bickering over security problems along their 2,000-mile-long border. The United States has proposed extending a wall along the border, something Mexico bitterly opposes.

Texas law enforcement officials confronted armed traffickers near the Rio Grande on Monday as what looked like a Mexican military patrol assisted the marijuana smugglers as they escaped back into Mexico.

No shots were fired during Monday's confrontation with at least 10 heavily armed men, U.S. authori-

ties said Tuesday. The traffickers escaped back into Mexico with much of the marijuana, though they aban-

ned more than a half-ton of mari-juan a as they did and set fire to one of their vehicles.

The confrontation 50 miles east of El Paso started when state police tried to stop three sport utility vehicles on Interstate 10. The vehicles made a quick U-turn and headed south toward the border, a few miles away.

When the SUVs reached the Rio Grande, which marks the border, police saw the occupants of a green, Mexican Army-style Humvee waiting for the convoy, said Rick Glancy of the Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition.

One SUV got stuck in the river, and men in the Humvee tried to tow the stuck vehicle out of the river. When that failed, a group of men in civilian clothes began unloading from the SUV what appeared to be bundles of marijuana. They then torched the SUV, Glancy said.

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The confrontation 50 miles east of El Paso started when state police tried to stop three sport utility vehic-
The rector and students have been very patient and it seems that this is a big project.

Jeffrey Shoup
director
Residence Life and Housing

Contractors are currently working in the next batch of dorms — Lyons, Howard, Walsh and Morrissey.

Robert Guthrie, University Program Manager for Strategic Initiatives Planning and Project Management, said that after the project. The original timetable for installation was largely speculative, and said that the contractors could not predict exactly when the dorms would be in use. Some contractors, like Badin, are being renovated.

"We have 27 dormitories to do," Guthrie said, "and the issue is just to try and keep the electric wires cool. As they go," contractors are learning to coordinate the work of many upperclassmen who remember the bar's earlier days. "As far as memories go you just can't beat dollar for dollar and good company," Senior Chris Trotier said he was just a student when the bar was opened.

But VanVynckt also attributed the board's decision to influence from local businesses and residents who remain opposed to the bar because of its shaky past. 

"We're seeing what we can and we're happy that it didn't open tonight, although I can't say I was completely surprised," he said. "The only way to do it is to cut through the license the contract is with, but not just antagonizing him." VanVynckt said. "We're seeing what we can do and we have to do it. We're going to do what whatever it takes to relaunch it. We're seeing what we can do and what we have to do." VanVynckt said.

"I thought people had a lot of good ideas," senior Curtis Lighten said. "I feel like I've heard a lot of anger, animosity and resentment. But I feel like the people who were doing pretty constructive claims — like working with Father Jenkins and not just antagonizing him." Sophomore Alex Benenri, a member of the Alliance, was cautiously hopeful at the end of the meeting. "I just think we're going to do everything we can and pray for the best," he said.

Regardless of how those in attendance believe they should approach the situation, Reedfield was impressed with the interest generated on the issue. "This is the biggest meeting I've seen in a long time on this campus," she said.

Contact Claire Heinsinger at cheining@nd.edu

Voice continued from page 1

organizing AllianceND, attended a meeting discussing their opinions before breaking into committees in charge of recruiting, taking action, press releases, petitions and more.

Quaranto said he was concerned with what could happen if the issue is not addressed properly. He added that the current production style of "The Virginia Monologues" on campus is "the direction of the Universe is in trouble." Other students echoed Quaranto's concerns and believed "United for Free Speech" would be an effective outlet to make their opinions heard. "I thought people had a lot of good ideas," senior Curtis Lighten said. "I feel like I've heard a lot of anger, animosity and resentment. But I feel like the people who were doing pretty constructive claims — like working with Father Jenkins and not just antagonizing him." Sophomore Alex Benenri, a member of the Alliance, was cautiously hopeful at the end of the meeting. "I just think we're going to do everything we can and pray for the best," he said.

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Tournament begins February 6th, 8pm - 10pm @ Legends

Sign up your team of four at the LaFortune Information Desk Mon., M., and Tue. nights.

Winning team will represent ND at the ACUI regional tournament on Feb. 24 & 25 at the University of Illinois.
BB&T adopts new loan policy

Bank refutes involvement in projects regarding government acquisition of private land

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. Regional bank BB&T Corp., one of the nation's largest financial institutions, will make no loans to developers who plan to build on federal or state projects on land taken from private citizens by the government, the company said Wednesday.

"The idea that a citizen's property should be taken by the government solely for private use is extremely misguided, in fact it's just plain wrong," John Allison, the bank's chairman and chief executive, said in a statement.

In an interview, BB&T chief credit officer Ken Chalk said the bank expects to lose only a tiny amount of business, but believes it was obligated to take a stance on the issue.

"It's not even a fraction of a percent," he said. "The dollar amount is insignificant."

But he added: "We do business with a large number of consumers and small businesses in our footprint. We are hearing from clients that this is an important philosophical issue.

BB&T, which is headquartered in Winston-Salem, ranks among the nation's top 10 banks by assets.

EOmwgsford reiterated the bank's decision to ban loans for development on land taken from private citizens by the government, the company said Wednesday.

"Eminent domain abuse is wrong and unconstitutional," Chalk said in a statement. "BB&T has stepped up and recognized its corporate responsibility to not be a part of this shameful abuse of individual rights."

In its statement, BB&T said 38 states have recently passed or are considering laws to ban the use of eminent domain for private development. Similar legislation is pending before the U.S. Congress.

"While we're certainly optimistic about the pending legislation, this is something we could not wait any longer to address," Chalk said in a statement. "We're a company where we value our decision-making and operating standards. From that standpoint, this was a straightforward decision; it's simply the right thing to do."

BB&T, with $119 billion in assets, operates more than 1,400 branches in 11 states and Washington, D.C.

The Observer

Thursday, January 26, 2006

Business

Market Recap

Dow Jones

10,709.74 -2.48

AMEX

1,825.85 -5.92

NASDAQ

2,260.65 -4.60

NYSE

8,063.49 -3.57

S&P 500

1,264.68 -2.18

NIKKEI(Tokyo)

15,651.00 -0.00

FTSE 100(London)

5,704.40 +70.60

Trades

30 YEAR BOND +1.86 +0.85 46.55

5 YEAR NOTE +2.03 +0.89 44.79

10 YEAR NOTE +2.09 +0.90 44.05

3 MONTH BILL +2.17 +0.12 43.07

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE($/bbl)

-1.21 63.85

GOLD($/Oz Os)

+4.40 562.50

PORK BILLS(cent/lb)

-0.21 79.45

Exchange Rates

YEN

115,700

EIRO

0.8169

POUND

0.5605

CANADIAN

1.1516

China

Economy grew considerably in 2005

Associated Press

SHANGHAI - China's economy expanded by a stunning 9.9 percent in 2005 according to data released Wednesday which suggests it may not rank, fourth largest in the world.

Spurred by strong exports and foreign investment, growth in the fourth quarter was also up 9.9 percent from the same period a year ago.

For all of 2005, China's gross domestic product grew 9.9 percent, or $2.26 trillion, the National Bureau of Statistics said.

According to recent estimates, that would make China's economy the fourth largest in the world behind the United States, Japan and Germany, after steamrolling past Britain, France and Italy.

The economy is showing hardly any signs of slowing down despite efforts by the communist leadership to curb excessive investments in construction and redundant factories that have strained transport networks and supplies of energy and other resources.

Growth in 2004 was 10.1 percent — a figure recently revised up from the original 9.5 percent based on an arithmetic center. It has overshot much larger than expected growth in the services sector.

Chinese economic data are notoriously unreliable, and some economists questioned whether the figures announced Wednesday were understating real growth, given a nearly 30 percent surge in exports and strong domestic spending.

The 9.9 percent figure "doesn't quite capture it," said Stephen Green, senior economist for Standard Chartered Bank in Shanghai. "One could say that 9.9 percent is a very convenient number, it's not 10 percent. Ten percent might scare people, and might create more trade friction with the U.S."

While many other countries have yet to release 2005 GDP figures, according to the most recent figures available and projections for the year, China's economy is now bigger than those of Britain, France and Italy.

But while its growth has been meteoric, China remains a developing economy — that wealth is spread among a population of 1.3 billion people, a large share of whom live in poverty.

The Statistics Bureau said GDP growth in the first three quarters of 2005 was revised upward from preliminary estimates, to 9.9 percent in the first quarter, 10.1 percent in the second and 9.8 percent in the third, from 9.4 percent, 9.5 percent and 9.4 percent, respectively.

The economy has consistently overshoot official targets for the past several years.

In Brief

Fuji to market vehicles in Mexico

TOKYO — Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd. said Wednesday it will begin marketing its Subaru-brand vehicles, including the Legacy sedan, in Mexico, in cooperation with Mexican business group Grupo Galeria in February.

Fuji Heavy and the group have agreed to set up a joint venture to be called Fuji to market vehicles in Mexico

The Monterrey-based Grupo Galeria will set up a new distributor, Subaru de Mexico, to import and market Subaru vehicles, the statement said.

During the initial phase of the venture, Subaru de Mexico will sell the Legacy, Tribeca and Outback models produced at Fuji Heavy's U.S. manufacturing arm, Subaru of Indiana Automotive Inc., the automaker said.

Daimler Chrysler announces job cuts

BERLIN — The automaker Daimler Chrysler AG, said Tuesday that it would cut administrative staff by 20 percent worldwide over three years, dropping 6,000 jobs in order to save some $2.1 billion a year and make the company leaner and more profitable.

CEO Dieter Zetsche said the streamlining would boost growth and profits by removing layers of management and improving cooperation between the company's European, U.S. and Asian operations.

Some 60 percent of the jobs to be cut would be in Germany, he said.

"Our objective in taking these actions is to create a lean agile structure, with streamlined and stable processes that will unleash Daimler Chrysler's full potential," Zetsche said.

The cuts would amount to 30 percent at the management level and would cover areas such as accounting, auditing, personnel and strategic planning. The downsizing would cost the company around $2.4 billion in restructuring costs from 2006 to the end of 2008.

Daimler Chrysler shares gained more than 5 percent to 44.67 euros ($54.68) in Frankfurt trading. Its U.S. shares rose almost 5 percent, to close at $54.84 on the NYSE.

Optimism as tax increases loom

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Events continued from page 1

"Monologues" could continue to be performed annually on campus in the play's present form. "If I've given my initial thoughts on that," Jenkins said. "For the next weeks, months ... I will listen. And when you're listening, you're always open to have your view changed in a certain way. It's the persuasive reasons that I'm interested in, and not simply the numbers."

The president's speeches may not result in significant changes to this year's production of "The Vagina Monologues," sociology department chair Daniel Myers said Wednesday. Sociology, along with English, will co-sponsor the "Monologues" this year.

"At the moment, I don't think it'll have any impact," Myers said. "In the short term, we don't plan to do anything differently, and we'll have to see what comes out of the conversations so we'll have to see how we have to react."

"We're still in a holding pattern."

Glenn Hendler, director of undergraduate studies in the English department — who was acting chair of the Gender Studies program when it, along with Film, Television and Theatre, was the first academic unit to sponsor "The Vagina Monologues" on campus in 2002 — said he didn't recall much initial opposition to the play from the University administration.

"It was generally pretty cooperative," Hendler said Tuesday. "I remember being asked to provide some language with which we could explain this decision publicly. As I recall, the University made a statement defending not 'The Vagina Monologues' themselves, of course, but the decision to stage them."

"A lot of the discussion was to try to draw a distinction — one that I think Father Jenkins seems not to be drawing here — between sponsorship and endorsement."

Hendler said he and the Gender Studies program pursued approval for the "Monologues" in 2002 first through the Dean of the College of Arts and Letters, who passed it on to then-Provost Nathan Hatch and then-President Father Edward Malloy for final approval. Malloy was traveling out of the country this week, his secretary said, and The Observer was unable to reach him for comment.

"I assume Father Malloy was in those discussions, but I never spoke to him," Hendler said. But this year was a different story.

Rather than keeping the decision to sponsor the play among the chair and a few leaders of the English department, the department chose — both of its own accord and at the urging of Arts and Letters Dean Mark Roche — to take a department-wide vote. Hendler said it was unanimous.

"Of the 30 or so faculty members tout of a department of approximately 40 who attended the vote, all elected to sponsor the "Monologues," he said. "And debate was definitely more charged" than in 2002.

"Dean Roche did not threaten censorship or anything of the sort," Hendler said. "Both department chairs [English and sociology] agreed to bring the objections that had been raised by administrators and faculty members opposed to the 'Monologues' to the department and have a discussion with the faculty, which was a new thing, but something we'd actually planned to do anyway ... we didn't think it was a good idea for one or two people to stand for the department."

Despite this year's sponsorship agreements reached by some academic departments, the possibility of such sponsorship of the "Monologues" in future years remains ambiguous, said Peter Holland, chair of the Film, Television and Theatre department.

"Clearly, Father Jenkins is saying it is absolutely permitted under notions of academic freedom to study [The] Vagina Monologues, but to read 'The Vagina Monologues' and to perform it in class, Holland said. 'We're not clear what would happen if — totally hypothetically — the department of FTT decided to put on a production of 'The Vagina Monologues' as part of the theater season. Would we be able to do it or not?'"

In his addresses, Jenkins emphasized the need to reduce "The Vagina Monologues" to its academic essence. Accordingly, this year's performance will be held in DeBartolo 101 on Monday, Feb. 13 and Tuesday, Feb. 14, said Kaitlyn Redfield, an organizer of "The Vagina Monologues" for the past three years. Redfield contracted the newly prescribed classroom setting with the production's previous location in the much larger DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.

Organizers of "The Vagina Monologues" will also no longer be allowed to charge admission to the play, a change that Redfield viewed as compromising the mission of the production. In previous years, all of the play's proceeds have gone to theYWCA of Saint Joseph County and S.O.S., a rape crisis center. Those organizations have depended on the $33,000 raised by "The Vagina Monologues" over the past four years to balance their budgets, she said.

"The intention of 'The Vagina Monologues' is to educate people about the facts and money," Redfield said Wednesday. "If you take one thing away from this production, it is the issue of rape."

While Redfield reacted strongly to mandates she sees as compromising the purpose of "The Vagina Monologues," organizers of the Queer Film Festival accepted orders to tweak the event's statement of purpose and its name, which Jenkins said could be perceived by struggling University outsiders to suggest Notre Dame endorsement of homosexual activism.

The film festival will now be called "Gay & Lesbian Film: Filmmakers, Narratives, Spectators" — a name which event co-chair Martin Laina said "better reflects the academic nature of the event."

"All parties involved are happy with the name of the event, as it more accurately reflects the nature of the event," he said. Laina declined to comment further on the future of the event.

Amanda Michaels contributed to this report.

Contact Karen Langley at klangle1@nd.edu

On Campus

Junior Parent Weekend Special

February 16-20, 2006

Come early, stay late, same price!

Sacred Heart Parish Center has rooms available for your parents.

Weekend donation is $100.00 per parent,

Whether you stay

Two, three, or four nights.

Rooms are available Thursday through Sunday.

For reservations call 574-631-7512 or 574-631-8436

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For 'Survivor' star failed to pay taxes

NEW YORK — The jurors have spoken, and Richard Hatch was a loser this time.

Reality television's first big star, the "naked fat guy" who won the first season of "Survivor" but lost his right to a trial under the law.

A jury in Providence, R.I., found Hatch guilty Wednesday of failing to pay taxes on an $1 million he won on the CBS reality show, along with other income. He was immediately handcuffed and taken into custody.

The taxes Hatch faced up to 13 years in prison and a $600,000 fine. Sentencing was scheduled for April 28.

A year ago, Hatch had cut a deal with prosecutors, agreed to plead guilty and they would recommend less than the maximum 10-year sentence. But he changed his mind and decided to fight the charges, arguing that he was trying to pay his taxes.

Hatch became an instant star in the summer of 2000 when "Survivor" was a TV sensation. The reality show threw a group of people around a tropical island wearing no clothes, he came off as an unpleasant and manipulative character — but smart enough to outplay all of his fellow competitors. When Brennan Swain won the first edition of CBS' "The Amazing Race," he said it was a bit strange to suddenly be given a big check — in his case it was $500,000 — with no taxes taken out of it.

"The first thing you think is 'how can I pay as little taxes as possible?' " Swain recalled. "But you still pay them."

Perhaps Hatch thought the Internal Revenue Service wouldn't notice him; a foolish bet given that more than 50 million people watched him win.

"Maybe he wanted the publicity," Swain said, noting that many reality TV participants are desperate to keep the spotlight after it moves on to someone new. He doesn't know Hatch, but wondered whether the current thought beating the government would be an attention-getting device.

Last week, Hatch's lawyer Michael Mins suggested to reporters that Hatch had caught fellow "Survivor" contestants cheating and made a deal that the show's producers would pay his taxes if he won. Hatch was also asked about the allegation when he told CBS that "Survivor" executive producer Mark Burnett would not comment on it.

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"Survivor" star failed to pay taxes
Congregation of Holy Cross

Come
Get to know
Holy Cross

Blessed Brother Andre Bessette, CSC
1845-1937
Miracle Worker, Holy Man, Holy Cross Brother
First Beatified Member of Holy Cross

Vocation Program Dates
Spring Semester 2006

Wednesday, February 1
Corby Night 8:30pm

Friday-Sunday, March 3-5
Brother Andre Retreat

Friday, April 7
Brother Andre Dinner

Friday, April 28
Brother Andre Dinner

vocation.nd.edu
Caroline Murphy

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Commonality should trump emotion**

Before this campus spontaneously combusts into a fiery ball of emotion over University President Father Jenkins' addresses to the student body, I hope this campus realizes that we did not say the Vaginas Monologues would be banned. In fact, they were not even the focus of his message to the students. The intention to cause offense by the Church Magisterium, it must remain in line with Church teaching. There are clearly many issues at stake in this matter.

The question and answer session that took place following Father Jenkins' addresses brought up the subject of academic freedom. I would like to encourage my fellow students to read each one.

Since the Jan. 22, 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, 47 million unborn children have been legally executed in the United States. Despite the latest Alan Guttmacher Institute report shows 1,293,000 were killed in 2005.

The total in 2002 for Nebraska was 164,000, is sixty times the number of Americans killed in action so far in the Iraq War.

These figures reflect only surgical abortions and not the countless early abortions by pills, including many marketed and sold as "contraceptives."

In Roe, the Supreme Court held that the unborn child is a nonperson who has no constitutional right to live and who therefore may be killed at any stage of pregnancy at the virtual discretion of his mother.

This is the principle of the Nazi depredations of the Jews in the 1857 Dred Scott case, that slaves were property rather than persons.

Despite the emphasis on Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia’s "Rehnquist - Roe" will have little effect on the abortion culture we have cultivated. This is so for two reasons.

First, because even the "pro-life" justices on the Supreme Court recognize the reality of tissues. Brehnkuist - have accepted the depersonalization principle by defining a "reversal" of Roe as a return of the issue to the states.

If you are legally subject to execution at the discretion of another or whatever a state legislature or, if it decides, you are then a nonperson.

The Court in Roe acknowledged that if the unborn child is a person whose "life is guaranteed by the Constitution, the case and all abortion "collapses." The views of Chief Justice Roberts and nominee Alito on this point are unknown.

The political pro-life movement, including the Catholic Bishops' bureaucracy, actively promotes that "states' rights" solution. That "reversal" of Roe would make the right of innocent life depend on geography and would imply that anyone and everyone’s right to life can be subject to political bargaining like a highway appropriation.

As new justices go on the Court, however, a states' rights "reversal" of Roe will be likely.

The second reason why such an illusory "reversal" of Roe will have little effect on the abortion culture is because technology is making abortion a private evil beyond the reach of the law. Euthanasia, too, is moving beyond the law.

The Supreme Court has given the green light to "palliative care," a euphemism for killing. It is impossible to tell whether the physician's intent is to relieve pain or to kill.

The intentional killing of patients by withdrawing food and water appears routinely in cases where, unlike the Terri Schiavo case, the family members agree that the patient should die.

Our Culture of Death, in which the intentional infliction of death is an accepted evil, and contraception is a result of the cultural acceptance of contraception. As John Paul II put it, contraception permits easy and long-term use of an act that is reserved for its author.

We can choose another path - one that means making himself arbiter, through contraception, of whether and when life shall begin, he who alone can make himself arbiter of when it shall end.

And contraception accepts the idea that there is such a thing as a life not worth living.

Benedict XVI accurately described abortion as "an aggression against society itself." The answer to the Culture of Death is The Culture of Life, which builds on the conviction that innocent life is indivisible because it is a gift of God.

To restore that conviction requires understanding personal, legal and educational activity and the provision of help to those who need it, before birth and beyond. As John Paul and Benedict have urged, however, the most effective weapon is prayer, especially in Eucharistic Adoration and the Rosary.

A suicidal Culture of Death is intrinsically short-lived. We are on the winning side.

Professor Emeritus Rice is on the Law School faculty. His column appears every other Thursday. He can be reached at soph @nd.edu or at www.ndsmcobserver.com

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

Mary Elizabeth Walter, PhD Candidate

**OBSERVER POLL**

**What should Notre Dame do about the Quirin Film Festival?**

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

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good that I can do, or any kindness I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now; let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall probably not see it again."

Mahatma Gandhi

Peace activist
Last night, I dreamed that President Richardson — inspired by the research on Academic Freedom and the Catholic Character — would speak to today’s Notre Dame students. It was a vivid dream of a different kind.

I’d like to extend a warm welcome to the faculty and seniors who have turned out in numbers to this forum. It’s an indication that we all share a concern with what I’ve come to you to address.

The speech that wasn’t

Before the new semester picks up too much speed, I would like to invite you to take advantage of some of the programs that are being offered during the second semester.

There are a number of retreats that are available in the coming weeks. For example, Notre Dame Encounters offers a program called, "Faithpoint," a retreat for seniors who are members of the BUC. All seniors, a senior retreat, a spring Latin retreat, a women’s retreat, and a retreat for Gay and Lesbian Students.

Information about all of these retreats and other events can be found on our newly renovated web site.

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Richard V. Warner, C.S.C.

Footprint

When I talk with some of you about our retreat programs, many of you tell me that you already made a retreat this fall. And, there are others who tell me that they wish there was a retreat for them.

Yet there are many opportunities offered for your spiritual growth in the context of other activities. It cannot be said that the normal routine, make new friends in addition to the ones you talk into joining you for the retreat, and simply to spend a little time in prayer and contemplation.

Many of our students have told me that they have a deep desire to spend more time developing their spiritual life, but it seems that they are too busy to do so. They are too busy to do so.

Is there a retreat for seniors who are members of the BUC? All seniors, a senior retreat, a spring Latin retreat, a women’s retreat, and a retreat for Gay and Lesbian Students.

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Polished sound leads to Stroke of success

By MOLLY GRIFFIN and KELLY DUOOS
Scene Critic

Molly: In the last few years, The Strokes have been better known for having a member date Drew Barrymore and for suffering from the sophomore slump than for actually producing music. Fortunately, the band’s latest effort, “First Impressions of Earth,” is making it known once again for music instead of outside forces.

The Strokes burst onto the music scene with its album “Is This It,” which spawned the simple but catchy hit “Last Nite.” They, along with bands like the White Stripes, were alternately hailed as a return to the stripped-down roots of rock and denounced as pale imitations of its musical predecessors.

“Room on Fire,” the band’s follow-up to its first album, didn’t receive the critical raves or record sales that the previous one garnered. This caused many to feel the band was more part of a garage-band fad than a legitimate musical act.

The band’s third album, “First Impressions of Earth,” both showcases the band’s musical talent and reveals it to have matured a great deal since its first album. There is still a stripped-down quality to the music, but the melodies and production have improved a great deal.

“First Impressions of Earth” can’t fairly be called the Strokes’ return to form — the sound is too different from their earlier albums. It is more accurately a picture of a constantly evolving, and improving, band.

The record starts with the catchy “You Only Live Once,” which instantly reveals the more polished and melodic sound that characterizes the album as a whole. The band then kicks into the album’s first single, “Juicebox,” which is a surprising blend of the Strokes’ northerly lead singer Julian Casablancas’s voice is better suited to rock songs that the quasi-ballads. The song itself isn’t bad, but it is one of the weaker spots on the album.

Another catchy song is the slightly atonal “Ask Me Anything.” It starts out a strange synthesizer sound, which would be bright as an introduction, but doesn’t work as the background for the whole song. While listening to it, one keeps expecting the melody to change tempo and kick into a better, faster song, but that never happens and the song falls flat.

Songs like “Ize of the World” sound like old Strokes songs with a little more polish, and others like “Red Light” seem to take that old sound in a slightly new direction.

Overall, the album is getting the Strokes the well-deserved attention and respect that they deserve as a band. They return to form on songs like “You Only Live Once” and move into new territory as a band with works like “Juicebox” and “Heart in a Cage.” The band maintains the same energy it’s always had, but it harnesses that energy in a much more effective direction.

Kelly: Initially, The Strokes’ “First Impressions of the Earth” is rather disappointing. The songs, at times, sound foreign and very un-Strokes-like, going so far as to resemble bands with lesser credibility such as 2004’s euro-darlings Franz Ferdinand and American up-and-comers The Bravery.

The Strokes’ first album, “Is This It,” captured the hearts of indie-rock-loving young America upon its release. The band’s appeal is that it harks back to a time when rock was in vogue and music was merely a media through which to sell sex was scoffed at. The Strokes, in reawakening the notion that rock music is essential and didn’t really die in 1994, emerged as the hot new rock band of our generation.

Offering a juxtaposition of originality alongside familiarity, the Strokes are a band that, whether one grew up on the Velvet Underground or Nirvana (or, better, both), could relate to and appreciate. Even the band’s sophomore album, “Room on Fire,” was a surprisingly good and utterly under-rated musical direction.

The Strokes have played with bands including Weszer, the White Stripes and the Rolling Stones. They have gained wide fame in both the U.S. and the U.K.

Members of The Strokes first performed together at the Music Building in New York City in 1998. “First Impressions of Earth” is the band’s third release.

Recommended tracks: “Juicebox,” “You Only Live Once,” “Heart in a Cage” and “Vision of Division” and “Room on Fire.”
The Arab film series is highly acclaimed 2001 album, "Blue Flame." It's not that the CD itself is entirely worthless, but an apathetic woman. The dealer becomes consumed by his passion, kidnaps the woman and faces the consequences. "Destiny," the 1997 action film from the same director, addresses religious fundamentalism and free speech through the sixties. It is evident in "The Last Song," a beautiful and maintained popularity through the first 2.7 million times it played, the tune has lost a bit of its nostalgia in recent months. But it seems that those in charge of the soundtrack for the show are running into the same problem, since the series' hits are just not enough material. This song gives the listener no reason to stay until the end of the track. The first minute or so of the song is just some sort of moaning sound that is yet to be determined and is not entirely helpful to any sort of musical cause. "Wish I Was Dead Pt. 2" by the Shout Out Louds is one of the best songs on the CD. The it has the type of sad, morose that has made you want to listen to the song on a rainy day. That is where the song's power lies. It is a remake of the classic song "Forever Young" done by Youth Groups. While some things are better left alone, the remake is well done and definitely worth a listen. The eighth song is "Kids with Guns" by the Gorillaz and is one of the only tracks by a little-known band. However, perhaps the band did not want to lend one of its better songs to a soundtrack, since the song is one of the group's lesser efforts. "Na Na Na Na Naah" by the Kaiser Chiefs is probably the most over-done song in recent pop music history. Somewhere hidden between rock, retro, sci-fi techno and piano-ballads lays the genre of this song. Whoever rescued it from its awful starting place should kindly send it right back. The song will remind you of the third track, not for its musical similarity but for its title (Remember, track 3 was "Wish I Was Dead Pt. 2"). The last song of the OC Mix 5, which was released Nov. 8, 2005, Phantom Planet performs a new version of the show's hit theme song, this version titled "California 2005."
Pittsnoble and West Virginia fall to Marshall

Center guaranteed a victory prior to loss, no regrets after game

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — West Virginia's first Top Ten appearance in 24 years will be short-lived.

So was its ownership of the nation's longest winning streak.

Mark Pyatt had 20 points and 10 rebounds and Marshall beat No. 8 West Virginia 58-52 on Wednesday night, ending the Mountaineers' winning streak at 13 games.

Center Kevin Pittsnoggle had guided West Virginia (14-4), but the Mountaineers were held to a season-low 38 points in a fourth straight loss.

"It's a good thing we showed up tonight," Patton said. "This is my last year, I don't want to play in the NIT and not make it to the NCAA tournament. It's a good thing we showed up tonight," Patton said. "This is my last year, I don't want to play in the NIT and not make it to the NCAA tournament. It's a good thing we showed up tonight."
Lebron James scores 38 points to help top the Atlanta Hawks

Associated Press

ATLANTA — A solid defensive performance by the San Antonio Spurs earned Tim Duncan some extra rest for his sore foot.

Duncan scored 17 points and the Spurs held Atlanta to 38 percent on its worst defeat in Oklahoma City, 112-85, Thursday night.

"I thought we did a great job of keeping them back and not giving them fouls," Duncan said. "I had 14 points and Nick Van Exel added 13, including five three-pointers, as the Spurs pulled away to a 15-point first-half lead.

Paul scored the final six points of the third quarter with the Spurs back in the 42-32, but San Antonio pulled away in the fourth quarter with Chris Paul scoring the final 12 points.

The Hornets were down 101-90 with two minutes left in the third quarter, but the lead increased to 106-90 with 59 seconds left.

The Spurs opened the game with a 10-0 run and scored 37 points in the quarter.

On Monday at Boston, the Spurs were up 62-40.

Duncan was also good at the foul line in the fourth quarter, finishing with eight rebounds and six assists. He scored 13 of his 26 points on free throws.

The Rockets led 83-80 after three quarters — a higher point total than they've had in 15 full games this season.

If you're batting and you can't afford turnovers and allow them to score, you're going to lose.

San Antonio had 23 turnovers and scored 14 points on the break.

The lead reached 60-54 before reserves helped the Hornets avoid a series of disappointing franchise, but the Spurs held only 24 1/2 minutes in San Antonio's 104-76 loss.

The Hornets were in the game at 61-60 with 10:07 left in the third quarter, but the Spurs scored 32 points in 12 minutes to take command.

Tony Parker had 14 points, seven assists, as the Spurs pulled away to help Chicago beat Toronto 104-88.

Duncan scored 15 points, eight rebounds and six assists as the Spurs pulled away to help Chicago beat Toronto 104-88.

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Frank Thomas finishes a swing in his trademark one-handed style in a game last year against the Rockies. The A's hope Thomas can provide them with the big bat they have coveted for the middle of their lineup.

Thomas signs free agent deal with Athletics

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Frank Thomas called Oakland general manager Billy Beane to reiterate how thrilled he would be to join the Athletics.

The two clicked at last month's winter meetings, and it led to a contract for the free agent slugger.

Thomas agreed to a $500,000, one-year deal with Oakland on Wednesday, giving the A's the big right-handed bat they've been searching for in the middle of their lineup. He will be formally introduced Thursday.

"Frank Thomas is a presence," Beane said. "Not only would he be our type of offensive player, he would be everybody's type of offensive player. ... If Frank is healthy, he's been good against everybody."

Thomas, a two-time American League MVP who has been slowed by injuries in recent years, can make an additional $2.6 million in bonuses based on plate appearances and not hurting his left foot. He played his first 16 seasons with the Chicago White Sox, who won their first World Series title since 1917 last season.

"It's a good day," said Thomas' agent, Aron Tellem. "From the beginning, the A's were Frank's first choice if he wasn't going to go back to Chicago. Frank had a great meeting with Billy Beane in Dallas at the winter meetings and that created a lot of momentum to getting the deal done. I think there was an instant connection between the two. They have the same philosophy. Frank is very excited to come to Oakland and he thinks he can contribute to a good club and help the A's win."

After missing the post-season for the second straight year following four consecutive trips to the playoffs, Oakland general manager Billy Beane has added Thomas and Milton Bradley to a lineup that struggled to score runs at times last season — and done so without losing anyone of significance. Beane had been interested in acquiring Thomas for months and the deal was reportedly in the works for some time. Thomas will be the A's primary designated hitter and join Eric Chavez and Bradley in the heart of Oakland's order.

around the dial

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Duke at Virginia Tech 7 p.m., ESPN
La. Lafayette at Western Kentucky 9 p.m., ESPN2

NBA

Phoenix at Miami 8 p.m., TNT
Dallas at Sacramento 10:30 p.m., TNT

TENNIS

2006 Australian Open
3 p.m., ESPN2
11:30 p.m., ESPN2

MLB

Frank Thomas finishes a swing in his trademark one-handed style in a game last year against the Rockies. The A's hope Thomas can provide them with the big bat they have coveted for the middle of their lineup.

In Brief

Kansas State to hire African-American coach

OrLANDO, Fla. — When Kansas State needed someone to replace retiring football coach Bill Snyder, the first thing the school decided was who to exclude.

Wildcat consultants were told to watch for promising black coordinators who may have been overlooked, said Jim Epps, senior associate athletic director. K-State ended up with Virginia offensive coordinator Ron Prince.

That kind of commitment to diversity wasn't so evident at many NCAA Division I-A schools, according to a report released Wednesday by University of Central Florida researchers.

The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport determined that white males still make up an overwhelming majority of leaders at Division I-A programs, from presidents and athletic directors to football coaches and coordinators.

Nallon arrested on assault charges

PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia 76ers forward Lee Nallon was arraigned Wednesday on simple assault and harassment charges stemming from a fight with his wife at home.

Nallon, a member of the 1994 Indiana high school basketball championship team at South Bend Clay, was placed on the inactive list and will not practice, play or travel with the team. Sixers president Billy King said.

"These are serious allegations, but at this point in time, I think as an organization, we'll let the legal system run its course," King said following practice.

Lower Merion Township police said they were called to Nallon's home Tuesday afternoon. Nallon's wife, Marti, told the police that the two had argued and that Nallon had hit her.

Belbin and Agosto shine in last Olympic tune-up

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Tanith Belbin was the picture of serenity as she skated around the ice, while partner Ben Agosto bashed it up with the crowd.

The three-time U.S. champions had every reason to feel good at Four Continents on Wednesday, opening up a big lead in their last tune-up before the Turin Olympics.

"Lots of teams feel better staying at home and just taking it easy and building up themselves in training. But for us, it's definitely better to come here," Belbin said. "These are the same international judges who will judge us at the Olympics and we want their feedback."

Belbin and Agosto are among the world's best, silver medalists at last year's world championships, and they're favorites to end the United States' 30-year medal drought in dance.
Former Knicks executive sues Thomas for harassment

Team president denies claims of misconduct, sexual discrimination

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Isiah Thomas reacted with indignation Wednesday over a former executive’s federal sexual harassment lawsuit, which accuses the New York Knicks president of unwanted advances, discrimination and “demeaning and repulsive behavior.”

Thomas said he never harassed Anucha Browne Sanders, the Knicks’ former senior vice president of marketing and business operations, nor did he discriminate against her or participate in her firing. “She did not even work for me,” he said, reading from a written statement at a news conference Wednesday. “I will not allow her or anybody, man or woman, to use me as a pawn for their financial gain.”

Thomas said he spoke out “not despite his lawyers’ advice to keep mum because ‘it is not their name, it’s not their family, it’s not their career and it’s not their reputation that’s being hurt.”

Browne Sanders said she sued Thomas and Madison Square Garden “because I had no choice.”

“My pleas and complaints about Mr. Thomas’s illegal and offensive actions fell on deaf ears,” she said Wednesday at a news conference at her lawyer’s office. “He refused to stop his demeaning and repulsive behavior and the Garden refused to intercede.”

The 43-year-old, a former Northwestern basketball star who described herself as the Knicks’ second-highest ranking executive, is seeking reinstatement to her job and unspecified damages. She said she was fired last Thursday “for telling the truth” while going through internal channels to stop the harassment.

Thomas and Madison Square Garden are listed as the defendants in the lawsuit, which charges them with sex discrimination and retaliation. Madison Square Garden said he was fired because she “failed to fulfill professional responsibilities.”

According to the lawsuit filed Tuesday in a Manhattan federal court, Thomas refused to stop making unwanted sexual advances toward her, used offensive language and turned others in the organization against her.

Browne Sanders said when she sought assistance from her supervisor, Steve Mills, the president of Madison Square Garden Sports, he did nothing. “I am appalled by Anucha Browne Sanders’ outrageous allegations,” Mills said. “And I am aghast at the audacity of the lawsuit.”

Mills said he was stunned to learn that while she was still working for Madison Square Garden, she demanded $6.3 million to leave quietly.

Lawyers for Thomas, Peter Parchman and Sue Ellen Eisenberg, called the lawsuit an attempt to make money and accused her of demanding $6 million upon her departure, more than 20 times her salary.

Asked about the suggestion that she had demanded the money, one of her lawyers, Kevin Mintzer, said: “How do you put a price on Ms. Browne Sanders’ career? She was the second-highest individual in the Knicks organization, and one of the most senior African-American women in all of professional sports. I don’t know how you put a price on that.”

When Browne Sanders sought legal counsel last November, MSG launched its own investigation but told her to not come to work for three weeks. She was fired last Thursday when MSG said her claims couldn’t be substantiated.

“They weren’t sincerely interested in finding out what happened, they just wanted to pun­ish her,” Mintzer said.

He said a settlement is always a possibility, but if none is reached, depositions will begin with the intent to go to trial.

Players were quick to support Thomas at a Wednesday morning shootaround.

“I know Isiah and I know he’s an honorable man,” Stephon Marbury said. “I know that he’s a guy filled with a lot of charac­ter, so I think everyone here is on his side.”

The lawsuit also alleges that Thomas told Browne Sanders he was pushing for more Sunday home games at noon so he could steer opposing players to clubs where he had connections on Saturday nights, hop­ing they would be sluggish the next day.

“These fabricated and outrageous charges come from an individual player who is pursuing his own financial gain,” he said because of an inability to fulfill professional responsibilities and who is now seeking a financial windfall,” Madison Square Garden attorney Ron Green said in a statement.

The Knicks would not com­ment further.

“I’ve known him since I tried to recruit him in high school and he’s a phenomenal human being,” coach Larry Brown said of Thomas. “And the Knicks have always treated me well, so I guess I’ll let it play itself out.”

Browne Sanders said the problems began shortly after Thomas joined the Knicks in December 2003. In court docu­ments, Browne Sanders said Thomas often berated her and made crude comments about her to Knicks officials, telling them out to listen to any of her directions.

Marbury also is accused of acting in a hostile way toward her as a result. Browne Sanders said Thomas’ behavior soon became sexually charged, saying he told her he was “very attract­ed” to her and “in love” with her and tried to kiss her. She charges that last month, he hugged and tried to kiss her, and when she pulled away, he said: “What, I can’t get any love from you today?”

Browne Sanders graduated from Northwestern as the Big Ten’s women’s career scoring leader and was a two-time con­ference player of the year. She said she was the school’s athlete of the decade for the 1980s.
Pacers and Kings swap Artest and Stojakovic

Trade almost did not go through as Artest stalled deal Tuesday

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Pacers traded volatile forward Ron Artest to the Sacramento Kings for Peja Stojakovic on Wednesday, a day after a deal between the teams all but fell apart. Artest reportedly balked at being dealt to the Kings, but met with Pacers CEO Donnie Walsh on Wednesday at Conseco Fieldhouse and apparently agreed to go to Sacramento.

The trade ends a lengthy standoff between the Pacers and Artest, who was deactivated in December after requesting a trade and was suspended most of last season for his role in one of the worst brawls in U.S. sports history.

"Obviously, we're very happy about getting a player (Stojakovic's) caliber," Pacers president Larry Bird said in a statement. "He's one of the best shooters in the league and we definitely feel he can help us right away."

Larry Bird

Pacers president

Artest is due to make $7.15 million next season and $7.8 million in 2007-08, with an $8.45 million player option for the third season before his trade request and subsequent deactivation.

He was suspended for last season's final 73 games and the playoffs after he charged into the stands during a game at Detroit, precipitating one of the nastiest brawls in league history. The incident was the crowning touch on one of the NBA's most controversial reputations, and the Pacers finally gave up on their extensive efforts to support him after his trade request.

Stojakovic is the Kings' longest-tenured player, joining the club as an unheralded 21-year-old rookie in 1998 and becoming a three-time All-Star. But he is expected to void the final season of his contract to become a free agent this summer, and Kings president of basketball operations Geoff Petrie decided to get something in return for his most successful draft pick.

Sacramento made its fourth major trade in 13 months, following deals involving Chris Webber, Bobby Jackson and Doug Christie.

Stojakovic seemed likely to earn a hefty contract when he became a free agent after declining his $8.2 million option for next season, perhaps getting the maximum deal. Instead, this season has been dismal for the Serbian star.

He is averaging just 16.5 points per game, his lowest total since his second NBA season, while making just 40.3 percent of his shots — lowest since his rookie year — along with 5.3 rebounds and 2.2 assists.

He has been bothered by a sprained finger, a strained groin muscle and a protruding disc in his lower back which hinders his running, jumping and shooting. He has missed eight games because of the injuries, including three straight earlier this month before receiving a cortisone shot.

The Pacers have struggled without Artest. They were 10-6 in games he played and are 11-14 without him, losing five of their last six — including a 30-point loss to Cleveland on Tuesday night. Jermaine O'Neal has hinted that players might be concerned about possibly getting traded along with Artest, and it could be affecting their performance.

Kings guard Peja Stojakovic, left, attempts a lay up Nov. 11, 2005 against Nuggets forward Kenyon Martin. Ron Artest, right, cruises out of Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis Wednesday.

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Tiger Woods looks on after driving a ball on day one of the Shanghai Champions Tournament in Shanghai, China, on Nov 20, 2005. Woods will return to play at the Buick Invitational this weekend.

Best Wishes to the Graduating Class of 2006 and to the Incoming Class of 2010
NFL

Holmgren attempting an unprecedented feat

Coach would be first to win with 2 franchises

Associated Press

Bill Parcells failed. Dan Reeves, Dick Vermeil and Don Shula never had the chance.

Now Mike Holmgren has taken a second franchise to a Super Bowl. Can he become the only coach to win with more than one team?

In nearly four decades of Super Bowls, only Parcells managed to win in his first try, then come back with another club. But after victories with the Giants in 1987 and 1991, Parcells' Patriots were beaten in 1997 by the Packers.

Vermeil was a Super Bowl loser with the Eagles in 1981 to the Raiders, then won with St. Louis in 2000. Shula, pro football's winningest coach, fell in 1969 with the Colts to the Jets, then won with Miami (1973, '74).

Holmgren knows the history. He's trying to ignore it, but hoping he can change it.

"I think both the players that have gone through Super Bowl games and the coaches have been there, that helps," says Holmgren, whose Packers lost to the Broncos — by then coached by Mike Shanahan but still with Elway at quarterback — in 1998.

"Because the more you can talk about it, kind of explain, kind of pave the way for them — they won't believe what's happening to them. It's different. So we kind of pave the way for them a little bit."

Vermeil was 1-1, but the loss came first, and he, like Shula and Reeves, now is retired. Parcells, now with Dallas, could even have the distinction of getting to the Super Bowl with three franchises. He came close in the 1998 season when his Jets lost at Denver for the AFC championship.

Steelers hoping magic continues

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers sense something special is going on here, the kind of season that is remembered and replayed not only for a few years but for generations.

A season in which a team has to try harder and travel a far more difficult road to win football's biggest game.

After a month virtually unviled in NFL playoff history, the Steelers are one victory away from a Super Bowl championship by degree of difficulty, might eclipse any of the four they won during the 1974-79 seasons.

The improbable three-game road sweep in the AFC playoffs. A game and a season saved by an improbable tackle — by quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, of all people. Eliminating Super Bowl favorite Indianapolis a few weeks after the Colts seemed poised to go undefeated.

There's more: Jerome Bettis, closing out a Hall of Fame career by going home to Detroit for the Super Bowl — and overcoming the fumble of a lifetime. Bill Cowher, the NFL's most respected coach with one team, finally getting another chance for a championship ring in his 14th season. Roethlisberger resembling John Elway and Joe Montana in the playoffs in only his second season.

"Somebody should write about a book about this," wide receiver Hines Ward said. "Because it's better than fiction."

But here are the facts: The Steelers haven't won the last game of the NFL season since Jimmy Carter was president and Terry Bradshaw was their quarterback during the 1979 season.

"You work hard to travel this path, but if you're not able to finish the deal you'll be forgotten," Cowher said. "You have a chance to put your name up there with some of the great teams. That's the opportunity that you're selling to your players."

It's also why Cowher is trying to keep this off week close to a regular week, even if he knows that is impossible. Cowher is attempting to keep the edge, ambition and motivation the Steelers fed off while beating Cincinnati, Indianapolis and Denver during the first sweep of a conference's No. 1, 2, and 3 seeds.

The Steelers were off Wednesday — they haven't played or practiced since their 34-17 rout of Denver in the AFC championship game Sunday — but will work out Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Then, after another day off Sunday, they'll travel to Detroit on Monday to resume preparations for the Feb. 5 game against Seattle.
record in the pole vault, a mark she broke herself in an amazing nine different times. She won the indoor and outdoor NCAA championships and the 2005 National High School Athlete of the Year.

“I always have expected to perform well, just wasn’t sure how soon to expect the results that I have been looking for,” Saxer said. “It felt good to perform at such a high level right away.” Saxer said he had been leading the charge for a very impressive trio of pole-vaulters this season for the Irish. Saxer, along with senior Laura Huarte and fellow rookie Kate Mattson, has helped form a formidable trio.

“We have always expected Mary to be an excellent performer, but for her to perform this well early this is very pleasant surprise,” head coach Ian Flask said.

Although Saxer has already turned in a great freshman campaign, she is not 100-per-cent satisfied with her performance to date. Her personal best in the pole vault, which she set in high school, is 14-foot-3.

“My goal for the remaining three meets of the season is to just get back to where I was last season. I want to be able to consistently clear the heights that I was clearing when I was at my peak last year,” Saxer said.

“It would be great if my provisional vault holds up and I end up making the NCAA Championship, but my main goal is just to continue to improve my marks.”

If her past history is any indication, there is no reason to believe that she won’t at the very least reach her peak level over the next four years, if not improve on it.

Get the erasers ready, the record books are about to be rewritten.

The track and field squad returns to action this Friday at Lufus Sports Center with the Notre Dame Invitational, a tune up for the prestigious Meyo Invitational.

Contact Jordan Beltz at jfbeltz@nd.edu

ATHLETIC APPAREL

Two major companies merge, Nike looks on

Adidas-Solomon AG acquired Reebok, plans to compete with giant

Cleveland guard Lebron James, left, one of Nike’s most famous athletes, meets with NBA great Oscar Robertson Tuesday.

Tuesday night, Miller bounced back from a dismal showing in that game, when he was 0-for-8 from the field for two points.

“Mike was really terrific again tonight and Brad was good tonight,” Kings coach Rick Adelman said. “We really, really needed this win after the last three on the road.”

Stephon Marbury scored 22 points in his return to the lineup after missing three straight games with a sprained left shoulder for the Knicks, who lost their sixth straight game following a six-game winning streak.

“IT’s a humbling game,” guard Jamal Crawford said. “You never really figure it out.”

New York was dealing with its own distractions. The Knicks began the day by having to deal with questions about a former team executive’s federal sexual harassment lawsuit filed against team president Isiah Thomas on Tuesday. Thomas defended himself Wednesday and said Anucha Browne Sanders, the Knicks’ former senior vice president of marketing and business operations, was trying to use him for financial gain.

Maurice Taylor had 21 points and 12 rebounds for New York, and Eddie Curry contributed 17 points and 10 boards.

Kings guard Stephon Marbury sits down with 1.3 seconds left in the Kings’ 106-102 overtime win Wednesday.

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A rte s t should make the Sacramento Kings better, there was nothing he could do to help his old team win,” Former Kings guard Stephen Marbury sits down with 1.3 seconds left in the Kings’ 106-102 overtime win Wednesday.

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Wednesday night — used only eight players regardless of what he does off the bench while winning for the first time on their six-game road trip.

In the meantime, the Kings — playing for the second straight night — used only eight players and played for three points from their bench while winning for the first time on their six-game eastern road trip.

“We needed this win and we definitely thought it was a win we could get, so we just had to come out and get it,” Bibby said.

Bibby got it for them with another outstanding game. He scored a career-high 44 points in a loss to Philadelphia on Saturday night. Miller bounced back from a dismal showing in that game, when he was 0-for-8 from the field for two points.

“Mike was really terrific again tonight and Brad was good tonight,” Kings coach Rick Adelman said. “We really, really needed this win after the last three on the road.”

Stephon Marbury scored 22 points in his return to the lineup after missing three straight games with a sprained left shoulder for the Knicks, who lost their sixth straight game following a six-game winning streak.

“IT’s a humbling game,” guard Jamal Crawford said. “You never really figure it out.”

New York was dealing with its own distractions. The Knicks began the day by having to deal with questions about a former team executive’s federal sexual harassment lawsuit filed against team president Isiah Thomas on Tuesday. Thomas defended himself Wednesday and said Anucha Browne Sanders, the Knicks’ former senior vice president of marketing and business operations, was trying to use him for financial gain.

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Providence continued from page 24


Alma continued from page 24

Belles with 14 points, hit an acrobatic runner in the lane to increase the lead to three. After Alma converted a free throw and held Saint Mary's on defense they had a chance to tie or even win the game.

But, even though the Scots called a timeout with 13.2 seconds to go, they were unable to hit a shot to send the game into overtime.

Bridge Boyce scored 11 points and Erin Newsom and Nicole Beier each pitched in 10 points and Ethel Newsom and Anna O'Grady did their part in winning a title.

With the help of Providence and the rest of women's team, actress Anna O'Grady and Erin Newsom both made a three-point shot that tied the game for them. They knew they had to make a shot to get the title in their favor.

Despite their success found in last year's team, the Irish are looking to repeat.

"We definitely have a shot at another title this year," Newsom said. "And it looks like it is going to be another good match-up against Ohio State.

Contact Dan Tapetillo at jtapetil@nd.edu

Student Open Skate
Friday January 20, 2006
10:00-9:00 pm
Joyce Center Ice Rink
Bring your ID for $3 skate rental
Open to Notre Dame, St. Mary's and Holy Cross students.

With the Notre Dame Liturgical Choir
Basilica of the Sacred Heart
5:315 Mass
January 27, 2006
Sponsored by the Joan G. McDermott Center, and the Departments of Theology and Philosophy

The Vigil Feast of Thomas Aquinas
Patron Saint of Students and Universities

Celebration of the Vigil Feast of Thomas Aquinas

Thursday, January 26, 2006
The Observer • TODAY

Thursday, January 26, 2006

HENRI ARNOLD

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

DENUC

SLEBS

SLPEP

MEEPID

WILL SHORTZ

HOROSCOPES

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alicia Keys, 25; Chaka Kahn, 35; Denai Moore, 48; Richard Groove, 35

Happy Birthday! Pick and choose wisely what you do this year. You will be tempted to scatter your energy, finishing nothing. Be careful not to let others dumps added responsibilities in your lap. You will have the discipline to get things done as long as you are very diligent and well prepared. Your number is 3, 16, 29, 31, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Physical activities are a must today. You will get out and see everyone how you can do. You are going through a winning streak. Resistance is feeling good. * * *

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will tend to retract to personal matters today. If called, offer assistance willingly and you will avoid arguments either in the daily. Legal matters aren't likely to go the way you want. Don't be too quick to strike. * * *

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): This is the perfect day to talk to people who can help you reach your goals. Preparation will be what counts. If you have a complaint with someone, speak up and involve the parties that are involved. ** **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): As long as you can adapt to the changes going on around you, life will go well. Taurus will get you thinking about what you can do with some of the ideas you have mulled over in your mind in the past. ** **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't do something social with your friends today. Partnerships will be strained if you are not pretty or something. Something is especially unrepresentative and may cause you. Trouble. Take care of your matters this yourself. ** **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You are not going to be able if you are going to be able to push yourself today. Much can be accomplished. Talks will tend to be important decisions or even advancement. A chance to change direction looks positive. ** **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be careful what you say and how you approach people. You are about to have problems while traveling. Don't let anger rule your day. Make the changes necessary to make your personal life and surroundings better. ** **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be very careful what you say and how you approach people. You are about to have problems while traveling. Don't let anger rule your day. Make the changes necessary to make your personal life and surroundings better. ** **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Show your emotions, talk about your concerns and put whatever has been causing you grief before you. Once you are clear about what it is you want, it will be easy to move forward. Take a new approach to an old one. ** **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may face some opposition by taking charge, but that shouldn't stop you. Love is not the case but don't challenge the person you are involved with. Today is about nurturing your personal relationships. ** **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Travel should be on the back burner. You will face some problems if you don't have your personal papers in order or if you don't stick to rules and regulations. Someone will offer to help you out but make sure this person wants to earn it. ** **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take care of money matters in investments. You have to look at the big picture if you want to make the right choice. Today is about adapting to change and making positive moves. ** **

Birthdays: Robert De Niro. You are interested in the unknown and always willing to try something new. You are energetic and spontaneously an out-of-the-ordinary nature. You are not afraid to stand up for your beliefs. **

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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JOCKULAR

JOKES FROM FRIENDS, RIVALS, AND ENEMIES

31. It might be that the Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

32. Stock ticker networks may not be as critical as one might think.

33. Underclassman?

34. If you look over your shoulder, you might see an old friend.

35. Ecuador's Amazon basin is a vital source of information.

36. Does battle?

37. They are not afraid to stand up for their beliefs.

38. They are not afraid to stand up for their beliefs.

39. White Label

40. Output of an

41. Hearing figs.

42. Help hold up

43. Afore

44. They're often old

45. It might be that the Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

46. Does battle?

47. White Label

48. Output of an

49. Hearing figs.

50. Help hold up

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66. Help hold up

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68. They're often old

69. It might be that the Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

70. Does battle?

71. White Label

72. Output of an

73. Hearing figs.
**Hockey**

**Trick and treat**

Irish senior provides community service in the South Bend area

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

Chris Trick anchors the Irish blue line on the ice, but off of it he plays an equally large role supporting the lives of children less fortunate than the rest—and he is earning the national recognition for it.

The Notre Dame senior defensemen was named as one of seven finalists Jan. 20 for the 2006 Hockey Humanitarian Award sponsored by the Hockey Humanitarian Foundation. The award will be given out in a ceremony to be held on April 7 at the 2006 NCAA Frozen Four in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The finalists for the award are selected from among every men’s and women’s college hockey team in Division I, II, and III and the winner is announced alongside the Hobey Baker Award for college hockey’s top player.

“It’s always nice to get recognized for your efforts,” Trick said of being nominated a finalist. “It’s good for our team as well because all our projects have to do with team stuff. There’s always different guys doing different stuff. So it’s more of a team award than an individual work.”

Trick was nominated to the Hockey Humanitarian Foundation as a candidate for consideration by Irish head coach Jeff Jackson and his staff. Jackson first took notice of Trick’s extra-curricular activities when Trick entered his office to ask if a practice could be moved earlier in the day so that the team could more fully participate in Notre Dame’s Buddy Walk for the Michiana Down Syndrome Society.

“I could tell from early on when I made him a captain...”

see TRICK/page 22

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**Track**

**Saxer impresses early in collegiate career**

Pole vaulter came to college with strong high school resume

By JORDAN BELTZ
Sports Writer

Freshman pole vaulter Mary Saxer came to Notre Dame with high expectations based on her high school accomplishments, but not even Saxer could have predicted how quickly she would excel at the next level.

The Blue-Gold meet is tradition­ually the first official meet of the track and field indoor season. But there was nothing traditional about Saxer’s accomplish­ment.

The freshman posted a vault of 12-feet, 11.5 inches, which provisionally qualified her for the NCAA Indoor Championship. She also would have to go in to win the pole vault competition at both the Purdue Invitational and the Notre Dame Opener.

It’s safe to say the four­year­let­ter­winner­from­Central­High­in­Lancaster, N.Y. has burst onto the scene in a big way.

“The transition from high school to college has been difficult because of the change in coaching styles,” Saxer said. “However, it has been a little easier since I came from a big high school; the competition is on the same level.”

Her remarkable perform­ance right out of the box was the perfect transition from a high school career full of accolades. She holds the high school

see SAXER/page 21

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**Fencing**

**Providenza sets out to repeat title**

Injured sabre battled food poisoning during last year’s NCAAs

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

It’s hard topping an NCAA national championship, but that is exactly what junior sabre Valerie Providenza has set out to accomplish.

Thriving on the momentum of last season, Providenza and the rest of the Irish squad are looking for a repeat of their 2005 nation­al­title and continuing Notre Dame fencing legacy.

“The motivation to win came toward the end of last year,” Providenza said. “So we will only add to the excitement from last year as we get closer and closer to the championships this year.”

The Irish confidence comes from their ambition for domi­

see PROVIDENZA/page 22

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**SMC Basketball**

**Belles defeat Alma, 57-55**

Kessler leads Saint Mary’s with 14; team earns its seventh win

By FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writer

Just a few days after dropping a one-point contest at Adrian, the Saint Mary’s basket­ball­team bounced back with a 57-55 win over Alma Wednesday night at the Angela Athletic Center at Saint Mary’s. The Belles improved their record to 8-11 overall and 6-4 in the MIAA conference play with a 57-55 win over Alma Wednesday. The Belles improved to 6-4 in the MIAA.

Using a wide array of defensive looks, Saint Mary’s held Alma (8-8 overall, 3-6 MIAA) well below its season average of 72 points per game. The Belles stifled the Scots potent offense by alternating among a pesky man defense and suffocating 1-3-1, 3-2, and 2-3 zones. Everyone played defense with 100 percent effort, and that is why we won,” senior forward Shelly Bender said.

Their effort at the defensive end, along with a balanced scoring attack that allowed four players to tally double-digit scoring figures, allowed the Belles to take a 13-point lead with about 12 minutes to go in the game.

But Alma battled back. After moving into a full-court press, the Scots cut the deficit to one with 2:20 to play. But Saint Mary’s never relinquished the lead it held since early in the first half.

Alison Kessler, who led the

see ALMA/page 22

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**NBA**

**Sacramento 106**

**New York 102**

Kings guard Mike Bibby scored 35 points and added 10 assists in the victory.

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**PGA**

**Sacramento shipped forward Peja Stojakovic to Indiana for troubled Ron Artest Wednesday.**

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**NCAA Basketball**

**Marshall 58**

**West Virginia 52**

Marshall upset No. 9 West Virginia after Mountaineers star Kevin Pittsnagl gave­ranted victory.