McBrien cleared of plagiarism complaint

By KAREN LANGLEY
Assistant News Editor

A complaint of plagiarism against theology professor John McBrien was recently dismissed by theology department chair John Cavadini according to an article in the National Catholic Reporter published today.

"Although I did not release the University investigator's report to the National Catholic Reporter, nor do I know who did, I can verify the accuracy of the story in this week's issue," McBrien told The Observer in an e-mail Thursday.

Though Cavadini spoke to NCR, he did not return Observer phone calls seeking comment Thursday.

The complaint, which originated with the Catholic group the Cardinal Newman Society, was dismissed "on the grounds that the alleged copying constitutes 'carelessness' rather than unmedical behavior; that statements of regret and apology for oversight have already been issued; and that there is no previous instance to indicate a pattern requiring investigation," according to a letter obtained by NCR from Professor Cavadini to Jeffrey Kanton, vice president for graduate studies and research.

The Cardinal Newman Society is an organization Cavadini called "a militant right-wing Catholic interest group," according to the Jan. 19 letter to University President Father John Jenkins the University investigates similarities in structure and language between a column written by McBrien for the Jan. 6 issue of The Times of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and an op-ed piece by Eileen McNamara for the Dec. 11 Boston Globe.

The two publications criticized protests of a Catholic Charities fundraiser benefiting Boston Mayor Thomas Menino, a supporter of abortion rights and gay marriage.

McBrien cited McNamara's piece in his column, but sent letters of apology to McNamara and to the Globe for too closely paraphrasing a sentence. He also agreed to add a formal statement in a future column "admitting and regretting the oversight," according to the NCR.

"I am pleased that the review process within the University is now officially over, and I am completely satisfied with its outcome," McBrien told The Observer.

McBrien said he would neither release the report to any one nor conduct further interviews about the matter.

Contact Karen Langley at klangley@nd.edu

Bishop speaks on just war

Focus is Catholic teachings on peace

By MADIE HANNA
Associate News Editor

Catholics who wish to be true disciples of Christ can never accept war as a solution to the world's problems — no matter the circumstances.

Detroit Bishop Thomas Gumbleton told members of the Notre Dame and South Bend communities Thursday night:

"That's the challenge I leave you with tonight — say 'no' to war, 'yes' to peace, 'yes' to justice, to love," Gumbleton told the approximately 60 audience members in DeBartolo 141.

Gumbleton's challenge was based on a statement made by the late Pope John Paul II, whose teachings he drew from heavily throughout the address.

While Gumbleton has been the target of national attention after recently coming forward as a victim of sexual abuse by a priest, he spoke Thursday on a much different topic — "Religion and War."

He broke down the Church's teachings on war into the theology of just war and the theology of nonviolence.

Both theologies are based on the premise that Jesus

Presidential visit conjures emotion

By KATIE PERRY
Assistant News Editor

When Air Force One landed in South Bend Thursday, Notre Dame students and Michiana community members greeted President George W. Bush as people generally do — with either open arms or cold shoulders.

Bush spoke at Bethel College as part of a fundraising luncheon for U.S. Rep. Chris Chocola, R-2nd District. The exclusive event — open only to those who purchased tickets at $500 each — included a photo opportunity that cost $2,000 per person.

While House officials arrived nearly a week early in order to prepare the logistics for Bush's visit, protesters gathered Thursday in Mishawaka to oppose Bush's economic and Iraq policies.

Injured ND senior released from hospital

Student play explores sex, faith

'The Primrose Path' documents diverse experiences, perspectives

"The Primrose Path" documents diverse experiences, perspectives and research.

By KAREN LANGLEY
Assistant News Editor

"The Primrose Path," another set of monologues exploring sexuality will take the academic stage at Notre Dame. But "The Primrose Path," a student-written document, infuses its discussions of sexuality with perspectives of love and faith — a distinction that playwright Anna Nussbaum says will test whether Notre Dame's traditionally volatile reaction to the "Monologues" is truly a result of the performance's lack of religious character.

"If the concern is there is no religious perspective in 'The Vagina Monologues,' come to my play," she said. "If what we're really squabbling about is issues of sexuality, that will become clear."

Included in its assortment of monologues on sexuality — researched and collected during Nussbaum's junior summer, courtesy of a UROP undergraduate research opportunity — are explorations of both female and male sexuality, religion, morality, love, marriage, transgender issues, abortion, celibacy, virginity, pornography and pregnancy.

"These are issues that really interest our community but are talked about in theory," she said. "These [monologues] are about practice. These are actual people, and there's something powerful about that."

Nussbaum's interviewees include "everything from [her] parish priest to [her] ex-boyfriend to people [she] met on the street or in the phone book."

Most monologues are based on a single interview, but a few are compiled. In selecting...
INSIDE COLUMN

Agreeing with Shirley

I couldn't really even stand up to a seed, I don't really deserve a medal or a party!

I bet you're wondering what kind of column would follow a statement like that. But why keep you in suspense? I'll just come right out and tell you — one that has nothing to do with the opening line.

Now that I have you hooked, you have no choice but to continue reading.

Last night was pancake night at South Dining Hall. For those of you who haven't had the opportunity to experience such a miracle, take my word for it when I tell you that it is a night not to be missed.

However, the delicious pancakes, scrambled eggs, and tater tots (thank you, dining hall cooks) that I feasted upon are not what stick in my mind about my dinner last night. As I started applying syrup to my flapjack, I was in.

"I'm a freshman," I told her.

"How do you like it here? ... What is your major? ... Psychology? I have a daughter who has two master's degrees in psychology. I like psychologists, but not psychiatrists; sometimes people do need medication, but a lot of the time they've got them drugged up like zombies.

Shirley told me I'm blessed to be here, and I'm glad I'm here. She is right — I am blessed to be here. But why keep those things? It's almost an inversion since the Resurrection!

Beware! Burn him! Hang him! Rip his face off! Notre Dame is the single greatest thing to happen to mankind.

Correction

In the Feb. 23 edition of The Observer, in the article "Fight Club," Bengel Boss football Tommy Perri's name was spelled incorrectly. Aside "Stunt Ghost" Burns deflated Frank Ragosta Wednesday night in the 170-pound division of the Bengel Boss. The name was repeated incorrectly in the Feb. 23 edition of The Observer.

A news article in the Feb. 23 edition of The Observer incorrectly referred to a potential change in Club Construction Council funding as a "budget cut." Rather, the group would receive a lower fixed allocation of the higher student activities fee.

The Observer regrets these errors.

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IN BRIEF

Cavanaugh Hall is holding a Dance-A-Thon tonight from 5 p.m. until midnight in the LaFortune Ballroom. The event aims to raise money and awareness for Hannah and Friends.

Haiti Awareness Week concludes Friday with a Haitian-American Mass at 5 p.m. in Pangborn Hall and a Haitian-African Dinner at 6:30 p.m. in CoMo Lounge. Both are free and open to the public. A $5 suggested donation for the dinner will be collected in support of the four Haitian orphans who work with Notre Dame's Haiti Program.

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OFFBEAT

Zoo hog finds companion in antelope

LOS ANGELES — Shortly after his mate went to hog heaven, Willy the Red River porcine awoke a new mutation in what officials are calling one of the oddest pairings at the Los Angeles Zoo.

Willy is a 10-year-old, 187-pound hog and his new mate is a 16-year-old bongo named Nicole, the largest member of the forest antelope family. The couple shares a muddy zoo exhibit where they nap and cuddle together — even nuzzling snout to nose.

"It's adorable. Wherever that bongo is, the hog is usually nearby," zoo spokesman Jason Jacobs said.

Willy's previous mate Ruby died last summer of cancer and within a week the hog turned to Nicole for companionship.

Nicole wasn't interested in Willy at first, but the persistent pig eventually won her over. They now share breakfast, groom each other and take walks together.

Nicole leads, and Willy trails closely behind.

Ill. Governor confused by 'Daily Show' bit

ST. LOUIS -- Gov. Rod Blagojevich wasn't on the joke. Blagojevich says he didn't realize "The Daily Show" was a comedy spoof when he sat down for an interview that ended up poking fun at the sometimes-puzzled Democratic governor.

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Information compiled from the Associated Press.

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QUESTION OF THE DAY: IF YOU COULD BUILD A NEW DORM, WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE?

The Bel-Air Mansion cuz I'm the Fresh Prince.

Combination of Pizza Hut and the White House.

I'd erect the Pangborn mansion just to be The Violence.

LIKE DISNEYLAND.

I hear the Pangborn mansion just to be The Violence.

BOND HALL'S LOBBY WAS DECORATED BY FOURTH YEAR ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS TO MIMIC FAMOUS ROMAN DESTINATIONS FOR THE ANNUAL "EXPO ROMA." THE EXHIBIT SHOWS WORK COMPLETED BY ARCHITECTURE STUDENTS WHILE SPENDING THEIR THIRD YEAR ABROAD IN ROME.

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Professor explains his hurricane engineering

By PETER NINNEMAN
News Writer

The Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning's "Scholars in the Classroom" lecture series kicked off Thursday with a talk by professor of civil engineering and geological sciences Joannes Westerink on "The Impact of Hurricane Katrina and Predicting Storm Surges in Southern Louisiana."

Westerink holds a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and plays a leading national role in understanding and modeling hurricanes, as well as in preventing catastrophic damage like that caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Westerink was one of the principle researchers and scholars who helped develop the Advanced Circulation Model (ADCIRC), which is an authoritative computer modeling system currently used by the U.S. Army and Navy, as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

In the beginning of the lecture Westerink showed aerial shots he took of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. "What we're going to do is actually take a little helicopter ride," Westerink said.

The pictures showed barges pushed up onto land, totally demolished residential areas and the remains of levees.

"Essentially, there's water everywhere," Westerink said.

In 2004, Westerink's ADCIRC system predicted the levees protecting New Orleans could not prevent flooding of the city during a slow-moving, large category three hurricane. ADCIRC was developed at Notre Dame, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Texas at Austin and the University of Oklahoma and uses 256 processors to write and solve nearly six hundred billion algebraic equations, he said. Even so, Westerink said he and his associates are looking to improve it.

"Our goal is to develop accurate, efficient, robust and usable computational models of the coastal ocean that can be applied to real engineering problems," Westerink said. "We have to keep on adding detail to make more accurate models."

Contact Peter Nineman at pinneman@nd.edu.

SMC dorms to be modernized

College plans to revamp interior environment of residence halls

By KATIE KOHLER
News Writer

The notably spacious residence halls rooms Saint Mary's students have enjoyed for years may become even more appealing in the near future. Saint Mary's Vice President for Finance and Administration Laurie Stickelmaier recently attended a conference in Chicago entitled "The 21st Century Project - The Residence Hall of the Future," where she learned ways to improve the conditions of campus residences.

"The main conclusion we came to as a result of intensive team discussions was that residence hall structures will not change that much - it's the environment within and around the structures that will be different," Stickelmaier said.

"We anticipate more of a community-based setting with groups of residences set around common social, eating and retail areas," Stickelmaier said. The building itself is not the only focus of the new halls. "Recycling, effective waste disposal and even internal gardening areas will also be integrated into residential planning," she said.

Technology that is pervasive and virtually invisible is another planning element that received a great deal of attention at the conference. Residence Hall director Michelle Russell said Stickelmaier's attendance at this conference does not indicate Saint Mary's will be building a new residence hall in the near future.

"At this time, the College is focused on the new academic building and continuing the renovation of our current halls," she said. Students are excited about the new academic construction as well. "The new classroom building is supposed to be more technologically advanced that what we have now," said freshman Katie McInerney. Freshman Beth D'Aurora said she liked the idea of the new buildings, as long as Saint Mary's keeps the architecture historic-looking to "preserve the historical aspect of our campus."

Despite the fact the College is not currently anticipating the construction of a new residence hall, Stickelmaier said during the next few years Saint Mary's plans to renovate and remodel existing residence halls one-by-one.

"Meanwhile, we continue our ongoing replacement of carpets and furniture as needed," she said. She also said a new residence hall is not a priority because the College has enough space to comfortably house all students.

"We currently have enough beds to accommodate our student population," Stickelmaier said. "When enrollment increases to the point where we need more rooms on campus, we will use the information gained from the 21st Century Project."

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohler01@saintmarys.edu.
Journalist speaks of experiences in Sudan

By RYAN SYDLIK

In front of a rapt audience and a C-SPAN film crew, author Gabriel Meyer spoke Thursday about his experiences with the faith and determination of the people of the Nuba Mountains in Sudan, which he chronicled in his non-fiction book, "The Gift: War, Faith in Sudan."

Gabriel Meyer spoke Thursday a C-SPAN film crew, author Meyer was moved by the government was launching an anti-Christian campaign. On the 21st."

"In 1992, this area was put off limits by the government to all foreigners who had escaped slavery. I was released."

"In 1992, this area was put off limits for very good reason — the criminalization of Nubian cultural traditions. Meyer, who was crucial in bringing the conflict into the eyes of the Western media, said he "always believed that it is the goal of journalists to bring out what is hidden."

"We were always on the brink of life or death," Meyer said. "We never knew when a tremendous crisis could occur."

Meyer said his book is intended to give rise to the child and the violence from the south meet the Islamic north of Sudan. The mythical "Nubian peoples. The mythical "Nubian peoples. "Nubian peoples."

"It is an irony that the result of the Sudanese conflict — starved to death or bombed in their schools the north. They were always torn out of wars against children, for whom she was a catechist. The catechist was beat- tude and prosperity, he said.

"They have all worked really hard and they are really excited they deserve to have as many people possible listen to their ideas," Lerner said.

"In 1992, this area was put off limits by the government to all foreigners who had escaped slavery."
International News

Roof collapses on Moscow market

MOSCOW — Troubled men and women — many wearing fur hats or scarves against the bitter cold — cradled cell phones to their ears as they tried to find loved ones who were trapped under the snowy rubble after the roof collapsed on one of Moscow's biggest markets.

At least 26 people were killed and 32 injured when the circular building caved in Thursday, and rescuers worked furiously to clear concrete slabs and metal beams to reach survivors. Cris and shouts rang out from the crowd near the derelict Kosmossn market as emergency workers read the names of the injured. One woman pulled a boy, waiting, after hearing her brother was killed.

"I have a cousin there. I've been calling him since Saturday. I can't find him yet," said Tatyana, a young man from Azerbaijan.

Five Palestinians killed in West Bank

BANGKOK — Gunmen killed five Palestinians, including 10 people living in three states and three provinces, who they say were dealing crack cocaine and selling the parts for use in transplants.

The three bodies were taken to the Al Amiri Martyrs' Briggers — a violent offshoot of Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah Party — during a shootout to the birth in the West Bank.

The deaths brought to eight the number of Palestinians killed by army force since the Israeli peace forces Monday. More than 50 have been blown to bits or staged and rubber-coated steel pellets, Palestinian hospital officials said. The military said 15 fugitives have been arrested.

National News

New Orleans still far from whole

NEW ORLEANS — Six months have passed since Katrina hit the city. For a half a year, people have counted the dead tentatively, 1,800 in Louisiana and 231 in Mississippi, and struggled mightily to keep their city afloat among the string.

A slurred-down Muriel Gras is in session to its success; a tour of the devastation that remains is testament to how far they have to go. Hurricane Katrina destroyed 363 million cubic yards of debris in Louisiana, 25 times as much as the ruins of the World Trade Center. The superdome was full of superdome more than 13 times. Of that, only 36 million cubic yards, a bit more than half — has been removed.

Four charged in human tissue case

NEW YORK — The owner of a biomedical supply house was charged along with three other men Thursday with secretly carving up corpses and selling the parts for use in transplants across the country.

The case was "like something out of a cheap horror movie," Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes said.

Prosecutors said the defendants obtained the bodies from funeral parlors in three states and forged death certificates and organ donor consent forms to make it look as if the bones, skin, tendons, heart valves and other tissue were legally removed. The defendants made millions of dollars from the scheme, prosecutors said.

Local News

Mom, son arrested on crack charges

INDIANAPOLIS — Indianapolis police have arrested a woman and her 10-year-old son who they say were dealing crack cocaine from a Near Eastside house. The 34-year-old mother of three Cibols' home in the 100 block of New York Street at about 1 a.m. Wednesday. The 16-year-old son in contact her drug dealing efforts," Detective Stephen Krieger said in a police report.

Law possibly ignored in port deal

WASHINGTON — The senior Democrat on the Senate Armed Services Committee asked in a letter Thursday why the Bush administration Thursday of ignoring a law by refusing to extend an investigation of a United Arab Emirates company's takeover of significant U.S. port concessions.

Clashing with a Treasury Department official on a decision to calm a political uproar, Sen. Carl Levin said the law has language specifically requiring a longer review than the one that an interagency committee conducted, if a business deal could affect national security.

"Is there not one agency in this government that believes this takeover could affect the national security of the United States?" the Michigan Democrat asked at a committee briefing. Chairman John Warner R-Va., in a very unusual procedure on Capitol Hill, allowed reporters to question the administration witnesses.

The Treasury official, Deputy Secretary Robert Kimmitt, and officials from other agencies said a multiparty group spent three months reviewing the port deal and said that all concerns about security were satisfied.

"We're not aware of a single national security concern raised recently that was not part of the three-month review, Kimmitt said.

Levin insisted that the law that specifically said that any such review should be lengthened by 45 days if it could have an impact on national security.

"I think it's just hours before the hearing, President Bush declared that "people don't need to worry about security" in the deal.

Levin, raising his voice at the briefing, told Kimmitt, "If you want the law changed, come to Congress and change it but don't ignore it."
In this atomic era, it is irrational any longer to think of war as an apt means to vindicate violated rights, Gumbleton said, quoting John XXIII.

This irrationality, he said, means there must be a “whole new attitude toward war.” The Church’s official stance was further developed in John Paul II’s 1993 encyclical “Centesimus Annus,” where the Pope said he repeated the cry, “No — never again war,” after watching the Persian Gulf War unfold.

“To me, this [response] sums it up,” Gumbleton said. In the essay, Gumbleton said John Paul II also gave the “very compelling reasons” against war — the first being war “destroys the lives of innocent people.”

“Since World War II, every war has brought about the death of ever-larger numbers of non-combatants,” said Gumbleton, who attributed this to the spread of total war.

Civilian deaths have been multiplied exponentially by the use of nuclear weapons, Gumbleton said, discussing unbridled bloodshed, suffering, and the “horrible birth defects.”

“I visited hospitals in Basra and I saw with my own eyes some of these things I’ve described,” he said. His voice chiseled to a murmur. “The suffering and tragedy is incomprehensible.”

“Power and passion,” John Paul II's second argument against war outlined in the encyclical is war “throws into upheaval the lives of those who do the killing.”

He quoted Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who served in Vietnam and was taken as a prisoner of war. “I hated my enemy even before I met him, captive because hate sustained me in my devotion to their complete destruction.”

“Listen to what he’s saying,” Gumbleton said. “He hated them — not after they shot him down, not after the six and a half years [McCain spent] in prison.”

“What would that do to us? We’re made in the image of God. . . .”

The sentiment is echoed in the Church-war relationship, Gumbleton said, was the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. The “very tense time” influence on the Church, Gumbleton said, to produce an encyclical entitled “Pacem in Terris,” or Peace on Earth.

“Rebecca’s Revival: Creating Black Christianinity in the Atlantic World” (Harvard, 2005)

"We have to bring about dramatic change in the world in which we live, where some people have so much and so many people have so little,” he said. “We must transform our world with the fascinating power of love.”

But not everyone in the audience was sold on the message. Freshman Jon Heintz asked Gumbleton several questions about what the United States could have done differently in handling Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait.

Gumbleton said it all came down to a lack of adequate directed efforts by the United States to prevent the war.

“Peace requires genuine, respectful negotiation, and it can work,” he said. “The largest nation in the world facing with the largest army in the world — that’s negotiation. That’s intimidation.”

Gumbleton was the second speaker in this spring’s Catholic Think Tank lecture series, a student government activity aimed at bringing prominent Catholics to campus.

William Pryor, Jr., U.S. Circuit Judge for the 11th Coast of Appeals, spoke Jan. 24 in the first installment of the series.

Contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu

Joseph Murphy
President
PSA

Joe Murphy
President
PSA

There were tons of police everywhere blocking off the street and surrounding area,” Murphy said. Notre Dame College Republicans co-president Jonathan Klinger said instead of being a financial burden, the event benefited the area economically.

“The event . . . brought in hundreds of thousands of dollars to the community — not only to Mishawaka and South Bend — but to Resond and Niles as well through hotel bookings and entertainment for the hundreds of extra people that tweet in for the community for the event,” he said.

The presidential visit was a “terrific experience,” Klinger said that “will be remembered for years come.” The inconveniences of a “few blocked roads” and a “day’s worth of overtime for local area police officers” were worth a visit by a two-term president, he said.

Klinger said he did not believe the PSA objected out of concern for the location in Michiana, but rather “out of the desire to take a cheap shot at a U.S. president with whom the organization happens to disagree.”

Even if the PSA objected to the visit on purely economic grounds, for consistency’s sake they should argue against any community which hopes to host the Olympic Games or an international peace conference because of the cost to the taxpayer,” he said.

Bethel is an evangelical Christian college located in Mishawaka with 1,971 students.

The appearance marks the president’s seventh visit to Michiana in seven years.

Contact Katie Perry at kpeery5@nd.edu

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Inflation concerns Wall Street

Volcom produces disappointing earnings as investors collect profits; oil prices drop

NEW YORK — Wall Street slid lower Thursday, with inflation concerns and a disappointing earnings report from Volcom Inc. prompting investors to collect profits. A drop in oil prices failed to mitigate the losses.

Inventories, growing as the latest unemployment figures showed strength in the labor market, first-time jobless claims fell by 20,000 from the previous week to 278,000 — a far sharper drop than economists had expected.

While a strong labor market is generally good news, Wall Street remains concerned that the additional buying power the workers with steady employment could push prices higher and spark inflation, prompting the Federal Reserve to keep hiking interest rates.

Still, investors were pleased with a drop in oil prices, which fell below $60 a barrel at one point after the Energy Department reported a rise in crude oil stocks. A barrel of light crude settled at $60.54, down 57 cents, on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

"Certainly the move in oil prices is good, and the market certainly perked up after that inventory report," said Peter Cardillo, chief strategist and senior vice president at S.W. Bach & Co.

"For the intermediate term, there doesn't seem to be a supply-demand problem out there. But you don't know what that'll change." The Dow Jones industrial average fell 67.95, or 0.61 percent, to 11,069.22.

Broaden stock fluctuations also fell. The Standard & Poor's 500 index dropped 4.88, or 0.28 percent, to 1,693.31, and the Nasdaq composite index dropped 3.85, or 0.17 percent, to 2,279.05.

Bonds fell, with the yield on the 10-year Treasury note climbing to 4.56 percent from 4.43 percent late Wednesday. The dollar was flat Thursday, with the euro sliding against other major currencies. While gold prices rose.

Stocks jumped to fresh 4 1/2-year highs over the past few weeks as strength in the economy encouraged investors. Yet concerns remain, including whether the Federal Reserve's interest rate hikes will cut off economic growth. With little news Thursday to keep momentum alive and uncertainty about the state of the economy later in the year, profit-taking ate into the rally.

"It's very difficult for investors to extrapolate anything from these short-term moves in the market," said Christopher Conkley, chief investment officer at Evergreen Investments. "Don't get too excited about days like yesterday, and don't get too excited about days like today, either."

In its first earnings report since spinning off CBS Corp, Volcom Inc said its fourth-quarter profits fell due to poor performance at its Paramount studio arm as well as one-time charges related to the company's reorganization. Volcom fell 96 cents to $41.

Home builder Toll Brothers Inc. rose $1.03 to $33.54 after the company said fourth-quarter profits jumped 49 percent and that its backlog of building projects rose 22 percent at the end of the quarter. However, the number of new contracts fell 21 percent, raising new concerns about a softening housing market.

Clothing retailer Limited Brands Inc said Wednesday its fourth-quarter earnings climbed 36 percent on strong sales at its Victoria's Secret stores and a continuing turnaround at its Express stores. Limited Brands, which beat Wall Street forecasts, said profits were up 8 cents a share, or 2.9 percent to $24.09.

Mortgage broker Fannie Mae jumped $1.23 to $57.14 after investors implicated the company's former chief executive and chief financial officer for its $11 billion accounting scandal. Investors showed relief that no current executives were named in the investigation.

Average family income rates falling

WASHINGTON — An extensive investigation of embattled Fannie Mae points to its former finance chief and controller as mainly responsible for the accounting failures that are the mortgage giant now struggling to recover from an $11 billion scandal, said a report released Thursday.

The report by a team of investigators led by former Sen. Warren Rudman of New Hampshire also found that former finance chief and CEO Franklin Raines, while not sharing direct responsibility, contributed to a culture of arrogance at the government-sponsored company. The report comes about 17 months after the revelation that federal regulators had discovered violations of accounting rules and earnings manipulation by the company to meet Wall Street targets.

Average family incomes, after adjusting for inflation, fell to $46,700 in 2004, a drop of 2.3 percent when compared with 2001. That was the weakest showing since a decline of 1.6 percent from 1989 to 1992, a period that also covered a recession.

The average incomes had soared by 11.3 percent in the 1998-2001 period and 12.3 percent from 1996 to 1998 as the country enjoyed the longest economic expansion in history.

The median family income, the point where half the families made more and half made less, rose a tiny 1.6 percent to $43,200 in 2004 compared with 2001.

Economists said the weakness in the most recent period was understandable given the loss of 2.7 million jobs from early 2001 through August of 2003, when the country was struggling with sizable layoffs caused by the recession, the terrorist attacks and corporate accounting scandals.

The weak income and the stock market decline in the early part of the decade, which wiped out $7 trillion of buying power that comes with paper wealth, had an adverse impact on family balance sheets.

Net worth, the difference between assets and liabilities such as loans, fell by 6.3 percent in the 2001-2004 period to an average of $484,200, after adjusting for inflation. That gain was far below the huge increases of 25.6 percent from 1995 to 1998 and 24.7 percent from 1996 to 2001, increases that were fueled by soaring stock prices.
Primrose continued from page 1

the monologues, Nussbaum said at its core, sexuality is simply "a human issue." She expressed uncertainty about how the campus would react to her production. "I hope that, if anything, I have no idea. I hope people come with open minds and hearts. I think it's different from what they've seen before."

Approaching controversial issues with an open mind is essential to intelligent discourse, Nussbaum says. "I don't have an agenda about what is the right way to live your life," she said. "I think the right way to live is to think seriously about it and that's what the play encourages people to do."

Throughout the production's development, Nussbaum received writing advising from theologian Karen Langley and staging advising from theology department chair John Cavallini.

Contact Karen Langley at klangley@nd.edu

Cardile continued from page 1

struck by a car "while walking in the Haitian diet. However, nutrients to salt, a key ingredient of salt. A rusted box spring. One taped-over window."

At first, the debris comes in huts: A small pile of siding. A rusted box spring. One taped-up refrigerator. At first, you find them in neat piles, in the front yard or outside on the curb. There's still a semblance of order. But keep going. It gets worse.

You pass an elegant sofa, the kind you might imagine a grand dame reclining in, sipping her mint julep. It is lodged in the middle of an intersection. A few miles farther, the innards of rotting houses spilling out on both sides of the road.

Six months have passed since Katrina ravaged this city. For a half a year, its people have counted the dead (officially, 1,080 in Louisiana and 231 in Mississippi) and struggled mightily to keep their city among the living.

A slimmed-down Mardi Gras is testament to their success: a tour of the devastation that remains is testament to how far they have to go.

Hurricane Katrina created an estimated 60.1 million cubic yards of debris in Louisiana, 25 times as much as the ruins of the World Trade Center and enough to fill the Superdome more than 13 times. Of the only 32 million cubic yards — a hit more than half — has been removed. Meanwhile, there are just under 2,000 people listed as missing. Some are not missing at all — they turned up, and their families never notified authorities. Hundreds of others, though, were very likely washed into the Gulf of Mexico, swept away by Lake Pontchartrain or alligator-infested swamps, according to Dr. Louis Cataldie, Louisiana's medical examiner. Still more may be buried in the rubble.

At a hurricane morgue near Baton Rouge, 86 bodies remain unidentified. State officials are trying to reach relatives for another 24 who've been identified but have no place to go.

Mayor Ray Nagin says a comparison to New York City should be a favorable one. "Let me remind you that after 9/11 in New York, it took them six to eight months to get out of the fog of what happened to them. And to date, there's still a big hole in the ground. So when I look at everything that's going on, I think we're right on schedule," he said.

Indeed, in the French Quarter and on St. Charles Avenue, on Magazine Street and in the plantation-style mansions of Uptown, life has moved on, though protective blue tarps that serve as roofs for many are a constant reminder of the work left to be done.

In the Quarter, uber chef Paul Prudhomme is blackening his signature redfish again. Bourbon House is serving oysters, and Antoine's, the 166-year-old dining icon, is dishing up plates of Pompano Pointchartrain with slices of tart lemon.

Yet even here, Katrina has left her mark. All three restaurants are short-handed. Antoine's, which lost its $200,000 wine collection in the storm, is shifting its wine list away from French staples, embracing New World wines instead. And look closely at the brass hand playing outside Prudhomme's K-Paul's Louisiana Kitchen: The golden sheen on the tuba is gone, lost in the deluge at the musician's house.

But in the flood zone, the destruction is not so subtle. Leave the French Quarter on Rampart and head east, toward the devastated Ninth and Lower Ninth wards and East New Orleans.

All around are the carcasses of flooded houses, Katrina laid waste to more than 215,000 homes. Many are abandoned, their doors wide open.
WASHINGTON — American families who own their homes have enjoyed strong gains in home values in recent years, but the other parts of their balance sheets haven’t been doing as well.

A bursting stock market bubble at the beginning of the decade, a recession and a prolonged period of job losses have all taken their toll.

Average incomes, which had been posting double-digit gains during the boom of the 1990s, actually fell, after adjusting for inflation, in 2004 when compared with 2001, the Federal Reserve said Thursday.

And Americans’ net worth, despite the gain in home prices, rose at the smallest rate in a decade during the 2001-04 period. The central bank’s “Survey of Consumer Finances,” a comprehensive look at household balance sheets, depicted in Monday’s report to blast President Bush’s economic policies, pointing out the economic troubles in history.

The median family income, the point where half the families made more and half made less, rose by 6.3 percent in the 2001-04 period to an average of $44,820, after adjusting for inflation. The increase was far below the huge increases of 25.6 percent from 1995 to 1998 and 28.7 percent from 1998 to 2001, increases that were fueled by soaring stock prices.

The 2001-04 performance was the worst since net worth actually declined by 9.9 percent in the 1989-92 period.

“Clearly, the gains in wealth were the biggest share of total debt, home purchases were by far the most sizable except for the fact that homeowners have enjoyed big gains in the value of their homes in recent years.

The gap between the wealthy and other income groups widened during the period. The top 10 percent of households saw their net worth rise by 6.1 percent to an average of $3.11 million, while the bottom 25 percent suffered a decline from a net worth in which they assets equaled their liabilities in 2001 to owning $1,400 more than their total assets in 2004.

“This is the continuing story of the rich getting richer,” said David Wyss, chief economist at Standard & Poor’s in New York.

“This is understandable given the slowdown in the accumulation of net worth would have been signaling that investors burned by plunging stock prices in the decade’s early years have been leery about getting back into the market. The share of Americans’ financial assets invested in stocks dipped to 17.6 percent in 2004, down from 21.7 percent in 2001. But reflecting the housing boom, the share of assets made up by home ownership rose to 50.3 percent in 2004, compared with 46.9 percent in 2001.

The Fed survey found that debts as a percent of total assets rose to 15 percent in 2004, up from 12.1 percent in 2001. Mortgages to finance home purchases were by far the biggest share of total debt at 75.2 percent in 2004, unchanged from the 2001 level.

There was concern that family incomes had been squeezed as the cost of financing their debts increases along with rising interest rates. While surging home values have supported consumer spending in recent years, analysts worry about the economic impact if, as expected, the home price surge begins to slow this year.
THE OBSERVER

The Observer is the independent, daily newspaper published in print and online by the students of the University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College. Editorial content, including advertisements, is not governed by the policies of the administration of either institution. The Observer reserves the right to edit advertisements based on content.

Viewpoint

Slightly more than two years ago, the Saint Mary’s Board of Trustees announced Carol Mooney as the 11th president of the College, and as the trustees wrap up their meetings on campus today they have every reason to be proud of that decision.

With an English Literature degree from Saint Mary’s, a law degree from Notre Dame and a distinguished administrative career, Mooney might have seemed like the shoo-in candidate for tradition-oriented Saint Mary’s, and perhaps she was. Nevertheless, Mooney walked into LeMans Hall carrying strong ideas for inspiring growth at the College and has since proved she has the leadership capabilities to see them through.

During a year with an unusually small first year class, Mooney told audiences attending her Jan. 17, 2005 inauguration weekend that increasing and stabilizing enrollment at Saint Mary’s would be a top priority. Mooney created the position of Vice President for Enrollment Management and hired Diao Meyer to head recruiting efforts. While it is much too early to declare the campaign over, the Office of Admissions has at least proven progress with a 22 percent increase in applications received thus far this year, the most at Saint Mary’s in 17 years.

Mooney also said she wanted to stabilize Saint Mary’s finances by doubling the College’s $100,000 endowment fund and therefore rendering it less dependent on tuition. As promised, Mooney has traveled extensively to meet with friends and alumni of the College and as of Monday the endowment stood at $187.5 million. In addition, the president is close to securing the funds needed to break ground on a new academic building, scheduled for this fall.

One recurring and controversial topic of discussion at Saint Mary’s since Mooney’s arrival has been diversity, and Mooney made it clear she is committed to diversifying not only the College’s student body but also its faculty and staff. Mooney implemented a policy requiring that a member of a traditionally underrepresented ethnic group be among the final pool of candidates for any position at Saint Mary’s, and if this aim is not fulfilled then it must be explained in writing. Mooney has demonstrated that she is on the same page as Mooney, attending a Student Diversity Board (SDB) forum and speaking frankly about the need for the institution to attract and retain minority students.

Furthermore, the president is highly regarded by the student body. Her Saint Mary’s diploma and her successful career earned her their respect, but her visibility at student performances and hall events earned her their affection.

Having defined herself as a driven leader, Mooney must now act on similar principles to further growth at the College.

While Saint Mary’s rejoiced this past month when two of its vice presidents were hired to head other institutions, the announcement nevertheless meant serious holes in the Saint Mary’s administration. Linda Timm, Vice President of Student Affairs and newly appointed President of Mount Mary College in Milwaukee, Wis., has been at the College for 11 years and has built close working relationships with student government officers. Vice President and Dean of Faculty Pat White, who will take the helm at Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Ind., brought millions of dollars in grants to the College. Mooney must hire replacements who will live up to the example set by Timm and White and who believe in the value of a liberal arts education.

In her early months, Mooney stated she would like to see the College break into the top 50 nationally-recognized liberal arts colleges. Mooney should strive to elevate the academic standards and reputation of Saint Mary’s as a liberal arts institution while respecting its burgeoning nursing and education programs.

Another aspect of the school that deserves the president’s attention is athletics. On Tuesday Saint Mary’s hosted its first-ever MIAA tournament basketball game. Belles basketball, soccer and cross country had their best seasons in the history of the programs this year. If the athletic department can produce results on a tight budget with minimal facilities, imagine what it could do with generous financial and administrative support.

The progress Mooney has initiated at Saint Mary’s is a tangible testament to her abilities as a leader. Her performances during the last two years has earned her the admiration of her colleagues and the student body. It is now up to the president to feed that momentum and drive Saint Mary’s into the future.

EDITORIAL CARTOON

“JUST LIKE THAT? YOU’RE GOING TO WEAN YOURSELF OFF OIL, AND AFTER ALL I’VE DONE FOR YOU!”

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“All that we are is the result of what we have thought.”

Siddhartha Gautama

philosopher and religious leader
This time of year one often overhears people discussing what kinds of things they are giving up for Lent. Of course you have the little kids giving up something or other and there are also adults who wish to begin with such a plan. Then there is the kind of people who happen to hear the word ‘Lent’ somewhere and to change, checked all our publicity for the event and to make it as successful as possible. To have spaces to discuss our cause or critique. We felt that heterosexual male desire is simply a reflection of one’s sexual identity. Instead, Doty argues, queer people have always been called “The Vagina Monologues,” and the protagonist of “The Vagina Monologues” was that “ queer” was too infused into the male gaze to be celebratory. (One of the organizers asked whether the administration would allow us to list the four organizers of “The Asian Film Festival because a) I was afraid I would “go” Asian. Afterwards, b) I felt that the Buddhist viewpoint of the films would conflict with my freedom to choose quality films from a culture other than my own. The survey ended with a question about whether the festival should be held again and funded by the administration. c) I will give up alcohol for 40 days (for you alcoholics, I’ll believe this when I see it). In that same spirit, though perhaps not surprisingly, people filled them out — and to poke fun at some of the things that we read in the surveys. For Doty, queer is distinct from gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered identities. Queer can function as a shorthand for those identities but is not limited to or simply a reflection of one’s sexual identity. Instead, Doty argues, queer can be a flexible subject position for the expression of all sorts of non-, anti-, and contra-straight cultural production and reception. And, because people are straight, some queer moments, like the straight male athlete who finds himself praying for the first time when ambition and positive thinking is you are praying for, if you have a little faith then you can trust that everything will be okay. Take it from a pessimist, when things seem hopeless there is no greater comfort than knowing that you’ ve got God on your side. We should not be shy about offering that you’ ve got God on your side. We should not be shy about offering
Arts Spotlight

**The Merchant of Venice**

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Assistant Scene Editor

The Actors From the London Stage will perform William Shakespeare’s “The Merchant of Venice” this weekend in the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts (DPAC). The production will feature the acting talents of Christopher Staines, Louise Yates, Gregory Cox, Isabel Pollen and Tim Hardy.

The production will feature the acting talents of Christopher Staines, Louise Yates, Gregory Cox, Isabel Pollen and Tim Hardy.

The Actors From the London Stage are in its 30th year, making it one of the oldest established touring Shakespeare groups in the world. The group’s repertoire consists of semi-annually, with stops at over a dozen venues throughout the United States and over 300 other venues internationally. In previous years, the troupe has performed “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” “Romeo and Juliet,” “Hamlet,” “Othello” and “The Merchant of Venice,” is one of the Bard’s most controversial plays. Described as “a tale of betrayal and revenge,” though nominally one of Shakespeare’s comedies, it is also a tragic. The two main characters — Bassanio and Antonio and Shylock as they plot and scheme over the 3,000 ducats. The moneylender Shylock agrees to the loan on the condition that if the loan is not repaid in three months, he gets to exact a pound of flesh from Antonio.

The storyline of “Ultimate Avengers: The Movie.” is still one of the Marvel world, including the Hulk and Iron Man, in the new straight-to-DVD feature, “Ultimate Avengers: The Movie.”

The Captain’s patriotic get-up practically bleeds America. In fact, his red-white-and-blue wardrobe appears to have been fashioned by FOX News’ graphics designer. Fortunately, Captain America has at least managed to shed the tufts of bald eagle feathers that adorned his temples in the comic book. He still looks ready for a cameo appearance during the opening montage of the Colbert Report.

The main problem with the Avengers is that the team is made up of B-list Marvel superheroes, which could explain the film being animated rather than shot as live-action, or perhaps more tellingly, its straight-to-DVD release.

The members of the Avengers range from failed live-action movie characters (the Incredible Hulk) to the criminally underappreciated (Iron Man), to the just plain bizarre (Thor). Believing himself to be the Norse god of thunder, Thor speaks softly but carries an absolutely massive hammer, conveniently allowing him to play whack-a-mole on bad guys with impunity. Watching Thor in action might be a soundtrack by MC Hammer — evidently simply “can’t touch this” when it’s “hammer time.”

The rest of the squad is rounded out by various flotsam and jetsam from the Marvel world floating around (Giant Man exactly what it sounds like), the Wasp and the Black Widow. Unlike some of Man Lee’s more successful brainchildren, such as Spider-Man or the X-Men, the common thread here is that all of these superheroes are chronic underachievers in terms of fan reaction.

The Marvel animation team has done a splendid job here, as the characters are all very well rendered. Overall, the film has a very polished aesthetic. Unfortunately, the film also features dialogue clunkier than Iron Man’s tin suit and the general interaction between its characters is painful at best. Like Captain America battling aliens, the film does its best when it stays on the move. When it stops between action scenes to attempt an appeal to emotion, it falls flat on its face.

The plot of the movie is also check-full of obscure references that only the most ardent of comic-book fans will appreciate, such as a cameo appearance by Bucky (Captain America’s sidekick of antitypia) and a reference to Giant Man’s previous status as Ant-Man. In addition, the film’s penchant for the bizarre — for example, when we are first introduced to Thor, he is moonlighting as an environmental activist trying to “save the whales” — renders the entire experience somewhat an exercise in one’s ability to suspend disbelief, even for a superhero movie.

Despite its flaws, “Ultimate Avengers: The Movie” is still fun, if mindless, watch. The film may not move anyone to don spandex and become a caped crusader, but it may be enough to make college students wax nostalgic about childhood Saturday mornings spent glued to their television screens.

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrew1@nd.edu
Allen’s best charms with wit by BRIAN DOXTADER Assistant Scene Editor

“Annie Hall” is probably writer-director Woody Allen’s best film and — considering the overall quality of the prolific comedian’s output — that says a lot.

As funny and insightful as anything remotely related to the tribulations of a relationship, “Annie Hall” was Allen’s biggest critical success and one of his highest commercial successes, captivating the comedic tastes of an entire generation.

Though he may have made subsequent films almost as good as “Annie Hall,” he would never again make a film as archetypal and as reflective of its era. Like many great pictures, this one stands both firmly within its time and yet still manages to somehow transcend those same origins.

The small, low-budget film won a boatload of awards, including the New York Film Critics Circle Award and the 1977 Best Picture Academy Award, beating out another small, low-budget film called “Star Wars.” It will be screened this weekend in the Browning Cinema of the Center for the Performing Arts (DPAC) as part of the Spring Arts Festival.

“Annie Hall” follows Aly Singer (Allen), a comedian who becomes involved in a relationship with the folk singer Tony Roberts, who becomes Alvy Singer (Woody Allen) and won an Oscar for her role in the film. It examines their relationship with all the uncertainty, anxiety and problems that come with it.

Along the way, both Singer and Hall work on their careers, with Hall finally getting a break with manager Tony Lacey (played wonderfully effervescent Diane Keaton, who won an Oscar for her role in the film). The deteriorating and ultimate demise of Singer and Hall’s relationship is neither mawkish nor overly sentimental. Most of this is due to the absolutely brilliant script, which is as witty as the Marx Bros. and as clever as a Wilder comedy.

“Annie Hall” is filled with classic and enduring moments in particular, a scene in which Hall and Singer stumble through their first meeting (which contrasts what the characters say with what they actually think) and a scene in which Annie’s spirit leaves her body and talks to Alvy during sex. The film is filled with funny touches throughout its relatively brief 93 minutes.

In every way, “Annie Hall” is a superior film — its acting, directing and writing aspects are all impressive. Allen, himself a great cinephile, takes advantage of the medium, using subtle (and some not-so-subtle) cinematic tricks to weave his story. Voice-over narration, direct addresses and odd cuts keep the film from feeling too “stingy” and numerous cinematic references — particularly, a great scene involving a snobbish critic and the films of Federico Fellini — are scattered throughout.

Allen, whose latest film “Match Point” opened last year to critical acclaim and a Best Original Screenplay nod, is still an active writer and director. “Annie Hall” was his first real masterpiece, though he would follow it up with several other classic films, including 1979’s “Manhattan,” 1986’s “Hannah and Her Sisters” and 1989’s “Crimes and Misdemeanors.”

Yet “Annie Hall” remains Allen’s finest film and will likely continue to hold that position. Its insights are bold and funny, but ring out with the kind of truth that makes it universal and endearing.

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtade@nd.edu
Hofstra defeats No. 25 George Mason to tie Duke for second longest home win streak in the nation at 19 games

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Pick. Pass. Layup. Villanova's winning baseline jumper over Cincinnati's Layup. Villanova's winning basket came just as good as it could have.

Nothing else did.

Randy Foye had 25 points and Dante Cunningham scored off an inbounds play with 3.2 seconds left, leading No. 25 Villanova to its 11th straight win Thursday night, 74-72 over Cincinnati.

The Wildcats (22-2, 12-1) wasted a 12-point lead down the stretch before pulling out a win that kept them in control of the Big East and gave them a taste of what comes next.

Playing with a No. 2 ranking for the first time in 10 years, Villanova also extended a few notable streaks. The Wildcats matched the best start in school history, tying with the 1975-76 team for the most wins in school history, set in 1937-38 — and set a school record with their 11th straight win in the Big East.

"Teams play at another level against us, and we're learning to handle that," coach Jay Wright said.

They had to fight off the temptation to look past this one. The Wildcats go to Connecticut on Sunday and then they have a third-ranked Huskies, the team that beat them in the Big East tournament, staying close in the next two games.

"Cincinnati plays as hard as any team in the Big East, and they can really stretch us on any team in the Big East," Wright said. "We're going to see the same thing, but we've got games like that we set up for perfect preparation."

On the other side, this one meant a lot to Cincinnati (18-10, 7-7), which won seven in a row and eight in a row after forward Armein Hill lost his job for a team infraction on Jan. 9. Four wins in the last six games put the Bearcats back into the NCAA tournament hunt.

A victory over Villanova — the second-ranked Wildcats have held the Bearcats together ever since they won their ninth straight 

Villanova holds on to beat Cincinnati, 74-72

Hofstra guard Randy Foye drives past Cincinnati forward Devan Downey in the Wildcats' 74-72 win Thursday, as forward Dante Cunningham hits a layup with 3.2 seconds left for the victory.

The Observer  ♦ CLASSIFIEDS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2006

NCAA Men's Basketball

Hofstra defeats No. 25 George Mason to tie Duke for second longest home win streak in the nation at 19 games

Villanova holds on to beat Cincinnati, 74-72

Hofstra guard Randy Foye drives past Cincinnati forward Devan Downey in the Wildcats' 74-72 win Thursday, as forward Dante Cunningham hits a layup with 3.2 seconds left for the victory.

The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit classifieds.

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PGA

Tiger Woods hits his bunker shot on the 18th hole to set up his match-winning birdie putt against Robert Allenby in the second round of the Accenture World Golf Championship Thursday.

Woods squeaks by with birdie on 18

Associated Press

CARLSBAD, Calif. — Tiger Woods didn't remove his cap and shake hands on the 10th green Thursday. This time, he was lucky to be leading.

One day after he shattered the tournament record for the shortest match, Woods had to go the distance against Robert Allenby, squeezing by with a 7-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to advance into the third round of the Match Play Championship.

"I'm advancing," Woods said. "That's a good thing." Ultimately, that's all that matters in this most fickle golf tournament, which was reduced to 16 players after another wild day of dramatic shots and unlikely rallies.

Woods knew that his 9-and-8 victory in the opening round against Stephen Ames meant nothing when he teed off against Allenby. That much was clear to everyone else when he bogeyed three of the first five holes.

"That's the beauty of match play," Woods said. "Start again. What you did yesterday is no consequence for what you're going to do today. Whether it was a good day or a bad day, your opponent is right in front of you."

Allenby, the first player to sweep Australia's three majors, stayed in front of him all day. All square coming to the last hole, it turned into a battle of 3-woods from 246 yards away. Woods went left, away from the flag, into a bunker. Allenby went right, short-sidestepping and catching a bad lie in trapped rough.

"At least I made it interesting," he said. Even more interesting is how the Accenture Match Play Championship was shaping up after two days, with six of the top eight seeds still alive for the $1.3 million payday Sunday. It's the first time in the eight-year history of this tournament that so many top seeds advanced through two rounds.

Vijay Singh is among them, a minor surprise even as the No. 2 seed. He had never advanced beyond the second round in seven previous attempts, overcoming a slow start to beat Miguel Angel Jimenez.

Third-seeded Retief Goosen also won, but not before Ben Crane made a hole-in-one on the 18th hole to make him sweat.

IN BRIEF

Soriano not yet ready to play outfield for Nationals

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Alfonso Soriano still isn't ready to commit to playing outfield for the Washington Nationals, so a resolution will have to wait until after the World Baseball Classic.

A two-hour meeting with team officials Thursday failed to produce a breakthrough, and the parties essentially agreed to put off the problem.

"We've been pretty clear about being unclear," general manager Jim Bowden said. "Let's not get ahead of ourselves."

The Canadians' third shutout loss in four games assured them of a 13th gold-less Olympics in the last 14 Winter games. The defending gold medalists began returning to their NHL teams Thursday with only a nasty stain on captain Joe Sakic's right cheek for show for nine mostly miserable days in Italy.

Autistic teen scores 20 points in high school game

GREECE, N.Y. — Jason McElwain had done everything he was asked to do for the Greece Athena High School basketball team — keep the stats, run the clock, hand out water bottles. That all changed last week for the team manager in the final home game of the season. The 17-year-old senior, who is autistic and usually sits on the bench in a white shirt and black tie, put on a uniform and entered the game with his team way ahead.

"I ended my career on the right note," he told The Associated Press by phone Thursday. "I was really hotter than a pistol!"

In recent days, McElwain's phone has hardly stopped ringing.

Women's NCAA Basketball Big East Conference

Women's NCAA Basketball Big East Conference

around the dial

NBA

Nets at Knicks 8 p.m., ESPN

Lakers at Clippers 10:30 p.m., ESPN

PGA Tour

WGC-Accent

Match Play Championship, 2 p.m., ESPN

Chrysler Classic, 6 p.m., USA
FENCING

Irish to host Midwest Fencing Conference Championship

ND welcomes the nation's best teams to the JACC as the Irish attempt to win title for the first time since 2002

By JACK THORNTON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will host the Midwest Fencing Conference Championship (MFCC) this Saturday and Sunday at the Joyce Center Fieldhouse, and the Irish will be looking to win the event for the first time in four years.

Sixteen teams will compete, including women's No. 6 Northwestern, the national champion, No. 1 women's No. 10) and regional powerhouse Wayne State.

Notre Dame has not won the event since 2002, even though it has always been held at the Joyce Center.

"It's funny," Irish senior Jack Goetz said. "We used to win it every year, through most of the '90s and early 2000s, and 2003 was the first time we lost in like a decade."

The Irish won the national championship in 2003, so losing the MFCC that year was not exactly a death blow.

"I feel like we've been struggling to claim the title, but as far as an indicator as to whether we'll win the national championship... it's hard to say," Goetz said.

The MFCC is more or less a tune-up for the Midwest regional pow erhouse Wayne State.

"If we lose the last time we fenced them, and let's just say I won't be the first to admit that we lost to Northeastern this weekend." Goetz said.

"I think it does help to have some people come out and cheer... I know it means a lot for me to have my friends come out and cheer, so it does help a bit," Goetz said.

Contact Jack Thornton at jthornto@nd.edu

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**MEN'S LACROSSE**

**Irish face test in first game**

ND starts its season off in showdown with Penn State at Loftus

By TIM DOUGHERTY

No. 10 Notre Dame opens the season this weekend by welcoming No. 11 Penn State to the Loftus Center Sunday at 1 p.m.

In the first test of a 2006 beleaguered high expectations, the Irish are antsy to get started after competing against each other in practice.

"You can look at it in everyone's eyes," Irish co-captain defenseman D.J. Driscoll said. "We're ready to heat up on someone else."

Though the game against the Nittany Lions offers new opposition, they are a familiar foe for the Irish. Notre Dame has opened up indoors against Penn State the last eight years, which Irish coach Kevin Corrigan says has been by design. Though South Bend and State College, Penn., offer frigid lacrosse weather in February, Corrigan says that both teams are the only in the country to have indoor fields with guaranteed availability this early in the season.

In that time span, Notre Dame has taken six of eight contests against Penn State, including a 14-6 victory in State College last season when the Irish finished 7-4 and narrowly missed an invitation to the NCAA Tournament.

As the Irish start their run to end a four-year tournament drought, Corrigan looks at the 2006 Penn State team apart from that of 2005.

"We certainly know some of their personnel, but there are a lot that we don't know," Corrigan said. "It's their first game, too, and there's a lot we'll have to learn about them over the course of the season.

Since a Feb. 11 doubleheader against Bucknell and defending national champion Duke, Driscoll said Corrigan has had the team concentrate on its own game — devoting time to hammer in fundamentals in practice and keeping last year's Penn State film to a minimum. "Mr. Thursday was the team's first exposure to the coach's limited preseason scouting report on the Nittany Lions.

"There's no film on them for this year," said Driscoll, who led the team with six ground-balls in last season's contest. "As long as we know our game plan, which coach has been drilling into our heads this past week and a half, we will be fine."

The most important off-season developments for Corrigan was the lack thereof.

"The good news is that it was a pretty uneventful pre-season," he said. "There was no drama to speak of in the pre-season and — knock on wood — there have been no injuries so far."

Though Corrigan said he was pleased with Notre Dame's ability to compete with No. 1 Duke in preseason scrimmages he knows the Nittany Lions also played well in a preseason scrimmage against No. 2 Johns Hopkins.

As a senior leader on the team, Driscoll has taken on a more active role in making sure the Irish are prepared to open the season — especially against the No. 11 team in the country — and he is excited for Sunday.

"It's the first game and everyone's pumped," he said. "We're ready for this."

Co-captain Drew Peters shares Driscoll's confidence, thanks to the Irish game plan the past two weeks.

"We know we're going to play fundamentally sound," Peters said. "We know how we can play and that should take care of it."

Contact Tim Dougherty at tdoagher@nd.edu

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**WOMEN'S LACROSSE**

**Talented squad gets ready for tough year**

After training hard, Irish will compete on national stage

By CHRIS WILLIAMS

"Risk everything, regret nothing." That is the team motto for the Irish as they get ready to begin the 2006 season. Assistant coach Kateri Linville said No. 18 Notre Dame is excited for a breakout campaign.

"Based on our off-season training, our team is in very good shape," Linville said. "Our stellar matches against Penn State, George Mason and Georgetown are indicators that our hard work is paying off."

Armed with a talented recruiting class and a core of experienced veterans, the Notre Dame women's lacrosse team is ready to erase bitter memories of last year's 3-12 campaign.

"Winning the national championship is definitely our ultimate goal, as is establishing ourselves as a perennial powerhouse in the Big East," Linville said.

Since last season, the Irish have upgraded their team in every aspect of the game.

"We're excited to get Notre Dame back on the map as a lacrosse powerhouse," Veith said. "We're just excited to do our part to establish a foundation for a dynasty."

Irish head coach Tracy Coyne has made the most of the team's off-season, implementing rigorous practices and grueling conditioning sessions.

Coyne's coaching experience of nine years at Notre Dame, along with her international prowess as a two-time Canadian women's lacrosse head coach, has her among the nation's elite NCAA women's lacrosse head coaches.

Contact Chris Williams at cwillb11@nd.edu
By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

The Irish are hungry for a big win, and Ohio State’s visit to the Eck Tennis Pavilion tonight presents a golden opportunity for an upset.

No. 26 Notre Dame will take on the Buckeyes, who are No. 11 in the ITA national team standings, this afternoon at 4 p.m. in their designated “Gold Game” and last home match until April.

“We need a big win and this certainly would qualify as one,” Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. “This would really help us get over the hump and feel like we’re heading in the right direction.”

The Irish are on a five-match winning streak, including four wins over Big Ten opponents.

The team stands at 7-4 on the season, with losses to Virginia, Illinois, Duke and UNC.

“If you’re going to try to play the best teams in the country, which we do, you have to make it work, so we had to play more matches early than I would have liked,” Bayliss said. “But we certainly had our opportunities — we’ve had a chance to win every match we’ve played except one.”

The Irish are coming off a 5-2 win at Michigan on Feb. 18, giving them six days off — one of their longest breaks of the season.

“It’s long in the sense that we had probably been playing too much, but we had to play some of the teams we played at times that we could simply because of the different conference schedules,” Bayliss said.

Bayliss said the Buckeyes are traditionally one of the Big Ten’s strongest teams.

“We have lost consecutive 4-3 matches,” Bayliss said. “Ohio State at least the last two years,” Bayliss said.

In 2004, the team lost without co-captain Luis Haddock playing at the Eck Tennis Pavilion, and lost again in Ohio in 2005. Both matches were decided in the final match on the courts.

“We played a great match and just came up a little bit short,” Bayliss said of the 2005 matchup.

The recent ascension of Ohio State in the national rankings means that this is an important match for improving Notre Dame’s national recognition. The team is 9-4 in its best season since the 1988-89 season.

“It’s a great rivalry,” Bayliss said. “I have the utmost regard for their coach, who does a terrific job with his players and they always play hard.”

Ohio State is 2-0 against teams ranked in the Top 20. The Irish are 0-4.

The Buckeyes return five starters from last year’s team, which finished the season in the Top 25. Scott Green and Ross Wilson are ranked No. 1 nationally in doubles.

“They’re significantly better than they were a year ago,” Bayliss said.

In fall tournament play, Sheeva Parbhu — No. 28 in the national singles rankings — beat Devin Mullings at the ITA Midwest Championships. Mullings had defeated Brett Helgeson earlier in the tournament.

Joining Parbhu in the most recent singles rankings is Stephen Bax as No. 17 and Helgeson, who debuted at No. 60.

Notes:
• Bayliss said the team will be giving away a PlayStation 2 and a football autographed by Charlie Weis at their match at 4 p.m.

“I think the players will be fired up no matter what,” Bayliss said. “It’s a great rivalry, there’s a lot of mutual respect and I don’t think it would be hard to get up for Ohio State playing in Alaska. But to have it be the Gold Game with, hopefully, an enthusiastic crowd will make a big difference.”

Contact Kate Gales at kgales@nd.edu

ND WOMEN’S TENNIS

Irish seek revenge against BYU, Wisconsin this weekend

One year after then-No. 7 Notre Dame suffered two upset losses, the team will get a chance to redeem itself.

By DAN TAPETILLO
Sports Writer

Last season, No. 7 Notre Dame suffered losses to both BYU and Wisconsin. But the Irish are out for redemption this weekend as the No. 20 Cougars and No. 51 Badgers visit the Eck Tennis Pavilion with matches at 11 a.m. Saturday (BYU) and 11 a.m. Sunday (Wisconsin).

“Last season we were ranked higher and lost,” senior Kelly Nelson said. “So now we are taking every match seriously [despite a team’s ranking] and hoping it’ll help us to keep on winning.”

One advantage the Irish didn’t have last season is the confidence that goes along with being undefeated, seven matches into the season.

“We have worked really hard,” freshman Kelly Tefft said. “But we are also don’t want to get overconfident.”

Six of the victories have come over top-30 teams, including then-No. 9 North Carolina and then-No. 9 Harvard.

“Not only have we beaten top-16 teams, but we have also played well every match,” Tefft said.

Part of this success stems from the Irish being the only program to have three nationally-ranked doubles teams.

“With the recent ascension of Ohio State in the national rankings means that this is an important match for improving Notre Dame’s national recognition. The team is 9-4 in its best season since the 1988-89 season.”

“We have great instincts around the net and compliment each other perfectly,” Christian Thompson said.

In addition, to its talent in doubles, the team has also proven its strength in singles this season.

No. 27 Cristina Thompson leads the team with 16 wins, including last weekend’s victory over Harvard’s Eva Wang.

“I’m looking forward to how well we do for the rest of the season,” Tefft said.

Contact Dan Tapetillo at jtapetil@nd.edu

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The Observer • SPORTS
Friday, February 24, 2006
They are No. 14 in the Big East heading into Saturday's home game against Marquette. The current seed would make them ineligible for the conference tournament if the regular season ended today.

But it doesn't, and if Notre Dame (4-9) can win at least two of its final three regular season games, it could be in good shape.

The magic number is seven. Most likely, any team that finishes with seven or more wins will make the tournament. The Irish play Marquette (home) Saturday, Providence (away) Wednesday and DePaul (home) on March 4. To reach the magic number, the Irish would have to win out.

But winning only two still could slide Notre Dame past competing teams with brutal remaining schedules. Louisville and Providence sit ahead of Notre Dame at No. 10 and 11. Both teams are 5-8 in the conference with three games to go, and the Cardinals win a tiebreaker with the Friars because they beat them, 72-67, on Jan. 2. But each team has arguably its most difficult schedule stretch remaining.

Louisville must face West Virginia, Marquette and sandwich a home game with Notre Dame. The first has the Scarlet Knights (No. 13 Big East) face winless South Florida on Sunday and then finish their regular season against St. John's March 5.

The Johnnies are one spot ahead of Rutgers by tiebreaker because of a 54-51 victory on Feb. 15, but the next meeting of these two teams could bump one in and eliminate the other.

Rutgers has a comparable remaining schedule, but St. John's also has a date with Villanova Wednesday. And that leaves DePaul, which is 3-10 with remaining games against Seton Hall (Saturday), Syracuse (Thursday) and Notre Dame (March 4). With that schedule, the only way the Blue Demons could catch the Irish is by beating them head-to-head, which they already did once, 73-67, on Jan. 7.

But DePaul is in trouble with fewer wins than Notre Dame and a tough schedule. Louisville is playing well but running smack into a brick wall of opponents at the worst possible time. And St. John's and Providence both have daunting tasks in their remaining games.

That leaves Rutgers and Notre Dame. The first has the easiest upcoming games of all seven teams and five wins. The second has four wins but less imposing games ahead.

So does that mean since Notre Dame has won three of its last four, nearly defeated Connecticut and has a better remaining schedule, that the Irish will make the Big East tournament?

No, but it does mean they have complete control of their own destiny. Four and five wins won't get them in. Six could. Seven would.

"This is gonna get interesting," Brey said Monday of the furious race for 10 through 12. "There's no doubt about it.

Contact Pat Leonard at plenard@nd.edu

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**Bearcats continued from page 24**

elevate its game. "I think we've got to go into every game and be aggressive because everybody's fighting at this point," she said.

The Irish will be led by senior All-American Megan Duffy, who currently averages team highs in points and assists with 15.6 and 4.2, respectively.

Against Pittsburgh on Wednesday, Duffy shot 5-9 from 3-point range on her way to scoring 22 points.

Surging freshman guard Shell Bellman, who was the Big East player of the week last week, will help lead the Bearcat offense on Wednesday. "We're going to look at a couple of different things again at practice (Friday) and see what looks best (to shut her down)," McGraw said.

Heading into Saturday's game, Duffy and the Irish certainly don't feel any less pressure heading into the next-to-last regular season game.

"Well, I think we've felt like we have to finish strong. We want to win all our games, so I don't think there's any less pressure," McGraw said. "But I think there's definitely a feeling of confidence, knowing we played really well in the second half (against West Virginia)."

The Irish, like every team in the conference, are hoping a strong finish will improve their chances for postseason opportunities.

"I think everybody's gonna look at the postseason now, the league's gonna get a lot of teams into the tournament plus the NIT," McGraw said. "There's a lot of post-season hopes for everybody, so everybody's really gonna elevate their game.

Contact Eric Retter at eretter@nd.edu

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**Notes:**
- The Hobey Baker award, given to college hockey's most valuable player by a combination of fan votes and the Hobey Baker selection committee, is currently in the preliminary process of accepting fan votes. One hundred ninety-three players from around the nation were selected for the preliminary fan ballot on Jan. 16. No Irish players were nominated for selection. In order for a player to reach this ballot, the player must receive 25 fan nominations on www.hobeybaker.com.
- Although the Irish control their own destiny, Notre Dame could finish the season in fifth place and have the top spot in the 12-team league.
- In its worst-case scenario, Notre Dame must lose its game and have the top spot in the league standings.
- In its best-case scenario, Notre Dame finishes the regular season this weekend.

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**Irish home coach**

"There's definitely a feeling of confidence, knowing we played really well in the second half (against West Virginia)."

Muffet McGraw

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**Irish forward Brock Sheahan skates up the ice in a 3-2 win over Ferris State Feb. 10. The Irish play Alaska-Fairbanks this weekend.**

Notre Dame forward Brock Sheahan skates up the ice in a 3-2 win over Ferris State Feb. 10. The Irish play Alaska-Fairbanks this weekend.

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**Irish forward Michael Bartlett fights for the puck against Ferris State Feb. 10. Notre Dame finishes the regular season this weekend.**

Irish forward Michael Bartlett fights for the puck against Ferris State Feb. 10. Notre Dame finishes the regular season this weekend.

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**Irish head coach**

"I think we've felt like we have to finish strong. We want to win all our games, so I don't think there's any less pressure."

Muffet McGraw
Baseball
continued from page 24

said. "You've got your senior pitcher, the leader of your staff, and then he goes out there and pitches a dominating game like he did." Brasfield's home run came one batter after designated hitter Steve Andres led off with a double in the second inning. After the home run, senior centerfielder Alex Netty doubled and senior Cody Rizzo slapped an RBI single into right field to extend the lead to 3-0.

"It's always fun to win the opening game of the year," Mainieri said. "For me to say I enjoyed watching him pitch even more," Mainieri said of the righthander. "If he could do half for us what he did for the football team this year, I'll be happy."

Game two will feature sophomores lefty Wade Kepri, who will face Memphis at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Game three is set for noon Sunday and junior righthander Jeff Manship is slated to start for Notre Dame as it faces Oklahoma. For Manship, the 2006 season marks the first season he will play at full strength after undergoing "Tommy John" elbow surgery in 2004 and throwing just 22 innings last season. Manship is the high-esteemed pitching prospect in ever sign with the Irish, and Mainieri is looking forward to the junior's first start.

"Jeff Manship has the capability to be a No. 1 starter," Mainieri said. "For me to say that after watching the way Tom Thornton pitched today and knowing what Jeff Samardzija can do in saying a lot. We're all hoping we can see Manship pitch the way we thought he'd be able to pitch when we recruited him a couple years ago. He's ready and able and hopefully he's going to go out and pitch a great game."

Notes:
• Gaston batted second, Cooper third, Andres fourth and Lopez fifth, a new look for the Irish. Andres and Cooper were expected to bat third and fourth respectively.
• Thornton's victory was his 21st career win at Notre Dame, tying him for 12th all-time with former teammate Chris Niesel.
• Notre Dame sophomore Tony Langford will miss this season after undergoing "Tommy John" elbow surgery on Feb. 22. Langford had figured to be in the mix as a righthanded reliever as well as in the mix as a designated hitter.

Contact Heather Van Hoogen at hvango@nd.edu

Irish leftfielder Matt Bransfield flies out to left field in Notre Dame's 3-0 win Thursday over Indiana State in Millington, Tenn.
Marquette continued from page 24

great win, because Marquette is a top-30 RPI team," Irish head coach Mike Brey said. "And a Marquette win, as they go ahead and win [more this season], that could come back to being a tiebreaker."

At 4-9, the Irish remain one win behind Louisville (5-8), Providence (5-8), St. John's (5-9) and Rutgers (5-9). And Notre Dame knows in order to reach the Big East tournament, it has to play each remaining game with the intensity of a postseason contest. "We've talked about how it's a huge week for us, and really in a lot of ways, our tournament starts Saturday with Marquette," Brey said.

Marquette (18-8, 8-5 in the Big East) offers a unique challenge for Notre Dame because it plays a very similar style of basketball to the Irish. Both teams like to shoot 3s and both are among the leaders in the conference in points scored. Marquette and Notre Dame are tied for first in the conference in 3-point shooting, each shooting 40-percent from 3-point range. The Golden Eagles enter Saturday averaging 75.1 points per game (fourth in the league). The Irish rank second with 76.9 points per game.

"They're shooting the 3-point shot as good or better than us," Brey said. "They use it like we use it."

Both teams have also struggled defensively this season and are among the Big East's worst in points allowed. Notre Dame gives up 70.1 points per game (14th in the league out of 16 teams) and Marquette allows 68.5 points per game (12th in the league). But what separates the two teams is simple. Notre Dame is struggling to earn a postseason berth with four league wins while Marquette is sixth in the conference with an 8-5 record. The Golden Eagles also have a very good chance at making the NCAA tournament if they remain in the top part of the conference.

Novak is a major reason why. The 6-foot-11 senior is a candidate for Big East player of the year and is averaging 17.1 points per game (sixth in the league) on 47.1 percent shooting from the field. What's more impressive is Novak's free throw percentage. The forward has missed only one free throw all season (66-of-67).

His 45-percent shooting from 3-point range trails only Irish guard Chris Quinn for the best in the league.

"Novak gives them certainly an amazing weapon as a second big guy who's out on the floor all the time," Brey said. "So it's a tough matchup."

Novak is not the only Marquette player who concerns Brey. Freshman point guard Dominic James is one of the most talented first-year players in the league, averaging 15.5 points per game and 5.4 assists per game. James' assist average is third in the league behind Quinn and Syracuse guard Gerry McNamara.

"He is a tough kid physically and mentally," Brey said. "It's certainly shown in how he's played this year — he's had a great year."

Notre Dame did a good job shutting down Connecticut's perimeter offense during its huge second half run Tuesday. Brey said for Notre Dame to win it has to continue its strong perimeter defense against a team that likes to shoot 3-pointers.

Notre Dame and Marquette tip off at 6 p.m. Saturday at the Joyce Center.

Contact Bobby Griffin at rgriffi3@nd.edu

Irish forward Rob Kurz takes a shot in Notre Dame's 62-55 win over South Florida Feb. 15.
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The Observer

Friday, February 24, 2006

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Golden opportunity

Irish return to Joyce Center to take on Marquette Saturday

By BOBBY GRIFFIN
Sports Writer

All that separated Notre Dame from a road win in Marquette on Jan. 20 was a Steve Novak corner jump shot with less than two seconds remaining. But when the Irish host the Golden Eagles this Saturday, they will have more on their minds than getting even.

Notre Dame (13-10, and 4-9 in the Big East) has three games left to secure a spot in the conference tournament and it can’t afford to lose any games given the current jam at the bottom of the league standings.

*Marquette would just be a
see MARQUETTE/page 22

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Game with Cincy has tourney implications

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame’s game against Cincinnati Saturday will be all about Big East Tournament seeding. Almost.

The Irish (15-10, 6-8 in the Big East) who are currently in 11th place in the conference and have virtually locked up their spot in the Big East Tournament, will try to improve their seed against the Bearcats (17-8, 7-7 in the Big East), who are currently tied for 8th place.

“Cincinnati’s fighting to get a better position and so are we,” Notre Dame head coach Muffet McGraw said.

The Irish, however, couldn’t still potentially face the unlikely scenario of missing out on the postseason, as a two-game Notre Dame losing streak and two-three-game win streaks by West Virginia and Seton Hall, respectively, would throw the three teams into a three-way tie for two postseason slots.

That being said, Notre Dame could end all speculation with a win, and McGraw anticipates that her team will see BEARCATS/page 20

HOCKEY

Irish end regular season against UAF

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

It’s a showdown for playoff position in the CCHA’s last regular season weekend and no team is thicker in the hunt than the Irish.

Notre Dame (12-16-4, 10-12-4 in the CCHA) is set to battle Alaska-Fairbanks (14-13-5, 10-12-4 in the CCHA) for the last home playoff spot weekend in a two-game series at the Joyce Center.

The Irish and the Nanooks, along with Ferris State, are currently deadlocked for eighth place in the CCHA at 24 points apiece. In the CCHA playoff system, the first four teams gain a bye past the first round, while places five through eight secure

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BASEBALL

ND beats Indiana St. in opener

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame seniors Tom Thornton and Matt Bransfield started their final season with a bang on Thursday afternoon.

Thornton tossed seven shutout innings and Bransfield slugged a two-run home run to lead No. 22 Notre Dame to a 3-0 win over Indiana State in Millington, Tenn., at USA Baseball Stadium, a precursor to the Service Academies Classic beginning today.

Most of the seniors stepped up today in a big way," Irish coach Paul Mainieri said in an interview with The Observer Thursday. "We’re going to need our senior class to lead the way and they certainly did today."

The 6-foot-6, lefty scattered seven hits in seven innings and freshman righthander Kyle Welland picked up the save for the Irish.

"The key to the game for us was Tom Thornton," Mainieri
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