Jenkins fields questions from group

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Assistant News Writer

University President Father John Jenkins ended an afternoon that included open office hours by visiting the Student Senate Wednesday, giving members the opportunity to ask questions about topics ranging from tuition increases to research.

Jenkins opened the floor for discussion and told senators he appreciated their work as representatives of the student body.

"Please know that your work is important and we value it, and whatever you say we will listen to it," Jenkins said. "We many not agree with everything you say but we will listen to you."

Welsh Family senator Mary Popit asked Jenkins for his thoughts on a resolution the Senate passed two weeks ago, which urged the University to add sexual orientation to its anti-discriminatory clause.

Jenkins said he had not yet signed documents that forbid these concerns at Wednesday's Student Senate meeting.

See JENKINS/page 4

ACE teacher, alum meets with First Lady

Class of 2005 grad discusses state of schools post-Katrina with Laura Bush

By AARON STEINER
News Writer

Notre Dame alumna Liz Stowe has had her fair share of extraordinary experiences in recent years, including living through Hurricane Katrina as a second-grade teacher in Mississippi. She can add meeting the First Lady to her list.

A second-year participant in Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program—a two-year post-graduate service program that allows participants to teach in Catholic schools across the country—Stowe has spent nearly two years in Pascagoula, Miss., where she has helped those struggling in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

A year and a half after the hurricane, Stowe is a few months away from ending her term in Mississippi. Schools and students along the Gulf Coast continue to struggle. Stowe said, and First Lady Laura Bush recently assessed the state of schools and the obstacles they still face.

Stowe said Bush's secretary called her personally to invite her to meet Laura Bush to speak about education on Feb. 22.

See STOWE/page 6

Irish mascot competes on Spike TV program

By JENN METZ
News Writer

Just because Notre Dame's basketball season has come to an end doesn't mean that Leprechaun Kevin Braun's duties are over. Tonight, the senior will be featured in a special college mascot edition of Spike TV's "Pros vs. Joes 2."—potentially the last time he will be seen in the green suit.

Braun, along with Penn State's Nittany Lion Dave Johnson and Wisconsin's Bucky Badger Sky Halverson, flew to California to film the episode last December on an all-expenses paid trip.

Preparation began early last fall when Notre Dame cheerleading coach Jo Minton told Braun he had an offer to be on the show, which airs at 10 p.m. tonight. With the help of his fellow cheerleaders, Braun prepared an audition video that showcased him playing basketball and football around campus.

Braun said the show usually puts three regular "Jobs"—in this case, the mascots—with varied athletic skills up against retired professional athletes, or "Pros," in their respective sports.

While the three mascots signed documents that forbid them to discuss the results of the contest, Braun said keeping that information from family, roommates and teammates "has been pretty difficult."

See BRAUN/page 8

Panel evaluates Honor Code

By STEVE KERINS
News Writer

Academic integrity is an essential aspect of Notre Dame's mission. And students, faculty and administrators share the responsibility of upholding the Honor Code, a three-person panel said Wednesday.

Panelist University Vice President and Associate Provost Dennis Jacobs, philosophy professor Bill Ramsey and senior Sarah Glatt spoke to about 30 people at this semester's second-to-last Theology on Tap event, "To Cheat or Not to Cheat: The Academic Honor Code."

Worland said he has not experienced any backlash from the students and sees the situation as a positive one.

"The students think it is
**INSIDE COLUMN**

**Squirrels are evil**

If there's one thing that I have learned while at Notre Dame, it doesn't have to do with theology or English. It's not about friendship or religion, life, work, society or university life. It has nothing to do with relationships, truth, faith, imagination or the development of a viable skill set that will help me in the real world. It's simply that squirrels are evil.

Yeah, I said it. These furry fiends attack at a moment's notice and the truth is that the squirrels of Notre Dame are multiplying.

Yeah, you know the ones — the obese little fluff-balls that roam this campus like bloodthirsty scavengers. They are growing in numbers by the day. In their plot to control the football team, run the dining halls and disrupt the campus sprinkler systems, the squirrels require a large amount of funding. To defray the cost, these beasts seek monetary "donations" obtained largely through armed robbery of helpless North Face wearing, iPod-toting students.

To help avoid these surprisingly carnivorous beasts, I'd like to make you aware of a few of their strategies for overtaking the common student. Remember, knowing your enemy is key to survival.

The first tactic is called the "wolf pack." In this strategy, the squirrels attack in large numbers, sometimes 40 or 50 deep. They overtake the victim by sheer force and drag them off to their secret lair (thought to be somewhere in South Dining Hall).

Another tactic often employed by these animal assassins is the "kitty coup." Only certain squirrels are armed with a cat collar that can be pulled off this off, but given the large size of these monsters, it can be done. A particularly chunky squirrel is outfitted with a cat collar and poses on the quad as a harmless feline friend. The unsuspecting victim approaches the "cat" and is quickly subdued by a strong tranquilizer stolen from the chemistry lab. Hours later, the injured party awakens frightened, alone, and 100 Points Poorer. These creatures will show no mercy.

In addition to the large possum or "cat-like" squirrels, there is another variety called sprin ters. These small, more agile creatures dope their victims with exceptional speed. As one undisclosed junior says, "Those squirrels are quick as (expletive). They'll run up your pant leg and take you down."

This is not an exaggeration — this is the plain and simple truth. Try out running these speedsters and you'll find yourself on the wrong end of a squirrel showdown.

Until NDSP starts an initiative to help control the squirrel population, it is necessary to become educated about the dangers of these horrific brutes. This may seem ridiculous to you, but when you see one of these fatal mammalians approaching you, you'll know to be on your guard.

Contact Chris McGrady at cmcgrady@nd.edu

**The views expressed in the Inside Columns are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.**

**CORRECTIONS**

The Observer regrets misprints as a result of the nature of publication and asks for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If you have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

---

**QUESTION OF THE DAY: DO YOU THINK THE WARM WEATHER WILL LAST?**

- David Wilkerson, sophomore 
  Carroll
- Kate Kinasz, freshman 
  BT
- Patricia Williar, freshman 
  McGlenn
- Jenny Plagman, freshman 
  BT
- Lauren Plenn, senior 
  Lyons
- Ted Lee, freshman 
  Alumni

"Absolutely not. We live in South Bend."

"Of course. It's always hot when I'm around."

"I don't know, but I hope it snows soon."

"No, that would be too good to be true."

"Hell yeah, I'm going to hang out with Kate Kinasz."

---

**IN BRIEF**

The 2007 Natural Law Lecture, entitled "Why I Am (Almost) A Natural Lawyer," will be given by John Gardner, Professor of Jurisprudence from the University of Oxford at 4 p.m. today in the Notre Dame Law School Courtroom.

John Bruton, the EU ambassador to the United States, will speak about "The Future of Economic and Political Relations between the European Union and the United States" today at 4:30 p.m. in the Joseph A. Auditorsium of the Mendoza College of Business.

As part of the Nanovic Institute Film Series, "Terrorism: Perspectives from European Cinema," the film "Battle of Algiers" will be shown tonight at 7 and 10 in the Browning Cinema of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are $3 for students.

Gayton Eshleman, professor emeritus of English at Eastern Michigan University, and poet Johannes Goransson will give a poetry reading tonight at 7:30 in the Beckers Hospitality Room.

The Class of 2008 presents Irish Idol tonight at 10 in Legends.

Men's baseball will play South Florida Friday at 5:05 p.m. at Frank Eck Stadium. For tickets, call the Athletic Department's ticket office at 631-7356.

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

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**LOCAL WEATHER**

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**OFFBEAT**

Man gets probation for dead deer sex

**SUPERIOR, Wis. — A 20-year-old man received probation after he was convicted of having sexual contact with a dead deer. The sentence also requires Bryan James Hathaway to be evaluated as a sex offender and treated at the Institute for Psychological and Sexual Health in Duluth, Minn.**

Hathaway's probation will be served at the same time as a nine-month jail sentence he received in February for violating his extended supervision. He was found guilty in April 2005 of felony mistreatment of an animal after he killed a horse with the intention of having sex with it. He was sentenced to 18 months in jail and two years of extended supervision on that charge as well as six months in jail and two years of extended supervision on a charge of animal cruelty.

**Men in WWII uniform attacks 2 at museum**

McMINNVILLE, Ore. — A man dressed in a World War II military uniform attacked two employees at the Evergreen Aviation Museum this week, police said.

McMinville Police Capt. Dennis Marks said Gerald Lahay, a transient, broke into the rear of the building and smashed the glass panel of a display case. He then removed the coat, hat and pants from a World War II uniform and put them on. Lahay was inside when operations director Phillip Jeager, 33, of McMinnville and cafe manager Cheryl McKay, 62, of Sheridan arrived for work Monday morning. Marks said Lahay punched Jeager several times and bit McKay.

Neither employee required hospitalization.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.
Center holds annual luncheon
By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

With former Notre Dame football star Mike Golic as its keynote speaker, the annual Nose-On Luncheon raised an estimated $70,000 Wednesday for the Logan Center, a developmental-disorder support organization in South Bend. Organizers hoped the event, more than just a fundraiser, served as a way to increase awareness of developmental disorders in the community.

During his speech, Golic expressed the importance of sports in the life of those who are helped by the Logan Center.

The Logan Center serves individuals with developmental disabilities in all stages of life. It also provides resources for individuals and their families and advocates for developmental disability awareness, but is not an institutional setting with caregivers.

Golic told the audience that the biggest smile that he ever wore — when he ran out of the tunnel as a Notre Dame football player — could not compare to the smiles he saw on Logan Center clients Wednesday morning at the Center.

"Breakfast of Champions," at which sports enthusiasts had breakfast and talked to the ESPN personality, was the positive reaction of the Logan "Champions" at the breakfast reminded Golic that "sports are a good thing" and that they are capable of helping people feel happy about life, he said.

Golic said the most important thing for the public to remember is to remain aware of the efforts at the Logan Center.

"It's a wonderful thing they're doing and we can keep it going," he said.

Like many support groups, the most important thing the Logan Center provides is hope, Logan CEO Dan Harshman said.

Golic maintained a focus on community awareness in March, which is Disability Awareness Month. Next week the center will welcome hundreds of fifth graders to tour the facilities and see the equipment.

The trip is a reward for the students who sold green noses to raise funds for the Logan Center this month. Students from the Stanford Clark Elementary School sold the most noses of any area school, were invited to attend the luncheon Wednesday.

More than 600 community members volunteered at the Logan Center every year, and many of the helpers come from Notre Dame and Saint Mary's, according to Ann Lagomarcino of the Logan Center.

Logan Center volunteers do a variety of work, ranging from serving as board members, working on committees, planning fundraisers and working directly with individuals.

In addition to volunteers, the Logan Center is always in need of monetary donations.

"It's always a stretch for us," Lagomarcino said of the center's finances. "Government funding never meets our needs and we always struggle to reach more people."

Contact John Tierney at jtierney@nd.edu

Professor honored by women of Saint Mary's
By MANDI STIRONE
News Writer

Susan Latham, professor of communication disorders, received the "Women Honoring Women" award Wednesday night during Saint Mary's fifth annual Women Honoring Women ceremony.

Latham was joined by fellow finalists women's studies professor Astrid Henry and education professor Nancy Turner, who were selected from several nominees by the Student Academic Council (SAC), said event organizer Maggie Siefert, student body vice president and SAC coordinator.

Siefert said the ceremony was expanded this year to include the students who nominated the finalists. Originally only SAC members, a professor of her choice and two students chosen from every department were invited, as well as the nominees and their husbands. Siefert said.

"We are just excited that it is an ongoing event that has become a tradition in celebrating the great women of Saint Mary's," she said.

The event, a formal dinner, began with a variety of people serving as board members, working on committees, planning fundraisers and working directly with individuals.

In addition to volunteers, the Logan Center is always in need of monetary donations.

"It's always a stretch for us," Lagomarcino said of the center's finances. "Government funding never meets our needs and we always struggle to reach more people."

Contact Mandi Stirone at astiro01@stmarys.edu

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Jenkins continued from page 1

seen the recommendation but that he is committed to supporting the rights of all sexual orientations and encouraging that they be treated with respect and not excluded or ridiculed in any way. He said concerns could arise with the statement, however.

"The problem with non-discrimination against sexual orientation is it's sometimes not clear what that means," he said. "What am I committing to when I am committing to that?"

First-year senator Drew Clary touched on another controversial topic when he cited the announcement made in February that tuition would climb 4.1 percent — up to $35,187 for the 2007-08 school year. Clary asked Jenkins if there were any plans to "put the brakes on" future tuition increases.

Jenkins agreed with Clary that tuition is expensive, but said even the high price to attend Notre Dame does not fully pay for everything. Instead, he said, the balance is achieved through the University's endowment and various benefactors.

But, Jenkins said, the high price of attending Notre Dame is a good investment.

"If you are going to spend money on anything, it's not a bad investment," he said.

Jenkins pointed out that the earning power of a person with a college degree — and especially a person with a Notre Dame degree — is, on average, thousands of dollars a year more than a person without a degree.

But a Notre Dame degree does not necessarily translate into a large salary, Morrissey senator Greg Dewajan said. He asked Jenkins how students who plan to go into careers in education and government can afford these lower-paying jobs with thousands of dollars of debt from a Notre Dame education.

The University gives out financial aid in an effort to make a four-year education at Notre Dame affordable, which makes the school more accessible for people of varying economic brackets, Jenkins said.

"I know it's still not cheap, but at least it gives people access," he said.

Nonetheless, he said the problem of debt for graduates who go into service is a dilemma that warrants more attention.

Giving people access to better living areas is another topic Jenkins addressed. Judicial Council president Liz Kozlow asked Jenkins what the priorities are for new residence halls — whether they are to increase the student body population or to make the current halls less crowded.

Jenkins said the addition of new residence halls is not meant to increase the number of students admitted to the University.

"This may shock you," Jenkins quipped, "but some of our dorms are crowded.

Compared to other colleges, Notre Dame's residence hall system has become overcrowded and students need more space, he said.

"[With the new residence halls, we will be able to create study halls, we will be able to create study space and we will be able to bring in transfer students," Jenkins said.

Howard senator Analise Lipari, who is also an Observer assistant Scene editor, asked Jenkins about the low grade Notre Dame recently received from the Sustainable Endowment Institute. In its annual College Sustainability Report Card, which covers environmental and endowment practices, the institute gave Notre Dame a D-minus — the lowest grade given in the survey.

Jenkins said environmental concerns are issues Notre Dame needs to tackle.

"It's something that we need to continue to reflect on and address in an appropriate way," he said.

Jenkins said the new engineering building should meet certain criteria for an environmentally-friendly building.

"Kough senator Brian Corrigan asked Jenkins how, in Notre Dame's pursuit to improve its reputation as a research institution, it could avoid diminishing its dedication to undergraduate education.

Jenkins said Notre Dame will not lose its dedication to undergraduate education, even as it pushes for more research achievements.

"Insofar as we are better at research, we are better at undergraduate education," Jenkins said. "If you look at the [teacher course evaluations], it's often the case that people who are strong at research are good teachers too. I don't think they are in opposition to each other."
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Palestinians find international help

RAMALLAH, West Bank — A top European Union official came to a senior member of the new Palestinian government Wednesday, joining the U.S. in ending a year of aid and export of

Israel increasingly isolated in its demand for

a total boycott of the Hamas-Fatah coalition.

However, the economic sanctions against Hamas remain in place. The boycott has not been a costly policy, international aid officials indicated.

Donor countries had to send more aid to the Palestinians than before. The condition for acceptance, such as recognizing

Israel's right to exist.

Chirac endorses rival as successor

PARIS — Nicolas Sarkozy, President Jacques Chirac on Wednesday endorsed fellow conservative Nicolas Sarkozy's bid to succeed him, after his former protege and later rival to a terse tele­

vised declaration.

Chirac's declaration of support and Sarkozy's departure from government had long been expected. Even so, the president kept himself from his formal prototype and later rival to a terse televised declaration.

NATIONAL NEWS

Gore tests on environment

WASHINGTON — Al Gore made an emotional return to the political stage Wednesday to plead with lawmakers to fight global warming with moral courage while revealing nothing about whether he'll join the 2008 presidential race.

Fresh off a triumphant Hollywood appearance in which he leaned on his former vice president, "An Inconvenient Truth" won two Oscars. Gore drew overflow crowds as he testified before House and Senate panels about a "true planetary emergency".

Gore faced a skeptical reception from Republicans who questioned the science behind his country will pursue "ille­

gal actions" if the U.N. Security Council insists it halt uranium enrichment, an apparent reference to nuclear activities outside

international regulations. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei also warned the United States that Iran would fight back if

attacked.

"Until today, what we have done has been in accordance with interna­tional regulations," Khamenei said. "But if they take illegal actions, we too can take illegal actions and will do so."

He did not elaborate on what the "illegal actions" could be, but Iran is a signa­
tory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the agreement under which the U.N. inspections are held.

Iraq says it will never give up its right under the treaty to enrich uranium and pro­
duce nuclear fuel. But it has offered to provide guaran­
tees that its nuclear pro­
gram won't be diverted toward weapons — as the — and some of its allies fear.

The five permanent mem­
bers of the Security Council — the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France — "with all its capacities and

conditions for acceptance, such as recognizing

Israel's right to exist."

The five permanent mem­
bers of the Security Council — the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France — "with all its capacities and

conditions for acceptance, such as recognizing

Israel's right to exist."

Local News

Electronic highway tolls to expand

COOKEVILLE, Tenn. — Cookeville Toll Road will be able to use electronic tolling in northwest Indiana by May.

The Toll Road of the Nashville Convention Co. announced Tuesday it plans to introduce E-ZPass electronic tolling from Illinois line to marker 23. It hopes to have electronic tolling on the rest of the 157-mile

"It's the future of every toll road. You need to be electronic," ITI Concessions spokesman Matt Pierce said.

The Indiana Toll Road E-ZPass will go by the name I-Zoom.

Krov subpoena spurs fight in capital

WASHINGTON — A House panel on Wednesday approved subpoenas for President Bush's top legal adviser, Karl

Rove and other top White House aides, setting up a constitutional showdown over the rights of eight federal prose­
cutors.

By voice vote, the House Judiciary subcommittee on commercial and administrative law decided to compel the witnesses to testify before a

"The question they've got to ask themselves is, are you more interested in a political spectacle than getting the truth?" Snow said of the overture that was relayed to Capitol Hill by White House counsel Fred Fielding.

Publicly, the White House held out hope there would be no impeachment.

"If they issue subpoenas, yes, the offer is withdrawn," said White House spokesman Tony Snow. "They will have withdrawn the offer."
ACE program," Stowe said. "She asked something like, greatest need was good conversation.

Bush was affiliated with ACE since 2001, when the Laura Bush Scholarship was established. The award is given to a student attending an ACE-participating school in Texas, Bush's home state.

"She wanted to know the condition of the hurricane-affected schools," Stowe said, adding that the First Lady's press secretary traveled with her and later wrote a report detailing their findings.

Bush's familiarity with ACE and another similar postgraduate teaching opportunity, Teach for America, led her to quiz Stowe on differences between the two different programs during their conversation.

"As a principal from another Catholic school said his greatest need was good teachers, Mrs. Bush turned to me and asked about the ACE program," Stowe said. "She asked something like, 'Now do you get as much support through ACE as you would through Teach for America?'"

"I was able to tell her that we learn the current best practices... while we gain experience in the classroom," Stowe said. "I told her that this all takes place with the support built into the program through our faculty, pastoral staff, principals, mentor teachers and the community in which we live."

Stowe said the First Lady was receptive to the positive things she had to say about ACE.

"I think she was impressed because they both have some things that are similar, but some of the support ACE provides isn't found in the Teach for America program," Stowe said. "As the only teacher present during the lunch, Stowe said she brought a different perspective to the discussion than the principals and representatives of schools there. "Some of the principals were talking numbers," Stowe said. "As an administrator, that's what's on their minds. As a teacher, I had the opportunity to talk about the kids... and what I thought are the biggest needs for them."

"As a teacher, I had the opportunity to talk about the kids... and what I thought are the biggest needs for them."

Liz Stowe
ACE teacher

"The children in this area are hurting," she said. "When they lost their homes and their schools, they lost their worlds." She said her students are far from recovering from the trauma.

"Although they are there for the children... I feel the needs of the kids are overlooked," Stowe said.

Stowe said she shared the feelings of her students with Bush in the form of journal entries, reflecting on the time immediately before the storm, and during and after the hurricane hit.

"My students made a Katrina book at the beginning of the year with each of their experiences," Stowe said. "We made another copy for Mrs. Bush, so we were able to share our stories with the First Lady. I thought it would be great for her to see accounts of the storm from the eyes of a seven-year-old." Stowe said those accounts are moving reflections of the struggles her students face.

"The children in this area are hurting," she said. "When they lost their homes and their schools, they lost their worlds." She said her students are far from recovering from the trauma.

"When it storms during the school day, we gather on the rug and talk about why we are safe," Stowe said. "One of my students once asked, 'Ms. Stowe, when is the water going to come through the windows?' I couldn't tell him it was not going to, as I know he has already experienced this at seven years old.'"

Throughout the meeting, Stowe said she was impressed by Bush's friendly personality and concern for the issues discussed.

"She genuinely cared about what was going on, the problems and issues that people are facing," Stowe said, describing her as a maternal figure who was easy to talk to. "Mrs. Bush was a very nice woman. She related to the people; she wanted to hear their stories. Bush did bring a small entourage, as she does wherever she travels, Stowe said. "There was only one secret service agent in the room, so it wasn't very noticeable."

Stowe said of the security. In addition to the lunch, the First Lady visited a public school in the area and the nearby Boys and Girls Club, Stowe said. While meeting Bush was certainly a special occasion, Stowe said she was more pleased to be able to relate her students' stories and their needs to the First Lady.

"I think I was most honored to represent the kids," she said. During the rest of her time in Mississippi, Stowe said she hopes to be as much help as possible to the students and community.

"I hope that I can be fully present for the kids and their needs, as well as the community," she said. "It's been an amazing opportunity to be here during this time... I feel blessed to have been placed here."

Contact Aaron Steinier at asteinier@nd.edu

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Recycle The Observer.
**Market Recap**

**Index**

- **AMEX** 2,164.50 +24.38
- **NASDAQ** 2,455.92 +47.71
- **NYSE** 9,317.73 +159.46
- **S&P 500** 1,439.94 +24.10
- **NEXO (Toronto)** 17,449.18 +276.99
- **FTSE 100 (London)** 6,258.80 +36.50

- **COMPANY**  
  **CHANGE** | **PRICE**
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**COMPANY** | **CHANGE** | **PRICE**
**AMEX** CORP (ORG)** | -1.55 | 50.82 | 18.17
**SATELITE SATEL (GR)** | +1.81 | 0.46 | 3.37
**MICROSP CF (MSFT)** | +2.44 | 66.86 | 28.52
**NASDAQ IT (TQQQ)** | +1.93 | 0.84 | 44.42
**INTERNET (NCT)** | +1.84 | 0.35 | 19.34

**Treasury**

- **10-YEAR NOTE** 4.64 -0.02 | 4.510
- **30-YEAR BILL** 4.00 0.00 | 4.910
- **30-YEAR BOND** 0.23 -0.01 | 4.696
- **5-YEAR NOTE** -1.23 -0.05 | 4.415

**Commodities**

- **LBC (BTEX)** +0.56 | 36.96
- **CGB (CPO)** +1.09 | 35.06
- **PORK BELLY (porkch)** -0.68 | 102.88

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- **YEN** 117.3500
- **EUR** 0.7467
- **AUD** 0.5080
- **CAD** 1.1564

**IN BRIEF**

**Biotic companies to focus on fuel**

SAN FRANCISCO — Biotechnology was first applied to medicine, then farming. Today, dozens of lifesaving drugs are on the market, while many crops are genetically engineered to withstand weed killers. Now, a 2-year-old push to develop alternative fuels is driving biotechnology’s growth into the industries that matter.

Most of the 5 billion gallons of ethanol produced annually in the United States is made by fermenting corn, but the crop is expensive and its use in biofuels cuts into the nation’s food supply. So the Canadian biotech company Ligno Corp. has developed a method for deriving ethanol from a variety of plants including canola, oats and barley. Others are genetically engineering microbes to produce enzymes that will convert the cellulose in crop waste, wood chips and other plants into ethanol.

President Bush helped breathe new life into this once-sleepy biotech sector by testing the need to ramp up production of this “cellulosic ethanol” in his last two State of the Union speeches.

FDA bars input from drug companies

WASHINGTON — Outside experts with more than $50,000 in ties to drug and medical device companies regulated by the Food and Drug Administration would be barred from advising the agency under draft guidelines issued Wednesday. The conflict-of-interest guidelines would allow scientific experts who accept less than $50,000 in corporate grants, contracts and consulting fees — or hold less than that amount in company stock — to serve on the FDA’s advisory committees. But that could happen only if the need for their services outweighed the potential conflict, and only if they were nonvoting members, according to the draft.

The agency relies on its panels of outside experts for recommendations on drugs, vaccines and devices. It wasn’t immediately clear how many advisors would be barred, but Randall L. Coven, a former FDA commissioner, said the guidelines could mean the agency would lose “high quality scientists,” who might not want to serve if they had conflicts of interest.

**Siris presses for XM merger**

Satellite radio leader promises changes in bid for government approval

NEW YORK — Sirius Satellite Radio Inc. is pressing on with more aggressive pricing choices and lower pricing options, all part of an effort to convince federal regulators to approve its proposed acquisition of rival XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc.

The deal still faces opposition from several consumer groups, however, and it’s certain to be a tough regulatory review in Washington by a Senate Judiciary subcommittee and the Federal Communications Commission.

In an application submitted to the FCC on Thursday and disclosed in a regulatory filing on Wednesday, Sirius said that the combined company would allow subscribers greater flexibility in picking programming options, including a lower price for XM subscribers who elect to receive fewer channels.

Customer’s of both Sirius and XM already can block out adult-themed channels such as Playboy, adult humor and urban music, but they don’t receive any discount for doing so.

In their filing with the FCC, the companies said that customers could elect to receive fewer channels for a rate that’s lower than the current monthly fee of $12.95 offered by both companies.

Customers could also continue to receive the standard Sirius package or XM package for the same rate, or they could choose a best-of-selection of channels from both services for what the companies said would be a “modest premium” to the cost of one service.

Sirius and XM have said that they don’t have the ability to continue using the radio company’s current pricing model even after the deal closes.

**FTSE 100 (London)** 6,258.80 36.50

**NEW YORK — Sirius Satellite Radio Inc. is pressing on with more aggressive pricing choices and lower pricing options, all part of an effort to convince federal regulators to approve its proposed acquisition of rival XM Satellite Radio Holdings Inc.**

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**Stocks rally in largest gains since 2004**

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street rallied sharply Thursday after an economic assessment by the Federal Reserve ignited hopes that the central bank has warmed to the idea of lowering short-term interest rates.

Largely thanks to Wednesday’s triple-digit gains, the Dow Jones industrials have surged 337 points this week, a move that would have advanced the blue chip average since November 2004.

Investors had seemingly awaited the economic statement that accompanied the news to learn short-term interest rates unchanged at 5.25 percent, and were encouraged that the central bank didn’t refer to the possibility of “additional firming” of rates as it did in January. Policymakers said “future policy adjustments will depend on inflation and growth — more neutral language that the market interpreted as opening the way for a possible rate cut. The Fed indicated that it remains vigilant about the threat of inflation, though.

The market was also relieved that the central bank left in place language in its statement that it still expects the economy “will continue to expand at a moderate pace.”

While a slowdown in the economy likely would quell the threat of inflation and perhaps open the way for a rate cut it would also dent corporate profits.

"I think it did a bit to assuage the equity market’s concerns that the Fed understands there is a possibility that the drag on the consumer could bring GDP down below where they expect," said Quincy Krosby, chief investment strategist at The Hartford, referring to gross domestic product , the broadest measure of the economy. "They made it clear that they remain data-dependent. However, given the data they have today they see an economy that is still expand­ ing, albeit more slowly."

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 139.42, or 1.30 percent, to 12,447.32, after having been little changed before the Fed announcement. It was the index’s biggest one-day gain since July 24.

Broader stock indicators also posted strong gains. The Standard & Poor’s 500 index jumped 24.10, or 1.71 percent, to 1,455.04, and the Nasdaq composite index advanced 47.71, or 1.98 percent.

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What it was like being on the set of the Tournament of Champions was bizarre, said Braun. "I was jetlagged. We were on a very nocturnal-like schedule." The filming took place during the days, but Braun said his professors were very supportive and excited about his opportunity. Though he's been featured on TV many times as the Leprechaun, Braun said filming in set was a very different experience.

"I'm used to being in front of the camera and learning how to act," he said. "It was interesting to see how their outfits, they don't talk, and they're covered in fur." He said it was interesting to see the other mascots' personalities come out and to watch them do their thing.

His three years of cheerleading experience made him physically stronger, he said, but Braun had to think back to his high school intramural days to prepare for the competition. While he said he was pleased with his performance, he is curious how the editors treated the mascots during the production process.

"I have no idea what the final product looks like. The three of us did some very embarrassing things, don't know how many blooper reels they're going to show," he said.

Braun said he and the mascots didn't get to interact with the pros that much during the early filming. "It was someone's job to take care of the pros so we wouldn't pester them," he said. After the final event, however, they took the pros back to their locker room and signed autographs and took pictures.

"They [the pros] were very nice, but trash talk was encouraged. They wanted to make good, sensational TV," Braun said. Braun said about 25 percent of the filming was devoted to the actual competition, while 75 percent was "reality TV stuff," like the trash talking. He's most concerned about how his acting looks on film.

"I want people to watch, but at the same time I'm afraid about how potentially embarrassing this could be," he said.

Even with the risk of embarrassment, Braun said all three mascots jumped on board with the show, which he called a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. "Overall, it was a very exciting experience and I have maintained close contact with the other two mascots," Braun said. "Being in front of a camera and learning how many people go into the production of a successful TV show were very eye-opening experiences."
The Observer
Thursday, March 22, 2007

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Cheating
continued from page 1

Academic Code of Honor has a dual purpose, aiming both to promote academic integrity and to provide procedures for penalizing students for dishonesty.

Glatt addressed the issue from a student's point of view, raising the thorny question of whether circumstances matter when it comes to cheating. "Here at Notre Dame, one of the main concerns is ... how much you should worry about [reporting another student's cheating]. If everyone is morally and intellectually responsible for themselves, " she said.

Ramsay described academic dishonesty from a faculty member's perspective, but emphasized the need for both students and professors to ensure that clear goals and expectations are established at the beginning of each course. "I think sometimes faculty suppose that if we need to explain what's wrong with cheating, there's already something wrong," he said.

"I think sometimes faculty suppose that if we need to explain what's wrong with cheating, there's already something wrong," he said. While taking a hard line against academic dishonesty, referring to it as "an ugly form of fraud," Ramsay said a goal of the educational process at Notre Dame is to foster an ethic in which a student would not consider cheating a means to get ahead. "We're here to make you into a certain kind of person," he said. "The motivation to attend Notre Dame is not to get into medical school, and it's not to get into law school, and it's not to get that really good job. It's to become the kind of person who belongs [here]."

Ramsay also addressed Glatt's point about the choice between upholding the Honor Code and remaining loyal to a friend or classmate, arguing that the ethical conflict is illusory. "The choice is not a choice between loyalty and disloyalty," he said. asserting that a decision to remain silent when a friend cheats can be considered disloyalty to Notre Dame, one's classmates and oneself.

Faculty Honor Code Officer and philosophy professor Thomas Flint, who was present, explained some of the specifics of the Honor Code. Flint said, as at many universities, Notre Dame's is a "modified honor code," which allows students and faculty to administer it jointly.

"Personally, I think we were wise to adopt a modified honor code," he said. "Cheating hurts other students, but it also does enormous damage to the teacher-student relationship."

Flint also commented on the University's new system for responding to Honor Code infractions, which was redesigned to give professors more control over matters of discipline in certain cases. The change has resulted in a significant rise in reported infractions, he said, the causes of which remain unclear.

"There's no reason to think that dishonesty among Notre Dame students has increased 61 percent over one year, but I know of no data that shows that it hasn't either," Flint said. "We're in an area where all one can do is speculate.

"Wednesday's panelists touched on students' increasing use of the Internet as a vehicle for plagiarism, but Flint said the Internet can be a double-edged sword. "Professors have largely caught up to the students in terms of computer literacy, and most are quite adept at using Google, Turnitin.com or other resources to uncover cases of Internet-based cheating," Flint said.

The Theology on Tap series is sponsored by Campus Ministry. The next event, the semester's last, will take place April 18.

Contact Steve Kerins at skerins@nd.edu

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Thursday, March 22, 2007

The Observer • NEWS

Page 10

Pet owners frightened after recall

Associated Press

ATLANTA — A recall of potentially deadly pet food has dog and cat owners风格ing their animals for even the slightest hint of illness and awareness that veterinarians nationwide with calls about symptoms both real and imagined.

"It's like we're on pins and needles," said Brian Pascoe, a 27-year-old loan auditor in Knoxville, Tenn., who scheduled his dog's test with the vet after realizing both of his cats had eaten brands on the recall list.

"You kind of sit there and wonder — it's terrible to say this — you wonder if this is going to impact your last moments with your pet, it's not pleasant."

Some of the 60 million cans and pouches of food have been blamed for kidney failure in scores of animals and killed at least 16 pets. Neither the manufacturer nor authorities have been able to determine why the pets died.

Atlanta veterinarian Will Draper received so many calls and e-mails about the recall that he drafted a newsletter on the subject and e-mailed his customers.

"That helped tremendously," Draper said. "It has calmed clients."

Since Friday, nearly 100 brands of the "cuts and gravy" style food have been recalled by Menu Foods of Canada, including popular labels sold at Wal-Mart, Kroger and other large retailers.

Veterinarians are directing most questions to the Food and Drug Administration's recall Web site. Some have agreed to run blood tests on pets, even though many of the animals have been uncontaminated any of the recalled brands.

Pet owners with animals showing symptoms such as vomiting, lethargy and extreme thirst are being told to bring them in for immediate examination.

"The recall is huge, it's unprecedented, and people are seeing their dog food is on the list and picking up the phone, wondering if there's anything they can do or what to do," said Tim Hackett, who runs a small-animal clinic at Colorado State University in Fort Collins.

"Fortunately, most of these animals are absolutely fine."

Julie Benesh of Chicago brought her gray Terrier to a vet's office Wednesday after realizing the animal had eaten some of the contaminated food. The cat was lethargic and had been drinking an unusual amount of water.

"That's my baby," Benesh said of the black-and-white cat she's had since the animal was a kitten. "We've been through a lot together."

The Animal Medical Center on the Upper East Side of Manhattan has tested 143 animals for renal failure since Saturday. Of those, 10 were confirmed to be diet-related cases, and one cat died.

"I have people coming in who haven't even said their pet's eaten the bad food, but they're worried that maybe the recall has not been broad enough so they want their pet tested to be sure," said Ann Hohenhaus, a veterinarian at the clinic.
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VATICAN CITY

Legendary Don King visits Pope Benedict

Don King waves American, Vatican and Italian flags while attending Pope Benedict's weekly general open-air audience Wednesday.

Associated Press

Don King Productions spokesman Alan Hopper said the Vatican visit was arranged through a boxer King represents — Italian super welterweight champion Luca Messi, whose brother Alessandro is a Catholic priest.

King was seated in the front row of a special section on the steps of St. Peter's Basilica. He was able to hand the pope the gift and the letter as Benedict drove slowly by in an open jeep at the end of the audience.

King, who spent four years in prison for manslaughter, had hoped for a personal meeting with Benedict. Very few non-church people, however, receive private time with the pope during his Wednesday audiences.

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Elaine A. Peña
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Thursday, March 22, 2007
4:15 p.m. 1140 Fleming Hall
Cultural confrontations

Kids say the darndest things. Working at a camp with high-schoolers last summer, I gained a new perspective on a younger generation.

"Younger" by only a few years—sure—they too were my age, but they were somehow different. I considered the dynamics of an age I myself so recently outgrew, my insights were not entirely positive. For instance, the campers would toss around racial stereotypes that could be playful or brutal on blunt sensibilities.

Before you stop reading, my misanthropic reader, know that I too was once in your position. Sure, thought I, this whole race issue is important. But we’re light-years beyond that now, aren’t we? Racism may exist in some parts of the world, but here in our little community we are too secularized to waste time worrying about dead issues of the past. Racial conflicts have been resolved, the world has learned its lesson, and our new generation will usher in an era of humanitarian peace once we claim our place in society and brush aside the dying embers of our less-tolerant predecessors.

I held this mindset for my first two years on campus. If a column had nothing shocking to say about race or ethnicity in the first paragraph, I would probably skip over it. What more could be said? At my most close-minded, I even thought that if we all just left this supposed "issue" alone, it would even more become moot and we would all come to a glorious understanding of our harmonious multiculturalism.

Wrong. In the months since my experiences last summer, I am rethinking the way in which we learn about other cultures. Because there most definitely are still things that need to be said. I’m not taking an overly cynical stand on cultures. Because there most definitely are still things that need to be said. I’m not taking an overly cynical stand on cultures. There are still things that need to be said. I’m not taking an overly cynical stand on cultures. There are still things that need to be said. I’m not taking an overly cynical stand on cultures. There are still things that need to be said. I’m not taking an overly cynical stand on cultures. There are still things that need to be said. I’m not taking an overly cynical stand on cultures. There are still things that need to be said.

The source of their behavior lies in a careless ignorance, something many of us can identify with. We assume what we’ve ‘heard’ about an ethnicity applies to individuals, when we actually have no personal experience to guide our behavior.

An ignorant mind, in terms of race, probably means you’re trying to comprehend generalizations, when you should be focusing on particulars. The problem many people experience when trying to break out of their bigotries from not being able to see past the entrenched praxis that urges us to see cultures in broad strokes. When accused of using stereotypes, one’s compensatory and superficial reaction often hinges on the skin kind of cultural toleration, only with an aim of compensatory. Example. Don’t know anything about black people? Just watch David Chappelle and take notes. No personal interaction necessary.

We are all guilty of this cultural coping. Cultures are valuable, incredibly diverse and dynamic organisms.

Understanding one takes time, and we cannot honestly consider ourselves multicultural if we do not invest the time to learn. You cannot understand a race or a culture through the incomplete lens of mass media, learning about the "wholly other" from television rather than from a person. Try to change that—because after all there, it’s your own. Hope you’ve got it, admitting better...a little better all the time.

James Dechant is a senior studying abroad in Rome this semester. Questions, complaints and rude remarks can be sent to jamesd@nd.edu. The views expressed in this article are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
*Pressure is a privilege.* Billie Jean King, a pioneer in women’s sports, explained her relationship with this emotion when asked how it felt to be playing in her first U.S. Open. ‘And it’s true. If you’ve got sweaty palms over an exam, a presentation, a project for which you’re responsible, just remember, you’ve gotten this far and people believe in you. Faced with the kind of pressure that interrupts my sleep, churns my stomach, becomes a constant distraction, my first desire is usually just to disappear, or at least take a really long nap until it’s all over and hope that someone else will pick up the slack for me. It takes a lot of extra effort and will to face that pressure and think of it as—of all things!—a privilege.

My 10-year-old son just competed this past weekend in a regional swim meet that brought swimmers with low enough times to Columbus, Ohio from Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky and West Virginia. He paced, he swam, he wiggled his toes in the stands, we could see him on deck waiting for his events to start, still pacing and squirming. My first instinct was to try to protect him, to believe that it was all too much for him. Then it occurred to me that he had come to the meet because he wanted to. He had worked hard enough, he had developed his God-given athletic ability. The pressure he felt was a privilege.

Wouldn’t we all love to have the best chances, are, unless you’re Albert Einstein or Leo Tolstoy or Michael Phelps, something—out there is better than you at whatever it is you do. You ought to try, however, to be YOUR best. Remember the parable of the talents from Chapter 25 of Matthew’s gospel? A master, on a journey, gave considerable sums of money to three of his servants—five, two and one talents, each talent the equivalent of many years of wages—for “each according to his ability.” While the first two each doubled the amount the master gave them, the third simply buried his master’s money in the ground and waited for him to return. The master didn’t mind, Jesus tells us, that the servant with two talents made less than the one who started with five. Only the servant who did nothing at all, who took no initiative, angered the master. Do we take the risk, accept the challenge to make the most of the gifts God has given us, though the pressure may make us sweat, or pace or squirm?

You don’t have to be doing the most important thing in the world to feel some well-deserved pressure. Maybe you’re not discovering the cure for cancer or ending the war in Iraq or figuring out how no child will be left behind. OK, look at where you are and do something else that will help build up the Kingdom of God and better our world. Martin Luther King, Jr. once famously said, “If life makes you a street sweeper, be the best street sweeper you can be.” Believe it or not, we’re coming to the end of Lent. Palm Sunday is only a few days away. Imagine the pressure Jesus must have felt, facing hostility, anger, brutality, undeserved accusations, mockery and ultimately certain death. Even as he cried out to God to “let this cup pass from me,” he recognized that his gift, his privilege, was to follow the will of his Father completely—“not what I want but what you want.” Perhaps we too can find in Jesus’ experience, as we walk with him in these final days of Lent, the grace to follow the will of God in our own lives. And if exploring your own faith makes you squirm a little bit, if it makes you uncomfortable, remember that God has given you gifts you may not even know about yet. What a privilege. Make the most of it!

*This week’s FaithPoint is written by Kate Barrett, director of resources and special projects in the Office of Campus Ministry. She can be reached at kbarrett@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.*

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**Spring break 2007: South Florida, uncensored**

When one thinks of spring breaks, countries such as China and India probably come to mind. Most people think sweatshops in the United States do not exist; most people feel employee abuse and slavery are long gone. Up until a few months ago, I also shared these common American misconceptions. This past spring break, I went on the Migrant Experiences Seminar in Immokalee, Fla., which was offered through the Center for Social Concerns. It was through this seminar that I was exposed to the harsh realities migrant workers face.

Notre Dame, an institution that promotes Catholic social teaching, has previously given them the opportunity to learn about and influence the lives of migrant workers. Many may remember the Taco Bell boycotts that took place in Immokalee, Fla., which was offered through the Center for Social Concerns. It was a large success due to nationwide publicity or running water. According to an article published in Gulfshore Life Magazine, the cost for one of these trailers is roughly $500 per week. When I asked several people in the community about the cost of housing, they reaffirmed the overcharging. Due to the ridiculous pricing, people are forced to combine incomes to pay rent. Many 2-bedroom trailers have 10-16 occupants. This description is not solely based on interviews. For one of the nights I was in Immokalee, I stayed in one of these trailers. It was difficult seeing human beings forced to live in such a state while I attend a school with an endowment of over $4 billion.

Despite the Taco Bell boycott victory, stagnant wages and worker abuse are still prevalent in the fields. At wages of 40-45 cents per 32-lb. bucket of tomatoes picked—wages that have remained the same since 1972—migrant workers earn significantly less than those at the poverty line. The very best workers only earn $50 for a full day’s work. Taco Bell is only one purchaser of tomatoes. Pressure has been placed on other fast-food giants so that they too will increase the pay of farm workers and enforce a code of conduct throughout their supply chains. McDonald’s, the face of the industry and a main purchaser of tomatoes in Immokalee, has refused to follow Taco Bell’s footsteps. The migrant workers have united and are once again seeking Justice. Noel Dambrink has proven to be a very powerful force in the past; it is now time to continue where we left off. It is important to note that there is a difference between charity and social justice. I do not wish for people to simply throw money at the problem and hope it fixes itself; that is not activism or social justice. These people are not looking for handouts; they want people to work with them to change a system of exploitation. We need to become conscientious consumers so as not to promote situations of exploitation like those that I witnessed firsthand while on spring break.

For those that want to take action, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers— a group of migrant workers that banded together several years ago in an effort to end unfair treatment—is organizing a rally at McDonald’s corporate headquarters in Oak Brook, Ill., April 13 and a parade in downtown Chicago April 14. This is being done in an effort to send a clear message to McDonald’s and other fast-food corporations that exploitation is wrong.

Kristofer Trujillo is a freshman Finance and Political Science Major living in Keough Hall. He can be reached at ktrujill@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Energy conservation tip**

In the spirit of energy conservation, which may be the most important way to assert human-caused global climate change, I suggest we turn off the backyard sky lighting that adorns the top of the main building and run all night. However impressed with myself one might feel to do so the frequent 2 a.m. journeys from the library to our residence hall, perhaps we can display our grandiosity by being an example of conservation in an America that needs a greener future.

Dan Lano senior Santa College March 21

**When science looks at sex**

As part of the Progressive Student Alliance’s Week of Action, Dr. Timothy Murphy will be speaking about the biology of homosexuality tonight at 8 p.m. in the Hesburgh Center Auditorium at the Knoc Institute for Peace Studies. Our views of human sexuality are largely defined by the norms of our culture. Opinions are rarely informed by scientific, objective views. The discussion often is based on faith, sexology or popular assumptions about human sexuality research. I hope that Dr. Murphy’s lecture will provide some answers to ethical questions about human sexuality research and offer a different perspective to the discussion.

Mike McConn junior Keough Hall March 21
Seven months before the 9/11 attacks, the United States had already encountered and then sorted national security. It was discovered that FBI agent Robert Hanssen, an employee for only a few months when the mandatory retirement, had worked as a spy for the Soviet Union for a period of at least 15 years. The secrets that he revealed, including the sensitive protocol regarding the location of government superiors during an attack, caused immeasurable damage to national security and has been described as one of the worst intelligence disasters in American history.

Director Billy Ray's "Breach" tackles the internal investigation by the FBI to nail Hanssen as the perpetrator. Hanssen (Chris Cooper) is portrayed as a God-fearing loyal Catholic and, to the casual observer, it's hard to believe that he would be capable of betraying his country.

"Breach" stars Ryan Phillippe as the FBI agent assigned to be Hanssen's assistant in an FBI attempt to garner insider information to solidify the belief Hanssen is a double agent. O'Neill then faces the difficult task of not only collecting evidence against his superior officers but also gaining the trust of Hanssen without revealing his suspicions. Since this is the assignment that could gain him full agent status, it is also the first time that he lives the life of an agent, which takes a toll on both him and his wife Juliana (Caroline Dhavernas).

It is interesting to get this perspective into an agent's personal life and how his life has to be. Dhavernas has given an excellent performance as O'Neill's wife, who struggles to come to terms with his rising new position in the Bureau.

"Breach" is a tense, fast and interesting film, which is a refreshing approach to this type of material. It runs under two hours, though it's conceivable that a film of this type could be bloated out to three hours. Instead, Ray employs a well-paced, focused style that prevents it from flagging or feeling pretentious.

That "Breach" is essentially a true story makes it even more compelling, and its insights into what could drive a man to betray his country are effective. There is a wonderful scene toward the end of the film in which Hanssen tells another FBI agent that the "why" doesn't matter — it sums up the meaning of the film. Ray is not interested in cheap psychology, but rather in simply telling a story.

Ray wisely decides to cut to the heart of the story, giving the film a lean, focused style that prevents it from flagging or feeling pretentious.

Federal agent Kate Burroughs (Laura Linney) confronts Eric O'Neill (Ryan Phillippe) about their investigation of Agent Hanssen in Billy Ray's "Breach."

Ray is not interested in cheap psychology, but rather in simply telling a story.

Everything about this film — except for perhaps Chris Cooper's performance — is mediocre. The writing was nominally good — it wasn't horrible, but it didn't impress — and the camera, except for a few shots, was static as a shoe dragged over thick carpet.

Even though the film clocked in at only 110 minutes, it felt much longer due to the uneven pacing and poor attempts at transitioning from calm to tense moments.

"Breach" tells the story of FBI agent Robert Hanssen, who sold government secrets to the Soviet Union for many years and was responsible for the largest security breach in the history of the United States. Cooper, one of the more visible actors in Hollywood and this film despite its poor technical aspects, allows him to showcase his skills.

Director Billy Ray has written a few films in the past and directed one — 2003's "Shattered Glass," starring the wooden Hayden Christensen. Although that film was well received by critics, the same success didn't transfer over to "Breach." Ray's pacing is stilted and, aside from a few genuinely tense moments, the movie has no heart. Ray can't decide whether he wants to feel sorry for Hanssen or condemn him.

Ryan Phillippe and the rest of the cast play their roles well enough. They seem locked in the conspiracy of the film that leaves no room for character development. Cooper's Hanssen takes over the movie but does it in such a way that is excruciating and borders on camp.

The talent of the actors aside, the script does little for them. It tries to weave its way through a web of lies, but ends up only being caught in its own attempts to be brilliant and Sublime.

Screenwriter Adam Mazer and William Rotko have little experience in film — aside from being associate producers for "Super Troopers." They have little business writing a screen­play that has so few of the most important points in American history history. The producers should have found a writer with a little more experience, as "Breach" does not involve cops pulling over teenagers for smoking too much ganja. Whoever was the primary writer for "West Wing" would have been a better choice.

"Breach" is a movie that wants to be so much more than it actually is. It's easy to quip and metaphors can't be used for this film because there is nothing good — or bad — about it. It revels in mediocrity.

The end of the film is unsurprising, not because of its outcome but because of the generial unease. The twists and turns that are supposed to keep viewers in the edge of their seat end in a powerful looking shot that is deflated of all gravitas because no one cares about the characters.

For a decent film that requires no attention to enjoy, see "Breach." However, "United 93" and "Independence Day" are better for films for examining serious and entertaining threats to America, respectively. At least the latter know what they are. "Breach," unfortunately, just never figures it out.

Contact Marty Schroeder at mschreo1@nd.edu
Paranoia leads to thought-provoking situations

Protection challenges privacy in a world rocked by terrorism

I spent spring break in Europe with my roommates James and Adam. It was, in many ways, an eye-opening experience. One night, we decided to attend a showing of "Les Misérables" at the Queen's Theater in London. After spending the day exploring the city, we arrived at the theater for an evening's performance.

After finding our seats, we went off to the bar to get something to eat and drink. We sat there for maybe 20 minutes, after which they dimmed the lights and an announcement via speaker asked everyone to return to their seats. We noticed that there didn't appear to be very many people in our section, but the speaker asked everyone—kindly, I might add—to stay put until the house was full. With that said, the house lights went back on, and we let the curtains open.

But the guard shook Adam's hand angrily.

"That's my bag," said Adam.

"This is yours?" asked the security guard. "Ticket please."

Adam complied, and the guard shook his head angrily.

"You might have left it unattended, you know—keep all your belongings with you at all times."

We noticed that there didn't appear to be very many people in our section, but I didn't think much of it until we got to our seats. There, to our surprise, a security guard was holding a brown messenger bag.

"That's my bag," said Adam.

"Is this yours?" asked the security guard. "Ticket please."

Adam complied, and the guard shook his head angrily.

"You might have left it unattended, you know—keep all your belongings with you at all times."

The guard turned, and that's when we noticed that our section of the theater only appeared empty because the theater workers had held the occupants back while Adam's bag was investigated.

After the guard gave the "OK," the three of us regarded the tube toward Piccadilly Circus when we noticed an unattended suitcase. It was brown and tatted, with the name "Obama" etched on the top and some writing in a language I didn't recognize. The three of us regarded the seemingly abandoned case and I felt the hairs on the back of my neck slowly rise. "What do you think?" whispered Adam.

"I don't know," I said. "Don't touch it."

We looked around for a potential owner, but the closest occupants were an elderly woman and a British couple cradling a child. I started to back away from the case, slowly edging myself toward the other end of the tube—not that it would have really mattered had the case really contained a bomb.

"It's all right," I said to Adam. "Don't say anything."

"Let's get off at the next stop," recommended James. Adam and I nodded in agreement, nervously waiting out the tube's bumpy approach to its next destination.

Finally, James decided it wasn't worth waiting and loudly inquired if the case belonged to anyone. A man, sitting across the tube, cradling a child, answered saying simply, "It's mine."

We all breathed out and remained on the tube until our final destination, but I noticed that for me a full sense of relief didn't come when I stepped off the tube at Piccadilly Circus.

Afterward, we were all embarrassed. What a silly, paranoid, senseless turn of events. Of course there was no threat; no more than the night before, when Adam's bag became the subject of concern in the Queen's Theater. Still, the pall of the event lingered and I couldn't help thinking that our fears were not entirely unfounded—especially in light of our seatmate's wild paranoia concerning the tube the night prior.

Such senseless violence rocked London back in July of 2005 (the incident to which the man was referring), when four suicide bombers killed 52 commuters and injured 700 more. With that context in mind, it's easier to see why there was such a fiasco at the theater.

It is a strange and deeply disturbing feeling to step onto an everyday mode of transportation with lingering doubts about safety—even two years removed from the original tragedy.

London is still trying to find ways to deal with the aftermath of the bombings that took place nearly two years ago and to prevent such events from occurring again.

It is a strange and deeply disturbing feeling to step onto an everyday mode of transportation with lingering doubts about safety—even two years removed from the original tragedy.

London is still trying to find ways to deal with the aftermath of the bombings that took place nearly two years ago and to prevent such events from occurring again.
The Pacers snapped an 11-game losing streak with a home victory over Atlanta on Saturday, but have since lost two in a row as they struggle for a spot in the playoffs. O'Neal was expected to miss the game with a sore left knee but he was listed in the Pacers' loss to the Houston Rockets on Tuesday, but started anyway. O'Neal already had missed three games following an MRI earlier this month revealed a sprain in the knee. “I don’t think Jermaine’s 100 percent,” Popovich said. “You had to factor in that he’s trying to play through it. We caught a break there.”

At least once on Wednesday, O'Neal looked as if his knee was bothering him. He said the injury is keeping him from being effective. “I played on one leg today,” O’Neal said. “My explosion is pretty much zapped.” The Pacers outshot the Spurs in the first quarter and built a five-point lead heading into the second following a 9-2 run to close the frame. But then the Pacers ran into trouble, as O’Neal picked up his third foul with 7:55 left in the second and sat the rest of the half. Tim Duncan picked up his second foul 34 seconds later and it only got worse from there. Jeff Foster stole the ball from Parker and passed to Tim Duncan, who went against Duncan and got whistled for an offensive foul. Duncan then angrily grabbed the ball and rocketed it in a high arc from one end of the court to the other, where it landed in the first row. He was ejected with 3:59 left in the half and had six points.

Dirk Nowitzki and Lebron James struggled. Fortunately for Nowitzki, the rest of the Dallas Mavericks outplayed James’ teammates. Nowitzki scored 23 points and Jason Terry added 21 to help the Mavericks beat the Cleveland Cavaliers for the second time this month Wednesday night.

“That’s why we are a great team, because we guys stepped up when we needed it,” said Nowitzki, who added nine rebounds and six assists. The Mavericks, who have the NBA’s best record at 56-11, have won four straight and are 3-0 on a six-game road trip that’s included victories over Detroit and New York. The Mavs controlled the game for all but the first quarter, making the Cavaliers look inept and one-dimensional offensively on their own court.

James had a tough night shooting and got roughed up as well. He finished with 31 points but was 12-for-28 shooting as he single-handily tried to put his team back in it. “Our defense won the game,” Nowitzki said. "LeBron is a great player and will always get his numbers, but we were making him take some tough shots.”

As if James’ night wasn’t hard enough, he bumped his head on the floor after getting spun around by Josh Howard while going for a rebound. Howard was slow to get up but stayed in the game.

James also took an elbow from Nowitzki with 1:39 left and fouled out. “I’m definitely not feeling 100 percent,” James said. “I took two dangerous hits today.”

Heat 91, Hawks 83
Miami has endured so much adversity this season that the Heat’s dwindling lead hardly concerned Jason Williams.

“It seems like someone has been out for all year long,” Williams said. “So we just have to keep doing what we have to do to win.”

Williams had 21 points and eight assists, and the Heat beat the Atlanta Hawks Wednesday night for their 10th victory in 11 games.

Josh Smith scored 27 points for Atlanta, which had its five-game home winning streak snapped.

Williams had eight of Miami’s last 12 points, including a 19-foot bank basket in the fourth quarter to get back in the game, capped by a free throw by Charlie Bell to trim the deficit to 99-98 with 2:56 left.

After a free throw by Brand, Bell drilled a 3-pointer that gave Miami a 101-100 lead, its first since 9-8.

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NFL

**Goodell to address off-field problems**

Associated Press

NEW YORK — NFL commissioner Roger Goodell could announce new initiatives Tuesday that will allow him to impose harsher and quicker discipline for players who get into trouble off the field.

League spokesmen Greg Aiello said Wednesday during a conference call that Goodell could use his first full league meeting, to be held next week in Phoenix, to address the arrests and other off-field episodes that plagued the league in the last year.

They include the arrests of nine members of the Cincinnati Bengals, 10 encounters with the police by Tennessee’s Adam Pacman” Jones; the four-month jail sentence imposed this week on Chicago’s Tank Johnson on weapons charges; and other run-ins with the law by NFL players.

The policy would allow Goodell, who has been meeting with players, owners and team officials, to impose harsher discipline earlier than in the past, when the NFL has waited for legal steps to be finished before imposing fines and/or suspensions.

“Who’s important to him in developing this policy is that it is supported by a wide faction of people in our league, meaning the owners, the players’ association, the players and the clubs,” Aiello said. “He’s been very encouraged by the strong stance that the players have taken in terms of looking for a more effective policy.

Most of the conference call was devoted to recommendations for changes in playing rules made by the competition committee.

The biggest change would be moving the kickoff in overtime from the 30-yard-line, the spot in regulation, to the 35.

Atlanta general manager Rich McKay, the committee’s co-chairman, said the committee believed the kickoff spot was the major reason that 62 percent of teams winning the coin toss won overtime games last season, not necessarily on the first possession, but because of the field position they got.

McKay said it stemmed from the change in 1998 that moved the kickoff back to the 30 and added the “K-ball,” a kicking ball harder to kick deep.

Until then, winners and losers of the toss had won just about equally.

“This is something we resisted,” McKay said. “But there was an advantage gained by the coin toss. We think we can cure those stats and make the coin toss less of a factor.”

The rule would have to be approved by three-quarters of the teams, as would a variety of other proposed rules changes.

One would make instant replay, which is due to expire after two more seasons, a permanent part of the league’s rules.

NCAA BASKETBALL

**Volunteers will hope to contain Oden, OSU**

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Tennessee’s Bruce Pearl is far too good of a talker to frame his team’s upcoming game against Ohio State in worn-out coachspeak.

So when he essentially says “it’s not Greg Oden, it’s the rest of the Buckeyes” that he’s focused on containing Thursday night, at least give him the benefit of the doubt and listen to his explanation.

Start with the background. The Volunteers faced Ohio State in Oden’s 10th game of the season, back in January, when Oden was adjusting to the college game and still wearing a brace on the surgically repaired right wrist that delayed the start of his college career.

Those things were supposed to be holding him down. Instead, he had his first monster game: 24 points, 15 rebounds, perfect from the foul line (6-for-6), four assists, three blocks and a steal in 36 minutes.

Yet the Buckeyes, playing at home, still needed what was then a career-high in points from freshman point guard Mike Conley and a 3-pointer from Ron Lewis with 11.2 seconds left to beat the Volunteers 68-66.

Ohio State (32-3) hasn’t lost since, a run of 19 in a row it takes into a semifinal against Tennessee (24-10) in the NCAA tournament’s South Regional.

Pearl spent this week studying his team’s near-miss in Columbus and most of the other 18 games in the Buckeyes’ run.

After concluding there’s no stopping Oden — “He’s unlike anybody I’ve ever gone up against,” Pearl said — he set his sights on everyone else wearing red and white.

And the part that scares him the most?

“They’re not broken out yet,” Pearl said. “They’ve not had that breakout game that we all know they’re capable of.”

Buckeyes coach Thad Matta was flattered by the notion his top-seeded team has gotten within four wins of a national championship by merely grinding out games.

However, he agrees that his team can do whatever it takes to win, as opposed to letting a juggernaut that goes out and does things its way, during others to stop it.

“The thing I love about this team is we’ve shown that we can play a lot of different ways,” Matta said. Listing a few examples — not including the overtime win against Xavier in the second round that kept Ohio State in the tournament.

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NCAA BASKETBALL

Howland, Dixon will square off in Sweet 16

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — The almost daily phone calls haven’t stopped this week even though Ben Howland and Jamie Dixon will be on opposite sides of the court Thursday night.

It’s hard to break a routine built through decades of friendship. The only change in the coaches’ relationship is what they discuss.

Talking about strategy, and their teams’ strengths and weaknesses has to take a back seat at least until after Thursday night’s third-round game between Howland’s UCLA Bruins and Dixon’s Pittsburgh Panthers in the San Jose Regional.

“I think it’s inevitable it was going to happen,” Dixon said Wednesday. “It hasn’t changed [our relationship] at all. We’ve talked a couple of times, not too much about the game, just about families and different things besides that.”

Whether the relationship has an impact on which team advances to Saturday’s regional final remains to be seen.

“I think it’s pretty unique and pretty interesting,” Bruins point guard Darren Collison said. “But again, to me it won’t be about the coaches. It will be about the players on the court. That’s what will dictate who wins the game. The coaches will just do their job and that’s just to coach and tell us what plays to run.”

That’s one area that will provide at least a little bit of a wrinkle since the Panthers (29-7) still use many of the same plays they ran before Howland left for UCLA (28-5) following the 2002-03 season.

But with scouting and the use of video what they are in the modern game, Howland thinks it will be just like playing any other team.
**Around the Nation**

**NBA Standings**

**Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division**

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Cleveland</td>
<td>31-37</td>
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<td>5-5</td>
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<td>Boston</td>
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**Eastern Conference, Central Division**

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**Eastern Conference, Southeast Division**

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**Western Conference, Northwest Division**

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**Western Conference, Pacific Division**

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**Western Conference, Southwest Division**

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**NCAA Men's Lacrosse**

**Inside Lacrosse Top 20**

**NCAA Tournament loss Friday.**

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<tr>
<td>18 Stony Brook</td>
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**IN BRIEF**

**Artest faces four counts of misdemeanor after arrest**

Sacramento Kings forward Ron Artest faces four misdemeanor charges stemming from a dispute with his wife at home earlier this month. The charges were filed late Tuesday. Placer County Deputy District Attorney Dan Quick said Artest will be arraigned Thursday on charges of battery and corporal injury to a spouse, false imprisonment and dissuading a witness from reporting a crime. Each carries a maximum sentence of one year in prison.

The former Indiana Pacer was arrested March 5 at his estate in Loomis, 25 miles northeast of Sacramento, and was released from custody after posting a $50,000 bond. A Placer County sheriff's report said Artest grabbed a woman and pushed her down, then slapped her face during an argument.

**Illinois won't discipline AD after incident**

The University of Illinois will not discipline athletic director Ron Guenther for yelling at men's basketball coach Bruce Weber and Illini players during the team's NCAA Tournament loss Friday.

Guenther yelled substitution advice to Weber — who was just a few feet away — and also yelled "Warren — you idiot!" after a play by Illini forward Warren Carter, according to a report on CSM, a newsletter for coaches. Guenther also pounded the table throughout Illinois' 54-52 loss to Virginia Tech in Columbus, Ohio.

Guenther had apologized to Weber and Carter. The outburst happened because Guenther is a fan, Herman said.

**Schaub may be in Texans' future**

Associated Press

Houston — The Houston Texans are close to acquiring Matt Schaub from the Atlanta Falcons.

A trade for the highly regarded backup quarterback was expected to be announced Thursday, according to a person with knowledge of the deal who requested anonymity because the deal hadn't been completed.

The person did not disclose the details of the trade. The Houston Chronicle and the NFL Network said the Falcons will get second-round picks in 2007 and 2008 and that the teams will swap first-round picks this year, with Atlanta moving from 10th to eighth.

A call by The Associated Press to Texans general manager Rick Smith wasn't immediately returned Wednesday. Rich McKay, Atlanta's general manager, had no comment.

"Matt's a restricted free agent," McKay, chairman of the NFL's competition committee, said during a conference call with national reporters in preparation for next week's league meetings. "He's clearly entitled to visit every team. We've talked to a number of teams that have interest in Matt. That's all I'm going to say."

Houston television station KBIV reported on its Web site that Schaub and agent John Branson arrived at Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport on Wednesday.

"We have an agreement in place," Branson told KBIV. "I dealt with Rick Smith on Almon Green a couple of weeks ago. That gave us a great deal of comfort heading into these discussions believing we could get something done and we did. It wasn't easy but I think both sides are comfortable where we are.

Schaub, who has performed well in preseason games, has started two games in his three-year career and is 84-of-141 for 1,033 yards with six touchdowns and six interceptions.

The acquisition of Schaub would make the possibility David Carr will remain with the team seem unlikely. Unhappy with Carr's performance, Houston tried to sign both Jeff Garcia and Patrick Ramsey before the two signed with other teams.

The Texans hoped that Carr, the first pick in the 2002 draft, would have a breakout year under the tutelage of first-year coach Gary Kubiak.

**Eagles head coach Andy Reid returns from leave**

Philadelphia — Philadelphia Eagles coach Andy Reid will return from a leave of absence Friday, five weeks after leaving the team because of his two oldest sons' legal troubles.

Reid is scheduled to return to his duties full time Friday, in time for the NFL owners' meetings in Arizona next week. The team scheduled a news conference Friday morning. Reid took a leave of absence Feb. 12, after his two oldest sons became embroiled in legal troubles stemming from separate traffic incidents Jan. 30, Feb. 12.

Reid, 21, faces a felony charge of carrying a firearm without a license and misdemeanor drug charges stemming from a road rage incident in which he allegedly pointed a gun at another motorist.

Garrett Reid, 23, faces charges he injured a woman in a traffic accident while under the influence of heroin.

**Men's College Basketball**

Kansas vs. Southern Illinois

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Kansas beat Southern Illinois 71-60 Sunday.

**Ohio State vs. Tennessee**

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Ohio State beat Tennessee 65-54 Sunday.

**USC vs. Pittsburgh**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — USC beat Pittsburgh 80-75 Sunday.

**Memphis vs. Texas A&M**

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Memphis beat Texas A&M 77-64 Sunday.

**UCLA vs. Pittsburgh**

Los Angeles (AP) — UCLA beat Pittsburgh 59-52 Sunday.

**Ohio State vs. Tennessee**

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Ohio State beat Tennessee 65-54 Sunday.

around the dial
NCAA BASKETBALL

Salukis hope to upset Jayhawks

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Rodrick Stewart waited patiently for the perfect shot, slipping through a crowd and moving behind a screen before letting it fly.

The meatball-sized wad of paper flew over a cameraman and hit Kansas teammate Mario Chalmers in the chest while he answered questions in the locker room. The Jayhawks' leading scorer in the NCAA tournament didn't even flinch a participle, coolly finishing his conversation to his laughing teammates' delight.

The top-seeded Jayhawks seemed remarkably stress-free on a cool Wednesday in California, one day before meeting Southern Illinois in the West Regional semifinals.

Sure, expectations are still huge for everybody in this proud program. But after embarrassing first-round exits in the past two tournaments, Kansas feels fortunate simply to be planning for a second weekend and beyond.

And even facing the fourth-seeded Salukis' intense defense couldn't bow their shoulders.

"Last year we wasted a long time to get this chance," said coach Bill Self, who has led Kansas to a national title, four conference tournament championships, 15 NCAA tournament appearances and three national titles in his career.

"We got to San Jose with a sense of urgency and even a friend. That's what we need. That's what we got. That's what they haven't got," Self said.

For the second time in three years, Kansas (32-4) is built to neutralize the nation's best offensive talent — and Kansas has more than its share.

Brandan Rush and his Kansas teammates have watched tape of the trapping, aggressive style with which the Salukis yielded just 26.1 points per game — the third-fewest in NCAA tournament history.

"They get through a screen, they're like piranhas," said Rush, who scored 19 points in the Jayhawks' second-round win over Kentucky.

The way they trap, the way they get through a screen, the way they get through a screen, they're like piranhas," said Rush, who scored 19 points in the Jayhawks' second-round win over Kentucky.

Salukis hope to upset Jayhawks

Jayhawks' 88-76 victory over Kentucky Sunday in Chicago.

Jayhawks' leading scorer in the NCAA tournament didn't even flinch a participle, coolly finishing his conversation to his laughing teammates' delight.

The top-seeded Jayhawks seemed remarkably stress-free on a cool Wednesday in California, one day before meeting Southern Illinois in the West Regional semifinals.

Sure, expectations are still huge for everybody in this proud program. But after embarrassing first-round exits in the past two tournaments, Kansas feels fortunate simply to be planning for a second weekend and beyond.

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Motivated Florida ready for Bulldogs

Billy Donovan leads the defending champs against 5-seed Butler

Associated Press

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — He's been "Officer Bill," a history professor, a tour guide, a father figure and even a friend.

He's been way more than just a coach.

Billy Donovan has been a master motivator for top-seeded Florida, inspiring players with championship rings, famous dads and NBA futures to play hard, stay focused, follow his "live in the moment" catch-phrase and possibly become the first team in 15 years to successfully defend its title.

He's kept the Gators hungry and humble while dealing with off-the-chart expectations, outside influences and the constant pressure of trying to make history.

"Sometimes when you hear the word motivation, people think it's a rah-rah speech every day," Donovan said. "I think there's different ways to motivate people and to inspire people. I would say that I spend every single day trying to do that.

"Florida (33-5), which plays fifth-seeded Butler (29-6) on Friday in the Midwest Regional in St. Louis, has won 14 consecutive postseason games and cut down five sets of nets in the past 11 months.

Aside from having five talented, unselfish and experienced starters, a big key has been Donovan's motivational tactics.

He's invited big-name sports celebrities to speak to the Gators - a list that includes NBA legend Jerry West, New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick and St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony La Russa.

He's shown clips from movies and sporting events in hopes of providing inspiration. He's told stories about all-time greats like Muhammad Ali, Michael Jordan, Pete Sampras and Tiger Woods.

He even brought in renowned sociology professor Harry Edwards, widely considered the leading expert on issues of race and sports.

"Edwards talked about pushing the ball back up the hill," forward Corey Brewer said. "You can't push it up the same way, and you've all got to go up together and be one family, and be the best family you can be and be in the best family you can be.

"Belichick made an encore appearance two weeks ago after Florida won a third consecutive conference tournament.

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Recycle The Observer.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Memphis, Aggies will play in Texas shootout

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Some Texas A&M students wore paper bags over their heads during Acie Law’s freshman season, embarrassed to be rooting for a team that didn’t win a conference game.

Now, Aggies fans are decked out in maroon shirts, eager to be part of what Law and his teammates are doing.

For Memphis (32-3), the No. 2 seed in the NCAA South Regional, that means once again playing in front of a partisan crowd despite having a better seed.

“I would have never imagined playing in San Antonio with the Sweet 16 with the opportunity to go to the Elite Eight after what I experienced by freshman year,” Law said Wednesday. “Coach came in and he changed all our mind-sets. He told us we were going to win, and not take as long as people thought.”

That’s exactly what the Aggies have done under Billy Gillispie, going from that 0-16 record in the Big 12 to the NCAA round of 16 and a school-record 27 victories only three seasons later.

And Texas A&M won’t be far from home Thursday night for its first regional semifinal game since 1980. The game will be in the Alamodome, only about a 2 1/2-hour drive from campus.

When the Aggies finished their open practice, the players greeted and shook hands with fans, many who chanted Law’s name.

A crowd of more than 30,000 is expected Thursday, mostly in A&M colors. If the Aggies (27-6) win, there might not be another color visible for the regional final this weekend — much like when Texas won a regional final in the same building four years ago.

“It may be able to help you get over a couple of tough spots in the games, but it won’t be the ultimate determining factor,” Gillispie said. “We learned that last weekend, and everybody is coming here for a reason. Everyone is coming here to win.”

JIMMY’S FIRST DAY

Irish freshman Jimmy Clausen throws during spring practice in the Loftus Center Wednesday.
**NCAA Basketball**

Air Force beats DePaul, heads to NIT semifinals

Tigers advance past Orange for ninth win in a row at Littlejohn

Associated Press

— Jacob Burtchell scored 13 points and had five 3-pointers, including a winning basket with 7.7 seconds left to send Air Force to the NIT semifinals with a 22-21 win over DePaul on Wednesday night.

Ronny Cedeno reached up and struck the ball away from the right corner of the buzzers after Burtchell missed a free throw following his layup, and the usually subdued crowd let out a roar of encouragement and support for the Tigers.

The Falcons (26-8), top seeded in the West, play South Region top seed Clemson on Tuesday night at Madison Square Garden in New York. Mississippi State will face West Virginia in the other semifinal.

Matt McCraw also scored 13 points for the Falcons, who nearly saw their 33-game home winning streak against nonconference opponents snapped.

Clemson 74, Syracuse 70

K.C. Rivers had a career-high 29 points and the Tigers padded their Orange at Littlejohn Coliseum.

It was the Tigers (24-10) ninth straight NIT victory at home. But this one did not come easily.

Syracuse (24-11) cut Clemson's 17-point lead to 69-61 in the final minute, but free-throw shooter, hitter, a pair of foul shots to extend the lead.

Josh Wright's open 3-pointer with about 10 seconds left bounced off the rim and into the arms of Tiger guard Vern Hamilton.

Hamilton followed with two foul shots to clinch the victory — and Clemson's first trip to Madison Square Garden since 1999.

Then, the Tigers were second to champ Cal. This time, they can keep a curious streak alive for the Palmetto State as they try and become the third straight South Carolina team — the Gamecocks won the past two NITs — to hold the trophy.

**MLB - Spring Training**

Sosa, Rangers fall to slugger's former squad

Associated Press

When Sammy Sosa stepped to the plate, he looked out to see Cubs starter Jason Marquis wearing the slugger's old No. 21.

This was definitely not an average spring day for Sosa in his return with the Texas Rangers after a year away from the game.

Sosa got a mixed greeting Wednesday from a large crowd of 17,671 at McFarland Park, where he spent so many spring afternoons during his 13 seasons with the Cubs.

"You know, regardless, no matter where I play, I'm always going to be in Chicago," Sosa said.

"I don't think anyone's going to take my name away from Chicago. My name is always going to be mentioned in Chicago."

Sosa went 1-for-3 in his return to Mesa, Ariz., and the Cubs beat the Rangers 11-7 on Daryl Ward's grand slam in the bottom of the ninth inning off Jesse Ingram.

Starting in right field, Sosa grounded into a forceout, legged out an infield single and hit a popper that took a winding bounce before Cubs shortstop Ronny Cedeno reached up and made a nice play before throwing him out. Sosa's still batting 11th in spring.

Did they yell at him? "No, my name is, said "He deserves good things from the fans. He did a lot of good things in Chicago," Cubs pitcher Carlos Zambrano said.

Sosa hit 345 of his 548 homers with the Cubs. How big a deal are the 12 homors that would land him at the 600 mark? He actually wants more.

"I'm not going to get in shape for 12 home runs. I'm going to go out there and play. It's going to happen," I'd say Sosa, who also wears No. 21 with the Rangers. "I'm thinking I'm not satisfied. More than that."

White Sox 10, Giants 9

At Tucson, Ariz., Bobby Jenks' ERA ballooned to 10.50 for his five spring games after he allowed three runs and three hits in two innings. White Sox manager Ozzie Guillen said he is concerned about his closer.

"I worry about Bobby. If you are not ready one week and a half before the season starts, you have problems," Guillen said. "If you are not ready to this point, and you are not in condition to start the season right now, you have to dig in and start building yourself to get better."

Red Sox 7, Pirates 3

At Bradenton, Fla., Daisuke Matsuzaka allowed one run and one hit in 5 2-3 innings. The Red Sox right-hander struck out seven and got a standing ovation when he left the game.

**New Mexico seeks Alford**

Sosa gets permission to talk to Hawkeyes' coach about vacancy

Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — The University of New Mexico has been given permission to interview Iowa basketball coach Steve Alford about the Lobos' head coaching vacancy, Iowa athletic director Gary Barta said Wednesday.

Alford, who was Indiana's high school Mr. Basketball at New Castle in 1983 and led Indiana University to the 1987 NCAA championship, has been mentioned as a New Mexico candidate since coach Ritchie McKay was fired after five seasons.

Barta confirmed that New Mexico athletic director Paul Krebs asked for permission to contact Alford about the job.

"It will be Coach Alford's decision as to whether he chooses to visit with them," Barta said in a statement Wednesday.

Alford, who was out of contract on a Wednesday, didn't immediately dailymail respond to interview requests.

Gary Barta

Iowa athletic director

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By BILL BRINK  Sports Writer

Notre Dame travels to Tucson, Ariz., today to compete in the Jim Click Multi-Event/Shootout. The meet, which lasts until Saturday, is Notre Dame's first outdoor competition of the season.

After an indoor season that culminated in two All-America performances in the NCAA Championships, the Irish are making the transition to outdoor competition. Training and competing outside allows the team to practice skills it hasn't worked on before and offers a break from the monotony of the Loftus Center.

"The men and women in the 4-by-100-meter [relays] will do baton exchanges which basically we did not do at all at the beginning of the indoor season," Irish coach Joe Piane said. "And frankly, just getting outdoors is a joy.

The outdoor track is 400 meters long, twice as long as the standard indoor track. The length of the track could decrease the times posted by the runners.

"In theory, it should be faster because the turns are so spacious," Piane said. "Indoors it's a little tight, but outdoors the radius is big enough.

Some events during the indoor season change once the team moves outside, and some events don't exist during the indoor season. For example, pole vaults and javelin throws are the 400 hurdles and are exclusively outdoor events. Also, the 60-meter hurdles becomes the 100 hurdles for women and 110 hurdles for men.

"You take a discus thrower or a javelin thrower, they're waiting all season just to get outdoors," Piane said. "So they've been training from September on just to get to the outdoor season.

The Shootout, which is primarily an individual meet, will give coaches a chance to see how athletes who have not yet competed handle their first meet.

"I'm really anxious to see what [froshman] Bakim N'Dirane does in the 400-meter hurdles. He was one of the best intermediate hurdlers in Europe last year, so I'm really anxious to see what he can do during the outdoor season," Piane said. "I'm anxious to see what [freshman] Jaryll Espinosa can do in the discus. She's throwing well already, but let's see how well she can do."

Piane said he also excited to see how throwers, including junior Kyle Allen and senior Garet Koudien, perform in their first competition of the season. Allen's best hammer throw of the 2006 outdoor season was 61.46 meters at the Big East Championships. Koudien's season-best discus throw for the 2006 season came at the CalPoly Invitational, where he threw for 51.32 meters.

"I am anxious to see how the people who don't have the opportunity to do those events start off the season," he said.

Contact Bill Brink at bbrink@nd.edu

Irish junior John Cavanaugh, right, hands the baton to junior Jake Watson at the Alex Wilson Invitational March 2.

NHL

Sabres reestablish home ice dominance in win over Caps

Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Heading toward the playoffs, Daniel Briere and the Buffalo Sabres want to address a few deficiencies: fix their stuttering power play and regain their edge at home.

Check and check.

Briere and Derek Roy scored power-play goals, helping the Sabres end a three-game home skid with an easy 5-2 win over the Washington Capitals on Wednesday.

"This is definitely what we wanted to clean up," Briere said. "Sometimes it's a good thing to hit the rough patch before you hit the playoffs. And hopefully we're out of it now and we can look forward and come into the playoffs on a roll."

Drew Stafford had two third-period goals and Clarke MacArthur also scored, while Dainius Zubrus had two assists in his first game against his former team; the Sabres acquired the forward in a deal with the Capitals last month.

The Eastern Conference-leading Sabres (47-19-7) joined Nashville in becoming the second NHL team to reach the 100-point mark this season.

The two power-play goals ended a seven-game drought Buffalo's longest since 2003-04. And the Sabres avoided losing four straight at home for the first time since early last season.

"Small things mean a lot and I think we just want to be ramping up at the right time," said Ryan Miller, who made 24 saves. "Last 10 games for us is going to be a focal point and tonight was a good step forward."

It helps that the Sabres fine-tune their game against the Capitals (26-35-13), who continue displaying the telltale inconsistencies of a young team. Besides dropping to 1-8-2 in their past 11 road games, the Capitals failed to build off two home wins in which they outscored their opponents by a combined 12-2, including a 7-1 win over Tampa Bay on Sunday.

"They just played well. We didn't score," said Alex Ovechkin, the Capitals star who held a point for a third consecutive game. "It helps the Sabres finesse their game against the Capitals (26-35-13), who continue displaying the telltale inconsistencies of a young team. Besides dropping to 1-8-2 in their past 11 road games, the Capitals failed to build off two home wins in which they outscored their opponents by a combined 12-2, including a 7-1 win over Tampa Bay on Sunday.

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**ND SOFTBALL**

**ND to play first home game**

By DAN MURPHY

Notre Dame plays its first game of the year at Ivy Field tonight.

After going 9-12 against stiff competition over the past four weeks, the Irish take on IUPUI in a first-timer-up before starting conference play this weekend.

The Irish got off to a very slow start this year, losing their first 11 contests. However, IUPUI worked out the kinks last weekend at the Rebel Games in Kissimmee, Fla., and went 5-1 in the tournament. The turnaround included a 10-0 rout against Army and a thrilling come-from-behind 6-5 win over Fairleigh Dickinson in extra innings.

Sophomore pitcher Brenna Howell, who will most likely start for the Jayhawks, picked up the win in both contests. Howell leads the team with a 4-3 record and an ERA of 4.03. The only other IUPUI pitcher to pick up a win on the season is senior Angelica Espinosa.

The Jaguars have made just one trip to Notre Dame in the program's history in 1999 — IUPUI came away with a 2-1 victory in nine innings.

This around the Irish are a big challenge to pick up wins late in close games. Notre Dame is 3-1 in one-run games, with all three of those wins coming in walk-off fashion.

The Irish bats have struggled recently scoring only four runs in the past five games including

**Irish junior Sarah Smith slides into home against Purdue April 26, 2006 at Ivy Field.**

outshouts to Pacifice, No. 8 Texas and No. 2 Arizona State. The IUPUI pitching staff should help the Notre Dame hitters get back on track after facing powerhouses from some of the top programs in the country.

The Irish have been without their leading hitter, senior outfielder Stephanie Brown, during the five-game slump. Brown was injured during practice when a ground ball took a bad hop and caught her just below the nose.

In the 10th inning, she was hit 440 with 15 runs scored from the leadoff position.

Since Brown went down, Notre Dame has turned to its pitching staff to try to bail the team out. Sophomore hurler Brittany Bargar currently leads the team with a 2.77 ERA, but her record has dropped to 6-7 with tough losses to the Sun Devils, Longhorns and No. 16 Louisiana-Lafayette all in the past month.

Bargar will look to get back to the .500 mark with a win over the Jaguars tonight.

Tonight's game is the first of five that Notre Dame will play this weekend at home. The Irish have doubleheaders scheduled against St. John's Saturday and Seton Hall Sunday. Saturday's matchup will mark the beginning of Big East play as Notre Dame attempts to defend its 2006 conference championship.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

**Brazos**

**continued from page 28**

that gets you fired up," Pollock said. "Hitting is contagious."

"If you're in the game, you're in the game," Okrasko said. "You're always going to be in it."

"I don't think you expect anything to come easy," Okrasko said. "You've got to work hard — you win a lot of games with hard work."

"Just have a good attitude and work hard," Okrasko said. "If you do that, you're going to be successful."

"I think we've got a guy who's a great leader, and he's got one of the best guys on the team."

"I think our guys did a great job of relaxing and getting ready before the game."

"We kept battling. We didn't put up runs in just one inning, so that always keeps you in the game," he said. "And I think that carried over toward defense too — a game like [Western Michigan] keeps everybody on their toes and ready for the next pitch."

"We started the winning with a no-run ninth-inning," Schrage said. "The team hopes to stay strong from behind the plate and turn up defensively as it prepares for its weekend series against South Florida. The Irish will look for strong showings from Lilly and Pollock again as they face tougher competition from the mound."

"Highly unlikely the Irish pass as hot and anybody that will do that will continue," Schrage said.

Contact Deirdre Okrasko at dkstrasu@nd.edu

**WOMEN'S LACROSSE**

**Irish jump out to early lead, cruise to 16-9 win over OSU**

By MICHAEL BRYAN

After several straight games of overcoming an early deficit, the Irish finally got the start they were looking for Wednesday, jumping out to a 9-1 lead and beating Ohio State 16-9 at the Loftus Center.

A motivated Irish squad set the tempo from the beginning of the game, putting constant pressure on the Buckeyes both offensively and defensively. Moving effortlessly through the Ohio State defense, Notre Dame scored five quick goals in the first 12 minutes to take a commanding 9-1 lead.

Irish coach Tracy Coyne said she was impressed with the play from the team.

"We really wanted to get out to a fast start, and showed a lot of intensity turning fast breaks and turnovers into goals," she said.

The Buckeyes finally got on the board with a wrist shot by senior Megan McKee and senior Lena Zenegraf also netted three goals apiece in the victory.

"It was a total team effort," Coyne said. "We did everything we can to improve every game, so when the time comes we'll be a selfless team.""Shut led the Buckeyes with three goals, and six different Ohio State players netted one goal on the game.

The Irish dominated possession offensively and defensively, out-shoot the Buckeyes 33-14.

The match — the first at home for the Irish in almost a year — was set off by a win from Missouri Krause Stadium in the Lofts Center earlier in the week due to weather concerns.

Schrage said for the Irish is a Big East matchup with Loyola in Baltimore. The Greyhounds defeated this season, they have a 1-5 record after losing to Princeton Wednesday.

The match is the Big East opener for Loyola, while the Irish take on the Buckeyes after a loss to Syracuse Sunday.

Irish improved to 6-2 on the season with the win, while Ohio State dropped to 3-2.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan6@nd.edu

**Broncos**

**continued from page 28**

Cycling through two pitchers in one inning happened often during the offense-focused game. Sophomore left-hander Sam Elam started the game for the Irish.

The Jaguars got off to a very slow start this year, losing their first 11 contests. However, IUPUI worked out the kinks last weekend at the Rebel Games in Kissimmee, Fla., and went 5-1 in the tournament. The turnaround included a 10-0 rout against Army and a thrilling come-from-behind 6-5 win over Fairleigh Dickinson in extra innings.

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Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu
Regional. Former Irish standout Alicia Kryczko won the women's foil competition and then-sophomore Patrick Ghattas collected the men's sabre crown. Two weeks ago, two new Notre Dame fencers - freshman epeeist Kelley Hurley and sophomore foilist Adi Nott - captured titles in the regional competition at the Joyce Center. "I know there's going to be a lot of different competitors," Nott said, comparing her expectations of this weekend's event to the Midwest Regional. "I want to fence better than I have this year!"

Ghattas, now a senior and three-time All-American, will compete at the NCAAs after a third-place finish in the Regional March 10. Ghattas has finished second at Nationals two years in a row. The competition begins today with round-robin competition on the men's side. Further men's rounds and direct elimination follow on Friday. The women start freshman epeeist Jakub Jedrkowiak's first competition on Sunday, when the NCAA awards one national championship for a team's combined men's and women's performances. Notre Dame finished fourth in 2006. Irish senior Valerie Providenza will look to become the first Notre Dame woman's sabreist ever to earn All-American status four straight seasons. She won the individual crown as a freshman before finishing fourth in 2005 and ninth in 2006. Providence will be joined in her weapons by sophomore Ashley Serrette, who is making a home-coming of sorts. The sophomore native of Orange, N.J., earned a bid in the NCAAs with a sixth-place finish at the regional competition. Ohio State had three fencers in the top five, but NCAA rules limit teams to two entries in each weapon per gender.

This weekend's competition will be the first NCAA Championship action for five of Notre Dame's 11 fencers. Serrette, Hurley, junior epeeist Greg Howard and sophomore foilist Emily Prot and sophomore sabreist Bill Thanhauser will be making their championship debuts.

Hurley, who has dropped only four bouts all season, represents Notre Dame's best chance at a victory from the first-timers.

Among the returning competitors, Nott finished sixth in the NCAAs as a freshman, while junior foilist Jakub Jedrkowiak placed seventh in 2005 and eighth in 2006. Last season, sophomore epeeist Kari Kostka and sophomore foilist Mark Kubik finished 18th and 21st, respectively.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler@nd.edu

**Wisconsin** continued from page 28

day. It'll be (No. 4 seniors) Christian and Katrina Thompson, and after that we still don't know," Louderback said. "Katie Potts will step into the doubles ... but we don't know the combinations yet."

Louderback said Tefft, Potts and freshmen Cosmina Ciobanu and Kali Krisik would be in the doubles mix.

No. 19 Catrina Thompson will lead the Irish out of the No. 1 singles slot. She has a 13-3 dual-match record and has won her last four, including a 6-0, 6-3 win Saturday over No. 31 Blakeley Griffith of Tennessee.

Catrina Thompson will take the No. 2 slot and try to rebound after dropping all three of her matches last week.

The other nationally ranked singles player for Notre Dame is No. 62 Ciobanu, who has a perfect 16-0 dual-match record out of the No. 3 slot. Ciobanu slid 31 spots from the last set of rankings, but Louderback said that is to be expected with the automated nature of the computer rankings.

The problem is if you aren't playing No. 1 or No. 2, you can drop fast because you don't get points for playing there," he said. "Now, they went to the computer two weeks earlier than normal, so the rankings, especially the team will be adjusting a lot each week. Florida jumped ahead of us and we're tied with Stanford and I think the top four in the team rankings have really separat- ed themselves."

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

**Irish** in the NCAAs

**WOMAN**

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**MEN**

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Irish freshman Cosmina Ciobanu takes a shot Feb. 16 against North Carolina at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.
Coming into spring we all know the expectations on the field as well as off the field," he said. "There's not any hidden secrets about the responsibility we're going to have to take on, there's not any secrets period."

But then there's the question of to whom the new quarterback will be throwing.

Weis said rising junior David Grimes, the No. 3 wideout last fall, would be the top receiver to start the spring. Grimes, a 6-foot, 174-pound speedster, underwent an undisclosed surgery after the Sugar Bowl in January.

"A couple days before spring break, when I said, 'If I don't see him go full-speed, he's not going on spring break,' he ran around great," Weis said with a laugh. "So from what I saw right before spring break, I have very high expectations.

Weis said he talked to Grimes about successful wideouts in the NFL whose heights were shorter than the prototypical receiver frame, including former New York Jet Wayne Chrebet and current New England Patriot Troy Brown.

"I've talked to him about a bunch of guys that I've coached in the past that have not been the biggest in stature that have been very, very, very productive and productive as in the lead roles," Weis said.

But after Grimes, even more questions remain.

"But I think my skills and my talents definitely bring something to the table," Frazer said. "The competition's going to get tough but I'm working towards trying to get one of those two spots."

Jones said the competition is open both in terms of information and candidates.

"But all four are wet behind the ears. In fact, with Chase Anastasio deciding against applying for a fifth year, only two Irish wideouts, other than Grimes, have logged even a single catch in college. West caught two balls as a freshman, and Parrish hauled in one. Hord returned seven kickoffs as a freshman but never saw the ball on offense.

In the backfield, early-enrollee Armando Allen will battle with rising sophomores James Aldridge and Munir Prince and multi-faceted fifth-year senior Travis Thomas.

Weis said Thomas, who played outside linebacker in 2006, likely would battle for the two open spots if recognizing his strength in the center. Aldridge carried 37 times for 149 yards, while Prince had 34 yards on 15 attempts.

On the offensive line, Weis said rising sophomores Dan Wenger, Eric Olsen and Matt Carufo likely would battle for the two open spots at offensive guard, while rising sophomores Bartley Webb, Travis Thomas, and rising junior Mike Turkovich and Paul Duncan will fight for the open left tackle position.

On the other side of the ball, the new defensive coordinator Corwin Brown will install the 3-4. Personnel will be switching positions.

"I don't think that's what good teams do," Weis said.

To accommodate the switch to a 3-4 from a 4-3, some Irish personnel will be switching positions. Rising sophomore Chris Stewart will join the defensive line this season after spending his freshman campaign at left guard, but Weis left open the possibility that Stewart could return to the offense.

Weis said overall the switch in defenses will benefit both the players he has now and any recruits looking to come to Notre Dame because the outside linebacker slots on the 3-4 accommodate players who are too small to be defensive lineman, but too slow to play linebacker in a 4-3 set.

"This gives you a lot more flexibility because now, both those guys, both the guys on the outside are capable of being either a defensive end or a linebacker on every play," Weis said. "And this way the defense and the offense really never knows which one is which: Is this guy a defensive end or a linebacker in this play or is he a defensive end on this play? By natural view of that, it causes confusion."
The Observer apologizes for the absence of Kaleidoscope McDaniels.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Designer for Jackie 33 Building, part of Rockefeller Center
2 When one might have a late lunch 34 Hobo's cause
3 One-sixth of an inch 35 Suffix with ballad
5 Indian palace 41 Upbeat
6 Long periods 42 Admit
7 Web listings for an old western? 43 Colloquialism
8 Web sites for a supermarket? 46 Part ownership in a bar?
26 Pain 51 Spanish word
28 Ingredient in a chemical bond 52 Expunged
29 Farm enclosure 54 Comment on a newspaper story
30 Side in an annual all-star game 56 Comment on a television show
31 Kaleidoscope McDaniels, e.g. 57 Physicians' group
32 Farm enclosure 58 Reaction
33 Building, part of Rockefeller Center
34 Hobo's cause
35 Suffix with ballad
36 Colloquialism
37 Syrian leader
38 Farm enclosure
39 Strips between strips
40 Lust ruffles?
41 Upbeat
42 Admit
43 Colloquialism
44 Part ownership in a bar?
45 Bush White House dog
46 Part ownership in a bar?
47 Like some chemical bonds
48 Expunged
49 Comment on a woman from Copenhagen?
50 Strip between strips
51 Spanish word
52 Expunged
53 Colloquialism
54 Comment on a newspaper story
55 Suffix with ballad
60 Lust ruffles?
61 Ingredient in a chemical bond
62 Admit
63 Syrian leader
64 Days of

DOWN
1 Kind of column 5 A fabulous idea along with some good suggestions from influential associates
2 Teller of stories 6 A fabulous idea along with some good suggestions from influential associates
3 Unbleached Fr. 7 A fabulous idea along with some good suggestions from influential associates
4 Escanor for one 8 A fabulous idea along with some good suggestions from influential associates
5 Dutch beer 9 A fabulous idea along with some good suggestions from influential associates
6 A Friday magazine 10 A fabulous idea along with some good suggestions from influential associates
7 A Friday magazine 12 Good cheer
8 A Friday magazine 13 Good cheer
9 A Friday magazine 14 Good cheer
10 A Friday magazine 15 Good cheer
11 "Sesame Street" regular 16 Good cheer
12 Speedy sharks 17 Good cheer
13 Part of 57 Down: Abbrev. 18 Good cheer
14 Ton of bricks, e.g. 19 Good cheer
15 So-far writer 20 Good cheer
16 The Green Hornet's valet 21 Good cheer
17 Tiny critter 22 Good cheer
18 Book after Daniel 23 Good cheer
19 Farm enclosure 24 Good cheer
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25 Farm enclosure 30 Good cheer

CROSSWORD WILL SHORTZ.

KALEIDOSCOPE McDaniels

LIA MORAN

The Observer apologizes for the absence of Kaleidoscope McDaniels.

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLED WORD GAME BY HENRI ARNOLD & MIKE ARGIRION

KOHKE

KETOS

MISTUR

HERVEN

ERPHIC

The Observer apologizes for the absence of Kaleidoscope McDaniels.

Horoscope

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Matthew Broderick, 45; Rosie O’Donnell, 45; Gay Griffin, 46; Tony Danza, 60

Happy Birthday: It’s time to juggle what you want and what you can’t help. You have to juggle and juggle and juggle. Let’s make your heartache and strife a humanist. Someone you respect and prepare for the future. This year, don’t go out on a limb, but rather, set the standard and all the more. You matineecize 2, 7, 18, 33, 39, 49

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Don’t let money worries cause you enough worry. Buckle down and set a budget. An opportunity to start something new or learn a new skill that will help you get on the career path you want to take. 2 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Love, romance and doing things the help others should all be told to your schedule today. Take as an extension your love and passion. Don’t let an older individual your friend feel restricted on your 3 years. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Show the inner child this summer, but let your plans not be too obvious. Make sure they are visible before you move. Someone who wants to play with you might think you can make unrealistic gains. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22). You are thinking clearly but is what you are thinking about this day, a little off course. Where your efforts are professional or educational pursuit. In appearance someone has caught your eye — think with your heart, not your brain. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Rare for you to be in mood to send someone away; you’re probably having your own weaving and dealing. You may want to enjoy the moment that feels so wondrous but, if you aren’t part of the game, your 15 minutes of fame won’t be all that satisfying 2 years.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You’re getting it together today, especially if you network and put yourself in a position to make gains or earn something valuable. You have luck and your career is moving ahead. Aim for financial gain and developing partnerships 5 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22). A fabulous idea along with some good suggestions from influential associates will make your day. Do everything in your power to get things happening but don’t give in to your own money. Thats a winner partner of yours. 5 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21). Don’t miss out on an opportunity to partner with someone or spend time with the one you love. You have too much to gain and you’re eager to seize your horizons and move forward in a positive manner. Changes at home will be good. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Make a effort to do something nice for someone you love. You don’t have to impress or impress just to surprise. Someone will call your bluff and your new mate will be 2 years

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Make the changes at home that will raise your comfort level and help you find more ease with your checklist. Someone you are close to will have a good suggestion regarding an emotional situation you are facing 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Be careful out it to all your emotional get the better of you. You will be giving into the push of the battle and putting blame where it doesn’t belong. You’re going to be back and answer you may be part of the problem. 2 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20). You are more aware regarding what you know and what work part. Keep things simple and you will find that the scene you are looking for. Don’t run to the back for it and you can expect some of the balance of life and it happens in the past 4 years. Birthday Note: You are sensitive to the words of others and what someone does or says isn’t negative. You are quick to make action and open to suggestions but not likely to pass them in an awkward position.

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

THE OBSERVER

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s Community.

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FENCING
ND travels to Jersey for NCAA meet
By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame may not be the favorite, but the Irish plan on riling some sabres starting today as the Four-day NCAA Fencing Championships kicks off at Drew University in Madison, N.J.

Columbia, Penn State and St. John's are the favorites, each qualifying the maximum 12 fencers for the event. But Ohio State and Notre Dame, two perennial powers who failed to qualify a full squad, have shown an ability to overcome a numbers disadvantage in the past.

Last season the Buckeyes qualified just nine fencers yet finished third with 155 points — only 10 behind champion Harvard. For the Irish, Notre Dame's 2005 championship marked the only time a squad ever captured the title without a full allotment of fencers.

"I think we have a shot," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said of his team's chances this weekend.

"And he has empirical evidence on his side. Like they did two seasons ago on route to a national championship, the Irish qualified 11 fencers for this year's NCAA Championships.

But the similarities don't stop there. In 2005, Notre Dame captured two titles at the NCAA Midwest Regional.

FOOTBALL
Weis says expectations still high as young squad starts practices
By CHRIS HINE and KEN FOWLER
Sports Writers

Tradition never graduates, but experience does.

A year after posting a banner that read: "9-3 is not good enough," Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis said Wednesday he picked a theme — "Tradition never graduates" — for spring practices that would eliminate any low expectations as the team replaces seven offensive and transitions to a new defensive scheme.

Weis' comments came at the team's news conference to usher a numbers disadvantage.

"Our identity on offense is going to be more personnel-related than it is traditionally because we changed people," Weis said. "There's been a great influx of new people coming in, so now, for example, let's say your runner is a different type of runner than Darius [Walker]. Well, you know, that might change what you do offensively as far as the run game goes."

With the Irish losing four-year starter quarterback Brady Quinn in the start of spring ball, Notre Dame will field its 15 spring practices Wednesday at the Loftus Center.

The Irish enter the spring needing to fill the top of the depth chart on an offensive unit that led Notre Dame to a 10-3 record and a Sugar Bowl appearance last season.

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