

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

CCAC convenes for first meeting

Combined student, university-administrator, city-official group discusses student-town relations

By JOSEPH McMAHON
Assistant News Editor

Formed in late September as a forum for students, university administrators and city representatives to discuss community relations, the Community Campus Action Coalition (CCAC) met for the first time Wednesday afternoon at the County-City Building in downtown South Bend.

"I'm grateful for our relationships with the universities and the opportunity to come together in this forum," South Bend mayor Stephen Luecke said.

The CCAC was created five months ago after the South Bend Common Council members

decided not to implement regulations requiring residents to pre-register large gatherings within the city. An ordinance eventually passed with provisions to that would require party permits, if the Council voted to activate them.

The coalition, in the meantime, will serve as a forum that will facilitate discussion about issues important to community members.

"To quote [University President] Father John Jenkins, Notre Dame thrives when South Bend thrives, and South Bend thrives when Notre Dame thrives," local lawyer and member of the Notre Dame Board of

see CCAC/page 6



DUSTIN MENNELA/The Observer

Outgoing student body president Liz Brown and Associate Vice President of Student Affairs Bill Kirk at the CCAC meeting on Wednesday.

Trustees to host spring meeting

Preliminary topics of hearings confidential

By KATIE KOHLER
Saint Mary's Editor

The Saint Mary's Board of Trustees will convene today for their second official meeting of the year. While hearings are confidential, senior and outgoing student trustee, Cate Cetta, said much of the content will include evaluating events that happened this year as well as pertinent issues that are not open to the public until after the proceedings.

"As with every meeting, we will have Standing Committee meetings on Thursday and the full Board business meeting Friday," Cetta said. "With exception of the summer retreat, no meeting has one particular focus. A wide range of topics are always discussed, however, I can't enclose that information before the meetings."

The meetings in October centered around the revisions and acceptance of College President Carol Mooney's "Strategic Plan" for the College.

"I am excited to discuss all of the events we have had on campus since the last meeting in October," Cetta said.

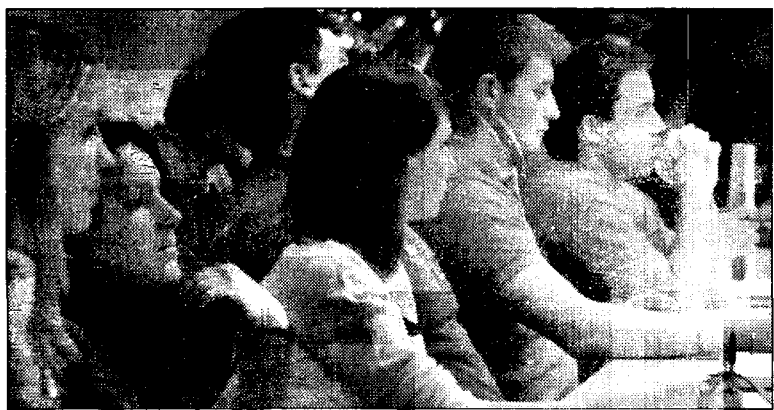
As student trustee this

see BOT/page 4

STUDENT SENATE

Resolution passed to boost local products

University encourages Food Services to support farming industry in nearby Midwestern states



Observer file photo

Senators first discuss integrating locally-grown food into Notre Dame at their Jan. 24 meeting.

By CLAIRE REISING
News Writer

The Student Senate passed a resolution Wednesday supporting an increase in Food Services' budget for locally-grown produce in the dining halls. The resolution states that the University should buy from local farms to support the farming industry in the Midwest economy and to avoid the environmental effects of transporting goods over long distances.

Morrissey senator Tom Bacsik, who drafted the resolu-

tion, said it includes foods from Wisconsin and from all states bordering Indiana. According to the resolution, Notre Dame Food Services (NDFS) will raise its local produce budget from three percent to seven percent over the next three years.

Karen Koski, Social Concerns Committee chair, said the Senate has discussed the percentage with NDFS, which believes it is a reasonable goal.

"These numbers are specific numbers that we talked to them about," she said. "They know

see SENATE/page 4

SUB reps pick up new lessons at conference

By LINDSAY SENA
News Writer

The Student Union Board (SUB) sent five student representatives and three Student Activities Office (SAO) representatives to St. Louis, Mo., to participate in an annual convention hosted by the National Association for Campus Activities last weekend.

The convention primarily focused on showcasing up-and-coming artists, but also hosted several educational sessions to benefit both student leaders and university staff.

Sessions covered topics ranging from "How to plan a successful lecture" to "How to recruit and retain volunteers," said SUB Board Manager Phillip Ross.

"Although much of the conference focused on showcasing

novel talent, each day we went to one or two educational sessions," Ross said. "Some of them focused on leadership, but others offered guidance on the actual logistics of planning events."

"Learning to plan further in advance, communicate effectively, and organize a team to work in harmony with purpose all should not only help plan the best events but also can help strengthen the members of [Notre Dame's] delegation to become better leaders all over campus."

The sessions were led by student activities' advisors, graduate assistants, talent agency staff and administrators "from schools all over the country," Ross said.

Ross attended a lecture by an advisor of Xavier University's Student Activities Council and

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Waste project yields surprise

By SARAH MAYER
News Writer

Between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Wednesday, the 708 people who ate in Saint Mary's dining hall wasted 226 pounds of food, according to the Saint Mary's Environmental Action Coalition's "Weigh Your Waste" project.

"This is an incredible amount of food waste considering it was only collected for three hours out of one day," said head of public relations for SMEAC Ashley Cook. "Considering Saint Mary's is a small school, I expected the food waste to be much less."

According to the results, 0.32 pounds of food was wasted for every person that entered the dining hall for lunch. The group weighed the waste in the middle of the dining hall.

Cook hopes the "Weigh Your Waste" project will have an impact on Saint Mary's students.

"I think that weighing out all of

the food waste today and making it visible to everyone could really have an effect on how much is wasted," Cook said.

While this is the first year the SMEAC has done the "Weigh Your Waste" project, they have been doing events all year to make Saint Mary's students more environmentally conscious.

On National Recycling Day, they dug through bags of trash separating the recyclables from the non-recyclables. Afterwards they set the actual trash out in front of the Student Center to prove that if students recycled, trash accumulation would be much less.

Also, SMEAC writes "mirror memos," where facts about the environment are written on mirrors throughout campus. This week's fact is "Americans represent only 5 percent of the world's population, but generate 30 percent of the world's garbage."

Later in the year, they hope to do another "Weigh Your Waste"

in hopes that student waste levels have gone down.

If the waste does not go down, Cook says that the club will "think of alternative options to really get the point across."

Cook said Sodexo, the food service on campus, was extremely cooperative.

"They thought it was a great idea and were very willing to let us do what we asked because they also know that food waste is a problem."

Students should be on the lookout for posters with results of "Weigh Your Waste." Cook hopes this will have an effect on students.

"Since our dining hall has such an abundance of food there will always be some waste, but it is good to get the facts out there so students can realize that it is a problem that they could do something about."

Contact Sarah Mayer at smayer01@saintmarys.edu

INSIDE COLUMN

Passing the torch

So, I'm sitting in Observer headquarters in the basement of South Dining Hall at 1:43 a.m., and I realize there's no Inside Column. (This is one of the many joys of being an editor).

And, unfortunately, I am not very creative. So, I'd like to take this opportunity first, to apologize for wasting space, and second, to discourage people from reading on.

I guess this is as good a time as any to talk about a relevant issue in my life and many others who work for The Observer.

Tonight is our annual "Turnover Dinner." What this means is that the Editor-in-Chief turns in her nameplate and, thus, all her executive responsibilities at the paper. And next week, all the remaining editors will do the same.

Tonight, at 6 p.m., Maddie Hanna will get her life back as a college senior and, hopefully, enjoy her newfound freedom.

It's almost like a mini-graduation — moving forward from something you've invested so much time and energy in for the past four years. It is emotional. It is sad. It is exciting.

Our turnover dinner is one of the few times a year the majority of the staff gets together. The sports writers get to know the news writers. The photographers share a drink with the graphic designers. We say a few speeches, have some pizza and look on to the next two months where the incoming editors have to come into their own.

The year doesn't start in August for The Observer. It begins in March (or February for some). We have to train a new staff, recruit writers and do all the grunt work you never imagine it takes to give you a daily newspaper. We like to do it, don't get me wrong. But tonight, we get to pat ourselves on the back and reflect on our 42nd successful year as the "Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's."

From scandal to lecture, from Big East win to devastating football loss, The Observer is there to cover it. Some days, we struggle. Other days, we are one of the top-read college newspapers in the nation. We strive to be that for you everyday, but we know that's not possible.

So, tonight I want to hail the outgoing senior editors for all their hard work and dedication to the 2007-2008 Observer and also let the student body know that there is a new set of editors in town who will be striving to make an already great newspaper better.

To Maddie, Ken, Kyle, Mary Kate, Karen, Chris, Tae, Dusty and Joey, good luck and thanks for your help and dedication to The O. Have some fun tonight.

(And P.S. It has been the greatest honor and privilege to work for Kyle Cassily for the past three years and learn from arguably the greatest hockey writer in Observer history.)

Cheers.

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

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohle01@saintmarys.edu



Katie Kohler

Saint Mary's Editor

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK YOU'VE HAD TO READ FOR SCHOOL?



Angela Carothers
junior
Pasquerilla East

"Dante's Divine Comedy.' It's got politics, forbidden love, suicide and retribution."



Brad Rathe
freshman
Dillon

"To Kill a Mockingbird.' It addresses a lot of relevant issues."



Elizabeth Peterson
junior
Welsh Family

"School? I don't read for school."



Francisco Fernandez
sophomore
Fisher

"Beyond Good and Evil,' because I'm in a dark mood today."



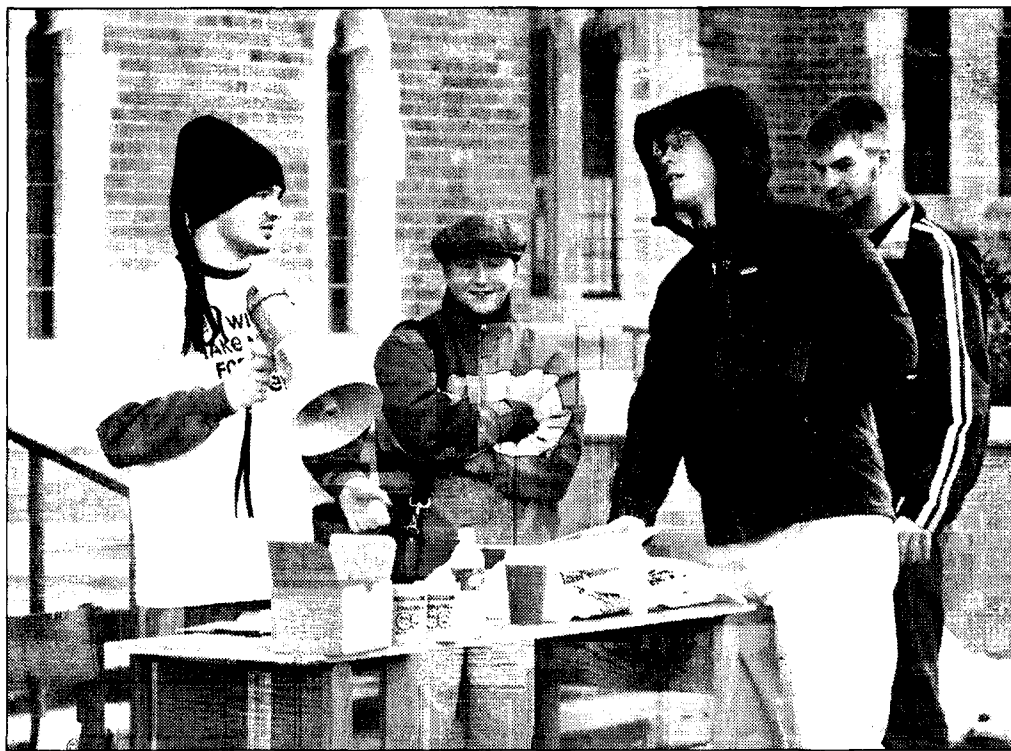
Jenny Lewis
junior
Badin

"My favorite book is 'Harmony and Voice Leading,' because music theory is provocative and inspiring."



Kyle Ubl
sophomore
Fisher

"The Great Gatsby.' The lessons of the story transcend generations."



Junior Dan Braun, left, stands outside South Dining Hall to promote a new Web site for downloading student course notes called "Knetwit." The program is free.

IN BRIEF

'The Call of the Entrepreneur' will be shown today at 5 p.m. in the Jordan Auditorium, Mendoza College of Business.

The men's basketball team will play against No. 22 Pittsburgh tonight at 7 p.m. in the Joyce Center.

As part of the Ten Years Hence lecture series, professor Karen Hunt Ahmed from the department of finance at DePaul University will speak at 10:40 a.m. Friday in the Jordan Auditorium of the Mendoza College of Business.

Mass will be celebrated for the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter Friday at 5 p.m. in Alumni Hall Chapel. Father Brian Daley will preside and the Notre Dame Gregorian Schola will perform.

There will be Stations of the Cross Friday at 7:15 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Stations will be held each Friday during Lent.

The 50th Annual Collegiate Jazz Festival will begin Friday at 7 p.m. with a concert featuring at least four different bands. The festival will conclude Saturday with an afternoon concert at 1 p.m. and an evening concert at 7 p.m. All events will be in Washington Hall.

Notre Dame hockey will play Ohio State Friday and Saturday at 7:35 p.m. and 7:05 p.m. in the Joyce Center.

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

OFFBEAT

Meatloaf the cat heads home after trek

PHOENIX — A cat named Meatloaf who took a 3-week cross-country ride locked in a storage container is headed home to Florida. Arizona Humane Society officials say the 2-year-old gray cat apparently crawled into the large locker in Pompano Beach, Fla. as a man loaded it for a move to Phoenix.

The container spent time in a Florida warehouse and on a semitrailer before being delivered to a company's Phoenix facility.

A worker heard a cat meowing inside the contain-

er late Tuesday and found him hungry and thirsty but unharmed. The man who was moving remembered a similar cat near his old apartment.

Meatloaf's owners had put up posters around their neighborhood and the apartment manager recalled them when Humane Society called.

Man drives stolen car to police station

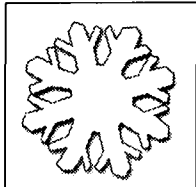
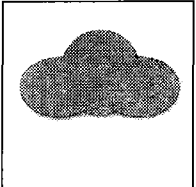
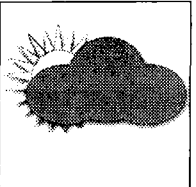
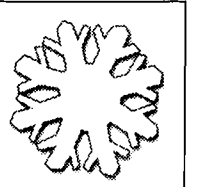
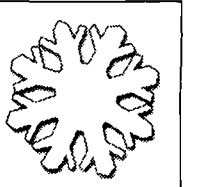
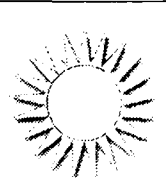
ANDERSON, S.C. — Authorities say a man drove a stolen car to the Anderson County Sheriff's Office to demand the return of nearly

\$2,000 officers seized from him during a drug arrest last June.

Deputies said after they told Charles Chambers, 36, to leave Tuesday afternoon, an officer noticed he got into a car that matched the description of a vehicle stolen about three hours earlier.

Another officer pulled the man over and told him to stop the car. The officer said Chambers stuck a screwdriver in the ignition to shut it off because the vehicle's key switch had been removed.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 19 LOW 9	HIGH 9 LOW -9	HIGH 22 LOW 13	HIGH 29 LOW 19	HIGH 27 LOW 21	HIGH 31 LOW 22

Atlanta 65 / 39 Boston 35 / 21 Chicago 17 / 5 Denver 45 / 31 Houston 73 / 59 Los Angeles 60 / 45 Minneapolis 4 / -11 New York 35 / 21 Philadelphia 37 / 20 Phoenix 66 / 50 Seattle 53 / 40 St. Louis 24 / 15 Tampa 74 / 58 Washington 42 / 21

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.

Aragon given national Latino poetry grant

Special to The Observer

Francisco Aragón, director of Letras Latinas, the literary program of the Institute for Latino Studies (ILS) at Notre Dame, has been awarded a grant from the San Antonio-based National Association of Latino Art and Culture (NALAC) to organize "The Wind Shifts: New Latino Poetry ON TOUR."

Named after the anthology Aragón edited last year with the University of Arizona Press, the tour features 25 poets and will kick off Saturday (Feb. 23) at the Society of the Four Arts in Palm Beach, Fla. It will travel to five other cities in the next two years, including May 31 at The Loft Literary Center in Minneapolis, and Sept. 25 at the Richard Hugo House in Seattle.

With the exception of the first reading, which will feature three poets, each subsequent stop on the tour will showcase no fewer than four poets from "The Wind Shifts."

In addition to initial support from the NALAC Fund for the Arts, the tour is supported by The Guild Complex, a community-based literary organization in Chicago, as well as private donors.

"The Guild Complex was a natural partner for a project like this because Letras

Latinas already collaborates with them to produce 'Palabra Pura,' a bilingual poetry reading series in Chicago," said Aragón, who recently joined the Guild Complex board.

Letras Latinas seeks to enhance the visibility, appreciation and study of Latino literature, both on and off the Notre Dame campus, with a focus on projects that identify and support emerging Latino writers.

The NALAC Fund for the Arts is a pilot grant program designed to help Latinos develop their creative talents and make lasting contributions to Latino communities and society as a whole. Launched in 2005 with major support from the Ford Foundation, the fund provides financial resources to strengthen Latino arts organizations and to support Latino artists in the creation of their work.

Founded in 1999, the ILS fosters understanding of the U.S. Latino experience by advancing research, expanding knowledge and strengthening community. Building on the intellectual legacy of Julian Samora, a pioneering Latino scholar and professor of sociology at Notre Dame, the institute supports interdisciplinary initiatives in Latino studies as a key component of the University's academic mission.

Satellite to be shot down

Navy plans to hit failing spy device once weather conditions are right

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon said Wednesday that the window of opportunity is now open for it to try to shoot down a failing spy satellite.

The Navy is planning to hit the satellite with a heat-seeking missile as early as Wednesday night. But officials had been waiting for the space shuttle Atlantis to return to Earth so it would not be hit by falling debris.

"We're now into the window," a senior defense official told a Pentagon press conference minutes after the shuttle landed at 9:07 a.m. EST.

He said it will remain open until Feb. 29 or 30 and that the decision to attempt a shot will depend on conditions in the atmosphere, such as sea levels, winds and other variables.

"We're watching weather today," he said. The ground rules of the news conference were that the official could not be quoted by name.

The military will be making decisions each day on whether to proceed with an attempt or not — and criteria could change several times each day, he said.

The opportunity to attempt a shot will be available only seconds each day, the official said.

The attempted shootdown

was approved by President Bush out of concern that toxic fuel on board the satellite could crash to earth, the Defense Department has said.

Officials will know nearly immediately whether the missile has hit the satellite, but it will take a day or two to know whether the fuel tank has been destroyed, officials said.

The military has readied a three-stage Navy missile, designated the SM-3, which has chalked up a high rate of success in a series of missile defense tests since 2002. In each case it targeted a short- or medium-range ballistic missile, never a satellite. A hurry-up program to adapt the missile for this anti-satellite mission was completed in a matter of weeks; Navy officials say the changes will be reversed once this satellite is down.

The government issued notices to aviators and mariners to remain clear of a section of the Pacific Ocean beginning at 10:30 p.m. EST Wednesday, indicating the first window of opportunity to launch an SM-3 missile from a Navy cruiser, the USS Lake Erie, in an effort to hit the wayward satellite.

Having lost power shortly after it reached orbit in late 2006, the satellite is out of control and well below the altitude of a normal satellite.

The Pentagon wants to hit it with an SM-3 missile just before it re-enters Earth's atmosphere, in that way minimizing the amount of debris that would remain in space.

Left alone, the satellite would be expected to hit Earth during the first week of March. About half of the 5,000-pound spacecraft would be expected to survive its blazing descent through the atmosphere and would scatter debris over several hundred miles.

Adding to the difficulty of the shootdown mission, the missile will have to do better than just hit the bus-sized satellite, a Navy official said Tuesday. It needs to strike the relatively small fuel tank aboard the spacecraft in order to accomplish the main goal, which is to eliminate the toxic fuel that could injure or even kill people if it reached Earth. The Navy official described technical aspects of the missile's capabilities on condition that he not be identified.

Also complicating the effort will be the fact that the satellite has no heat-generating propulsion system on board. That makes it more difficult for the Navy missile's heat-seeking system to work, although the official said software changes had been made to compensate for the lack of heat.

Looking for solid business and accounting experience to put on your resume?

The Observer is accepting applications for a 2008-09 Business Manager and Controller. Responsibilities include preparing a yearly budget and handling payroll for a 200-person staff.

Since the Controller will take over as the 2009-10 Business Manager, Controller applicants should be sophomores, or juniors staying for a fifth year.

Both positions are salaried, about six to 10 hours a week.

Please contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu or

Kyle West at kwest1@nd.edu if interested.

Senate

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exactly what this resolution says, and they find the jump from three to seven percent challenging, but feasible, which is what we're looking for."

The resolution passed 18-3, with one abstention, but a few senators voiced concerns about how to fund the initiative. Farley senator Victoria Perez said some members of her Hall Council were not in favor of the budget raise because they feared other components of the budget would suffer.

"What are we looking money from? I know they're already complaining about not having enough money to pay for silverware and [things] like that," she said.

However, Bacsik said NDFS would not have to increase the funds it spends, but would just divert funds it already has.

"If they're getting apples from California, now they're going to spend that same money and get apples from Michigan," he said. "It's diverting funds from things that you're already getting from other long-distance sources to more local sources and supporting the local economy."

Bacsik added that locally-grown foods may be more expensive since they come from mostly small, family-run farms. However, he said Notre Dame and other universities in Indiana will invest in the future by building a lasting relationship with these farms.

"By banding those together and by getting out into the local sources, they're trying to get a long-standing relationship so they can get a quality product at a decreasing cost," he said.

Welsh Family senator Tara Schimpf raised another objection to the resolution, asking if NDFS will sacrifice food quality or selection.

"Does that mean that when we're going locally, when it's a bad season for that [product] here, [we're] not going to have that item? Are we sacrificing quality?" she said.

Bacsik said that seasonality will affect local foods available, but NDFS will remain committed to buying fresh produce.

In addition to passing the resolution, the Senate previewed the

Health and Body Image Conference, which will be held March 11-13. Brenna Doyle and Patrick Tighe, the Gender Issues Committee co-chairs, summarized the conference's itinerary and gave background information about some of the speakers.

"We're hoping anyone can see any part of presentation that fits into their schedule."

**Brenna Doyle
Gender Issues
Committee co-chair**

The conference's keynote speaker, Ann J. Simonton, will present "Sex, Power and the Media" on March 11 from 5-6 p.m. Simonton, a former fashion model and current media activist, will discuss the consequences of corporate media.

Other speakers will give presentations on topics such as the modeling profession, pro-eating disorder Web sites, the effects of eating disorders and treatment of eating disorders. The conference will also show "Thin," an HBO documentary about an eating disorder treatment center.

Tighe said registration for the conference is free for Notre Dame students and faculty, and Doyle said students do not need to stay

for the entire conference if they choose to attend. Senators will be posting sign-up sheets in dorms during the coming weeks.

"We're hoping anyone can see any part of presentation that fits into their schedule," she said.

In other Senate News:

◆ Carol Hendrickson, Academic Affairs Committee chair, said she was pleased with the turnout at Monday's town hall meeting discussing the hiring of Catholic faculty. The Senate also discussed more results from their dorm sessions on the issue.

Fisher Senator Stephan Bant said although students agreed on the importance of Catholic character at Notre Dame, they debated whether a Catholic-majority faculty was essential to maintaining it.

"It seemed like the general consensus I got was that people thought that if it was pertinent to keeping the Catholic character at Notre Dame, they supported having a majority Catholic faculty, but they just didn't seem to think that having Catholic professors really affected what happened in the classroom," he said.

◆ Karen Koski, Social Concerns Committee chair, will meet with Food Services next week to discuss the possibility of students

using Diner Dollars to donate to service clubs. She said when clubs are collecting for charities or service projects, students do not always have money with them. However, this initiative would allow students to swipe their ID cards to donate money.

◆ Multicultural Affairs Committee Chair Ninny Wan discussed the possibility of a cultural competency requirement in the undergraduate curriculum. She said there are three proposals for integrating culture into students' experience: a requirement to take one class that is related to culture, a requirement to take a class or participate in an activity related to culture, or a Web site that lists cultural opportunities at Notre Dame.

◆ Callie Pogge, University Affairs Committee Chair, said a student-faculty debate on John McCain's and Barack Obama's health care plans will take place next Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Dooley Room of LaFortune. The event will feature Economics Professor Bill Evans and Dr. Rudolph Navari, director of the Indiana University School of Medicine in South Bend.

Contact Claire Reising at creisin2@nd.edu

BOT

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year, the student body has used Cetta as a liaison between the Board and the students, she said.

"The students have been very vocal in discussing concerns with me," she said. "Some have approached me, but I get most of my feedback from attending all the student government board meetings in the weeks before the Trustees are here."

Cetta will usher in the new student trustee in April, although there is not any official training, she said. "Just like all student government positions, there will be turnover in April."

The role of the trustee is to communicate student views to the Board, Cetta said.

"I attend [Board of Governance], BOT meetings and events and prepare reports when necessary," she said. "However, my most important role is bringing a student voice to the Board."

The application process for the next Student Trustee began a few weeks ago and required a letter of intent, resume and recommendations. Only current juniors may apply.

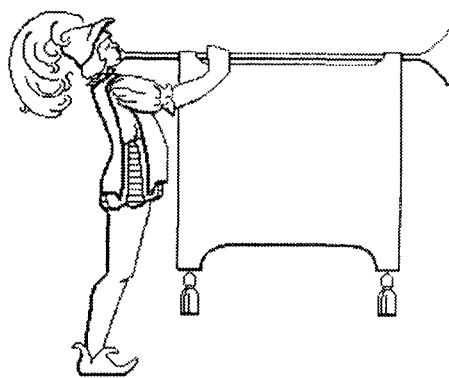
Within the Board, each Trustee committee has a chair and a vice chair who lead the meeting. The full Board meeting is headed by John O'Connor, the current Chair of the Board.

Since the trustees come to campus infrequently, Cetta hopes they will be pleased by the construction landscape and other campus changes.

"I know [the trustees] will be pleased to see the great progress that has been made to Spes Unica Hall," she said, referring to the College's new academic building, scheduled to be completed this fall.

Meetings will continue into tomorrow and information will be available Monday.

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohle01@saintmarys.edu



Announcing the Year 2008 Annual Awards of the Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship

Thanks to a generous gift from the Albert Ravarino family, the Italian Studies Program is pleased to announce the year 2008 annual competition for travel in support of summer research and foreign study in Italy. Grants will be made in amounts not to exceed \$3,000, and will not normally cover all expenses. Notre Dame graduate and undergraduate students who are planning to pursue research or a formal program of summer study in Italy are invited to apply. Students must have completed at least one year of Italian language. The course work will normally be in Italian; will involve the study of Italian language, literature, and culture; and must be applicable to a student's degree program at the University of Notre Dame.

Recommended programs for foreign study include, but are not limited to: Loyola University in Rome, Boston University in Padua, UCLA in Pisa, Miami University in Urbino, Columbia University in Scandiano. Interested students are encouraged to consult the materials on Italian foreign study in the Department of Romance Languages, 343 O'Shaughnessy Hall.

Students are invited to submit a letter which should include:

- 1) an explanation of how the proposed research or foreign study will enhance their degree program at Notre Dame;
- 2) a personal statement indicating their background, interests, and long-term goals;
- 3) a description of the research project or the program they intend to follow;
- 4) a budget indicating the costs involved;
- 5) two letters of recommendation
- 6) a transcript showing all grades and courses completed
- 7) a list of other sources of funding (being sought or confirmed) for the same project (i.e. Office of International Studies, Nanovic Institute, etc.)

Application Deadline: Wednesday, February 27, 2008
Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship
 Program in Italian Studies
 343 O'Shaughnessy Hall
 University of Notre Dame

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US denies stalemate with N. Korea

SEOUL — The main U.S. envoy to North Korea denied that nuclear talks were at a stalemate Wednesday, a day after he met with the North's top negotiator for the first time in two months.

Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill said North Korea insisted during talks in Beijing aimed at ridding the communist nation of nuclear weapons that it is not currently cooperating with any other countries on nuclear technology.

North Korean nuclear envoy Kim Kye Gwan "wanted to make very clear that they are not at present having any nuclear cooperation with any other country and they will not in the future have any nuclear cooperation with any other country," Hill said.

Powerful earthquake strikes Indonesia

JAKARTA — A powerful earthquake struck western Indonesia on Wednesday, alarming residents and prompting a tsunami warning, official agencies and witnesses said. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

The quake, which had a preliminary magnitude of 7.6, struck off the western coast of Sumatra island close to Simeulue island, the U.S. Geological Survey said in a posting on its Web site.

There was an immediate tsunami warning issued, possibly because the quake was deep under the sea bed.

Several callers told local radio station el-Shinta that the quake was felt strongly on Sumatra, but there was no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

A magnitude-9 quake off Sumatra's coast in 2004 triggered a tsunami that killed more than 230,000 people in a dozen countries, most of them in Indonesia.

NATIONAL NEWS

Man indicted for foiled Super Bowl plan

WASHINGTON — A man accused of planning to shoot people at the Super Bowl was indicted on six counts of sending threatening communications, according to court documents filed Tuesday in federal court.

Kurt William Havelock, 35, turned himself in to authorities Feb. 3 after driving within sight of University of Phoenix Stadium during the Super Bowl with a rifle and 200 rounds of ammunition. He said he changed his mind.

Havelock told authorities he was upset that the city of Tempe denied him a liquor license application for a Halloween-themed bar.

Before the planned attack, the indictment said, Havelock sent several letters to Web sites and news organizations. Havelock's writings included an eight-page manifesto in which he warned of an "econopolitical confrontation," according to the FBI.

Supreme Court rejects Katrina case

NEW ORLEANS — The nation's highest court dealt a blow Tuesday to property owners who want insurance companies to pay for damage from levee breaches after Hurricane Katrina, but the Louisiana Supreme Court is poised to tackle the issue later this month.

The U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear appeals from Xavier University and dozens of other Louisiana policyholders who sued several insurers for refusing to cover water damage from the levee breaches that flooded 80 percent of New Orleans following the August 2005 hurricane.

LOCAL NEWS

Indiana Beach park sold by founders

MONTICELLO — The family that owned the Indiana Beach amusement park for more than 80 years has sold it to a company that operates campgrounds across much of the country.

The new owners plan few immediate changes at the park, although future expansion projects are anticipated, said Tom Spackman Jr., whose grandfather founded Indiana Beach in 1926.

Terms of the deal between the Spackman family and Morgan RV Resorts of Queensbury, N.Y., were not released. The sale had been in the works since December, when representatives of Morgan contacted the family, Spackman said Tuesday.

Morgan co-owner Bob Moser said he was thrilled to acquire the park.

"Guests of Indiana Beach will continue to take pleasure in the quality experience they have come to love over the past eight decades and enjoy an ongoing commitment to improving the destination year after year," Moser said in a statement.

CUBA

Raul Castro inspires hope for change

Acting President promises 'structural changes' and 'big decisions,' will take over Sunday

Associated Press

HAVANA — After a 19-month tryout by acting president Raul Castro, Cubans seem ready to focus on what his government will bring once Fidel Castro formally steps down as Cuba's all-powerful leader on Sunday.

Their expectations, already raised by Raul Castro's talk of "structural changes" and "big decisions" to come, couldn't be higher. Many Cubans hope he will let more people open businesses, own homes and even travel abroad.

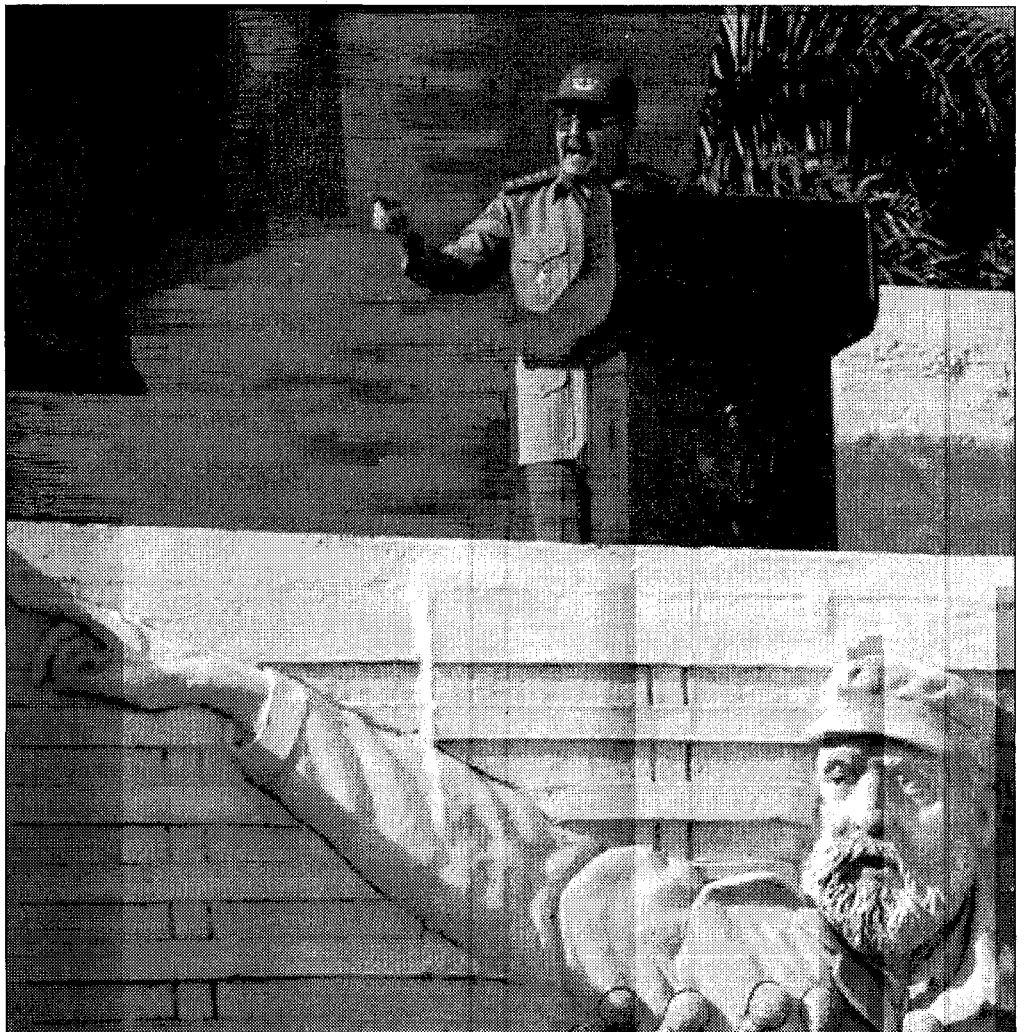
But given that Raul is already 76, it could fall to a new generation of leaders to fulfill or frustrate Cubans' dreams of prosperity.

As acting president, Raul Castro has only hinted at reforms, a reticence many see as a sign of respect for his more doctrinaire older brother. And while hoping that Raul and his likely No. 2, Carlos Lage, will advocate for change, Cubans wonder how that will fly with 81-year-old Fidel, who made it clear Tuesday that he isn't going away, even though he's stepping down as president.

"There has to be some change, more freedom with Raul," said Andres, 63, who like many Cubans wouldn't give his last name for fear of reprisal when talking about the Castro brothers. "The other one always nipped that off at the bud."

The resignation, announced Tuesday, should give Raul Castro more autonomy than he's had as the government's caretaker since Fidel was sidelined by intestinal surgery in July 2006.

The younger Castro raised expectations of openings in the state-controlled economy with his reported fascination with Chinese-style capitalism, calls for unspecified "structural changes," and acknowledgment that government wages averaging \$19 a month do not satisfy basic needs. He also encouraged Cubans to open a fear-



Cuba's acting President Raul Castro delivers a speech in July 2007 over a stone depiction of his brother and former President Fidel Castro.

less and critical debate, as long as they remember that the final decisions will be made by the island's Communist leaders.

"That way we reach decisions, and I'm talking about big decisions," he told student leaders in December 2006.

Many Cubans want to hear more such talk from their next leader. Inspired by Raul, some leading Cuban cultural figures have called recently for dropping onerous visa requirements and other limits on their freedoms, a message that resonates with ordinary Cubans.

"This is what we needed. I hope to God people have more freedom — the freedom to have opinions and always speak their minds,"

37-year-old Lydis Perez said after dropping her son off at school. "People talk in the hallways or the back rooms. ... There's a lot of fear."

Fidel Castro, however, insisted in his resignation letter Tuesday that he won't disappear — or stay quiet if he sees his revolution going astray.

"This is not my farewell to you," he wrote. "My only wish is to fight as a soldier in the battle of ideas. I shall continue to write under the title, 'Reflections of Comrade Fidel.' It will be another weapon you can count on. Perhaps my voice will be heard."

As the Council of State's first vice president, Raul Castro has been his brother's constitutionally designated

successor for decades, so the big question is who will take his place as No. 2 on Sunday when the National Assembly selects Cuba's new leadership.

A leading candidate is Lage, the de-facto prime minister, who at 56 is a full generation younger than the Castros. He's among the most experienced leaders in a power structure dominated by septuagenarian former rebels, and he has built a reputation as a reformer.

A less likely possibility could emerge from a handful of leaders in their 30s and 40s, such as Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque, whose Communist fervor earned them the collective nickname of "Young Talibans."

Cancer deaths rise after downward trend

Associated Press

ATLANTA — U.S. cancer deaths rose by more than 5,000 in 2005, a somewhat disappointing reversal of a two-year downward trend, the American Cancer Society said in a report issued Wednesday.

The group counted 559,312 people who died from cancer.

The cancer death rate among the overall population continued to fall, but only slightly, after a couple of years of more dramatic decline.

In 2005, there were just under 184 cancer deaths per 100,000 people, down from nearly 186 the previous year. Experts said it wasn't surprising that the rate would stabilize.

The cancer death rate has been dropping since the early 1990s, and early in this decade was declining by about 1 percent a year. The actual number of cancer deaths kept rising, however, because of the growing population.

So it was big news when the rate dropped by 2 percent in both 2003 and 2004, enough to cause the total number of cancer deaths to fall for the first time since 1930.

President Bush and others hailed that as a sign that federally funded research was making strides against the disease.

But now the death rate decline is back to 1 percent. And the 2005 numbers show annual cancer deaths are no longer falling, but are up more than 5,400 since 2004.

"The declining rate was no longer great enough to overcome the increase in population," said Elizabeth Ward, a co-author of the cancer society report.

Officials with the organization say they don't know why the decline in the death rate eased.

It may be that cancer screenings are not having as big an effect as they were a few years ago, said Dr. Peter Ravdin, a research professor in biostatistics at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.

One possible example: In 2004, the largest drop in deaths among the major cancers was in colorectal cancer. Experts gave much of the credit to colonoscopy screenings that detect polyps and allow doctors to remove them before they turn cancerous.

CCAC

continued from page 1

Trustees Richard Nussbaum said.

Students, University administrators and South Bend representatives all stressed the importance of continuing the dialogue that began when the ordinance was first proposed.

"I'm just concerned that we should talk and be able to see things from other points of view," said Councilmember Ann Puzzello, whose district includes the University campus. "I think dialogue is the most important thing."

However, the coalition is far from complete. Only 15 of the 21 total seats had been filled as of Wednesday. Moreover, Indiana University South Bend was the only local school to send a representative besides Notre Dame, as both Saint Mary's College and Holy Cross College did not respond to the Council's messages, said Councilmember, and newly-appointed chair of the CCAC, Al "Buddy" Kirsits. Kirsits asked Notre Dame Vice President of Student Affairs Father Mark Poorman and the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs Bill Kirk to contact both schools before the next meeting.

"We'd like to get them on board," Kirsits said.

One development noted by several Council members was a reduction in the number of complaints they received due to loud student parties. Kirsits also noted a decrease in the number of students taken to local hospitals for alcohol poisoning.

"Informally, and I can't quote any stats, I saw there was a decline in the alcohol toxicity response calls," Kirsits said.

Kirk attributed this trend to increased University pressure on off-campus students.

"The offices I supervise are responsible for maintaining disciplinary standards," Kirk said. "Last fall, it became clear that students' off-campus behavior would not be something that is closely scrutinized. We did let it be known that tolerance by the University for that behavior would be very low."

Members of the Common Council also attributed the decrease in out-of-control parties to the work of student body president Liz Brown.

"We created a Good Neighbor Guide and an off-campus seminar," Brown said. "We're hoping these will be printed in mid-March."

However, although these improvements are seen as steps in the right direction, Luecke said it's important to permanently establish a respectful atmosphere.

"We feel positive with the way the fall went, some of it perhaps because of enhanced publicity," he said. "I hope that once you establish a culture of students' respectful behavior to neighbors that it carries over."

Tim Rouse, Common Council president and co-sponsor (along with Kirsits) of the original ordinance, agreed with Luecke, adding that all parties involved must continue to use the forum provided by the CCAC.

"It's an ongoing dialogue, we need to keep the momentum among the whole group," he said.

One of the key aspects of establishing a respectful environment is simply getting students and neighbors together, said local landlord Mark

Kramer. For the past seven years, Kramer has thrown block parties at the beginning of the year to bring students and South Bend residents together.

"It's hard to disturb their neighbor if you've met them and you know their daughter and their son," local landlord Mark Kramer said.

Brown, however, said student partying was not the only issue the CCAC needs to address, and that security is very important as well.

"As far as student behavior goes, I think there's been some big improvements, but safety and security are big issues," she said. "That's the issue that's been prioritized by students over the past year."

Kramer said despite the fact that he has two private security vehicles patrolling his properties, there was a break-in last week at one of his properties on St. Peter's Street.

"We do whatever we can to prevent break-ins," Kramer said. "My concern is to protect student tenants and for the neighbors to have a better relationship with one another."

This, coupled with the rash of break-ins at Clover Ridge Apartments and Stadium Club

Condos over Christmas break, has sparked student fears about break-ins. "At this point our main issue is break-ins," said ISUB student government association president Ivan Blount.

Kramer, however, is already spending about \$3,600 a month on security, leading Rouse to say, "I think that shows [Kramer's] commitment to student safety."

The CCAC did not discuss any specific plan for tempering the break-ins during last night's meeting.

Brown also said many students are complaining about taxicab fares being too high, and she said the cab companies should let students know about posted rates.

"This is a big concern to students," she said. "For some reason students are having more and more problems with taxicab drivers over the past year."

Kirsits concluded the meeting by setting the date for the next forum — Thursday, March 13, at 3 p.m. "If we approach this in the proper way, we can make this a win-win situation," he said.

Contact Joseph McMahon at jmcmaho@nd.edu

SUB

continued from page 1

from a member of the University of Delaware's student activities office.

"The workshops on programming concerts were often lead by professional agents," Ross said.

While representatives from many universities were at the conference, Notre Dame's programming seemed to be "very competitive," Ross said.

"There were very few times when we thought, 'Wow, why can't we do that?' Our line-up seemed like some of the best out there."

SUB left the conference with "many new ideas and ways to improve our programming and publicity," Ross said.

"Some of our favorites include mini-contests to attract people to events and to make better alliances with campus media in

order to promote our events. One school covered their basketball arena with tarp and held a food fight for charity. Several schools also had tips on artist hospitality and ways to improve the inner organization of SUB."

SUB will host the 50th annual Collegiate Jazz Festival this weekend in Washington Hall.

"[SUB] hopes to have a couple of concerts and comedians both in Legends and in other venues on campus."

"We're working on a Chicago trip to see a Broadway musical or a baseball game, and possibly a

St. Patrick's Day celebration. Our semester will end with a bang with Antostal, the spring festival, during the last week of April," Ross said.

Contact Lindsay Sena at lsena@nd.edu

"There were very few times when we thought, 'Wow, why can't we do that?' Our line-up seemed like some of the best out there."

Philip Ross
SUB board manager

Wabruda's First Annual Black History Conference February 23-24, 2008

Saturday, February 23rd
Jordan Hall of Science, University of Notre Dame

9:00-10:00 am Continental Breakfast and Registration

10:00-11:25 am Lecture (Room 105), Reginald L. Robinson, Distinguished University Visiting Professor of Law and Critical Theory, Southern Illinois University (On Leave from Howard Law School 2007-2008): "Wake up! It's a Bleeping Con: Reawakening the Great Potential of Black Americans"

11:30-12:30 pm Lecture (Room 105), Verge "Brother Sage" Gillam, B.S. Central State University, founder of the Association of African American Role Models (AAARM): "Underground Railroad"

12:30-1:45 pm Lunch Break

1:45-3:00 pm Lecture (Room 105), Bishop Gideon Adjei, Ph.D in Pharmacology and Biochemistry, founder of Crystal Horizons Investment Group: "Vision for Victory"

3:00-3:55 pm Small Group Discussions (Rooms 105, 310, and 322)

4:00-5:00 pm Sharing of Ideas (Room 105)

5:00-10:00 pm Break

10:00 pm-12:00 am Legends presents Spoken Word Concert starring acclaimed artist Taalam Acey, also featuring ND's own Katie Washington, Matthew Tipton, Morgan Cleveland, and Christopher Stewart

Sunday, February 24th

11:00 am-5:00 pm Underground Railroad Trip to the Underground Railroad Cemetery in Vandalia, MI; Family Farm in Paw Paw, MI; Sojourner Truth statue in Battle Creek, MI. Facilitators: Sherman Ampey and Verge "Brother Sage" Gillam (RSVP to wabruda@nd.edu ASAP to reserve a seat on the charter bus; seats are limited; \$10/students and \$20/other conference participants; lunch is covered)

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IN BRIEF

Amtrak amps up security measures

WASHINGTON — Amtrak will start randomly screening passengers' carry-on bags this week in a new security push that includes officers with automatic weapons and bomb-sniffing dogs patrolling platforms and trains.

The initiative, to be announced by the railroad on Tuesday, is a significant shift for Amtrak. Unlike the airlines, it has had relatively little visible increase in security since the 2001 terrorist attacks, a distinction that has enabled it to attract passengers eager to avoid airport hassles.

Amtrak officials insist their new procedures won't hold up the flow of passengers.

"On-time performance is a key element of Amtrak service. We are fully mindful of that. This is not about train delays," Bill Rooney, the railroad's vice president for security strategy and special operations, told The Associated Press.

Nor will the moves require passengers to arrive at stations far in advance, officials said. Passengers who are selected randomly for the screening will be delayed no more than a couple of minutes, Amtrak chief executive Alex Kummant said.

Critics question FCC Chairman's plan

WASHINGTON — A Federal Communications Commission plan to help owners of rural television stations survive the transition to digital broadcasting is great for station owners, bad for cable companies and of questionable value to viewers, according to critics.

FCC Chairman Kevin Martin's plan is meant to help thousands of low-power television stations across the U.S. that operate in rural and underserved communities hold onto their viewers during the digital shift.

Owners of these stations have been upset because they say they have been largely left out of government efforts to educate the public about the change.

Beginning Feb. 18, 2009, all full-power television stations in the U.S. will broadcast a digital-only signal. Anyone who gets programming via an antenna and does not have a newer-model digital set will need to buy a box that will "down-convert" the digital signal to analog.

Stimulus package to benefit businesses

Plan contains huge tax deduction increase, bonus depreciation allowance for small companies

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The economic stimulus package that became law earlier this month contains two provisions aimed at helping small businesses increase their capital spending — a huge increase in the Section 179 tax deduction and a bonus depreciation allowance.

The Section 179 deduction, which allows small businesses to deduct up front rather than depreciate over time the cost of certain kinds of equipment, has nearly doubled for 2008, rising to \$250,000 from a previously planned \$128,000. The bonus depreciation provision allows businesses of any size to depreciate 50 percent of the cost of equipment, with the balance to be depreciated according to IRS rules.

It's possible for a company to take advantage of both provisions, which could mean a huge tax savings for 2008.

The Section 179 deduction is limited to companies that buy less than \$800,000 in capital equipment during the year; that ceiling is the government's way of restricting the deduction to small businesses.

It's a pretty easy deduction to take, but there are a few pitfalls to look out for.

Foremost, according to tax attorney Barbara Weltman, is that a business can't use the Section 179 deduction if it's operating at a loss. "You don't get a benefit unless you're profitable," she said.

A business might be able to carry forward some of the costs of the equipment into future years, and in the process still benefit from the deduction. However, there's no way to know now



Customers shop at a Steve & Barry's clothing store in New York. The success of the federal economic stimulus plan will hinge on whether American consumers spend their money.

whether the Section 179 deduction will be as lucrative in future years as it is now.

Another caveat: Not all kinds of equipment can be deducted under Section 179. Typically, computers, vehicles, manufacturing equipment and office furniture qualify for the deduction. Air conditioning or heating units, or structural parts of a building like replacement windows cannot be deducted under Section 179 — but they can be deducted under depreciation rules.

Keep in mind: The \$250,000 figure is an aggregate — you can buy any number of pieces of equipment to take the deduction, but once you go above that amount, depreciation sets in.

Equipment must be bought — but not necessarily paid for — and placed into service by Dec. 31 to qualify for the deduction. So the PC you put on your charge card in December needs to be in use by the end of the year, even though the bill won't arrive until January.

It's possible to take a Section 179 deduction for equipment that's used partly for business — for example, a car — but more than half its usage must be for company purposes. Weltman noted that equipment must actually be bought for the business and cannot be something that was just converted to company use. So if you've just created a home office and are using the PC you bought two years ago, the computer cannot be deducted under Section 179.

Oil prices close above \$100 for first time

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street gave up a big early advance and closed mixed Tuesday after oil prices closed above \$100 for the first time and stoked fears that inflation will stymie an already troubled economy.

Soaring oil prices could bring more problems for consumers, having already made many Americans shy about spending in recent months. Consumer spending, a key driver of U.S. economic growth, has also been shaken by falling home prices and the volatile stock market.

The market was also concerned that rising inflation might make the Federal Reserve reconsider its bias toward lowering interest rates to help the economy. The central bank, which next meets March 18, last month slashed rates by 1.25 percent.

"I think there are still a lot of worries in the market that we have this stagnant growth in the economy and

higher prices," said Richard Sparks, senior equities analyst at Schaeffer's Investment Research in Cincinnati.

Investors likely were positioning themselves ahead of a half-dozen economic reports that could give the market further direction. Paramount will be Wednesday's Labor Department report on consumer prices for January, which is a closely watched gauge for inflation. The Fed will also release minutes from its last meeting.

Meanwhile, new concerns that banks are facing more financial problems this year dragged the sector sharply lower — and reminded investors that the credit crisis appears far from a resolution.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 10.99, or 0.09 percent, to 12,337.22 after being up more than 150 points earlier in the session.

Broader indexes also moved lower. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 1.21, or 0.09 percent, to 1,348.78;

and the Nasdaq composite fell 15.60, or 0.67, 2,306.20.

But advancing issues were ahead of decliners on the New York Stock Exchange by about 9 to 7, while on the Nasdaq Stock Market, decliners had a modest lead. Consolidated volume on the NYSE came to about 3.50 billion shares, compared to 3.36 billion on Friday.

Government bonds dipped as stocks gained. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, jumped to 3.87 percent from 3.77 percent late Friday. It rose to 3.90 percent in after-hours trading.

The dollar was mixed against most major currencies.

Light, sweet crude for March delivery rose \$4.51 to settle at a record \$100.01 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange after earlier rising to \$100.10, a new trading record. It was the first time since Jan. 3 that oil had been above \$100.

U.S. will not build new military bases in Africa

Associated Press

ACCRA, Ghana — President Bush said Wednesday that talk of the United States building new military bases in Africa to expand its influence is "baloney."

The Defense Department created the Africa Command last October to consolidate operations that had been split among three other regional commands, none of which had Africa as a primary focus.

Several African countries, including Libya, Nigeria and South Africa, have expressed deep reservations, fearing the plan signals an unwanted expansion of American power on the continent or is a cover for protecting Africa's vast oil resources on the United States' behalf.

Ghana's President, John Kufuor, raised the issue with Bush during their meetings at Osu Castle, a centuries-old building that was once a hub of slave-trading and now is the seat of government. "You're not going to build any bases," he told Bush — according to Bush.

"I know there's rumors in Ghana 'All Bush is coming to do is try to convince you to put a big military base here,' Bush said at a news conference with Kufuor. "That's baloney. As they say in Texas, that's bull."

Instead, he said the new command — unique to the Pentagon's structure — was aimed at more effectively reorganizing U.S. military efforts in Africa to strengthen African nations' peacekeeping,

trafficking and anti-terror efforts. "The whole purpose of Africom is to help African leaders deal with African problems," Bush said.

Bush sought to dispel the notion about militarization of Africa even before giving reporters a chance to ask him about it. Kufuor said he was satisfied with Bush's explanation, and thanked him for announcing it "so that the relationship between us and the United States will grow stronger."

For now, the administration has decided to continue operating Africom out of existing U.S. bases on the continent with a headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany. War-wrecked Liberia is the only African nation that has publicly offered to host a headquarters. Bush said before the trip that "if" a headquarters for Africom is ever established on the continent, he would "seriously consider" Liberia as the host.

Sweat was pouring off Bush's face during the news conference, set outdoors in Ghana's equatorial heat. Both leaders were in good spirits, showing off their camaraderie and signing the cast of a U.S. reporter who broke her hand during the trip.

Neither leader offered public complaint about China's rising influence in Africa. With near \$100-a-barrel oil, and one-fifth of America's oil coming just from Nigeria, the issue is on U.S. officials' radar. But Bush and Kufuor took care not to be openly critical of China, which has gained favor in Africa by significantly increas-

ing its investment in transportation and communications and other infrastructure while such funding has generally declined from the West.

"I don't view Africa as zero-sum for China and the United States," Bush said. "We can pursue agendas without creating an inherent sense of competition."

Kufuor said China is "coming not as a colonial power as far as we can see. It's coming ... as a guest on our terms."

Before the trip, U.S. officials offered veiled criticism of China, suggesting it looked at Africa as solely a commercial opportunity while the U.S. is interested in helping the continent's people.

"Too many nations continue to follow either the paternalistic notion that treats African countries as charity cases, or a model of exploitation that seeks only to buy up their resources," Bush said in a pre-trip speech.

Bush also announced an effort to combat neglected tropical diseases, with \$350 million to be made available over five years to target seven major diseases: elephantiasis, snail fever, eye infections, river blindness, hookworm, roundworm, and whipworm. The initiative aims to help more than 300 million people in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. The White House said it amounts to nearly five times the spending in the current year.

About one billion people suffer from one or more of the neglected tropical diseases.

Ghana is the kind of story Bush



President Bush speaks at a joint news conference with Ghana's President John Kufuor at Osu Castle in Accra, Ghana, Wednesday.

likes to promote: a stable democracy that has largely avoided ethnic clashes and played a busy peacekeeping role on the continent. Ghana also has boosted its agriculture-based, resource-rich economy and cut its still-persistent poverty.

Kufuor is an Oxford-educated leader who came into power about the same time Bush did and is given credit here for economic reforms, open government and regional leadership. Ghana, working through the United Nations, has sent peacekeepers to Lebanon, Afghanistan, Rwanda,

Pakistan and the Balkans.

Ghana received more than \$55 million in development aid from the United States in 2007. It won approval in 2006 for a five-year, \$547 million aid package aimed at expanding markets for its crops.

Several thousand children in their school uniforms lined the humid, sweltering streets of coastal Accra to welcome Bush, waving tiny Ghanaian flags. Bush also has visited Benin, Tanzania and Rwanda. He will return to Washington on Thursday after stopping in Liberia.

Okla. attorney general goes after poultry companies

Associated Press

TULSA, Okla. — More than a dozen Arkansas-based poultry companies have violated state and federal laws limiting the disposal of animal waste in the Illinois River watershed, argues Oklahoma's attorney general.

Oklahoma is requesting a preliminary injunction to stop poultry companies from dropping animal waste in the 1 million-acre watershed. State Attorney General Drew Edmondson maintains that

unless the court grants the request by the spring, the fecal bacteria found in the waste could pose a health threat to hundreds of people who visit the river valley each year.

Edmondson told a federal judge Tuesday that waste from the birds is measured in tons and is not processed, treated or diluted but dumped on the land "ostensibly as fertilizer but far in excess of agronomic needs, in the most environmentally and ecologically sensitive watershed in Oklahoma."

The hearing on the injunc-

tion is expected to last several days and is part of an Oklahoma lawsuit that accuses Arkansas-based poultry companies of polluting the watershed with chicken litter.

"Our evidence will show that these persistent and pervasive violations of state and federal law have infested the rivers and springs and wells of the Illinois River Watershed with biological pathogens that have created an imminent and substantial threat to human health," Edmondson said.

Patrick Ryan, an attorney for

Tyson Foods, Inc., responded that the injunction seeks to disrupt an industry that has operated successfully in the watershed for decades. He also accused the state of creating the science to suit its case.

"There is nothing more going on in this watershed than the rest of the state," Ryan said.

More than 576,000 acres of the watershed are located in Oklahoma.

State and environmental officials contend that years of illegal spreading of the poultry waste, which contains bacte-

ria, antibiotics, growth hormones and harmful metals, is killing Oklahoma's scenic lakes.

Edmondson sued the poultry companies in 2005, saying litter pollution rendered Lake Tenkiller in northeastern Oklahoma 70 percent oxygen dead and accused poultry companies of treating Oklahoma's rivers like open sewers.

He also said the amount of phosphorous dumped on the ground in the watershed each year is equivalent to the waste of 10.7 million people.

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Kosovo

Nation embraces laid-back version of Islam

Associated Press

GNJILANE — Kastriot Sadiku has a confession: Like a good Muslim, he was near a mosque when Kosovo declared independence. But like a good Kosovar, he was just around the corner, sipping suds at his favorite pub.

As minaret loudspeakers broadcast afternoon prayers, "I was having a beer," said Sadiku, 25. "In the entire Muslim world, I think that's probably something that can only happen here, where our religion

doesn't interfere with the rest of our lives."

Much has been made of Kosovo's status as the world's newest mostly Muslim nation. But its secular government, religious leaders and faithful have carefully distanced themselves from the slightest hint of extremism.

The Republic of Kosovo, they insist, embraces a decidedly laid-back version of Islam.

"Our Islam is 'lite' — like Coke Lite or Marlboro Light cigarettes," said Ilmi Krasniqi, an imam at one

of five mosques in the eastern town of Gnjilane. "This is not Baghdad, and what goes on in Saudi Arabia cannot happen here."

That is not to suggest that radical Islam has not impacted Kosovo's Muslim ethnic Albanians.

Last October, Agron Abdullahu — a 25-year-old Kosovo native living in the U.S. — pleaded guilty to charges of conspiring to provide weapons to five other Muslims who allegedly plotted an attack on the U.S. Army's Fort Dix military base in New Jersey. No attack was

staged on the base, which is used largely to train reservists bound for Iraq.

Agim Hyseni, the chief imam in Gnjilane, said Muslims in feverishly pro-America Kosovo have distanced themselves from extremist ideology or acts.

Abdullahu "was an isolated individual," Hyseni said in an interview with The Associated Press in his office, decorated with a small globe and the flags of Turkey and Saudi Arabia, where he said he was schooled in the tenets of Islam.

"The people here feel no empathy for those kind of acts," he said. "They know very well what terrorism is because they've suffered through so many terrorist acts."

"Terrorism" is an emotionally charged term in the Balkans, where an estimated 10,000 people were killed in Kosovo's 1998-99 war between ethnic Albanian separatist rebels and forces loyal to the late Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic.

Albanians long have accused Serbs of terrorist acts against their ethnic kin, and Serbs victims of revenge attacks have done the same.

But if terrorism is a relative term in Kosovo, so is "Muslim."

The Ottoman Turks imported Islam centuries ago, but it hasn't saturated this society. Kosovo was Christian before, about 7 percent of its ethnic Albanians are Catholics, and a cathedral is being built in the heart of Pristina, the capital.

The late President Ibrahim Rugova was fascinated with Roman Catholicism, and there were even unconfirmed reports after his death in 2006 that he had converted.

Kosovo is not the only place with a Muslim population and secular traditions — strong secular lifestyles exist in Turkey and Lebanon, but they are exceptions.

Although the conflict here pitted Albanian Muslims against

Christian Orthodox Serbs, who consider Kosovo the cradle of their religion and national identity, it was a battle for turf — not a holy war.

"We've never had a Christian-Muslim conflict here," said Albulena Hoti, 20, strolling in Gnjilane beneath the flags of the U.S., Britain and Germany — all among the first nations to welcome Kosovo after it declared independence Sunday.

"We're Muslims, but we're not terrorists," added Linda Kastrati, an 18-year-old student.

Stephen Schwartz, executive director of the Center for Islamic Pluralism, a Washington-based think tank, contends Kosovo will

become a model of religious pluralism in Europe.

"Albanians, although Muslim in their majority, are fanatics only about their appreciation for America. Albanian Islam is moderate, and constitutes a bulwark against radicalization of European Muslims," he said.

"I don't think there's any other Muslim country in the world where there's so much Christian missionary activity that goes on undisturbed," Schwartz added.

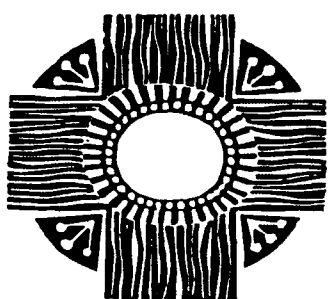
Kosovo's conflict drew only a smattering of mujahedeen — Islamic fighters from the Arab world — unlike the 1992-95 Bosnian war, where they came by the thousands to aid their Muslim brothers.

There has been speculation that Kosovo, which has always enjoyed staunch backing from Washington, might give the U.S. a rare Muslim friend and some leverage in its effort to contain Islamic extremism. But intense U.S. engagement in Bosnia did little to endear America to the wider Arab world.

"America is not necessarily going to get a lot out of the Muslim world with this," Schwartz said.

Outside Gnjilane's main mosque, the crowd of young men includes some with long, wiry beards and short trousers. But they are quick to eschew the strict Wahhabi interpretation of Islam followed by al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Thursday, February 21, 2008

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Juicin' on Capitol Hill

Last week, the circus came to Washington. And I was invited.

I watched from a House office building press room as Roger Clemens and his former trainer, Brian McNamee, paraded onto Capitol Hill to testify about Clemens' alleged steroid use before the House Oversight Committee.

Circus is the only word for it. Fans lined the halls of the building, hoping to catch a glimpse of (and maybe an autograph from) the Rocket. Hundreds of journalists packed into the hearing room and an overflow room.

The hearing, in the end, proved deeply embarrassing to both Clemens and McNamee. McNamee was torn into on national television. Congressmen called him a liar and a criminal and brought up a sexual assault charge in his past. But Clemens may have had it worse, as the committee detailed friend and former teammate Andy Pettitte's deposition indicating that he believed Roger had used human growth hormone.

The day after the hearing, though, Committee Chairman Henry Waxman wished it never happened. Waxman told reporters, "I'm sorry we had the hearing. I regret that we had the hearing. And the only reason we had the hearing was because Roger Clemens and his lawyers insisted on it."

Waxman had good reason to regret the hearings. While the hearings did, of course, embarrass Clemens and McNamee, the childishness of the representatives may have been the most shameful of all. Member by clueless member, the House Oversight Committee embarrassed itself.

It was embarrassing that Representative William Clay of Missouri used part of his five minutes of questioning to ask Clemens which team he was

going to represent in the Hall of Fame. Even Clemens had the good sense to realize how silly the question was, and told Clay he'd pretend it was never asked.

Another Congressperson told Clemens that she was "sure" he was going somewhere considerably more prestigious than Cooperstown: Heaven.

Still another showed four pictures of Clemens, suggested that she did not see a difference in his size over the years, and asked him about his workout regimen.

If that doesn't cut to the truth of the issue at hand, I don't know what does.

It was embarrassing that Rep. Tom Davis claimed that a medical question for Clemens resembled "a new definition of lynching." Sure, some Congressmen were unfairly harsh, but lynching? I'd guess there might be a lynching victim or two who questions whether a white man who is practically asked for his autograph on his way to join the Great Almighty shares their pain.

But worst of all, it was embarrassing to watch the frivolous idiocy into which the hearing devolved.

The committee seemed to break down along party lines. Republicans seemed to believe Clemens, Democrats sided with McNamee. Many analysts immediately suggested that this could stem from Roger's Republicanism. Clemens did, after all, prominently note that Bush 41 contacted him before the hearing to offer his support.

But watching the hearing progress, another explanation seems more likely. Rep. Henry Waxman, the Democratic chairman of the committee, and Rep. Elijah Cummings, another senior Democrat, both indicated their anti-Clemens beliefs early in the hearing. In doing so, Waxman and Cummings sounded remarkably arrogant and self-important.

Cummings, for one, scolded Roger in a tone normally reserved for misbehaving kindergarteners. And in the House office building halls, I overheard Waxman making a joke about Clemens ability to pay for his HGH using insurance before the hearing began.

Republicans, then, fell into line as anti-

Waxman and anti-Cummings. And, as such, they were almost all anti-McNamee and pro-Clemens. Its not that Republicans were predisposed to believe a Texan telling half-truths (at least, not in this case...), its that they needed to stand against Democrats no matter the issue, especially when the Democrats seem as Napoleonic-ly arrogant as Waxman did.

It is an embarrassing display of the divisive partisanship that plagues Washington today. Even hearings about the credibility of witnesses and the role of steroids in baseball run along an apparently immutable fault line. Whether the topic is immigration, healthcare, tax cuts or, yes, baseball players, silly partisanship in Washington has overwhelmed any reasonable discussion.

But the fact that this sort of partisanship about Clemens only exists in Washington — while I don't have any hard numbers, I tend to doubt that a vast majority of Republican voters believe Clemens while a vast majority of Democratic voters don't — suggests that partisanship on many issues isn't endemic of our country, but of our government. The pettiness of Washington has created the bitter, inefficient politics that dominates today.

We learned something from this hearing: Our politics are more divided and divisive than we are. At a certain point, we can blame petty politicians for the partisan state of our politics. If they disagree about baseball, they'll disagree about anything, no matter how much citizens outside Washington are willing to cross party lines.

Yes, Roger Clemens and Brian McNamee brought the circus to Washington. And they exposed a whole lot of clowns along the way.

Andrew Nesi is a junior American Studies major from Fairfield, Conn. He hopes everybody ignores this column and continues to kick and scream about "The Vagina Monologues." He can be reached at anesi@nd.edu.

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



Andrew Nesi

*Spicy Sea
Nuggets*

EDITORIAL CARTOON



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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Tug on anything at all and you'll find it connected to everything else in the universe."

John Muir
environmentalist

Tragedy: a time of God's absence or presence?

There are times that a Christian community gathers — as the Notre Dame community gathered Tuesday night in the Basilica for the Memorial Mass for our recently deceased classmates Timothy Aher and Connor McGrath — when I become aware of the silence. It creeps in between the hymns and prayers, seeps through the cracks of our words of condolence. When everyone stops their faithful assurances of God's presence and closeness and protectiveness, there is always just silence. And out of the silence, a near inevitable question: God, are you really here?

Father Lou DelFra

Faithpoint

There are times in life when I do not stop to ask that question. I have no need to. My niece was born, and my brother and his wife invited me into the delivery room for her birth. No questions about God's presence there — a little queasiness on my part, but it was assuredly non-theological in nature. A young man who has been wrestling with a vocational decision about the priesthood says to me, "I feel like I've been given the grace to give it a shot." OK, God is here, has drawn close. One of the seniors down the hall rushes down to my room with an acceptance letter from his long-shot first-choice graduate school. No more natural time to say a prayer of thanksgiving. A married man asks for a meeting, and for the first time in his life, is able to talk about his growing addiction to

pornography. Clearly, the Holy Spirit is at work.

There are, hopefully, many moments like these when God's real presence comes breaking through. It comes with such force of joy or healing that there is little room left for doubt. Scripturally, I think of the time Jesus leads Peter, James, and John up a mountain and is transfigured before them. His clothes begin to glow with intense and divine light. Great figures of the Hebrew tradition appear next to him. A voice peals from the sky, "This is my beloved Son." Yes, give me that, Lord, and I will be your true believer! Or, as Peter said as the Transfiguration faded, "This is awesome, Lord, let me put up a few tents, and we'll just kick our feet up and soak this in a bit!" (Loosely translated.) Sometimes, God draws quite close indeed. God's Presence is unmistakable.

And then, there are times like Tuesday night. God was surely there. In the liturgy, in the Eucharist, in the community. But, for me, it becomes much more a matter of faith, less of certainty. I find the hard evidence sometimes wanting. Behind all the ceremony, words, and people, this terrible silence lingers. Is it a void, that threatens to suck us in, like a vacuum in space, if we allow ourselves to let up on the talking and singing?

In the silence, yes, perhaps doubt creeps in, the possibility of the absence of God, the possibility that in the end, we sit alone with our tragedies and just have to make the best of them. Yet I also believe, the void is

not entirely empty. From deep within, a something whispers in the void. It is hardly a quick-fix, or an all-problem-solving embrace. One catches the barest hint of it in a familiar story from the Gospels.

The scene is the seeming antithesis to the Transfiguration, that moment of pure and certain joy at the presence of God. Again, Jesus ascends a mount, again taking aside just Peter, James, and John. It is the Mount of Olives, immediately after the Last Supper. Judas had left the table to set Jesus' arrest in motion. An unspeakable tragedy awaits. And Jesus, knowing this, and perhaps remembering the intimate closeness of his Father at the Mount of the Transfiguration, attempts to recreate the experience, ascending the hill alone with the same three disciples. He needs to feel that intimate presence again, for the meaning of his life and ministry is about to be questioned, then ended. The void beckons.

As the ceremony of his Passover meal with the disciples ends, as the talking and the hymn-singing recede, Jesus hears the silence. It calls for him. And he ascends the Mount of Olives to meet it. He begins to pray, alone, but desperate for God's Presence to break the silence.

What can we say happens next? He leaves us no step-by-step instruction of how to find God in this silence. In fact, he seems to feel the Absence in the silence at a most intense depth. He weeps and sweats. He pleads for relief. But nothing glows white. No heroic figures appear. Perhaps most painfully, no voice of his Father is heard.

And Peter, so willing to abide in the place of the transfigured Jesus, is found asleep. Peter senses no possibility of God's Presence here.

"And then Jesus said to them, 'Behold, the hour is at hand. Get up, let us go. Behold, my betrayer is at hand.'"

Experientially, the sequence does not seem to make sense. Enter the silence. Experience the absence of God. Feel the screw turn. Experience the silence and absence at an even greater depth. Leave tenaciously resolved to place your life in the hands of God. "Get up. Let us go." Stride boldly out of the silence into the mêlée of life with a renewed sense that God is not absent, but everywhere.

I suppose if we needed to know what happened on the Mount of Olives, we would have been told, in as much detail as we are told of what happened on the Mount of the Transfiguration. But perhaps the Mount of Olives, the tragedies of life, cannot simply be "filled in" with words and certain signs of God's Presence. Perhaps the silence is real. Surely tragedy is. Perhaps all we have is the example of One who walked into it all ...and discovered God's Presence.

Perhaps this is what we celebrated Tuesday night.

Father Lou DelFra is the director of Bible studies in the Office of Campus Ministry. He can be reached at delfra.2@nd.edu.

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

Domer dating

In my third year of being a part of the Notre Dame community, I have been fortunate enough to go on dates with several different types of Notre Dame and Holy Cross boys. Living with three roommates, and having close friends at all three of the schools, as well as a former Alumni Hall "dawg" as a brother and a senior Saint Mary's sister, I have observed and experienced many different situations and viewpoints on dating. Unfortunately, it seems that the general consensus is that recreational dating is something of a lost art form within our wonderful community.

At the age of 21, I feel I am too old to be drunkenly making out with my beer pong partner at a party. I also feel that I am certainly too young to be perusing the Tiffany's Web site for an engagement ring. And yet these seem to be my collegiate choices. This year in particular I have heard, "I'm just not looking for a girlfriend"; friends have also told me, "He said he's just not looking for anything serious", sentiments to which three things come to my mind in response. First, do not flatter yourself. Second, what makes you think I am looking for a boyfriend, and that you are him? And third, buying me a slice of Sbarro does not exactly evoke the sound of wedding bells, nor does it make me want to cut to the chase and go get busy in your dorm room.

So in this awkward in-between known as junior, or dare I even say senior year, it seems that I, along with many others, am left to feel somewhat eliminated from the dating "scene" here, since I am looking for neither a husband nor a hook-up.

While I realize many girls are indeed making out as if it were going out of style, and others outwardly and unabashedly express their desire for an "MRS." degree, there are some who feel that we are living among educated young adults similar in age and with many shared beliefs for a short four years. Heaven forbid we get together and talk about it, or at the very least meet each other's roommates.

Luckily, my type happens to be awkward Irish boys, a plentiful group here to which I

Maureen Seus

Guest Columnist

would like to offer this advice: Instead of masking your personality behind a case of Natty Light, attempting to be smooth, and just generally sounding like a creep when you ask for my number, only to return to your alter-ego 'awkward boy' the next morning and then shoot me a shamefully bold text the next time you are drinking, embrace your awkwardness and approach a girl sober in the student center or library. If you don't overthink it, chances are that she won't either. Honestly that whole "I'm not sure what to do" thing will most likely come off as cute and actually work for you.

The boys are not the only ones at fault here. There seem to be the girls who always reek of Popov and end up accidentally making out with their crush's best friend. The resulting question of "do you think he will call?" generates a depressingly consistent and unequivocal answer: no. There are also the girls who do not date, but hunt. The clock for them is ticking and they are setting their insecure trap on some unsuspecting griffin, zahmbi or juggernaut, until the boy has reached the point of no return. For everyone else, help these boys out by actually smiling and seeming approachable. And when they call you for the third time, if you are thinking about what you will name his first child, at the very least keep it to yourself and just let the poor boy ask you to the Fisher SYR. You are making the rest of us look as psycho as you are.

While I am aware the dating scene in South Bend is difficult when you have no car, no money, and no game, walks to the Grotto, video games, and dorm room movies are completely acceptable substitutes. You should take advantage of this because after we graduate we might actually expect you to buy us dinner. Let me act my age and I will let you act yours.

Feel free to call me old-fashioned. It's when you call me at 2 a.m., or call me to meet your parents that I might hesitate to answer.

Maureen Seus is a Saint Mary's junior majoring in communications and public relations. She can be contacted at mseus01@saintmarys.edu.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unity at the Memorial mass

Thank You, Notre Dame

The question of Notre Dame's "Catholic identity" has once again come to the fore with a reemergence of the "Monologues" debate.

I have nothing to say about that debate, but I do think that Notre Dame's true Catholic colors have become apparent. And they did so at Tuesday night's Memorial Mass for Timothy Aher and Connor McGrath. At the Mass, there were countless priests and so many people that the entire basilica was filled. People stood behind the altar and all around the baptismal fount, as persons far outnumbered seats. All came together around the Eucharistic Sacrifice and Banquet to pray for the repose of Timothy and Connor's souls.

The Notre Dame family once again proved its uniting, Christ-like love centered on and in the Church. Through the tragic and heart-rending deaths of two of her own, Notre Dame was certainly tried "as gold is tested through fire." What emerged was a truly striking, beautiful, and elegant example of Catholic identity in a university. Pope Benedict once called Notre Dame "a great Catholic University." How could anyone disagree after recent events?

Therefore, let's set aside our critical spirit once in a while and be grateful for just how great a place this is. And so let me be the first to say: thank you to all my fellow students. Thank you to all the faculty, staff, and priests. Thank you, Notre Dame.

Simon Carian
junior
Morrissey Hall
Feb. 20

Of all the Notre Dame Tradition songs, the Alma Mater is by far the best — it's not overplayed, it inspires a sense of union, and it elicits the best reaction from the listeners.

On the evening of the 19th of February, I attended the memorial service for Timothy Aher and Connor McGrath in the Basilica. I was not there just because Connor died on the floor above me, but because as a member of the Notre Dame family, I felt compelled to attend.

As we sang the Alma Mater, and I put my arms around two strangers and swayed, I realized just how much it means to be part of the Notre Dame family — for that song, the Alma Mater, represents just that. And this is Notre Dame in distress — two students dying, and the rest of the student body stepping in to show how much they care.

It was a powerful experience, and though it's definitely a cliché and contrite way to finish this letter, I've never been prouder to be a Notre Dame student than I am right now.

Daniel Tostado
freshman
Dillon Hall
Feb. 19



'Wizard of Ahhs' EP shows potential



MATT HUDSON | Observer Graphic

By RYAN RAFFIN
Assistant Scene Editor

A song that can make you smile every time you hear it is worth its weight in gold. Whether as a result of nostalgic associations or the simple giddy nature of the song, those are the ones that get remembered, that transcend the realm of merely "good" to become classics.

"I'm Not Gonna Teach Your Boyfriend How to Dance with You" by Jacksonville, Florida's Black Kids is one of those songs. From the bouncy keyboards to the Robert

Smith-like vocals, this is a song that won't send a shiver down your spine when the term "1980s throwback" is used to describe it. Normally female backing vocals and use of the "doo doo doo doo doo" onomatopoeia is a rock-and-roll cliché, but not here. Not when they're used in such a sincere manner.

That's really what makes the debut EP by Black Kids so effective: Their wide-eyed sincerity and idealism shine in a world jaded by the constant barrage of media announcing the "next big thing." Ironically, it's that very naïveté and enthusiasm that made Black Kids a "next big thing," at

least on the Internet, anyway. Regardless of whether they satisfy the hype machine when their full-length album finally arrives, we'll always be lucky to have the "Wizard of Ahhs" EP. It doesn't overstay its welcome; instead, the group leaves you wanting more. The four songs the album contains range from 3:32 to 4:26 in length, so no over-indulgent drum solos or filler is to be found here. The songs arrive, make their point, and leave. It's

over before you know it.

The EP opens with "Hit the Heartbrakes", showing that in addition to writing music that's catchy as hell, the group can also pun. The song has an explosive instrumental introduction that subsides to showcase call and response vocals between lead singer/guitarist Reggie

Their wide-eyed sincerity and idealism shine in a world jaded by the constant barrage of media announcing the "next big thing."

Youngblood and backup singers/keyboardists Dawn Watley and Ali Youngblood. The small details on this song are what make it great, from the cowbell in the chorus to the tasteful keyboard line in the song's bridge. "Hurricane Jane" is the song that is both the longest and most obviously influenced by the Cure, or at least the more pop-esque moments. The verses are subdued and mellow when compared to the other songs, with a jumpy bass line. Basically, it sounds a lot like "The Lovecats." Of course, the band returns to full pop form in the chorus, with lyrics telling of a lonely, drug-fueled Friday night. This is typical of the group's lyrics, which generally discuss topics vastly incongruous with their shiny pop music.

For all that has been said about the other songs on this album, they are not the ones that contain "the Moment", that magical portion of the song that grabs you and refuses to let go, forcing you to be a fan of the band forever. No, it's in the last 80 seconds of "I've Underestimated My Charm (Again)" where the song jumps back yet another 20 years to the 1960s, transforming into the kind of sublime pop gem that Brian Wilson could only dream of writing. The music ends there, leaving the listener wondering what exactly this band would be capable of if they recorded a full-length album.

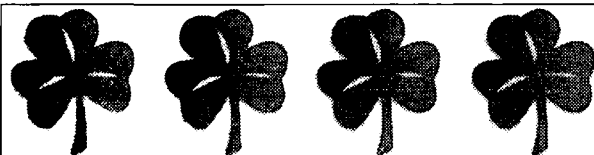
Please download the "Wizard of Ahhs" EP. The whole thing is free

on the bands MySpace, and the songs are just too good to pass up. Black Kids show off a youthful exuberance in the music they play, something not seen very often. The music is pure pop, with a heavy '80s influence, but without the stigma normally attached. Their popularity is only going to increase, so if you start listening now, you can look cool in front of all your friends. The music is both fantastic and free, so there's no reason to ignore Black Kids for another second.

Contact Ryan Raffin at rraffin@nd.edu

Wizard of Ahhs Black Kids

Released by: Almost Gold Recordings
Recommended Tracks: "Hit the Heartbrakes" and "I've Underestimated My Charm (Again)"



MATT HUDSON | Observer Graphic

By MYCHAL STANLEY
Scene Writer

It's decidedly rare for a band to release a debut album with a fully-realized sound, and newcomers Vampire Weekend have done exactly that. Instead of sounding like a new band struggling through growing pains, Vampire Weekend feels it knows exactly what it's doing.

The band has mixed together such disparate genres as punk, ska, chamber pop and African rhythm into an accessible, fun, and unpretentious

package. The band is having fun mixing and matching these styles. What has resulted is the most listenable indie rock record in a long time.

Each song on the album has a different feel, but they all fit into the established style that Vampire Weekend has created. The track "Mansard Roof" sustains an atypical rhythm for the entire song while string samples and guitar interludes flow in and out of the mix and the lead singer provides the singing style much akin to that of a Jamaican pop artist.

The song "M79" begins with a harp-sichord and strings segment that sound much more fitting for a Wes Anderson film than anything else. "A-Punk" sounds like a song an accomplished Ska band would put out at the height of their powers.

In "Walcott," perhaps the most impressive song of the album, the band combines everything they know into a sonic crescendo that leaves the listener absolutely breathless. The band already

sounds like they've been making pop songs for years.

The lyrics could be called a weak point, but to be honest, it is not their goal to be deep lyricists. They have catchy lyrics that ultimately don't mean much, but they fit well within the sound that the band has created.

"Vampire Weekend" sounds like the future of pop music but is also a product of the present. As the world gets smaller and more connected, it is only natural that our music will become more of an amalgamation of international styles.

Other countries have been influenced by popular American music for years. Hopefully Vampire Weekend will lead a new generation of applying world music genres to American popular rock.

But where Vampire Weekend succeeds the most is that the band used its innovation to make a fun, listenable record. Other innovators in the genre are almost too experimental and only appeal to avid audiophiles, but Vampire Weekend has created a new sound that's accessible to everyone.

This is the first release of the year that I can see myself listening to and enjoying months down the line. It's the kind of music in which the 100th



Photo courtesy of flickr.com

Vampire Weekend's Ezra Koenig performs in Columbus, Ohio on Valentine's Day.

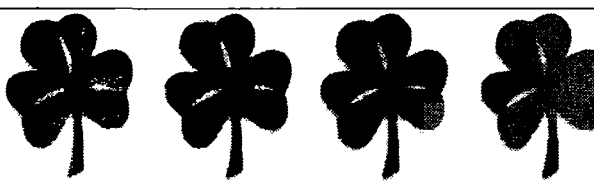
listen retains the novelty and energy of the first.

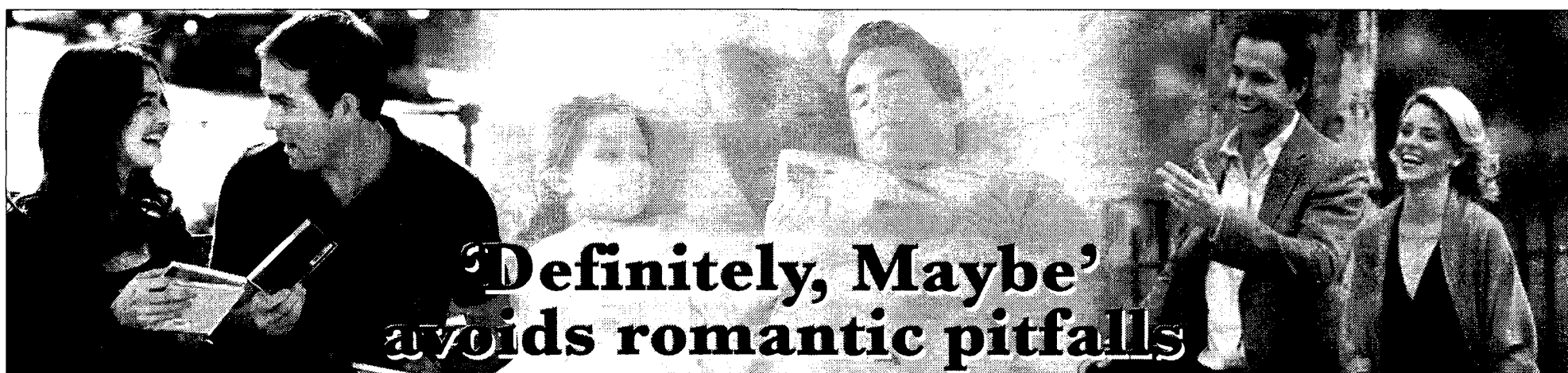
If you are at all interested in the future of independent pop music or just the future of good music in general, you owe it to yourself to give this album a try. Plus, you can tell your friends that you were a fan before they got big.

Contact Mychal Stanley at wstanley@nd.edu

Vampire Weekend Vampire Weekend

Released by: XL
Recommended Tracks: "Mansard Roof," "A-Punk" and "Walcott"





MATT HUDSON | Observer Graphic

By CAITLIN FERRARO
Scene Writer

Billed as just another romantic comedy with a silly title, "Definitely, Maybe" was definitely a pleasant surprise.

A great ensemble cast, smart dialogue and a creative storyline make "Definitely, Maybe" a worthwhile film. It's a watch-able romantic comedy that avoids the usual clichés. There are no overly sentimental moments that ruin so many other films of the same genre.

After his daughter Maya (Abigail Breslin) has an impromptu sex ed class, she wants to know if she was an accident, and soon-to-be-divorcee Will Hayes (Ryan Reynolds) obliges Maya with a mostly true version of how he met her mother. Will decides to change all of the names of the women in his narrative, which creates a "mystery love story" (as Maya dubs it) for her to uncover. But more than the story of how he found and lost love, it is the story of Will's life. As the story evolves so do its characters. Will moves from a youthful liberal fresh out of college to a rueful adult contemplating his past.

Breslin charms as always (though she handles her parents' divorce surprisingly well), and Reynolds holds his own.

It is his best performance to date as he captures the essence of an idealistic kid working on the '92 Clinton campaign. He has a great combination of charisma, comedic timing and good looks. But the true heart of this film are the three contenders to be Will's wife. Possibilities range from Emily (Elizabeth Banks), the blonde college sweetheart who worries the big city will change her man, to Summer Hartley (Rachel Weisz), the sultry brunette writer who has an unconventional relationship with her much senior professor (Kevin Kline) to April (Isla Fisher), the apolitical red-headed copy girl who quickly becomes Will's friend.

With most romantic comedies, the path to the film's conclusion is apparent and predictable, but the case is not so with "Definitely, Maybe." All three women have merits, but also flaws, allowing them to be worthy candidates as Maya's mother.

It also helps that Banks, Weisz, and Fisher's characters are not stale imitations of women. Instead, they are interesting and independent which makes Will's choice and the viewers' even harder. Reynolds acts as the perfect foil for these spunky women.

Fisher particularly shines and is able to create a character distinct from her infamous portrayal of Gloria in "Wedding Crashers." Her quirky, talkative, free-spirited April is a wonderful offset to Reynolds' one-track-minded Will. Also, Kline is a

scene-stealer as the drunken, womanizing Professor Hampton Roth.

While entirely enjoyable, this film is not going to join the ranks of classic romantic comedies like "Love Actually" or "When Harry Met Sally" anytime soon. Actor Derek Luke is grossly underused as Will's best friend and business partner, and you never quite know why Will and his wife are getting a divorce.

But the movie was filmed in New York City, which is a refreshing change compared to most

NYC-based films. Writer/Director Adam Brooks creates the '90s ambience with care, remembering the oversized cell phones, the grunge of Kurt Cobain and

The film could not have come out at a better time because in addition to a Valentine's Day release, it is also a whiff of nostalgia of the Clinton days. Will and his coworkers must navigate the rocky waters of Bill's affair with Gennifer Flowers and his unsuccessful definition of "is."

truly crappy New York apartments.

The film could not have come out at a better time because in addition to a Valentine's Day release, it is also a whiff of nostalgia of the Clinton days. Will and his coworkers must navigate the rocky waters of Bill's affair with Gennifer Flowers and his unsuccessful definition of "is."

Will tells the story of his love life in chronological order with a few interruptions by an inquisitive Maya in the present day. The relationships are relatively realistic interpretations as they show all of the imperfections that come along with love. But, the most engaging love story is that between father and daughter. The two have a wonderful rapport on screen and their love for each other shows. Reynolds is actually a believable dad, Breslin is the heart of the story, and because she cares, we care.

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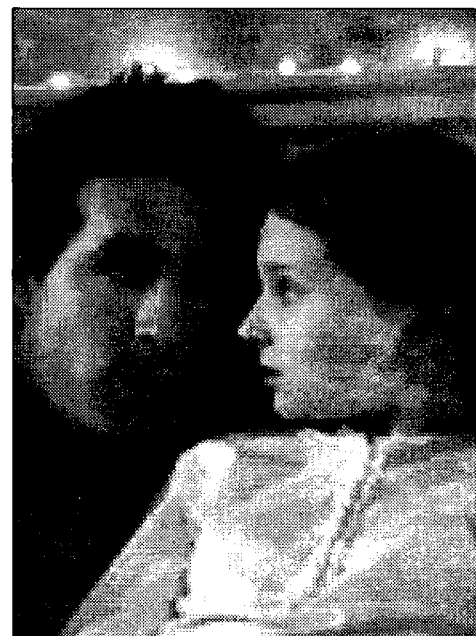


Photo courtesy of koat.com

Will Hayes (Reynolds) reminisces of his love life with his daughter Maya (Breslin).



Photo courtesy of rottentomatoes.com

Maya (Abigail Breslin) is curious about how her father and mother first met.

Definitely, Maybe Universal Pictures

Director: Adam Brooks

Starring: Ryan Reynolds, Abigail Breslin, Elizabeth Banks, Rachel Weisz and Isla Fisher



Photo courtesy of rottentomatoes.com

Elizabeth Banks plays Emily, Will Hayes' college sweetheart.



Photo courtesy of rottentomatoes.com

Rachel Weisz plays the intellectual, yet precarious Summer Hartley.



Photo courtesy of rottentomatoes.com

Isla Fisher plays April, a red-head who wants Will to be more than just friends.

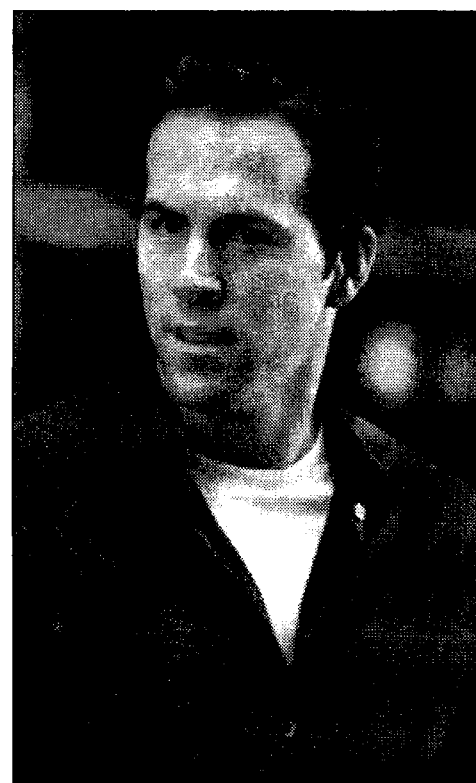


Photo courtesy of rottentomatoes.com

Ryan Reynolds plays the recently divorced Will Hayes living in New York.

NBA

Paul leads Hornets over Mavs in Kidd's debut

LeBron tallies second straight triple-double as Cavs beat Pacers; new point guard Williams shines in Nets victory over Bulls

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Chris Paul had 31 points, 11 assists and a career-high nine steals, spoiling Jason Kidd's debut with Dallas and lifting the New Orleans Hornets to a 104-93 victory over the Mavericks on Wednesday night.

Kidd, acquired Tuesday from New Jersey, looked out of sorts at times, committing six turnovers.

Meanwhile, Paul's dazzling performance on both ends of the floor had the enraptured crowd on its feet, raining down chants of "M-V-P!" for their own All-Star point guard while a banner offering similar sentiments flapped from the upper deck.

Kidd, who had practiced only twice with his new team, finished with eight points and five assists.

While Paul dribbled surgically through Dallas' defense, Peja Stojakovic and Bobby Jackson shot with precision from the perimeter, combining for eight of the Hornets' 10 3-pointers as the Hornets won their fifth straight.

Stojakovic made three 3-pointers and finished with 18 points, while Jackson hit five and wound up with 17 points. David West also scored 18 for New Orleans, despite playing with

foul trouble in the second half.

Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas with 31 points. Reserve Jason Terry scored 14 points and Erick Dampier added 11.

Paul, whose nine steals tied a franchise high, scored 19 points in the third quarter, when he hit all seven of his shots, including a pair of 3-pointers, to help New Orleans surge to an 11-point lead.

New Orleans began to pull away when Stojakovic hit a jumper and Paul followed with an open 3 after Kidd got tangled up with two other players and fell. Soon after, Paul fed Hilton Armstrong inside for a three-point play, then Paul capped a 10-2 run with a pull-up jumper with just over a second left in the third quarter to give New Orleans a 75-64 lead heading into the final period.

New Orleans widened its lead to 17 in the fourth quarter, when Jackson made two of his 3-pointers and Dallas began to look tired and miss shots.

Neither team led by more than six during an intense but sometimes sloppy first half during which both teams turned the ball over 11 times.

Nowitzki and West each scored 14 points during the first two periods, but both also were called for three fouls.

Kidd made an immediate contribution on Dallas' first possession, feeding Josh Howard for a basket inside. However, he sometimes looked out of synch with his new teammates, who sometimes pulled him aside after unfruitful possessions and pointed out instructions.

Some of Kidd's problems had more to do with Paul, who set a franchise record for steals in a half with seven.

Cavaliers 106, Pacers 97

With all due respect to the league's top talent, Cleveland coach Mike Brown considers the MVP race over.

LeBron James had his second consecutive triple-double, with 31 points, 14 rebounds and 12 assists, and the Cavaliers beat the Indiana Pacers on Wednesday night.

Brown was most impressed that James got the triple-doubles on back-to-back nights on the road. He had 26 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists in Tuesday's loss at Houston.

"LeBron — what can I say? He's the MVP. He's the MVP this year. I don't care how many games are left or what not," Brown said. "This guy is terrific. He just does everything out on the floor."

James said he takes pride in doing it all.

"I just go out and try to play my game," he said. "My game is not just go out and score, it's about getting others involved and helping each other on the defensive end."

James had 10 points, seven rebounds and two assists in the final 12 minutes.

The fourth quarter was virtually even until James went up for a rebound and landed on Indiana's Travis Diener. Diener was called for a foul, and Indiana coach Jim O'Brien got a technical for disagreeing with the call. Cleveland made two of three free throws to take a 99-94 lead.

Larry Hughes followed with a 3-pointer to make it 102-94 with 1:39 to go. Granger responded with a 3 of his own, but Indiana got no closer.

"I'm going to get us in the best position to make plays in the fourth quarter, either if I'm handling the ball or playing off the



Cavaliers star LeBron James passes around Pacers forward Jeff Foster on Wednesday in Cleveland's 106-97 win.

ball," James said. "I attract so much attention that a lot of guys get some open looks. The biggest look of the night was Larry hitting the dagger in the corner. That was a big shot."

Nets 110, Bulls 102

Jason Kidd is gone and Devin Harris isn't ready. So now comes Marcus Williams' big chance, and he looks ready to capitalize on it.

Williams, in his first game as Kidd's temporary replacement at point guard, combined with Richard Jefferson for New Jersey's first 10 points of overtime, and the Nets beat the Chicago Bulls on Wednesday night.

Williams scored a season-best 25 points and had a key steal in overtime. Jefferson finished with 24 points and added a big blocked shot in the extra session. Both players had six points in overtime.

"There has never been anyone in the locker room who did not have confidence in Marcus," Jefferson said. "You look at who he played behind and the tough spot he's been in. No one was surprised. He did a good job on the defensive end, too."

Vince Carter led the Nets with a season-high 33 points, then left with 6.6 seconds left in over-

time after his hamstring cramped up. By then, Williams and Jefferson had dominated the extra period on both ends of the floor, helping the Nets to their 13th straight home victory over the Bulls.

The Nets traded Kidd, who led them to two NBA finals appearances, along with Antoine Wright and Malik Allen to Dallas for five players, two first-round picks and cash. With Harris, the centerpiece of the deal from New Jersey's end, unavailable for perhaps two more weeks with a sprained left ankle, Williams will get a chance to run the team for a while.

"It felt good to go out there and not have to look over your shoulder after every mistake you make," Williams said. "With Jason there, you make a mistake and you probably come out. You know now that the coaches and your teammates have confidence in you."

Trenton Hassell, DeSagana Diop and Maurice Ager all made their Nets debuts, with Hassell coming up with a key steal with just over a minute left in regulation. Keith Van Horn, who hasn't played since the end of the 2005-06 season, met with coach Lawrence Frank earlier Wednesday but may not play at all for the Nets.



Hornets forward Peja Stojakovic backs down Mavericks forward Josh Howard in the first half of New Orleans' 104-93 win Wednesday.

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 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

WANTED

Oakhill Condo for Sale. Students will love living here and parents will love knowing their child is looked after and safe! Secure, upstairs, two-level furnished two-bedroom, two-bath condo unit with loft area. One thousand twenty-two square feet of beautifully redecorated living space - includes 42" HD flat screen TV and parking spaces in front of condo. Garages are available at an additional cost. Parking lot surveillance cameras, pool, clubhouse, water and rubbish removal included as part of the ownership package. Only \$180 per month exterior maintenance fees. Five minute walk or less to the Notre Dame campus, shopping and restaurants. Less than ten minutes to other hot spots and mall by car. \$200,000. Only serious offers considered. 562-733-5166.

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PERSONAL

PREGNANT OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS? You do not have to be alone. We want to help. Call our 24 hour confidential hotline at 1-800-No Abort or visit our web site at www.lifecall.org

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? Do not go it alone. If you or someone you love needs confidential support or assistance, please call Sr. Sue Dunn, OP, at 1-7819. For more information, visit our website at: <http://osa.nd.edu/departments/pregnant.shtml> or see our bi-weekly ad in The Observer. If you or someone you care about has been sexually assaulted, visit <http://osa.nd.edu/departments/rape.shtml>

Happy Birthday Richie!

(for real this time)

Mama told me when I was young Come sit beside me, my only son And listen closely to what I say. And if you do this It will help you some sunny day.

Take your time... dont live too fast, Troubles will come and they will pass. Go find a woman and you'll find love, And dont forget son, There is someone up above.

And be a simple kind of man. Be something you love and understand.

Be a simple kind of man. Wont you do this for me son, If you can

Forget your lust for the rich mans gold All that you need is in your soul, And you can do this if you try. All that I want for you my son, Is to be satisfied.

Boy, dont you worry... you'll find yourself. Follow you heart and nothing else. And you can do this if you try. All I want for you my son, Is to be satisfied.

The MB room is open for reservations, KC can take the couch.

I've got some big news, the bank finally came through, And I'm holding the keys to the brand new Chevrolet Have you been outside? It sure is a nice night How about a little test-drive, down by the lake?

There's a place I know about, where the dirt road runs out We can try out the four-wheel drive Come on now what's ya say? Girl I can hardly wait- To get a little mud on the tires Cause it's a good night, to be out there soaking' up the moonlight Steak out a little piece of shoreline, I got the perfect place in mind It's in the middle of nowhere, only one way to get there Gotta get a little mud on the tires

Sun sets about nine, this time of year We can throw a blanket down, crickets singing in the background And more stars than you can count on a night this clear Tell ya what we need to do, grab a sleepin' bag or two And build us a little campfire Then with a little luck, we might just get stuck, Lets get a little mud on the tires

AROUND THE NATION

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Thursday, February 21, 2008

page 15

NHL

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	pts.	GF	GA
New Jersey	34-21-5	73	161	143
Pittsburgh	34-21-5	73	177	161
NY Rangers	30-24-8	68	157	155
Philadelphia	30-24-6	66	186	174
NY Islanders	28-25-7	53	150	174

Eastern Conference, Northeast Division

team	record	pts.	GF	GA
Ottawa	35-20-5	75	204	177
Montreal	33-19-9	75	192	172
Boston	30-23-6	66	155	160
Buffalo	28-23-8	64	173	166
Toronto	25-27-9	59	168	194

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	pts.	GF	GA
Carolina	30-28-5	65	183	201
Washington	28-26-6	62	171	185
Atlanta	29-28-4	62	165	195
Florida	27-29-6	60	169	178
Tampa Bay	25-28-6	56	171	193

Western Conference, Central Division

team	record	pts.	GF	GA
Detroit	42-15-5	89	199	136
Nashville	32-23-7	71	181	172
St. Louis	28-22-9	65	157	164
Columbus	27-26-9	63	150	164
Chicago	27-26-6	60	166	169

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	pts.	GF	GA
Minnesota	34-21-5	73	169	163
Vancouver	30-22-8	68	160	154
Calgary	30-22-8	68	174	175
Colorado	30-25-5	65	165	166
Edmonton	27-29-5	59	164	183

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	pts.	GF	GA
Dallas	37-21-5	79	183	155
Anaheim	33-23-7	73	156	157
San Jose	31-20-8	70	154	146
Phoenix	31-26-4	66	169	168
Los Angeles	25-34-3	53	176	205

NCAA Men's Hockey USCHO Poll

rank	team	record	previous
1	Michigan	25-3-4	1
2	North Dakota	19-8-2	3
3	New Hampshire	19-7-2	4
4	Colorado College	21-8-1	5
5	Miami	25-6-1	2
6	Michigan State	20-8-5	8
7	Boston College	16-7-7	7
8	Denver	19-10-1	6
9	NOTRE DAME	21-10-3	9
10	Wisconsin	14-12-6	10

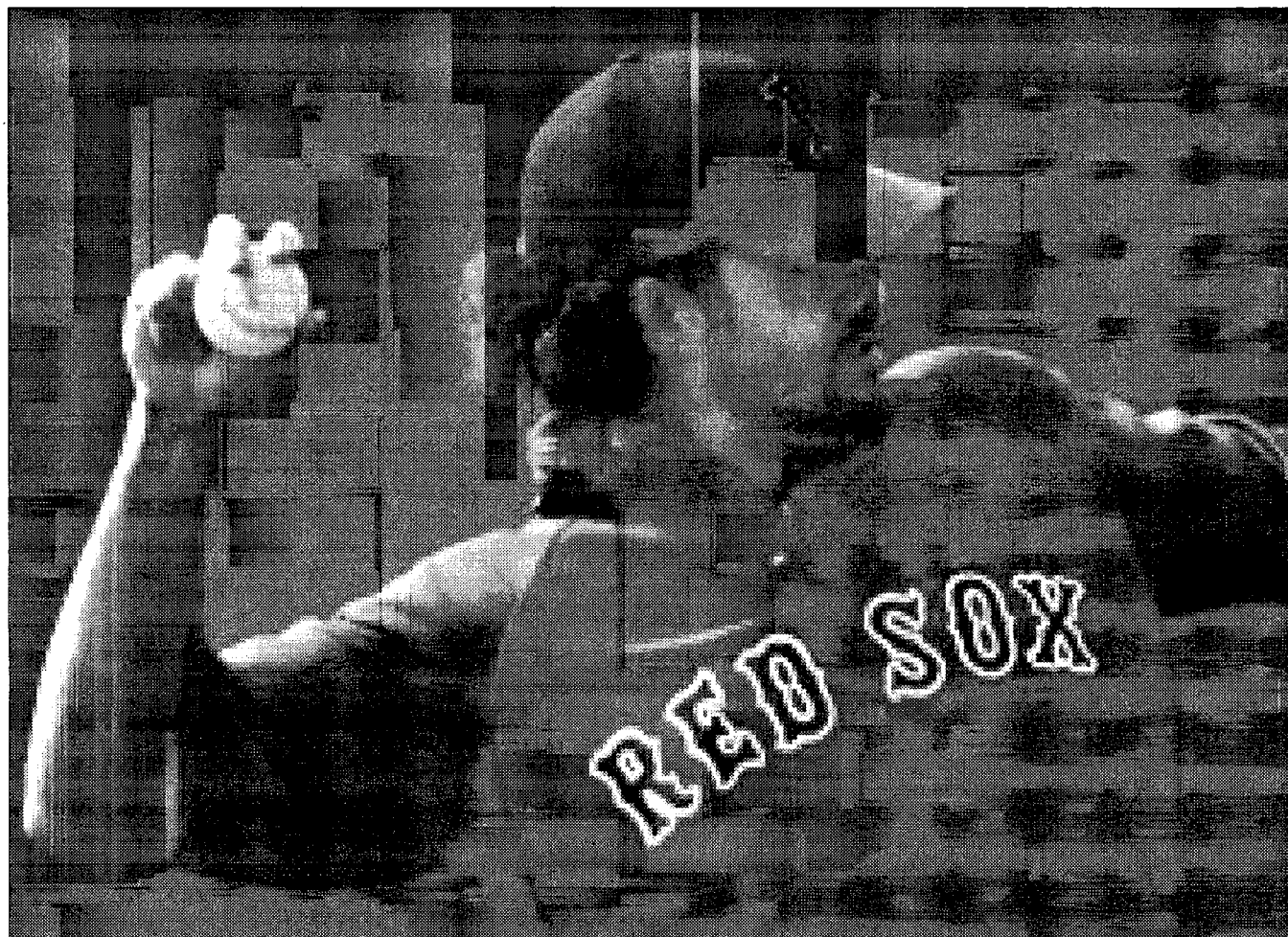
around the dial

NCAA BASKETBALL

Pittsburgh at Notre Dame
7 p.m., ESPN

Michigan at Minnesota
9 p.m., ESPN2

MLB



Red Sox outfielder Coco Crisp throws a ball at the team's training camp Wednesday. Crisp, whose starting job was given to Jacoby Ellsbury during Boston's World Series run last season, said he might seek a trade if he is not starting.

Crisp could request trade from Red Sox

Associated Press

FORT MYERS — Coco Crisp, who lost his center field job to rookie Jacoby Ellsbury in the postseason, said Wednesday he'd probably talk to the Boston Red Sox about trading him if it appears he won't get his starting job back.

"Honestly, I think so because I want to play," Crisp said before his spring training workout. "I wouldn't be happy sitting on the bench."

He's not even certain he'll get an equal chance in the competition for the job. Manager Terry Francona said Wednesday it would be.

"I'm not sure," Crisp said calmly when asked if the bat-

tle for the job with the prized prospect will be fair. "I'm not sure how everything's going to break down. I'm really unsure of a lot of things this year."

The 28-year-old Crisp started 145 games last year and played outstanding defense. But he batted only .268 in his second season with Boston after being obtained from Cleveland to replace Johnny Damon, who signed as a free agent with the New York Yankees.

The 24-year-old Ellsbury started the season at Double-A Portland. After being recalled Sept. 1, he played in 26 games, hitting safely in 23 of them and finishing the season with a .353 average with

nine stolen bases in 33 games.

But after Crisp hit .182 in the first eight postseason games, Ellsbury became the starter in Game 6 of the AL championship series and hit .375 in the remaining six games—two wins against Cleveland and a four-game World Series sweep against Colorado.

"He was hot and I was struggling at that time," Crisp said, "so you got to put who's hot and who's doing the best out there offensively. So I understood it."

In the offseason, Crisp said, he heard trade rumors involving Minnesota, Texas and the Chicago Cubs. He and Ellsbury were mentioned

in reports about talks with the Twins involving pitcher Johan Santana, who went to the New York Mets.

"I would honestly rather be somewhere else and play than be on the bench," he said. "But I'll take whatever comes and deal with it and no knock against Boston. I love the fans. They treated me well."

The possibility of having a disgruntled player is one of the few clouds hanging over the World Series champions. Nearly the entire team that swept Colorado for the title is back. Aside from a shoulder injury that figures to keep Curt Schilling out at least to the All-Star break, the Red Sox are healthy.

IN BRIEF

Clemens will not appear at Disney celebrity weekend

Roger Clemens has pulled out of an ESPN sports personality weekend at Disney Hollywood Studios. The decision comes a week after Clemens gave testimony to a congressional committee about his alleged use of performance enhancing drugs.

Clemens says in a statement Wednesday, "I believe my current participation could be a distraction."

ESPN spokesman Josh Krulewitz says ESPN "made the point that him being involved would be a newsworthy event," and his decision to withdraw was made in the past 24 hours.

Clemens had agreed to participate in "ESPN the Weekend" before the release of the Mitchell Report.

The withdrawal came after Clemens and his former trainer, Brian McNamee, offered widely contradictory testimony to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on Feb. 13.

Raiders cornerback arrested at home on battery charges

BRADENTON, Fla. — Oakland Raiders cornerback Fabian Washington was released on bond after being arrested at the Florida home he shares with his girlfriend and charged with domestic battery.

The Manatee County sheriff's department said Washington, 24, was arrested late Tuesday following what the girlfriend described as an argument that turned physical. The athlete was freed Wednesday after posting \$2,000 bail.

According to a police report, Washington said he and his girlfriend were arguing about the former first-round draft pick "hanging out with other girls." Washington told a sheriff's deputy that the argument did not turn physical.

The woman, however, said Washington grabbed her from behind and "backpedaled" her away from the couple's baby. The deputy said he observed "slight red marks" on the victim's neck and that Washington was arrested.

Rodriguez says he was tested 9 or 10 times in 2007

TAMPA, Fla. — Alex Rodriguez sat in the first-base dugout at Legends Field, surrounded by the usual circle of cameras, microphones and reporters. He knows the scrutiny will only increase as he approaches Barry Bonds' career home-run record, especially in an era when all top athletes must prove they haven't juiced up on performance-enhancing drugs.

In his first session with reporters during spring training, Rodriguez talked about baseball's drug-testing program and made a curious statement.

"Last year, I got tested 9-to-10 times," Rodriguez said. "We have a very, very strict policy, and I think the game is making tremendous strides."

Rodriguez could have been exaggerating about the amount of tests, he could have been selected for an unusually high number of checks or he might have dropped a clue to something else.

NHL

Vanek's OT goal gives Sabres win

Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — After vowing the Buffalo Sabres would make the playoffs, Thomas Vanek backed it up with a clutch performance.

Vanek scored three consecutive goals, including the winner 2:25 into overtime, in rallying the Sabres to a 4-3 win over the stunned Tampa Bay Lightning on Wednesday night.

"We need points and we got two points, that's the most important part," said Vanek. "It's good to stop the losing streak at two and hopefully putting a streak the other way."

Vanek was the star three days after he all but guaranteed the Sabres would make the playoffs following a dreadful weekend in which Buffalo lost back-to-back games: 4-1 against Pittsburgh on Sunday and 5-1 to the New York Rangers on Saturday.

Buffalo improved to 9-2-2 in its past 13 games and into a three-way tie with Boston and Philadelphia for seventh in the Eastern Conference.

"It feels great," said Vanek, who has scored 12 goals — including four game-winners — in 11 games after he managed just 13 in his first 50 of the season. "It's finally coming and

hopefully I can stay on my game from here on out."

Vanek scored twice in a span of 36 seconds, forcing overtime when he stuffed in Tim Connolly's feed with 1:45 left in regulation.

Not done yet, Vanek capped a nifty tic-tac-toe play in overtime with Tampa Bay's Dan Boyle in the penalty box for hooking.

Jason Pominville started the play from the left point by feeding Jaroslav Spacek in the right circle. Spacek then immediately sent a pass through the crease to Vanek, who stuffed it inside the left post.

Derek Roy had a goal and assist while Connolly had three assists for Buffalo, which improved to 10-1 in its past 11 meetings against the Lightning.

Brad Richards, Vaclav Prospal and Chris Gratton scored for the Lightning, who fell to 4-1-2 in their past six, and remain in last place in the East.

The loss incensed Lightning coach John Tortorella, who erupted briefly in the team's locker room with reporters present. "You better get it figured out, because I'm not going to be around it," Tortorella yelled.

The coach was a little more subdued a few minutes later when meeting with reporters outside the locker room.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Tar Heels cruise past Wolfpack

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Tyler Hansbrough never forgot the sinking feeling he had when North Carolina State's fans stormed the court to celebrate the Wolfpack's upset of highly ranked North Carolina last year.

"That moment last year was very, very disappointing," he said. "It was in the back of my mind, but I didn't say anything to anybody."

He almost single-handedly wouldn't let the Tar Heels experience that again.

The junior All-American had 32 points — including 16 during the decisive 11-minute run — to help No. 3 North Carolina beat rival N.C. State 84-70 on Wednesday night, continuing his recent surge that has helped the Tar Heels stay afloat without injured point guard Ty Lawson.

Wayne Ellington added 21 points for the Tar Heels (25-2, 10-2 Atlantic Coast Conference), who led by 20 points to easily avenge last year's 83-79 loss here.

North Carolina played its fifth straight game without Lawson, the speedy sophomore who sprained his left ankle in the early minutes of an overtime win at Florida State earlier this month. Yet the 6-foot-9 Hansbrough came through with another big day, finishing 11-

for-19 from the field while tallying 12 rebounds and five steals against the Wolfpack (15-11, 4-8).

"He gives you the same thing every night," North Carolina coach Roy Williams said, "and that's absolutely the best that he can give you."

Hansbrough is averaging 27.8 points and 13.3 rebounds in the six-game stretch that began with the Florida State win, keeping him atop the ACC in both scoring and rebounding.

On Wednesday night, he did a little of everything. He passed out of double teams. He made tough shots inside against N.C. State freshman star J.J. Hickson. He outfought and out-hustled N.C. State's players to rebounds while being the prime target for boos from frustrated home fans.

At one point, Hansbrough had 24 of North Carolina's 50 points.

"Everybody talks about Tyler Hansbrough as a player-of-the-year candidate, and the game like tonight is exactly why," said Marcus Ginyard, who had 13 points for the Tar Heels. "The guy's going to battle throughout the whole game. He's going to get banged up, but he's still going to finish."

Ellington also came through, scoring 12 points after the break and finishing with three 3-pointers for the game — including one just before half-

time that capped a 9-0 spurt and gave North Carolina a 34-31 lead at the break.

The Tar Heels didn't let up in the second half, extending that modest push into a 31-7 run that silenced a once-rowdy crowd and took all drama out of this one.

Before the run, N.C. State led 31-25 on a one-handed alley-oop dunk by Courtney Fells off a pass from Gavin Grant with 4:50 left in the half — a high-light-reel play that had the Wolfpack dreaming of another upset. By the time Hansbrough ended the run with a slam off a halfcourt steal, North Carolina led 56-38 with about 14 minutes to go.

"In the second half, they came out and turned it up again and we didn't respond," said N.C. State coach Sidney Lowe, who again donned a bright red blazer for the rivalry game. "Our defense wasn't there as it was in the first half, and obviously against a team like that you have to stay solid and focused. We weren't, and they took advantage of that."

North Carolina shot 53 percent for the game and got another capable performance from senior Quentin Thomas, who matched his career high of 10 points to go with seven assists in Lawson's place.

Grant scored 17 points to lead N.C. State, which has lost four straight games.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Hurricanes defeat No. 5 Duke for first time in 45 years

Associated Press

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — Looking to bounce back from their first conference loss, the Duke Blue Devils instead stumbled again.

The Miami Hurricanes beat Duke (No. 4 ESPN/USA Today, No. 5 AP) for the first time in 45 years Wednesday, scoring 15 consecutive points to build a big lead early in the second half and holding on

to win 96-95.

Ranked No. 2 just last week, the Blue Devils (22-3 overall, 10-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) lost for the second time in four days.

"Our team — there's something missing this week," coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "We are not the same team these last two ball-games. It's almost like someone has come in and invaded their bodies."

Miami (18-7, 5-6) beat Duke for

the first time since the first game in the series Dec. 21, 1962. The Blue Devils had won all 10 games since.

"I had a feeling," said Jack McClinton, who scored 22 points for the Hurricanes. "Something inside of me felt good about our team. I just felt something great was going to happen."

Miami made six of eight free throws in the final 41 seconds to preserve the upset. Duke's DeMarcus Nelson sank a layup with 2 seconds left to make the score 94-92, but McClinton sank two clinching free throws before Nelson hit a meaningless 3-point-er at the buzzer.

"We're going to turn this thing back around," Nelson said. "We've been too good all year to have whatever it is holding us back as a team. We're definitely going to find out what it is and address it. Our season is not going on a downward spiral."

Senior Dwayne Collins scored a career-high 26 points to help the Hurricanes win their third ACC game in a row. They beat a top-five team for the first time since a victory at No. 2 Connecticut on Feb. 20, 1999.

"It's a special win," Hurricanes coach Frank Haith said. "The atmosphere we had out there was terrific. But we can't stop. We're still trying to build a resume to make the NCAA tournament. There's no question this helps."

Sophomore Jon Scheyer scored a career-high 27 points for the Blue Devils, who nearly rallied from a 20-point second-half deficit.

The Blue Devils had a season-high turnover total for the second game in a row, losing the ball 23 times. They struggled shooting



Miami guard Jack McClinton reacts after draining a jumper in the Hurricane's 96-95 upset of No. 5 Duke.

from the perimeter against Miami's zone, and when Duke tried to force the ball inside, the Hurricanes often tipped it away and repeatedly showed more hustle chasing loose balls.

"We did not play very well," Krzyzewski said. "Obviously they had a lot to do with that."

Miami's Jimmy Graham leaped out of bounds to make one save, hitting a teammate with a pass that bounced between a Duke player's legs.

The Blue Devils also gave up a season-high point total for the second successive game. They

missed seven shots and committed four turnovers during the drought, which left them trailing 59-39.

Duke struggled from the start against Miami's zone, failing to score on eight consecutive possessions. The Blue Devils committed eight turnovers in the first 8 minutes, missed seven shots in a row and fell behind 17-11.

Duke twice tied the score later in the half, but the Hurricanes scored on their last four possessions, and Collins' reverse layup in the final seconds put them up 41-36 at halftime.

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PGA TOUR

Woods rallies for win in match play

Associated Press

MARANA, Ariz. — Tiger Woods was running out of holes, but not hope.

He had never fallen three holes behind and come back to win in match play as a professional, and his predicament looked particularly dire Wednesday when he took a penalty drop in the desert to lose another hole against J.B. Holmes with five to play.

What followed was a charge that had Woods pumping his fists and Holmes shaking his head.

"You're playing the best player in the world, 3 up with five to play," Holmes said. "I just said, 'Don't do anything stupid. Make him beat you.' And he did. What do you do?"

Woods won four straight holes with three birdies and a 35-footer for eagle to produce another stunning rally in the desert, this one allowing him to escape in the first round of the Accenture Match Play Championship.

The last time Woods played, he shot 31 on the back nine of the Dubai Desert Classic to rally from a four-shot deficit to win. In the high desert north of Tucson, he played the back nine in 30 for a 1-up victory.

"For some reason, momentum just goes your way," Woods said. "You just get on a run. Sometimes the run is early in the round, sometimes middle or late. It just so happened the last two rounds, it was late. But at least it happened today. At least I had a run. I wasn't playing good enough to win the match unless I had a run."

Fourth-seeded Ernie Els made a run to the airport, losing in the first round for the fourth straight time at this World Golf Championship. He shot 40 on the front nine to fall 6-down, and suffered his worst defeat in 15 matches, 6 and 5 to Jonathan Byrd.

The other top seeds advanced, but not by much.

Phil Mickelson, fresh off his victory at Riviera, withstood back-to-back birdie putts of 40 feet by Pat Perez by making a 4-foot par putt on the 18th for a 1-up victory. Steve Stricker got a small measure of revenge against Daniel Chopra. After losing to him in a four-hole playoff last month at the Mercedes-Benz Championship, Stricker defeated him in 20 holes with an 8-footer for birdie.

Woods started his match by hitting a tee shot into the desert and out of bounds.

"One of the worst shots I've hit in a long time," Woods said.

It looked as though it might end early until a 15-foot birdie on the 14th hole, followed by a meaningless birdie putt from 18 feet on the 15th after Holmes' three-putt. Woods' foot slipped on his downswing at the par-3 16th, and he found a footprint in his line when he arrived on the green, but he rolled in a third straight birdie putt to square the match.

That led to the kind of theater this format always delivers, and Woods came through again.

From 287 yards in the rough, a crisp breeze behind

him, Woods hammered a 5-wood that stopped 35 feet from the hole for eagle. Holmes had 45 feet and left it short, and Woods only wanted to make sure he didn't hit it too hard.

It was perfect.

"It was just one of those things where everything kind of turned my way," Woods said.

Holmes missed an 8-foot birdie putt on the 18th — the same distance he had when he beat Mickelson three weeks ago in Phoenix — that would have extended the match.

"He struggled a little bit early in the round, and then made every putt he looked at when he needed to," Holmes said. "That's why he's the best."

Four of the top eight seeds were gone after the first day of the Match Play, one of the most chaotic days in golf. Jim Furyk (No. 6) continued to struggle with his game, losing to Colin Montgomerie, 3 and 2; Justin Rose (7) fell to Rod Pampling, 2 and 1; and Rory Sabbatini, who played college golf at Arizona, lost to Bradley Dredge, 4 and 3.

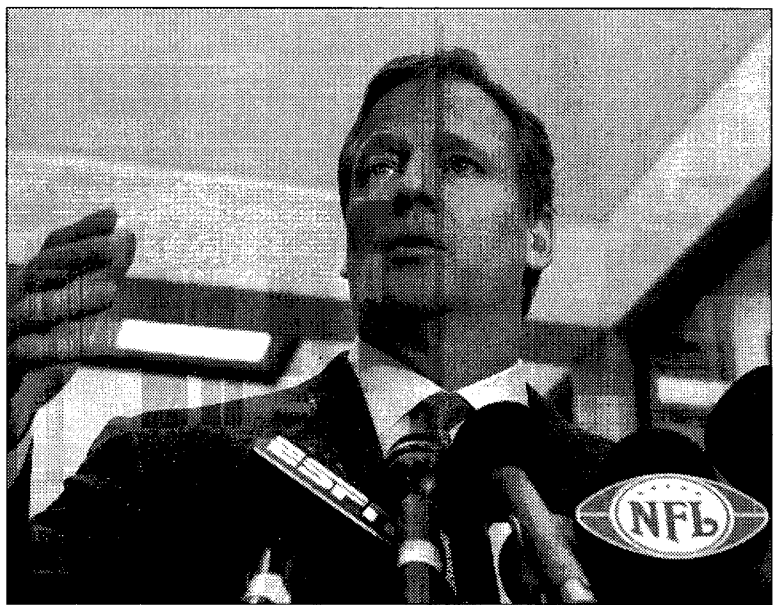
"You can never really fancy your chances in this format," Lee Westwood said after making eight birdies in a 3-and-2 victory over Brandt Snedeker. "This is the kind of week where you unpack, but you don't move stuff too far away from your suitcase."

Woods appeared to have his bags packed.

He had said Tuesday that when players fall behind two or three holes, they generally lose.

NFL

Goodell hopes to meet with Walsh



NFL commissioner Roger Goodell discusses meeting with former Patriots employee Matt Walsh regarding alleged taping Wednesday.

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — NFL commissioner Roger Goodell hopes the NFL is close to an agreement that will allow former New England Patriots employee Matt Walsh to tell the league about the tapes he is said to have made of the St. Louis Rams' walkthrough before the 2002 Super Bowl.

"The lawyers are still talking and we're anxious to speak to him. We're anxious to get an agreement to get him to come forth," Goodell told the Associated Press on Wednesday before the start of the NFL combine.

"We hope to be able to talk to him shortly."

Walsh, now a golf pro in Maui, did video work for the Patriots when they won the first of their three Super Bowls after the 2001 season. Three weeks ago, the Boston Herald reported that Walsh claimed he had taped the practice before the Patriots' 20-17 upset of the Rams, who were two-touchdown favorites.

NFL lawyers have been meeting with Michael Levy, Walsh's

Washington-based lawyer, who is seeking further protection for his client if he tells what he knows.

Levy said last week that the NFL's offer of protection "is highly conditional and still leaves Mr. Walsh vulnerable. I have asked the NFL to provide Mr. Walsh with the necessary legal protections so that he can come forward with the truth without fear of retaliation and litigation."

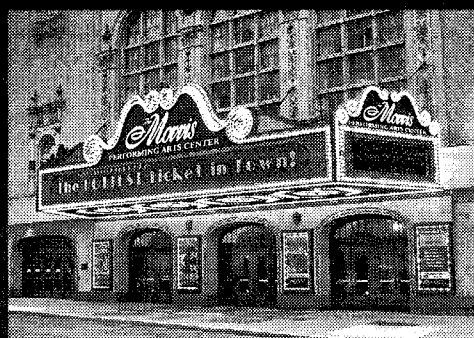
Goodell has said that Walsh was not interviewed as part of the NFL's investigation into "Spygate," which involved the NFL confiscating tapes from a Patriots employee who recorded the New York Jets' defensive signals from the sideline during the opening game of the 2007 season.

As a result of that investigation, New England coach Bill Belichick was fined \$500,000 and the team was fined \$250,000 and forfeited its 2008 first-round draft choice.

Six confiscated tapes and other documents pertaining to the Patriots' taping were subsequently destroyed by the league.

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HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Despite tragedy, La. team prevails

Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — Less than 24 hours after star point guard Shannon Veal collapsed on the court and died, her teammates at Glen Oaks High School finished what she started — winning a playoff game amid emotional support from the LSU women's basketball team, among others.

"It was hard, it was hard not seeing that No. 25," Glen Oaks High School coach Harold Boudreaux said, referring to Veal's jersey number. "But I give it to my kids. They came out. They held their composure. They played under control. What more can you ask for?"

Glen Oaks beat opponent Helen Cox 67-40 in the regional playoff game that had been suspended the night before when Veal, 17, collapsed just before halftime. An autopsy on Tuesday indicated Veal's death was the result of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy — a thickening of the heart muscle — according to the East Baton Rouge Parish coroner's office.

Veal had just hit two free throws, when she signaled she needed a breather. Before Boudreaux could replace her, the talented point guard collapsed and died.

"It's the kind of thing I'll always look back on, but it was just seconds," Boudreaux said earlier Tuesday. "She was guarding a player and just keeled over. You could hear her head hit the floor."

Paramedics arrived in minutes Monday night. They began CPR and used a defibrillator as the crowd of about 200 watched. Among those at the gym was an LSU scout and Veal's father, Gilbert, who was recording the playoff game.

On Tuesday, the lobby at the Glen Oaks gym that holds several state and district championship trophies, featured a large, red horizontal sign that read, "We love U Shannon," posted on a wall. It was filled with signatures and well-wishes

for Veal's family.

Among those in the stands offering support was the LSU women's basketball team and assistant coaches Bob Starkey, Travis Mays and Yolanda Wells-Broughton.

"We just went in there and congratulated them and let them know to keep their heads up," LSU center Sylvia Fowles said after the game. "It'll be hard to get over, but they've got to keep looking forward because that's what (Shannon) would want them to do."

Fowles said she remembers Veal attending basketball camps, and LSU guard Quianna Chaney said she remembers Veal as an avid fan of LSU basketball.

"She came to all the LSU games and she and her mom used to be out there getting autographs," Chaney said. "The least we could do is come out here and show our support."

Starkey and Mays were at Monday's game to scout Veal.

"She wasn't just a good player. She was an outstanding young lady," Starkey said. "She was going to play college basketball somewhere. She was that good. You hate to lose anybody that young, with so much potential."

Veal, a 5-foot-8 junior, was the district MVP. She was averaging 14 points, 5.5 assists and two steals.

Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is the most common cause of sudden, unexpected death among young athletes, according to Dr. Kim Edward LeBlanc said. The condition makes it difficult for blood to leave the heart, but it is difficult to discern.

"It is rare enough that there is no recommendation to screen for it," LeBlanc said.

Veal was diabetic and Don Moreau, chief of operations for the coroner's office, said the condition may have been related to the disease.

LeBlanc, chairman of the Department of Family Medicine at the LSU Medical Center and a specialist in sports medicine, said diabetes should not prevent an athlete from playing.

IRL

Open-wheeled leagues near deal

Associated Press

The possible unification of America's two open-wheel racing series was in the hands of the lawyers Wednesday, working out the final details of a deal that could re-energize the struggling sport.

Rather than a merger, the proposed deal, which could be announced as soon as Friday, would see some teams from the Champ Car World Series blended into the Indy Racing League's IndyCar Series, with immediate gains in car count and races.

"It is still not done, but still moving," IRL spokesman Fred Nation told The Associated Press Wednesday.

"The lawyers are still lawyering and we are still trading drafts and whittling away at the issues. We're optimistic the issues can be resolved."

Meanwhile, Champ Car spokesman David Higdon said series co-owner Kevin Kalkhoven, a key person in the negotiations was still in England on family business and would not return to the U.S. until sometime late Thursday.

Since the IRL began competing with what was then the established CART series in 1996, the two have gone head to head for drivers, teams, fans, sponsors and TV ratings, generally losing out on all counts.

Things have only gotten worse for both sides in the face of the current U.S. economic woes.

Before the proposed agreement, Champ Car was set to begin its season April 29 at

Long Beach, Calif., with no more than 17 cars, while the IndyCar Series was in danger of starting its season March 29 at Homestead, Fla., with as few as 16.

With the deal apparently nearing completion, it appeared Wednesday that between six and 10 cars from the Champ Car side would take the offer from IRL founder and Indianapolis Motor Speedway president Tony George of a free Honda engine lease program, free Dallara chassis and \$1.2 million in team incentives.

Several Champ Car teams are not expected to take George's offer because, even with the engines, cars and incentives, it would take an additional \$2 million or more to compete in the IRL. The teams that don't have the sponsorship or backing to continue will either close down or move to sports car racing, which is less costly.

Obviously, those who would take the deal see it as a winning proposition.

"I believe it would be a stronger series again with a lot of solid events," said Eric Bachelart, a former open-wheel driver and now owner of Conquest Racing in the Champ Car series.

"What the IRL has is a good package, with the Indianapolis 500 and some other things that will help attract sponsors. There will be lots of cars, lots of teams. A good show."

Like everyone else involved, though, Bachelart was waiting anxiously to hear a confirmation that the deal is done.

"I'm ready to move any time soon and enter two cars in the

IRL," Bachelart said. "I believe this is the best option to go that way. And, with Champ Car, it has lost a lot of credibility at this point."

CART went into bankruptcy in January 2004 and was bought by Kalkhoven, Gerald Forsythe and Paul Gentilozzi, all team owners in what is now Champ Car. They have since added Dan Pettit, another team owner, as a partner.

Led by Kalkhoven and Forsythe, Champ Car decided to go away from the traditional open-wheel ovals and focus its efforts on city street races, hoping the carnival atmosphere surrounding these events would assure success, and on racing outside the U.S., away from the IRL.


It worked, to a point. Champ Car's most successful events are the street, airport or road races in Long Beach, Edmonton, Toronto, Australia and Mexico City. And most of the races outside the U.S., including several events in Europe, did make money.

Overall, the series made little impact in America, its home base.

The impending deal is expected to include Long Beach, Edmonton and Australia in 2008, with negotiations for several other current Champ Car events to be added to the IRL schedule in 2009, likely including Toronto and Mexico City.

George's initial concept for the IRL was to concentrate on taking open-wheel racing back to its roots on oval tracks. Eventually, eventually began adding the better-attended road and street circuits to the schedule.

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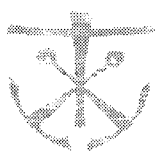
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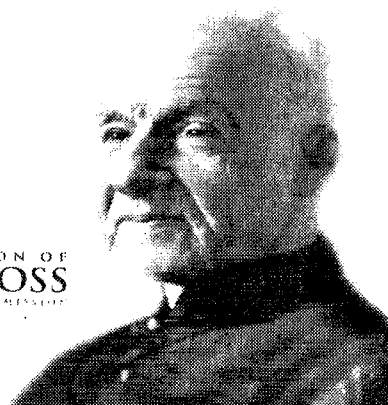
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NBA

Bosh scores 40 in win over Magic

Associated Press

TORONTO — The Toronto Raptors want to fine-tune their aggressive approach in the second half of the season. They sure looked pretty good Wednesday night against the Orlando Magic.

Chris Bosh had 40 points — going 14-for-16 from the field and 11-for-11 from the foul line — and Jose Calderon had 19 points and 13 assists as the Raptors won 127-110.

"We have to set the tone for the rest of this year," Bosh said. "It's going to be a big year for us, I think. We're in a position to do some good things."

Toronto set a season high in points and narrowly missed matching the franchise high of 129, set Jan. 15, 2006, against New York.

It was Bosh's fourth 40-point game this season, tying Vince Carter's team record.

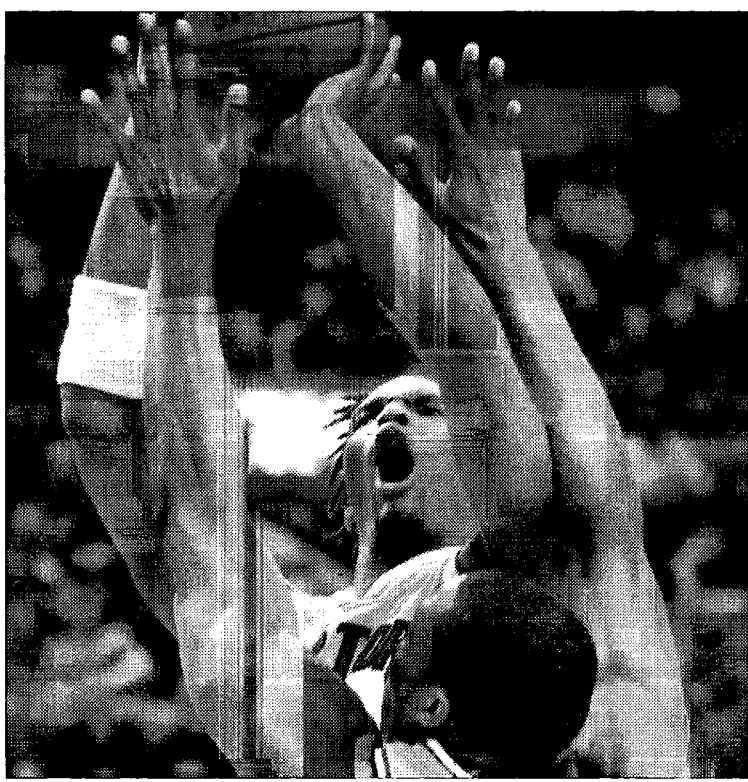
Bosh made 11 of his first 12 shots and even had a rare 3-pointer in the third quarter, struggling to contain a smile as he retreated back down court. Bosh is 3-for-6 from 3-point range this season.

"There was not one thing they did that we could guard," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said. "Chris Bosh, we could not guard. We're going to have to think about double-teaming him next time."

Van Gundy said Bosh "destroyed" Orlando center Dwight Howard.

Anticipating that Bosh would struggle trying to post-up Howard, Raptors coach Sam Mitchell urged him to face Howard up instead. With Bosh making shots, the strategy worked.

"When Chris is making his jump shot, he is just too hard to guard," Mitchell said. "He can go around, left and right, and he can shoot it. I told the coaches at halftime when we went into the locker room to just leave him



Raptors center Chris Bosh shoots over Magic center Dwight Howard in Toronto's 127-110 win Wednesday.

alone, don't coach him because he doesn't need our help right now."

Carlos Delfino came off the bench to score 23 for Toronto, including five 3-pointers. Jamarion Moon had 17 points and 12 rebounds, and Anthony Parker scored 10.

Howard led Orlando with 37 points and 15 rebounds, going 13-for-16 from the field and 11-for-15 from the free-throw line. Rashard Lewis and Hedo Turkoglu each finished with 16, Jameer Nelson had 13 and Maurice Evans 12.

A jumper by Juan Dixon with 30 seconds left in the third gave the Raptors 100 points. Jason Kapono added two more with a baseline jumper as Toronto took a 102-82 lead into the fourth.

Bosh and Calderon returned after Orlando opened the final quarter with a 10-2 run, closing to 104-92, but the Magic were

never able to get the deficit below 10 points.

Van Gundy was unimpressed with the attempted comeback.

"Those kinds of runs happen all the time in the NBA," he said. "All (Mitchell) did was put Calderon and Bosh back in and game over."

Calderon helped ice the game with back-to-back 3-pointers and an alley-oop pass to Moon, giving the Raptors a 16-point lead.

Van Gundy showed his frustration as Toronto pulled away.

"I didn't like our level of competitiveness," he said. "I thought we were hanging our heads and stuff."

Howard agreed that the Magic appeared beaten.

"We missed a couple of shots, they come down and hit two 3s in a row and we hung our heads a little bit," Howard said. "We can't do that."

MLB

Lasorda to manage Dodgers exhibition

Associated Press

A dozen years after he retired, Tom Lasorda is coming back to manage the Los Angeles Dodgers.

In spring training, that is.

The 80-year-old Hall of Famer will guide a split squad of Dodgers for eight games in March while Joe Torre takes the other half to China for a two-game exhibition series.

"There is no one else in the game of baseball like Tommy Lasorda," Torre said Wednesday. "He's excited about it. I thought it was a great idea. He's such a fan favorite. Knowing his enthusiasm for the game, I know he'll embrace it."

Lasorda is ready to go.

"What a thrill this will be, not just to manage the games, but the thought behind it," he said. "This really is a very, very special honor."

This is the Dodgers' final spring training in Vero Beach, Fla., and Lasorda has long been a fixture at the camp. He usually rides around Dodgertown in a golf cart, chatting with fans and signing autographs, and his arrival at tiny Holman Stadium is often accompanied by "Hail to the Chief" playing on the sound system.

Lasorda managed the Dodgers for nearly 20 years before a heart attack hastened his retirement in 1996. He is now a special adviser to Dodgers chairman Frank McCourt.

Lasorda last managed in 2000, when he led the United States to a gold medal in the Sydney Olympics, beating the heavily favored Cuban national team in the championship game.

"I can't think of a more fitting tribute to a man who embodies the Dodger organization than to have him lead the team during our final week of games here in Vero Beach," Torre said.

Lasorda will manage the Dodgers from March 11-18 and work the team's final home game at Dodgertown. The team will move its spring training

headquarters next year to Glendale, Ariz.

This is Lasorda's 59th season in the Dodgers organization, including time as a player, scout, minor league manager and major league coach. As the Dodgers manager, his teams were 1,599-1,493 and won two World Series, four NL pennants and eight division titles.

At Fort Myers, Fla., Red Sox center fielder Coco Crisp is prepared to talk to Boston management about a trade if it appears he will not win back his starting job taken by rookie Jacoby Ellsbury in the postseason.

The 28-year-old Crisp started 145 games last year and played outstanding defense in his second season with Boston. But after hitting .182 in the first eight postseason games, he was replaced by the 24-year-old Ellsbury, who started the season at Double-A Portland.

"I would honestly rather be somewhere else and play than be on the bench," Crisp said. "But I'll take whatever comes and deal with it and no knock against Boston. I love the fans. They treated me well."

At Tampa, Fla., New York Yankees senior vice president Hank Steinbrenner wouldn't mind seeing some unrest in Boston's camp. He's not happy the Yankees are chasing the World Series champions.

"We'd rather be Darth Vader. Let them be the underdog," Steinbrenner said while watching his team work out.

The Yankees had their first full-squad workout under manager Joe Girardi. The Yankees have not had a manager other than Joe Torre since Buck Showalter in 1995.

"I missed him when we were running," Yankees captain Derek Jeter said. "We didn't run that much before, so I missed him a little bit."

At Viera, Fla., troubled prospect Elijah Dukes reported to Washington Nationals spring training and took questions during a hastily arranged and limited-in-scope news conference.

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MEN'S SWIMMING

Team in second after first day of Big East

By ELLYN MICHALAK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame finds itself in second place after one day of competition in the Big East tournament at the Nassau County Aquatic Center in East Meadow, N.Y.

After finishing last year's championships only 4.5 points behind winner West Virginia, the Irish went into today's meet looking to take back the title they have won three of the last four years.

Sitting in second place out of eleven teams with 68 points, only Louisville remains in front of the Irish with a point total of 74.

Irish coach Tim Welsh said he was very pleased with the day's results.

"I thought we got off to a great start, and I thought the guys swam very well tonight," he said. "Today we were just getting big toe in the water, and we are now looking forward to rest of the events. I thought they swam great, with the lead off race setting a university record."

The Irish captured first place in the 800-yard free relay. The team, comprised of sophomore John Lytle, freshman Joshua Nosal, sophomore Andrew Hoffman and sophomore MacKenzie LeBlanc, set a school record with a time of

6:32.45 and also earned an NCAA B-cut time.

During the race, the Irish were trailing first-place Louisville, but eventually pulled ahead to place first in the race. Two members of the above quartet, Lytle and Hoffman, helped set the previous school record during the 2007 Big East meet. Along with current senior Ted Brown and current junior Jeff Wood, they achieved a time of 6:32.67.

The Irish also claimed fifth place in the 200 yard medley relay, gaining 28 points in the process. Hoffman, senior Andrew McKay, junior

Sam Pendergast, and sophomore Ross Moore earned a time of 1:30.87 in the race.

Tomorrow's qualifying matches begin at 10 a.m. Those who meet the qualifying times will compete for points in the final heats at 6 p.m.

Coach Welsh hopes his team performs just as well tomorrow.

"One of the beautiful things about swimming is you don't win by making someone else lose," he said. "You win by swimming fast. The emphasis is on having every person go as fast

as they can. We aim to swim our races as fast as we can and think that we swam them right."

Contact Ellyn Michalak at emichala@nd.edu

"I thought we got off to a great start, and I thought the guys swam very well tonight."

Tim Welsh
Irish coach

"One of the beautiful things about swimming is you don't win by making someone else lose."

Tim Welsh
Irish coach

ND Women's Swimming

Irish lead conference meet

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

The women's swimming team jumped out to a roaring start on Wednesday at the Big East championship, finishing in first place after day one of competition with an overall score of 111 points at the Nassau County Aquatics Center in East Meadow, N.Y.

"It was a great overall team effort," assistant coach Joel White said. "Every single person focused and did their part."

Close on their heels was Pittsburgh, with a combined score of 97. Pittsburgh was the only Big East team to defeat the Irish this season in a dual meet. Connecticut (80), Louisville (78) and West Virginia (77) rounded out the top five after three events.

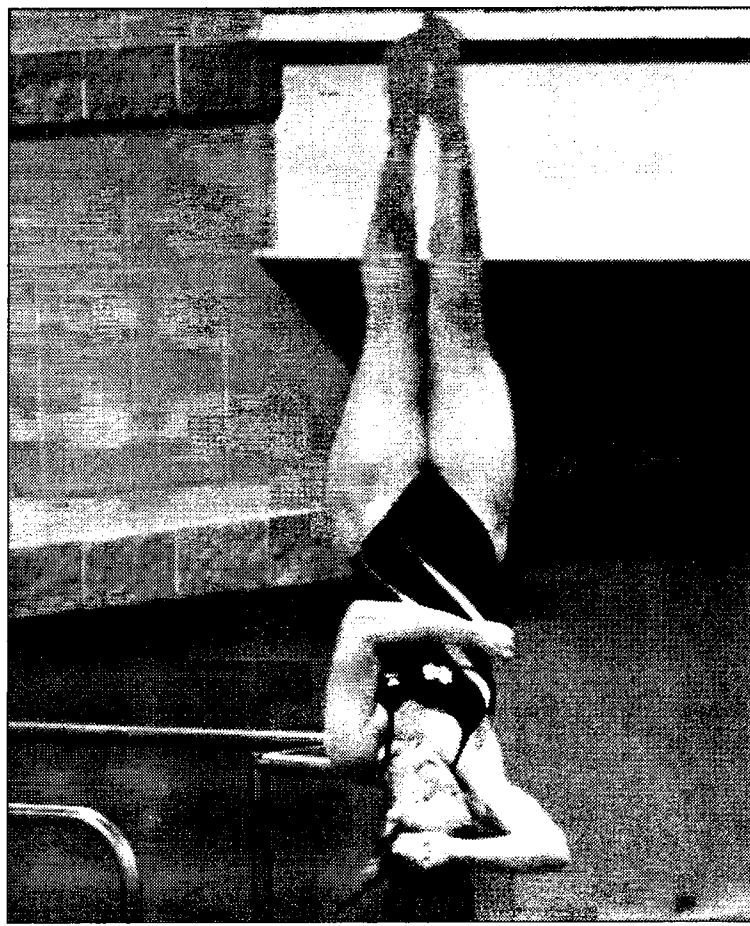
The Irish performed well in the relays, which are crucial to winning the overall title for the championship because they are worth double the points of individual events in the final standings.

The 200-yard medley relay team of senior Caroline Johnson, freshman Sam Maxwell, freshman Amywren Miller, and junior Christa Riggins set a new Notre Dame school record with a time of 1:40.84. This was only good enough for second place, however, as they were nudged out by West Virginia by a mere four-hundredths of a second.

"It was a little disappointing to not win the race with that time," White said. "But any time you are breaking a record on this team, you know you are doing something pretty special."

The 800-yard freestyle relay team of sophomore Megan Farrell, freshman Lauren Sylvester, junior Claire Hutchinson and Riggins came in second place with a time of 7:17.35. The Irish were beaten out by Louisville by just 1.21 seconds after an impressive final leg surge by Riggins.

"Christa made up a half-pool



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Irish freshman Heidi Grossman dives during Notre Dame's 188-111 win over Louisville on Jan. 18.

length in that last leg to take second place," White said. "She was really impressive and nearly caught the leader."

The diving team earned three spots in the finals during the preliminary round. Sophomore Natalie Stitt took first place in the 1-meter diving prelims, but dropped to third by the end of the finals. Senior Tara Hyer finished in fifth place and freshman Heidi Grossman rounded out the scoring for the Irish in eighth place.

The four-day Big East championship continues tomorrow at 10 a.m. for preliminaries in 500-yard freestyle, 200 yard individual medley, 50-yard freestyle, and the 200-yard freestyle relay before finishing up with the finals at 6 p.m. The championship will continue until Saturday evening. The Irish are going for their 12th consecutive Big East title.

Contact Jared Jedick at jjedick@nd.edu

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Buck

continued from page 24

come back strong, and I'd say today she's back to 100 percent," Louderback said.

In singles, Tefft played from the No. 1 slot twice this past weekend and won both matches. Her 9-1 singles record is tied for best on the team, and the move up appears to be permanent.

"She's earned the spot, and we're planning on playing her at No. 1," Louderback said.

Another bright spot over the weekend was freshman Kristin Rafael, who won her season debut in singles play.

"Kristin's playing better and better. She looked really good in practice today," Louderback said. "She's been playing great doubles, and we're looking to her into some singles."

Although the Irish did not take their last three opponents lightly, Louderback said the last weekend had a different level of competition.

"After playing three last week where we were favorites, we're happy to be underdogs again," Louderback said.

All three of Duke's wins in the dual season were over ranked opponents.

Contact Dan Masterton at dmastert@nd.edu

"After playing three last week where we were favorites, we're happy to be underdogs again."

Jay Louderback
Irish coach



KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer
Belles senior guard Allison Kessler dribbles past a Bulldogs defender during Saint Mary's 74-63 win over Adrian on Wednesday. Kessler broke the all-time Saint Mary's scoring record in the game.

Kessler

continued from page 24

four teams in the MIAA will get home-court advantage in the first round of next week's conference playoffs.

Luckily for Saint Mary's, it began the game on a 15-3 run and never surrendered the lead. The Bulldogs did manage to bring the score to 19-14 with 7:26 left in the first half, only to see the margin swell back to 10 points with 1:25 left. The Belles entered the locker room with a 35-29 lead.

The second half saw much of the same, with Saint Mary's getting the usual solid contri-

butions from their starters. Kessler, who went 4-for-16 from the field but scored 22 of her game-high 31 points from the free-throw line, was backed up by junior forward Erin Newsom's 20 points and 14 rebounds.

The Bulldogs got within four on their first possession of the second half, but again the Belles rallied for a 14-point lead with six minutes to go in the game. Despite a late Adrian rally to get back within six point, Saint Mary's held on for the important win.

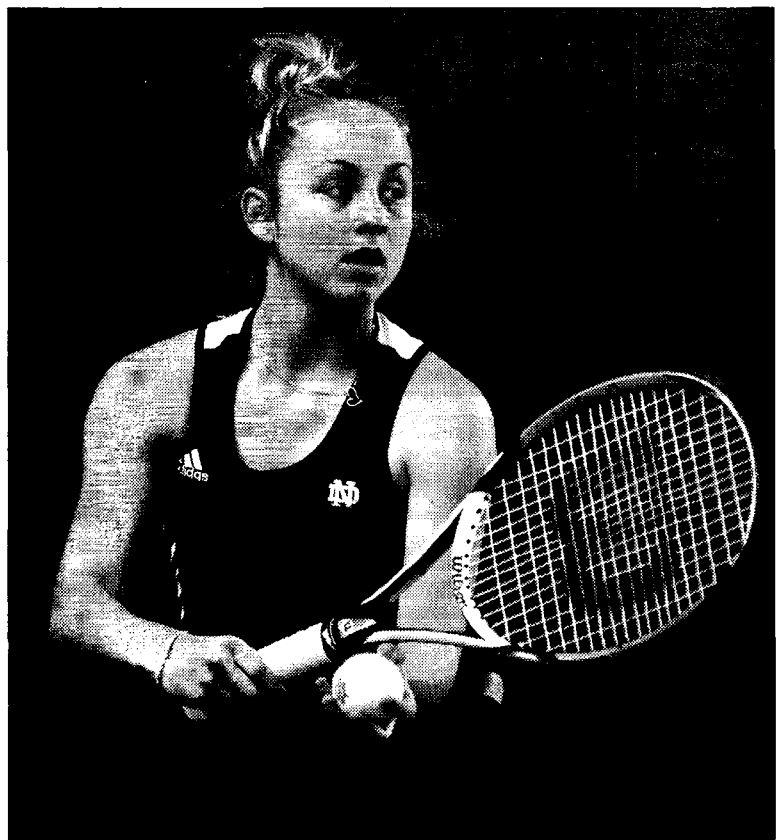
"I'm just happy to be a part of it. I've only been here for two years and Alison started this her freshman year," Henley said. "It's not something

we really talk about, it being an individual honor in a team sport, but this team really rallies around her and we're proud of her. We were especially glad she could get it in front of her home fans."

The record broken, the game won, Kessler and the Belles now have to look ahead to their next game.

"We really needed this win and Saturday is a must-win for us because then we'll play the first round of conference at home," Kessler said. "At this point we control our own destiny, and we are focused on beating Olivet."

Contact Griffin Dassatti at gdassatt@nd.edu



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer
Irish sophomore Cosmina Ciobanu prepares to serve during Notre Dame's 5-2 win over Ohio State on Feb. 14.

Hear the *cool* sounds of the

Festival Schedule

<p>Wednesday, February 20 8-10:00 CJF Coffeehouse LaFortune Ballroom Featuring ND Jazz Band II</p> <p>Thursday, February 21 8-11:00 CJF Swing Night LaFortune Ballroom 8-9:00 Free swing lessons with ND Swing Club 9-11:00 Open swing dancing with live music Featuring M.O.B.B. and the AAJC/HBCU All-star Big Band</p> <p>Friday, February 22 7-10pm Evening concert block Located in Washington Hall</p>	<p>Saturday, February 23 10-11:00 am Judges' Jazz Clinic Ricci Band Building Open to the public 1-10pm Afternoon/Evening concerts Located in Washington Hall</p> <p>For an extended schedule, visit www3.nd.edu/~sub/cjf/</p>
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THIS WEEK IN IRISH SPORTS

MEN'S & WOMEN'S FENCING

MIDWEST CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

ALL DAY FRI-SAT, FEB. 22-23
STARTING @ 8AM

Panthers

continued from page 24

we haven't played in a while, but we've seen them on TV, so we know them pretty well," Kurz said.

The last meeting between the two squads at the Joyce Center was on March 5, 2005. The Panthers won 85-77 and dominated inside, scoring 56 points in the paint.

Kurz was a little-used freshman at the time.

"I watched that whole game from the bench," he said. "They just murdered us on the backboard."

Cleaning the glass will be key in the 2008 edition as well, but Notre Dame matches up better this time. The Irish and Panthers are No. 1 and No. 2 in the conference respectively in rebounding margin.

"They pride themselves on defense and rebounding," Kurz said. "It will be key for us to rebound as a team."

Injuries have beset this year's Panther squad. Small forward Mike Cook is out for the season because of a knee injury he suffered in a 65-64 win over Duke on Dec. 20.

Kurz, who grew up near Cook, said it will be strange to play the Panthers without his friend in their lineup.

"I've known him since seventh grade," Kurz said. "I've played against him many times."

Point guard Levance Fields has also been slowed because of an injury for Pittsburgh. He played 20 minutes on Friday in a 72-54 loss to Marquette, his first action since a Dec. 29 loss to Dayton.

Irish coach Mike Brey said he expects Fields to be near 100 percent for tonight's game.

"I'm sure Fields is going to be a lot healthier than he was last Friday," Brey said.

In the absence of Cook and Fields, the Panthers will be led by forwards Sam Young and DeJuan Blair, who combine for nearly 30 points per game.

"If you're going to beat Pitt, you have to defend your paint," Kurz said.

After Connecticut's 65-60 win over DePaul Tuesday, Notre Dame fell into fourth place in the Big East, half a game behind the 10-3 Huskies. The top four teams get a bye in the conference tournament next month.

If the Irish can beat Pittsburgh, they will draw even with Connecticut and be half a game behind Big East co-leaders Georgetown and Louisville.

But Brey said the regular season championship hasn't entered the team's mindset yet.

"We want to be in position for a bye in the Big East tournament," he said. "That's about as deep as we've gotten as far as big picture."

For Pittsburgh, tonight's game represents an opportunity for both conference and national advancement. The Panthers dropped out of the Top 25 after their blowout loss to the Golden Eagles on Feb. 15.

The loss also dropped Pittsburgh to seventh in the Big East.

"They'll be ready to play," Brey said. "They're a proud program."

Note:

♦ Irish great Austin Carr will be honored at halftime of tonight's game for his induction into the College Basketball Hall of Fame.

Carr played at Notre Dame from 1966 to 1971 and averaged 34.5 points per game during his varsity career. He set the NCAA Tournament record for most points in a game with 61 against Ohio University in 1970.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

Guilder

continued from page 24

have persevered and are four-year players that have made the commitment to becoming great people on and off the ice," said Jackson, who inherited the Notre Dame program following Van Guilder's freshman season. "He's the kind of guy who does things the right way. He's a committed athlete, a committed student, he represents himself and our program with a lot of class, and he's just a very mature young man — the kind of guy you feel comfortable with being in the public arena or representing us on campus in every aspect of how he behaves and represents himself."

When Van Guilder reflects on his Notre Dame experience, the dramatic goals or big-game wins aren't the only things that come to mind. He has become actively involved in community service, thanks in part to a lighter course load because of his summer school enrollment, but mostly due to an inner drive to give back.

"We've got all this free time, so we might as well go out there and help a kid," said Van Guilder, whose 23 points is good for second-best on the Irish squad. "My favorite part is that we each have a kid we read to every Wednesday, and to see the little guy's progress ... he loves seeing us there, and it's fun when you actually see the impact you make on someone's life."

Junior right wing Erik Condra, who lived with Van Guilder as a freshman when Van Guilder's roommate left after first semester, praised not only the senior's natural leadership ability, but also his willingness to bestow it on his teammates.

"Guilder's been like a big brother to me," Condra said. "He took me under his wing a little bit by showing me the ropes of college. We had a great time, and we've become great friends — he's just a great guy to have. He sets a standard as

the moralist, a very religious guy, a guy that Irish hockey can really build around."

And that they have, ever since Notre Dame's abysmal showing in Van Guilder's rookie campaign that brought on Jackson to lead a program then on the decline.

"That's the thing I'm most proud of; where we've come since my freshman year," Van Guilder said. "Coming from five wins and maybe five or six fans to an NCAA appearance, a conference championship and a full building — that's one thing I can definitely look back on."

"We got comfortable losing freshman year — you'd come to the rink wondering how much are we going to lose by or when are we are going to blow our lead this weekend. That attitude's so long gone that it's really cool seeing the progress the program's made."

Van Guilder played a large role in that transition, playing in every game — 150 straight — in his Notre Dame career. He is just three games shy of breaking the mark set by 2006 grad Tim Wallace, who also played in every game during his four-year career with the Irish.

"That tells you about his durability, his conditioning, and his mental toughness," Jackson said. "He plays every situation, and he's relied upon not just to be one of our better offensive players, but also defensively."

Though being called upon to fulfill duties on the defensive side of the puck and in penalty killing may have had a negative impact on Van Guilder's goal-scoring capabilities, the attitude with which he approaches the game reflects his willingness to do what it takes for the team to maximize its potential.

"His passion for the game is second to none. His whole life is hockey," Condra said. "His work ethic kind of rubs off on the other guys. He came in here and wasn't the highly-touted recruit, but he ended up making his way and doing very well for himself, becoming one of the top guys on the team. It just shows his character and the standards he's helped set for the program."

Van Guilder, a three-time monogram winner who was honored after his sophomore season as the team's most improved player, brings what he calls "a calming presence" to his role as the team's captain and recognized leader.

"I don't show much emotion when I'm really excited or really down; I try not to get too extreme either way," Van Guilder said. "I'd like to be the calming influence on my teammates when things are getting crazy and you're on the road and it's not going your way."

That role has been one of Notre Dame's most important during this up-and-down year, especially following a campaign in which the Irish were ranked No. 1 for much of the regular season.

"It is a lot different than last year, when it was a smooth ride all the way through and all the bounces seemed to be going our way," Van Guilder said. "This year's only going to make us a better team, better players and better people for it, but it's definitely been a bigger challenge this year when you're not as sharp as you'd like to be and you have to regroup in the locker room to get back on track."

As rewarding as his experiences off the ice have been as a Notre Dame student, Van Guilder still defines himself based on his identity as an Irish hockey player — and a good one at that. Much like that of many of his veteran teammates, his greatest memory comes from last year's conference championship victory over rival Michigan that gave Notre Dame its first CCHA title in school history.

"That summarizes my whole career here," Van Guilder said. "We just got hammered by those guys my freshman year, and coming back and beating them for the third time in a row [last season], and for the championship, was just awesome. That was the highlight of my career — so far. Hopefully I'll replace that this season."

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

THIS WEEK IN IRISH SPORTS

EARLY ARRIVING FANS WILL RECEIVE IRISH HOCKEY STREET SIGNS ON FRIDAY AND IRISH HOCKEY ICE SCRAPERS ON SATURDAY

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*Chase for Cash prize - \$300 if no winner Friday night, \$200 if won on Friday night

9 HOCKEY

vs. Ohio State

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THIS WEEK IN IRISH SPORTS

#21 MEN'S BASKETBALL

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH @ 2PM

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CELEBRATION OF 1978 FINAL FOUR TEAM

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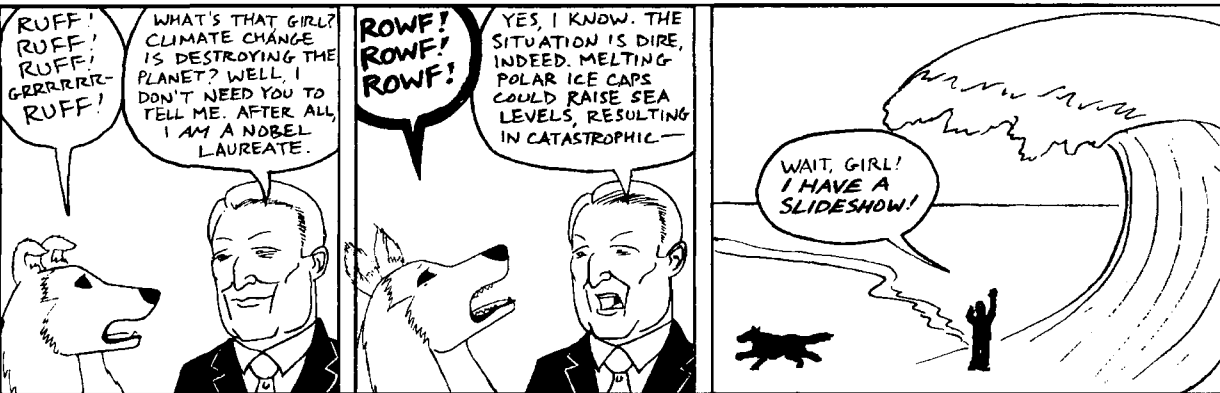
COMMEMORATIVE POSTER

Waterford
estates lodge



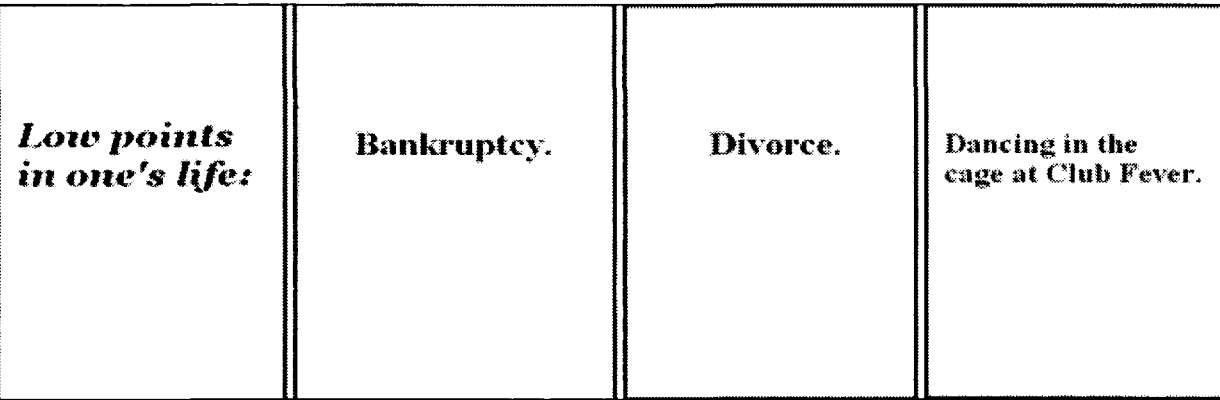
BLACK DOG

MICHAEL MIKUSKA



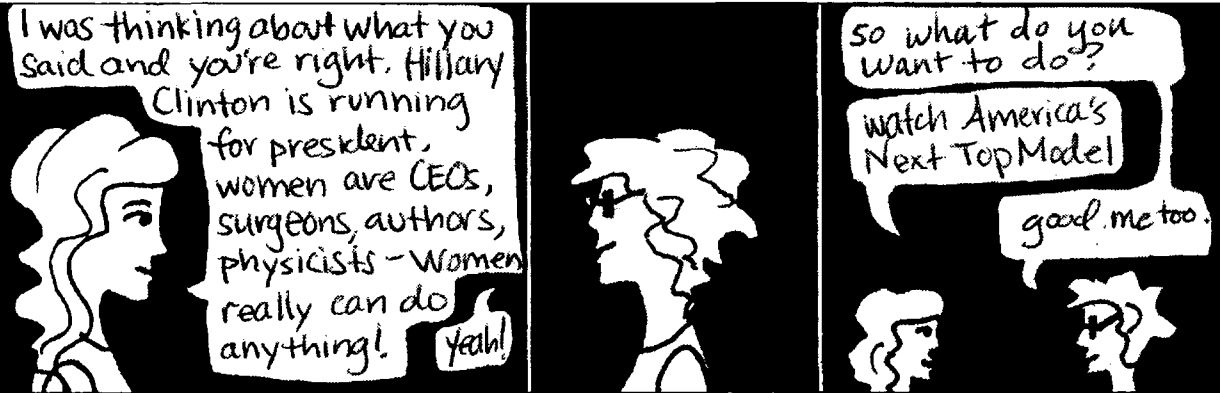
LOLLERSKATES

DIDIER LEWIS



ANOTHER UNFUNNY COMIC

LIZ MURPHY AND SARAH MUSCARELLA

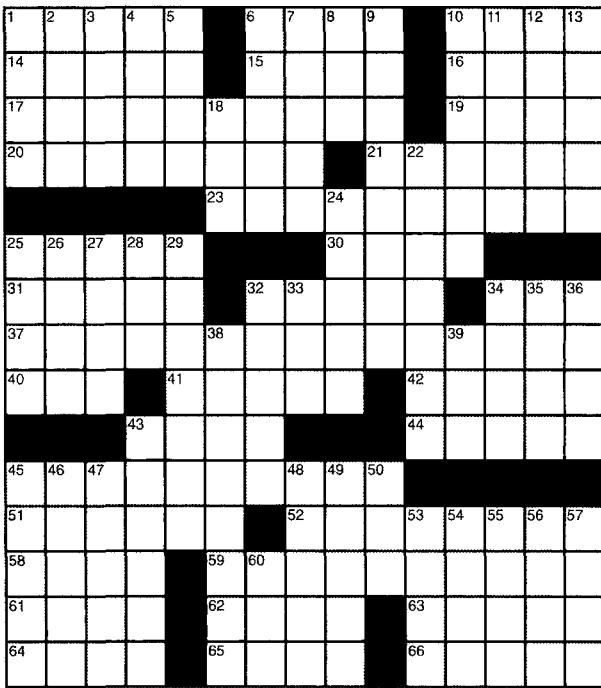
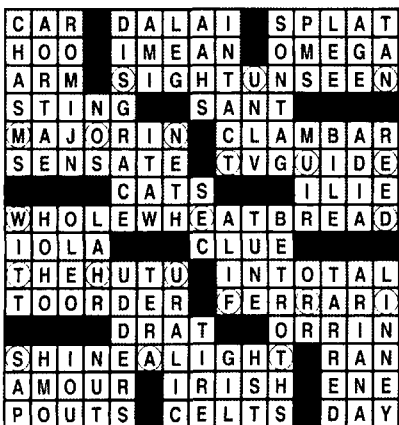


CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
- 1 Country store?
 - 6 Wrench (from)
 - 10 Jeanne ____
 - 14 Father, Son and Holy Ghost
 - 15 Feminine suffix
 - 16 Even, to Yves
 - 17 Constructing things
 - 19 Don't
 - 20 Couples cruise vessel?
 - 21 '50s two-seaters
 - 23 Custom
 - 25 Some flames
 - 30 Piccadilly Circus statue
 - 31 Annoyance, in British slang
 - 32 Streamlined
 - 34 Cheer start
- Down**
- 37 Theme of this puzzle, as hinted at by 17-, 23-, 45- and 59-Across
 - 40 Hard-rock filler
 - 41 Sikorsky and Stravinsky
 - 42 Citizen of Shiraz
 - 43 Hosiery hue
 - 44 Stripped
 - 45 1962 #1 hit by the Shirelles
 - 51 Stands ready for
 - 52 It's made up of columns
 - 58 Part of a camp schedule
 - 59 Means of remote monitoring
 - 61 Hang ____
 - 62 "... saw Elba"
 - 63 Slanted
 - 64 Org.
 - 65 Nature
- Down**
- 1 Mailing label abbr.
 - 2 String ____
 - 3 Director
 - 4 Old cross
 - 5 Dates
 - 6 Prefix with fluoride
 - 7 Edible mushroom
 - 8 In whatever quantity
 - 9 Museum specialist
 - 10 Ranch wear
 - 11 Outdoor market
 - 12 Corp. budget item
 - 13 Like some calls
 - 18 Snitch
 - 22 Burglarized
 - 24 Oglers' looks
 - 25 Californian's vacation destination, maybe
 - 26 Sources of hurt feelings
 - 27 Turkish title
 - 28 Spigot site
 - 29 Lobby
 - 32 Rub, rub, rub
 - 33 Choreographer
 - 34 Get into some hot water?

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



Puzzle by Elizabeth C. Gorski

- Across**
- 35 Actress Skye
 - 36 Start of many an accident
 - 38 Departures
 - 39 Burlesque show wear
 - 43 Subject of a 1940 biopic starring Spencer Tracy
 - 45 It was split into two parts by the 1899 Treaty of Berlin
 - 46 See 66-Across
 - 47 Stays
 - 48 Charles ____
 - 49 Footnote abbr.
 - 50 House call?
 - 53 Key of Pachelbel's Canon: Abbr.
 - 54 Townshend of the Who
 - 55 Actress Meyers and others
 - 56 Square dance partners
 - 57 City near Padua
 - 60 Anti anti

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/puzzleforum. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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

TEBER

PAMCH

CHUGAT

COSMAT

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

A: _____

Yesterday's Jumbles: HUSKY SMACK MARKUP POLICY

Answer: Another name for a lullaby — "ROCK" MUSIC

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



When the winning doubles partners wore the same outfits, it was —

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Questlove, 37; Gary Barlow, 37; Bill Maher, 52; David Lynch, 62

Happy Birthday: You can make some interesting business and personal partnership changes. You will be sensitive to the needs of others and what will and won't work for everyone involved in your life. This is a year to reevaluate what you have done and to recognize what you can do in the future. The hard work you put in this year will pay off. Your numbers are 2, 6, 24, 27, 40, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't take a chance when it comes to family and friends. If someone is looking for a fight, back off and put your energy into something productive or fun. 2 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone will surprise you. Join in and have some fun, even if it isn't something you bargained for. In the end, the benefits will far outweigh anything else. An unusual opening or offer is heading your way. 4 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone you meet will influence your way of thinking or doing things. Make sure you aren't a copycat and are following through because you feel it's best for you. Be sure your motives are valid. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Emotional matters will surface and someone you have to deal with will overreact. Try your best to listen before you say something you may live to regret. Someone you respect may be able to shed light on your situation. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A rather sudden change in your financial situation may lead to unrealistic spending. Double check your balance before you hit the stores. Being generous is a nice gesture but not if it will cause you unnecessary worry. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can make some fabulous changes to your living quarters today by using your expertise, your eye for a good deal and all the help you can muster up from friends and relatives. Change is good when the end result gives you a new lease on life. 4 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Talk, travel and learning something new should all be penciled in. Your creative insight and enthusiasm will result in an interesting idea and possibly a profitable proposal. Don't let emotional issues spoil your plans. 2 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): If you really want to do something, go it alone but do follow through. You don't have to rely on others as much as you think you do. It's up to you, not anyone else to make things happen and move along. 5 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be looking for action and anyone who slows you down had better watch out. You will be in a fighting mood not likely to budge. Make sure you've covered all the bases before you forge ahead. 3 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Set a new budget or financial game plan that will help you get all the little extras you want in your life. You deserve to be pampered for a change. Now is the time to plan for your future. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can make some very interesting observations that will lead to decisions that will shape your future. Your personal life can take a turn for the better if you reassess your happiness and decide what's required to satisfy your needs. 3 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let love confuse you or anyone talk you into doing things you don't want to do. Trust your own heart. Not everyone will like the choices you make but it's you who has to live with them. 5 stars

Birthday Baby: You are emotional and sensitive, a great friend and a warm companion. You can differentiate between what you want and what you need. You are great at finding solutions.

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Steel curtain

ND has not beaten Pittsburgh since 2003

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Editor

No. 21 Notre Dame has won 34 straight games at home, but the Irish haven't beaten Pittsburgh anywhere since 2003.

One of those streaks will end tonight at 7 p.m. when the Irish host the Panthers at the Joyce Center.

The last time Notre Dame beat Pittsburgh was on Feb. 9, 2003, when all of the current Irish starters were still in high school. The No. 10 Irish took down the No. 4 Panthers 66-64 in the final seconds.

Notre Dame (19-5, 9-3 Big East) has not faced Pittsburgh (19-6, 7-5) since Jan. 4, 2006, a 100-97 Panther victory at the Petersen Events Center in Pittsburgh.

Irish senior captain Rob Kurz said he and his teammates have followed the Panthers closely despite not facing them on the court.

"It's the only [Big East] team

see PANTHERS/page 22



Irish guard Kyle McAlarney dribbles past Huskies junior guard Jarvis Nichols during Notre Dame's 108-62 win over Northern Illinois on Dec. 8. McAlarney averages 15.1 points per game this season, heading into a home game tonight against Pittsburgh.

WU YUE/The Observer

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish face three top-20 teams on Tobacco Road

By DAN MASTERTON
Sports Writer

The No. 15 Irish (6-4) head to North Carolina to see if Tobacco Road can play more than just basketball.

The stretch of three straight top-20 opponents starts today at 5 p.m. when Notre Dame takes on No. 8 Duke (3-0) at the Sheffield

Tennis Center in Durham, N.C. The Irish play No. 19 Wake Forest (2-1) Saturday and No. 5 North Carolina (6-3) Sunday.

The Irish have never beaten the Blue Devils at the Sheffield Tennis Center in four tries.

"We know we're going to have a tough match. They're real good, and I feel like they're a top-5 team," Irish

coach Jay Louderback said.

Though the Irish have won the last two matches, both on neutral courts, Duke leads the all-time series 12-2. The Blue Devils are hot right now, coming off a 4-3 upset victory over No. 6 Florida.

Reigning ACC Player of the Week and No. 38 singles player in the country, sophomore Elizabeth Potkin, won

the decisive three-set match to complete the upset for Duke. The Blue Devils' singles attack is deep, also featuring No. 16 Ellah Nze, who is 3-0 in singles play for the dual season and No. 13 Reka Zslinszka.

Duke also boasts a top-10 doubles pair in No. 6 Amanda Granson and Melissa Zang. They will square off with Notre Dame's

top pair of Brook Buck and Kelcy Tefft, No. 3 in the nation.

Buck had a minor ankle sprain last week and sat out the 7-0 win over Wisconsin on Feb. 15, but she is healthy again, Louderback said.

"We didn't need to play her [against Wisconsin]. She's

see BUCK/page 21

HOCKEY

Van Guilder shows class on ice

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Writer

Coaches and teammates recognized long ago the class with which senior captain Mark Van Guilder handles himself on the ice, in the classroom and in the community.

Now, so is the rest of the country.

Van Guilder, a right wing from Roseville, Minn., has been named one of 10 national finalists for the Lowe's Senior CLASS (Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School) award — a testament to four years of dedication to a program he has helped redefine, Irish coach Jeff Jackson said.

"That award is about guys who

see GUILDER/page 22



Irish senior Mark Van Guilder passes the puck during Notre Dame's 2-1 overtime win over the U.S. Under-18 team on Feb. 1.

WU YUE/The Observer

SMC BASKETBALL

Kessler sets all-time point record in win

By GRIFFIN DASSATTI
Sports Writer

Alison Kessler only shot 25 percent from the field in Wednesday's 74-63 win over Adrian, and yet with 4:33 left in the first half, coach Jennifer Henley called a timeout so Kessler could get a standing ovation from the home crowd.

That's because Kessler had just sunk a free-throw for her 13th point, giving her 1,534 points for her career and breaking the Saint Mary's all-time record previously held by Jennie Taubenheim.

After the game, Kessler said the record had been on her

mind coming into the game, but it wasn't the only thing.

"I was just thinking that I wanted to get it over with so I could move on and not have it hanging over my head anymore," she said. "It was really great that they took the timeout to recognize it, but at the same time I was more worried about winning the game."

Modesty aside, Kessler was right to be concerned with the team's performance. Coming into Wednesday's contest, the Belles (11-12, 7-8 MIAA) were in a four-way tie for fourth in the MIAA along with Alma, Olivet and Adrian. The top

see KESSLER/page 21