Jump in the polls apparentlyGrand Rapids, Mich.

were — to streamline

of electronic research software

and a multi-game pass for $10.

for students as it did in 2004.

That would be something

you'd have to do on your own," associate athletic director John

He said of a subsidy for

student tickets. "We can do

whatever we want, but for the
tickets that we receive from

the NCAA, there's only one
price. It's not like they provide

a routine student discount." Nonetheless, Ticket Office
director Josh Berbo said Notre Dame had sold 129 three-day passes to students for this year's action after selling 115 such passes in 2004. As a whole, the Notre Dame ticket office has sold approximately 265 three-game passes at $65 apiece for this weekend's events, said Matt McCormack, coordinator of athletic
promotions. But for sophomore Anna
Jones, the cost was too steep. Jones, who attended the

team's conference playoff games and often lined up nearly

two hours before Irish hockey

events, said she immediately decided against going when she saw the dollar

figure for the tickets. She said

more than 375 students, fac-

culty and staff members and

South Bend residents will get

ready, set and run Sunday at 10

a.m. In the third-annual Holy

Half Marathon, a 13.1-mile

race around the Notre Dame

campus to benefit charitable

organizations.

Holy Half director Kathleen
Coveck, a junior, said the race
raised more than $6,000 last
year to benefit Catholic Charities — a figure organizers hope to surpass this weekend.

Sponsored by the Class of

2009, Notre Dame Women's

Running Club, the race will col-

lect money to benefit Hurricane Katrina victims in Louisiana through Operation Helping Hands, a volunteer program under the umbrella of Catholic

Charities. Jen Richard, president of the

Women's Running Club, said the

race promised to be a good
time and for a good cause.

"The Holy Half is a fun, well-

organized race," Richard said.

The Holy Half Marathon organizing committee does an amazing job, and they deserve a lot of credit." Holy Half organizers said Operation Helping Hands' dedi-
cation to the continued relief of the Greater New Orleans area devastated by Hurricane Katrina made the charity an ideal destination for the race's funds.

The program organizes a

large volunteer corps of several

10-15 person groups who travel to Louisiana to volunteer their
time and labor for different
time periods, ranging from a

Research office updates software, bookkeeping

By KATILYNN RIELY
Assistant News Editor

The Office of Research recently introduced two new initiatives — a change to the business process and the implementation of a new type of electronic research software — to streamline research procedures at Notre Dame.

For faculty researchers like chemical and biomolecular engineering professor Edward Maginn, these new systems will make filing research pro-

posals and tracking grants much easier.

A new business system

Under the new business sys-

tem, which the Office of

Research started in December, Maginn has three research administrators assigned to his proposals — a pre-award research administrator, a post-award administrator and a research accountant.

This new team is helpful because the management and tracking of a research project can be a time-consuming process, Maginn said. The fed-\n
eral government requires that research proposals go through Grants.gov. "a really com-

plexified software interface," Maginn said.

Just figuring out how to turn in the proposal can take sev-

eral hours, he said.

"It isn't for a lot of expertise," Maginn said. "The nice

sees RESEARCH/page 6

Bruton discusses US-EU relations

Ambassador speaks on peacekeeping, economy in Europe, America

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

There wasn't an empty seat Thursday in the Jordan Auditorium as students and faculty members packed in to hear European Union (EU) Ambassador to the U.S. John Bruton deliver the lecture "The Future of Economic and Political Relations between the European Union and the United States:"

The lesson and Q&A session explored the nature of the European Union as it was an analyst of current political problems facing Europe and America.

Bruton, formerly the youngest

see RESEARCH/page 6

NDSP promotes Johnson

21-year veteran officer replaces Rex Rakow

By KEN FOWLER
News Writer

It's a promotion that comes with the heaviest of hearts.

Two weeks after the death of Notre Dame Security/Policing (NDSP) director Rex Rakow, longtime friend and current associate director of NDSP, Phil Johnson, was named Rakow's successor Thursday.

"I'm very humbled and hon-

ored by the appointment," Johnson said. "I think that Rex worked very hard through the years to form a wonderful group of people — a group of people I'm honored to lead. ... This department has had great leader-

ship, and I've been lucky to be part of a great leadership team for many years."

Johnson assumed Rakow's day-to-day responsibilities as head of the department when the former director became too sick to work and went on leave in January. Rakow battled cancer for 18 months before his death March 7.

Johnson joined NDSP as an assistant director in 1986 and was promoted to associate direc-

tor in 2005. Before coming to Notre Dame, Johnson served as director of security at Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., and director of Campus Safety at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Mich. He said his years at Carleton and Aquinas were "formative," though his 23 years

see NDSP/page 4

see HOCKEY/page 4

see MARATHON/page 4

see RESEARCH/page 6

see EU/page 4

see see MARATHON/page 4
By now, if you’re an undergraduate at Notre Dame and don’t live in a dorm (or perhaps Carroll Hall, undoubtedly you’ve seen an episode of “Grey’s Anatomy,” the worst show on television. There are several reasons for hating this medical drama, but for brevity’s sake, I’ll start with the main reason I despise this show: George. (T.R. Knight) is a simpering, false-liking wimp who spends much of his time groaning and lamenting to Death Cab for Cutie and lamenting how hard his life is. Despite having lived with multiple attractive women throughout the course of the show, George has neither the guts nor the inane plot lines. On one episode, a bomb. In. His. Stomach. If only we would be so lucky.

The second reason I hate “Grey’s Anatomy” is Dr. Meredith Grey herself, quite possibly the most annoying character of all time. In fact, when I heard the owls that Grey had possibly died, I rejoiced. No more pretentious emo monologues about the meaning of life. No more whiny soliloquies about the pain of unrequited love with “McDreamy,” and no more on-again-off-again romance with “McDreamy,” a.k.a. Dr. Shepherd. Finally, there’s Dr. Yang (Sandra Oh), who manages to irk me almost as much as George does through her neurotic, self-important state of perpetual PMS. As a result, she is absolutely abysmal, hence Yang exists on the show only to detract from Dr. Burke (the homophonic Isaiah Washington) and to ennoble the audience.

In addition, “Grey’s Anatomy” never fails to deliver with the most ridiculous and innane plot lines. On one episode, a man is suspected of being pregnant before delivering a tumor baby. That’s right, a tumor baby. As in a baby-shaped baby. Take your pick. Then in another shining moment, two patients found themselves transfixed by a steel needle. It’s about time.

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, maintain that we will make mistakes. If you have made a mistake, please contact us at 617-491-4411 so we can correct our error.
InFocus conference opens up

Conference caters to entire student body, highlights Asian culture

BY ROHAN ANAND
News Writer

The Asian American Association (AAA) is hoping it has found a signature event that will cross ethnic lines as it hosts the three-day InFocus conference this weekend.

One indication promising the potential success of the conference is its original theme, "mosaic," which will explore how people with different personalities "fit into communities at large," said junior Ashley Chan, a member of the conference's organizational team.

"We're hoping to bring together not only the Asian community but the entire campus to see how we all fit into the big picture," she said. "If you see America as a mosaic, we're many different people with different personalities."

AAA president Vince Niou was optimistic about the weekend, predicting the conference will put a positive spotlight on diversity issues at Notre Dame.

"If we cater the conference just for minority students, it adds to the stigma that we're just here for the benefit of minorities," said Niou, a senior. "Our main goal is to provide events and activities for the entire student body to enjoy as a whole."

Elliott Chang, a stand-up comedian from Comedy Central, will lead a workshop titled "Asians in the Media" in the Hesburgh Auditorium of the Hesburgh Library today to kick off the conference.

"He fits in well with the vision of our conference," Chan said. "His passion for comedy has influenced the Asian culture and vice versa, so his example shows how both societies benefit one another."

A mix of cultural presentations and lectures Saturday will cater to almost all interests and tastes, with speakers ranging from a professional chef and a plastic surgeon to a taekwondo instructor.

During the first session, from 10:40 a.m. until lunchtime, Kim Lim, a chef at Penang Malaysian Restaurant in Chicago, will be hosting a cooking session titled "The Fusion of Asian and American Cuisines."

Simultaneously, Jacqueline Schmidt, a 2001 Notre Dame graduate, will be presenting a lecture called "Hapa." She will speak about being half-Asian and the hardships of trying to uphold her heritage between two worlds.

Lunchtime will bring a cultural fair presented by the Chinese Cultural Society, The Japan Club, and the Vietnamese, Indian Filipino, and Korean Students Associations. Ethnic foods and lectures will be served to participants.

"It will really highlight the uniqueness of the smaller cultural groups of Asian descent," said junior Kathy Lee, another conference organizer.

The day will conclude with a presentation from Jesse Hsieh, a physician and president of the South Bend Clinic, and a Martial Arts demonstration by Max Hong, an instructor of taekwondo.

Additionally, guest speaker Josephine Doh will fly in from New York to speak about Asian fashion in the business culture and her experiences running a company that outsources projects for Victoria's Secret and Calvin Klein.

All of the conference's sessions highlight popular fields of interest about Asian culture in connection with the Asian-American community's desire to blend in American society.

"Americans love Asian food and self-defense for all," Chan said. "But by and large — we can see that there is still a huge complex in trying to fit in."

At midnight, the Indian Students Association will be hosting a Bhangra Bash at Legends, celebrating Indian dance and music.

"We're really stretching to recognize all of the demographics on campus and bridge the gaps between them," Lee said. "And we're hoping that through the use of pop culture, we're going to achieve that end and attract more participants."

Besides the AAA, other major sponsors of InFocus include Multicultural Student Programs and Services, the International Student Services Association and the Student Activities Office.

Contact Rohan Anand at ranand@nd.edu

Midnight Madness offers prizes for all

BY AMANDA SHROPSHIRE
News Writer

With the slogan "Take it to the Limit," Saint Mary's students will unwind at the Angela Athletic Facility tonight and let the free food, contests and prizes of the eighth annual Midnight Madness take over for four hours of spirited games.

In an office filled with the balloons and prizes for tonight's event, Athletic Director Lynn Kachmarik said she came up with the idea to offer students a way to celebrate school spirit at Saint Mary's.

"We are really fortunate because not only students but the administration love and support this event and do everything possible to keep it going," Kachmarik said.

The event's popularity at the College has spread in recent years with three-figure cash prizes, vouchers for free restaurant dinners and a trip to Chicago up for grabs.

But students told this year's organizational committee that they felt they did not always have a chance to win prizes, prize committee co-chair Julie DeMaio said Monday.

With more donations, however, from the community and campus groups — including the Board of Governance, Sodexo Food Services and the department of Information Technology — and local businesses and faculty members, more than 200 students in each class will be eligible to win prizes, Kachmarik said.

"I would go out on a limb and say that everybody that wants to participate in an event is going to be able to and will walk away with some kind of prize, and that is probably the biggest change we've had," she said.

Besides more prizes, students at Angela tonight should expect participation by the alumni board, entertainment from Chicago City Limits improvisational comedy group and the presentation of popular communication professor John Pasley as this year's master of ceremonies.

The event will carry on the tradition of color-coded class T-shirts, a tug of war, obstacle courses, relays and musical chairs — but it will also incorporate less traditional games, including rounds of "Fear Factor" challenges and a big surprise for those who stay all night, Kachmarik said.

"I want it to be about Saint Mary's and I would say for the majority of women that come, that is what it is about," Kachmarik said.

Contact Amanda Shropshire at ashrop01@saintmarys.edu

Renting fast - call today for 2007 - 2008
Handful of days to several weeks, the Catholic Charities Weekly.

Volunteers help some of the 20,000 homeless in the area with practical help to rebuild their lives by reconstructing some of the 200,000 homes destroyed by Katrina.

And while the prospect of contributing to disaster relief via the race’s appeal to many runners, other participants find the charitable cause daunting.

Sophomore Denise Pineda purchased the $65 price tag was too much, said. “For a runner enthusiastic like myself, the $65 price tag was too much, I was on a sugar rush,” Pineda said. “I love to run and thought it would be fun.”

Freshman runner, friend, sophomore Tommy Osberger, will continue to run the half-marathon.

Freshman runner Meghan Shaughnessy said she signed up for the Holy Half because she loves to run and thought it would be an enjoyable experience, her friend, a fellow runner Saturday.

“I wanted to do it with her, so I thought it would be something fun we could do together,” Shaughnessy said. “And I also ran in high school and have missed that, so I thought this would be a good chance to get involved with that stuff again.” Shaughnessy said she has been training for the marathon for approximately two months.

The 13.1 mile course will take the sister of the Holy Half participants up Lake Street, crossing the line located behind South Dining Hall, outside McGlinn Hall.

The running path will loop around from the main Gate down Edison Road, up the newly reconstructed Taylor Ferner-Hannah Hammes-Mossybrooke Hall, organizers said.

Runners will then conclude the half-marathon jog around the campus from Joseph’s and Saint Mary’s Lakes.

In preparation for the race Saturday, the Holy Half Force will host a mass Saturday evening at Dillon Hall, followed by a chili-and-loading pasta dinner in the Coleman-Morse Lodge for participants.

Though 375 runners have already signed up, there is still room for more participants, Richard said.

Students who have already registered but are not interested in running the Holy Half marathon who have not registered may do so between 8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. Saturday at the Holy Half registration table.

The entry fee is $15, and checks can be made payable to the Class of 2008, organizers said.

If the desire to help Katrina victims, get in shape, or have a good time is not enough motivation to sign up, Richard said maybe the free t-shirt all registered participants will receive may encourage more students to join the Holy Half effort.

Contact Katie Peralta at kperalta@nd.edu

The $65 price tag was too much, especially since a second Notre Dame game isn’t guaranteed.

At that price, some won’t be contributing toward the cost of student tickets, it will provide transportation and food for students as it did three years ago.

Freshman runner, friend, sophomore Tommy Osberger, will continue to run the half-marathon.

As for how we started running, the $65 price tag was too much, Pineda said. “I love to run and thought it would be fun.”

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Contact Katie Peralta at kperalta@nd.edu
**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

Three arrested in London bombings

LONDON — Counter-terrorist police arrested three men Thursday in the 2004 suicide attacks on the London transit system, the first major arrests in the investigation in months. Two of the suspects were detained as they prepared to board a flight to Pakistan.

The third man was arrested in Leeds — the northern city that was home to three of the four bombers. Police also raided five properties in the city — at least one on the same street where one of the bombers lived.

"Anybody who imagined that this had simply been a passing phase of lone packs of wolves on July 7, 2005 is very wrong," Lord Carri, the government's independent reviewer of terror laws, told the British Broadcasting Corp. "There is a lot of work going on."

Archbishop urges Zimbabwe protest

HARARE, Zimbabwe — An outspoken Catholic archbishop urged Zimbabweans to fill the streets to protest a state-orchestrated violence, saying Thursday he was willing to lead a campaign of peaceful resistance to force President Robert Mugabe out of office.

Mugabe's opponents reported that a hospitalised activist had died of injuries suffered when police fired tear gas, live ammunition and water cannons to stop a March 11 prayer meeting protesting the violence. Police did not confirm the death of Rat Manikey, who would be the second activist to die as a result of violence. Gift Taxadi, 31, was fatally shot as the meeting was dispersed.

**NATIONAL NEWS**

House postpones vote on DC seat

WASHINGTON — The House easily defeated a bill to grant District of Columbia a full vote in the U.S. House stalled Thursday when Republicans unexpectedly injected the volatile issue of gun control.

Apparently fearful they might lose control of the proceedings, Democrats decided to put off action indefinitely on the voting rights measure, which had appeared to be moving toward passage.

Republican leaders pointed the way and sought a quorum to try to remove the all-District of Columbia city from hands on gun control.

Democrats and Republicans "shamefully exploited a rule to kill debate and postpone the vote indefinitely," said Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio.

Senate defeats Medicare measure

WASHINGTON — The Senate easily defeat ed conservative Republicans' efforts to curb the Medicare program's spiraling growth as debate over the nation's health care system for senior citizens hit the slowdown schedule Thursday.

Ban's first visit to Baghdad marred by insurgent attack near Green Zone

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The U.N. chief ducked, as if to find shelter behind the red and white flowers on the podium he narrowed his eyes, and looked away.

Beside him, Iraq's usually dour prime minister didn't even flinch, and managed a slight smile at the startling welcome to Baghdad for U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The U.N. leader was standing next to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki when a Katyusha rocket exploded about 50 yards from the building in the capital's high-security Green Zone where they were answering questions from reporters.

Al-Maliki hardly blinked, but Ban — seemingly less accustomed to the terrors of war — quickly crouched, and appeared shaken. The blast carried a missile after al-Maliki said Ban's visit showed Baghdad was "on the road to stability."

The rocket was fired from a mainly Shiite area on the east bank of the Tigris River, not far from Associated Press office. The heavily guarded Green Zone on the other side of the river is home to the U.S. Embassy, Iraq's government and the parliament.

Ban's unannounced stop in the Iraqi capital was the first visit by a U.N. secre­tary-general since Kofi Annan, who had come to Baghdad in November 2005. The U.N. Security Council issued a statement strongly con­demning the rocket attack as an "abhorrent terrorist attack."

The U.N. presence in Iraq has been much smaller than before when it planted a bomb in the organiza­tion's Baghdad headquarters on Aug. 19, 2003, and killed 22 people, including the top U.N. envoy, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

That was one of the first major attacks as Sunni insurgents began ral­lying against American forces and other foreign troops after the U.S.-led invasion. Foreign U.N. staff withdrew from Iraq in October 2002 after a second assault on its offices and other attacks on humanitarian workers. A small staff has gradually been allowed to return since August 2004.

Iraq's Shiite-dominated government has been quiet­ly pushing for a greater U.S. role and was banking on decreased violence in the capital to show that it was returning to normal six weeks into a joint security crackdown with American forces.

"We consider it a positive message to [the] world in which you confirm that Baghdad has returned to playing host to important world figures because it has made huge strides on the road toward stability," al-Maliki told Ban moments before the rocket attack.

Ban's presence was broadcast after he arrived, but the trip had been kept so secret even his spokeswoman didn't know he was in Iraq. His public schedule had called for Ban to leave New York on Thursday for a trip to Egypt, Israel and an African Union summit in Saudi Arabia.

The U.S. military announced three Americans died in combat Wednesday — an Army soldier slain in Baghdad and another soldier and a Marine killed in Anbar province. At least 44 Iraqis were killed or found dead Thursday, including 25 bodies dumped in the capital, all showing signs of torture, police said.

Edwards presses on with campaign

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrat John Edwards pressed Thursday that his presidential campaign "goes on strongly" in the face of a repeat cancer diagnosis for his wife, Elizabeth, a somber development that thrust the White House bid into an uncharted territory.

The cancer revealed that Elizabeth Edwards' breast cancer had spread to her bone during a news conference designed to reas­sure the public about the prognosis for her health and her candidacy.

"The bottom line is, her cancer is back," said John Edwards, the 2004 vice presidential nominee and for­mer senator, at a news conference in their hometown of Chapel Hill, N.C. "We are very optimistic about this, because having been through some struggles together in the past, we know that the key is to keep your head up and keep moving and be strong."

The Edwardses suffered through the death of their teenage son, Wade, in 1996 and Mrs. Edwards' breast cancer diagnosis the day after John Kerry and John Edwards lost the 2004 election. She was treated with surgery and several months of radiation and chemotherapy.

The recurrence of the cancer presents a setback for the couple, both personally and politically.

"Getting these results was not a good day for us," John Edwards allowed.

Elizabeth Edwards' illness and treatment are certain to affect her husband's campaign schedule and may raise questions about the vi­ability of his campaign, especially among financial donors wondering whether he will be in for the long haul. The first fundraising deadline is fast approaching on March 31.
Research

continued from page 1

thing about this [new system] is that people with this expertise are being dedicated to that," he said.

Each faculty researcher works with a pre-award administrator, a post-award administrator and a research accountant at different stages in the development of research projects.

The pre-award administrator helps the researcher with the parts of the proposal that do not directly involve the "science." Once the grant is obtained, the post-award administrator takes over and aids the researcher in the administration of the project. The accountant takes charge of managing the money that the researcher obtains from the grant.

Now that the Office of Research assigns administrators to be "partners" with the faculty — rather than overseers of their progress — it is relieving the faculty from much of the burden of handling the administrative aspects of their research projects, Maginn said.

"Any time you can take some of the administrative burden off the faculty and let the faculty do the research part and not have to do the administrative part, you are going to be more productive," he said. "The idea is, if you can make the faculty more productive, they can spend more time with students and doing research and not doing accounting and bookkeeping."

Since the new business system was started, Maginn said he has submitted six proposals for research grants — including three in the past week. And, he said, the process of submitting these last six "definitely" went much faster than before the implementation of the new business system.

New software

The second new initiative is the implementation of a new software program from Infold, a company that makes an integrated software package that can manage the whole research process, Maginn said. The research administrators can use Infold for several steps of the process, Maginn said, to be "partners" with the faculty. These steps include

- tracking the status of all research projects
- receiving alerts when deadlines are approaching
- generating reports on proposal submissions
- managing the financial aspects of the research process

Infold is currently used by leading research universities like Columbia, Northwestern, Duke and UCLA.

"Any time you can take some of the administrative burden off the faculty and let the faculty do the research part and not have to do the administrative part, you are going to be more productive," said Edward Maginn, engineering professor.

The new software is being rolled out to researchers in the College of Engineering, and Maginn said it is working well. He said the software has helped to streamline the process and has made it easier for faculty members to submit proposals and track their progress. Maginn said he expects the new software to be fully operational by June 2008.

These two new initiatives signal a step forward in Notre Dame's ambitious effort to join the ranks of top-tier research institutions, said University President Father John Jenkins, who described the process of selecting a new software program in the fall.

Jenkins told faculty members that Notre Dame has made significant strides in research in the past several years but said the University has the potential to rise much higher in the rankings of top research universities.

Now that the Office of Research operates under this new business model and with the scheduled implementation of new software, Edwards said he is confident that the number of research grant proposals will increase.

Every research administrator in the Office of Research can handle 200 proposals a year, Edwards said, so the office will be able to process up to 1,200 proposals a year between 800 and 900 proposals will be submitted, he said.

"We fully expect that the number of proposals will increase," Edwards said. "We expect the number of awards to increase."

Maginn said the new initiatives streamline the administrative aspects of the research process — an improvement to the infrastructure that is vital for Notre Dame to improve its reputation as a research university.

"The analogy is that if we want to have a good football program, we need to have good facilities for the football team," he said. "If you want to have a great research university, you have to have great research infrastructure. A big part of that is supporting the people who get the grants to pay for the research."

Terri Hall, the associate director of pre-award teams, said since the new business process was started in December, the reaction from faculty members has been "very, very encouraging."

"We did a couple of faculty surveys a year or so ago, and that was one of the things that they pointed out — that the paperwork burden of the proposals took up so much of their time," Hall said.

Now that the Office of Research has assumed a lot of the non-science and scholarly activity of the process, the faculty members can focus more on their research projects — a business process Edwards called "revolutionary."

"From an industry standard this is a very different way of handling proposal submission," he said.

Edwards said he believes this is the best process because it creates a closer relationship between faculty members and research administrators.

"It's a very important relationship," he said. "Researchers need as much support as we can give them."

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu.

The Core Council is seeking new undergraduate student members, regardless of sexual orientation.

Applications are available in the Office of Student Affairs (316 Main Building) or on the Core Council web site http://corecouncil.nd.edu/ Application are due by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23, 2007, and can be submitted to the Office of Student Affairs. Please visit our web site for more information.

The Core Council is seeking new undergraduate student members, regardless of sexual orientation.

Each year, the Sheedy Award, named for a former dean of the College of Arts and Letters, honors one member of the Arts and Letters faculty for outstanding teaching.

Both students and faculty are invited to submit nomination letters for this year's award to:

Stuart Greene
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies
104 O'Shaughnessy Hall

Deadline
Monday, April 9, 2007

Want to write News? Call 631-5323.
**EU backs aviation deal with U.S.**

"Open Skies" deal will open up restricted trans-Atlantic routes March 2008

**In Brief**

Blackstone Group plans to go public

NEW YORK — Blackstone Group LP, one of the world's biggest private equity firms, on Thursday seized seeds to raise up to $4 billion in a highly anticipated initial public offering. The New York-based firm, known for multibillion-dollar takeovers like February's $23 billion buyout of Equity Office Properties, announced in June it is going public in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The firm plans to list on the New York Stock Exchange.

Blackstone — founded in 1985 by former Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. bankers Stephen Schwarzman and Peter Peterson — said the high public offering price is to tap up new sources of capital for buyouts. In addition, it helps extend Blackstone's brand name and gives management a way to profit from the increased value of their stakes.

**Stocks mixed, investors await data**

NEW YORK — Wall Street finished mixed Thursday, nudging the Dow Jones industrials higher for a fourth straight session but moving cautiously as investors awaited new data to assess whether their hopes for an interest rate cut are justified.

A surprise warning that cell phone maker Motorola Inc. will post a loss for the first quarter also made the market uneasy as it looked ahead to earnings reports that begin next month.

Investors seemed uncertain about where to take stocks a day after the Federal Reserve issued an economic assessment interpreted as opening up the possibility of a reduction in short-term rates. The statement unleashed a wave of buying that boosted the Dow 199 points Wednesday, but Thursday's session was erratic, with the Dow wavering in and out of positive territory throughout the day.

Investors remained optimistic about the statement but reinited worries about growth as they took note of climbing energy costs, which made it likely unlike that inflation will cool enough to overcome a rate cut, and as market experts debated whether the Fed's slight change in language truly suggested a shift in policy.

"At the end of the day, I don't think it means a heck of a lot," said Stephen Massocca, president of Compass Financial. "The market received it very, very well, but ultimately the Fed is news-dependent."
The Notre Dame community welcomes our 2007 Early Action Admitted Students Participating in the Reilly Scholars Visitation Weekend!!
Thursday, March 22 – Sunday, March 25, 2007
We are happy that you are visiting us!

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U.S. developer to be fifth space tourist

Associated Press

STAR CITY — Decades before helping to write the programs that led to Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel, Charles Simonyi learned the basics on a clunky, Soviet-era computer called Ural-2.

Next month, the U.S. billion­aire programmer will carry a paper-tape memento from that first computer and put his faith in the heirs to that Soviet-era technology when he blasts into space aboard a Soyuz rocket to become the world’s fifth space tourist.

“I will take one of those paper tapes with me to remind me where it all started,” Simonyi told reporters Thursday at Russia’s Star City cosmonaut preparation center.

Simonyi’s skill at computers and his work in helping to develop the world’s most commonly used word processing and spreadsheet programs earned him enough money to spare more than $20 million to become the world’s fifth “space tourist,” set to blast off early next month.

Simonyi, 58, will travel to the international space station aboard a Soyuz TMA-10 capsule together with Russian cosmonauts Yury Yurchikhin and Oleg Kotov and return to Earth 11 days later with its current crew — Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Tyurin and Spanish-born U.S. astronaut Miguel Lopez­­-Alegria.

U.S. astronaut Suni Williams is expected to remain on board the station until June, when she is replaced by Clayton Anderson.

Since beginning training at Star City in October, Simonyi, like the other “space tourists” before him, has had to learn to walk and breathe in a new space suit, use special gas masks, practice helicopter rescues in case of a water landing, and other tasks.

The hardest thing of all, he said, has been spinning in a high-speed rotating chair to help train against dizziness in space — along with learning some Russian.

Now that he is finished training, he says he is sure the trip will go without a hitch.

“I am nervous about public appearances and press conferences, but I think that about the flight I am not nervous at all,” Charles Simonyi, future space tourist

Seasons in New York,” will take place on April 12, when Russia celebrates Communards Day.

While Simonyi will spend just a few days on the station, the two Russians will spend 190 days in space. Yurchikhin played down the fact that he had never ridden a Soyuz capsule before and that Kotov had never been in space before, saying they were perfectly qualified for the job.

“The answer to that question is very simple — neither Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin, nor German Stepanovich Titov ... nor the others had had any flight experience,” Yurchikhin said referring to the Soviet cosmonauts who were the first humans in space. “But they fulfilled their task wonderfully.”

Interested in space since childhood, Simonyi hopes the trip will help popularize space science among others, especially children. But he also said he is hoping for an unforgettable experience.

“Space is very much on our minds,” he told AP. “You can fly ... the sky is black instead of blue, you can see the globe.”

Be a Cluster Support Consultant

Get paid to help professors and students with computer problems
Jenkins, Senate to be commended

Student government meetings are often a lot of words and little action, but at Wednesday’s session of Student Senate, that was the goal — and it was a positive conversation, not a frustrating imbalance.

University President Father John Jenkins stopped by for a question and answer session with the senators, a visit he first made during last spring’s debate about academic freedom and Catholic character and a practice that hopefully will be repeated many times during his presidency.

The two organizations — the University administration and student government — like to talk about dialogue, but on Wednesday there actually was some, and both sides did their part. Jenkins took time out of his day to meet with senators, but the students also asked tough questions — and the president responded sincerely.

Senators peppered Jenkins with queries ranging from why sexual orientation has not been added to the University’s anti-discrimination policy to why tuition continues to rise. To their credit, the senators were persistent, asking follow-up questions after Jenkins had given his original answer.

And on the president’s side, Jenkins did his best to explain certain policies, clarifying, for instance, that the University does not promote discrimination against homosexuals but is worried about what a blanket statement in its non-discrimination policy would commit it.

Jenkins should not have answered concerns about the cost of tuition by implying that the high salaries many Notre Dame students expect after graduation justify the ever-increasing price tag, but he even managed to recover from that after Morrissey senator Greg Dowjran explained how that attitude discourages graduates from going into community service.

The problem of post-graduation debt needs to be addressed, Jenkins responded — an admission that meant Dowjran effectively made his point without creating antagonism. The administration may or may not take steps to try to reduce debt in the future, but it was important that students brought the issue to Jenkins’ attention in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

That respect is essential, and the openness and candor from the administration and student government is refreshing. If both parties continue to engage in constructive dialogue, the entire campus community will benefit.

The Observer Poll

How far will Notre Dame go in the NCAA Hockey tournament?

Submit a Letter to the Editor or Guest Column to viewpoint.1@nd.edu or online at www.ndsmcobserver.com.

Letters to the Editor should be no more than 350 words in length. Guest Columns should be no longer than 800 words and must include a byline with name, year, and major. All submissions must include the author’s name and contact phone number.

The Reason It’s So Fat Is Because It’s Full of E.U. Subsidies!
Our reputation: a sobering reality

Eight. Four. One. Initially, it seems as if you might have fallen asleep and are dreaming that your math professor is asking you to write out answers to a series of math problems here were that easy.

Unfortunately, that is not the case, and this had dream is actually a nightmare. Eight is the number of students (to the best of my knowledge) who paid their respects to the Emergency Room in a local hospital last semester in one night due to intoxication. Four is the number of times I nearly stepped in vomit on various sidewalks on campus one of times I actually a nightmare.

I recently had two discussions, one with a local health care employee who works in the emergency room where I volunteer on Saturday mornings and one with an alumnum of the university. Like any other student, I was proud to say that I am attending Notre Dame. Unfortunately, while I was expecting the usual congratulations and admiration, what I received may have been likened to disgust and disappointment. I would like to say that I was shocked to learn of our notoriety on account of the extracurricular activities on campus, but after volunteering in that particular Emergency Room for a third semester, I was not. Employees at this particular facility strongly dislike the belief that the word "hate" was actually used... I students from Notre Dame due to their frequent presence in that establishment as a result of intoxication. You know, it really is quite difficult to adequately take care of legitimately ill individuals when there are eight intoxicated students to deal with throughout the night as well. Now that I have addressed the disgust I will spare you my own personal disgust experienced during my Sunday morning walk, I will discuss the disappointment I encountered. My conversation with the alumnum also revealed a great deal about how we are viewed from the community. This person informed me of his disappointment of the toleration of alcohol on campus and the lack of adequate surveillance and disciplinary action for intoxication to such extremes. It prompted him to see our reputation falling and such intelligent student make such decisions to place their lives and the lives of others at risk.

For example, when a friend told me that some alcohol that he/she had consumed was absolutely terrible and I inquired as to his/her reasons for continuing to consume it in large quantities in light of that fact, the unfailing response I received was, "I don't know." Yes, I understand that the majority of the students here take on great amount of stress, and, for some reason, many think that alcohol is a way to relieve their frustration, confusion, or more social, etc. But, what kind of reasons are these for such dangerous extremes? Will these be adequate to explain the fate of the one?

You may say that I am exaggerating, but this is not the case. This potential fate as a result of the direction in which we are heading. I have brought up the issue of our reputation, but so much more is at stake. Please be responsible and do not make the others pay for our mistakes.

Megan Rybarczyk
Guest Columnist

Thank you, Coach Jackson

It shouldn't be any secret by now that Jeff Jackson has worked wonders for our hockey program. To refresh your memory, he has taken a team that won five games two years ago to a program record for wins, our first conference championship and the No. 1 ranking in the national polls. Oh yeah, and the team went 3-0 against Michigan this year, too. But, unlike the usual congratulations and admiration, what I received may have been likened to disgust and disappointment.

I have addressed the disgusted response I received was, "I don't know." Yes, I understand that the majority of the students here take on great amount of stress, and, for some reason, many think that alcohol is a way to relieve their frustration, confusion, or more social, etc. But, what kind of reasons are these for such dangerous extremes? Will these be adequate to explain the fate of the one?

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Megan Rybarczyk
Guest Columnist

Our reputation: a sobering reality

At this month's news release in New Orleans, Disney announced its first-ever black princess. According to the Disney Web site, the movie, The Frog Prince, will be set in New Orleans where Maddy, the princess, will be living amid the charming elegance and grandeur of the French Quarter.

Maddy will be added to the list of the Disney princesses and also used at the theme parks and in consumer products.

Not only is this a first for the company, with a black princess as the main character, but they have also announced the return of the hand-drawn animation rather than computer animation.

It's nice that Disney is going back to its hand-drawn style for this film. This way it'll be easier to group this film with the older "original" movies. And looking back on this film years from now, hopefully people will also consider it a classic.

This new movie idea was sparked when parents began putting pressure on the company to make a character that was not white like the majority of other princesses in the past, with the exceptions of Pocahontas and Jasmine.

It's hard to say though if children know, or even care, about the color of the character's skin. Most children are interested in the story line and not so much with what the characters look like.

Given the choice though, a young black girl could be more likely to choose a black character than Disney Store, which she could more easily relate to because of the similar skin color.

While this push for a black princess came from mostly parents wanting equal time for the races in these movies, we too agree that it's about time. We live in a world where diversity is a huge issue.

And because Disney has one of the biggest influences on kids today, it is important that they have made this move.

The company already has shown on television that feature black characters, such as "That's So Raven," and we are sure that most kids watching the show aren't thinking, "She's black."

Even some of the cartoons they have produced feature black characters, so the release of the movie shouldn't be an example of black representation. The viewers expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Cohen amuses, challenges Americans with ‘Borat’

By MARTY SCHROEDER
Assistant Scene Editor

Two words describe the “Borat” DVD — “very-niice.” The DVD release of the film that took the United States by storm marks the emergence of Sacha Baron Cohen’s Borat into the homes of America. The over-the-top “Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan” is a hilarious, campy and subtly intelligent film that comes in a decent package.

When the case of the “Borat” DVD is opened, it’s obvious that Cohen (or the maker of the DVD) is up to his old tricks. The actual DVD resembles a homemade copy, with “Borat” written out in what looks like Sharpie marker complete with backwards ‘R’s. Aside from the creative packaging, the menu is one of the most original and clever in recent memory.

With a full chorus belting out (Cohen’s version of) the Kazakh National Anthem, the menu looks like something made in a basement video production house. Sporting dancing bear heads, the menu looks fuzzy and grainy — exactly what an American audience thinks of when the words “Soviet Propaganda” are mentioned. It is the rare DVD that warrants commentary on its menu, but “Borat” certainly deserves laurels for its creative presentation.

A single disc, this is the DVD’s real gem. The character of Borat was created by Brit Cohen for his television program, “Da Ali G Show.” Along with gangsta Ali G and flamboyant Austrian fashion reporter Bruno, Kazakh journalist Borat forms the comedic trinity of Cohen. His first released film, a second film that needed the expansive 5.1 mix, but it’s good nonetheless.

As for the supplements, Criterion has assembled three impressive documentaries for the second disc. Collecting interviews from actors, screenwriters and scholars, they offer a glut of information about De Sica, screenwriter Cesare Zavattini, the Italian neorealist movement and the film’s place among the best films of that era. The only regrettable omission is a commentary. Criterion recruits top scholars to comment on some of the most significant films ever made, but not “Bicycle Thieves.” It seems incomprehensible that a scholar couldn’t be found to shed light on this film. Critics of the movie often complain that nothing happens in “Bicycle Thieves.” What they don’t realize is the payoff to “Thieves” isn’t whether Bruno and Ricci catch the thieves. More than just a bicyclist, father and son are chasing down a far more tenacious commodity in these lean times — hope. Hope for the future and for their lives, however small they may seem after the destruction of the war. Like so much of life, the journey is the destination, not the destination that matters most.

Contact Rama Gottumukkala at rgottumu@nd.edu

Bicycle Thieves’ gets new DVD treatment

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA
Scene Writer

Following World War II, hopefulness was in short supply across Europe. The continent was in ruins, and countries could no longer afford to entertain their citizens with escapist cinema. Out of this despair came a movement that irrevocably changed global cinema — Italian neorealism.

From the many notable films of this movement, one in particular — “Bicycle Thieves,” Vittorio De Sica’s masterful 1948 tale — has withstood the test of time. Its intimately detailed story of a father and son chasing down their stolen bicycle remains as powerful today as it was nearly 60 years ago. Tales of impoverishment, a popular topic in Hollywood and world cinema at this time, had never felt this raw or palpable.

The story of “Bicycle Thieves” is a simple one, but its deep emotions keep it from ever becoming simplistic. Antonio Ricci (Lamberto Maggiorani) struggles to provide for his family at a time when jobs were scarcer than hope. Against all odds, he gets a job painting posters around the city, a task that requires a bicycle. Scrapped for money, Ricci’s wife even sells the family bed sheets to buy the cycle. Hope seems closest at the corner.

But when a pack of thieves steals the bike, the family’s livelihood, Ricci realizes the help of his young, impressionable son Bruno (Enzo Staiola). Together, they scour the streets of Rome in a frantic search.

The pioneers of Italian neorealism followed one mantra: “We must capture life as it is.” They used amateur actors like Maggiorani and Staiola to invest true emotion into their pieces, shooting on location in every corner of Italy and telling stories about the working class. Minimalist storytelling reveals the truth of feelings.

As with most socially conscious fare, “Bicycle Thieves” is not an entertaining film. But that never diminishes its power. Unlike the self-importance that seeps from many Best Picture winners, “Thieves” never feels like a morality play. Part of this stems from its simplicity, but mostly it’s because Ricci and Bruno captivate our emotions.

Like many films from the period, “Bicycle Thieves” has suffered in its video releases. The Criterion Collection recently released a beautiful two-disc set of the film, complete with a 75-page commemorative booklet. The first DVD of “Thieves” suffered from horrible video quality, marred by scratches, dirt and general wear. With this release, Criterion has drastically improved the audio and video quality. Although some scratches still suffer from scratches, it’s unlikely the material can ever look better on a DVD release.

The DVD is a single disc with some rather good extras. The “National P.R. Tour” section includes the appearance of Borat as film promoters and on both Conan O’Brien and Jay Leno’s late night shows. The “Jay Leno” bit includes a scene where Martha Stewart tries to teach Borat how to make a bed. Needless to say, the scene ends with Borat in the bed sans undergarments.

Other deleted scenes round out the extras on the DVD. This film, however, deserves a larger version. The video transfer is very good and the 5.1 audio mix performs well. This isn’t a film that needs the expansive 5.1 mix, but it’s good nonetheless.

What makes Cohen’s work so great is its ability to make Americans laugh with themselves. Even though he did face legal repercussions regarding some of the scenes, he shows America a side of itself that it rarely sees — or rarely wants to see. But, as “Borat” shows, we might as well laugh while we see it.

Contact Marty Schroeder at m Schroed1@nd.edu
The Searchers

Warner Home Video

A Note to a Select Group of Literary Figures:
Some things, my dears. My name is Analise, and I have been a faithful reader of wizened advice, but I suggest that you upon myself to enlighten you as to how to be addressed. Therefore, I've taken it upon myself to enlighten you as to how you've been frustrating me and other readers with bad decisions and general indifference that in every good, loving relationship, one needs honest and open communication to keep things running smoothly. In that light, I have to tell you guys the truth.

It's not me—it's you. As awesome as you are, each in your own way, you have some issues that need to be addressed. Therefore, I've taken it upon myself to enlighten you as to how you've been frustrating me and other readers with bad decisions and general indifference. Call them instructions, tips or nuggets of wizened advice, but I suggest that you give a little more attention. Your future fans will thank me.

I have to say, Jane Eyre, that I do love your novel. That, however, doesn't excuse your general lack of a personality. Yes, you're a vivid personification of Victorian morality, and you're a nice person, sure, but even those strengths don't excuse the fact that you almost married your cousin because you couldn't stand up for yourself. Also, I suggest investing in some fireproof belongings—you and your Byronic Hero-of-a-husband will thank me later.

To Elizabeth Bennett of "Pride and Prejudice," I only have one suggestion. Nip the Mr. Collins issue in the bud as quickly as possible. Nothing says "romance-killer" like a nervous, cloying man with a penchant for accidentally insulting people. And to Mr. Collins himself, "no" actually does mean "no," especially in the case of a proposal of marriage. Save yourself the humiliation, man. It's for your own good. Now shoe.

A general point of advice to Dostoevsky's Raskolnikov, Shakespeare's Hamlet and other loquacious leading men—stop talking. Or at least cut back a bit on the excessive speeches that you all feel compelled to make. To Raskolnikov, especially, I suggest a little less introspection. You should get out more.

The same goes for you, Emily Dickinson. The sun is a good thing. As is proper punctuation, books can deal with that later. Disney's Thumper got it right the first time. Or if you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all.

And Beowulf. Fighting beasts at your age? Shame on you. I understand that you have ego issues that even Freud didn't see coming. But the Geats need you.

Colin Firth, left, and Jennifer Ehle star in a film version of "Pride and Prejudice." Elizabeth Bennett's dealings with Mr. Collins are a source of frustration for readers. Or, at least, they need you to stay alive for another few months without being fatally scythed by dragon breath.

Also, just because Moby Dick emaciated you so cruelly by taking your leg, Captain Ahab, doesn't mean you have the right to risk the lives of everyone else you know by rabidly following the Great White Whale. I suggest some sort of grief counseling or anger management seminar.

Finally, as a general announcement to Gilbert Blythe of "Anne of Green Gables"—what do you think of jumping off of the page and into the three-dimensional world? You'd be surprised at what science can accomplish these days.

I hope that these tips can help you all deal with your issues, and I wish you the best in your future literary endeavors. Just no badly-written sequels or prequels, please. I don't need to see "The Scarlet I" in my local book store anytime soon.

Faithfully yours in reading,
Analise Lipari

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Faithfully yours in reading,
Analise Lipari

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Contact Analise Lipari at allipar@nd.edu

DVD REVIEW

Wayne, 'Searchers' shine in two-disc release

By BRIAN DOXTADER

"I wish that these tips can help you all deal with your issues, and I wish you the best in your future literary endeavors. Just no badly-written sequels or prequels, please. I don't need to see "The Scarlet II" in my local book store anytime soon."
Tigers make Elite 8 with tight win over Aggies

Late free throws propel Memphis over Texas A&M; Led by Rush, Kansas advances with win over Southern Illinois

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Visualize this: The Memphis Tigers are one win away from the NCAA Final Four.

Forget those season-long struggles from the free throw line. The Tigers are making them when it counts, with Antonio Anderson hitting two with 3.1 seconds left Thursday night for a 65-64 victory over Texas A&M in the NCAA South Regional semifinal.

Anderson knocked down 64 percent from the free throw line and was 1-for-4 when he went to the line after being fouled at the end of a wild sequence in which the Tigers missed three quick shots.

The Tigers have been one of the nation’s worst free throw-shooting teams all season. They were so bad that coach John Calipari quit having them shoot in postseason practice and told his players to visualize making them instead.

Memphis (33-3) stretched its winning streak to 25 games and advanced to a regional final for the second straight year. The Tigers, who last went to the Final Four in 1985, will play Ohio State or Tennessee on Saturday.

Texas A&M (27-7), three seasons with coach Billy Gillispie removed from an 0-16 record in the Big 12, had its last true chance at a final berth, but Dominique Kirk’s shot from just inside half-court was woefully short. Kirk took the final shot instead of “Captain Clutch,” senior Acee Law, who had 12 points. He was only 6-of-17 from the field in his final game for the Aggies — and blew a layup with just under a minute left after he took a long inbound pass.

That was the last good shot the Aggies got. Texas A&M was unable to take advantage of a partisan crowd, the stands in the Alamodome filled mostly with maroon-clad fans providing a football-like atmosphere while waiting to celebrate another big victory.

Instead, it was the small contingent of fans in blue behind the Memphis bench — including former Tigers star Penny Hardaway — who were cheering at the end.

After Law’s blown layup, Jeremy Hunt missed a 3-pointer for the Tigers. But Anderson got the rebound and they called timeout with 26 seconds left.

Andrei Allen missed a 3-point shot with 11 seconds left and Hunt and Robert Dozier missed follow-up attempts before Anderson grabbed another rebound — and was fouled by Gaffney while trying his own putback.

Texas A&M outblocked the Tigers 36-31, but didn’t get the ones at the end that mattered the most, and might have created a different outcome.

Hunt, the Tigers’ sixth man, had 19 points. Chris Douglas-Roberts, wearing a brace to support his sprained left ankle sustained last weekend, scored 13 points on 5-of-8 shooting. Anderson knocked down 17 points and eight rebounds for the Aggies in their first regional semifinal since 1980. Joseph Jones scored 14 points.

Now there will be questions about if Gillispie is going to Texas A&M. The coach is already being mentioned as a possibility to replace Kentucky after Tubb Smith left the Wildcats to become Minnesota’s coach.

Kansas 61
Southern Illinois 58
The Kansas Jayhawks knew they had to abandon the beautiful game they usually play to beat Southern Illinois. The Jayhawks admit they don’t like winning ugly — but they like losing even less.

When the Salukis slowed the game to a crawl, Brandon Rush and his Kansas teammates stomped down to the grit for a win that put them on the brink of the NCAA tourney.

Rush scored 12 points without missing a shot, and Kansas defended a victory over Southern Illinois in the West Regional semifinals Thursday night.

Darrell Arthur and Russell Robinson scored nine points apiece to help the Jayhawks (33-3) barely avoid yet another Saluki surprise and another disappointing exit from the tournament.

Kansas went into the locker room bickering and muttering at Southern Illinois’ tenacity, yet still won its 14th straight game by nursing a small lead through the final minutes. The Jayhawks against a defense that made Kansas State, UCLA’s star players work exceptionally hard for every basket.

“It was just that we can win whatever the circumstances,” said Kansas senior forward Mario Chalmers, who scored just nine points. “Everyone knows we like an up-tempo game in the 80s, but we can take our time and grind down with the best of them, too.”

When Tony Young missed a desperate 3-point attempt from half-court at the buzzer, Kansas dodged its second straight tournament loss.

Tatum added a jumper after Kansas State’s 10-0 run, and Tatum cut the Jayhawks’ lead to 58-54 after a 3-pointer with 8 seconds left.

But Rush confidently drove the lane with 25 seconds left and flicked home a basket with the poise that might someday make him the heir to his three basketball-playing brothers.

“Somebody had to step up between classes,” Tatum said. “I’ve practiced numerous times in the gym at night (and) in between classes,” Tatum said. “It felt good. I don’t know what to say.”

Memphis guard Donte’ Macks shoots tough defense during the Tigers’ 65-64 win over Texas A&M Thursday.
around the dial

**USCHO.com/CSTV Top 25**

**Hockey Rankings**

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**USA TODAY/ ESPN Division 1 Baseball Coaches’ Poll**

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**ESPN.com/USA Softball Division 1 Rankings**

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**NCAA Men’s Basketball**

**Around the Dial**

**USA TODAY/ ESPN Division 1**

- Florida vs. Butler
  - 7:10 p.m., CBS
- Georgetown vs. Vanderbilt
  - 7:25 p.m., CBS
- Oregon vs. UNLV
  - 9:40 p.m., CBS

**IN BRIEF**

**Artest pleads not guilty to charges of battery**

AUBURN, Calif. — Sacramento Kings forward Ron Artest pleaded not guilty Thursday to misdemeanor charges stemming from a domestic dispute with his wife earlier this month. Artest's attorney, William Pertano, entered pleas of not guilty to charges of battery and corporal injury to a spouse, false imprisonment and grand theft.

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**Peyton Manning to star on “Saturday Night Live”**

INDIANAPOLIS — “Saturday Night Live” is just another game for Peyton Manning.

He'll dress up, work with his teammates and audible at every opportunity. Then the Super Bowl MVP hopes it all works in perfect concert — which, of course, it never does on live television.

**IN BRIEF**

- **Artest pleads not guilty to charges of battery**
- **Peyton Manning to star on “Saturday Night Live”**

**Smith leaves Kentucky for Minnesota**

Associated Press

**MINNEAPOLIS** — With Kentucky fans dogging him after another disappointing finish, Tubby Smith is bolting the bluegrass for Minnesota.

Smith will be introduced as the 16th coach of the Golden Gophers at a noon press conference Friday, ending a 10-year tenure in Lexington that seemed to be nearing an end even before Minnesota contacted him. The Wildcats went 22-12 this season and made it to the NCAA tournament, but lost a top-seeded Kansas in the second round, turning up the heat on the coach of college basketball's winningest program.

Smith led Kentucky to the national championship in his first season in 1998, but the Wildcats haven't been back to the Final Four since, their longest drought since the NCAA tournament began. The team has lost 10 or more games in a season five times under his watch, prompting the demanding fan base to nickname him "10-loss Tubby."

"On behalf of the University of Kentucky, I'd like to express sincere appreciation to Tubby Smith, his family and his staff," Kentucky athletic director Mitch Barnhart said in a statement. "We wish him the very best at the University of Minnesota. They are getting a solid coach and a great person."

Minnesota was 9-22 this season, the most losses in the 111-year history of the program, and averaged just 60.6 points a game, in lowest in 56 years. Former coach Dan Monson was forced to resign seven games into this season with a 118-106 record in eight seasons.

**Thursday morning, Minnesota asked for Barnhart's permission to talk to Smith, said Kentucky basketball spokesman Scott Stricklin. Smith never was able live up to the standard set by the man he replaced at Kentucky. Rick Pitino became a legend in Lexington, leading the Wildcats to three Final Fours, including the 1996 national title and the 1997 championship game, before leaving to coach the Boston Celtics. Wildcats fans grew even more restless when Pitino returned to the state of Kentucky, leading rival Louisville to the 2005 Final Four.**

"In our league, we have passionate fans that want to see success," said SEC commissioner Mike Slive about the expectations at Kentucky.

**This week, Manning must do it**

Jonathan Papelbon returns to Red Sox bullpen as closer

The Boston Red Sox suddenly have a closer again. Same one as last season.

The Boston Red Sox suddenly have a closer again. Same one as last season.

"This is something I want to do for the rest of my career," Papelbon said Thursday. "It has nothing to do with Timlin's health or if we don't have a closer or if my shoulder. I broke into the league as a closer. They drafted me as a closer. In college, I learned to pitch in the bullpen. It's where my heart is."
Pakistani coach killed after loss in World Cup

Cricket coach's death may be gambling-related

Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica — Pakistan's cricket coach Bob Woolmer was strangled in his hotel room after the team's stunning World Cup loss to Ireland, police said Friday.

Police Commissioner Lucas Thomas said in a statement that the pathologist report found Bob Woolmer's death was due to "asphyxia as a result of manual strangulation."

The statement, which was read by a police spokesman at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel where Woolmer was killed on Sunday, said police were now treating the case as a murder investigation.

Police said they were reviewing security cameras at the hotel and seeking witnesses to the crime.

"It is our belief that those associated with or having access with Mr. Woolmer may have vital information to assist this inquiry." Thomas said in the statement.

Woolmer, 58, was found unconscious in his blood- and vomit-splattered hotel room in Jamaica Sunday, a day after his team's upset loss to Ireland on St. Patrick's Day "with his biggest smile of the year," according to Pakistan's national team manager Inzamam-ul-Haq.

But his widow said he was "facedown in front of the tennis bench."

The big man finally looked up "with his biggest smile of the year," according to Pakistan's national team manager Inzamam-ul-Haq.

Woolmer's death has caused a shock in the cricketing world, with a number of outbursts and жестокости, as well as a second straight heartbreaking loss to one of the nation's top teams. The first was a 64-66 defeat in Columbus, Ohio, in mid-January when Oden had the first breakout game of his career.

"We played as well as we possibly could, but we didn't win," he said. "I don't know what else we can do as a team."

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But Conley missed a second free throw, giving Tennessee one last chance.

Ramar Smith grabbed the rebound and went all the way to the rim with Conley defending him. They went up together and time expired with his ball in the air.

Then it was time to leave for the rescue, swatting the ball into the Volunteers' cheerleaders and dropping everything into the air,

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Prior pitches during a spring training start against San Diego Thursday. Prior pitched for four innings and gave up one run. Associated Press

Mark Prior pitches during a spring training start against San Diego Thursday. Prior pitched for four innings and gave up one run.

Oft-injured pitcher throws four innings, gives up four hits

PEORIA, Ariz. — Mark Prior had his best outing of the spring. Whether he'll start the season on the Chicago Cubs' active roster is still unclear.

With the rotation pretty much set a week before the Cubs break camp and with Wade Miller the top candidate to be the fifth starter, there might not be a spot for Prior. At least not right away.

"He threw the ball better, that's the most important thing. A really nice step forward for him," manager Lou Piniella said after Prior's four-inning outing Thursday in a 1-0 loss to the San Diego Padres. "I think the idea of not rushing him, giving him time, it's the right thing to do."

Prior gave up four straight two-out singles in the first — the only four hits he allowed. But he surrendered only one run, thanks to a nice throw to the plate from left fielder Matt Murton to cut down a runner.

Prior threw 39 pitches, walked two and struck out three. He whizzed a fastball by Khalil Greene for the final out in the third. He hit 99 mph with his fastest pitch in a game called after five innings because of rain.

Prior was making just his third start against a major league lineup. He walked off the field and was greeted by a handset and put on the back from pitching coach Larry Rothschild.

"He threw the ball better, that's not 100 percent — set as the No. 5 starter, joining the rotation of Carlos Zambrano, Ted Lilly, Jason Marquis and Rich Hill," pitching coach Larry Rothschild.

Greg Maddux, he walked off the field and was greeted by a handset in the fourth inning by slipping a called third strike past former teammate Greg Maddux, he walked off the field and was greeted by a handset and put on the back from pitching coach Larry Rothschild.

Prior entered the game with an 0-1 record and 18.90 ERA in two starts since March 8. The right-hander held the Cubs to three hits in 1-0 loss to the San Diego Padres.

"Our defense was spectacular tonight. It had to be. We weren't going to go to the box score on this game," said Howland UCLA coach.

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Ben Howland set the tone early, crafting into a defensive stance with his arms in the air, going out on assignments.

And it's only UCLA's coaches. His players paid just as much attention to the defensive end in a style too-familiar for Pittsburgh. The style Howland employed in four years at Pitt ended up knowing the Panthers out of the NCAA tournament when the Bruins won the West Regional semifinal 64-55 Thursday night.

"It starts with our point guard Darren Collison," Howland said. "He emphasizes defense all year long and we showed it pays to be physical."

The second-seeded Bruins (29-5) never trailed in the grind-it-out game that made Howland against his best friend and former assistant, Jamie Dixon. With teams using the same tight defensive style, sometimes the only way to keep the shots weren't contested.

"They're a very good defensive team," Dixon said. "I can't remember another game where we missed that many layups or easy looks."

Pitt forward Levon Kendall said, "I don't know what it was, they just were on the ball. That's just one of those things."
**ND SOFTBALL**

Bargar leads team to victory

Sophomore throws complete game with four hits and three Ks

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame snatched a three-game losing streak Thursday with a 10-0 sweep over IPUI in its home opener.

Right-hander Brittany Bargar picked up a complete game for the Irish, picking up the win to improve to 7-7 on the year.

"Right now, we're going to take the wins as they come," Bargar said. "We'll have a shutout, but we'll take the win."

Bargar allowed only four hits with three walks and three three-out frames in her league-leading 11th complete game of the season.

The offense got started early for the Irish (10-12), putting up two runs in the bottom of the first inning. Third baseman Heather Johnson and shortstop Katie Laing followed up with back-to-back runs and scored two runs, increasing their team-leading batting average to .444.

IPUI finally got on the board in the fifth inning when pinch hitter Elizabeth Hershman homered off Bargar for the Irish's sixth and final run for the day.

"Right now, our record doesn't mean anything," she said. "The only thing that matters is how well we prepared ourselves to play in the Big East."

Notre Dame will begin its conference schedule this weekend with doubleheaders at Seton Hall Sunday.

**SMC SOFTBALL**

Belle get to be one of the top schools in our division and win the sixth and final run for the Irish.

"We'll just mix it up. We stay away from hitters' strengths," Sullivan said.

Davinson and Amram have a combined ERA of 1.42. By comparison, the Engineers staff has a team ERA of 4.41.

After 10 road games — all in Florida — Saint Mary's is finally playing in front of its home crowd.

"There's always apprehension for the first game and the weather is different here from Florida," Belle's coach Erin Davinson said. "But we think the team is just excited."

Even though the Engineers don't quite have the Belle's record, their offense features players hitting above .400. Switch-hitting second baseman Amram leads the plate with a .488 average, 16 runs and 21 hits.

Saint Mary's will look to avenge its loss to Rose-Hulman (7-3) Sunday in its home opener.

"There's always a high note by winning the American Heritage Regatta Nov. 5 against Michigan and Eastern Michigan. Michigan State took that win, so we might not win this event," she said.

But Sullivan know that last weekend, the Belles have been able to take on DePauw.

"They can play much better, and they've excited to come out and prove themselves," Sullivan is confident Belles can win their first game in the 20-40 yard range.

The team's play last week exposed areas of improvement on the team that worked on this weekend. Long-range chip shots weren't landing close enough to the pin, and with the course it will play this weekend, "but in general, we focused on shots in the 20-40 yard range," Sullivan said.

"We've worked on a lot of long chip shots this week similarly because this golf course is cut a lot differently than a lot of the courses we play down in Florida," she said. "There are a lot of big greens at the course, so we'll have to play a few more chips than pitches."

With the nice weather this week, the Belles have been able to practice outside. The course the Belles use to practice opened Wednesday, and the team has also hit balls at their outdoor facility.

"The team won't likely face tough competition in Perry Park, and the Belles will be able to practice in the Invitational in Pern and the team in the nation will compete in the Invitational as well. The course plays open on Thursday or DePauw.

"There will also be quite a few Division II and some smaller Division I schools there too," Sullivan said. "It will be pretty stiff competition, probably as stiff as we've faced down south."
ND Men’s Tennis

Bass, Irish take on Purdue

Irish ranked in top-5 for the first time since March of 2002

By DEIRDRÉ KRASULA
Sports Writer

Notre Dame takes on Purdue Sunday, while ranked nationally in the top-five for the first time since the Irish were No. 4 in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association poll in March 2002.

Despite breaking into the top-five, Notre Dame coach Bobby Bayliss said he prefers not to think too much about rankings.

"I really don’t put a whole lot of credence into the rankings at this point," he said. "There’s still a lot of tennis to be played."

Even though Bayliss is not focused on the rankings, he is still proud of the way the team is performing this season.

"It’s a tribute to the fact that our guys have made big commitments this year and have stayed together as a team and have performed when it mattered," he said. No. 1 singles player, senior Stephen Bass, also rose in the rankings from No. 12 to No. 8 — his highest career ranking.

Bayliss said that Bass deserves the ranking and has been determined since he first stepped foot on Notre Dame’s courts. As a freshman, Bass struggled with his serve and forehand but never gave up, Bayliss noted.

"He was a guy that made you hit a lot of balls, and you had to beat him because he wasn’t going to beat himself," he said. "He has really maximized his abilities and should be extremely proud of what he’s been able to achieve."

Bass defeated Tulsa’s No. 5 Arnaud Brugues in the semifinals of the Blue/Gray Classic March 17. Bayliss said the victory was one of the few points against the seniors he has ever played.

When he beat Brugues, he did it by attacking anybody that knew Stephen a couple of years ago probably wouldn’t have recognized his play," Bayliss said. Being able to play tough competition outdoors at the Blue/Gray Classic last week has allowed the Irish an insight into the rest of their season.

Notre Dame knocked off No. 14 Alabama in the finals of the Blue/Gray Classic to take the title.

"We had ten straight days of play outdoors," Bayliss said. "And that’s something that has given us a lot of confidence."

Notre Dame dropped the doubles points in both the semifinals and finals of the Blue/Gray and will look to regain that strength against Purdue, Bayliss said.

The No. 7 duo of senior Ryan Keckley and junior Sheeva Parhizi will likely take on Purdue’s Branko Kurmanovic and Paul Row.

Notre Dame’s top duo dropped their last match 4-3 to Alabama’s Dan Bukkema and Mathieu Thibaudeau.

Bayliss feels that Purdue will present the Irish with a challenge but is confident that team is up for the task.

"I’m most concerned about our ability to play well and to simply continue to show improvement as the year goes on," he said.

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

ND Women’s Tennis

Squad defeats Wisconsin, extends win streak to 11

By DAN MALOOF
Sports Writer

FRESH off victories over two top-25 opponents last week, No. 3 Notre Dame stretched its winning streak to 11 matches and improved its overall record to 16-1 with a dominating 7-0 win over the Wisconsin Badgers on Thursday.

"We played really well," Irish coach Jay Louderback said. "It’s a combination of the fact that their confidence is down since they haven’t been playing well, and our confidence is up since we have been playing well.

Both teams were dealing with injuries as Notre Dame was without junior Brook Buck and freshman Colleen Riedley, who were unable to play with undisclosed injuries. The Badgers’ best player, No. 18 Caitlin Burke, was just returning from an injury that had kept her sidelined for two months, forcing her to play only in the No. 2 doubles match.

With neither team at full strength, the Irish stepped up their level of play.

"It gave some of our other kids who haven’t played much singles a chance to play, and we played well," Louderback said. "We only lost three games in the singles and I just kept waiting to see a miss some balls and no one was missing any." Freshmen Cosmina Ciobanu and Kalli Kruik controlled the No. 3 doubles match with an 8-1 triumph over Wisconsin’s Chelsea Nusslock and Kim Roberts. No. 4 ranked doubles team Christian and Catrina Thompson shut out the Badgers’ tandem of Kaylan Caiati and Elizabeth Carpenter 8-0 to clinch the doubles point.

After gaining the doubles point, the Irish singles easily won all six singles points.

Kalli Kruik, playing in her first singles dual action, got the first singles point in straight sets beating Wisconsin freshman Kim Roberts 6-1, 6-0.

Sophomore Katie Pets continued Notre Dame’s route in her first singles since Feb. 14 by defeating junior Morgan Tuttle 6-1, 6-1.

Sophomore Kiley Tefft clinched the match with a 6-0, 6-0 shutout of junior Chelsea Nusslock.

No. 62 Ciobanu and No. 19 Catrina Thompson emerged victorious with 6-0, 6-0 triumphs while Christian Thompson won for the first time in her last four matches, defeating Elizabeth Carpenter 6-0, 6-1.

Louderback was pleased with Christian Thompson’s ability to put her previous defeat behind her to emerge victorious against one of Wisconsin’s top players.

"She played with a little more confidence and very positively and she wasn’t worried about losing a few points," Louderback said.

Next up for the Irish is No. 21 Wichita State on March 30.

Contact Dan Maloof at dmaloof@nd.edu

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Loyola continued from page 24

players scored a point in the victory. Senior Jane Stoeckert and senior Meghan Murphy each had four points apiece.

The Irish bounced the Buckeyes defensively, forcing 16 turnovers on the game. Notre Dame also out-shot Ohio State 23-16.

"It was a very good game Wednesday, but we're not happy with a win over Ohio State," Coyne said. "We have to go game by game, and we have to win. With the goals we have, losing is not an option."

Against Loyola Sunday, the Irish will key its defense on Greyhounds junior Maura Kenny, leading her squad in scoring for the second season in a row.

On the offensive end, Notre Dame will look to take advantage of the sophomore Ryers and junior McKinney. Both goal-scorers were recently named to the Tournament Trophy watch list for the best player in women's lacrosse.

Contact Michael Bryan at mjbryan@nd.edu

NBA

Thomas' last second tip in gives Bulls win

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Tyrus Thomas wasn't quite sure what happened. The details were a little fuzzy, so he might want to save the video because this one is worth another look.

The rookie scored on a tip-in with nine points and 11 rebounds.

"I didn't know what happened," Thomas said. "I just am glad we got the win. Now, I just have to put this game behind me."

Allen Iverson's drive along the right side gave the Nuggets a 108-107 lead with 13.1 seconds left, but the Nuggets saw their five-game win streak end in a wild finish.

The Bulls immediately called a timeout and Kirk Hinrich lost the ball off a Nugget player along the baseline with 9.8 seconds left.

Gordon got trapped in the right corner after catching the inbounds pass and threw a weak pass toward P.J. Brown on the wing. The ball got deflected, and a diving Brown beat the Nuggets' Eduardo Nagera. Gordon got it back and missed a jumper from the corner, but Deng — battling with Carmelo Anthony — kept it alive for Thomas.

"I told P.J. he had a nice tackle on the play," coach Scott Skiles said. "I felt like we were fortunate to come up with a shot from Ben Gordon, that he could get the ball and get the shot right there. That set off the series of events, and Tyrus was in the right spot and active on the glass."

Gordon finished with 25 points for the Bulls, who lost two straight to Memphis and the Los Angeles Clippers.

Deng had 22 points and 14 rebounds, and Hinrich scored 21 points. Brown added 16 points and seven rebounds, and

MLB

La Russa faces DUI charges

Cardinals manager registered BAC of 0.093 Thursday night

Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. — St. Louis Cardinals manager Tony La Russa was arrested Thursday on a drunken driving charge after police said they found him asleep inside his running sport utility vehicle at a stop light.

La Russa gave two breath samples and had a blood alcohol content of 0.093 percent.

"I'm not sure what type of statement to give," La Russa said after his team's 2-1 spring training loss to the Florida Marlins on Thursday.

"I've been scrumbling."

"Last night's situation is the opposite of feeling good. It was an embarrassment, and I apologize to anyone who is close to me, members of the Cardinals organization, our fans." I regret it, take responsibility and I'm not sure there is anything else I can say.

Undercover officers saw La Russa's SUV sitting partially in an intersection around midnight and not moving despite two green lights, police said.

Officers knocked on the window and La Russa did not initially respond.

The SUV was in drive and running, with La Russa's foot on the brake, police said.

When he woke up, the officers asked him to get out of the SUV. La Russa was cooperative during his arrest, police said.

The 62-year-old La Russa was booked into the Palm Beach County jail on the misdemeanor count about four hours later, according to police and jail records.

He was released about 8:30 a.m., after posting $500 cash bond, said Paul Miller, a Palm Beach County sheriff's office spokesman.

When La Russa walked onto the field before Thursday's game, many fans stood and applauded.

"That was a really nice gesture when the game started," La Russa said. "I guess because over the years, you've done things so you don't want it to go in the other direction and that's a couple steps last night, so."

The Cardinals said in a statement that the team takes "these matters very seriously" and apologized for any embarrassment and distractions.

"The Cardinals organization remains supportive of Tony," the team said.

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NCAA teams set to square off in the first round today. It’s time to take a broader look at how the Tournament will project and how fortunate the Irish, in fact, are. The CHA — geographically, but the Chargers found on the college hockey or Tournament because they made a play-in opportunity. "What I would like to see is a award the CHA a bid. NCAA continued to announce that he was not satisfied that the NCAA continued to the tournament field was any of the team had been sent to any of the four-team Grand Rapids regional — a team along the lines of Notre Dame but lacks some of the fire- future regional — a bracket so stacked that quite possibly the team along the lines of Notre Dame has, by far, the easiest first-round opponent of any- one in the field. And things in the other half of the four-team Grand Rapids regional — a team has shaped up more favorably for the Irish than if the team had been sent to any of the other three locations — Denver, Rochester, N.Y., and Manchester, N.H. Notre Dame will face the winner of a Boston University-Michigan State pairing. The Spartans squeaked out a third- place finish in the CHA playoffs last weekend with a 7-6 overtime win over Lake Superior State, but not before they surrendered 11 goals in two games to the Lakers and Michigan. Michigan State looked overmatched, out- worked and just plain sloppy in the two games, and Spartans goalie Jeff Lerg was beaten more times than an Irish secondary. Boston University is a defensive team along the lines of Notre Dame but lacks some of the firepower up front that the Irish provide with their "little guy" line of Ryan Thang, Kevin Deeth and Erik Candra. The Irish defense would provide more than enough time for the forward lines to pen- etrate the Terriers defense and their former walk-on — and now Hobey Baker finalist — goal- tending hero. With Michigan State or Boston University the prize for beating cupcake Alabama-Huntsville, the Grand Rapids regional must seem like a trip to Disney World for overall No. 1 seed Minnesota. The Golden Gophers were placed at the top of the Denver regional — a team that gets to bring to mind the World Cup’s "Death Groups" that contain four of the world's most dangerous teams into one devi- sionally sinister trap. In the Mile-High City, Minnesota will be joined by offensively stacked Michigan and the Fighting Sioux of North Dakota, along with an Air Force squadron that will enjoy a near-home ice situation. Which ever team emerges from that magnum will be the most seasoned and capable team to advance to the Frozen Four — and, yet again, the Irish pull the long straw and avoid a matchup with the deadly vixen as they advance to St. Louis. The Grand Rapids winner is bracketed to face whoever emerges from Rochester, N.Y. — a watered-down regional with no dominant team. Top-seeded Clarkson could easily be upset in the tournament opener with Massachusetts and second-seed ed St. Cloud will face Maine in a battle of two teams who lost twice in their league tourna- ments to end their pre-tournament season. In short, if there was a choice before the tournament of which region’s winner to face in the Frozen Four, any Vegas odds- maker would finger Rochester. And what about the ultimate step — the National Championship? Well, let's save that one for later. It's time will come. The view expressed in this columns are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Kyle Cassily at kcasilly@nd.edu
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Student and Staff Divisions

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkkrasula@nd.edu

Irish pitchers David Phelps, Wade Korp and Dan Kapala will lead Notre Dame from the mound this weekend. Phelps has been a force, boasting a 1.20 ERA in 30 innings. The right-hander helped Notre Dame defeat top teams Texas Christian and Nebraska.

"Phelps had been great all season, he's been the most consistent starter," Irish coach Dave Schrage said. "Schrage said the team is aware of the strong pitchers they will be facing this weekend. Right-handers Danny Otero, Daniel Thomas and Chris Delaney head up the Bulls' staff. Thomas leads the three-man rotation with an ERA of 1.27 and is 2-1 in five appearances. Otero has a team-high 32 strikeouts.

"It's going to be a tough series," Schrage said. "The Bulls have very good pitching. We are going to face some great arms this weekend. It will be a real challenge to our offense."

Pollock said the team will look to counter South Florida's strong pitching by focusing on cutting down on errors.

"Schrage always stresses less mistakes on defense, don't give other teams more opportunities to get runs, don't give them free bases," Pollock said. "So if we can cut that down we will definitely be a very good team."

Schrage also noted the advantage Notre Dame will have playing at home. South Florida has yet to play a game outside of the Sunshine State and likely will have some difficulty adjusting to the Northern climate. Beyond the weather advantage, the Irish are ready to take on the Bulls and see how they will match up against a top team.

"It will be great for us to open with (South Florida)," Schrage said. "I think it will be a good test to see where we are at."

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkkrasula@nd.edu

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**CROSSWORLD**

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**BLACK DOG**

**MICHAEL MIKUSKA**

**THE TEARS FROM MAMA WAS STOOD AS A STATUE OF CATHOLIC VALUES, BUT THE LONELY SACRIFICE OF AN ISOLATED MOTHER HAS MADE THEM HERSELF OVER TO CONVICT THE LEND?**

**KALEIDOSCOPE MCDANIELS**

**LIAM MORAN**

**How do priests make holy water?**

**We take water and boil the hell out of it!**

**To become a priest I had to take a vow of poverty... but I didn’t take it very seriously!**

---

**CROSSWORD**

**ACROSS**

1 Steps up
2 Treasured instrument
3 Strike out
4 Goes down
7 Polka heard frequently on “The Benny Hill Show”
9 Past of CORE
13 Develops
14 Part of ROE
15 Solves
16 National instrument
17 Literature
18 Jumbles: CHOKE STOKE TRUISM CIPHER
19 Employee
21 Number of literature
22 Age
28 Part of CORE
31 Marks off
36 Doesn’t puff
38 Subject of the biography “All or Nothing at All”
39 Develops
41 Spurs
42 Polooter Roper
43 The Great (detective of kids’ books)
44 One end of a canal
48 Chemical ending
50 Frequent area of auto damage
51 Symbols
55 Words with a /n ending
56 Levelheaded
58 “He seemed like such a boy”
59 Chance
60 When to see a llama
61 Volubility
67 Country ricer
68 You might rig it for
69 Forming clumps
74 Parts of some services
75 Understand now
76 Set
78 Like spam
79 Master’s topics
80 Realization
81 “Un bar aux Folies-Bergère”
82 You might rig it for
85 Chemical ending
86 On a map, maybe
87 A bad way to be left
88 Least
89 Like some stocks
91 “Il y a bar aux Folies-Bergère”
92 Maybe” musical
93 Durable woods
94 On a map, maybe
95 Make attractive
96 Words with shame or boy
98 Order at a home show
99 Levelheaded
100 Het’s father
101 TV witch

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**WILL SHORTZ**

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**JUMBLE**

**HENRI ARNOLD MIKE ARGIRION**

**Unanswerable name Jumble: one letter to each square to form four ordinary words.**

**THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME**

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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**48 Chemical ending**

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- Renee Welteroth, 35, Denis Leary, 55, Matthew Modine, 48, Adrian Lloyd Webber, 59

**Happy Birthday:**

You will be tempted to splurge on what your heart desires, but keep in check. If you spend, do so with work and making money. This way you have something to show for your hard work. You may complain from people who don’t think you are spending enough money on buying gifts or relaxing with friends, lovers or family. Your numbers are 5, 8, 27, 36, 44.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):**

Don’t get upset about something you can’t change. Keep an open mind and forward with enthusiasm. There will be signs you should talk about your ideas and your latest direction. 3 stars.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):**

Pamper yourself or spend the day with someone you are not used to going to home. A change regarding your finances may be a surprise. Be careful where you put your money. 3 stars.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):**

You may think you know what happiness is, but someone you least expect is likely to make a change at the last minute. Keep things that you are doing a secret for now. The more important you are, the greater the advantage you will have. 3 stars.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):**

Focus on what you can do for others. Offering your services or even just a helping hand will lead to satisfaction in the shortest amount of time. Keep your income and finances balanced. Love is on the rise. 4 stars.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):**

You can count on an answer today. It’s important to get something done, do it yourself. Beware of someone telling you what you have to be instead of what you need to be. 2 stars.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):**

You are in the driver’s seat. You must give up power or get it at a slow march. Network, meet and get your ideas out. Don’t put in your personal life with your productivity. 3 stars.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):**

Don’t be fooled into thinking something has more value than it actually does. Be a smart investor. An opportunity to loan, travel or get advice from someone you consider to be experienced is evident. 5 stars.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):**

Take a closer look at what you are going on your own back yard. You may have an entity to something oropming down the street. A romantic connection is possible if you take time out for a little loving. 3 stars.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):**

There isn’t anything that you can’t accomplish from home. So why travel somewhere else? Considerate on what you will use to achieve and take the shortest route to get them. 5 stars.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):**

Put time aside for family or the one you love. This is a perfect time to relax, spend some time alone or just make some welcome additions that will contribute to your entertainment and comfort. Financial security can be obtained. 5 stars.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):**

Don’t be too concerned about something that will help your community or a cause you believe in will bring good results. Get serious about a partnership or making a commitment. 2 stars.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):**

Take a look at the possibilities. A change in your current situation will lead you to an old idea. You can make money if you manipulate the situation when discussing the possibilities with someone who can help you out. 5 stars.

**Birthday Baby:**

You have plenty of charisma and charm. You are inventive, imaginative and powerful when it comes to using your attributes to excel. You are sensitive, compassionate and caring.

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**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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The puck drops here

Icers take on UAH in NCAA first round

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

No. 1 Notre Dame will attempt to make history once again tonight by winning their first-ever NCAA Tournament game. The Irish face off with College Hockey Americas champion Alabama-Huntsville at 5 p.m. in the first round of the regional in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The Irish have made only one appearance in the tournament in their 37-year history. Three years ago they lost 5-2 to No. 1 seed Minnesota in the opening round.

“We’re just focused on going up there and making a step in Notre Dame history — winning a game in the NCAA Tournament,” senior defense-man Wes O’Neill said.

The Irish are heavily favored in the contest, but Alabama-Huntsville brings a load of motivation and momentum into the regional with them. The Chargers arrived in Grand Rapids after they went on a Cinderella run through the CCHA tournament, twice coming from behind to knock off higher seeded teams along the way. Their most impressive victory came in the championship game against Northern Illinois.

The Irish have a successful non-conference series with the Chargers. They are heavily favored in their 3-game set with UAH.

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

The three-game series against Notre Dame this weekend could be a cold wake-up call for South Florida. The series — which kicks off today at 5:05 p.m. — is the first time the Bulls will travel out of state this season, as well as the first Big East game for the Irish.

Despite struggling in early non-conference games with a 10-0 record, the Irish have had a strong burst coming into their series against South Florida. Notre Dame defeated Cleveland State 5-3 in its home opener Tuesday and went on to rout Western Michigan 12-9 Wednesday. Notre Dame has won six of its last seven games.

The Irish have a successful history with South Florida, going 4-1 all-time against the Bulls. This season could prove to be more of a challenge as South Florida arrives in South Bend with a

Irish right-hander Brett Graffy delivers a pitch during Notre Dame’s 12-1 win over Cleveland State May 2, 2006.

ND Women’s Lacrosse

Irish try to bounce back in Baltimore

After falling to Orange Sunday, team travels to meet Greyhounds

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

No. 12 Notre Dame will look to earn its first Big East victory of the season Sunday in Baltimore against Loyola. The Irish (6-2) will face the struggling Greyhounds (1-5) in the conference opener for Loyola. Notre Dame opened its Big East schedule with a 16-13 loss at Syracuse Sunday.

The Greyhounds, who finished 7-8 last season, have started the season slow after the loss of several seniors from the 2006 campaign. Faring No. 10 Princeton Wednesday, Loyola fell 14-4 on the road despite three goals from junior Kate Flippeli. The only win of the season so far for the Greyhounds came in a 10-9 victory over mid-major Maryland-Baltimore County.

Notre Dame coach Tracy Coyne said despite Loyola’s recent struggles the Greyhounds are still a dangerous team.

“It’s scary because I don’t think they’ve played up to their full talent level,” Coyne said. “They have too much tradition and history not to turn their season around — we’re just making sure it won’t happen on Sunday.”

In last year’s matchup, the Irish defeated the Greyhounds 13-9 in Florida. Caitlin McKinney and Jillian Ryers scored three goals each in the victory.

Notre Dame is coming off a dominant performance Wednesday at home against Ohio State, routing the Buckeyes 16-9. After several games in a row where the Irish trailed early, Notre Dame stormed out of the gate to take a 9-1 halftime lead.

After the half the Buckeyes made a quick run to cut the deficit to 9-5, but Notre Dame quickly responded to put the game out of Ohio State’s reach.

In a balanced offensive attack, nine different Irish scored.

see UAH/page 21

see BASEBALL/page 22

see LOYOLA/page 20

see NCAA/page 23