Mooney delivers promising SMC update

College president says
Saint Mary's is 'more relevant than ever'

Dunn named to University post

Rector replaces Gude in Student Affairs

Wait-listed study abroad hopefuls find process confusing
INSIDE COLUMN

JPW joys

When do parents stop being the enemy and start to become friends? Maybe it's the fact that I don't live at home for nine months out of the year now. Maybe it has something to do with the fact that we talk on the phone everyday, or that I'm just getting older. Maybe my stories of Notre Dame bring back my parents' memories of their time here.

Or, as one friend put it, it's when you stop fighting with your parents, and start planning events to drink with them. Whatever it is, JPW marked a change in my relationship with my parents. There is really nothing like introducing your parents to your life in college. It's not a hectic football weekend, with the band playing at every turn and NDSP roaming the parking lots around the stadium armed with breathalyzers. It's not a hectic football weekend. It's not a hectic end-of-the-semester packing debacle. It's not the weepy Frosh-0 goodbye or a frantic armed with breathalyzers. It's not a hectic football weekend. It's not a hectic football weekend.

There is really nothing like introducing your parents to your life in college. It's not a hectic football weekend. It's not a hectic football weekend. It's not a hectic football weekend. It's not a hectic football weekend. It's not a hectic football weekend. It's not a hectic football weekend. It's not a hectic football weekend. It's not a hectic football weekend.

In addition to meeting my friends, my parents also had the opportunity to interact with the parents of my friends. Some were familiar faces from tailgating the last few years; some were total strangers. Thrown together at a Saturday night party with nothing in common but tuition money, I was a lot like other times here with my friends. But instead of a circle of girls dancing to "Livin' on a Prayer," it was my dad. Instead of running to DeBartolo in the clothes I slept in the night before, my parents accompanied me to meetings with my professors. Instead of Regis-Eplita-Friday-and-Sunday with a banquet for 1,000 other juniors on the ice rink, and you have the Saturday night dinner.

In addition to meeting my friends, my parents also had the opportunity to interact with the parents of my friends. Some were familiar faces from tailgating the last few years; some were total strangers. Thrown together at a Saturday night party with nothing in common but tuition money, I was a lot like other times here with my friends. But instead of a circle of girls dancing to "Livin' on a Prayer," it was my dad. Instead of running to DeBartolo in the clothes I slept in the night before, my parents accompanied me to meetings with my professors. Instead of Regis-Eplita-Friday-and-Sunday with a banquet for 1,000 other juniors on the ice rink, and you have the Saturday night dinner.

When my parents pulled away from Cavanaugh after the Sunday brunch, it felt a lot like Aug. 2003. But this time, they weren't abandoning me to a scary world of strangers who all have 0.0% Sophomore GPA's. They had made friends with my friends. It wasn't the worlds-colliding experience I had expected — instead, it brought together my family from home and the family I made here.

So thank you, Mom and Dad, for giving us a weekend to appreciate our changing relationships with our parents. Thank you, friends, for your discretion around my family (joking, Dad, seriously). Thank you, parents of my friends, for your amusing dance moves (specifically, Mrs. Davenport and Mr. Jackson). Most of all, thank you, Mom and Dad. Not just for the groceries and the non-dining-hall dinners, but for making the trip out here. That's what parents do. I guess. But it's also what friends are for. And it's fun being friends as well as family.

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu

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

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regrets a mix-up in the Inside Column's Q & A. The correct responses are:

- "I stayed indoors and slept."
- "Euro trash dance party at Legends."
- "I rocked out hardcore."
- "I played ultimate Frisbee and bit the bag."
- "I didn't. I've never been so cold in my life!"

Offbeat

Girl's prosthetic legs stolen for second time

LOS ANGELES — For the second time in three months, a 16-year-old California girl who lost a leg in an accident has had her artificial limbs stolen.

Melissa Huff, an Arcadia High School student who uses a $16,000 prosthetic limb to play softball for the school team and another one, valued at $12,000, for everyday use, said both were taken from her bedroom Tuesday. "I was picking up my little brother from school when my mom called me and asked where I left the two prosthetic legs," Huff, who lives in the Los Angeles suburb of Temple City, told Reuters in an interview. "I knew right then that it had happened again."

Lisa Huff, her mother, said she came home around midday on Tuesday and found the room shared by Melissa and her older sister a mess. Only the prosthetic limbs were missing.

Stripping away the mystery

AMSTERDAM — Amsterdam's famed red light district held its first ever "open day" Saturday as its peep-shows and brothels gave crowds of wide-eyed visitors free entry to help shed the area's increasingly negative reputation.

Armed with a list of 25 establishments opening their doors and fielding back their red curtains, hundreds of tourists and locals seized the opportunity to see a prostitute's bedroom, watch a brief live peep-show or chat to a lap dancer.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: How do you stay warm this weekend?

Avery Ambrose, freshman

"I stayed indoors and slept."

Caitlin Diffley, senior

"Euro trash dance party at Legends."

Christian Robles, sophomore

"Stayed by my heater. Unfortunately, it only turns on when it wants to."

David Varga, sophomore

"I rocked out hardcore."

Elizabeth Elliot, sophomore

"I played ultimate Frisbee and bit the bag."

Jordan Gallo, sophomore

"I didn't. I've never been so cold in my life!"

IN BRIEF

The Faculty Forum "Engaging The Merchants of Venice: Academic Freedom and Anti-Semitism" will take place today at 5 p.m. in the Phlbin Theater in the DeBartolo Center for Performing Arts.

Debbie Johnson Schibert, Chair of the Saint Mary's Board of Trustees, will speak as part of the "After Graduation: Your Saint Mary's Degree" at 6 p.m. Wednesday in the west wing of The Noble Family Dining Hall.

Wasted and Wounded II, a tutorial on internet predators, will take place at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday in O'Laughlin Auditorium.

The "Around the World Film Festival" will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Vander Vennet Theater in the Saint Mary's Student Center.

Bishop Thomas J. Gumbelton of Detroit will speak at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Carey Auditorium in the Husbey Library as part of the Catholic Think Tank lecture series.

Gabriel Meyer, author of "War and Faith in Sudan," will give a lecture at 2:30 p.m. Thursday in room 131 of DeBartolo Hall.

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

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and notes for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If you have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

LOCAL WEATHER

TODAY TONIGHT WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

HIGH 32 HIGH 25 HIGH 27 HIGH 35 HIGH 20 HIGH 25 HIGH 18

LOW 30 LOW 25 LOW 27 LOW 35 LOW 22 LOW 12 LOW 5

Group approves funds for chemistry club's trip

By LIZ HARTER
News Writer

Saint Mary's Board of Governance (BOG) officers approved a $1,500 co-sponsorship for the Saint Mary's Affiliates of the American Chemical Society (SMAACS) at their meeting Monday night. The funding will help finance the chemistry club's spring trip to an Atlanta-based science conference.

In addition to fundraising, the Saint Mary's chemistry department has already agreed to pay for the group's airplane tickets. However, if BOG approves the SMAACS co-sponsorship, the department would like to be reimbursed. Waters said.

In Other BOG News:

♦ Elections commissioner Meghan Kellye Mitros commented on the lack of turnout for the "Meet the Candidate" session held in the west wing of the dining hall for each election. She suggested broadcasting the discussion over the dining hall's public address system as they have done in recent years.

"Everyone had to listen to what they were saying, even if they weren't in the west wing last year," Mitros said. The strict campaigning rules were also questioned when Lindblom noted the rules regulating where candidates can place their advertisements.

"We can have people's 21st birthdays all over the place but we can't have important stuff," such as campaign ads, Lindblom said.

Lerner said changes to the election process cannot be made this year. However Mitros said student government officials could use the current elections to observe the pros and cons of the election process and make improvements for next year.

Contact Kaitlyn Riely at kriely@nd.edu

Recycle The Observer.

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continued from page 1

charge of choosing how to use the property.

The market research will focus on topics such as the types of stores students frequent and their current shopping habits. "For example, if students shop at J. Crew online, will they stop and shop at a J. Crew store if it opens south of campus?" Shappell said.

Shappell shared some suggestions about establishments in the development and inquired about representatives' thoughts. "We want something neighborhood-focused, like a sports bar, retail clothing shops, restaurants and coffee shops," said Lizi Shappell, student body vice president.

Baron noted that before the Transpo agreement, Notre Dame students made up two percent of transit riders in the city. Now, they comprise five percent of riders. Shappell said student research will continue with focus groups and both qualitative and quantitative web-based research.

Contact Karen Langley at klangle1@nd.edu

Abroad
continued from page 1

received rejections from that program so far this year. At this point, applications have only been evaluated for applicants' first-choice programs, according to Koehl. Koehl said programs will be reviewed by development could increase already-growing student use of Transpo, the local public transportation system.

"The relationship we've built with Transpo, that's something we have to take advantage of," said Lindsey. "Now if you have an attraction like college town as somewhere to go, that's even more of an incentive to use it."

Baron noted that before the Transpo agreement, Notre Dame students made up two percent of transit riders in the area.

"There are definitely situations where students don't get their first choice but get their second choice," Koehl said. "I would encourage students to apply to more than one program. I would not put all my eggs in one basket."

Though both directors and students agree that applying to more programs increases a student's chances of being accepted to go abroad, students have expressed concern that the offering of their preferences can affect their chances of acceptance to any program.

Sophomore Andrea Thompson, who was accepted to study in Rome, said the possible problem of ordering preferred programs was her only critique of the selection process though she admitted she did not know how to improve such a feature. "For some people who do really want to study in Rome, their preferences can mess up their chances of getting in," she said.

Koehl said programs applying to highly competitive programs should consider the way they order their preferences, though the office does try to match students with their first choices whenever possible.

"There's this terrible day when you get three or four wait-lists, but that's clear from the literature that students are not accepted to a program while still being considered for their first choice," Koehl said.

"People forget that," Shappell said. "As the Office of International Studies tallies accepted students' confirmations in the coming weeks, wait-listed students will begin to hear about spots in their lower-ranked programs when first-choice spots are not available.

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Contact Karen Langley at klangle1@nd.edu

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BUSH PROPOSES NEW ENERGY PLAN

President optimistic technological advances will lessen dependence on foreign oil

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Saying the nation is on the "cusp" of technological breakthroughs that will "startle" most Americans, President Bush on Monday outlined his energy proposals to help wean the country off foreign oil. Less than a third of the oil used by refineries is produced in the United States, while 60 percent comes from foreign nations, Bush said during the first stop on a two-day trip to talk about energy.

Some of these foreign suppliers have "insurable" governments that have fundamental differences with America, he said.

"It creates a national security issue and we're ruthless hostages to foreign energy nations that may not like us," Bush said.

Bush is focusing on energy at a time when Americans are paying high power bills to heat their homes this winter and have only recently seen a decrease in gasoline prices.

One of Bush's proposals would expand research into smaller, longer-lasting batteries for electric gas hybrid cars, including plug-ins.

He highlighted that initiative with a visit Monday to the battery center at Milwaukee-based Johnson Controls Inc.

During his trip, Bush is also focusing on a proposal to increase investment in development of destructive electric power sources, and proposed a scaled development of biofuels such as "cellulosic" ethanol made from grasses, corn stalks or sawgrass.

Energy conservation nation groups and environmentalists say they're pleased that the president, a former Texas landowner, has raised energy costs and environmental problems.

"We're on the edge of a new industrial revolution," Bush said.

"Our nation is on the edge of a new technological revolution," he said.

But Serbia's President Boris Tadic, speaking in Serbia's capital Belgrade, said the talks should concentrate on improving the life of the beleaguered Serb minority in the disputed province rather than deal with Kosovo's final status.

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice talked Monday with other would-be Middle East peace makers about the financial situation of the Palestinian territories after the Israeli Cabinet halted the transfer of hundreds of millions of dollars in tax money to Palestinians.

Later in the day, Rice was traveling to the Middle East in an effort to solidify Arab allies in Egypt and Saudi Arabia to send Hamas a message to moderate its views and to seek unity against helping fund the militant Islamic Palestinian leadership if it does not.

HAITI

Top election officials flee country

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE — The head of Haiti's election commission fled the country after opponents threatened his life and burned down his farmhouse near the capital over weekend elections, an official said Monday.

Jacques Brunache, who had announced three months ago to bring order to a council that was plagued by organizational problems and infighting, left Sunday and may have traveled to Miami, said Michel Branche, chief of staff for interim President Boniface Alexandre.

On Friday, Bernard had reported receiving threats and requested more security amid complaints about the vote count from the Feb. 7 elections, which returned former President Rene Preval to the office. Brunache said.

"He said he was afraid for himself and his family and said he wanted more security," Brunache told The Associated Press. "I was shocked when I heard he had left."

The U.S. peacemaking mission in Haiti said it didn't know Bernard's whereabouts.

Bernard had kept a low profile since the nine-member council declared Preval the president on Thursday, eight days after the long-awaited vote. Preval, who received four times as many votes as his nearest rival, was declared the victor after the electoral council agreed to divide 85,000 blank ballots among the 33 candidates proportionally according to the votes they had received. That gave Preval the 51 percent he needed to avoid a runoff.

New proposal pushes graduation

INDIANAPOLIS — Lawmakers are considering a proposal that would allow 16-year-olds to graduate from high school only if they have a financial hardship, health reason or a court order permitting them to quit school. Currently, students between ages 16 and 18 can drop out for any reason with the consent of a parent and school principal.

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Mooney
continued from page 1

at Saint Mary's!

Mooney said Saint Mary's also has the most graduates from any woman's college (four) in the House of Representatives, though most would guess Massachusetts institutions Wellesley College or Smith College held the distinction.

Application numbers for next fall are strong, Mooney said. The College has received 22 percent more applications than last year, the most at Saint Mary's in 17 years.

"We've adopted some different tactics in the admissions office [like the use of the Common Application for our applicants] that I think have been successful for us," Mooney said.

The College's endowment fund also has risen, albeit slightly. When Mooney took office 18 months ago, the endowment stood at roughly $100 million and she publicly stated it was one of her top priorities to double it. As of Monday, Mooney said, the total was $107.5 million.

In an effort to diversify the College's faculty and staff, Mooney said she implemented a policy that requires a member of a historically underrepresented ethnic group be among the final pool of candidates for any position at the College. If there is no such candidate, Mooney said, there must be documentation as to why not.

The Saint Mary's Board of Trustees is also taking progressive steps to include alumnae of color, traditionally absent, among its ranks.

Mooney said high campus events, especially those sponsored by the Center for Women in Intercultural Leadership, generally have received appropriate attention from local media outlets.

"I think our newspaper coverage has actually been quite good," Mooney said. "We have realized in some sense we aren't always the biggest story in town because we aren't the biggest [school in town]."

College spokeswoman Melanie McDonald added that although journalists don't always have the time to do the research on certain types of stories, she would like to see coverage that is less event-driven.

"I think that it would be great to expand Saint Mary's [coverage] beyond events and who we are and what we are," McDonald said.

Responding to a question about "The Vagina Monologues" and academic freedom in light of the controversy at Notre Dame, Mooney clarified that the play has never been banned at Saint Mary's. Mooney attended "The SMC Monologues," skits written and performed by members of the College community during the weekend and said silencing students would not be an appropriate action to take at Saint Mary's.

"I believe ["The SMC Monologues"] are extremely powerful simply because they are our own stories," Mooney said. "I think they are more powerful than [fusing the words of other women]."

One of the biggest events for the College in the upcoming year will be breaking ground on the new academic building, Mooney said. The unnamed building will be located on the far northeast corner of campus and serve as the primary academic facility on campus. Although fundraising has not been completed, the start date has tentatively been set for fall of 2006.

Two searches are currently underway to replace outgoing Vice President and Dean of Faculty Pat White and outgoing Vice President for Student Affairs Linda Timm, Mooney said.

Members of the search committee expect to name a new dean of faculty by graduation on May 20, she said.

"The Vice President of Student Affairs is behind but we still hope to have that position [filled] before school starts," Mooney said.

Contact Megan O'Neil at one0907@saintmarys.edu

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RadioShack president resigns

Edmondson steps down amid accusations of multiple resume fabrications

Associated Press

DALLAS — Radio Shack Corp.'s embattled president resigned Wednesday, the company said, continuing a shakeup of its struggling business that it fashioned Monday after facing accusations about his resume's accuracy.

The Fort Worth electronics retailer said Edmondson resigned Monday following questions about his resume's accuracy.

In Brief

Governors challenge port decision

WASHINGTON — Two Republican governors on Monday questioned a Bush administration decision allowing an Arab-owned company to operate a major U.S. port, saying they may try to cancel lease arrangements at ports in their states.

New York Gov. George Pataki and Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich Jr. expressed doubts about the acquisition of a British company that has been running the U.S. ports by Dubai Ports World, a state-owned business in the United Arab Emirates.


"Ensuring the security of our port operations is paramount and I am very concerned with the purchase of Peninsular & Oriental Steam by Dubai Ports World," Pataki said in a news release.

GM shuts down first of twelve plants

OKLAHOMA CITY — Some workers brought photographs to the plant to take photographs of their work stations before the last vehicle rolled off the line Monday as GM shut down the first of 12 facilities the world's largest automaker is closing as it struggles to match production with market demand.

"It's a tough day," said GM spokeswoman Nancy Sarropolis in Detroit. "It's hard to see workers go." And after 27 years, the last vehicle produced at the plant, a white Chevrolet Trailblazer EXT, rolled out Monday morning as GM shut down production in the first of 12 facilities the company plans to close by 2008 as it struggles to match production with market demand.

The Oklahoma City plant employs 2,400 — some workers brought photographs to the plant to take photographs of their work stations before the last vehicle rolled off the line Monday as GM shut down the first of 12 facilities the world's largest automaker is closing as it struggles to match production with market demand.

RadioShack CEO and president David Edmondson, shown here at the company's headquarters in Texas, resigned Monday after facing accusations that he lied on his resume.

That investigation said last week didn't think the change would come on a public holiday, as it did, when financial markets were closed.

"If you think about his tenure, it's not as if he's led a turnaround of this company," she said. "That being said, it would be difficult for the board, considering the things that have come out, to find a reason to keep him.

The company has since removed biographical sketches of its executives, including Babrowski, and replaced it with the following statement: "We are currently updating and validating all of the biographical information for each of our senior executives."

Governor presents housing plan

LAKE CHARLES, La. — Gov. Kathleen Blanco outlined a $7.5 billion rebuilding, relocation and buyout plan Monday for thousands of residents whose homes were damaged or destroyed after last year's hurricanes.

It is Louisiana's first comprehensive housing plan, and Blanco said it will be key to helping residents move back into their homes and rebuild the state.

"It's obviously a sad day for the state of Oklahoma," said Mike Soneny, senior vice president of The State Chamber, a statewide business and industry group.
Leader of Hamas to be appointed Prime Minister

Associated Press

GAZA CITY — Hamas presented a pragmatic former university administrator as its choice for Palestinian prime minister Monday and the Islamic militant group reached out to Fatah and other factions to join a broad-based Cabinet that will have to gain international approval.

Officials said Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas would give Ismail Haneyeh his formal letter of appointment on Tuesday, a step toward installing the first government to be headed by Hamas, which swept parliamentary elections last month.

Haneyeh, 43, told reporters after meeting with Abbas that he would try to form a joint government with Fatah, the traditional Palestinian ruling party that Hamas trounced in the election, "that can shoulder the responsibility in the political and internal issues." So far, Fatah has refused to join.

He also criticized Israel's decision over the weekend to freeze the transfer of tax funds to the Palestinian Authority after Hamas took control of the parliament.

The Israelis are trying to starve innocent people by taking money from our taxes, and we are going to fight this by all legal means," he said. "This collective punishment will not break the determination of the Palestinian people." Ismail Haneyeh Hamas member

Another Hamas leader, Mahmoud Zahar, met with other political factions Monday — Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — to try to gain their support.

Islamic Jihad leader Sheikh Nhifaa Azam said the group, which boycotted the election, would not join a Cabinet dominated by Hamas. The PFLP, which won just three seats, did not give an answer.

It had been expected that most of the power talks, a relatively moderate by Hamas standards, would receive the official appointment on Monday. Palestinian officials didn't explain the delay, but Abbas has been pressing Hamas to moderate its attitudes and positions and accept the idea of peace talks, Hamas has refused.

The Israeli Cabinet decided Sunday to stop the transfer of the roughly $35 million a month it collects in taxes and tariffs on behalf of the Palestinian Authority. But the Cabinet declined to adopt tougher restrictions proposed by some Israeli security officials, including sealing off the Gaza Strip from Israel, barring thousands of Palestinian laborers from entering Israel and eliminating all trade with the impoverished Palestinian strip.

"There are two to three times the positions available as there are people to fill them," said Richard Sorensen, board chairman for the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International. The Tampa, Fla.-based organization accredits collegiate business schools outside of the United States, compared with 215,000 five years ago, said Sorensen, who is also dean of the Pamplin College of Business at Virginia Tech.

Jenkins said budget cuts to state universities have led many schools to cut back their doctoral business programs, which are among the most expensive degree programs. The schools bear most of the cost of those programs, providing teaching stipends and tuition waivers to students who spend four years or more earning doctoral degrees.

The number of Ph.D.s coming out of the large institutions has been decreasing about 20 percent a year for the past three to four years," said Jenkins. "The expense and time required for a doctoral degree also discourages students who can make much higher salaries in business." The 24-year-old with an MBA in hand and searching for alternatives to the doctoral faculty shortage that is expected to last at least through the next decade.

Business schools are taking measures to remain competitive and searching for alternatives to fill some vacant faculty positions.

Some, like Miami, are adding Greek! Arabic! Latin! Fresh & Sophs especially welcome! Learn about the Classics and Hear:
• Fellow Students Testify to the Classics!
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• Prof. Robin Rhodes on Greek Architecture
was a done deal, given the state of the six ports.

Patrick is also asking the federal government to share all critical information with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to prevent another terrorist attack. He has received secret assurances from the federal government to "share all critical information to the Council on Foreign Relations approved an Arab company for the management of the New York City ports, saying they may try to buy the operations of the Port of Baltimore in 2002.

The British company, the Port of New York and New Jersey, has been running the U.S. ports by Dubai Ports World, a state-owned business in the United Arab Emirates.

"Ensuring the security of New York's port operations is paramount and I am very concerned with the purchase of the Port of New York and New Jersey," Patrick said in a news release.

"I have directed the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to explore all legal options that may be available to them in regards to this transaction," said the New York governor, who is still in the hospital recovering from an appendectomy.

Ehrlich, concerned about security at the Port of Baltimore, Monday he is "very troubled" that Maryland officials got no advance notice before the Bush administration approved an Arab company's takeover of the operations at the six ports.

"We needed to know before this was a done deal, given the state of where we are concerning security," Ehrlich told reporters in the State House rotunda in Annapolis. The state of Maryland is considering its options, up to and including voiding the contract for the Port of Baltimore, Ehrlich said, adding: "We have a lot of discretion in the contract."

Patrick is also asking the federal government to share all critical information with the Council on Foreign Relations during the course of the review of the purchase, a reference to the federal panel that approved the deal.

"New York's legal options could include canceling the lease for operation, effectively shutting out Dubai Ports World from port activities," Patrick said in a news release.

"We wouldn't turn over our customs service or our border patrol to a foreign government," Sen. Robert Menendez

Secretary Michael Chertoff and Attorney General Alberto Gonzales have defended the decision.

During a stop Monday in Birmingham, Ala., Gonzales said the administration had a "very extensive process" for reviewing such transactions that "takes into account matters of national security, takes into account concerns about port security." Critics have called the UAE's history as an operational and financial base for the hijackers who carried out the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. In addition, they contended the UAE was an important transfer point for shipments of smuggled nuclear components sent to Iran, North Korea and Libya by a Pakistani scientist.

Frustration about the port takeover put two Maryland gubernatorial candidates on the same side of an issue.

House Homeland Security Chairman Peter King, R-N.Y., has been one of the most vocal, saying secret assurances obtained by the government don't go far enough to protect the nation's seaports.

Democratic New Jersey Sen. Robert Menendez joined the chorus of complaints on Monday.

"We wouldn't turn over our customs service or our border patrol to a foreign government," Menendez said during a Monday news conference in Newark. "We wouldn't turn over the ports of the United States, either."

Menendez said he and Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., will introduce legislation prohibiting the sale of port operations to foreign governments.

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Absurdity and eccentricity make life worth living. They are the weird quirks unique to a human person, experience or event. Mardi Gras is almost there, but nothing will be dancing and music of, course, the parties. It is a holiday based around floats, beads, costumes and booze. What could be more ridiculous and beautiful at the same time? Mardi Gras captures the last for life that about possess us all, from time to time. Of course, this rings particularly true this year at Mardi Gras, New Orleans in particular. The party is the perfect example of the absurd, which why people instinctively refer to a good party as "ridiculous." To understand the party, one must understand the absurd. Reveling is a conscious decision to forget about the cares of life and enjoy the fact that, despite it all, we are alive and have the ability to realize happiness. It is folly and, for a moment at a time. It is the liberation that spares the dish of life. Social conventions are scattered as ashes upon the sea of exuberance. Pretense and reserve wither away, and a visceral experience rises from their fetal corpses. At least that is what we think about at a good party, had parties do have their share of people too important to let go of their prejudices, pride or pretension. To each their own, but who would want to go to such an event inspired by the Victorian era or those wretched Puritans, who were nothing but delirious for this country? Music is the most crucial element to any party. It uplifts the spirit and brings people together. Music is not by nature absurd, but at a party is often used as an instrument thereof. The spontaneous karaoke that occurs invariably at any party is often one of the more enjoyable experiences of the night. Music also provides the energy and raw power to proffer an environment where people feel free to let go and bring out their inner nature. The Rolling Stones said it best on "Rock Off" their "Exile On Main Street" album, when Mick Jagger snarls, "The sunshine shines the daylight out of me." Despite being a dedicat ed-sun-worshipper, it's the night where the real Reveille comes. Dancing is a noble hobby that is present within the party. Taken objectively, the decision to gyrate the body in generally absurd motions is a ridiculous concept. Yet put to music, and most importantly, enthusiasm, it becomes a wonderful experience. Yes, many of us, especially this writer, often look for more than comical when attempting to dance. The act of the dance allows one to express himself or herself, and different dances can convey the wide range of human emotions — e.g. the tango is clearly the dance of fire and passion, to "hippy Dance" to the Grateful Dead show freedom and to rock out to Led Zeppelin is to understand power and violence. Just have enough enthusiasm and confidence, and dancing becomes a sublime experience. Absurdity is transformed into beauty; the act of dancing confirms the duality of our existence. Actions of ethical neutral ity merely "are" until people assign meaning to them. Nothing is inherently absurd if taken apart from the context of people's judgments. When one learns to love the absurd, he or she is helping to peel away the mists of his or her own perceptions. These perceptions of other cultures can make people feel uncomfortable or awkward. The human is an absurd creature by nature, yet his desire to live as a social creature causes him to fall into self-deception. Society has a clear interest in melding its limbs into a cohesive unit that can act in concert. When one no longer denies, conforms or hides, he experiences liberation. Since all people, except humans, are naturally absurd, must of course be balanced by a general affinity and ability to cooperate with others. The absurd and the social are inherently complementary; rather, they are characters that make up the life of a fest and indeed make life festive. People are the most important ingredient to any situation. So go forth and embrace that which is wild, ridiculous and embodied within Mardi Gras.

Ian Ronderos is a senior majoring in the Classics with a supplementary major in Ancient Greek and Roman civilization. Having retired from the College Republicans and adopted independent politics, he hopes to continue his political career. He can be contacted at irondero@nd.edu.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

"Collateral damage' unacceptable"

The war in Iraq has had a devastating human toll. The collection of boots currently on display on South Quad dramatically shows the scale of the tragic loss of U.S. soldiers. These deaths are in themselves tragic. However, what the news media, and certainly in the U.S. government, fail to point out is that for every American life that is lost in Iraq, more than 13 Iraqi civilians — men, women, and children — are killed as a direct result of this conflict. This adds up to more than ten times the number of soldiers killed in the Sept. 11 attacks.

Some of these civilians are killed by roadside bombs. Many are killed in the crossfire between coalition troops and insurgents. Still others die when a coalition mortar hits the wrong target — or when the United States deems a target valuable enough to justifying incurring "collateral damage." As of March 2005, an estimated 37 percent of civilians, nearly 10,000 people, were killed by coalition forces alone. The common factor in Iraq has been the view by the insurgency, the coalition and the American public of Iraqi civilians as expendable. In response to a question about civilian casualties, General Tommy Franks simply replied, "We don't body count.

We should ask ourselves, whether for or against the war, must we all agree that the civilian deaths should be included in the moral calculus of this conflict. We must consider the private life, the peaceful contemplation. He can be contacted at irondero@nd.edu.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It seemed rather incongruous that in a society of supersonichel communication, are often suffer from a shortage of listeners."

Erma Bombeck syndicated columnist

Observer Poll

Do you think the College Reading Program is the right use for the student activities fee increase?

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

Ian Ronderos is a senior majoring in the Classics with a supplementary major in Ancient Greek and Roman civilization. Having retired from the College Republicans and adopted independent politics, he hopes to continue his political career. He can be contacted at irondero@nd.edu.
"Now is the winter of our discontent." The opening lines of Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" reflect the pain and suffering experienced by the main characters. The Jewish community has a very different perspective. Jews have a very different understanding of Christianity. The idea of the merciful God of Christianity is set in stark contrast to the vengeful God of the Israelites worshiped by Shylock and his kin. This theological dichotomy has still not disappeared from many Christian theological circles.

Contemporary American Christians associate anti-Semitism with Nazi ideology and its racist doctrines which declared Jews to be non-citizens of the Reich. The Nazis were racist in their approach to Jews and Judaism. This may permit the audience at Notre Dame to declare that the Nazis were not Christians and distance themselves from the play. Jews have a very different perspective. They see a more direct link between Christian thinking and the past. When there had been a long pre-history in the art and literature of Renaissance Europe. "The Merchant of Venice" participates in many of these negative images. Scholars may claim that the play is "anti-Semitic," but it surely utilizes caricatures of Judaism that were part and parcel of Christian judgment about Judaism. Why would Shakespeare demand such hatred of Jews? Why were people allowed to consume the blood of Christian children — an accusation also directed against Jews since the mid-12th century. Why were Jews separated from Christians into the Venetian ghetto? Because Christians perceived that they were "dangerous" and could corrupt Jewish religion. The idea of the merciful God of Christianity is set in stark contrast to the vengeful God of the Israelites worshiped by Shylock and his kin. This theological dichotomy has still not disappeared from many Christian theological circles.

I hope that these issues will be part of our campus culture this week. Jews and Judaism are rarely part of the public discourse on this campus. During the 40th anniversary of Nostra Aetate in October 2005, there was no public discussion of that document. When the first academic symposium for first-year students took place on the topic of peace in the Middle East, there were no Jewish speakers and no readings assigned by Israeli authors. When the Passion of St. John is read during Holy Week, will the students and faculty think about how these readings have been understood by past generations of Christians — and how those sentiments have led them into very un-Christian attitudes? At the very least, the Christian community will ask itself, "What does it feel like to be Jewish at the University of Notre Dame?"

The answer to that question may lead us to the deeper inquiry: How shall Christians understand the statement by Pope John Paul II that God's covenant with the Jewish people has "never been revoked"? It is possible that at this Catholic university some of our theologians and scholars will find a response to the call of Pope Benedict XVI when he declared at the synagogue in Cologne during World Youth Day that, "Jews and Christians should come to respect one another and love one another?" The answer will come about through a dialogue between human beings who live in different faith communities and have very different vocabularies.

I surely hope that a play that has become synonymous with the worst stereotype of the Jew may lead us deeper into a discussion of Christian character. The basic decency and fairness of our faculty and student body are capable of hearing a variety of voices which have been, and continue to be, excluded. By listening to the voices of those who cause us inner pain and challenge, can this community move beyond the comfortable walls that provide false protection by making the Other into an object?"
films like this 2001 bomb can be entertaining if the critic avoids common pitfalls.

Tom Green stars in the critically-panned film, "Freddy Got Fingered." Reviewing "Freddy Got Fingered" rated by an Observer critic, some of his readers realize that, whoa, it's actually a lot funnier than expected. They slip and slide on the ice skating; you see everyone out there saying, "That looks easy!" Then you give it a try and realize that, whoa, it's actually a lot harder than they say. If you think about it, there are aliens among evil predators, you're not exactly going to instill a reader's respect for your review. And please, don't be obvious. If you think your audience knows it without being told, then probably do so. Your review shouldn't feel in spirit like a gospel. That last point is important — if brevity is truly the soul of wit, then a good review should feel in spirit like a gospel choir. Remember, that good films deserve more words than bad films. Nobody wants to read a 3,000-word dissertation on "Big Momma's House 2," especially because probably means you expended more effort reviewing it than the filmmakers did making it. We've seen a similar倚as-against-the-Observer office: "You're not Roger Ebert, so don't try to write like him." This is a little misleading, because it's not to say that the one-rotund Chicago Sun Times writer isn't a good critical role model. Readers respect Ebert's opinion because he's a seasoned professional with years of experience and a Pulitzer Prize for film criticism (the first of its kind). These same readers are less inclined to care about the opinion of a college kid who can't remember when George Lucas was considered a good filmmaker — unless said kid's writing is particularly articulate and the writing is well-argued.

Ebert gets away with stuff Observer critics couldn't. Some of his highlights include:

"'Armageddon' reportedly used the services of two writers. Why did it work? Since it's not true? The dialogue is either slanted snipers or romantic drivel. It's gonna be better. It's used so many times, I wonder if every single writer used it once, and then sat back from his word processor with a contented smile on his face, another day's work done." ("Armageddon," July 1, 1998).

And while something like that is cleverly insightful and could thus be appreciated by an Observer critic, some of his other stuff couldn't:

"I hated this movie. Hated hated hated hated hated this movie. Hated it." ("North," July 22, 1994)

So that's the writing of a Pulitzer Prize winner. Get that far in your career, then and then you can make such base judgment calls. Until then, there are few basics guidelines for a good review, and I try to follow them in everything I write.

By MARK BEMENDERFER
Assistant Scene Editor

Tim Burton, Danny Elfman, Johnny Depp. What if I told you that's the cast of "Corpse Bride"? Yes, this is a true story. Tim Burton's latest foray into the world of animation is a testament to his dark and quirky genius. The story follows Victor (voiced by Depp), a young man who is about to marry the love of his life, Emily (voiced by Emily Watson). However, Emily is a corpse, sent back to life by the same black magic that brought Victor back from the dead.

"Corpse Bride" is a darkly humorous take on the traditional wedding story. The animation is stunning, with a dark, gothic aesthetic that perfectly matches the tone of the film. The voice acting is superb, with Depp's performance as Victor being particularly noteworthy.

However, the film is not without its flaws. The pacing is at times a bit slow, and the dialogue can be a bit heavy-handed. The story, while interesting, is not exactly groundbreaking. But at the end of the day, "Corpse Bride" is a film that will appeal to fans of Tim Burton and animation alike. It may not be for everyone, but for those who appreciate the darker side of life, it's a must-see.
brisk walls and bullet holes are more flesh wounds which serve more to mildly inconvenience than to incapacitate the protagonists.

Even the film’s color scheme perfectly mimics the experience of turning pages at the local comic book store. Shot mostly in black and white, Rodriguez dashes on splashes of color to great effect, such as black and white, Rodriguez dashes on brick walls and bullet holes are mere inconveniences than to incapacitate the audience really gets the feel of the most lapsed Catholic Notre Dame student contemplate confusion.

There are a number of special features found on the disk, which expound on several facets of the film. They feature Tim Burton’s haunting blue-eyed actor Stephen Hoeplinger said. “What makes it personal for me is that 1 see it as what would happen to my life, because I believe that 1 didn’t try to do anything with their lives.”

The play also deals a lot with racism, violence, sex and other controversial and contemporary topics,” said Elise Yahner, who plays Pony’s publicist, a rich girl getting a taste of the suburban life during her client’s visit home. “Among all of this is humor, so this play has it all.”

American playwright Eric Bogosian wrote “SubUrbia” after writing a string of successful one-man shows. Rains sees this, the playwright’s first ensemble piece, as something extremely relevant for its current audience.

“The play has become a driving force in my life, because I believe that the characters carry with them messages that resonate deep within the members of our generation,” Rains said. “We find characters really asking the question that we as college students have a chance to examine these current times, and these lives, however, the play deals with deeper themes that stretch across our own boundaries.”

“SubUrbia” is a show that stresses the importance of Notre Dame’s academic freedom and Catholic character. “SubUrbia” is a show that stresses the importance of Notre Dame’s academic freedom and Catholic character.

“SubUrbia” is a show that stresses the importance of Notre Dame’s academic freedom and Catholic character. To Rains, the play couldn’t be timelier in light of the recent discussions of academic freedom and Catholic character.

By ANALISE LIPARI

Miss Winicott

It would seem to the average viewer that "suburbia" is the ultimate in 21st century disaffection. Modern films such as "American Beauty" and "Edward Scissorhands," or even Nicholas Ray’s classic “Rebel Without a Cause,” examine these smaller towns as cardboard (or, rather, lukewarm-beds) of hypocrisy, inertia, dissatisfaction, oppression or all of the above.

This weekend, another look at the suburban and their inhabitants comes to campus in the Washington Hall Lab Theater — Eric Rossos’s "Suburbia," performed by the Student Players.

Directed by Notre Dame senior Cameron Rains, “Suburbia” is a look at 32 hours in the lives of a few towns Gen-Xers with little to do other than stand outside a local 7-Eleven. Jeff, Souze, Bae Bee, Pakezzah and the rest are average in most respects as they go through the motions of their daily lives as part of the MTV generation.

This routine, however, is jarringly interrupted by the arrival of Pony, a former high school geek who has reinvented himself as a rock star. The way that each character reacts to his presence, or rather to his escape from the lethargy of the everyday, is for Rains the essence of the work.

“Suburbia” is a story of characters who are trying to escape, to be free, to do something with their lives,” Rains said in an interview with The Observer. “The thing is that none of them can get out, the street corner is a cage to their being. Everyday, they will gather at the corner and do seldom more than wax philosophical about the price of Oreos or the current state of world hunger.”

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What’s interesting for the average Notre Dame or Saint Mary’s student, however, is that the honesty of the characters’ musings and struggles is very much in tune with their own common experiences. College students could have trouble understanding the motivations of characters more likely to walk out of the convenience store in "Clerks" than the hallways of Bellartio. But, this is less likely than it seems.

"It’s sort of a flip side of the Dorem coin," actor Stephen Hoeplinger said. Hoeplinger plays Tim, a former Air Force cadet and fellow street-corner frequenter.

“What makes it personal for me is that I see it as what would happen to our film students if they didn’t go to college, if they just stayed home and didn’t try to do anything with their lives,” Hoeplinger said.

Other cast members see the play as a chance to examine these current times, with a tough look at the conventions of the average American small town.

“The show centers around themes of unfilled ambition, idleness and the subsequent frustration and despair,” Jennifer Betancourt, who plays Souze, said. "It is an account of their lives which are spent in front of their local convenience store and their failure to find meaning in an age of conflicting values.”

By looking closely at the conflict and inherent apathy of these times and these lives, however, the play deals with deeper themes that stretch across our own boundaries.

Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu

"Tim Burton’s Corpse Bride" is a fun, visually dazzling piece, as something extremely relevant for its current audience.

The show centers around themes of unfilled ambition, idleness and the subsequent frustration and despair, director Quentin Tarantino and the film’s extensive use of special effects.

"Suburbia” is a show that stresses the importance of Notre Dame’s academic freedom and Catholic character.

Three actors play out a scene in the Student Players sponsored “SubUrbia.” The production addresses contemporary issues and is set in modern times.
Syracuse upsets No. 14 West Virginia, 60-58

No. 22 Sooners hold on, edge Texas Tech

Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Terrence Roberts gave the Syracuse Orange a jolt when they needed it most.

The junior forward broke out of a three-game slump with 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Syracuse beat No. 14 West Virginia on Monday night, its first win in seven games over a ranked team.

"When you play as physical and as active and energetic as we were, it’s hard to stop us," said the 6-foot-9 Roberts, who had a total of 10 points and 12 rebounds in the three previous games. "Everyone was so calm and patient. We know we could get it done tonight if we played as we practiced.

Roberts, who had given the Oranges a 58-55 lead with a dunk over Kevin Pittsnogle, took a feed from senior guard Gerry McNamara and made a look shot in the lane with 2:25 remaining for what turned out to be the winning basket.

It was the fourth loss in five games for West Virginia (18-9, 9-8 Big East), which won its first eight games in the conference. Syracuse (18-8, 7-6), which had been reeling with five losses in six games, has won three of its last four.

Eric Devendorf had 17 points for Syracuse, and college consensus player of the year Reese Hoffa added 10 points and nine rebounds.

"It was the biggest win for Tech since the Carrier Dome of McNamara’s career-clinching defeat with five points in 2-0-14, in 2001. During that game, center Darryl Watkins had 10 points and nine rebounds.

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West Virginia came in averaging over 72 points per game and was on pace to tie NCAA history. "In the second half, they just shut them down," said Beilein, who scored all 18 points of the Orange’s winning run.

Simpson was 7-for-11 from the field and 7-for-7 from the free throw line. "We couldn’t handle a hard pass on both the in and the out. We couldn’t drive to the hole, and we couldn’t get into the basket with a clean look," he said.

Simpson said the Orange’s offense centers around Neal and his quick release.

"When you shoot the ball moving as hard as you can, shooting towards the sideline and you make it, there isn’t a hell of a lot you can use that’s going to stop it," he said.

Simpson said Oklahoma’s offense centers around Neal and his quick release.

"That’s the best athlete on the floor but his good basketball player," he said. "He’s got 13 points and 13 rebounds for Oklahoma, while

went only 1-for-3 from beyond the arc in the second half. "They were really extended. We just got mixed up on what we were running, which caused us to be a little bit. It was a deep shot that I had to take," said the 6-foot-9 Roberts, who had given the Orange a 58-55 lead with a dunk over Kevin Pittsnogle, took a feed from senior guard Gerry McNamara and made a look shot in the lane with 2:25 remaining for what turned out to be the winning basket.

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Welcomes

JON M. HUNTSMAN

A self-made billionaire whose success carried him to Forbes’ list of America’s wealthiest people. His career has been built on the foundations learned in childhood...share success, take responsibility, and give back. Instead of retiring with his wealth, he uses it to support charity.

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### Men's NCAA Basketball Coaches Top 25

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### Women's NCAA Basketball Coaches Top 25

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### MIAA Women's Basketball

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### In Brief

**Czech cross-country skiing coach fired for error**

**TURIN, Italy —** The Czech Republic fired cross-country coach Kvetoslav Zalcik on Sunday after he inadvertently submitted the wrong name for the final leg of the men's Olympic 4x10 km relay race.

"It's a very hard mistake he made, and the result is he got fired and he will go home," Czech Olympic Committee spokesman Jan Martinek told The Associated Press.

Martinek said the Czech Olympic team discussed possible options "for this bad situation that occurred after the race." It's a really bad result for the Czechs," he added.

Ultimately, officials decided to dismiss Zalcik, who Martinek said had been in the job for 10 years.

Zalcik accidentally wrote in sprint specialist Dusan Kozisek instead of Milan Sperl for the fourth and final leg.

Kozisek, who doesn't normally ski distance events, was in bed in nearby Sestriere when the squad left for Pragelato and had to hustle to the venue and borrow skis to compete. He arrived at the Pragelato Plan course about 30 minutes after the relay start.

**Kostelic sets women's Olympic record for medals**

**AN KOSTELIC, Italy —** At asking for a 10-year stint as the head coach, 39-year-old Alain Kostelic has been successful. He has won four gold medals — one here and one three more in salt Lake City in 2002 — and is the first man to ever achieve a double race in the Olympics.

**Kostelic's silver Monday was her sixth Alpine skiing medal — her second gold medal of these games, covering a relatively easy super-G course in 1 minute, 32.47 seconds.**

**Women's NCAA Basketball**

**XAVIER at DAYTON, 7:30 p.m., ESPN**

**A R O U N D**

**ILLINOIS at M ICHIGAN, 7 p.m., ESPN**

**COACHES Overall CONF.**

**TEAM**

**RECORD**

**P O I N T S**

**Curt Gowdy spends a moment to honor the former Red Sox great Ted Williams shortly after Williams' death on Nov. 9, 2002. Gowdy, the former announcer for the Red Sox and NBC, died Monday of leukemia at age 86.**

**Former Red Sox announcer dies at 86**

**Associated Press**

**FORT MYERS, Fla. —** He was the smooth voice of sports history, a well-embodied companion who brought listeners Ted Williams' last home run, the first Super Bowl and dozens of other dramatic moments.

Curt Gowdy, who died Monday, was a master of America's games, a man loved by millions of fans.

He was the first superstar of sports television because he did all of the big events," veteran NBC broadcaster Dick Enberg said. "He's the last of the dinosaurs. No one will ever be the voice of so many major events at the same time ever again.

Gowdy died of leukemia at his winter home in Palm Beach. He was 86.

It all started as he sat on a box, with his microphone on another box, for his first play-by-play — a six-man football game in Cheyenne, Wyo., in subzero temperatures in 1944.

Before cable television spawned a new breed of announcers — those who use shouts and hip phrases instead of subdued sounds and straightforward description — Gowdy was a star who just wanted to tell a story, a well-liked man who stayed that way as his fame grew.

He brought a warm feel to the broadcast booth, his commentary full of good humor and enthusiasm.

He once said, "I tried to pretend that I was sitting in the stands with a buddy watching the game, poking him in the ribs when something exciting happened. I never took myself too seriously. An announcer is only as good as yesterday's performance."


Gowdy spent 15 years as the Boston Red Sox main play-by-play announcer from 1951-1965. He left the Red Sox for a 10-year stint as the baseball broadcaster on NBC's "Game of the Week" through 1975.
Races heat up for scoring title, playoff seeds

Mavericks, Bryant top headlines as the season resumes on Thursday

Associated Press

Being one of the best in the West might not be good enough for Dallas.

Finish second in their conference, and the Mavericks likely open the second round in San Antonio. Win the West and Dallas still probably gets the best seed you this season.

For some, such as the Pistons of a game against the Mavs.

"You can get an eight seed and it'd be the best seed you ever had, and get a one seed and be dreading the matchup, so it doesn't really matter," Mavericks guard Jason Terry said. "We're definitely going to be in there, but home-court advantage is nice."

At least the Mavericks have secure playoff position. Despite their individual brilliance in the first half, Bryant and Allen Iverson have no such guarantees.

"That's a tough situation, but it is how it is set up and people can argue with that," Spurs All-Star Tim Duncan said. "We're going to try to play and give that No. 1 seed a run and try to work it from there."

Bryant is averaging 35 points, with Iverson at 33.2 and James at 31.7. The NBA hasn't had three players average 30 or more points since 1982, when George Gervin beat out Moses Malone and Adrian Dantley to win the scoring title.

That hasn't translated to nearly enough wins for Bryant or Iverson. Three teams are within 2 1/2 games of Los Angeles for first in the West, while Philadelphia is just two games ahead of Chicago for the East's last playoff spot.

"I want to win a ring," Iverson said. "I want to have the opportunity to get back to the Finals, but I just have to take it one day at a time, and understand that it can happen — and I always believe that. Once I stop believing the goal can be accomplished, there is no need to keep dressing up every night. All that matters is us getting into the playoffs, because then, anything can happen."

James appears ready to get his chance. A late-season collapse kept Cleveland out of the playoffs last year, but with a better supporting cast surrounding one of the NBA's most talented players, a repeat seems unlikely.

"They got a more experienced team than they did last year," Wizards guard Gilbert Arenas said. "He's in his third year now, the players he's got around him is in their third, the young ones. So they got older pieces now that won't let that happen."

The trade deadline is Thursday, and one look at the Pistons shows the difference the right deal can make. They acquired Rashard Wallace at the deadline two years ago, and all they've done since is win a title, nearly repeat last year, and get off to one of the best starts in league history this season.

"It definitely helped our team," said Ben Wallace, one of Detroit's four All-Stars. "I think it helped everybody on our team get better. He played a major role in us winning a championship, so we're glad it happened."

A pair of intriguing returns are on tap for the second half. The Hornets play their first of three games in New Orleans on March 8 when they host the Lakers.
Pre-games star has struggled in his four downhill events

Associated Press

SESTRIERE, Italy — All those Olympic gold medals Bode Miller insists he can live without? Turned out he also believes they could just as easily be his. Turns out he also believes they leading a gold-bronze Austrian insists he can live without? A

Four downhill events Miller is down to one final chance at the Turin Games after turning in one string of Olympic disappointments by leading a gold-bronze Austrian finish. Through four of five men's Alpine races, Miller has finished no better than fifth place in the downhill. He was leading the combined when he was disqualified; he didn't finish the super-G after slamming into a gate.

“If things went well,” he told The Associated Press, “I could be sitting on four medals, maybe all of them gold.”

Asked if a common thread could tie together his results at these games, Miller offered a rather grim self-assessment.

In the downhill, he said, “the other guys just found more speed.” He accused “pitiful error” as reasons for his problems in the slalom and super-G, In the giant slalom, Miller said, “he had a little bit of hard luck in the first run, when he hit a rock early, then made a trip down the run.”

After each run Monday, the 28-year-old from Franconia, N.H., would hold his hands on knees, gasping for air.

“Against those guys right now,” he acknowledged as he walked away from his tent toward his private RV, “that would be my attitude.”

Twelfth after opening the giant slalom leg, Miller did ski a second, strong leg. For ski racers, even watched from the leader's porch at the bottom of the mountain, mugging for the camera, sticking his tongue out with Grigorovich and another. Then, one by one, Miller's rivals bestowed his time.

Miller has the fastest second segment and finished with a total time of 2 minutes, 37 seconds on a course drenched in sun following two days of heavy snowfall. For his effort was 0.67 back for France's second medal of the Olympics, and Austria's Hermann Maier boosting personal tie to take two medals with the bronze, 0.16 off the pace.

Until Monday, Raich was having his own problems at Sestriere. He wasn't picked for Austria's downhill squad, straddled a gate when he was seconds from world record in the combined and was 21st in the super-G. Still, he felt no extra pressure.

“Do not to have to prove to any­body anymore that I know skiing,” said Raich, who won two bronze at Salt Lake City four years ago.

A bit after hour he and Maier won gold and bronze, respectively, with their Alpine nine medals when Michaela Dorfmeister and Alexandra Jekl finished 1.3 in the women's super-G, a few mountains ahead of Maier.

The United States, meanwhile, is stuck on one medal: Ted Ligety's gold in the super-G. He'll be among the favorites in Saturday's slalom, the last Alpine event and Miller's last medal hope.

Ligety missed a gate in the giant slalom's first leg, as did Miller's co-headliner on the U.S. ski team, lower-key David Chodounsky and the third Alpine medalist, Miller. One of the few stars from any nation entered in all five Alpine races, leaves little doubt he doesn't share that philosophy.

Over and over, he's said it's more important whether he feels good about a race than whether he was good enough to beat everybody else. He calls satisfying "my subjective crite­ria" his biggest concern — rather than the "objective result" measured by the clock. It's more true to the Olympic spirit, he said.

"He's of the mind-set he wants to inspire with great skiing." U.S. Alpine director Jesse Hunt said, "and he's not really focused on the results."

His father, Woody, had a dif­ferent view of Miller's atti­tude is more like "What am I going to do with a gold medal?"

"He has this ambivalence with succeeding," the elder Miller said, sitting in the stands on Monday's rage. "It's part of who he is.

U.S. downhill skier Bode Miller clears a gate during the second run of the giant slalom Monday. Miller took sixth in the event.

Austrian ski coach leads police on chase, crashes car

Walter Mayer had been banned for 2002 blood doping charges

Associated Press

The banned Austrian ski coach, the center of a doping investigation at the Turin Olympics crashed his car into a police roadblock Sunday evening after leading authorities on a bizarre chase.

Mayer was slightly injured in the accident, in which the former coach's black police car set up as an impromptu barrier in the town of Ramsau near the southwestern province of Carinthia, about 15 miles from the Italian fron­tier and some 250 miles from Turin, police said. He was taken into protective custody.

Mayer was returning to his native Austria just hours after Italian authorities searched Austria's biathlon and cross­country team quarters for blood doping substances. Police acted on a tipoff that Mayer — who was suspended in 2002 for bias­ness in the Italian sport — was planning a doping raid on the 2002 Olympics while he was Austria's Nordic team coach with the team.

Italian police seized blood analysis equipment during the raids, as well as syringes, vials of distilled water, asthma med­ication and other substances, the national news agency ANSA reported, quoting unidentified investigative sources. One Austrian national coach threw out of a window containing need­les and medicines, and Mayer drove off left scenes, ANSA said.

A suspicious local resident alerted police that a man was sleeping in a car with the windows rolled up, officers arrived on the scene to wake him up, Mayer sped away, striking and slightly injuring an officer, the statement said.

The chains of events in Austria started when Mayer pulled over to the side of the road and took a nap in his car, a police state­ment said.

A suspicious local resident reported to police that a man was sleeping in his car, the police state­ment said.

The raids came just before midnight Saturday, when police swooped on a home rented by the biathlon team near the moun­tain hamlet of San Sicario; a similar search was conducted at quarters in nearby Pragelato. The athletes were taken by IOC doping control officers to near­by Sestriere for tests.

Mayer and Volker Mueller, the German chiropractor who pre­scribed treatments in 2002, were banned by the IOC from the Turin Olympics and the 2010 Vancouver Games.

WADA doping control officers would face criminal charges, the 2010 Vancouver Games. WADA doping control officers would face criminal charges, the IOC then learned that Mayer — who was not accred­ded for the games — was with the team at the Turin Games and noti­fied the IOC, which tipped off Italian police.

"The fact he was in the same area as the athletes created quite some concern to us," IOC medical commission chief Arne Ljungqvist said. The Italian news agency ANSA quoted unidentified judicial sources as saying Mayer had been put under investigation by magistrates on suspicion of vaginal use of banned substances.

Austrian officials said Mayer had been in Italy in a private capacity and had no official connection with the team. Biathlon coach Alfred Eidler con­firmed that Mayer spent the night in the athletes accommodation, but only the night after he arrived. At a news conference, Ljungqvist held up a postcard written by Mayer an Olympic biathlon team photo. He said in his absence in Italy didn't break the "spirit" of the decision to keep him out of the games.

The involvement of police is in line with Italian law, which treats doping as a criminal offense. Any doping case would be investigated and prosecuted by Italian magistrates.

The raids just before midnight Saturday, when police swooped on a home rented by the biathlon team near the moun­tain hamlet of San Sicario; a similar search was conducted at quarters in nearby Pragelato.

The athletes were taken by IOC doping control officers to near­by Sestriere for tests.
Canada defeats Sweden to earn gold medal victory

Impressive offense leads to 4-1 triumph

Associated Press

TURIN, Italy — Danielle Goyette couldn't have imagined she would be playing hockey on a beach towel on the eve of the Turin Games. It's a far cry from the ice rinks of her youth, where she dreamed of playing for Canada.

But that's exactly where she'll be Friday night, as the Canadian women's hockey team prepares for its final game against the United States.

"It's going to be hard to leave the ice," said Goyette, a member of Team Canada.

"But it's going to be hard to go over it. We wanted to play in the last game, and we had to get there. We're going to have to be prepared for anything."
Squash team wins division title at nationals

Sailing team places 17th in Charleston

Special to The Observer

Notre Dame's squash club won the Emerging Teams Division Championships at the CSA National Team Championships this weekend in Providence as 46 teams competed for championships in six divisions. The Irish defeated rival USC in the championship match, 3-2, as they swept the top three matches. The Irish trailed 2-0 in matches before staging the comeback.

Pedro Guechica and Leigh Chapman dropped their matches at Nos. 4 and 5 to Devin Jones and Varun Peddy, respectively, giving the Trojans a 2-0 lead. Michael McConnell whitewashed Rutgers 5-0.

Felipe Alou said. "But we can't react to his comments to USA Today that his injured knee has forced him to take pain pills and that he plans to retire, and to his remarks to MLB.com that he was just "playing psychological games" and his knee brace feels so good he might play another game."

"Of course everything Barry Bonds says gets multiplied and is huge," shortstop Omar Vizquel said. "People tend to talk about everything and every comment he makes. I'm pretty sure there are other players who say that too and they don't care. You are? OK, good luck."

"But he's Barry Bonds." Bonds is in the final season of his $90 million, five-year contract and will be eligible for free agency after the World Series, meaning his time with the Giants could be up even if he doesn't retire.

"It wouldn't totally surprise me if he retired during the season, if his knees are hurting and he's miserable," said new Detroit manager Jim Leyland.

"If we did that, he would say, 'he apologized,'" Rodriguez said. "The apology has been accepted. We've moved on from that. He and I have always been friendly. It's not really that big of a deal."

"I was proud of how they handled his decision to play for the United States instead of the Dominican Republic. The New York Yankees third baseman took issue with reports that he vacillated between playing for the Americans and the Dominicans.

"Just to make it clear, I only spoke once and then I spoke again three months later," Rodriguez said after reporting to spring training. "All the garbage in between was Major League Baseball. I didn't go back and forth. I said once, 'I wasn't playing,' and then at the end I said, 'So OK, I am playing.'"

"I have always been friendly. It's not really that big of a deal."

"I was proud of how they handled his decision to play for the United States instead of the Dominican Republic. The New York Yankees third baseman took issue with reports that he vacillated between playing for the Americans and the Dominicans."
**Belles**

continued from page 24

"away."

After struggling at home for the first half of the season—losing four of their first five home contests—Saint Mary’s has embraced the home court advantage. The Belles have played like a different team down the stretch, improving to 9-7 in the MIAA (11-14 overall) after beginning conference play with a 3-3 record.

"At the beginning of the season, we had trouble playing at home, but [now] being at home here gives us a lot of confidence," freshman forward Erin Newson said.

Saint Mary’s is coming off a two-game losing streak to end the season, dropping a contest to No. 4 seed Albion Wednesday and finishing Saturday with a loss to No. 1 seeded Hope, which finished its season 23-1 with a perfect 16-0 MIAA record. Despite their recent troubles, the Belles are confident about playing Alma in the first round, having swept their season series 2-0.

Bender addressed the Belles’ mounting headway: "...we’re going to be a really exciting team to watch this year," he said. "I just think it’s a tremendous advantage."

Though the Belles have been swept at Alma twice—once away and once at home—both games have been close. Saint Mary’s edged Alma, 74-68, Dec. 10 on the road and 57-55, at home Jan. 10.

"I think by playing them twice and beating them twice, we know how to play them," Newson said. "Obviously we can be effective against them also at the same time. I think they’ve found a way to beat a team this time in a year, but we’ve just got to go out and do it." The Belles’ strength has been adjusting to teams the second time they meet, which has shown the strength of their coaching and their ability to read other teams’ playing styles.

"The Silver medal performance in the junior division, while Kubik fenced in the saber (junior, 69th), and Grigorenko competed against Erin Newsom said.

"At the beginning of the season, we had trouble playing at home, but now being at home here gives us a lot of confidence," freshman forward Erin Newson said.

"I think they’re going to be intimidated," senior captain Bridge Boyce said. "I think they’re going to come ready to play, but we’re going to be ready to play and we’ll take it from there."

Bender echoed his captain’s feelings that Alma would not fall easily, despite his team’s recent success against them.

"Alma’s not going to be intimidated at all," Bender said. "...they’ve been getting really good crowds, they’ve been getting excited," Bender said. "...they think it’s a tremendous advantage."

"Though the Belles have been swept on campus twice—once away and once at home—both games have been close. Saint Mary’s edged Alma, 74-68, Dec. 10 on the road and 57-55, at home Jan. 10.

"I think by playing them twice and beating them twice, we know how to play them," Newson said. "Obviously we can be effective against them also at the same time. I think they’ve found a way to beat a team this time in a year, but we’ve just got to go out and do it."

"The Belles’ strength has been adjusting to teams the second time they meet, which has shown the strength of their coaching and their ability to read other teams’ playing styles."

**Fencers**

continued from page 24

"It was more of ... Why, when is Emily Cross on good form, Notto said. "I [compete against good kind of folks, and it was kind of normal for me, and a lot of times you’ll think you’ll be tricky and she’s already on to you. It was more likely I had this opportunity to get to fence her."

The silver-medal performances continued on the junior national circuit.

"She fenced really well this weekend," Cota said. "We were all very proud of her." For her effort, Notto was awarded 552 national circuit points, giving her the top 16 finishers in each bracket. The points allow fencers to qualify for national events and work towards national rankings.

"I scored 301 points in the foil for taking 15th in the junior division, while Kubik grabbed 302 for his 14th place performance in the junior division saber."

In the men’s bracket, Horten fenced in the sabre (junior, 112th) and also competed on the women’s side was Montoya in the epee, (junior, 34th), Cota in the foil (junior, 414th) and Serrette in the sabre. The format for the Junior Olympics starts with a round-robin pool of seven fencers. Points are awarded to individuals based on victories, hits and points taken. The fencers are then seeded into the tournament brackets based on point-totals. Regardless of points, the event afforded Notre Dame’s fencers valuable experience against top competitors.

"I guess I managed my stress a little better than I did the previous match," Proit said about her bout against Cross, which she lost 5-4. Though the event was purely individual, the Irish fencers were quick to the support their team unity.

"Serrette, who didn’t compete until Monday, was in Hartford on Saturday to watch Notre Dame teammates. "Our support system for our teammates is wonderful."

Rachel Cota
Irish fencer

"It’s going to be a tough game," Proit said. "It all comes down to the playoffs, anything can happen. We’re ready to play."

Despite the firepower they possess, the Belles agree on what they will need to do to come away with the victory in play defense.

"We’ve been scrounging them pretty good and we know what we have to do," Lipke said. "So hopefully we can execute everything we’ve been planning." Newson was even more specific about the approach.

"I think if we play good solid defense and break down their high-low game and have a good shooting day we’ll be fine," Newson said.

Contact Tim Kainer at ckainer@nd.edu

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**Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu**

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**Bettis**

continued from page 24

mainstay of the league’s prime-time broadcasts on NBC, the "Football Night in America" coverage begins Thursday, Sept. 7 in Pittsburgh. The reigning champions face an opponent yet to be named.

"When the regular season begins in September, it will be the proudest night of my life," he said. "I will finally get my ring, and I will start my new career in television in front of all the Steelers fans."}

NBC Sports Chairman and "Football Night" executive producer Dick Ebersol said in a statement that Bettis’ strong public image, combined with popularity after 13 seasons in the NFL made his selection a no-brainer choice to be the host of the show’s broadcast team.

"America followed "The Bus" to the Super Bowl just as they have followed him for 14 years," Ebersol said. "He was awed by how many people were interested in hearing about his game, and were interested in seeing his great career culminate in a championship game. The grace and class with which he handled his retirement," Ebersol said in the NBC statement. "He’s the kind of guy that people want to invite into their living rooms every week." Ebersol said Bettis first auditioned with NBC executives for the job during the regular season. "He simply blew us away," Ebersol said of the league’s fifth all-time leading rusher.

Bettis finished his NFL career averaging 3.7 yards per carry on 3,369 rushing attempts — the third most carries in league history, for an average of 3.9 yards per carry.

In his three seasons at Notre Dame, Bettis averaged 5.7 yards per carry. He left the Irish after his junior year to turn pro. He was selected by the NFL draft and returned to Notre Dame to work toward his degree in the spring of 1996 when he ended his tenure as the Irish, which drafted him in 1993. He never earned his diploma, however, as the Steelers signed the free agent, and he has spent 17 years in the NFL with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

NFC West carries Irish home football games, did not say if Bettis’ work on the "Football Night" would free him for studio work with Notre Dame’s home telecasts.
Huskies continued from page 24

they kick it into gear, which we've seen, they can be pretty devastating.

The Irish — who have won their last three games against Rutgers, South Florida and Seton Hall — have improved their Big East record to 4-8 (13-10 overall) as they continue the effort to grab one of the final Big East tournament spots.

Notre Dame has four games remaining, including Tuesday night's game at the Hartford Civic Center, and Brey knows any win will have the same significance, regardless of the opponent.

"For us, it will help us get to New York — simplest terms, man," Brey said. "That's how I've looked at it, that's how I've presented it to our guys. It would be another step closer to qualifying for the tournament in New York. That's been our focus, and that's what we've talked about.

Brey also conveyed Monday morning what Notre Dame's focus will be in stopping a Huskies team that is 10-2 in the Big East and 23-2 overall. Connecticut is also a perfect 13-0 at home this season.

"When we've had success against them, we've improved transition and second shots," Brey said. "So that's kind of where you start with a general feeling."

Limiting transition points and second shots will be difficult for Notre Dame given Connecticut's athleticism (forward Rudy Gay is considered one of the most talented players in college basketball) and ability to rebound on the offensive end (forwards Josh Boone, Hilton Armstrong and Gay have a combined 182 offensive rebounds this season).

"We've seen, they can be pretty devastating," Brey said.

Senior Chris Quinn said Sunday he considers Connecticut to be one of the best teams in the country because of the problems — such as transition and second chance points — that present opponents every game.

"(Connecticut is), if not the best, one of the best five teams in the country," Quinn said. "Extremely talented, big, physical and quick. It's definitely going to be a tough test going into their place, but the only thing we can do is go in there and play with nothing to lose."

Notre Dame forwards Torin Francis and Rick Cornett will need to play strong underneath the basket to try to limit Connecticut's ability to get to the glass. Brey also said all four big men — Rob Kurz and Luke Zeller included — will make an impact.

"If we can stop this and second chance shots because of his ability to score off offensive rebounds."

"He's a great player. I mean, we're not going to spend a lot of time talking about Rudy Gay," Brey said. "It's a hell of a player."

"He's going to make plays because he's a very talented kid, and I think he plays with a beautiful demeanor."

Notre Dame forward Rob Kurz blocks a South Florida player's shot during a 62-55 Irish victory Feb. 15.

Notes:

♦ Tuesday is Rudy Gay growth poster day at the Hartford Civic Center. Fans will receive a life-size poster of the explosive Huskies forward before the start of the game between Notre Dame and Connecticut.

♦ The game will be televised locally on WAAT-South Bend. Check local listings for channel depending on cable/satellite service.

Contact Bobby Griffin at mgriffi3@nd.edu

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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. Join the more than 13,000 readers who have found The Observer an indispensable link to the two campuses. Please complete the accompanying form and mail it today to receive The Observer in your home.

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THE Observer

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:
Bette Midler, 61; Andrew Shue, 49; Crush's Chantal; 40; French National 43.

Happy Birthday: Do what you feel passionate about. A change may be frightening but it can also be exciting. You may turn things upside down in your life. Thinking positive will be what keeps you on the right path and where you will be going.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Your finances should be your concern. Check your bankbook and make sure that everything is in order. Start a new savings plan or put your cash into a high growth investment.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Be active andifunctional. If you are deprived or too busy to notice what the people in your life are up to, it will cause a chain reaction in your personal life. Be more aware.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): You can make worthwhile career moves if you make your mind up to yourself. This is a great interview day. The changes taking place will be positive. Be prepared and add a little extra detail to everything you do, and your income should improve.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Work hard to develop a task you enjoy and you can make even more. Trust or attending a seminar that interests you will enhance your own awareness and introduce you to people heading in the same directions. New relationships are likely.

 Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): You will have to be on your toes today. One mistake and you may be feeling unnecessary backtracking. Don't let anyone talk you into doing something you don't want. Follow your own path even if it does mean treading new ground.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Spend time with someone who will encourage you to follow through with your plans. Someone you can talk will make a difference to the change you're making. You will find a partner to help you open your mind.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't hesitate to make a financial or career move. Money matters will improve if you are happy with what you are doing. End the cycle that has been causing you grief. Only you can stop the money round.***

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will feel prompted to change your direction and now is a perfect time to do so. The outcome of the alterations you make is likely to be dramatic. Take a moment to enjoy spending time with people who can offer you a chance to rejuvenate.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It's time for a complete overhaul both at home and at work. Make your surroundings more comfortable for you and you will become more productive. You are likely to be called upon to take care of an old friend or ex-lover's problems.***

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Partnerships will turn out to be a greater benefit that you imagined. It helps if you have others who have to say — make your conclusions and take action. You are likely to be a receptive audience because of your insightful ways.***

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your mind and your rest on with things. Someone may help you in the wrong direction or misinterpret what you are trying to convey. Be patient and don't get rattled. Concentrate so you can share. A clear mindset will lead to stability.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): You'll be receptive to new ideas so talk to people and find out who are the wise. Wanted opportunities will result in frustration and depression. Follow your heart when it comes to decisions that must be made.

Birthday Tips: You are sensitive, creative and impetuous. You are productive but need to keep your own limits. You think in big terms and are open and receptive to new methods and concepts.
**Men's Basketball**

**Testing the best**

No. 3/4 Huskies are undefeated at home

By BOBBY GRIFFIN
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame did not want to look past Seton Hall Saturday to a looming game against the Connecticut Huskies (No. 3 AP/No. 4 coach's poll), but a match up with the team Irish coach Mike Brey calls the best in the country has now arrived — and the stakes couldn't be higher.

"In my opinion, they are the best team in the country and have the most weapons and the most bodies," Brey said at a press conference Monday in the Joyce Center. "And when the stakes look past Seton Hall Saturday Feb. 4. The Belles open the playoffs against Alma tonight.

See HUSKIES/22

**SMC Basketball**

Belles ride defense to MIAA Tournament

By TIM KAISER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's guard Allison Kessler dribbles upcourt in a 76-64 loss to Calvin Feb. 4. The Belles open the playoffs against Alma tonight.

See BELLES/21

**Fencing**

Fencers duel as individuals in Junior Olympics

Not leads eight competitors participating in Connecticut meet

By JACK THORNTON
Sports Writer

While both the men's and women's fencing teams are hunting national titles, eight Irish fencers competed for something unique this weekend — themselves.

The group from Notre Dame flew to Hartford, Conn. to fence in the Junior Olympics, which took place Friday through Monday. The annual event brought together more than 1,600 fencers from around the country competing in Cadet (under-17) and junior (under-20) divisions in foil, saber and epee.

The Irish contingent included sophomores Rachel Cota and Tom Horton and freshmen Adrienne Nott, Emilie Prot, Mark Kahik, Alexander Grigorenko, Ashley Serrette and Kimberlee Montoya.

Nott led the way among her teammates, placing second out of 204 competitors in the junior foil. Nott won all of her six pool bouts and then won six consecutive direct elimination bouts before falling in the final match to two-time World Cup Champion and Harvard fencer Emily Cross.

Though she was fencing for the title against someone she considers her idol, Nott wasn't caught relishing the moment.

See FENCING/21

**SPORTS**

**At a Glance**

**CLUB SPORTS**

Irish take division title at nationals

The Notre Dame squash team won the Emerging Teams Division in national competition this weekend.

See page 20

**MLB**

Bonds fails to report to training

The embattled star did not show up for the Giants' voluntary activities in Scottsdale, Ariz.

See page 20

**WINTER OLYMPICS**

United States 4

Finland 0

The American women claimed hockey's bronze medal with a dominant win.

See page 19

**NBA**

Teams vie for playoff seeds

After the All-Star break, the focus will be on playoff seeding and the scoring title.

See page 18

**MLB**

Marlins open spring training

After their offseason fire sale, Florida's new staff of pitchers and catchers worked out for the first time.

See page 16

**NCAA BASKETBALL**

Syracuse 60

West Virginia 58

The Orange upset the No. 14 Mountaineers to support their NCAA Tournament bid.

See page 14

**Football**

'Bus' will switch to TV booth

Former ND star Bettis takes commentator job

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Former Irish running back and Super Bowl champion Jerome Bettis will trade in his cleats for a microphone next fall, as NBC announced the recently-retired Bettis will join the broadcast team on the network's upcoming studio show for Sunday night football games.

"Football Night in America." "After retiring, I wondered what I was going to do on Sundays, but now I still have a place to go every Sunday night," Bettis said Monday in a statement released by NBC.

Bettis, known as "The Bus" to football fans for his hard-hitting running style and large body frame, will serve as an analyst on the show alongside veteran football hosts Bob Costas and Cris Collinsworth.

"Football Night" includes both the pre-game studio show and the NFL's Sunday night game, which will replace Monday Night Football in 2006 as the