Controversial film event to begin

Showings to be called 'Gay and Lesbian Film: Filmmakers, Narratives and Spectatorship'

By MARY KATE MALONE
Assistant News Editor

Two weeks after University President Father John Jenkins questioned the presence of controversial events on campus in a series of mugshots and addresses to the Notre Dame community, the event formerly known as the Queer Film Festival will begin today under a new name — garnering national media attention and stirring student activism.

"Gay and Lesbian Film: Filmmakers, Narratives and Spectatorship" is the new title for the Queer Film event entering its third year at the University. In his addresses to students, faculty and alumni, Jenkins said the event's previous title seemed "to celebrate homosexual activity."

"When, year after year, we sponsor something or a unit of the University sponsors something that appears to be in conflict with Catholic teaching, the University's name is used in such a way that it seems to support that which it doesn't support. It's more [about] authenticity of character and its representation," Jenkins told The Observer following the addresses.

The Queer Film Festival was renamed after mugs of meetings between various groups connected to the event. The new name was agreed upon by all parties involved, which included student organizations, the department of Film, Television and Theatre (FTT) and the University administration, event co-chair Martin Laina said.

Those parties are all satisfied with the name, Laina said. But the event's content and purpose as an academic endeavor have not changed, Laina said, adding the new name is not nearly as important as the event itself.

"The title accurately reflects the aims and purposes of the event, which is to showcase and confront ordinance and history in such a way that it seems to support that which it doesn't support. It's more [about] authenticity of character and its representation," Jenkins said.

But city officials remain skeptical

By KAREN LANGLEY
Assistant News Editor

The controversial South Bend Public Nuisance Ordinance — which caused some students to face fines and evictions — may be less intrusive and strict if some student government leaders have their way.

Their Monday night meeting initiated their plan for their Feb. 27 visit to the South Bend Common Council, where they intend to appeal for consideration of a Student Senate resolution on the controversial amendment to South Bend's Public Nuisance Ordinance. Assistant City Attorney Ann-Carol Nash said Wednesday she would not support such an appeal.

The resolution requests the Council further amend the ordinance so that landlords are encouraged to evict disruptive tenants after the second, rather than the first, violation of the ordinance. As it stands, the ordinance requires landlords under takethe eviction proceedings as a defense against possible fines after a single notice to abate, student body president Dave Baron said Tuesday.

"We're concerned that the ordinance be made consistent with the concept of a notice to abate," he said.

Nash told The Observer that while she could not predict the Council's reaction, she would not suggest the ordinance be changed.

"My question to the Council would be, 'Do you want to tell see RELATIONS/page 4

Panel discusses jazz, hip-hop's reflection of black culture

By PETER NINNEMAN
News Writer

The portrayal of hip-hop artists in contemporary society and the progression of music genres that reflect the progression of black culture were the topics of discussion Wednesday evening in the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

"Fight the Power: The Evolution of Music in African-American Culture" was sponsored by Shades of Ebony and the Department of Africana Studies. It included a panel comprised of Ivy Wilson, assistant professor of English; Larry Dwyer, Notre Dame's director of jazz studies; Alvin Tillery, associate professor of political science; and Richard Pierce, associate history professor and Africana studies department chair.

Jazz and hip-hop were the two music genres that received the most attention, though the discussion involved the entire history of black music and culture.

"You literally could look at black music as a soundtrack to black history," Wilson said.

After quick introductions and opening statements, the panel dove right into the question of whether jazz was a force for social change.

"It was a force for social change in a few respects," Dwyer said. "For one, it did bring white and black musicians together to play music together."

Nearly a quarter of Billie Holiday's accompanying musicians were white in the 1940s. Black and white musicians got together for jam sessions, even though laws forbade them from doing so publicly, Dwyer said.

Wilson disagreed with Dwyer's point.

"In our resolution, we ask that... see FILMS/page 8
Cheap seats

I'm known for a lot of things, but among my college friends two stand out: my penchant for free crap and my tendency to be absolutely random. My roommates — one of whom happens to be the mail lady for our building — have often commented on the multitude of products and gift cards that come to our door, everything from free dinners at Outback Steakhouse to books to lots and lots of free samples. I don't care what's in the envelope as long as it's mail, because like all college students, mail and free stuff make me very happy.

The randomness is another story. My former roommate Tara told me on an almost daily basis, "You are the most random person I know." And this was before my decision to bring home a giant salmon — head, scales and all — from the grocery store just because it looked cool.

I disappear for days and can often be found in random spots around town adventurously rummaging about and watching the residents. This has led me to the discovery of some of my favorite South Bend spots — Fiddler's Hearth at lunchtime, the duck pond in the park, the College Football Hall of Fame — but only one place in the city has combined my love of everything that is free and my tendency to jaunt off to nowhere for no reason.

The park, the College Football Hall of Fame — was a Peoria institution, and now, my video collection is monstrous for doing something that is free and my tendency to jaunt off to nowhere for no reason.

I worked at a movie theater for five years before coming to college, and my ADD-affected brain became almost addicted to the serenity that comes with engrossing yourself in someone else's story for a few short hours. Now, my video collection is monstrous and it seems to project itself in a story from time to time."

The principal of the Downey Elementary School claims the boy put two fingers inside the girl's waistband last week during circle time.

The boy's mother, Bertheena Dotson, does not understand what her child is being punished for. She says it was an innocent put on the back; and now, her son is being treated like a criminal. "Say sexual harassment in front of my son ... how am I going to explain that? How? Because he doesn't even know what it is." Spokesperson for the school, Cynthia McNally said it is the school's policy to suspend the child without doing an investigation."

Undercover kitten helps nab accused 'milk vet' EUGENE, Ore. — Debra Schwarz and her two dogs, Lucky and Junior, at risk of being hit by a car.

Police in Eugene and Springfield have escorted her off local highways at least three times in the past month after drivers complained that they couldn't get around her.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Participants in Speed Dating will have 10 dates in a half an hour at $11.55 p.m. tonight at Legends. To sign up, e-mail legends@nd.edu by today.

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 $3 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 obsnews@nd.edu.

Students check e-mail and finish assignments Tuesday in the OIT computer cluster in the basement of the LaFortune Student Center.

Offbeat

Six-year-old boy suspended for sexual harassment BRUCKTON, Mass. A 6-year-old boy was suspended from school for three days for allegedly sexually harassing a girl in his class.

The only problem is, she hasn't gotten very far. Every tirade against people she believes have done her wrong.

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Activist to discuss Emmett Till

Keith Beauchamp, civil rights activist and filmmaker, will discuss his documentary "The Unseen Story of Emmett Louis Till" at 7 p.m. Feb. 15 in the auditorium of the Hesburgh Center for International Studies. The lecture is free and open to the public.

In a tragedy that contributed to the beginning of the civil rights movement, Till, a black Chicago teenager visiting Money, Miss., was beaten and murdered for publicly addressing a white woman in 1955. The two men charged in the case were acquitted by an all-white jury.

Beauchamp's documentary provides eyewitness testimony and an interview with Till's mother, which revealed other potentially guilty parties and ultimately prompted the U.S. Department of Justice to reopen the case in 2004.

Scholar finds cartoon protests distressing

Special to The Observer

Rashed Omar is a Muslim scholar at Notre Dame who makes it his mission in life to harness religion as a force for building peace. He shakes his head in deep distress that Danish cartoons have led to violent protests in the name of Islam.

"This has really set us back," said Omar, who coordinates the Program in Religion, Conflict and Peacebuilding at Notre Dame's Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace Studies.

Omar is a former imam of a South African mosque, and he teaches a course in Islamic ethics. He understands why most Muslims view a cartoon depicting the Prophet Muhammad with a bomb coming out of his headgear as offensive and reprehensible.

"It is yet another illustration of Islamophobia and hate speech against Muslims that in their view appears to be pervasive in western media depictions of Islam," he said.

But those who vent their dismay with destruction are wrong, Omar believes. He has joined Islamic scholars and intellectuals all over the world—including the Grand Mufti of Syria, Egypt and the Turkish Ministry of Religious Affairs—who have unequivocally condemned the violence that has accompanied some of the Muslim protests over the cartoons.

"The death of four Afghan protesters, the killing of a Catholic priest in Turkey, the torching of Danish embassies in Syria and Lebanon, the issuing of death threats against journalists should be condemned as abomination and contrary to the letter and spirit of Islam," he said.

He called upon the world community to use the tragic sequence of events as an impetus for candid dialogue about freedom of speech, cultural xenophobia, and the root causes of violence and terror.

"There is a dire need for the followers of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, as well as all other traditions, to retrieve our common humanity and to end the horrific dehumanization that is taking place on global scale," he said.

Omar holds a doctorate from the University of Cape Town, and a master's degree in three studies from Notre Dame.
Concerns were raised by Notre Dame students regarding the decision to host a play, "The Vagina Monologues," which some students found controversial. The university's policy on the event was discussed, with some students and representatives expressing concern over the invasion of privacy and the potential for controversy. The university's response was to emphasize the academic freedom and the importance of upholding the Student Union constitution, while also acknowledging the concerns of the students.

Senator Ben Gunty addressed the Senate on the matter, stating, "I think what Notre Dame lacks at the moment is a transparent policy." The concern was raised about the university's ability to "stop [its] Catholic identity from eroding any further."

The university president, John Jenkins, was asked about the decision and responded, "We believe the University's mission to present "The Vagina Monologues" in a DeBartolo Hall classroom with free admission was a good solution and offers them a 'place of promiscuity enjoyed by no other." "We have to sacrifice our Catholic character or its Catholic values," Jenkins added.

While some people may see academic freedom and Catholic character as opposing forces, Keough senator Rob Lindley said the two are meant to coexist at Notre Dame. "No Notre Dame should not have to sacrifice its academic character or its Catholic values," Lindley said. "However, in this case, we should respect its academic values for its Catholic character as well."
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Rebel riots disrupt Nepal elections

WASHINGTON — A Capitol office building was evacuated Wednesday night after sensors indicated the presence of a nerve agent, but testing proved negative.

Schneider said about a dozen senators were forced to pay for their missing body armor vest, which medics destroyed because it was soaked in blood, officials said Wednesday.

The state agency also must try to provide better protection for its facilities in compliance with the U.S. embargo against Cuba or Cubans.

According to the law, the state agency must try to provide the necessary protection for its facilities in compliance with the U.S. embargo against Cuba or Cubans.

NATIONAL NEWS

Soldier refunded for missing gear

CHERINGTON, WA. — A former soldier injured in Iraq is getting a refund after being forced to pay for his missing body armor vest, which medics destroyed because it was soaked in blood, officials said Wednesday.

First Lt. William "Eddie" Rebrock IV, 25, had to leave the Army with a shrapnel injury to his arm. But before he could be discharged last week, he says he had to scrounge up cash to replace the gear lost in the battle.

"The government has added to ammunition for the Islamic community, so it doesn't justify violence," said the statement.

Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen showed no sign of diverting from his government's stance that it cannot negotiate with the "terrorists.""That seems to be the biggest lesson that has come out of the dead end to the deadly protests.

Three convicted in smuggling case

HOUSTON — Three more people were convicted Wednesday in the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt, a journey that ended in the deaths of 19 illegal immigrants who had been packed into a stifling tractor-trailer.

The heads of the United Nations, European Union and the world's largest Islamic group issued a statement Tuesday urging an end to the deadly protests.

"Aggression against life, property and culture can only damage the image of a peaceful Islam," said the statement released jointly by the United Nations, European Union and the Islamic Conference. "The cartoons have hurt the Islamic community, so it doesn't justify violence," said the statement.

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"It's time to send a message to those three that their days of making money on the pain, desperation of others has come to an end," federal prosecutor Daniel Rodriguez told the jury.

The trio could have faced life in prison if the jury had held the defendants responsible for the immigrants' deaths, but jurors told the judge they did not feel that way.

More than 70 illegal immigrants in all were packed into the tractor-trailer. As they traveled, they began to suffer from the heat. Two died later. They all died of dehydration, overheating and suffocation.

Survivors testified that the immigrants took off their sweat-drenched clothes for relief and crowded around holes they punched in the truck so they could breathe. They also kicked out a signal light to get the attention of passing motorists.

They were found after the driver abandoned the trailer at a truck stop in Victoria.
Does the Church Still Use Excommunication?

In short, yes. I would guess, though, that the ecclesiastical penalty of excommunication is generally poorly understood. So what does it mean to be "excommunicated"? One who is excommunicated can no longer receive the Sacraments, including the reception of Holy Communion, and is in a sense cut off from the Church. (It's important to note that a Catholic who is divorced is NOT among those listed as automatically excommunicated; a problem only arises if the divorced Catholic tries to remarry without an annulment of the previous marriage.)

There are two different ways that excommunication occurs. First, some sins are so heinous as to warrant automatic excommunication the moment one knowingly commits such a sin. Church Law specifies seven sins that incur automatic excommunication: desecrating the Blessed Sacrament or using it for a sacrilegious purpose, procuring or assisting in an abortion, using physical force against the Pope, a priest absolving an accomplice in a sin against the Sixth Commandment (on adultery), a bishop consecrating someone as a bishop without permission of the Pope, and separating oneself from the Church. (It's important to note that a Catholic who is divorced is NOT among those listed as automatically excommunicated; a problem only arises if the divorced Catholic tries to remarry without an annulment of the previous marriage.)

In addition to automatic excommunication, a bishop can pronounce excommunication on certain individuals or groups whose actions or beliefs are so contrary to Catholic Christian faith as to warrant it. Excommunication of this sort has occurred, for example, in the Archdiocese of St. Louis as recently as this past December 2005, when a lay board of directors at St. Stanislaus Kostka parish time and time again refused to submit to the authority of either the Archbishop or the Pope, and knowingly hired a suspended priest from a neighboring diocese as their pastor. Both the lay board and the priest, in committing the crime of schism, were excommunicated and the parish has been suppressed by the Church. (For more information on this sad yet interesting situation can be found online at http://stlouisreview.com/abpcolumn.php?abpid=9772).

Excommunication, while a severe penalty, is never irreversible. As Fr. John Dietzen writes, "Excommunication always includes the invitation to repentance and return, and holds out the promise of forgiveness from God and the Christian community, the Church."

Send questions to Brett Perkins: Perkins.26@nd.edu!
**In Brief**

Mead Johnson execues sue over takeover

**Businesses gear up for tax season**

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**Market Recap**

**Dow**

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<th>Up/Down</th>
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**AMEX**

3,108.71 - 17.42

**NASDAQ**

5,794.91 - 42.41

**NYSE**

9,100 - 90.87

**Nikkei (Tokyo)**

16,272.68 - 0.00

**FTSE 100 (London)**

7,525.20 - 21.70

**Companies**

- **AMEX**
  - Stock Exchange: AEX
  - Gain: 23.41
  - Price: 10.40

- **NASDAQ**
  - Stock Exchange: NASDQ
  - Gain: 24.00
  - Price: 10.40

- **Nikkei**
  - Stock Exchange: NIKKEI
  - Gain: 25.00
  - Price: 10.40

- **FTSE 100**
  - Stock Exchange: FTSE
  - Gain: 26.00
  - Price: 10.40

**Commodities**

- **Light Crude**
  - Gain: 0.54
  - Price: 43.55

- **Gold**
  - Gain: 1.00
  - Price: 553.80

- **Pork Bellies**
  - Gain: 1.10
  - Price: 77.43

**Exchanges Rates**

- **Yen**
  - 119.40

- **Euro**
  - 0.836

- **Pound**
  - 0.5742

- **Canadian $**
  - 1.100

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**Time Warner may dismantle**

**Group of investors calls for breakdown of media giant, alleges mismanagement**

**NEW YORK** — Financier Carl Icahn called for Time Warner Inc. to split into four separate companies, releasing a report he commissioned that accuses the company of being a conglomerate that is mismanaging for the short term.

Icahn recruited the investment bank Lazard Ltd. to study options for the company, and included a $2 billion share buyback as well as criticisms of Time Warner's current management. The Lazard report also called for Time Warner to be broken up into four companies: AOL, Time Warner Cable, publishing, and entertainment.

Icahn said it would sell its book publishing division to the French firm Lagardere SCA for $3.575 million.

"Our view is that Time Warner has been managed for the short term," said Bruce Wasserstein, the head of Lazard. "Since 2002, almost every strategic decision concerning AOL has been wrong." Wasserstein said AOL should have capitalized on its capitalization in England. In one example, he called a "massive" decision concerning AOL's share price, a management purge, failure to deliver on promises of corporate synergy and accounting improprieties at AOL. The combined company used to be called Time Warner Cable and Cablevision.

Icahn has been very critical of Time Warner's management under Chief Executive Dick Parsons and Icahn agrees on. The stock is still roughly at the same level it was in the spring of 2002. Time Warner promised to evaluate the proposals in Lazard's report, and the "net effect," the company said, "is we are on the right path." Icahn has also recruited Frank Bluitt, a former head of Time Warner unit HBO and Viacom Inc., to serve as chief executive of Time Warner if Icahn's drive to install a new slate of directors succeeds, which is far from certain. In a somewhat puzzling twist, Blondi told the news conference that he had hired Jeff Bewkes, who is currently Parsons' No. 2 executive, would stay on board. Icahn has been very critical of Time Warner's current management, which would presumably include Bruce Wasserstein, Chris Young, a director of institutional Shareholder Services, a proxy advisory firm, said the presentation "advanced the ball a little bit," but said his firm was still studying the situation and hadn't decided how to advise shareholders.

Young described the arguments presented by Lazard and Icahn as a "textbook argument against the conglomerate discount." He also noted that large conglomerates tend to "go in and out of style." Bankers build up companies and then break them up, and they earn fees on both sides.

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**Businesses gear up for tax season**

Fishman noted that years ago, claiming you worked out of your home was one of those red flags that caught the eye of the IRS. But now, he said of small business owners, "they may not be aware the law is more liberal," since changes in the law were made in 2005. Fishman said:

"What does tend to trigger an audit, or, more commonly, questions about an individual item on a return, are deductions that seem abnormally high. Accountants and tax attorneys say that as long as you have the paperwork to back up the claims you make on your tax forms, you shouldn't run into problems. You'll be on safest ground if you either have your return prepared by a professional or reviewed by one if you've compiled it yourself."

"Ignorance can also cost a small business plenty of money — many small business owners just don't know what the law is. Fishman said owners tend to overlook a deduction tailored for them, known as the Section 179 deduction. This allows small businesses to deduct upfront rather than depreciate the cost of certain equipment immediately. It's crucial for businesses during the tax year. There's a change in the deduction for the 2005 tax year — it rose to $105,000 from $102,000 in 2004. Another change for the 2005 tax year is an adjustment in the standard mileage rate used to deduct the cost of using a vehicle for business purposes. Because the price of gasoline soared in the last few months of the year, the IRS has set up a two-tier deduction for 2005 — businesses can deduct 40.5 cents for each business mile driven before Sept. 1, and 48.5 cents for business miles driven after Aug. 31."
Music
continued from page 1
Social change may have occurred on an atomistic scale, but not at a social level. "With jazz," Tillery said.

The panel also discussed the role of jazz during the American civil rights movement, and how it differed from other music genres. "Gospel, blues, funk — those were much more the soundtrack of the civil rights movement," Tillery said.

Eventually more lyrical music passed jazz as the most popular form of black music in American popular culture. Pierce said this occurred because black culture had moved past the civil rights movement, "despite factories of poisoning such as General Motors and other industries. Overall, a high rate of diseases existed, or missing the first weeks of pregnancy, with neural tube defects, abnormalities of the brain and spinal cord that arise in the first weeks of pregnancy.

In one southern Texas county, there were six cases in six weeks of babies born with rudimentary or missing brains. Overall, a high rate of neural tube defects was found among almost all border counties.

Residents and lawyers had blamed pollution, and General Motors and other U.S.-owned enterprises paid $17 million without admitting wrongdoing to settle a lawsuit accusing their border factories of poisoning the air.

But no chemical links to the disease were ever proven, and Texas health officials began suspecting fumonisins, a toxin in corn mold. Experts had noted a correlation in the corn harvest just before the outbreak, said.

Scientists have been searching more than a decade for the cause of a surge in babies born with neural tube defects, abnormalities of the brain and spinal cord that arise in the first weeks of pregnancy.

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In one southern Texas county, there were six cases in six weeks of babies born with rudimentary or missing brains. Overall, a high rate of neural tube defects was found among almost all border counties.

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Canada opens 250-mile preserve
Great Bear Rainforest to cover 16-million acres, home bears, wolves

VANCOUVER — Canada unveiled a 16-million acre preserve Tuesday, including parkland covering an area 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 wars 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 parkland, with another 11.6 million run under an ecosystem management plan to ensure sustainable forestry and mining and the environment. Yellowstone National Park is 2.2 million acres.

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. Successful boycott campaigns in the 1990s led to large international companies turning away from British Columbia paper 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 Mathiasen, coast campaign co-ordinator for the Sierra Club of Canada's British Columbia chapter. "This innovative rainforest agreement provides a real world example of how people and wilderness can prosper together."

Announcing the Year 2006 Annual Awards of the Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship

Thanks to a generous gift from the Albert Ravarino family, the Italian Studies Program is pleased to announce the year 2006 annual scholarship for travel in support of summer research and foreign study in Italy. Grants will be made in amounts not to exceed $3,000, and will not normally cover all expenses. Notre Dame graduate and undergraduate students who are planning to pursue research or a formal program of summer study in Italy are invited to apply. Students must have completed at least one year of Italian language. The course work will normally be in Italian; will involve the study of Italian culture, literature, and art; and must be applicable to a student's degree program at the University of Notre Dame.

Application Deadline: Friday, February 17, 2006
Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship Program in Italian Studies
343 O'Shaughnessy Hall
University of Notre Dame

Nigeria

Bird flu reported in Africa for first time

Lagos — Africa's first outbreak of the deadly bird flu virus was reported Wednesday in a large commercial farm in Nigeria that raised chickens, geese and ostriches, and 46,000 birds were slaughtered.

International health officials called for help to prevent the spread of the disease on the world's poorest continent where governments are ill-equipped to combat it.

Nigeria said the outbreak was on a farm in Jaji, a village in the northern state of Kaduna. Agriculture Minister Adamu Bello told reporters the deadly H5N1 strain of the virus was detected in samples taken Jan. 16 from birds on the farm.

"We shall quarantine and stamp out livestock in any farm suspected of having avian influenza and pay full compensation to the owners," Bello said in an agriculture ministry statement.

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Beyond boxing

The assistant coaches include Sweet C. Robinson of the Barkley Police Department and former boxers Mike Bolichini, Jeff Dobusch, Ryan Rans, Chip Farrell and Judge Roland Chambler.

The chaplains of the club, who participate in the workouts, are Father Bill Stesich, and Father Brian Daley.

The360 Monologue Club is a non-profit organization, and every dollar raised goes to support the club's operations. The club is also a member of the National Catholic Chaplaincy Association, which provides resources and support to campus chaplains across the country. The club's goal is to provide a safe and supportive environment for students to explore their faith and deepen their understanding of the Catholic faith. The club's members are encouraged to participate in a variety of activities, including weekly meetings, retreats, and service projects.

The club's website includes information about the club's history, mission, and events. The website also includes a section for prospective members to learn more about the club and the opportunities it offers. The website encourages interested students to reach out for more information or to attend a meeting or event. The website also includes information about how to support the club, including through donations or volunteering.

The360 Monologue Club is a valuable resource for students who are interested in exploring their faith and connecting with others who share their values. The club's commitment to academic excellence and community service is evident in its activities and events. The club's leadership and members are dedicated to providing a supportive environment for students to grow in faith and personal development. The club's_website encourages interested students to learn more about the club and become involved in its activities.
Two moments of grace

Two important events took place last week.

In the midst of generally thoughtful discussions following presentations to the faculty, students and alumni on the topics of democracy, freedom and the Catholic identity of Notre Dame University, President Father John Jenkins, the officers of the University spent five days in Rome.

In addition to holding their usual winter meeting, they also took advantage of their five-day respite from Notre Dame community. Societies for prayer were extraordinary as Masses, which were celebrated in Roman parishes as well as at St. Peter's and the Chair of the Altar of St. Peter, less than ten yards from the tomb of the late Pope John Paul II.

With Vatican officials, we found ourselves in a context of respect for each other. At an Academic Convocation and Conference at St. John Lateran Pontifical University, popularly referred to as "the Pope's Seminary," we offered reflections on the role of the Catholic Church in the context of the Church and culture, academic life and the history of the Congregation of Holy Cross, and Notre Dame faculty and students.

And, of course, participation by Jenkins and many members of the delegation in a general audience with Pope Benedict XVI.

Within the first months of the administration of a new president and the faculty who had elected him, it was important to engage in a fruitful dialogue between high ranking officials of the University and the intellectual leaders of the Notre Dame community.

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CD Reviews

Franz Ferdinand can't get much 'Better'

By ANALISE LIPARI
Some Critic

Franz Ferdinand — or the new Scottish gentry, as they call themselves — has released its latest album, "You Could Have It So Much Better." Continuing in the musical vein of their self-titled debut album, the record proves to actually be that much better, as it stays true to their characteristic style.

The band, drawing its name from the archduke whose assassination spawned World War I, also displays some of this left-of-center, funky irreverence in its songs. This time around, "Better" proves no exception.

Originally meant to be the second in a series of titleless albums defined only by that much better, as it stays true to their released its latest album, "You Could Have It So Much Better," the group at the guitarist Alex Kapranos feels is the band's current style.

You can always have it better. If you try. That's the attitude of the group at the moment. Never to feel satisfied, always to want to do something better," Kapranos said in a recent FranzFerdinand.org article.

Franz Ferdinand consists of Kapranos, guitarist and keyboardist Nick McCarthy, bassist Robert Hardy and percussionist Paul Thomson. With all its members hail­ ing from Glasgow, the band began its rise in Scotland's largest city. With buzz slowly growing from positive word of mouth, Franz Ferdinand started their rise up the ladder of the local underground music scene until record labels pounced upon them in 2003.

Since its inception and growth in the music business, the band has continued writing its own music and letting that personal writing and artistic touch be central parts of their musical and personal identity as a group.

"You're letting such a fragile side of yourself out when you're creating or writ­ing music. To do that with people who are almost strangers would seem very strange to me," Kapranos said. "I think that we're very lucky that we're quite close. To us, it's almost like the band is the greatest possible adventure you can go on with your friends. It's really really exciting."

That unique songwriting effort shows through in the singular sound for which the band has become so famous. Oddly retro and yet thoroughly mod­ ern, Kapranos and his peers have created another album of solid guitar rock. Each track is deceptively sim­ ple, with single heavy guitar riffs anchoring their respective tunes in different ways. Yet other tracks are less like rock and more like six­ties mod rock and modern alternative music can possibly work together so seamlessly.

The album really shines on its first single, "Do You Want To," which blends their undeniably sexual energy with stripped down lyrics and gorgeously simple guitar riffs. In its most basic essence, the song just makes you want to get up and dance. The song's video makes for fun viewing as it adds another typical Franz Ferdinancial characteristic, having a fun sense of the goofy and irreverent about them. That sensibility is clearly heard with tracks like in "Do You Want To."

"This Boy" is also a great track, with a distinct beat and a chorus whose melody varies distinctly from its verses in typical Franz fashion. The beat is emphasized with strong guitar chords and, again, Kapranos' addictive and intriguing vocals.

The disc on the whole is arguably better than their 2004 self-titled debut, and it both heightens and deepens their style and skill for both the seasoned or fresh listener. Ultimately, for Franz Ferdinand the aim is to keep their public mesmerized and moving.

"I want to make music that will make the blood surge in your veins, music that will get people up and dance," Kapranos said in a November article from the Aberdeen Express.

Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu

Band's new album boasts classic rock influence

By JOE LATTAL
Aberdeen Express

Few bands emerge these days one could picture with Rock 'n' Roll Speedwagon, The Who or Boston. But what The Darkness was to '80s hair metal in 2003, The Hellacopters are to classic rock in 2006.

Music fans would be hard-pressed to find a rock 'n' roll band that embraces its classic rock influences as openly as these five men from Sweden. They serve as a solid guitar rock. And when they go on with your friends. It's really really exciting."

That unique songwriting effort shows through in the singular sound for which the band has become so famous. Oddly retro and yet thoroughly mod­ ern, Kapranos and his peers have created another album of solid guitar rock. Each track is deceptively sim­ ple, with single heavy guitar riffs anchoring their respective tunes in different ways. Yet other tracks are less like rock and more like six­ties mod rock and modern alternative music can possibly work together so seamlessly.

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Contact Joe Lattal at jlattal@nd.edu

With the release of their latest album, "Rock & Roll Is Dead," in 2005, The Hellacopters showed their classic rock roots with brutal sincerity.

The second track on the release, "Everything Is On TV," represents The Hellacopters' overall style — music that echoes classic rock, but with a modern cultural consciousness. The song is a simple yet gorgeous mix of McCarthyness, authority and pomp, but the band's tendency towards damage televi­sion has inflicted on culture. Although pick scrapes are all over radio-friend­ly pop punk records, here they sound inventive, surrounded by testosterone-driven vocals and the glamorous sound of three electric guitars.

Even the narrative style of songwriting, which has disappeared on modern com­mercial rock, is similar to the type of songs the Rolling Stones wrote 40 years ago. Just as The Darkness took advantage of their caricatured appeal a few years ago, The Hellacopters don't mind poking fun at themselves.

"I'm in the Band," Nicke Andersson explains the frustration of trying to get around bouncers at clubs. "I may not look like Jagger, / may not have money in the bank / I've got a pair of cheap sunglasses / and my castle may look like sand."

"Murder on My Mind," which reveals the haunting nature of the music industry, is about how the business side of the industry has killed rock 'n' roll music. The honest and frank lyrics about how The Hellacopters, who are at Liquor and Poker Records, feel about corporate execs is clear — "First you killed the heartbeat, / then you killed the soul / you killed rock and roll, I got murder on my mind."

With the release of their latest album, "Rock & Roll Is Dead," in 2005, The Hellacopters showed their classic rock roots with brutal sincerity.

Contact Joe Lattal at jlattal@nd.edu
**SHOW PREVIEW**

**War against in hilarity**

Keenan Hall residents prepare to launch latest incarnation of annual comedy show

By LIZ BYRUM
Assistant Scene Editor

It's that time again. One of the most highly anticipated dorm events returns this weekend to provide three nights of comedy, entertainment and — as this year's director, James Gower, puts it — mirth.

If the clues weren't enough, here's the bottom line — the Keenan Revue has arrived, and it is going to be better than ever.

The Keenan Revue's Web site begins with the subtle quip "Making fun of you since 1976." making this the 30th year for the famous campus variety show.

The event kicks off tonight and runs until Saturday, ending with a Revue dance performances will add to the entertainment in Keenan Hall's "World War Revue: The Axis of Humor," which debuts tonight and runs all weekend.

The Keenan Revue
2006
"World War Revue: The Axis of Humor"

Dates: February 9, 10 & 11
Time: 7:30 p.m.

"Our approach is Keenan waging a war on humorlessness. We are getting people to attack in hilarity."

Thomas Flowers
producer

Some of the skits draw from the overall theme and portray popular historical figures, such as Abraham Lincoln. It will be interesting to see how the men of Keenan take an often-serious subject and stamp it with their own brand of humor. Other highlights of the show Flowers would disclose include the adventures of Indiana Jones, a skit focused on popular Notre Dame Stadium voice, Officer Tim McCarthy and a running gag about Notre Dame's very own stunt man. But the audience should be ready for a lot more than that.

"We don't want to give too much away. We have a lot more ultra-secret stuff that we are ready to present at the show," Flowers said.

Each year the show is put together in an original way, so even seniors coming back a fourth time are going to be surprised. However, there are some familiar favorites as well. The Keenan Revue has been known to take audience members on a trip down memory lane with familiar songs and themes from childhood pop culture.

The crunch-time preparations for the Revue have been in full swing since Keenan residents returned from Christmas break.

Dorm residents, including head writers Vince Lyzinski and David Fotopoulos, were encouraged to generate ideas for skits during the break. Skits are auditioned in front of a selection committee, and everyone in Keenan is encouraged to try out.

Through the years, the Keenan Revue has become quite a large production. "Including everyone, the Keenan Revue staff, people in the skits, dancers, band members and stage crew, we have somewhere around 80 to 90 people working on the show," Flowers said.

Nightly rehearsals have been held this week to make sure each one of the performers is prepared for his big debut tonight at O'Laughlin Auditorium on Saint Mary's campus.

If students don't already have tickets for this event, they had better start hunting for friends with extras. At the ticket release Friday afternoon, people began to line up hours before the 4 p.m. release time, and each of the three nights was sold out within a short time after.

"World War Revue: The Axis of Humor" debuts tonight at 7:30 p.m.

Contact Liz Byrum at ebyrum@nd.edu

**Assistant Scene Editor**
DENVER — Ben Gordon scored 20 points and the Bulls a 106-100 lead with 3:10 left. Gordon scored 27 points, including the go-ahead 3-pointer in the second overtime, to lead the Milwaukee Bucks over the Orlando Magic on Wednesday night.

"My shooting performance was not so good, but my confidence is still there," he said after going 10-for-30 from the floor. "I have high standards for myself."

He was 0-for-3 in the first overtime and 1-for-2 in the second.

"This is one of those games you just have to grind it out, keep plugging away and eventually things will go your way," he said.

Coach Brian Hill said the Bucks capitalized on Orlando's 3-for-17 shooting in the second extra session for its sixth straight home win over the Magic.

"We had a great first half and a super second quarter, and then we just held it," Phoenix coach Mike D'Antoni said.

Some students knowledgable about laser surgery to coach middle school lacrosse to coach middle school in South Bend and/or help with St. Joseph's JV boys team. Stipend available.

Dan Gadzuric added 17 points and Bobby Simmons 15, including a 3-pointer that tied the game at 79 as regulation expired.

"If it doesn't go, we don't go to overtime," Bucks coach Terry Stotts said of Simmons' shot, the only 3-pointer he made in three attempts.

The Bucks went up 90-87 with 1:37 left. Turkoglu made a 22-foot shot as the Bucks took an 83-79 lead with 3:29 left.

After a season-high five-game winning streak, the Magic have lost six of seven, including out in the second overtime.

Redd's 3-pointer put Milwaukee ahead 88-86 with 2:25 left in the second overtime. Turkoglu made one free throw, but Gadzuric dunked as Milwaukee went up 90-87 with 1:37 left. Turkoglu made a layup, but T.J. Ford, who finished with 11 points and eight assists, answered with a driving layup to keep the Bucks ahead by three.

"We played tough in the first overtime, but in the second overtime, we just ran out of gas," Garrity said.

In the first overtime, Redd made two free throws and Simmons hit a 22-foot shot as the Bucks took an 83-79 lead with 3:29 left.

The Magic missed their fourth straight layup before Stevenson's layup pulled them to 83-81 with 2:22 to play.

Redd missed consecutive shots to give Orlando a chance, and the Bucks eventually tipped in a miss by Stevenson to tie it at 83 with 13 seconds to play.

Redd missed a baseline jumper off the first timeout in the first overtime.
Buck O'Neil awaits the day when he is called a Hall of Famer.

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Buck O’Neil’s lean, sinewy frame is snapped just a bit, his grudging concession to 94 years. His stooped just a bit. His grudgingly admitted to being as touched as everyone else by O’Neil’s warmth and charisma.

Buck O’Neil talks about playing in the Negro Leagues in front of a statue of himself at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Mo. on Feb. 11, 2005.

“Between now and Feb. 27, we’re all on pins and needles,” said Bob Kendrick, a museum executive. "There are baseball purists, even in Kansas City, who say O’Neil does not deserve induction. Among that small but vocal group is sports talk radio show host Soren Petro, who says O’Neil’s lifetime average of .288 is insufficient. "Buck has a broad list of unique and memorable accomplishments. But we’re talking about the best of the best,” said Petro. "And why are we just now talking about Buck O’Neil and the Hall of Fame? There was no talk of O’Neil in his documentary about the history of baseball. There was no talk of a statue of him being raised at the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, Mo. on Feb. 11, 2005.

The vote should not be based on what’s best for our city, our pocketbook or our heartstrings," he said. "But if Buck does go into the hall, I will be thrilled for him."

Nevertheless, Petro admits to being as touched as everyone else by O’Neil’s warmth and charisma.

The entire breathtaking sweep of history that his eventful life has encompassed stretches far beyond the game. As the grandson of a man who spoke to him of being kidnapped in West Africa as a youth and brought to the Carolinas in a feudal slave ship, Buck O’Neil is a living link to the ancestral heritage shared by every black American.
Men's College basketball RPI Top 25

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<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Record</th>
<th>RPI</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. John's at George Town</td>
<td>9-2</td>
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<td>South Carolina</td>
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Women's College Basketball RPI Top 25

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Tennis Top 25

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Tennis

Martina Navratilova of the United States plays a shot in a doubles match against Liezel Huber of South Africa and Lisa Moosha of Australia during the Sydney International Tennis tournament in Sydney on Jan. 10, 2005. Even as she approaches her 50th birthday, Navratilova plans to play a full schedule of doubles tournaments in 2006.

Navratilova to play Grand Slam doubles

Associated Press

Even as she approaches her 50th birthday and recovers from knee surgery, Martina Navratilova plans to play a full schedule of doubles tournaments in 2006, including the Grand Slams, and might take another stab at singles.

"I just feel like I'm not quite done yet," Navratilova said Wednesday in a telephone interview with The Associated Press from her home in Sarasota, Fla. "When I feel like I'm done, then I'm done. And I don't know when that will happen.

In a sense, she's finally being honest with herself and her fans, after having repeatedly made "This time I really mean it" declarations about when she would hang up her racket. But farewell tour followed farewell tour.

Navratilova originally retired in 1994, with a record 167 singles titles and having spent 331 weeks ranked No. 1. She returned to the tour as a doubles player in 2000, and eventually couldn't resist dabbling in singles, including a first-round victory at Wimbledon in 2004.

Nowadays, she won't make any predictions about how much longer she'll play or whether she'll again give singles a try against players half her age — or younger.

"We'll see how the body's going. I might get on the grass again," she said when asked about playing singles. "Right now, that's so far away. I'm not worried about it or thinking about it. If it happens, it happens. If I'm ready, then I'll play. If I'm not, then I won't."

She injured her left knee during an exhibition event in November and had arthroscopic surgery the next month, forcing her to miss the Australian Open and other events. Back at practice, Navratilova is aiming to return to the WTA Tour at the Feb. 26-29 hard-court tournament at Dubai, United Arab Emirates, then wants to play the next week at Dubai, Qatar.

Her partner at those tournaments will be 29-year-old Liezel Huber, who teamed with Cara Black to win Wimbledon last year.

"Hopefully, I can keep up my end of the bargain," Navratilova said.

In Brief

MLB concerned with D.C. council's lease for Nationals

WASHINGTON — Major League Baseball responded skeptically to a revised lease for the Washington Nationals that was approved early Wednesday by the District of Columbia Council, which rejected an earlier proposal just hours before.

During a series of sessions that began Tuesday and lasted more than 14 hours, council members rejected the lease 8-5, then approved it 9-4 after capping the city's spending at just under $611 million.

"Major League Baseball has not yet been provided with the filings made by the D.C. Sports & Entertainment Commission with the City Council last Friday, nor the text of the legislation passed by the Council last night," baseball spokesman Rich Levin said in a statement. "We are very concerned about what we heard during the debate, and we need to read the materials and the legislative language so we can determine whether they are consistent with the agreements between Major League Baseball and the city."

Krivsky leaves Twins to become Reds' GM

CINCINNATI — Minnesota's Wayne Krivsky overwhelmed the Cincinnati Reds' search Wednesday, then got the job as the team's next general manager.

Krivsky's hiring ended a two-week search that involved eight candidates and ultimately came down to two — him and Reds special adviser Jim Beattie. Krivsky's second interview went so well that owner Bob Castellini didn't need any more time to think it over.

"He was totally prepared," Castellini said. "He blew us away."

Krivsky was a leading candidate for the Reds' job two years ago, but former owner Carl Lindner chose Dan O'Brien, who had worked for the Houston Astros and Texas Rangers. O'Brien was fired last month by Castellini, who wanted to bring in his own executive to run the baseball operation.

Italy replaces Olympic ski jumpers

TURIN, Italy — Italy will replace its two injured ski jumpers with athletes from its Nordic combined team — a move that raises doubt about whether the host nation can make a strong showing in the event.

The Italians were not considered to be medal contenders in ski jumping, but they were hoping to perform well in front of the home crowd at Pragelato.

Instead, the team will take the unusual move of using Nordic combined athletes to replace the injured Marco Beltrame and Stefano Chiapolino.

"With a lower number of athletes, we will take part in the same number of events," Italian delegation head Raffaele Papozzi said Wednesday.

Beltrame and Chiapolino were hurt Monday in separate falls.

around the dial

College Basketball

Ohio State at Michigan 7 p.m. ESPN

Granada at FSU 7 p.m. ESPN

St. John's at Georgetown 9 p.m. ESPN2

West Virginia at Pittsburgh 9 p.m. ESPN

Golf

AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am First Round Coverage 3 p.m. USA
Student Body President

Debate

Today
February 9
8:00 PM
In the Huddle

Candidates
Ryan Black & Christine Martinez
Jason Laws & Bob Costa
Ryan McCune & Tim Szewczyk
Lizzi Shappell and Bill Andrichik
Erica Wells & George Chamberlain

Topics Covered
Academic Freedom
Community Relations
Main Goal for Improving Student Life
Questions from the Audience

MLB

District of Columbia approves revised lease

League skeptical of new financial offer for Nationals’ ballpark

Associated Press

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The District of Columbia and baseball reached an agreement in 2004 that led to the Montreal Expos moving to Washington and becoming the Nationals. It called for a lease to be in place by Dec. 31, 2005, and when that deadline wasn’t met, baseball filed for mediation.

After the initial rejection Tuesday, baseball’s chief operating officer, Bob DuBuy, said the sport would proceed to arbitration in an effort to enforce its 2004 agreement.

Washington Mayor Anthony A. Williams said he expected baseball will soon sign the lease.

“It wasn’t a pretty landing, but we brought the thing in,” Williams said at his weekly news briefing.
Michael to switch to NBC

Former ABC anchor will not make jump to ESPN with MNF

Associated Press

Do you believe in miracles? Yes!

Al Michaels appears head-shoulders above the Associated Press.

At a news conference in July, ABC sportscaster Mike Tirico, center, laughs with former NBA coach Hubie Brown, hired in December 2004 as the analyst. Tirico has been a "SportsCenter" host for ESPN and handled play-by-play of the last Orange Bowl. He has worked for ESPN and ABC since 1991.

ESPN plans to use its various television and radio networks and Web sites for its long-running show shifts to ESPN from ABC. The moves leave Al Michaels free to switch to NBC, which takes over Sunday night games next season from ESPN. John Madden, Michaels' broadcast partner for the last four seasons, agreed in June to a six-year contract with NBC.

"It's the best play-by-play chair in sports. To be the person to sit in it is humbling."  

Mike Tirico sportscaster

Theismann was an NFL quarterback for 12 seasons and had worked on ESPN's Sunday night games since 1988. In addition to working for the Post, Kornheiser has co-hosted "Pardon the Interruption" on ESPN since September 2001 with Michael Wilbon, another Post writer. Tirico has been a "SportsCenter" host for ESPN and handled play-by-play of the last Orange Bowl.

ESPN names Monday Night anchors for 2006

Former quarterback Joe Theismann, Washington Post columnist Tony Kornheiser and Mike Tirico are as Monday night broadcast crew.

Theismann, who had broadcast Sunday night games on ESPN with Mike Patrick and Paul Maguire, auditioned for the MNF job Miller got, has written for the Post since 1979 and has co-hosted "Pardon the Interruption" on ESPN since September 2001 with Michael Wilbon, another Post writer.

"I've got about 27 gigs right now," Kornheiser said. "I've got radio, I've got television. I've got The Washington Post." He thinks listeners do care about who broadcasts games, especially "if the telecast has a certain amount of sizzle."

"Monday Night Football" next season as the broadcast booth in sports, Tirico said. Tirico has been a "SportsCenter" host for ESPN and handled play-by-play of the last Orange Bowl. He has worked for ESPN and ABC since 1991.

ESPN sportscaster Mike Tirico, center, laughs with boxer Tommy Hearns, left, and Oakland Raiders comebacker Charles Woodson Jan. 30.

Associated Press

Former quarterback Joe Theismann, Washington Post columnist Tony Kornheiser and Mike Tirico will be the broadcast crew for "Monday Night Football" next season as the broadcast booth in sports, Tirico said. Tirico has been a "SportsCenter" host for ESPN and handled play-by-play of the last Orange Bowl. He has worked for ESPN and ABC since 1991.

"It's the best play-by-play chair in sports," Tirico said. "To be the next person to sit in it is humbling."

Tony Kornheiser sportscaster

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 kheisler@nd.edu or wbrennal@nd.edu

ECDC 2006-07 Registration

The Early Childhood Development Center at Saint Mary’s and Notre Dame (ECDC) is currently registering for the 2006 Summer program and the 2006-07 School Year.

Registration Due Dates:
- 2/15/06 2006-07 Kindergarten Registration
- 3/1/06 2006 Summer Program
- 4/6/06 2007 School Year

For more information please call ECDC-SMC: 284-4693 or ECDC-NB: 631-3344.
NBA

3-point competitors named

Mavs teammates Nowitzki and Terry both named to All-Star contest

Associated Press

Dirk Nowitzki and Jason Terry were selected Wednesday to participate in the NBA's 3-point Shootout, giving Dallas teammates against each other and four other competitors during the All-Star weekend in Houston.

Defending champion Quentin Richardson of the New York Knicks, 2001 winner Ray Allen of Seattle, Chauncey Billups of Detroit and Raja Bell of Phoenix are the other participants. The contest is Feb. 18, a night before the All-Star game.

Richardson won the event last year while playing for Phoenix, but he has struggled this season for the Knicks. He was shooting just 31.3 percent from beyond the arc entering Wednesday.

He will try to become the first repeat winner since Peja Stojakovic in 2002-03.

"It's about having fun, and better be Jet," said. "If somebody beats me, it's a learning experience."

Nowitzki, who was really going through a routine shooting drill. Nowitzki is shooting a career-best 43 percent (69-of-162) through a routine shooting drill.

"What is this?"

"I'm getting ready," joked Nowitzki, who was really going through a routine shooting drill. Nowitzki is shooting a career-best 43 percent (69-of-162) from 3-point range. Terry has made 41 percent (95-of-230) of his long-range shots.

"Hey bro, what are you doing?" Terry asked Nowitzki. "What is this?"

"I'm getting ready," joked Nowitzki, who was really going through a routine shooting drill. Nowitzki is shooting a career-best 43 percent (69-of-162) from 3-point range. Terry has made 41 percent (95-of-230) of his long-range shots.

The winner will get $35,000, with $22,500 going to the runner-up and the third-place finisher earning $15,000.

Olympics

American skaters look to change luck in Turin

Associated Press

Rena Inoue's smile lit up the arena. John Baldwin's fist cut through the air like a sword. The couple had plenty to celebrate after they landed the first triple throw and in figure skating. Even more amazing was that an American pair made history.

"Or, at least, history of a positive kind."

Pairs, which opens the Olympic skating competition Saturday, is the weak link for American skaters. The last Olympic medal was a bronze by Jill Watson and Peter Oppegard in Calgary in 1988, rarely have U.S. dues threatened to reach the podium since.

A medal this year isn't even part of the discussion. A top 10 finish for Inoue-Baldwin would be a success. Same thing for a pair of Marley Hinzmann and Aaron Parete.

Why can't the United States contend in pairs? Americans Tanya Marchev and Sergei Agafnenko are medals favorites in ice dancing, where the U.S. drought dates back to 1976. But pairs is an icy wasteland.

"It's a downgrade for us."

"I'd say, the last 10 years," says former U.S. pairs champion Rocky Marval. "It's unfortunate. It's a little painful to watch."

"What we need is to recruit and scout talented skaters we feel would be competitive with the international skaters. There are a lot of good skaters out there."

"It's our matching process that is the problem. Too many (coaches) have not been successful. There is no guarantee, though, that their success will carry over at the senior level."

"We're making this a positive kind."

Dallas forward Dirk Nowitzki scores against Utah Jan. 29. Nowitzki was selected Wednesday to compete in the 3-point contest during the NBA All-Star weekend.

NBA teams have not won an Olympic medal since 1988 in Calgary

"It's been on a downgrade for me. I'd say, the last 10 years. It's a little painful to watch."

Rocky Marval

former U.S. pairs champion

"It's a long time together. You have to go through a lot to make yourselves one."

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adds Inoue, who represented Japan in both singles and pairs in two other Olympics: "The Chinese Shen Xue and Zhao Hongbo, the 2002 and '93 world champions have been together since he was 12 and she was 7. That's a long time together. You have to go through a lot to make yourselves one."

One is the appropriate number for Russian pairs; they have won every Olympics since 1980.

Recently, China has developed some of the most athletic and technically brilliant pairs ever seen.

But in America, pairs has fallen flat, without much sign of immediate revitalization. Pairs are strong at the junior level, with American teams taking up six of the eight spots at this year's Junior Grand Prix Final.

There is no guarantee, though, that their success will carry over at the senior level. Even that the couples will stay together long enough to try.

Ludington believes the emphasis on singles in this country has hurt pairs. Marval blames the leadership of U.S. Figure Skating for not paying enough attention to pairs.

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Robert Cleary once led the investigation of the 'Unabomber'.

Associated Press

The NHL hired the former federal prosecutor who headed the Unabomber investigation, Rick Tochet, the Phoenix Coyotes assistant coach accused of financing a nationwide gambling ring that took bets from about a half-dozen current players.

Authorities have not said they have any evidence of betting on hockey in "Operation Slap Shot." Nothing has been ruled out, New Jersey State Police Lt. Gerald Lewis said Wednesday.

Tochet was to meet with NHL commissioner Gary Bettman on Wednesday, Phoenix coach Wayne Gretzky said a day earlier. As of early evening, they had not put the meeting together.

"We are fully cooperating with the league and certainly will be meeting with them," said Tochet, newly hired New Jersey attorney, Kevin Marino.

"We haven't met with them yet. I'm not going to discuss the exact time or date or place."

Deputy commissioner Bill Daly declined to comment about Wednesday's proceedings. He said the NHL hoped to release a statement later in the day.

Former U.S. attorney Robert Cleary will conduct the NHL's internal investigation. He was the lead prosecutor from 1996-98 in the case against the Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski, also known as the "Unabomber."

Cleary's wife, actress Janet Jones, was also implicated, two law enforcement officials told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because no bettors have been publicly identified.

She hasn't made any public statements, and Gertzetz said Cleary said Tuesday that she would answer questions at some point.

"The Integrity of the game is obviously very important. And betting on hockey is obviously something we don't want," Ottawa forward Daniel Alfredsson said. "Until you know for sure, you don't know how it's going to affect the game or put a black mark on it."

Lewis said authorities also were exploring links between the University of Phoenix Las Vegas mobsters. He said the investigation so far has only turned up that there might be some links, but not exactly what they were.

He also declined to reveal which players will be interviewed.

"Obviously when you're watching the news and it's on CNN and FOX, it's pretty major," Alfredsson said. "I think to everybody it was a shocker. It was the talk for everybody on the bus yesterday and also today. We want to find out as much as we can."

Hockey players are prohibited from making NFL wagers, legal or otherwise. There are no rules that forbid them from betting on other sports.

The substance abuse and behavioral health program jointly run by the league and players' association addresses gambling during team- and team-training-camp meetings every year.

Current NHL scoring leader and former Miami coach Rick Tocchet, the Phoenix Coyotes assistant coach accused of financing a nationwide gambling ring that took bets from about a half-dozen current players.

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rende", just one game ahead of the Irish. And the Scarlet Knights are now only 3-7 in the conference, just one game ahead of the Irish.

But Notre Dame knew it needed a win and that it could beat Rutgers. It didn’t know the final score would be 90-63 and that the Irish would win by more points (27) than the sum of their loss margins in their eight conference defeats (26).

It didn’t know that playing both Francis and Rick Cornett for significant minutes would result in 13-for-20 combined shooting, 35 points and 14 rebounds.

But as Brey said to open the post-game remarks: “Well, we’ll take that.”

The Irish did a good job on offense in the first half, capped off by a 10-2 run out of the TV timeout with 3:36 left before halftime.

Four players - Francis, Carter, guard Kyle McAlarney and guard Colin Falls - all scored in double figures.

But as Brey said to open the post-game remarks: “Well, we’ll take that.”

The Irish opened with a 10-4 run in the first 3:28 that forced Rutgers coach Gary Waters to call a timeout. In that stretch alone, Francis scored seven points.

But Francis players - guard Chris Quinn (16 points), Carter (17 points), Francis and Cornett - were the only players in double figures.

“Just wanted to come out tonight and start it up,” Francis said. “They were feeding us the ball from the perimeter, they’re always confident in us, but they’re even more confident when we’re producing.”

Notre Dame continued to apply pressure on offense in the first half, capped off by a 10-2 run out of the TV timeout with 3:36 left before halftime.

Four players - Francis, Carter, guard Kyle McAlarney and guard Colin Falls - all scored in that stretch.

Quinn credited the forwards for Notre Dame’s ability to get going early and keep the intensity up throughout.

“Torin [Francis] and Rick [Cornett] are very skilled down there,” Quinn said. “A lot of the times, teams are keying on the perimeter. If we can get [the forwards] playing like they did tonight, that would be good for us.”

The Irish did not let up in the second half. Taking a 38-26 lead into halftime, Notre Dame outscored Rutgers 52-37 after the break - mostly because of the team’s desire to continue playing aggressively on offense.

A telling moment came midway through the second half when the Scarlet Knights were down 58-49 and Francis sank a 3-pointer to push the lead to 21.

The Irish guard looked around as Rutgers defenders failed to come out and defend him. He set his feet, and after much deliberation - dribbled the ball.

“There was a lady in the corner who was like, ‘Shoot it,’ so I listened to her,” Carter said. “I give her the assist on that one.”

Their loss did a good job on the defensive end limiting the volatile scoring of Rutgers guard Quincy Douby. Douby - who leads the Big East in scoring (22.9 points per game) - was held to 14 points on 5-of-12 shooting before the team plays South Florida.

Brey said it was rare when a team is able to use some of its more inexperienced players in league play.

“It was nice to get all the guys in the game,” Brey said. “You don’t expect that in a league game, and the way things have been going, we definitely didn’t expect that. You’re thinking you are going to have to rely more on your seniors.”

Irish forwards Zach Hillesland and Ryan Ayers both hit shots for the Irish - Hillesland’s a layup with 1:14 remaining and Ayers’ 3-pointer that got Notre Dame to 90 points with two seconds remaining.

Brey said the Irish need to continue winning - their 10-2 run in the second half vs. Rutgers - and not necessarily those of the margin.

Contact Boby Griffith at bgriﬃth@nd.edu.

Notes:
- Notre Dame used some of its bench players in the final minutes against Rutgers. Brey said it is rare when a team is able to use some of its more inexperienced players in league play.
- “It was nice to get all the guys in the game,” Brey said. “You don’t expect that in a league game, and the way things have been going, we definitely didn’t expect that. You’re thinking you are going to have to rely more on your seniors.”
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The Observer ▲ SPORTS

Thursday, February 9, 2006
SMC SWIMMING

Belles seek to end season in top form

By DEIRDRE KRASULA and BECKI DORNER

 Newspapers

The Belles' regular season came to a disappointing end Jan. 28, when they dropped two meets to Albion and Calvin by scores of 119-60 and 143-39, respectively.

However, according to Mary's in search of redemption — as well as a bid to the NCAA championships — as it prepares for the MIAA Championships today, Coyle Saturday in Grand Rapids, Mich. The Belles have struggled throughout the season in top form, but in practice together, so Coyle was "on his back, Coyle has been able to reckon with throughout the season. In the Belles' final meet, the senior recorded the team's best time in the 500 freestyle, coming away with a 5:34.74 and earning second place overall.

Although the meet, which begins at 10 a.m., is hosted by Calvin College, the events will take place some 15 miles from the Knights' Grand Rapids campus. Teams will compete at Aquatics High School in downtown Grand Rapids, Mich.

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Dive

continued from page 24 and made a statement at the Big East Championships that year, finishing fourth in the three-meter board. "It put a lot of weight and pressure on Scott, and he did really well," assistant coach Matt Welsh said.

"I love it. It's great not having all the pressure on your shoulders... and in practice we compete a lot, making us a lot better," Coyle said. "Having the competition is the best thing for pushing us into the next level."

With less of the scoring burden on his back, Coyle has been able to focus on helping underclassmen. "I think he's very helpful to the divers... helping them with technique, almost like a coach," Welsh said. "Scott's role is far more important than his points alone, although those are important too."

With only one upperclassman on the squad, Coyle's assistance to the young divers' accomplishments indicate an even brighter future for the group.

"My goodness, the divers have improved dramatically and they're learning new dives all the time," Welsh said. "We think the improvement will continue, and they have plenty of time to do it.

Contact Jack Thornton at j Thornton@nd.edu.

Forward

continued from page 24

Orange Jan. 31.

That game, along with her performance against Providence — when she scored 18 points and only missed one shot in 10 tries — earned her a spot on the Big East weekly Honor Roll, her first such award of the season.

"It was a huge compliment because I thought this season has been kind of up and down for me," LaVere said. "To have a good week of basketball and be awarded that was a great honor." Her January scoring struggles ended at a time when the Irish were laboring to stay in the top-12 of the Big East — the cut-off for making the league tournament. Notre Dame entered the Syracuse game with a record of 3-5 in conference and tied for 10th in the Big East.

LaVere led the Irish to victories in their next two contests to get back to .500, and she shot 5-9 of the floor in Tuesday's overtime loss to Villanova.

LaVere's offensive emergence has provided the team with a more complete attack that it's been looking for all season. "Everything was going wrong inside the post all season, and I haven't been doing my job most of the season. The thing is I am (playing better) — I think they are looking a bit more (inside to me) because we really need a low post presence if our outside team is going to do well," LaVere said.

That outside game has relied all season on Megan Duffy, the team's other co-captain and most recognized player. A pre-season All-American, Duffy has drawn the most attention from the media — and from other teams' defenses.

"Well you know, Megan's a great player, and she deserves all the press," LaVere said. "In a way, it has taken (pressure) away from me so I can come in and do a lot of stuff without all the pressure on me."

As a co-captain with Duffy, LaVere understands her responsibilities and feels the two complement each other well on the court.

"I think I'm supposed to provide a steadiness out there, bring a lot of poise," she said. "Sometimes, if we get down or if the other team makes a run, I think I'm supposed to be the calm presence out there and keep everyone focused. Megan does a good job of leading the guards and I think I'm supposed to be that presence in the post."

Though LaVere has been a team leader all season and contributed quality minutes to every game, she rarely started until last week. After starting the past three games, her total starts this season have doubled.

"Early on in the season I was supposed to be that spark off the bench, and I think I did that," she said. "I knew since I was starting I was still supposed to, like I said, provide that spark and be an offensive threat and defensive threat when I go in."

Despite another strong performance from LaVere, the Irish once again have their backs against the wall after Tuesday's loss. But the co-captains remain confident the team can still be a threat down the stretch.

"The past couple years we've really finished strong, so I'd like to see that happen this year, you know, win the games we're supposed to win and maybe win the games people don't think we will," she said. "I think we need to finish strong so we have a good run going into the Big East Tournament and the NCAA Tournament." Contact Eric Rettew eretter@nd.edu

PHIL HUBEL/SUN-TIMES

Irish forward Courtney LaVere drives to the lane during Notre Dame's 68-64 overtime loss to South Florida Jan. 29.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2006

THE OBSERVER

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Notre Dame ends losing streak with lopsided win

By BOBBY GRIFFIN
Associate Sports Editor

It’s about time. Notre Dame got a much-needed Big East victory in a 90-63 dismantling of Rutgers Wednesday. The 27-point victory was a one-point larger margin than the team’s eight Big East losses combined.

It has been that kind of season for the Irish, who moved to 11-10 (2-8 in the Big East) with the win. But Notre Dame coach Mike Brey was just happy to come away with a victory.

"When you’re in the business as long as I have, you see a little bit of everything," Brey said. "This is pretty weird though — what we’ve been through. I will say that. This is pretty weird. But we’ll keep riding on this (twist) and keep building.

Irish forwards Torin Francis and Rick Cornett led Notre Dame with a strong inside presence that fueled the offense throughout the game. Francis scored 21 points on 9-of-10 shooting.

Irish must build, not dwell on Rutgers rout

With 3:20 remaining in Wednesday’s rout of Rutgers, Notre Dame point guard Chris Quinn did something uncharacteristic. He sat down.

Just a few moments before, the senior had trotted off the court with teammate Torin Francis in a standing ovation. As Quinn reached the bench, Irish coach Mike Brey congratulated his co-captain and added a half-serious warning.

"I said, ‘Great job; stay ready — because the way things are going, I don’t know what’s gonna happen here.’" Brey said after the game.

The coach and player chuckled because Brey was only kidding, but through 10 Big East games, the Irish coach wasn’t wrong to remain on his guard despite a sizable lead. After all, the theme defining the regular season as a freshman, but it was also a great learning experience. And I got myself acclimated to the college diving experience.”

Coyle won five events late in the regular season as a freshman, including the 100-meter backstroke.

Diving accounts for two out of the dual-meet season and it’s been a huge advantage, and if you lose

At left, Irish forward Torin Francis dunks for two of his 21 points in Notre Dame’s 90-63 win. Above, Irish guard Kyle McAlarney chases down a loose ball.

PHOTOS BY KIRSTEN HOELMER

Irish divers aid in team’s title hopes

Junior Scott Coyle has been instrumental in team’s recent success

By JACK THORNTON
Sports Writer

The Irish ended the regular season ranked No. 19 in the nation — highest among Big East teams — and are favored to repeat at the Big East Championships in New York next week. And while the swimmers may get most of the headlines, Notre Dame (10-21) wouldn’t be here without the recent resurgence of the diving squad.

"Diving is a very important part of the dual-meet season and it’s going to be an important part of championship season," Irish head coach Tim Welsh said. "Diving accounts for two out of 13 events (in the conference championship meet), so if you can win diving by a lot that’s a huge advantage, and if you lose

Men’s Swimming

Irish divers aid in team’s title hopes

Senior Notre Dame forward shot 80 percent from the field last week

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

Irish forward Courtney LaVere couldn’t have picked a better time to get hot than right now.

LaVere, the team’s senior co-captain, has struggled for much of the season — failing to score more than nine points for the first nine games of January. But lately LaVere has begun playing like the post threat the team has needed her to be all season, scoring in double figures in each of the past three games and shooting above .500 from the floor in all three contests.

"I think I just realized I needed to score a lot more if we were going to be successful," LaVere said. "After the Syracuse game, it gave me a lot more confidence, and so going into each game now, I know that I can score. I’ve been able to get some good moves and put the ball in the basket."

LaVere scored 14 points on 7-of-10 shooting against the