**NCAA awards ND student-athletes**

All 26 Irish sports teams surpass national Academic Performance Ratings standards

By KATIE PERRY

Assistant News Editor

Boston College is no longer just a rival on the football field.

In a report released last Thursday, the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) presented the Irish and Eagles with the most public recognition awards as based on a two-year aggregate of Academic Performance Rate (APR) scores.

The awards were given to the top 10 percent of teams by sport, with 14 Irish teams earning perfect scores of 1,000 points. The average score is 996.

**Virus strikes students in dorms**

Gastroenteritis has hospitalized 31 since start of spring semester

By RYAN SYDLIK

News Writer

An outbreak of a gastroenteritis spread throughout several University residence halls last week, bringing the total number of infected students to 100 since the start of the spring semester, a Health Services official said. Thirty-one of those students have been discharged from the hospital.

The virus - which affects the gastrointestinal tract and can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, low-grade fever and dehydration - hit Alumni Hall particularly hard, said Patricia Semester, a Health Services official.

Thirty-one of those infected students were housed in Alumni Hall.

**Rectors praise job despite continued turnover**

By JOE PIARULLI

News Writer

Despite the recent appointments of two rectors to higher University posts, Notre Dame rectors insist that sitting at the helm of a residence hall is not just a stepping stone to a higher position.

This year, Father Peter Jarret and Sister Susan Dunn will leave their positions as rectors of Kough Hall and Lyons Hall, respectively, to take administrative posts at the University. In 2005, seven rectors left their positions.

But neither Dunn nor Jarret believes the noticeable turnover rate indicates a lack of job satisfaction.

"I love being a rector and would have stayed being a rector for as long as I could have, so I never saw it as a stepping stone to anything else," Jarret said.

Jarret and Dunn will take up their new posts July 1. Jarret will take over as the superior of the Holy Cross community at Notre Dame, and Dunn will become Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs.

"Although I'm very excited about working in the Office of Student Affairs, I'm very sad to be leaving Lyons after five years," Dunn said.

Sister Carrine Etheridge, who has been Varley Hall's rector since 1993, finds no problem with rectors pursuing other opportunities.

"Everyone becomes a rector for a different reason, and life moves on," Etheridge said. "It's very normal nowadays for people to have several careers in their lifetime."

**Council of Representatives**

Group gives updates on recent initiatives

By KAREN LANGLEY

Assistant News Editor

Amid nominations for various Council of Representatives (COR) positions, Monday's COR meeting provided brief updates of student government's Feb. 27 presentation to the South Bend Common Council and of potential Grab-and-Go selection increases.

Student body president Dave Baron briefed COR members on the Common Council members' generally positive response to the student speakers' presentations.

"It went as well as we could have realistically hoped," Baron said. "They said we have put together some good initiatives."

The Community Relations Committee, which will further discuss the student residence halls, scheduled its next meeting, Baron said.

The student government delegation accomplished a significant goal at the Common Council meeting, Baron said, by having the Disorderly Housing ordinance accomplished a significant goal at the Common Council meeting. The Council and of potential Grab-and-Go selection increases.

While Student Body Vice President Lizzi Shappell agreed the Common Council meeting
**Old T.V. favorites**

I'll admit it: I am back on the TV bandwagon. After several years of only having random Simpsons and Seinfeld reruns to turn to, I've now contracted gratuitously bad addictions to both "24" and "Lost." These melodramas have you on the edge of your seat every week, and usually your seat every Tuesday night.

"MST3K" ["Mystery Science Theater 3000"] was nice enough to abuse several of these flicks. While many of these flicks should never have seen the light of day, "MST3K" was that all of the movies were originally made to be profit-making pieces of cinema. Somehow, somewhere, writers and directors took time and money to actually produce these terrible movies. While many of these flicks should never have seen the light of day, "MST3K" was nice enough to abuse them for the sake of humor.

Perhaps the most infamous movie shown on "MST3K" was entitled: "The Pumaman," the story of an Incan superhero in 1960s England, embodied with the "powers" of a puma. As Robot puts it: "Now I know that if ever come across a puma in the jungle, I can just push it the heck over." For you young'uns on campus here, "MST3K" may have been a slight before your time. The show centered on a normal guy [Joel, then later Mike] who was shot into space by a couple of evil scientists. The experiment was to see if a man who was forced to watch terrible movies all the time would go insane. Fortunately for us, Joel built a couple of robot companions on board the "Satellite of Love," and hilarity ensued.

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**Prostate leg returned; police stampede**

LOS ANGELES — Two prosthetic legs stolen from a 35-year-old California girl have mysteriously turned up in her mother's van, the second time in three months that an artificial limb belonging to the teen has been taken and then returned, police said on Friday.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Sgt. David Austin said investigators dusted the slightly damaged limbs for fingerprints and had interviewed a "ladylist" of people but were baffled by the thefts.

"We're treating this as a crime," Austin said. "We have a residential burglary to deal with. This is grand theft and burglary and if we find out who's responsible we'll take appropriate action."

**Hearse driver arrested for biting police officer**

BERLIN — A drunken hearse driver has been arrested in the western German town of Krefeld after biting a police officer, police said on Monday.

Police had called for a hearse at a funeral home to transport a body to the cemetery. "The hearse driver nearly fell over when he bit out of the car. Then he had to hold onto everything he could find as he stumbled to the house," said police spokesman Dietmar Greger.

Police decided to take the man to the station to test his blood alcohol level, but when they tried to get him out of their car he started a fight and bit an officer several times in the hand.

**Information compiled from the Associated Press.**

**The Observer** - PAGE 2

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

**Old T.V. favorites**

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Division for Mission seeks student input

By LIZ HARTER
News Writer

A representative from the Saint Mary’s Division for Mission told Board of Governance [BOG] members Monday that the Division is seeking student input on the importance of having Catholic faculty at the College. Mission commissioner and Saint Mary’s senior Jenny Robbins said the Division — an administrative body of the College — is examining College hiring practices, and she asked BOG members whether Catholic professors are vital to Saint Mary’s Catholic identity.

Robbins said the Division is evaluating how the religious affiliation of professors affects the mission of the College but has no immediate plans to institute a quota for Catholic professors.

"The Division for Mission wants me to be able to report on what the student body thinks about this," Robbins said Monday.

Many Catholic institutions require a certain percentage of their faculty to be Catholic. While Saint Mary’s does not have such a policy, Notre Dame requires that 50 percent of its faculty be Catholic, Robbins said.

"I think if you make a requirement like that, ... it gets sticky," student body president Kelly Mitros said.

Some people are baptized Catholic but never attend mass, Mitros said. Others, while not official members of the Church, are knowledgeable about Catholic principles.

Student body vice president Susan Melnduff said a quota system could disqualified otherwise excellent candidates.

"If you are doing it just to [maintain] the status quo, you might not be benefiting the College," Melnduff said.

Treasurer Jillian Waters reminded members that Saint Mary’s students do not have to be Catholic and that non-Catholic applicants might be turned off by an overwhelmingly Catholic faculty.

The Catholic identity of the College is not at risk, Student Diversity Board president Amanda Shropshire said. She said having only a Catholic perspective in the classroom limits intellectual growth.

"It is a fact you learn very different things in different ways when you have different people [in the classroom],” Shropshire said.

Senior class president Lauren Condon said any variation in perspective, even in the religious affiliation of professors, is a positive addition to the curriculum.

"I think if we are going to look at hiring issues, we need to look at diversifying," Condon said.

A professor’s religious beliefs are less significant in certain subject matters, junior class president Heidi Goepfinger said in clarification. She said religion rarely becomes a point of discussion, for example, in her science classes.

Condon requested the discussion be tabled until Robbins could provide the Board with more concrete information.

In other BOG news:

♦ BMX sweatshirts and sweatpants are being sold in the Student Center this week and the week after Spring Break. Sold together, the items are $50 this week and $55 the week after Spring Break. Sold together, the items are $50 this week and $55 the week following the break.

Freshman class president Francesca Johnson said all proceeds will go to Riley Hospital for Children.

♦ Student Diversity Board president Amanda Shropshire said the Student Diversity Board will sell daffodils in the Student Center from March 20 to March 24. All proceeds will go towards a new Diversity Scholarship Fund.

Contact Liz Harter at eharteO1@saintmarys.edu

Members of the Board of Governance discuss Saint Mary’s hiring of faculty in light of the College’s Catholic identity.

Hesburgh to receive Sachem

Special to The Observer

University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh will receive the Sachem, which recognizes a lifetime of excellence and virtue, at 11:30 a.m. today at the Indiana Statehouse.

Created more than three decades ago by former Indiana Gov. Edgar J. Whitcomb, then discontinued following his term, the Sachem was considered a higher honor than the Sagamore of the Wabash. Gov. Mitch Daniels brought back the Sachem last year and returned it to its status as the state’s highest honor. The award’s name comes from the Algonquian term applied to village leaders, implying wisdom, judgment and grace.

Hesburgh, 88, and college basketball coaching legend John Wooden (the 2005 honoree) are the inaugural recipients of the new Sachem.

Notre Dame’s president from 1952 to 1987, Hesburgh has played an active and influential role in national and international affairs over the past half century. He has held 16 presidential appointments that involved him in virtually all major social issues — including civil rights, peaceful uses of atomic energy, campus currest, treatment of Vietnam offenders, and Third World development and immigration reform.

By CHELSEA GULLING/THESPB

Don't empty your wallet to pack your suitcase this year!

We made special purchases to offer you big breaks on top quality stuff you want in bright spring colors!

Hoodie or Blanket $19.95 each.
Flip Flops, Sport Bag or Sport Bottle $7.95 each.

Celebrate 50 Years With Us
HAMMERS NOTRE DAME BOOKSTORE HAMMERS NOTRE DAME BOOKSTORE
www.nacatalog.com
*Merchandise may vary.
APR
continued from page 1

APR score for all Notre Dame institutions recognized by the NCAA had the program on track for a degree. The sports programs to keep students from being more stressed worse during periods with the Student Health service be equal number of students being more stressed.

"The best way to keep to the right direction." Dutile said Notre Dame men's basketball ranked lowest among women's teams the University — with an APR of 977. "The APR will go a long way toward improving the intercollegiate environment of athletics, especially in the long run," Dutile said. "Problems will remain, because of these developments, driven by committed institutional CEOs, constitute a significant step in the right direction."

Dutile said Notre Dame men's teams that received perfect scores in APR rankings include: cross country, golf, swimming, indoor track and outdoor track. Irish were also "flawless in cross country, fencing, golf, cross-country, softball and tennis." National wise, as well as in the University, "We have to do," she said. "Student Body President, which will begin April 1."

"I think we'd be better served if we go from it we can still get from this business and it's going to be done," she said. "Student government and the pre-institutional CEOs, constitute a significant step in the right direction."

Food

WNDU
continued from page 1

President Father John Jenkins said multiple firms had bid on WNDU. He expressed confidence in the future of the station and said both WNDU and the University would benefit from the sale of the station.

"We'd be better off if we do our best at running the University, and I think a company is going to buy WNDU that knows this business and it's going to flourish," Jenkins told The Observer in August.

As with Affieck-Graves, Jenkins said Notre Dame students working and interning for WNDU would not be adversely affected by a sale.

"Any educational benefit we got from it we can still get from it, even if we don't own it... it's not an impediment to the education of our students," Jenkins said in August.

COR
continued from page 1

"It seems to always get worse during periods with students being more stressed with exams or being more group contact," Brubaker said. "Even when students are ill, they will want to go to class and try to make it." Hallin Hall rector Father Paul Doyle said several dorm residents experienced similar episodes of illness over the last week, including two residents of Big Bed. Brubaker said Dillon had fewer reported cases compared to the same time last year.

"Gastroenteritis hit campus last fall, as well, and was far more widespread than the most recent outbreak. The illness usually hits once each fall, Brubaker said, and is often misunderstood as a case of "Stomach flu.""

"Stomach flu is a misnomer influenza," said student president-elect Shappell reported they have met with Food Services Director Dave Frenkowsky and South Building General Manager Marc Polkikovski about examining the Grab-and-Go system. "They didn't comment on (changing the allotment of points, but they were very supportive of examining the selec­ tion)," Andrichik said. "The best way to approach this is to give students choices in the items involved.

Shappell's and Andrichik's ideas for Grab-and-Go additions include take-home items such as popcorn and ramen noodles, but not soup and snacks like nuts and candy, Andrichik said. As such, the offices are currently working on further input.

"This is the impetus for this whole thing," he said. The meeting was closed to the Student Union Treasurer for 2006-07.

Anna Sierra was approved without opposition as Student Business Board Manager for 2006-07.

"We are absolutely delighted to have system," Andrichik said. "The best approach we've arrived at is to give student body members the ability to innovate and to provide even more input." The meeting was closed to the Student Union Treasurer for 2006-07.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

War criminal commits suicide
AMSTERDAM — A Croatian Serb convicted of ethnic cleansing after leading a brutal revolt during the Balkan wars committed suicide in prison, the U.N. tribunal said Monday, a setback for procurators count­ing on his testimony in other war crimes cases.

Milan Babic said no sign of despair before he killed himself using a knife, a tribunal spokeswoman said. But his suicide came just three weeks after he reaffirmed his remorse for his crimes, telling a tribunal that his guilt was “a pain that I have to live with for the rest of my life.”

Once a close associate of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, Babic was considered an “insider” with special knowl­edge of the workings of Milosevic’s regime, and procurators put him on the stand for three weeks of dramatic testimony against his former mentor in 2002.

Avalanches smother resort skiers
(GENEVA) — High winds, heavy snow brought avalanches to Swiss and French alpine ski resorts on Monday. About three dozen skiers were caught in the avalanches, but most were able to escape. One 37-year-old French citizen who has admitted his guilt was a “pain that I have to live with for the rest of my life.”


Congress, by a huge margin, overturned Clinton’s veto of 38 military construction projects. Bush’s version was ultimately voted down by the House this year on a 237-174 vote, with three out of four Democrats voting “nay.” Some 89 Republicans, including then-Majority Leader Tom Delay of Texas and Rules Committee Chairman David Dreier, R-Calif., also opposed the measure.

LOCAL NEWS

Purdue fraternity faces suspension
WEST LAFAYETTE — Purdue University suspended the chapter's Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity chapter for more than a year for violating residence hall policies, according to a school spokesman. The suspension comes after the fraternity's national office suspended it for three weeks after a hazing incident involving a pledge who was hospitalized for drinking too much at a party.

A university investigation showed that fraternity members during a Nov. 15 party at their chapter house provided alcohol to minors who were encouraged to play drinking games and consume dangerous amounts of alcohol.

Austria

Iran deal could be close, U.N. says

Associated Press

VIENNA — The head of the U.N. atomic watchdog agency said Monday a deal on Iran’s suspect nuclear program is within “a day or two” away, making U.N. Security Council action unnecessary.

International Atomic Energy Agency head Mohamed ElBaradei said he did not elaborate on negotiations that would be linked to a confidential Russian proposal on how to link to a confidential Russian proposal on how to resolve the standstill, domestic, diplomatic debate. He said that if he stayed on as director general for another five years, he would not be able to fulfill the mission.

The proposal may be helped along by the drive on Capitol Hill for so-called earmark reform. Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada said he was opposed to the idea even though he supported a similar plan in 1995 when offered as a weaker alternative to the GOP version.

The earlier version of the line-item veto was used by Clinton in 1997 against about 80 parochial projects and a handful of special-interest tax breaks. Lawmakers’ enthusiasm for the earlier veto power waned sharply, leading lawmakers like Sen. Robert Bennett, R-Utah, to change their minds and oppose the idea.

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Babici death penalty trial begins
ALGIERS — After more than four years of wrangling and delay, the death penalty trial of the only man charged in the United States connection with the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks is ready to begin.

Final jury selection was scheduled for Monday in the capital of Algiers, but the trial had been repeatedly delayed. The victim’s identity was not revealed.

Gen. Mohamed Yacine Babici was charged in November 1997 with helping a group of about 20 Algerian extremists to launch attacks against U.S. interests in France. The trial was moved to the United States, but the suspect was arrested in France in March 1998. Babici was extradited to the United States, and the trial was moved to Virginia in 1999.

The victim’s identity was not revealed.

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President Bush won’t rule out war
WASHINGTON — Seeking new power to weed home­grown terrorism and gain more leverage in talks with foreign powers, the president asked lawmakers to give him a modified version of the line-item veto to strike individual items from a bill without having to veto the entire measure.

President Clinton got that wish in 1996, when the new Republican majority in the House pushed through a line-item veto law that allowed him to kill individual spending projects and special-interest tax breaks.

Two years later, the Supreme Court declared the law — one of the key planks of Bush’s “Contract With America” — unconstitutional because it allowed the president to amend laws passed by Congress.

Bush is now pressing for a modified, weaker version. Instead of being able to strike items from bills, he would send one or more items back to Congress for an up-or-down vote. Present law permits Congress to ignore these proposed rescissions, but under the Bush proposal lawmakers would have to vote on them.

If majorities in both the House and the Senate agreed with the president, the cuts would take effect.

“Forty-three governors have this line-item veto in their power,” Bush said. “Now it’s time to bring this incredible tool to Washington, D.C.”

Bush has not vetoed any legislation during five years he has been in office, but he said the modified veto proposal would help “reduce wasteful spending, reduce the budget deficit and ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent wisely.”

House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., and Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., issued statements supporting Bush, as did several conservative lawmakers.


“It’s not a secret that President Bush and I don’t agree on much, but I fully support giving him the line-item veto,” Kerry said. “I’m going to introduce this legislation, Congress should immediately pass it, and I want to see President Bush use this veto pen to get tough on wasteful spending.”

“Giving the president line-item veto authority is essential to enforcing the budget and restoring fiscal sanity in Washington,” said Rep. Jeb Hensarling, R-Texas.

The proposal may be helped along by the drive on Capitol Hill for so-called earmark reform. Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada said he was opposed to the idea even though he supported a similar plan in 1995 when offered as a weaker alternative to the GOP version.

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Bush won’t rule out war
But Etheridge said Vice President for Student Affairs Father Mark Ponchak was supportive and said that background in the residence hall community was important to bring to the Main Building.

"I'm delighted to see rectors being appointed to administration [posts] at Notre Dame," Etheridge said. "I think that's a real positive thing because they bring an intimate knowledge of the place."

The position of rector at Notre Dame is distinctive both in what it offers and how it is structured, and thus involves a unique perspective, Jarret said.

"The way that the rector position is set up at Notre Dame, it's much more than just making sure people follow rules. It's a privilege of entering into people's lives in every kind of manner. Our ability to walk with the people we live with academically, spiritually, socially — that's what makes it special."

Those privileges, Etheridge said, are the reasons she has stayed a rector for more than 12 years. "Working with the students is the best part of the whole deal," she said. "Paperwork is the worst part for me. I just feel like it's an avalanche all the time."

The burnout rate for rectors is high, she said, because the job can be very demanding.

"It's 24-7, and there's some people who thrive on that. But there are other people who [feel the lack of] privacy get to them," Etheridge said. "It fits well for some folks, but other folks I think find a couple years of it to be all they can manage.

And the job is not getting any easier, Etheridge said. "I think through the years rectoring has become more challenging, because the students are more complicated now and there are more problems that are kind of serious in nature, because I think the society we're living in is so much more complex," she said.

Despite the challenges of being a rector, Etheridge said she has no plans to leave.

"Rectoring has been very compatible with what I've elected to do here at the University," she said. "Currently I'm just happy being a rector."

Though this spring will be the last semester for Dunn and Jarret's responsibilities as rectors, they both said they found the religious aspect of the position to be one of a kind.

"The way that the rector position is set up at Notre Dame, it's much more than just watching over people to make sure people follow rules. It's a privilege of entering into people's lives in every kind of manner," Jarret said.

"In a religious community, you do what your religious superiors tell you to," he said.

Overall, he said, rectors as a whole want it best for their dorms and for Notre Dame.

"I think sometimes it can be good for the half if, in some circumstances, there's turnover every five, ten years," Jarret said.

Contact Joe Piarulli at jpiarulli@nd.edu

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FOR GAY & LESBIAN STUDENTS

The former "Standing Committee on Gay and Lesbian Student Needs" is expanding and seeking new undergraduate student members, regardless of sexual orientation. The newly structured council, the Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students is now accepting applications. Applications are available in the Office of Student Affairs (316 Main Building) or on the Core Council web site http://corecouncil.nd.edu/

Applications are due by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28, 2006, and can be submitted to the Office of Student Affairs.

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Market Recap

**New York** — Stocks fluctuated Friday as investors assessed the financial outlook for the second quarter. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 63.00 to 10,958.59, its lowest closing level in three weeks.

**Commodities**

- **Light Crude Oil** was down $0.26 to $62.41.
- **Gold** (per ounce) was down $0.60 to $446.45.
- **Corn** (per bushel) was down $0.43 to $47.23.

**Bonds**

- The **10-Year Note** was down 0.54 to 47.38.
- The **30-Year Bond** was down 0.63 to 47.23.

**Currencies**

- **Canadian $** was down 0.67 to 1.1391.

In Brief

**GM workers oppose health care hike**

DETROIT — General Motors Corp. retirees issued a final appeal Monday to reject a settlement that would require them to pay more for their health care, saying it violates their contracts. But GM, which hired an outside law firm to represent auto workers' claims, contended that the agreement is critical to the company's future.

"This is the only hope that there is that GM will be able to continue to survive," said Julia Perkin, an attorney for the UAW. "GM is at risk of not being able to provide these benefits." But Leroy McNulty, 56, of Laslett, called the settlement "an unprecedented attack on retirees." McNulty retired in 2001 after 30 years at GM.

"I'm concerned with General Motors that is a contract I signed and they signed on the day of my retirement," McNulty said. McNulty's comments brought cheers from some of the 100 GM retirees who filled overflow space in another courtroom and a hallway.

GM and the UAW, which reached the agreement last fall, said the automaker is in dire financial trouble and must get some relief from its growing health care costs. The company lost $8.6 billion in 2005 and spent more than $5 billion on health care.

**Stocks waver amid economy worries**

NEW YORK — Stocks fluctuated Friday as investors assessed the financial outlook for the second quarter. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 63.00 to 10,958.59, its lowest closing level in three weeks.

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**Deal may cause massive job cuts**

AT&T's acquisition of BellSouth Corp. could eliminate as many as 10,000 jobs, according to a report in The Observer.

"This merger will allow us to move to a single brand for wireline, for wireless, for business and consumer, and that's AT&T," said Randall Stephenson, AT&T's chief operating officer. "A single brand is much more cost efficient, and far more effective.

The combined company would be based in San Antonio, depriving Atlanta of one of its largest corporate headquarters. Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue and Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin said Monday they both will fly to Texas soon to try to persuade AT&T's executives to move their headquarters to Atlanta.

"It's hard to replace BellSouth," Franklin said. "They've contributed so much over the last decade. We're anxious for their national headquarters to move here.

Cingular's headquarters would remain in Atlanta. More savings from the proposed acquisition would come from reduced advertising expenses and combining the backbone network and information-technology operations of the companies.

"Over the last couple of years as we have operated Cingular and our Yellow Pages venture, it became clear that there was a lot of duplication that could be eliminated," said Duane Ackerman, chief executive of BellSouth. "This merger will allow us to move to a single brand for wireline, for wireless, for business and consumer, and that's AT&T."

The exterior of AT&T's headquarters is shown in San Antonio, Texas. If its acquisition of BellSouth Corp. is approved, AT&T may move its headquarters to Atlanta, Ga.

**Fed expected to raise interest rates**

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve is expected to raise interest rates at its next meeting, as evidence mounts that price stability is his primary monetary policy goal. The economy is currently growing at a pace that many believe even if the Federal Reserve raises rates too high, the economy will be able to absorb a small hit without serious consequences.

The belief is supported by stronger than expected first quarter growth for the year. The economy slowed down slightly in the fourth quarter of 2005, due primarily to high oil prices and falling consumer confidence in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. But first quarter growth shows a rebound from last quarter with expected growth rates of at least 4.5 percent. There is a predicted first quarter GSP growth of 4.6 percent — up from the hit to growth last quarter, when growth rate dropped from 4.1 percent in the third quarter to 1.6 percent in the fourth quarter.

The consumer confidence index was down in October, though at the index of 106.8 in January was a vast improvement over the low consumer confidence of last quarter.

The relative risk rate is expected to continue inflation but will continue to limit economic growth.

In other news, the Federal Reserve Vice Chairman Roger B. Gramlich announced his resignation last week, leaving another position open for President Bush to make an appointment to the Federal Reserve.
To scorn an ally

The pro-American, westernized, economically modernizing United Arab Emirates’ state-run Dubai Ports World, owned by a dashing sheik as renowned in poetry as in horse racing, acquires a British company — responsible for the operation of American ports. Sounds like a great idea, no? It is a chance to bring a key American ally in the region closer. Few things bind states’ hearts more firmly than jointly shared economic interest. The congressional opposition must stem from another cause that trumps the reality of the U.A.E.’s faithful alliance.

The vast concern that overrides Dubai’s friendship is that an Arab company will be running an important and sensitive industry. There was no commotion or uproar when a British firm was operating our ports. Chaos and indignation erupts the very second that an Arab company is about to take over. “How could we compromise our security in such a way?” There is no compromise occurring, as we are merely transferring the operation from one trusted ally to another trusted ally. Britain and the United Arab Emirates have both rendered crucial support and service to America. If your government should trust the former more than the latter, it implies that the United Arab Emirates is such an ally, there is another concern why U.P. World should not run the ports. The first alternative is patently false: the U.A.E. has allowed the United States to use her land, bases, ports and airspace during our military operations in that theatre. She has also functioned as a loyal ally during the “War on Terror.” Congressional opposition must stem from another cause that trumps the reality of the U.A.E.’s faithful alliance.

The delay over the port deal is another slap in the face for the Arab world and a great insult. Arrogance of this sort produces terrorism and makes America less safe. The desire to gain safety by isolating America will not work. Peace and security shall be born from global cooperation and mutual interest. The more the United States binds her interests with the rest of the world, the less incentive there will be for conflict and violence — on both sides of the relationship.

Ian Ronderos
Liberated

The Observer
To the Editor at www.ndsmcobserver.com

To eludicate the fact that the “Global War on Terror” is not a “Global War on Arabs or Muslims,” nor a case of East versus West. President George W. Bush deserves credit for supporting the port deal. He is staying true to his rhetoric. The congressional opposition is delivering the opposite message. They are in effect telling the Arab Muslim world that Britain is trust-worthy, being a Christian western ally, but that the East needs to be viewed with distrust and kept at a safe distance.

The need to cultivate friendships within the Middle Eastern world is all too apparent. Hospitality in the Arab world comes largely from the perception that America favors Israel over the Arabs and that she tries to impose her values upon their countries. The racism howling through the hollow halls of Congress is delivering the opposite message. They are playing politics to distance them as much as possible from the declining popularity of the current regime so that they may benefit in the upcoming election. These politicians have made this choice to stay through cowardice. They are playing upon the hysteria of a terrified population by shrieking at the false construction of the Arab bogeyman. It is an emotional appeal designed to distance us as much as possible from the declining popularity of the current regime so that they may benefit in the upcoming election. These politicians have made this choice to stay true to his rhetoric. The congressional opposition must stem from another cause that trumps the reality of the U.A.E.’s faithful alliance.

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Ian Ronderos is a senior majoring in the classics with a supplementary major in ancient Greek and Roman civilizations. Having retired from the College Republicans and adopted independent politics, he has entered the private life of peaceful contemplation. Ian 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.
This column originally appeared in the March 6 edition of The Daily Vite, the daily publication at Illinois State University.

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There is a greater threat to our culture, our society and our very freedom. That threat is pants.

This column originally appeared in the March 6 edition of the Iowa State Daily, the daily publication at Iowa State University.

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

Even Holocaust deniers deserve free speech.

Uncorrectable. I say. Button-fly shirts are so diabolical that they could have caused the Berlin Wall to fall. It's pressed — and I don't support terrorists.

"Wow, Chessin. I never knew pants were such a threat," you might retort. "Allow me to 'break it down,'" as I write this. So take action immediately. Stand up in your lecture or lab, take off your pants and proclaim, 'This is a free country!' Then throw them to the ground and embrace your freedom, you brave American."

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Welcome to the Notre Dame bubble, where one can find a legion of leg­
reachingas, a football revival and ... Halo 2?

True, many students find themselves succumbing to the
dailyrutin of attending class,
completing papers and searching for
future employment. A typical day may
day be filled with various ac­
early activities from
dull to delightful in hopes of the faded
Notre Dame diploma.

But for many gamers, a day is
just too much to waste
frugally online. A glance over the
Notre Dame server any hour out of
the 24 typically reveals some students intent
on dealing digitized death. The competi­
tive spirit doesn’t sleep, and apparently
neither does a chunk of the gamer popu­
lation.

Playing video games has become one of
the social activities of choice for the
younger set, with games like “Halo”
and “Mario Kart” being popular choices.
A gamer can redeem his loss by blaming
his opponent into a stunned silence.
Perhaps he’s fighting for some unknown
reason, or maybe he’s just plain
mad. But for many students
expecting accolades for
their opponent’s mental
existence for the umpteenth time.

But despite one’s intuition, behaving
in the aforementioned manner is often dis­
couraged. Not only does it have potential
for offending the other parties involved, it
also tends to run hand in hand with
being alone on the weekends. It seems
that gaming time has an inverse relation­
ship with opposite sex popularity.

But questions over personal lives aside, mouthing off does actually have a valid
place in gaming. While poor sportsman­
ship may no play a role in serious matches — such as the Olympics or when
the Spartans visit Notre Dame Stadium — it
can add a new level of enjoyment to play­
ging the game. This is the case because
the very nature of the games adds a con­
tact level to the trash talking. As Yoshi
drives his kart across the finish line, and
the silly Nintendo theme song plays, any
resulting taunts only add to the ludicrous
atmosphere. This isn’t the Rose Bowl —
it’s a video game that stars a portly
Italian plumber driving a go-kart.

Video games themselves are essentially
silly diversions and yet have reached a
threshold that many students hold para­
mount. Trash talking is a surefire way to
engage both the hardcore and the casual in
the gaming world to add a twist to the
parts they play, thus further “limiting
the movie’ s setting, but the camerawork is seem­
tic in a disturbing way.!”

It was so successful that a sequel was
planned, but with the surprise of one of the D etectives, played by
a delightful extended dance break during
the film production process, there was much ado about being loyal to the
original “La Vie Boheme.” Also included were several jump-cut scenes, including an alternate
ending that would have better

For those who have not seen the origi­
ral “Saw,” the buzz about the movie
doesn’t change the behavior much either.
A gamer can redeem his loss by blaming
it on a faulty controller, his teammates,
the chosen backboard or even the
aforementioned mental disposition and
heritage of the opponents. Most gamers
feel that a loss can be turned into a
moral victory if they are able to force
their opponent into a stunned silence.
The taunting can go beyond words,
though. Many games, such as the afore­
mentioned “Mario Kart,” feature a but­
ton specifically for taunts. Another
Nintendo choice, “Super Smash Brothers
Meteo, “ features especially obvious, cut­
ing in-game trash-talking. There are few
insults that cut as deep as watching
Pikachu smile and wave to the camera
while your digital avatar blinks out of
existence for the umpteenth time.

Some gaming communities have even
turned in-game taunting into an art.
While the “Halo” series features no pro­
grammed-in-games taunts, this has not
restrained some gamers who have found
subtle ways to create their own jeers.
Creating an alien opponent, changing
weapons and repeatedly hitting
assorted buttons have all been employed in
the search of creating new ways to
insult the opposition. Using various
weapon combinations, fans of the origi­
nal “Halo” were able to figure out how
to Moonwalk and even do a modified ver­
ion of the Irish flip.

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Contact Mark Bemenderfer
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By TIM MASTERTON
Scen e Crew

“Rent” hit Broadway in 1996, and ten
years later, it came to movie theatres with a
faithful, but stagnant movie adaptation from
director Chris Lieber (“I’m Home Alone.”
“Harry Potter.”) Though it translated some­
what poorly to the silver screens, this is a
movie perfectly-suited for DVD.

“Rent,” a modern, loosely-based version of
the Puccini opera, “La Boheme,” was
released into movie theatres in November 2005,
and after about two months there, it
made less than $30 million. Now it quickly
heads to DVD where its biggest fans, or
“Rentheads,” as they are called, will likely
eat it up. Old and new fans alike will enjoy
what is essentially a 135-minute music
video, although it is possible to jump from
text scene to scene and skip to favorite
songs.

All through the film production process,
there was much ado about being loyal to the
vision of Rent’s late composer, Jonathan
Larson, as there had been when making the
two acting and being sorely
inglorious. Tracie Thoms as uptight yuppie
Joanne” is a pleasantly surprising, smart
addition to the group.

But “Rent” is stuck somewhere between
the musical-turned-films “Chicago” and
“The Producers.” Whereas “Chicago” is a
fresh, exuberant, Oscar-winning adaptation
of that musical, “The Producers” is very
much a bland diluted version of what is done
nightly on stages in New York and London.

In “Rent,” Columbus rarely tries anything
brave or different. One successful attempt is
a delightful extended dance break during
the film. “Mama Gege” successfully creating
something not found in the stage version.
Columbus also has created a barely-quirky
early ’90s New York City as the film’s setting, but the camerawork is seem­
tic in a disturbing way.!”

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planned, but with the surprise of one of the D etectives, played by
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Assistant Scene Editor

Quick sequel mainta­

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Quick sequel mainta­
Ins the ‘Saw’ legacy

Black

Criterion Games

Xbox, PlayStation 2

By MARK BEMENDERFER
Assistant Scene Editor

Explosions rock the protagonist in Criterion Game’s “Black.” Distributed by Electronic Arts, the game features Hollywood-style action.

Black is a shallow, explosive thrill

As a sequel, Super Meat Boy's expansion Super Meat Boy Forever

THE OBSERVER
SCENE

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

page 11

Contact Tim Masterton at tmastert@nd.edu

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Rentheads will also take pleasure in the full-length documentary “No Day But Today” telling the story of the show’s creation, composer and its trip from stage to screen. “Rent” is a faithful adaptation of the 1996 stage musical, and thus is a movie that would make a good addition to any musical theatre fan’s DVD collection.

Contact Mark Bemenderfer at mbemende@nd.edu

EXPLOSIONS ROCK THE PROTAGONIST IN CRITERION GAME’S “BLACK.” DISTRIBUTED BY ELECTRONIC ARTS, THE GAME FEATURES HOLLYWOOD-STYLE ACTION.

By MARK BEMENDERFER
ASSISTANT SCENE EDITOR

The first person shooter genre has been flooded in recent years with the success of titles like “Halo” and “Half-Life.” Enough derivatives have seen the market that they have begun to overlap.

Criterion Games noticed this trend and — fresh off their success with the “Burnout” series — has decided to inject a fresh perspective. With “Black,” they wanted to simplify things and remind gamers what makes the genre fun.

To stand out, Criterion made “Black” an explosive, exhilarating experience that focuses on the guns and explosions. The closest equivalent being the Hollywood action film, the game is light on plot and heavy on property damage. Cars explode, windows shatter and buildings collapse under the barrage of rampant explosions caused by the player.

There is a plot however, despite how light or worthless it is. At the beginning, the gamer finds the main character under investigation for his renegade actions while pursuing a high-profile terrorist. The story unfolds gradually with acted cut-scenes before each level, but it bears little impact on the actual action.

The characters about which the gamer hears during the investigation do play a role in the game itself, as they act as invisible squad members. However, their limited artificial intelligence makes them little better than mobile shields and bullet magnets for the main character. They do shout commands and warnings to the player that are very beneficial when trying to pinpoint a sniper or hidden rocket launcher. But these characters only play a limited role within the game, and most of the time the player will find this game to be a solitary event. That fits the focus of the game, however, as relentless action and explosions are the main course of “Black.”

The action consists of the most frenzied, chaotic scenes ever witnessed in an action game. To refer-
NHL

Kozlov leads Atlanta to 4-3 win over Florida

Flyers beat Canadiens in shootout; Ovechkin leads Capitals in win

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Slava Kozlov scored the lone goal in the shootout as the Atlanta Thrashers beat the Florida Panthers Monday night.

Kozlov, who gave the Thrashers their last shootout win Feb. 11 at Montreal, beat Florida goalie Roberto Luongo with a glove-side wrister.

Olli Jokinen scored his 28th and 29th goals and had an assist for the Thrashers, who won their second straight game.

Luongo saved 31 of 34 shots, including four in overtime.

Brad Larsen's short-handed goal gave the Thrashers a 3-2 lead with 2:47 left in regulation. Luongo was largely responsible for the one-handed pass to himself off the left boards to keep the puck in.

After Kozlov's wrister bounced off Luongo's skate and off the right side of the slot, Larsen beat the goalie glove side.

Jokinen tied it at 3-all with 55.7 seconds remaining when he made a one-handed shot from the point outside the New York Islanders.

The Flyers led the NHL in points (62) when they returned home in 2-3-0. The Flyers' seventh goal, a slap shot from the point of the season, 10 ahead of Steve Rucchin's and 20 of 24.

Gerber improved to 30-9-2, allowing only Steve Rucchin's goal this season and the Ottawa Senators win their fifth Olympic game with the Czech Republic.

A hooker victory No. 25, tying him with Johnny Bower for 6-16-4.

The Rangers outshot the Hurricanes 1-0-3 in the third period.

Carolina took a 2-0 lead at 8:31 of the third period and the New York Islanders, who won for only the second time in eight games. Olie Kolzig made 38 saves for career victory No. 250, tying him with Johnny Bower for 51st place all-time.

In the third period during a power play, Ovechkin supplied the cross-ice pass for Bryan Muir's one-timer that a good goal, Muir added his 4th of the period.

Jeff Friesen also scored for the Hurricanes, who won for only the second time in eight games. Olie Kolzig made 40 saves for career victory No. 250, tying him with Johnny Bower for 51st place all-time.

Hurricanes 2, Rangers 1

Martin Gerber made 37 saves to help the NHL-leading Carolina Hurricanes beat the New York Rangers on Monday night, spoiling goalie Henrik Lundqvist's first start since leading Sweden to the Olympic gold medal.

Lundqvist, in goal for New York for the first time since the Olympic break, made 37 saves. New York has lost two straight following a seven-game winning streak.

Virginia's Jeff Wynn and Kevin Adams scored for Carolina, playing the game of a five-game trip. The Hurricanes have won five straight to open a three-point lead over Detroit in the overall standings. They have won 11 of their last 14 games and 20 of 24.

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Florida Panthers center Joel Stumpel, top, battles Atlanta Thrashers defenseman Andy Sutton for the puck in the second period. The Thrashers beat Florida 4-3 in a shootout.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 404 South Denver Mall. Classifieds must be presented in person. The charge is $5 per cent per period, including all specials. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without making refunds.

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**MLB**

Minnesota Twins’ Kirby Puckett watches his 11th inning home run to beat the Atlanta Braves in Game 6 of the World Series in Minneapolis on Oct. 26, 1991. Puckett had a stroke at his Arizona home Sunday and passed away Monday.

**Twins’ star Puckett dies after stroke**

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Kirby Puckett died Monday, a day after the Hall of Fame outfielder had a stroke at his Arizona home. He was 45.

Puckett died at St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix. He had been in intensive care since having surgery at another hospital following his stroke Sunday morning.

The hulking, barrel-chested Puckett was one of the Twins’ biggest stars. He helped his hometown Minnesota Twins win the World Series titles in 1987 and 1991 before his career was cut short by glaucoma. His family, friends and former teammates gathered at the hospital Monday.

Puckett was given last rites and died in the afternoon, hospital spokesman Brian Lodge said. "On behalf of Major League Baseball, I am terribly saddened by the sudden passing of Kirby Puckett," commissioner Bud Selig said. "He was a Hall of Famer in every sense of the term."

"He played his entire career with the Twins and was an icon in Minnesota. But he was revered throughout the country and will be remembered wherever the game is played," Lodge said. "Kirby was taken from us much too soon — and too quickly," he said.

Puckett broke into the majors in 1984 and had a career batting average of .318. Glaucoma left the six-time Gold Glove center fielder and 10-time All-Star with no choice but to retire after the 1995 season when he went blind in his right eye.

Out of the game, the 5-foot-8 Puckett put on a considerable amount of weight, which concerned those close to him. "It’s a tough thing to see a guy go through something like that and come to this extent," former teammate Kent Hrbek said Monday night.

"That’s what really hurt him, when he was forced out of the game," he said. "I don’t know if he ever recovered from it." 

Asked what he would remember most about his playing days, Hrbek quickly answered, “Just his smile, his laughter and his love for the game.”

Puckett was elected to the Hall of Fame on his first try in 2001 and thrilled the crowd in Cooperstown when he said, "I’m telling you, anything is possible during his induction speech. His plaque praised his "ever-present smile and infectious exuberance.""

**In Brief**

**National sign lease for new stadium**

WASHINGTON — Major Anthony A. Williams signed the lease for a new Washington Nationals’ ballpark Monday, a day after Major League Baseball signed the deal.

The lease calls for a ballpark to be built along the Anacostia River, south of the Capitol, but limits city spending on the project to $611 million.

"The signed lease is the green light we needed to turn this dream into a reality," said Williams, touting the economic benefits of a converting an industrial area into a ballpark and entertainment district. "With a revitalized southeast, we will reap tens of millions of dollars in now tax revenue in the coming years.

The signature of Williams and members of the District of Columbia Sports and Entertainment Commission clear the way for the city to sell $533 million in construction bonds, Williams spokesman Vince Morris said.

Chief Financial Officer Natvar M. Gandhi, who was out of town Monday, will authorize the sale of the bonds in the next few weeks, Morris said.

Beckett upset over poor spring outing

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Josh Beckett refused to make excuses for a rocky outing in his spring debut for the Boston Red Sox.

The right-hander, acquired from Florida in a seven-player trade during the offseason, allowed five runs in three innings of Boston’s 8-7 victory over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays on Monday.

"Even though it’s only spring training, Beckett did not take the performance lightly. "It’s not like I was just out there trying to throw my pitches. If I was going to do that, I would have just thrown a 50-pitch bullpen. When I’m out there, I’m trying to get people out," the 2003 World Series MVP said.

"I wanted to get a feel for these guys [the Devil Rays], just like they wanted to get a feel for me. They felt me pretty good," he said.

Big Ten NCAA Tournament bids up in the air

INDIANAPOLIS — Even as the Big Ten tournament drew to a close, questions about the other tournament were casting a shadow on the proceedings in Conseco Fieldhouse.

The biggest: How many bids will the conference get when the NCAA’s 65-team field is announced next Monday?

Four teams seem to be locks: Ohio State, the regular-season champ, Purdue, which advanced to the title game; Michigan State, last year’s Big Ten tourney champ and national runner-up; and Minnesota, the tournament’s third seed. All four have been ranked most of the season.

**NBA Standings**

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

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**NCAA Baseball AP Top 25**

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**around the dial**

**Men’s NCAA Basketball**

Pennsylvania at Princeton, 7 p.m. ESPNU

NHL

Colorado at St. Louis, 8 p.m. GLN
Free agency start delayed to Friday

NFL owners to meet today to discuss new union proposal

Associated Press

NEW YORK — For at least a few more days, dozens of high-priced NFL players still have jobs.

NFL labor talks took a new twist Sunday night when the league and its players' union agreed to postpone free agency another 72 hours, giving the sides more time to work out a deal on a contract extension.

The decision came just four hours after negotiations had broken off, leaving many veterans in danger of becoming salary-cap casualties. Owners will meet (today) in Dallas to decide whether they want to take the union's latest offer.

Free agency originally was supposed to start Friday, but was pushed back to 12:01 a.m. Monday. Now, it's set to begin at 12:01 a.m. Thursday.

In the meantime, the deadline for teams to get under the salary cap also was delayed.

That gave the Oakland Raiders a reprieve — they thought they'd be forced to release quarterback Kerry Collins, saving $9.2 million in cap space. The New York Jets cut center Kevin Mawae, who is 35 and missed the final 10 games last season with a triceps injury.

And according to an official with knowledge of the deal, linebacker LaVar Arrington agreed to a buyout of his contract with the Washington Redskins, the team believed to be in the most cap trouble. The team said the departure of the three-time Pro Bowl linebacker would provide "much needed salary cap relief."

Other players also could go if teams try to squeeze under a salary cap of $139.5 million. If a deal is reached, the cap could go as much as $10 million higher — in other words, allowing teams to keep some of their players.

Amid all the labor back-and-forth came news that running back Shaun Alexander was staying put. The league's MVP agreed to return to the NFC champion Seattle Seahawks for $62 million over eight years, with $15.1 guaranteed, according to his agent, Jim Stener.

The union broke off Sunday's bargaining session. "The talks ended after the NFL gave us a proposal which provided a percentage of revenues for the players which would be less than they received over the last 12 years," said Gene Upshaw, executive director of the NFL Players Association.

"After suggesting we extend the waiver deadline from six o'clock to 10 this evening, they gave us a new proposal which was worse than their prior offer. Quite naturally, we rejected that proposal and saw no need to continue meeting."

But Harold Henderson, the NFL's executive vice president for labor relations, said the union rejected a proposal that would have added $577 million for players in 2006 compared to 2005 and $1.5 billion in the six years of the extension.

"It's an unfortunate situation for the players, the fans and the league," Henderson said.

After a conference call between owners and league officials, including commissioner Paul Tagliabue, the league announced the extension.

"The NFL and the NFL Players Association have agreed to extend the start of the 2006 league year for 72 hours — until 12:01 a.m. EST, Thursday, March 9 — in order to allow the NFL clubs to meet in Dallas on Tuesday to consider the NFL Players Association's offer," the NFL said.

Shortly afterward, Upshaw said: "The NFL negotiators called us tonight after discussions with their tri­ nationals broke off to indicate that they will take our complete package to the owners for an approval vote on Tuesday."

"We have therefore agreed to extend the free agency deadline until midnight Wednesday in order to provide time for that vote to be accomplished," he said.

These negotiations were by far the most difficult since the NFL and the union first agreed to free agency and a salary cap in 1993, ending years of labor unrest that included player strikes in 1982 and 1987. The contract has been extended several times since then, most of the time with ease.

Even now, the contract doesn't expire until 2008, but this would be the last year of a salary cap — 2007 would be uncapped, which could lead to wild spending by some teams and little by others, creating a have/have-not situation similar to the one in baseball.

One reason these talks were more difficult is that the players asked for a change in the system.
The Office of Student Affairs is now accepting nominations for the

Denny Moore Award For Excellence in Journalism

Candidates must be seniors who exemplify the qualities for which Denny Moore was known, including personal integrity and character, commitment to Notre Dame, and writing ability. Candidates may be nominated by faculty, staff, or fellow students.

For a nomination form, please visit our website at: http://osa.nd.edu

Nominations are due by Thursday, March 9, 2006.
NCAA MEN’S BASKETBALL

Seahawks, Gaels earn automatic bids to tourney

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — With a 23-point lead whittled to almost nothing, North Carolina-Wilmington’s T.J. Carter put it upon himself to take control.

Carter scored 12 of his 23 points in the final three minutes Monday night, including 10-straight to provide a comfort zone, and the Seahawks beat Hofstra 78-67 to win their fourth Colonial Athletic Association championship in seven years.

"I kind of had to make plays," the junior guard said. "That’s my job here. That’s what coach puts me out there to do. (My teammates) stepped up for me for 37 minutes, grinding it out, playing tough defense, rebounding the ball and making our way in."

For the Seahawks seniors, most of whom were bit players when Wilmington last won the tournament title in 2003, the victory was verification of their excellence.

"If we wouldn’t have done this, they would have said, ‘Yeah, they were a great team, but they couldn’t win a championship,’" forward Beckham Myrick said.

Iona 80, St. Peter’s 61

Steve Burtt scored 28 points, leading Iona over St. Peter’s in the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference championship game Monday night and clinching the Gaels’ eighth NCAA tournament berth.

Ricky Soliver shook off early foul trouble, scoring 12 for Iona, which won its conference-leading seventh MAAC title and first since 2001 — the last time the Gaels qualified for the NCAA tournament. Kiril Wachsmann added 11 points and 12 rebounds and Burtt was named the tournament’s MVP.

At 23-7, the Gaels have produced their most victories in a season since winning 27 in 1997-98, a year before coach Jeff Ruland took over. Burtt, who has 2,011 career points, became only the second Iona player to reach the 2,000-point plateau. The other was his father Steve Burtt Sr., who scored 2,534 in the early 1980s.

For St. Peter’s, Keydren Clark’s magnificent tournament run ended with the senior guard scoring 25 points to lead the Peacocks (17-15), who came out flat, a result of playing their fourth game in four nights.

Besides leading St. Peter’s to its first MAAC championship game appearance since 1999, the senior guard scored 95 points in four games — passing both Oscar Robertson and Hersey Hawkins — and finishes with 3,058 career points to rank sixth on the NCAA scoring list.

Clark and Burtt were the conference’s two most prolific guards this season and also happened to be teammates at New York City’s Rice High School.

Raul Orta added 13 points for St. Peter’s, which dropped to 2-4 in MAAC championship games — its last win coming in 1995.
**NCAA Men's Basketball**

**Zags hold off Lions, upset bid**

Gonzaga beats Loyola Marymount, 68-67, for WCC Championship

Associated Press

SPokane, Wash. — J.P. Batista and Adam Morrison led Gonzaga in its upset bid against Loyola Marymount Saturday, but the Zags could not make it happen.

Batista, playing with an injured leg, added 13 points on only six of 18 field goals. Junior forward Jeff Dayz had 11, and senior Greg Willans finished No. 52 with 12 rebounds.

Gonzaga also won 40 straight home games, easiest long streak in the nation, and they are 29-0 in the 2-year-old McCarthy Athletic Center.

Mike Lavery, Geoff Giisler, Notre Dame at the Ohio State matches this weekend at the national singles tournament and posted a second-round win over the West Virginia athletic director.

Quinn joined an elite level of Notre Dame players to earn this honor since the Irish joined the Big East in 1995. Before Quinn and Harrison forward J.R. McNealy were selected in 2002, forward Troy Murphy was selected in 2001, 2000 and 1999 and so did forward Pat Garrity in 1997 and 1996.

Quinn led Notre Dame to a 15-2 overall record and a 6-10 mark in the Big East this season.

The Irish struggled out of the gate, falling to 1-8 in their first nine league games. But Quinn helped the Irish turn around its season, as the Irish went 5-2 in their last seven games, earning the final Big East tournament berth.

"A lot of teams might have faded away," Quinn said. "Over the season, there have been tough times when we've really been down as a group, but we've had to battle back, and got ready for the next game. Being resilient is very important for our group."
**Face off continued from page 20**

But that's not to say Claggett's only talent is winning face-offs — he can play defense, too. Corrigan is confident in the sophomore's abilities at midfield but mindful of his specific duties — especially after reserve face-off man senior Steve Pano was unavailable for last Saturday's 9-6 loss to Cornell due to injury.

"He's a good defensive player," Corrigan said of Pano, the Irish's groundball leader (64) for 2005. "But we don’t want to wear him out playing too much defense."

Opponents can not overlook Claggett's offensive abilities, as well. Last season, in addition to one assist, he scored two goals, the second in a 14-13 overtime triumph over Air Force.

"I watch film to see my opponent to see what move they're doing, to see what I can do to counter," Taylor Claggett, Irish midfielder, said.

"I thought I had a chance," he said of his goals.

Nagel — assistant coach of the 2005 national champions — thought he'd be a good fit for Claggett.

"He's a very good speed. He makes his turn well left and right. He has very good lateral movement. That will make him a very good linebacker," Nagel said.

Nagel said Weis complemented his speed and ability to hit when the two met this Saturday.

"He's just going to get bigger (and) stronger," Frank said of Nagel. "He's a guy that can be a starter in football, likes to hit people and is a real aggressive player. He has very, very good speed. He makes his turn well left and right. He has very good lateral movement. That will make him a very good linebacker," Nagel said.

Nagel received offers from 11 other schools, including Purdue, Boston College, Michigan State and Stanford.

"We've been to Notre Dame about five times," he said. "I love the campus, the atmosphere ... everything."

**Recruit continued from page 20**

"Notre Dame is not only strong [in athletics], it's one of the best academic schools in the country," Mike Frank of IrishEyes.com, a Web site on the Scout.com recruiting network, said.

"Any time you're going to have a guy that can get it done in the classroom, it makes him an attractive target as well," Frank said. "I think it certainly helps giving him an offer to have such a great situation academically — a guy who can get his work done on the field and off the field."

But Frank said the reason Weis offered Nagel a scholarship was likely his prowess on the field.

"When it's all said and done, he still got the offer because he's a very, very good football player," Frank said. "He's a guy that does his work."

And Corrigan and Claggett both believe the sophomore's diligence before the game separates him from his opponents during the game.

"I watch film to see my opponent to see what move they're doing; to see what I can do to counter," said Tim Dougherty, Irish coach.

"You've got to make sure you're familiar with the move, perfecting technique," Tim Dougherty said.

That kind of work ethic makes Claggett one of the handful of off-receivers in the country.

Contact Tim Dougherty at tdougher@nd.edu

**Registration has opened for the 2006 Edition of the Bookstore Basketball Tournament!!!**

Be a part of the World's Largest 5-on-5 Outdoor Basketball Tournament! All skill levels and intensity levels are encouraged and invited to join in this great Notre Dame community tradition!

**Go Online to www.nd.edu/~bkstr and follow the simple instructions to register your team today!**

**Registration ends 11:59 PM on March 19th***
JOCKULAR

I got an "F" on my test paper. My professor said the only way I could make up the grade is by building a library.

[Image 0x0 to 814x1221]

[24x14]. found The Observer an indispensable link to the Observer in your home.

[32x90]Observer is a vital source of information on

[32x1173]ALEC WHITE & ERIK POWERS

[32x1173]Tuesday, March 7, 2006

The Observer

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and mail to:

[334x701]•

[382x894]EAT LbTAToES ??

[382x1087]you show a sign of peace

[384x943]GRONTS

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[424x872]to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

[511x928]s / y /

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[549x1040]/  s

[566x260]You are a dreamer with lots of innovative ideas. You are capable of great things and intent on following your own path. You act quickly and tend to change your mind often.

Eugenia's Web sites: asiroadvice.com for fun, eugenialasl.com for confidential consultations

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Arigron

Unscramble these four jumble words to form four ordinary words.

Henri Arnold

Mike Arigron

Saturday's Jumble Answer:

SCARY BRINY PAUPER THROWN

When the riddle was cut on the steps, the cope said I was a "STAR CASE!"

THE OBSERVER

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[Image 0x0 to 814x1221]
FOOTBALL RECRUITING

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame landed its second verbal commitment for the class of 2011 Saturday when Chicago-area recruit Aaron Nagel (Lemont, Ill.) accepted a scholarship offer from head coach Charlie Weis to play outside linebacker.

"It's always been my dream since I was a little kid to go to Notre Dame," Nagel said in a telephone interview with The Observer Monday. "I was hoping for the offer, but I wasn't expecting it." Nagel said he came to Notre Dame this weekend to meet with Weis and discuss his chances of getting a scholarship offer from the Irish.

"Assistant Coach (Rob) Ianello, who is the recruiting coordinator for my area, told me Coach Weis wanted to sit down with me and get to know me," Nagel said. "He said I probably wouldn't get an offer until I attended a camp there. When he offered me, I was so excited. Nagel has lined up at running back, wide receiver, linebacker and safety for Lemont High School, much in the mold of current Notre Dame free safety Tom Zbikowski, who played quarterback in high school and was recruited as an "athlete."

This past season, the 6-foot-1, 215-pound junior ran for 1,305 yards and 26 touchdowns at running back and made 55 solo tackles and four interceptions on defense. He also runs the 40-yard dash in 4.3 seconds and ranks third in his class of 340 students with a 4.4 grade-point average on a weighted 4.0 scale.

"I wanted to go to a school that was strong on academics," Nagel said in a telephone interview with The Observer Monday. "I got to know me," Nagel said. "He said I probably wouldn't get an offer until I attended a camp there. When he offered me, I was so excited.

"I've been a chal­lenging place for us to play ... Hopefully we'll make that adjustment and be ready to go." The two teams will meet for the 18th consecutive season. The Irish won 5-2 over rival Hoo­siers since I was a little kid to go to Notre Dame," Nagel said in a telephone interview with The Observer Monday. "I was hoping for the offer, but I wasn't expecting it."

The Irish also have faced a number of state rival Indiana.

Men's Tennis

Battle in Bloomington

Irish seek seventh straight win over rival Hoosiers

By KATE GALES
Assistant Sports Editor

After a weekend sojourn playing in the California sunshine, the Irish return to indoor courts in Bloomington at 2 p.m. today.

Notre Dame enters the contest riding a six-match winning streak against in­state rival Indiana.

"The challenge there, in addition to the IU team, is that their courts are a lot faster than ours, and the lighting is consider­ably more dim," Irish coach Bobby Jaye said Monday. "It's been a chal­lenging place for us to play ... Hopefully we'll make that adjustment and be ready to go."

The two teams will meet for the 18th consecutive season. The Irish won 5-2 last season in what Rayl­sy called "a fairly close match."

The Irish also have faced a number of Hoosier players in tournaments throughout the fall and in previous years.

Notre Dame is 8-4 overall and 6-1 outside)

Irish senior Patrick Buchanan takes a shot against Wisconsin Feb. 12. Notre Dame will travel to Bloomington to face Indiana Today.

Men's Basketball

Quinn selected to All-Big East first team

By BOBBY GRIFFIN
Associate Sports Editor

"Notre Dame point guard Chris Quinn was selected to the All-Big East first team Monday, becoming the first Irish player to receive the honor since guard Matt Carroll — now with the NBA's Charlotte Bobcats — in 2003. Quinn averaged 20.2 points per game during the Big East regular season (18.2 overall), the third highest average in the league behind Rutgers guard Quinny Duby (27.0) and Villanova guard Randy Foye (21.0). Quinn also averaged 6.3 assists in 16 league games 16.2 overall. "It's just a great honor to be on the first team, to be men­tioned with the best in our league," Quinn said in a press conference at the Joyce Center Monday. "Especially knowing that the coaches vote on that, it's a great honor to know they think highly of me."

The 6-foot-2, 185-pound Irish guard Chris Quinn drives against Rutgers guard Shayle Keating during a 90-63 Notre Dame win Feb. 8.

The victory gave the Irish the WCC championship, the sixth best face-off man in Division I lacrosse, receiving 612 percent of the face-offs he took. "After every goal and at the beginning of every quar­ter, there is a possession up for grabs," Corrigan said Monday. "If you can dom­i­nate the face-off, you can dominate the possessions ... it's an uphill battle when you're not getting face-offs.

"But face-off men, who con­tribute a crucial role to their team's momentum, ironically receive fewer playing time when they win a drop.

"If I win, I'll be in for about 30 seconds on offense," Corrigan said Monday. "If I lose, I stay in on defense for maybe five minutes."

The Irish roster lists Clagett as a midfielder — the position his older broth­er Steve played for Notre Dame from 2001-04. He mainly takes face-offs and hops off the field shortly thereafter if he wins, though, in favor of an offen­sive midfielder.

"We recruited Taylor as a face-off guy," Corrigan said. "We got very lucky with him. His game is coming along."

"It's just a great honor to be on the first team, to be men­tioned with the best in our league," Quinn said in a press conference at the Joyce Center Monday. "Especially knowing that the coaches vote on that, it's a great honor to know they think highly of me."

The 6-foot-2, 185-pound guard scored in double figures 25 times this season and scored 30 points or more four times. He scored a season-high 37 points against Marquette Jan. 26.

"It's an uphill battle when you're not getting face-offs."

But face-off men, who con­tribute a crucial role to their team's momentum, ironically receive fewer playing time when they win a drop.

"If I win, I'll be in for about 30 seconds on offense," Clagett said Monday. "If I lose, I stay in on defense for maybe five minutes."

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