Jenkins says ND mission is global in nature

Trip significant to University and key to presidency

By MADDIE HANNA
New Writer

University President Father John Jenkins didn’t go to Uganda just to help people. First, he went to learn — and while he sees aiding a country that faces tremendous challenges as both an opportunity and an obligation, he says it takes a certain approach. "It is very important not to come to a place like Uganda with a condescending attitude, that, you know, ‘We’re going to help you get back up’ — there’s a sort of hidden arrogance in that that I think is wholly unhelpful, and it’s insulting to the people of Uganda," he said Thursday.

Jenkins arrived in Uganda two weeks ago, accompanied by Executive Assistant to the President Frances Shavers, Associate Vice President for Marketing Communication Todd Woodward, Notre Dame Millennium Development Initiative (NDMDI) Director Father Bob Dowd, NDMDI Assistant Director Tim Lyden, Africana Studies department chair Richard Pierce and sophomore Tess Bune.

The trip was significant in a number of ways, Jenkins said. Besides the desire to explore another culture, there was the goal to connect with the universal Church — two ideas that Jenkins called "central to the core mission of Notre Dame" and key to his presidency.

There was also, of course, the purpose that is probably most associated with the week-long trip — meeting the people of Nindye, who Notre Dame will work with through the Millennium Villages Project, founded by Columbia University’s Jeffrey Sachs.

"[Uganda] is a poor country, education is less than what it should be, diseases that are easily preventable people die from in large numbers," Jenkins said, "and the sense of justice and fairness — but also the sense of Christian charity — requires that, in the way that we can, we strive to help people ... to rise out of poverty enough to have a dignified life."
Weather wonders

Whenever I can think of something to say, I usually turn to talking about the weather. It's a fallback, a last-ditch effort to salvage a dying conversation. Usually.

Here, however, I'm going to begin (and end) by discussing the weather. I'm going to admit it: I am a huge fan of snow. I like to look at it from inside my house while sitting comfortably toasty under a blanket, drinking hot chocolate. I try to avoid personally interacting with snow, or other forms of precipitation, as much as humanly possible. The inconvenient truth is that however much I try to avoid it, snow happens.

Except this year. When I returned to my lovely home state of New Jersey, usually bombarded with snow by mid-January, I was greeted by the sun and downright balmy temperatures. I didn't wear a coat. I didn't wear my new sweaters. I didn't wear the scarves I knitted in attempt to pass the hours of the afternoon I spent doing absolutely nothing.

And I really didn't care. It was fifty, sixty, seventy degrees! When it hit seventy-four, my friends and I piled into my car, rolled the windows down and drove down the shore. At times it was a little too chilly to sit on the beach, and the ocean was most definitely frigid. It may have been a little ridiculous in retrospect, but we couldn't resist. And we weren't the only ones — the beach was surprisingly full that afternoon.

It was, after all, the middle of January, not a prime beach-going time.

I began to get a little uneasy about this unseasonable weather near the end of break. We did get some rain and some cold nights, but I felt as if I was missing out on winter. I couldn't believe what I was thinking — me, missing cold, slippery snow? The snow that turns black on the streets and makes walking my very small Yorkshire terrier impossible?

But when I arrived back to campus last Saturday it was cold and I was happy. When it snowed and I got to wear my favorite coats and scarves and, I smiled. To public. No one in particular. And I felt like an idiot, but I was glad to finally to experience winter. It still hasn't snowed, really snowed, once at home, even though the temperatures are dropping. I feel badly for my friends who want to school there because they're not experiencing a proper, dreaded east coast winter.

What's this excitement of spring if summer comes in January?

I used to wish it would be nice outside year-round. But now I want to keep my seasons just the way they were: disgustingly humid in the summer, damp in the fall, freezing in the winter and gorgeous in the spring. And though, I still prefer the snow when walls and windows separate me from it, I'm going to maybe interact with it and enjoy it when it comes this year.

Or try to, at least.

Contact Jennifer Metz at jmetz@nd.edu.

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

By MEGHAN WONS
News Writer

The LaFortune Student Center underwent its latest facelift during Christmas break as the University renovated the nook in the southeast corner, home to quarter dogs and the wall of candy: the Huddle Mart.

Jim Labella, Huddle manager, said the Huddle Mart was "originally going to be part of the summer renovations" that included the main lounge and seating areas around Subway and Burger King. While the Office of Student Activities was responsible for renovating these areas, Food Services was put in charge of changes to the Huddle Mart.

The refurbishing, which includes new flooring, lighting, counterwork, a new ceiling and an expanded display area, was the first in the Huddle Mart's 11-year history. The plans were the result of a collaborative effort between Labella, designers employed by the University, and the vendor from whom Food Services purchased the counterwork. Labella said, "It turned out very well. I'm very happy with the outcome," he said.

As for new products, Labella said the Huddle Mart's products are always changing, but nothing major was added or replaced over Christmas break — he did say, however, that with more display area, there will be room for more and perhaps some different products.

Especially considering the attention paid to LaFortune over the summer, Labella said, decorum changes for the Huddle Mart were due.

"Now everything blends in," he said.

Senior graphic design and marketing major Noel Carson appreciates the new aesthetics of the convenience store, calling it "more professional, less cluttered."

Great-great grandmother Helen Hitte has been a LaFortune employee for 39 years last October,” Hitte said, and has seen a lot of changes during her tenure. She recalls the days of selling smokes to students at what she called the "cigarette counter" years ago, and talking to the football players when they would come in after practice.

"The Huddle [Mart] wasn't even here about twenty years ago," Hitte said. "The renovations are nice. It's nice and bright for the kids so they can come in at night and get their food," she said.

At 84 years old, Hitte continues to work at LaFortune because "I just like to be around people," she said.

Hitte believes that with its new renovations, LaFortune will likely continue to attract plenty of students seeking good food, a place to study or, for regulars like Hitte, the company of friends.

Contact Meghan Wons at mwons@nd.edu

Students benefit from book sales

Buyback program not breaking even with original prices

By AARON STEINER
News Writer

Long lines, low semester-end refunds and hefty price tags at the Notre Dame Hammes Bookstore regularly frustrate students at the start and end of each semester, despite the convenience of services the store offers.

With the price of a semester's worth of books tipping the scales at up to several hundred dollars, and the refund on those books being what many describe as a paltry few dollars, many students are finding ways around these issues by taking their business elsewhere.

As a first semester freshman, Ellen Rolles said she "didn't really know of any other way" to purchase texts, and as a first year student, was able to resolve the issue after determining what books were required, well before the list is posted online.

"But when she returned those books to the bookstore through the Buyback program offered at the end of each semester, she was further dismayed.

"I brought five books back (at the end of the semester). One went for $1.50, another for $10 ... I ended up keeping the one for $1.50, with the others they wouldn't take," she said.

"They had book sales, but they were not really that useful," she said. "They were not really different prices," she said.

"Even the books that I've bought used, they're not even really that 'used' ... they are often quite new," she said.

"And in the one case where Lange didn't get the book she purchased in the mall, she was able to resolve the issue and receive a prompt refund," said a spokesperson for the bookstore.

"At the end of the semester, Lange said she returns to Half.com to sell her books. While she is responsible for purchasing and shipping the items, Lange said the benefits outweigh the cost.

Still, others state that the convenience of bookstore services is worth the extra cost.

For junior Alyssah Connolly, the bookstore has kept her loyalty thus far, she said.

"It's convenient. I know they have what I need, and I can get it on time," she said. Still, she commented, she would like to pursue purchasing and selling her books outside of the bookstore in the future in order to save a little.

"It's convenient; I know they have what I need, and I can get it on time," she said. Still, she commented, she would like to pursue purchasing and selling her books outside of the bookstore in the future in order to save a little.

"If I were able to resolve the issue after determining what books were required, well before the list is posted online," Rolles said.

While she is responsible for purchasing and selling her books outside of the bookstore in the future in order to save a little.

"Instead of giving them back," she said, "I'll keep them and sell them to freshmen next year."

Contact Aaron Steiner at astein@nd.edu

Ben Bailey
Comedian

has made appearances on shows such as the Late Late Show, Premium Blend, Last Call with Carson Daly, and The Tonight Show

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**Task**

Continued from page 1

Schools, Scully said.

Contemplating a book by Anthony Bryk, Valerie Lee and Peter Holland titled "Catholic Schools and the Common Good," Scully also said that Catholic schools provide an educational experience that cannot be found in government-run schools. Catholic schools offer a sense of community, a basic curriculum with a focus on reading, writing and arithmetic and remain free from political pressures, Scully said.

"The most important thing is that Catholic schools offer a learning environment that is prostrated by faith," Scully said. "And that Catholic schools offer a sense of justice," he added.

While Ferriera and Antonelli's plan to "break the requirements, pieces we can chew," Scully said.

Now that the report has established the areas of focus, the next step is to break the requirements down into "bite-size pieces, pieces we can chew," Scully said.

Scully was invited to present the report to a joint session of the USOCR education and catechesis committees Jan. 9 in Washington. "The Bishop's conference gave us [the full blessing and support to move forward toward implementation of these recommendations," Scully said.

The University will accomplish most of its objectives through the Institute for Education Initiatives and ACE, Scully said.

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohler1@Saintmarys.edu

**Debate**

Continued from page 1

"I plan to continue to be involved with the groups once elected," Davis said.

Juniors Annie Davis and Courtney Kennedy also have experience leading students in student government and extracurricular clubs -- Davis is vice-president of the Notre Dame Figure Skating Club.

"Everyone is a leader. In order to best represent a woman's college, we all need to have the opportunity to take leadership roles," Davis said.

When asked about their accessibility once elected, Ferriera emphasized her availability to students.

"I am a student too, she said. 'I am not here to be a power over you, but to represent you.'" While Ferriera and Antonelli's campaign centers around costly improvements on campus, they also stressed how well they'll represent their constituents.

"We want what you want. That is the most important thing," Antonelli spoke confidently about her ability to change the future of the College.

"Why not have so immediate change?" she asked. "Our mission and tradition is strong, but we are not working for twenty years from now. We are working for now and the seniors can help put the school in good hands." Ferriera and Antonelli spoke confidently about their lofty, budgetary increases, including campus-wide wireless Internet, maintaining printer clusters in dorms.

"Many girls have asked me about going wireless," Ferriera noted. "It is a feasible idea and we have a great administration willing to work with us on these ideas." Hodges and Payne centered on student voice during the debate. Pontificating students to the administration and student government partnerships as a major part of their platform.

"We want to host open forums so that students will always have a voice," Hodges said. "Many students are frustrated about not having a say on campus and we want that to change." Hodges and Payne also see the need for change.

"To lead is to change," Hodges said. "We must take initiative to implement changes to make Saint Mary's the best for students during their time here." Hodges posed differences on her leadership experience, Hodges recognized that she would not have been as informed had she not been a leader.

"We want to make you happy. We know what you need and we are not working for us," Payne said. "We are working for you." The ticket also describes diversity as a "second nature."" Diversity is so important to us," Hodges said. "I have always had the quality of the experience, but there is a need for change." Hodges, who was one of three African-Americans in her freshman class of approximately 400, has been working to increase diversity at Saint Mary's. She is the vice president of the Student Diversity Board and founded the Diverse Student Leadership Conference.

"It is not just about recruitment, but retention," she said. "We want diversity in all things, like race, religion, background and so on." The final ticket, juniors Annie Davis and Courtney Kennedy emphasized communication.

"Now, the student government will represent all as the most efficient way to connect to students; but there are other ways," Davis said.

These ways included a suggestion box and "Letters to the President" in the BelleCourt.

Davis and Kennedy also welcomed the opportunity to debate.

"It is a chance for [seniors] to leave a legacy behind," Davis said. It is definitely something good for the college." It works closely with admissions, termed their primary focus in the goal the "Identity Initiative." Right now, the Board of Trustees and administration is reworking how Saint Mary's is portrayed. You are the identity and we want your input to show what the real SMC woman is," Davis said.

Elections will be held Monday night on PhiBMS.

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohler1@Saintmarys.edu

**Attention JPW Registrants**

If you plan on attending either the JPW Dinner or Brunch and would like to be seated with friends, you must participate in Seating Registration

JPW Seating Registration Monday, January 22nd 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm 115 McKenna Hall

Each table seats up to nine guests. You may select a different group to sit with for each of the two events. Send one representative from your table group to Seating Registration with the names and NicIDs of each student at the table.

For more information, visit the JPW website: http://www.nd.edu/~jpw

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Two 4 p.m.
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Opening reception at the Snite Museum

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The Dillon Brothers and Friends (Gene Halton, Doug Rice, Ken Giarme and friends) to perform a selection of anti-war/protest songs from the 1960s and 1970s in the Annenberg Auditorium.

www.nd.edu/~sniteart 574.631.5466
All events are free and open to the public.
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Northern Europe buffeted by rain

LONDON — Hurricane-force winds and heavy downpour hammered northern Europe on Thursday, killing 25 people and disrupting travel for tens of thousands — including Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who was forced to circle for 15 minutes before landing amid winds gusting to 77 mph.

The storms were among the fiercest to batter northern Europe in years, ripping off part of the roof at Lord's Cricket Ground in London, toppling a crane in the Netherlands and upending trucks on a major highway.

By evening, weather-related accidents had killed 25 people, including a 2-year-old boy hit by falling bricks from a toppled wall in London.

Al-Qaida linked to convoy attack

CAIRO, Egypt — An al-Qaida-linked coalition of Iraqi Sunni insurgents claimed responsibility Thursday for an attack in Baghdad on a convoy in cluding Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, whose plane was forced to circle for 15 minutes before landing amid winds gusting to 77 mph.

The Washington-based National Democratic Institute staffed an office in the Parhamovich of Perry, Ohio. Contractors from Hungary, Croatia and Iraq also were killed in the ambush Wednesday. Two other people were wounded, one seriously.

Parhamovich was a graduate of Marietta College in central Ohio, had been working with NDI in Iraq since late 2006 as a communications spe cialist advising Iraqi political parties on how to reach out to voters and constituents. She was helping "build the kind of national level political institutions that can help bridge the sectarian divide and improve Iraqi lives," NDI said.

NATIONAL NEWS

Business

Pentagon releases new trial rules

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon set rules Thursday for detainee trials that could allow terror suspects to be convicted and perhaps executed using hearsay testimony and coerced statements, setting up a new clash between President Bush and Congress.

The rules are fair, said the Pentagon, which released them in a manual for the experimental courts. But a senator controlling Congress said they would hold hearings and revive legislation on the plan, and human rights organizations complained that the regulations would allow evidence that would not be tolerable in civilian or military court rooms.

Crew acted properly before crash

BROOKS, Ky. — Federal officials said early inspections indicate the crew of a CSX train acted properly just before it derailed, igniting a massive chemical fire that forced evacuations south of Louisville.

The fire sent thick black clouds of smoke into the sky, prompting officials to evacuate residents and shut down a major highway. Firefighters were finishing a controlled burn of some chemicals from tanker cars.

"We have not found any anomalies in operations at this point, we've not seen any train handling issues at this point," said Mark Rosenker, chairman of the National Transportation and Safety Board.

LOCAL NEWS

Police

Police intensity search for student

Washington, D.C. — More than 10,000 police officers joined police Thursday in an expanded search for a Purdue University freshman who has been missing for a week.

Wade S. Steffey, 19, was last seen leaving a party at a fraternity house on the north side of campus.

Police said Thursday that a $50 withdrawal from Steffey's bank account was made from an ATM at a campus dining hall at 8:30 p.m. last Friday. Initially, they thought the withdrawal was at 11:40 p.m. Saturday, but that was the time when bank records were downloaded, not when the withdrawal was made.

Iran

Ahmadinejad warns Iraq is ready

TEHRAN — President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad lashed back over the U.S. military buildup in the Gulf, saying Thursday that Iraq is ready for a showdown in its standoff with the West over its nuclear program.

The president made clear he was not backing down in his tough rhetoric toward the United States, despite criticism at home. At the same time, his top national security official, Ali Larjani, sharply denounced U.S. policy in Iraq, accusing Washington of fueling Shiite-Sunni hatreds.

Washington has accused Iraq of backing militants fueling Iraq's violence and has tried to rally its Arab allies in isolating Tehran. The Iraq crisis has increased tensions between the U.S. and Iran amid the dispute over Iran's nuclear program, which Washington says aims to produce nuclear weapons.

The United States sent an aircraft carrier, the USS Stennis, to the Gulf this week — the second to deploy in the region in a week buildup that Defense Secretary Robert Gates said was intended to impress on Iran that the four-year war in Iraq has not made America vulnerable.

In an apparent reaction to the deployment, Ahmadinejad said Thursday that Iran would not back down over its nuclear program, which Tehran says is being developed only to produce energy.

"Today, with the grace of God, we have gotten past the arduous passages and we are ready for anything in this path," state-run television quoted the Iranian leader as saying Sunday.

The U.N. Security Council recently imposed limited sanctions on Iran for defying a resolution demanding that it suspend uranium enrichment, a process that can produce fissile material to fuel nuclear reactors or, at purer concentrations, the core of nuclear weapons.

In Paris, the head of the U.N. nuclear watchdog agency, Mohamed ElBaradei, said he was concerned the sanctions could escalate Iran's standoff with Western powers.

"I don't think sanctions will resolve the issue. Sanctions in my view could lead to escalation on both sides," he warned.

ElBaradei called for a resumption of talks with Tehran and said he would support any efforts to "engage Iran," including the possibility of a French negotiating team. "My worry right now is that each side is sticking to its guns," the International Atomic Energy Agency chief said.

"We need someone to reach out," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said this week that now is not the time for the United States to talk to Iran, adding that Tehran does not appear ready to accept a conditional U.S. offer to join European talks over its nuclear program.

ElBaradei warned that only applying pressure could prompt the Islamic republic to follow the path of North Korea, which kicked out U.N. inspectors and pulled out of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty in 2003 and then conducted its first nuclear weapons test last October.

Pelosi seeks to set up committee

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi sought on Thursday to create a special committee in an effort to jump-start long-delayed government efforts to deal with global warming and produce a bill by the end of the year.

Pelosi, D-Calif., said she would ask the House for a vote to set up the committee. She wants to hold hearings and recommend legislation on how to reduce greenhouse gases, primarily carbon dioxide generated by fossil fuels, that most scientists blame for a gradual warming of the earth's climate.

Existing committees that deal with energy, environment and technology would be asked to draft bills based on the global warming committee's recommendations.

"The science of global warming and its impact is overwhelming and unequivocal," Pelosi said in a new select committee, we demonstrate the priority we are giving to confront this most serious challenge. Now is the time to act. The future of our country, indeed our entire planet, is at stake."

Pelosi set a goal of the Fourth of July for finishing a global warming bill that would "truly declare our energy independence."

The committee will be led by Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., who shares Pelosi's goals, said a Democratic leadership aide, speaking on condition of anonymity because Pelosi had yet to announce her choice.

Pelosi's move increases the likelihood that Democrats will propose far tougher constraints on greenhouse gas pollution than the Bush administration wants. She also has outflanked for now — and angered — a few Democrats who head important House committees.

"We should probably name it the committee on world travel and junkets," said Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which oversees the Clean Air Act and the Environmental Protection Agency.
Iran plans for installation of uranian enrichment program

Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — Iran is ready to start assembling thousands of centrifuges to produce enriched uranium — a possible pathway to nuclear arms — after finishing most preliminary work on an underground facility housing such machines, a diplomat and a U.N. official said Thursday.

The two said much, but not all, of the hardware needed for the installation of the centrifuges was now in place at the Natanz facility designated to house Tehran's industrial-scale enrichment program.

Both men — who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss confidential information — emphasized that the facility had been ready for some time, and there was no sign that actual work on putting in the centrifuges would begin at any particular date.

The revelations — based on reports by inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency visiting Natanz this week — appeared to strengthen claims from Tehran that it is moving toward large-scale enrichment involving 3,000 centrifuges, which spin uranium gas into enriched material.

Low-enriched uranium can be used to generate power, while highly enriched levels serve as the fissile core of nuclear warheads.

"We are moving toward the production of nuclear fuel, which requires 3,000 centrifuges and more than this figure," government spokesman Gholamhossein Elham told reporters Monday. "This program is being carried out and moving toward completion."

Iran's leaders have suggested those machines would be in place by March 20, the end of the Iranian year. But the diplomat and official said quick completion of such a large-scale project was unlikely, saying the complicated process takes months.

Another point of uncertainty is how many centrifuges Iran has assembled. The IAEA has not seen any beyond the few hundred Tehran has shown inspectors. But David Albright, whose Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security tracks Iran's nuclear activities, said Tehran technicians are likely to have built more than 1,000 of the machines at a secret location.

Even if Tehran proves successful in installing 3,000 centrifuges, experts estimate that it would take Tehran several years for all of them to be running smoothly and without breakdowns. Once that happens, Tehran could produce two bombs a year.

Iran plans to ultimately expand its enrichment program to 54,000 centrifuges. That would give it the capacity to produce dozens of nuclear warheads a year, if it chose to develop weapons.

It also imposed an asset freeze on key companies and individuals in the country's nuclear and missile programs named on a U.N. list and gave the country 60 days to comply or face the likelihood of tougher nonmilitary sanctions.
**IN BRIEF**

**Economists find low inflation in 2006**

WASHINGTON — Americans finally saw some relief when they filled up their gas tanks this year. After rising in energy costs from last summer’s record highs and the smallest rise in doctor charges in more than a half century helped to keep the lid on consumer prices. The Labor Department reported Thursday that the Consumer Price Index rose 2.5 percent in 2006, the best showing on inflation in three years.

And in further good news, workers got a boost in the paychecks with the biggest jump in wages after adjusting for inflation, in nine years.

The 1.1 percent gain in wages, after removing the effects of inflation, followed three straight years in which wages had fallen even as many corporations were enjoying record profits.

Democrats focused on those wage declines as they argued in last fall’s congressional elections that President Bush’s economic policies were failing the middle class.

Analysts attributed the rise in real wages to the slowdown in inflation and to a low unemployment rate, which meant companies had to pay more to attract qualified workers.

**Benefits could thwart CVS’ takeover**

NEW YORK — There is nothing like greed in corporate America. For the lucky few, it makes them wealthy almost by imagination. But it can ruin businesses and in the case of Caremark Rx Inc., possibly even thwart a takeover deal that many on Wall Street think has merits.

That’s because the leaders of the pharmacy-benefits manager seem to have put their own interests before those of shareholders. Regulatory filings suggest they got CVS Corp. to promise them all sorts of perks — big money, job protections and indemnification from legal proceedings — if they support Caremark’s combination with the nation’s largest retail drug chain.

Such behavior has given a rival bidder, Express Scripts Inc., some good ammunition to potentially win investor-support.

**Pea offered in HP spying case**

State prosecutors will drop felony charges if defendants plea guilty to misdemeanor

San Francisco — State prosecutors offered to drop felony charges against former Hewlett-Packard Co. Chairwoman Patricia Dunn and four other defendants in the company’s boardroom spying scandal if they agree to plead guilty to a misdemeanor, a defense lawyer said Thursday.

Stephen Nardelli, lawyer for private investigator Bryan Wagner, said the attorney general’s office offered a plea deal that would eliminate all four felony charges against his client in exchange for a misdemeanor guilty plea.

Nardelli said Deputy Attorney General Robert Morgestern also told him that the other four defendants in the case — one former HP ethics chief Kevin Hunsaker, and outside investigators Ronald DeLa and Matthew DePauw — were offered the same deal.

The attorney general’s office declined to confirm, as did lawyers for Dunn and DePiazie. One of Hunsaker’s lawyers, Thomas Nolan, also declined to comment but said his client is not interested in taking any plea deal.

“We’re not involved in the plea negotiations because Kevin didn’t do anything wrong and didn’t do anything illegal,” Nolan said.

Dunn’s defense lawyer could not immediately be reached Thursday, but he has said previously that he plans to challenge the charges at trial.

Each defendant faces four felony counts — identity theft, conspiracy, fraud and false use of computer data — for their alleged roles in HP’s ill-fated effort to root out the source of boardroom leaks in the news media.

Former Attorney General Bill Lockyer filed the charges in October amid a media frenzy over the scandal, which rattled the top ranks of a company long known for its professionalism and privacy.

The scandal led to the departure of Dunn, Hunsaker and former general counsel Ann Finckas and prompted investigations by state prosecutors and several federal agencies.

Nardelli said each of the charges can be prosecuted as either a felony or a misdemeanor, and the defendants were offered the chance to plead guilty to one of the lesser offenses.

So far, apparently none of the defendants has agreed to the deal, and the difficulty in negotiating any plea bargains at the state level is compounded by an ongoing federal investigation.

Wagner pleaded guilty last week in San Jose federal court to identity theft and conspiracy. He acknowledged using the Social Security numbers for HP directors, journalists and their family members to trick telephone companies into divulging phone records and conspiring to share the information with others involved in HP’s probe.

Wagner never had any direct contact with anyone inside HP, and was at the bottom of a long chain of security subcontractors that led back to HP, his lawyer said.

On Wednesday, the state attorney general’s office said it would probably not oppose a motion by Wagner’s lawyer to dismiss all the state charges against him because he had admitted to the crimes in federal court.

California law prohibits prosecutors from pursuing charges against someone convicted of the same crime in federal court. Lawyers for all five defendants appeared in Santa Clara County Superior Court on Wednesday to discuss the progress of the case. Wagner’s lawyer is scheduled to return to court Jan. 26 to file his formal motion to dismiss the charges.

**Fannie Mae’s weaknesses persist**

WASHINGTON — Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac have promised progress toward correcting financial weaknesses, but tight government supervision is needed to make sure problems don’t emerge from accounting scandals, a federal regulator said Thursday.

James B. Lockhart, director of the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, said during a dinner that Fannie Mae, which just last month announced a record second quarter profit of $800 million, has not come back as well as expected. He said Fannie Mae’s commitment toward reducing bad debts and improving its security was under pressure.

He said Fannie Mae had a small profit of $820 million in the second quarter of 2004, but that number was below expectations.

Lockhart noted that the companies’ financial results continue to be volatile from quarter to quarter, saying that both lost money in the July-September period last year. Freddie Mac, the smaller of the two, recently forecast a profit of about $550 million for the fourth quarter due mainly to declines in interest rates, compared with a profit of $880 million in the third quarter of 2005.

Fannie Mae has not reported or forecast its results beyond June 2004. The company, which is the second-largest U.S. financial institution after Citigroup Inc., is not expected to return to timely financial reporting until early next year.

Fannie Mae spokesman Brian Fahl declined to comment on the third-quarter results.

With the Democrats now in control of Congress, prospects have improved for compromise legislation tightening the government’s reins on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. The accounting scandals that rocked both companies in recent years brought demands by Republicans in Congress and the Bush administration for a return to their massive mortgage holdings — a move vehemently opposed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.
Mission
continued from page 1

life.

What’s important to realize, Jenkins said, is that Notre Dame isn’t just pouring dollars on Nindye — it’s a partnership. And partnerships work both ways.

“I think we need to help in what ways we can … to assist [the villagers],” Jenkins said. “I do believe that in that process, we will be the beneficiaries as much as they are. Because we will learn about their culture, we will work with them and form relationships that will enrich our lives as much as it enriches their lives.”

While Notre Dame’s involvement with the Millennium Villages Project is unprecedented, the trip itself wasn’t. After all, Notre Dame presidents are frequent travelers.

Global connections

University President Emeritus Theodore Hesburgh has been “all over” Africa. He visited Uganda in 1958, before Holy Cross got there,” he said. Those priests arrived years later, and since then, more Holy Cross priests and teachers have gone to the region.

“We’re not an isolated place in northern Indiana, but we’re a Catholic institution interested in the whole world,” Hesburgh said, echoing one of Jenkins’ reasons for the trip. “We pick the places where we can have an influence educationally.”

Hesburgh’s successor, University President Emeritus Father John J. Hannon, has also visited multiple trips to Africa.

“Notre Dame’s an international institution, and I think everyone who’s part of it needs to think globally,” Malloy said.

Malloy, who has been to Cameroon, South Africa, Madagascar and Uganda, said he was “delighted” to hear of Jenkins’ recent trip.

And while both Hesburgh and Malloy noted that Notre Dame presidents are expected to see the world, they recognized the importance of this particular trip.

“It’s an important step. When you’re president of Notre Dame, it’s important you have firsthand knowledge of the places where you choose to help,” Hesburgh said. “And we’ve been doing that for years, especially in Chile [and] Bangladesh.

In the past, Notre Dame has helped schools in those two countries, he said. Hesburgh believes the educational approach to providing aid — like the idea behind Millennium Villages Project — is the one a university should take.

“Good ideas have to be institutionalized, and there’s no better way of doing it than creating a learning center that will exist and grow and be a constant help to an emerging area,” he said.

Catholic character

Another way Jenkins grew to know the Ugandans was not through their culture, but through their religion.

While the Notre Dame group did meet those at the forefront of the Ugandan Catholic Church — not unlike last January’s trip to Rome, where Jenkins and University Trustees built on relationships with Vatican leaders — Jenkins emphasized the value in less official encounters.

“We go to parishes in Uganda, just ordinary, faithful people,” he said. “You do feel a bond with them — it’s a common faith, common commitments, that brings you close to one another. The whole idea of the Mass, and the Eucharist, is formative of a community …

“I think all of that is part of this richness of community that extends across cultures, across languages, across countries, to a deeper unity and a deeper solidarity with one another.

“I think that’s part of what we believe here at Notre Dame, and that’s why the struggles of people in Uganda are our struggles, their joys are our joys. And it’s important always to remain aware of that.

Enriching a community

Members of the Notre Dame community will travel to Uganda again, but apart from Lyden — who’s slated to go back in February — specific plans haven’t been made, Jenkins said.

He said there would be research opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students.

“I think it’s a great educational opportunity for our students, and again, it would be a limited number of people, but … I think there are possibilities there,” Jenkins said.

The opportunity provided by Nindye village isn’t directly related to Provost Thomas Burish’s initiative announced last fall to increase research at the University, Jenkins said, but the two are intertwined.

“I think Tom Burish’s emphasis is more focused on certain areas, that our faculty do research on, but it’s all part of the same plan — that is, Notre Dame is a place where people ask questions and try to answer them in intelligent and creative ways,” Jenkins said. “And so all that is part of research.

It will take a few years to see if Notre Dame’s involvement in Uganda is successful, and Jenkins knows that.

“I think that there’s some criticism that [Millennium Villages Project] is too optimistic,” he said. “It is true that development programs have been undertaken in sub-Saharan Africa for many years, and many of them just haven’t succeeded. So people are skeptical about their success, and it’s yet to be seen whether this village can be self-sufficient, but we’ll see.

“I just think the alternative, doing nothing, is not acceptable. And I’m sure there are other criticisms, but if someone has a better idea, let’s hear it. I haven’t heard a better idea. So that’s why we’re happy to be involved in this,” he said.

As for Jenkins, more trips are in the works. This semester, the president plans to visit multiple U.S. cities, Washington D.C. and Puerto Rico, as well as Jerusalem this May.

“I think of my job both kind of on campus and off campus, and I think Notre Dame has a job obviously to educate the students … but it also has an obligation to interact with the world,” he said.

Like his predecessors, Jenkins hopes these interactions will benefit the entire Notre Dame community.

“If Uganda really was an enriching trip,” he said, “and I have great hopes it will enrich this community in the future.”

Contact Maddie Hanna at m hannal@nd.edu

Mission continued from page 1

... joy and happiness on stage
- Rolling Stone

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Rice says peace talks too early

Associated Press

LONDON — Israel and the Palestinians can pick any agenda they want for a preliminary peace-making summit with the United States, but it is too early to tackle the toughest issues, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Thursday.

"We're not yet at the point where I think we can determine what we would do about formal negotiations, when and if they can occur," Rice said at the close of a week's trip to the Middle East and Europe. "It's really a time to try to get the parties into a more of a confidence-building phase and we'll see what comes after that.

Rice said her three-way meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas probably would take place in the Middle East in the first half of February.

Rice said her talks with Abbas and Olmert "broke through that." Olmert and Abbas agreed to the three-way meeting, a symbolic advancement both of their relationship and the involvement of traditional peace broker Washington. Rice added that whatever Olmert and Abbas are doing politically compromised.

Rice says peace talks too early

...
Uganda methods set example

The importance of service is ingrained in the Notre Dame culture. Large numbers of students volunteer on a regular basis and regularly devote a year or two of their post-graduate lives to programs like ACE and Teach for America. So it’s not that surprising that the University has chosen to affiliate itself with a group of people in Uganda, vowing to support Nindye village in its quest to raise the quality of life.

What’s notable about this project, however, is the way it’s being done. Notre Dame’s approach to the Millennium Village Project appears to be a smart one. The goal is not to just pour money into Nindye every time the villagers need it — it’s to lift people up. The University community needs to recognize that the project is not just intended to make “do-good Notre Dame” look generous. Rather, Notre Dame is entering the partnership. It is one of many participants, one of two universities and 5,000 hardworking villagers aiming to create change and dialogue.

Most importantly, the project is a promising alternative to what could have simply been a lump-sum charitable gift, generous, absolutely, but probably not as enriching for both communities. If the relationship progresses like those behind the project believe it will — a partnership on a slower scale, gradually building to self-sufficiency — the Ugandans will receive the basic tools they need to succeed. Furthermore, a long-term relationship will be created that should benefit both Nindye and Notre Dame.

Now, it’s a matter of spreading the word. It is important for those who went to Africa continue the initiative. This isn’t the only focus for University President Father John Jenkins, and he knows it won’t be everybody else’s. But this can’t be a worthy initiative that falls off the radar or gets lost in a haze of played out awareness weeks. It’s the job of Jenkins and the others who have been to Nindye to prioritize. It is equally important that those who go in the future keep the bigger picture in mind. Nindye cannot be a place used simply to conduct personal research and write for academic journals. To appropriately support the project, people need to understand why it’s important — and no one can better transmit that information than those who went to Nindye and develop relationships with villagers.
Well wishes for the new year

Mark Poyar opens the new semester with the latest salvo in the ongoing minimum wage debate. I wish to appeal to him for his rigorous argumentation and join with him in praising the virtues of examining the implications of our beliefs. He presents an elegant argument of the sort logicians and mathematicians call a "reductio ad absurdum," in which we reject exactly what is inconsistent with our premises. In particular, let us call the two principles he considers the Principle of Self-Ownership and the Principle of Minimum Wages. Then his conclusion, which I will grant for the sake of argument, is that the Principle of Self-Ownership is true, the Principle of Minimum Wages is false. But is the Principle of Self-Ownership true? Mr. Poyar speculates that many people would not disagree with it, but of course this far short of a strong argument for its truth. And perhaps many people would disagree with it, if they knew that it was inconsistent with other principles they hold more dear.

Indeed, this is the argument I want to make in this letter: while Mr. Poyar has given us an elegant reduction ad absurdum, I believe it is actually a reductio ad absurdum of the Principle of Self-Ownership, not the Principle of Minimum Wages. That is, the conclusion that follows is that, since the Principle of Minimum Wages is more likely to be true, the Principle of Self-Ownership is more likely to be false, relatively to each other. So, why is the Principle of Minimum Wages more likely to be true?

I have several reasons for thinking this; here are just one, which I think simplifying for the sake of space. The Principle of Self-Ownership implies that we only have moral obligations to not harm others, and do not have any moral obligations to actively prevent others from suffering harm. For example, suppose I happen to come across an infant drowning in a shallow pool of water. Rescuing the infant would require no more of a sacrifice on my part than expending about half a minute of time and energy. Nevertheless, the Principle of Self-Ownership says that it is entirely wrong for me to leave the infant to die, or to make any minimal use of my property. On the other hand, the Principle of Minimum Wages finds some support from the intuition that we do in fact have moral obligations to prevent harm — for example, to prevent the least worse harms of the deepest poverty. Since it seems true by a moral intuition that we have these sorts of moral obligations, it follows that the Principle of Minimum Wages is intuitively more attractive than the Principle of Self-Ownership. And by Mr. Poyar’s reasoning, since we would reject at least one of these, I conclude that we must reject at least the Principle of Self-Ownership.
The soundtrack of the film can be melancholy or warm, sad or joyous. The music is part of the film but is also an excellent collection of music in and of itself.

Little Miss Sunshine, 2006, directed by Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris

Composer: DeVotchKa

DeVotchKa is a band from Denver, Colorado, formed in 1994. They are known for their unique blend of Eastern European folk music with Western elements, creating a sound that is both familiar and unfamiliar. The group has collaborated with directors on several occasions, including the production of music for films such as Little Miss Sunshine.

The soundtrack for Little Miss Sunshine includes a variety of styles, ranging from traditional Eastern European folk tunes to more contemporary pop songs. This eclectic mix of music is reflective of the film's own blend of genres.

The soundtrack includes songs written by members of DeVotchKa, as well as contributions from other artists. The songs are arranged to complement the various scenes in the film, providing a musical backdrop that enhances the emotional and narrative aspects of the story.

DeVotchKa's songs are well-suited to the film's setting in the United States during the 1960s and 1970s. The group's unique fusion of Eastern and Western musical elements creates a distinctive sound that is both nostalgic and fresh.

The soundtrack of Little Miss Sunshine is a testament to the power of music in film. It is a testament to the ability of DeVotchKa to create a musical score that is both integral to the film's narrative and a standalone work of art.

Overall, the soundtrack of Little Miss Sunshine is a success, providing a rich and diverse musical landscape for the film's characters and story. It is a true testament to the power of music to add depth and meaning to cinematic storytelling.
That "Rocky Balboa" is not a terrible film is a testament to the character and Sylvester Stallone's obvious respect and affection for his creation, but that doesn't make it a good film either. Its positive critical reception seemed mainly due to low expectations, and while it doesn't tarnish the "Rocky" legacy, it doesn't really enhance it either. "Rocky Balboa" is ridiculously illogical, and this is its biggest problem. This, in a lot of ways, has become the series' trademark. Somewhere between Rocky's bouts with Clubber Lang (Mr. T) and the Soviet Heavyweight Champ Mason "The Line" Dixon, his humanity and warmth were stripped away and replaced with a superhuman quality that was more comical than epic.

"Rocky Balboa" was written by, directed by and stars Sylvester Stallone — as were "Rocky II, IV" and "Rocky Balboa." So the Stallian is left with just Paulie, who has become no happier with a son, Rocky takes her under his wing, presum ably because he has noth-
Fifth-graders boost Arizona State to victory

Freshman point guard Houts scores career-high 21 points to help No. 16 Georgia take down No. 14 Vanderbilt

associated press

TEMPE, Ariz. Arizona State's mostuis ad game was also one of its best.

Danielle Orsillo scored 16 points to lead five Arizona State players in double figures and the 10th-ranked Sun Devils routed UCLA 92-52 on Thursday.

Aquib Johnson added 15 points, Dymond Simon 14, Jill Norr 13 and Brianna January 10 for the Sun Devils in a game played in front of several thousand enthusiastic fourth, fifth and sixth-graders on "Sparky's Kids to College Field Trip."

"Let's have a field trip day every game," Johnson said. "It was awesome."

With the kids cheering them on, the Sun Devils (17-2, 7-4 Pac-10) led by as many as 24 in the first half and 44 in the second, handing UCLA (19-11, 3-5) its most one-sided loss in the season.

"That felt like I was at home because of the screaming children," ASU coach Turner Thorne, who has three young sons. "It was great."

The Sun Devils, who play USC on Sunday, shot 59 percent in their fifth straight win and 46 percent in a season-high victory in their last 33 tries. The Bruins shot just 33 percent and committed 25 turnovers in their fourth loss in the last five games.

"That's the Sun Devils operating close to all cylinders," Turner Thorne said. "Now the challenge is to bring that again for our next game because we've had a tendency to let up defensively in those games." 

Lindsey Plummer led UCLA with 17 points. Noelle Quinn added 13 but made just 5-of-18 shots.

Turner Thorne said the defense against Quinn was crucial.

"She's one of the best players in the country but we didn't wait for her to be that today," the Sun Devils' coach said.

It was the biggest meeting of the two teams since the Bruins beat Arizona State in the semifinals of last year's Pac-10 tournament.

UCLA coach Kathy Olivier said she will reserve judgment on just how good the Sun Devils are until her team plays the Bruins in Los Angeles.

"They're very comfortable at home," she said, "and they just get it done."

She said the Bruins wanted to use their height advantage against the Sun Devils.

"But their perimeter defense is so disruptive it's hard to get the ball inside," Olivier said. "The balanced scoring showed Arizona State's depth."

"That's what is so great about this team," Orsillo said. "We don't rely on just a couple of players and everybody has everybody else's back."

The Sun Devils made 11 of their first 12 shots, 4-of-4 by January, to bolt to a 25-10 lead on Jill Norr's 3-pointer with 12:42 left in the half. Houst never got after that.

The lead reached 37-13 after Johnson made two free throws with 4:22 to go in the half. Seven players scored as Arizona State took a 46-23 lead at the break. Orsillo led UCLA's 11 free throws, followed by January and Simon with five apiece. The Sun Devils shot 56 percent in the first half (19-for-34) compared with 29 percent for the Bruins (8-for-29).

Georgia 83, Vanderbilt 71

Georgia won more than just Thursday's intrasquad game. The Lady Bulldogs also won some extra free time on Friday.

Ashley Houts scored almost all of her career-high 21 points from the free-throw line, and No. 16 Georgia made 42 of 46 free throws to beat No. 14 Vanderbilt 83-71.

"What a great game is like we got out of practice 10 m-inutes earlier (Friday) because we shot all our free throws tonight," Georgia coach Andy Landers said.

Georgia's 32 free throws made it its highest eighth in a game, and its 42 attempts ranks 10th in the program's history. Georgia broke a free throw game with a 10-9 second-half run and then protected the lead by making its 11 of 12 free throws in the final minutes. Vanderbilt coach Melanie Balcomb used a full-court, trapping defense in an effort to force turnovers or get the Lady Bulldogs to miss free throws.

Despite the pressure from Vanderbilt's defense, Georgia, committed only 11 turnovers.

Landers was impressed by his team's point "because they're coming after you, trying to trap you and stop you and we didn't give it up in that situation very often, if ever once."

Vanderbilt was called for 31 fouls and had two players foul out and three finish with fouls.

Houts was 10-for-13 on free throws.

"Free throws down the stretch were key," said Houts, a freshman point guard. "I feel good to be able to pull out a win, especially after a tough loss."

Georgia, coming off a 52-41 home loss to No. 4 Tennessee, regrouped offensively with four players scoring in double figures.

Tasha Humphrey had 18 points, and Janese Hardrick added 17 points, eight rebounds and four steals for Georgia (14-4, 3-2 Southeastern Conference). Hardrick, a senior, matched her career high in rebounds.

Christy Marshall was 7 for 8 from the free-throw line in the last three minutes and added 13 points.

Christina Wirth led Vanderbilt (16-3, 3-2) with 16 points. Merideth Marsh, Caroline Williams and Carl Thomas each added 12 points, but couldn't keep the Commodores from falling to 2-2 against ranked teams.

Thomas, fourth in the SEC averaging 17.4 points per game, was 4-for-11 from the field.

Marsh and Wirth fouled out late in the game.

"We were able to hang around, and I was proud of my team for that," Balcomb said. "... it's always tough to come in here and play. We'll find the positives from this game and build on them."

Vanderbilt, led by Williams' nine points on three 3-pointers, lost 20-29 at halftime.

Georgia shot lost 31.3 percent from the field, but stayed close on Humphrey's nine points, also on a season-high three- pointers.

"I thought she gave us the confidence to get started," Landers said. "I thought they were huge."

North Carolina 78  Georgia Tech 31

Reserve Alex Miller scored 15 points, Ivory Latta added 14 and No. 2 North Carolina held Georgia Tech to its lowest score ever, beating the Yellow Jackets 78-31 Thursday in Chapel Hill. Camille Little added 12 points and Jessica Breland 10 for North Carolina (21-0, 5-0 Atlantic Coast Conference).

Reserve Jacquia Williams scored 11 points to lead the Yellow Jackets (11-7, 2-3), who had no starter with more than four points.

It was the fewest points North Carolina has allowed any ACC opponent and the Tar Heels' highest margin of victory in their series with Georgia Tech.

North Carolina led 33-16 at the half.

Latta went 4-for-6 from the field to account for her first 12-first-half points. She hit 3-pointers on consecutive possessions to key an early 17-4 run.

Miller scored 11 points when North Carolina pulled away in the game's final 14:57. She scored seven points in a 1:52 span to spark a 13-2 North Carolina spurt.

Georgia Tech was 11-of-59 from the field (18.6 percent).

The Yellow Jackets hit just eight of their first 36 shots and had more turnovers (13) than field goals in the first half.

North Carolina hit 12 of its first 17 shots in the second half and finished 29-of-62 from the field.

Georgia Tech went 8:28 without a basket in the second half and had just one field goal in the last 14:24. North Carolina closed the game by outscoring the Yellow Jackets 24-7.
around the dial

NCAA Hockey

USCHO.com/CSTV Top 25

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
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Weekly poll unsurprising, and barely

AUS THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Friday, January 19, 2007

NFL

Falcons quarterback Michael Vick scrambles for a first down in a Dec. 31 17-6 win over Tampa Bay. Vick had a water bottle likely containing marijuana confiscated in security at Miami International Airport Thursday.

Falcons quarterback Michael Vick scrambles for a first down in a Dec. 31 17-6 win over Tampa Bay. Vick had a water bottle likely containing marijuana confiscated in security at Miami International Airport Thursday.

Vick in trouble after airport incident

Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. — For the third time in nine months, Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick is making headlines for all the wrong reasons. Vick reluctantly surrendered a water bottle to security at Miami International Airport that smelled like marijuana and contained a substance in a hidden compartment. He was not arrested and was allowed to board an AirTran flight that landed in Atlanta before noon Wednesday.

Miami police said Thursday it could be weeks before a decision is made on whether to file charges against the three-time Pro Bowl player, who this season became the first quarterback in NFL history to rush for 1,000 yards. Falcons owner Arthur Blank, general manager Rick McKay and new coach Bobby Petrino met with Vick, who led team head- quarters without speaking to reporters. McKay described Blank as being "upset" with the quarterback, whose $137 million contract was richest in the NFL when Vick signed it three years ago.

"We are an organization that prides itself on not having off-the-field issues," McKay said. "We don't accept it. It is not what we want." Under Florida law, possession of less than 20 grams of marijuana is a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in prison and a $1,000 fine. First offenders rarely do any jail time.

"We'll do an analysis and see what it is. There's no sense of urgency to it," Detective Alvaro Zabaleta said Thursday.

The NFL's substance abuse policy states any team can decide that a player's behavior, including but not limited to an arrest, can warrant a physical exam from its appointed medical director. NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said no decision had been made in Vick's case.

"We have a process that provides guidelines for every situation," Aiello said. "Our doctors conduct a lengthy evaluation, if necessary, and then decide if enrollment in a treatment program is necessary.

Last April, Vick settled a lawsuit filed by a woman who claimed the player knowingly gave her herpes. In November, Vick made an obscene gesture toward Atlanta fans who heckled the team as it came off the field after a 31-13 loss.

IN BRIEF

Trezza, women's baseball leader, dies at 81

NEW YORK — Betty Trezza, a pioneering player in the World War II-era All-American Girls Professional Baseball League and a model for one of the characters in the 1992 movie "A League of Their Own," has died. She was 81.

Trezza died of a heart attack on Tuesday at her Brooklyn home, where she lived with her two sisters, her sister-in-law Sally Trezza said Thursday.

Her brother, Daniel Trezza, of Brooklyn, called her "a pioneer in sports." Trezza, born Aug. 4, 1925, in Brooklyn, was one of 12 children.

Trezza played with the league for seven seasons. She was 12 years old when she was recruited as a shortstop in 1944 and assigned to the Minneapolis Milliettes.

When Minneapolis was replaced in 1943 by the Fort Wayne Daisies, Trezza split the year between the Daisies and the South Bend Blue Sox.

Jaguars resign linebacker Smith to five-year deal

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — The Jacksonville Jaguars locked up another key defensive starter Thursday, signing linebacker Daryl Smith to a five-year contract extension worth about $25 million.

Smith, a second-round draft pick from Georgia Tech in 2004, has started every game the past two seasons and led the team with 170 tackles last year while filling in for injured middle linebacker Mike Peterson.

The new contract, which begins in 2008, includes $10 million in bonuses.

The 6-foot-2, 244-pound linebacker became the seventh defensive starter to sign a long-term deal with the Jaguars since coach Jack Del Rio took over in 2003.

Defensive linemen Marcus Stroud, John Henderson and Reggie Hayward, cornerback Brian Williams and lin­backer Mike Peterson each signed contracts worth at least $20 million.

Sosa continues contract talks with Rangers

DALLAS — Sammy Sosa and the Texas Rangers kept up negotiations on a minor league contract Thursday, working their way toward a deal.

The Rangers and Sosa's agent, Adam Katz, have exchanged a couple of proposals. While they could finalize a deal this week, Katz said Thursday that the sides had not yet reached an agreement.

Texas has offered Sosa a deal that would require him to earn his spot on the roster during spring training. The 38-year-old former slugger, 12 short of 600 home runs in a 17-season career that began with the Rangers in 1989, didn't play in the major leagues last year.

If completed, the contract likely would be worth about $500,000 if Sosa is placed on the 40-man roster. He would have the chance to earn additional performance bonuses.

around the dial

NBA

Detroit at Minnesota

6 p.m., ESPN

TENNIS

Australian Open

10 p.m., ESPN2
NCAA

MIAHIAM, N.C. — The state chapter of the NAACP on Thursday called on those involved with the Duke lacrosse sexual assault case — from defense attorneys to state bar officials to stop talking publicly while the state attorney general’s office begins its review.

“We sincerely believe that the high level of public scrutiny and controversy involved in this matter is unwarranted and that our efforts to prevent the truth-finding process,” said the Rev. William Barber, president of the North Carolina chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

No parties involved in the case have indicated whether they plan to stop speaking publicly.

Durham County District Attorney Mike Nifong, under heavy criticism for his handling of the case, asked the attorney general’s office this month to take over the prosecution — a decision Barber said “we do not expect, nor should North Carolina citizens consent to.”

Until turning the case over to state prosecutors, Nifong led the investigation into allegations that a 28-year-old black student at North Carolina Central University, hired to perform as a stripper, was raped and beaten by three white men at a March 1 night party thrown by Duke’s highly ranked lacrosse team.

In late December, after the accuser changed a key detail in her account, Nifong dropped the rape charges. Legal experts have said there appears to be little evidence to support the remaining charges against Dave Evans, Collin Finnerty and Bradey Seligmann. All three have strongly proclaimed their innocence.

“No body knows the totality of the facts,” Barber said. “We do not expect, nor should North Carolina citizens consent to any further investigation.”

The state bar has also accused Nifong of misleading and inflammatory comments about the lacrosse team, charges that could lead to his disbarment.

“I do not expect, nor should North Carolina citizens consent to any further investigation.”

Associated Press

NCCP asks to stop talk on Duke rape case

Associated Press

Chicago — Two decades and forever. That’s the time span between trips to the Super Bowl for the Chicago Bears and New Orleans Saints.

While various players from each side have been to the NFL’s biggest game with other teams, these are two organizations mired in, well, Super droughts. The longest time the Bears played for the league title, it was in January 1986, and the stars were named Payton, Singletary, Hampton and McMahom. The defense was overwhelming and its Coach, Mike Ditka, was overbearing.

That 21-year hiatus is distressing in Chicago, but it’s also 19 years shorter than the span New Orleans has gone without a Super Bowl trip. Those four decades make up merely all of the Saints’ existence.

Because Sunday’s NFC championship game involves franchises that haven’t enjoyed much success in the Super Bowl era, the celebrations might be just a bit more extravagant.

“Growing up watching the NFL, being such a fan of the sport and the league,” Bears quarterback Rex Grossman said, “it means a great deal to be in this position. I really respect where we are at right now as far as the history of the league. I’m approaching it with a lot of intensity and focus, but not trying to make it bigger than it is. It’s still just a football game we are playing at Soldier Field against the Saints.”

Sane it is. But it’s also the biggest game of the careers of every Bears player except five with previous Super Bowl game experience: wide receiver Muhsin Muhammad; defensive backs Ricky Manning Jr. and Dante Wesley; tackle Fred Miller; and punter Brad Maynard. Backup quarterback Rob Brine was with Denver in 1999, but didn’t get on the field.

“I think experience teaches you a lot, so if you have been in that situation ... we have a few, we don’t have many,” said coach Lovie Smith, the defensive coordinator for the 2001 Rams that lost to New England for the NFL title.

“But yes, it has to have helped, especially if you’ve been there recently.”

Bears come back from Charles Tillman, left, and Rashied Davis celebrate with Chicago fans after defeating the Seattle Seahawks 27-24 Sunday.

Because the beyond the second round of the playoffs is farther than the Saints have traveled. They’ve made this uplifting journey in the wake of a nomadic season where they played home games in three cities after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans. They went 3-13 during 2005, and Sean Payton was hired as coach.

Payton’s work this season, when the Saints went 10-6 and won the NFC South, earned him AP Coach of the Year honors. He and his players, from All-Pro quarterback Drew Brees to rookie stars Reggie Bush and Marques Colston to longtime Saints Joe Horn and John Carney, have been vital forces in the revival of their city’s spirit.

Bears comeback

Associated Press

NFC

Cameron front-runner for Dolphins’ position

Current San Diego O-coordinator sought

Associated Press

MIAMI — The Miami Dolphins hope to complete their coaching search by Saturday, and the front-runner appears to be San Diego Chargers offensive coordinator Cam Cameron.

The Dolphins interviews Cameron first Friday night before a second day of interviewing with team officials. A Dolphins spokesman said management was still weighing the candidates.

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Other candidates still in the mix to replace Saban include Georgia Tech coach Chan Gailey, Dolphins defensive coordinator Dom Capers, former Atlanta Falcons coach Jim Mora, and former Alabama coach Mike Shula, the son of ex-Dolphins coach Don Shula.

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The Dolphins interviewed at least 13 candidates in their most extensive coaching search since the franchise’s first season in 1966. They hope to make a decision before next week’s Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala., where teams scout college prospects and assemble coaching staffs.

The 55-year-old Gailey was Miami’s offensive coordinator from 2000-01 before leaving to become the head coach at Georgia Tech. He is 37-27 with that team and has taken the team to five straight bowls.

Gailey also was 18-16 in two playoff seasons as the Dallas Cowboys’ coach from 1998-99.

He interviewed for the Pittsburgh Steelers’ opening but was not one of three finalists to replace Bill Cowher.

Gailey just completed the first season of a five-year, $5.5 million contract extension at Georgia Tech that runs through 2010. He and Tech athletic director Dan Radakovich were awaiting a decision by the Dolphins before commenting on the situation.

NCAA

MIAMI — Two decades and forever. That’s the time span between trips to the Super Bowl for the Chicago Bears and New Orleans Saints.

While various players from each side have been to the NFL’s biggest game with other teams, these are two organizations mired in, well, Super droughts. The longest time the Bears played for the league title, it was in January 1986, and the stars were named Payton, Singletary, Hampton and McMahom. The defense was overwhelming and its Coach, Mike Ditka, was overbearing.

That 21-year hiatus is distressing in Chicago, but it’s also 19 years shorter than the span New Orleans has gone without a Super Bowl trip. Those four decades make up merely all of the Saints’ existence.

Because Sunday’s NFC championship game involves franchises that haven’t enjoyed much success in the Super Bowl era, the celebrations might be just a bit more extravagant.

Growing up watching the NFL, being such a fan of the sport and the league,” Bears quarterback Rex Grossman said, “it means a great deal to be in this position. I really respect where we are at right now as far as the history of the league. I’m approaching it with a lot of intensity and focus, but not trying to make it bigger than it is. It’s still just a football game we are playing at Soldier Field against the Saints.”

Sane it is. But it’s also the biggest game of the careers of every Bears player except five with previous Super Bowl game experience: wide receiver Muhsin Muhammad; defensive backs Ricky Manning Jr. and Dante Wesley; tackle Fred Miller; and punter Brad Maynard. Backup quarterback Rob Brine was with Denver in 1999, but didn’t get on the field.

“I think experience teaches you a lot, so if you have been in that situation ... we have a few, we don’t have many,” said coach Lovie Smith, the defensive coordinator for the 2001 Rams that lost to New England for the NFL title.

“But yes, it has to have helped, especially if you’ve been there recently.”

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Dungy, Smith could be first black coach in Super Bowl

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Two weeks ago, Lovie Smith made the three-hour trip from Chicago to watch Tony Dungy’s Colts take on Herman Edwards’ Chiefs in a first-round NFL playoff game.

The night before, three old friends and their wives dined at P.F. Chang’s in downtown Indianapolis in what was as much a symbolic meal as a gathering of old pals — three black coaches celebrating the arrival of their teams in the NFL playoffs.

“We talked about starting in ’96 in Tampa and some of the things we remembered from there,” Dungy recalled on Thursday. “How great it is that we are in the playoffs and that at least two of us have a chance to make it to the Super Bowl. You realize it would be awesome if it happened and, hopefully, it will.

It’s officially one game from being awesome.

If the Colts beat the New England Patriots on Sunday and Smith’s Bears beat the New Orleans Saints, it would put two black coaches in the NFL’s marquee game for the first time in its 41 years. Even if just one of them wins, that, too, would be a first.

There were just three black head coaches in the NFL, when Dungy started nearly a decade ago in Tampa, with Edwards and Smith on his staff. Back then, 70 percent of the league’s players were black — a percentage that still holds.

This year, there were seven black coaches, including Dennis Green in Arizona and Art Shell in Oakland. Both men were fired after the season, although Shell will remain in the Raiders’ front office. The others are Cincinnati’s Marvin Lewis and Cleveland’s Romeo Crennel.

Though he didn’t coach this season, Ray Rhodes coached Philadelphia and Green Bay in the 1990s.

Despite the strides, no black head coach has ever taken the final step.

“Oh, course, it would be special if that happened,” Smith said. “I hope for a day when it is unnoticeable but that day isn’t here. This is the first time. I think, two black men have led their teams to the final four. You have to acknowledge that. I do, we do. I realize the responsibility that comes with that.

So do black players.

“We’re making progress slowly,” says defensive tackle Anthony McFarland of the Colts, who played for both Dungy and Smith in Tampa Bay.

“I don’t think players think of ‘black players’ and ‘white players.’ It shows that for Tony and Lovie to come this far that there are at least some organizations that have confidence that black men can be head coaches. I hope it goes beyond that so we don’t have to think of their race,” he said.

NFL leaders acknowledge that’s the future.

“We still have problems with the front office,” said Pittsburgh’s Dan Rooney, one of league’s senior owners.

An example: When Jerry Reese was promoted to general manager of the New York Giants this week, he became just the third black man in that key position, joining Baltimore’s Ozzie Newsome and Houston’s Rick Smith.

Testaverde hopes another Super Bowl win won’t slip away

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The clerk ticks down to zero, confetti falls, the Super Bowl trophy is hoisted overhead by some other quarterback and Vinny Testaverde clicks off the television.

“Every year I watch it and think, ‘It got away from me again,’” the New England Patriots’ third-string QB said Thursday as he prepped for the AFC championship game against Indianapolis. “I’ve always been on the outside, looking in. I’ve always wondered what the players went through. I think I’d enjoy that experience.”

Let others complain about the distractions and hype surrounding the Super Bowl.

Testeverde would just like a chance to see what it’s like after failing to make it to the NFL title game, so far, during an otherwise distinguished 20-year career.

A Heisman Trophy winner at Miami, Testaverde was the first overall pick in the 1987 NFL draft. Testaverde is on his seventh stop with five franchises. At 43, he is resigned to the fact that he probably won’t be harking out signals in a Super Bowl huddle, but he still has a chance to tag along as an emergency QB if the Patriots beat the Colts on Sunday.

“I came here knowing it would be an opportunity for me to win a championship, something I’ve never experienced,” Testaverde said. “I’ve been fortunate enough to play this long, to be in position to do it again. It’s exciting. This is what you live for.

“Would be nice,” he said. “It’d be nice.”

Testaverde played his first six years for the woeful Buccaneers and the next five for the Browns-turned-Browns, making the playoffs only once — in the 1994 season while playing for coach Bill Belichick in Cleveland. It was at his next stop, with the New York Jets, that Testaverde came closest to the Super Bowl.

After leading the Jets to their first AFC East title in 1998, he helped them to a 10-6 lead over Denver in the AFC championship game. But John Elway, in his final season, led the Broncos to a 23-10 victory and then to their second straight Super Bowl title.

“It was really tough,” Testaverde said, swellining hard, “to let it go then.”

Testaverde tore his anterior cruciate ligament in the ’99 opener — against the Patriots and lost in the first round in 2001 in his final playoff appearance as a starter. After coming out of retirement when the Jets’ Chad Pennington was hurt last year, Testaverde was out of the lineup when the club signed Matt Cassel.

Belichick, who had been working with two quarterbacks on the roster, asked if he wanted to be on an insurance policy.

“We all knew what the situation was going to be. I knew I was the emergency guy,” Testaverde said.

And he was OK with that.

“If I wasn’t, I wouldn’t be here to begin with,” he said.

Although Belichick insists at the time that the goal was to keep Testaverde off the field, the 43-year-old veteran appeared in four regular-season and playoff games. Three of those were kneel-down situations, but in the regular-season Belichick wanted to see how Testaverde handled pressure.

Testaverde gave him the chance to throw a touchdown pass that was meaningless except that it extended his record to 20 consecutive seasons with a scoring pass.

“That’s the thing about Vinny,” said No. 2 quarterback Matt Cassel. “He has so much respect in this locker room. You’d love to see him get a chance to do that at the end of his career. I hope I’m lucky enough to be around long enough to have that kind of success.”
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PHOENIX — Former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell warned baseball owners that a lack of cooperation with his investigation into steroid use will "significantly increase" the chances of government involvement.

Speaking to owners at baseball's quarterly meetings, Mitchell said he intends to interview active players and raise the possibility that Congress or other government authorities could compel testimony.

"I believe it will be in your best interests, and the best interests of baseball, if I can report that I have received full cooperation from your organizations, and from others, in conducting this investigation," Mitchell said in remarks that were released to reporters.

Mitchell cited last week's Hall of Fame vote to underscore the importance of his investigation. Mark McGwire was picked on 23.5 percent of ballots — far below the necessary 75 percent needed for induction. The vote was viewed by many as the first referendum on how history will judge an age when bulked-up players came under suspicion of using performance-enhancing drugs. Baseball didn't ban steroids until after the 2002 season.

"If nothing else, the results of the Hall of Fame vote last week, and the reaction to it, offer fresh evidence that this issue is not just fade away," Mitchell said. "Whether you think it fair or not, whether you think it justified or not, Major League Baseball has a cloud over its head, and that cloud will not just go away."

Mitchell cannot compel testimony. He warned the clubs that Congress or other federal or state authorities which do have subpoena power could get involved.

"I believe that a report that is not credible and thorough will significantly increase the possibility of action by others, especially if it's the result of a lack of cooperation by the clubs, or by anyone else who is or has been involved with baseball," Mitchell said.

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee held a series of hearings on steroids and pro sports in 2005 and 2006.

"The use of steroids in professional sports continues to be an issue the committee is interested in, and we are looking forward to hearing more about the progress Senator Mitchell has made in his investigation," said Rep. Henry A. Waxman, the California Democrat who chairs the committee.

Keith Ausbrook, Republican general counsel for the committee, said he's almost certain Mitchell has not been in contact with the panel recently about this issue.

"We've certainly been very interested in his investigation and what the results are going to be," Ausbrook said. "If he's not getting anywhere, we'll certainly consider whether to re-engage in it."

The players' association declined comment, spokesman Greg Bouris said.

Mitchell did not speak to reporters after addressing owners. He was hired by commissioner Bud Selig last March following more than a year of allegations against Barry Bonds, McGwire and other stars. No timetable was set for Mitchell's report.

Bonds is under investigation by a federal grand jury as to whether he perjured himself when he testified in 2003 in the BALCO steroid distribution case that he hadn't knowingly taken any performance-enhancing drugs.

The San Francisco Giants are negotiating a contract with Bonds, who needs 22 home runs to surpass Hank Aaron's mark of 755. Speaking to reporters at a golf tournament in the Dominican Republic this week, Bonds declined to discuss ongoing negotiations with the Giants, or his reported positive test for amphetamines last year.

Giants owner Peter Magowan declined to answer questions about Bonds. Selig also spoke to the owners about Mitchell's investigation. Asked if he had urged the clubs to cooperate with Mitchell, Selig said, "Urge is probably not strong enough."

"Look, some clubs have been more cooperative than others, but at this stage, I'm not concerned about that," Selig said. "He will have cooperation."

Selig would not say which clubs are lagging in their cooperation. Mitchell acknowledged that teams aren't used to dealing with "large-scale document discovery," which can be time-consuming. But he said his investigation would move faster if clubs cooperated more quickly.

Many have asked when the report will be completed, he said. "The pace of this investigation is dictated by the rate at which information is received."
SMC BASKETBALL
Close contest awaits Bellies
By DAN COOPER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's takes the court at home Saturday at 3 p.m. against Adrian in an important conference game.

The last time these two teams met, Saint Mary's came from behind to beat the Bulldogs 56-48 at Adrian.

This time, Saint Mary's plays host and a Bellies victory would match the Bulldogs in third place in the MIAA. As it stands now, the Bulldogs have a 4-4 conference record and are 3-10 overall. Adrian is 2-6 in the conference and 7-7 overall.

Sophomore guard Meghan Contay recognizes the importance of this matchup.

"We can't overlook them, they're a scrappy team," Contay said.

Contay noted that the top four teams in the conference have the advantage of starting the conference tournament at home.

The game will feature two sharply contrasting offensive game plans. Adrian has a balanced offensive attack, with no single player averaging double figures in scoring. Saint Mary's, on the other hand, runs its offense through junior guard Allison Keesler, who is averaging 19.9 points and 3.4 assists per game. She was also recently named MIAA Player of the Week.

"We need to make sure no single player has a stellar game," Contay said. "We have to stay disciplined on defense to limit her scoring and make her work for her shots."

Rebounding has been a major focus in practice this week after Saint Mary's was out-rebounded 42-28 in Wednesday's loss to Albion.

"We struggled on the boards last week," Contay said. "We've been working hard on rebounding in practice." The Bellies will look to neutralize Kim Oleich, the Bulldogs' leading scorer and rebounder. Adrian's greatest strength is rebounding, with a positive rebound differential of 6.9 per game.

"All five starters need to play aggressively," Contay said. "They are all capable of scoring and we need to make sure we don't give them easy opportunities."

The Bulldogs greatest weakness is their tendency to turn the ball over. Adrian has a negative turnover margin of 3.3, and Saint Mary's will look to exploit this weakness to come away with a victory.

Contact Dan Cooper at dcooper@nd.edu

ND TRACK AND FIELD
Young runners ready for indoor season opener
By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

No. 20 Notre Dame will take its home track for the first time in the spring season when it hosts the Notre Dame Indoor Opener at the Loftus Sports Complex today.

The meet is a chance for young athletes to try to qualify for the Big East Indoor Championship and to allow both the men and the women's teams to get back into routine after being away over break.

"There will be good competition for the young guys to try to hit (Big East) standards," junior distance runner Adam Carrie said. "And it's a test meet to try to see where [we] are at after being away."

The meet comes off a successful showing at the Purdue Invitational, where individual winners were determined, but an overall team score was not kept. The women's team had two individual winners, senior Cassie Guilleclos and sophomore Mary Santor. Guilleclos garnered a victory in the high jump with a 1.68-meter jump. She also met her season-best mark with an 11.46-meter win in the triple jump. Both wins guaranteed her a spot in the Big East Indoor Championship in each event.

Saxer took first in the pole vault with a season-best clearance of 3.8 meters — again qualifying her for the Big East Championship. Freshman Michelle Ripple was not far behind with a personal-best vault of 3.35 meters, just short of a Big East qualifier.

The Irish saw success on the men's side as well. Freshman pole vaulter Jim Merchan took seventh with a season-best height of 4.53 meters — placing him in the Big East Championship. Sophomore Brian Mahon and freshman Matt Schipper both cleared the 4.3-meter mark but fell short of 4.45 meters, which would have allowed them to grab a spot in the Big East Championship.

Senior Christopher Jacques led the men's squad with two top-five finishes in the long jump and the high jump. Jacques' 7.03-meter long jump was second best, trailing behind the 7.08-meter jump of Purdue's Nolan Petties. Jacques also took fourth in the high jump with a 1.91-meter clearance. Freshman Eric Quick was not far behind Jacques with a season-best 6.62 meter in the long jump — making him the first Irish rookie to gain a place in the Big East field.

Senior Garret Kaxlien furthered Notre Dame's success in the field, with a third-place finish in the weight throw with a toss of 16.64 meters.

Both teams have experienced veterans returning to guide the way for the new faces. The men's team will turn to leaders like Jacques and senior distance runner Kurt Benninger. The women will continue to rely on Guilleclos as both teams hope to take the Big East Championship and send a handful of runners to the NCAA Championships.

"Both teams sent a minimum to win the Big East and get as many people as we can to the NCAA championship," Carrie said.

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

SPORTS WRITER
By DAN COOPER

Michigan State and Notre Dame swimmers get ready to start a race Nov. 20 at Rolfs Aquatic Center.

"We want to measure ourselves at (Northwestern's) level because that's where we want to be," Welsh said. "We want to come out of this meet and be able to say we're improving. We're swimming faster than we have all year."
Ice continued from page 24

Western Michigan has played the lumberjack to three top-20 ranked team’s sequoias this season, chopping down then-No. 3 Michigan State, then No. 6 Miami and then-No. 6 Michigan — all at Lawson. And the Broncos have the nation’s 13th most potent offense, averaging 3.8 goals per game.

The Irish are no strangers recently to upsets in college hockey either. Robert Morris defeated Notre Dame 4-2 at the Joyce Center Jan. 7 in what the Colonials Athletic Department called, “the biggest upset in Robert Morris University athletics history.”

“They’re a good enough team to where they can beat those (ranked) teams, which tells you something,” Jackson said.

Notre Dame recovered from the unexpected path with a two-game sweep of No. 15 Lake Superior State last weekend on the road and its fortunes this season and beyond shined a little bit more brightly with the release Tuesday of the National Hockey League’s Central Scouting Service Mid­Ter­m Rankings.

The CSS Rankings showcase the top 100 North Americ­a­n college hockey players who aren’t eligible for the NHL Entry Draft. All seven incoming Irish freshman for the 2007-08 sea­son were ranked in the list that impacts possible team decisions when the draft begins June 22 in Columbus, Ohio.

“On paper, this class is one of the best classes that I’ve ever recruited,” Jackson said. “A lot of the credit has to go to Irish assistant coach” Andy Shuggett [and] (associate head coach) Tom Blugrana because he does most of the recruiting.

Recruit Brad Phillips, the Under-18 U.S. National Team Development Program’s goalie, was ranked No. 4 in goal­tenders and was the highest­ ranked goalie to sign a collegiate letter-of-intent.

Another key to the team’s NTDP, Teddy Ruth, was ranked the No. 34 North American skater and the 13th best defense­man. Forwards Ben Ryan, Robin Bergmann and Calle Ridderwall were No. 50, No. 97 and No. 109, respective­ly.

Defenseman Ian Cole was at No. 113 and forward Billy Maday was at No. 177.

“It’s a little bit of a gauge, but it still doesn’t predict on how fast they develop,” Jackson said. “Don’t know if they’re going to come in and be gang­bust­ers as freshman.”

Jackson noted the impact the un­drafted Erik Conradi made in his freshman season when he led the Irish in points, and two assists this season, serving as maybe some of the top play­ers in our league — let alone the country.”

Brown is currently the fron­trunner for the award among college hockey analysts.

Fan voting will now run until March 4 and will combine with votes from all 58 Division I head coaches to determine the 10 finalists. Candidates from there, a Selection Committee composed of media, NHL scouts and college coaches appointed for three­year terms by an Advisory Committee will decide the winner.

♦ Sophomore Christian Hanson will miss the next three to four weeks with mononucle­osis. Hanson has five goals and two assists this season, serving as leading­scorer Van Guilder.

“We’re going to miss him tak­ing face offs, we’re going to miss him from an instuctive part of the game,” Jackson said. “He’s a smart player and he has the potential to score or create for the Irish.”

Sophomore Justin White will see increased ice time, along with freshmen Dan Kissel and Christian Minella in the next few weeks, Jackson said.

Contact Kyle Cassidy at kacassidy@nd.edu

Sabre continued from page 24

The Observer was unable to contact Zagunis Thursday night.

What’s more, 2004 NCAA women’s sabre champion Valerie Providenza, a senior, is recovering from an appendec­tomy, and Bednarski is unsure how well she would fare.

Nonetheless, Bednarski said the Irish are mentally and physically prepared to succeed.

“From one point of view, it will give a chance for the younger kids to do their best to defend the place,” Bednarski said, refer­ring to Notre Dame’s home­area advantage.

At last weekend’s North American Cup event in Columbus, Iran Buckeyes earned top-20 finishes, compared to six for Notre Dame. Ohio State sopho­more Mike Montgomery had the best finish in the Buckeyes, earning second in the men’s sabre — one spot ahead of Ghutas.

This weekend’s competition will be the last of four events Notre Dame will host this year.

The Irish will fence at home in the Midwest Duals Feb. 3, the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships March 3-4 and the NCAA Midwest Regional March 10.

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Allen continued from page 24

very consistent — she’s been taking great shots. She’s being patient, looking for her opportuni­ties. We’re encouraging her to shoot more and to be more aggressive. I think in the last couple of games she’s de­finitely taken more shots.

Of the three, the strong play of Sipaviciute early in the sea­son was the biggest surprise to most. The Orange center has not only averaged double digit this season scoring, but also has 5.5 blocks per game and 30 blocks this season.

“Defensively, they have a really good big kid — Sipaviciute — she hurt us a lot last year,” McGraw said. “So we wanted to get ready to handle her.”

Matching up with Sipaviciute for the Irish is then­be­dy of junior Melissa D’Amico and freshman steelworker William D’Amico is coming off a strong performance at St. John’s. The Irish are scoring in doubles with 10 points and 11 rebounds. Williamson has been one of the conference’s top freshmen centers, averaging 7.5 points and eight boards against Big East oppo­nents.

Williamson also set the Notre Dame rookie record for rebounds against St. John’s on March 17.

To McGraw, the main prob­lem this season defensively has been their 3-point defense.

“We’re leading the league in 3-pointers given up,” she said. “Teams have been shooting really well from the 3­point line, and we have to fix that.”

McGraw has planned for this game similarly to how she prepared for St. John’s. The main areas that have not been preparing include the offense to play against Syracuse’s zone defense.

To that end, the Irish have tried to improve their 3-point shooting, something that has hindered them in the past. Overall, the Irish are only shooting 31.4 percent from long distance in conference games and 29.0 percent over­all.

But overall, the Irish will need to come out strong on both sides of the court if they want to extend their winning streak against the Orange to seven games.

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Try the new Sbarro 12" Go Pizza for only $5.00. Cheese or Pepperoni. Three kids that are scoring in double figures are the three that we have to focus on.”

Mulfett McGraw Irish coach


Sabre

CONTACT ZAGUNI S TH URS D AY

The Irish are scoring in doubles as freshmen — let alone the country.”

“He’s a smart player and he has the potential to score or create for the Irish.”

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Sbarro

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Janusz Bednarski

Irish coach

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Janusz Bednarski

Irish coach
Only unbeaten team in conference play — just 19 days into January, Notre Dame was controlled from the start in its most recent game Wednesday at Villanova. The Wildcats dictated the tempo early and never allowed the Irish to recover in a 102-87 landslide. The Irish had a similar performance at Georgetown Jan. 6 when it lost 66-48.

"We've had this cycle before, win by a good margin at home, lose by a good margin on the road," Brey said in a radio interview following Notre Dame's loss to Villanova. "They both count as just one league win and one league loss.

And that attitude — focusing on Sunday's home game against USF — is crucial before the Irish address their recent struggles on the road, Brey said.

South Florida's lone conference win came against Cincinnati on Jan. 14. The Bulls lost contests at Connecticut, at Pittsburgh, home against Louisville and at West Virginia. Last season, Notre Dame and South Florida matched up once, on Feb. 15 at the Joyce Center. The Irish won the game 62-55 and guard Russell Carter led the team with 13 points on 5-of-10 shooting to go with five rebounds and three steals.

South Florida, despite being 0-10 in conference play at that point in the season, hung with the Irish and outscored them 36-31 after being dominated in the first half.

But that was last season.

This year, Notre Dame has a clear statistical advantage over South Florida. USF is among the bottom half of the conference in offensive categories such as scoring margin (plus 2.5, 13th) and scoring offense (66.9 points per game, 13th).

The Irish lead the conference in both categories. Notre Dame, though, despite showcasing an improved effort thus far this season working the ball inside — has still fired 416 attempts from 3-point range this season, which is second in the Big East behind West Virginia (491). And South Florida's strength defensively might very well be its perimeter defense. The Bulls hold their opponents to 32 percent shooting from 3-point range.

The Bulls have four players who average double figures in points per game — Melvin Buckley (16.4), Kentrel Grassberry (14.4), McHugh Mattis (12.7) and Solomon Bozeman (11.7). Grassberry leads the team with 10.7 rebounds per game and Bozeman has 89 assists in 19 games this season. Mattis had 12 points and 11 rebounds in 28 minutes last season against the Irish.

Tip off is scheduled for 2 p.m. at the Joyce Center Sunday.

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Quality in Everything We Do
HOCKEY
Lawson Lunatics await contenders

Rankin returns home to the 'Zoo for series against Western Mich.

By KYLE CASILLY
Sports Writer

Junior right wing Evan Rankin got intimate and bloody real fast against Western Michigan (1-8-1, 1-7-1 CCHA) in last weekend's opening game of the season. Because of the injury, Rankin won't be playing hockey this weekend at the Vegetable Ice Arena.

"Every single year it seems that Western's fans get rowdier and rowdier," Rankin said. "It's going to be pretty exciting to play there again.

"Yeah, we have a big mark on our back right now, but if we just have the right mindset — we'll be alright."

The No. 3 Irish (19-4-1, 13-2-1 CCHA) travel to Kalamazoo tonight for a two-game series against eighth-place Western Michigan (8-12-1, 7-9-1 CCHA). Notre Dame heads into the series with sole control of first-place in the CCHA, one week before a crucial two-game set at home with second-place Miami.

The Lunatics designate certain hecklers to sit behind the opponents' penalty box and taunt players as they are whistled for penalties. Rankin said. But both Rankin and Irish coach Jeff Jackson were unconcerned about any challenges to the Irish that were not presented directly on the sheet.

"I'm kind of used to it now," Rankin said. "But I think it does more for the home team than it does for the visiting team."

Last season, Notre Dame fell victim to the Broncos at Lawson, dropping a 3-0 decision before taking a 3-0 win the next day at the Vegetable Ice Arena.

"If you allow it to become a distraction — it can," he said. "But I think it does more for the home team than it does for the visiting team."

No. 6 Pittsburgh remains the dominant team in the league. Notre Dame has won both of their home games against Western Michigan this season.

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"If you allow it to become a distraction — it can," he said. "But I think it does more for the home team than it does for the visiting team."

Junior forward Rob Kurz drives down the court earlier this season against Alabama. Notre Dame faces South Florida Sunday.

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

If Irish coach Mike Brey's teams have learned anything over the past few years, it's that there are no guarantees even Big East play begins. That's why the No. 20 Irish (15-3 overall, 3-2 in conferences) won't be looking past South Florida this Sunday at the Joyce Center.

South Florida (10-9 overall, 1-4 in conferences) is one of the two teams with one win in the Big East. Rutgers is the other after dropping a 68-54 home contest against Georgetown. Wednesday.

The Irish return to the Vegetable Ice Arena for their first conference game against the Vegetable Ice Arena. But in a league defined by parity, especially this season when seven teams have three or more wins, anything is possible when the ball is thrown into the air.

No. 6 Pittsburgh remains the big team.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Allen to lead team at Joyce against Orange

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame has not lost to Syracuse since March 3, 2003 — and doesn't want to change that Saturday when the Irish (12-5, 3-1 Big East) square off against the Orange (8-11, 1-4) at 2 p.m. at the Joyce Center.

So far this season, the squad has fared well against Big East opponents, and especially in the Joyce Center. The Irish have won both of their home conference games with ease — a 83-65 drubbing of Saint John's Jan. 16 and an 81-70 win over Cincinnati Jan. 10.

Overall, Notre Dame has won nine of 10 home games this season, falling only to Indiana 54-50 that were not presented directly on the sheet.

One thing that could trouble the Irish is the high-scoring Orange trio of freshman guard Nicole Michael (16.5 ppg), junior center Valda Sipaviciute (13.6 ppg) and junior guard Fantasia Goodwin (12.7 ppg).

"[Sipaviciute is] impressive, and they have a freshman who leads them in scoring, and she's playing really well," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.

"The three kids that are scoring in double figures are the three that we have to focus on."

Even though the Orange bring those top scorers into South Bend, the Irish have their own prolific shooter to counter with — junior guard Charel Allen. Allen has averaged 19 points in four Big East games this season and has shot 5-47 from the arc.

"She's the one we look to, to lead us in scoring," said McGraw of Allen. "She's been