Jenkins returning to classroom for Lenten course

Cunningham to join University President for five-time, one-credit Sunday afternoon theology class

By KATE ANTONACCI
News Editor

On the first Sunday of Lent, University President Father John Jenkins will step back into the classroom to teach the newly-offered one-credit theology course "Know Your Catholic Faith: God is Love.”

“It will be on Sunday afternoon and I'm teaching it with [theology professor] Larry Cunningham,” Jenkins said Wednesday.

Composed of "around 35 students," the course was open to individuals of all levels in the University, from undergraduates to law students to Saturday Mary's students.

Students were able to register at the end of last semester and early this semester, Jenkins said.

The course gains its name from Pope Benedict XVI’s first encyclical “God is Love,” which is the focus of the five Sunday sessions.

“It's simply a kind of look at encyclical, at the themes and issues that it raises,” Jenkins said. "It's a chance to understand the encyclical.”

The course will meet from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Coleman-Morse Center and will then participate in Sunday worship together in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, according to the InsideND course description.

Though there are just five classes, Jenkins said that he may have to "mix a class or two" because of travel engagements.

A short reflection paper each week and attendance at all five sessions is required to earn the course credit.

The Office of the President is also holding an essay competition and a student conference about the same encyclical this spring.

As for future plans, Jenkins said he "certainly be teaching more classes," but it is just a question of finding time in his busy schedule.

Record numbers to flock to ND Career Fair

Employers, recruiters plan to attract career-seeking students

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

Many seniors believe they have a chance to squelch pre-graduation jitters today by attending the Winter Career Fair.

Representatives from over 100 employers representing more than 18 industries will flood the Joyce Center from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. intending to recruit Notre Dame students.

Career Center Associate Director Anila Rees said the fair, which she organized, is "one of the largest and most diverse career events in the history of Notre Dame."

The Career Fair will be preceded by a Diversity Reception from noon to 2 p.m. in the Monogram Room of the Joyce Center — an event intended to allow students to introduce themselves to employers.

"The Diversity Reception provides an opportunity to more casually talk to employers and make an initial connection with them when they see them at the fair," said Latonia Ferguson, Career Center counselor and diversity reception coordinator.

Students shed clothes to benefit homeless

By STEVE KERINS
News Writer

As temperatures plunge it becomes exceedingly rare to see a student sporting sandals, but onlookers should not be surprised to see sophomores Robbie Bernardin sprinting across campus in shorts and flip-flops today.

Bernardin will be joined by fellow Siegfried residents, including Hall president junior Tom Martin, in their parade against the harsh elements as part of the first annual Day of Man — an effort of solidarity intended to raise awareness of those who cannot afford a winter coat.

"Bernardin was doing a jog around campus wearing his shorts and a T-shirt and he said, 'Hey, it's cold out, but I feel pretty manly,'” Martin said.

It wasn't long before Martin transformed his idea into an effort to aid those in need.

Bernardin and Martin posted a flyer in Siegfried asking residents to participate by agreeing to wear only shorts, flip-flops and the event's T-shirt as a way to find a way to teach, "It will be a juggling of the various demands of my time and I'm finding a way to teach,” he said.

Jenkins will be making another effort to carve out time from his busy schedule this semester by offering open office hours to "any undergraduate or graduate student who is interested," said Frances Shavers, the executive assistant to the president.

One of the great joys of when he was teaching was

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South Asian suave

No, it isn’t the pungent odor of curry or an over-abundance of semi-obscu­rous Bollywood films all containing pretty much the same plot. Forget tales about Aliba, magic carpet rides or spitting cows. Visiting India is so intrigu­ing, not because the society is exot­ic, but actually chaotic. And I love it.

You can watch Bend-It-Like­Beckham or fear on Indian Cuisine to get a vicariously second-hand experi­ence of what Indian culture is some­what like. But I, a first-generation Indian-American citizen, cannot deny my Indian heritage and first-hand experience. So my Christmas break entailed a three-week vacation to New Delhi, the hometown of my parents and extended family. I braced myself for the culture shock that would inevitably occur.

The havoc commenced at Chicago’s O’Hare airport. Indians are notoriously impatient, particularly in the context of travel. At 8:45, the expected depar­ture time of our Air India flight, the gate agent was nowhere to be seen. A throng of Indian passengers had already lined up to board. When one employee nonchalantly appeared and called one passenger to reconfirm their seat, all 400 passengers stood up in anticipation. Upon hearing that the flight wasn’t ready to board yet, uproar ensued amongst passengers.

What a mess.

Exiting the arrivals lounge at Delhi Airport some 24-nebulous hours later, I searched for my driver to retrieve me, and the first sight that caught my eye was a man publicly urinating outside the terminal. Lovely. On the free­way to my relative’s home, a bus had broken down, and all the male passengers had been ordered to push it to the side of the terminal. Lovely. On the free­way to my relative’s home, a bus had broken down, and all the male passen­gers had been ordered to push it to the nearest gas station. Classic. Sleeping off jet lag at the house, I woke to an explosion resonating in the street. I panicked, fearing that the flight wasn’t ready to board yet, uproar ensued amongst passengers. What a mess.

India-Pakistan tension had reached the brink, until I realized it was just a prank on India Day.

Still, nothing beat “the massage” that man gave me for $130, and $8 for adults. The physics student, who claims his late mother left him a house, has an apartment at 8:45 a.m. in Room C-103 of the Hesburgh Center today at 12:30 p.m. Students and faculty are welcome.

The Winter Career and Internship Fair will be held today from 4 to 8 p.m. in the Joyce Center Field House.

The student group, Pasquerilla East Musical Company (PEMCO), proudly presents “Ragtime” on Friday at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. “Ragtime” will also be playing Feb. 3, 9 and 10. Tickets available at LaFortune box office and are $6 for seniors and $8 for adults.

The Notre Dame Scrabble Club will host a Scrabble Tournament Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom. There is an entry fee of $50. There will be different divisions for players of all skill levels.

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

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Senior retreat aims to ease anxieties, stress

By JOHN-PAUL WITT
News Writer

As graduation nears for nostalgic yet anxious seniors, many may find refuge and spiritual guidance in this weekend's senior retreat.

"We try to help the seniors think about the challenges they face when leaving Notre Dame — challenges in relationships, their spiritual life, and living outside of the Notre Dame community," said retreat director Fr. Joe Carey.

The senior retreat will serve as the capstone on a year of assorted Campus Ministry retreats — including the freshman retreat, sophomore road trip and Notre Dame Encounter with Christ.

Carey and Campus Ministry graduate intern John Paul Lichon said the retreat has been a University tradition for more than 30 years, but it only became an annual event in the last decade.

"I can remember senior retreats thirty years ago, but we've made it consistent in the last few years, once a year every first weekend in February," Carey said.

"We try to help the seniors think about the challenges they face when leaving Notre Dame." — Fr. Joe Carey, retreat director

The senior retreat, a "diverse cross-section" of the senior class that unites a varsity athlete, a member student government, a student in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program and members of various campus organizations under one banner, will build on the tradition.

Carey and Lichon said the diversity in the retreat's leadership was not serendipitous but rather a conscious effort to attract an assortment of participants.

"Students in attendance this weekend will converse with a panel of young alumni, who will share challenges they faced when they left Notre Dame — from finding a new faith community to long-distance relationships in the working world to maximizing their last semester under the Dome.

Although the deadline for applications has passed, the retreat will squeeze in additional participants that meet at the Coleman-Morse Center Friday at 2:30 p.m.

Contact John-Paul Witt at jwittl@nd.edu

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Driehaus awarded to Robertson

Special to The Observer

Jaquelin T. Robertson, a New York-based architect and urban planner whose work is found worldwide, has been named the recipient of the Notre Dame's fifth annual Richard H. Driehaus Prize for Classical Architecture. She will receive $100,000 and a model of the choricge Monument of Lysikrates in Athens during ceremonies March 31 in Chicago.

A partner in the firm Cooper, Robertson & Partners, Robertson founded the New York City Urban Design Group. He served under former New York City Mayor Lindsay as director of the Mayor's Office of Midtown Planning and Development and worked as a New York City planning commissioner. In 1975, he directed the design of Iran's new capital, Shahestan Palavi.

Committed to introducing "human values into urban plans," Robertson founded the Jeffersonian Restoration Advisory Board and the Mayor's Institute on City Design. He has been a consultant to the Ford Foundation, the government of Jamaica, the Federal Highway Administration, and the National Capital Development Commission in Canberra, Australia.

To "learn more about the DNA of American architecture," Robertson accepted an appointment as dean and a chaired professor of architecture at the University of Virginia in 1980, a position he held for eight years.

Robertson has received numerous design awards, including the 1998 Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Architecture and the 2002 Seaside Prize for his contributions to American urbanism. A Richmond, Va., native, Robertson earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Yale University and was a Rhodes Scholar at Magdalen College, Oxford.

Edward Perry Bass, president of Fine Line Inc., a private diversified investment and venture capital firm in Fort Worth, Texas, will receive the $25,000 Henry Hope Reed Award in association with the Driehaus Prize. Bass is recognized as a leader in one of the most successful urban revitalization efforts in the nation. He and his family developed Sundance Square into a successful mixed-use urban core in Fort Worth. As chairman of Performing Arts Fort Worth, Bass led the development of the Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall, which opened in 1998 in international acclaim.

Richard H. Driehaus, the founder and chairman of Driehaus Capital Management in Chicago, endowed both awards through the Notre Dame School of Architecture and the School of the Arts as a national leader in incorporating the principles of traditional and classical architecture into the task of modern urban development.
Course
continued from page 1

just the connection with the students," Shavers said. "You don't have as much natural opportunity to meet with students as you do if you were a teacher."

There will be open visiting hours in the Office of the President in 75-minute blocks on three dates to start out — Feb. 19, Mar. 20 and Apr. 2.

Shavers said the time can be used by students who want to discuss a certain issue with Jenkins, who just want to introduce themselves or who may just want to see the office.

Shavers said that there will also be the option of reserve hours in the Office of the Student Body President Lizzi Jenkins during his office hours on the president's Web site.

"He's definitely looking forward to it and is excited about it, but we have no idea whether one person will show up or whether twenty people will show up," she said. "It's definitely sort of a trial this semester and we'll see if it's responded to well."

Shavers also said that Jenkins will be visiting a different dorm each month. Student Body President Lizzi Shappell will be going around to dorms to "get names of anyone who is interested," Shavers said.

"I am excited about the office hours," Jenkins said. "It's just a chance to talk to students and listen to their concerns and interests."

Contact Kate Antonacci at kantome@nd.edu

Intern
continued from page 1

and junior years.

"It would be beneficial for freshmen to attend the Diversity Reception to network and meet employers so that when they're sophomores, they're more prepared for the whole process of landing an internship," she said.

The Diversity Reception and Career Fair will gather a variety of employers ranging from PriceWaterhouseCoopers to Abercrombie & Fitch to the Central Intelligence Agency.

"This fair is so diverse that I don't see one particular internship that all the students are applying for," Career Center Associate Director Anita Rees said. "We have a representation of at least eighteen different industries and within those industries, there are different divisions. For example, we have an energy firm that is hiring for a supply and trading position.

In addition to narrowing a wide range of employers and industries, students will also have to decide whether to stay close to home or live in a new place.

"It depends on the student and their situation," Ferguson said. "Some students want positions in their hometowns and others want to explore other opportunities."

For students that may even want to intern abroad, the Career Fair may be a good starting-off point. Several of the employers attending today's fair — such as Goldman Sachs and KPMG — have international offices.

"I want to intern away from home so I can get the experience of actually working in the real world," said freshman Patrick Bear, a psychology and Italian major with plans to intern in Italy in the near future.

"I am excited about [the internship]," he echoed Bears' enthusiasm about traveling.

"I want to get an internship in the engineering field away from home," the mechanical engineering student said. "I've looked into interning with an international corporation."

In addition to the Career Fair, students interested in internships abroad can explore opportunities on campus through the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, the Kellogg Institute for International Studies and the Students in International Business Council. All of these organizations sponsor internship opportunities around the globe.

The Career Center also offers help to students trying to find internships through GoIRish — its career online database — and various workshops and seminars throughout the semester.

"We want students to understand what they are passionate about, what they've already explored and enjoyed," Rees said. "If it's an internship, we take them about the kind of experiences would they like to garner while they are undergraduates. We take them from that point to learning to network, to interviewing to learning etiquette."

Contact Eva Binda at jbinda@nd.edu

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British terrorism plot foiled
Police arrest nine suspects in alleged kidnapping attempt in Birmingham

Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM — Police foiled a major kidnapping plot, their fourth in kind in Britain, with the arrests Wednesday of nine terror suspects who reportedly planned to torture and behead a British Muslim soldier and broadcast the killing on the Internet.

The alleged plot, said British media to mirror the brutal executions of foreign hostages in Iraq, was in its final stages and uncovered during a six-month surveillance operation by anti-terror officers between the cities of more than one million in the heart of England. The arrests came in a pre-dawn raid on homes and businesses in several Birmingham neighborhoods, which were mostly Pakistani.

"The threat from terrorism remains very real," said Assistant Chief Constable David Shaw, who would not confirm reports from the British Broadcasting Corp. and other media outlets that the intended victim was an army soldier to be killed in an "Iraqi-style" execution and broadcast on the Internet.

Britain has been at the heart of several thwarted alleged terror plots, including a scheme by a British Muslim to blow up the New York Stock Exchange and other landmarks, and a plot by Muslim extremists to use liquid explosives to blow up as many as 10 flights between the U.S. and Britain and other flights between the U.S. and States and Britain.

But the Birmingham kidnapping plot has raised fears that a new type of terrorism has reached Britain, which uses individual victims to send a message through brutal, graphic publicized beheadings.

Although the motive in the new plot was not disclosed, the announcement coincides with other indications that young British Muslims are becoming increasingly angry over this country's involvement in the American-led wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the U.S. detention camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The four British Muslims who attacked London's transit system in Europe's first suicide bombings had expressed rage over Britain's role in the wars. Their attack at rush hour on July 7, 2005 killed 52 people.

In the past year, the objects of that anger has spilled over to the 330 Muslims who serve in the 180,000-strong British armed forces. The potential victim of the latest plot was reportedly a British Muslim soldier who was under police protection. British media report- ed, though the Defense Ministry would not confirm this, Britain's first Muslim soldier to be killed in Afghanistan last year was from Birmingham, where the death prompted militant Islamist Web sites to denounce Cpl. Jahrden Hashmi, 24, as a traitor.

One of the articles with Byles' name was circled and found in Mansha's apartment.

Twelve houses and four businesses — including two Muslim book stores and an Internet cafe — were cordoned off in Wednesday's raids.

Love devices cause scare

Associated Press

BOSTON — Nine blinking electronic devices planted in public places and other spots in Boston threw a scare into the city Wednesday in what turned out to be a marketing campaign for a late-night cable cartoon. At least one of the devices depicts a character giving the finger.

Highways, bridges and a section of the Charles River were shut down and bomb squads were sent in before authorities declared the devices harmless.

"It's a hoax — and it's not funny," said Gov. Deval Patrick.

Tourner Broadcasting, parent company of Cartoon Network, said the "Marketing Man" series was part of a promotional campaign for the TV show "Aqua Teen Hunger Force.

The packages in question are magnetic lights that pose no danger," Turner said in a statement. It said the devices have been in place for two to three weeks in 10 cities: Boston, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Atlanta, Seattle, Portland, Ore., Austin, Texas, San Francisco and Philadelphia.

"We regret that they were mistaken only thought to pose any danger," the company said.

Police said only that they were investigating where the device came from. The Department of Homeland Security said there are no credible reports of other devices being found elsewhere in the country.

An angry Mayor Thomas Menino said a stiff penalty will be pursued against whoever was responsible for the devices.

"It's about keeping a city on edge. It's about public safety," he said.

Authorities said some of the objects looked like circuit boards or had wires hanging from them.
Fair
continued from page 1
organizer of the Diversity
Rees said students should be
preparing for the fair, and she
suggests reviewing the list of employ­
ers and posi­
tions available
on the GORISIL web­
page. “Pick three to five employers
that you want to know a
lot about so that when you meet
the represen­tative, you’ll ask the
right questions and make a
good impres­sion,” she said.

Expecting the unexpected is
also part of the fair, Rees
said, who suggests students should
check out employers that catch their attention.

“If someone has a fas­cinating display, go
talk to that per­son. Some students talk to
employers they never planned and end up landing a job with
that employer.”

Anita Rees
associate director
Career Center

If someone has a fascinating display, go talk to that person. Some students talk to employers they never planned and end up landing a job with that employer.

Anita Rees, associate director, Career Center

Day of Man

continued from page 1

they go about their business today.

The underdressed Ramblers will each carry a cup to solicit
donations for the Student Senate Center for the Homeless.
We’re also setting up a booth in front of Siegfried,”
Martin said. “We’re hoping that students will see
(we’re doing) and pitch in a few dollars to help the home­
less.”

Today at 6 p.m. the Center
for the Homeless will send
a representative to give a presen­
tation about the organiza­tion’s mission and accom­
plishments for Day of Man participants.

“We want for [participants] to get noticed by others, but
also know what you’re bene­
fiting and realize how blessed
we are,” Bernardin said.

Bernardin said the Day of Man
has received a lot of attention and
support from the residence hall
since its incep­tion.

“There were almost 100 guys
who signed up on the first day,”
he said. “Now it’s almost 120.”

Martin said Siegfried’s recep­
tion and hall staff also
gave support to participate in the Day of Man events.

“We’ve had a lot of support
[from Siegfried’s staff],”
Martin said. “It’s not just
something the kids are doing,
since that gives us hope.”

Sales for Bernardin’s Day of Man T-shirts have been high,
and friends of participants —
including many from other residence halls — have also
been generous with moral and financial support.

“If you do a good job,
you feel pretty manly.”

Tom Martin
Junior

[“Bernardin] was doing a jog around campus wearing his shorts and a T-shirt and he said, ‘Hey, it’s cold out, but I feel pretty manly’.”

South Bend Community Resources:
• Women’s Care Center, 234-0363
• Catholic Charities, 234-3111

updated
Pregnancy

Don’t go it alone.

If you or someone you love needs help or
information, please call.

Confidential support and assistance available at Notre Dame:
• Sr. Jean Lenz, OFS, Student Affairs, 1-7407
• Sra. Duno, OF, Student Affairs, 1-7819
• Sylvia Dillon, Campus Ministry, 1-7167
• John Dillon, Campus Ministry, 1-7163
• Dr. Susan Steinbach, Counseling Center, 1-7336
• Ann E. Kleve, Health Services, 1-8286

manifest dorms on campus,”
Martin said. “We wanted to get an event together that
would showcase our incredible man­
liness,” he said. “Somebody heard about that, it kind of
publicized itself.”

The Day of Man organizers
also sent e-mails to service
commissioners in each resi­
dence hall to let interested students know in advance
the cause their contibution
will support. Martin and
Bernardin said both opti­
mistic Wednesday for a posi­
tive reaction to the Day of Man on campus and beyond
the event will continue in the
future.

“We’d definitely like to try to
make it at minimum an annual thing for a couple of
years, and maybe campus-wide,”
Martin said. “I think a big
reason this event has real­
tly taken off is that there
aren’t many things manlier than
being cold and help­
less,” he said. “I hope
this is not passé fortune.”

Bernardin agreed but
cited the need for greater
publicity to guarantee desired
results. “If it goes well this year,
then we’ll be able to put a better
and better ad cam­
aign next year,” he said.

Day of Man participants
will be accepting donations
at the South Bend Center for
the Homeless throughout
the day, and checks made
out to Siegfried Hall with the memo
“Day of Man” will be accepted in
100 Siegfried.

Contact Steve Kerins at
skerin@nd.edu

Senate

continued from page 1

SUB’s budget that allows to “policy-based program­
s” could be moved so that
funds under the student gov­
ernment’s budget. Student body
president Lizzy Shappell said student gov­
ernment was already using the
fund.

“It’s our money,” Shappell said.
“Ask for an allocation,
then whenever we are using it, we go over to [SUB’s]
comptroller. It’s basically our fund to use.”

Vassel also brought up a
section of the constitution
that states that any event with
budgeting costs that exceed $5,000 must be
approved by the Financial
Management Board (FMB).

He suggested raising the
approval limit to $10,000
because, he said, SUB often
books events that cost more
than $5,000 and they need
to move fast to reserve the
act or the performer. The
delay incurred when SUB
has to notify the FMB of an
request, though not a sub­
stantial one, may prevent
SUB from booking the event,
Vassel said.

“The word spread pretty
quickly. For quite a while,
we are,” Bernardin said.

We’re also setting up a
booth in front of Siegfried,”
Martin said. “We’re hoping
that students will see
(we’re doing) and pitch in a few dollars to help the home­
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something the kids are doing,
since that gives us hope.”

Sales for Bernardin’s Day of Man T-shirts have been high,
and friends of participants —
including many from other residence halls — have also
been generous with moral and financial support.

“If you do a good job,
you feel pretty manly.”

Tom Martin
Junior

[“Bernardin] was doing a jog around campus wearing his shorts and a T-shirt and he said, ‘Hey, it’s cold out, but I feel pretty manly’.”

South Bend Community Resources:
• Women’s Care Center, 234-0363
• Catholic Charities, 234-3111
Bush visits NY stock exchange
President criticizes extravagance in executive compensation packages

NEW YORK — President Bush challenged corporate America Wednesday on the growing salaries and bonuses paid to chief executive officers, saying their pay should be tied to how much they help their companies improve efficiency.

"America's corporate boardrooms must step up to their responsibilities," Bush said in a speech on Wall Street. "They must root out extravagant pay packages, recently in the news, that have disgusted millions of U.S. workers who will never come near such deals.

"You need to pay attention to the executive compensation packages that you approve," Bush said. "You need to show investors and the American people that you will hold the wall of American business accountable to the transparency and good corporate governance." Bush's comments came during a White House press conference focused on the economy at a time when questions about executive compensation — including the Iraq war and all the candidates running for his job — are hot.

He spoke at Federal Hall, a venerable site just blocks from where terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center. "You are facing a frenzied, an un announced stop on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, joining Ronald Reagan as the only presidents to do so during trading hours.

On executive pay, Bush was priding the business community to its own. He offered no favorable of federal intervention in the fact that the federal government should stay out of such deals.

But the president clearly hoped to send a message that would resonate with the public.

"Let the immediate listeners, a dark-suited New York business audience, react with silence. But the invited crowd offered applause when Bush talked about cutting taxes and improving education.

Attention to corporate pay has been fueled by some notable cases. Recently, Home Depot chief executive Bob Nardelli was earning an average of $25.7 million a year — excluding stock options — before he was forced out in a furor over his compensation. He left with a severance package worth about $210 million.

The New York Stock Exchange faced an uproar over former CEO Richard Grasso's $187.5 million severance package. Former New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, now governor, sued members of the NYSE board over the package given to Grasso when he quit as chairman in 2003.

Beyond targeting gold en pay packages, Bush reiterated the themes of his economic message these days — trade, health care, energy and education. All require help from a Democratic Congress, which is fast-making its own plans for a mainstream domestic agenda.

"Critiquing CEO pay won't do anything to raise the wages of average Americans," Bush said.

Associated Press

Dell Inc. founder to return as CEO

Dell Inc.'s founder and former chief executive will return to the company to restructure the company as the computer maker continues to grapple with a variety of challenges.

Dell Inc. founder to return as CEO

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Associated Press

DALLAS — Dell Inc., battered by battery recalls and disappointing earnings, said Wednesday that Chairman Michael Dell will return to run the company he had built into one of the world's largest makers of personal computers.

Dell's appointment is effective immediately, replacing Kevin Rollins, who also resigned as a member of the board.

Dell shares, which fell 7 cents to close earlier Wednesday at $24.22 on the Nasdaq Stock Market, jumped 98 cents, or 4 percent, in aftermarket action.

During Rollins' tenure, Dell was battered by a recall of 4.1 million potentially flammable notebook batteries made by Sony Corp. and by disappointing earnings. The company on Wednesday forecast fourth-quarter profit and sales below analysts' consensus estimates of $2.92 per share.

The company's accounting practices also are the subject of federal scrutiny. The U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York has subpoenaed documents related to Dell's financial reporting from 2002 to the present.

Dell has served as chairman since founding the company in 1984 and was chief executive until 2004, when he hand-picked Rollins as his successor. Dell defended the beleaguered executive in September, saying Rollins wasn't solely responsible for the company's recent missteps.

Rollins joined Dell in 1996 and had a variety of roles before becoming CEO, including chief operating officer, vice chairman and president of Dell Americas. Before Dell, he was vice president and partner of Bain & Co. management consultants.

"Kevin has been a great business partner and friend," Dell said in a statement. "He has made significant contributions to our business over the past 10 years. I wish him much success in the future."

Dell's direct sales model, which allows businesses and consumers to buy equipment directly from Dell, turned the company into a leading computer manufacturer.

In Brief

Google triples fourth-quarter profits

SAN FRANCISCO — Google Inc.'s fourth-quarter profit nearly tripled amid another burst of breathtaking growth that enabled the online search leader to sprint past analyst expectations — a habit that has helped propel its stock price above $500.

The Mountain View-based company said Wednesday that it earned $1.03 billion, or $1.22 per share, in the three months ending Dec. 31, a figure that easily exceeded the average analyst estimate of $2.92 per share among analysts surveyed by Thomson Financial.

US Airways drops 89.8%.

B E NCHMARK: Dow Jones

The Associated Press

Market Recap

B E NCHMARK: Dow Jones

The Associated Press

WEDNESDAY FORECAST:

President Bush leaves Federal Hall in Washington with New York Stock Exchange CEO John Thain for a visit to the NYSE floor Wednesday.

The New York Stock Exchange faced an uproar over former CEO Richard Grasso's $187.5 million severance package. Former New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, now governor, sued members of the NYSE board over the package given to Grasso when he quit as chairman in 2003.

Bush said his administration was working to improve how these rules are being enforced so that the burden is not oppressive on industry.

President Bush leaves Federal Hall in Washington with New York Stock Exchange CEO John Thain for a visit to the NYSE floor Wednesday.
Orlando sparks trend with anti-homeless laws

Dallas, Gainesville and Atlanta among cities with laws restricting or prohibiting the feeding of homeless

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — At Lake Eola park, there is much beauty to behold: robust palms, beds of cheery begonias, a cascading lake fountain, clusters of friendly egrets and swans, an amphitheater named in honor of Walt Disney. Then there are the signs. DO NOT LIE OR OTHERWISE BE IN A HORIZONTAL POSITION ON A PARK BENCH ... DO NOT SIT OR REMAIN IN ANY BUSHES, SHRUBS OR FOLIAGE per city code sec. 18A.09 (a) and (f).

Visit the park’s restrooms, and you’ll find this sign on the wall above the hand dryers: LAUNDERING CLOTHES IN LAKE EOLA PARK IS NOT PERMITTED.

Since joggers and dog walkers tend not to snooze in flower beds, and because employees at the glittering office towers around Lake Eola scrub laundry in park sinks, it’s clear, says Monique Vargas, 28, whom the notices are targeted.

“They’re talking to us, to the homeless,” says Vargas, who has lived on the streets, in parks or under overpasses, since age 16. “It’s a way of saying, ‘Your kind isn’t wanted in our city.’”

Orlando’s population 200,000, works hard to conjure the image of a true-life Pleasantville: a safe, welcoming place where visitors can soak up year-round sunshine and devour choreographed extravaganzas at palm-lined theme parks. But its spotless sidewalks, sparkling lakes and twinkling skyline belie a real city with real maladies — most notably, a surging homeless population that authorities are struggling to control.

After a law that banned panhandling was struck down by the courts, the city tried to discourage aggressive beggars by obliging them to carry ID cards, and later by confining them to 3-by-15-foot “panhandling zones” painted in blue on sidewalks downtown.

Despite these laws, the number of people lining the streets of the Orlando metro area swelled, from roughly 5,000 in 1999 to an estimated 8,500 today, dwarfing the city’s 50,000-capacity for 2,000 people.

So in July, the city commission tried a “supply-side” approach: It passed an ordinance regulating the feeding of large groups of people in Orlando’s downtown parks.

Those who wished to feed more than 25 hungry individuals at parks within a 2-mile radius of City Hall could do so, but only if they obtained a “Large Group Feeding Permit” from the parks department — and no one would be granted more than two feeding permits a year.

No exceptions. For the first time anyone in Orlando could remember, not only would panhandlers find themselves in the crosshairs of the law, but so would those trying to help them.

“We’re now illegal to feed the homeless in Orlando, Florida,” says Jay Leno, host of NBC’s “Tonight Show,” told a studio audience last summer in Burbank, Calif., during his opening monologue. “Have you seen the fat people walking around Disney World? We should make it illegal to feed THEM.

But when the Orlando Sentinel posted Leno’s wise-crack on its Web site, local bloggers weren’t laughing.

“Feeding the homeless only encourages more homelessness,” “Justin Credible” blogger

Another, “TG,” didn’t oppose feeding the destitute. “But there are places set up for this. Soup kitchens exist ... It is not unreasonable to want to keep Lake Eola Park from becoming a homeless cafeteria.”

William Beem added: “For what it’s worth, Las Vegas enacted a similar law at the same time as Orlando. Tourist towns think alike.”

Indeed, a week before Orlando’s ordinance took effect, Las Vegas criminalized giving food to even a single transient in a city park.

In August, the American Civil Liberties Union filed suit challenging the Las Vegas ban, saying it violated constitutional protections of free speech, right to assembly and right to practice one’s religion. A federal court in Nevada has prohibited the city from enforcing the ordinance until a final ruling is issued.

Advocates for the homeless feared it wouldn’t be long before other cities passed similar laws. As it happens, they were right.

Already, the cities of Dallas, Fort Myers, Fla., Gainesville, Fla., Wilmington, N.C., Atlanta, and Santa Monica, Calif., have laws restricting or outright prohibiting the feeding of the homeless. In Fairfax County, Va., homemade meals and meals made in church kitchens may not be distributed to the homeless unless first approved by the county.

Other cities, including Miami, are considering similar anti-feeding measures.

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Simons follows fathers path

Councilwoman carries former senato rs legacy into mayoral run

Associated Press

CARBONDALE, Ill. — Sheila Simon has come a long way since her first speech at a political picnic.

"Thanks for the hot dogs," she said, "because that s a good sign that we are being taken seriously." She was referring to the fact that her speech was well-received, which is a sign that she is making progress in her campaign.

Simon went on to say that she is working hard to win the support of the voters in her district.

"I am a very hard worker," she said, "and I am very committed to serving the people of my district."

Simon is a member of the Democratic Party and is running for a seat in the Illinois state legislature.

Sheila Simon

councilwoman

For the past 10 years, she's taught law at Southern Illinois University here while raising a family and running a business.

She has a special bond with her father, Paul Simon, who was a former U.S. senator.

Sheila Simon

councilwoman

Sheila Simon, 50, said she was an absolute disaster as a teenager.

"I was a wild child," she said, "and I didn't know what I was doing."

But she has since turned her life around.

"I have been a very successful woman," she said, "and I am very proud of the person I have become."
Dems push budget toward vote

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats say they are making the best of a bad situation as they bring the House floor a massive bill cobbling together $463.5 billion in unfinanced budget business.

The bill, combining the budgets of 12 Cabinet agencies, won praise Tuesday from Democratic Party allies such as activists pressing the fight against AIDS overseas and advocates for boosting education funding.

Lawmakers in both parties hailed the bill for freeing highway construction funds, even as the White House complained that the legislation is too small and harmed by a 2005 round of military base closings and cuts a request for basic scientific research.

Still, the White House signaled that President Bush will sign the bill into law once it reaches his desk.

The House debate on Wednesday promises to be bitter, and some Democrats appear likely to pass on a largely party-line vote. But Republicans in the Senate appear unlikely to place procedural hurdles in its path.

The harshest criticism came from House Republicans, who complained that they were shut out of any chance to offer changes to the bill — and had barely any time to read it.

Rep. Jerry Lewis of California, the Appropriations Committee’s top Republican — displayed as chairman last fall — ripped into the Democrats, warning the House floor “without any prior debate whatsoever and with­out the courtesy to offer even one amendment on the floor.”

Republicans also took issue with Democrats claim to have “scrubbed” the bill free of home­ base projects, for example, $50 million to match last year’s $10 million to National Main­ tenance Commission, which funds rural road, sanitation, energy and other infrastructure projects in Alaska.

Then there was the Senate’s refusal to kill $45 million in funding for an indoor rainforest project in central Iowa, even though local backers have to make $2 million in additional comments for funding.

Democrats sought to focus attention on numerous other generally small — funding increased management in favored accounts, even while living within tight limits set by Bush and last year’s GOP-domi­ nated Congress. "It’s absurd that veterans lobby won a $3.6 billion increase for medical care, earning praise from veterans groups and the White House, while low-income college students would receive a $250 boost in the maximum Pell Grant, in $4,310.

“After five years of broken promises from the administration, this is an important down pay­ment by Democrats on our com­mitment to help families with high college costs,” said Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.

State and local law enforcement agencies, meanwhile, won increases in grants for new equip­ment and hiring new officers.

Community development block grants, however, were frozen at current levels, as was Amtrak. But advocates for these programs took them as a victory relative to Bush’s budget submitted a year ago.

Activists pressing for big boosts to combat AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis overseas won a $1.3 billion increase — to $4.5 billion. That’s enough to fund the presi­dent’s $225 million initiative to fight malaria and increase the U.S. contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to $724 million.

It’s a ladies game too: Football faithful not solely male

Associated Press

MIAMI — Super Bowl Sunday, once the manifest of annual celebration, is get­ting a shot of estrogen.

Sportswriters are brushing up on their football lingo and planning couples activities to reconvene with their men, while other women widows will revel in a night of freedom.

“For single people, this has gotten huge,” said Darcy Dwyer, who does not have a date for New Year’s Eve.” There is hardly a soul that doesn’t say, ‘I’m doing for the Super Bowl’,” sportswriter Paula Duffy said.

The author of an audio book series, which includes the “Woman’s Guide To Football,” Duffy says her Florida and California-based business is swamped since the play­off start. She trav­els the country speaking at Tupperware parties and radio shows and even teaching private lessons, which cost upward of $50.

Dwyer said, “I’ve been on the game for clients, a mix of single and married gals and business ladies looking to connect with their colleagues, with their graphics and cheat sheets.

“Sports and entertainment have blended,” Coach Phil Jackson is rock stars. There’s red carpet events. It’s Access Hollywood meets ESPN, and it’s a genuine topic of gossip.”

Paula Duffy

sports writer

Additional Notes:

Would you like to work with kids after graduation?

The Mercy Works program at Mercy Home for Boys & Girls seeks highly motivated men and women who wish to acquire a social service experience while making a difference in the lives of hurting children. Benefits include room and board, health insurance, professional training and supervision, loan forbearance and an AmeriCorps Education Award.

For more information contact the MercyWorks Program Manager at 312-338-6419 or visit www.mercyhome.org

Representatives will be at the ND Winter Career Fair on 2/1 from 10-3pm.
International travel into U.S. loses popularity

Sept. 11 attacks, long lines at customs, visa difficulties, subsequent security policies cited for drop in American tourism

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Visiting the United States isn’t as popular as it used to be mainly because of delays and difficulties in getting visas, long lines at customs and aggressive promotional campaigns from other countries.

Travel executives told a Senate panel Wednesday that people are going elsewhere for those reasons.

and the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, despite an initiative announced a year ago by top government officials.

In 2000, the United States was the destination for 7.5 percent of all international travelers. After the terrorist attacks, tourism plummeted.

Four years later, only 6 percent of international visits were to the United States, according to the Commerce Department.

Lawmakers and travel executives are working on strategies to boost international tourism, which contributes $1.3 trillion and 7.3 million jobs to the U.S. economy, according to the Travel Industry Association.

"It’s a significant part of our economy and we’re losing our share," said Sen. Byron Dorgan, the North Dakota Democrat who chairs a Senate panel investigating the issue.

"It’s a significant part of our economy and we’re losing our share," said Sen. Byron Dorgan, the North Dakota Democrat who chairs a Senate panel investigating the issue.

"The policies implemented — well-intentioned — over the past five years, appear to have strengthened our security," Porter said. "Lost, however, were efficiencies and a semblance of customer service."

Also lost, he said, were the 2007 Pan American Games, which were awarded to Rio de Janeiro over San Antonio.

"The U.S. Olympic Committee ... recognizes this as a similar concern for the 2016 Olympics to either Chicago or Los Angeles," Porter said.

Jonathan Tisch, chief executive of Loews Hotels, told the committee that potential tourists to the U.S. have to wait so long and travel so far to get a visa that some are choosing to go elsewhere.

Since shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks, people who need a visa to visit the United States must apply in person so a consular official can conduct a face-to-face interview.

But in large countries like Brazil, Russia, China and India, would-be tourists have to travel quite far just to apply for the right to travel in the U.S. sometime later.

The average wait time for a visa appointment in Rio de Janeiro is 38 days, according to the State Department. In the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, the wait is 22 days.

The Observer is currently accepting applications for the 2007-08 term for the following positions:

Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editor

News Editor, Sports Editor, Viewpoint Editor, Scene Editor, Saint Mary’s Editor, Photo Editor, Graphics Editor, Advertising Manager, Ad Design Manager, Controller, Web Administrator and Systems Manager.

Applicants for Managing Editor and Assistant Managing Editor should demonstrate strong journalistic and management skills. An in-depth understanding of newspaper production, including skills in Microsoft Word, Quark XPress and Photoshop, is required. Experience with Macintosh computers is helpful.

Applications for Managing Editor and Assistant Managing Editor should be 12 pages and should explain the applicant’s qualifications and goals. Applications for all other positions should be at least five pages.

Managing Editor and Assistant Managing Editor applications are due by 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 2, while applications for other positions are due by 5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4. All applications should be submitted to Maddie Hanna in the Observer office, located in the South Dining Hall basement.

Please direct questions about these positions or the application procedure to Maddie Hanna at 631-4541 or Mike Gilloon at 631-4542.
When Dean Kamen unveiled his Segway Personal Transporter in December 2001, much of the grandiose hype and inflated expectations surrounding the invention focused on how the new device would revolutionize the way modern cities are built. Pretty lofty goal, sure, but one can't accuse Kamen of depending on his work. When the device was officially unveiled, people discovered that it was a motorized scooter. A pretty sweet scooter that can balance itself, true, but still... a scooter.

The Segway is a really nifty device, true. It's fast, cheap, easy to charge and use, and it almost erases pollution when compared to a car. For the average American city-dweller, the machine really serves all your daily needs, provided it can reach the workplace and nearby stores. But Kamen's ballyhooed invention underestimates the stirring and durable method of transportation that humankind has possessed ever since evolution provided us upright walking.

The human gait is a fine thing when you think about it. You just push your legs forward and go, one foot in front of the other. As the steps add up, feet turn into yards, yards into miles, and miles into many miles. There are no emissions besides your exhaling breath, and none of the noise that clumps up otherwise serene cities. The footprint of the average person is less than an automobile, and even the Segway can't best a person for space-saving. The speed may not be quite as great as a Segway or car, but it gets the job done. The energy supply lasts a lot longer than a charge on Kamen's brainchild, and fuel is remarkably cheaper than what Ford's offspring demands (even if you prefer fine dining). All those years of planning and investing, and here we've just been sitting - or standing — on the most efficient vehicle of all. Until our descendants colonize the moon and start scooting around in hover cars, it's the best means of transportation we've got.

Kamen's vision did bring to mind a reasonable aspect of modern life: we design our cities and neighborhoods around transportation, and that transportation is always a car. Older cities were built with narrower streets, where buildings hunched closer together, and they gave you an easier walking experience. In our time, however, everything modern is subject to where a car can go. This means our more state-of-the-art cities possess a great deal of convenience for us, but that convenience comes at a price. Cars are the de facto method of traveling, even within cities and suburbs, and we're left with little choice. Just think about getting around in South Bend and Mishawaka. Walking around campus or close to it does not trouble us, but try walking to Meier and carrying back your purchases. Sure, you can do it, but it's a pain.

This will, however, may be worth it? Living in a city may not provide the healthiest lifestyle in many aspects, but it beats suburban sprawl when it comes to weight and daily exercise. A national study published in American Journal of Preventative Medicine last December found that teenagers who grow up in suburban areas don't spring up overnight, so we can, however, choose to walk or work or drive whenever we want. Modern cities have tons of advantages — better city planning and waste disposal, more suitable land, easier transportation of goods — but they force you to hop in your car whenever you need a carton of milk or a loaf of bread.

Fighting our handicapped modern city design isn't an easy task. Residential areas don't sprout up overnight, so we can't expect our neighborhoods to change their layout that quickly. We can, however, start to walk to the store or work or school. The process can save energy, get a workout, create less noise and just enjoy your town. You could buy a Segway, but why waste the money? Use what you already have, avoid waste. Your green footprint in redesigning moon-cities may take you one day.

James Dechant is a junior studying abroad in Rome this semester. Questions, the money? Use what you already have, avoid waste. Your green footprint in redesigning moon-cities may take you one day.
Gained acceptance to Notre Dame, course, "It depends on how you count." Some possibilities of the semester. Any ideas? The correct answer is, of you'd pay big bucks for in the "real world;" opportunities everywhere on campus; the use of fitness facilities which cannot come to an end quickly enough.

Days, a number which you, having earned a place in the suburbs, when their kids "steal" our kids' spot grants. We love when they build our homes, pick our fruit, landworker does not. Explained, squabbling cultures with no common bond to hold them together, and a certain guarantee of the death of this nation as a menace of tens of millions of invading illegal aliens." They describe unfairly applied term, Jan. 29). In their Web site, the group is frank, at the university or even, perhaps, when their daughter marries our son.

In defending the Minuteman Project, Geoff Spiess also posits a mistaken notion that better protection along the border enforcement agents on the Mexican border as along the United States wants results in its war on terror, it should build a more efficient and fair system of immigration, not fences. The current regulations make legal immigration impossible for millions would like to immigrate legally - not only those legally, the same group willing to accept the jobs that the average American worker does not.

Lastly, for those who decry the "burden" that illegal immigrants place upon social services — immigrants pay taxes too! Legal immigrants are just as likely to ruin things for your M-W-F and T-Th class appointments in love, academics or employment; we can create countdowns or spend all our time waiting for the future to happen out of worry or anxiety. We may also do it because we've just come to take our present situation for granted. If you feel like you've used up all Notre Dame has to offer, then it's time to make a new friend, go to a Mass or prayer service you've never been to before; make a retreat (see below); attend a lecture or concert you never thought you'd try, or best of all, find some small, new way to give something back to this community.

If you're one of those seniors counting down the 108 days until commencement, consider tossing your countdown in the trash — unless, of course, you're using it to find "108 Ways to Be Grateful During My Last Semester Here." Additionally, how about going on the senior retreat this weekend (Feb. 2 and 3; see campusministry.nd.edu)? It starts tomorrow but you can still sign up — and no one will make fun of you for having no previous plans for the weekend. Hey, you're living in the now!

This week's FaithPoint is written by Kate Barrett, director of resources and spiritual projects in the Office of Campus Ministry. She can be reached at kbarrett@nd.edu.

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

Live in the moment

Border patrol is not what we need

This is a country that has a love-hate relationship with its immigrants. We let them build our homes, pick our fruit, landscape our suburbs or clean our kitchens. But we hate when they've earned a place in the suburbs, when their kids "steal" our kids' spot at the university or even, perhaps, when their daughter marries our son.

In defending the Minuteman Project, Geoff Spiess made some hasty speculations about the group's vigilant behavior ("Bigot" an unfairly applied term, Jan. 29). In their Web site, the group is frank, explaining that the "nation is [being] devoured and plundered by the immigrant — differentiating some as legal will not create harmony. Spiess also posits a mistaken notion that better protection along the border enforcement agents on the Mexican border as along the United States wants results in its war on terror, it should build a more efficient and fair system of immigration, not fences. The current regulations make legal immigration impossible for millions would like to immigrate legally - not only those legally, the same group willing to accept the jobs that the average American worker does not.

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The views expressed in this article are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Jaa's 'Protector' ruined by Americanization

By TAE ANDREWS
Assistant Scene Editor

Tony Jaa burst onto the scene with 2003's "Ong Bak," an instant classic that flew at audiences like an elbow strike to the face and cemented his status as a bona fide martial arts super­star. Utilizing vicious elbow and knee strikes in the Muay Thai martial art style, Jaa dispatched onscreen enemies with panache and flair reminiscent of (dare we say it) the late and great Bruce Lee, the greatest kung fu movie star of all time. Along the way, he even managed to make the movie title a verb in the popular slang, as in, "Oh man, he just got Ong Bak'd right in the face!"

Jaa is like a real-life version of "The Matrix," performing impossible flips, somersaults and aerial acrobatics, usu­ally ending with one bad guy or another getting massive punishment to the face from one of Jaa's many limbs and joints. Throwing in the distinctive Muay Thai style, the sheer creativity of Jaa as a martial artist matches pretty much anything Quentin Tarantino could dream up short of Pai Mei's Five-Point Exploding Heart Technique.

The high-flying Thaiholder is like the

The Protector
Two-Disc Collector's Edition
Weinstein Company

Tony Jaa stars in his latest high-flying martial arts film, "The Protector," where he exhibits his mastery of Muay Thai, a fighting technique native to Thailand.

The Invincible Iron Man
Lions Gate

Iron Man has been a popular superhero since his first incarnation in the comic book world during the early 1960s and in 2008 will star in his own feature film. Unfortunately, by the time The Protector set is released in the U.S. on February 1, it will be the second in a long line of Iron Man re-launches and re-youngings. Although the DVD set is that the generous folks at Weinstein Company headquarters decided to cut a different version of the film for its release in the U.S., the sole redeeming feature of the DVD set is that the generous folks at

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrew1@nd.edu

Tazmanian devil, a whirling dervish of fists, feet, elbows and knees unleashed upon enemies everywhere. And the best part of all is that Jaa is the real deal. As the DVD gravely points out, "Tony Jaa has "no stunt doubles, no wires, no CGI."

"Normally, watching Jaa in action is a kick to the pants, or more accurately, a flying knee strike to the dome. So naturally, Jaa's next movie should have been as bare of a thing as one of his signature monster elbows to the face, right?"

Wrong. Enter "The Protector," one of the worst put-together movies of all time. Somewhere, Bruce Lee is doing backflips in his grave after the release of this sloppy jalopy. The original Thai film, entitled "The Yum Goong," is a fine piece of cinema. Unfortunately, the various clowns at the Weinstein Company headquarters decided to cut the film for its release in the U.S., seemingly at whim, which is just adding insult to injury. Even for a film genre known for its cheesy dialogue and worse acting, "The Protector" manages to disappoint at each turn.

The sole redeeming feature of the DVD set is that the generous folks at DVD set is that the generous folks at

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrew1@nd.edu

The Invincible Iron Man
Lions Gate

Iron Man fans will no doubt enjoy the appearance of Tony Stark's best friend James "Rhodey" Rhodes. However, perhaps the most disappointing thing about the movie is that Tony Stark doesn't even spend the majority of time as Iron Man in his usual red and yellow get-up. No, instead he pilots around in a grey bucket of bolts with a microwave oven for a helmet.

Unfortunately, by the time The Invincible Iron Man saddles up and reaches its "climax," Tony Stark's palm blasters have been as sure of a thing as one of his flying knee strikes. So naturally, Jaa's next movie should have been as bare of a thing as one of his signature monster elbows to the face, right?

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Iron Man has been a popular superhero since his first incarnation in the comic book world during the early 1960s and in 2008 will star in his own feature film. Unfortunately, by the time The Protector set is released in the U.S. on February 1, it will be the second in a long line of Iron Man re-launches and re-youngings. Although the DVD set is that the generous folks at

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The legacy of Time's latest 'Person of the Year'

Looking at the future of user-generated sites like YouTube

By BRIAN DOXTADER and MARTY SCHROEDER

Scene Writers

Time Magazine recently declared "you" to be the "Person of the Year," primarily because of the Internet phenomenon of YouTube. YouTube is a Web site that allows web surfers to post and watch Internet videos at no cost, and is one of the biggest and most well-known Web sites.

"Every video ever is on YouTube," joked comedian Dane Cook on SNL in a clip that was, ironically, removed from YouTube at NBC's request. Cook may not have been far off. The site is now home to countless videos, ranging from simple home movies to complex commercial endeavors.

YouTube was founded by Chad Hurley, Steve Chen and Jawed Karim — three former PayPal employees — in 2005. By summer of 2006, it was one of the world's most popular Web sites, and in October 2006 it was sold as a subsidiary of Google.

Easy cop-out remarks aside, Time Magazine's selection raises some serious questions. "You" may be the director of your own destiny and YouTube videos, but how long is it going to be before advertisers discover this phenomenon and reach their tentacles into this supposedly egalitarian and personally driven Internet phenomenon? A look into where websites like YouTube were and where they are now reveals much about where they will probably be going.

This may be cynical, but is there any industry in the United States that has not been taken over by corporations? YouTube is our generation's Mom and Pop store; we know who our friends are and we all come together to make media for each other. However, the commercials are on the way.

YouTube has, in many ways, revolutionized Internet video by compelling most of it within the confines of a single Web site. There is a ton of copyrighted material like music videos, sporting events and television show clips, though some studios, like NBC, have begun to crack down.

What's truly bizarre about Internet video is the way it has made minor celebrities and cultural icons out of so-called "viral videos." Accidental clips like the Star Wars Kid (YouTube search: star wars kid), Leeroy Jenkins (YouTube search: leeroy jenkins) and the Numa Numa video (YouTube search: numa numa) contrast with "real" videos like the "Shoes" video (YouTube search: shoes) or the SNL digital shorts.

Whether they know it or not, these "common people," who have not gone through the traditional flamboyant hoop to stardom, are the latest fads without being in their own film or on "Oprah." This is not to say that Tom Cruise jumping around on "Oprah" was not one of the most watched clips on Internet video sites, but who knows what the real Leeroy Jenkins looks like, or who the Star Wars kid is? We may not know, but the Star Wars kid was parodied on former Fox hit " Arrested Development" — he became a pop culture icon to millions who don't know his name. These characters, who act a little out of the ordinary, are the people Time is talking about when they made "you" the "Person of the Year" — not to mention the YouTube users with the foresight to put those videos up in the first place.

Another phenomenon is the "remixing" of popular media. Everything from the old "X-Men" cartoon — rebubbed as the "Juggernaut" video (Google video search: juggernaut) — to the "G.I. Joe" Public Service Announcements (YouTube search: gi joe psa) have been altered, usually to comic effect. These movies have proven immensely popular, but are problematic because they use copyrighted materials. Though these materials have been altered (often drastically) some videos, like the aforementioned "Juggernaut" clip, have been removed because of infringement laws.

One of the positive side effects for advertisers, however, are the commercials available on YouTube. With the impending Super Bowl XLI commercials, everyone, including "you," will be able to go back to YouTube the next morning and watch their favorite commercials over and over and over again — a boon for whoever's marketing department creates the cleverest commercial.

Time said we are the "Person of the Year" because we are creative, original and exactly what corporations are not. We've created, and we need to find more men like Leeroy Jenkins.

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdooxtade@nd.edu and Marty Schroeder at mschroe@nd.edu

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

"Saturday Night Live" cast members Chris Parnell and Andy Samberg star in the digital short Lazy Sunday, which has repeatedly been pulled from YouTube by NBC.

-- the "Star Wars kid" when a video clip he recorded of himself was leaked online.

"Person of the Year" Leeroy Jenkins, the World of Warcraft character created by Ben Schacht.

"One of the biggest and most well-known Web sites that allows web surfers to post and watch Internet videos at no cost, and is one of the biggest and most well-known Web sites."
I was already maybe 10 feet in the air. I just knew I was going to dunk it. I just remember having fans (at home) rush the court like that."

After Ratliff's final basket, Tucker missed the first of a one-and-one free throw opportunity and the Hoosiers recovered the ball, as the Assembly Hall crowd began chanting "A.I.-Ratliif."

But when Tucker missed a three-point try with 10 seconds left, and Earl Tucker missed the free throw, the crowd was feeling a bit less festive.

"It kind of definitely was a key for them, gave them a lot of energy, gave them a boost," coach Tom Izzo said. "It's always tough to play tough. And the way the game's going, they're doing a tremendous job here at home."

Tucker, second in the Big Ten in scoring at 19.6, had 14 points in the first half, but the Badgers never pulled away despite Indiana's poor shooting early in the game.

"We knew from the start it was going to be tough to pull this out," Izzo said. "We don't come with a lot of energy from the start, and that was the tale of the game," Tucker said.

North Carolina 105, Miami 64

The margin kept growing with every possession, whether by 3- pointers or transition dunks that provided the only spark for an otherwise lifeless and crowd- ultimately headed home early.

Such is life for third-ranked North Carolina these days — a team so talented that it can't even keep its own fans in the seats for an entire game.

Tyler Hansbrough scored 22 points and four blocks, while senior reserve Quinton Thomas had a career-high eight assists with one turnover.

The Tar Heels also got a boost with the return of sophomore guard Bobby Frasor, who had missed the past four games with a right-foot injury. Frasor was scoreless with two assists in 9 minutes.

It was quite a way to follow up their most impressive performance of the season, a 92-64 win at then-No. 17 Arizona despite falling to Indiana, the Bulldogs 20-win mark for just the third time.

But with the victory, Butler (21-2), No. 9 (Horizon League) surpassed the 20-win mark for just the third time. With No. 2 Wisconsin falling to Indiana, the Bulldogs are tied for the most wins in the nation.

And Williams won't let his team back off now.

"Sometimes you can lose focus," Wright admitted of his team. "But Coach just sizes every timeout, 'Keep your foot on the gas.'"

At the other end, the Hurricanes (9-13, 2-6), who had 26 turnovers and four blocks, were senior reserve Quinton Thomas had a career-high eight assists with one.

Miami coach Frank Haith was ejected after being whistled for his second technical foul after reacting to a no-call on a block by Hambrick with 7:48 left. The call came just before an official timeout and the Tar Heels had 73-51, allowing Haith to walk to the Tar Heels huddle and shake Williams' hand before leaving the court.

"I think they're the best team in the country," Haith said. "They come at you in waves... He's got a team. Trust me, he's got a team."

Walter Butler, Midtown State 58

Butler coach Todd Lickliter looked at the box score and shook his head.

"Maybe it's that kind of perfectionism that's led to the Bulldogs' three best months of basketball in school history."

Mike Green scored a season-high 31 points, Pete Campbell added a season-high 20, and No. 13 Butler won its seventh straight stunning Youngstown State on Wednesday night.

The Bulldogs were playing their fourth game in seven days, but didn't look like it. They dominated the Penguins with their 3- point shooting in the first half, then attacked the rim in the second half with the same result.

With the victory, Butler (21-2, 9-1 Horizon League) surpassed the 20-win mark for just the third time. With No. 2 Wisconsin falling to Indiana, the Bulldogs are tied for the most wins in the nation.

Lickliter didn't want his players to find out.

"We probably won't be able to fit on that plane — big heads," he said.

The Bulldogs had managed to go uncested through one of the toughest portions of their schedule — four games in four states in seven days.

But Lickliter was still worrying about the 10 turnovers — a lot for a team that entered the game leading all Division I schools in fewest turnovers per game (9.7).

"We had lapses where we struggled, but we would on top of those build and so we didn't collapse," Lickliter said.

Hoosiers erase Badgers' 17-game win streak

Ratliff scores season-high 20 points, White adds 16 as Indiana upsets No. 2 Wisconsin. 71-66 in Big Ten battle

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — A.J. Ratliff's scariest moment came after the game was over.

Ratliff scored 18 of his season-high 20 points in the second half and Indiana held off No. 2 Wisconsin on Wednesday for a 71-66 victory that ended the Badgers' 17-game winning streak.

But before that, he was always on the other side of that," he said. "We (Oklahoma) wasn't worried about the game ending. It was quite a way to follow up their most impressive performance of the season, a 92-64 win at then-No. 17 Arizona despite falling to Indiana, the Bulldogs 20-win mark for just the third time.

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Indiana guard Roderick Wilmont yells after making a steal in the second half of the Hoosiers' 71-66 upset Wednesday of No. 2 Wisconsin. Hoosiers fans rushed the court after the win.
League rejects Bonds’ contract

NEW YORK — Barry Bonds’ contract with the San Francisco Giants isn’t final just yet.

After the commissioner’s office rejected Bonds’ $15.8 million, one-year deal because it contained a personal-appearance provision, the teams sent revised documents to his agent, Jeff Borris.

“At this time, Barry is not signing the new documents,” Borris said.

Baseball’s Uniform Player Contract states a player “agrees to cooperate with the club in any and all reasonable promotional activities.” Bonds’ contract had additional language that the commissioner’s office rejected.

Borris did not detail the provisions in dispute, but a baseball executive, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they dealt with personal appearances.

Giants executives did not immediately return telephone calls seeking comment.

Bonds and the Giants, who agreed to financial terms Dec. 7, said Monday the drawn-out agreement had been finalized.

Still, they disagree on the meaning of an unusual provision in the deal relating to Bonds’ potential legal problems. In the contract, a list of criminal acts is spelled out in a section.

“. . . Player acknowledges and agrees that an indictment for any criminal act (under that section) . . . is proper grounds for termination of this contract. . . .”

The language in the contract was read in The Associated Press by a person with a copy of the agreement.

Bonds also acknowledges and agrees that he will not gripe, appeal or otherwise challenge any club action to terminate this contract as a result of player’s indictment for any criminal acts (speciﬁed . . .) nor will he be cause or authorize any third party, such as the Major League Baseball Players Association, to grieve, appeal or otherwise challenge any club action to terminate this contract as a result of player’s indictment for any (specified) criminal acts.”

The Giants wanted to protect themselves if Bonds is charged in the federal government’s steroids investigation.

Bonds’ personal trainer, Greg Anderson, is in a California federal prison because he has refused to testify whether Bonds committed perjury when he told a 2003 grand jury he never knowingly used performance-enhancing drugs.

In Brief

Cowboys will wait until after Super Bowl to name coach

Travis Livingood, Texas — The Dallas Cowboys won’t name Bill Parcells’ replacement until after the Super Bowl. In his ﬁrst public comments since Parcells retired Jan. 22, owner and general manager Jerry Jones said Wednesday he wouldn’t have a decision on a new coach until next week.

Jones has already interviewed eight candidates, and said he might add to that list.

“We’ve got a good football team, and I’ve got to get this right,” Jones said.

“We’ve got to make a good decision when we select the next coach. We’re going to have the opportunity and a plan in place that will allow us to do that.”

Hall of Fame linebacker Mike Singletary, the assistant head coach for the San Francisco 49ers, interviewed Tuesday. That came two days after 49ers offensive coordinator Norv Turner.

Super Bowl air security tight, high-tech

HOMESTEAD AIR RESERVE BASE, Fla. — Pilots who stray into a no-fly zone around the Super Bowl on Sunday can count on an immediate, robust response from F-16 ﬁghter planes, helicopters and lots of high-tech gadgetry aimed at countering any threat.

“We’ll be prepared to handle anything like that,” said Julie Torres, chief of the Miami ofﬁce of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the federal security coordinator for the Super Bowl.

When ﬂight restrictions are violated, most of the time it’s because of a communications problem or a pilot isn’t aware of the rules. But even so, the Air Force, U.S. Customs and Border Protection and numerous other agencies are ready to intercept such aircraft, escort them to the ground and interrogate the pilots on Super Bowl Sunday.

NASCAR changes provisional qualifying spot rule

CONCORD, N.C. — NASCAR changed its Nextel Cup past champions provisional Wednesday to limit it to only six uses per season.

There had previously been no limit to how many times a past Cup champion could use the provisional to ensure a spot in the ﬁeld each week. The provisional was set aside for the 43rd spot in the race to the most recent former champion who did not qualify based on speed.

“Now, a driver can only use the spot six times in a year, and the limit also applies to the entire team so that a car owner can’t use multiple past champions in the course of one season,” said Robin Pemberton, NASCAR’s competition director.
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**Key: NA = Not Available**
The new blood tests are designed to find higher-than-normal hormone levels that can be reached only by taking synthetic versions. Its uses include treating pituitary gland tumors and growth disorders in children.

"Our view is that it’s out there and requires the agency to conduct blood tests," Pound said.

Anti-doping agencies that police amateur athletes around the globe have spent nearly $1 billion over the past decade to develop a blood test to detect synthetically produced human growth hormone.

"All the experts we have consulted told us to forget about urine tests," said Olivier Rabin, the anti-doping agency’s top scientist. "In urine you will find less than 1 percent of human growth hormone than you will find in the blood."

Human growth hormone occurs naturally in the body and synthetic versions taken by injection are chemically identical, making detection difficult. The new blood tests are designed to find higher-than-normal hormone levels that can be reached only by taking synthetic versions.

Rabin said the blood test can detect the presence of synthetic growth hormone for about two days after it’s injected, which requires the agency to conduct unannounced, random samplings.

Some 300 athletes at the 2004 Olympics in Athens underwent blood testing without a positive result. But Rabin says testing deterred human growth hormone use because athletes knew the tests were coming.

An NFL official, however, said that proves the tests were unreliable.

"Our indication is that there are outstanding issues with respect to the availability and the reliability of the blood test," league spokesman Greg Aiello said.

Donald Fehr, head of the baseball players’ union, said: “We would have nothing to say about it until it came out and we had an opportunity to review it.”

Human growth hormone is produced in the pituitary gland, a pea-sized structure at the base of the brain that controls growth and other functions. In the mid-1980s, scientists at the biotechnology pioneer Genentech Inc. figured out how to produce the hormone by genetically engineering human genes into bacteria.

Since then, the global market for human growth hormone has reached nearly $1 billion annually with seven companies, including Eli Lilly & Co., Pfizer Inc. and Novartis, producing similar versions. Its uses include treating pituitary gland tumors and growth disorders in children.

Media releases indicate that the blood test is not widely abused because no one knows the tests were coming.
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Yankee Stadium to go out with All-Star salute

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Yankee Stadium was going out with an All-Star salute.

The beloved old ballpark will host the 79th major league All-Star game on July 11, 2008, the final season before the New York Yankees move into a new stadium being built across the street in the Bronx.

Baseball commissioner Bud Selig and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg were on hand Wednesday at City Hall for the announcement, which had been expected for months.

"When you think of Yankee Stadium it is the most, in my opinion, famous cathedral in baseball — and I think the most famous stadium in the world," Selig said. "So we really believe that this is the way we can honor a cathedral that has meant so much to this sport for so long."

It will be the fourth All-Star game at Yankee Stadium, which opened in 1923 and underwent an extensive renovation in the mid-1970s. The most recent summer showcase in The House That Ruth Built was in 1977, when the National League won 7-5 for the sixth of 11 consecutive victories over the American League.

Now, the American League has nine wins and a tie in the past 10 All-Star games going into this year's contest July 10 in San Francisco. The 2009 game will be played in St. Louis.

"We're excited," Yankees general partner Steve Swindal said. "It just seemed appropriate."

Yankees owner George Steinbrenner did not attend the news conference. Swindal said The Boss had a scheduling conflict but was feeling well in Tampa, Fla., and was working to get ready for spring training.

Steinbrenner offered his comments in a news release from the commissioner's office.

"It is always a great honor for a team's home stadium to serve as host for the All-Star game, and the Yankees are proud and delighted to have been selected for the honor in 2008," he said. "It will be one of many historic moments in the 2008 season as we say goodbye to a great facility and look forward to our new ballpark, where the heritage of the Yankees and Major League Baseball will be extended for decades to come."

Selig said one of the primary reasons Yankee Stadium was selected was to honor Steinbrenner for the owner's many years in baseball.

Bloomberg also had kind words for The Boss.

"I was impressed and touched by both of their comments about me," Steinbrenner said through spokesman Howard Rubenstein.

Yankee Stadium also was the site of All-Star games in 1939 and 1960. All three seasons in which the game has been played there, the Yankees have reached the World Series.

New York shortstop Derek Jeter, a seven-time All-Star, said he would be honored to play in an All-Star game in his home ballpark.

"I'm sure it would be special for anyone, whether you're a Yankee or not. It would be more special for a Yankee," Jeter said at the team's complex in Tampa.

Bloomberg said the city estimates that the 2008 All-Star game and its related events will generate about $150 million for New York — in addition to providing valuable exposure.

"Great news for the city. Finally my big chance to enter the Home Run Derby," Bloomberg said, drawing laughs.

"Nobody stages big events like the Big Apple," he added. "We'll put on the best All-Star game in baseball history."

It will be the eighth All-Star game in New York. The Polo Grounds hosted the event in 1934 and 1942, Ebbets Field in 1949 and Shea Stadium in 1964. Selig said the crosstown Mets are "on the radar screens" to be awarded the Midsummer Classic once they get their new ballpark, which is slated to open in 2009.

"I cannot tell you the intensity of competition for All-Star games," Selig said. "Ten years ago that wasn't true. Now I have a long list."

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FOOTBALL RECRUITING

Irish nab linebacker from Iowa, kicker from Louisville

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Poaching season reached its apex for Notre Dame this week as the Irish stole two prospects from schools that had received verbal commitments from the players.

Players cannot sign binding letters of intent until National Signing Day Feb. 7, but the cycle of recruits reneging on oral promises and going elsewhere continued the past two days. For Notre Dame, it included linebacker Brian Smith of Overland Park, Kan., and kicker Brandon Walker of Louisville.

Irish coach Charlie Weis said, "Ultimately, that's what he wanted to do," Frank said. "He thought that ND wasn't an option for him, so he closed that door. ... I think he probably really appreciated Iowa and the opportunity that Iowa offered him."

Smith's father, Chris, played at Notre Dame from 1981-84 and then suited up for two seasons in the NFL with the Kansas City Chiefs. Originally from Cincinnati, the elder Smith is a member of the Monogram Club board of directors and CEO and president of Divine Cleaning LLC, a commercial cleaning contractor.

"He's a very good player," Frank said of the younger Smith. "He was very, very close to committing to us."

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Scratched and clawed

Cagers jumble third straight to Panthers

By ERIC BETTER
Sports Writer

Behind eight points from freshman center Erica Williamson, who finished with 10 points and eight rebounds for the game, Notre Dame jumped to a 22-13 lead with 5:51 to play in the opening period.

"Erica's been playing really well ... (and) she's doing exactly what we're asking her to do," McGraw said. "Right now, she's somebody we can really count on, (and) for a freshman I think she's doing great."

The Irish lead, however, evaporated within the next three minutes, as Pittsburgh went on a 9-0 run to tie the game at 22 before the Irish recovered and went into halftime with a 28-26 lead.

The Panthers opened up the second half with another big run, going on a 13-5 stretch over the opening 10 minutes to give themselves a 41-33 lead.

Central Florida women's basketball coach Muffet McGraw said. "We're just incredibly inconsistent offensively right now," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said.

The Irish came out strong early and looked to be in control during most of the first half. But Notre Dame made a late surge and nabbed the son of a former Irish fullback.

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Irish coach Charlie Weis said, "Ultimately, that's what he wanted to do," Frank said. "He thought that ND wasn't an option for him, so he closed that door. ... I think he probably really appreciated Iowa and the opportunity that Iowa offered him."

Smith's father, Chris, played at Notre Dame from 1981-84 and then suited up for two seasons in the NFL with the Kansas City Chiefs. Originally from Cincinnati, the elder Smith is a member of the Monogram Club board of directors and CEO and president of Divine Cleaning LLC, a commercial cleaning contractor.

"He's a very good player," Frank said of the younger Smith. "He was very, very close to committing to us."

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Tough test on tap at ITA Indoor

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

For the first time in five years, Notre Dame will take part in the prestigious ITA National Indoor Championships, Championship Park, Ws.

The tournament — which runs today through Sunday — features 16 of the top teams around the country, four of whom are heir for the No.Irish (2-0) in their dual match schedule.

"This is the second best tournament of the year besides the NCAA," Notre Dame coach Jay Loudke said. "This is a preliminary, or dress rehearsal, to prepare us for the NCAA Tournament.

HOCKEY

O'Neill keys icers' defense

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Last season the Notre Dame defensive unit opened up the year by allowing five or more goals in three of its first five games. After an 8-5 home loss Nov. 4 to No. 3 Michigan, Irish coach Jeff Jackson decided he had seen enough and benched his top defenseman, Wes O'Neill.

The next night was the first — and only time that the Ontario native was not on the Irish lineup card in his hockey career. Now a senior, O'Neill has played in 140 of a possible 124 games.
Recruits
continued from page 28

to getting an offer." Brian Smith's best asset, Frank said, is his long history at linebacker.

"In this guy, what you've got is a guy that plays linebacker," he said. "That's what he does, and that's what he's always done." Frank said the Irish waited until star linebacker prospects Malcolm Smith of California and Chris Donald of Tennessee announced they would go elsewhere before offering a scholarship to Brian Smith.

The Observer was unable to contact St. Thomas Aquinas Athletic Director Sarah Burgess Wednesday. Walker visited Notre Dame this weekend before de-committing from Louisville and giving Weis his verbal assurance that he would go to Notre Dame.

Frank said former Louisville coach Bobby Petrino's department opened up the Findlay High School product's recruitment. Walker is expected to serve primarily as a place-kicker, Frank said.

"It's got a really strong leg," Frank said. "He can get it to the end zone [on kicks]."

"He can play linebacker. That's what he does, and that's what he's always done." Mike Frank

irisheyes.com

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Findlay High School coach Clifford Rite did not return phone calls from The Observer Wednesday.

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Pitt
continued from page 28

her nine points on the game during the run, and guard Shavonte Zellous, who finished with a team-high 17 points, contributed four.

"I think we didn't play as well defensively [to start the second half]," McGraw said. "We turned the ball over, gave them a couple of easy shots." A Zellous jumper with 4:15 to go gave Pittsburgh its largest lead of the game at 56-46, but the Irish fought back and cut the lead to four with just under two minutes to play. With just over one minute to play, Notre Dame made it a one-possession game after 3-pointers on back-to-back possessions from freshman guard Ashley Barlow and Allen made it 63-60.

The Irish couldn't cut it any closer, however, as they allowed Pittsburgh to pull down the offensive rebound after missed Panther free-throws down stretch. Perhaps the most damage came after Sims missed both of her free throws with 1:04 to go, grabbed her own rebound, got fouled again and then sunk both shots from the line to give Pittsburgh a 62-57 lead.

We have a very small margin for error, and we can't afford to let the people we need to be getting it from.

Muffet McGraw

Irish coach

McGraw said. "It's how we lost the game." McGraw was not pleased with the play of most of her veteran players.

"We're not getting production from the people we need to get it from," she said. "You got to be able to depend on your seniors and right now we've just been inconsistent."

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O'Neill continued from page 28

141 games since coming to Notre Dame in 2003—a stat matched only by fellow senior Jason Paige.

O'Neill, now an alternate captain, called his night off a “wake-up call” from Jackson that allowed him to stay focused throughout the rest of the year.

“It was the first time I’ve ever been bench,” O’Neill said. “But it was good because after that game I played pretty good for the rest of the year.”

Since then, he has only helped to anchor the No. 3-ranked defense in the nation, as well as collect his second consecutive Bill Nyrop Award, given to the top defensive player on the team each year. Nyrop was an All-American defenseman during his four-year career at Notre Dame. He later went on to win three Stanley Cup Championships on the dominant Montreal teams of the late ’70s before passing away due to cancer in 1995 at the age of 43.

“Anytime you win an award named after a guy like that, it’s pretty prestigious,” O’Neill said. “We have a lot of great defensemen on our team, and any one of us could win it any year.”

O’Neill is a serious candidate to collect his third trophy at the conclusion of this year. He would be the first Irish blueliner to ever achieve the honor three years in a row.

O’Neill has also been an offensive threat throughout his career.

He was second on the team in scoring his sophomore year, with six goals and 14 assists. The following year he buried another six pucks while adding 19 helpers.

The highly decorated lefty attributes his success to hard work, his vision on the ice and the 40 pounds that he has added to his 6-foot-4 frame since his freshman year.

“Putting on that extra weight has really helped me to dominate in front of the net,” O’Neill said.

The 235-pounder has made a living by punishing forwards parked in front of Irish goal-tender Dave Brown, especially when his team needs him most.

O’Neill has played his best games in blue and gold against top-tier opponents. This year he played a big role in wins over then-No. 1 Boston College, Michigan and Miami.

Against the RedHawks last weekend, O’Neill took a low, hard shot from the point, which was deflected past Miami goalie Jeff Zatkoff for a goal when the Irish trailed 2-0. Zatkoff had looked invincible the entire game, but the goal sparked an Irish rally to tie the contest and take a crucial point in a key CCHA series.

“Was has the ability to be the most dominant defenseman in this league,” Jackson said. “It’s just a matter of him being as intense and motivated agains every opponent, because if he did that he would dominate.”

Although both O’Neill and Jackson expressed concerns about his consistency, neither can be upset about the contributions he has made to the team so far this year as the Irish will make a bid to be the No. 1 squad in the country this weekend against Bowling Green.

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ITA continued from page 28

at the end of the year.”

The Irish will face No. 18 Clemson 0-0 today in first-round action. Leading the Tigers is No. 72 junior Caron Salage and Frederica van Adrichem, who finished the 2006 season ranked No. 5 in singles play.

Clemson is a young team with freshmen comprising half of their 10-player roster, with only one senior — Maria Brito. But the team’s success in recent years offers an exciting challenge for Notre Dame.

“We’re really excited to get a chance to play Clemson,” Louderback said. “We haven’t played them for quite a while. They’ve done well in the NCAA Tournament the last few years.”

Notre Dame began its spring season with a 7-0 win over Illinois and a 4-3 victory over No. 12 Vanderbilt, who is also one of the 16 teams in the tournament this weekend. This year’s team relies on its highly ranked doubles teams of No. 11 Caterina and Christian Thompson and No. 5 Brook and Kelsey Tefft to gain the doubles point and give the Irish a 1-0 start in each match. After that, Notre Dame looks to at least split singles matches to claim victory.

“Will be happy to win it. We’re the two seed this year, but eight to ten teams have a chance to win,” Louderback said.

Should the Irish defeat the Tigers, they will play the winner of No. 10 Baylor and No. 37 BYU. If Notre Dame makes it all the way to the finals, they will most likely face No. 1 Stanford.

“Everybody’s looking forward to playing Stanford. There are seniors on the Stanford team who have never lost a dual match,” Louderback said. “Any chance to play them is going to be fun ... but we have a lot of other matches we have to play before then.”

If they win, Louderback said his squad should get some quality competition against other elite programs around the country.

“We should get three matches against top-20 teams, which is going to be good for us,” he said. “This is good preparation for when we play some of the best teams at the end of the year in the NCAA Tournament.”

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu
**MLB**

Congress monitoring steroid investigation

House presses League for better cooperation

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress is monitoring George Mitchell's investigation of steroids in baseball and could intervene if he doesn't get more cooperation, two lawmakers told the former Senate Majority Leader.

The leaders of a House subcommittee that held hearings on steroids in 2003 pledged their support for Mitchell in a letter sent to him Tuesday and released to the media Wednesday.

"We sincerely hope that all relevant parties will work constructively to facilitate the completion of your investigation and your ongoing efforts to clean up the sport."

Bobby Rush
Chairman of House Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection

Stearns proposed the Drug Free Sports Act in April 2005. That bill called for a two-year suspension for a first offense and a lifetime ban for a second, while leagues that failed to comply would have been fined at least $5 million.

It was one of several pieces of legislation about steroids in professional sports that lawmakers stopped pushing after baseball introduced wider-ranging and more stringent drug rules in November 2005.

"Hopefully, similar legislative initiatives will remain unnecessary," Rush and Stearns wrote.

Mitchell told baseball's owners on Jan. 18 that he intends to interview active players and raised the possibility that Congress could compel testimony — something he can't do.

Mitchell was hired by commissioner Bud Selig last March after a lifetime ban for a second, while a suspension for a first offense and a multi-million dollar fine — something he can't do.

Free throws ended up being the key to Saint Mary's victory. The Comets shot a higher percentage from the charity stripe, but the Belles were able to get to the line more often. The Comets made 80 percent of their 20 free-throw attempts, while the Belles made 72 percent of their 36 shots.

Junior guard Alison Kessler scored a career-high 34 points, recording three steals and hitting a career-high 14 free throws on 15 attempts from the line.

Unlike last game, Kessler was not alone in her success. Senior point guard Bridget Lipe stepped up and dropped 16 points and five assists.

Sophomore forward Erin Newsome continued her hot streak, posting her second straight double-double with 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Senior forward Audrey Graham led the Comets with 17 points in the losing effort.

The Belles have now won four consecutive MIAA games for the first time since they joined the league during the 1998-1999 season.

Senior forward Audrey Graham led the Comets with 17 points in the losing effort.

The Belles travel to Grand Rapids, Mich., to face the Calvin Knights — 18-1 overall and 11-0 in the MIAA — at 3 p.m. Saturday. Calvin won a close game at Saint Mary's 53-52 in its last contest with the Belles Jan. 6.

Contact Dan Cooper at dcooper1@nd.edu

Miss the SIBC All-Council Informational Meeting?

Still want to be involved?

Email one of the following Division Directors to become a member of SIBC!

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Special to The Observer

The Notre Dame baseball program's sixth annual Opening Night Dinner will be held in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse on Monday, Feb. 12 — with 2006 Major League Baseball manager of the year Jim Leyland and former Notre Dame standout Craig Counsell (a two-time World Series champion) to serve as the keynote speakers at the popular event.

As in recent years, fans are encouraged to purchase tickets early to ensure their spot at the special night, which provides attendees the opportunity to visit with members of Notre Dame's nationally-ranked baseball team. The $40 admission price ($25 for students, youth and seniors) includes a Notre Dame baseball 2007 season ticket ($50 value, covering 27 regular-season games), a 2007 media guide ($15 value), autographed 8x10 photographs of each speaker, and several other advance promotional items. A special "fan pack" price of $100 also is available, providing admission and the other dinner benefits for two adults and two youth.

The "ballpark-style" dinner will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse. The night's festivities include the opportunity to win a variety of baseball and sports-related door prizes and introduction of the Notre Dame team members, who will be seated at tables with the rest of the attendees and will be available for autographs prior to the dinner, from 5:45-6:45. The ballpark atmosphere also will include high-screen video highlights and game tapes from previous Notre Dame seasons, plus a musical selection of traditional and contemporary baseball songs. The night again will conclude with a special question-and-answer session that will allow attendees to interact with Leyland and Counsell.

Leyland is a self-proclaimed Notre Dame fan and a longtime friend of the University's former sports information director, Roger Valdiserri. His nephew Chris Leyland is a 1999 Notre Dame graduate while Leyland's brother, Father Tom Leyland, is a Catholic priest who performed the wedding service for Jim and Katie Leyland.

The keynote speakers have a connection going back to the 1997 Major League season, when Leyland was the manager and Counsell one of the heroes for an upstart Florida Marlins team that won the World Series title. Leyland's 33 total years in professional baseball have included 15 previous seasons as a big-league manager, amassing nearly 1,200 career wins during stints with the Pittsburgh Pirates, Florida Marlins, Colorado Rockies and now the Detroit Tigers. He holds the rare distinction of guiding wild-card teams from both leagues — the 1997 Marlins and 2006 Tigers — to the World Series and he was named the National League's manager of the year for the 1990 and '92 seasons, during which time the Pirates won three straight National League East Division titles (the also was a NL manager-of-the-year honoree in '88).

Counsell, whose father John was a player and assistant coach with the Irish during the 1960s and early 70s — was among the top players who led the Notre Dame baseball program to national prominence in the early 1990s, with his four-year baseball career including a .366 batting average, 204 runs scored, 166 RBIs, 50 doubles and twice as many bases on balls (166, still most in the ND record books) as strikeouts (82). As a senior, the versatile infielder was named MVP of a 1992 Irish squad that included 14 eventual professional draft picks, with his impressive final season including a .339 batting average, 63 BB (nearly doubling his previous career-best), twice as many home runs (12) as he had hit during the previous three seasons combined (6), 45 walks and 13 stolen bases. Counsell was named to the 1992 NCAA All-Atlantic Regional team, after captaining the Irish to within a game of the College World Series.

It is recommended that ticket orders for the 2007 event be placed by Jan. 26 to ensure the attendee a media guide and eligibility for the prize drawings. For dinner ticket information, please contact the Notre Dame ticket office at (574) 631-7356. Online order may be placed via the "Tickets" link on und.com.

Write Sports. Call Ken. 631-4543