**Applications soar to 14,501; diversity rises**

By ROHAN ANAND
News Writer

The selectivity rate for Notre Dame's Class of 2011 broke school records this year with a surge of 1,700 more applicants vying for spots in the freshman class. A total of 14,501 high school seniors — including those who had applied for Early Action — submitted applications for consideration, said Dan Saracino, director of undergraduate admissions.

With such a boost in the size of the applicant pool, the selectivity rate dropped to 23 percent, four percent lower than last year's 27 percent acceptance rate. While Saracino said he was "proud of the applicant pool," he said it was difficult to deny more students this year, since Notre Dame does not plan to increase the undergraduate population. The projected class size of 1,985 students will stay the same for next year.

"We made a lot of students happy these past few days," he said. "But when we have 1,700 more students to evaluate this year, and not any more are being admitted, then we have 1,700 more students to deny." see FRESHMAN/ page 6

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**Admitted Class Comparison**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Class of 2011</th>
<th>Class of 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Applicants</td>
<td>14,501</td>
<td>12,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selectivity Rate</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average SAT</td>
<td>1414</td>
<td>1398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average ACT</td>
<td>32.5</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Legacies</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projected Percent of Ethnic Minorities</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Assault investigation continues as ‘rape’ case**

By JOHN PAUL WITT
News Writer

Notre Dame Security/Police (NDSP) continued to investigate a sexual assault reported by a female student, and officials said they could not provide a timeline for any potential charges to be filed.

A female student was sexually assaulted on the weekend of March 24, according to an NDSP e-mail sent to the student body on March 26.

According to information released on the NDSP crime blotter, the assault occurred at 11 p.m. on March 25 near the Eck Tennis Center. The email states the assault occurred on March 24.

The blotter names the offense as "rape" and Notre Dame Security Police Director Phil Johnson said that the case is currently "assigned to an investigator."

"The case remains under investigation," Johnson said. "The decision to file charges is up to the prosecutor."

Johnson said the amount of time it will take to be investigated is unknown, as it varies from case to case.

"It's hard to say," Johnson said. "The length of the investigation is determined by the complexity of a crime, interviews, and the evidence gathered."

Because the investigation is ongoing, Johnson declined to comment on the specifics of the case.

University spokesperson see ASSAULT/ page 6

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**WWII vet speaks about time at Iwo Jima**

Seabee author Ivan Thunder discusses victory in Pacific under Admiral Chester Nimitz

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

Anyone who has ever taken a high school American History class should at least be vaguely familiar with General Douglas MacArthur, but it was the work of Admiral Chester Nimitz that won World War II in the Pacific. That was the message Monday of Ivan Thunder, a Navy Seabee veteran who served at Iwo Jima.

Thunder, who has written two books about his experiences in the Pacific theater in the Naval Construction Battalion, spoke Monday at Notre Dame ROTC classes.

His talk focused on issues he addressed in his second book, "Iwo Jima and the Pacific War: Recollections and Essays," specifically the conflict of adoration surrounding MacArthur, even though Nimitz was more influential in U.S. victory. Thunder said, "We could have bypassed everything MacArthur did and it wouldn't have changed the outcome of the war," he said.

Thunder stressed that MacArthur's conquests only accounted for a small portion of the war, thus requiring the involvement of the entire Pacific theater. see THUNDER/ page 5

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**Honorary degrees to be awarded**

Lithuanian president among recipients

By KEN FOWLER
News Writer

Notre Dame will award 10 honorary degrees at the University's commencement exercises May 19 and 20, including one to a foreign leader.

In addition to General Electric CEO Jeffrey Immelt, who will give the undergraduate commencement address, nine others will receive honorary degrees, the University announced Monday.

Lithuanian President Valdas Adamkus, known as a force for democratization in his home country, will receive an honorary doctorate of laws. From 1970 until 1997, Adamkus served in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. He was elected Lithuanian president in 1998 and served until 2003. His opponent in 2003, Rolandas Paksas, won the election but was impeached 14 months later. Adamkus ran for a second term and won with 52 percent of the vote in a runoff election.

Mary Sue Coleman, the see DEGREE/ page 4

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**Leaders grant co-sponsorships**

By LIZ HARTER
News Writer

Saint Mary's Board of Governance (BOG) members awarded a total of $1,950 to three co-sponsorships at the annual transition meeting for the board Monday night.

The old board that worked under current student body president and vice president Susan Mellduff and Maggie Sieffert, respectively, met with their successors who took over under new student body president Kim Hodges and vice president Kelly Payne.

The transition meeting took place with all members of the old BOG board present so the new board could get a
Inside Column

Read the Classifieds

How many of you pick up The Observer to read one section? I'm not talking about the horoscopes, the question of the day, the comics, or even the inside column. I'm talking about the very best part of The Observer (except of course for the salacious articles that we publish daily) - the Classifieds. "The motion's good indeed, be it so, Petruchio - Hortensio."

Anyone who reads the Classifieds should know what I'm talking about.

To give a bit of background on the section, the person working for the sport section of the paper puts the Classifieds together each night. The Observer sells classified ads for 5 cents a character per day. The exciting thing about this section though is if the classified section is not filled with rooms and condos to rent, job openings, random Shakespeare quotes and/or ads for unplanned pregnancies help, the stuff can sometimes be funny in a sort of "should I laugh or should I cry" kind of way.

"Florida just won...yay! Too bad we lost."
"Man arrives at DUI hearing drunk"
"Time travel. That way when Sunday comes, I could just go back to Friday night."

"Teleport, because I would never be late to class."
"I wish I had ESPN so I could tell when it was raining."
"Earth, water, heart. To improve Notre Dame's environmental ratings end the global warming hoax."

Everyone gets a kick out of the classifieds, and some do not necessarily those of The Observer.

Oh yeah, I almost forgot. Since the classifieds can make movies, the classifieds can make you smile.

"You killed my father prepare to die. - Inigo Montoya"

You are still reading this?
"I'm not at work to put this in the paper next day, if only because my Kathy!"

Ofentimes people give shout-outs to their friends, effectively getting their name in the paper for the next day.

"Look! Kristi, Jesse and Jared are in the paper today!"

"You were to find out that you are never be late to Friday night."

"Jose's giving front hugos now... everyone get in line."

"Dear March, I hate you - Love, KP"

"Either way, the message is generally funny in a sort of "should I laugh or should I cry" kind of way."

"Teleport, because I would never be late to class."

"I wish I had ESPN so I could tell when it was raining."

"Earth, water, heart. To improve Notre Dame's environmental ratings end the global warming hoax."

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"Earth, water, heart. To improve Notre Dame's environmental ratings end the global warming hoax."

Offbeat

Campus construction affects the student body both day and night, with multiple projects going on at once. Crews are laying a new sewer line outside the Hesburgh Library and the CSC building.

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

Corrections

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Today's Weather

TODAY

HIGH  70  LOW  40

TONIGHT

HIGH  60  LOW  30

WEDNESDAY

HIGH  43  LOW  27

THURSDAY

HIGH  38  LOW  25

FRIDAY

HIGH  35  LOW  20

SATURDAY

HIGH  36  LOW  28

The College plans to create a re d i n e s s and e m e rg e n c y released executive summaries Tuesday, April 3, 2007
The Observer
s tu d e n t s and p a re n t s and the school's Web site, one for
pu s, S ain t M ary's has
describing the College's
more comprehensive rep or t
outbreak of avian flu on cam-
"Avian flu was very much in
w hich w o r k e d for a b o u t a
last August, Mooney said
the creation of the Pandemic Task Force.
The American College
Health Association set the
guidelines for the task force,
which worked for about a
semester to put together its
reports.
Other colleges have created
similar plans, which Saint Mary's used as models.
Loyola University of Chicago's plan was especially compre-
hensive, said Dampeer, who chaired the task force.
Loyola's Web site provides
detailed information and
instructions that relate to the
possibility of an avian flu
pandemic, as well as an
emergency response plan.
This plan pertains to natural
disasters, bomb threats, civil
disorders, hostage situations,
utility failure and other hypo-
thetical emergencies.
After seeing this plan,
Dampeer said the College's
plan needed to be expanded.

It is society's responsibility to
remember Nimitz as the real victor in the Pacific theater,
Thunder said.
"I don't know how many
times I've heard history profes-
sors say MacArthur won at two
Jima, but he didn't. That was
Nimitz," Dampeer said.
While Thunder's second book
puts a great emphasis on the
Nimitz-MacArthur controversy
and other historical debates of
the war — such as the decision
to drop the atomic bomb — his
first book, "Her Last Letter," is
an autobiographical narrative
detailing the Seabee lieut-
tenant's personal two Jima
story.
Thunder published the narra-
tive, written in the third person
under the pen name Michael
Dalton, in 2004, nearly 60 years
after the battle.
I wrote the book because I
felt it's a story worth telling. It
includes romance and my life in
Panama," in addition to the
actual two Jima battles, he said.
Thunder, 94, is a 1937 gradu-
ate of Illinois Institute of
Technology with a degree in
civil engineering. He entered
the navy reserve shortly after
graduation and received an
active-duty commission as an
ensign in April 1943. He was
promoted to lieutenant shortly
before leaving Honolulu for two
Jima. Unlike 24 percent of his
non-combat contemporaries,
Thunder survived the inva-
sion and went on to receive more letters from his
wife. Thunder currently lives in
Chicago with his daughter and
her family.
Contact John Tierney at
jtiernel@nd.edu

S M C c r e a t e s e m e r g e n c y p l a n
By JENNIFER METZ
News Writer
To prepare for the possible
outbreak of avian flu on cam-
pus, Saint Mary's has
released executive summaries
describing the College's 
readiness and emergency
plan.
Two reports are posted on
the school's Web site, one for
students and parents and
another for faculty and staff.
The College plans to create a
more comprehensive report
accounting for all possible
emergencies.

Thunder continued from page 1
ion of the overall gains in the
Pacific Ocean — those in the
Philippines and New Guinea —
while Nimitz controlled the
entire ocean from Hawaii in the
east to Okinawa in the west.
Additionally, Thunder said
that Nimitz's victories are far
more famous than those of
MacArthur. He asked, "Have
you heard of Guadalcanal,
Saijan, Tinian, Guam, two
Jima, and Okinawa?" He then
informed the audience that
Nimitz led the American forces
to the victories at each island.
"But, have you heard about
Buna, Lelu, Finchapen,
Hollandland, Sansapor, Biai,
Numfor, Morotori, or Leyte? Precious
ly not," he said of terri-
tory taken by MacArthur.
Thunder recalled a time
shortly before he left for Hawaii
— after he had already been in
the Navy for some time serving
in Panama — when he stopped
in Chicago. During the visit,
Thunder got his hair cut at a
barber shop that was decorated
with two posters — one fea-
tured President Franklin
Roosevelt and another por-
trayed General MacArthur.
"We hope that a parent can
read this plan, Dampeer said.
"The [avian] flu is the start-
ing point. We're working on a
more complete awareness
plan for all kinds of emergen-
cies, she said.

This phase in the
College's preparedness is
starting now, and the commit-
tee will work through the
summer, planning to finish a
final report by the end of next
year.
"We hope that a parent can
go on [the Web site] and be
comforted that [the College]
has planned for all possible
emergencies. It's reassuring
to know that people are in
charge," Dampeer said.
In the course of planning,
Dampeer found that even
members of the committee
were not aware of the emer-
gency plan already estab-
lished by the College.
"I hope people will read the
manual and be aware of what
we've done and are pre-
pared," she said. "Mostly, I
hope that nothing ever hap-
pens."

The College recommends
visiting the Center for
Disease Control and
Prevention's (CDC) Web site
for more information pertain-
ing to the spread of avian flu
and the possibility of a pan-
demic as well as checking the
Saint Mary's Web sites for
summer planning updates.

Contact Jennifer Metz at
jemetz@nd.edu

What are you doing next summer?
The London Summer Programme
May 14 - June 15, 2008
✓ All returning ND & St. Mary's undergraduates eligible
✓ Four and one-half week study in London
✓ Mid session study/travel to Paris, Normandy, Belfast, or Amsterdam
✓ Earn 6 credit hours
✓ Still have 2 months of summer left when you return!

Information Sessions for 2008 & 2009 Programmes:
Wednesday, April 14, 2007
11:45 to 12:30 P.M. or 5:00 to 6:00 P.M.
DeBartolo 101
DeBartolo 126

Applications are available at 223 Brownson Hall or on-line at www.nd.edu/~sumlon
BOG continued from page 1

better understanding of how the meetings operated.

The first co-sponsorship presented to the boards was for a Saint Mary's affiliate of the American Chemical Society (SMACS). The group attended a conference in Chicago and asked for money to defray the cost of the trip.

Three students presented research conducted at Saint Mary's in the chemistry and physics departments, senior Katie White said. "We presented a poster on what events SMACS has held this year and we received an outstanding chapter award," White said. "We were the only women's college to receive any award."

BOG awarded $1,500 to help finance the trip, which took place last weekend.

The second co-sponsorship was awarded to three students who attended the 2007 Idealist Campus conference sponsored by idealist.org.

Sophomore Becky Faunce presented the co-sponsorship and said idealist.org helps students network to see what others are doing with advocacy and social change on their college campuses.

"We spent three days discussing what we're doing on our own campus, participating in workshops and getting our name out there as to what we're doing at Saint Mary's," Faunce said.

Faunce, senior Kirsten Kessinger and sophomore Alison Fleece want to implement what they learned in the three-day conference, which took place March 23-25.

BOG awarded the students $150 with the stipulation that they create a concrete plan of how they are going to publicize the conference next year and what they will do to implement the ideas that they learned at this year's conference.

The final co-sponsorship was to provide funding for a group of women's studies students to travel to the national Women's Studies Association Annual Conference in St. Charles, Ill., in June.

The group of seven students will listen to speakers as they address the topic of this year's conference, "Past Delegates, Present Facilities, and Future Feminisms."

"It's looking at how far the discipline of women's studies has come since the first conference was held," said Faunce, who also presented this co-sponsorship.

BOG voted to award the group $300 with the stipulation that those attending will host a luncheon to present what they gained from the conference.

In other BOG news:
- The Saint Mary's TOSTAL — the College's largest social event of the year — will take place April 26. The event will feature messages and caricatures in the student center, a showing of the movie "Dreamgirls" on the library green, canoe races on Lake Marian and a fireworks display.
- The second annual Saint Mary's Dance Marathon will take place on April 20 from 6 p.m. until 6 a.m. Dance packets should be turned in to any hall director by Wednesday.

Contact Liz Harter at charter61@smail.saintmarys.edu

Write for News. Call 631-5323
IBN donates translation technology

Defense Department, lawyers investigate acceptance of unusual offer

Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — To honor an employer's son who was killed in Afghanistan, the Pentagon plans to give the U.S. military $45 million worth of multilingual translation technology that the Pentagon had been testing for possible purchase.

The offer — made from the highest reaches of the company directly to President Bush — is so unusual that Defense Department and IBM lawyers have been securing federal laws to make sure the government can accept the donation.

The story begins one night late February, when Army Sgt. Mark Ecker Jr., 21, on his second tour in Iraq, was shot in the leg.

Preparing to raid a house, Ecker was shot up a side of the building. But an explosive device had been hidden in a wall, and when it went off, wounded several soldiers. Ecker went on to lose both legs below the knee.

Ecker's father, an IBM mainframe sales specialist in East Longmeadow, Mass., shared the story of his son's ordeal with co-workers, and word spread through the company. Eventually it reached Chairman and CEO Samuel Palmisano.

IBM would not make Palmisano available for comment. But according to other IBM executives, Palmisano had heard from several IBM employees who have returned to active duty in Iraq that a shortage of Arabic translators has severely hindered U.S. forces' efforts to communicate.

With that and Ecker's experience in mind, Palmisano teamed up with IBM, offering to make IBM's Multilingual Automatic Speech Translator software, known as MASTOR, "immediately available for use by our forces in Iraq," Palmisano offered 10,000 copies of the MASTOR software and 1,000 devices equipped with it, plus training and technical support.

"Hopefully this will be helpful to our efforts," he wrote.

Separately, Anne Altman, who oversees IBM's federal sales in Washington, reached out to Adm. Edmund Giambastiani, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to reiterate the offer and get guidance on how to make it happen.

Giambastiani told IBM he appreciated the donation, although according to his spokesman, Lt. Col. Gary Talman, "the offer is under evaluation right now" and "does not constitute accept­ance" by the Department of Defense.

"Part of the evaluation is to determine a proper legal way for acceptance," he wrote in an e-mail.

Indeed, it is very rare for a large defense contractor like IBM, which does roughly $3 billion worth of federal business every year, to give the government a freebie. It is also worth noting that MASTOR has been undergoing testing by the Pentagon's Joint Forces Command, in addition to a rival two-way translation technology known as IraqComm from nonprofit SRI International. Both systems take English or Arabic that is spoken into a computer microphone, translate it into the other language and utter it through the machine's speakers.

The Joint Forces Command told The Associated Press last October that tests on IraqComm and MASTOR so far had been in quiet offices rather than noisy war-zone settings, and that it might be 2009 before the technology is widely used on patrols or other true situations.

IBM's Altman said she hoped IBM's gift would accelerate the timeframe, and other vendors should consider "similar donations." An SRI spokeswoman declined to comment.

But Altman added that she did not expect IBM's offer to end up cutting out SRI or any other potential providers.

President Bush visits with Sgt. Mark Ecker II, right, and his parents in the physical therapy wing of the Walter Reed Army Center in Washington, D.C. March 30.
Assault
continued from page 1

Don Wycliff said that the Notre Dame community is not immune from assaults and that the situation is "especially difficult in the case of an acquaintance committing the assault."

"We don't take the safety of any student, male or female, lightly," Wycliff said. "Notre Dame is not a sanctuary. Bad things occasionally happen."

University Victim's Resource Person Ava Preacher offered advice to students who are victims of assault.

"Immediately after being assaulted, go to the hospital and get an exam. Be careful not to shower or go into the bathroom, as that could destroy evidence," Preacher said.

In addition, Preacher said all people who are sexually assaulted should talk about their experiences to a professional counselor, as well as with someone who can inform them of their options depending on when a person chooses to report the assault.

Hall staffs are also concerned about sexual assaults on campus. Sister Denise Lynn, lHLM, the rector of Basild Hall, said that rapes at Notre Dame are "inevitable."

"There have been rapes, and there will be rapes," Lyon said. "After someone has been raped, it's four job to put the girl in touch with the people who can help her. Rectors, HLMs, and RAs all receive training on how to help people who have been assaulted."

While students are aware of this, Lyon said, it's important not to think that "[rapes] are going to happen, but not to me." Contact John Paul Witt at jw21@nd.edu for more information.

Freshman
continued from page 1

On Monday, the Undergraduate Admissions Office was flooded with phone calls and e-mails from discouraged applicants who had not received admission, Saracino said. While he said the majority of them were probably qualified to study at Notre Dame, an intensely competitive applicant pool made that impossible.

"The situation is not whether or not (the candidate) could do the work at Notre Dame, but rather whether or not (the candidate) could do the work at Notre Dame, an intensely competitive applicant pool made that impossible.

The average SAT score with the combined Math and Critical Reading sections was 1414, and the average ACT score was 32.5. The average high school class rank was in the top 4.2 percent of the applicant pool. Fifty-two admitted students also had perfect test scores, and 484 students scored above a 1500 on the SAT, 23 percent of them being children of alumni.

"But we're not just looking for students with test scores; we're also not just looking for perfect students," Saracino said. "We want to create the whole picture of each candidate: academic rigor, passion, and traits that they could bring here. We do this because we want to cultivate a diverse, talented and exciting student body."

Additionally, the University hopes to enroll a class that consists of 25 percent ethnic minorities and three to four percent international students from 29 other countries, making it one of the most ethnically diverse in the history of the University.

Saracino mentioned the difficulty of enrolling more international students because it's harder to provide them with enough financial aid and attend the University.

"However, we're still looking for every single domestic student, and international students, too. We have 100 students, and there are too many universities that can do that," he said. "It permits greater socioeconomic diversity.

The most highly represented states in the class include Illinois, Pennsylvania, New York, Texas, and Florida.

While the University saw a swell in applications, other highly selective top-20 schools generally hail a greater number of applicants each year — often surpassing 20,000 — even if their freshman class size is relatively similar to Notre Dame's.

Saracino speculated that the University receives 6,000 fewer applications each year because it is less renowned than other institutions, but because most applicants apply to Notre Dame as their first choice and not a safety school.

"We're only one of 10 schools in the list that admits less than 50 percent of the applicants and yield more than 50 percent of them," he said. "When students apply to Notre Dame, they're not fishing for schools — Notre Dame is actually one of their top choices, instead of third or fourth like the other schools with bigger pools. The majority of those who decline our admissions offers do so because of finding better financial aid elsewhere."

And as far as yield is concerned, the Undergraduate Admissions committee is using the wait list more heavily this year than last by admitting 114 fewer students than it did initially with the Class of 2010. This year, the University hopes to avoid the overfill problem that happened last year and give some attention to students on the wait list.

"There are some really outstanding students on the waiting list who want to be a part of this place," Saracino said. "So we're hoping that we can open up some spots for them."

Contact Rohan Anand at ranan@nd.edu for more information.

Coffee at the Como
For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Students at Notre Dame

Tuesday, April 3
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
316 Coleman-Morse

Fuchs to give Nieuwend lecture

Special to the Observer

Elaine Fuchs, Rebecca C. Lancefield Professor at Rockefeller University in New York City and an investigator at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, will be the featured speaker for today's second day of the annual Nieuwend Lecture in Biological Sciences at the University of Notre Dame.

Fuchs is interested in understanding the molecular mechanisms underlying the ability of multipotent skin cells to produce the skin's epidermis and its appendages. She utilizes mammalian epithelial stem cell culture systems to model these processes in mouse genetics as model systems.

Her second lecture, "Stem Cells: Biology and Clinical Promise," is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. today in Room 101 ABC, and Ross Hall of Science. Today's lecture is free and open to the public.

PPE
THE MINOR IN PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, AND ECONOMICS

The PPE minor invites applications from undergraduates with special interests in the intersecting areas of political philosophy, political theory, and economics. Every year about 10 highly motivated and talented students are admitted to PPE. Check it out to see if it is for you. Many of our students go on to careers and top graduate programs in law, public policy, philosophy, political science, and economics.

If you are looking for
(1) an integrated approach to politics and justice, without all the requirements of a second major, and
(2) an intellectual community of faculty and students who share your interests, then PPE wants you!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Professor John Roos, Political Science Department, 424 Sciences Building. Contact Rohan Anand at ranan@nd.edu for application.

FOR AN E-MAIL APPLICATION, simply send a request to Professor Roos.

The application deadline is noon on Tuesday, April 10. Late applications will be accepted only if openings are still available.

PPE INFORMATION MEETING
Tuesday April 3, 5 PM, 118 De Bartolo

For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Students at Notre Dame

Tuesday, April 3
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
316 Coleman-Morse

"The Game" student magazine gay section and "vyb" student group members of the Notre Dame family: Bobbi Tchou, and compass, an all-faiths gathering at the Como in press.

The Observer • CAMPUS NEWS
Tuesday, April 3, 2007

University of Notre Dame.
**Tribune Co. sells for $8.2 billion**

Chicago real estate mogul Sam Zell purchases second-largest newspaper company

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Tribune Co. spent six months searching for the best way to boost its lagging stock price.

In the end, the solution was barely a mile from the media company's Gothic headquarters on the Chicago River.

After a board meeting that lasted until almost midnight, Tribune announced Monday morning that it would divest itself for $8.2 billion, excluding debt, to Chicago real estate mogul Sam Zell.

Zell, who earned a reputation for reviving undervalued properties, is now charged with turning around the fortunes of the nation's second-largest newspaper company, which like much of the industry is losing readers and advertisers to the Internet.

Among his first acts: Sell the storied Chicago Cubs baseball team and use the proceeds to pay down debt.

What's next for Zell, who stands to become chairman of the media conglomerate if the buyout offer is completed, remains unclear.

"I am delighted to be associated with Tribune Company, which I believe is the world's greatest publishing and broadcasting enterprise," Zell said in a statement. "As a long-term investor, I look forward to partnering with the management and employees as we build on the great heritage of the Tribune Company."

Dennis FitzSimons, Tribune's chairman, president and chief executive, said there are no plans for the company's work force or its newspapers or TV stations.

"This is a good outcome for our shareholders and a good fit for Sam Zell," FitzSimons said in an interview with The Associated Press.

The company's complex deal with Zell has a relatively small breakup fee — $25 million — leaving open the possibility of another buyer. Tribune's shares were up 2 percent Monday.

Representatives for the pair declined to comment on Monday.

Zell plans to invest $315 million in the media company and will eventually become chairman of Tribune's board when the buyout is complete sometime in the fourth quarter. The offer needs shareholder approval.

The buyout will be conducted as a two-part deal, the company said. The first stage, expected to be completed in the second quarter, will involve a cash tender offer of $34 per share for 126 million shares, more than half of the outstanding Tribune shares. The remaining shares will be purchased later at the same $34 per share price.

Tribune has about 240 million shares outstanding, according to a regulatory filing.

Seattle settles WTO protest claims

Associated Press

SEATTLE — The city's insurance company has agreed to pay $1 million to settle claims from about 175 people who were wounded during a peaceful World Trade Organization protest in 1999.

The case went to trial in January, and a federal jury found Seattle liable for violating constitutional rights by arresting them without probable cause. The settlement, announced Monday, brings the last outstanding claims against the city from the protests.

"The police can respect the constitutional rights of protesters and at the same time protect the public safety," said Mike Wilhey of Washington, D.C.-based Trial Lawyers for Public Justice, which brought the lawsuit.

As part of the settlement, which a federal judge must approve, the city will seal the arrest records and ask any law enforcement agencies that received copies to expunge them, Wilhey said. Each protester will be eligible to receive $3,000 to $10,000, and some of the settlement will be used to pay legal fees.

City Attorney Tom Carr said the city believes it would have won an appeal.

"However, the city's insurance company decided to settle the case rather than to continue to fund the appellate litigation," Carr said in a news release.

The insurance company is National Union, said Carr's assistant, Ruth Bowman. The company did not immediately respond to an e-mail seeking comment.

The trial stemmed from a mass arrest of protesters at a downtown park, where they were sitting and singing patriotic anthems. That work, 50,000 demonstrators had swarmed Seattle, overwhelming police and closing down parts of the WTO meeting.

The park was in a "no-protest" zone established by the mayor, but officers made no effort to determine whether the protesters had other legitimate reasons to be there before making the arrests, the jury decided.

In a pretrial ruling, U.S. District Judge Marsha Pechman ruled the city had made the arrests without probable cause. Arrest reports were not filled out properly, she noted.

The city agreed in the settlement to issue copies of Pechman's rulings in the case to police cadets and officers to help prevent unlawful mass arrests, Wilhey said.

Seattle P-I photographer Ken Hanking, a Boeing worker, said he was pleased the settlement had been reached but added that getting a few thousand dollars seemed paltry compared to the violation of his rights. He spent three days in police custody and wasn't released until the WTO meetings had ended.

"I lost my right to protest the WTO," he said. "That's something I feel very upset about."
Assistant implicates her former employer in trial

Associated Press

CHICAGO — A former employee of the Hollinger International newspaper empire testified Monday that she mailed a $2.6 million check to former media baron Conrad Black for signing a contract promising not to compete with a company Black himself controlled.

Angela Way, who worked in the Hollinger general counsel's office, testified she also sent checks of $137,500 each to Hollinger executives John Boulbrief and Peter Atkinson for signing similar non-compete contracts.

Way was executive assistant to Black co-defendant Mark Kipsniss at Hollinger and left the company last year. She took the stand as a government witness as Black's racketeering and fraud trial went into its third week.

She testified that on Feb. 8, 2000, she sent the checks — and contracts promising not to compete with American Publishing Co. — to Atkinson at Hollinger's Toronto office.

"The consideration is also enclosed," said a covering memo, referring to the checks.

Way's boss is to meet with Syrian leader Bashar Assad in Damascus. The house Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Monday reviews an honor guard in Beirut during her trip to the Middle East.

LEBANON

Pelosi's Syria visit criticized

Associated Press

BEIRUT — House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Monday shrugged off White House criticism of her impending visit to Damascus, saying she had "great hope" for reviving U.S. relations with Syria and changing its behavior.

Speaking hours after arriving in Lebanon, Pelosi indicated the Bush administration was singling out her trip to Syria while ignoring recent visits by Republican members of Congress.

"It's interesting because three of our colleagues, who are all Republicans, were in Syria yesterday and I didn't hear the White House speaking out about that," Pelosi said, referring to the Sunday meeting of Reps. Frank Wolf, Joe Pitts and Robert Adherboll with Syrian President Bashar Assad in Damascus.

"I think it was an excellent idea for them to go," said Pelosi, who is to meet with Syrian leaders Wednesday. "And I think it's an excellent idea for us to go, as well."

In Washington, White House spokeswoman Dana Perino stressed Monday that the Bush administration objected to all visits to Syria.

"We ask that people not go on these trips," she said. "We don't endorse the idea."

The State Department later said Pelosi was briefed by the Bush administration for her trip, but spokesman Sean McCormack said that didn't represent an endorsement of the visit.

"The United States has poor relations with Syria, accusing it of interfering in Iraq and Lebanon and sponsoring terrorists — charges that Damascus denies," Perino last week described Pelosi's visit to Syria as a "really bad idea."

Last year, a bipartisan commission known as the Iraq Study Group recommended the U.S. launch a new diplomatic initiative with Syria and Iran. The Bush administration rejected the idea, but the U.S. did participate in a regional security conference in Baghdad last month that also included representatives from Iran and Syria.

Perino said it "sends the wrong message to have high-level U.S. officials going there (to Syria) to have photo opportunities that Assad then exploits."

But Pelosi said she thinks it is a good idea to "establish facts, to hopefully build the confidence" between the U.S. and Syria.

The Observer • NEWS

Tuesday, April 3, 2007

**Middle East**

**Lebanon**

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi reviews an honor guard in Beirut Monday during her trip to the Middle East.

![Lebanon](image), **Pelosi's Syria visit criticized** by Associated Press. The article discusses Pelosi's trip to Syria and the White House's criticism of the visit. Pelosi is quoted as saying she had "great hope" for reviving U.S. relations with Syria.

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Police official steps down

Superintendent does not discuss role in videotaped beatings

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The city's police superintendent said Monday he was stepping down as head of the beleaguered department, but he would not say what role two videotaped beatings involving off-duty officers had in his decision.

Last month, prosecutors filed felony charges against an officer accused of beating a female bar patron. Six other officers were removed from street duty after being accused of assaulting four businessmen in a bar.

Superintendent Philip J. Cline took over in November 2003 and had been expected to retire later this year. On Monday, he referred to the highly publicized incidents only as "these times of challenges."

To the city's police officers, the superintendent had been "the one," the man who kept the peace and the man who protected them.

"I encourage all of them to rise above any controversy and stay focused on the mission," Cline said. He did not take any questions from reporters at a news conference.

Cline said he will stay on until a replacement was found, and thanked Mayor Richard M. Daley for giving him "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to lead the best police department in the country."

Daley would not say whether he asked Cline to leave; he said Cline had wanted to retire a year ago but stayed at Daley's request.

"The vast majority of Chicago police officers are dedicated, law-abiding professionals men and women who perform their jobs diligently every day," Daley said. "Unfortunately, the actions of just a few officers can tarnish the department's image."

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, head of the Chicago-based Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, said Cline was retiring under "a cloud of scandal." Future allegations of misconduct should be subject to review by a civilian board, Jackson said.

"These videos have created an embarrassment to the mayor and for the city," Jackson said.

The department was internally notified after the lurid footage of an off-duty officer pummeling a female bartender half his size was broadcast worldwide through 24-hour police channels and on YouTube.

Officials have been criticized for waiting a month to arrest Abbate and for initially charging him with a misdemeanor.

In his brief statement on Monday, Cline also alluded to the apparent effort by police officers to help Abbate enter and leave a court building without having to face the media outside. That caused an outcry in the media about the way police officers protect fellow officers accused of breaking the law.

Videotape of the other confrontation, which had not been seen by the public, had been called to the bar that night, but a sergeant who was among the officers involved in the fight waved them off, Cline said. He announced last week that the six officers had been placed on desk duty.

Cline said Abbate "tarnished our image worse than anybody else in the history of the department," and that he was "disgusted to witness this type of conduct" by officers.

After the beatings came to light, Cline said he would change the way the department responds to allegations of misconduct, including moving faster to get officers accused of misconduct off the street.

He stressed improvements Monday in the department of 13,500 officers and 3,000 civilians made under his leadership.

"Three and a half years ago, Chicago was the homicide capital of the country," he said. "Mayor Daley gave me a mandate as the Chicago police superintendent to reduce, or at least hold in check, gun violence and to make Chicago the safest city in America."

Daley gave me a mandate as the Chicago police superintendent to reduce, or at least hold in check, gun violence and to make Chicago the safest city in America."

"I cannot find him but he can find me (knows my place of work)," the victim, identified by colleagues as Rebecca Griego, wrote in a restraining order petition filed against Rowan on March 6 in King County Superior Court.

About six shots were fired, and a handgun was found in the room. There were no eyewitnesses, and no one else was harmed, Wittmier said.

Cline was born in Chicago and began his police career in 1968. His first beat was the tough Cabrini-Green housing projects. He worked his way up the ranks in 2001 and first deputy superintendent two years later.

Washington woman killed by ex-boyfriend

Associated Press

SEATTLE — A University of Washington researcher was shot to death in her office Monday morning by a former boyfriend who then turned the gun on himself, police said.

Officers responding to reports of gunfire found the two dead in an office on the fourth floor of Gould Hall, the university's architecture building. Assistant University Police Chief Ray Wittmier said

The 26-year-old woman was granted a restraining order last month against Jonathan Rowan, according to court documents. University police said he was not affiliated with the school.

"I cannot find him but he can find me (knows my place of work)," the victim, identified by colleagues as Rebecca Griego, wrote in a restraining order petition filed against Rowan on March 6 in King County Superior Court.

About six shots were fired, and a handgun was found in the room. There were no eyewitnesses, and no one else was harmed, Wittmier said.

Lance Nguyen, who worked with Griego at the Runstad Center for Real Estate Research, said the victim had become increasingly worried about her former boyfriend in recent weeks.

"She said it’s a psycho from her past," Nguyen said.

In the restraining order petition, Griego wrote that Rowan had threatened her and her sister, and said he had threatened suicide "because of the control he has over me."

Campus police were not aware of the restraining order, Wittmier said. He also said he did not think the man had permission to carry a handgun on campus, where firearms are banned.

Student Meghan Pinch, 27, was in a first-floor classroom when she heard several loud bangs. She said that she did not think they were gunshots at first but that police then told everyone to evacuate.

"No one wanted to really think it was real," Pinch said. "So we waited outside to learn whether the victims were people we knew."

"We all are pretty close in this building," she said.

Gould Hall, built in 1972, houses three architecture department offices, a dean's office, a library, shop, lab, computer facilities and classroom space. According to the university's Web site,

The building, in an urban neighborhood on the edge of the campus, was closed for the day, with classes rescheduled elsewhere on campus.

Attention Seniors!

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

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

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There are currently three counselor positions available on our staff for 2007-2008.

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(Flow in Spanish will be strongly preferred.)

We will also seek an Asian Recruitment Coordinator.

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

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

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

Please Note: Interviews will be scheduled after Easter.

Preferred start date is July 1, 2007.

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

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Batman vs. Superman

Those of you who may have read my column in the past know that I have occasionally written about some controversial issues, from the fall election to the war in Iraq. Though these subjects can provoke arguments and long-lasting discussions, in my experience they pale in comparison to the debate over whether Batman or Superman is superior.

I’ve seen good friends stop talking for days after stumbling into this hornet’s nest, and when I have listened to these conversations, opinions have been surprisingly immovable and reactions quite hostile.

I bring this topic up because I flew out of town for a graduate school visitation event last weekend, and while breaking the ice with a few fellow prospects at a local pub, one of them posed the aforementioned question. As I braced in anticipation for the fight to come, another student proposed that Batman was a libertarian and Superman was a socialist. After all, he said, Stalin means “man of steel” in Russian, which also serves as Superman’s title.

According to his theory, Batman is a libertarian because he is a brilliant entrepreneur who trained himself to maintain the martial arts, and uses skills obtained through merit to defend Gotham against criminals and its hopelessly corrupt government. On the other hand, Superman is a socialist because he wears a red cape and has a big “S” on his chest, embodies the belief that only those born well can prosper and spends his time fighting injustice. One democracy this country was built on, opinions have said, eitherWall Street or the middle class that Batman and Superman represent.

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief, Madder Hanna.

POST OFFICE INFORMATION

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SUBMISSIONS

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.

Submissions must be by 3:00 p.m. to be considered for publication the next day.

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The Observer

Tuesday, April 3, 2007

VIEWPOINT

The economics of Fair Trade: Responding to a complex problem

I've never seen such hope. Arias, a Ugandan coffee farmer and father of six, sincerely proclaimed assuredly, "Someday my children will go to secondary school!" Arias' hope is due to a large part to his membership in Peace Kawomera, a fair trade cooperative in eastern Uganda. Since entering the Fair Trade market, members of Peace Kawomera are able to purchase mosquito nets, how to install a much-needed water pump, where to purchase mosquito nets, how to ship in Peace Kawomera, a fair trade cooperative in eastern Uganda. Since entering the Fair Trade market, members of Peace Kawomera are able to purchase mosquito nets, how to install a much-needed water pump, where to purchase mosquito nets, how to install a much-needed water pump, and perhaps most importantly, where to send their children to school. To spend time with Arias and his family was a privilege I will never forget, and a privilege that has consequences. When I purchased a cup of coffee, for example, I can help but picture Arias' children making the daily trek to school. Convinced that my purchase can play a role, albeit small, in realizing this image, the choice to purchase fair trade coffee becomes obvious.

The same choice has also become obvious for an increasing number of consumers. The quality of Fair Trade coffee is exceptional; in many places it does not cost more than the conventional premium coffee, and its purchase empowers small family farmers. Who would object to this? I certainly don't. The economic critique goes something like this: The high prices for non-Fair Trade farmers, but also encourages production, leading to the latest plummet, but still signal a surplus, delivering an incredibly mass market as well as the larger story of Fair Trade movement ignores free market econom- ic critique of Fair Trade, but several farmers, making up two thirds of all coffee farmers, and buyers seeking the highest profit margin, small farmers are taken advantage of in numerous ways, and it's getting worse. The most telling signal is the fact that while worldwide sales of coffee have doubled in the last 20 years, the percentage received by the farmer has been halved. Simply and most importantly, Fair Trade is more than a higher price. The farmer has the right to a fair chance at a better life. A systemic and complex problem must be met with a systemic and comprehensive response, and while this includes buying Fair Trade coffee, it also means working for trade that is fair.

Matt Pal' kert (gr. '06) is a graduate student pursuing a Master of Education. He can be contacted at mpalkert@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Low attendance at film series shows missed opportunity, poor priorities

This past weekend, Notre Dame was host to a truly wonderful cinematic event. The Decalogue, a series of 10 one-hour films by Krzysztof Kieslowski exploring each of the Ten Commandments, was shown at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Sadly, the theater was nearly empty for every showing; only a handful of students bothered to show up. These three one-hour films over two days, are masterpieces. The contents of the Ten Commandments — adultery, murder, bearing false witness, taking the Lord's name in vain — were explored and questioned brilliantly. It should come as no surprise to the Notre Dame community that the Browning Family Cinema was the site of such a unique and rewarding movie-going experience. The cinematic manager, Jon Vickers, has a knack for putting together opportunities to experience important cinematic works. If you are a fan of cinema, you should be grateful for the work that Vickers does to provide our community with a scholar's view of films by major U.S. cities.

Before one of this weekend's screenings, Vickers expressed sorrow that Kieslowski's masterpiece drew a meager crowd around 20 audience members. I expect that he was saddened by thoughts of lost revenue, but by the fact that a remarkable cinematic and religious experience played to an audience of empty seats. I am not of the mistaken belief that there is an obligation to attend campus events, yet I was sincerely disappointed that such an event worthy of the work of a visionary filmmaker was missed. Such a void is symptomatic of educational inequality. It is the system that must be transformed, because all coffee farmers have the right to a fair chance at a better life. A systemic and complex problem must be met with a systemic and comprehensive response, and while this includes buying Fair Trade coffee, it also means working for trade that is fair.

Chris McLamore (grad. '08)
April 2

Teach for America fights to end educational inequality

As a 2005 graduate of Notre Dame, I will complete my two-year commitment to Teach for America in June. Upon reflection of my two years of service teaching middle school social studies in New York City, I am overwhelmed by the growth I have witnessed in every student — and more importantly, in my students. Like most corps members, I came to Teach for America with a desire to make a difference, but little idea how big of a difference. It is the growth that I witnessed in the course of my two years of service, I found that I was able to contribute to their abilities to achieve such results.

Teach for America's support did not end there. As an elementary teacher, I was able to form lasting relationships with my students and benefited from ongoing support via my Teach for America program director, regional staff, and corps members in my school and community, teaching toolkits and corps member learning teams as well as my school's principal and veteran teachers.

Teach for America fights to end educational inequality. From this support I found myself challenged to move beyond the complexion, rather than simply survive in the classroom. A measure of educational inequality. It is the system that must be transformed, because all coffee farmers have the right to a fair chance at a better life. A systemic and complex problem must be met with a systemic and comprehensive response, and while this includes buying Fair Trade coffee, it also means working for trade that is fair. I am presented with what I once thought was a simple choice about a cup of coffee, but those darn economists have complicated things. They have forced me to rely on more than a sentimental image to convince me of the right decision. Back to the original question: if I purchase Fair Trade coffee will I hurt non-Fair Trade farmers?

Theoretically it's possible, but it seems far more important to focus rather on the proven factors that affect the price farmers receive. The market system has failed coffee farmers, not because of any impact from Fair Trade, but because it is riddled with injustice. It is the system that must be transformed, because all coffee farmers have the right to a fair chance at a better life. A systemic and complex problem must be met with a systemic and comprehensive response, and while this includes buying Fair Trade coffee, it also means working for trade that is fair.

Matt Pal' kert (gr. '06) is a graduate student pursuing a Master of Education. He can be contacted at mpalkert@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.
**Movie Review**

**Sandler, Cheadle 'Reign' supreme in new film**

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA  
Senior Staff Writer

"I hate putting fake teeth on fake people," admits Adam Sandler to his wayward pal Charlie Fineman in one of the most endearing moments of "Reign Over Me." Like so many professionals his age, Alan (Don Cheadle) lives a routine, not a life: Drop off the kids, apply veneers at his dental practice for eight hours, hurry home, hit the sack by 10:30. Then rinse and repeat.

Charlie (Adam Sandler), on the other hand, lives the life any married 40-year-old would envy, or at least wistfully miss. He splits his time between eating Chinese food, watching Mel Brooks in *Marathons,* scouring for vintage LPs and motoring around town on his scooter. It's a carefree existence, but it's also tinged with sadness.

We learn early on that Alan and Charlie were roommates at dental school, but Charlie doesn't remember Alan upon their first encounter. Why Alan pursues Charlie so doggedly is never explicitly stated, although survivor's guilt may be the most obvious reason.

Charlie lost his entire family to the 9/11 attacks. He's been a shell ever since, isolating himself further with each passing year. Writer-director Mike Binder chose quite an ironic surname for Charlie, because this character is far from fine. He prefers to turn the volume on his iPod to ear-splitting highs when confronted with the truth, or even the mere mention of it. Post-traumatic stress disorder is what Charlie's psychological diagnosis is, and that never deters Alan in his quest to restore Charlie to himself.

It's the story of this quietly moving and self-effacing film, we come to appreciate the two-way street of the narrative. Charlie may be more damaged, but Alan needs Charlie just as much. It's a subtle difference because Alan's life doesn't scream out for a savior. Binder smartly less us sit with Alan in his seemingly untouched—and rather boring—life to see the true impact of Charlie's reappearance.

In this two-screen film, the plot line "Reign Over Me" succeed on the strength of their performances, and Binder brings together an unlikely but formidable duo in Cheadle and Sandler. Both actors are brilliant here. Beginning with the renowned character that accompanied a rekindling of a lost friendship, their relationship builds and evolves to one of deep trust and comfort.

The best scenes in the film are often the ones where Charlie and Alan are by themselves, zipping around New York City by night as they might have done decades ago. Their surface smiles and easy laughter are charming signs of a flourishing friendship.

When Charlie's career draws to a close many years from now, we might not remember "Reign Over Me" as his finest performance, but rather one more example of how brilliantly consistent he was at his craft. He is one of our finest performers, able to evoke the sincerest of emotions with ease.

While Charlie's performance is to be expected, Sandler's turn as Charlie is a revelation. He brings a nuanced, childlike wonder to the role that is miles away from the childish antics that made his fame. His previous effort in "Punch-Drunk Love" hinted at this range, but "Reign Over Me" offers only our second glimpse at his potential for affecting dramatics. Like Jim Carrey before him, Sandler is on the cusp of shedding his comedic typecasting for roles that are far meater, and hopefully far more rewarding.

After another late night out with Charlie, Alan tries to explain himself to his vexed wife. "I was stuck in Charlie World. I couldn't leave," Alan pleads. Looking past his sheepish spousal façade, it's easy to see why Alan didn't want to leave Charlie World, and the feeling is mutual. Their swelling friendship anchors this warm-hearted film, one that's genuine, sweet and sentimental without ever becoming sappy.

Contact Rama Gottumukkala at rgottumo@nd.edu

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**DVD Review**

'S Patton' released on a four-star special edition

By MARTY SCHRODER  
Assistant Scene Editor

With one of the most famous opening monologues in the history of the cinema, "Patton" begins as its namesake lived: quite an ironic surname for Charlie, portrayings than how one man deals with war. A controversial figure in American military history, George S. Patton was one of the most brilliant, crazy, loved and hated figures to emerge from World War II. Patton lives this role and emerges victorious not only on the battlefields of Ardenness and North Africa but also in the Academy Awards where he won (and infamously declined the award for best Actor in Leading Role. With panache and gusto, Scott's Patton is one of the most memorable American war film roles. While Tom Hanks was marvelous in "Saving Private Ryan," few actors deftly live a character like Scott does. With aplomb and his own rough-and-tumble grace, Scott becomes Patton.

"Patton" also stars Karl Malden as the professional, look-before-you-leap General Omar Bradley. Similar to the situations of the characters portrayed, Malden's placid Bradley lives in the shadow of Scott's charriol Patton. However, this does not stop Malden from reving in the role. He is the perfect counter to Scott—their arguing and pleading characters come one of the best duos in any film.

The film is shot in a beautiful 2.39 to 1 widescreen that allows director Franklin Schaffner to offer the ominous deserts of North Africa and the imposing forests of France in all their natural glory. It also provides for the best opening scene in the latter half of the 20th century.

Schaffner's direction, Fred Koenekamp's photography, Francis Ford Coppola and Edmund North's screenplay and Scott and Malden's acting make this film a must-see for aficionados of history and the cinema.

The DVD release marks the first time a special edition of this film has been released — and 20th Century Fox has spared no expense for a film that truly deserves it. The film transfer is top-notch, the 5.1 sound is truly surrounding and the extras are insightful and plentiful. "The Making of "Patton" documentary is a true gem that explores what Schaffner and crew went through to make this film. There are also historical documentaries that compliment the film nicely along with an audio commentary by famed filmmaker and "Patton" screenwriter Francis Ford Coppola, which gives a new and interesting perspective on this film.

Released in 1970 at the height of the Vietnam War protests, this movie is still relevant in more contemporary situations. When Patton famously declares that America will never lose a war, the phenomena of Vietnam and the quickly developing skeletons of Ira materialize. This gloria and vaporous man only knew happiness in battle, and this film deserves all of the laurels it has ever received.

Contact Marty Schroeder at mchsro@nd.edu
Summarizing trailers ruin magic of the movies

As a film fan, I naturally find myself a fan of movie trailers. Sometimes going into a film, I was so much more excited to see the trailers than the film itself. The spring is always a big time for new trailers because studios want to drum up hype for their upcoming summer blockbusters. As a trailer addict like myself, these are the ultimate gratification — especially since I can watch them over and over in high-definition at apple.com.

However, while watching the trailers in front of "Blades of Glory" this past weekend, I became distinctly aware of how frequently previes these days are condensing entire films into three-minute montages. I feel like I could relate to someone the entire plot of "Spiderman 3" in chronological order just from having seen the latest trailer. The same goes for "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End," the latest trailer. There is a take away any suspense or surprise movies can provide. Often, trailers for comedies give away all the funny moments of the film, leaving nothing left for audiences to laugh at during the movie. All four funny jokes in "Nacho Libre" were in the trailer, making the film largely an unfunny waste of time. "Blades of Glory" thankfully, did not do this. In fact, most of the jokes for that film's trailer weren't even in the movie.

More trailers should be like this — giving enough to generate enthusiasm for a film without giving away the whole thing months before it arrives in theaters. The original trailer for "Knocked Up" was done in this style, and it was both refreshing and delightful. The film, from the creators of "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," follows what happens after a drunken slacker unexpectedly gets Paris Hilton pregnant.

So much for the hope that things were changing for the better.

If there's a solution to this problem, it's not on Hollywood's end. Movie studios need to market their films, and they have determined that enough people will see them no matter how detailed and revealing the trailers are. One could stop watching the trailers and just wait for a film to arrive in theaters, but this also means unrealistic, at least for me. I mean, when you were young, if you could have gotten a peak at your Christmas presents early, wouldn't you have done it?

One could stop watching the trailers and just wait for a film to arrive in the theaters, but this also means unrealistic, at least for me. I mean, if you could have gotten a peak at your Christmas presents early, wouldn't you have done it? Hollywood will likely continue to make movie trailers that give away the promise of a film in order to sell as many tickets as possible. Accordingly, people like me will continue to watch these trailers no matter how redundant it might seem to basically see a movie in its entirety and then go see it again later.

The view s expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Scene Editor at sweany@nd.edu

Blogs deliver laughs at expense of unlucky celebs

With just a few clicks of a mouse, you can quickly learn the extent of Paris Hilton's self-absorption, decide that Lindsay Lohan is only a few steps behind Britney's level of crazy and see that every cavewoman looks "fugly" sometimes. This is to say that the average celeb-voyeur had to wait for print issues of celebrity rags to hit the local supermarket, now you only have to wait a few seconds for the most up-to-date news about the antics of the rich and famous.

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MLB

New Royal Meche leads K.C. past Red Sox

Indians hot hitting in opener leads to easy win over White Sox; Renteria’s blast in extra innings gives Braves win

Associated Press

More than 41,000 fans got on their feet and gave Gil Meche a standing ovation.

Very few pitchers would probably ever admit to being among the many critics who accused Kansas City of paying too much for the 28-year-old right-hander. The big deal paid off, for one outing at least.

In his first start since the Royals gave him a club-record five-year, $55 million contract, Meche gave up 3-1 solid innings and led his new team to a 7-1 victory over the Boston Red Sox and an ineffective Curt Schilling.

Setting down after a shaky first inning, Meche gave up six hits and one run. He struck out six and walked only one in the longest outing by a Kansas City starter on opening day since 1988.

“I’ve never admitted to being nervous before a game ... but this one was a little nerve-racking,” he said. “I felt fine until I got out to that first inning and got on the mound. And then the first lefty hit me.”

“I’ve always been nervous opening day, and I’ve never pitched opening day.”

When he was released by Joël Peralta with one on and one out in the eighth, the crowd of 41,257 stood and applauded.

“It was great, something I’ll never forget, being a part of this,” Meche said. “The standing ovation was an unbelievable feeling for me.”

Mark Grudzielanek went 3-5 and drove in runs and Tony Pena Jr. hit two triples in his Royals debut as Schilling lasted just four innings. The six-time All-Star gave up five runs on eight hits, with two walks and five strikeouts in his shortest outing in almost a decade.

Grudzielanek, the second baseman who won his first Gold Glove last season for the Red Sox in the second inning and then put the Royals on top 3-1 in a two-run double. He also scored twice, on Schilling’s bases-loaded walk in the first and Mark Teahen’s single in the sixth.

Kansas City closer Joël Peralta, left, is congratulated by catcher John Buck after the Royals’ 7-1 win over Boston Monday.


## CLASSIFIEDS

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Cleveland second baseman Josh Barfield hits a two-run triple in a 12-5 win on opening day over the White Sox.

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**NHL Standings**

**Eastern Conference**

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<th>Pts.</th>
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<td>102</td>
<td>5-6-0</td>
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<td>Philadelphia</td>
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**Western Conference**

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**NCAA BASKETBALL**

**NCAA Women's Div. I Tennis FILA Collegiate Rankings**

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<td>3 Florida</td>
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<td>4 Duke</td>
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<td>5 Georgia</td>
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<td>12 William and Mary</td>
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<td>13 North Carolina</td>
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<td>14 Texas A&amp;M</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Fresno</td>
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<td>24 Oregon</td>
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<td>25 Florida International</td>
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**Gators grab second consecutive title**

**Associated Press**

**ATLANTA — Some 3-pointers are worth more than others.**

Florida specializes in those 3s, the ones that not only put three points on the scoreboard but steal momentum from an opponent.

The Gators hit 10 3-pointers Monday night in the 84-75 victory over Ohio State.

"His well-being always has been our primary concern," Tiller said in a news conference Monday. "We are relieved that Selwyn is on his way to recovery."

Purdue wide receiver to be released from hospital

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — A Purdue football player to be released from the hospital later this week, the university said Monday.

"We are relieved that Selwyn is on his way to recovery," Tiller said in a news conference Monday. "We are relieved that Selwyn is on his way to recovery."

West Virginia University at a news conference Monday night, replacing Steve Alford after he was fired last season, after he was stabbed March 25 for 16 consecutive weeks.

Heath agrees to 5-year contract with South Florida

TAMPA, Fla. — Stan Heath’s stint without a job lasted one week. The fired Arkansas basketball coach agreed Monday to a five-year contract to take over South Florida’s struggling program and try to transform the Bulls into a contender in the Big East.

Associated Press

Purdue wide receiver to be released from hospital

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — A Purdue wide receiver who was stabbed in the chest during a fight at a nightclub is expected to be released from the hospital later this week, the university said Monday.

"He was 131-61 in six years at Butler," Heath said in a news conference Monday night, replacing Steve Alford after he was fired last season, after he was stabbed March 25 for 16 consecutive weeks.

Hawkeyes names Lickliter new head basketball coach

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Iowa hired Todd Lickliter as its new coach Monday night, replacing Steve Alford with the coach who turned mid-major Butler into a NCAA tournament regular.

Lickliter will be introduced by the university at a news conference Tuesday.

Heath, 42, will be introduced Tuesday at a news conference on the USF campus, said assistant athletic director John Gerdes. He replaces Robert McCallum, who was fired last month after losing 28 of 32 conference games in the school’s first two seasons in one of the nation’s toughest leagues.

USF athletic director Doug Woolard, who met with Heath during the Final Four in Atlanta, is counting on the new coach’s experience rebuilding Arkansas in the Southeastern Conference to benefit the Bulls.

IN BRIEF

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Alone in first, New Jersey fires Julien

NHL

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Having the New Jersey Devils in first place in the Atlantic Division with a week to go in the regular season got coach Claude Julien fired on Monday.

"Sound strange?\" When you work for general manager Lou Lamoriello, it's always about winning Stanley Cups.

Feeling that Julien didn't have the team ready to make a Cup run with the playoffs starting to schedule next week, Lamoriello fired him on Monday and took over behind the bench for the second straight year.

"I don't think we're at a point of being ready both mentally and physically to play the way that is necessary going into the playoffs,\" Lamoriello said outside an empty Devils locker room at the Continental Airlines Arena. "I am not saying that is going to change. But I think there has to be better focus going forward.\"

The stunning move came less than a day after the Devils beat Boston for their fourth win in five games. New Jersey's 102 points is tied for the second most in the Eastern Conference.

Julien, who was informed of his dismissal on Monday morning by Lamoriello, was not immediately available for comment. He posted a 47-24-8 mark in his first season in New Jersey.

Lamoriello refused to say how long that he has been considering the move, noting that Julien did nothing off the ice to get fired.

"He certainly understands,\" Lamoriello said.

Lamoriello, who replaced Larry Robinson as coach Dec. 19, 2003, would not say whether Julien will remain with the organization.

A practice scheduled for Monday was canceled after Lamoriello discussed the move with the team.

"Our job is to listen to what has been said and why the decision was made,\" Devils captain Patrik Elias said. "Management said it gave us the best chance to accomplish what we want to accomplish and that is to win the Stanley Cup.\"

Lamoriello would not say specifically what was wrong with the team. The Devils, who have struggled stuffing all season, have slumped recently, winning seven of 15 games with forwards Brian Gionta, John Madden and Elias sidelined by groin injuries.

However, the three have returned to the lineup in the past week, helping to turn things around.

"You don't always judge by wins and losses as far as where you are at," said Lamoriello, who built three Stanley Cup winning teams in New Jersey the previous 11 seasons. "The way we put ourselves in this organization, you have to look at the big picture. To say that 10 points today isn't an excellent accomplishment, it's extreme-positive. But I have to look at a lot of factors.\"

Julien was handicapped by roster problems because the Devils have been up against the NHL salary cap all season. Injuries have forced him to play several minor league players.

"I think everybody takes responsibility, including me,\" Lamoriello said.

Monday's firing comes at a time Lamoriello made a late-season coaching move. He fired Bobbie Fritcek with eight games left in the 1999-2000 season and Robinson led the team to the second Stanley Cup title.

Lamoriello didn't consider the change in 2000 in deciding to replace Julien, the Devils seventh coach since 2000, which includes two stints by Robinson.

"You don't think of those things,\" Lamoriello said "Nothing makes it any easier, believe me. The day anything like this becomes easy, or when it's easy sounding up when you have make these decisions and it becomes easy, that's the day you look for a different position.\"

Julien previously coached the Montreal Canadiens from 2003 until January 2006.

Women's water polo takes third

The Office of the President and the Deus Caritas Est Student Committee invite you to submit papers on Pope Benedict's Encyclical Deus Caritas Est.

Intent to present papers must be communicated by April 16, 2007. Please email godislove@nd.edu with confirmation of the topic of your paper. Students can then present their papers at the Deus Caritas Est conference (April 27-28), make any final revisions based on discussions during the conference, and then submit final documents by May 4, 2007.

Prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

Freshman/sophomore: $1,000 winner and $500 runner-up
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www.nd.edu/encyclical. For questions email: godislove@nd.edu or call 631-6526.
Heat star Wade practices for first time since injury

MIAMI — Seeing Dwyane Wade drive toward him during a scrimmage Monday, Dorell Wright backed away, taking every precaution not to hit his superstar teammate's still-healing left shoulder.

Wade was not happy about that. "Dorell is a great shot blocker. I saw him look at me and just jump out of the way," Wade said. "I told him, 'Ain't nothing wrong with my body.'"

Wade began trying to prove that on-court work, even acknowledging that he may play in more regular-season contests than the "a game or two" plan he offered Sunday when announcing he'd return to practice.

For now, there is no timetable. Wade eventually will set one in consultation with the Heat medical staff and his physical therapist. "Trust me," Wade said. "When I take the court, I'll be all right."

Miami (39-34) has nine games remaining in the regular season, one that'll be undoubtedly remembered for a plethora of injury woes. Heat players have missed 171 games this year with injuries, 66 of those by their best two weapons, Wade and Shaquille O'Neal, who've been together for only 13 starts all year.

Soon, that total will almost surely begin rising again, now that Wade's return is getting closer.

"Just happy to see him out there running and smiling," Heat guard Eddie Jones said. "I think it's a great thing to have guys together again."

Wade was averaging 28.8 points when he was hurt in a collision with Houston's Shane Battier on Feb. 21. The Heat are 13-7 since, are a half-game behind Washington in the Southeast Division and play a huge game against Toronto—a team Miami is chasing for home-court advantage in the first play-off round—on Tuesday.

Should Miami beat the Raptors, it'd hold the tiebreaker by winning the season series 2-1. Should Miami lose, the Heat would essentially fall four games (three in the standings, one more with the tiebreaker) behind Toronto with eight games left, meaning chances of earning home-court for Round 1 would be slim.

"It's a big game, there's no doubt," Riley said. "Our guys understand it. We know what it's about. ... It's all about positioning and seedling and home-court advantage. They know it's huge."

Wade won't play on Tuesday, but the defending NBA champions may get Jason Kapono back in the lineup.

Kapono, the NBA's leading 3-point shooter, hasn't played since spraining his left ankle against Atlanta on March 9. The team will decide his status after Tuesday morning's shootaround.

"I assume that I'm playing. I want to be out there," Kapono said. "Unless something happens from now until Tuesday night, which I don't see, I expect to be out there."

Wade is hoping to say the same soon. He'll travel with the Heat to Cleveland and Boston later this week so he can continue practicing and "learning the plays again," as he put it, and will continue rehabbing the shoulder daily to keep building strength.

"I haven't had a day off," Wade said.

Wade's biggest challenge right now, he said, is denying his risky instinct of reaching for every ball that comes near defensively and instead using his feet to get to the offensive end, proven by the way he ended a 4-on-4 scrimmage with a strong dunk.

"He looked real good to me," Wright said. "He's got all the moves. Nothing's changed. He's probably just a little winded, I bet, sitting out that long. But he's been working hard every day, trying to get back."

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

No. 2 Irish to take on visiting Boilermakers

By DAN MALOOF
Sports Writer

No. 2 Notre Dame will look to improve to 19-1 as it takes on No. 50 Purdue at 2 this afternoon at the Courtney Tennis Center.

The Irish are coming off of another successful weekend in which they defeated No. 28 Wichita State and No. 38 Tulsa each by a score of 5-2.

After playing short-handed in the two contests, the Irish will look to get some of their players back this week, coach Jay Louderback said.

"Colleen Biley is going to be able to play tomorrow," Louderback said. "Brook Buck is still struggling a little bit so we're going to wait a few more days and see how she's doing. A couple of others we're going to decide on tomorrow, but we should be at almost full strength, we're hoping."

Purdue, currently 10-3 overall, has won eight of its last nine matches. The team's only loss was a 7-0 whitewash against No. 10 Northwestern Sunday. While the Boilermakers are ranked only 50th, Louderback said they will challenge the Irish.

"They're a tough team and they're a team that's better indoors," Louderback said. "It's a team we definitely were hoping to play outside, but it looks like we're not going to get to because of rain tomorrow. They're a bunch of big hitters. They have a lot of fire power and on the right day they're a tough team to play."

The Irish struggled against Purdue in last year's matchup, barely escaping with a win over the underdog Boilermakers.

"We beat them last year at their place 4-3 and the clinching match was Brook Buck, and she was down 5-2 in both sets," Louderback said.

The Irish, meanwhile, have been on a tear with 13 consecutive victories, but they will be coming off a weekend road trip that forced them to return to campus early Monday morning.

We got in at 3 o'clock Monday morning from our trip, so it was late. We didn't work on anything really — we just let them hit a few balls, and plus we got to get them outdoors, because it was such a nice day."

While Louderback said Purdue's low ranking is somewhat misleading, he is confident that his players know what they have to do to be successful today.

"They're a team that's not ranked high but they're very dangerous, especially indoors," Louderback said. "Our kids know that though because they went through it last year, so they know these guys can play."

Contact Dan Maloof at dmaloof@nd.edu

SMC TENNIS

Belles look to rebound against winless Adrian

By ELLYN MICHALAK
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will travel to Adrian this afternoon as it tries to rebound from two tough weekend losses at the Wheaton Invitational.

The Belles currently boast a conference record of 2-0 after crushing Olivet 8-1 in their home opener and narrowly beating Calvin 5-4. The Belles' overall record is 6-1 so far this season.

Belles coach Dee Stevenson is optimistic about her team's chances in the match against Adrian.

"I go into every match expecting to win," Stevenson said. "And usually Adrian is one of the weaker teams in the league, so I have high expectations for this match."

This year the Bulldogs have yet to win a match and have an overall record of 0-11.

In last year's conference matchup between the two teams, the Belles dominated game play, crushing Adrian 9-0.

As a junior, Kelly McDavitt won her match in the No. 2 singles spot in two straight sets. This year, as the senior captain of the Belles squad, McDavitt will return to play in the number one singles spot.

Other notable performances from last year's match include current sophomore Mary E. Campbell's two-set win in the No. 4 singles spot and senior Grace Gordon's two-set win in the No. 6 singles spot.

The Belles also dominated in doubles play during last year's contest, taking all three matches in two straight sets.

The team will look to learn from this weekend's losses to host Wheaton and Olivet Nazarene. Gordon was the only Belles player to win a match in the two contests, competing as the No. 6 singles player. Gordon defeated Olivet's Anna Engelbrecht Saturday afternoon after the team was shut out by Wheaton the day before.

"We just got back from the Wheaton Invitational and we played against a lot of good players," McDavitt said Monday. "Tomorrow we are going to use what we learned over the weekend and hope to be able to have good match play."

The Belles put their skills to the test starting at 3 this afternoon.

Contact Ellyn Michalak at emichalak@nd.edu
Irish rowers reach Grand Final for first time

Ultimate squad loses in semifinal matchup against Loyola-Chicago after winning first 5 games of tournament
Grizzlies continued from page 24

struggled to come up big in conference play, Lilley noted that there is still a lot of baseball to be played.

"As a team we really have to bounce back," he said. "It's very early in the season still."

The game against Oakland will afford Notre Dame the opportunity to smooth out some mistakes before heading to Cincinnati for another Big East series.

The Irish and Oakland face off in April 2006. Notre Dame had little trouble with the Golden Grizzlies, cruising past them in a 15-1 decision at Frank Eck Stadium.

Oakland heads into South Bend after sweeping Rochester in a two-game series this weekend.

Senior Drew Jenison led the Golden Grizzlies' offensive drive in Saturday's 16-3 victory over Rochester. The outfielder drove in a career-high five RBIs while going 3-for-4 from the plate with a three-run home run and two walks. Sophomore Justin Wilson followed in Jenison's footsteps, leading the team to an 18-5 win Sunday. The outfielder posted home runs in two straight at bats and finished 3-for-4 at the plate with a career-high five RBIs.

"As a team we have to bounce back. It's very early on in the season still."  

Brett Lilley  
Irish shortstop

On the defensive side of the field for the Wildcats, sophomore midfielder Andrew DiLoreto owns a 4-2 record. He has a 7.43 goals-against average and has a .601 save percentage.

"I am very impressed by how hard Villanova plays," Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said. "They have a lot of different guys to look out for. That's what makes them so dangerous. They are really good on defense."

The contest will be Notre Dame's third game this year at home.

"We are very glad to be home again," Corrigan said. "It is tough to open with five out of six games away from home. Hopefully we've learned from the first half of the season, and we've saved our best for the second half."

Today's matchup begins a four-game home stretch for the Irish, during which they will face Air Force, Denver and Lehigh. Notre Dame will not travel again until the end of the month when it takes on Ohio State in Columbus April 29.

Notes:
- Junior midfielder Taylor Clagett has been the face-off specialist for the Irish this year. He has won 88-of-155 (.568) face-offs this season. His career winning percentage is .601 (345-of-574).
- Contact Pat O'Brien at pobrien@nd.edu

PHOTOGRAPHER/The Observer

Rising sophomore running back James Aldridge runs through drills in Monday's practice while competing for a starting spot.
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Any questions or concerns, please contact the Notre Dame Ticket Office at 574/631-7356. Thank you.
Hoops

continued from page 24

hung around late in the game, 386 went on a four-point run to finish the game.

Gleason acknowledged the legend that the difference in offensive speed was due to a lack of practice.

"They were in better shape," he said. "We put on weight over the holidays."

Los Tigres Del Notre 21, Team 644 15

Los Tigres Del Notre held on and came away with the win, but given 644's resurgence in the second half, Los Tigres were lucky to come out on top.

Los Tigres started quickly, scoring the first four points and six of the first seven. While their shots weren't falling at first, they were in good position for put-back baskets.

"We wanted to come out strong," Tigre David Saucedo said.

Saucedo led Los Tigres on offense, his size and speed allowing him to get to the hoop. Neat Kumar played well on the perimeter, driving when he needed to, but sinking jumpers at times.

Team 644 scored three consecutive points before the half, but it was 644's second half play that ultimately bacheca. The Bandits had already used their superior inside game to pull away. The Bandits also converted several first-half break-outs as Team 644 began to show some signs of fatigue toward the end of the contest. Fede, however, was not at all disappointed in her team's performance.

"We played miraculously," she said, beaming with pride.

Absolut Curfles P-Dub Football 5

In a hotly contested and very physical game, the Absolut Curfles managed to come out on top against the overmatched P-Dub Football Bacquets.

The girls of Pasquerilla West High School set out to extend their interhall football prowess onto the basketball court. They believed that they could win in their blood, and so they expected nothing but success. However, the tall bandits, however, had other plans.

In the contest the strategy was for claiming victory in the contest. Absolut Curfles Austin Dwyer laid out the team's main objective and then went on to develop the plan they planned to achieve it. "Win, win, win, win," he said. "We have a special play. We're going to use the hook and ladder. No one knows what it is. Not even anyone on our team."

Ryan Hayes of the Curfles contributed a slightly different form of pro-game analysis that came in the form of an inspirational quote written on his right shoulder that read, "My need to survive does not outweigh my abilities."

Hayes controlled the tempo from the start, running the point guard and center position. For the Curlies, Dwyer was an unstoppable force inside. Turnovers by P-Dub Football proved to be its undoing, as Sean Bradley converted several steals into uncontested lay-ups for the Curfles.

Hayes made it clear where his team's focus was after the game ended. "With a look of unbridled intens-
DO YOU GET ANY TEACHING JOB IN TECH NOW?

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Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will have to do some fancy footwork to secure your personal objectives. ***

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Focus on developing one of your talents further. A chance to get involved with someone who gets what you are into is apparent. Speak out and let others know what you want to do and how you are going about it. A chance to get involved with someone who gets what you are into is apparent.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will find yourself in a very competitive situation if you have been exaggerating lately. You will have to do some fancy footwork to secure your personal objectives. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Your friends will help you to get new self-esteem. A little time spent with someone you love will be a good thing. You will have to take action while you have the stamina to follow through.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stay close to your friends and work on your own strengths. A chance to get involve with someone who gets what you are into is apparent. Speak out and let others know what you want to do and how you are going about it. A chance to get involved with someone who gets what you are into is apparent.

BIRTHDAY Baby: You need to be in control and in charge. You are a leader, unable to let yourself or the line to get things done. You have spark and integrity.

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THE OBSERVER
FOOTBALL

Thomas, Aldridge lead backfield's top battle

By CHRIS KHOREY

Although Notre Dame must replace Maurice Shaw and his 1,267 rushing yards next fall, Irish coach Charlie Weis said Monday that "nothing is aged" by the progress of his running backs this spring.

Four tailbacks — senior captain Travis Thomas, rising sophomore James Aldridge, rising senior Junior Jabbie and early entry freshman Armando Allen — are in contention to replace Shaw, who accounted for 77 percent of Notre Dame's carries by running backs last season.

"The competition is every day and in everything we do," Aldridge said.

Thomas is the most experienced player of the four and, as team captain, is the leader of the group. But he played outside linebacker last year, making 35 tackles in 11 games. He saw spot duty at running back, gaining 78 yards on 13 carries and scoring two touchdowns.

In 2005, Thomas was the second-leading rusher for the Irish. He ran for 248 yards on 63 carries with five touchdowns in his sophomore season.

Back full time at running back, Thomas started the spring as the top backfield option for Notre Dame, but Weis said Aldridge is pushing to at least split carries next fall.

"It's definitely challenging," Weis said of Aldridge.

Aldridge was the team's second-leading rusher last season, gaining 142 yards on 37 carries, mainly in mop-up duty. He played in seven games despite suffering a knee injury before the season started.

But now, Aldridge says he's healthy and ready to show an explosiveness that he lacked last season.

"I'm getting used to bending my legs like I want to and exploding up," he said. "I'm just trying to get better."

Aldridge said the simplicity of removing the knee brace has improved his explosiveness.

"I'll be a lot quicker than last year," he said. "My lateral movement will be back to what it used to be."

By PAT O'BRIEN

Notre Dame is hoping its set against Pittsburgh Saturday, the Irish aided -- and losses to -- Pitt in its 5-0 shutout -- work out. The Irish have proved to Notre Dame that Schrage calls "freebies."

On what Notre Dame coach Dave Weis and opponents the advantages of

defensive lineup that need to sweep at the hands of the heels of a two-game road non-conference matchup on Pittsburgh this weekend.

5:05 p.m. at Frank Eck Stadium as the Irish take on Oakland at home today that they have held an opponent to only three goals this season. Notre Dame enters the contest fresh off an impressive 11-3 victory over Bellarmine March 20. Bellarmine (4-3) enters the match coming off a 9-8 win over Hofstra.

Today marks the 11th meet-

see STREAK/page 20

Baseball

Irish return home for non-conference game

Notre Dame will look to eliminate "freebies" against Golden Grizzlies at home this afternoon

By DEIRDRE KASULA

Notre Dame is hoping its luck will return at home today as the Irish take on Oakland at 5:05 p.m. at Frank Eck Stadium. The Irish enter the non-conference matchup on the heels of a two-game road sweep at the hands of Pittsburgh this weekend.

The set against Pittsburgh proved to Notre Dame that there are many holes in the defensive lineup that need to be worked out. The Irish have struggled recently, allowing opponents the advantages of what Notre Dame coach Dave Schrage calls "freebies." On Saturday, the Irish sided Pittsburgh in its 5-0 shutout with 11 of these freebies -- two walks, three hit batters, three errors and three stolen bases allowed.

In the second game of its home series against South Florida on March 24, Notre Dame allowed eight walks, two hit batters, four passed balls and three errors.

Junior shortstop Brett Lilley noted that the fingers can't be pointed at one person for the combined easy bases for -- and losses to -- Pittsburgh and South Florida.

"It's a group effort, it's not one person's fault when we lose," Lilley said. "When we give up a lot of freebies it's the whole team giving them up."

Even though the team has