Brown chooses new chief executive

Sheena Plamoottil’s selection solidifies all-female team in student government’s top three

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Associate News Editor

Student body president-elect Liz Brown and vice president-elect Mary Brown took one of their first steps as student government leaders Tuesday when they announced Pangborn senator and Senate Social Concerns chair Sheena Plamoottil as their Chief Executive Assistant (CEA).

Plamoottil will fill the position Brown currently holds under the Lizzi Shappell-Bill Andrichik administration.

Brown called Plamoottil the “best person for the job” and said she has followed her progress closely in the Senate.

Plamoottil redefined the Social Concerns committee at the beginning of the year.

Brown said, and “she really took the committee and ran with it and has gotten some good things accomplished.”

The selection of Plamoottil fills the top three positions in the student government with women, something that has never before happened at Notre Dame.

Brown said she is happy to be part of history, but said the choice of Plamoottil was

Conflict arises over pets in dormitories

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

Beginning last fall, controversy has been brewing in Pasquerilla East Hall because of a new resident, hand-chosen by the dorm’s rectress, Breyan Tornifolio. The unconventional resident is a cocker spaniel dog named Ella.

Though numerous dorms on campus have pets, Ella’s presence in Pasquerilla East caused a slew of problems for three students — Jacqueline Collins, Catherine Wettener and Lauren Carr — who suffer from allergies.

Originally placed in the dorm because it is air-conditioned — and thus the best placement for students suffering from severe allergies — the women were left with a tough decision following Ella’s debut. They could either stay in Pasquerilla East and deal with recurring health problems or move out of the dorm.

Computer difficulties delay SMC elections

By MANDI STRONE
News Writer

Student Class Elections at Saint Mary’s have been postponed for the second time as many days because of administrative problems with the computer system students use to vote, Board of Governance members said.

Students were supposed to vote Monday using Prism — the Saint Mary’s Internet program used for various academic processes as well as Student Election voting.

Because of recurring problems, voting was pushed back to yesterday and then rescheduled again for today. Students received an e-mail Tuesday from the Board of Governance informing them of the voting difficulties and the procedures that needs to be followed.

“Elections for class boards have been postponed until [tonight] due to problems with Prism. The survey on Prism has been reset. Voting will start at 12:00 p.m. [tonight] and will last until 11:59 p.m. [Thursday.] If you have already voted, you must vote again,” the e-mail said.

Elections Commissioner Christin Molnar first noticed problems Friday when she realized that the online survey would not be ready in time for the Prism voting to begin Monday. Because of that error, the voting was pushed back to Tuesday, she said.

The candidates were notified

Dinner held for Cambodian school

Students raise funds for PEPYND

By ROHAN ANAND
News Writer

Nearly 100 students skipped the dining hall Tuesday. Instead of dinner, they attended a Thai-Cambodian fundraising dinner for Cambodian schoolchildren and a school they hope will be built.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the evening — which was the Student International Business Council’s second redcarpet dinner this winter — went toward the Protect the Environment, Protect Yourself (PEPY Ride) organization. The members of PEPYND serve Thai and Cambodian food at the group’s fundraiser Tuesday in the Sorin Room at LaFortune.

Letters to be written to benefactors

By STEVE KERINS
News Writer

Students are giving thanks today for the nearly $68 million received by the University for scholarships this year by partaking in “Thanksgiving in February,” an event organized by the Development Office allowing students to personally thank individual donors.

“Thanksgiving in February” is basically an event to educate the students to the importance of donors to Notre Dame and to give the students the opportunity to say thank you,” said Aly Baumgartner, a member of the Senior Class Gift Committee helping to organize today’s campaign.

From noon to 7 p.m. today, students can stop by the Sorin Room in LaFortune to compose a note thanking Notre Dame’s donors for their contributions.

The Development Office will post some of the responses on its Web site and make others available in print.

Throughout the day, seniors on the Class Committee and Development Office staff members will be on hand explaining the purpose of "Thanksgiving in February" and situating students at computer stations to write letters to donors.

Baumgartner said that the event’s timing is not accidental.

Letters to be written to benefactors
INSIDE COLUMN

The thrill of the fall

I love the feeling of skydiving. I love the freedom that I get up in the air. It's scary. When I jump out of that plane, I struggle to do it at first. I look down and see how big the fall can be, and wonder what the worst that can happen is. I quickly realize that the worst thing that can happen is something that kind of sucks. I could die. But honestly, what are the chances of that? I'm not really sure, but I know that they're pretty small.

When I first jump out of the plane, I'm scared. I think, what's going to happen to me? What all can I break? What all will I break? Will I still have a skull? What is still intact? Will they be able to fix everything I break? But then, after a little while, I calm down, which is hard, considering I'm still thousands of feet up in the air and there's still no way of knowing if I will land safely. But I realize that I can't enjoy the skydiving experience and obviously, I'm up there because I want to enjoy it if I don't just relax and let gravity and my parachute take me away.

I've taken a risk. It could end badly, but I wouldn't have bothered taking the risk if I thought that it would. I would never have allowed myself to go skydiving in the first place if I thought that I'd die, or if I thought I'd wind up with a broken skull. So I let myself enjoy the fall, and trust that I will be safe.

Skydiving is not a sport for the weak. You have to know your bodily limits on earth before attempting to challenge them in the air. You must be confident in your own skin, on your own surface, before reaching out to the different environment of the vast sky. Otherwise, it's bound to end in a failure of some variety.

I love skydiving. But I've only done it once. I don't want to go again; even though I can't name an experience I had that I enjoyed more. Nothing compares to the excitement I got when I realized that I was totally exposed, that anything — for better or for worse — could happen to me when I hit the ground. Nothing compares to the serenity and peace I felt when I realized I didn't care what happened when I hit the ground, because the thrill of the fall itself was worth whatever price I might have to pay later with broken limbs (or even with a broken skull).

Before I went skydiving, I had one love in my life — cookies. Skydiving tripled that number. Now I love skydiving, but more importantly, I love the ground that I hit.

Do something you love today.

QUESTION OF THE DAY:
WHAT CELEBRITY WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME TO CAMPUS? WHY?

Andrea Baker
sophomore
Welsh Family

Caroline Green
sophomore
Cranacnau

Jean Henegan
junior
Lewis

Tony Piskurich
sophomore
St. Edward's

Kevin Prawdzik
sophomore
Fisher

"Stacy and Clinton because there's so many people who walk around campus in pajamas."

"Will Ferrell. This place needs a little cowbell."

"Daniel Craig because those eyes and that accent."

"Rogie O'Donnell because we could have more controversy."

--

Mike Lavery, center, and Tim Campbell, far right, race in the Men's A category race in Columbus, Ohio at an event put on by Ohio State this weekend.

OFFBEAT

Junior spends weekend in courthouse

PEGGIE LEPHISE, N.Y. — Think you had a boring weekend? Talk to Harold Jones. The 32-year-old junior spent two and a half days without food, water or access to a bathroom after he was accidentally locked in a secure room at an upscale courthouse.

Jones was mapping the floor in a meeting room at the Dutchess County Courthouse in Poughkeepsie on Friday night when the door swung shut, locking him in.

To make matters worse, he had left his cell phone in his coat, which was in another room.

Jones banged on the door, but no one heard him until yesterday morning, when a county employee found him in the room.

Even though he was stuck for nearly 60 hours, Jones said he was so upset by his ordeal that he couldn't eat.

Students still see bats in school

ETABRE, La. — Students at East Jefferson High School say they see bats in the school even though school officials and an exterminator say they've been moved out.

"One fell from the ceiling in my chemistry class," Sarah Jones said.

Last week, officials said the bats had been contained to three second-story storage rooms and were never in contact with students. They said that as of Friday bat control experts had caught and released the last of the bats, estimated at nearly 1,000.

School system spokesman Jeff Nowakowski said he would investigate the students' claims. He said he was told by experts from Arizona Rodent & Animal Control that the problem had been solved.

Assistant Principal Maureen Bayhi said students seemed to be exaggerating the problem.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.
COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Members to debate, vote on two fiscal amendments

By SONIA RAO
News Writer

Student body vice president Bill Andrichik announced Tuesday that two amendments will be debated and voted on tomorrow concerning the fiscal policies discussed during recent Council of Representatives (COR) meetings.

One of the amendments concerns moving presidential division of the Student Union Board's budget to Student Government's budget.

The presidential division is a separate part of the SUB budget set aside for programming that is used by student government. SUB manager Patrick Vassell proposed that the funds be moved out of SUB budget and into student government funding.

Andrichik said that the oversight committee has approved the request.

"The new amendment would require that the student body president make a formal request for allocation to the office of the president budget that would encompass all policy-based programming," he said.

The second amendment concerns the amount of money groups are able to spend without needing approval. As of now, any expenditure over $5,000 needs approval, but some groups, such as the Student Union Board, have large budgets and consistently need to spend over $5,000.

The new plan under the proposed amendment would be a "hybrid model," Andrichik said, with the limit being "five percent of the group budget or $5,000, whichever is higher."

In other COR News:

♦ Judicial Council President Liz Kozlow reported that both senior and junior class council elections were suspended due to both senior and junior candidates running unopposed. The sophomore class council elections resulted in a run-off, which will take place Thursday, she said.

♦ Student Union Treasurer Steve Friend nominated Kadaja Gaines as his successor for the term that begins March 1. "Kadaja is qualified, dedicated, and hard-working," Friend said in a recommendation letter to the COR members.

♦ As an assistant, she has demonstrated the ambition, drive, and capacity necessary to serve the student body," Friend said.

♦ Club Coordination Council President Kerry Kilbourn presented a SUB Collaboration Fund Appeal for Disability Awareness Month sponsored by Best Buddies, Perspectives and Sophomore Class Council. Most of the proposed funding is to be spent toward a speaker, Kilbourn said. The event was granted $1,385.

Contact Sonia Rao at scarao1@nd.edu

Seminar explores media use

By SONIA RAO
News Writer

While students in dorm rooms across the country have been influenced by popular Web sites like Facebook.com and YouTube, it isn't always clear if this technology is relevant in the real world.

Tonight's New Age Media Seminar at the Mendoza College of Business plans to explore just how sites like MySpace.com have changed the business world and why marketing students should be interested.

"The event is the first of its kind," said Marketing Club President Michelle Brintnall, whose organization is sponsoring the event. "Right now is one of the most dynamic times for technology. The seminar is designed to highlight information from both sides of media markets: the companies using the media to gain exposure and the agencies selling them."

Though the subject directly speaks to marketing majors, Brintnall said the target audience also includes majors that touch on the industry, such as graphic design, film, television and theatre, computer science, engineering and MBA students. She said absorbing information on such a vanguard topic could help anyone during their job search.

"Such exposure will present incredible talking points and also generate business knowledge that all marketing majors should have," Brintnall said. "Talking points like these separate good interviews from great ones."

Vice presidents of sales and directors from Starcom Media Group will address some of the issues of new age media becoming integrated into the business world.

"I would say that a majority of these speakers are Notre Dame graduates," Brintnall said. "Some of them are recent alumni, like from 2003 or 2004, so they know what students are going through. They don't have the superiority of the corporate world."

Included on the roster are Bryce Emmons, vice president of Branding Sales for MySpace, Mark Flaharty, director of sales for YouTube and Google and Carolyn Sweeney and Beth Doyle, Starcom Media Supervisors.

Brintnall also said that people from local corporations and businesses in town will be in attendance.

The event begins at 5 p.m. in room 122 of the Mendoza College of Business.

Contact Sonia Rao at scarao1@nd.edu

Peggy McIntosh speaking on White Privilege

Workshop: "Deriving Racial Understanding From Our Own Experiences"

Keynote Address "How I Came To See I Had a Privilege and What I'm Learning I Can Do With It"

Peggy McIntosh, Ph.D., is the associate director of the Wellesley Centers for Women, and the founder and co-director of the National S.E.E.D. (Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity) Project on Inclusive Curriculum.

McIntosh directs the Gender, Race, and Inclusive Education Project, which provides workshops on privilege systems, feelings of fraudulence, and diversifying workplaces, curricula, and teaching methods.

To register please contact:
Office of Multicultural Affairs
Saint Mary's College
214 Student Center
Phone: (574) 284-4721
DSLC@saintmarys.edu
Pets continued from page 1

One such student was sophomore Catherine Wetten, who moved into Lyons Hall at the beginning of the semester because of asthma and allergies that were intensified by living in Pasquerilla East. She began experiencing congestion and gained while sleeping and "really bad headaches because I wasn't getting enough oxygen."

"It's a ridiculous situation. You'd never think you'd get replaced by an animal," said Wetten's former roommate Karla Albite. Although Wetten was able to move to Lyons, she said the solution was not a good one.

"I was upset and didn't want to move. I have bad air-borne allergies. I'm just hoping it doesn't get too warm for too long," said Wetten, referring to the fact that Lyons does not have air-conditioning.

When Wetten was in Carr, who still reside in Pasquerilla East, are hoping to move to McGlin, a currently petless dorm, next fall.

"My main issue was that it didn't have to be a win-lose situation," Carr said. "There are breeds of dogs that are better for [people] with allergies. Golden Retrievers are not one of them. I don't understand why there couldn't be a different breed of dog in the dorm.

But Wetten's decision to move was not made without discussions and attempts at negotiation with the Office of Residential Life and Housing and the Pasquerilla East rectress.

Tornifolio met with all the residents with allergy issues after receiving a letter from Carr.

The letter detailed the reasons why Carr felt that having a pet in the dorm was unjust—including that the students "are paying $40,000 to be here."

However, we have lived here longer, we will have a harder time adjusting to a new housing arrangement, we are more probable and we are members of the community of PE and Notre Dame, and it is our health and well-being that is sacrificed.

Still, Tornifolio said that she felt the discussion was "pretty open and honest."

"I'd like to think we've been working together to try to find some solution," she said.

In order to try to appease all parties, the dog is confined to a certain area of the building—Tornifolio's room—and only goes through the lobby to be taken out for walks. "The dog is not allowed to be in spaces where the community would gather such as common areas. We try to be understanding of those with allergies," said Tornifolio, who also noted that residents with allergies tend to not live on the first floor so they are not near the pet on a daily basis.

The Office of Residence Life performed a risk assessment and decided that it was not necessary to force Tornifolio to get rid of the dog.

Wetten, however, said she got the feeling that the Office of Student Affairs hasn't been paying much attention to it.

The Office of Residence Life did not return requests for an interview.

Still, some residents feel this ignores the problem instead of putting it to rest. "I can't see it as something that should happen, especially at Notre Dame which values family and community," said Albite, who would like see one dorm for each gender designated as an allergies dorm.

According to junior Erin Buckley, "I may have up to three friends forced to leave the dorm on account of a pet, and I know that in my case I would so much prefer these three people in my dorm than a dog."

"[student's name] said. "There are breeds of dogs that are better for [people] with allergies. Golden Retrievers are not one of them. I don't understand why there couldn't be a different breed of dog in the dorm."

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What's the Future of this Relationship?

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What’s the Future of this Relationship?
AFGHANISTAN

Failed assassination attempt kills 23

Suicide bomber attacks U.S. military base during visit by Vice President Cheney

Associated Press

Bagram — In what the Taliban claimed was an assassination attempt, a suicide bomber attacked the main gate of a U.S. military base Tuesday within earshot of Vice President Dick Cheney. The explosion killed 23 people, including two Americans, and delivered a propaganda blow that undercut the U.S. military and the weak Afghan government's cooperation.

The bomber struck about 10 U.S., and military officials declared another "red alert" at the sprawling Bagram Air Base while Cheney was rushed to a hospital. Cheney, who had been sitting at the base overnight by a snowstorm, met with President Hamid Karzai in the capital before heading back to the United States via the Gulf State of Oman.

"I heard a loud boom," Cheney told reporters aboard Air Force Two en route to Oman. "The Secret Service came in and told me there had been an attack on the main gate."

Many of the victims were said to be Afghan truck drivers waiting to get inside the base. A dozen men — many of them wearing government-issued heavily — left the base holding a stretcher bearing their loved ones wrapped in black body bags. Tears streamed down the face of one man sitting in the passenger seat of an SUV that carried his relative away.

Although the bomber did not get closer than roughly a mile to the vice president, the attack highlighted an increasingly precarious security situation for power in the resurgent Taliban.

Five years after U.S.-led forces toppled the Taliban-led militia to take power in late 2001, the Taliban-led militants have stepped up attacks. There were 139 suicide bombings last year, a fivefold increase over 2005, and a fresh wave of violence is expected this spring.

The guerrillas, according to NATO officials, have the flexibility to organize an attack quickly and may have been able to plan a bombing at the base while Cheney was there after hearing news reports on Sunday that he was delayed by bad weather. The Taliban have attacked in the area north of the capital in the past even though people living in the Bagram area have not been supportive of the guerrillas.

Col. Tom Collins, the top spokesman for the NATO force, said the Taliban had a cell in Kabul that could have traveled the 30 miles north in Bagram. Ask if the Taliban were trying to send a message with the attack, Cheney said: "I think they clearly try to find ways to question the authority of the central government. Striking at Bagram with a suicide bomber, I suppose, is one way to do that. But it shouldn't affect our behavior at all."

Cheney was the highest-ranking U.S. official to stay overnight in either the Afghanistan or Iraq war zones.

President Bush was not awakened to be told about the attack, but received an update early Tuesday morning. White House press secretary Tony Snow said Bush's first reaction was to ask if Cheney was OK.

Relatives carry the dead body of an Afghan man killed during a suicide attack. The attack targeted Vice President Cheney at the main U.S. air base in Bagram Tuesday.

A message posted on a Web site used by militants said "a mujahid (holy war­rior) ... carried out a suicide attack in front of the second gate of the Bagram Air Base. The target was Bush's vice president, Dick Cheney."

A purported Taliban spokesman, Qari Yusuf Ahmadi, said Cheney was the target of the attack carried out by an Afghan named Maulah Abdullah Bahim.

"We knew that Dick Cheney would be staying inside the base," Ahmadi told The Associated Press by telephone from an undisclosed location. "The attacker was trying to reach Cheney."

U.S. to join Iraq-sponsored meeting

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a diplomatic turnaround, the Bush administration will join an Iraq-sponsored "meetings neighborhood" with Iran and Iraq, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Tuesday.

It marked a change of approach by the United States, which has resisted calls by the United Nations and by a bipartisan Iraq review group to include Iran and Syria in talks designed to stabilize Iraq.

The move came amid growing discontent over the war, even as President Bush pushes an additional 21,500 U.S. troops to Iraq and congressional Democrats struggle to settle on their next steps to end U.S. participation.

The administration did its decision to take part in the Iraq conference did not represent a change of heart, although the White House has accused both Iran and Syria of deadly meddling in the war. "We've always been inclined to participate in an Iraq-led conference," White House counselor Dan Bartlett said.

The administration in recent weeks has increased its criticism of Iran's role in Iraq, charging it with supplying advanced technologies for the most lethal form of roadside bombs. The administration has accused Syria of harboring anti-Iraqi government forces and allowing weapons to cross its border.

A message announced U.S. support for the Iraq meeting, to be held in Baghdad next month, at a Senate hearing in which Democrats pressed her and Defense Secretary Robert Gates to explain what progress is being made in the Baghdad security crackdown and how soon U.S. troops will be coming home.

"There is no end, I say, no end in sight," exclaimed Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., the Appropriations Committee chairman. He decried the spending of $10 billion a month in Iraq and Afghanistan amid raging sectarian and insurgent violence.

LOCAL NEWS

Bill raises General Assembly salaries

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A bill that raises General Assembly salaries would nearly double but their retirement packages would be reduced by a bill that cleared the Senate Tuesday on a 39-9 vote.

The legislation would increase the base salaries for the 80-member General Assembly members from the current $11,600 a year to more than $20,700, said bill sponsor Sen. Gary Dillon, a Republican from Pierceport.

"We must have a good package if we're going to enable people from all walks of life to have the opportunity to do this job," Dillon said.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

North, South Korea resume talks

SEOUL — North and South Korea held high­level reconciliation talks Tuesday for the first time since the communist nation's nuclear test in October, paving the way for a resumption of aid to the poverty-stricken country.

The meetings came as North Korea showed strong signs of commitment to its 13 pledge at international talks to shut down its main nuclear reactor within 60 days in exchange for energy aid.

It has already invited the chief U.N. nuclear inspector to visit to discuss verification of a shutdown.

North's main nuclear negotiator, Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan, arrived in the United States for talks on following through on the landmark deal on dismantling its nuclear weapons program, which is going to be handed over in Beijing en route to the U.S., the Chinese Foreign Ministry said.

Hamas not ready to recognize Israel

In MOW, the Hamas has pledged to end missile attacks and violence against Israel, Russia's foreign minister said Tuesday, but the radical Palestinian group's spiritual leader struck a less conciliatory note, saying it was not ready to recognize Israel.

With Russia markedly increasing its efforts in Middle East peacemaking, Khaled Mashalah visited for the second time in a year — amid deep Israeli protestation — in a visit that reflected the Kremlin's position that negotiations with Hamas were the best way to deal with Hamas.

Hamas' multiple reception shows that Hamas is gaining at least tentative support outside the Middle East.

NATIONAL NEWS

Officials: Castro era to end this year

WASHINGTON — Repression is increasing in Cuba under the control of Raul Castro, and the occupation of the government by his brother, Fidel, is nearing an end, Bush administration officials said Tuesday. "In May, the year will mark the end of the long domination of that country by Fidel Castro," Mike Morell, the nation's new spy chief, told Congress.

McConnell, who did not explain his remark, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that significant positive change immediately after Fidel Castro's death is unlikely. He said Raul Castro has the opportunity to solidify his control in the seven months since his brother's incapacitation began last July.

Conservatives call Gore 'hypocrite'

NASHVILLE — Are gay, a leading voice in the fight against global warming, is being called a hypocrite by a conservative group that claims his Nashville mansion uses too much electricity.

It was not doing enough to reduce his own consumption of electricity, the group said.

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INDIANAPOLIS — Lawmakers' salaries would nearly double but their retirement packages would be reduced by a bill that cleared the Senate Tuesday on a 39-9 vote.

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"We must have a good package if we're going to enable people from all walks of life to have the opportunity to do this job," Dillon said.
CEA  
continued from page 1
because she was the most qualified.
Plamoottil called the selection of an all-female ticket for president and vice president "long-awaited."
"I think that it's an awesome accomplishment for women," she said. "I think that we are very capable young women and I think that is great that the student body has elected two women. I am happy and proud to join that team as the third woman."
Plamoottil said her ideas and her passion for student government align closely with those of Brown and Braun. Once their administration takes office Plamoottil said she would like to work with them to address advocacy issues and make student government more open to student concerns.
As the CEA, Plamoottil will serve as the chair of the Executive Programming Board, coordinate Student Senate activities and run the daily logistics of the student government office.
"It's a unique job because it's a lot of tying up loose ends and a lot of making sure that things run smoothly," Brown said.
And it's a job Plamoottil said she is "pumped" to start since turnover occurs April 1.
"I had previously wanted to run for student body president, but with my major and the MCAT, I wasn't able to run," she said. "So this is the next best thing and I think it will be perfect for what I want to do and the passion I've had for student government all my life."
Plamoottil, a science pre-professional and psychology double major, has been involved in student government at Notre Dame since she sat on the Freshman Class Council.
She was a committee chair for the Sophomore Class Council. She said her experience in the policy making area of student government this year has prepared her with effective leadership skills and taught her important lessons.
"I've never been afraid to take on multiple initiatives at the same time and work hard for the end that we want to see," Plamoottil said.
Brown's tenure as CEA set a good example for her to follow, she said.
"She took several initiatives and ran with them," Plamoottil said. "That will be something that I hope to do as well."
Council is only the fourth CEA in Notre Dame student government. The position was first held by former student body president Dave Baron and then by current Judicial Council president Liz Kozlow council president Liz Kozlow the following year.
Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu

Donors  
continued from page 1
主要  
The end of February is roughly the time when, if Notre Dame relied solely on tuition money, [funds would run out], she said. "March, April and May run primarily on donor money. It's also around the date when student financial aid forms are due."
This year's "Thanksgiving in February" event will be very informal, relying heavily on the interest of passersby, Baumgartner said.
"It's just going to be kind of foot traffic. I'm hoping we can just draw people's interest and have them come in," she said.
The purpose of "Thanksgiving in February" is to allow students an opportunity to share their gratitude with University donors, who they may not otherwise be in contact with. Notre Dame's scholarship coordinator and Assistant Director of Financial Aid Jeff Pethek said.
"We hope that, by sharing appreciation, benefactors will understand the positive impact of their generosity," Pethek said.
Despite the potential for an increase in donations, "Thanksgiving in February" may provide.
Pethek said that the University's facilitation of this event is not done with an eye toward securing funds for the future. "Although sharing appreciation with donors may increase scholarship giving over the long term, our efforts are focused on cultivating opportunities for students to share appreciation with donors," Pethek said.
Still, Baumgartner stressed that contributions from individual donors—which made up nearly two-thirds of the $6.8 million are a vital component in students' ability to finance a Notre Dame education.
"Tuition can't run the University," Baumgartner said. "So even if a student doesn't receive financial aid, which so many students do, that's why it's so important to say thank you."
Contact Steve Kerins at skerins@nd.edu

Muslim Prayer  
Wednesday, February 28th  
7:00 - 7:45 pm.  
330 Coleman-Morse
Experience an evening of Muslim prayer and meditation as the fourth in a series exploring the beliefs and practices of the world's great faith traditions.
"An Evening of Prayer from Around the World"  
Sponsored by:  
ND Muslim Student Association, Campus Ministry,  
POG Graduate Students, EJU, IASA, University Village

GET ANTIBIOTICS FROM YOUR DOCTOR, NOT YOUR CHICKEN.

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Toyota to build new $1.3 billion plant TUPelo  — Toyota Motor Corp.'s Highlander sport utility vehicle should start rolling off the assembly line at a new, $1.3 billion plant in northeast Mississippi by 2010, company and state officials said Tuesday.

Toyota disclosed the site for its eighth vehicle assembly plant in America. It will be built on a 1,700-acre site at Blue Springs, about 10 miles northwest of Tupelo. It also will consider sites in neighboring states Arkansas and Tennessee.

The Mississippi plant will manufacture 150,000 Highlanders a year. It also will create 2,000 badly needed jobs in an area with an economy that has slowed because of losses in the furniture manufacturing positions.

Mississippi officials courted Toyota for two- and one-half years, mostly out of the public eye. "As Elvis would say, 'Only fans rush in,'" Ray Tanguay, executive vice president of Toyota-Motor-Engineering and Manufacturing North America Inc., said during the company's announcement at Tupelo High School.

Managers plead guilty to illegal hires
ALBANY — Five former managers from a major crate and pallet manufacturer that employed illegal immigrants pleaded guilty Tuesday, 10 months after federal agents staged sweeping raids at company sites in 26 states.

James Rice, 37, of Houston, an executive regional general manager of IFCO Systems, pleaded guilty to conspiring to employ illegal workers. His brother, Ben, 43, of Stuart, Fla., a former general manager of the Albany IFCO plant, pleaded guilty to two felony conspiracy counts.

The two executives could face up to two years in prison and $10,000 fine. Assistant U.S. Attorney Tina Schochet told.

Netherlands-based IFCO Systems NV describes itself as the leading pallet services company in America. It reported $108 million in profits in 2006 on revenues of $647 million.

IN BRIEF

Toyota's plant in Mississippi will make 150,000 Highlanders a year. It will create 2,000 jobs in an area with a struggling economy.

Managers from a crate and pallet manufacturer pleaded guilty to illegal hiring.

Chrysler and General Motors announced plans to cut wages and pensions.

AT&T and Verizon announced plans to cut jobs and wages.

General Assembly last year approved legislation that frees telephone companies from state regulations.

Some state attornies general have announced plans to expand high-speed DSL Internet service to 102 rural communities.

Some state attorneys general have announced plans to expand high-speed DSL Internet service to 102 rural communities.

Indianapolis — AT&T will hire 425 people for call-center jobs that previously were outsourced under an initiative to retrain in the state after a sweeping telecommunications reform bill became law last year.

AT&T will create the technical support jobs for its national broadband operations at its state headquarters in downtown Indianapolis. George Fleetwood, president of AT&T Indiana, said at a Statehouse news conference Tuesday.

The call center jobs previously had been outsourced, but AT&T chose to bring them back in-house at Indianapolis because the passage of the telecom reform bill encourages the industry to invest in the state, Fleetwood said.

"I think these jobs could have been placed anywhere in the country where we do business," Fleetwood said. Of about 20 states that have tackled telecommunications reform in the last few years, Indiana has done so most comprehensively.

"At AT&T believe no one has done it better than Indiana," he said.

The General Assembly last year approved legislation that frees telephone companies from state regulations and changes the way the cable industry works.

Since then, in addition to Tuesday's announcement, AT&T and Verizon have announced plans to expand high-speed DSL Internet service to 102 rural areas.

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PEPYND continued from page 1

group organizes volunteer adventure travel in developing countries, including a bike ride across Cambodia — and has its own chapter at Notre Dame.

PEPYND — a student chapter within the SIBC — assists in fundraising, research and business planning for PEPY Ride.

PEPY put itself on the map in December by hosting its first fundraising dinner in an effort to collect $20,000 to build a second school in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Last night’s dinner represented the groups attempt to raise the last $1,900 needed to fund the school.

“I truly believe that people have taken an interest in our initiatives,” said junior PEPYND member Allison Fleece. “And we’ve made it pretty clear that they are supporting a good cause by attending this dinner.”

Attracting an overwhelming number of student supporters, part of the organizer’s intent was to help the community become aware of the situation in Cambodia.

“Our overall goal is to increase the quality and breadth of education in an underdeveloped country like Cambodia, where 75 percent of the children do not even complete the seventh grade,” said Tim Rann, PEPYND president.

When the doors opened at 6 p.m., the line wrapped around the TV lounge outside the Sorin Room, and continued to augment for the next 45 minutes.

Luckily for PEPYND members, the turnout was more than expected.

“This has been an incredible turnout,” said senior Christian Kondratowicz. “We were already running out of food within the first half hour.”

While the long wait for a ticket to the Cambodian meal may not have seemed appealing for students, there were other incentives to attend the dinner as well. There was an abundance of information about PEPYND-organized trips to Cambodia.

“I knew there would be pamphlets containing information about volunteering one’s Spring Break or Winter Break in Cambodia,” said sophomore Brian Humanoski. “So I decided to put my name on the list they had for interested students.”

This Spring Break, Rann will be accompanied by nine other PEPYND members in overseeing the building of this school in Phnom Penh. Rann says that during the trip, the team will be filming a documentary so that the Notre Dame patrons can “see their money put in action.”

“We’re encouraging students interested in joining PEPYND or who wish to travel in the future to explore our Web site — www.peynd.org — for more information,” he said.

PEPYND is covering new ground to stimulate economic re-development in Cambodia in addition to vocational purposes by working on the Independent Travelers Database project, which encourages tourists visiting Cambodia to stay in hotels or eat in restaurants run by Cambodian families.

“Travelers often stay or eat in chains owned by foreign corporations, so it doesn’t directly benefit the Cambodian economy,” said Rann. “However, through this project, which will become available soon on a Web site, we will provide information to travelers about Cambodians who might have invested their life savings into operating a hotel or restaurant, and so they can take advantage of those ventures.”

The Street Friends Café in Phnom Penh — which is run completely by street children in Cambodia — is another project supported by PEPYND. Working in the café and the busy sidewalk next door, the children serve as waiters, cooks, and stylists, and in return are provided with housing, education, and spending money.

“It’s a great project to help children find a social objective.”

Voting continued from page 1

and everything was set up for the delayed election, but the problems continued once voting began. Molnar said she received several phone calls from concerned students who were able to log onto Prism, but were unable to find the survey to vote.

She said that due to the amount of students facing this problem, the elections were stopped and moved to today. Those in charge said the root of the problem is still unclear.

Though many students were not too bothered by all the confusion, many candidates are beginning to get impatient.

“Maybe next year, back on campus, we’ll start hosting more formal dinners with more guest speakers,” she said. “We also may be able to avoid longer trips over summer or winter break, since it seems that Fall or Spring breaks are too short to cram in a service trip. But our prime initiative is keeping catering to the children’s education, because right now it is simply too unstable to ignore.”

Contact Rohan Anand at ranand@nd.edu

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Newson ‘alarmed and concerned’ after San Francisco man’s actions

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A man talked his way into Mayor Gavin Newsom’s apartment building late one night before a doorman called police, according to statements that helped persuade a judge to issue a temporary restraining order.

Han Shin, 42, told the doorman around 1 a.m. on Feb. 15 that he was visiting a woman who lived there. The woman said she didn’t know him, according to the doorman’s declaration.

Shin then showed the doorman pictures of himself with Newsom and another of Newsom standing next to an Asian man wearing only a diaper, and asked if Shin was home. The doorman said he was not, and Shin left as the doorman called police.

Newsom told police Shin has long shown his support and often attends public meetings, but he had been behaving bizarrely lately. The mayor “is alarmed and concerned about Shin’s attempts to get to his apartment,” according to court records.

Reports of Shin’s actions come amid Newsom’s recent headline-making attempts that helped persuade a judge to issue a temporary restraining order.

The next day, police got a warrant to search Shin’s car. Inside, there was only a diaper, and as the doorman called police, Newsom was home. The doorman — according to the Associated Press — reported that Shin called its phone number and could not immediately be reached for comment Tuesday. But KNXT-TV reported that Shin called its newsroom Tuesday to speak out against the allegations.

“Everything is a lie, I feel violated,” Shin said. “Do not judge people from bits of information that you have. Everybody’s going to feel like a fool when they realize the truth; what really happened is that I am not stalking him.”

Shin was charged in November with making criminal threats against two family members and a police officer, false imprisonment and obstructing a law enforcement officer, according to the Alameda County district attorney’s office. In November, he was charged with obstructing a police officer. Those cases are pending.

A hearing on the restraining order, which was issued Feb. 21, was set for next week.

New York steriod sales network investigated

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — A New York prosecutor said athletes and celebrities were involved as customers of an illicit steroid sales network that produced arrests of four company officials on Tuesday.

However, Albany County District Attorney P. David Soares declined to name any consumers. He said his office was not investigating patients, but alleged producers and distributors, including doctors and pharmacists.

“I understand that the involvement of athletes and celebrities makes this a sexy story, but I assure you we are not at this point, we are not concerned with the celebrity factor,” Soares said.

“Our focus here is to shut down distribution channels,” Soares was in Florida on Tuesday for two pharmacy raids conducted by federal and state agents at two Signature Pharmacy stores. Four company officials, including a married couple who are both pharmacists, were arrested. They were charged with criminal diversion of prescription medications and prescriptions, criminal sale of a controlled substance and conspiracy.

Soares refused to answer more questions about the case, which involves sealed indictments.

“[I] cannot elaborate any more on this area of investigation,” Soares said. “We have more details without compromising an investigation which even at this point is at a very sensitive stage,” he said.

The Times Union of Albany, N.Y., first reported the steroid investigation in a report citing unidentified sources.

Soares said investigators found evidence that testosterone and other performance-enhancing drugs may have been fraudulently prescribed by the Internet to current and former Major League Baseball and NFL players, college athletes, high school coaches, a former Mr. Olympia champion and a bodybuilding competitor.

Customers include Angels outfielder Gary Matthews Jr., according to the Times Union, which cited unidentified sources with knowledge of the investigation.

Angels spokesman Tim Mead told The Associated Press the team was aware of the story, adding, “That’s the only information we have.”

Mead said manager Mike Scioscia told him about it, and that general manager Bill Stoneman and Mead spoke to Matthews.

“We strongly recommended that Gary inform his agent and make sure he’s aware as well,” Mead said. “The information is sketchy at best.”

The paper said a New York investigator flew to Pittsburgh last month to interview a gynecologist for the Pittsburgh Steelers about why he allegedly used a personal credit card to purchase roughly $150,000 in testosterone and human growth hormone in 2006.

The physician, Richard A. Rydze, told the investigator the drugs were for his private patients, the paper said, citing an unidentified person briefed on the interview.

There are no allegations Rydze violated any laws.

Steelers spokesman Dave Lockett told the AP that Rydze works for the club mostly on game days. He is listed among the seven doctors under the “medical staff” designation on the official team employment roster.

“We cannot comment any further because we are still gathering information,” Lockett said. A message was left seeking comment from Rydze.

Arrested on charges were Stan and Naomi Leomin, who own the Signature Pharmacy in downtown Orlando, Stan’s brother Mike Loomis and Kirk Calvert, Signature’s marketing director. Soares’ office identified Signature as a “producer” of the illegally diverted drugs.

Also arrested as a result of the New York investigation were three people Soares’ office described as “distributors” from a Sugarland, Texas, company that sells Injectable Nootropic Advantage.

Before the investigation is complete, Soares’ office said, up to 24 people could face charges, including doctors and three pharmacists.

The Leomin’s downtown pharmacy contains a small retail store that sells bodybuilding supplements, a drug laboratory and executive offices.
Buzzworthy

In a recent episode of "The Office", Kelly said, "Oh my god, I have so much to tell you." Jim responded, "Really?" Kelly: "Yes. Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes, they had a baby named Suri. And then Brad Pitt and Angelina, they had a baby too and named it Shiloh. And both babies are a-mazing!"

Jim: "Great. What's new with you?"
Kelly: "I just told you."

To many loyal "Office" fans out there, Kelly is known as the annoying and clingy ditzy. However, she unfortunately has the same priorities and world view as many Americans. Hence why this scene is so funny, we all know someone like Kelly and laugh at her or her naivety. However, perhaps our Kelly-like friends are not the ones to be blamed for their lack of world view. Over the past two weeks it has been nearly impossible to find a news station that was not reporting the latest updates on the Anna Nicole Smith death or discussing new possible reasons as to why Britney Spears buzzed her head. Although somewhat interesting and often times comical, celebrity news deserves no spot in the evening headlines. There are more relevant and demanding events happening in the world than trying to decide who is Anna Nicole Smith's baby daddy, and we must create a demand for pertinent current events in our daily paper and primetime news before it is too late.

By now, we are all well aware of the possible causes of death of Anna Nicole Smith. Not only is there debate over her cause of death, but also the location of her burial. The father of her child is still a hot topic of discussion, and remains, 20 days later, to be headline news. Consequently, foreign affairs and political matters have fallen to the wayside and fly under the public radar. The fact that the Iraqi president is controversially ill and hospitalized in comparison to the controversy regarding Jennifer Aniston and her reportedly newlywed husband. If the President in Iraq is in fact on his deathbed, the United States' ongoing struggle in Iraq just grew exponentially worse, which means more death for soldiers and civilians alike.

The consequences of Jen getting a nose job, however, are obviously more important to the American public. And the fact that Britney is committing acts of mass destruction to her appearance (and her career) is far more important than the threat of destruction and death in the newfound Al-Qaeda operation in Pakistan. And this is all according to "The Today Show" and CNN, not "Entertainment Tonight" and the TV Guide Channel as one would expect. It is not breaking news that entertainment is what sells, but consumers should not buy into entertainment as our breaking news. For some reason, we all enjoy hearing about the latest celebrity gossip, who is dating whom, who is gaining weight, and who checked into rehab. Our culture thrives on this information, and, as a result, the news media have succumbed to our obsession. We are thus sadly left recognizing the names "TomKat" and "Brangelina" instead of Zawahri and Talabani.

And we at Notre Dame cannot escape the epidemic. Students seem to be more concerned about the Notre Dame/Saint Mary's conflict than the ongoing, deadly conflict in the Middle East. Our ignorance of worldly affairs will lead to not only our personal downfall, but the downfall of our country as well. The students of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's hold the key to our nation's future, and if we cannot even recognize our ignorance and strive for a change, the hope for a better future is bleak.

Pretty soon, the lack of public awareness of current events is going to take its toll. The threat of global warming and the ongoing conflict Iraq have managed to fall through the cracks, and those are the issues that have way more of an effect on our lives, definitely more so than who won the Oscar Sunday night. If we do not start holding the media responsible for providing us with substantial, significant information, the welfare of our country will plummet. As citizens, we need to be well informed so that we can make better decisions in our daily lives, elect political leaders that will provide the best well being for their constituents, and exercise our freedom of speech so that we may have a voice in public policy. The sooner we start acting like responsible citizens, the sooner hazzworthiness will refer to significant news rather than Britney's new "do."

Katie Palminteri is a sophomore political science major. She can be contacted at kpalminteri@nd.edu.

The viruses expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Speech should be free but genial

The issue of censorship and freedom of speech has been the subject of fervent debate on campus and in the Viewpoint of late. Questions have arisen of whether certain cartoons should be published in The Observer and also of whether certain plays, such as the "Vagina Monologues," and "Loyal Daughters" have a rightful place on this campus or not. As Americans, we have been trained since grade school to quote our Constitutional rights and the "freedom of speech" rights derived from the First Amendment as the ones most often quoted. The mantra is, "It's a free country, and I can say or print whatever I want," and of course, I must be grateful of this reality, because these very words of mine have not been censored.

Yet, what does freedom of speech really mean? It is true that in America, unlike other repressive regimes such as the Communist U.S.S.R., the government cannot restrict the speech and publications of its citizens (with some exceptions, like child pornography). But this is a restriction upon the government, not upon the editors of newspapers or upon the authors of plays or comic strips. Would it not be equally oppressive for the government to require that newspapers publish everything submitted to them, taking away their power of self-censorship?

In the case of The Observer, the recent letters asking that it make the editorial decision not to publish certain cartoons do not breach the First Amendment. Their request is that an independent newspaper censor itself and tighten the standards for what it publishes. No doubt, if The Observer featured articles or cartoons lampooning African-Americans, Jews, or homosexuals in a mean-spirited way, members of those communities would be upset and call upon the paper to censor itself in the future. Yet, does this mean that The Observer should only publish articles or cartoons portraying the Church in a favorable light? No, The paper and the University should remain an open forum of debate, facilitating the exchange of opinions and teachings, this being the hallmark of any great intellectual institution. We must be free to debate whether there is any truth to be known, and if there is, what it is and how it affects our lives. That is what academic freedom is all about and what Oliver Wendell Holmes means by "free trade in ideas... in the competition of the market" (Juke Vos, "Paper should uphold Free trade of ideas," Feb 27). But in order for it to remain an open market, all ideas and viewpoints must have the freedom to be heard and no side must become so helligerent as to do violence to other points of view. Thus, those in favor of the Church's views must make their cases without being self-righteous, judgmental, or insulting. Likewise, those who offer viewpoints different from those of the Church should be free to air their opinions at Notre Dame and in The Observer, but also must be polite and genial. Freedom of speech does not mean the right to be as nasty and brash as one can, but rather the right to speak one's peace in such a way that will further the dialogue, seeking to persuade the opposition and not simply taking a cheap-shot at them.

Chris Spellman 
senior 
off campus 
Feb 27

"Monologues" not only gender issue

While many of us on the Notre Dame campus had mixed feelings regarding the debates about the "Vagina Monologues," academic freedom and Notre Dame's Catholic character last year, I think it's important not to see the "Vagina Monologues" as the only response of the campus community to the admitted difficulties of gender relations here at Notre Dame.

Personally, I find it sad that the move of the "Vagina Monologues" off campus this year made the front page of The Observer while there was no mention of the Edith Stein Project, a student-run conference that addresses difficult issues of gender (rape, abortion, etc.) in a context that seeks to integrate femininity, intelligence, and Catholic identity.

There were many big names from the ranks of the national Catholic community, women like Jennifer Roback Morse, Janet Smith and Dr. Pia de Soianni, who have successfully reconciled their identities as women with their identities as Catholics. They have managed to do so without ignoring the difficult issues that face women, and they have done so without rejecting men. If anything came out of this year's Edith Stein Project, it is the need to see all of us, men and women, in our integrated human identity. That integrated identity is relational, and we cannot exile one sex or the other and hope to remain healthy and whole ourselves.

I found it very affirming that Edith Stein organizers included a talk on pornography given by two male undergraduates, Jack Calcutt and Patrick Tidhe, who bravely explored the difficult issues of male sexual transgression here on campus but did so in a way that invited dialogue and mutual vulnerability between men and women. Isn't this what we're all trying to do on campus?

Similarly, in this year's production of "Loyal Daughters" there were segments that explored male-on-male sexual assault, and female-on-male shabib-induced rape. Gender relations on this campus will never improve until we all, male and female, start admitting our own sins toward each other and work for healing, forgiveness and change in Christian charity.

Sara Cullin
good student 
off campus 
Feb 27

EDITORIAL CARTOON

(Insert editorial cartoon here)
By MARTY SCHROEDER

Oscar-winner Forest Whitaker in "The Last King of Scotland." Idi Amin, the ruthless dictator who ruled Uganda from 1971-79, is portrayed by Whitaker during the Sundance Film Festival. "Shakers" is served in Rwanda during the 1993-94 genocide.

Approximately 20,000 lives. The film was "Night and Fog" (1955) itself, a documentary is based on a book of the same name by retired Lieutenant-General René Dalloz, commander of the United Nations forces that served in Rwanda during the 1993-94 genocide.

Dalloz implored the UN for more troops but was ultimately denied. However, his actions are credited for saving approximately 20,000 lives. The film was nominated for two documentary awards during the Sundance Film Festival. "Shake Hands With the Devil" will show March 4 at 4 p.m.

"Screamers" (2006)

A unique entry into the film series, "Screamers" was directed by American Carlos Caridad and with the help of the hand system of a Down. This film does not focus on one particular incident of genocide but attempts to look at the deeper questions behind its causes. In one segment, it explores the Armenian Genocide — the massacre of hundreds of thousands of Armenians from 1915 to 1917 in the Ottoman Empire — and why it is so actively denied in Turkey. "Screamers" also explores the genocides in Darfur and Rwanda.

System of a Down. This film also employs Harvard University Professor Samantha Powers and other experts as part of an effort to point the finger of blame just at the traditional culprits but also at the United States for its seeming neutrality in regards to genocide. "Screamers" will show March 2 at 7 p.m.

"Night and Fog" (1955)

This documentary was filmed in 1955 at the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland after the conclusion of World War II. The film’s major theme is guilt and it explores this through a look at the calmness of the post-war camp compared to the horrors that occurred there during wartime. The film deals little with the stories of individual prisoners but delves into wider themes of humanity, especially the hate that motivates horrific killings like that of the Jews at Auschwitz. The film takes its name from Adolf Hitler’s “Night and Fog” (Nacht und Nebel) directive, one that facilitated the brutal execution of political prisoners in Germany and the territories occupied by the Nazis during World War II. It contains graphic footage of the conditions at Auschwitz and is one of the most poignant examinations of 20th century genocide. "Night and Fog" will show alongside "Shake Hands With the Devil" on March 4.

"The Killing Fields" (1984)

This British film is about the actions directed by the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia. The story is told through the eyes of three journalists — Dith Pran, a Cambodian, Sydney Schanberg, an American and John Swain, a Briton. This picture, directed by Roland Joffé won three Oscars and stars Sam Waterston and John Malkovich. The 100th greatest British film according to the British Film Institute, it is an excellent look at the war in Cambodia, which is often overshadowed by the U.S. involvement in Vietnam. The genocide instituted by Pol Pot and his Khmer Rouge is thought to have contributed to the deaths of over 1.5 million Cambodians. This award-winning film about an often-overshadowed tragedy will show March 2 at 10 p.m.

"No Man’s Land" (2001)

This Best Foreign Language Oscar-winner depicts two soldiers, one Bosnian and the other Serb, who find themselves alone in a trench during the Bosnian War. With no other avenues available, these two trade insults and also find common ground in an interesting mix of irony and futility. The United Nations, ordered to remain neutral in the conflict, must bring aid to these wounded soldiers after an American journalist brings media attention to their situation. To further complicate matters, another Bosnian soldier awakens near the first two only to discover himself on top of a hand grenade that will explode if he moves.

The worst of the killings in the Bosnian War took place in the region of Srebrenica, located within the nation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Many sources say that over 8,000 men were killed in this region alone. Because International Criminal Court ruled that Serbia is not to blame for the genocide that occurred during the war. Thanks to this ruling, this film has become especially important in the discussion of international jurisdiction and what the specific definition of genocide is. "No Man’s Land" will show March 3 at 10 p.m.

Each film in this series brings something different to the forefront of the discussion on genocide. Whether big, dramatic narratives or more realistic, powerful documentaries, they all cause viewers to reflect on the nature of human life and the costs of taking it.

The Genocide Film Series is sponsored by the Nanowerk Institute for European Studies, the Notre Dame Holocaust Project, the Center for Social Concerns and the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

Contact Marty Schroeder at mschoe1@nd.edu

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

THE OBSERVER SCENE

DPAC SPOTLIGHT

Notre Dame to host Genocide Film Series

Films include Oscar winners and powerful documentaries
Rama: Magic is an art form built around misdirection. In film, its first cousin is the periphery character to another and sibling brothers Christopher and Jonathan Nolan are the crumbs left by the two misunderstood. In film, its first cousin is the periphery character to another and sibling brothers Christopher and Jonathan Nolan is more than a plea. It’s a dare to us, the talents, the two men waste much of their time between the two of them, they can have — creativity and showmanship, which is a shame because “The Prestige” is more than a simple parlor trick. The film also works as a suspenseful period piece. It glamorizes the routinely dull Victorian era, a time when magic was bowing out to an ever-greater power — science.

“The Director’s Notebook,” a 19-minute featurette, is a collection of interviews and footage behind the set where Nolan is joined by Bale, Jackman, cinematographer Wally Pfister, production designer Nathan Crowley and other members of the crew. The feature is brief but informative, and it’s hard to come away with an appreciation for how much thought went into the film’s careful set and costume design and its dark, moody, and often beautiful look.

The only other feature is “The Art of The Prestige,” a gallery of production stills, posters, costumes and sets, all arranged in slideshow fashion. It’s a fun addition but is often the most-lightly regarded extra on much grander releases. Of the two, Bale is in a considerably better position than most of the other. The very first line of the film — Borden’s, “Are you watching closely?” — is more than a plea. It’s a dare to us, the audience, to outdo one another in their obsession — four of the cleverest thrillers (and best films) in recent years. "The Prestige" is a beautiful film to watch. Bale and his production crew take advantage of the visually appealing Victorian era as a setting, creating a rich, textured world for viewers to pore over with their eyes.

In addition to all these positives, “The Prestige” is a beautiful film to watch. Bale and his production crew take advantage of the visually appealing Victorian era as a setting, creating a rich, textured world for viewers to pore over with their eyes. Unfortunately, the film itself looks and feels a bit like the superlative “Lord of the Rings” extended editions. Here, it seems like more effort was spent on the film’s charming and elegant menu system than the film itself, that system housebound.

Fortunately, the movie itself looks and sounds great. With deep, rich colors and a sharpness to the film’s many hazy and dimly-lit scenes, the video, especially, is near-reference quality. Twenty minutes into “The Prestige,” Bale reads one of his tricks to a wide-eyed young fan. He warns the boy, “Never show anyone. They’ll beg you and they’ll pay you for the secret, but as soon as you give it up, you’ll be nothing to ‘em. The secret impresses no one. The trick you use it for is entertainment.”

After successfully pulling off a fantastic sleight of hand with this film, it’s unfortunate to see Nolan follow his own character’s advice for the DVD.

Sean: Audiences face a conundrum when it comes to magic tricks. On one hand, there is a strong desire to know how magicians accomplish their fantastic tricks, but on the other, this knowledge spoils the fun of the trick, which might be off-putting for some audiences. “The Prestige” sets itself up as a movie that aims to maintain the illusion of the magician’s world while also unraveling it for audiences through its narrative structure — a conflict in terms that hurts what should otherwise be a superb film.

From the beginning of “The Prestige” has a lot going for it. A plot about rival Victorian-era magicians constantly trying to outdo one another in their obsession, driven pursuits of love, power and fame is inherently exciting. Christopher Nolan — well respected for films such as “Memento” and “Inception” — directs an all-star cast including Hugh Jackman, Christian Bale, Scarlett Johansson and Michael Caine (a veritable “Batman Begins” reunion), another reason for film fans to rejoice. Jackman and Bale play well off each other, creating characters whose obsessions appear real and believable. Of the two, Bale is the better actor, and this is manifest in his character; whose appearance once beneath a deep, emotional, human element — as Bale’s characters usually do.

The supporting cast of “The Prestige” is phenomenal, with Michael Caine, David Bowie and Andy Serkis headlining the group. Johansson is limited mostly to role of eye-candy, but she does not try to exceed these bounds and her acting accordingly complements that of her fellow actors.

In addition to all these positives, “The Prestige” is a beautiful film to watch. Bale and his production crew take advantage of the visually appealing Victorian era as a setting, creating a rich, textured world for viewers to pore over with their eyes.

So, with all of these redeeming qualities, what causes the DVD release of “The Prestige” to fall short of the mark? The answer basically comes down to the film’s storytelling. Nolan’s plan in making the movie was to create a mystery. In order to do this effectively, the narrative of the film must make its way through various times and places. This is largely accomplished in two scenes of the movie where the magician’s procedures, Angier and Borden, learn certain facts that further the plot by revealing secrets of the other.

While a good idea in theory, Nolan’s execution of this technique is clumsy and confusing. Viewers can spend more time trying to figure out how the narrative is working than they can spend enjoying it.

Contact Rama Gottumukkal at gottum@umd.edu and Sean Sweany at sweany@umd.edu
A closer look at the other side of the Oscars

By Brian Doxtader

A man bleeding from a gunshot wound stumbles into his office, turns on a dictating machine and tersely admits he is a murderer.

So begins "Double Indemnity," Billy Wilder's 1944 film noir masterpiece, and a cornerstone of American cinema. "Double Indemnity" arrived near the height of film noir's popularity and success, standing alongside (and some would argue above) noir classics like "Laura," "The Postman Always Rings Twice" and "Big Sleep.

The film has been a long time coming on DVD, and has finally arrived in a respectable package that pays homage to the considerable influence it has had on Hollywood.

"Double Indemnity," based on James M. Cain's 1943 novel "Thieves' Transit," "is one of the last of the American Film Institute's 100 Greatest Films to come to DVD. Universal finally rectified this at the end of last year, releasing the film in a two-disc special edition with a re-mastered print and sound. "Double Indemnity" certainly looks good on DVD, with relatively clean picture, especially considering that the film is over 60 years old. There is a Dolby Digital 2.0 Mono audio track, and a pair of commentaries, one from Richard Schickel and one from Leonard Maltin and Nick Redman.

Wilder's inventive and atmospheric effects-laden, summer blockbuster "Double Indemnity" was his first masterpiece, but it ended on an ambiguous note. It's also interesting to think that this seedy tale of adultery, murder and greed was released in 1944, a time when Hollywood was still regulated by the Hays Code — its graphic immorality is one of the most alluring aspects of "Double Indemnity," even 60 years later.

"Double Indemnity," along with the original novel, was the inspiration for two 1953 "King Kong" and "The African Queen," is one of the last of the American Film Institute's 100 Greatest Films to come to DVD. Universal finally rectified this at the end of last year, releasing the film in a two-disc special edition with a re-mastered print and sound. "Double Indemnity" certainly looks good on DVD, with relatively clean picture, especially considering that the film is over 60 years old. There is a Dolby Digital 2.0 Mono audio track, and a pair of commentaries, one from Richard Schickel and one from Leonard Maltin and Nick Redman.

"Double Indemnity" is one of the greatest film noir's, and some would argue it is the greatest. Critic Roger Ebert once claimed that film noir is not a genre of detectives and mysteries, but of ordinary people who find within themselves the capacity for great evil. In that respect, "Double Indemnity" is a prototypical film noir. Neff commits horrific crimes, but it ends on an oddly sympathetic note. As if to say that yes, man has the capacity for great evil, but the capacity for great dignity as well.

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtade@nd.edu
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No. 12 Panthers best Mountaineers 80-66
Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Chris Lofton scored 21 points, and Tennessee pulled away from No. 5 Florida in the first half and held on for an 86-76 victory Tuesday night.

Jackson Smith added 16 points for Tennessee and Rami Smith and Dane Bradshaw each had 10.

The Gators (25-5, 12-3 Southeastern Conference) continued a troubling trend for the defending national champions, who have lost three of four after a 17-game winning streak. Their chances for a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament are slipping away after easily wrapping up the SEC regular-season title last week.

At Herford led Florida with 17 points while Chris Richard and Corey Brewer had 12 apiece. Josh Nebo added 11 rebounds and Herford had 10.

But this was the Volunteers night.

With Lady Vols coach Pat Summit dressing as a cheerleader and singing “Rocky Top” to close the air,

Air Force center Nick Welch, front, backs down BYU guard Bradshaw, before the final home game. Bradshaw made go-ahead layups in each of the Vols’ wins last year over Florida.

Vols toppled defending champs in home finale

Tennessee forward Wayne Chism dunks over Florida forward Taurean Green during the Volunteers’ 86-76 upset of the No. 4 Gators.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Nole Office, 102 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid.

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024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid.

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That's what she said.

30 counter

RL, Stine, genius or supergenius?

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**US Today/USA Hockey Magazine Men's Hockey**

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**NHL**

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7. Denver 21-12-3 211
8. 6 Colorado 20-12-2 219
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**eastern conference, Atlantic Division**

- Buffalo 41-15-5 7-2-1
- Ottawa 37-22-7 7-2-1
- Montreal 33-23-6 7-2-1
- Toronto 23-24-3 4-3-3
- Boston 35-26-4 6-4-3

**eastern conference, Southeast Division**

- Tampa Bay 36-23-3 7-2-1
- Atlanta 32-23-10 6-4-2
- Florida 25-26-13 5-2-3
- Washington 24-29-11 7-4-3

**eastern conference, Central Division**

- Nashville 42-14-5 5-4-1
- Detroit 38-16-8 6-2-2
- St. Louis 37-22-7 6-2-1
- Columbus 24-37-7 3-2-2
- Chicago 23-30-6 5-4-2

**western conference, Northwest Division**

- Vancouver 36-23-3 7-2-1
- Minnesota 35-23-5 7-2-1
- Calgary 33-21-9 4-4-2
- Edmonton 28-24-7 3-2-2
- Colorado 29-26-5 3-3-1

**western conference, Pacific Division**

- Anaheim 37-17-10 4-4-2
- San Jose 38-24-1 4-6-0
- Dallas 37-21-3 7-2-1
- Phoenix 32-23-7 5-5-0
- Los Angeles 21-32-10 4-2-4

**USA Today/USA Hockey Magazine Men's Hockey**

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**Clippers guard Shaun Livingston was carted off the court Monday night during Los Angeles’ 100-93 win over the Charlotte Bobcats.**

**Torn ligaments end Livingston’s season**

**Associated Press**

Los Angeles — Clippers point guard Shaun Livingston will be out 8-to-12 months after tearing three of the four ligaments in his left knee while driving to the basket against Charlotte.

"It’s probably the most serious injury you can have to the knee," Clippers physician Dr. Tony Daly said Tuesday. "He might miss all of next year.

Livingston had an MRI exam Tuesday which revealed tears in the anterior cruciate ligament, posterior cruciate ligament, medial collateral ligament and lateral meniscus.

He also dislocated his patella, besides the previously diagnosed dislocation of his tibia-femoral. As a rookie in 2004, he dislocated his right knee.

Livingston was driving to the basket on a fast break Monday night, went up for a layup, and his left knee contorted as he collapsed in pain. A team doctor had to pop his knee back into place to alleviate the pain.

"He came down on the leg without any contact with anybody. It’s a freak accident, that’s for sure," said Daly, who has rarely seen anything similar in 24 years of practice.

He said the injury is more commonly associated with contact sports such as football and rugby.

Daly will solicit various medical opinions over the next two weeks, after which Livingston will have arthroscopic surgery, the doctor said. It wasn’t yet decided if all three ligaments would be repaired at once.

Daly said Livingston did not tear an artery or damage any of the nerves in his knee, which can be serious complications.

"If everything goes well, he could be back playing as soon as eight months," Daly said. "My nature is to be conservative. I’ve seen people who’ve had this done by other people and it hasn’t worked out."

Livingston, a three-year veteran who was drafted by the Clippers out of high school, has been hampered by injuries and has yet to play a full season in the NBA.

He sat out two games in January with a sprained right ankle. He missed 39 games during his rookie season because of a dislocated right knee, and another 12 that season because of torn cartilage in his right shoulder. Last season he sat out the first 21 games with a stress reaction in his lower back.

**Oilers trade Smyth to Islanders before deadline**

The New York Islanders kept their leading scorer and nabbed the guy that makes the Edmonton Oilers go.

Just minutes before the NHL trading deadline expired Tuesday afternoon, the Islanders plucked Ryan Smyth away from the Oilers after deciding to hold onto Jason Blake.

New York’s big deal trumped those made earlier in the day that sent Bill Guerin from the St. Louis Blues to the San Jose Sharks, Todd Bertuzzi from Florida to Detroit, and longtime Kings captain Martin St. Louis from Los Angeles to Dallas.

True to form, the final dealing day of the season was very busy. The 25 trades made in the final six hours before the deadline matched last year for the most active in NHL history. The 30 clubs moved 44 players, two shy of the mark set in 2003.

**Duke committee finds need for increased diversity**

RALEIGH, N.C. — Duke University needs to become more diverse, inclusive and engaged, a committee concluded Tuesday in its evaluation of campus culture following rape allegations involving the lacrosse team.

The committee called for a new course requirement for undergraduates focusing on racial and class differences in the United States, and increasing admission standards at the elite, private university in Durham.

A university official was hesitant to commit to any of the proposals.

"I don’t think any of the recommendations should be considered anything but starting points for conversations," Provost Peter Lange said.

The report barely mentions the March 13 party thrown by the school’s lacrosse team, where a woman hired to perform as a stripper told police she was attacked by three men in a bathroom.

**Safin defeats Koubek while battling tough winds**

LAS VEGAS — Marat Safin beat Stefan Koubek of Austria 7-5, 6-2 in his opening round-robin match at the Tennis Channel Open on Tuesday.

The third-seeded Russian, now 3-0 in his career against Koubek, had to adapt gusting winds of up to 32 mph throughout his match.

"It’s very tough," said Safin. "It is difficult to play your very best tennis. You just try to stay as cool as you can and try to attack. That is the only way to try and control the ball."

Safin never trailed and never faced a break point. He made 85 percent of his second serve points compared to 63 percent for Koubek.

Second-seeded Lleyton Hewitt of Australia triumphed over Vincent Spadea 6-3, 6-3.

Hewitt, a two-time event champion and a 2006 finalist, led throughout Tuesday’s match.
NEW YORK — The Hall of Fame voted and the blasts were over. Ron Santo, Jim Kaat, Marvin Miller and all the other candidates were left out Tuesday when the Veterans Committee admitted no new members for the third straight election.

The blank slate could lead to changes before the next vote in 2009.

"We've been blaming because something hasn't happened," Hall member and vice chairman Joe Morgan said. "If you're asking me, 'Do we lower our standards to get more people in?' my answer would be no."

Santo came the closest to the required 75 percent. A nine-time All-Star, the former Cubs third baseman was picked on 57 of 82 ballots (70 percent). Players needed 62 for election.

Kaat, a 283-game winner and strongly backed by Hall member Mike Schmidt, drew 52 votes. Gil Hodges, who hit 370 home runs and got 50 votes and three-time AL batting champion Tony olly had 47.

Umpire Doug Harvey received 52 of the necessary 61 votes on the ballot for managers, umpires and executives. Miller, the union head who led players to five-agent riches, showed a strong increase in getting 51 of the potential 81 votes.

The committee was revamped after charges of cronynomy when it elected Bill Mazeroski in 2001. That marked the eighth straight year the 15-member panel sent someone to Cooperstown.

After that, the panel was expanded to include all living Hall of Famers. The new committee votes every other year for players and every four years for the others. "We are disappointed that no one has been elected in the three years since the Hall chairman Jane Forbes Clark said. "We will be evaluating this process and its trends at our next meeting, which is March 12, and discussing whether there should be any changes."
**NBA**

**League renews All-Star pledge to New Orleans**

Questions of city's infrastructure raised after Vegas display

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NBA and its players' association reiterated their commitment to New Orleans on Tuesday, a day after union director Billy Hunter said he could see over the league's plans to host its next All-Star game there.

Hunter plans to fly to New Orleans next week for his first visit to the city since Hurricane Katrina, and will meet with city officials and look into accommodations for players and their guests. He also said he has a number of meetings planned with commissioner David Stern to discuss plans for next year's festivities.

On Monday, Hunter told Newday that, "If the union is not convinced that the city can accommodate the All-Star game, it's an issue that will be subject to litigation between the union and the league."

Hunter said he was just speaking hypothetically and would only act if he felt the safety of his players was in jeopardy. He said he anticipates no problems, adding that a number of Hornets players look forward to their return to the city.

"If things for some reason or other were to degenerate to the level where everybody was alarmed, where it just wouldn't make sense to go, in that instance I could always initiate a lawsuit," he said. "That's not to say I'd prevail, but clearly I could do that. But we're nowhere near that, and it was a hypothetical situation to begin with."

The Hornets have spent most of the two seasons since Katrina in Oklahoma City, but will return to New Orleans full-time next season. To show its commitment to the city, the NBA announced last year that it would stage next year's All-Star weekend in New Orleans.

Hunter was responding to questions about whether New Orleans could handle the event, after there were hundreds of arrests and complaints about the crowds during All-Star weekend in Las Vegas. But while Hunter and Stern have expressed concern over the direction of the rebuilding efforts, both sides expect a successful weekend.

"We're looking forward to New Orleans playing host to next year's All-Star events and are equally excited about the Hornets' return to the city next season," Stern said in a statement. "The reports we have received about other major events and conventions recently held in New Orleans have been very positive, and we fully expect All-Star 2008 to be a great success."

While progress is still necessary in the continued rebuilding efforts, we hope the return of the Hornets and the coming All-Star game will be part of the rebirth and vibrancy of the New Orleans community." Next year's game should be a huge financial boost to the struggling city. Las Vegas officials estimated a non-gaming economic impact of more than $90 million, and Hunter said one of his goals is for some of that money to reach those who need it most.

"I want to make sure that there's some trickle down, that the people in the community who've historically been benefited, who've historically been there, that they benefit from it," Hunter said. "That's not just, that it all just doesn't stay in the certain area of the city and other folk don't get benefit who should benefit."

---

**Attention Seniors!**

Notre Dame's Office of Undergraduate Admissions anticipates hiring Admissions Counselors this spring!

As part of the Undergraduate Admissions staff, the counselor is expected to make an important contribution to the recruitment and selection of the first-year class by managing relations with the prospective applicants, their parents, high school personnel and alumni in an assigned geographic area.

Responsibilities include extensive planning, travel and communication within the geographic area, assessment and evaluation of applications and conducting group/individual information sessions on campus.

Among our candidates, we will seek a Latino Recruitment Coordinator

(Fluidity in Spanish will be strongly preferred)

We will also seek an Asian Recruitment Coordinator

Additional responsibilities will be assigned by the Assistant Provost for Enrollment.

Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree and strong familiarity with all aspects of student life at Notre Dame.

Essential qualities include strong communication and organizational skills, enthusiasm, diplomacy and the willingness to work long hours, including many evenings and Saturday mornings.

Please Note: Interviews will not be held until late March.

Preferred start date is July 1, 2007.

Please complete the on-line application at http://jobs.nd.edu to be considered. Requisition # 020070065
Strength continued from page 24

broke, bench pressed 225 pounds 25 times — far from spectacular for a defensive lineman. Michigan's Alan Branch and Arkansas' Keith Jackson — no relation — managed 33 reps. Joe Cohen from Florida put the bar up 34 times.

But the nation's most feared defensive end, UCLA's Justin Hickman, did 23 reps of 225. Maybe the bench isn't the be-all, end-all.

Let's take a look closer.

Along with Hickman, who was listed at 263 pounds — seven less than Abiamiri — UCLA had Kevin Brown (293 pounds) and Brightman Harwell (266) as its starting tackles. By comparison, former Irish defensive tackle Derek Landri was listed at 277, while fellow tackle Trevor Laws is at 283. On the inside, Notre Dame gave up 10 more pounds per player than did UCLA, and the lighter Hickman benefited.

To be fair, Landri clocked in with 24 reps at 225, beating only five of 28 competitors in his group. And yet, Landri had a year that deserved All-America consideration. He finished with 15.5 tackles for loss, including seven sacks.

Hardly a result of too little muscle, right?

Well, not quite.

Landri benefited from the defense's inability to get the opponent off the field. He had extra plays on which to bring down running backs behind the line because, all too often, the opposition would fear through the Irish defense on the next play and mitigate any prior defensive stop.

A large part of Notre Dame's failure to stop offenses was the lack of a pass rush, and the relative lightness of the Irish defensive line was an unfortunate compounding factor. Against Michigan State's spread offense, the Irish offensive line barely outweighed the Spartans defensive line by 10 pounds per player. On the flip side, Michigan State held a 30-pound advantage.

The formula then might have been the same. But the offensive line needs to get bigger.

Ryan Harris was an All-America candidate and Notre Dame's most effective man on the offensive line, according to Irish coach Charlie Weis. Yet he didn't meet the hype, nor by a mile.

Harris, who weighed in over 300 pounds, did 22 reps this week, while fellow former Irish lineman Dan Santucci did 23. While they weren't at the bottom, neither came close to the top end of the offensive linemen in the drill.

Both Harris and Santucci, along with fifth-year applicant John Sullivan, were recruited for Tyrone Willingham's "West Coast" offense. The formula then might have been to go smaller, faster offensive linemen. But it sure hasn't worked in the pro-style sets Charlie Weis runs.

The Irish offensive line got beat all season in 2006, and beat badly.

If it wants to be successful in 2007, Notre Dame must control the line of scrimmage. No first-year starting linebacker, no matter how good, can be expected to operate at any level close to what Larry Quinn did behind the porous 2006 offensive line.

The starters need to be physical and strong. Fast is good, but it's tough to run screens when you can't run up the gut.

So if this week is the impetus for more conditioning, it should be this one: It's time to bulk up.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Ken Fowler at kfowlerl@nd.edu
A CONVERSATION ABOUT:

Sex, Catholicism, and Contemporary Culture

Wednesday, February 28, 2007
7:30-10:00 PM 101 DeBartolo Hall

**SCHEDULE**

7:30 - 8:00 PM
Screening of Sex and the City
episode #85 "The Domino Effect"

8:00 - 9:00 PM
Panel discussion

9:00 - 10:00 PM
Open discussion

**MODERATOR**

Cathleen Kaveny
John P. Murphy Foundation Professor of Law and Professor of Theology

**SPONSOR**

President's ad hoc committee on gender relations

**PANELISTS**

Rev. Mark Poorman, C.S.C.
Vice President for Student Affairs and Associate Professor of Theology

Eileen Hunt Botting
Director of the Gender Studies Program and Roths Assistant Professor of Political Science

John Cavadini
Chair of the Theology Department and Associate Professor of Theology

Margaret Brinig
Fritz Duda Family Professor of Law

Emily Weisbecker '07
Author of Loyal Daughters with an undergraduate major in English and Anthropology

Jennie Bradley '04
Student at Harvard Law School with an undergraduate major in Philosophy and Theology
Sawatske continued from page 24

short list of contenders to take the title from Wisconsin next month.

Sawatske, along with fellow seniors Wes O'Neil and Nush Babih, has helped to anchor the top-ranked defense in the country this season.

"I felt like I had a lot more to give and I wanted to go somewhere where I could get a little better degree," he said. "Notre Dame was a perfect fit for me."

To Duluth, Minn., native had been recruited by former Irish coach Dave Poulin out of high school and was already familiar with some of the coaching staff. Sawatske also played on the U.S. under-18 team with Babih and Tim White, who played right wing for Notre Dame last year. That team went on to win a gold medal in the 2002 World Championships.

"Nush and I have been buddies for a while. It was a familiar situation and I was really excited about the opportunity," Sawatske said.

Sawatske, who joined the team in head coach Jeff Jackson's first season, was also used to adjusting to a new coaching staff. He arrived at Wisconsin just as Mike Eaves was taking over their program and the two teams went through many of the same trials under new leaders.

The 5-foot-11, 196-pound Sawatske fit in well under Jackson's new system, one that stressed puck control and defensive hockey.

Although he does not fill up the net on a regular basis (three goals and four assists this season, seven points in two weeks play), it is important for Notre Dame to dispatch of the Knights in a manner befitting a top-25 team.

Tom Sawatske

Irish defenseman

Irish defenseman Tom Sawatske looks for the puck in Notre Dame's 2-0 win over Ferris State Saturday. Sawatske has netted three goals and assisted on four others this season.

Rutgers continued from page 24

In addition, a bye is not assured if the Irish lose. The Uffs were on the bubble for an NCAA berth and should beat a Wildcats team that has been inconsistent for most of this season. If that happens, Notre Dame will need to beat Rutgers to take the top of the Big East standings.

On the other side of the coin, the Irish can help themselves in the seeding quite a bit with a win Saturday. The win will be on the road, and will therefore count as 1.4 wins in the RPI's formula. This will boost Notre Dame into the higher 20s in RPI and probably put the Irish at least one seed higher in the NCAA Tournament, than they would be if they lost.

While the compelling matchups that await the Irish in New York such as a possible rematch with Margaretta will also play a big role in Notre Dame's seeding for the Big Dance, no game is more important than the next one.

With a conference tournament bye and seeding in the NCAA's on the line, the Rutgers game suddenly means a whole lot.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

Hurley continued from page 24

Richmond a month later, Hurley ascended to second in the world rankings.

But that wasn't even good enough for first in her house.

Hurley's younger sister, Courtney, is an epee prodigy of her own. The younger Hurley took first in the cadet division (under-16) in Albuquerque and also played on the U.S. under-18 team in the open event in Richmond, Va. By December, she was the national No. 1 epee in the rolling points system used to rank epee fencers.

Needless to say, the Hurley sisters were quite the competition.

"My sister and I hated each other's guts for a while," Kelley Hurley said. "The feeling sucks when you know your younger sister can best you."

Kelley Hurley said separation has made the heart grow fonder at least a little bit.

Now that her younger sister is traveling to domestic and international events as she stays at Notre Dame. Kelley said she can root for Courtney more. Even if they face off, they know it's not the end of the world.

"I finally get over it when I realized that she would win some and I would win some," the older sister said.

But then there's the 2008 Beijing Games. Because the U.S. national team will not have full women's epee squad competing, the two Hurleys are servicing for their country.

The Irish freshman entered the year with a lead in the points used to determine the Olympic qualifiers, but Courtney Hurley's marvelous schedule has also enraged the usual rival of the scores. The Irish fencer has allowed her to rack up crucial points while big sister competes for Notre Dame.

Although Irish junior sabreist Maritl Zagunis recently withdrew from school to take a three-semester leave of absence in order to train and qualify in her weapon, Notre Dame's Hurley is hesitant about leaving the team for any time period.

"It's between me and her, and she has the opportunity to travel," Kelley Hurley said of her sister. "I don't want to take a year off, but if I do reasonably well in the summer competitions, I'll probably take the year off.

But with the way she's fencing, Notre Dame might want to start preparing for a year without its young star.

Note:

The Notre Dame coaching staff on Tuesday named senior foilist Fran Bontempo and sophomore foilist Adrienne Noti as the squad's first fencers of the month.

Bontempo went 10-2 at the Duke Duals Feb. 9-10 and 10-2 Saturday at the Northwestern Duals. Noti was a perfect 10-0 at Duke and 17-2 at Northwestern. Noti also took the silver medal at the USAF Junior Olympics Feb. 16-19.

"I feel like we should show and distinguish who is doing the best," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler@nd.edu

Irish fencer Kelley Hurley, right, battles Ohio State's Alexandra Obraciaco in the Notre Dame Duals Jan. 20. Hurley is 51-4 this season.
JUMPED

Could it be... the word game?

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

KORPE

HAFEC

SUTTRY

THORCC

THUNDER—The Bagpipe for His Kilt

Yesterday's Jumple: Dippy

Answer: DEARLY

(If you missed it, try it now)

Horoscope

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Roscoe "Chick" Thomas; T. Aaron Posey; T. Elizabeth Janis; Tom Zito; Nanette Fabray

Happy Birthday: Your priorities change this year so you'll need guidance. Although you will do a good job of helping others, don't let people take advantage of your generosity or kindness. You have the ability to do a lot of good, but you want to see results. The best way to do that is to be involved in a worthy cause. 3 stars

ARIES (March 21-April 19): As a horoscope aficionado that you are, you can't speak or decide for others, you have to make your own decisions. If you understand your own needs, you will face opposition. Open your mind to different ways of doing things. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Avoid arguments, overly aggressive people and those trying to push ahead regardless of your way. Change makes you nervous, so few things are native in your personal life. It will have a great impact on the way you proceed. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can rely on someone with experience to catch things. Action is needed to make your career grow. Your income is on the rise. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You've been pondering what you should do for too long. You will do better this future year. Don't stop pursuing your goals and make the necessary decisions for your life. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You have to keep a secret if you want something you are working on to go great. Money spent today on an investment or partying will change your life. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Ok, you now know what you need to do. You can convince anyone of anything as long as you use your imagination and motivation. Don't waste time on little business ideas. 4 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can't be the one to pop your own bubble. You are putting up a front and you have every right to be false. The world is watching and you don't want to be seen. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Love is the one trait and a chance to make your future relatives happy or to receive some news will unfold. Someone you know has to learn to let go of the past. You are ready to know the future now and it takes action, and not just sitting. 4 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't be drawn into someone else's whirlwind. Keep your distance from someone who promises you more than you can handle. You take a different approach to the way you do things. You have done things in the past that lead to more opportunities in the future. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be completely honest with yourself and the people in your life by the way things turn out. If you're struggling, your worst stresses might not be as bad as you thought. Politics or a good career move are in your future. 4 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't hide information or your feelings from the ones you love. The option if you were coping with the good and the bad. A chance to serve others in a different way with children will bring about some surprising results. 3 stars

Birthday Baby: You are pragmatic and fair. What makes you so exciting and interesting. You have an innovative mind and a unique approach to whatever you do. You are receptive, a quick learner and an advertisement.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

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Hockey

Badgering for a chance

Sawatske hungers for title after transferring from Wisconsin to ND

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Last spring, as the Wisconsin Badgers took home their sixth national championship in Milwaukee, Irish defenseman Tom Sawatske was forced to watch his former teammates celebrate the victory from his apartment.

Sawatske transferred from Madison to South Bend prior to his junior season after playing for the Badgers in the first two years of his collegiate career. The senior played in 54 games for Wisconsin while picking up 3 goals and 11 assists from his spot on the blue line, but chose to leave for both hockey and academic reasons.

"I was happy for all the guys that I played with. They deserved it," Sawatske said. "But at the same time it was kind of tough to know that you could have been there."

It didn't seem likely at the time — Notre Dame had finished its season at 13-17-4 — but Sawatske may get a second chance at a championship. The No. 1 Irish are certainly on a straight year.

Irish defenseman Tom Sawatske fights for the puck with two Ferris State icers during Notre Dame's 5-2 loss to the Bulldogs Friday. Sawatske joined the Irish last season after transferring from Wisconsin.

Fencing

Hurley learned to fence at 'dinner'

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Kelley Hurley is the youngest fencer for Notre Dame, but she just might be the best. The freshman epeeist is 51-4 this season, including a second-place finish at the prestigious Penn State Open in November. But her .927 winning percentage — the team's best — doesn't satisfy her.

"I feel like I shouldn't have lost those bouts," Hurley said of her four defeats.

With her background, the feeling is understandable. Hurley captured the under-17 title at the World Championships in 2005. Only 16 years old at the time, she climbed her way up the national and world rankings.

Hurley, who learned fencing from her parents, Tracy and Robert, became the youngest U.S. women's epee junior champion in 2004 after taking the national crown as a 14-year-old. The junior circuit is open to all fencers under 19.

"Fencing has always been taught at the dinner table," she said. "And everywhere else."

After taking first in the junior competition at the North American Cup (NAC) event in Albuquerque, N.M., last November and second in the senior NAC competition in

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see HURLEY/page 22

see STRNGTH/page 20

Men's Basketball Analysis

Overlooking Rutgers could cost ND

By CHANNING CUNNINGHAM
Sports Writer

On the surface, No. 17/22 Notre Dame's matchup against Rutgers Saturday means little. The Irish (22-6, 10-5 Big East) can wrap up a bye in the Big East Tournament even with a loss and are a fair bet to make the NCAA Tournament. For the Scarlet Knights (10-18, 3-12 Big East), the game will be their last this season regardless of the outcome.

In reality, Saturday's matchup can have tremendous impact. For Rutgers, a win over Notre Dame would give a positive ending to an otherwise dreadful season. The Scarlet Knights have nothing to play for except an upset over a top-25 team. They will be motivated to play with reckless abandon, because they have nothing to lose.