Bishop again decries president's approval of 'Vagina Monologues' performances on campus

By BILL BRINK
News Editor

As he did in 2006, Fort Wayne-South Bend Bishop John D'Arcy has condemned University President Father John Jenkins' decision to allow "The Vagina Monologues" to be performed on campus and said he hopes Jenkins rethinks his choice. In a six-page statement released Wednesday, D'Arcy said he "publicly and respectfully disagree[d]" with Jenkins' decision to allow the play, which will be held from March 26-28, to be performed on campus. "I am convinced that permitting performances of [the "Monologues"] is not consistent with the identity of a Catholic university," D'Arcy said. Jenkins said in a two-page statement Monday that universities, including Notre Dame, are responsible for openly discussing controversial issues and finding academic platforms for those issues, and so the play could be performed on campus. D'Arcy disagreed and said permitting performance of the play was "not consistent with the identity of a Catholic university." "...Because it depicts and endorses sinful sexual acts in direct opposition to Church teaching, I believe its performance to be pornographic and spiritually harmful," D'Arcy said. The E. E. Ensler play, which was performed on campus for six of the past seven years, has continually generated controversy at Notre Dame. Jenkins said he would allow performance of the "Monologues" after finding the student proposal to perform the play consistent with guidelines he established in 2006, which, among other stipulations, said the play must be discussed within a Catholic context. An academic panel discussion will follow each performance, and at least one panel member will discuss the play's relation to Catholic beliefs. D'Arcy called for the University to denounce the play. "Otherwise, the University appears to endorse it as in some way good and the impression is given that Catholic teaching is one option competing among many," D'Arcy said.

D'Arcy criticizes Jenkins' decision

Students raise funds to purchase feminine hygiene products for African girls who can't afford them

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

As part of Women's Appreciation Week (WAW) at Saint Mary's College, students have the opportunity to purchase sanitary napkins and tampons for a $1 donation to charity. Co-chair of WAW, freshman Karen Borja said. Senior Adriana Rodriguez, freshman Maricruz Cardenas, and Borja planned the event and began selling the pads and tampons Monday at lunch and dinner outside of the Noble Hall in the Student Center Atrium and will continue selling them the week. Borja said. The donations from the sanitary napkins and tampons sales will be given to Protecting Futures, a project that provides pads to young women in Africa, so that women don't miss school because of their periods, according to the program's Web site. The three organizers of the drive decided it was a worthwhile endeavor after seeing a television commercial for the program, Borja said. After deciding to take part in the program, Borja, Cardenas and Borja said.

Tampons sold for charity at SMC

"Live As You Are" focuses on eating disorders

Counseling Center offers support, treatment for men and women

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

Last year, just over one in every 10 students to visit the University Counseling Center was treated for an eating disorder, but today Valerie Staples will present ways the University can lower that number. Staples, the coordinator for Eating Disorder Services in the Counseling Center, will speak to faculty and staff today about how they can impact the positive body image of students. Her department recently ran a program to educate rectors and RAs about recognizing and helping students with eating disorders and this week the Counseling Center worked in conjunction with other departments to increase campus sustainability, serving some locally grown food products and strengthening its recycling program.

The Senate's resolution listed some efforts Notre Dame took to increase campus sustainability, such as decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, serving some locally grown food products and strengthening its recycling program.

With these initiatives, the University was one of 13 universities to improve by a full letter grade on the report card. "I thought it was appropriate to commend them for what they've done and encourage them to do more," said Fisher senator Stephen Banti, who drafted the resolution. The senators also discussed

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Nurse warns of physiological effects of anorexia, bulimia

By BRIAN MCKENZIE
News Writer

Dr. Mary Rodts, an orthopedic nurse practitioner with over 30 years of experience, delivered a lecture Wednesday on the effects of eating disorders on the bones and body structure as a part of the "Live As You Are" health and body image conference ending today at Notre Dame. According to a Harvard study, more than 40 percent of primary school students wanted to be thinner and most 10-year-olds had dieted, Rodts said. This weight-consciousness causes three percent of women and one percent of men to suffer from an eating disorder at some point in their lifetime.
INSIDE COLUMN

9/11 stairs should stay

Recently, a staircase from the World Trade Center in New York was moved 210 feet to make way for construction of the Freedom Tower on the site of the former twin towers.

Stairs aren’t usually such a big cause for concern, but this case is different. That staircase was the only above-ground remnant of the World Trade Center. Standing after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, it was used by many of the survivors of the attacks to escape the buildings and represents in the most literal sense the tragedy New York and the United States felt that day.

The stairs were whittled away and removed from their concrete base in order to make moving them possible. They ruined what should have been a national landmark, just like any other site. The USS Arizona still rests in the waters in Pearl Harbor to remind the world of the tragedy of that attack.

What makes the stairs different is their location. Situated in downtown Manhattan, this staircase was occupying prime real estate that, according to the Powers That Be, needed to be filled as soon as possible. So by creating a memorial and building a symbolic “Freedom Tower,” the event could be remembered better.

Think about that.

What is even more outrageous is the attempts to rationalize this decision. Joe Daniels, president of the memorial foundation, told the Associated Press that, even though the stairs are being moved, they are maintaining “the essence of the stairs.”

What a load of crap.

Those stairs are only different from any other stairs in the entire world for one simple reason: their location. They helped people where they were and what they were at them and think: “that is where it stayed standing. They helped people.

Notre Dame could tell you exactly why.

The 9/11 memorial group is getting rid of the actual site and rebuilding an artificial Ground Zero nearby. They are destroying history to make room for progress.

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The 9/11 memorial group is getting rid of the actual site and rebuilding an artificial Ground Zero nearby. They are destroying history to make room for progress.
D'Arcy created a hypothetical situation to illustrate his concerns with allowing anti-Catholic teaching promoted in the play from a conversation with Jenkins about Nazi literature.

He imagined the play from a conversation with Jenkins about Nazi propaganda. "Would not the showing of such a film at Notre Dame involve the University in providing a platform for Nazi propaganda and entail some level of cooperation with the evil of Nazism?" D'Arcy said.

D'Arcy released statements disagreeing with Jenkins' decision to allow performance of the play on campus in 2006 and said he had been in contact with Jenkins about the decision and refused Jenkins' arguments in his own statement. In February, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops moved its conference from its planned conference at Notre Dame to a convent in Mishawaka.

Dennis Brown, assistant vice president for News and Information, said the University would defer to Jenkins' original statement when asked about the ability to perform the play on campus.

"We think Father Jenkins' statement stands on its own and speaks for itself," Brown said.

D'Arcy said Jenkins was incorrect to say that allowing the play was analogous to allowing students to read and discuss authors such as Nietzsche, Gibbon, Luther and Joyce, whose writings D'Arcy said are contrary to Catholic teachings.

"Those authors have written serious philosophical, theological and literary works, which have influenced Western thought," D'Arcy said. "As such, their work has academic merit and is worthy of serious discussion and critique in a classroom setting ... How can one put such a play, which many consider pornographic, on the level of serious works such as the writings of Gibbon and Luther?" he said.

The medium of the play also led D'Arcy to object to its performance.

Students reading & book in a classroom setting, he said, discuss and critique the work. After a play, students leave and they are not required to stay for the panel discussions. Panel discussions, he said, are not consistent with watching a play.

D'Arcy also took issue with the play's involvement in the National V-Day campaign, an organization to stop violence against women that "promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations," according to its Web site. The organization was created in 1998 in response to the "Monologues" and helps organize production of the "Monologues" around the country to raise money for anti-violence causes.

D'Arcy also disagreed with showing the play because of the sins inherent to it. The depiction of sins such as female masturbation and adult-child relations, D'Arcy said, "violates standards of decency and morality."

"The sexual sin, which the play depicts in several scenes, degrades women just as much as, if not more deeply than, sexual violence does," he said.

D'Arcy concluded his statement by calling for Jenkins to reconsider his decision.

"I remain hopeful that Father Jenkins will reconsider his decision," he said. "I remain hopeful that Father Jenkins will reconsider his decision for this year and future years," he said.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu
Another resolution supporting an increase in off-campus senators, which failed after debate over the effectiveness of having more off-campus representation and the resolution’s statement that there should be one male and one female off-campus senator.

Korean senator Gus Gari, drafted the resolution, said an increase in off-campus senators would improve communication between student government and off-campus residents, who constitute about 20 percent of the student body.

If passed, the resolution potentially would have led to an amendment of the Student Body Constitution, increasing the off-campus membership from one to two senators.

Gari said that if the off-campus students were proportional to those represented in the Senate, they would require four senators. However, dorms currently do not have proportional representation in the Senate, so he recommended one male and one female senator to address both genders’ off-campus issues.

“Since it’s the only coed constituency...you can say that because the women off-campus didn’t have a female representation, a lot of their issues weren’t really well represented this year,” Gari said. “In that case, they have been disfranchised in some way.”

Some senators disagreed with the resolution’s recommendations, saying it would lead to unfair elections when unequal numbers of male and female senators run for office.

“It’s an elected official,” Dillon senator Jim Murphy said. “I’m worried about appointments or forcing someone in due to the fact that there’s a lack of, not necessarily interest, but just one year, nobody from one gender running.”

Sorin senator George Chamberlain proposed to amend the resolution and remove the requirement to have both genders represented.

Other senators disagreed.

“There are already more boys dorms than girls’ dorms,” Panghwa senator Denise Barons aid. “With the addition of Duncan, there will be two more boys’ dorms than girls’ dorms. I think that there’s an effort, a precedent within Senate to keep a gender balance.”

Besides the gender issue, senators debated the necessity of an additional off-campus member. “As the off-campus senator, I don’t really see a need for this,” senior Andrew Triska said. “The problem is not so much communication, just that most of what we do in Senate is geared towards the undergraduates living on campus.

Additionally, off-campus senators do not have as many resources to relay campus news to other students, such as Hall Council meetings or posters in the dorms.

“I’m just worried about what foreseeable change it will produce. Being off-campus, there’s no group meeting at Turtle Creek [for] Hall Council,” Murphy said. “I just don’t know if more is necessarily better.”

Even though off-campus students may have less access to campus news and events, student body president Liz Brown, who lives off campus, said some students still like to remain involved with the Notre Dame community.

“I don’t think you’re moving off-campus with the intention to get disconnected,” she said. “I think that there is definitely a disconnect in communication.”

In other Senate news:

❖ The Senate passed a resolution amending the Student Body Constitution. This amendment stated that the Student Body President will nominate Senate Committee Chairs, and two-thirds of the Senate must approve the nominations.

❖ Faculty Senate liaison Professor Thomas Noble said the Faculty Senate passed a resolution supporting checks in all classrooms. This resolution will be implemented, since a previous Student Senate resolution also supported the issue.

❖ The next student-faculty debate will address global warming, according to Callie Pugge, chair of the University Affairs Committee. It will take place next Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Dooley Room of LaFortune.

❖ Academic Affairs Committee chair Carol Hendrickson said her committee discussed the future use of online teacher-course evaluations, which will allow students to read others’ comments about their classes.

Contact Claire Reising at creising@nd.edu

Tampons

and Rodriguez thought of ways to raise money.

They first wanted to put jars around campus for people to donate loose change but then decided they wanted to do something more tangible as well.

“Girls would feel like they were actually making an impact if they got something physical,” Borja said. “It’s more symbolic if you have something if you’re just making a donation.”

Borja said the drive was something Saint Mary’s students in particular would be able to relate to.

“We all get our periods every month,” she said. “...[This issue] is something women across campus will be able to sympathize with.”

Having feminine products readily available for use is something “we take for granted,” Borja said.

The tampon and sanitary napkin sales are working with the HERO program, a United Nations Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) Campaign which works with Southern African schools, according to the Projecting Futures Web site.

The Web site said the HERO program promotes "an awareness building and fundraising initiative dedicated to providing comprehensive, school-based support to orphans and vulnerable children living in HIV/AIDS affected communities in Africa.”

The donations from the tampon and sanitary napkin drive will be sent directly to the HERO program, Borja said.

Karen Borjas, Women’s Appreciation Week co-chair, said, "We’re hoping to get at least $500 so the SDB can match that," she said.

Contact Mandi Stifone at astiroff1@saintmarys.edu

The Observer ◆ CAMPUS NEWS

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Tampons continued from page 1

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The Observer

□
Sex scandal forces Spitzer to resign

N.Y. politician could face federal charges, state's first black governor will succeed him

NEW YORK — In a startling development, state Attorney General Andrew Cuomo and Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Wednesday that Gov. Eliot Spitzer resigned after being videotaped paying for sex with a call girl. Spitzer had been under pressure for weeks from the White House and the state legislature to resign over his role in a prostitution ring.

Spitzer's resignation also came as President Bush was declaring a "surge" in the war in Iraq to buy more time for the U.S. forces there. The two announcements, on the same day, are unlikely to make the already bitter politics of New York City any easier.

A statement Wednesday from the governor's office said Spitzer would resign effective immediately. It said the resignation was not linked to the prostitution ring.

"I cannot allow my private failings to disrupt the people I have the honor of representing," Spitzer said in an emotional statement.

He acknowledged that he used the services of call girls "on occasion," and said he had paid for sex "several dozen" times. "It is clear to me that I have a problem that I need to address," he said.

Spitzer, who grew up in New York City's Queens borough, said he was resigning "with a heavy heart." He said his family and friends would be "upset and disappointed." Spitzer said his resignation would take effect at the earliest next week.

Spitzer, the 50-year-old Democrat who was only the second governor of African-American heritage, was running for re-election in November but now the race for the Republican nomination will be wide open.

"I will make no further comment," he said. Spitzer had not yet appeared on live television, but details of the resignation had been circulating on social media throughout the day.

Local News

IRAQ

Baghdad feeling effects of increased violence

Associated Press

Baghdad — In just a week, Baghdad has seen a spate of suicide bombings that have killed scores of Iraqis and U.S. soldiers — among 12 Americans who have fallen in the line of duty during the past three days in Iraq.

Suddenly, the city is feeling the sense of the past that violence eased partly as a result of the U.S. troop buildup, which is now running to a close.

" Violence has increased dramatically over the past few days, said wali Hashem Ismail, a 33-year-old father of three living in western Baghdad.

After five years of war, Iraqi investigators interviewed said they were not necessarily changing their daily routines. But all said the growing bloodshed was present in their minds, clouding what was until recently been a more hopeful time.

Some fear that the rampant violence of one year ago may be coming back, especially as the 30,000 soldiers sent to Baghdad last summer to help end a sectarian war began returning home.

The key goal of the U.S. "surge" was to secure the capital, giving Iraq's politicians breathing room to cut deals that would bring minority Sunni Arabs into the government and thereby weaken or end the insurgency.

Violence in the capital has indeed diminished, thanks also to a maze of walls and barriers that divide Shii from Sunni neighborhoods, a key U.S. strategy, but the decision by many Sunnis to turn against al-Qaida in Iraq. As a result, street life and even nightlife have returned to many districts, particularly Shiite.

Baghdad's ApiController in a recent interview said the city was now back to normal. "I'm 100 percent certain that if the U.S. forces leave now, the situation will become very explosive," said Naji Hassan Yassin, a 55-year-old math teacher and father of three from the city's Amiriyah neighborhood, once controlled by al-Qaida in Iraq.
Staples continued from page 1

ments to hold campus-wide events for National Eating Disorder Awareness week. With so many students present a unique set of issues to consider in the treatment of a disorder.

"On campus, there are circumstances that might fuel the disorders differently," she said. "This is a place where there is a lot of exercise going on and there is a competitive component to that. These are students who are pretty driven, whether it be about grades or looking perfect."

The Counseling Center stresses a collaborative approach to treating students with eating disorders. Staples said, "If someone meets the criteria for an eating disorder, we approach it with a comprehensive team."

Students meet with a counselor, dietician, and a physical fitness coordinator in the health center. We are looking at all aspects of the disorder."

The first step of the treatment program is completing paperwork that will screen for the severity of the disease, Staples said.

"Counseling students need to meet with a therapist, but do not have a severe enough condition that requires regular meetings with a dietician and physician and student. Students with a severe form of an eating disorder meet regularly with the therapist, dietician, and doctor. In those cases, the eating disorder "would be at a point where the behaviors and thoughts about body weight and eating start to affect other aspects of life such as self-esteem, relationships, and concentration," Staples said.

Staples also leads group meetings for affected students to talk about their problems with each other.

The Counseling Center treats many forms of eating disorders every year, but the most prevalent forms treated are anorexia nervosa and bulimia. Staples said, "The center also treats students who purge calories by over-exercising, and a few students who are binge eaters, but do not purge the calories through vomiting or exercising."

In the past few years, the Counseling Center has seen a slight increase in the number of men seeking help for eating disorders. Although the students treated are predominantly women, Staples said the increased awareness over the years has helped propel men to get the help they need.

"It is difficult for men to admit they are dealing with a stigma that [eating disorders] are a woman's disease," she said. "We are trying to get away from that.

Recently, Staples attended a conference at Duke University for campus treatment providers. She said she gained insight and into the treatment programs of other similar universities such as Cornell, NYU, and Brown.

"In listening to them, I think we are pretty comparable in terms of issues and number of students with eating disorders, and I was really pleased in listening to other people in terms of our programs. I feel a lot of think with our collaborative relationships we are further ahead than some," said Staples.

Staples is optimistic about the strength of Notre Dame's approach to eating disorders. "I feel really good about the progress we have made in terms of providing a team approach. We have a good collaborative relationship, which transfers to good continuity of care for students," she said. Most students would say that they have found it to be helpful," she said. "Eating disorders are very serious, and it can be a very lengthy treatment process but people do get better."

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Lecture continued from page 1

"Those who suffer from anorexia struggle with an intense fear of gaining weight. They spend 70 percent or more of their time thinking about food, dieting or calories."

Mary Rodts orthopedic nurse practitioner

"One of the most serious of these eating disorders is anorexia," she said.

"Patients may feel deprived by dieting and they often find friendship with food."

Mary Rodts orthopedic nurse practitioner

"In my niece's situation, we did not see it, we did not know it going on," she said.

Rodts said that sometimes one of the only ways you can recognize a patient with bulimia is by looking for the other symptoms. "One initial sign is that the teeth are stained and corroded, particularly in this back, because of the repeated vomiting," she said.

"The patient's hands and knuckles may also be cut because the hands are often used as an instrument to induce purging," she said. The third eating disorder Rodts discussed was binge eating. She said it is similar to bulimia except the patient does not purge or fast.

"Patients may feel deprived by dieting and they often find friendship with food."

"Patients suffering from binge-eating often develop high blood pressure, cholesterol problems and type 2 diabetes. Rodts said. Generally, she said, eating disorders can cause serious problems by interfering with the body's supply of nutrients, electrolytes and calcium.

They are especially dangerous for women because they deplete a reserve of bone strength women need later in life because they lose bone mass much more rapidly than males as they age, Rodts said.

"Acting [by getting help] is necessary to prevent lifelong disabilities," she said. "Eating disorders can affect your well-being 30 to 40 years down the road."

Junior Sarah Ponte said she thought Rodts' lecture which spoke specifically to women in particular was informative. "Even though I'm a premed, there was a lot I didn't know about the electrolyte balance and the range of psychological effects of eating disorders," she said. "It's not just the heart, or any one system, it's everybody."

"I feel really good about the progress we have made in terms of providing a team approach. We have a good collaborative relationship, which transfers to good continuity of care for students," she said. Most students would say that they have found it to be helpful." She said eating disorders can affect females, but do not have a severe enough condition that requires regular meetings with a dietician and physician and student. Students with a severe form of an eating disorder meet regularly with the therapist, dietician, and doctor. In those cases, the eating disorder "would be at a point where the behaviors and thoughts about body weight and eating start to affect other aspects of life such as self-esteem, relationships, and concentration," Staples said.

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Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Write News

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The Observer • CAMPUS NEWS
Thursday, March 13, 2008
Capitol Hill begins budget debate
Democrats, Republicans seek political points while tackling fiscal plans

WASHINGTON — Democrats in the House and Senate trumpeted surplus-producing fiscal plans Wednesday as their GOP rivals seized on looming tax increases as the Democratic budget outlook as a poten...
Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton did something Wednesday night that she almost never does. She apologized.

As President Bush's former first lady, she generally didn't seem to be able to stop apologizing. The New York senator, who is running right now with the help of Sen. Barack Obama for the Democratic nomination, struck several sorry notes at an evening forum sponsored by a group of local newspaper publishers.

Her biggest apology came in response to a question about comments her husband made Wednesday night after the under-23 team played a key match against the United States, a team official said Wednesday.

The missing men had not yet been reported to authorities. Zachary Mann, a spokesman for the Confederation of North, American and Caribbean Football, or CONCACAF, said Clinton called the month's decision to end the war, which was expected to be in the United States' "wet foot, dry foot" policy, said Wednesday.

The move, which had not yet been made public, was said to be under review. The five men, including a group of 1,100 people who helped Cuban migrants to the United States, were expected to be in Miami by this weekend, said Marois O'Monnit, a professional soccer team manager.

The Cuba team was in Tampa to play in qualifying games for the Beijing Olympics this August, sponsored by the Caribbean Association of Professional Soccer and team officials did not identify the missing players. But looking at players and officials Wednesday, said: "We can be proud of both Americans."

Obama if he were the nominee there will be a great effort to unify the Democratic party. But anyone was offended. It was certain not meant in any way to be hurtful." Clinton said. "We can be proud of both Jesse Jackson and Senator Obama."

"Anyone who has followed my husband's public life knows my public life is very well where we have stood and what we have stood for and what we have stood with," she said, acknowledging寸 the honorific title the nomination will have to be able to heal wounds of a bruising campaign.

"Once one of us has the nomination there will be a real effort to unify the Democratic party and we will do so, because remember I have a lot of supporters who have voted for me, we have two numbers and I would expect them to support Senator Obama if he were the nominee," she said.

The Clintons have long enjoyed overwhelming support from black voters, but that has been eclipsed during the primaries and caucuses by enthusiasm and support for Obama, who has pulled huge margins among black voters. Arguments over the role of race and gender have flared up repeatedly throughout the contest between Obama, who would be the first black president, and Clinton, who would be its first female one.

Earlier in the day, Hillary Clinton supporter and fundraiser Geraldine Ferraro gave up her honorary position with Clinton's campaign after she said in an interview last week that the candidate would not have made it this far if she were white. Obama said Ferraro's remarks were "ridiculous" and "wrongheaded.

In her comments, Hillary Clinton told her audience: "I want to apologize for what I said and I regret deeply that it was said. Obviously she doesn't speak for the campaign, she doesn't speak for any of my positions, and she has resigned from the campaign and from my very large finance committee."
Dogs rescued from Ariz. house

Over 800 animals taken from overwhelmed owners and put in area shelters

Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — About 800 small dogs, including Chihuahuas, terriers and Pomeranians, were seized from a triple-wide mobile home whose occupants were overwhelmed trying to care for the animals, authorities said Wednesday.

Pima County sheriff's deputies and animal welfare officials who removed the dogs also found 82 caged parrots in the home in a rural area northwest of Tucson.

Some dogs were pregnant and giving birth as they were taken to shelters in Tuscon, said Jenny Rose, a spokeswoman for the Humane Society of Southern Arizona. Ninety-six dogs were taken from the house Monday and another 700 on Wednesday, she said.

"The home was definitely in very bad condition, urine and feces all over the home, in the kitchen and bedroom, with a very strong odor," she said. "Obviously, 800 dogs in a triple-wide mobile home, they were packed in there. That being said, they were in pretty good shape."

The elderly owners, who have not been identified, were apparently overwhelmed but apparently overwhelmed but have cooperated with authorities, sheriff's Sgt. James Ogden said. No charges have been filed, but authorities continue to investigate.

The animals appeared to have had enough food, but a few were missing paws — some from having been attacked by other animals, others apparently having caught their feet in fencing outside, Rose said.

The breeds included Chinese crested and Lhasa apsos. The owners were breeding and offering the dogs for sale, Rose said, but she described it as a boarding case, in which elderly people sometimes feel no one else can give their animals a good home and won't part with them.

Deputies were alerted this month after a woman who bought a Chihuahua at the home reported the conditions, Ogden said. Some dogs were pregnant and giving birth as they were taken to shelters.

Over 800 animals taken from overwhelmed owners and put in area shelters

Associated Press

DALLAS — Driving to her job at a landscaping company on Interstate 30, Sondra Plunk saw a young boy fall from an overpass and land in the lane next to her.

"I saw his face," she said. "I saw the fear in his face." The boy and his brother were tossed from the overpass east of downtown Dallas on Wednesday, allegedly by their mother, who then made the two-story jump herself.

Somehow, all of them survived dropping into the fast lane of morning rush hour traffic.

Plunk said the boy she saw fell forward into the fast lane of traffic, as her driver slammed the brakes and Plunk was unsure if the van struck the boys.

The boy landed on his side and immediately popped up and ran across the highway, staring into the van's headlights.

"He rolled to all fours," said Plunk, 44. "Knowing he was still alive, knowing he was still conscious and he had the presence of mind to do his best to get out of here.

Police said the boys, ages 6 and 8, were in stable condition, but hospital officials declined to comment later Wednesday. Their mother, Khandi Busby, was in fair condition at another hospital, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Police said they believe the traffic which Plunk estimated had been traveling 35 to 40 mph, hit Busby and their 8-year-old but managed to avoid the younger boy. All three were able to stick with investigators, although the 8-year-old may have suffered internal injuries.

"It was really miraculous that this didn't have some fatalities with this incident," Dallas police spokesman Sgt. Gil Cerda said.

Busby, 27, had not been arrested as of Wednesday but could face two charges of attempted capital murder, Cerda said.

"The why remains a mystery to us," police Lt. C.L. Williams said. "If you try to apply logic to these incidents, they totally defy any logical explanation."

Shortly before 6:30 a.m. Wednesday, Busby and her sons walked away from her father, who had stopped for gas while driving them to a friend's house. Police do not know why Busby left with her children.

"She was not fleeing for her safety," Cerda said. "She just threw them over and decided to throw herself over."

Her father tried to follow the three in the car but was unable to get to them before they reached the overpass. Police said each boy struggled with Busby as she picked him up and threw him onto the far left lane of the freeway, where cars swerved to avoid them.

Dr. Dave Milzman, a member of the American College of Emergency Physicians, said that if someone lands face down their odds of surviving a fall from 22 feet are good.

"As long as they landed kind of upright, it's not that unusual not to injure themselves severely," Milzman said.

Busby has a criminal record, including convictions for assault and criminal trespass of a habitation. Child Protective Services had intervened with her on at least three occasions for incidents that police described as relatively minor.
If Lent were spring training, I’d be in jail

Honestly now — how many times have you broken your Lenten promise so far? I promised to spend 20 to 30 minutes in quiet prayer each morning this Lent, but know of at least five days when that has not happened, three days when I didn’t reach the finish line, and at least five more when my prayer was so distracted it could hardly count as prayer.

Today is the 32nd day of Lent, and that’s thirteen whiffs. If Lent was a baseball game, my .600 average would have someone checking me for steroids. God, however, has not yet knocked on the door with a random drug test, so the numbers don’t seem to impress Him. Has God ever tried to hit a baseball? It’s not that easy.

The days when we break our Lenten promises can be the most important of the 40 days of Lent. By reminding us of our seemingly unshakeable inability to keep even simple commitments to God with bringing them with a whole battery of interior reactions that are rich with the possibility of deeper self-knowledge, and a deeper knowledge of God. I have learned some of my most enduring spiritual lessons while swinging and missing in Lent.

Most importantly, I have discovered that, if I put my mind to it, I am capable of endlessly frustrating myself. I have never made it through a flawless forty days of Lent, and the prospects for next year don’t look great either. I am pretty sure I am incapable of pulling off a perfect Lent. And once I start thinking outside of Lent to the challenges that confront me the other 320 days, it’s a wonder I get up in the morning. It’d be easier and safer if I just stayed in Dillon with the door locked.

Of course, this spiritual depression—born of a spiritual perfectionism—is a helpful conclusion to reach precisely for its absurdity. Lent reminds me precisely of the certainty that moral and spiritual perfection is an impossibility for me. Yet, an overwhelming sense of discouragement at my failings hardly helps us build up of the Kingdom, which I personally and definitely can’t do locked in my room in Dillon — no offense to the guys at Dillon.

My search for a more helpful response sends my mind through Viewpoints, and an almost daily reminder of the collection of sinners with whom Jesus spent His days. Times of spiritual discouragement, or realizations of our weaknesses, are extremely rich times to read Jesus’ encounter with the town thief Zaccheus, or Jesus’ calling of Matthew the tax collector. I hear each word and feel each moment of the certainty that I would have someone checking me for steroids.

These are people of moral imperfection, and what strikes me to the heart is not so much that Jesus forgives them (though of course he does) but that he seems to seek out, and then remains in, their company.

Reading these passages, and seeing myself in them, are some of the most intimate moments with God that I experience all year.

While they don’t justify my sins and shortcomings, they do speak to them — and the words are ones of mercy, love, and a renewed call to conversion and true freedom and relationship with God. My Lenten failings are invitations not into discouragement, but into a deeper understanding of the depth of God’s mercy and love.

Perhaps, I shouldn’t be so content with imperfection, but — truth told — I kind of like hitting .600 during Lent. Recognition of our limitations, and recognition of our thirst to transcendent, true — even if that recognition some days manifests itself only as frustration with ourselves — is a time-tested gateway to a more vibrant and real relationship with Christ.

Our limitations make us one with most of the Gospel characters whom Jesus goes out of his way to encounter. Jesus seeks for us with such persistent compassion despite, indeed because of, our sin, failures, and imperfections.

So. 660 it is this Lent, with eight days to go. Hey, it’s hard to hit a baseball with perfect regularity, and besides, you don’t want to be at the peak of your game in spring training.

Father Lou DeFria is the director of Bible studies in the Office of Campus Ministry. He can be reached at defria.24@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
How to Play:
To complete the Observer letters to the editor below, fill in the blanks by selecting from the three options in each of the parentheses. Enjoy!

To the Editor:
I disagree with the March 10 Letter to the Editor, entitled

"Golden Dome for Everyone: Homosexuality should be performed under Dome."

Notre Dame must remain a paradigm of our beautiful Lady's spirit. As the Irish Rover, the English Department, the Society of Women Engineers seem to want to turn our Lady's University into a liberal college (a socialist state, a non-Christian campus, a secular institution).

In the name of (Our Lady, Our Lady),
Andrew Nesi
Spicy Sea Nuggets

A realistic view of sexuality

This letter is in response to Brother Bill Mewes' letter ("Real Issues," Mar. 11) in which several points made personally disturbed me.

The first was his offer of congratulations to Greg Vatrala, the 30-something year old alumnus who consistently writes serious yet inane letters to The Observer. I feel safe in saying that Greg should not be lauded for his writings, as being an older man he should have something better to do with his time than write to his alma mater's newspaper, and he is too out of touch with the college-student mentality to be taken seriously.

Second: Brother Mewes demeans students' desires to be free of classes on the weekends by blindly stating we all want to get drunk and have sex. I live in a quad with three young, homosexual Black women. I am concerned that they are interested in tanzania (tanzania) of the week (the week) of sex — if you sex you mean Zedd, Super Smash Bros., and guitar. And one of my roommates has a girlfriend.

Third: He states that this semester is the first in five years in which an article has been written to counter the wanton sexual content in today's society. However, last year I wrote a letter decrying the prevaleance of porn in the media ("Unethical mentality needs to go," Oct. 17, 2007).

Fourth: When a college student asked him how to be chaste and pure, Brother Mewes writes a suggestion to observe heartily the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and prayer.

Although there are all praiseworthy acts, these suggestions just show how out of touch he is with college-age students. I suggest a more practical way to keep guys out of girls' pants, and though it may keep you chaste, it sure won't keep you pure.

Ryan Stanev
Freshman
Caroll Hall
Mar. 12

Monologues' a disgrace

I attended Notre Dame from 1962-68. The university was in the early throes of modernization, and I was upon reflection that it wasn't quite clear who was really in charge — the priests or the trustees. A bit of drift was evident. I don't pay much attention to Notre Dame these days. But it was made known to me today that the "Vagina Monologues" will be performed at Notre Dame. I was kind of rebellious during my college years. But I still considered myself a Catholic. This is why I am disgusted. To this play is going to be performed at Notre Dame. Being a Catholic used to mean something. I guess it doesn't mean much at Notre Dame, if standing up for a moral code might offend the hip on the Left. I see nothing much has changed at Notre Dame since I left 40 years ago.

Mary Monologues, support Barack Obama, and hire Summit, Vivian Stringer, Ty Williams. But perhaps most importantly, Notre Dame and St. Mary's women must band together to project those who continue to imply through words and actions that women are inferior, make female sexuality as acceptable as male sexuality on campus, vote for Hillary Clinton. We can only do this in one way, by (working together), requiring students to read The Pussy Ranch, Diablo Cody's blog, every day, smoking a joint.

With the help of VoC, and the performance of the "Vagina Monologues," I hope Notre Dame can educate ignorant Catholics like Mr. Mahon. Women of Notre Dame and St. Mary's: we must stand together and support academic freedom. After all, Notre Dame is a university founded on the legacy of a man, nothing says liberation like a play in 101 DeBartoli's! a woman divided cannot stand!

In the name of (Our Lady, Our Lady),
Katherine P.
Junior, Senior
(BP, McCandless, Kampala, Uganda)

Andrew Nesi is a junior American Studies major from Fairfield, Conn. In between evenings of "Juno" over spring break, he found this six full-length gray hairs on his 21st birthday which he found depressing. He can be reached at mewes@nd.edu.

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

Allison Wishon
Viewpoint editor
Contact the Viewpoint editor at ikings@nd.edu

Eating disorders discourse crucial

I would like to commend both Tara Gilbride and The Observer for acknowledging the significant issue of eating disorders on the Notre Dame campus. As the article mentioned, eating disorders are not uncommon; however they often serve to isolate and consume the men and women struggling.

Eating disorders, like other mental illnesses, are real, organic disorders — and like any other serious disease, they are not a choice or an individual failing. As a survivor, not only can I attest to the devastation eating disorders cause, but I also assure that treatment is effective and recovery is possible.

Thank you, Tara, for courageously sharing your story, and for giving a voice to those silenced by these serious disorders. I encourage the Notre Dame community to continue this important discourse by attending the Health and Body Image Conference, and by reaching out to those who are in need of help and support. And for those of you struggling, please know that you are not alone.

Allison Wishon
Senior
Class of 2007
Mar. 12

Letters to the Editor

A realistic view of sexuality

Viewpoint letter fun!

Fill in the blanks
"The Bedlam in Goliath"

The Mars Volta

Released by: Universal
Recommended Tracks: "Wax Simulacra," "Tourniquet Man" and "Goliath"

By TAE ANDREWS
Scene Editor

Elizabeth "Biz" Lohmuller describes putting on the play "Seduced" as "just plain crazy."

However, as the director and the woman behind the scenes responsible for the method behind the madness, she has embraced the challenge of putting on a play based on the final years of Howard Hughes' life, as he descended into madness and kept himself in seclusion from the rest of the world.

"Howard Hughes is basically nuts," she said. "His life story is so out there it's literally unbelievable that someone could live like that. He gets sucked into his desire for money, prestige and control and loses his true identity in the process by becoming a millionaire monster. He is constantly impressed by the identity he and society have created for him, which is a false identity. So that in itself creates fantastic material for a play because we all love to see insane stories which are true."

In order to keep her sanity while running the show, Lohmuller said she adopted a team-oriented approach.

"Developing an overall understanding about what the show means and then putting that into each line took a lot of time," she said. "The way I overcame it was to talk about it a lot with my actors, who were amazing in helping me with this all together. We figured it all out collaboratively and I think we came up with a pretty good concept."

That concept owes much to the collaborative efforts of the small, but talented crew who were amazing in helping me put it together, Lohmuller also believes that watching Hughes' demise can give insight for college students preparing to enter the workforce.

"Henry is like a warning to us," she said. "He is at the end of his life looking back, realizing he could have done so much more."

"The time period is intentionally ambiguous because I wanted to show that, while this is technically set during the time of Howard Hughes, the themes apply to us today as well," she said.

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrews@nd.edu

"Seduced" highlights
Inframund
Hughes' madness

By RYAN RAFFIN
Assistant News Editor

The Mars Volta wants to blow your mind. Since its inception in 2001 from the ashes of the late, great, "At the Drive-In," the California group has never ceased pushing musical boundaries.

The group, known for its unique genre classification as well as traditional song structure, the closest term that could be used to describe its music is simply "forward-thinking." There are hints of punk, salsa, metal and jazz sprinkled throughout each of its albums. The partnership central to the group, vocalist Cedric Bixler-Zavala and keyboardist Omar Rodríguez-Lopez, must have the most diverse collection of music on their iPods the world has ever seen.

The group's most recent album, "The Bedlam in Goliath," is a definite step up from its previous effort, 2006's measuring "Amputechture." It is almost as catchy as year and straightforward an album as the band's 2003 debut "De-Loused in the Comatorium." Of course, words like "linear" and "straightforward" are relative, in this case, being code words for "no songs over 10 minutes in length." Gone are the half-hour multi-movement excursions of yesteryear. Instead, we get the furious, two- and a-half-minute burst of "Wax Simulacra."

There are 12 songs, and increase from previous efforts, and despite the album's overarching concept, these are the best prog-rock songs the Mars Volta has written in years. Which just to say it's become Maroon 5; this record is still more esoteric and flat-out bizarre than nearly anything else out today.

The fact of the matter is that when compared to Mars Volta previous body of work, which sounds like it was written 100 years in the future by aliens who sing in Spanish, English and made-up words, the melodic hooks of "Bedlam" seem fairly tame.

At the same time, this is the Mars Volta's hottest and loudest offering yet. Complexity and length were dished back, if only slightly, in exchange for brute force. The band is rocking harder than it ever has. Songs like "Goliath," "Metatron" and opener "Abyzarkula" leave an impact right away, with Bixler-Zavala's voice complementing Rodríguez-Lopez's wailing guitars and Thomas Pringle's pounding drums.

The extended ambient intros are gone, a two-and-a-half-minute minute burst of "Wax Simulacra."

"The time period is intentionally ambiguous because I wanted to show that, while this is technically set during the time of Howard Hughes, the themes apply to us today as well," she said.

Contact Ryan Raffin at rraffin@nd.edu

For all the strides made in streamlining its music, the Mars Volta still have not matched the genius of its second album "Frances the Mute." While that album was gloriously excessive, it still seemed like every second was essential, something that can't be said for "Bedlam." The 76-minute runtime is far too long — at least two of the songs on the second half of "Goliath" have been cut out, as they all sound basically the same. Shorter songs don't count for much when the back half album is loaded with sound-a-likes. Filler is filler, no matter the song length.

The Mars Volta should be commended for its new approach, but the group still has something to learn about restraint. After pushing its sound to the absolute limit, it realized that sometimes a slight­ly more head-on approach works just as well. The problem lies in not going far enough from what it knows. Maybe the band should try making a record less than 70 minutes long. There are some very strong songs on "The Bedlam in Goliath," and the good stuff far outweighs the bad. It is only hope that the best songs are the shortest and most different from its normal style. Funny how that works.

"The tim e period is intentionally ambiguous because I wanted to show that, while this is technically set during the tim e of Howard Hughes, the themes apply to us today as well," she said.

Elizabeth "Biz" Lohmuller
"Seduced" director

seen through the life and times of Hughes. In the play, the character "Henry Hackamore" represents Hughes and is voiced by Carl Wex-Michael. Lohmuller also believes that watching Hughes' demise can give insight for college students preparing to enter the workforce. "He is at the end of his life looking back, realizing he could have done so much more."

"The time period is intentionally ambiguous because I wanted to show that, while this is technically set during the time of Howard Hughes, the themes apply to us today as well," she said.

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrews@nd.edu
Every once in a while one of my interests will turn into obsession, and no where is this more frequent than in the realm of pop culture. Let's face it, I don't do my homework. I read magazines and blogs and watch TV and movies all day long. How else would I get myself to watch TV and movies and work. I read magazines and blogs and watch TV and movies all day long. How else would I get myself to watch TV and movies and work. I read magazines and blogs and watch TV and movies all day long. How else would I get myself to watch TV and movies and work. I read magazines and blogs and watch TV and movies all day long. How else would I get myself to watch TV and movies and work. I read magazines and blogs and watch TV and movies all day long. How else would I get myself to watch TV and movies and work. I read magazines and blogs and watch TV and movies all day long. How else would I get myself to work. Through break, I found myself completely captivated by the Iowa caucuses and each primary after that. But my obsession is more specific. I'm particularly drawn to MSNBC's coverage of the campaigns and primaries, partly because NBC is my favorite television network, but mainly because I have a platonic old man crush on Tom Brokaw. Although Tom retired from his usual nightly news job, he'll pop up every once in a while on NBC or MSNBC. These moments are unpredictable, but they usually occur on primary nights. I have a strange obsession with Tom Brokaw that creeps out my friends, but I think they're just jealous of our secret love.

"Touch My Body" by Mariah Carey

About a week before Mariah debuted her new single, a friend and I agreed that we were going through Mariah withdrawals. Imagine our surprise when a trusty blog sent us to her website to get a sneak peek of "Touch My Body." Let's just say that I'm counting down the days until April 15 when she drops her new album. I have to say that I like the video even more than the song because I love a diva who can bring the funny. With help from co-star Jack McBrayer ("30 Rock") and director Brett Ratner (say what?), Mariah shows us in her sense of humor again and looks fabulous. I could never see Beyonce doing a video like this, and that's why Mimi will always be queen bee.

"All My Children"

I keep up with "AMC" off and on, but it takes quite a bit to get me to start watching religiously again. All it took for me to add a series recording of "AMC" to my DVR this time was an old-fashioned amnesia storyline and the return of daytime's first African-American supercouple — Jesse and Angie. "AMC" decided to give Ryan amnesia (Maria had it a few years back) and I'm hooked watching how each character reacts to his ordeal. Ryan has forgotten the last four years of his life so he thinks that he is still in love and engaged to Kendall (who is now happily married to Zach) even though he is currently married to Annie. Meanwhile, Jesse and Angie are back together after it was believed that Jesse had been dead for the past 20 years. It's a general rule that no one ever really dies in soap operas. Even if we see you as a ghost (which we did with Jesse in 2001), there's a way to keep you alive. So it's been heart-warming to see this couple together (since I once was just a baby the first time around), and viewers have been treated to retrospective clips to get us caught up on the love story. Supercouples are few and far between these days so it's always refreshing when an old one comes back.

"Rock of Love 2"

I have an excuse for this one. I met Amber. She is my cousin's friend's husband's best friend from graduate school. Meeting her wasn't as complicated as describing my connection to her. But let's just say that I have some juicy "Rock of Love" gossip and a few hints about what's going to happen in future episodes. Not only does having background knowledge enhance my viewing of the show, but it also gives me someone to genuinely root for. Amber seems too smart and normal to be picked by Bret, but at least she has already gained minor celebrity status in Chicago. That's really all you need in life. You're only handed for a few autographs, you get to throw parties with vodka sponsors at bars and you're forever a member of the VH-1 family (which includes endless opportunities to capitalize on that connection).

Vote for Hillary. She can solve national emergencies, like fixing the heat in the White House.
Wildcats forward Shane Clark, center, slams home a dunk as teammate Dwayne Anderson, right, and Syracuses forward Kostof Ogogo look on during Villanova's 82-63 win in the first round of the Big East tournament.

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The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces.
USILA Men's Lacrosse Top 20 Rankings

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IWCLA Women's Lacrosse Top 20 Rankings

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MIAA Women's Softball Conference Standings

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MIAA Women's Tennis Conference Standings

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Oakland Athletics third baseman Eric Chavez has left the team's spring training facility to have a doctor check on his ailing back. Chavez hit .240 with 15 home runs and 46 RBI in an injury-shortened 2007.

**Injured Chavez hopes to travel with A's**

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Oakland third baseman Eric Chavez flew to Los Angeles on Wednesday to have a follow-up examination on his back.

He had an appointment with Dr. Robert Watkins, who operated on Chavez last Oct. 9. Chavez was due back in Arizona later Wednesday.

The six-time Gold Glove winner will hope to join the Athletics for their opening trip to Japan to play the World Series champion Boston Red Sox on March 25-26. He is even willing to go and be the designated hitter, or serve as an ambassador to promote the series.

Whether the A's decide that's a good idea — with the long flight and all — isn't yet clear. They leave the desert in a week.

"He just has to get healthy," manager Bob Geren said Wednesday before the A's hosted the Arizona Diamondbacks.

"When he gets in these games down here is more of a medical question."

The 30-year-old Chavez also had offseason operations on both shoulders. He received an injection in his back Feb. 29 to ease inflammation.

He had back spasms last year that landed him on the disabled list for the final two months of the 2007 season.

"I want to move this along. Do I want to play (in Japan)? Yeah, I do," Chavez said. "I don't know what will happen or should or shouldn't happen. If they want me to be there, no doubt I'll show up." "As athletic trainer Steve Sayles has said he would like to see Chavez running the bases first and then fielding consistently before giving him medical clearance. The bending over to field the ball has bothered Chavez's back in the past. Chavez had three plate appearances in a simulated game Tuesday: a walk, a fly ball to right that was dropped for an error and a single off the wall in left. He saw 10 pitches and took three swings, and he is eager to DH in a game soon.

He isn't as concerned with running the bases as getting his timing at third.

"I really don't have to test that right now," he said of running. "It's such a question mark right now. I'm running at 66-70 percent and I'm going to have to do that for a while. I'm really here to play, but that's my problem. I could easily say, 'I'm a month out' and ease into it, but that's not my style."
NBA

Rockets win 20 straight, tie 30-year NBA record

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Houston Rockets' 20th straight win was far from pretty, but coach Rick Adelman was still impressed with his team.

The Rockets were held to their lowest first-half total of the season but pulled away late to become the third team in NBA history to win 20 consecutive games, tying for the league's second-longest winning streak with an 83-75 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Wednesday night.

"It may be the ugliest thing we've done, but it might have been the best one," Adelman said, "the way we fought through it."

The Rockets joined the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers (33 straight) and 1970-71 Milwaukee Bucks (20) as the only teams to win 20 or more in a row.

"We did enough to win," Adelman said.

Tracy McGrady scored 21 of his 28 points in the second half for Houston, which led only 71-70 with 5 minutes remaining. McGrady then scored five points in Houston's 10-0 run to take control.

"We're really happy with this win because we didn't play well in the first half," McGrady said. "This is a pretty ugly game tonight. We didn't shoot well and it was one of those games that our defense really had to win for us."

The Rockets are 20-0 since their last loss on Jan. 27 against Utah, including 7-0 since losing Yao Ming to a foot injury on Feb. 26. The Hawks have 16 losses in that same period.

A basket by Atlanta's Marvin Williams with 5 seconds left in the game ended the Rockets' streak of 10 straight wins by 10 or more points. Joe Johnson led the Hawks with 28 points, and Josh Smith had 16 points and a career-high 22 rebounds.

The Rockets pulled within one game of the Lakers for the best record in the Western Conference. Should so, many observers continue to focus on the Lakers and Spurs and other teams in the conference.

That's OK with Houston.

"It's unbelievable," McGrady said. "For me to be on this team that has accomplished 20 straight wins, that has got to be right up there with the most gratifying things I've accomplished in this league. You look at the Bulls that were 72-10, they didn't even do it. So this is pretty remarkable."

Added Adelman: "You could see the guys, it really means something to get this and just keep not only the streak going, but keep moving in the right direction."

Shane Battier had 15 points as Houston struggled to preserve its winning streak despite trailing 33-32 at halftime.

"Houston makes you play that way," Johnson said. "They are not a fast-paced team."

Houston led 59-57 at the end of the third quarter, but Atlanta's Zaza Pachulia opened the fourth with two free throws. Minutes later, he was called for a technical foul after arguing an offensive foul. Battier made the free throw to give the Rockets a 66-62 lead.

Atlanta closed to 71-70 when Chuck Hayes and Luis Scola scored on back-to-back baskets. After Smith was denied inside, McGrady stretched the lead to 77-70 with a jumper which bounced twice on the rim before falling through the net. McGrady added a 3-pointer with 1:53 left for an 81-70 lead to cap the 10-0 run.

The Hawks have lost six of seven, but remain in contention to end the league's longest streak without a playoff appearance. They fell one-half game behind New Jersey for the eighth spot in the Eastern Conference.

"It's been tough," Johnson said. "Everytime we get in a position to move up, we take a step back."

Houston allowed only 89.3 points per game during its 19 straight wins and set a low scoring pace against the Hawks.

Saturday May 24 - 7:30 pm
The Honywell Center
Wabash, Indiana

Tickets on sale NOW at Honeywell Center, charge by phone 260/563-1102 or www.honeywellcenter.org

Sunday April 13 @ 7:30 pm
The Embassy Theatre
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Tickets on sale Friday March 14 at 10 am at the Embassy Theatre, charge by phone 260/424-1811 or www.tickethome.com

Saturday May 26 @ 7:30 pm
The Honeywell Center
Wabash, Indiana

Tickets on sale NOW at Honeywell Center, charge by phone 260/563-1102 or www.honeywellcenter.org
The Core Council invites gay, lesbian, and bisexual members of the Notre Dame family, their friends, and supporters for an informal gathering at the Como.

Thursday, March 13
7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
316 Coleman-Morse

The Magic have a list of late-season goals written on the blackboard in their locker room. They were able to erase the one at the top Wednesday night.

Dwight Howard had 22 points and 13 rebounds to help the Magic beat the Los Angeles Clippers 110-86, securing their first winning season since the 2002-03 season.

“We’ve got some guys in our locker room who have never had a winning season and I think you’ve got to appreciate some of the things you accomplish during a season,” Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said.

The next goal is to wrap up a playoff spot and then win our division and secure home-court advantage for the playoffs.”

Howard, playing on a winning team for the first time in his four-year career, got his league-high 57th double-double this season. He also had plenty of help.

Rashard Lewis had 19 points and nine rebounds and Hedo Turkoglu hit three 3-pointers to give them a 13-point lead with 6:36 left in the third quarter.

Turkoglu added 17 points for the Magic, who put all five starters in double figures by the end of the third quarter. C a r i s o s Arroyo had 13 points off the bench.

“Dwight [Howard] was just a nightmare matchup for us. We had to collapse and double team him and they have too many good shooters. Sooner or later someone is going to catch fire.”

Trailing by 15 at halftime, the Clippers pulled to 69-60 with 7:48 to play in the third quarter. However, Jameer Nelson hit a 3-pointer and Turkoglu added three to spark a 14-4 run that pushed the Magic’s lead to 83-64.

Howard had 14 points and nine rebounds in the first quarter against the outmanned Clippers. His slam dunk gave the Magic a 13-2 lead with 6:36 left in the quarter and Orlando never trailed again. Lewis and Arroyo had eight points apiece in the second quarter when the Magic shot 61 percent from the field and opened up a 63-48 halftime advantage.

Maggette had 20 points in the first half, including 10 of 12 from the free throw line, but there was little help as the rest of the Clippers hit only 11 of 33 shots.
MLB

Duncan's hard slide sparks Rays - Yankees brawl

Francisco Cervelli last Saturday, spiked second baseman Akinori Iwamura in the right thigh and was immediately tossed. Tampa Bay's Jonny Gomes was ejected, too, after racing in from right field and ramming into Duncan as other players poured onto the field.

Girardi called the home-plate collision in the first game between the AL East rivals unnecessary. This time it was Tampa Bay manager Joe Maddon's turn to denounce rough play not normally associated with exhibition games.

"In Tampa, that play you saw at home plate was a good, hard baseball play. What you saw today was the definition of a dirty play," Maddon said. "There's no room for that in our game. It's contemptable. It's wrong. It's borderline criminal, and I could not believe they did that."

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — So much for the notion that the New York Yankees and Tampa Bay Rays could settle a gripe without fighting.

Meeting only days after New York manager Joe Girardi complained about Tampa Bay's aggressive play in spring training after one of his players was injured in a home-plate collision, the Yankees brought some testy rematch Wednesday.

At a titu d e of th e ir own into a tion, the Yankees brought some injured in a home-plate collision in the first game between the AL East rivals unnecessary. This time it was Tampa Bay manager Joe Madden's turn to denounce rough play not normally associated with exhibition games.

"In Tampa, that play you saw at home plate was a good, hard baseball play. What you saw today was the definition of a dirty play," Maddon said. "There's no room for that in our game. It's contemptable. It's wrong. It's borderline criminal, and I could not believe they did that."

Among New York players, Duncan was the most vocal in his criticism of the collision that broke Cervelli's right wrist, sidelinng the Yankees' prospect for eight to 10 weeks and triggering a debate over what's fair play in spring training.

The Yankees first baseman insisted he was not trying to injure Iwamura.

"I'm pretty sure the spikes weren't that high. They were pretty much going straight at the glove," Duncan said. "I've done it before. Never had a reaction like that."

Duncan's hard grounder glanced off second baseman Evan Longoria's glove for an error and rolled up the line in foul territory. Duncan rounded first and hesitated before taking off for second — a move the Rays perceived as conclusive evi-
NASCAR

Frustrated Stewart continues Goodyear criticism

Associated Press

MARTINSVILLE, Va. — Tony Stewart defended his harsh criticism of the tires Goodyear brought to Atlanta last weekend and said that it was time to speak out after years of closed door meetings failed to produce a solution.

"You finally get to the point where, if you get frustrated enough, now it’s gone from doing things in a nice, calm manner to I want to make sure I get somebody’s attention about this," Stewart said Wednesday. He had called the tires "the most pathetic racing tire I’ve ever been on in my professional career."

Some of Stewart’s critics dismissed the remark, saying Stewart was just being his usual vocal about it. But many drivers have agreed that the tires were subpar, including former champions Jeff Gordon and Dale Jarrett.

"Think we are all pretty frustrated. Tony took it to the fullest," Kevin Harvick said. "But he’s definitely right in the way the tires have worked. None of us really enjoy the way that we had to race this year."

Stewart said all the drivers were fed up with the hard tires at Atlanta, and he just drew the most attention because he was the most outspoken in his criticism.

"Everybody talked about it," he said. "Just nobody got real vocal about it until after the race. When you’re stuck in a car for 37-4 hours and it drives like crap, you’re going to be upset about it. "

"Guys are screaming at their crew chiefs that it was the worst car they’ve ever driven. Well, it wasn’t the crew chief’s fault. It wasn’t the team’s fault. These guys spend millions of dollars to have these cars. It was the tires we were running and tires should never, ever be the deciding factor in a race."

Stewart also said his comments were not directed at the people that make the tires or the ones that mount them on the rims at the track, but at the designing engineers.

"Think about it. Every year we’ve blown tires. It’s like, how many years have they been doing this? At this stage of the game, how do you not figure it out? How could you have not figured out not to blow tires and build a competitive tire?" he said.

Stewart said the tire company that has exclusive rights to NASCAR needs to understand that those rights bring responsibility, among them listening to the thoughts of drivers and taking them into account.

"They have to understand that we’re the ones that drive them, we’re the ones that have to give them the feedback. They need to start listening to us more," he said.

Harvick, who attended a Philadelphia Flyers game on Wednesday night, said Goodyear "that flat out didn’t do a very good job," with the tires in Atlanta.

"I think they could do a better job with the way that they approach the testing and things like that," he said. "As the sport has advanced, it seems like the tires haven’t advanced as much as the rest of the sport."

During a question and answer session with members of the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, Stewart said he was quickly apparent his message had been received.

Even before NASCAR president Mike Helton summoned him into the NASCAR hauler, he said, Helton had already heard from a top executive with Goodyear who wasn’t happy.

"On Monday, Goodyear issued a statement that said it was satisfied with the performance of its tires at Atlanta, and that it had no safety issues in the race, but promised to re-evaluate before returning to Atlanta in October.

Exposing the ND community to the best ethnic cuisine the South Bend area has to offer. This month featuring traditional Irish and Mediterranean food samplings!
Buckeyes
continued from page 24

2004. This weekend might feature a close competition between the two teams with mutual respect — and hostility toward each other.

Both Ohio State and Notre Dame are skilled in every weapon, but the two squads have different strengths. For the Buckeyes to win, their top fencers must win or at least make the finals in many of the events. For the Irish to win, they must use their unparalleled depth to score a large number of points from all 12 competitors.

That dichotomy was on display March 2 in Detroit at the NCAA Midwest Regional. Ohio State won five of six individual titles, but Notre Dame captured 11 medal positions, compared to the Buckeyes' seven.

"Ohio State is a very strong team," Bednarski said. "Probably by names, it's the best."

The competition begins today with women's pool bouts. The women's final pool bouts and direct-elimination championship bracket matchups will be held Friday. The men will have a similar schedule Saturday and Sunday.

Notre Dame had a tight and unstructured practice Monday at the Langford Gymnasium in the Joyce Center before leaving for the competition on Tuesday. Irish assistant coach Gia Kvaratskhelia said from Columbus Wednesday that only a few members of the team were lightly exercising during the allotted training session.

Kvaratskhelia said the most important physical preparation for the Irish would be to hydrate and get in bed on time.

"We trained all year for that, all year to develop the strength and endurance," he said.

"We trained all year for that, all year to develop the strength and endurance," he said.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

Youthsters
continued from page 24

(Sarah Borrman and Eileen Heseltine and both Irish man's foilists (Steve Kubik and Zach Schiriz) are freshmen. Ewa Nastasi added junior Karol Kostka topped Schoodcraft in the final. Bad Howard lost the bronze medal bout or had Schoodcraft beaten Kostka, Schoodcraft would have earned the final epee spot over the three-time national competitor Howard.

Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said having a freshman-laden team is worrisome because the young fencers are not accustomed to the mental and physical rigors of the two days of bouts for each the men and women.

Of course, he also hopes that this appearance in the national championships is the first of four for the super seven.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

HILLESLAND DRIVES HARD

Junior forward Zach Hillesland drives to the hoop during Notre Dame's 68-55 win over Saint John's on March 5.
Belles start home season against Manchester

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's, who won eight of 10 games over its spring break road trip in Ft. Myers, Fla., will look to add two more wins to its record as the Belles host Manchester today in a doubleheader, Saint Mary's home opener.

"We don't plan on making any changes," head coach Erin Sullivan said. "We will approach Manchester the same way we approach every game, by coming out with intensity."

Sullivan said her team's has good mental toughness and enthusiasm headed into the matchup with Manchester. She said this mentality is helped by an oft-repeated phrase — "win every inning."

Junior pitcher Calli Davison will start the first game of the doubleheader. Davison (5-2) won every game she started in Florida, and pitched shutouts in three of the games. Sullivan said Davison continues to improve every year.

"Davison's hard work this summer, especially on her rise ball, has paid off," she said. "She has really become a great No. 1 pitcher for our team. She is going to have a great season for us."

Saint Mary's is known for its explosive offense, which has so far outscored opponents 76-26. Highlighting this offense are sophomore Ashley Peterson and Maureen Healy, junior Ashley Fusaro, and senior McKenna Corrigan. Corrigan also serves as the team's second starting pitcher.

The team is continuing to improve in several offensive areas. In practice, the Belles are becoming more aggressive on the bases and have worked on hitting outside pitches. Sullivan looks to implement these skills against Manchester.

Sullivan sees an advantage in playing at home.

"We tend to do very well at home, so we would like to start strong again this season," she said. "I think it's important to have the mindset of winning every game, whether it's home or away."

Manchester is the first of three non-conference teams the Belles will play before beginning conference play. Saint Mary's, a member of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association, plays its first conference game March 29 against Calvin.

During the 2007 season, the Belles finished third in the MIAA. Coyne was frank.

"I think we can move the game stand on Thursday, March 13, 2008 at 3 p.m. today.

Contact Laura Myers at lmyers2@nd.edu

Are you in for a difference?

If you've thought of offering your talent; if you dream of helping create a better way of living for those in need; if you want to challenge yourself, learn, travel, and give; then, we need to talk...

Come join us at the Puerto Rico Center for Social Concerns. We are receiving applications for ten volunteering positions in Puerto Rico. The interviews will be held in March 25, 26 and 27 at the CSC.

To download the application and gather information, visit www.prcsc.org.

The PRSCS is a non-profit organization committed to improve the quality of life in communities with limited economic resources. By matching volunteer interest and skills with the needs of the community, the PRSCS promotes the well being of the residents while providing enriching experiences of volunteer work.

Puerto Rico Center for Social Concerns
Marquette
continued from page 24

to show, but you’re not showing
a lot of stuff now.”

Earlier this week, Brey downplayed the fact that his team wouldn’t know its oppo­
nent until 24 hours before tip off.

“At this point in the year, I
don’t know how much scout­
ing really does matter,” he said. “I think the focus is on your group and how you play and if you have prepared quickly so many times at a walk through and shoot­around on Thursday, you can get mentally ready to go.

Instead, Brey, who was
awarded Big East coach of the
year Tuesday, said the extra rest
will help his team after play­
ning three games in seven days last week.

“This group is really
excited. We’re going in
with a lot of juice.”

Mike Brey
Irish coach

Illi

continued from page 24

lead.

Junior Kelsey Teff and senior
Brook Buck completed the dou­
bles sweep as the No. 1 pair in
the nation finished off their
opponents, 8-6.

In singles play, the Irish started
strong. Junior Katie Potts
battled through a tough first set
against Illinois’ sophomore
Kristina Minor. After starring 3-3,
Potts took over the match, winning 6-4 in the first set. She
carried her momentum to a 6-0 shutout in the second set to take the
match.

Ciharu was firing on all
cylinders for her match. After
winning the first set 6-1, she
outlasted senior Momei Qu in
the second to win 7-5, 6-4.

Buck was firing on all
cylinders for her match. After
losing the first set 7-5, she
won the second set 6-4 in favor of the
Irish. The match was a combination
of tough, grind-it-out wins and
convincing, dominant victories
of tough, grind-it-out wins and
dominant singles play as well.

The two-game home stand for
the Irish concludes with a
match against Eastern Michigan
on Friday at 4 p.m.

Contact Dan Masterton at
dmasterton@nd.edu
Another Unfunny Comic

CROSSWORD

Note: The circled letters in the answers to the seven starred clues, reading left to right or top to bottom, spell words that can combine familiar phrases that start with "breath.

Across
26 Snow
1 Throw
5 It may be found in a cone
9 Homes for the elderly
13 Object of a manhunt, maybe
14 Score just before the 13th
20 NBA center
50 Be in force, as a law
51 "The___Mae"
52 Popular dancing group
53 "Eat a___"
54 Seven Sisters
55 Collateral option
56 Individually
58 "Ich dich"
60 "Meanie"
64 "Finnegans Wake"
65 Major Italian

Down
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2 2008 Chicago Cubs
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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Brey's players face Golden Eagles again

ND battles Marquette for third time this season

By CHRIS KHONEY
Senior Sports Writer

NEW YORK — No. 14 Notre Dame has been in New York since Monday, but it finally found out Wednesday who its Big East Tournament quarterfinal opponent will be.

No. 6 seed Marquette defeated No. 11 seed Hall 67-54 Wednesday night at Madison Square Garden to advance to play the No. 3-seeded Irish. Notre Dame earned a bye to the quarterfinals, tonight at 9 p.m.

Notre Dame split with Marquette during the regular season, falling 92-66 in Milwaukee Jan. 12 and winning 86-83 at the Joyce Center Feb. 9.

"With Marquette we've played them twice," Irish coach Mike Brey said Sunday. "You have some good stuff, you have some horrible stuff. You have some good stuff, you have some horrible stuff. You have some good stuff, you have some horrible stuff."

FENCING

No. 2 Irish prepare to compete in NCAA Championships

Both squads send two fencers per weapon

By KEN FOWLER
Senior Sports Writer

Ohio State has everything going for it — a full set of qualifiers, the aura of the presumptive favorites and, perhaps most importantly, home-strap advantage.

That's what Notre Dame faces beginning today in the NCAA Championships in Columbus, Ohio, where the fearsome Buckeyes look to prove the coaches who vote in the polls right and collect the national title.

"If they handle this [and win], that's normal," Irish head coach Janusz Bednarski said of the Buckeyes. "But there are three other teams that are trying to deter them. Among them, I am happy we are part of that group."

Ohio State, ranked No. 1 on the women's side and No. 2 among men, and Notre Dame are two of four teams to qualify the maximum 12 fencers — two fencers per sex per weapon. The other two teams with the maximum four squads are Columbia and St. John's.

Penn State, the defending champions, qualified 11 fencers, and 2006 champion Harvard qualified 10.


Youngsters take over top spots on team

By KEN FOWLER
Senior Sports Writer

To call it a youth movement would be something of an understatement.

To call it a revival would be terribly misleading.

To ignore it would be utterly ridiculous.

Something in-between must describe the role of Notre Dame's freshman fencing class.

Seven of the 12 Irish fencers are set to compete this weekend's NCAA Championships, hosted by Midwest nemesis Ohio State.

The strange part of the preponderance of Irish rookies is that Notre Dame didn't appear in a position that necessitated a major influx of talented fencers.

A season ago, Notre Dame finished fourth in the national tournament, and two of the team's four first-team All-Americans — epeesó Kelley Hurley and foilist Adi Nott — would return for multiple future seasons.

Senior epeeist Karol Kostka, right, competes during the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships on Feb. 24.

Both squads scored two fencers per weapon.

Senior Sports Writer