Ireland's president to address ND graduates

University chooses former attorney, scholar, Church activist, journalist as 2006 commencement speaker

By MARY KATE MALONE

Assistant News Editor

The President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, will be the principal graduation speaker and an honorary degree recipient at Notre Dame's May 23 commencement ceremony. University officials said Friday:

"As an attorney, journalist, scholar and now president, Mary McAleese is an inspiring model for women, a fierce champion for peace and a passionate voice within the Catholic Church," University President Father John Jenkins said in a statement. "The theme of her presidency is 'building bridges,' and she has done just that while staying true to herself."

The choice of McAleese as commencement speaker was finalized "a ways back," Senior Executive Assistant in the President Father Jim McDonald said Tuesday from Dublin, but she needed permission from Ireland's Parliament before arrangements could be finalized.

McAleese, Jenkins and other University officers were scheduled to dine with McAleese Tuesday night in Dublin. "She's a wonderful woman, an accomplished lawyer and politician," McDonald said. "She'll be an excellent speaker.

McAleese is Ireland's third president and the first from Northern Ireland. She was elected to the Irish presidency in 1997 and ran unopposed for a second term in 2004. McAleese has been welcomed by both Protestants and Catholics during her frequent visits to Northern Ireland, despite predictions that her presidency would cause further division.

Born into a Catholic family in Belfast, Northern Ireland — a predominantly Catholic city — McAleese has been an advocate for the Catholic Church, serving as a member of the Catholic Church Episcopal Delegation to the New Ireland Forum in 1984 and as a Church delegate to the North Commission on Contentious Parades in 1996. She was also a delegate to the 1995 White House conference on trade and investment in Ireland.

She studied law at Queen's University in Belfast and graduated with honors in 1973. McAleese was a professor at Trinity College and later worked as a reporter for the national television network of Ireland, RTE, for two years.

In 1981, McAleese returned to Trinity and six years later moved back to Northern Ireland to become the director of the Institute of Professional Legal Studies at Queen's University. She was appointed Pro-Vice Chancellor there.

Her husband, Dr. Martin McAleese, received an honorary degree from Notre Dame.

Students pray for SMC senior in car accident

Injuries will require months of recovery

By MEGAN O'NEIL

Saint Mary's Editor

Nearly a week after she was seriously injured in a car accident, Saint Mary's senior Leslie Orlando remained in critical condition in an Erie, Penn. hospital Tuesday, as the College community offered prayers and concern.

Orlando suffered serious injuries after she lost control of her vehicle and crashed while driving home from South Bend to Erie on Feb. 2.

There were no other cars involved in the accident. She was 40 minutes from her house, said her father, Gregory Orlando.

"The weather conditions were very bad," Gregory Orlando said. "It was very dark, very rainy, some fog, a couple of times she has pulled off the road."

The crash left Leslie Orlando with head trauma, multiple fractures in her pelvis, a broken arm, lung injuries and three broken ribs, Gregory Orlando said.

She spent two days in an intensive care unit (ICU) in Erie and then was moved to the hospital's trauma ward Feb. 4.

Doctors operated on her daughter's arm Feb. 3. Gregory Orlando said they managed to keep swelling down.

see SERVICE/page 6

Irish disappoint hoops fans

String of losses leaves the Legion lackluster

By KATIE PERRY

Assistant News Editor

For smug ESPN college basketball commentators, Notre Dame's five-game losing streak — the program's worst since the 1993-94 season — is merely a punch line.

But the jokes are lost on the Irish's most fervent student fans, who see the energy and spirit of the Leprechaun Legion dwindle with each last-minute loss.

"I think a lot of people will go [to home games] just because we put up such an entertaining game, but if this continues for much longer, attendance will

see LOSSES/page 4

Students, criminals roommates in Dismas

The Dismas program — which takes its name from the thief who asked for forgiveness while being crucified beside Jesus — was started in 1974 when Father Jack Hickey, then a Catholic chaplain at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, said he believed recent prisoners and college students could mutually benefit one another.

Hickey based the program on the idea that both groups are going through major transitions in their lives. While one is preparing to enter society for the first time, the other is preparing to re-enter society.

Maria Kaczmarek, the executive director of Dismas of Michiana, described the halfway house as a prisoner re-entry program that serves as a

see DISMAS/page 4
I'm freakin' out, man

I can understand why college kids do drugs.

I've been seeing lots of bright colors and funky shapes lately. I've been pondering the universe too. I keep eating Wheet Thins and Lucky Charms, and laughing at just about everything. And I'm not really on drugs.

Do you ever watch commercials for medicine and think, "Mm, I have all those symptoms. I must need Miled." Then you realize, "No, I'm a guy, I do not need Miled, I just crank my breast because someone borrowed my scissors and I don't know where they are, and I need to cut this tag off my shirt because it's scratching my neck ... and I have a stomach ache because I drank a cup of nacho cheese at the dining hall."

I keep wondering if I should watch more TV. I don't want to let them watch much TV. I always went back to sleep. Sure, I felt like a Superbowling (watched a boring football game), but I didn't think much of it. I just found myself getting bored. I laughed during a diversity presentation for basically no reason. I laughed at my friends whenever they looked at me, and I laughed while doing most of my homework. At night, I went to see "Run Lola Run." And I was freaking out. That movie was out of control. People were roaming the campus with no idea what they were doing. I thought they looked at me, and I laughed while doing most of my homework. At night, I went to see "Run Lola Run." And I was freaking out. That movie was out of control. People were running around the campus with no idea what they were doing. I thought they looked at me, and I laughed while doing most of my homework.

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IN BRIEF

The student government General Election Debate will take place at 8 p.m. Thursday in the Huddle area of the LAFortune Student Center.

Participants in Speed Dating have 10 dates in half an hour at 11:35 p.m. Thursday at Legends. To sign up, e-mail legends@nd.edu by today.

The Pasquarilla East Musical Co. will present Fantasia at 7:20 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday at Washington Hall. Tickets are $5 for students and $7 for adults and can be purchased at the LAFortune Box Office.

The Edith Stein Project: Redefining Feminism, a two-day conference on violence against women, will take place from 12 to 7 p.m. Friday and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday in McKenna Hall.

The Notre Dame Symphony will present its winter concert at 8 p.m. Saturday in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. It will feature two student soloists — winners of the ND Concerto Competition on the Beethoven Violin Concerto and Schumann Piano concerto. Tickets are $5 online and at the box office at 1-2800.

The Handbell and Celebration Choirs are presenting their annual joint concert of sacred music at 8 p.m. Sunday in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Admission is free.

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

OFFBEAT

Woman does "mouth-to-beak" to save chicken

ARKADELPHIA, Ark. — Sometimes a chicken does have lips, just sometimes not her own. Marian Morris saved her brother's exotic chicken, Boo Boo, by administering "mouth-to-beak" resuscitation on the fowl after it was found floating face down in the family's pond.

Morris, a retired nurse, said she hadn't had any practice with CPR in years, but that she was interested to see if she "still had it." "I breathed into its beak, and its dead-gum eyes popped open," Morris said.

"I breathed into its beak again, and its eyes popped open again. I said, 'I think this chicken's alive now. Keep it warm.'" Morris said she was pleased to find that the bird she saved was an "exotic," and not just an ordinary chicken.

The chicken is called Boo Boo because it is easily frightened. The family thought Boo Boo was starved and flapped into the pond.

Teen using restroom falls out bus window

ALBANY, N.Y. — A New York City teenager fell out the window of a moving bus while using the restroom Tuesday and landed on the New York State Thruway.

State police said Jorge Gonzalez, 17, lost his balance when the chartered bus swerved to change lanes. It was unclear how fast the bus was going.

Gonzalez was taken to Albany Medical Center for treatment. Police said he'll recover.

Gonzales fell onto the shoulder of the thruway near Exit 23 southbound.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

INSIDE COLUMN

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Late Night Olympics raises $8,394 for needy

By KAITLYNN RILEY
News Writer

While Saturday’s Late Night Olympics did not bring in quite as much money as last year’s event, the $8,394 raised undoubtedly will be just as appreciated by the St. Joseph County Special Olympics.

Assistant director for RecSports Bill Reagan said he was pleased with the funds raised by the approximately 1,200 participants — slightly fewer than the 1,300 people who participated in the 2005 Olympics, but higher than the 2004 count of 1,100.

“We may not have made $8,500 like last year, but we’ll still be able to send a big check to Special Olympics,” Reagan said.

Penny wars brought in the biggest chunk of the funds — $2,313 — trailed closely by $2,282 from entry fees.

Reagan described the 20th annual event in the Joyce Center as a “great combination of a wide variety of competi tions and fundraising.”

Many of those competitions were dominated by the MBA team, which garnered its first victory Saturday and ended the four-year dynasty of the Keough-Welsh Family team.

Keough-Welsh Family placed second, trailing the MBA team by 294 points. The Carroll-Zahn-McGinn team was third, and Pangborn-Sorin finished last.

Since first participating in the Late Night Olympics three years ago, the MBA association has been a competitive squad.

Rob Sabet, the association’s president, said the event’s organizers were highly motivated and encouraged members to participate in the events and also to donate money.

“We’re really trying to show our face on campus and be part of Notre Dame as a whole,” Sabet said.

Target golf, Nerf football, broum ball, flag football and dodge ball were some of the games offered Saturday night.

Broum ball was one of the most popular sports, with all available slots filled. St. Ed’s and Cavanaugh won that event.

Passquerrilla West sophomore Bethany Comfort played in the volleyball tournament. She said she liked the brother-sister dorm teams and the chance to participate in an athletic contest.

“I did athletics in high school, but I’m not good enough to be on a varsity sport here, so it was kind of a chance to be athletic,” she said.

Reagan said he encountered no major disciplinary problems at this year’s event.

Contact Kaitlynn Riley at kriely@nd.edu

Studies intensity as MCAT looms

Pre-professional majors utilize test courses to improve chances

By ADRIENNE RUFFNER
News Writer

With April creeping up on the horizon, junior pre-med students missing recently from parties or other social events are likely buried in the library or nearest study lounge.

Pre-professional majors interested in attending medical school have been studying for the April 22 Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT). They spend hours studying on their own and taking Kaplan test preparation classes.

“I’ve been studying since about October,” junior Dave Olson said. “My Kaplan class started then — we meet for three hours every week.”

Junior Kate McCartan said she also is taking Kaplan classes, but she began them in January because she was abroad in Dublin in the fall.

“I don’t regret going abroad, but studying is a lot more work right now than it would have been,” she said.

“The MCAT and your GPA are the most important things for getting into med school, and it’s tough to balance classes and studying for the test,” McCartan said.

The MCAT is divided into four parts. The physical sciences, biological sciences and verbal reasoning sections are multiple choice, and each is scored on a scale from one to 15. The fourth section, writing skills, consists of two essays and is scored with a letter grade from J to T, with T as the highest.

“Each week in the Kaplan course, we have a lesson on a specific content area or general chemistry or verbal reasoning,” McCartan said.

“For me, the hardest part of the test is a tie between physics and organic chemistry, so I want to concentrate on those.”

No one has ever gotten the perfect score of 45, according to the MCAT Web site.

“I, like many other pre-med students, think that organic chemistry is particularly difficult,” Olson said. “So the biological sciences section, which includes biology and organic chemistry, will definitely be the hardest for me.”

Olson said although the test will be difficult, he thinks his study schedule will prepare him well for the MCAT. He will forgo the beach to spend his spring break studying on campus.

“Well, last year, I had planned on going to South Padre (Texas).” Olson said. “But after starting all my reviewing, I decided to bite the bullet and stay at ND and study.”

Contact Adrienne Ruffner at aruffner@nd.edu

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Loses

continued from page 1

start to taper because someone can only take so much heartbreak.

"I'll be there because I love basketball, but it's hard enough to generate interest with four straight losses that basically crippled our chances to make a post-season run," Mancuso said.

In a recent Legion president Yoko McGann said she worries about home game attendance when the team isn't winning, but theailing crowds will deter the Legion officials from recent games should warrant student support.

"What makes me sad is that at the very least, the games have been entertaining," she said.

"With the team so obviously giving less and less effort, it's very disheartening," McGann said to say goodbye to the seniors as they play their final games at Notre Dame. If nothing else, they deserve that.

But sophomore Francisco Del Valle said Notre Dame's failure to win games will deter home game attendance for the remainder of the season.

"I'm counting the Marquette game because it's only the good home game left, but if we win tonight, I'd have lost all hope for our team," he said.

Mancuso agreed to comment on how lowered attendance might influence the number of tickets allotted for students in future seasons -- which at this point would be speculative -- but which has historically been a "big concern" because Irish head coach Mike Brey has been trying to get the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students more seats for the past few years -- but "we have done nothing to support them," Mancuso said.

"I hear the JACC might be redone in a couple of years, but the Irish are working on those tickets allotted for students in the Joyce Center," McGann said.

"We'll be doing everything we can -- within our diminishing budget -- to keep spirits up," she said.

As the Irish further down the Big East Conference standings, student attendance is said to be hard to maintain optimistic about the rest of the season. But in the past few years and Saint Mary's, the Joyce Center is half empty -- not half full. Del Valle said that most games are "probably the best 39-minute games one could hope to see in the A-ZA." Unfortunately that doesn't equate into a post-season presence.

"I actually had the fact we would still make it to the Big East tournament, but we just couldn't complete a game," he said. "We are not basketball players, but if we play as a team we can compete in every important game. We just need to keep it going.

Unlike some of his peers, Mancuso said he is still "enthusiastic" and has not lost hope for the embattled Irish.

"We've proven we can play with the best on any given night," he said. "All we have to do is make a run and get into the Big East tournament and continue that run throughout the tournament. A win at UCinn could not hurt either."

"I'm not sure what they're going to do on problems such as substance abuse or mental health issues. Residents must commit to a year's stay at Dismas. While living at the house, they are required to find a job and start saving money. Each resident should save $1,500 to $2,000 dollars before he or she leaves to be able to live a stable life on his own, Kaczmarek said. College students assist with the re-entry process for the former offenders by volunteering to cook meals, perform chores around the room and even live in the house for a semester or year. If a mine said he espe­cially enjoys the student interaction he keeps in touch with the students since arriving at Dismas in January.

"I think that from every student I've worked with, they've always said that South Bend is Notre Dame and Notre Dame is South Bend and it's really not. It's a very different place and it's unfortunate that a lot of students don't get to experience that," Pike said.

"When they've done down for a while, it really helps for them to see other people who aren't sure what they're going to do," she said.

With Pike moving back to campus, Kaczmarek is looking for new volunteers. Dismas needs mentors for the residents as well as tutors and drivers. The staff is also looking for students who will live and work at Dismas.

Kaczmarek said students who have volunteered at Dismas previously have had positive experiences with the program.

"I think that from every student I've worked with, they've always said that it's a great place and it's than it they gave," Kaczmarek said.

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu

Dismas

continued from page 1

A form of crime prevention.

According to the program's brochure, the mission of Dismas House is "to rechannel former offenders to society and society to former offend­ers.

Dismas is not a government agency and gets no funding from the state. Rather, funding comes from programs for fees (room and board paid by all residents), fundraising and grants. Since South Bend's Dismas opened in 1986, it has housed over 500 former prisoners and college students.

"Offenders released from prison are at a high risk of resuming criminal acts once they return to society. Dismas combats this trend by giving former prisoners a transition time to get on their feet and find a steady job and gain financial freedom," Kaczmarek said.

"The rate of former convicts who fall back into their old ways once released from prison is 64 to 75 per­cent, Kaczmarek said. The rate for people who lived at Dismas is only 5 percent. "Some of the hardest things for these offenders is to find housing, to find counseling for drug or substance abuse ... to find mentors for the rest of their lives," Kaczmarek said.

"I think that from every student I've worked with, they've always said that it's a great place and it's than it they gave," Kaczmarek said.

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Speaker

continued from page 1

in 2004, McNiese is not the first former student to speak up at a University commencement. An Irish prime minis­ter, two Indiana prime minis­ters and a president of El Salvador have all served as the commencement speaker during the past 50 years.

Last year's commencement speaker was President John Gregorian, president of the Carnegie Corporation.

Contact Mary Kate Malone at mmalone@nd.edu

Recycle The Observer.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Haitians vote with U.N. protection

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Voting opened for the first time in nearly 30 years in Haiti on Tuesday as massive queues of Haitians waited — sometimes in mile-long lines — to vote under the protection of U.N. policekeepers crouching behind machine guns and patrolling alongside armored vehicles.

The turnout for the vote — called a key step toward staving off this bloodied, impoverished nation away from collapse — overwhelmed electoral officials. At dawn, when the polling stations were supposed to open, it immediately became apparent the day would not go smoothly.

In the upscale Petionville suburb of the capital, members of a crowd of thousands of voters stormed a voting station. Several women fainted.

Radical Muslim cleric is sentenced

LONDON — A radical Muslim cleric linked to Sept. 11 plotter Zacarias Moussaoui was sentenced to seven years in prison Tuesday for issuing followers to kill non-Muslims when he led a London mosque.

Abu Hamza al-Masri also faces terrorism charges in the United States, and a Justice Department spokesman said the U.S. "stands ready to resume extradition proceedings" when the British case is completed.

In Tuesday's sentencing, Judge Anthony Hughes told al-Masri that his sermon at the Finsbury Park mosque, attended by Moussaoui and radical preacher Richardived, and endangered people around the world.

"You helped to create an atmosphere in which to do it has become regarded by some as not only a legitimate course but as a moral and religious duty in pursuit of perceived justice," the judge said.

U.S. says it will forgive Afghan debt

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration said Tuesday it would forgive the entire $108 million that Afghanistan owes to the United States, and larger creditors also plan to renege Afghan debt.

"The government and people of Afghanistan are working diligently to build a sustainable market economy despite many challenges," said a State Department spokesman.

The announcement came a week after nearly 70 nations and international bodies pledged $10.5 billion to help Afghanistan fight poverty, improve security and crack down on the drug trade.

The pledges were intended to fund the goals set at the Bonn conference where delegates signed Tuesday for redevelopment in Afghanistan, which has been devastated by decades of war.

Rolling Stones address censorship

NEW YORK — Nobody turns off the microphone on Mick Jagger without a fight.

Censorship of their songs during the Super Bowl halftime show was too much for the Rolling Stones to endure for redevelopment in Afghanistan, which has been devastated by decades of war.

The NFL, which produced the show seen on ABC Sunday night, silenced Jagger's microphone during sexually suggestive passages of two of the three songs the band performed before an audience of 90 million television viewers.

NATIONAL NEWS

Four U.S. presidents pay tribute to 'first lady of the civil rights movement'

Associated Press

LITHONIA, Ga. — Ten thousand mourners — including four U.S. presidents, dozens of Congress members and a gray-haired veteran of the civil rights movement — said goodbye to Coretta Scott King on Tuesday, with President Bush saluting her as "a woman who worked to make our nation whole."

The immense crowd filled the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church — a modern, arena-style megachurch in a suburban Atlanta county that was once a stronghold of the Ku Klux Klan but today has one of the most affluent black populations in the country.

More than three dozen speakers at the funeral took turns remembering the widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who worked to realize her husband's dream of equality for nearly 40 years after his assassination. She died Jan. 30 at age 78 after battling ovarian cancer and the effects of a stroke.

The president ordered flags flown at half-staff across the nation.

"Coretta Scott King not only secured her husband's legacy, she built her own," Bush told the crowd.

"Having been involved herself, she became a leader, and when she spoke, Americans listened closely."

Former President Clinton urged mourners to follow in her footsteps, honor her husband's sacrifice and help the cause of racial unity. "She fulfilled their parents' legacy," Former President Bush said.

"It was a time of integrity and gender place because of Coretta Scott King," President Carter praised the Kings for their ability to "wage a nonviolent struggle for freedom and justice and to do it peacefully in Atlanta."

The funeral at times turned political, with some speakers denouncing the war in Iraq. The Bush administration's overthrow of Saddam Hussein and gender place because of Coretta Scott King. President Carter praised the Kings for their ability to "wage a nonviolent struggle for freedom and justice and to do it peacefully in Atlanta."

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Katrina in mostly black New Orleans.

The Rev. Joseph Lowery, who co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference with Martin Luther King Jr., drew a standing ovation when he said: "For war, billions more, but no more for the poor" — a takeoff on a line from a Staxie Wonder song. The event drew applause, with the crowd drawn to the president's father as they sat behind the pulpit.

The lavish service stood in sharp contrast to the 1968 funeral for King's husband. President Lyndon B. Johnson did not attend those services, which were held in the much smaller and older Ebenezer Church in Atlanta, where King had preached.

Coretta Scott King's body was to be placed in a crypt near her husband's tomb at the King Center in Atlanta Tuesday.

"She made many great sacrifices," said Staxie Washington, 38, who drove from Tampa, Fla, with his wife and children from a disability center to attend the funeral. "To be in her presence once more is something that I would definitely cherish, no matter what.

Staxie Wonder and Michael Bolton sang, giving support and spiritual performances. At least 15 U.S. senators attended, along with members of the House.

Among the civil rights veterans at the funeral were Dorothy Height, long-time chairwoman of the National Council of Negro Women; Rep. John Lewis, former head of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee who led the "Bloody Sunday" march in Selma, Ala.; and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, founder of the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition.

AFGHANISTAN

NATO troops fire on protestors

Associated Press

KABUL — International peacekeepers clashed Tuesday with Afghans protesting drawings of the Prophet Muhammad, leaving three demonstrators dead and prompting NATO to set out in a five-year plan delegates signed $10.5 billion to help Afghanistan fight poverty, improve security and crack down on the drug trade.

The announcement came a week after nearly 70 nations and international bodies pledged $10.5 billion to help Afghanistan fight poverty, improve security and crack down on the drug trade.

The peacekeepers were first published. The Danish

The immense crowd filled the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church — a modern, arena-style megachurch in a suburban Atlanta county that was once a stronghold of the Ku Klux Klan but today has one of the most affluent black populations in the country.

More than three dozen speakers at the funeral took turns remembering the widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., who worked to realize her husband's dream of equality for nearly 40 years after his assassination. She died Jan. 30 at age 78 after battling ovarian cancer and the effects of a stroke.

The president ordered flags flown at half-staff across the nation.

"Coretta Scott King not only secured her husband's legacy, she built her own," Bush told the crowd.

"Having been involved herself, she became a leader, and when she spoke, Americans listened closely."

Former President Clinton urged mourners to follow in her footsteps, honor her husband's sacrifice and help the cause of racial unity. "She fulfilled their parents' legacy," Former President Bush said.

"It was a time of integrity and gender place because of Coretta Scott King," President Carter praised the Kings for their ability to "wage a nonviolent struggle for freedom and justice and to do it peacefully in Atlanta."

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California fire result of controlled burn

Associated Press

**ORANGE, Calif.** — A hubris-based, human error that triggered evacuations of more than 25,000 people in a southern California fire area apparently was ignited by remnants of a controlled burn that escaped, a U.S. Forest Service official said Tuesday.

Despite gusty Santa Ana winds that were burning in drought-stricken Orange County, evacuation orders were lifted Tuesday afternoon, and Chief Rich Hawkins of the Cleveland National Forest said the fire area had been cleared.

The fact that nobody’s home has burned down and no one’s been killed, that’s a godsend,” Hawkins said.

**Rich Hawkins**

Cleveland national forest chief

During the fire, Hawkins noted that the experience would be a training ground for several personnel who had never before seen a fire of this size.

Some residents had maintained their homes in evacuation areas before the evacuation order was lifted, or had done so on their own to protect their homes in the case fire approached.

**Butch Kinney**

FEMA spokesperson

“We’ve been very close to the back of the room. We’ve gone door-to-door to all of the 25,000 hotel rooms no fewer than six times.”

When the most protestors were turned away, they posted signs in the front and back of the FEMA building, said activist Robert Mayer.

“People need to begin to take control of their lives for themselves,” Mayer said.

In New York, around 50 protestors including firefighters and activists gathered at the steps of the City Hall to protest the evictions.

In Oakland, Calif., demonstrators chanting “Evict FEMA” tried to present an eviction notice to employees at a FEMA branch office.

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Maryland Wal-Mart law challenged

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — A national retail industry trade association filed suit Tuesday challenging a Maryland law designed to pressure Wal-Mart Stores Inc. into paying more money on health care for its employees.

The suit was announced by the Retail Industry Leaders Association of Arlington, Va., which said its members operate more than 100,000 stores with more than $1 trillion in annual sales.

Sandy Kennedy, the group's president, said Wal-Mart and other large retailers are pushing tens of millions of dollars per year in health care costs onto taxpayers. "While near-term cash savings from the announced cost actions are modest, the steps clearly follow Jerry York's playbook calling for an 'equality of sacrifice,'" he added. "It is critical that Congress and the White House work together to ensure that Wal-Mart and other large retailers take full responsibility for their health care costs."
Mexico

U.S.-owned hotel faces potential fine, closing

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Mexico issued a complaint Tuesday against an American-owned hotel that — under pressure from the U.S. government — expelled a group of Cuban businessmen meeting with U.S. energy executives, saying the company violated investment and trade protection laws.

The U.S. Treasury Department confirmed that the Hotel Maria Isabel Sheraton in Mexico City was told to expel the Cuban delegation in compliance with the U.S. embargo against business with Cuba or Cubans. The meeting was moved to a Mexican-owned hotel Saturday.

"The hotel in Mexico City is a U.S. subsidiary, and therefore prohibited from providing a service to Cuba or Cuban nationals," said Brooklyn McLaughlin, a spokesman for the Office of Foreign Assets Control. He was referring to the Helms-Burton law, which tightened U.S. trade sanctions first imposed against Cuba.

"The hotel acted in accordance with U.S. sanctions," he said.

The hotel — part of the chain of Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc. — said in a statement it "deeply regrets this incident and any inconvenience it may have caused." (Brooklyn McLaughlin, Office of Foreign Assets Control)

Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Luis Ernesto Derbez said the Mexican government is considering a diplomatic complaint against the United States in the case.

McLaughlin said his department had formally started a complaint process against the Sheraton for violating investment and trade protection laws, and that the hotel would have 15 days to respond. The hotel could face fines of nearly $300,000 or even be shut down, officials said.

"I think that there was evident contempt for Mexican law on the part of the Hotel Maria Isabel Sheraton and it is going to be punished for discrimina-

Canada

Park opens as refuge for animals

Associated Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Canada unveiled a 16-million-acre park Tuesday, a protected area more than twice the size of Yellowstone, teeming with grizzly bears, wolves and wild salmon in the ancestral home of many native tribes.

Closing another chapter of the era between environmentalists and loggers, the Great Bear Rainforest is the result of an accord between governments, aboriginal First Nations, the logging industry and environmentalists.

It will stretch 250 miles along British Columbia’s rugged Pacific coastline — the ancestral home of groups whose cultures date back thousands of years. The area also sustains a rare white bear found only in British Columbia.

"The agreement on these areas represents an unprecedented collaboration between First Nations, industry, local governments and many other stakeholders in how we manage the vast richness of B.C.’s coast for the benefit of all British Columbians," said Premier Gordon Campbell, who was accompanied by native dancers and drummers for the announcement and formal First Nations blessing.

"The result is a strong marriage that balances the needs of the environment with the need for sustainable jobs and a strong economic future for coastal communities," he said.

Campbell said 4.4 million acres would be protected outright and managed as park, with another 11.6 million run under an ecosystem plan to ensure sustainable forestry with minimal impact on the environment.

Full implementation of the project is not expected until 2009.

British Columbia’s lush evergreen forests have been the scene of decades of confrontation between environmentalists and loggers, the Nature Conservancy, and local companies turning away from British Columbia timber and wood products, forcing the government to find a negotiated solution.

"British Columbians are showing that it is possible to protect the environment and provide the economic foundation for healthy communities," said Lisa Matthews, Sierra Club.

The provincial government has committed $26 million and project partners are working to secure the rest from Canada’s federal government.

Speaking on behalf of the 25 aboriginal groups involved in the project, Art Sterritt of the North Coast First Nations said the agreement would allow for controlled use of the land and let natives continue their traditional lifestyles.

Show your appreciation for valentines, *potential valentines*, friends, or co-workers this Valentine’s Day!

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So you think you know lacrosse... Then share that knowledge and skill with middle and high school students trying to learn the game

The Saint Joe High School JV Boys’ Team and the Saint Joe Junior Lacrosse Club are looking for qualified coaches for Spring 2006.

Stipend available. Send resume or contact kmeiser@nd.edu or wbrerna1@nd.edu
Flower growers facing organic competition

The chemical free-plant industry hopes to grow as consumers are constantly searching for a better alternative.

Associated Press

WATSONVILLE, Calif. — Along a fog-blanketed swath of coastline, relics of the bust days, today, about 70 percent of the flowers Americans buy are foreign, according to the Society of American Florists. Comparisons to previous years are difficult because the United States imported 49 percent of its flowers in 1999, but for roses, 95 percent were imported in 2004, compared to 48 percent in 1991.

Joshua Dautoff, owner of Dautoff's Exotics, stands in the center of a greenhouse filled with Oriental lily flowers in Watsonville, Calif., Feb. 2. Dautoff grows more than 150 types of flowers.

Associated Press

Wednesday, February 8, 2006
The Observer • NATIONAL NEWS

 Hardy greenhouses blank Josh Dautoff’s farm, relics of the bust days, today, about 70 percent of the flowers Americans buy are foreign, according to the Society of American Florists. Comparisons to previous years are difficult because the United States imported 49 percent of its flowers in 1999, but for roses, 95 percent were imported in 2004, compared to 48 percent in 1991.

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A three-part story continues.

The events of the last two weeks have convinced me unequivocally that I am not normal—at least what normal is here. I mean, I liked “The Vagina Monologues” when I saw them in my first year. I liked them so much I went the next day and bought a T-shirt. And even then, I joined the cast of the show last year and wrote an op-ed interviewing organizers and actresses on what the V-day movement means to them at Notre Dame. For whatever odd reason, something in the play spoke to me, each year drawing me back to see and support it. I am Catholic and so far living in the full spirit of V-day, where people are talking about rape and domestic violence but at “The Vagina Monologues” addressed an important issue in my life—violence against women, which I witnessed in my home life. Nowhere else on campus was there a more powerful and immediate response to what I had lived. Several professors and members of Notre Dame's Student Council wrote letters to the editor in response to the controversy.

Kamaria Porter
Black, Red and Catholic

I am perplexed as to how these events present the epitome of what is threatening the Catholic character and student life of this University. Where to begin? Duly, I am equipped with worry about things that are threatening our integrity and collective soul more than “The Vagina Monologues.” It keeps me up nights thinking that no worker on this campus will believe Notre Dame is Catholic because we do not pay a living wage or have a union—both rights demanded by Catholic social tradition. I am really worried Notre Dame football fans do not think the University is Catholic because military planes fly over the stadium while Catholic teaching says we should be making peace and not participating in war. I am concerned that prospective students will not know Notre Dame is Catholic because the weekend activities of binge drinking do not include discussion of what the University stands for. Mostly I am really concerned that students do not know the full extent of Notre Dame’s mission and purpose, which is that Notre Dame is Catholic because the weekend activities of binge drinking do not include discussion of what the University stands for. Mostly I am really concerned that students do not know the full extent of Notre Dame’s mission and purpose, which is that Notre Dame is Catholic because the weekend activities of binge drinking do not include discussion of what the University stands for.

Kamaria Porter
Senior
American Studies

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

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In 2002, I left a tenured position at Stanford University, where I had taught for seven years, to come to Notre Dame. I did so not because I had been denied tenure, but because I believe that the university's ways of thinking about race, gender, and the social construction of reality — not just in the classroom, but in all of higher education — are deeply misguided and wrong.

This is not to say that I have never been tenured at Stanford, where I have taught for over 15 years. I have, and that is why I feel so strongly about coming to a Catholic university. I am not a tenured professor at Stanford, but I am a professor at Notre Dame, and that makes all the difference.

At Stanford, I have always felt like I was working for someone who didn't really care much about me or my work. At Notre Dame, I feel like I am part of a community that truly values its faculty and its students.

I am not saying that everything is perfect at Notre Dame. There are certainly challenges and difficulties, just as there are at any university. But I believe that Notre Dame is a place where I can do my best work, and where I can contribute to the intellectual and spiritual life of the community.

Brad Gregory
February 8, 2006

Survivor advocate, "The Vagina Monologues" speak for victims

I have been a rape victim advocate for quite some time, and I have seen the personal and emotional trauma that survivors go through. I have seen the way that our society has failed to provide support and understanding for survivors of sexual assault.

At Notre Dame, I have been able to work closely with survivors and their families, helping them to tell their stories and to find healing. I have also been able to work with the administration to develop policies and programs that will help to prevent sexual assault and to support survivors.

I believe that the work that I do at Notre Dame is important, and that it is necessary to continue to do this work. I am grateful to be able to do it, and I am committed to doing it well.

Brad Gregory
February 8, 2006

Be sure to submit your letter to the Editor by February 26, 2006.
By ERIN MCGINN

Most people know about the romance of Tristan and Isolde over the legendary love between King Arthur and Guinevere, but fewer are aware of the mythic tale of Donnchadh O'Freland in England after the fall of Rome and during a few more who recognize the of kilt heritage recent college graduates, Paxton (Jay Hernandez), Mark's family (Rufus Sewell, "A Knight's Tale") wants to keep the tribes of Britain united to eventually fight King Donnchadh O'Freland (David Patrick O'Hara) for their own land. The first scene of "Tristan & Isolde" depicts a brutal Irish invasion where most of Lord Marke's family and nearly all of the tribe leaders are slain. Tristan, a young boy at the time, was witness to the brutality— including the murder of his parents. Lord Marke later takes him in and raises him to become an honest and loyal crusader for the cause of England's freedom. Mark (Eli Roth) and Lord Marke, aided by the now-grown Tristan (James Franco, "Spider-Man"), are still trying to unite the tribes of Britain into one land in stand against the Irish. After a series of battles and events, the injured Tristan wins the hand of Isolde (Sophia Myles, "Underworld"), the daughter of King Donnchadh of Ireland. Tristan and Isolde keep their true identities hidden from the other, and their forbidden love booms. Once Tristan returns to Britain, he agrees to fight in representation of Lord Marke in a tournament held in Ireland, where the winner is given the hand of the Irish princess, Isolde. Tristan wins the tournament and must give his beloved over to his adoptive father. His love must be continually kept secret and is forbidden more than ever before. The second half of the movie consists of their dangerous love affair in Britain and the continual Irish of Tristan's own love, the trouble comes in the transition between the scenes. The movie feels uneven at times when it switches back and forth between the two moods. The performances of the actors are good, but not outstanding. The truly stand out performance Belongs to Rufus Sewell, who plays Lord Marke. What really draws the viewers into the love triangle is that Sewell portrays a truly likable character. While the audience longs for Tristan and Isolde to be together, the viewers are also sympathetic to the plight of Lord Marke. James Franco is a very attractive Tristan, and while he is convincing, he isn't very compelling— although this is more due to a lack of character development in the script rather than Franco's performance. Myles' Isolde is pretty but, again, there is a lack of deep character development. Overall, "Tristan & Isolde" is a good romance with plenty of adventure and battles to entertain both sexes, though it doesn't amount to much more than that.

Contact Erin McGinn at emcginn@nd.edu

Newest name in horror films delivers

By MARK REMENDERFER

"Eli Roth" is a name for which horror aficionados should watch. In an age of remakes, sequels and trendy genres, he's practically a solitary beacon of originality in the horror movie world. His latest work is the recently released "Hostel." Half "Fear" horror, half black comedy, it manages to raise itself above the recent flood of uninspired tripe. That's not to say the movie is without flaws, however. Much like Roth's earlier work, "Hostel" is a perfect movie. His previous movie, "Cabin Fever," was a creative homage to classical horror movies. "Hostel" is the same. The performances of the actors are good, rather than Franco's performance. Myles' "Spider-Man" portrays a truly likable character. While the audience longs for Tristan and Isolde to be together, the viewers are also sympathetic to the plight of Lord Marke. James Franco is a very attractive Tristan, and while he is convincing, he isn't very compelling— although this is more due to a lack of character development in the script rather than Franco's performance. Myles' Isolde is pretty but, again, there is a lack of deep character development. Overall, "Tristan & Isolde" is a good romance with plenty of adventure and battles to entertain both sexes, though it doesn't amount to much more than that.

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THE OBSERVER

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

MOVIE REVIEWS

Medieval period piece offers thrills, romance

By ERIN MCGINN

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"Eli Roth" is a name for which horror aficionados should watch. In an age of remakes, sequels and trendy genres, he's practically a solitary beacon of originality in the horror movie world. His latest work is the recently released "Hostel." Half "Fear" horror, half black comedy, it manages to raise itself above the recent flood of uninspired tripe. That's not to say the movie is without flaws, however. Much like Roth's earlier work, "Hostel" is a perfect movie. His previous movie, "Cabin Fever," was a creative homage to classical horror movies. "Hostel" is the same. The performances of the actors are good, rather than Franco's performance. Myles' "Spider-Man" portrays a truly likable character. While the audience longs for Tristan and Isolde to be together, the viewers are also sympathetic to the plight of Lord Marke. James Franco is a very attractive Tristan, and while he is convincing, he isn't very compelling— although this is more due to a lack of character development in the script rather than Franco's performance. Myles' Isolde is pretty but, again, there is a lack of deep character development. Overall, "Tristan & Isolde" is a good romance with plenty of adventure and battles to entertain both sexes, though it doesn't amount to much more than that.

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**Bringing love to the West**

**Director Ang Lee's modern western transcends boundaries**

**MOVIE REVIEW**

**By BRIAN DOXTADER**

**Los Angeles Scene Editor**

The word "masterpieces" is not one to be thrown around lightly. In any given year, there are probably 20 good films, ten great ones and one or two truly great ones. Yet masterpieces are rare. They only come around once every few years but remain when other films fade. One of the chief indicators of a masterpiece is its ability to get under the skin and linger. The merits of such a film and its indelibility become increasingly apparent upon later reflection. Only a few films come immediately to mind in this category. Scorsese's "Raging Bull," Godard's "Le Mepris," Bergman's "Svenskorskrift." "Brokeback Mountain," Ang Lee's exquisite new picture, can be added to that list. Told with an unerringly perceptive eye and a nuanced grasp of beauty, it is one of the finest pictures of year ... even if it doesn't seem so at first.

The film is about two ranchers, Jack (Jake Gyllenhaal) and Ennis (Heath Ledger), a nuanced performance. Their initially platonic relationship turns physical, but the two part and go on with their lives. Both of them get married and have children but eventually start meeting again, and their relationship starts to put a strain on their lives. The acting is quite good throughout, with notable turns coming from Michelle Williams and Anne Hathaway as the combined wives of the two men. But the film is controlled from the first to the last frame by Ledger, whose brave, subtle performance is in the picture's beating, blooding heart. His portrayal of the taciturn cowboy Ennis depends on nuanced expression and body language, providing a perfect foil to Gyllenhaal's more energetic and outspoken Jack Twist. Yet, like everything else in the picture, Ledger's performance is quietly low key, preferring true substance over style. This includes the much maligned script, which has been endlessly parodied. Most of the screenplay is actually quite good and not as overdramatic as might be expected. To be fair, there is a clunky or two, but the generally understated nature of the dialogue (and the great acting) helps overcome the relatively minor flaws.

While "Brokeback Mountain" seems startlingly unpretentious for a movie about homosexual cowboys, closer reflection reveals that it's not really about this at all. It's a simple, tragic story about two men in love. Ennis is a man torn by his affection for Jack and his inability to open up emotionally. As "Brokeback Mountain" reached its conclusion, it seemed impossible for the film to end satisfyingly. Yet, the final scene, beautiful, haunting and perfect, is one of the finest curtain calls in the history of cinema.

Ang Lee has always been a director of great courage and conviction, but rarely have his artistry tendencies fit a picture as strong as "Brokeback Mountain." He elevates some scenes (particularly a masterful fight sequence) to the fore, a technique he would later use when filming Western Americas for "Brokeback Mountain." The plot was a complex weave of love, loyalty, want and loss. He was inspired by watch­ ing wuxiapian films, a Hong Kong style involving knight-errant characters and theatrics. In an attempt to connect with his heritage, he filmed parts of the film on the mainland of China, resulting in beautiful shots of deserts, mountains and forests, along with stunning fight sequences, choreographed by "The Matrix" maestro Yuen Woo-Ping. "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" became the highest grossing foreign language film in history, nominated for Best Picture and Best Director and winning four Oscars, including Best Cinematography and Best Foreign Language Film.

Lee then took a three-year hiatus before returning in 2003 with the comic book adaptation "Hulk." It received some critical support but was accused of being too psychological and lacking in action. Then, in 2005, Lee returned to drama with "Brokeback Mountain," adapted from the short story by E. Annie Proulx about two homossexual cowboys who fall in love while working together in Wyoming. Though the topic of some controversy, Lee handles the topic beautifully, showcasing emotionally impacting performances from Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal and presenting gorgeous shots of the American West. This film has been nominated for Best Picture at this year's Academy Awards, along with a Best Director nod for Lee and a Best Actor nod for Ledger.

Lee is noted for his filmic diversity. He chooses wide-ranging topics, moving skillfully from a Jane Austen adaptation to a Hong Kong-style epic to a love story between two ranch hands. His topics also promote diversity and discussion, as most of his films are concerned with Chinese culture or homosexuality (or both in "The Wedding Banquet"). With his skillful use of the camera and the performances he is able to illicit from his actors, he is one of the best living directors in America.

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtader@sd.edu

**DIRECTOR OF THE DIVERSE: A PROFILE OF ANG LEE**

**By MARTY SCHROEDER**

**Scene Writer**

Through a decade-long career that has taken him from Taiwan to New York to Hollywood, Ang Lee has become one of the best living directors in America. Yet masterpieces are rare. They only come around once every few years but remain when other films fade. One of the chief indicators of a masterpiece is its ability to get under the skin and linger. The merits of such a film and its indelibility become increasingly apparent upon later reflection. Only a few films come immediately to mind in this category. Scorsese's "Raging Bull," Godard's "Le Mepris," Bergman's "Svenskorskrift." "Brokeback Mountain," Ang Lee's exquisite new picture, can be added to that list. Told with an unerringly perceptive eye and a nuanced grasp of beauty, it is one of the finest pictures of year ... even if it doesn't seem so at first.

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Contact Marty Schroeder at mcschroed@sd.edu
By CHRIS MCGRADY
Associate Scene Editor

Pimpin’ ain’t easy. Neither is good acting. But in the film “Hustle and Flow,” frontman Terrence Howard, who plays the lead character DJay, proves that both have a place in modern cinema.

“Hustle and Flow” is written and directed by Craig Brewer and is a new look at the world of underground rap. The film is similar to Eminem’s breakout movie “8 Mile” — except in place of Eminem, it has a real actor, and in place of a bad movie, it has a good one. Other than that, the idea is the same: meet the poor man from the streets and watch him try to make it as a rapper.

Howard, who was nominated for an Academy Award for “Best Actor” for his role, plays an embattled street-hustler pimp named DJay who is constantly fighting a battle to make enough money to pay the rent. In between dealing marijuana and and watch him try to make it as a rapper.

Battle to make enough money to pay the rent. In between dealing marijuana and

Howard’s role is key, and he plays it masterfully. DJay is meant to be the type of character who is both loved and hated, and Howard’s control over this part is the reason this movie shines. On some levels, the viewer feels sorry for DJay — his plight is all but hopeless, and he lives a life of crime. On other levels, the audience has to feel a disdain for DJay — he solicits women for his own needs. But realistically, DJay is caught in a web of sin that he cannot escape without help, and this help is from his music. His lyrics speak of the pain of his position, the struggles of living on the streets as a hustler and of trying to find a place in his community. Eventually, through his trials, DJay realizes the woman he prejudices has dreams just as much as he does and seeks to provide for them as well.

The music in the movie is surprisingly decent, especially considering all of DJay’s tracks are performed by Howard himself. The tracks have hints of Nelly’s St. Louis style, as well as rapper DMX, and it’s easy to begin swaying to the music. The supporting roles are as important as Howard’s and played well by Anderson, as well as Nola (Taryn Manning), one of DJay’s prostitutes.

The movie seems to give a true feel to the underground world of rap in the poorest neighborhoods in the country and helps the audience to identify with the personal struggles of DJay and his clan.

The movie is as much a “hood-flick” as it is a film about spiritual and personal growth. Howard’s character visibly changes throughout the movie and grows increasingly on the viewer. By the end of the movie, it is hard not to root for DJay and his cause, which ends up being about much more than music. It is about hopes and dreams and the message that even those in the most down-trodden of states possess them.

Contact Chris McGrady at cmcgrady@nd.edu

By SEAN SWEANY
Scene Critic

Would you be willing to prolong your life for 60 to 70 years for the cost of $5 million? What if that meant creating a clone of yourself and fooling them into loving just like you can and then killing that clone in order to save your own life?

The issues at hand in a situation like this are not that far fetched and are tackled in the recently-released DVIS “The Island.”

This 2005 film by Michael Bay (“Armageddon”) explores not only the question of what it is to be a human but how humans can play God with the lives of others. The film begins with viewers knowing little more than the protagonist, Lincoln Six Echo (Ewan McGregor), “Big Fish,” the “Star Wars” prequels). Echo believes he is a survivor of a worldwide contamination and lives in a seemingly utopian environment. He and other “survivors” await removal to the Island, the last uncontaminated spot on Earth.

Lincoln soon discovers that his life is a lie and that there is no Island. When his best friend Jordan Two Delta (Scarlett Johansson, “Lost in Translation”) is selected to go to the island, he escapes with her. They receive help from an employee at the cloning facility. The evil leader of the institute is caught in a web of sin that he cannot escape without help, and this help is from his music. His lyrics speak of the pain of his position, the struggles of living on the streets as a hustler and of trying to find a place in his community. Eventually, through his trials, DJay realizes the woman he prejudices has dreams just as much as he does and seeks to provide for them as well.

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Contact Chris McGrady at cmcgrady@nd.edu

Bay’s latest an underrated sci-fi thriller

Contact Sean Sweaney at sweaney@nd.edu

Though one of director Michael Bay’s best efforts, the DVD of “The Island” is disappointing, with only a single featurette supplementing the movie itself.

A surprise critical and commercial hit, Craig Brewer’s “Hustle and Flow” was nominated for a Best Actor Academy Award nomination for Terrence Howard.

Contact Sean Sweaney at sweaney@nd.edu

Hustle and Flow
Widescreen Edition
Paramount Home Video

Hustle and Flow

Widescreen Edition

Paramount Home Video

The Island
Widescreen Edition
Dreamworks Video

The Island

Widescreen Edition
Dreamworks Video

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LEIGHTON CONCERT HALL

STUDENT TICKETS: $15
Blue Devils drop Heels in tough ACC match

Redick scores 35 and Duke moves to 22-1, 10-0 in league play

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — J.J. Redick praised the defense he faced and gave himself passing marks for his own performance. Then he savored his highest praise for Duke's effort against its biggest rival.

"The best team we've faced that could do that so far," Redick said.

The Blue Devils had two teams playing the road, in a big game like this, with such a big momentum swing, could have made enough plays to pull out a win," Redick said.

"I didn't want to see one of them that's capable of doing that,"

The shooting star had 22 of his 35 points in the second half, but he struggled with his shooting in the previous seven matchups (34 percent). There was no such problem in this one, and Redick saved his best for last.

With Duke (22-1, 10-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) clinging to a seven-point lead at the half, Sanders added four, helping the Tar Heels continue the aggressive play.

Villanova 71, Saint Joseph's 58

PHILADELPHIA — Kyle Lowry was a high school star in Philadelphia, so he went to Villanova understanding the city was far from easy.

"We knew when they came out there in this kind of game," Lowry said.

Those schools played the very first Big 5 game on Dec. 14, 1955, and the culmination of a yearlong celebration of the city series saw a thrilling start to the next half century.

Duke guards Michael Redick elevates for a jumper during Duke's 87-83 win over ACC rival North Carolina Tuesday. Redick scored 35 points and the Blue Devils stayed perfect in conference play.

After a backcourt start that saw them shoot 30 percent and trail by 12 points at halftime, the Wildcats (18-2) came out running, trapping and scoring at such a rapid rate that Saint Joseph's (10-10) must have felt like it was playing a different team.

Lawry scored the first two baskets of the second half, and when suffocating defense forced a turnover and led to a fastbreak dunk by Ray, the Palestra, which holds 8,700, exploded like there were 20,000 fans stuffed inside. Another turnover led to a dunk by Shane Clark and the Wildcats were within 34-32.

Lowry — the former sixth-man spark plug — converted a three-pointer that finally gave the Wildcats the lead, 39-37. Dunks by Lowry and Will Sheridan capped a stunning and dominating 21-3 run that turned this one around for good.

"We knew when they came back it would be with a vengeance and we weren't ready for it," Hawks coach Phil Martelli said.

The scrappy Hawks did get a 16-point deficit down to 10 with 1:36 left after Abdul Jalloh's layup, but the Villanova fans chanted "N-I-T" it was easy to realize that might be the best Martelli's team can do this season.

"We crumbled a little bit mentally more than anything else," Martelli said. "We've got to find out the reasons and work on them.

Villanova played without shooting guard Mike Nardi, who has tonsillitis. Nardi also was tested for mono.

Villanova won all four Big 5 games for its 17th series title and first since 2000-01, while the Hawks went 3-1.

Only three city series championships had been decided when both teams were unbeaten in the final game. The Hawks won in 1955-56 and 1979-80, and Temple defeated Saint Joseph's in 1967-68.
Clips win fourth straight game, Brand scores 25

Knicks drop 12th out of 13; Clippers grab ninth win in 10 tries

NEW YORK — Sam Cassell hit consecutive 3-pointers in the final two minutes, including the go-ahead one, and the Los Angeles Clippers beat the New York Knicks 95-82 Tuesday night for their fourth straight victory.

Elton Brand scored 25 points, nine in the fourth quarter, and grabbed 12 rebounds as the Clippers improved to 4-1 on their six-game road trip that ends Wednesday against the Detroit Pistons. They have won nine of 10 overall.

Cassell was quiet for most of the game and finished with only 13 points and before his late surge the most energy he showed was when he was hit with a technical foul that was taken away by another referee.

Jalen Rose scored 23 points for the Knicks, who are a game behind and 11 rebounds for the Clippers on an inbound pass.

Brand knocked away a desperation pass by Crawford and Oyintel Woolf to push the lead to 65-60.

Hawks 99, Pistons 98

Joe Johnson scored 29 points, including a layup with 2.5 seconds left, to lift the Atlanta Hawks to a victory over Detroit on Tuesday night, denying the Pistons their fourth win.

Detroit, which still boasts the NBA's top defense, matched the Hawks in the first half but still led 40-36 at halftime.

It was only 5-of-22.

The ball, and often used double focus of the Mavericks, who showed they could defend Bryant, who was held to 24 points — well below his 52.5 average in his other two games against Dallas this year.

Before Bryant scored 81 points against Toronto two weeks ago, he scored 62 against the Mavericks on Dec. 20, and had outscored them on his own before not playing the fourth quarter in a 22-point home victory. The Knicks top scorer put up 43 in his other matchup against Dallas.

Brian Cook scored a career-high 28 points on 12-of-16 shooting, and became the first player other than Bryant to lead the Lakers in scoring the past 17 games. But Bryant was the obvious focus of the Mavericks, who weren't going to be embarrassed again.

Dallas (33-10) took over the best record in the Western Conference, a half-game better than idle San Antonio. The Lakers, playing their sixth straight road game, lost their fourth consecutive game by double figures.

Using Adrian Griffin, Jerry Stackhouse and Howard as the primary defenders, Dallas everything they could to deny Bryant the ball, and often used double teams. And Bryant struggled when he did get shots, making only 5-of-12.

Dallas squandered a 20-point first-half lead, and the Lakers went ahead for the only time when Lamar Odom made two free throws to make it 66-64 with 2:56 left in the third.

Howard tied the game with a drive for a shot off the glass, and then stripped Bryant of the ball. After a foul away from the ball, Howard drew for another layup, and the Mavericks led the rest of the way.

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**TORINO GAMES**

**McDonald's ads launched in Italy**

**Nutrition information to be included on food**

Associated Press

TURIN, Italy — In a public relations move with Super Bowl ring, McDonald's rolled out its much-hyped "packaging with nutritional information" on Tuesday at — of all places — the Winter Games.

And with endorsements appearing by — of all people — speedskating gold medalist Dan Jansen and Italian Stefania Belmondo, a cross-country skier who possesses one silver medal and one bronze.

At a packed press conference in the company's fast-food franchise inside the behemoth media center, McDonald's officials introduced IOC president Jacques Rogge to extoll the virtues of "sound nutrition" and corporate sponsorship.

The "packaging with nutritional information program" is the burger chain's latest effort to add healthy-sounding sound bite to its traditional menu fare. Beginning Tuesday in Turin, and later this month in the United States, this novel marketing ploy adds icons and numbers (but not written words) showing calories, protein, fat, carbs and salt content.

The symbol for salt is three diagonal dots (to look like the top of a salt shaker), the symbol for protein is three blocks (the "filling blocks" of an exercise), and the symbol for fat is three vertical bars (Think of a tape measure).

Nutritionists say the icon is the percentage it constitutes of an average daily diet. McDonald's calculates that an average daily diet is 2,000 calories.

But isn't that a very high number of calories to be applied universally to men and women, large and small? (So asked an Italian magazine writer.)

A company official said the figure actually applies to a young woman who is physically active.

So, for example, a plain cheeseburger is 250 calories and constitutes 13 percent of the McDonald daily total. It contains 12 percent of fat at 8 grams; 11 percent of carbohydrates at 31 grams and 26 percent of salt at 1.3 grams.

"We believe in the quality of our food.

Mike Roberts
McDonald's president"
Gretzky's wife caught up in gambling ring

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Wayne Gretzky's wife is among those implicated in a gambling ring identified by two law enforcement officials who told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because no warrants have been publicly identified.

Asked about her involve­ment, Gretzky laughed and said, "Oh really? I don't know. You have to ask her that."

State police Lt. Rick Fuentes said an investiga­tion into the New Jersey-based ring discovered the processing of more than $1.3 million, on professional and college sports, mostly football and basketball.

The developments came at a sensitive time for the NHL, which is trying to win back fans after a season-long lockout and just days before many of its best players will showcase their talent at the Turin Olympics.

Goalie Rick Tocchet, who was serving as a part-owner of the team, is in his first season coaching the Coyotes and is a sensitive time for the NHL.

Fencing Top 20

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Alexander reveals Super Bowl injury

KIRKLAND, Wash. — Turns out dropped passes, penalties and disputed officials' calls weren't the only things going against the Seahawks in the Super Bowl.

League MVP Shaun Alexander revealed Tuesday he sprained his right foot during the Seahawks' championship loss to Pittsburgh Sunday.

"I didn't even know it happened, but it swelled up," he said, hours before he and six teammates flew to Hawaii to play in this weekend's Pro Bowl.

Alexander said he will get treatment in Hawaii before deciding whether to play in the Pro Bowl, but he did not take lightly. He was selected for the game for the third consecutive season.

IN BRIEF

Alexander reveals Super Bowl injury

TURIN, Italy — America's diminished influence in the international Olympic movement could be even further eroded this week. By Friday, the United States could be left with­out a single voice on the Olympics' most powerful body.

Jim Easton and Anita DeFranza are both running for seats on the policy-making executive board of the International Olympic Committee. Members say they run the risk of splitting the vote and both losing.

Other U.S. interests will also be at stake at the three-day IOC general assembly opening Wednesday on the eve of the Turin Games. Softball and baseball, voted out of the Olympics seven months ago, are hoping to win reinstatement for the 2012 London Games.

Friday's IOC executive board elections shape up as among the most significant and tightly contested in years.

Steeler fans celebrate fifth Super Bowl victory

PITTSBURGH — Some fans waited 26 years for this Super Bowl celebration. Others were too young to remember the Pittsburgh Steelers' last championship. Some weren't even born.

It didn't matter Tuesday as fans of all ages jammed a mile-long parade route — 10 or more people deep in many spots — to thank the team for securing the long-sought fifth Super Bowl win.

Sixty-seven-year-old Evelyne Potts recalled being downtown for the last victory parade when her sons were both in elementary school. She said she wasn't going to miss this one.

"I wanted to be part of history," Potts said.

"We just love 'em, that's all," Potts said.

And the players loved the fans back. Safety Troy Polamalu twice down from atop a pickup truck to the cheering crowd.

America at risk of losing its Olympic influence

around the dial

College Basketball

Indianapolis at Wisconsin 7 p.m. ESPN
Boston College at Wake Forest 7:30 p.m. ESPN2
Syracuse at Connecticut 9 p.m. ESPN

NBA

Chicago at Denver 9:30 p.m. ESPN2
Giambi returns to public's embrace

Former pariah now active with charities

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jason Giambi didn't have to apologize for this.

Nearly a year to the day after he fledged through a news conference in which he all but admitted using steroids, the New York Yankees first baseman celebrated his charity.

No longer a pariah, he beamed with pride while Monday in a hospital auditorium along with former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman and country singer Garth Brooks about a new playroom facility they helped fund for children.

"It's been a lot of hard work and a lot of grunting it out," said Giambi, who overcame injury and illness to become the 2006 AL Comeback Player of the Year.

Last Feb. 10, he fledned off questions as his agent sat by his father and wife were in the off-season preparing for 2006.

"I feel great. I'm ready to go," Giambi said. "Last year, before the season started, I missed a couple of months just trying to get healthy, so it's been exciting to start for the first time in about a year and a half. I've normally done, training and working out."

If Giambi's weight is in between 230-240 pounds, and he looked a lot meaner Tuesday than he did a year earlier. Giambi says he hasn't felt this good since 2002.

"It's telling me all the work he's doing. Hopefully, that's the case," Yankees manager Joe Torre said at another function later in the day.

When Giambi reported to Tampa, Fla., last year, he immediately went out to sign the autographs for fans, trying to repair his relationship with them. In the end, he made peace with them by becoming productive again at the plate.

"I think it will be a lot easier," Torre said. "At this time last year, we were having our first press conference at Yankee Stadium where I was certainly unmanned able to sit in, and I know it had to be 10 times more uncomfortable for him. With that stuff behind him and just baseball ahead, and same guy I've seen the last year earlier, I think it will be a more enjoyable spring for him."

Giambi was happy to talk about baseball matters: how he helped successfully recruit Johnny Damon to the Yankees, and his unsuccessful talks with Nomar Garciaparra.

Giambi thinks Damon will help loosen up a clubhouse that often seems stiff, at least during the first half of 2003, and a benign tumor felled him in 2004, when he hit just .208 with 12 homers and 40 RBIs.

After spending much of the offseason regaining strength, he worked for months with hitting coach Don Mattingly to find his lost swing and was booted by Yankee Stadium fans — and almost his five home runs during the first three months and left many runners on base. His stroke finally returned in July, and he would end with 271 with 32 homers and 87 RBIs.

He says he spent much of this offseason preparing for 2006.
Knights continued from 24

Quincy. He also leads the Big East in scoring as his team heads into the Joyce Center for a 7:30 p.m. tip.

Douby averages 23.9 points per game for the Scarlet Knights (13-9, 6-6 Big East). He scored a career-high 41 points one week ago against Syracuse at the Carrier Dome. But his last three games — 86-64, one of six defeats in its last eight games — is a type of streak all too familiar to Brey’s ears.

“There are two teams kind of in the same boat, trying to dig out of a hole,” Brey said. “Neither one of us has been very good the last couple weeks — haven’t won a game in a while.”

Notre Dame (10-10, 5-8) is desperate for a conference win after losing its fifth straight game and eight of its first nine in Big East play. The Irish’s predicament since its 0-3 conference start has been simple, but complicated. They’ve needed to win — simple. They’ve needed to close out close games against hot or not-hot teams — complicated.

“I think we’ve gone into every game the last four or five games saying, ‘We need this game, bottom line,’ and it hasn’t turned out that way,” Notre Dame shouter guard Colin Falls said Monday. “There’s still a chance, but there’s so many games left and so many key wins we can get out there, I think (tonight) would be a great start.”

Notre Dame and Rutgers are each coming off a series of close losses. The Irish lost by three points in overtime to Louisville Saturday (89-86) and by one point to West Virginia on Feb. 1 (71-70). After dropping its Feb. 1 game to the Orange, the Scarlet Knights drove north in New Jersey to face Seton Hall, who dropped Rutgers by six, 73-67.

“Everything runs through Douby,” Falls said Monday. “I think if we can get a game plan that contains him, we’ll be alright.”


Rutgers is similar to the squad that beat Notre Dame last season in the first round of the Big East tournament, 72-65.

The Scarlet Knights are minus former guard Ricky Shields, but guard Marquis Webb (9.3 points, three rebounds) starts alongside Douby, J.R. Inman, Anthony Farmer and Byron Jones.

The Irish and Scarlet Knights are tied for 11 in the all-time series, with Notre Dame leading 7-2 when they play at the Joyce Center. But the Irish need a win, especially with a week off following the game before its next conference game, against last place South Florida.

“I think you’ve lost some tough ones where maybe in the back of your mind you’re thinking, ‘Maybe it’s our turn,’” Brey said. “But you’ve got to make it your turn.”

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

Playoffs continued from 24

this is playoff hockey,” he said.

Making matters more difficult are the two losses the Irish sustained last weekend against No. 14 Michigan State (3-2 Friday in South Bend and 2-1 Saturday in East Lansing.

“We were looking to pick up points against Michigan State,” Pooley said. “We really thought we could get a win there. We didn’t have a great game Friday, but I thought we played well enough Saturday to win.”

Although the competition lightens a little bit in the coming weeks, Pooley said every game will be important.

“Ferris State, Bowling Green and Fairbanks are extremely tough teams,” he said. “Getting points every weekend is important.”

The Bulldogs, who Notre Dame will play in a home-and-home series Friday and Saturday, came into the weekend 9-6-5 in the conference, good for 23 points and fifth place. Ferris State will be playing with motivation, as they sit just one point behind Lake Superior for the fourth and final first-round bye.

Next, the Irish will travel to Ohio for two games against Bowling Green. Notre Dame hosted the Falcons Nov. 10 and 11 and swept them 9-4 and 4-2. Like the Irish, Bowling Green boasts 17 points in conference play and is tied for ninth.

The third team tied for ninth is Alaska-Fairbanks. Notre Dame’s opponent on the last weekend of the season. Both games will be played in the Joyce Center, a major advantage for the Irish considering the Nanooks will have to travel over 4,000 miles. In the CCHA, two points are awarded for a win and one for a tie.

The tilt with Ferris State at the Joyce Centre will face off Friday at 7:35 p.m. The return trip to Big Rapids, Mich., will begin at 7:05 p.m. Saturday.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

Irish right wing Mark Van Guilder looks to receive a pass ahead of Michigan State defenders in a 3-2 loss on Feb. 3.
Dating back to their 62-51 loss to then-No. 1 Tennessee on New Year's Eve, the Irish have trailed by double figures in nine of 12 games.

"They're just so disappoointing to me," Notre Dame head coach Muffet McGraw said. "I mean, we just make so many mistakes, after mistake on the play, it's disheartening to watch sometimes."

Twenty-three seconds later, sophomore guard Charly Allen hit a jumper and Notre Dame once again began claving its way back from a big deficit.

The Irish were able to erase their deficits in nine of 24 games. They've been there before, too.

In the end, losing hurts.

"I'm — I'm just frustrated," Perretta said. "I should have called a timeout when I saw the play break down and we didn't have anything. It'd be feeling really good."

"I'm panicking," Perretta's worries were pre- empted by her own three-pointer that cut Notre Dame's deficit to one with 36.6 seconds left.

"I just tried to get a shot off," Duffy said. "I saw the baseline and her hands were up to me, and I just thought I just gave it a chance."

The Irish were able to erase their deficits in nine of 24 games. They've been there before, too.

Monday's game was the third Notre Dame contest that had gone to overtime. In those games the Irish are a disappointing 1-2 — that was a big factor in the Irish's struggles in that season.

"One thing that we've been doing this year is we are not going to give up when we're down," she said.

Her next statement, however, has come to define the team's resolve.

"It's really nothing unless you can pull it out in the end," she said.

In the end, losing hurts.

"You're never going to get a game back. You can try to do that," Perretta added. "But we had a three-pointer that would have tied the game at 52 with 7.4 remaining."

Those nine minutes in the second half were the biggest upset win in program history and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Erika Ritter at eritter@nd.edu.
**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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\textbf{ND Women's Basketball}

\textbf{Irish lose in overtime after late comeback}

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame erased a 21-point second-half deficit Tuesday but fell short in overtime against Villanova, losing 69-65 in front of 6,300 fans at the Joyce Center.

"We lost the game at the end when we couldn't get a defensive rebound," Irish coach Muffett McGraw said. "We took a couple of quick shots and we just ... consistently beat ourselves by missing free throws. ... We just can't seem to make them when it counts."

Liaad Saze-Karni registered a couple of quick shots and we just put in another easy layup, and Notre Dame found itself down 43-22 and struggling on both ends of the floor.

The Irish had been in this situation before.

\textbf{Men's Basketball}

\textbf{Rutgers presents tough test}

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

At the risk of sounding obvious, Notre Dame coach Mike Brey made his major goal for tonight's game against Rutgers absolutely clear. "Doubly can't get 50 [points]," Brey said before Monday's practice. "We've got to slow that down."

The Rutgers junior guard who has opposing coaches referring to him by one name goes by the first name see KINGS/\textit{page 21}

\textbf{Football}

\textbf{Irish announce football game times for '06 season}

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

Notre Dame officially announced the kickoff times for its seven home football games in 2006 on Tuesday. NBC Sports will televise all of the games nationally.

\textbf{Hockey}

\textbf{Icers bear down for grueling final stretch}

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writer

With just six games left in the regular season, Notre Dame is setting its sights on home ice advantage in the first round of the CCHA play-offs.

\textbf{Men's Tennis}

\textbf{Illini ace Irish with sweep}

By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

Despite a heroic effort, the Irish were unable to stop the bleeding against the Illini Tuesday, dropping their third straight match to fall to 2-4.

No. 3 Illinois shut out No. 28 Notre Dame in a match that was decidedly one-sided.

"Illinois is for real," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "They could win it all this year. They are the best team we've faced."

The doubles point was the closest part of the match. Andrew Roth and Eric Langenkamp took the match at No. 3 with an 8-3 victory.

Santiago Montoya, left, and Andrew Roth approach a shot Jan. 29 against William and Mary. see KINGS/\textit{page 21}