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Legends takes dating to fast lane

By JEN ROWLING
News Writer

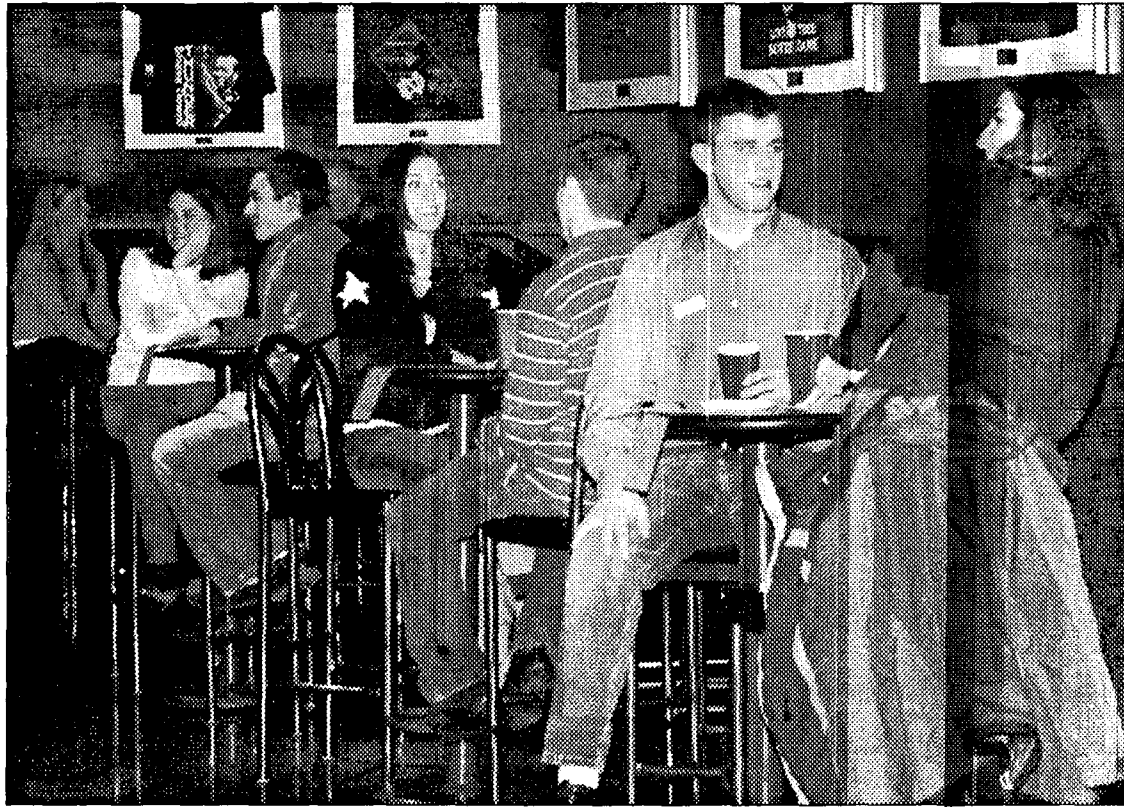
Legends set the atmosphere for Valentine's Day last night by taking a stab at match-making with a speed dating session for nearly 50 Notre Dame students.

"ND is known as the campus with no dating, and Valentine's Day was around the corner, so it seemed to be a good idea," program coordinator Jonathan Jorissen said.

Speed dating has recently become a popular phenomenon in large cities across the globe, and Jorissen, following a suggestion from his sister, decided to try the idea on Notre Dame's campus — despite its reputed stale dating scene.

Small circular tables adorned with Valentine décor arranged on the dance floor were the setting for the 27 male students and 22 female students who attended the event.

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SOFIA BALLON/The Observer

Notre Dame students try out a new approach to dating at Legends on Tuesday evening. The event, called speed dating, allowed participants to enjoy multiple dates in a short time period. Approximately 50 students attended the event.

Queer film festival debuts

University defends departments' decision to sponsor event

By ANDREW THAGARD
Associate News Editor

The Queer Film Festival, a four-day event showcasing gay cinematography, debuts tonight at Notre Dame with the award-winning documentary "Jim in Bold" followed by a panel discussion featuring the film's producer.

The festival — the first of its kind at Notre Dame — may seem, to some, out of place on the campus of a Catholic university, though it offers an intellectual opportunity for the Notre Dame community, according to University spokesman Matt Storin and Liam Dacey, the festival's organizer.

"We are an academic institution that has a whole [range] of classes, seminars and conferences, and that is what we are all about," Storin said.

The festival, which will feature a series of film screenings, discussions and a writing workshop and will bring directors, screenwriters and producers to campus, is not specifically sponsored by the University as a whole, but rather by the Gender Studies Program, the Gay and Lesbian Alumni of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's and the Departments of English and Film, Television and Theatre.

"There is a difference between what the University ... does in a University-wide sense as opposed to what our academic departments do as part of their missions," Storin said.

He emphasized that the festival's aim is to promote academic discourse and does not necessarily reflect the University's position or views.

see FILM/page 4

GRADUATE STUDENT UNION

Members plan spring charity gala



SOFIA BALLON/The Observer

GSU president Martiqua Post reviews the agenda during the organization's meeting Tuesday night.

By AMANDA MICHAELS
News Writer

The Charity Gala, constitutional changes and upcoming spring elections were the focus of Tuesday night's Graduate Student Union meeting — the first of the semester.

The council discussed which local charity would benefit from the Charity Gala, an event to be held on April 16 on the 20th floor of the City Center. The three organizations eligible for selection are the Center for the Homeless in South Bend, the women's shelter run through the YWCA of St. Joseph County and the Refugee and Immigration Services of Michiana, to which last year's Gala proceeds went.

"Last year, we wanted to donate to an organization that might not get as much attention on campus ... and where even a small amount of money will make a big difference," said academic affairs committee chair Tim Dale. "The woman I talked to [at Refugee and Immigration Services] told me that they could make even a nickel go a long way."

A majority vote ensured that the Refugee and Immigration Services would receive \$2 from every \$5 ticket sold. Last year, approximately 200 tickets were sold, and organizers are hoping to see an increase to 250, so they can give the charity at least \$500.

President Martiqua Post pro-

see GSU/page 4

Accounting majors assist needy with taxes

By TERESA NOWAKOWSKI
News Writer

With tax season well underway, accounting majors at both Notre Dame and Saint Mary's have an opportunity to apply their skills through a tax assistance program that began

Tuesday and continues through April.

Over 60 students participate in the program to aid the greater South Bend community in filing tax returns. Students who participate in this program have a prerequisite tax class that they must take, in addition to 10 hours of training. They then are sent in

pairs to sites around South Bend and Mishawaka, working with low-income families and students to file taxes free of charge.

Professor of Accounting Ken Milani took over the program that was created almost 30 years ago by a law student and an MBA student.

Milani says that it is a "win-

win-win situation," where members of the community get their taxes done for free, students gain experience and interaction with people who may be outside of their social class and faculty get to see if the program runs as intended.

Students are required to write reflection papers at the comple-

tion of the program, several of which Milani says brings him to tears each year.

Mark Bellatoni, a Notre Dame senior, said that he finds the most fulfillment in helping people obtain a refund.

"It catches them off guard and

see TAX/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

Watch your mouth

Anyone who knows me also knows the one pet peeve that stands out above all others in my book: When you say you're going to do something, do it.

This past weekend, I got a call from my best friend. At one point she halted the conversation to point out, "If there's one thing about you, I know that you always keep your word."

I take pride in the fact that I hold to my commitments. Not only do I recognize this trait in myself, but as others get to know me, they start to appreciate it as well.

I don't care if it's something as simple as making a phone call that you said you'd make, or following through on a favor that you promised to do — chances are, another person is counting on you. Then again, maybe that's just my own wishful thinking.

Perhaps I'm naïve to presume that others take commitments as seriously as I do. After meeting the people I have at Notre Dame and Saint Mary's during my four years here, I've finally realized that everyone comes from a different background and, hence, has a varied moral upbringing. Looked at one way, the fact that I'm just now recognizing these circumstances could be seen as pathetic. The light bulb definitely should have turned on a lot sooner.

Another approach, however, presents the question of whether or not it really is too much to ask that people keep their word. It's a safe bet to assume that the person on the receiving end will expect it. After all, isn't it better to assume and live up to someone's expectations than it is to brush off commitment and risk upsetting someone's feelings?

The way I look at it — and I promise this is the most philosophical side of me those of you reading this will witness — is that, if you can't hold someone to their word, what can you hold them to? With commitment comes trust. Therefore, when a commitment is let down, so is trust (and respect too, I might add).

To say that everyone upholds their end of a deal 100 percent of the time would be terribly utopian of me. So what? Who's to say there's anything wrong with that?

In my realm of friends, family and people I meet, I do expect everyone to stay as true to their word as I do to mine. It's as though, initially, they get a clean slate and I give them full respect without passing judgment. So generous, I know.

But seriously, all I'm asking is that the next time you say you'll do something, keep in mind that there are still people like me who put a lot of worth in words. Actions speak louder. A little effort goes a long way.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Anneliese Woolford at wool8338@saintmarys.edu



Anneliese Woolford

Saint Mary's Editor

QUESTION OF THE DAY: How would you describe ND's dating scene?



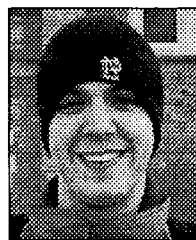
Jenny Stelloh
Freshman Lyons

"Hopefully in spring things will bloom, because so far, things are dead."



Jessica Freeman
Junior Lewis

"Nonexistent."



Joe Brutto
Freshman Keenan

"Minimal to nonexistent."



Josh Bruce
Freshman O'Neill

"You have a better chance with sheep."



Juan Pablo Mantica
Sophomore Keough

"What dating scene?"



Molly Kealy
Freshman Lyons

"Nothing like two roommates sharing."



SOFIA BALLON/The Observer

A student stops to read a display of T-shirts decorated with the stories of surviving rape and assault victims Tuesday. The display, titled "The Clothesline Project," is exhibited in O'Shaughnessy Hall as one of several activities correlated with the Vagina Monologues.

IN BRIEF

"Border Fillers," a lecture by José Saldivar, professor of English and ethnic studies at the University of California, Berkeley, will be held today from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Hesburgh Center Auditorium. The lecture is a component of the series on "Race in the Americas."

The film "Jim in Bold" will be shown tonight in the Hesburgh Library Carey Auditorium from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The screening kicks off the ND Queer Film Festival.

Tonight's Theology on Tap will ask the question "Is There Hope in Loss?: A 9/11 Story." Attend the discussion from 9:30 to 10:30 p.m. at Legends.

Just in time for Valentine's Day, "Romeo and Juliet" will be performed at Washington Hall by Actors From The London Stage tonight through Saturday. Performances each night begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available at the LaFortune Student Center Ticket Office.

Fisher Hall will hold a mass Thursday in remembrance of Chad Sharon from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

Acousticafe will feature student artists and authors reading from their own works Thursday from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m. in LaFortune. Sign up outside of the Student Government office if you would like to read; however space is limited.

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

OFFBEAT

Frenchwoman marries her dead boyfriend

NICE, France — Dressed in a demure black suit, a 35-year-old Frenchwoman married her dead boyfriend Tuesday — a macabre exchange of vows that required authorization from the French president.

Under French law, Christelle Demichel became both bride and widow as a result of the ceremony, which was performed at Nice City Hall on the French Riviera.

The deceased groom, a former policeman identified as Eric, was not pres-

ent at the ceremony. He was killed by a drunk driver in September 2002.

Demichel told LCI television she was fully aware that "it could seem shocking to marry someone who is dead," but said that her fiancé's absence from her life had not dimmed her feelings for him.

Hundreds of bats found in mall elevator

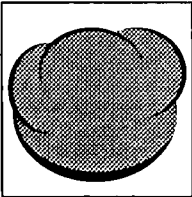
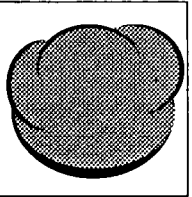
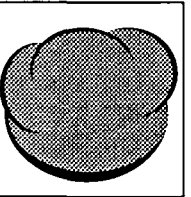
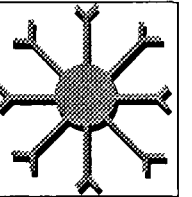
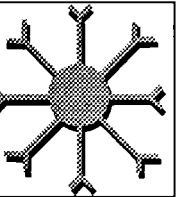
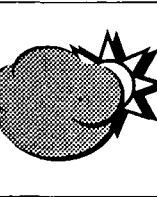
COLUMBIA, S.C. — Apparently store hours mean little to hundreds of bats that have flocked to an employee elevator at the back of a shopping

mall near downtown.

Roughly 350 of the nocturnal mammals have been found so far, said Brian Berrios of Wildlife Solutions, which has been hired to capture the creepy creatures from the elevator's skylight at the Richland Mall.

Mall management has shut down the elevator to keep the bats from spreading to the mall's shopping area, asking employees of a call center inside the mall to use customer entrances.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 30 LOW 26	HIGH 24 LOW 22	HIGH 28 LOW 17	HIGH 31 LOW 23	HIGH 30 LOW 15	HIGH 24 LOW 6

Atlanta 48 / 37 Boston 40 / 25 Chicago 31 / 19 Denver 24 / 5 Houston 51 / 42 Los Angeles 73 / 48 Minneapolis 19 / 4 New York 42 / 27 Philadelphia 42 / 26 Phoenix 65 / 43 Seattle 51 / 36 St. Louis 36 / 21 Tampa 77 / 62 Washington 43 / 32

CORRECTIONS

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.

Jewell sheds light on life with a disability

By TERESA NOWAKOWSKI
News Writer

Actress and stand-up comedienne Geri Jewell began her lecture at Saint Mary's Tuesday by describing her life with an admirable vitality, only casually mentioning the fact that she has lived with cerebral palsy since birth.

"I was born this way, so it's no big deal," she said. "You know what is a big deal to me? My hair."

Despite her disability, a chronic condition affecting body movements and muscle coordination caused by partial brain damage, Jewell has maintained control of her life in every capacity she can.

"Her life and her story are an amazing inspiration to everybody," said Frances Bruder, Students with Disabilities representative on Student Diversity Board.

Best known as Cousin Geri in "The Facts of Life," Jewell was the first disabled person to be cast in a Primetime series. She was cast in nine episodes of the show, meaning she had just nine weeks of work in four years.

"Of course I was a token, I knew it," she said. However, Jewell did not let the typecasting discourage her. She instead reasoned that if she made herself a public figure, she would eventually break into mainstream entertainment.

In addition to "The Facts of Life," Jewell has held roles in "I

Love Liberty," "Two of a Kind," "Nice Dreams" and "Deadwood," which will premiere in March on HBO.

Jewell demonstrated Tuesday that she will laugh at her own jokes and stories, yet is first to admit that she's "had an interesting life."

Despite her now positive outlook, Jewell's life has not been all smiles and laughter. As a child, she was the subject of frequent taunting and name-calling.

"You just deal with it," she said. "I highly overcompensated."

In school growing up, Jewell said she "was the last generation of children with special needs who are not mainstreamed" and a self-described "survivor of Special Ed." Although she received the best occupational and physical therapy that was available, she was not challenged academically.

Jewell graduated from high school and was left to the discretion of California state agencies. They tried to make her learn a variety of skills in a workshop, in a job at a switchboard and in a filing position, yet she could not complete any of them — simply because she was never interested in what she was doing.

"They never asked me what my interests were," explained Jewell about why she failed to

succeed in the tasks given to her.

Within her lecture, Jewell interspersed stories about the difficulty encountered when merging her disability with her entertainment career, such as knocking off Big Bird's head in front of a live Sesame Street audience.

"We deal with a lot of ignorance on a daily basis," she said.

"To say that I have to change [a non-disabled person's attitude] toward me; that's very unrealistic. Sometimes we get so used to rejection and not having friendships that we expect it to be this way."

Jewell insists that she "will go 200 yards to make someone feel comfortable" around her, "but it's always a two-way street."

"The only thing I can be responsible for is my attitude and what I believe about myself," she said.

Jewell was the first in a series of guest speakers for Saint Mary's Disabilities Awareness Week. In addition to other presentations and lectures, signs will also be posted around campus illustrating the effects of disabilities and highlighting public figures that live with a disability on a daily basis.

Contact Teresa Nowakowski at nowa9294@saintmarys.edu

"The only thing I can be responsible for is my attitude and what I believe about myself."

**Geri Jewell
actress**



RACHEL TOWNSEND/The Observer

Geri Jewell, an actress and stand-up comedian, described her life with Cerebral Palsy at Saint Mary's on Tuesday evening.

Theology on Tap

Is there hope in grief?

Come to Legends this
Wednesday to hear
Jennifer Sands,
a victim of 9/11, discuss her
experiences with finding hope
and faith in the midst of tragedy.

Jennifer Sands recently wrote a book
entitled *A Tempered Faith:
Rediscovering Hope in the Ashes of
Loss*, and is a guest of the University
for the Sophomore Literary Festival.
Come hear her story, and help us find
answers to the question of suffering.

Why does God allow suffering?

Join us at Legends on Wednesday, Feb. 11th

Doors open 9:30. Speaker begins 10:15.

Brought to you by Campus Ministry

visit us on the web: <http://campusministry.nd.edu>

Date

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Each participant attended eight five-minute dates. Couples sat at a table chatting during their time intervals and, when time was called, they rotated to their next partners.

Every potential date had his or her own scorecard, and, after the completion of each date, they evaluated the people they met. If a person had potential, a "yes" was circled. Contrarily, if there was no interest, a "no" was circled. Legends coordinators collected the score sheets and distributed phone numbers if two individuals checked "yes" for each other.

After the eight dates were completed, participants were given time to mingle. Many students had positive comments about their evening.

"Everyone I met was really

nice," freshman Allison Smith said.

Senior Dave Harmen expressed a similar opinion, praising Legends' efforts to enhance the social atmosphere at the University.

"It was a valiant attempt to establish a dating scene at ND," Harmen said. "I haven't talked to this many girls since sophomore year."

Senior Sean MacCready agreed.

"I decided to give as many ladies at ND a chance at me as possible," MacCready joked.

Jorissen was pleased with the turnout and surprised that males outnumbered females. He said he believes the speed dating idea has potential and is considering separating nights by year of graduation.

In response to the topic of dating, in general, at Notre Dame, many students expressed similar views, but opinions varied about the impact speed dating could have on the University social

scene.

"People hang out, have fun on the weekends, then give it a name," senior Liza Davis said. "They call it dating, but all it is is hanging out on the weekends."

She said she doubted speed dating would ever catch on as a highly influential social force at the University.

"I feel it would be a fun afternoon, but then deteriorate back to Notre Dame," Davis said. "I feel the relationships and people I met would not be compatible."

Sophomore Craig Brede said that the "majority of what goes on is just hooking up," and he also doubts speed dating could greatly change Notre Dame.

"I don't think speed dating will work, but if you think it would be fun to meet people that way, more power to you," Brede said.

Contact Jen Rowling at jrowling@nd.edu

GSU

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posed a change to the GSU's constitution that would serve to redistribute responsibilities among the chairs of two committees. Under the proposed amendment, each of the two social committee chairs would take responsibility for either the fall or spring and summer social events, and each of the quality of life committee chairs would deal with either orientation or quality of life and diversity issues.

The measure was passed unanimously, but must also be approved at March's meeting before the constitution can be amended for next year's GSU leaders.

Post also announced the March 22 deadline for the submission of application for candidates in the spring presidential and vice presidential elections. Each petition must have at least

20 signatures to be considered valid, and it must be accompanied by a typed platform, which will be posted on the GSU web-site.

In other GSU news:

♦ Health insurance plan negotiations were settled, giving graduate students the opportunity to buy insurance through MegaLife at a premium of \$999 a year, which includes all requested benefits. However, the rate for spouses and children went up considerably, with the least expensive spouse plan set at \$2,400, and the least expensive plan covering all dependents set at \$3,304.

Optional dental and eye coverage will be offered as well, giving between a 20 and 80 percent discount off of certain procedures and purchases. For a student, the dental plan will cost \$72 a year, and the eye plan will cost \$29.

Contact Amanda Michaels at amichael@nd.edu

Film

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"The film festival is being co-sponsored by a number of academic departments," he said. "I think the fact that faculty and students of the University expressed interest [in this] is not exactly 'stop the presses' news. It doesn't carry any message of endorsement or disparagement ... by the University."

At the same time, Dacey, a senior Film, Television and Theatre major, said he hopes the festival will increase awareness on campus and make progress in dispelling the notion that the Notre Dame community is intolerant of

homosexuals, fueled in part by its top ranking in the Princeton Review's "where alternatives are not an alternative" list.

"We want to create an awareness that the gay members of the Notre Dame community are members like anyone else," he said. "We also wanted to exhibit a lot of different films by gay artists that you wouldn't normally see."

Dacey said the festival's events should appeal to faculty and students, regardless of

their sexual orientation.

"It's not just for gay people," he said. "It's for everyone to enjoy. It's a way of [bringing] the community together."

Dacey praised the support of Notre Dame's academic departments that co-sponsored the festival and that the event has generated a surprising lack of controversy so far.

"We haven't had any opposition with this," he said. "We'll see what happens when the next few days unfold."

Contact Andrew Thagard at athagard@nd.edu

"It's not just for gay people. It's for everyone to enjoy. It's a way of [bringing] the community together."

Liam Dacey
festival organizer

Tax

continued from page 1

they are thrilled that they got that much back," he said.

Meghan Hanifin, a Saint Mary's junior accounting and finance major, likes the fact that she can "walk away with an extra level of confidence" that she is able to "help someone else with that confidence."

The tax assistance program is expected to become an annual event and is available to all, including students and members of the community.

"Students that have earned income should definitely look into this program," said Claude Renshaw, professor in the busi-

ness and economics department at Saint Mary's. "Also, if they're from a different state, they might have to file taxes in two different states, and students are qualified to deal with these kind of situations."

Sites located in St. Joseph County include Haggar College Center at Saint Mary's, the Center for Social Concerns at Notre Dame, the Northeast Neighborhood Center, the River Park Branch, Western Branch, Center Branch, LaSalle Branch, and Main Branch at the St. Joseph County Public Library, the Notre Dame Downtown Center and Mishawaka-Penn Public Library.

Contact Teresa Nowakowska at nowa929@saintmarys.edu



Your Shortcut to Spring Break

Gary Chicago Airport to St. Petersburg/Tampa

*\$69 seats are limited. Flights are Public Charters (PC-03-201). Charter operator/air carrier is Southeast Airlines. Price doesn't include up to \$10.00 passenger facility charges, 9-11 security fees of \$2.50 and a \$3.10 federal excise tax per segment. A segment consists of one takeoff and one landing. Fares are non-refundable but may be exchanged for a \$25.00 fee. Fares/schedules subject to change, no other discounts apply. www.garychicagoairport.com

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The College of Arts and Letters Invites Student Nominations for Kaneb Teaching Awards

Each year Kaneb Teaching Awards recognize approximately 25 Arts and Letters faculty for excellence in undergraduate teaching.

Tenured faculty as well as professional specialist and adjunct faculty who have taught at least five years are eligible.

Take advantage of this opportunity to have a voice in the selection of these recipients by nominating one of your outstanding teachers for this award.

Send a brief letter indicating what is special or significant about this instructor to:

Hugh Page, Associate Dean
105 O'Shaughnessy Hall

Deadline
Friday, February 27, 2004

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Pro-Aristide fighters block roads

CAP-HAITIEN, Haiti — Armed loyalists of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide set up blazing barricades Tuesday, vowing to attack rebels leading a bloody uprising that has spread to at least 11 towns and cost 42 lives.

Brandishing pistols, bands of drunken youths manned barricades and threw rocks at passing cars in the northern port city of Cap-Haitien. They said they were protecting the half-million residents of Haiti's second-largest city, a former Aristide stronghold where support has dwindled as poverty increases.

Roadblocks have prevented food deliveries to tens of thousands of hungry Haitians, the U.N. World Food Program warned from Geneva, and fuel tankers also were blocked. Some gas stations have run out of fuel.

France moves toward scarf ban

PARIS — France took a decisive step Tuesday toward banning Islamic head scarves in public schools, with lawmakers overwhelmingly backing the government's drive to preserve French secular traditions from Muslim fundamentalism.

The ban on religious attire in classrooms, which also includes Jewish skullcaps and large Christian crosses, was approved 494-36 despite protests and criticism from around the world. The measure goes early next month to the Senate, where there is little opposition.

The ban was expected to take effect in September. Applying the law could be the real test: Critics say it's too vague and will inflame anti-French feelings among the nation's large Muslim minority.

NATIONAL NEWS

Estimates rise in Church scandal

The scope of sex abuse accusations against Roman Catholic clergy since 1950 appears to be much greater than previously estimated by victims' groups and the media, an Associated Press review of reports from dioceses has found.

The U.S. church will make an unprecedented, nationwide accounting of abuse claims and costs later this month, and some bishops already have started releasing local figures. The AP contacted dioceses across the country and found that 1,341 clergy members have been accused of molesting minors, with more than half the dioceses yet to report.

Report: Atkins was obese at death

NEW YORK — The debate over Dr. Robert Atkins' popular high-fat, low-carb diet flared posthumously Tuesday when it was learned that Atkins himself was a bloated 258 pounds at his death.

A city medical examiner's report filed after Atkins' 2003 death from a fall showed the 6-foot doctor was at a weight normally considered obese. A physicians group that is highly critical of the diet released details of the report, claiming the Atkins diet led to weight and heart troubles for its 72-year-old creator.

Atkins' allies immediately disputed that.

LOCAL NEWS

Muslims quit gay marriage debate

PLAINFIELD — An umbrella group for North American followers of orthodox Islam has dropped out of a national coalition fighting same-sex marriage, citing scrutiny the Muslim group has drawn from a small number of critics who claim it has ties to terrorism.

The Islamic Society of North America said it does not want that controversy to hurt the campaign by the Alliance for Marriage.

The society, representing several million people from 300 mosques and Muslim organizations, ended its affiliation with the alliance last month.

IRAQ

Suicide truck blast kills scores

Bomb at police station kills 53, wounds many more; locals blame Americans

Associated Press

ISKANDARIYAH — A suicide bomber blew up a truckload of explosives Tuesday outside a police station south of Baghdad, killing up to 53 people and wounding scores — including would-be Iraqi recruits lined up to apply for jobs.

The blast in this predominantly Shiite Muslim city followed the disclosure Monday of a letter from an anti-American operative to al-Qaida's leadership asking for help in launching attacks against the Shiites to undermine the U.S.-run coalition and the future Iraqi government.

Many angry townspeople blamed the Americans for the blast, and Iraqi police had to fire weapons in the air to disperse dozens of Iraqis who stormed the shattered remains of the station hours after the explosion.

"This missile was fired from a U.S. aircraft," said Hadi Mohy Ali, 60. "The Americans want to tear our unity apart."

No U.S. or other coalition forces were hurt, said Lt. Col. Dan Williams, a military spokesman in Baghdad.

It was at least the eighth vehicle bombing in Iraq this year and followed warnings from occupation officials that insurgents would step up attacks against Iraqis who work with the U.S.-led coalition, especially ahead of the planned June 30 transfer of sovereignty to a provisional Iraqi government.

The Iraqi Interior Ministry and the local



An American soldier with the 10th Mountain Division stands guard Tuesday outside the Iskandariyah police station. Just hours earlier, a suicide bomber detonated a truckload of explosives outside the building, killing 53.

police chief said the bombing was carried out by a suicide driver who detonated a red pickup truck at razor wire and sandbagged security barricades in front of the station.

However, Brig. Gen. Mark Kimmitt said it was unclear whether the bombing here was the work of a suicide driver or whether the vehicle was parked and then detonated.

Casualty figures varied.

The U.S. military command reported 35 dead and 75 wounded but said those figures could be low since Iraqi authorities were handling the investigation. The Iraqi Interior Ministry said 40 to 50 people were killed and up to 100 wounded, including four policemen.

However, a local hospital director, Razaq Jabbar, put the number at 53 dead and 60 wounded — all believed to be Iraqis.

"This figure might increase," he said. "There were some body parts that haven't been identified yet. Some more bodies may be trapped under the rubble."

The explosion reduced parts of the station to rubble and damaged nearby buildings. The street in front of the station was littered with the wreckage of shattered vehicles as well as pieces of glass, bricks, mangled steel and pieces of clothing.

Policeman Wissam Abdul-Karim said he was standing in front of the nearby courthouse when "I

heard a very strong explosion" and was thrown to the ground.

"It was the day for applying for new recruits," Abdul-Karim said. "There were tens of them waiting outside the police station."

Insurgents have mounted a string of car and suicide bombings in recent weeks. The deadliest so far has been in the northern city of Irbil on Feb. 1 when two suicide bombers blew themselves up at two Kurdish party offices celebrating a Muslim holiday, killing at least 109 people.

On Jan. 18, a suicide car bomb exploded near the main gate to the U.S.-led coalition's headquarters in Baghdad, killing at least 31 people.

Bush releases Guard pay records

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House, trying to end doubts about President Bush's Vietnam-era military service, released documents Tuesday that it said proved he had "met his requirements" in the Texas Air National Guard.

"These documents outline the days on which he was paid. That means he served," said Bush spokesman Scott McClellan. However, there were still gaps in the record.

"The handful of documents released today by the White House creates more questions than answers," said Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe.

McAuliffe had helped reignite the story earlier this month when he charged Bush had gone "AWOL." With Vietnam War veteran John Kerry emerging as the Democratic presidential front-runner, Democrats have been trying to stoke longstanding questions about Bush's service in the Guard during the war.

Bush joined in 1968, and spent most

of his service time based near Houston. But in May 1972 he requested and received a temporary assignment with the Alabama National Guard so he could serve as political director on the Senate campaign of Winton "Red" Blount, a family friend. Bush says he recalls showing up for drills in Alabama, but his supporters have struggled to prove it.

Bush was not paid for any service during a five-month period in 1972, from May through September, according to the records released with Bush's approval Tuesday.

He was paid for two days in October and four days in November and none in December 1972. He was not paid for February or March 1973. The records do not indicate what duty Bush performed or where he was.

Nevertheless, spokesman McClellan repeatedly held up the 13-page packet his office had released, and he declared in his televised briefing, "I think these documents show that he fulfilled his duties."

At the same time, White House officials were careful to stop short of

claiming that the records proved definitively that Bush had shown up for all the Guard duties he was expected to.

Indeed, the payroll documents and annual service "point summaries" could throw new fuel onto a story the White House wants to quench this election year.

McClellan expressed a note of frustration at the persistent questions on the matter. "It just kind of amazes me that some will now say they want more information after the payroll records and the point summaries have all been released."

"Now people are trying to move the goal post even more," he said, adding that White House officials smelled politics. "It's just really a shame that people are continuing to bring this up."

Kerry stayed silent on the subject Tuesday.

"I just don't have any comment on it," he told reporters between campaign stops in Tennessee and Virginia. "It's not an issue that I chose to create."

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Plane carrying workers crashes, killing 43

Associated Press

SHARJAH — An Iranian plane carrying migrant workers back from a visa-renewing journey to a Gulf island crashed Tuesday while approaching the airport, killing 43 of the 46 people aboard and narrowly missing nearby homes.

Three survivors of Kish Air's Flight IRK1770 were hospitalized, two in critical condition with burns and fractures.

Authorities recovered the Fokker-50's cockpit voice and data recorders and hoped they reveal why the plane — which had not reported any trouble on its final approach — crashed two miles from Sharjah airport and burst into flames.

It was returning from the Iranian island of Kish, a favorite destination of foreign workers who must exit the Emirates and return to meet their visa requirements.

The airline advertises cheap "visa change" excursions and its daily flights are packed with foreigners — particularly Indians, Pakistanis and Filipinos who make up the bulk of the Emirates' work force.

According to a passenger list released by the airline, 25 of the 40 passengers were traveling on visa change package deals that included air fare and cheap hotels in Kish.

According to the list, aboard were 13 Iranians, 13 Indians, four Egyptians, two Algerians, two Bangladeshis, two Filipinos, one Nepalese, one Syrian, one Nigerian and one Cameroonian. Six Iranian crew members also were aboard.

One man, Yaqoub Nasir, who was listed as an Iranian, was from the Emirates, according to his family.

Many Iranians traveling to the Emirates to shop or for business first fly from Tehran to Kish, then make the 60-mile hop across the Gulf on Kish Air, which is significantly cheaper than a direct flight.

Col. Saleh Ali al-Mutawaa, general director of Sharjah Police, said 43 of the 46 people aboard died in the late morning crash. Two men — an Iranian and a Filipino — were being treated at the coronary care unit of al-Qasimi hospital, emergency room attendants said.

Another man, badly burned on his face and body and with multiple fractures, was on a ventilator in intensive care, the attendants said. They did not give his nationality, but Al-Mutawaa, the police official, said two Filipinos and an Iranian survived.

The near miss shook residents.

"I was sleeping when I heard what must have been the shriek of the engines, and then a very



A rescue worker stands by the wreckage of an Iranian Kish Air plane. The plane crashed on Tuesday shortly before it was scheduled to land at Sharjah Airport, a major cargo hub in the region. Forty three of the 46 passengers aboard were killed.

loud noise that was like a nightmare," said Hamza Ghareeb, whose house was only 100 yards from the wreckage. "My whole family ran out and we couldn't believe our eyes: There was a burning plane sitting in our front yard."

Ghareeb said the smoke and fire stopped him and others from getting too close, and residents feared the plane would explode.

"All I could see was flames and smoke and bodies everywhere," said Beatrice Manolo, a

Filipina maid working in one of the homes in the area.

Thirty charred bodies covered with red blankets lay in rows near the wreckage. The bodies were intact but burned beyond recognition; one was an infant, an Iranian girl.

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Up: 2,164	Same: 170	Down: 117	Composite Volume: 1,393,788,416

AMEX	1,235.67	+8.59
NASDAQ	2,075.33	+14.76
NYSE	6,677.04	0.00
S&P 500	1,145.54	+5.73
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	10,365.40	-37.21
FTSE 100(London)	4,404.90	-29.50

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
SIRI SAT RADI (SIRI)	+4.14	+0.12	3.02
JUNIPER NTWKS (JNPR)	+4.51	+1.18	27.36
SUN MICROSYS (SUNW)	+0.36	+0.02	5.54
CHIPPAC INC A (CHPC)	+13.80	+1.08	8.99
CISCO SYSTEMS (CSCO)	+0.45	+0.11	24.78

Treasuries			
30-YEAR BOND	+0.65	+0.32	49.41
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.91	+0.37	41.02
5-YEAR NOTE	+1.44	+0.44	31.04
3-MONTH BILL	+0.99	+0.09	9.21

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+1.04		33.87
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-0.40		407.00
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-1.225		93.10

Exchange Rates			
YEN			105.6
EURO			0.7887
POUND			0.5355
CANADIAN \$			1.331

IN BRIEF

Aide: Martha altered phone logs

NEW YORK — With an investigation looming, Martha Stewart sat down at her assistant's computer and altered a record of a message left by her stockbroker about ImClone Systems stock, the assistant testified Tuesday.

Stewart immediately stood up and ordered the message restored to its original wording, Ann Armstrong said.

The original message read: "Peter Bacanovic thinks ImClone is going to start trading downward." It reflected a call by Bacanovic on Dec. 27, 2001, the day Stewart sold her 3,928 shares in the company.

Armstrong testified Stewart saw the message about a month later, on Jan. 31, 2002, and replaced it with the words: "Peter Bacanovic re jmcclone."

IRS cracks down on tax shelters

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service announced Tuesday it had collected \$170 million in taxes and penalties on money hidden offshore and has shared with state tax agencies information about 20,000 taxpayers using scams and shelters to avoid taxes.

Both efforts stem from the agency's move to curb the growth of tax shelters among wealthier taxpayers — an agency priority — said IRS Commissioner Mark Everson.

The IRS uncovered the money hidden offshore by offering a three-month amnesty last year to taxpayers who came forward. More than 1,300 taxpayers took the offer to avoid criminal prosecution. Those taxpayers were required to reveal the person or company who sold them the offshore scheme.

Viacom to dump Blockbuster

NEW YORK — Viacom Inc., the media conglomerate that owns MTV and CBS, is getting rid of its controlling stake in the Blockbuster video rental chain and taking a \$1.3 billion charge to reflect the declining value of the business. The charge put Viacom well into the red for its latest fiscal quarter.

Ironically, the reason Viacom originally bought Blockbuster 10 years ago was for the large amounts of money it made, which Viacom needed at the time to finance its bid for Paramount in a heated takeover battle against rival suitor QVC.

ENERGY

OPEC to cut world oil output

Petroleum cartel surprises markets with million-barrel daily cut; futures jump

Associated Press

ALGIERS, Algeria — OPEC decided Tuesday to cut its excess production of crude immediately and lower output quotas by 1 million barrels a day effective April 1 — a surprise move that could mean prices for gasoline and oil will remain high.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries expects the combined cuts would reduce actual production by about 10 percent, or 2.5 million barrels a day.

OPEC agreed to the two-stage reduction in output to try to keep oil prices stable when warmer weather erodes demand in major importing countries.

The oil group has often urged its members to comply better with their agreed quotas, but its decision to make an additional cut in its official target of 24.5 million barrels was unexpected.

"As time goes on in the second quarter, we will see a drop in demand that will affect prices. If we don't do anything, there will be oversupply in the second quarter of about 3 million barrels [a day]," OPEC president Purnomo Yusgiantoro told reporters at a government-run convention center in Algiers.

Ministers said they believed their action would send a strong signal about OPEC's willingness to be proactive in managing crude supplies.

"Everybody will know that the organization is serious, and we would like to have a stable market," said Libya's representative, Abdulhafid Mahmoud Zlitni, speaking after a closed-door meeting at



Qatari oil minister Abdullah al-Attiyah, right, listens to an aide Tuesday before the start of the formal OPEC meeting in Algiers. The oil cartel agreed to cut world production by 10 percent, propelling energy futures higher worldwide.

which the delegates ratified their output decision.

The planned April cut in OPEC's formal output is unconditional, added Obaid Al-Nasseri, oil minister for the United Arab Emirates.

Oil prices rose. North Sea Brent crude for March delivery was up 69 cents at \$29.80 in London, while March contracts for light sweet U.S. crude were up 60 cents at \$33.43 in trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

OPEC's emphasis on the need to curb over-production was "a sign of some discipline" that should, by itself, help keep crude prices firm in the short term, said John Waterlow, an analyst with Wood Mackenzie Consultants in Edinburgh, Scotland.

The April cut in produc-

tion would bite deeper into consumers' wallets, said Jan Stuart of FIMAT USA, a New York brokerage.

"What this means is that consumers are going to carry on paying loads of money for their gasoline for quite some time," he said.

OPEC is still smarting after its 1997 agreement to boost production just before an Asian financial crisis that sent oil prices plummeting to \$10 a barrel. The group has tried recently to take pre-emptive steps to prevent another such price collapse. In September, it defied predictions of an unchanged production target by announcing a 900,000 barrel cut in its output ceiling.

OPEC has a long history of pumping oil in excess of its quotas, but Kuwait's oil

minister Ahmad Fahad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah said its members would be much more serious this time.

"All the signals and all the studies show that the second quarter will be a very bad quarter. ... Everybody, for his benefit, has to be strict with these resolutions," the Kuwaiti minister told reporters.

OPEC pumps about a third of the world's oil, and its members are currently producing about 1.5 million barrels a day above their output ceiling.

When OPEC last met in December, several oil ministers predicted making cuts in their output target at this meeting to prevent oil prices from falling as a result of the end of winter in the northern hemisphere and a reduced demand for fuel.

CORPORATE SCANDAL

Tyco ex-CFO proclaims innocence

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Tyco International Ltd.'s former chief financial officer Mark Swartz testified Tuesday that he didn't do anything he believed was illegal during the 11 years he worked at the company.

Swartz took the stand after the defense team for his co-defendant, former Tyco chief executive L. Dennis Kozlowski, rested its case without calling any witnesses.

Defense lawyer Charles Stillman inquired how long Swartz had worked at the company, then asked: "During the time you were at Tyco, did you ever take any action that you believed was wrong or illegal?"

"Absolutely not," Swartz replied.

The defendants are accused of stealing \$600 million from the com-

pany. Kozlowski, 57, and Swartz, 43, are in the fifth month of a trial on state charges including grand larceny and falsifying business records.

Prosecutors say the two stole \$170 million by hiding unauthorized pay and secretly forgiven loans in major Tyco transactions. They allegedly made an additional \$430 million on Tyco shares by lying about the company's financial condition from 1995 into 2002.

Defense lawyers say Kozlowski and Swartz earned all the benefits they got from Tyco and that all the appropriate overseers knew about their compensation and loans.

Justice Michael Obus rejected defense motions last week to declare a mistrial or dismiss all the charges.

The judge said prosecutors presented enough evidence that the defen-

dants intentionally looted Tyco and tried to cover up their crimes to let the jury deliberate on the charges.

However, the judge said he would rule later, perhaps just before the jury begins deliberations, on dismissing the top count, "enterprise corruption." If convicted only on that charge, which is usually brought in organized crime cases, the defendants each would face up to 25 years in prison.

The judge said he would also reserve decision on three counts in which Kozlowski is accused of stealing three pieces of art worth a total of \$14.7 million from the company.

Tyco, which has about 270,000 employees and \$36 billion in annual revenue, makes electronics and medical supplies and owns the ADT home security business.

Kerry's views resonate with Southerners

Exit polls show Kerry attracted voters angry with Bush, eager for victory

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — John Kerry scored victories in Democratic primaries in Virginia and Tennessee on Tuesday by tapping into voter anger and dissatisfaction with President Bush, especially among those eager to win in November, according to Associated Press exit polls.

The Massachusetts senator discovered the same hunger among Southern state primary voters for victory in November and displeasure with the incumbent that he found among voters elsewhere in the country in a string of victories since the presidential contests in Iowa and New Hampshire.

Kerry ran very strong among those who said the most important quality for a candidate was the ability to defeat Bush — claiming three-fourths of the Virginia voters who said that quality was most important and almost two-thirds of Tennessee voters who wanted to support a general election winner.

None of his rivals were even close among those voters — about three in 10 of all Virginia voters and one-fourth of all Tennessee voters. Kerry also ran strong in both states among voters who thought experience was the top quality.

The economy and jobs were top issues in both states. And the ability to beat Bush was a quality many voters were looking for in both states.

Michelle Darby, 34, a marketing manager for an insurance company in Roanoke, Va., said she voted for Kerry because she wants to see a victory by "anybody but George Bush ... electability."

"I like what (Kerry) stands for," she said. "John Edwards is a little too young. (Howard) Dean's a crazy man. (Wesley) Clark's just, I don't know, there's something there I don't like."

Kerry drew strong support from Virginia and Tennessee voters who said health care was the top issue — about one-fifth of all voters.

The economy and jobs were the most important issue for voters in both states — picked by one-third in Virginia and slightly more in Tennessee. Kerry led with almost half of that group in Virginia compared to one-third for Edwards, a senator from North Carolina.

In Tennessee, Kerry got four in 10 while Edwards got more than a third of those who saw the economy and

jobs as the top issue.

The results come from exit polls in both states conducted for the AP and the television networks by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International.

The Virginia results of 1,256 interviews were subject to sampling error of plus or minus 4 percentage points, higher for subgroups. The Tennessee results from 1,920 interviews were subject to sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points, larger for subgroups.

Kerry had the largest share of support from most voter groups in both states, but was especially strong among black voters, who made up one-third of the Virginia electorate and one-fifth of the Tennessee electorate.

Kerry had almost two-

thirds of the black vote in Virginia and about half of the black vote in Tennessee.

The two Southern primaries gave Kerry's campaign fodder for the argument that he could attract black voters, a key Democratic constituency. But they made a less convincing case about his ability to attract Southern whites, generally a moderate to conservative-leaning group.

Retired nurse

Bob Casey, a 68-year-old independent from Memphis,

Tenn., said he voted for Clark — but would vote for Bush in the general election before voting for Kerry.

"I like what [Kerry] stands for. John Edwards is a little too young. [Howard] Dean's a crazy man. [Wesley] Clark's just, I don't know, there's just something there I don't like."

Michelle Darby
Southern voter

Casey said. Edwards gave Kerry the strongest competition among white voters in both states, getting almost one-third of that group to Kerry, who got more than four in 10 in each state.

Margaret Gerardin, a 41-year-old Edwards supporter from Norfolk, Va., said she decid-

ed at the last second to vote for Edwards because she feels like he is more in touch "with the common man."

Kerry and Edwards tied among Virginia voters who said it was most important to have a candidate who cares about people like them, while Edwards edged Kerry among Tennessee voters who said that was most important.

Clark showed more strength among Virginia and Tennessee voters who thought national security and the war in Iraq were top issues than he did among voters who picked other issues.

Dean did somewhat better among voters in both states who said it was most important to have a candidate who stands up for what he believes.

EVER WANT TO START A NEW CLUB?

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All requirements must be completed before the new club proposal will be reviewed, including:

- Budget
- Advisor
- Bylaws and purpose statement
- List of planned events/activities
- List of officers

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Debate on gay-marriage ban brings lobbyists

Gay-rights activists, conservative leaders converge on Mass. statehouse

Associated Press

BOSTON — Gay-rights activists, conservative leaders and media from around the globe converged on the Massachusetts Statehouse for a historic session Wednesday in which lawmakers will take up a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage.

As the hours ticked down, Senate leaders feverishly sought a middle ground, proposing a compromise that would ban same-sex marriage but establish civil unions.

"We should not engage in a divisive, all-or-nothing debate that may end by eliminating all rights for same-sex couples," Democratic Senate President Robert Travaglini and Republican Senate Minority Leader Brian Lees wrote fellow lawmakers Tuesday.

The compromise prompted almost immediate criticism, including from House Speaker Thomas Finneran, who called it "highly inappropriate" to use an amendment to craft legislation or pass new law — like one establishing civil unions.

The gay-marriage issue has created an unprecedented spectacle at the Capitol: As many as 4,000 spectators and 300 media members are expected to attend the start of the constitutional convention, and a furious lobbying effort was already under way.

Christian conservatives used a dolly to haul in more than 18,000 petitions signed by citizens from across the country urging lawmakers to pass the amendment.

Meanwhile, children of gay couples traveled to the Statehouse to plead with the

Senate president "not to write discrimination into our constitution."

"I've never seen anything like this," said Charles Rasmussen, spokesman for Finneran, a Democrat who supports the amendment. "And I'm told this building has never seen this kind of scrutiny from the national media that anyone can remember."

Camera crews from London, Japan and Spain are seeking credentials for the event, and authorities planned to beef up security to handle the crowds.

president

"I've never seen anything like this. And I'm told this building has never seen this kind of scrutiny from the national media that anyone can remember."

Charles Rasmussen
political spokesman

Massachusetts put itself at the very center of the gay-marriage debate when the Supreme Judicial Court ruled

4-3 in November that gays should be guaranteed the benefits of marriage. Lawmakers thought that Vermont-style civil unions might suffice, but the court issued an advisory opinion last week that left no doubt: Only full-fledged gay marriage would pass constitutional muster.

That cleared the way for the nation's first legally sanctioned same-sex weddings by May.

At the constitutional conven-

tion, the House and Senate will meet together to consider 10 proposed constitutional amendments. The gay-marriage issue is near the bottom of the agenda and might not get to a final vote for days.

Another proposal on the agenda is an amendment that could require the state's judges to be elected rather than appointed — an issue that has taken on added significance because of the court's polarizing stance on gay marriage.

If approved by the Legislature during this session, the gay-marriage amendment would have to again be ratified by lawmakers during the 2005-06 session before it could wind up on the November 2006 ballot.

The last time Massachusetts lawmakers in the heavily Roman Catholic state had a chance to weigh in on the issue of gay marriage was in 2002, when the constitutional convention was gavelled to a close before any vote took place. Near-brawls erupted among citizens who attended and raised voices were heard in the normally sedate chamber.

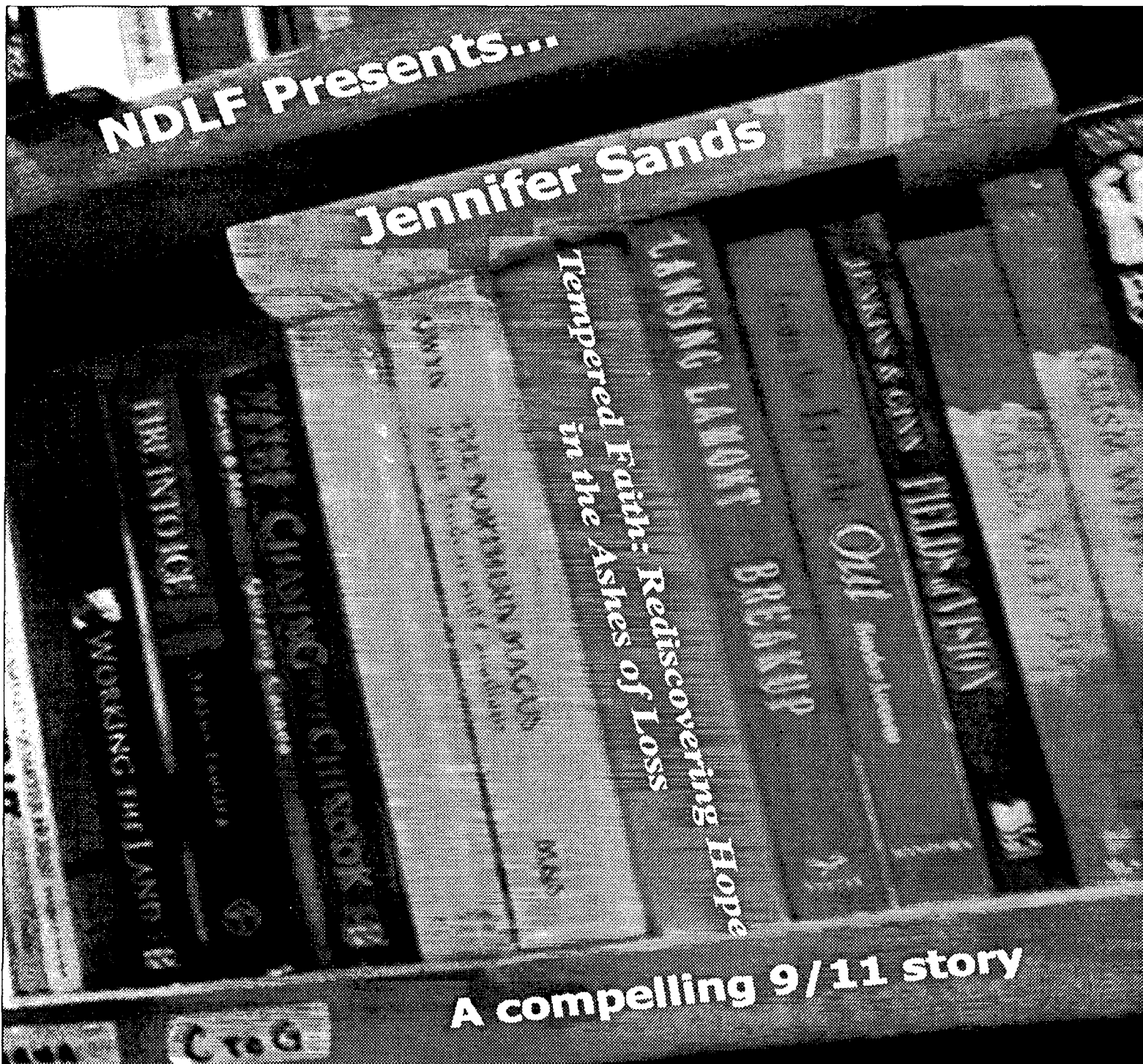
The Senate president at the time used parliamentary procedures to prevent a debate or vote on the gay-marriage ban. Travaglini, who does not support gay marriage but is in favor of civil unions, promised not to use such maneuvering this time.

On Tuesday, lawmakers circulated proposed changes to the amendment, hoping to secure the necessary 101 votes among the 199 sitting lawmakers to get it passed. The proposed compromise establishing civil unions had critics on both sides of the issue.

"We find that reprehensible," said Ron Crews, president of the Massachusetts Family Institute, which opposes gay marriage. "We need legislators who will have the courage to take a stand to preserve and protect marriage as it is currently worded. We would encourage the legislature not to cloud this with any other language at this date."

Gay-rights advocates said the compromise does nothing but camouflage a bigoted amendment.

"At the end of the day, they're writing discrimination into the constitution and putting a fresh coat of paint on it," said Amy Hunt, director of the LGBT Aging Project, a state gay-rights group.



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Defense objects to GPS evidence in trial

Associated Press

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. — Defense lawyer Mark Geragos will try to convince the judge in the Scott Peterson double-murder case Wednesday that global positioning technology is inaccurate and unreliable.

Legal experts said he faces an uphill battle, since the technology has been in use for many years by airline pilots and even hikers to pinpoint locations to within a few feet, using signals bounced off satel-

lites.

Geragos has said his client was tracked by Global Positioning System devices placed by authorities in vehicles he drove after his wife, Laci, disappeared on Christmas Eve in 2002. Geragos wants all the GPS tracking evidence excluded from the trial.

"The GPS technology has not been generally accepted by the scientific community," he contended in court papers filed in October.

Geragos faces a gag order

and can't comment on what he hopes to gain by keeping the tracking evidence out of the trial. Likewise, prosecutors haven't said how they hope to use the evidence.

If his claims about GPS unreliability fail to persuade Judge Alfred A. Delucchi at the Wednesday hearing, Geragos hopes to prove the device used to track Peterson

was operated improperly by Modesto police.

Police used GPS to track Peterson from Jan. 3 through April 22, 2003, when they arrested him near San Diego only days after the bodies of his wife and unborn son surfaced in San Francisco Bay.

GPS was first developed for

military use in 1978. In California, prosecutors who use GPS evidence in court are required to establish the device's reliability using properly qualified experts.

Prosecutors not connected to the Peterson trial say this shouldn't pose a problem.

"We all know from how much we use GPS now that it's quite accurate," said Mark Hutchins, senior deputy district attorney in Alameda County. "Airplanes use it. Everyone's got a GPS map thing in their car."

"We all know from how much we use GPS now that it's quite accurate."

Mark Hutchins
attorney

S.D. mulls ban on abortion

Associated Press

PIERRE, S.D. — The House passed a bill Tuesday that would outlaw most abortions in South Dakota, but opponents said it would do nothing but cost taxpayers money if it becomes law.

The bill, passed 54-15, would outlaw abortion unless a mother's life is in danger. It makes no exceptions for rape victims or women who could suffer permanent serious health problems by having babies.

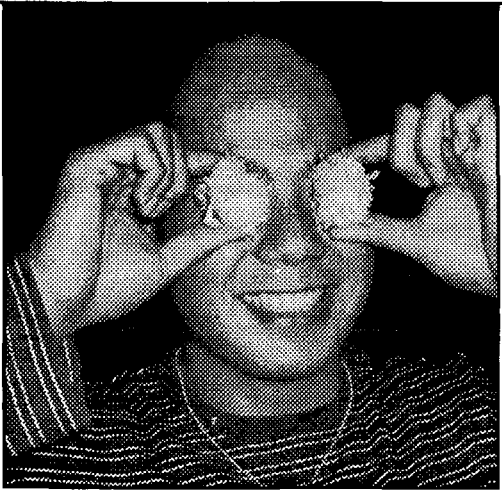
"When we're considering an innocent life, the health of the mother is not a substantial enough justification to take the innocent life," said Republican Rep. Matt McCaulley, chief sponsor of the bill.

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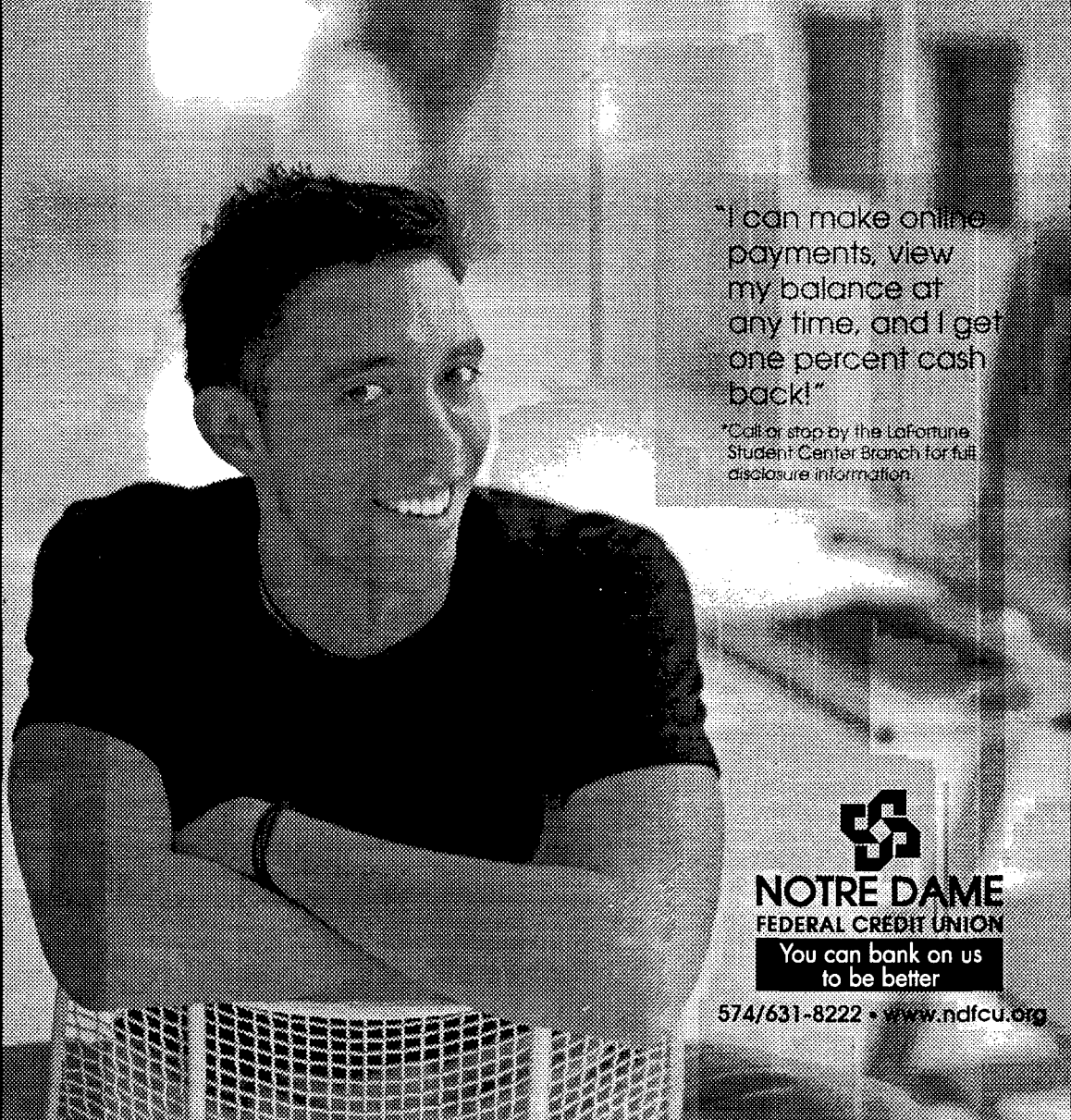
ECDC Registration

The Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) is currently registering children for the 2004-05 School Year and the 2004 Summer Day Camp. ECDC at Saint Mary's College enrolls children ages 3 through 5 during the school year and 3 through 9 during the summers. ECDC at Notre Dame enrolls children ages 2 through kindergarten during the school year and 2.5 through 9 during the summer. For more information and ECDC Parent Tours, please call one of the numbers below.



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Canines compete for top dog at Westminster

Associated Press

NEW YORK — With so many top dogs in town, any win at Westminster is a big deal. So it made perfect sense that Karen Mammano let out a playful yelp when the judge picked her American water spaniel.

No matter that Shane was the only American water spaniel in the show.

"Yeah, it was a little strange being out there all by ourselves," Mammano said after taking best of breed. "But hey, I'll take an automatic win."

Hours later, the competition got a lot tougher at America's most prestigious canine event. Of the 2,624 dogs entered, only a handful were left in the running for best in show heading into Tuesday night.

Josh, a bounding, shiny black Newfoundland, figured to be the favorite among the crowd of 15,000 or so at Madison Square Garden. Big dogs always attract a lot of attention, although a sprightly Norfolk terrier named Coco had been almost unbeatable on the recent show circuit.

A primed, above-it-all Pekingese and a stylish, shaved standard poodle also earned their way into the final seven with group wins Monday. An Ibiza hound named Bunny — she has a white patch in the shape of the Playboy symbol on her back — was a repeat winner Tuesday night in the hound group and a Sussex spaniel won the sporting group.

Josh spent part of the day napping in his crate, kept cool by a pair of huge circular fans. His owners planned to take him on a long walk to relax.

"We've got to get him out of here," co-owner Peggy Helming said.

Mikimoto on Fifth, the poodle with purple rollers in his hair, prepared for the big night with a little entertainment. With his paws, he played patty cake with owner Karen LeFrak.

Keeping a dog — and its owner and handler — calm on the big day can be a doggone difficult task. Along with more than a thousand dogs in the holding area, there is a crush of people strolling backstage to look at the pooches and buy a bevy of pet products.

"It's not an ideal situation," admitted handler Bill McFadden, who guided a Kerry blue terrier named Mick to the best in show title last year. "Sometimes, you have to take the dogs down the ramp to stretch their legs. It's cooler down there, and the fresh air helps."

Just in case of an emergency, Westminster keeps veterinarians on call in a Garden office right behind the ring. The vets work in two-person teams in three-hour shifts.

"Most of the problems are stress-related," vet George Korin said. "We haven't had anything too serious."

Mark Salemi said the biggest trauma he recalled came when a Bernese mountain dog jumped out of its crate and caught a nail that



Getty Images

A Norwich terrier named Coco stands as her handlers primp her prior to her competition during the Westminster Dog Show.

bled profusely.

Often times, the vets wind up soothing the nerves of the owners and handlers.

"That can be a big part of it," Salemi said.

One dog that missed out because of an injury was a low-chen named Napoleon. Three

weeks ago, a pit bull-lab mix got into the family's backyard in Lawton, Okla., and broke its leg.

Still, 8-year-old handler Rachel Skaggs, her brother and her mother came with Napoleon as special guests of Westminster.

"He's a brat, and so am I," Rachel said, holding her pet.

"We're going to come back here next year."

Mammano had it easy in the afternoon. Though five American water spaniels were entered, hers was the lone one that showed up.

"I've never seen it at Westminster," said Mammano, a longtime handler.



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POLICIES

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Viewpoint space is available to all readers. The free expression of all opinions through letters is encouraged. Letters to the Editor must be signed and must include contact information.

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A liberal's liberal

Let's call a spade a spade here. John Kerry is a liberal's liberal. Barring a political meltdown even more embarrassing than Howard Dean's "I Have a Scream" speech, the current Democratic frontrunner will win his party's nomination. But despite cruising his way to victory, this might not be a good thing for a shaky Democratic party that can ill-afford for President Bush to capture reelection this November.

Joe Licandro

The Licandro
Non-Factor

Unlike Bill Clinton's meteoric rise from out of nowhere in 1992, there is just not an overwhelming sense amongst moderate Democratic voters who comprise the party's majority that Kerry represents their best interests. Clinton secured the Democratic nomination by distinguishing himself as a centrist Washington outsider disenchanted with the extremely liberal direction in which his party was headed.

Kerry, no matter how hard he will try in the coming months to portray himself otherwise, is guilty of steering the ship in that extremely liberal direction. Americans for Democratic Action, the self-described nation's oldest liberal lobbying organization, gives Kerry a lifetime rating of 93 percent. That's considerably higher than any other candidate in the field. So high that liberal dinosaur Ted Kennedy, who has a rating of only 88 percent, actually holds the title as the conservative senator from Massachusetts. Anyone who can make Ted Kennedy seem conservative should be cause for serious apprehension.

This primary has not exactly been one of those difficult process-of-elimination tests. Amidst an overly crowded field of political nobodys and lightweights, Democrats are choosing Kerry by default. Despite Time Magazine and U.S. News and World Report's best efforts to drum up support for Howard Dean by placing the not-so-good doctor on their covers virtually every week over the last couple of months of 2003, the former Governor of Vermont proved to be an arrogant blowhard.

Reasonable Democrats knew the American people were never going to elect a chronic finger-pointing-at-the-camera, left-winged radical whose face grew so red every time he spoke that it looked like he was choking on a piece of rotisserie chicken. The campaigns of Carol Moseley Braun, Al Sharpton and Dennis Kucinich were jokes, and that's putting it nicely.

Even though Madonna and other liberal Hollywood entertainers publicly endorsed him, General Wesley Clark lacks both the experience and the personality to play with the big boys. John Edwards, a rising star in the Democratic party, is a respectable guy, but too overly ambitious. For an ex-trial lawyer who has yet to complete a full term as Senator, he does not hold enough political clout yet to be elected

President. His best chance might be four years later. But as it stands now, Edwards, regardless of his political fate in the primaries, will fade into oblivion because he will not be defending his Senate seat in 2004.

Thus, the Democrats will nominate John Kerry not for his charisma or any dynamic political agenda, but because, as his current campaign states, "I am the only candidate who can defeat Bush." That is a scary thought, not just for the radical right wing but for middle-of-the-road voters like the majority of us.

True to the liberal mantra, Kerry believes the government should coddle the dredges of society. He voted against mandatory prison sentences for drug dealers who sell to children. He also supported using the hardworking taxpayers' money to provide disability payments to drug addicts and alcoholics. No other senator has been as staunch a defender of abortion rights, either. Kerry has voted against every proposed bill restricting partial birth abortions and has gone on record as saying that if elected president, he will never appoint a judge who would strike down any such law.

Occasionally, Kerry has toed the line of conservatism making disparaging remarks about the merits of affirmative action while vocalizing support for school vouchers, as well. But these are issues for the Supreme Court to decide, not the United States Senate. And given that a liberal judge who would protect abortion rights would probably not strike down affirmative action or uphold school vouchers, Kerry's conservative talk is cheap. With the possibility of as many as four current Supreme Court justices retiring in the next four years, this next election will determine the social direction of this country. Voters should not forget the type of liberal, activist justices Kerry will surely appoint.

While social issues will be critical in this election, no issue will take more precedence than national security. Judging by his comments on the campaign trail, Kerry does not seem to know where he stands. Kerry deserves the utmost respect for serving in the Vietnam War, but this does not automatically make him a better candidate than President Bush in this area.

If his past voting record is any indication, Kerry is anything but tough. Despite sitting on the Senate Intelligence committee and being privy to highly classified information revealing looming security threats to the United States, he has routinely voted for military and intelligence spending cuts throughout his time in office. Kerry was also one of only a few senators to vote against the first Iraq war. In 2002, he did an about-face, voting for the Iraq war resolution, but has repeatedly criticized President Bush for making the decision to go to war ever since. Kerry has justified this contradiction by saying he voted "to threaten the use of force to make Saddam Hussein comply with the resolutions of the United Nations," not necessarily to go to war.

Does Kerry really think the American people can't see through these shameless attempts at political expediency?

According to Kerry, the Bush Administration should have worked harder to convince our so-called allies, France, Germany and Russia, to support the war. But the third-term senator overlooks that all of these countries had handsome oil contracts with Saddam Hussein's Iraq. A hundred more rounds of talks and not even underhanded bribes would have convinced them to support the war.

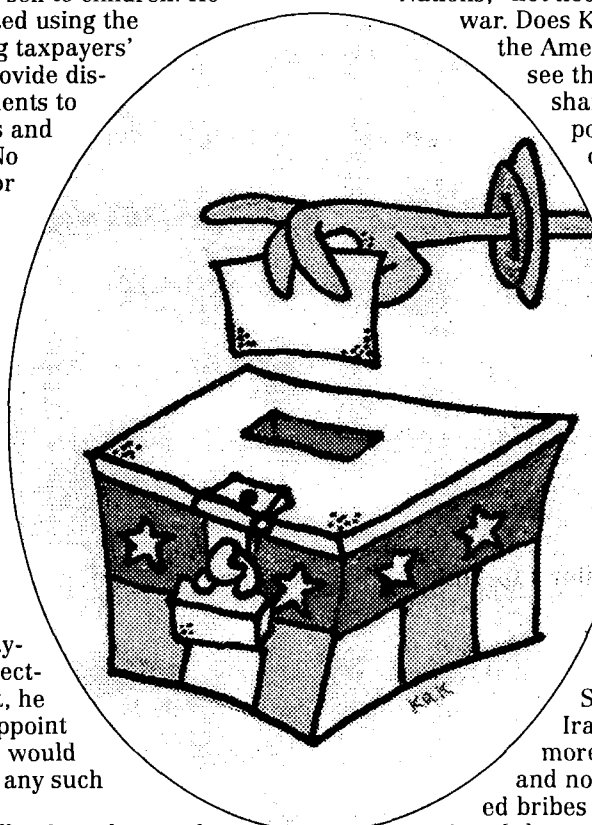
Not that their support should matter anyways. The United States should never have to ask another country's permission to defend ourselves.

Most alarming, though, is Kerry's claim that the Bush Administration has exaggerated the terrorist threat to the United States. Does Kerry suffer from amnesia? Has he already forgotten the over three thousand Americans that tragically died on 9/11? Not only are Kerry's comments cruelly insensitive to the families of these victims, but they are also frighteningly naive.

In the coming months, John Kerry will try to paint himself as a moderate to the American people. But we know better. He's a liberal's liberal, and our nation will suffer if he is elected President.

Joe Licandro is a senior political science major. His column appears every other Wednesday. He can be contacted at jlicandr@nd.edu.

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



OBSERVER POLL

Do you think Notre Dame should host the "Queer Film Festival" and "The Vagina Monologues?"

Vote by 5 p.m. Thursday at
www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination."

Nelson Mandela
anti-apartheid activist

Bengal Bouts support Holy Cross Missionaries

1854. Franklin Pierce was president. Notre Dame was 12 years old. And the first Holy Cross missionaries set foot in what is now Bangladesh, one of the poorest countries in the world. Bangladesh is 88.3 percent Muslim and 10.5 percent Hindu. Could those missionaries have foreseen that, 150 years later, Holy Cross priests, brothers and sisters would staff schools, parishes and other activities throughout that country? Maybe. But they could not have imagined that the largest single donation to their apostolate every year would be generated by Notre Dame students majoring in pugilistic science.

Charles Rice

Right or Wrong?

The Holy Cross Brothers, under Brother Alan McNeil, CSC, organized a Notre Dame boxing tournament in 1920 to support the Bengal Missions. With the encouragement of Knute Rockne, that program developed. In 1931, Dominic (Nappy) Napolitano organized the Bengal Bouts in the form in which they have continued for 74 years.

In 2003, the Bouts contributed \$44,000 to the Bengal Missions. This year, 143 boxers will try to beat that total.

The student officers of the Boxing Club run the program under the supervision of Rich O'Leary and Dave Brown of the Club Sports office. The senior captains are Pat Dillon, Tommy Demko, Stefan Borovina, Billy Zizic and Tony Hollowell. The junior captains are Nathan Lohmeyer, Jim Christoforetti and Galen Loughrey. Each boxer is a fund-raiser, selling tickets and program ads. But the brains of the outfit, and the key to its financial suc-

cess, are the student managers, Kristin Boyd, Ashley Merusi and Rachel Anderson, who are taking the administrative and business end of the Bouts to a new level.

This unique athletic phenomenon could happen only at Notre Dame. "The Bengal Bouts," wrote Chicago sports columnist Bill Gleason, "are as purely amateur as a sport can be." The head coaches are Chicago attorney Terry Johnson, Columbus, Ohio developer Tom Suddes and Pat Farrell, the University pilot. All are former Bengals champs.

"We teach traditional, stand-up style boxing," said Johnson, "the same way Nappy taught it for 50 years. We approach boxing as a sport, not as a fight. The guys understand this and are dedicated to sportsmanship, camaraderie and boxing for the missions."

In a workout led by Tom Suddes, the boxers count push-ups and sit-

ups by the hundred and Tom does every one of them himself (almost).

"The Bouts are special," notes Suddes, "because you may end up in the ring with your best friend and after the final bell your relationship and mutual respect are stronger than before you put on the gloves."

The assistant coaches, all volunteers, include Sweet C. Robinson, of the Berrien Springs police department, and former boxers Ryan Rans, Chip Farrell, Tom Biolchini, Jeff Dobosh and Roland Chamblee, a Superior Court Judge and four-time Bengals champ who may be the only active judge who also serves as cornerman in a boxing ring.

Holy Mother Church is in the act with the chaplains, Fr. Bill Seetch, CSC and Fr. Brian Daley, S.J., who is also a coach. They both work out with the boxers. And the timer is Msgr. John Hagerty, appropriately of Notre Dame parish in Hermitage, Penn.

The primary emphasis of the program is safety. "We have never had a serious injury," said captain Pat Dillon, "and we aim to keep it that way."

Dr. James Moriarity, University chief of medicine, closely supervises every phase of the program. EMTs are present at all contact practices. Trainer Jack Zimmerman, who is incidentally a published poet, carries on the exacting standard of care established by Jack Mooney, the head trainer for decades, who was literally Knute Rockne's paper boy and who, at 93 years young, still maintains his interest in his boys.

The Bengal Bouts will be held in five sessions, all in the JACC Field House: Feb 25, Feb. 26, March 1 and March 3, all at 6:30 p.m., and, in a return to an old tradition, the finals will be held on St. Patrick's Day, March 17 at 8 p.m.

The money raised by the Bouts, said Mission Director Fr. David L. Schlaver, CSC, "enables many to earn a living, provide medical care and housing for their families and educate their children for life — and survival — in a difficult society."

We hope the members of the Notre Dame community will continue their strong support for this superb cause on this 150th anniversary of the Bengal Missions. We welcome you to visit the practices in the JACC Boxing Room any weekday from 4 to 6 p.m. You will be impressed. And maybe even surprised.

Professor Emeritus Charles Rice is on the Law School faculty. His column appears every other Wednesday. He can be contacted at plawecki.1@nd.edu.

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



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'Monologues' not what we need

I am a woman. I have never been sexually abused but have close relatives and friends who have been. I have read the "Monologues." With that said, upon reading the "Monologues," I was deeply offended and felt that my femininity was grievously degraded. I have been saddened to see so many of my sisters in Christ promoting them as a means of empowering women.

What is needed to combat violence against women in the world is a complete paradigm shift. We, as women and men created in the image of God, need to stop seeing women as objects, as mere products of negative experiences, or as a body part, and start seeing them as whole persons, as beautiful expressions of God's love.

Then, and only then, will women start respecting themselves, not for the control they can have over their bodies, not for the pleasure they can give themselves, not for the power they can have over men, but because they are created and radically loved by God. If we aim to eliminate all forms of violence against women, we should hardly employ violence as our means. The "Monologues" are violent emotional-

ly, psychologically and spiritually. If we see women as having intrinsic, God-given dignity, then we should highlight that dignity and not do further damage to it.

Even if the content of the "Monologues" was not violent, in many places where they are shown (although not at Notre Dame) some of the proceeds go to Planned Parenthood, which through its unqualified support of abortion and contraception completely undermines the value and dignity of women in this country. Even though the proceeds from Notre Dame's show will not go to Planned Parenthood, an injustice to women anywhere is an injustice to women everywhere.

I encourage all women on this campus to re-examine the way they view themselves and their sisters (and brothers) in Christ. We deserve better than the "Monologues."

Let's look to the Blessed Mother for a monologue that is truly empowering.

Christina Dehan
junior
Badin Hall
Feb. 10

EDITORIAL CARTOON



MOVIE REVIEW

Jack and Diane at their best in comedy

By EMILY IAROCCHI
Scene Movie Critic

Jack Nicholson and Diane Keaton are undoubtedly two of the brightest and best actors of their generation. We have grown up watching them on the big screen in such movies as *Batman*, *A Few Good Men*, *As Good As It Gets*, *The Godfather Trilogy* and *Father of the Bride*. Nicholson and Keaton joined forces in this winter's romantic comedy *Something's Gotta Give*. *Something's Gotta Give* is written and directed by Nancy Meyers, the same woman who directed *What Women Want*, another outstanding romantic comedy. Both movies seem to transcend the stereotypical romantic comedy, which is generally brushed off as cheesy and predictable. This movie in particular is quite the opposite of that stereotype. The screenplay writers manage to add all sorts of twists and turns within the plot to keep the viewer engaged for the entire two-hour length of the movie.

Nicholson plays a 60-something-year-old bachelor who has never dated a woman over the age of 30. At the beginning of the movie Harry Sanborn (Nicholson) is dating the much younger Marin Barry (Amanda Peet). The two

decide to take a weekend trip to Barry's mother's house in the Hamptons. They arrive at the house to find Erica Barry (Keaton) has also decided to take a trip to her Hamptons getaway for the weekend. Erica is a well-known playwright whose works are performed on Broadway, and she is currently suffering from writer's block. In the midst of all the awkwardness over the issue that Erica's daughter is dating a man who is older than Erica, Harry has a heart attack and ends up having to stay in the Hamptons under Erica's care for a while.

Harry's 30-something-year-old doctor (Keanu Reeves) becomes immediately interested in Erica, which she is quite taken aback by. Also, while under her roof, Harry begins to become interested in Erica. This is a first for him since he has never even had the slightest interest in a woman over thirty in his entire life. Harry and Erica have an amazing last few days together. They seem to have fallen in love. However, as soon as they arrive back in the city, Harry continues to live his life the way he always has. His act of ignoring Erica helps cure her writer's block because she is so overcome by emotion.

From then on the movie follows the two main characters separately, though somehow they still manage to run into each other and their feelings for each

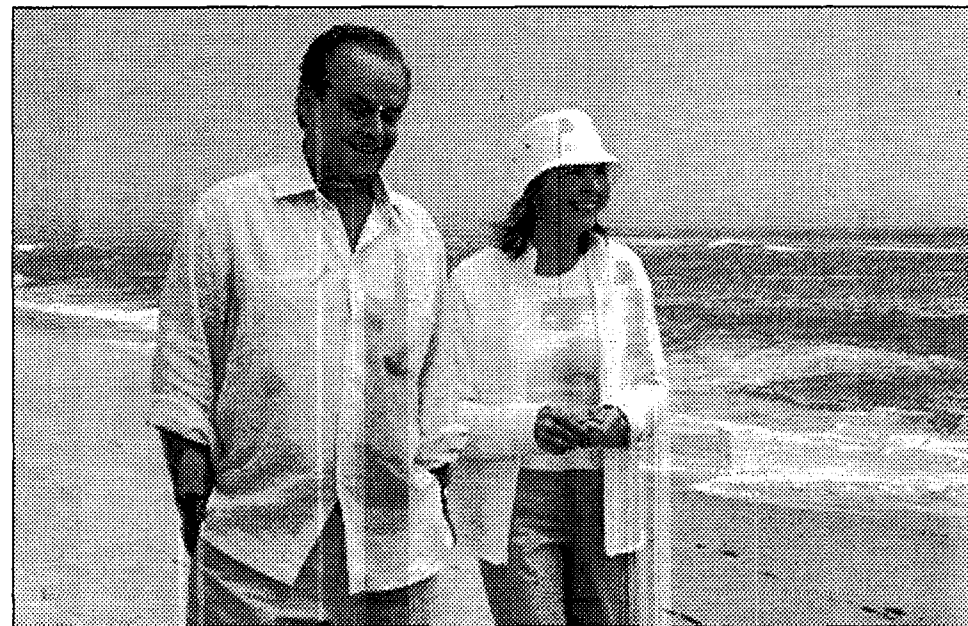


Photo courtesy of www.imdb.com

Harry Sanborn (Jack Nicholson) and Erica Barry (Diane Keaton) enjoy a walk along the beach together in the romantic comedy "Something's Gotta Give."

other are evident at each meeting. Erica starts to date the young doctor even though she feels strange about the whole situation. Even the end of this movie is semi-unpredictable.

Jack Nicholson's antics in the movie are hilarious as is to be expected, making his character the most enjoyable. Diane Keaton's character's personality completely changes from the start of the movie to the end and watching that transformation and her emotional outbursts are also very entertaining. Both actors were at their best in this movie.

Peet and Reeves were also both successful in their supporting roles. Meyers has outdone herself and done an amazing job in the direction of this movie.

Other than some slight discomfort due to the extreme age differences involved in some of the romantic relationships throughout the movie, it fully deserves all the praise it has received. Nicholson and Keaton are fantastic in this incredibly entertaining story.

Contact Emily Iarocci at ciarocci@nd.edu

SHOW PREVIEW

Famous opera arrives in South Bend

By JONATHAN RETARTHA
Scene Writer

"The greatest love story ever sung" comes to The Morris Performing Arts Center tonight as the Opera Verdi Europa presents Giacomo Puccini's famous opera, "La Bohème." The opera, presented with subtitles, tells the story of Mimi and Rodolfo, two lovers who face poverty and death in the midst of their romance.

The opera takes place in Paris, around the year 1830. Rodolfo and his impoverished bohemian friends are living in a small garret in the Latin Quarter when Mimi, Rodolfo's neighbor, stops by to ask for a light for her candle. When she drops her key in the room, the ensuing search leaves them both sitting on the floor in the moonlight telling their dreams to each other. Rodolfo dreams of writing and Mimi dreams of the coming spring.

The two fall in love and join Rodolfo's friends at the Café Momus. There, Rodolfo's friend, Alcindoro, reignites his relationship with his former lover, Musetta. Musetta and Alcindoro move to a tavern on the outskirts of Paris, and Mimi arrives at their house on a snowy morning in a panic. She describes to Alcindoro

Rodolfo's jealousy and decides that she must separate from him.

When she hears Rodolfo coming, she hides, and Rodolfo then describes Mimi's fickleness and the sad revelation that Mimi is dying. Because he does not want Mimi to worsen simply because of their poverty, he, too, desires that they separate. They finally discover each other at the tavern, and after describing memories of their past love, they decide to remain together until spring. What follows is a beautiful account of the power that love has over everything, seemingly, but death itself.

"La Bohème" was written by Giacomo Puccini, who, after studying at the Milan Conservatory from 1880-83, went on to write such operas as "Le Villi," "Edgar," "M a d a m e Butterfly," "La Rondine," and "Il Tabarro." "La Bohème" was written in 1896, and like many classic works of art, was originally harshly criticized at its

premier in Turin. However, it has stood the test of time and has become a definitive work of opera.

The appeal of the opera's simple story and beautiful lyrics and melodies even inspired master filmmaker Baz Luhrmann, of such screen hits as *Moulin Rouge* and *William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet*, to develop a version of the opera for

Broadway. Luhrmann changed the setting to 1950s Paris to better adapt the opera for a modern Broadway audience. The show played to moderate box office success, even in the huge Broadway downturn after 9/11, and garnered several Tony Award nominations.

The Morris's production of "La Bohème" is staged by the Opera Verdi Europa, a Bulgarian opera company. The company was established by Ivan Kyurkchiev in 1996 and has been involved with many opera houses from all over Russia and Eastern Europe. They gained international fame from their productions of other famous operas such as "Carmen," "La Traviata," and "Rigoletto." What makes the company unique is their combination of all of the major Bulgarian opera houses into their performances. They have also worked with opera houses in Romania, Hungary, Moldavia and Ukraine. The company performs over 70 times a year, and this is their first tour in the United States.

"La Bohème" has become such a lasting presence in the world of performing arts because of the emotion displayed through Puccini's words and lyrics. Many view opera as being

something distant; a form of art only accessible to the wealthy sitting up in boxes wearing tuxedos and sporting those tiny binoculars. This aloof image is augmented by the fact that most operas are not in English, and are therefore even more inaccessible to the average American citizen. Puccini's opera has succeeded where so many others have failed because it was able to draw such deep emotion from a relatively simple story. Take, for example, the way the religious chords stemming from the Basilica organ fill campus visitors with awe every weekend.

Visitors are amazed, even if they do not know the words or the language of the words. Puccini was able to associate music with emotion, and the climactic death scene is able to bring forth tears from people who have never learned a page of Italian in their lives.

Therefore, it is the simple story in combination with the emotional music that has been able to give "La Bohème" such staying power. It truly is accessible to all people.

Contact Jonathan Retartha at jretarth@nd.edu

"La Bohème"

Giacomo Puccini's famous opera of two lovers who face poverty and death together

February 11, 2004 at 7:30 p.m.
The Morris Performing Arts Center
Tickets: Available now for \$30-45

"The appeal of the opera's simple story and beautiful lyrics and melodies even inspired master filmmaker Baz Luhrmann, of such screen hits as 'Moulin Rouge' and 'William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet,' to develop a version of the opera for Broadway."

MOVIE REVIEW

Hockey never looked so good

By ANN FLIES
Scene Movie Critic

Considering the long history of sports films, new movies in this genre must be extra special in order to catch the eye of weary movie-going audiences. *Miracle* is special.

Miracle is the true story of the 1980 United States Olympic Hockey team. At a time when life amid Cold War fears was looking dismal, the hockey team was not looked upon as a bright spot. The Soviet Union's long-standing tradition of gold medal victories at the Olympics was unmatched, while the United States was not even regarded as competition. As the movie begins, Coach Herb Brooks, who is played by the film's only true veteran actor, Kurt Russell, defines a new playing technique, determined to make his mark in history.

As the plot unfolds, the audience watches the trials the team encounters as the players learn what is involved in becoming a great team. Coach Brooks makes life even more difficult for the players with his rigorous training plan. Viewers are able to connect with the team as they endure

grueling practices and then share in their pride as the season progresses.

Although the film as a whole is magnificent, a few weak areas stand out. Jim Craig's (Eddie Cahill) and Brooks's family dealings are basically the only personal struggles set out in the film, which may be because they are the only two who have a level of acting skill. Those actors playing the athletes are good at the hockey portion of *Miracle* but sputter through portions that come close to the realm of drama. This is especially evident early in the film where a scene in a pub calling for a heated argument lacks any form of emotion.

The lack of acting experience among the team members luckily is not evident when the movie moves to the ice. As the actors' bios suggest, most of them have some amount of hockey experience, which serves to enhance the quality of the piece during crucial moments.

One of the truly outstanding qualities of *Miracle* is its ability to put the viewer into the action. The movement, energy and excitement of hockey are readily evident; a viewer was heard to comment that, "If you didn't like hockey before the movie, you will love it after."

In spite of the fact that most viewers



Photo courtesy of www.imdb.com

Coach Herb Brooks (Kurt Russell) diagrams a play for his team in the new film "Miracle," which is based on the 1980 U.S. Gold medal-winning hockey team.

already know the outcome of the game, the natural momentum of the storyline keeps the suspense and excitement in place. The movie wisely reaches a crescendo with the Soviet Union game, where great camera placement captures every second of the action. Even those who are not appreciative of the game will find enjoyment in the memorable quotes and prevailing feeling of team unity.

Overall, *Miracle* is an incredible

thrill ride echoing past movie favorites such as *The Mighty Ducks*, but with a more mature and intense twist. *Miracle* would be good if for the sole reason that it is recounting an iconic piece of American history, but the fast-paced hockey scenes and emotional audience response make it truly great.

Contact Ann Flies at aflies@nd.edu

DVD REVIEW

Explosive finale for the 'Desperado' trilogy

By MARK BEMENDERFER
Scene DVD Critic

Before I review *Once Upon A Time in Mexico*, it is my duty to enlighten the faithful reader why Robert Rodriguez is the man. His first film in the El Mariachi trilogy was filmed on a shoe-string budget. But it was good enough and showed enough potential that he got to do a sequel, called *Desperado*, an action smash starring Antonio Banderas and Salma Hayek. After that, he directed a variety of films ranging from the vampire western *From Dusk till Dawn*, starring George Clooney to the kid movie trilogy *Spy Kids*.

He was successful enough from all of those films that he got to direct the last part of his action trilogy, *Once Upon A Time in Mexico*. He was so successful from his previous films that he was able to snag some very big name actors for the movie and not just his regulars (Antonio Banderas, Salma Hayek, Cheech Marin, etc.).

Rodriguez's latest movie is practically bursting with all the stars in it, including Johnny Depp, Enrique Iglesias and Willem Dafoe. Rodriguez knows what he does well, and because of that he gets what he wants.

This leads us to the movie, *Once Upon A Time in Mexico*. For starters, you don't need to have seen the previous ones to understand what is going on in this one, although it helps because you notice all of the returning actors, including ones that were killed in previous movies. It is also the deepest one of the trilogy, which seems to contrast with its action based nature. *Desperado* was centered basically on the Mariachi character (also known as El). This time around, the number of characters almost seems overwhelming, which they are on the first viewing of the movie. It improves upon a second viewing, which is almost required as only the most astute movie watcher will catch everything in the movie the first time. For example, see if you can find the second character that Depp plays.

Sound in the movie and video quality are both top-notch. Shots are heard nice and clear, along with any other sound worth mentioning. Video looks terrific with no discoloration or darkness — it is a rather superior DVD.

However, one of the best things on the DVD is on the special fea-



Photo courtesy of www.imdb.com

Agent Sands (Johnny Depp) sits down to enjoy some slow roasted pork in "Once Upon a Time in Mexico," a meal that is documented on the film's DVD.

tures. It comes with all the staples, such as director's commentary, deleted scenes and such. Rodriguez also hosts a special feature called "Ten-Minute Flick School" in which he shares insights with aspiring directors.

The best special feature on the DVD, however, is titled "Ten-Minute Cooking School," starring Robert Rodriguez. In this little feature, the director shows us how to cook the slow roasted pork showcased in the movie and obsessed about by Johnny Depp's character. The four hours it takes to cook may

turn off some, but others may be tempted into trying the recipe by Depp.

This movie isn't perfect by any means, but what it does it does well. Depp turns in an awesome performance, Banderas blows away bad guys with style and Dafoe is great as a deplorable villain. It's the deepest one of the trilogy, but bear in mind, it's still an action movie.

Contact Mark Bemenderfer at mbemende@nd.edu

Once Upon a
Time in Mexico

Columbia Tristar



NBA

Nets post ninth straight win under new coach

Associated Press

Even a little adversity isn't too much for the New Jersey Nets to overcome under new wonder coach Lawrence Frank.

Richard Jefferson had 27 points and 10 rebounds and the Nets posted their ninth straight win — eighth in a row under Frank, rallying to beat the Detroit Pistons 89-78 on Tuesday night.

This was probably the toughest one for Frank, who replaced Byron Scott more than two weeks ago. The Nets fell behind by 13 points after the first quarter and the 33-year-old coach scolded his team between periods.

"That's probably the most angry I've seen him," starting center Aaron Williams said. "You have to do that sometimes. We weren't playing the way we were supposed to play. That's his job."

Frank downplayed his talk between periods, insisting he did a poor job of coaching in the opening quarter when the Nets fell behind.

He shifted the credit to his team for picking up their play.

"Our guys did a terrific job, mixing up man and zone coverage," Frank said. "They really worked their tails off."

Frank's 8-0 start is tied for the second best in NBA history with Pistons coach Larry Brown. It is one shy of the mark for best coaching start shared by Kurt Rambis (Los Angeles Lakers, 1998-99) and Buddy Jeannette (Baltimore Bullets, 1947-48).

Frank will get a chance to tie the record on Wednesday in a game against LeBron James and the Cavaliers in Cleveland.

"He doesn't care about that," said Jason Kidd, who added 16 points, nine rebounds and nine assists in a gritty 43-minute performance. "He wants to win. he doesn't care about going undefeated. He wants to win every time we go on the floor."

Kenyon Martin added 13 points and eight rebounds and Kerry Kittles had 17 points as the Nets posted their ninth straight double-digit win and sent the Pistons to their fourth straight loss.

"We're just flat out not getting it done," said Piston All Star Ben Wallace, who had 13 points and 12 rebounds. "We came out in the first quarter and played pretty decent. After that, everything was down hill."

Chauncey Billups had 23 points and Richard Hamilton added 19 for Detroit, which made only 18 field goals in the final three quarters after making 12 in the first, when the shot 54.5 percent in taking a 29-16 lead.

"We didn't have a lot of guys matching their energy. That's my responsibility," Brown said. "I never thought I'd have to coach effort. It seems to me in a lot of games, we have to coach effort."

The 13-point first-quarter deficit was the largest since Frank took over. He face was red as he yelled between quarters.

"He had a legit gripe," Martin said.

About halfway through the second quarter, the Nets finally got some stops on defense and then got their transition game going. New Jersey closed the quarter with a 14-0 run and took a 46-42 lead. Detroit missed its final 10 shots.

Jefferson was outstanding in the run. He scored eight points and ignited the run with an alley-oop lay-in of a Martin pass that might have been offensive goaltending.

Kidd had 10 points in the third quarter when New Jersey opened a 71-62 lead. The Nets nailed down the win, holding the Pistons to five points in the final 7:30.

Hamilton scored 11 points and the Pistons held the Nets to just 6-for-25 shooting from the field in taking a 29-16 lead after the first quarter.

Lakers 98, Heat 83

Derek Fisher caught a long outlet pass, then sent a backward, between-his-legs bounce pass to Gary Payton for an uncontested layup in the waning seconds.

It wasn't the only thing Fisher made look easy Tuesday night.

Fisher went on a personal 8-0 run over a 2:28 span of the fourth quarter, capping off his season-high 18-point effort and lifting the Los Angeles Lakers past the Miami Heat 98-83.

Miami never led in the second half, yet clawed its way within one on three separate occasions — the last coming on Rafer Alston's 3-pointer with 7:17 remaining, a shot that brought the Heat within 78-77.

Fisher scored the next eight, and the Lakers never looked back in recording consecutive wins for the first time since mid-January.

"I had to wait for some opportunities to come around," Fisher said. "I worked up a sweat and I felt good. I like playing here. I'm from Arkansas. Humidity is my friend. Once I got loosened up, I felt pretty good."

Shaquille O'Neal had 25 points and Payton and Devean George each had 17 for the Lakers, who overcame an early 14-point deficit. O'Neal had 19 of his points in the second half on 9-for-12 shooting, saying he was

sparked by a back-and-forth series with Heat reserve Malik Allen.

A bit of jostling resulted in a double technical for both players, and O'Neal scoring 10 points in a brief third-quarter flurry.

"He awakened a sleeping giant. I know that's not a word," O'Neal said.

Dwyane Wade had 19 points for Miami, which dropped its fifth straight — the team's worst slide since opening the season with seven consecutive losses. Miami (21-32) is now a season-worst 11 games under .500, and dropped two games behind idle Boston in the race for the Eastern Conference's final playoff spot.

Lamar Odom narrowly missed a triple-double, finishing with 13 points, 11 rebounds and eight assists for Miami. Eddie Jones also had 13 for the Heat, which was outrebounded 44-37.

"I take this loss on myself," Odom said. "I've got to have a much better, much more productive game than that. I wasn't Lamar tonight. I let this one get away."

The Lakers were again without All-Star guard Kobe Bryant, who missed his seventh game because of a lacerated right index finger. Ultimately, they didn't need him.

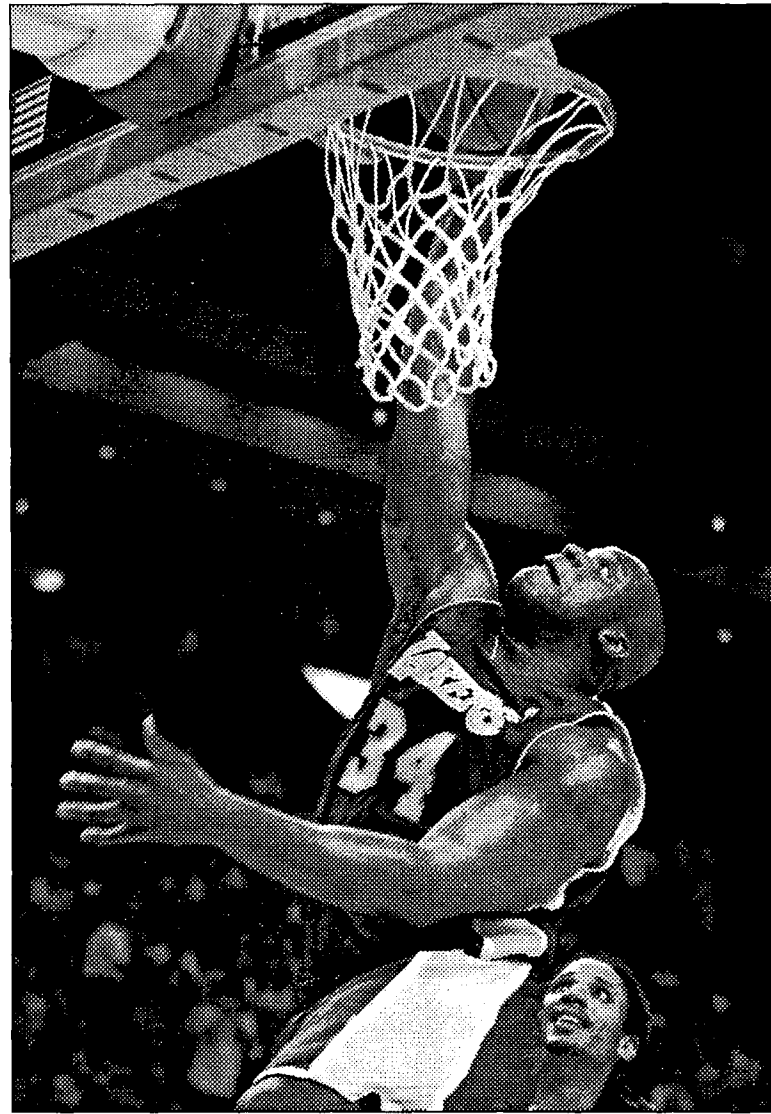
O'Neal, who at 7-foot-1, 340 pounds was at least three inches taller and 85 pounds heavier than anyone the Heat called upon to guard him, did most of his damage from in close — as usual.

But he secured the win with an open-court steal and breakaway dunk with 1:17 left, giving the Lakers their first double-digit lead of the night, 94-83 — part of a game-ending 20-6 run that began with Fisher's scoring spree.

Miami could have tied the game at 80 with 6:33 left, but Eddie Jones' 3-pointer failed to beat the shot clock. The Heat never was that close again.

"We did not execute at all offensively going down the stretch," Miami coach Stan Van Gundy said. "We came out of two timeouts and didn't even run what we were supposed to run. And our rebounding is becoming a major problem. It's been a major strength all year and now we're getting absolutely crushed."

Miami started quickly, scoring on 11 of its first 13 possessions and opening a 23-9 lead. Almost as quickly, the Heat went cold, missing their next 10 field goal attempts and going scoreless for a stretch of more than six minutes — during which the Lakers went on a 15-0 run for a 24-23 lead.



Lakers center Shaquille O'Neal dunks in Los Angeles' 98-83 win over the Miami Heat on Tuesday night.

In the first eight minutes of the half, the Heat shot 69.2 percent and scored 23 points. They shot just 39.0 percent the rest of the game.

"After a very mediocre start, when we built a big hole for ourselves, I thought we played 40 minutes of very good basketball," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said.

Timberwolves 96, Clippers 84

Still stewing over a one-point loss two days ago, the Minnesota Timberwolves finally found a way to start strong.

Kevin Garnett finished with 31 points and 16 rebounds for the Timberwolves, who led the entire game in a 96-84 victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday night.

"That's what a loss did to us," Garnett said. "We had to reevaluate ourselves. It made us more hungry."

Garnett set the tone for this one with 14 points and nine rebounds in the opening period, and the Timberwolves built a lead as big as 17 in the first half.

Helping Minnesota make up for Sunday's 99-98 defeat to Memphis in which Mark Madsen missed the potential game-win-

ning layup at the buzzer, Garnett had his fifth 30-point performance in six February games and Gary Trent scored 15 points.

"Our team just keeps our composure," said Sam Cassell, who had eight points and 12 assists after going scoreless for the first 27-plus minutes.

Corey Maggette had a season-high 34 points for the Clippers, who lost their third straight. Elton Brand added 12 points.

This was the fifth of a six-game road trip that takes the Clippers up to the All-Star break, and they emerged quite sluggishly.

Was it fatigue?

"No, I'm not going to say that," Maggette said. "We have to be grown up about this. We're well-conditioned for this."

Timberwolves coach Flip Saunders put his team through an intense, training camp-style practice on Monday as the team tried to make amends for the disappointing loss to Memphis. And on Tuesday they seemed in complete control, as opposed to the familiar sight of struggling through one of the first two periods and playing a frantic game of catch-up.

CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 3 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

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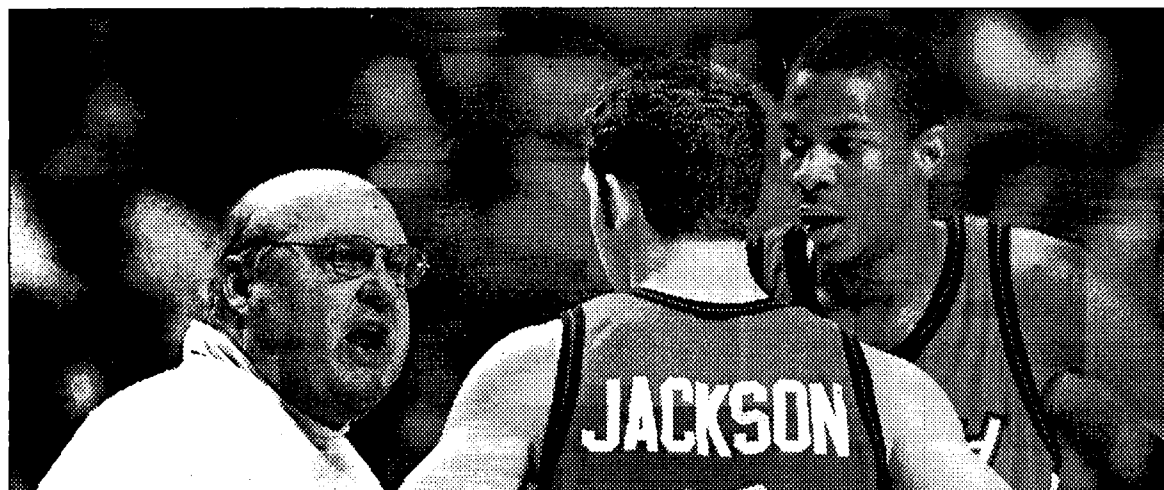
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NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Majerus will not return to coaching at Utah



Utah coach Rick Majerus speaks to players during a game against Kentucky last year. After leaving the team in January because of heart problems, Majerus now says he will not return.

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Rick Majerus said Tuesday he will not coach the University of Utah again this season, ending his 15-year association with the school he brought to national prominence.

"No. I won't come back this year, and I won't coach next year for sure," Majerus told ESPN.

He also ruled out coaching Utah in the future.

"They need to hire a coach," Majerus said. "I've divorced myself from this."

Apparently, the decision was not Majerus' alone.

"His doctor told him that under no circumstances was he coming back this year," Majerus' attorney, Bob Henderson, told The Associated Press.

Majerus did not immediately return a phone message to the AP left through Henderson.

Majerus left the team on Jan. 28 because of heart problems.

He had said he would retire at the end of the season, however, both he and the university left open the chance he would still return to coach this season.

Majerus has not told the university that he would not return, athletic director Chris Hill told AP on Tuesday. However, he said officials have been in contact with some of Majerus' closest friends.

"We have every indication that is what he was planning," Hill said of Majerus' decision. "That fits in line with conversations we've had."

Assistant coach Kerry Rupp has led Utah (18-5) to a 3-0 mark since Majerus left.

"We're going to leave everything the way it is," Hill said. "We've won three in a row, and we don't want to interfere with that success."

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NFL

NFL asks for suspension of high school draft decision

Associated Press

The NFL asked a judge Tuesday to suspend her decision to allow high school players into the draft, arguing that an onslaught of teenagers would harm the league, its athletes and college football.

U.S. District Judge Shira Scheindlin issued her ruling last Thursday in a lawsuit by Ohio State running back Maurice Clarett, a 20-year-old sophomore who played just one season in college before trying to enter the draft.

The NFL asked the judge for a stay while it appeals, saying a higher court may not be able to rule before the April draft.

"Absent a stay, countless college underclassmen, as well as high school students who lack the physical and psychological maturity to succeed in professional football, will be encouraged prematurely to declare themselves eligible for the NFL draft," it said.

At issue is a league rule that a player must be out of high school for three years before he is eligible for the draft.

The NFL argued that the rule is for the young players' own good: It is designed to make sure they are big enough and strong enough to play with the pros.

The league said "immediate enforcement of the court ruling will encourage teenage athletes to overtrain — or worse — to use steroids or dangerous nutritional supplements in the hope of rapidly developing the strength and speed required to compete in the NFL."

Scheindlin, however, said the eligibility rule violates antitrust law by denying young athletes the right to market their talents.

The NFL has set a March 1 deadline for high school players and college underclassmen to apply for the draft, pending its appeal.

The league said that without a stay, its 32 clubs will be forced to evaluate and interview a large number of prospective NFL players.

Those players then would sacrifice their scholarships and education for an uncertain future, ultimately perhaps displacing NFL veterans.

"There would also be corresponding serious, disruptive and irreparable effects on the college football programs that invested substantial sums in recruiting these players and fostering their athletic development," the NFL said.

"Any veterans who lose their



REUTERS

Maurice Clarett talks on his cell phone with his lawyer, Alan Milstein, Monday at a press conference. The conference followed a federal judge's ruling against the NFL's policy that barred eligibility for high school students. The NFL asked for a suspension of the ruling, which they say will harm the league.

jobs "would have no remedy if this court's ruling were ultimately reversed."

The NFL said it will appeal Scheindlin's ruling to the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals regardless of whether the judge agrees to suspend her ruling.

The league cited what it called a "substantial possibility that the Second Circuit will have a differ-

ent view on the merits."

Alan Milstein, a lawyer for Clarett, said the NFL's arguments were frivolous. "How are they irreparably harmed by letting Maurice in? I think it's ridiculous to even go through this," he said.

Clarett led the Buckeyes to the 2002 national championship. He was barred from playing in the 2003 season for accepting

improper benefits from a family friend and then lying to investigators about it.

Clarett has not said whether he would enter the draft because he still might want to return to college. Ohio State would have to petition the NCAA to allow Clarett to return for the 2004 season, and it is unclear whether the school would succeed.

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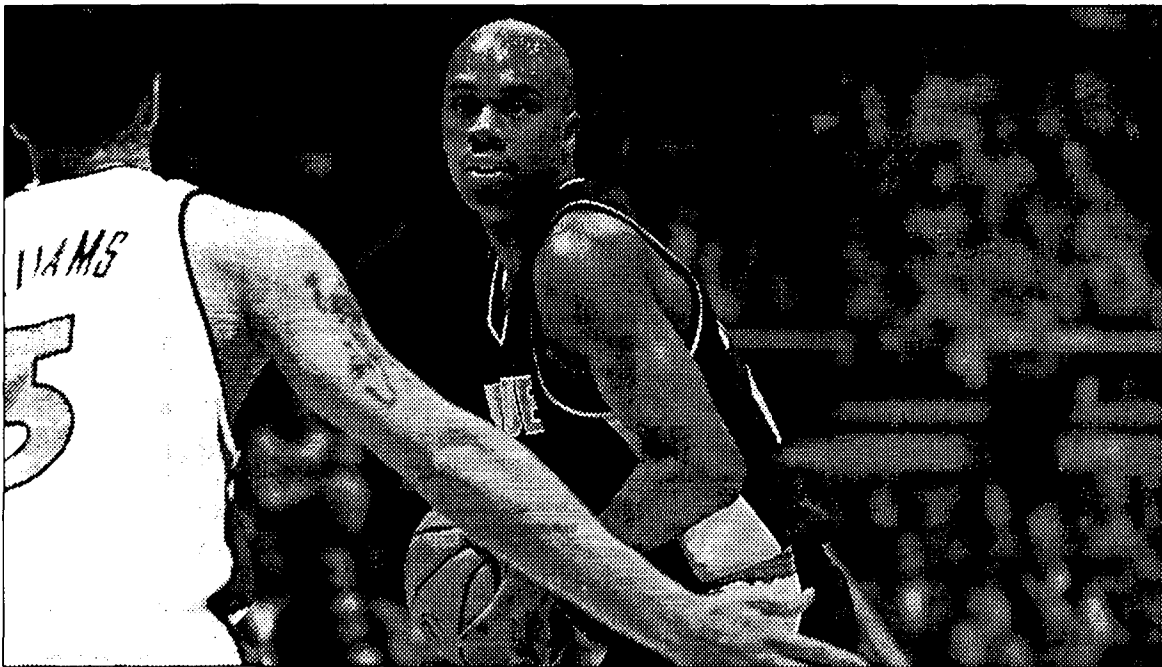
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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Purdue's leading scorer set to return Wednesday



Purdue's Kenneth Lowe looks to pass around Illinois' Deron Williams in the Boilermakers' 58-54 win against the Illini on Jan. 10, 2004. Lowe is Purdue's leading scorer this season.

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Purdue's unquestioned leader is about to return from a three-game absence, and it couldn't come at a better time for the reeling Boilermakers.

Purdue coach Gene Keady said he expects forward Kenneth Lowe to play on Wednesday against Northwestern after missing three games with a sprained left elbow.

Lowe was injured in a loss to Indiana on Jan. 27. The Boilermakers (15-7, 5-4 Big Ten) went 1-2 without him and have lost three of their last four games.

"After the (Michigan) game, he felt like his progress was good enough," Keady said.

Lowe participated in light workouts at practice last week and, depending upon how he looks before Wednesday's game against Northwestern, Lowe could start or come off the bench.

His return is good news for a team that desperately needs some. The Boilermakers went to Bloomington on Jan. 27 playing for the lead in the Big Ten. The emotional loss sent them into a tailspin from which they have yet to recover.

Mental breakdowns against Michigan and Ohio State, among others, have reduced the Boilermakers from Big Ten title contenders to a team needing a victory to get back on track.

"We haven't had a lot of good things happen to us," Keady said. "This is a good thing. I hope he gives us a jolt, some positive reinforcement."

The latest disappointment came Saturday when Courtney Sims tipped in a rebound with 1.4 seconds left to lift Michigan over Purdue. Keady said a win in Ann Arbor, Mich., would have given the Boilermakers a solid shot at winning the Big Ten title.

Instead, the loss has instilled a sense of urgency, starting with the game against the dangerous Wildcats.

"Now you have to win six in a row," Keady told his players.

The first one, he said, will be no easy task. The Wildcats (9-11, 4-5) used an aggressive matchup zone defense to thump then-No. 14 Wisconsin 69-51 on Saturday.

"We have a chance to run for the championship and we have to make a long run here," Keady said. "Our goal is to play that last game for the championship. We're worried about Northwestern and that's it, bottom line."

Leading the way for Northwestern is guard Jitum Young, who is fourth in the Big Ten in scoring with 18.1 points a game. He scored 17 in Northwestern's big win over the Badgers.

"Young is one of the best warriors in the league," Keady said. "He's strong, understands the coach's offense. He does so many good things, just plays hard all the time."

The Wildcats also run a version of the Princeton offense, a complicated motion offense featuring screens and backdoor cuts. Combined with the unique matchup zone defense, it makes preparing for them a difficult prospect, which is only compounded by Purdue's injuries and suspensions.

"Our kids understand they can beat us," Keady said. "They have great balance. We just respect the heck out of them. They have a lot of confidence after beating Wisconsin."

Even though Lowe will play, he said he won't be 100 percent. Swingman Melvin Buckley is also nursing a sprained ankle and Chris Booker was recently ruled academically ineligible.

Keady openly wondered this week why folks have the impression that the Boilermakers don't have the same personnel problems as other teams in the Big Ten, then added a little levity to his complaint.

"Somebody needs to coach the announcers," he said. "We have three guys out, physically, and about 10 guys out mentally."



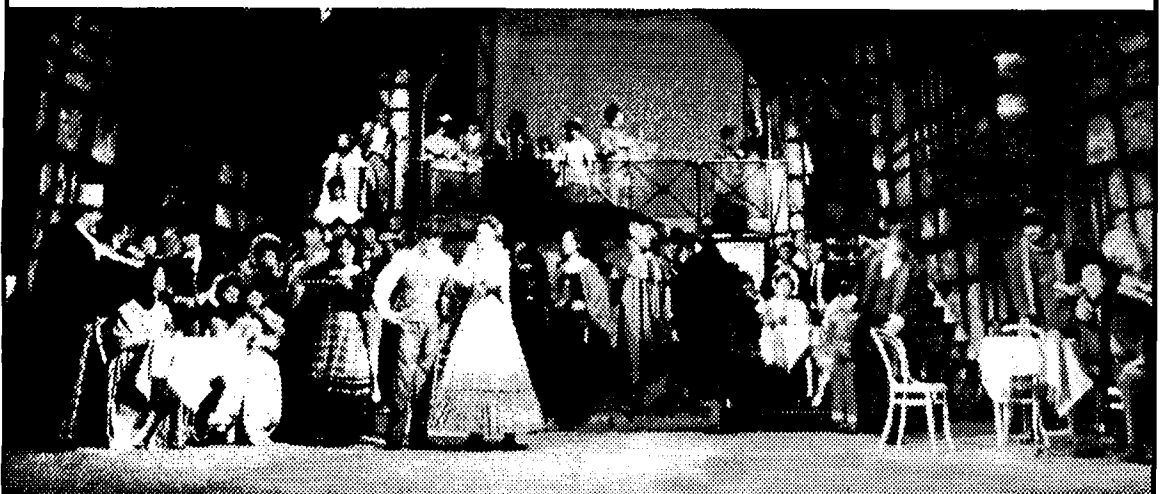
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NHL

Hasek out for rest of the year with groin injury

Associated Press

DETROIT — Dominik Hasek's season is over because of a groin injury. He's determined not to let it end his career.

"I'll be back next season," Hasek said Tuesday.

The 39-year-old Hasek ended his retirement after one year to return to Detroit this season, but he played in just 14 games before Tuesday's announcement. He was 8-3-2 for the Central Division-leading Red Wings.

Hasek said he doesn't regret coming back.

"No, I never made a mistake," he said. "Unfortunately my groin wasn't strong enough."

One of the NHL's all-time great goaltenders, Hasek won two MVP awards and six Vezina

Trophies, given to the league's top goalie, during a nine-year stint in Buffalo. He also led the Czech Republic to a gold medal in the 1998 Nagano Olympics.

He joined the Red Wings before the 2001-02 season, winning his first Stanley Cup that season.

Hasek skated with his teammates Tuesday, then made his surprising announcement.

"It's very sad, but that's the way it is," he said. "I hoped for two months it would get better every day. But it didn't get better, it got even worse last week."

Rich Winter, Hasek's agent, said the goaltender's desire to win another championship will have him back on the ice next season.

"He came back to Detroit to win a Stanley Cup and I think he wants to come back again to be a part of another run for the Cup," Winter said. "This was not the storybook ending we were all hoping for for Dom, in the final chapter of his career."

Red Wings general manager Ken Holland said Hasek wants an extended period of time to give his groin a chance to heal.

"I think in the summertime he's going to decide whether he wants to officially retire," Holland said from a meeting of GMs in Henderson, Nev.

The Red Wings are left with the same goalies — Curtis Joseph and Manny Legace — they had last year. Detroit had one of the best records in the league last season, but lost to Anaheim in the first round of



The Red Wings' Dominik Hasek guards the goal in Detroit's 4-4 tie at St. Louis on Dec. 4, 2003. Hasek will miss the rest of the season with a groin injury.

the playoffs.

"Curtis and Manny can concentrate on playing," Red Wings captain Steve Yzerman said. "We have no distractions."

The season started with a big distraction.

When Hasek retired in 2002, Detroit lured Joseph away from Toronto with a \$24 million, three-year deal to replace Hasek. When Hasek returned and agreed to make \$6 million this season, the Red Wings

desperately tried to trade Joseph.

But no one wanted to take Joseph because of the two years and \$16 million left on his contract.

"We're very, very lucky that he's been a real pro through this," Holland said. "And luckily for us that nobody claimed him."

Joseph is 13-9-2 with a 2.48 goals-against average this season. He has kept his family in the Toronto area because he

didn't know where he would end up playing this year.

"I don't think there's been a player in the league who's gone through more adversity individually this season," Detroit coach Dave Lewis said. "And I think he's become a stronger person and player because of it."

"Sometimes the (trades) you don't make are the best ones."

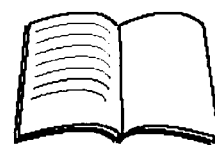
Joseph did not make himself available to reporters after practice Tuesday.



Happenings

February 11, 2004

centerforsocialconcerns.nd.edu



Volunteer Opportunities

St. Luke Memorial Church of God in Christ is looking for help for their afterschool tutoring program. Tutors are needed Monday-Wednesday from 3:30-5. Contact Marcela Jones-Preston at 288-6809 or 233-5232.

The Hansel Center is looking for volunteer office helpers. Contact Maura Hayen at 234-2150.

Candlelight Vigil for Peace February 15th

On the one year anniversary of the day when over 10 million people joined in protests, declaring "The World Says No to War," the ND Peace Coalition will have a candlelight march and vigil.

When: Sunday, February 15 at 8:00 pm

Where: Meet at Flagpole on South Quad

Media Careers as Vocations

All students are welcome to come to this panel presentation by Notre Dame graduates who will reflect on how they have integrated faith and social concerns into their professions. A simple supper will be served. Sponsored by the CSC and NDVI.

Tara Dix '98 - Assistant Editor, U.S. Catholic Magazine, Chicago, IL

Mike Schmiedeler '94 - Vice President of Production, Towers Productions, Inc., Chicago, IL

Don Wycliff '69 - Public Editor, Chicago Tribune, Chicago, IL

When: Sunday, February 15 at 4:00 - 5:30 pm

Where: Center for Social Concerns, Multi-purpose Room

Brother Bill Toomes and eight Ex-Gang Members Speak

Come hear Bro. Bill Toomes, founder of Brothers and Sisters of Love, speak with 8 ex-gang members about gang life and gang rehabilitation.

When: February 14 at 3:00 pm

Where: Center for Social Concerns

Join PSA as they protest unfair labor practices at Taco Bell

Join students from the Progressive Student Alliance as they march on YUM Brands HQ (the parent company of Taco Bell) in Louisville, KY for their support of unjust labor practices.

Students will leave Thursday night, February 12, and return either Friday or Saturday, February 13 or 14.

Contact Kamaria Porter at kporter@nd.edu for more information.

Seminars & Programs

Summer Service Internship Applications Due Feb. 20

Sign-up to do 8 weeks of service-learning, get \$2,000 tuition scholarship, make valuable alumni contacts, receive 3 theology credits, and have a powerful experience.

Applications can be downloaded at: <http://centerforsocialconcerns.nd.edu>.

ACCION Micro-lending Internships

Apply to work ten weeks in small offices who give loans to business people who have no credit history, earn a \$3000 scholarship plus living stipend, and earn 3 academic credits.

Information Session

When: Tuesday, February 10 at 6-7 pm

Where: Mendoza College of Business Room 339

Alternative Spring Break

Have no plans for Spring Break? GIMME A BREAK is a volunteer program, sponsored by the Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame, that provides service opportunities for young adults. Over one hundred and fifty college students have served the poor, experienced community and prayed as part of these programs.

Sites include Le Petit Maison des Enfants Soleil in Montreal, Canada; Morning Star School and Little Flower School in Pensacola, Florida; Children's Community School in Waterbury, Connecticut; STEPS to End Family Violence in New York, New York; Project Hospitality in Staten Island, New York; St. Jude School in South Holland, Illinois; and Red Cloud Indian School in Pine Ridge Reservation, South Dakota.

For more information or to apply, visit <http://www.cndm.com/english/gimme.htm>.

EUROPEAN SOCCER

American-born Howard slumping with Manchester Utd.

Associated Press

LONDON — Tim Howard keeps watching the ball whiz by him into the net.

First came a 3-2 win over Southampton in which Manchester United wasted a two-goal lead. Then the Reds squandered a three-goal lead over Everton before winning 4-3.

Five goals in two games — a quarter of the season total against Howard, who has 10

shutouts in 24 Premier League games. What's going on?

United lost Rio Ferdinand, one of the world's top defenders, who was suspended for eight months after missing a drug test.

"It's just a matter of jelling," Howard said during an interview with The Associated Press. "It took us a while at the beginning to jell with Rio. Now it's going to take a little bit, too — but, hopefully, not too long."

The 24-year-old from North

Brunswick, N.J., joined Manchester United in a four-year deal last summer from Major League Soccer's MetroStars. He immediately replaced France's Fabien Barthez as the starter and laid claim to being a worthy successor to former United great Peter Schmeichel.

"If I was a good goalkeeper when I came here, I need to be exceptional," Howard said.

"It's trying to better myself as a goalkeeper across the

board," he said. "I'm in the process of doing it, no question. I'm not a finished product yet, but hopefully getting there."

Howard is determined to prove the last two games were anomalies.

"Inevitably as a goalkeeper, no matter who you are, what league, what age, you're going to go through that," he said. "You're going to have highs and lows. The most important thing is staying consistent. You

just hope you're not in that dip for too long."

Howard, who has 14 shutouts in 30 games with United, including cup play, returns to action Wednesday night against Middlesbrough, followed by Saturday's FA Cup game against crosstown rival Manchester City. Intercity "derbies" are rabid affairs in England, akin to showdowns between the Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees.

"The fans go crazy for it," Howard said. "No matter who's struggling, who's doing well, both teams are going to be up for it. It should be a pressure cooker."

Adding to the mix will be the likely appearance in the Manchester City lineup of midfielder Claudio Reyna, the U.S. national team captain.

Howard and Reyna are among six Americans playing regularly in England's top league, joined by goalkeepers Kasey Keller (Tottenham) and Brad Friedel (Blackburn), defender Carlos Bocanegra and forward Brian McBride (both Fulham).

Manchester United, which has won eight of the last 11 league titles, is two points behind unbeaten Arsenal. United also faces Portugal's Porto this month in the next round of the European Champions Cup.

"Success is really determined by how much silverware you win at this club," Howard said.

The recent defensive troubles at Manchester United coincide with a bitter off-field feud between manager Alex Ferguson and the club's major shareholders, Irish race horse owners John Magnier and J.P. McManus.

Among the deals under scrutiny is Howard's \$3.6 million move from the MetroStars. A six-figure sum was allegedly paid to an agent who is a business partner of Ferguson's son, Jason.

"My agent and I have said what we needed to say," Howard said. "Our slate is clean, we're sure of that."

Howard will join the U.S. national team for an exhibition game in the Netherlands on Feb. 18. His performances for United have established him as a strong contender to beat out Friedel and Keller as America's No. 1 goalkeeper.

"With respect due to those guys, they've put years of work in," Howard said. "I certainly am going to be pushing them to get their spot. They're going to be pushing themselves to keep their spot. That's the natural progression of things."

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Observer.

AROUND THE NATION

page 22

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Wednesday, February 11, 2004

NBA

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
New Jersey	29-20	.592	8-2	-
New York	25-27	.481	7-3	5.5
Boston	23-30	.434	3-7	8
Miami	21-31	.404	5-5	9.5
Philadelphia	21-31	.404	2-8	9.5
Washington	16-33	.327	5-5	13
Orlando	13-40	.245	2-8	18

Eastern Conference, Central Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Indiana	36-14	.731	7-3	-
Detroit	33-19	.635	4-6	5
Milwaukee	27-23	.540	5-5	10
New Orleans	27-24	.529	4-6	10.5
Toronto	24-25	.490	4-6	12.5
Cleveland	20-32	.385	6-4	18
Atlanta	18-35	.340	5-5	20.5
Chicago	14-37	.275	2-8	23.5

Western Conference, Midwest Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Minnesota	35-15	.700	7-3	-
San Antonio	35-18	.660	7-3	1.5
Dallas	32-19	.627	7-3	3.5
Houston	29-22	.569	5-5	6.5
Memphis	29-22	.569	6-4	6.5
Denver	30-23	.566	5-5	6.5
Utah	25-26	.490	4-6	10.5

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Sacramento	35-13	.729	6-4	-
LA Lakers	30-18	.625	5-5	5
Portland	24-25	.490	8-2	11.5
Seattle	24-26	.480	4-6	12
LA Clippers	22-27	.449	5-5	13.5
Golden State	21-28	.429	5-5	14.5
Phoenix	18-35	.340	2-8	19.5

USA Today/American Hockey Magazine

team	record	points
1 Boston College (30)	20-3-5	503
2 North Dakota (4)	19-5-3	470
3 Maine	20-6-2	423
4 Minnesota	18-9-3	396
5 Michigan	19-8-1	361
6 Minnesota-Duluth	18-8-3	342
7 Wisconsin	17-9-6	324
8 Miami (Ohio)	18-9-3	287
9 St. Cloud State	16-9-3	241
10 Brown	14-5-4	162
11 New Hampshire	16-10-3	160
12 Denver	16-10-4	125
13 Massachusetts	16-6-5	123
14 Colgate	15-8-5	59
15 Ohio State	17-13-0	57

Fencing Coaches Association

Men	Women
1 NOTRE DAME	NOTRE DAME 1
2 Ohio State	Ohio State 2
3 Penn State	Penn State 3
4 St. John's (NY)	Columbia-Barnard 4
5 Columbia	Northwestern 5
6 Princeton	Princeton 6
7 Pennsylvania	St. John's (NY) 7
8 Air Force	Pennsylvania 8
9 Harvard	Harvard 9
10 NYU	Temple 10

around the dial

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Virginia at Duke 7 p.m., ESPN

NBA
New Jersey at Cleveland 7 p.m., FOX
LA Lakers at Houston 9 p.m., ESPN

NHL
San Jose at Detroit 7:30 p.m., ESPN2

NBA



Philadelphia 76ers head coach Randy Ayers reacts to a call during a game against the Washington Wizards. Ayers was fired Tuesday and assistant coach Chris Ford will temporarily assume the head coach position.

76ers' assistant Ford takes over for Ayers

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Randy Ayers lost his job after less than a season as the Philadelphia 76ers' coach. If the team doesn't turn things around, others might be on their way out, too.

And star guard Allen Iverson would like to have some input.

The 76ers fired Ayers on Tuesday with the team 21-31 and 1 1/2 games behind the Boston Celtics for the Eastern Conference's final playoff berth. Assistant Chris Ford takes over on an interim basis.

"Some things I was looking at, I just was not comfortable with," general manager Billy King said. "We're going to be aggressive and see if we can do something to change the roster. We still expect every player to play hard, be professional and play the right way."

He said he is willing to make trades that could help the 76ers make the playoffs. The deadline for deals is Feb. 19.

King thinks some players have not put forth a full effort every game — something Iverson said aloud recently.

Iverson was surprised

and upset by Ayers' firing. He said he would have liked to have heard the news from King first. Now the NBA's leading scorer (27.5-point average) wants to have a say in whatever changes might come next.

"Just being called the franchise player, for being here as long as I've been here, I definitely feel like someone should have said something," said the league's MVP in the 2000-01 season. "I feel like I'm supposed to be involved with a lot of stuff. ... I've earned the right to know some of the things that are going on."

Iverson, in his eighth

season, agreed with King that a shakeup could be needed, but he says he wants to finish his career with the team he led to the 2001 NBA Finals with coach Larry Brown.

Ayers became the Sixers' head coach when Brown resigned after last season. Brown is now coaching the Detroit Pistons.

"I'm crushed," Brown said before Detroit's game at New Jersey on Tuesday night. "He was an assistant for me for six years and he was wonderful. I was proud of him when he got the opportunity. You hate to see it happen."

IN BRIEF

Johnson falls to Expos in salary arbitration

NEW YORK — Baseball owners improved to 2-0 in salary arbitration when the Montreal Expos defeated first baseman Nick Johnson on Tuesday.

Kevin Millwood, who had been scheduled for a hearing Friday, settled his case with Philadelphia, agreeing to an \$11 million, one-year contract, a raise of \$1.1 million.

Among free agents, Fred McGriff agreed to a minor league contract with Tampa Bay, and Seattle agreed to minor league deals with Terry Mulholland and Eric Owens.

Johnson, acquired from the New York Yankees in December's trade for Javier Vazquez, will make \$1.25 million instead of the \$1.68 million he had sought. He made \$364,100 last season, when he hit .284 with 14 homers, 47 RBIs and 70 walks in 324 at-bats.

Arbitrators Roger Kaplan, Jack Clarke and Christine Knowlton made

their decision one day after listening to arguments in Phoenix. Last week, pitcher Chris Reitsma lost to Cincinnati. Fifteen players remain scheduled for hearings.

Millwood, 14-12 with a 4.01 ERA for the Phillies last year, had been seeking \$12.5 million while the team had been offering \$10 million.

McGriff, 40, would get a contract for the \$300,000 minimum if he is added to the major league roster of the Devil Rays, his hometown team. He is nine homers short of 500.

"We're going to give him an opportunity to showcase his wares," general manager Chuck LaMar said, adding that it will be difficult for McGriff to make Tampa Bay's roster unless the Devil Rays have injuries in spring training.

McGriff played 3 1/2 seasons for the Devil Rays before he was dealt to the Chicago Cubs in July 2001. The hope is he will show enough this spring to attract interest from other teams.

"I just need to play," said McGriff,

slowed by groin and knee injuries last year. "I'm getting more and more confident every day that I'll be fine."

Indiana's Ewing deemed academically ineligible

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Indiana forward Pat Ewing Jr. will not play against Penn State on Wednesday because of his academic performance.

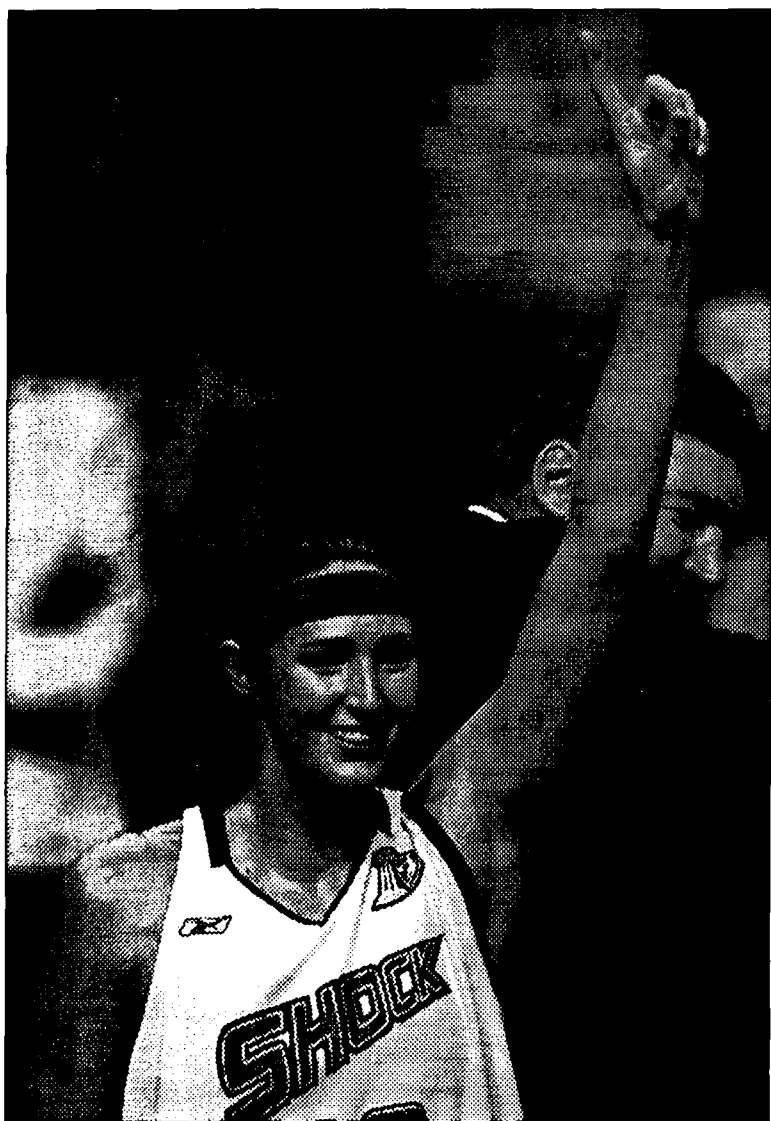
The school on Tuesday did not release any details of Ewing's troubles, but said that he would not travel with the team to Pennsylvania for the Hoosiers' game against the Nittany Lions.

Ewing, a freshman and the son of former NBA star Patrick Ewing, is averaging 2.8 points and 3.3 rebounds in 20 games this season for Indiana (11-9, 5-4 Big Ten). He has started six games.

Indiana coach Mike Davis issued a statement saying Ewing will be missed, but academics takes precedence.

U.S. WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Ruth Riley chosen to compete for spot on U.S. Olympic team



Ruth Riley celebrates being named WNBA Finals MVP on Sept. 16, 2003. Riley was invited to try out for the U.S. Olympic team.

Former Irish standout one of four WNBA stars chosen to fill spot

Special to The Observer

Former University of Notre Dame All-America center Ruth Riley is one of four WNBA players who have been selected to attend the 2004 USA Basketball Women's Senior National Team training camp Feb. 19-27 in Jacksonville, Fla. The camp will be used as part of the evaluation process in selecting the final three members for the U.S. team that will compete in the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, Greece.

"It would be an extreme honor to be a member of this team," Riley said. "The highest honor an athlete can have is to represent her country and to be named to the team would be the highlight of my career."

Joining Riley at the USA Basketball training camp will be former Connecticut standout Swin Cash, Louisiana Tech product Cheryl Ford and North Carolina graduate Nikki Teasley. Cash and Ford are teammates with Riley on the WNBA's Detroit Shock, while Teasley is a two-year starter with the WNBA's Los Angeles Sparks.

The 6-foot-5 Riley has prior

international experience with USA Basketball, having played with the 1998 USA Basketball Select Team that went 7-1 against national teams from Puerto Rico, Poland and Spain.

She returned to USA Basketball a year later with the 1999 USA World University Games Team, helping that squad earn a silver medal. In addition, she was a 2002 USA Senior National Team hopeful, taking part in that unit's spring training in Colorado Springs, Colo.

In September, Riley completed her third WNBA season with a bang, leading the Shock to the league championship. The Macy, Ind.,

native was named the Most Valuable Player of the WNBA Finals after averaging 14.7 points and 5.0 rebounds in the three-game championship series, including a career-high 27 points in the decisive Game 3 win over the two-time defending champion Sparks.

Riley also became the first women's basketball player ever to be named the Finals MVP at both the college and professional levels — she was the Most Outstanding Player of

the 2001 NCAA Final Four when she guided Notre Dame to its first national championship in the sport.

Currently, Riley is in her first season playing with the Colorado Chill of the National Women's Basketball League, averaging 13.3 points and 8.0 rebounds per game while sparking the Chill to a 6-4 record, good for second place in the league. She also was recently selected as an NWBL All-Star and will play for the

NWBL Nationals in the league's All-Star Game Feb. 16 in Loveland, Colo.

Riley and the U.S. Senior National Team will train four days in Jacksonville before departing for Cuba for

a three-game exhibition series against the Cuba National Team Feb. 24-26 in Havana.

The final roster positions for the U.S. Senior National Team will be determined by USA Basketball Women's Senior National Team Committee, which is chaired by WNBA Vice President of Player Personnel Renee Brown.

The team is coached by Van Chancellor, who has guided the WNBA's Houston Comets to four championships.

"To be named to the team would be the highlight of my career."

**Ruth Riley
WNBA player**

The Royal They

thursday
february 12

The much anticipated debut of campus favorites. 10:00 pm

the KWILS

friday
february 13

Last time I checked, we were still the Fightin' Irish. Well, let's focus on the Irish part-come on down to ye 'ole Legends Pub for fellowship and sing-a-longs. You'll love the traditional Irish and Scottish tunes. Song sheets will be provided. Doors at 9:45 pm

A Romantic Evening with Cracker Barrel

saturday
february 14

I can't imagine spending the dreaded V-Day with any better group of guys. Unless, of course, Jesus and his Disciples show up. 9:00 pm

LEGENDS OF NOTRE DAME

<http://www.legendsofnotredame.org>

Brey

continued from page 28

smoke clears tomorrow, let's see where we are."

On the more optimistic side, Monday's win could be the start of a number of positive factors working in Notre Dame's favor.

First, the Irish finally got their big win. Before defeating the Huskies, the Irish had lost their previous five games against ranked teams.

"We knew that one big win was all it would take to get the team turned around and get the team in the right direction," Notre Dame senior co-captain Torrian Jones said.

Jones and a number of other Irish players feel this win will propel them to getting hot for the rest of the season. That's a testament to the attitude in the locker room, as the Irish had lost six of eight going into Monday night and just had a tough loss against No. 4 Pittsburgh only 48 hours earlier.

"After that loss Saturday against Pittsburgh, you could just feel it," Notre Dame forward Jordan Cornette said. "These guys were like, 'We're on the brink.' We knew we had to crack sometimes."

Second, that momentum Jones and Cornette talk about could help them pick up enough "RPI wins" over the next two weeks to make the Irish a factor on Selection Sunday.

One team the Irish can relate

to is a 16-14 and 9-7 in the SEC Georgia squad from the 2000-01 season. During that season, the Bulldogs didn't have an exceptional record, but played an extremely tough schedule, which led to finishing the regular season with a No. 19 RPI ranking.

The selection committee rewarded the Bulldogs with a No. 9 seed in the NCAA Tournament.

"We knew that one big win was all it would take to get the team turned around."

Torrian Jones
Irish Guard

Combine finally getting a big win with gaining some late season momentum and the last and possibly most important factor becomes apparent — for the first time in Brey's tenure at Notre Dame, the Irish could finish hot in those always important last 10 games of the season.

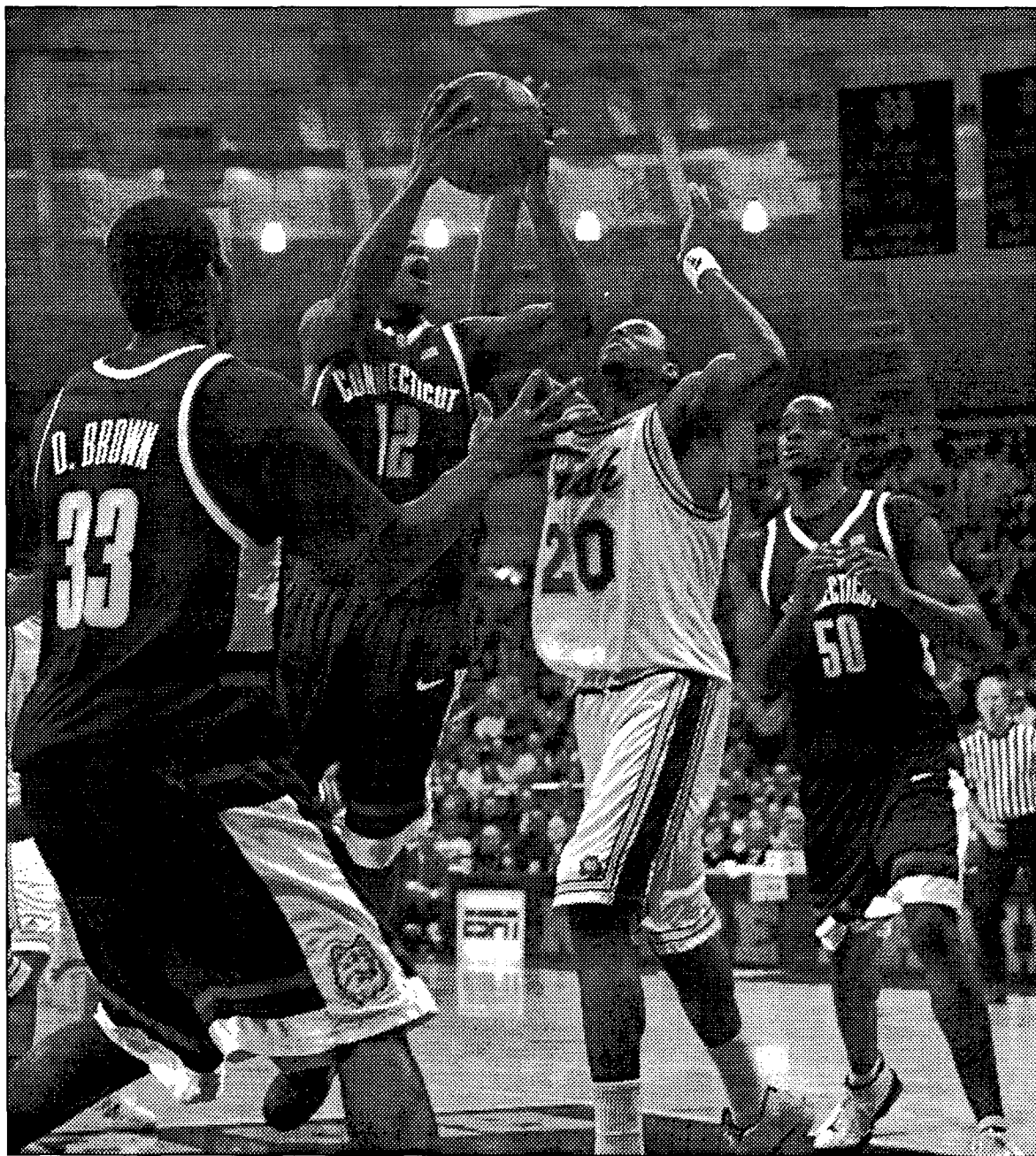
In Brey's other three seasons, the Irish have gone 6-4, 6-4 and 4-6 entering the NCAA Tournament. This season, those marks won't do.

The Irish haven't been very high in the RPI all season and have that glaring Central Michigan loss on their resume. But they do have a chance over the last three weeks of the season to make a late postseason push.

Brey knows the only way that can happen is one game at a time.

"We haven't talked big picture," Brey said. "I don't think we can talk big picture with the schedule we have coming up. We have to try and get guys healthy for Saturday."

Contact Matt Lozar at
mlozar@nd.edu.



Irish guard Torrian Jones jumps to block the shot of Connecticut guard Tallek Brown during Monday night's 80-74 win over the No. 5 Huskies.

TIM KACMAR/The Observer

University of Notre Dame



London Summer Programme

LONDON SUMMER PROGRAMME

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FOR**

MAY, 2005 & MAY, 2006

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ON**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2004
BETWEEN 5:00 - 6:30 P.M.
140 DEBARTOLO HALL**

**LONDON SUMMER PROGRAMME
RUNS FROM MID-MAY TO MID-JUNE**

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles only senior hoping to go out strong



Katie Miller, the only Belles senior, looks past a defender in their Dec. 5 win over Illinois College.

By BOBBY GRIFFIN
Sports Writer

Despite the disappointing season that is quickly coming to a close on Saint Mary's, many of the Belles will look forward to next year as their young team continues to grow in hope of better things to come.

That's not the case for Katie Miller, the sole senior on a team comprised mainly of juniors and freshmen, who will be ending her basketball career when the Belles' season to a close.

Coming to terms with the

concept that your playing days are growing sparse could be difficult as the only senior on a losing team, but Miller said she has grown accustomed to it.

"It was [weird], but I was used to it," said Miller. "Throughout the four years, there were other girls that were my age that were playing but they all ended up quitting or transferring, so I was fine with it."

But Miller was hesitant to accept the idea that the season was coming to an end.

"It's not over yet," Miller said.

"It's sad, it's really sad. It's been a great four years."

Miller has averaged 5.9 points per game in 24.2 minutes per game this season. Her 24.2 minutes per game are second only to Emily Creachbaum who clocks in at 25.5 minutes per game. Miller also has 39 assists on the season.

Despite the plethora of emotions that are running through Miller's head with another losing season coming to an end, she has remained positive about her experience as a Belle.

"I think we've improved a lot over the past year," said Miller.

While the Belles have improved since last season, it is no secret that Saint Mary's has struggled this year despite their growth. They have faced tough competition and struggled to put together strong first halves against solid conference opponents.

But for Miller, she sees a team growing with each other despite the losses piling up in bunches, and the wins few and far between.

"We're building, we're still building. Hopefully with this experience next year they'll be a lot better, they'll do great things next year," Miller said.

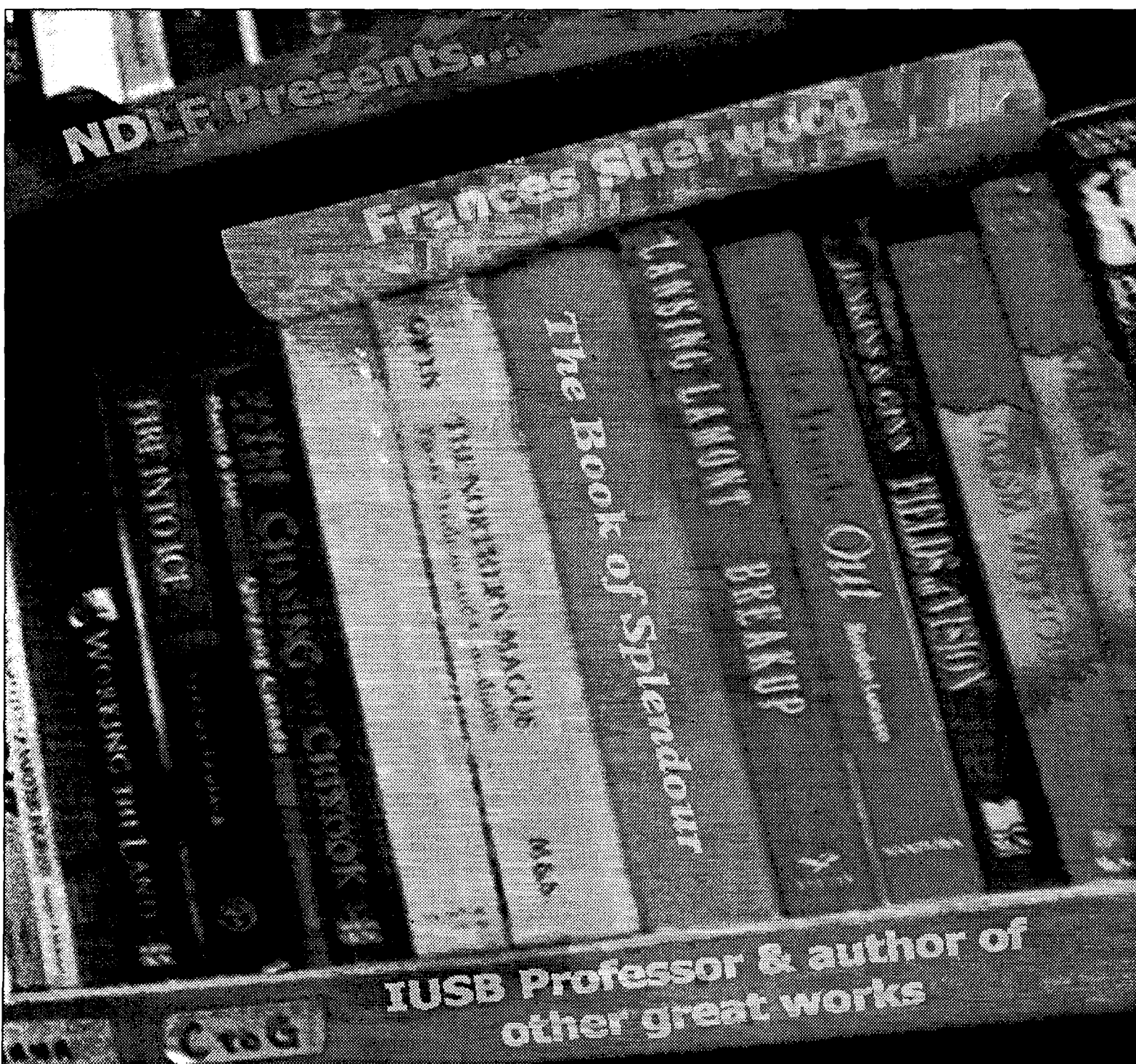
Saint Mary's could, in fact, improve on their 6-15 record, going into Wednesday's game with Adrian. With the development of freshmen Bridget Lipke and Jessica Binhack, among others, and the continued growth of sophomores Anne Hogan and Bridget Boyce, and juniors Creachbaum, Emily Pernotto and Maureen Bush, Miller could in fact be leaving a solid nucleus of talent behind her that could make a solid run in the MIAA next year.

While the Belles' future is undetermined, Miller's is not. It seems fitting that Miller, the sole senior who has been responsible for leading a younger team on and off the court, plans on going into education.

"I plan on teaching. I'm an education major so I'm teaching next year ... kindergarten through second grade," said Miller.

Adrian will play at Saint Mary's tonight at 7:30 p.m.

Contact Bobby Griffin at
rgriffi3@nd.edu.



appearing at the
Notre Dame Literary Festival on
Wednesday, Feb. 11th
7:30pm

Reading, informal lecture, and booksigning
Oak Room, above SDH

free food and drink to be served
brought to you by the student union board. nd.edu/~sub



Walsh

continued from page 28

was never really tempted to play on grass rather than ice.

"I never played football, but I tried everything else," Walsh said. "I was never really pressured much by my father to play football, and hockey was the sport I really felt good with early on.

"I really picked between hockey and baseball, and in my sophomore year of high school I decided that I wanted to focus on hockey and pursuing that sport full-time."

Walsh graduated from Detroit Catholic High School in Redford, Mich., while also playing minor league hockey for Compuware Ambassadors of the North American Hockey League. He helped lead Compuware to the United States Junior A Championship in 2001-02.

Walsh's exploits impressed Notre Dame coach Dave Poulin, who has used the NAHL as a pipeline for Irish players over the years. Walsh is one of six current Notre Dame players who have played in the NAHL, along with Rob Globke, T.J. Mathieson, Derek Smith, Chris Trick and Jason Paige.

There was never any question that Walsh would wear the Irish uniform.

"Notre Dame was always an easy fit for me," Walsh said. "Growing up with my dad who had come here, he really pushed me towards the school. But it was never a hard sell, because I always wanted to come here."

Walsh expressed that he was impressed upon meeting Poulin for the first time and that the coach was a major reason Walsh decided to become a member of the Irish.

"How could you not help being impressed by Coach [Poulin]?" Walsh said. "Especially for a kid who's aspiring to play in the NHL, you'd want to come and play for a guy who spent several years in the NHL."

A major step toward that dream for Walsh happened at the end of his freshman season, when he was selected by the New York Rangers in the fifth round of the 2002 NHL Entry Draft.

"I was there with my par-

ents, so I was happy that they were able to share that with me," Walsh said. "Especially when you consider how much time they had spent driving me to practices and games and things like that."

Certainly one of the most impressive aspects of Walsh's game is that he also leads the team in plus-minus with a plus-10. It is very unusual for a player other than a defenseman to lead a team in that statistic.

"I've always considered myself a two-way player," Walsh said. "The defensive part is really where it all starts. If you take care of your defensive zone it will translate into good offense. I've been fortunate to play with two other defensive-minded linemates [Andy Gill and Cory McLean] who are just as responsible defensively as I am."

"That's one reason we've been so successful this season as a line."

It's certainly one reason the Irish have been a successful team this season, as well.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu.



Showing his talent on the defensive end as well, Mike Walsh scrambles to keep the puck clear from the goal during a game against Boston College. TIM KACMAR/The Observer

Golf

continued from page 28

momentum on despite the cold temperatures, strong winds and pouring rain.

"It was really hard to keep the scores down," Isban said.





The Rice Intercollegiate marks the third top-two finish of the 2003-04 season for the Irish, and the team is happy to start the spring portion of its schedule off on a good note.


Young, but talented, the team is hoping to win the Big East and fare well in the NCAA Tournament. With a difficult schedule ahead, this week's tournament gave them needed experience early in the season.

"It was a pretty good team effort," Isban said of their second place finish, "but, obviously, we have a ways to go."

Their next event, to be hosted by USC, is not until the beginning of March.

Contact Annie Brusky at abrusky@nd.edu.



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6-8 pm**

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FIVES

BRETT CAMPBELL & DAN ZYCHINSKI

Famous Irish Fans react to the recent win over UCONN...

We beat UConn, now we're off to Seton Hall, Syracuse, then Providence. Yeeeeaaaarrhh!!

Howard Dean

I missed the game, but I did tape it.

Paris Hilton

Can you believe it? I was just like: 'Oh.... my.... Dad.'

Jesus

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

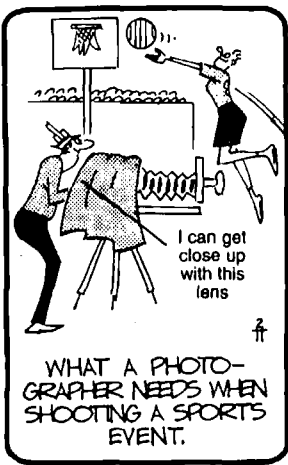
LARNS

PRUET

MNADAM

GREJIG

Ans: " " " " " "



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

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FAULT APART STUCCO POORLY
Answer: Why the tennis champ played a match with the judge — TO COURT THE COURT

CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- 40 Waffle brand

41 Load to bear

42 High home

43 "The Matrix" hero

44 "Put it back"

45 Come to

46 Gel

47 Some cameras: Abbr.

49 Johnny Appleseed's real surname

53 Unfriendly manner

58 Eschew table manners

60 Turkish money

61 War correspondent, these days

62 Infantry weapon of old

63 Server's need
- DOWN
- 1 It may begin with a buildup

2 Composer Khachaturian

3 Allocate, with "out"

4 1922 Physics Nobel

5 Unruffled

6 Take for (flimflam)

7 Mover's need

8 Summers abroad

9 Capp communi-

10 Circulation director?

11 Have a yen

12 Pillow cover

13 Word with run or rule

18 Two-time U.S. Open winner

19 Like blue humor

23 Ingredients in some brownies

25 Skier's mecca

26 Compact item

27 Money spent

28 Engaged in

30 Makes a stink?

31 Congo, once

WILL SHORTZ

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
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49	50	51				52		53		54	55	56
57						59						
60						61				62		
63						64				65		

- Puzzle by Alan Arbesfeld
- 32 "The Addams Family" actor

33 Used a telescope

35 Treat for Rover

36 -à-porter

38 Up for grabs

39 Has a traditional meal

44 Rest stop sight

45 Gaming area

46 Spread out

48 Airport inconveniences

49 Druid, for one

50 "Aquarius" musical

51 Razor name

52 Verne captain

54 Little snorts

55 Radiate

56 Drink sometimes served hot

57 Offed

59 Simbel, Egypt

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

Sharing this birthday: Jennifer Aniston, Brandy, Matt Lawrence, Sheryl Crow, Sidney Sheldon, Burt Reynolds, Eva Gabor, Leslie Nielsen, Virginia E. Johnson, Tina Louise

Happy Birthday: You'll be high on life and on energy. You will have the wherewithal to make decisions that in the past you tended to ponder over. You will take your position among your peers and colleagues. This will be your year to excel and to make a difference. All the information that you have gathered will now come into play and lead you to the winner's circle. Your numbers: 18, 26, 29, 34, 37, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Socializing with co-workers will lead to a better working environment. Someone you do business with will find the way into your heart. Rumors may be detrimental if you aren't discreet. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If you get an early start, you'll be surprised how much you can get accomplished and how much praise you'll receive from loved ones. Organization will help you achieve your set goal. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It's a good idea to get busy catching up on those household chores you've been putting off. Don't leave any detail undone. You'll feel much better when everything is done. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Attend meetings with a close friend. You not only will learn a lot about a worthwhile cause, but will meet interesting individuals who intrigue you.***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let others take advantage of your generosity. You could easily misplace your wallet or items of jewelry if you aren't careful. Unreliable characters may try to influence you. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's time to get rid of the old and bring in the new. You will find that your emotions will fluctuate if you don't keep extremely busy. Don't give your mate the chance to confuse you even more. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't stress out about your career. Take the day to relax and get your mind off your troubles. Do something special with family. You need support from the ones you love. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Get together with those who could help you move ahead. You need to make new connections and get on with your life. You've wasted too much time waiting to be recognized for your good work and talent. It's time to present yourself and your talents. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be careful not to offend someone you care about. People are often more fragile than they appear. Try to put your diplomatic cap on and help to build up this person's ego. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You should be doing something to enhance your outlook or bring you knowledge. You need to experience new and exciting things. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let family members put demands on you. You have to learn to say no if you want to be able to concentrate on your own efforts. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your heart will ache if you played your old trick of emotional blackmail on your mate. You've cried wolf one time too many, and now you'll have to say you're sorry and hope for the best. ***

Birthday Baby: Charming, sophisticated and intuitively intelligent best describe you. You will be blessed with popularity as well as the ability to find solutions to any problem that you encounter.

Need advice? Try Eugenia's Web site at www.eugenialast.com

THE OBSERVER

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

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HOCKEY

Two-way threat

Strong defensively as well as offensively, sophomore Mike Walsh has already become a leader for the Irish

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associate Sports Editor

Finally able to play consistently, Mike Walsh has been able to show what he's capable of this season.

Walsh, a sophomore forward who is currently third on the Irish with 10 goals, has returned from a difficult freshman year to play a big role on this year's team. Walsh missed a total of 17 games his rookie year with a broken jaw and mononucleosis and was never quite able to get any in kind of offensive rhythm.

"Playing-wise, it definitely affected my development in making the jump to college and all the speed and everything that changes at the next level," Walsh said. "And also, with missing

so many games early in my freshman year, it kind of isolated me from being with the team and getting to know everyone right away because I'd be spending weeks at a time away from the rink."

"Growing up and playing big games, I've always thought of myself as the kind of person who can be in the right position to score a big goal."

Mike Walsh
Irish forward

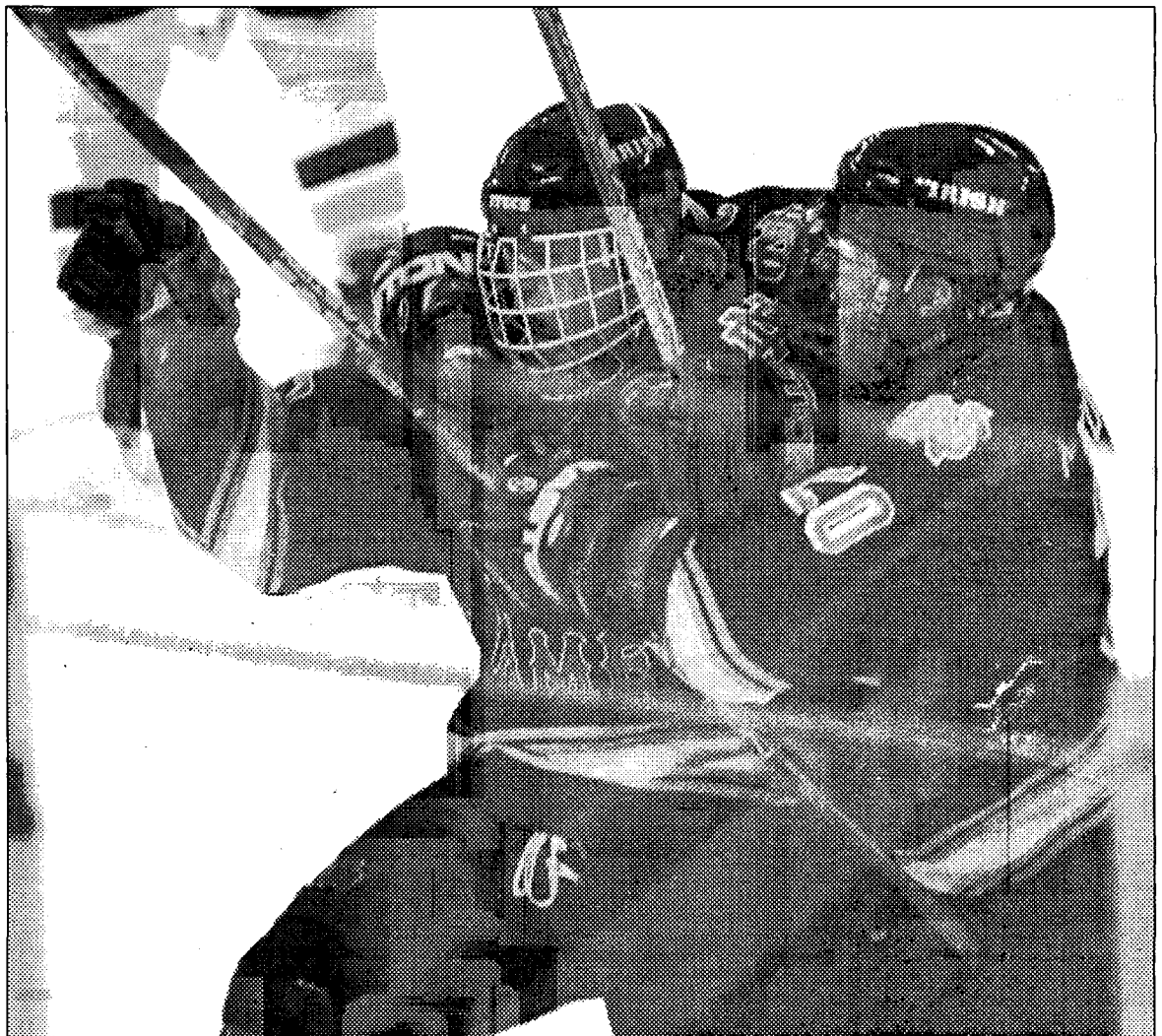
His one goal that rookie year was a sign of things to come, however, as Walsh notched the game-winning tally in a 3-2 victory over Lake Superior State on Feb. 21, 2002. This season, Walsh has made a living of scoring big goals.

In Notre Dame's earlier 1-0 victories this season against then-No. 1 Boston College and then-No. 3 Maine, Walsh scored the only goal in each contest.

"Growing up and playing big games, I've always thought of myself as the kind of person who can be in the right position to score a big goal," Walsh said. "The people that I play with [on the Irish] really do a lot of work, and a lot of times I'm lucky and the puck just bounces the right way at the right time."

Playing well in big games runs in Walsh's blood. His father, Max, was a member of the 1963 Irish national championship football team. Despite this gridiron pedigree, Walsh

see WALSH/page 26

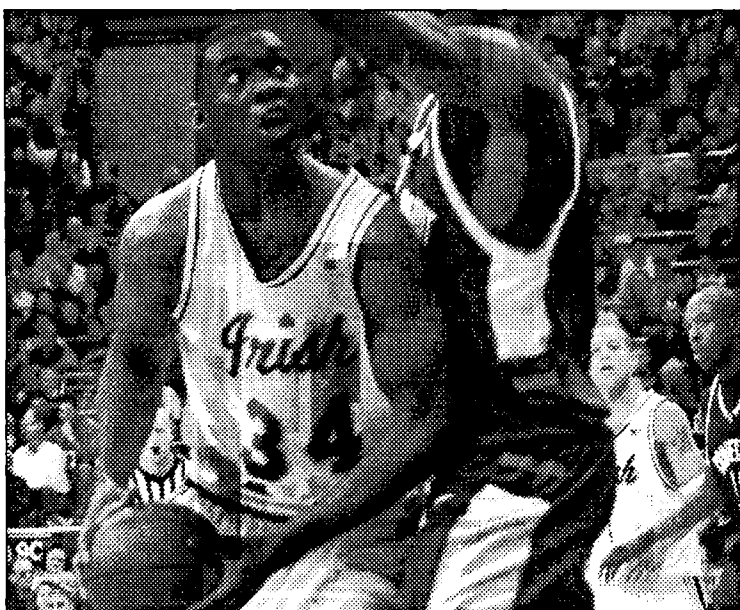


Mike Walsh celebrates his winning goal with a teammate in the Oct. 24 game against Boston College. His goal led the Irish to a last minute 1-0 win over the No. 1 Golden Eagles.

TM KACMAR/The Observer

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Brey hesitant with optimism



Torrian Jones looks past a defender in Monday's win. Despite the upset Brey is realistic about the Irish's postseason chances.

TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

By MATT LOZAR
Associate Sports Editor

For all the optimism stemming after Notre Dame's 80-74 upset of No. 5 Connecticut Monday night, Irish coach Mike Brey knows better.

Brey knows his team is 11-9, 5-5 in the Big East, currently sits around No. 60 in the RPI and still has its next four games against teams in the top 35 of the RPI.

That's why Brey, at least right now, is being realistic about Notre Dame's postseason chances.

"We haven't even talked about the bubble or getting to the bubble," Brey said. "Where we've been is can we work on this in practice today and try and get another league win. When the

see BREY/page 24

GOLF

Men finish second despite slow start

By ANNIE BRUSKY
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame men's golf team powered its way to a second place finish at the Rice Intercollegiate after compiling the lowest team scores in each of the final two rounds.

Finding themselves in ninth place after the first round Monday, the Irish answered by shooting 289 and 303 in the following two rounds to tie with Denver for second place at 36-over par 900, only five strokes behind the tournament champion, Texas-San Antonio.

The team had hoped to win the tournament, but the lack of practice time due to the winter weather made their goal difficult to achieve.

"I think we did well for having stepped out and seen grass for the first time in three months," freshman Cole Isban said.

Sophomore Tommy Balderston came through with a strong performance and earned his highest placement ever as he tied for fourth place at 2-over par 216 (78-68-72).

Isban, a freshman, finished in eighth place with 5-over 221, the second top-10 finish of his young career.

Sophomores Mark Baldwin and Scott Gustafson finished 33rd and 42nd, respectively, while freshman Shane Sigsbee placed 63rd.

Yesterday's final round was even more impressive in that the team was able to carry Monday's

see GOLF/page 26

SPORTS
AT A GLANCE

SMC HOOPS

Senior Miller hopes to have good finish

The Belles only senior still has a positive outlook.

page 25

U.S. WOMEN'S HOOPS

Riley invited to try out for U.S. Olympic team

Notre Dame alum chosen to try out for the Olympic team spot.

page 25

NBA

New Jersey wins ninth straight

The Nets get their ninth win in a row under their new coach Lawrence Frank.

page 16

NHL

Dominik Hasek out for season

Red Wings goalie Dominik Hasek will sit out the season with a groin injury.

page 20

COLLEGE HOOPS

Lowe returns for Boilermakers

Purdue's leading scorer will return to the team for tonight's game.

page 19

COLLEGE HOOPS

Majerus will not return

Utah coach Rick Majerus says he has officially quit as the Utes coach.

page 17