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Laetare Medal brings controversy

Some upset by recipient Sheen's previous statements which clash with Catholic teaching

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

On March 2, Laetare Sunday, the Laetare Medal committee announced that human rights activist and actor Martin Sheen will receive the prestigious award during this year's Commencement weekend for embracing the Catholic faith throughout his life.

This announcement has brought controversy over whether Sheen, best known for his work in film and the NBC drama "West Wing," deserves the award for his positions on the war in Iraq, abortion and homosexual

rights.

Father James McDonald the University Associate Vice President, Counselor to the President and Chairman of the Laetare Medal committee said the goal of awarding the medal is not to find someone who will not generate controversy even though this year's choice is unpopular with some.

"[Sheen] is an incredible man of deep faith," McDonald said. "What most struck me was his genuine humility about himself as a believer in God. He's a man who's integrated faith in his public life in a very deep way."

see SHEEN/page 3



Martin Sheen, best known for his work on the NBC drama "West Wing," will accept the Laetare Medal at Commencement.

Scholar speaks on feminism

Dow highlights link with mass media

By KATLYN SMITH
News Writer

Rhetorical scholar Bonnie J. Dow focused her lecture about mass media on the interaction between the second wave of the feminist movement and mass media Thursday at Saint Mary's.

As opposed to the civil rights movements and the first wave of the feminist movement, which produced such leaders as Martin Luther King Jr. and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the 1970s feminist movement involved no great rhetorical leaders, Dow said.

As a result, the movement struggled to bring feminist issues to public attention because public persuasion was not a primary goal, Dow said.

During this time, groups operating within the movement aimed to raise consciousness of existing members and challenge accepted ways of thinking. Many viewed themselves as radical revolutionaries who did not work within the mass media norms.

"[They] weren't motivated by external media recognition," Dow said.

Dow provided two contrasting feminist case studies to emphasize the dynamic relationship between rhetoric and movement in mass media environment.

The National Women's

see MEDIA/page 4

Faculty, students debate global warming

Necessity of government intervention in environmental policy, student activism questioned



Bret Shapot, right, and Dr. Mark McCready, left, were among those who spoke on global warming Tuesday.

By KATIE PERALTA
News Writer

As the final part of the student-faculty debate series, two Notre Dame professors and two undergraduate students met Tuesday to discuss global warming and environmental policy.

Professor Dr. Mark J. McCready, chair of the chemical and biomolecular engineering department, presented a background explanation of the issue of global warming, how solar radiation affects the climate and how the temperature changes as a result of this radiation.

"Until the late 1950s, no one knew [that] people had influence over earth's temper-

ature," said McCready, adding that carbon dioxide levels have risen significantly over the past 50 years.

Presenting graphs that depicted temperatures over a few thousand years, McCready said the temperature has steadily increased in recent years.

"If the temperature has been steady for thousands of years and then just over 150 years takes a jump, you have to ask why," McCready said.

On the skeptical side of the global warming debate, senior Bret Shapot questioned statistics suggesting global warming as a result of increased carbon dioxide levels.

see DEBATE/page 3

BOG

Majors seek funds for trip

Members discuss awarding support for Undergraduate Honors Conf.

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
News Writer

Senior communications studies major Sam Peterson visited Tuesday evening's Saint Mary's Board of Governance (BOG) meeting, seeking funds for a trip to the Undergraduate Honors Conference of the Southern States Communications Association in Savannah, Ga.

Peterson and three other communications majors submitted their senior compositions to the confer-

ence to be judged and have won national recognition. They will travel to Georgia to present their compositions and attend other presentations from seniors across the country.

Awards will also be handed out to exceptional projects, including one major award for the best project.

"You can be recognized in the entire field, which is huge because it is such a broad field," Peterson said.

The group approached BOG to get funds for transportation, food, and room and board to represent Saint Mary's at the confer-

ence.

"This is a great opportunity for Saint Mary's to get recognized," Peterson said.

The group will make presentations after returning for the junior communications studies majors, the Communications Studies Honor Club, and women's studies classes. They are also each writing articles about their projects for the Saint Mary's Alumni Newsletter.

The conference will be held from April 2-4. Brittany Taylor, Victoria

see BOG/page 4

COR

Group sets agenda for upcoming year

By JOSEPH McMAHON
Assistant News Editor

The Council of Representatives discussed different ways of integrating transfer students into the student body Tuesday.

It also discussed what issues should be on its agenda once student body president-elect Bob Reish takes over for current student body president Liz Brown on April 1.

Representatives, who officially serve as members of the advisory body to the executive branch of student government,

listed a number of issues they would like to see addressed, but focused on the integration of transfer students into University life.

"We need a conscious effort to welcome transfers to the class," senior class president Bridget Keating said.

Student Union Board (SUB) manager Phillip Ross said transfer students "cluster together," and said more should be done to integrate them into campus life.

Judicial Council president Ashley Weiss, who is herself a

see COR/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

The power of video games

Remember what the word pong meant before college? I never actually played it on the Atari as a little kid, but it started a revolution. My first video game was Super Mario Bros 3;

Dustin Mennella
Senior photographer

my parents wouldn't let us have a Nintendo at our house, but they bought one and kept it at my grandparents' house. Whether it was to keep us from playing all the time or to get us excited about visiting our grandparents all the time, I don't know but it resulted in both.

Since the glory days of Super Mario, when the cartridge only worked half the time and only two people could play at a time, video games have come a long way. Now I can play Call of Duty 4 with my cousins in Oregon and Washington, enjoying a fun game while keeping in contact with family members I typically wouldn't hear from except at holidays.

Some people look down on video games and say that they destroy childhoods and eyesight, creating introverted personalities and frying minds, and I agree that there are some who become addicted to this virtual reality. For the most part, however, if you keep things in perspective and remember that a great world exists outside of the TV screen, then these games can be a great way to relax and connect with friends.

With increasingly advanced technology being applied to more fields and in new ways, sometimes keeping up to date can be difficult — having skills in video games can help with this transition.

For example, surgeons who grew up playing video games make 37 percent fewer mistakes according to Marc Prensky, a CEO of Games2train, a company which makes informational tutorials fun by encoding the information in the form of a video game. On their Web site are all types of games with topics ranging from windows NT to sexual harassment, and companies can even request a game to be made for their own training purposes.

Here are some other fun facts about Nintendo's Mario, one of the most famous video game characters ever: he was originally called jump-man, appearing in Donkey Kong in 1981. Since then he has appeared in over 200 video games so far. In addition to games, Mario has starred in two TV series, at least one movie, and its theme song has been the source of a number of guitar and symphony renditions, and there has even been one rock opera composed about him!!

Check it out on youtube, by Jonathan Mann, I kid you not.


Anyway, regardless of games, shows or rock operas, Mario is certainly a hero of mine.

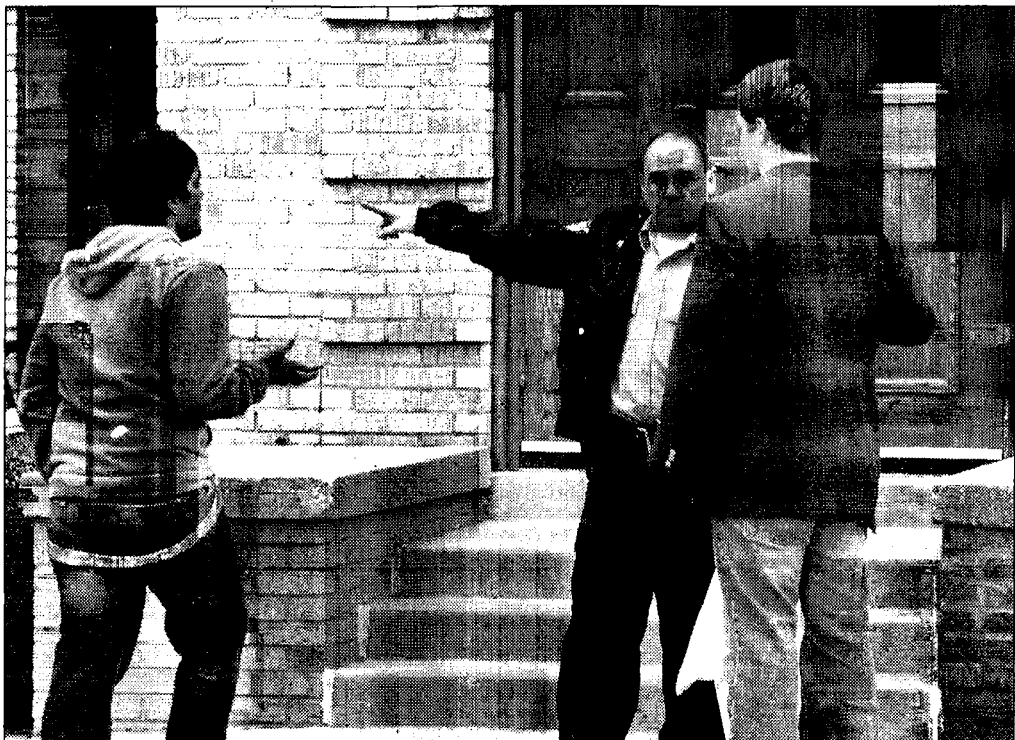
The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Contact Dustin Mennella at dmennell@nd.edu

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.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE WAY TO EMIT CARBON?

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Tracy Jennings <i>junior</i> Breen Phillips | Colleen Kelly <i>junior</i> McGlenn | Lourdes Long <i>junior</i> Breen Phillips | Brittney Dudley <i>sophomore</i> Farley | Mike Gotsch <i>sophomore</i> Keough |
| "Breathing." | "I like to open my windows while the heat is on." | "Long, hot showers." | "Trying to find the on-campus engineering wind-tunnel ... in my car." | "Eating beans and meat in the dining hall." |



An NDSP officer stops students celebrating Saint Patrick's Day on South Quad Monday.

OFFBEAT

Girl sells Illinois-shaped Corn Flake on e-bay

CHICAGO — Sounds a little flaky, but someone has offered more than \$50 on eBay for a piece of breakfast cereal that is touted as a lookalike to the state of Illinois.

Two sisters listed "The Great Illinois Corn Flake" on the online auction site, promising it has undergone no alterations.

Emily McIntire, a 15-year-old sophomore in high school from Chesapeake, Va., said she was grabbing fistfuls of cereal on her way to class when she found the flake.

"It was almost to my mouth, it didn't look like Illinois at first because it was held the wrong way," said McIntire, but then she noticed the resemblance and said, "Oh my goodness, it's Illinois."

Black swan leaves swan-shaped boat for other swan

BERLIN — A long love story is over at a German zoo: Petra the swan and her swan-shaped paddleboat are parting ways. Petra, a black swan, became a minor celebrity in 2006 when she became so attached to the boat — which is shaped like

an oversized white swan — that she refused to leave its side.

Officials in the western city of Muenster decided to let her stay with it over the winter, bringing both bird and boat into a city zoo.

However, Petra met a live swan this winter. Zoo director Joerg Adler says she and her new mate — a white swan — are building a nest together.

The boat is to be returned to its local owner on Thursday.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Saint Mary's College President Carol Ann Mooney will speak about "HERstory" today at noon in the Coleman Morse Study lounge as part of the new initiative sponsored by First Year of Studies featuring women in the Notre Dame community. Drinks and snacks will be provided.

Marilyn Krysl, the 2008 Sullivan Prize Winner, will read from her prize winning collection of short stories called "Dinner with Osama" tonight at 7:30 in the Gold Room of the North Dining Hall.

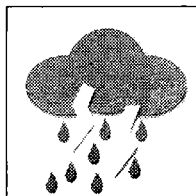
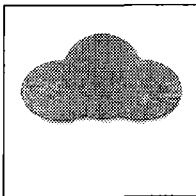
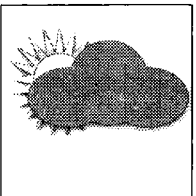
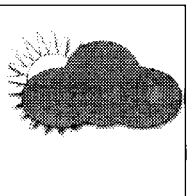
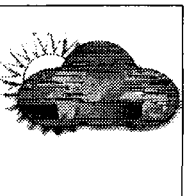

The Notre Dame Peace Fellowship will hold a discussion called "What Can We Do to Call For Peace?" tonight at 7 in the Dooley Room of the LaFortune Student Center.

The film "Persepolis," which tells the story of a young girl living in Iran during the Islamic Revolution, will be shown at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center on tonight at 7

Ambassador Richard S. Williamson, US Special Envoy to Sudan will speak on "Human Rights: Principles, Politics, Performance and Darfur" on Thursday at 12:15 p.m. in Room 110, Notre Dame Law School.

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated Thursday at 5 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

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

| LOCAL WEATHER | TODAY | TONIGHT | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | EASTER |
|---------------|---|--|---|---|---|---|
| |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| | HIGH 43 | HIGH 33 | HIGH 38 | HIGH 35 | HIGH 40 | HIGH 35 |
| | LOW 23 | LOW 13 | LOW 25 | LOW 29 | LOW 23 | LOW 25 |

Debate

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"The burden of proof should rest on those people [who believe that global warming is a real and dangerous threat]," Shapot said.

Shapot said additional levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere might not have a further negating effect, but might increase its concentration.

Shapot argued against cloud data from thousands of years ago which point to global warming, noting that the levels of error were far too high to be considered significant.

He questioned whether temperature rise would necessarily lead to drastic meteorological changes, such as increasing the wind speed of hurricanes.

"It's just a fact that people do live where storms are. They have to since the population is growing," Shapot said.

Shapot criticized the notion of sequestering carbon dioxide coming out of power plants, saying it is an expensive process blue-collar taxpayers will pay for.

"They will have to shoulder the burden of the changes we make," Shapot said.

Supporting an opinion contrary to Shapot's, political science professor Lou Ayala said

he favors strong governmental intervention.

"Government action is necessary because global warming is caused by people," he said.

Ayala described the environment as a public good — something from which all members of a group benefit — even if some members do not help contribute.

"This public good suffers from a problem," said Ayala, adding that it is true that not everyone helps to protect the environment.

The government has a responsibility to take action towards this problem, Ayala said, because "the negative [effects] associated with not

participating are too high."

He also said everyone will reap the benefits of more government intervention, as they would enjoy cleaner air and cleaner water.

"It is in the public interest for the government to step in," Ayala said, adding that the United States accounts for 30 percent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions.

Hanna Mori, a Notre Dame sophomore, echoed Ayala's sentiments for government intervention.

Mori said the government does not have the sufficient technology to move away from oil, but rather that individuals ought to abandon aerosols and look into green technology such as hybrid cars.

Both Ayala and Mori said the government ought to provide the funds to subsidize alternative fuels to offset the cost of hybrid vehicles.

Ayala said the solution to global warming is not one the government can solve overnight, but rather one which requires the attention of everyone.

"I'm all for student activism," said Ayala, referring to the need for student interest in issues like global warming. "People just need to invest their resources and fuel political interests."

Contact Katie Peralta at kperalta@nd.edu

Sheen

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He said specific stances on controversial issues were not the focus of the Laetare selection committee, rather, the committee focused on Sheen's body of work as a whole.

"We review all that can be reasonably attained by searching public records," McDonald said. "But when you take his lifetime of service, what most stands out is his commitment to his faith as a Catholic. No one phrase on a given day disqualifies him."

McDonald said Sheen did not earn the Laetare Medal for any particular action or position, but was instead awarded with it "in view of

all of what he's done integrating his life of faith with his professional life."

The Laetare Medal is given each year to an American

Catholic "whose genius has ennobled the arts and sciences, illustrated the ideals of the Church, and enriched the heritage of humanity," according to the Laetare Medal citation presented to General William Starke Rosecrans in 1896.

McDonald also said Sheen's views on abortion are not "pro-choice." He said while Sheen may have made a com-

ment that could be interpreted as being pro-choice, that does not mean Sheen is pro-choice.

"If you look at the whole

thing, I don't think you can conclude that," McDonald said. "When people do research, they have to be very careful about when a statement was said. The judgment of importance has to depend on the context."

McDonald said his office received many letters expressing gratitude for selecting Sheen for the medal.

"But when you take his lifetime of service, what most stands out is his commitment to his faith as a Catholic."

James McDonald
Chairman of the Laetare Medal committee

He said one such letter discussed Sheen's charitable work on behalf of fighting mental illnesses and addiction.

He said he is not surprised people are disputing Sheen's selection for the Laetare Medal, but he stands by the University's decision.

"Men and women of good faith can differ in good faith on different choices," McDonald said.

Sheen is the 130th recipient of the Laetare Medal, which has been awarded for 125 years since 1883. The medal was designed to serve as a counterpart to the Golden Rose, which has awarded by the pope for service to the Church since before the 11th Century.

The recipient of the Laetare Medal is announced each

year on Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent.

Past winners of the medal include President John F. Kenney, diplomat Sargent Shriver, founder of the Catholic Worker Movement Dorothy Day and former University President Father Theodore Hesburgh. The 2007 Laetare Medal was awarded to Patrick F. McCartan, chairman emeritus of the University's Board of Trustees.

Sheen will be on campus all Commencement weekend, and is eager to spend time with the Notre Dame family, McDonald said.

"He's one of us. He will fit in very well here that weekend," McDonald said.

Contact John Tierney at tierney.16@nd.edu

The Observer: Notre Dame's Independent Daily Newspaper

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COR

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transfer student, helped run the orientation for transfer students last fall. Although she said more needs to be done to help ease the transition for transfer students, she rejected Reish's idea of including transfer students in freshman orientation.

"Transfer students already have a year under their belts and bring a different perspective," she said.

Chris Tillet, who served as a proxy for SUB treasurer Kadeja Gaines, said limited space in dorms often causes transfer students, especially those that enroll at Notre Dame, for the fall semester, to seek off-campus housing. He said many transfer students he had spoken with were upset at the lack of on-campus housing available to them.

"It's a big complaint with a lot of kids that I've talked to," Tillet said.

In addition, Reish said he would like to increase freshman participation in student government when he becomes president, and asked the Council how it thought he could get more freshmen involved.

Freshman class council president Kate Clitheroe said students who had participated in student government in high school would be the people most likely to participate at Notre Dame.

"We should target freshmen that have already been involved," she said.

Executive assistant Sheena Plamoottil said one of the major goals should be to simplify the "Student Government 101" information sessions held at the beginning of each year for freshmen interested in student government.

"I found it hard to describe how our policies work," she said.

Reish said perhaps student government could do a mass mailing to all incoming freshmen asking them to visit the student government Web site.

Student body vice president Maris Braun said one focal point of COR and student government in general next year will be energy and environmental issues.

Braun said she was disappointed with the lack of events focused on immigration after this year's Notre Dame Forum, and said that COR should do all it "to keep up energy" with next year's Energy and Environment Forum.

In other COR news:

♦ COR unanimously approved junior Pat Gartland as the new SUB manager.

Ross cited Gartland's "extensive experience" in choosing the junior for the position.

"He has the organizational skills and had worked with SUB enough to be an effective board manager," Ross said.

Gartland, who also writes his own stand-up comedy, said he will continue to plan events students will be excited about.

"My top priority is programming events that students want to see on campus," he said.

Contact Joseph McMahon at jmcmaho6@nd.edu

BOG

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Frank and Sierra Campoli are the others accepted into the conference, however they were not in attendance at the BOG meeting.

In other BOG news:

♦ The Maria Pieta Award for Outstanding Teaching is looking for nominees, student body vice

president Kelly Payne said. Students are encouraged to email their pick for the best lower division course professor to mariapietaaward@saintmarys.edu.

"This is one of the biggest awards we give to our teachers here," Payne said.

♦ Board of Governance will be holding this year's service project on April 4-5, student body president Kim Hodges said. The program is called Rebuilding Together, and the group will gather

and then helping to make repairs on a house for two elderly women in the community.

♦ Women Honoring Women, a dinner celebrating outstanding female administrators and professors in the Saint Mary's community, will be held April 2, Payne said.

♦ BOG is preparing for its yearly turnover on April 1, announced Chief of Staff Sarita Fritzler.

♦ Communications Prof.

Teri Russ's female beauty class will be holding a mini-conference called "Busting the Barbie Standard" on April 20, women's issues commissioner Renee Woodward said. Each member of the class was assigned a Barbie to make over for the presentation, and these modified Barbies will be on display at the conference.

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn01@saintmarys.edu

Media

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Organization (NOW) understood the mass media norms, Dow said. The group sent out press releases, established sympathetic relationships with reporters and framed itself as a civil rights organization, an idea familiar to the public. Consequently, the group increased membership and received favorable media coverage.

After 1970, multiple radical

feminist groups established an adverse relationship with the media.

As opposed to NOW, these groups did not provide observable events or speeches, she said.

In addition, the radical groups also contributed to some of the current feminist stereotypes, Dow said.

Dow said a significant sit-in illustrated the difficult relationship between radical feminists and mass media.

In the spring of 1970, 100 to 200 women marched into the office of John Mack

Carter, the editor of "Ladies Home Journal." For 11 hours, protestors demanded an all-female editorial staff, childcare for employees and an end to advertisements on makeup and appliances.

"They targeted every characteristic that defined women's magazines at the time," Dow said.

According to Dow, military metaphors were consistent in the media's coverage of the sit-in.

"The protestors were cast as soldiers with a battle plan," Dow said.

In addition to unrealistically portraying the protestors as organized, reporters also struggled with framing the event as a debate. No one feminist articulated the demands, Dow said.

Despite the negative coverage, the event accelerated women's interests, Dow said.

Backed by supportive readers, the "Ladies Home Journal" began running articles on abortion, education and childcare.

Contact Katlyn Smith at ksmith01@saintmarys.edu

Attention Seniors!

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

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

Responsibilities include extensive planning, travel and communication within the geographic area, assessment and evaluation of applications and conducting group/individual information sessions. Additional responsibilities will be assigned by the Assistant Provost for Enrollment.

Among our candidates, we will specifically seek an **African American Recruitment Coordinator**.

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

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

Please Note: Interviews will be scheduled after April 1.

Preferred start date is July 1, 2008.

**Please forward your resume to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions
220 Main Building**

Attention: Alisa M. Fisher, Senior Associate Director

WORLD & NATION

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

German leader earns Israeli ovation

JERUSALEM — German Chancellor Angela Merkel earned a standing ovation from Israel's parliament Tuesday after pledging to stand by Israel's side against any threat, particularly from Iran, and paying tribute to the victims of the Holocaust.

In an emotional speech, Merkel said Germans are still "filled with shame" about the Nazi genocide of 6 million Jews. Yet her extraordinarily warm reception by the Jewish state also signaled that the two nations are increasingly willing to look to the future.

Germany has proven a staunch ally of Israel, particularly since Merkel became chancellor in 2005. Israel's leaders said they are counting on Germany to take a lead in diplomatic efforts to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons.

Iraqi extremists smuggle art for funds

ATHENS, Greece — Iraqi extremist groups are now tapping into the nation's vast antiquity smuggling networks to help finance their attacks, a U.S. military expert on stolen artifacts said Tuesday at a U.N. conference.

Marine Reserve Col. Matthew Bogdanos, who led the military probe into the looting at Baghdad's National Museum after the fall of Saddam Hussein, claimed both Sunni insurgents such as al-Qaida in Iraq and Shiite militias are taking funding from the trafficking in antiquities.

Bogdanos, a New York assistant district attorney, noted that kidnappings and extortion remain the insurgents' main source of funds. But he called the link between extremist groups and antiquities smuggling in Iraq as "undeniable."

NATIONAL NEWS

N.Y.'s new governor admits to affair

ALBANY — The state's new governor revealed Tuesday that he had affairs with several women, including a state employee. The confession came a day after he took over from former Gov. Eliot Spitzer, who was driven from office amid a prostitution scandal.

Gov. David Paterson said the affairs happened during a rough patch in his marriage, and that the employee did not work for him. He insisted he did not advance her career, and that no campaign or state money was spent on the affairs.

"I do not feel I have broken my commitment to the citizens of New York state," Paterson said at a news conference with his wife, Michelle Paige Paterson.

Paterson, a Harlem Democrat, admitted an affair in an interview with the New York Daily News on Monday after he was sworn in, but his comments Tuesday indicate the couple's fidelity problems went deeper than he first acknowledged. He is not having an affair now, he said.

Feds may start euthanizing sea lions

PORTLAND, Ore. — Traps, pyrotechnics and beanbags shot at sea lions have failed to deter the annual springtime feast of threatened salmon at a Columbia River dam, so federal authorities gave some of them a death sentence on Tuesday.

The National Marine Fisheries Service authorized Oregon and Washington officials to first attempt to catch the sea lions that arrive at the base of the Bonneville Dam and hold them 48 hours to see whether an aquarium, zoo or similar facility will take them. Otherwise, they could be euthanized, along with those that avoid trapping.

LOCAL NEWS

CVS settles claims for \$37 million

CHICAGO — CVS Caremark Corp. agreed to pay almost \$37 million to nearly two dozen states and the federal government to settle claims that the nation's largest pharmacy chain billed Medicaid programs for a more expensive formulation of an antacid, authorities said Tuesday.

The settlement in the case — the first of its kind for a retail pharmacy company — came after a lengthy investigation that began in 2001, when a suburban Chicago pharmacist alerted authorities. The company has agreed to pay \$1.4 million to the Indiana Medicaid program to settle the allegations, state Attorney General Steve Carter said.

Obama deplores pastor's remarks

Wright's sermons offered a "profoundly distorted view of this country," senator says

Associated Press

As shocking as they may be, the provocative sermons of Barack Obama's pastor come out of a tradition of using the black church to challenge its members and confront what preachers view as a racist society.

Yet while the Rev. Jeremiah Wright's racially tinged messages still resonate in some black churches, evidence also suggests his style is receding into the past as civil rights-era pastors retire. Sermons in other congregations now focus less on societal divisions and more on the connection between spirituality and a materially prosperous life.

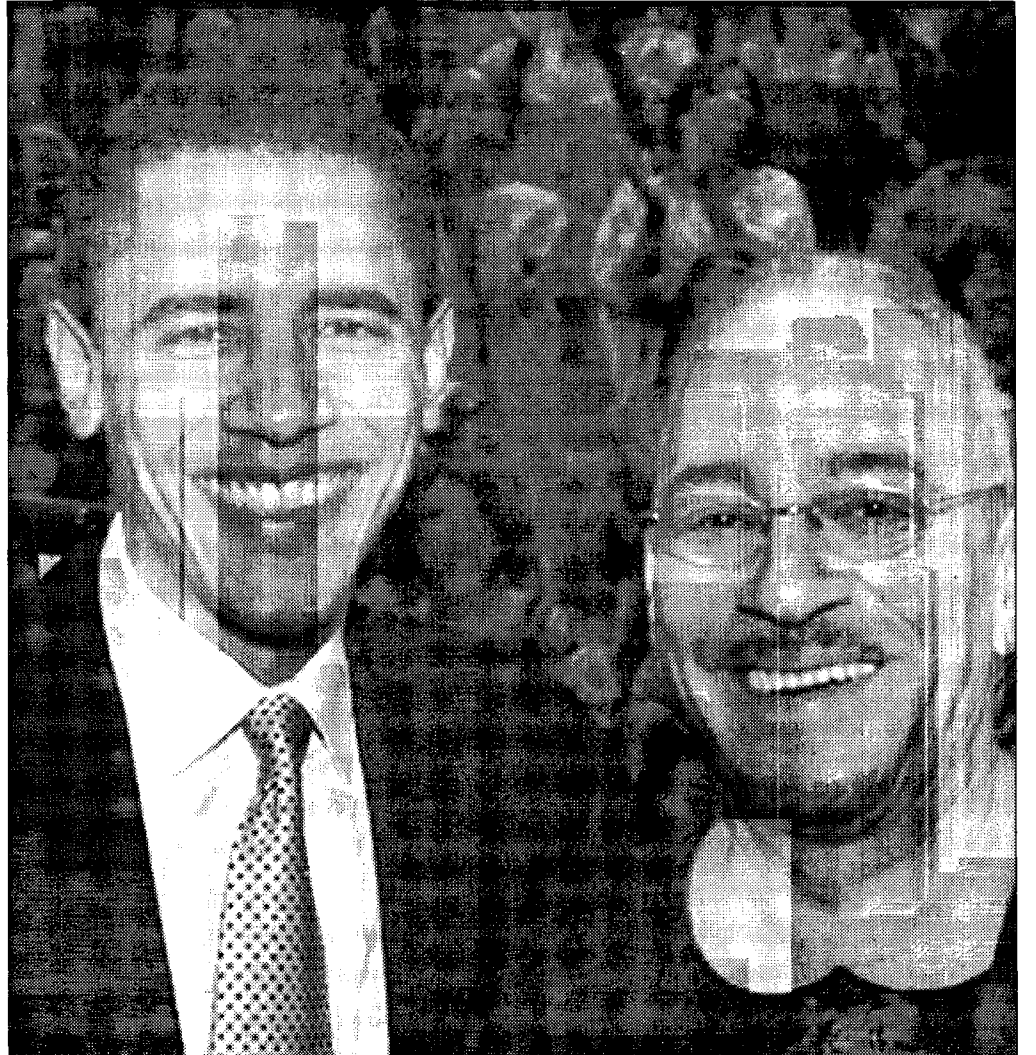
Wright's words have come under intense scrutiny because of his long association with Obama, a member of his Chicago congregation. Video clips widely circulated in the past week show Wright, in a booming voice, suggesting that America's actions were partly to blame for the Sept. 11 attacks and accusing the country of continuing to mistreat blacks.

Obama delivered a speech on race Tuesday that criticized Wright for expressing a "profoundly distorted view of this country."

Wright, he said, failed to recognize the nation's great progress in race relations, embodied by Obama's own candidacy for president. But Obama also pointed out Wright's good works and attempted to put his comments in context, noting that Wright and his contemporaries grew up during an era of segregation and restricted opportunity.

More than three decades ago, Wright took over a small, demoralized congregation on Chicago's impoverished South Side and built it into the largest church in the liberal, mostly white United Church of Christ.

At the 8,000-member Trinity United Church of Christ, the slogan "Unashamedly black and



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama is shown here with his pastor, Rev. Jeremiah Wright, in Chicago on March 10, 2005.

unapologetically Christian" has meant preaching about divestment during South Africa's apartheid era. It has also meant fighting poverty, homelessness and AIDS at home. The religious message has been anything but watered down, with Wright dissecting Bible passages line-by-line.

The pastor's experience is grounded not only in the civil rights movement, but also in 1960s black liberation theology, which applies the Christian Gospel to contemporary struggles against race-based oppression.

"The whole generation that Rev. Wright represents is expressing what they call a righteous anger, the anger from the failed promises of America," said Dwight

Hopkins, a professor at the University of Chicago Divinity School. "The prophetic anger is toward expanding the democracy, expanding it so all citizens can walk through the door of opportunity."

Often lost in the attention paid to Wright's fiery sermons is the typical conclusion, Hopkins said — that despite all obstacles, you are a child of God and "can make a way out of no way." That phrase, common in the language of the black church, was used by Obama in his 4,700-word speech Tuesday.

While Trinity United Church of Christ is more Afrocentric and slightly more political than most black churches, "even con-

servative black churches talk about racism in a way that many whites would find wounding or offensive," said Gary Dorrien, a religion professor at Columbia University in New York.

"Most white Americans have a very limited capacity for dealing with black anger or acknowledging their own racial privileges," Dorrien said. "Wherever white people are dominant, whiteness is transparent to them. In black church communities, dealing with that problem is an every-week issue."

Wright does not focus his ire on white America alone, said Martin Marty, a retired professor of religious history who taught Wright at the University of Chicago.

CHINA

Premier accuses 'Dalai clique' of violence

Associated Press

BEIJING — Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao accused supporters of the Dalai Lama on Tuesday of organizing violent clashes in Tibet in hopes of sabotaging the Beijing Olympics and bolstering their campaign for independence in the Himalayan territory.

The Dalai Lama urged his followers to remain peaceful, saying he would resign as head of the Tibetan government-in-exile if violence got out of control. But he also suggested China may have fomented unrest in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa and nearby provinces to discredit him.

In striking an uncompromising line, Wen underscored the communist leadership's determination to restore order in Tibet and Tibetan areas of neighboring provinces.

"There is ample fact — and we also have plenty of evidence — proving that this incident was organized, premeditated, masterminded and incited by the Dalai clique," he told reporters at his annual news conference at the end of China's national legislative session.

"By staging that incident, they want to undermine the Beijing Olympic Games, and they also try to serve their hidden agenda by inciting such incidents," said Wen.

He said Lhasa was returning to

normal and "will be reopened to the rest of the world," but did not specify when.

Independent reporting from the region was impossible because of China's tight control over information and a ban on trips to the area by foreign reporters.

John Kenwood, a 19-year-old Canadian tourist who left Lhasa on Tuesday, said he saw street cleaners wearing orange vests emblazoned with the Beijing Olympics symbol.

"When the fighting began, you saw no Chinese," said Kenwood as he arrived in Nepal. "Now you see no Tibetans on the streets. The young Tibetans are probably hiding."

RUSSIA

Putin rejects U.S. military proposal

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia had a short answer Tuesday for President Bush's top national security advisers who came to ask for detente in the simmering argument over a planned U.S. missile shield at Russia's doorstep. "Nyet." Or maybe, "Not yet."

The United States and Russia got no closer to settling their public differences over U.S. plans that Russia sees as a potential threat and a turf battle over influence in nations once under the Soviet thumb.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said he will take a closer look at U.S. proposals meant to allay Russian fears, but added that the best way to end the disagreement would be to scrap the plan for placing missile interceptors in Poland and a tracking radar in the Czech Republic.

"We've leaned very far forward in this in an effort to provide reassurance," but the United States plans to go ahead, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said following two days of talks with President Vladimir Putin and other Russian officials.

The Russians promised to look over written U.S. offers for cooperation, a sign perhaps that they are resigned to eventually

accepting the U.S. plan.

"Since the U.S. is going to carry this out, those proposals that we are expecting to receive on paper today seemed to us, as I said, important and useful for the minimization of our concerns," Lavrov said.

During a brief greeting witnessed by reporters Monday, Putin did not mention U.S. plans for the missile shield, a marked contrast from his vehement opposition when he met in October with Gates and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who returned to explore whether U.S. concessions have softened Putin's stance.

"I would say they listened very carefully," Gates told reporters Tuesday. "President Putin took extensive notes last night and there was a lot done during the day today. That said, the full range of what we are now prepared to offer to discuss with the Russians is really just now after the day's talks being put down on paper."

There is no deadline, but Gates said he expected an answer "reasonably quickly."

Gates said the U.S. side spelled out more clearly some details of the proposals it made in the fall, which the Russians initially agreed to study and later rejected as not addressing their main concerns.

Severe floods hit midwest

At least 2 killed, homes evacuated after heavy rains cause damage

Associated Press

PIEDMONT, Mo. — Torrential rain chased hundreds of people from their flooded homes and deluged roads in the nation's midsection Tuesday, killing at least two people.

The storm system also grounded hundreds of flights in Texas. One control tower at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport was briefly evacuated when a funnel cloud was spotted.

The National Weather Service posted flood and flash flood warnings from Texas to Ohio, with tornado watches in Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas.

Heavy rain began falling Monday and just kept coming. Forecasters said some parts of Missouri could get 10 inches of rain or more before the storms finally stop Wednesday.

Gov. Matt Blunt activated the Missouri National Guard as high water closed hundreds of roads.

An estimated 200 houses and businesses were flooded in Piedmont, a town of 2,000 residents. McKenzie Creek rose well above its banks before receding, said Eric Fuchs, Wayne County Emergency Management director.

Up to 30 homes were evacuated in Winona, and some residents of Cape Girardeau were trapped in their homes, the State Emergency Management Agency said. In the town of

Ellington, as many as 50 homes and half the businesses were evacuated, officials said.

The body of an 81-year-old man was found in the water at Ellington, about 120 miles southwest of St. Louis, said Missouri State Water Patrol Lt. Nicholas Humphrey. A 21-year-old state Department of Transportation worker was killed near Springfield when his dump truck was hit by a tractor-trailer rig as he helped out in a flooded area, state officials said.

Firefighters and police were sent to pull motorists out of flooded roads in and around Springfield, said Greene County Emergency Management Director Ryan Nicholls.

"It's absolutely abnormal to have this much rain and more on the way today and tonight," Nicholls said.

Scott and Marilyn Peterson and their 25-year-old son, Scott Jr., scurried out of their mobile home in rural Piedmont after watching the water rise 3 feet in five minutes. The family had just enough time to grab some essentials, a few clothes and the family dog.

"You didn't have time to worry," Scott Peterson Sr. said. "You just grab what you can and go and you're glad the people are OK."

In Arkansas, authorities searched for a West Fork man whose truck was believed to have been swept from a low-water bridge. Authorities found

only the vehicle.

In northeast Arkansas, the Spring River was rising at 6 inches per hour, carrying debris that included full-grown trees.

In Oklahoma, Muskogee firefighters rescued a mother and her four children from their minivan stranded in flood waters.

At Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport in Texas, American Airlines canceled about 700 departures and arrivals because of wind near 70 mph and heavy rain, and more than 100 of the carrier's flights headed to that airport were diverted, said airline spokesman Tim Wagner.

Federal Aviation Administration officials evacuated the airport's west tower for about 15 minutes after seeing a funnel cloud. Another was spotted over Lake Lewisville, just north of the airport.

"This is one of the most vicious thunderstorms DFW has seen in quite some time, especially its ongoing intensity," said airport spokesman Ken Capps. "Add in two snow storms in the past two weeks and this has been one of the most unusual early spring weather patterns in years."

At Dallas Love Field, some 20 Southwest flights were canceled, 20 others were diverted and many other flights were delayed, said airline spokeswoman Ashley Rogers.

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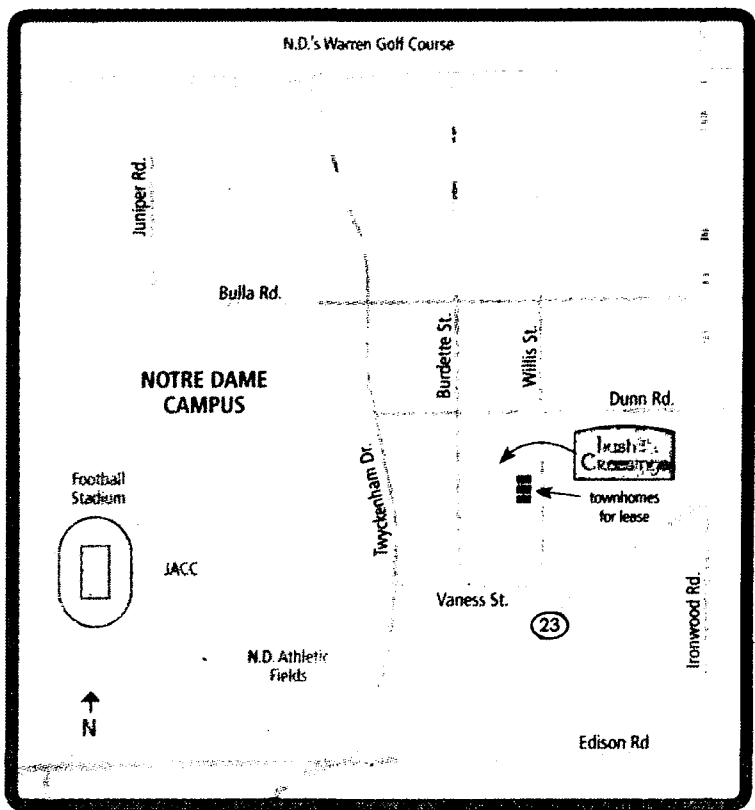
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MARKET RECAP

| Stocks | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|--|
| Dow Jones | 12,392.66 | +420.41 | | |
| Up: | Same: | Down: | Composite Volume: | |
| 3,032 | 52 | 361 | 1,264,149,823 | |
| AMEX | 2,268.10 | 40.61 | | |
| NASDAQ | 2,268.26 | 91.25 | | |
| NYSE | 8,826.44 | 337.06 | | |
| S&P 500 | 1,330.74 | 12.20 | | |
| NIKKEI (Tokyo) | 11,964.16 | 0.00 | | |
| FTSE 100 (London) | 5,605.80 | 191.40 | | |
| COMPANY | %CHANGE | \$GAIN | PRICE | |
| S&P DEP RECIEPTS (SPY) | +4.15 | +5.33 | 133.63 | |
| FINANCIAL SEL SPDR (XLF) | +8.40 | +1.97 | 25.42 | |
| POWERSHARES (QQQQ) | +4.46 | +1.85 | 43.33 | |
| BEAR STEARS (BSC) | +22.87 | +1.10 | 5.91 | |
| Treasuries | | | | |
| 10-YEAR NOTE | +4.13 | +0.137 | 3.451 | |
| 13-WEEK BILL | -9.09 | -0.090 | 0.900 | |
| 30-YEAR BOND | +1.10 | +0.047 | 4.329 | |
| 5-YEAR NOTE | +0.204 | +0.204 | 2.406 | |
| Commodities | | | | |
| LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.) | | +3.74 | 109.42 | |
| GOLD (\$/Troy oz.) | | +1.70 | 1,004.30 | |
| PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.) | | -3.00 | 76.53 | |
| Exchange Rates | | | | |
| YEN | | | 100.0600 | |
| EURO | | | 0.6400 | |
| CANADIAN DOLLAR | | | 0.9900 | |
| BRITISH POUND | | | 0.4986 | |

IN BRIEF

Investment banks soar on solid profits

NEW YORK — Investment bank stocks soared Tuesday after Goldman Sachs and Lehman Brothers reported better-than-expected profits that soothed the frayed nerves of investors who were bracing for a domino effect after the near-failure of Bear Stearns.

But the good news from two of the industry's top names hardly put investment banks in the clear, and their executives are learning to accept more openness in Wall Street's secretive culture.

"It is no longer OK to be in a black box," Lehman Chief Financial Officer Erin Callan told The Associated Press. "There will be a lot more honesty from us as an industry, and it is painfully obvious this will be the biggest change."

Investors were bolstered not just by the investment bank earnings but by the Federal Reserve's move to cut interest rates. They responded by sending brokerages and investment banks to their best finish since 2001, lifting the Dow Jones industrials more than 420 points.

Investment banks are notorious for being tightlipped about trading positions, tactics, and the contents of their multibillion dollar portfolios. That information could give rivals an edge and cost billions of dollars in a split-second trade.

Delta Air Lines offers 30,000 payouts

ATLANTA — Delta Air Lines, faced with a weak economy, dimmer hopes of a combination with Northwest Airlines and record fuel prices that are eating up profits, said Tuesday it will offer voluntary severance payouts to roughly 30,000 employees — more than half its work force — and cut U.S. capacity by an extra 5 percent.

Executives at Atlanta-based Delta said in a memo to employees that the airline's goal is to cut 2,000 frontline, administrative and management jobs through the severance program, attrition and other initiatives.

Delta spokeswoman Betsy Talton said the company would accept more job cuts, if more employees than its goal take the voluntary severance. The severance program primarily affects mainline Delta employees. It will not affect Delta pilots, who have a union contract with the company, and employees at Delta regional carrier Comair, which is based in Erlanger, Ky.

Fed slashes federal funds rate

Aggressive Federal Reserve action prompts Wall Street's biggest gain in five years

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve slashed a key interest rate by three-quarters of a point Tuesday, capping its most aggressive two months of action in a quarter-century in a battle to halt a spreading credit crisis. Wall Street loved it, bursting to its biggest gain in five years.

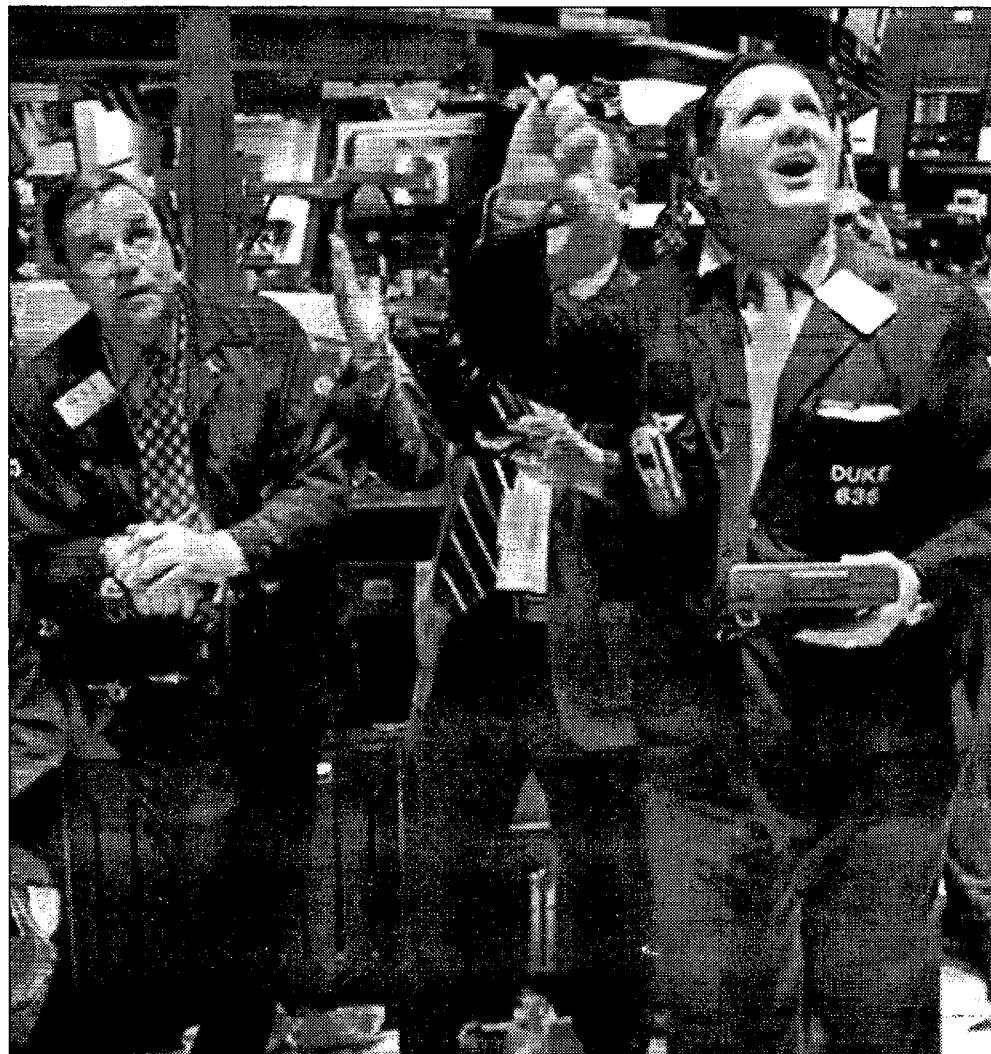
The strong Fed action seemed to convince investors, at least for now, that the central bank will do whatever it can to keep the country out of a steep recession. The Dow Jones industrial average finished the day up 420.41 points at 12,392.66.

The latest Fed move brought the federal funds rate — the interest that banks charge each other — down to 2.25 percent, the lowest since late 2004.

That's important far beyond bank boardrooms. The reduction triggered announcements from commercial banks that they were cutting their prime lending rate to 5.25 percent from 6 percent. This rate is the benchmark for millions of business and consumer loans.

The Fed action was designed to lower borrowing costs and boost spending by consumers and businesses and thus increase economic activity. Economic growth slowed to a near standstill in the final three months of last year as the nation was hit by a series of blows including the credit crunch, a prolonged housing slump, rising unemployment and surging energy prices.

The Federal Reserve has now cut its rate by three-fourths of a percentage point twice this year. The first occurred at an emergency meeting on Jan. 22 and was followed by a half-point cut at a regular meeting on Jan.



Traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange watch as the Fed board rate decision is announced on Tuesday.

30. The three rate cuts over the course of two months represent the most aggressive Fed credit easing since mid-1982 when the Paul Volcker-led Fed was working to get the country out of a deep recession.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues have now cut the funds rate six times since last September, with the reductions becoming more aggressive since January as the central bank has faced growing turmoil in global financial markets.

The Fed also announced Tuesday that it was reducing

its discount rate for banks by a similar three-quarters of a point, pushing it down to 2.5 percent. That cut, which followed a quarter-point reduction on Sunday, was seen as a clear signal that the Fed is ready to supply significant amounts of credit in direct loans to banks and other institutions through its discount window in an effort to stabilize financial markets roiled by the collapse over the weekend of Bear Stearns, the nation's fifth largest investment bank.

"We had been on the brink of the biggest financial melt-down this country had ever

seen, but I think the Fed has now turned the psychology around," said David Jones, chief economist at DMJ Advisors. "The Fed is saying it is ready to supply all the emergency credit banks need to get us out of this crisis."

Many analysts said they believed the Fed may cut rates only once more, perhaps by a more ordinary quarter-point at the next meeting, and then sit back and see if economic stimulus checks that will begin arriving at 130 million households in May will do the trick along with the rate cuts to jumpstart the economy.

Bush hints at more aid for consumers

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — President Bush, eager to reassure a rattled country, said Tuesday that his administration is ready to intervene again to stabilize the economy.

"If there needs to be further action, we'll take it, in a way that does not damage the long-term financial health of our economy," Bush said along the docks of this port city.

It was the second signal in two days from Bush about the possibility of more government action to help hurting consumers and a shaken financial market. Much of his agenda these days is meant to show he is engaged in fixing the economy but still confident in it.

Bush was not specific about other steps he might take.

For now, he has championed the upcoming tax rebates for millions of people and tax breaks for businesses.

And he has embraced action by the Federal Reserve, which keeps slashing interest rates and has helped finance the buyout of a collapsing financial giant.

The president has rejected other ideas from the Democratic Congress. Those include extending unemployment and food stamp benefits, and sparing homeowners from foreclosure by allowing bankruptcy judges to adjust loan rates.

Juxtaposed against the economic concern, Bush had a good day for the Republican Party.

In wealthy neighborhoods in Jacksonville and Palm Beach, Bush raised more than \$1.4 million for the Republican National Committee. Both fundraisers were closed to the media.

In between, during a speech largely focused on trade, Bush said the American people should have confidence in the economy. He chose his examples carefully — low unemployment, rising productivity, a strong agri-

cultural sector, fresh advances in technology.

"I understand there's short-term difficulty," Bush said. "But I want people to understand that in the long term, we're going to be just fine."

In the meantime, the economy has taken a punch in the gut.

A collapse of the subprime housing market led to a credit crisis that has shaken the financial system to its core. Consumer confidence has tanked, gas prices are high, foreclosures are up, home values are down. The same economy that produced jobs for most of Bush's presidency is now shedding them.

Bush linked the economic story to his theme of the day, opening markets through trade.

First he walked the docks of a cargo company that oversees shipping to and from Colombia and other nations. After watching a giant forklift snatch and move a cargo trailer, Bush climbed the rig and got behind the wheel.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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P.O. Box 779, Notre Dame, IN 46556
024 South Dining Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Chris Hine

MANAGING EDITOR: Jay Fitzpatrick
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OFFICE MANAGER & GENERAL INFO
(574) 631-7471

FAX

(574) 631-6927

ADVERTISING

(574) 631-6900 observad@nd.edu

EDITOR IN CHIEF

(574) 631-4542

MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4541 obsme@nd.edu

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4324

BUSINESS OFFICE

(574) 631-5313

NEWS DESK

(574) 631-5323 obsnews.1@nd.edu

VIEWPOINT DESK

(574) 631-5303 viewpoint.1@nd.edu

SPORTS DESK

(574) 631-4543 sports.1@nd.edu

SCENE DESK

(574) 631-4540 scene.1@nd.edu

SAINT MARY'S DESK

smc.1@nd.edu

PHOTO DESK

(574) 631-8767 obsphoto@nd.edu

SYSTEMS & WEB ADMINISTRATORS

(574) 631-8839

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OBSERVER ONLINE
www.ndsmcobserver.com

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The biggest "corporate power"

Elections inevitably bring out the worst in those running for office. Rather than engage in reasoned debate, they make baseless claims cloaked in lofty rhetoric in an effort to appeal to their potential voters.

One such popular delusion frequently cited by politicians is that businesses are somehow inherently evil. This view sees the interests of the worker and of the business as diametrically opposed and irreconcilable. Businesses wield an unacceptable amount of power: they can refuse to provide health care, they can lay off employees at their discretion, and they can exploit their employees by underpaying them. They can do virtually anything. In short, "corporate power" is eating America's sustenance.

Such an argument misses the voluntary nature of the free market. Businesses have no "power" to force anyone to do anything. I may not like Big Macs, but Ronald McDonald cannot speed up my bowel movements unless I choose to buy his product.

I might hate Windows Vista in the same way everyone hates herpes, but Bill Gates can't force me to buy his product. The only way that any business can succeed is by satisfying the tastes of its customers better than its peers. It must interact with consumers on a voluntary basis to persuade them to part with their hard-earned cash (unless it steals from the

tax-payers through subsidies and other government handouts).

Similarly, a business deals with its employees in the same voluntary manner. When a company extends an offer to a potential employee, the firm agrees to give some sort of fixed compensation to the potential employee in return for his or her services. The employee can choose to either accept or reject the offer. The company cannot force the potential employee to work against his will under terms he did not accept. It can only hope the potential employee will choose to accept the offer. Either party can choose to end the business relationship if the relationship ceases to be mutually beneficial.

The relationship between consumer and firm or employee and firm is not inherently conflicted, but mutually beneficial. No consumer is forced to buy a Dell laptop; rather, the consumer chooses to do so. The act of choosing to exchange his cash for the laptop means that he personally valued the laptop more than he valued his cash or the trade would not have occurred. On the other side, the firm must have valued his cash more than the laptop or the trade for the same reason.

The same is true for employees and employers. The employee would not agree to work at a firm in exchange for compensation unless he valued the compensation more than the disutility he gets from working. The employer would not agree to employ the worker unless he gains more from employing him than he loses through the wages he pays. Obviously, both parties to the transaction benefit, not just one at the expense of the other. Business is not

a zero sum game.

It is amusing that those who rally against the evils of "corporate power" somehow see the federal government as the cure rather than a disease. Whereas businesses get their "power" through voluntary interaction with consumers and employees, the federal government behaves in the opposite fashion. The government is naked force. It can spy on its citizens without their knowledge. It can prohibit its citizens from eating certain types of food. It can prevent its citizens from engaging in mutually beneficial exchanges.

Many adult Americans are forced to work for nearly free 5 months of the year so that the government can take their money and give it to someone else to whom it does not belong (old people, poor people, medical care for others, etc.). Citizens become de facto slave labor to the government.

Which is more dangerous: an entity that can arbitrarily seize 40 percent of a person's income, restrict a person's freedom, and spy without any restrictions or an entity without force you to work for it, buy its products or have any relationship with it? Any person that believes in the benevolence of the former and the wickedness of the latter should probably seek counseling. Unfortunately, the entire political establishment needs counseling.

Mark Poyar is a senior finance major and vice president of the College Libertarians. Their Web site is <http://ndlibertarians.blogspot.com>. He can be contacted at mpoyar@nd.edu

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



Mark Poyar

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The world is more malleable than
you think and it's waiting for you to
hammer it into shape."

Bono
rock star

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

University scandalized by "Monologues"

Two years ago, I was stunned and disturbed by Fr. Jenkins' decision to continue to allow the "Vagina Monologues" to be performed on campus, especially since it seemed to be a complete turnaround from his earlier statements of concern. I believed then (as now) that its continued performance on campus was scandalous to the University, and by extension the Catholic Church.

I see no point in listing the reasons for my concerns, as the points for both sides of the debate have been discussed at length. Suffice it to say, I find the arguments for supporting this play's presence on campus grossly unconvincing. This year, we have another statement by Fr. Jenkins and another set of performances. Although still disturbed, I cannot say I am stunned since my expectations of the University are much lower. (The University appears much more ordinary to me now than I once naively envisioned it).

I imagine that this (once again) was not an easy decision for Fr. Jenkins. As a priest, I would expect that he sees the play as potentially harmful to the spiritual well-being of those who perform it, as well as to those who attend the performance. Of course, he also undoubtedly knows that people are watching what Notre Dame decides more than other Catholic institutions, and so knows the decision can be scandalous.

At the same time, as president it seems he is charged to do what he believes is best for the University, which can be in conflict with his role as a priest. I strongly believe that this decision is not in the long-term interest of the University, but understand the reasons why others may feel differently. Perhaps he thought that after having made their point and won the day two years ago, the "academic freedom" proponents would graciously avoid once again antagonizing a significant segment of the Notre Dame community by sponsoring performances in the future. Alas, this was not to be the case — perhaps because the idea of "academic freedom" was simply used as a red herring by folks who really just wanted to generate controversy and conflict. If that is the case, then the efforts by the organizers (as well as the faculty and departments that support them) to feed such a cancer would be particularly contemptible. Regardless, it seems to me his decision would have been less complicated if he had not been a priest.

Surely, chief executives of other organizations, including other universities, do not spend much time thinking about the spiritual well-being of individuals within their organizations. Perhaps then, it really is time to consider that the office of the president of the University no longer be occupied by a Holy Cross priest, and that Notre Dame move to be independent altogether. Unbounded by concerns about the spiritual well-being of students as a priest is, a lay president could simply focus on what's "best" for the University. No more concern about Catholic faculty ratio, no more concern about bothersome bishops and their conferences. No more conflict between Catholic character and academic freedom. He or she could simply concentrate on what's "best" for the University (which presumably means higher US News and World Report Rankings, and the esteem of so-called peer institutions).

Personally, I think it would be a great loss to see Notre Dame become an independent institution. However, it wouldn't be the first Catholic institution to do. It does have advantages for both sides. Academic freedom would presumably be unlimited to the delight of one side of the debate, while those of us on the other would at least not have to see the university we loved used as a weapon in the culture war against the Catholic Church, with the approval of a priest. We would also likely see the play end its run on campus more quickly (with the controversy gone, support for what is essentially a bad play would probably dry up).

If a distorted view of academic freedom trumps Catholic character at Notre Dame (as this decision suggests is the case), and we are on the road to independence, let's be done with it sooner rather than later. If that is the direction of the University, perhaps it is "best" to do so in an expeditious manner. Otherwise, disappearing bishops and a visit to this country by a pope with more than an interest in "Ex Corde Ecclesiae" may be signs that if Notre Dame does not make the explicit decision to be independent itself, the decision for Notre Dame to be independent may be made by somebody else.

Michael R. Waters
alumnus
MBA 2000
Mar. 17

Chastity for the right reasons

Chris Spellman acknowledged in his letter to the editor ("Save sex for marriage," Mar. 17) that many readers would disagree with his assertion, reflecting on its controversial nature. I am not here to attack Mr. Spellman's assertion (I am a member of such Facebook groups as "I Am Going To Have Crazy Sex Once I Am Married" and "I'm Saving Myself For Wild, Passionate, Awkward Honeymoon Sex"). Rather I would like to play Devil's Advocate with some analogies and arguments that are prevalent on the abstinence side of the debate.

Without any concrete privately collected empirical evidence, I concede that sex is likely far more meaningful and enjoyable between husband and wife. While sex is likely improved by marriage (and marriage by sex, otherwise count me out), I doubt that abstaining from sex before marriage improves it the same way that dessert is "improved" by having dinner first, as Mr. Spellman believes. Often the dinner itself is too much, and I find that starting with dessert gets me the most from my dining hall brownie sundae. The dessert analogy fails not out of a misunderstanding of sex, but a misunderstanding of dessert.

Making sex and food analogous sometimes works to inspire others to chastity, and sometimes it doesn't. One other such failed example is "Why have burgers when you can have steak?" While this worked great for me in my pubescent years, as time passed and neither burgers nor steak were on the horizon, I started getting antsy for anything that smelt like a dead cow. People who are getting married later and later into their 30s or even 40s must be starving waiting for that steak, and I'm afraid they'll too anxiously attend to the first burgers that come their way. Comparing food and sex gets you in trouble pretty fast. If I'm flirting with a girl, does that hint that at some unspecified time in a hypothetical future, I would enjoy playing cannibal with her? Of course not. But thinking of it that way is a good guard against coming off as too forward.

I could go on all day, but let's look at one last point brought up in Spellman's article: "Do we fight the heroic struggle of saving our sexuality for our future spouse, knowing the rewards will be great, or do we cheat[?]... [This] is in no way easy, but neither is accomplishing other lofty goals like getting into Notre Dame or winning a national championship." I take particular issue with the phrase "knowing the rewards will be great." If you're in the process of saving yourself for marriage, you might believe the rewards will be great, but do you really know? And what, specifically, are the rewards in a positive sense (beyond negative descriptions like you won't get AIDS or you won't get pregnant)? As someone who isn't married and is saving himself, I take it more as a matter of faith that the rewards are worth it, since really there's no second life to compare this strategy against. And while staying steadfastly chaste before marriage is no simple task, the belief in its "loftiness" is completely a matter of faith.

For my part, I do not demand that I marry a virgin, as I am uncertain of reasons why this should be such a requirement for two people to commit to each other and raise good Christians and citizens together. It seems like it's lofty because it's difficult instead of being difficult because it's so lofty.

John Gorski
senior
Stanford Hall
Mar. 17

Obama most likely not the Antichrist

Mr. Yatarola:

You repeatedly stated in your Viewpoint article ("Obama and the end of time," Mar. 18), that you have always wanted to write an article about Sen. Barack Obama, but that every issue you've ever wanted to write about has been popularized before you could publish your views. Perhaps this happened for a reason. Maybe you don't have anything original to say about Sen. Obama that is relevant and appropriate to publish.

But, you apparently couldn't bear the thought of not throwing your two cents in, and therefore took it upon yourself to compose a scathing, irrelevant editorial that borders on being ridiculous. Your condescending language that at one point becomes downright racist when you make a definite distinction between black voters and highly educated ones (as if there could never be a highly educated black voter) disgusts me, and I am

sure I am not alone when I say this.

You essentially equate support of Obama to the following of a pagan cult, rejecting all of the senator's ideas as "hot air." A "shallow fad"? That's far too bold, Mr. Yatarola. One of the only points of yours that I agreed with was when you described yourself as being "conceited." Merely mentioning the names "Obama" and "Antichrist" in the same sentence is absolutely preposterous. Just because you may dread biotechnology (which has undeniably led to tremendous advances in health-care that are saving lives) doesn't mean that it is a sign of the apocalypse; nor does this mean that it is relevant to this issue.

In fact, why are we discussing faith at all in relation to this campaign? Sen. Obama is clearly the most faith-oriented candidate left, as difficult as this may be for a conservative to swallow. There is a time to talk about faith, yes, but surely

this is not it. Debating religion is not going to end the recession or fix the Middle East crisis. The fact that you honestly believe that Sen. Obama is knowingly and purposely garnering "religious fanaticism toward himself" is almost entertaining.

I have heard many conservative commentators complain about Obama's use of rhetoric as a means to make himself a more popular candidate, but never has anyone absurdly complained that he is trying to make himself a god (until you did yesterday, that is).

I'm sorry there is not a candidate in this election that is as conservative and orthodox as you desire. But again, maybe there is a reason for this.

Ed Keenan
freshman
Fisher Hall
Mar. 18

A haiku:

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E-mail Kara at
kking5@nd.edu for more
information.

"WHO"-ray for Horton!

By CASSIE BELEK
Assistant Scene Editor

After disappointing adaptations of "The Cat in the Hat" and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," Dr. Seuss properly comes to life in "Horton Hears a Who!" from Blue Sky Studios ("Ice Age"). With breathtaking animation and a heartwarming, well-crafted story, "Horton" suggests that Dr. Seuss has found his home away from live-action and in the world of feature animation.

The story of "Horton" begins with a simple action — a speck of dust is dislodged from a daisy. But what makes this event extraordinary is that the speck of dust houses the tiny world of the Whos, and now that they are precariously floating through the air, their world is in danger. Horton the elephant (voiced by Jim Carrey) hears the Whos' screams and makes it his mission to find a safe place for the tiny world as he carries it on a clover.

Meanwhile, in Who-ville, Mayor Ned O'Malley (Steve Carell) is struggling to keep the peace while figuring out what is causing the strange weather conditions and earthquakes in his fair city. After making contact with Horton, Ned discovers that Who-ville is a speck of dust in danger of extinction. Ned must rely on Horton to carry the Whos to safety as the trusty elephant goes up against Kangaroo (Carol Burnett), who believes that Horton is dangerously encouraging children to use their imagina-

tions, and a vulture named Vlad (Will Arnett), who Kangaroo hires to dispose of the speck of dust. Few animals in the Jungle of Nool believe Horton's tale, but he never gives up protecting the Whos because he firmly believes that "a person's a person, no matter how small."

Although "Horton" is clearly a children's movie, its humor and animation can appeal to adults as well. The comedy is smart and goes beyond visual gags and potty humor. "Horton" takes after the Disney-Pixar films in its ability to captivate audiences of all ages. It doesn't hurt that comedians like Carrey, Carell, Burnett, Arnett, Amy Poehler, Seth Rogen and Jonah Hill lend their voices to the animated characters. Fans of these actors' live action work will appreciate their animated work as well. Rogen may have to check

the foul language at the door, but his sarcasm is just as present in Horton's buddy Morton as it is in any one of his comedies.

The movie becomes difficult to watch as the animals of the Jungle of Nool try to imprison Horton and destroy the speck of dust, but it is only difficult because we fear for the futures of Horton and the Whos and because the political undertones of Dr. Seuss' work become eerily apparent when his short book is drawn out to 88 minutes. After all, "Horton Hears a Who!" was written during the peak of the McCarthy hearings in the 1950s and many critics have drawn parallels between Dr. Seuss' work and the McCarthy saga. But even children's movies can be a little bit scary.

Not everything is perfect in the world of Dr. Seuss all the time, but that's what happy endings are for. We're even treated to a musical number that seems to come straight out of "The 40-Year-Old Virgin."

"Horton" really has it all — comedy, adventure, suspense, good guys and bad guys that turn good so that everyone can be happy. While watching Horton float down a river or Ned run around Who-ville, you have to wonder if the fantastical images on screen are what Dr. Seuss imagined as he dreamed up the Jungle of Nool and the world inside the tiny speck of dust.

They must be pretty darn close.

Contact Cassie Belek at cbelek@nd.edu

Horton Hear's a Who!

Blue Sky Studios

Director: Jimmy Hayward, Steve Martino

Written by: Ken Daurio, Cinco Paul

Starring: Jim Carrey, Steve Carell, Carol Burnett, Amy Poehler, Seth Rogen, Jonah Hill



Design by Mary Cecilia Mitsch

By MARK WITTE
Assistant Scene Editor

You probably won't enjoy *Doomsday*. The movie lacks any real rhythm or flow; in fact it's really just a 104 minute long action sequence, filled with non-stop, blood-splattering action. But if you're familiar with *Snake Pliskin*, *Mad Max* or any of the old George Romero zombie flicks, you might appreciate this film.

"A virus doesn't hate or care, it just happens," Or so the opening narration claims at the beginning of director Neil Marshall's latest film. The full-blown apocalyptic thriller begins with the killer "Reaper" virus breaking out in the city of Glasgow. It spreads so rapidly the government decides to just wall off the northern half of the island of Great Britain, leaving everyone living within the regions — sick or not — to die.

Three decades later, skyrocketing levels of overpopulation, unemployment and sheer filth lead to another outbreak of the virus in London. Rather than evacuate or quarantine all of England, two corrupt, high ranking government officials John Hatcher (Alexander Siddig) and Michael Canaris (David O'Hara) send an elite team, led by the one-eyed Major Eden Sinclair (Rhona Mitra), over the wall into what's left of Scotland.

Hatcher instructs Sinclair to find the cure and return within 48 hours — before the virus overruns London. Sinclair coolly asks what she should do if she doesn't find the cure. Hatcher responds: "Then you shouldn't bother coming back." His comment is sort of ironic, if you stay until the end.

The film is homage to the gritty, apocalyptic thrillers of the 80's.

Leading a team of soldiers and a pair of scientists, Sinclair sets out for Glasgow in search of Dr. Kane (Malcom McDowell), the leading researcher on the Reaper Virus 30 years ago, who was trapped inside the city. They don't find Kane, but what they do looks straight out of John Carpenter's "Escape from New York." The streets are empty, the buildings overrun by vegetation and everything appears void of human life. But an empty city is no fun.

Before they know it the place is crawling with club-swinging, Mohawk wearing, tattooed, punk rocking cannibals. Sinclair and her men mow down about a hundred of the freaks before the savage punk rockers manage to overrun her crew. They take her prisoner and she meets their leader, Sol (Craig Conway). The man is about as psycho as you would expect any human being surviving under such circumstances to be. A testament to his insanity, Sol puts on a dance show to the music of Fine Young Cannibals

before the cannibals feast on one of Sinclair's crew members.

From there things only get more ridiculous.

Sinclair manages to escape and finds Kane, who happens to be at war with Sol, who, it turns out, is Kane's son. Unlike Sol's sweatband and Mohawk totting followers, Kane's men ride horses wearing suits of armor. The whole scenario is absurd, but it's redeemed by the interchange Sinclair shares with Kane right before he throws her into a gladiator arena to do battle with his executioner. Kane asks Sinclair what London has become in the decades since the wall went up. Sinclair casually responds, "Same [expletive], different era."

Marshall, who won a string of awards for his low-budget independent films "Dog Soldiers" and "The Descent," jumped on to a much larger stage with "Doomsday." The film is his homage to the gritty, apocalyptic thrillers of the 80s.

"[T]he whole idea was that I was making a film for an audience that wasn't there when "Mad Max" came out. I wanted to give them a sense of what we experienced," he said in an interview on the Web site chud.com.

When you feel the jolt of the stunt-filled car chase at the end of the film, a scene that took three-and-a-half weeks to film, you might get a sense of what he is trying to accomplish, and overall it's almost enough to call "Doomsday" a good film.

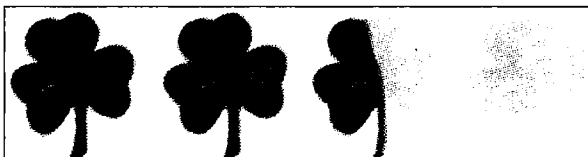
Contact Mark Witte at mwitte@nd.edu

Doomsday Crystal Sky Pictures

Director: Neil Marshall

Written by: Neil Marshall

Starring: Rhona Mitra, Bob Hoskins, Malcolm McDowell, Adrian Lester



DOOMSDAY

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Mount St. Mary's opens Tournament with 69-60 victory

Goode's game-high 21 points help Mountaineers beat Coppin State, earn first Tourney win in school history

Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — The Mount finally got The Win.

Mount St. Mary's, a Maryland school known for getting drubbed in its previous two appearances in the NCAA tournament, got this one started with a nice-looking win Tuesday night in the opening game.

A 69-60 victory over Coppin State set up a daunting second game for the Mountaineers (19-14), who immediately started preparing for their next opponent.

Anybody up for playing North Carolina? In its own backyard, no less?

"I envisioned playing against them when I was little," said guard Jeremy Goode, a Carolina native who led the way with 21 points. "To play against them means a lot."

It means a season that seemed to be a lost cause only a few weeks ago can go on for at least a few more days.

The Mountaineers won their last five games to shed their losing record and make the tournament, then got the one victory that's always been well out of reach. In its two other NCAA games, Mount St. Mary's lost to Kentucky by 46 points in 1995 and to Michigan State by 23 in 1999.

"It's a relief," said Kelly Beidler, who had 15 rebounds. "It just felt good to say we've actually won an NCAA game."

No time to savor it. Tournament reality hits on Friday, when the Mount plays the top-seeded Tar Heels in Raleigh. Fans in the crowd of 8,464 at University of Dayton Arena held up signs calling on the play-in winner to "Bury N. Carolina."

Tough chance for that. A 16th seed has never taken down a No. 1.

But, that's something for later. For a few sweet minutes on Tuesday night, Mount St. Mary's got to savor its breakthrough over another Maryland school, located about 60 miles away.

Coppin State (16-21) became the first team to reach the tournament with 20 losses, and the Eagles played as if they were in over their heads during the closing minutes. With the pressure on,



Mountaineers guard Chris Vann, center, celebrates after Mount St. Mary's beat Coppin State, 69-60, in the NCAA Tournament's opening round game Tuesday in Dayton, Ohio.

they went five minutes without scoring, allowing Mount St. Mary's to break it open.

Sensing the enormity of the moment, they missed eight straight shots and a pair of free throws. Several times, the ball started to roll in, then agonizingly spun out.

"We had a lot of opportunities," said Tywain McKee, who had a team-high 15 points.

"We just couldn't put them in."

Goode, a 5-foot-9 sophomore who knows a little about Carolina blue because he grew up in Charlotte, was

the spark for Mount St. Mary's up-tempo offense. He did it all, driving to the basket and hitting fadeaway jumpers over much taller players.

He also supplied the final touches, hitting four free throws in the last 27 seconds.

Perhaps no other opening-game winner enjoyed it so much and complained so

little. Unlike previous years, there was no groaning about having to start the tournament in Dayton.

Not from Mount St. Mary's, the Northeast Conference

champ that had a losing record before it got on that late run. The only complaint was from some folks who didn't even think the Mountaineers deserved to be in the tournament at all, given their RPI of 159.

"Me and Chris (Vann) were in the hotel watching ESPN and a guy says this game shouldn't even be played," Goode said. "He said neither team deserved to be in the tournament. That kind of got us ready to play."

Coppin State complain? No way.

Marooned at 4-19 in early February, the Eagles sneaked into the tournament for the first time since 1997 by winning the Mid-Eastern Athletic title.

"This was a great opportunity," said Antwan Harrison,

who scored 14 points. "What we came through to get to the NCAA tournament, you can't take that away. So we appreciate the opportunity to be here."

No one could grouse about the game, either. For the most part, they didn't play like teams with a combined 35 losses. Coppin State used its quickness, going inside for dunks and layups. Mount St. Mary's trio of dangerous guards did most of the damage.

Coppin State was ahead the entire first half, leading by as many as nine. The Mountaineers' guards changed the tone after half-time, when Vann's three-point play put Mount St. Mary's up 39-34.

It went back-and-forth until Coppin State went cold at the end.

"[An ESPN analyst] said neither team deserved to be in the tournament. That kind of got us ready to play."

Jeremy Goode
Mountaineers guard

CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 524 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.

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PERSONAL

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AROUND THE NATION

Wednesday, March 19, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 13

NCAA Baseball

USA Today/ESPN Top 25

Coaches Poll

| rank | team | record | last week |
|------|---------------------|--------|-----------|
| 1 | Arizona State | 17-0 | 1 |
| 2 | Arizona | 12-2 | 2 |
| 3 | Florida State | 16-1 | 4 |
| 4 | North Carolina | 14-3 | 3 |
| 5 | Miami | 13-2 | 5 |
| 6 | Long Beach State | 12-3 | 7 |
| 7 | UC Irvine | 14-1 | 10 |
| 8 | Vanderbilt | 12-4 | 12 |
| 9 | Missouri | 13-2 | 11 |
| 10 | Mississippi | 13-5 | 8 |
| 11 | Kentucky | 18-0 | 15 |
| 12 | South Carolina | 11-5 | 6 |
| 13 | Baylor | 13-4 | 9 |
| 14 | Texas | 12-5 | 13 |
| 15 | Rice | 12-6 | 16 |
| 16 | Wichita State | 11-3 | 21 |
| 17 | Texas A&M | 15-4 | 22 |
| 18 | Stanford | 8-4 | 20 |
| 19 | Virginia | 14-4 | 14 |
| 20 | UCLA | 10-5 | 18 |
| 21 | Coastal Carolina | 15-2 | NR |
| 22 | California | 13-2-1 | 25 |
| 23 | Georgia Tech | 13-4 | 17 |
| 24 | Nebraska | 14-2 | NR |
| 25 | Cal State Fullerton | 9-7 | 23 |

NCAA Softball

USA Today/NFCA Top 25

| rank | team | record | last week |
|------|---------------------|--------|-----------|
| 1 | Arizona State | 21-1 | 3 |
| 2 | Alabama | 17-1 | 1 |
| 3 | Texas A&M | 22-3 | 2 |
| 4 | Tennessee | 19-1 | 4 |
| 5 | Florida | 24-1 | 5 |
| 6 | UCLA | 19-2 | 7 |
| 7 | Arizona | 11-4 | 8 |
| 8 | Northwestern | 10-3 | 6 |
| 9 | Stanford | 20-2 | 10 |
| 10 | Michigan | 16-2 | 12 |
| 11 | Oklahoma | 17-4 | 10 |
| 12 | LSU | 15-4 | 9 |
| 13 | Baylor | 12-3 | 13 |
| 14 | Houston | 14-2 | 14 |
| 15 | Hawaii | 13-4 | 15 |
| 16 | DePaul | 11-5 | 19 |
| 17 | Georgia | 17-5 | 17 |
| 18 | Louisiana-Lafayette | 10-3 | 16 |
| 19 | Mississippi State | 16-4 | 18 |
| 20 | Ohio State | 11-4 | 20 |
| 21 | San Diego State | 16-5 | 21 |
| 22 | Washington | 10-6-1 | 25 |
| 23 | Fresno State | 15-3 | NR |
| 24 | Virginia Tech | 12-6 | 24 |
| 25 | Maryland | 13-1 | NR |

MIAA Women's Tennis Conference Standings

| rank | team | league | overall |
|------|--------------|--------|---------|
| 1 | Albion | 3-0 | 7-0 |
| 2 | Kalamazoo | 1-0 | 3-4 |
| 3 | Alma | 0-0 | 8-3 |
| 4 | Calvin | 0-0 | 6-1 |
| 5 | Hope | 0-0 | 2-3 |
| 6 | SAINT MARY'S | 0-1 | 4-5 |
| 7 | Tri-State | 0-0 | 3-2 |
| 8 | Adrian | 0-1 | 2-5 |
| 9 | Olivet | 0-1 | 1-5 |

around the dial

NBA BASKETBALL
Pistons at Cavaliers
8 p.m., ESPN

**NIT CONFERENCE MEN'S BASKETBALL
TOURNAMENT**
Alabama at Virginia Commonwealth
7 p.m., ESPN2

San Diego State at Florida
9 p.m., ESPN2

OLYMPICS



A woman holds a poster against the Olympic Games in Beijing outside the Chinese Embassy in Paris during a protest against the Chinese authority's crackdown on demonstrations in Tibet.

Leaders may boycott ceremonies

Associated Press

PARIS — Moves to punish China over its handling of violence in Tibet gained momentum Tuesday, with a novel suggestion for a mini-boycott of the Beijing Olympics by VIPs at the opening ceremony.

Such a protest by world leaders would be a huge slap in the face for China's Communist leadership.

France's outspoken foreign minister, former humanitarian campaigner Bernard Kouchner, said the idea "is interesting."

Kouchner said he wants to discuss it with other

foreign ministers from the 27-nation European Union next week. His comments opened a crack in what until now had been solid opposition to a full boycott, a stance that Kouchner said remains the official government position.

The idea of skipping the Aug. 8 opening ceremony "is less negative than a general boycott," Kouchner said. "We are considering it."

Asked about Kouchner's statement, China's U.N. Ambassador Wang Guangya said: "Certainly I think what he said is not shared by most of the people in the world."

International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge said last month that he expects many heads of state — including President Bush, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy — to attend the opening ceremony.

Such an opening ceremony boycott presumably would not include the athletes, who under Olympic rules are forbidden from making any kind of protest at events or venues — including the opening ceremony.

U.S. Olympic Committee spokesman Darryl Seibel said there are no rules

forcing athletes to attend opening ceremonies.

"We strongly encourage our athletes to participate in opening ceremonies," Seibel said. "It is a tremendous honor to walk into the Olympic Stadium behind the flag of your nation, and to do so in a ceremony honoring and celebrating athletes from around the world."

The violent protests in Tibet, the most serious challenge in almost two decades to China's rule in the region, are forcing governments and human rights campaigners to re-examine their approach to the Aug. 8-24 games.

IN BRIEF

Central Florida walk-on dies after conditioning

ORLANDO, Fla. — A Central Florida wide receiver died Tuesday after voluntary strength and conditioning drills, the day before spring practice was set to begin.

Police said there was no foul play or obvious cause for redshirt freshman Ereck Plancher's late morning collapse. UCF athletic director Keith Tribble said the players had been lifting weights, then ran for about 10 minutes.

After the workout, the team huddled for a quick chat. As everyone was leaving, Plancher, of Naples, took a knee in obvious distress, Tribble said. UCF trainers on site immediately provided CPR and the redshirt freshman was taken by ambulance to the hospital. He was pronounced dead just before noon.

76ers talking about AI coming back to town

PHILADELPHIA — The 76ers are talkin' about Allen Iverson once more.

Here he comes, 15 months after he was kicked out of Philadelphia over irreconcilable differences, A.I., The Answer, the MVP, the hip-hop hoops icon — call him what you want — is back in the city he once owned like few others ever have in its deep, rich sports history.

The ones who know the fans best believe Iverson will get an ovation that will rattle the roof of the Wachovia Center when the 6-foot guard out of Georgetown is introduced Wednesday. Iverson's first game in Philly since he was traded in December 2006 might be one of the more prominent and passionate moments in his old home, even though he'll be wearing a Denver Nuggets uniform and trying like mad to stick it to the Sixers instead of vowing to win them a title.

Obama t-shirt Web site shut down by MLB lawyers

NEW YORK — A Web site selling "Obama" T-shirts using the typefaces of Major League Baseball teams closed after drawing attention from the sport's lawyers.

"We sent a cease-and-desist letter for violating our trademark," baseball spokesman Rich Levin said Tuesday.

Morris Levin, a supporter of Barack Obama's presidential campaign, operated www.obamaofdreams.com and said he shut down the site March 4. He said he stopped sales on that date.

"I started the site as a fun way to show support for Sen. Obama, and I'm a big Phillies fan," he said in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "I did not make any profit on this, and I think that Major League Baseball has a fantastic product of which I am a big consumer."

NBA

Garnett's old boss says star forward 'tanked it'

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Kevin Garnett has heard plenty of criticism in his 13 years in the NBA.

He doesn't hit the big shot in the fourth quarter. He only got the Minnesota Timberwolves out of the first round of the playoffs one time. His contract limited the team's ability to surround him with talent.

Through it all, no one ever questioned his intensity, effort or determination.

Until now, and from an unlikely source.

Timberwolves owner Glen Taylor, a staunch supporter and friend of Garnett's during their 12 seasons together in Minnesota, leveled some rare criticism at his former star on Tuesday, suggesting Garnett "tanked it" when he missed the last five games last year.

After the Celtics ended the Rockets' 22-game winning streak on Tuesday night with a 94-74 win, Garnett didn't have much to say about the controversy.

"I'm in Boston right now," he said courtside. "I could care less what Glen Taylor thinks of Kevin Garnett. Right now, huge win for us. That's nonsense. I don't even know why he would bring that up, but, you know, it shows the taste of some people."

Taylor's remarks came after practice Tuesday afternoon, as the Wolves' strong play down the stretch was being discussed. They have won four of their last six games and say they want to win as many as possible to create some momentum going into the offseason.

Taylor took exception to a local newspaper columnist who suggested it was time for the Wolves, who are 16-50, to start losing to improve their chances in the draft lottery.

Garnett missed the last five games of last season with a leg injury and watched his team lose its final seven games, improving its draft status along the way, before being traded to Boston in July.

Taylor said the columnist "said a little bit last year that we sort of like tanked it. I don't think that. I don't like that so much. I don't like that."

"It was more like KG tanked it. I think the other guys still wanted to

play. But it sure changed the team and didn't make us [as good]."

Before the Celtics took on the Rockets, Garnett's agent, Andy Miller, said Taylor's remarks were "ridiculous."

"KG has never been questioned, nor would he ever be questioned by anyone, about his effort or desire to win and accomplish team success," Miller said in a phone interview. "During his tenure in Minnesota, nothing was more important to him than bringing a championship to Minnesota."

Last year wasn't the first time the Wolves have been accused of dumping games.

Two years ago, the team shut down Garnett for the final six games, which ended with center Mark Madsen missing seven 3-pointers in a

double-overtime loss to Memphis.

They traded a first-rounder to the Clippers in a deal for Marko Jaric that year, and needed to finish with a lottery pick in the top 10 to keep it. Minnesota lost four of its last five to ensure that happened.

The Wolves aren't the only team to come under scrutiny for tanking games in recent years. Memphis, which comes to the Target Center on Wednesday night, has heard it this year after trading star Pau Gasol to the Lakers for a package of nondescript players, and Miami recently made the decision to bench Dwyane Wade for the rest of the season.

So far this season, the Timberwolves cannot be considered in that company.

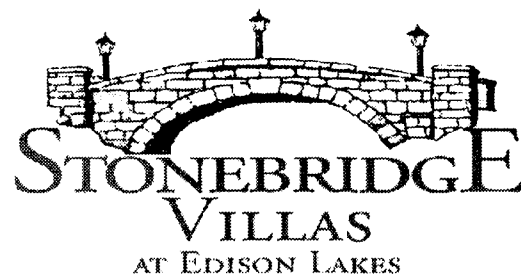
They have shown marked improvement in the last week Taylor said "the right thing to do is to press these guys to win, win, win, win, win."

"Why are we winning? We're winning for [the players], but the other thing is I think we're winning for the fans," he said. "I think we have to show the fans that, what I call it, there is a plan. That we're going to improve next year. And you can see where we were and this is where we're going and next year we're going to be a better team."

With a young core including Al Jefferson, Ryan Gomes and Randy Foye, there is some optimism that better days lie ahead.

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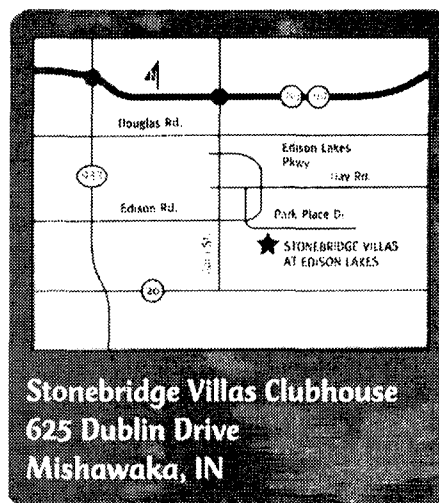
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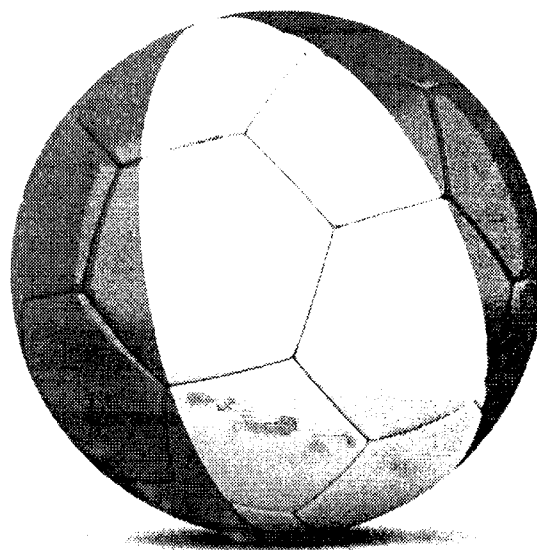
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NHL

Nittymaki, Flyers clinging to last playoff spot

Goalie nearly flawless in Philadelphia victory; Blues win in shootout; Blue Jackets' Norrena shuts out Flames

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Antero Nittymaki made a perfect save in the final seconds to remain unbeaten against Atlanta.

Nittymaki smothered Ilya Kovalchuk's last-second attempt at a game-tying goal, dropping the Thrashers forward to his knees in disbelief and preserving Philadelphia's sorely-needed victory.

Mike Richards, Jeff Carter and Vaclav Prospal scored goals and the Flyers kept their hold on the eighth spot in the Eastern Conference in a 3-2 win over the Thrashers on Tuesday night.

"Anything at this point of the year, a big goal, a big save, we definitely can feed off it," Carter said.

No stop came bigger than the one Nittymaki made in the final ticks of the clock. Kovalchuk scored his 50th goal of the season with 30 seconds left, leaving the Flyers with a sense of dread about blowing yet another game in the waning moments.

Kovalchuk nearly made it happen with a wrist shot from the high slot, but Nittymaki made the tough save. Kovalchuk fell to his knees, then sprawled his body on the ice as the Flyers mobbed each other around him in celebration.

"Most of the time I score those kind of goals," Kovalchuk said.

Carter and Richards were among the Flyers who called

it the save of the year. Nittymaki, who made 17 saves, said it was simply another stop and that he "just reacted."

"As soon as he wound up and the puck made it through to him I had already jumped and celebrated," Thrashers forward Chris Thorburn said. "Maybe I jinxed him, but he's done it so many times for us."

Nittymaki allowed Thorburn's goal 58 seconds into the game, but was near flawless in helping the Flyers to their 10th straight series win against the Thrashers. The Flyers haven't lost to Atlanta since November 2005 and Nittymaki improved to 9-0 against the Thrashers.

"We had a simple game plan, get pucks in deep, allow the pucks to the net and I really thought it paid off," coach John Stevens said.

The slumping Flyers desperately needed this win to stay in the playoff chase with only eight games left in the season. They took a season-high 47 shots.

They had lost four straight, including a 7-1 defeat at Pittsburgh on Sunday, that caused general manager Paul Holmgren to blast their effort and team chairman Ed Snider expressed concern over their collapse.

Stevens even ordered the equipment manager to change all the player's stalls in the locker room of their practice facility to shake everything up.

For one game at least, the

criticisms must have inspired the Flyers.

They got off to yet another slow start, though, when Thorburn slid the puck past for Nittymaki for an easy goal and a 1-0 lead. One of the knocks Holmgren leveled against Stevens was the Flyers sometimes are not prepared at the start of games and this was the latest example.

Unlike their thrashing at Pittsburgh, the Flyers rallied in this one.

The Flyers attacked Kari Lehtonen with a flurry of shots and Richards finally got the puck through for his 25th goal and tied the game 7 minutes into the first period.

The Flyers caught a break with 3 seconds left in the period when Kimmo Timonen's slapper just inside the blue line fired off Carter's skate and shot through Lehtonen's legs to make it 2-1. Carter's power-play goal was his 28th of the season.

Prospal scored his 31st goal off a give-and-go from Danny Briere in the third, which turned out to be a huge goal.

The Flyers, who blew a 3-0 lead to Toronto last week in the third period, had another scare when Kovalchuk made it 3-2 with 30 seconds remaining. The rowdy crowd was instantly hushed, but Philly hung on for the dramatic win thanks to one more fantastic save.

"We had some trouble winning games a couple of times this year, but we got the job

done tonight," Nittymaki said.

Blues 4, Canadiens 3 (shootout)

Brad Boyes scored his 38th goal of the season and was the only player to score in the shootout and the St. Louis Blues ended a 10-game road losing streak with a win over the Montreal Canadiens on Tuesday night.

Manny Legace stopped Saku Koivu, Andrei Kostitsyn and Alex Kovalev in the shootout as St. Louis got its first road win in more than a month.

Boyes, who scored his team-high 38th goal in the second period, put a backhand past Jaroslav Halak on St. Louis' second attempt.

Keith Tkachuk scored on a two-man advantage in the first period for St. Louis, which got its first win seven games into a season-high nine-game road trip (1-5-1).

Andy McDonald also scored for the Blues, who had gone 0-7-3 on the road since a 4-1 win in Colorado on Feb. 14 to match the longest road losing streak in franchise history.

Blue Jackets 3, Flames 0

Backup goalie Fredrik Norrena helped preserve Columbus' slim playoff hopes.

Norrena made 18 saves for his first shutout of the season and fourth of his career and the Blue Jackets beat the Calgary Flames 3-0 Tuesday night for their second straight win.

"He was really sound," Columbus coach Ken

Hitchcock said. "The thing that was impressive for me was the no rebounds."

Norrena -- who had a career-high 43 saves in a 4-3 win against Detroit on Sunday -- started his second straight game for Pascal Leclaire, out with a concussion suffered in warmups before the Red Wings game.

"Today, the posts helped me and the team helped me," Norrena said. "This was a different game than the last game against Detroit. Tonight we controlled the game and deserved to win."

Manny Malhotra scored two goals for the second straight game and Rick Nash had a goal and two assists for Columbus, seven points out of the eighth playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Dan Fritsche added two assists for the Blue Jackets, who have won three of four.

"We got back to the team game we need to play to win," Hitchcock said. "We did a lot of things we were doing earlier this season when we were dominant in this building."

The Flames could have pulled even with idle Minnesota for first place in the Northwest Division. Calgary, Colorado and Vancouver are tied in the division with 84 points, only four points ahead of eighth-place Nashville.

The Flames finished 1-3 on their four-game road trip and have three wins in seven games.

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NBA

Celtics end Rockets' unlikely 22-game win streak

Odom grabs 17 boards as Lakers hang on to beat Mavs; Deng scores 20 in Bulls' much-needed victory over Nets

Associated Press

HOUSTON — It took the NBA's best team to end the Houston Rockets' 22-game winning streak.

Kevin Garnett and the Boston Celtics stopped the Rockets' remarkable run in emphatic fashion Tuesday night, pulling away in the second half for a 94-74 victory.

Garnett scored 22 points and Paul Pierce added 20 as Boston handed Houston its first loss since a 97-89 defeat to Utah on Jan. 27. The Rockets then put together the NBA's second-longest winning streak, which ended 11 victories shy of the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers, who won 33 in a row.

"Our names will be mentioned there with Hall of Fame people," said Houston point guard Rafer Alston. "We have something to tell our kids."

It was only Houston's second loss in 28 games and its fourth since a 97-93 loss in Boston on Jan. 2, a game Tracy McGrady sat out with a knee injury. The Rockets also lost for the first time in 11 games since Yao Ming went out with a season-ending foot injury on Feb. 26.

The Rockets were finally doomed by poor shooting and mistakes that they overcame during their streak with hustle and solid defense.

"I'm too close to the situation right now to really appreciate," Rockets forward Shane Battier said. "When I'm old and gray and can't dribble this basketball anymore, I think I'll appreciate it. Right now, we're still in a playoff run and have got some dogs barking at our heels."

Boston blanketed McGrady all night, holding Houston's remaining All-Star to eight points on 4-for-11 shooting. Other Rockets had routinely picked up the slack during the seven-week run whenever McGrady struggled, but the Celtics never let that happen.

The Rockets scored a season-low 34 points in the second half on 11-for-33 shooting.

"It's not disappointing," McGrady said. "It's a hell of a team over there. They outplayed us. I've never seen a defense like that. I mean, if they play defense like that, night in and night out, the NBA is in trouble because that was defense at its finest."

Luis Scola scored 15 for Houston, which had a 15-game home streak snapped. Only the 1985-86 Rockets, who won 20 straight at The Summit, had a longer home-court streak in franchise history.

Reserve Leon Powe added 21 points for the Celtics, who've won 13 of their last 14 games, the last three without All-Star guard Ray Allen, who's out with a sore left ankle.

Boston beat San Antonio 93-91 on Monday night and Garnett said the Celtics were all business in their approach to Tuesday's game.

"There wasn't really a lot of talking on the bus last night after the win," Garnett said. "We got on the plane, it was real subtle. There wasn't a lot of talking and I know when we're like that, we're focused."

The Rockets still have one more streak to protect — they'll go for their 13th straight road win in New Orleans on Wednesday night. The end of the big streak hadn't quite sunk in moments after this loss.

"I feel worse for the fans than I do for us," Battier said. "We'll be

all right. We've got a game in 20 hours. We'll be out there trying to win another game. For the fans, they really were captivated by the streak and we hope they still get behind us and cheer us on."

Houston beat the Lakers on Sunday to take over sole possession of first place in the Western Conference and set up Tuesday's showdown between conference leaders.

Lakers 102, Mavericks 100

Kobe Bryant took a pass in the lane and spun toward a defender, flicking the ball over his head once his back was toward the basket. The ball hit the glass, caromed off the rim and fell into the net.

Just like that, the Los Angeles Lakers were up by 25 points midway through the third quarter. And the momentum the Dallas Mavericks thought they'd built with five lopsided wins over lousy

teams seemed silly.

Dirk Nowitzki and the Mavs ended up making things interesting all the way to the final buzzer, but it wasn't enough to change the outcome. The Lakers won Tuesday night, ending a skid of three losses in four games and putting them back into a tie with Houston for the best record in the Western Conference.

"It's a big win for us," Bryant said. "We had to stop the bleeding. We got a big lead, but it wasn't the way we wanted to close out the game. But we got the win."

Bryant scored only nine of his 29 points in the second half. He also jammed his hip. An injury to an MVP front-runner could be devastating considering this was Los Angeles' second straight game without Pau Gasol and before the game coach Phil Jackson said emerging center Andrew Bynum probably won't return until the playoffs.

Bulls 112, Nets 96

This time there was no fourth-quarter fade for the Chicago Bulls.

Their 24-point cushion sliced to nine by the New Jersey Nets early in the final period Tuesday night, the Bulls responded, even if they were a little worried it was about to happen again.

"Somewhat," Chicago guard Larry Hughes said after a 112-96 victory.

"But instead of letting that stretch go on for three or four minutes, we cut it down. Instead of letting it go on like in previous games, we were able to refocus and get things going back in the right direction."

In their two previous losses, the Bulls blew an 18-point fourth-quarter lead against the 76ers and then let a nine-point lead get away in the final period Monday night in New Orleans.

With the lead slipping this time, Ben Gordon hit a jumper and Kirk

Hinrich sank a 3-pointer from the corner to start an 15-2 run that gave Chicago a 94-72 lead.

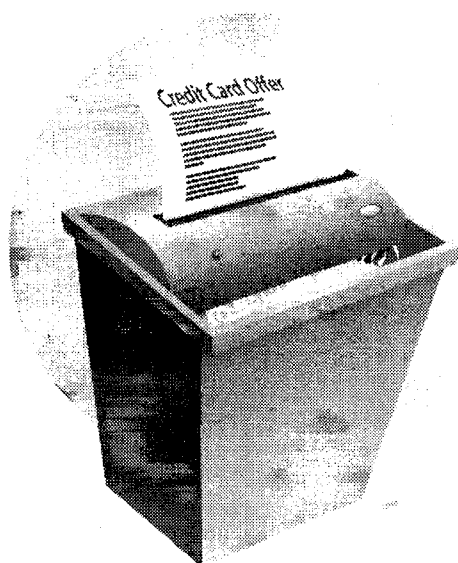
Gordon scored 10 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter and Hughes added 16 in Chicago's balanced attack. Luol Deng scored 20 points, and Drew Gooden had 19 points and 11 rebounds for Chicago.

"We didn't want that to become a habit," Deng said of losing late leads. "We were talking to each other that we got to put a stop to it and we can't become known for that."

New Jersey played the second half without starting point guard Devin Harris, who sprained his right ankle and limped off the court with 1:56 to go in the second quarter.

Harris' ankle was swollen after the game, but X-rays were negative and he will be evaluated daily.

Vince Carter led the Nets with 22 points.



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ND BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

Schedules interrupted by inclement weather

Observer Staff Report

Both the baseball team's home game with Xavier and the softball team's double-header at Western Michigan in Kalamazoo, Mich., were cancelled yesterday due to inclement weather.

Notre Dame and Xavier will not reschedule the non-conference tilt. The Irish (7-7) resume action this weekend when they begin Big East

play at Georgetown. The three-game set will feature games Thursday and Friday at 3 p.m. and Saturday at noon.

The softball team will instead play one game at Western Michigan at 4 p.m. on Thursday. The Irish (14-9) won four of five over the weekend at Charleston Southern's Lowcountry Collegiate Softball Invitational.

Youth

continued from page 20

17, Helgeson especially stood out.

"Brett didn't lose a match," Bayliss said. "He had a match point against UCLA and had three wins in that tournament."

Parbhu, a returning all-American, has stepped into a leadership role this year, the Irish coach said.

"It is a great tool to have a senior who has been in tough situations when the match is on the line," said Bayliss, emphasizing a few close battles Parbhu had against Wisconsin earlier in the year. "When he was a freshman he

beat Florida State in a similar three-set match."

The Irish are trying to maintain the momentum they built early in the season, hoping to start quickly and earn the doubles point more often — which depends heavily, again, on the Parbhu-Helgeson combo.

"Montoya has been more stable on his returns," Bayliss said. "He has always been good at net, but he has improved his serve, and that is still a work in progress. He is teamed with freshman Tyler Davis who competes like a lion on court."

Notre Dame has shown its potential in spurts this year, especially with a big win at then-No. 15 Duke on Feb. 3.

"It is tremendously empow-

ering to know you can beat a team like Duke," Bayliss said. "Tobacco Road has not been kind to us. We have only won half the time there, and we haven't fared nearly as well at home."

But the way in which the Irish have won, he said, might be more indicative of good things to come — both this year and beyond.

"We have come up with the really close wins," said Bayliss, pointing out his team's 5-0 record in matches decided by a 4-3 score. "Your season is decided by the real close matches. They make a difference, especially with a young team."

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgrab01@saintmarys.edu

Doubles

continued from page 20

During that stretch, the Irish are 7-3 overall.

"We're pretty much always ready for our doubles matches," Louderback said. "We were working a lot on our singles preparation, but once we began to struggle in doubles, we went back and started drilling a lot more in terms of our doubles strategy. We just have to make sure to keep doing our doubles drills that get us ready for the matches."

When trying to construct the ideal doubles pair, Louderback cited the mixing of complimenting styles as one of the optimal factors.

"Well, you're better off not playing a group that has the same style of play," he said. "What you really want out there is one player who can serve well and hit the ball with a lot of pace. Her partner should not miss much, volley and lob well and just not miss many balls."

"Brook [Buck] and Kelcy [Tefft] are very, very close. They are great friends and they're just very comfortable with each other."

Jay Louderback
Irish coach

The No. 1 nationally-ranked duo of senior Brook Buck and junior Kelcy Tefft are 14-2 in doubles play during the dual match season and 25-4 overall. The pair is currently riding a nine-game winning streak that has helped fuel the recent doubles dominance.

"It's kind of like in the past when we had the Thompson's," Louderback said of Buck and Tefft in comparison to Christian and Catrina Thompson, who were the last Irish duo to be the top-ranked doubles pair in the nation. "We

would go out thinking, 'We'll probably get a win from the No. 1 spot with [the Thompson's]' and now we have the same thing with Brook and Kelcy. They just help take the pressure off of the rest of the girls and help them

focus on their own matches."

Despite Louderback's formula for an ideal doubles pair, Buck and Tefft are similar players in that they are well-rounded.

"They both do everything well," Louderback said.

"They both finish their points, lob well, serve well and have a lot of power. What impresses me most is how they can consistently finish off their points."

It comes as no surprise to Louderback to know that both Buck and Tefft have developed their relationship off the court as well.

"Brook and Kelcy are very, very close," Louderback said. "They are great friends and they're just very comfortable with each other."

With Buck and Tefft's success, the No. 3 pair has been somewhat overshadowed, despite their recent tear in the dual match season. The sophomore duo of Cosmina Ciobanu and Colleen Rielley is 11-1 this season, winning four straight and nine of their last 10.

"They simply both feel very comfortable playing with each other," Louderback said. "They volley and lob extremely well. They don't serve as well as our No. 1 team, but they still are very solid and have gotten the job done recent-

ly." The combined 25-3 doubles record of the No. 1 and 3 teams took the No. 2 group's recent progress out of the limelight. Sophomore

"Our No. 2 pair [of Kali Krisik and Kristen Rafael] is more explosive ... [W]hen they're on, they're really dangerous."

Jay Louderback
Irish coach

Kali Krisik and freshman Kristen Rafael have only played together for 10 matches and display a 5-5 record, but have won their past two. There is only one thing Louderback would like to see more out of this duo —

consistency.

"Our No. 2 pair is more explosive," he said. "Kristen hits the ball really well, but sometimes makes a few errors. Kali is kind of the same. The one thing they kind of need to find is consistency, because when they are good, they're really good, but when they're not, they struggle. But when they're on, they're really dangerous."

If the tandem can find what their coach wants of them, one thing is certain — Irish opponents better be prepared.

Contact Lorenzo Reyes at lreyes@nd.edu

Albion

continued from page 20

At No. 2 singles, freshman Jillian Hurley managed to get one of the Belles' two victories on the singles side by defeating Briton sophomore Michelle Mulder 4-6, 6-4, 7-5, moving her singles record to 8-1. Fellow freshman Jessica Camp also beat Albion's Anna Gunderson 6-0, 6-3 at No. 6 singles.

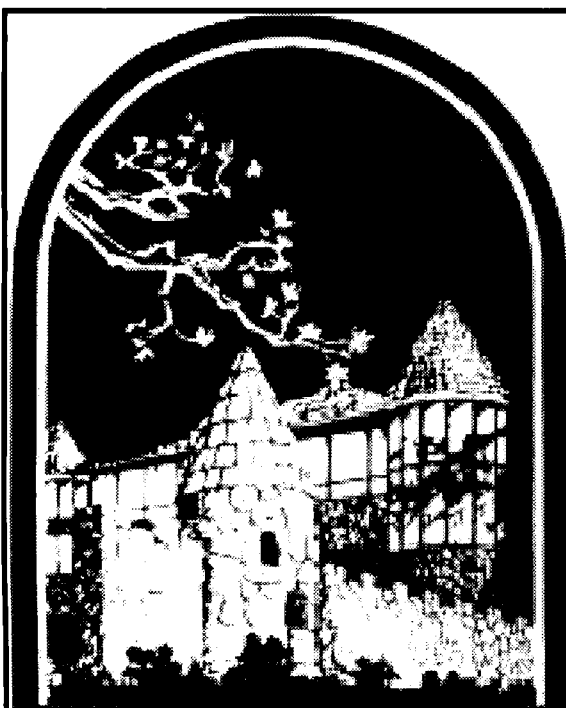
At No. 1 singles, Albion freshman Shelley Zamler defeated Gebert 6-3, 6-2. At No. 3 singles, freshman Betsy Reed fell 6-3, 6-2 to Briton's Vic Seiter. Albion's Mara Rendina and Emily Gunderson continued the Briton's singles domination by defeating freshman Jessica Kosinski 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, and sophomore Lisa Rubino 6-3, 6-1, respectively.

The Belles finally came through on their goal to improve on the doubles side. Saint Mary's No. 1 doubles pair of Gebert and Hurley took down Albion's top doubles pair of Mulder and Zamler, 8-4. Gebert and Hurley move their record to 4-4 as a pair while Mulder and Zamler move to 5-2. Rubino and Reed kept up their momentum as a duo, defeating Albion's Seiter and Rendina 8-4. Saint Mary's No. 3 doubles pair of freshmen Camp and Kosinski fell 8-1 to Albion's Anna and Emily Gunderson.

"Jillian and I are finally meshing well together," Gebert said. "She is a great player and partner. We have great chemistry, and I have confidence that we will do well in our conference together. We need to feel more comfortable at the net, but we have enough to back it up in the meantime."

Saint Mary's continues conference play when it hosts Calvin on March 26 in its home opener. The Knights are currently 7-1 and have not started MIAA competition.

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@saintmarys.edu



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NCAA FOOTBALL

Former BC quarterback Ryan throws for scouts

Associated Press

BOSTON — The NFL got its chance to see Matt Ryan throw on Tuesday, and the Boston College quarterback didn't do anything that would keep him from being picked early in the draft.

Perhaps even first overall.

Ryan worked out at BC's biggest Pro Day ever, throwing to former teammates for a mini-combine of 42 scouts and other personnel evaluators from 22 NFL teams. He completed 48 of 52 passes — three drops, one overthrow — from three-, five- and seven-step drops, from the pocket and on the run, throwing to both sides of the field.

"I made every throw you need to make in the NFL," said Ryan, who skipped the Senior Bowl and ran but didn't throw at last month's NFL combine in Indianapolis. "I thought it went well. It was the first opportunity I've had to throw in front of the scouts live."

Pro Day is a traditional part of the calendar at football factories like Michigan and Southern California, but BC's had never attracted much media coverage before it joined the Atlantic Coast Conference in 2005. After welcoming the press for the first time last year — about 20 reporters showed up in all — the school issued 72 credentials for Tuesday's workout, along with an unprecedented number of NFL scouts.

Kansas City coach Herm Edwards and general manager Carl Peterson were among those who watched more than three dozen players work out, including another potential first-rounder, Eagles offensive lineman Gosder Cherilus.

"They've got a few here, obvious-

ly, that are good football players," Edwards told reporters. "They're more comfortable in this environment than they are in the combine. You're gathering information, and this is another check of the information. But, at the end, you've got to go to the tape."

Former BC running back William Green, a former first-round pick who played four years with the Cleveland Browns but was out of the league last year, hoped the try-out would jumpstart his comeback. BC linebacker Jo-Lonn Dunbar and safety Jamie Silva also joined players from area schools including UMass, Harvard, Bentley, Northeastern, Holy Cross and St. Francis.

But the primary attraction was Ryan.

The BC quarterback was the ACC player of the year and the Johnny Unitas Golden Arm Award winner in 2007, finishing seventh in the Heisman Trophy voting after throwing for 4,507 yards and 56 touchdowns. He also led the Eagles to comeback victories against Clemson and Virginia Tech — 11 victories in all, including the school's eighth consecutive bowl win.

"He's going to play in our league, there's no doubt about that. He has all the traits you need to play in our league," Edwards said. "The thing this guy has is his ability to win. And that's what you like in quarterback. Some guys can do a lot of things. But, in the end, can he win?"

"He's very levelheaded. The players believe that if he has the ball in his hands at the end of the game, that you have a chance to win the game. He has that demeanor about himself. He's fiery, but he keeps himself under control."

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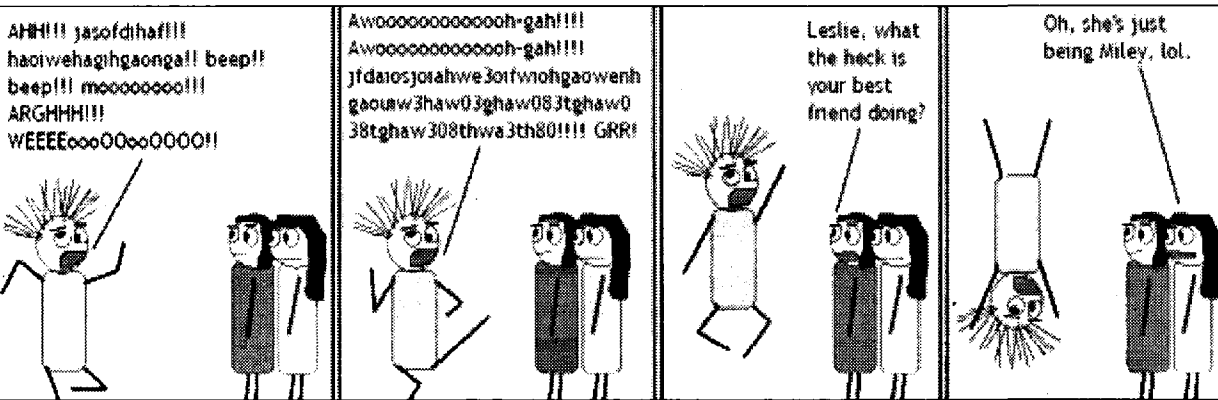
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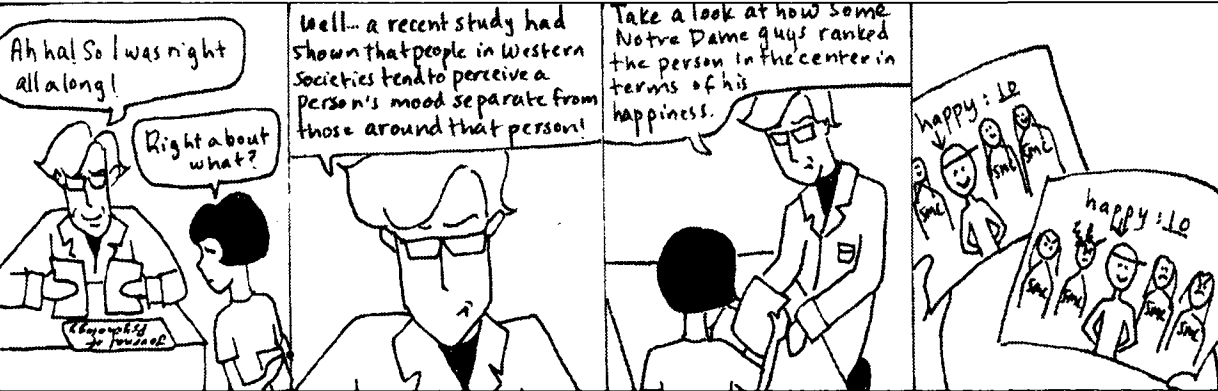
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DIDIER LEWIS



THE SINGLE LIFE

LINA PAEK



CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**

1 Tub toy

5 Olympics sportscaster Jim

10 Toaster waffle

14 Facetious "I see"

15 Detective Vance

16 Show approval, in a way

17 Salon sound

18 Exec with no ideas?

20 Sentimental sort

22 Like Beethoven's Symphony No. 8

23 Stiff collars

24 Next in line

26 Vast amounts

28 Headhunter posess?

32 Blue blood, for short

33 It begins with "http"
- 34 Cry of surprise

38 Sweetie

39 Flies off the handle

42 Flapper wrapper

43 Flexible, electrically

45 Hi-___

46 Workers with white hats

48 First rule of lion taming?

51 Starbucks size

53 Tram loads

54 Mrs. Huxtable of 1980s-'90s TV

55 Lacking color

57 Five Pillars faith

61 "Rapunzel" and others?

64 Needing shampoo, say

65 Gaelic tongue
- Down**

1 Part of a jazz combo

2 Shout of dismay

3 "You wish!"

4 Hotdogger's dare

5 Speedometer meas.

6 Groups on risers

7 Ceramist's need

8 One's hands and knees

9 "___-hoo!"

10 Cloud-nine state

11 Quark-binding particle

12 Market upticks

13 Withdraws, with "out"

19 Dandelion, e.g.

21 Streisand title role

25 "Whoops!"

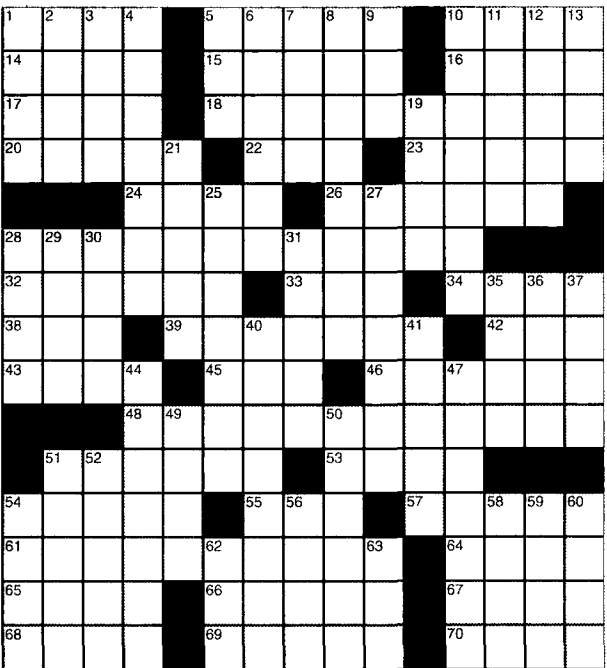
27 .45 or .22

28 "Very funny!"

29 Camaro ____-Z

30 Brie coat

31 Adventurous expedition



Puzzle by Larry Shearer

- 35 "Oh, sure!"

36 Cruise stopover

37 "Child's play!"

40 Hopscotch site

41 Sulu player on "Star Trek"

44 Headed up

47 Dismissal, slangily
- 49 Professor 'iggins

50 "No fooling!"

51 Angry look

52 Bluffer's ploy, maybe

54 "Mask" star, 1985

56 Suffix with Saturn
- 58 1953 Leslie Caron film

59 Word of woe

60 "Toads cause warts," e.g.

62 Atlanta Braves' longtime network

63 Compass dir.

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.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

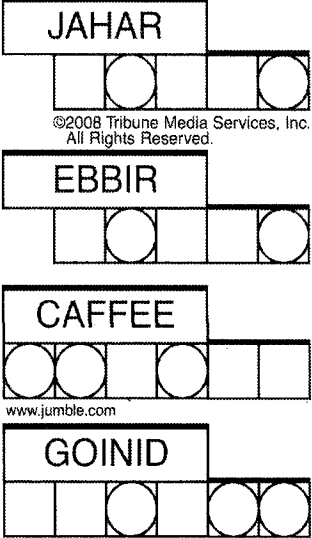


JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

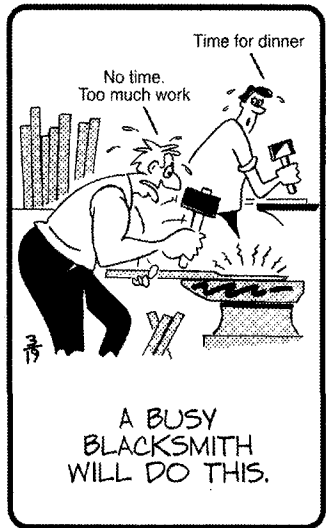
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Ans: " " (Answers tomorrow)
Yesterday's Jumbles: DRAWL GRAIN POORLY WORTHY
Answer: A tickets mix-up can result in a — ROW ROW

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek



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

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LIST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Billy Corgan, 41; Rob Lowe, 44; Arye Gross, 48; Kurt Russell, 57

Happy Birthday: The more secretive you are this year, the better your influence when you disclose your plans or present what you've been working on. Pay attention to detail. Make alterations in your personal life and to your home. It's a year of control for you, so don't be afraid to take it. Your numbers are 6, 11, 24, 32, 41, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Talk to loved ones -- don't yell or lose patience and you will understand their emotional needs and the situation. Take time out for yourself late in the day. 5 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): This is the perfect day to do a little research. Investigate opportunities and take part in a program that will enable you to make a transition you want to make. It's time to take action. 2 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Fix up your place and you will add value as well as comfort. Someone you are attracted to or would like to work closely with may not be all that he or she has led you to believe. 4 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't play emotional games and you will get much further ahead in your professional and personal dealings. A past partner, friend or lover will be interested in connecting with you again. If you feel the same way, put in a call. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't mislead anyone regarding your current or past situation. You may want to talk to someone about your financial outlook and how you can improve it in the future, but don't let anyone take control of your investments. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): There is plenty going on that you can benefit from. A change in a relationship will be to your advantage. Don't be fooled by what someone eludes to. Find out the facts and go from there. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A serious prospect or partnership is in the stars if you participate in a fundraising event or other humanitarian cause. Networking will help you spark enthusiasm regarding your goals. An emotional issue can be resolved with a little ingenuity. 4 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Follow your heart. Someone may try to fool you by playing an emotional game but, as long as you stand up for yourself, you will come out on top. Plans to take a business trip should be in the works. 2 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be undecided about what you should do and what you want to do. You may convince yourself to favor your own needs but, in doing so, you may upset someone who counts on you. Taking a short trip will lead to delays and expenses. 5 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may want to impress the people around you but you are better off playing it safe. If someone wants you to invest in something you know little about, do your own research or you may suffer loss. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): ou may have trouble pinning someone down with regard to how he or she feels. Don't tolerate emotional games. For now, just listen and observe. 3 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do what's on your list and avoid a discussion with someone who wants to confuse you or point you in the wrong direction. You are clever and creative enough to go it alone. You've got everything to gain by pressing ahead. 3 stars

Birthday Baby: You are charming and someone who goes the distance to help others. You stand by your convictions and are serious about life. You are imaginative, emotional and quick to find solutions.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Dealing with the limelight

Big East player of the year learning to play with added attention

By CHRIS KHOREY
Senior Sports Writer

Part of the reason Notre Dame forward Luke Harangody has had such a successful season is his reckless abandon on the court.

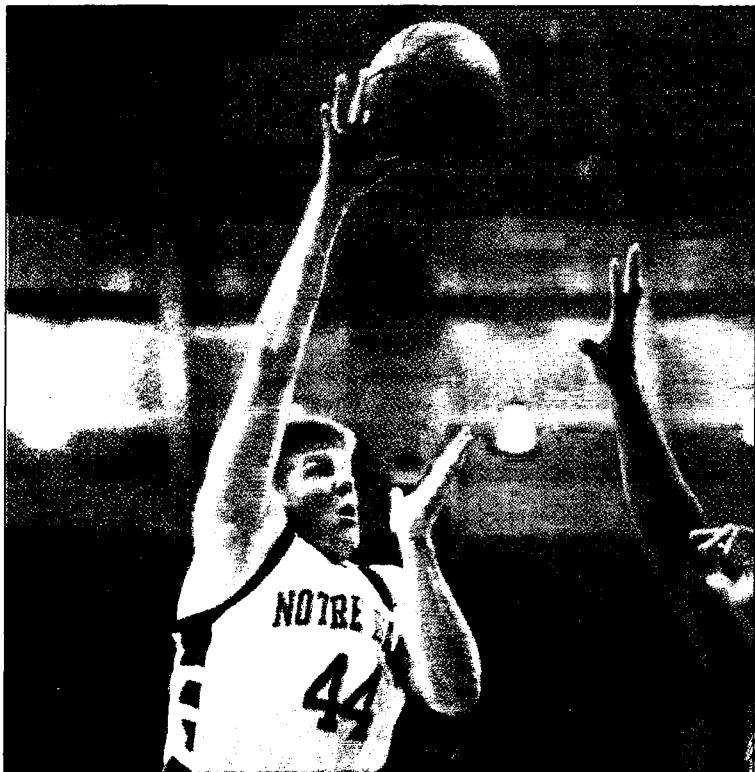
On Monday, Irish coach Mike Brey took steps to ensure the aggressiveness continues.

Brey talked with the sophomore, who was featured in Sports Illustrated last week, about not letting the pressure of stardom affect his game.

In Notre Dame's 89-79 loss to Marquette Thursday in the Big East quarterfinals, Harangody got in early foul trouble and was held to 13 points and five rebounds, both well below his conference-leading averages of 23.3 points and 11.3 boards per Big East game.

Brey said he thought Harangody was tentative in that game, feeling the pressure of being the Big East player of the year, the national spotlight and the New York crowd. He wanted to sit down with his star and make sure the forward was relaxed and ready to "have fun again," Brey said.

After Monday's conversation, however, Harangody said he is ready to be his old self again in the NCAA Tournament. He said he knows opponents will prepare defenses specifically for him and will try to get him in



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Sophomore forward Luke Harangody attempts a shot during Notre Dame's 94-87 home win over Syracuse on Feb. 24.

foul trouble early like the Golden Eagles did.

"There's going to be a target on me because of the [Big East] player of the year award," Harangody said. "Coach talked to me about it. I just have to go out there and play the game I've been playing."

Sophomore point guard Tory Jackson said Harangody isn't the only player that needs to relax to be at his best on the court.

"We need to continue to have fun like we've been doing," he

said.

Notre Dame will face George Mason Thursday in Denver at 9:40 p.m. Eastern time in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. If the Irish win, they will play Saturday, taking on the winner of Washington State and Winthrop — the team that handed the Irish a 74-64 loss and knocked them out of the field in the first round.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

MEN'S TENNIS

Right mix of freshmen, veterans lead solid start

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame struggled at the Blue-Gray Tennis Classic in Montgomery, Ala., but with six freshmen intertwined throughout the starting lineup, the No. 30 Irish (10-5) still feel confident through 15 dual matches, especially considering their youth.

"They are a little ahead of our expectations," coach Bobby Bayliss said of his young squad. "They have shown great poise under pressure, but they are still very inexperienced at this level. Each has taken turns and

enjoyed the spotlight."

Highlighting the rookie crop has been David Anderson, Daniel Stahl, Stephen Havens and Tyler Davis. Takashi Yoshii and Sean Tan have both made significant contributions, as well.

Notre Dame is still led, however, by two veteran forces at the top of the singles and doubles lineups. Senior Sheeva Parbhu and junior Brett Helgeson have been staples at the top of both lineups.

At the National Team Indoors in Seattle, Wash., from Feb. 15-

see YOUTH/page 17

SMC TENNIS

Belles lose conference opener 6-3 at Albion

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's opened conference play Tuesday afternoon with a 6-3 loss at Albion (7-0, 3-0 MIAA), dropping its record to 4-5 overall and 0-1 in the MIAA but showing off its strength in doubles, taking two of three doubles matches from their surging hosts.

The Britons are three-time

defending league champions and are coming off of four wins last week, and they took care of the Belles as well on Tuesday.

"I thought that overall, we played well as a team," Belles No. 1 singles player sophomore Camille Gebert. "Personally, I didn't have my beset day out there, and my loss really hurt our ability to come out with a victory."

see BELLES/page 17

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

It takes two, baby

Duo of Buck, Tefft lead recent improvement in doubles performances

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

Through Notre Dame's most recent three game winning streak, there has been one constant — solid doubles play.

Ask Irish coach Jay Louderback, and it's easy to tell it's no mistake his squad has won the ever-so-important doubles point in each of these three contests.

"It's been something we've always focused on in practice," Louderback said of doubles preparation. "It's always nice to start the match out with a one-point lead because then you only need three singles wins to take the match. It's really important because it helps set the tone for the rest of the match, and can create some momentum that the players feed off of."

Earlier in the dual match

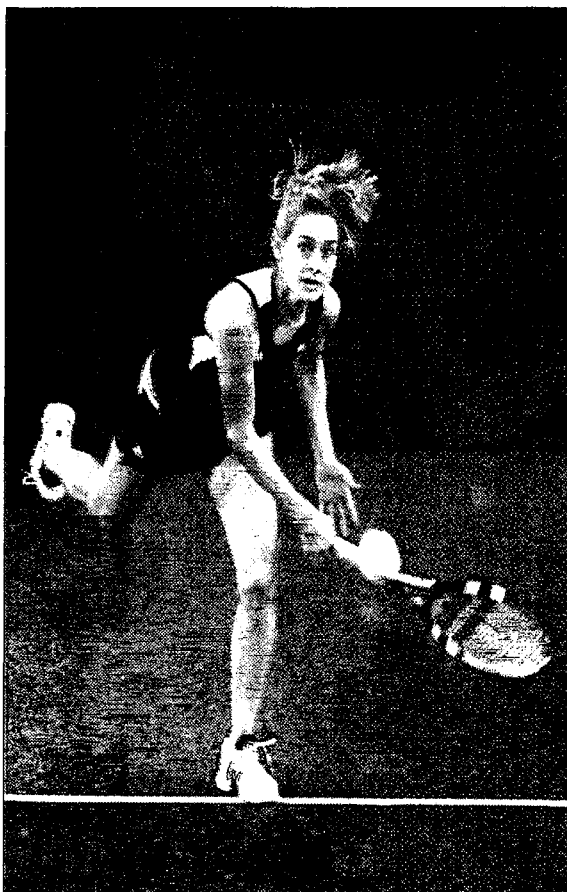
season, Notre Dame struggled, losing the doubles point in three straight matches in Feb. against Georgia, William & Mary and Baylor. Although all three opponents were ranked in the top-15 at the time, Louderback realized the importance of establishing a winning standard in the doubles matches.

A great deal of the difficulties, Louderback said, were due to the process of finding the right combinations to put together the squad's three best doubles tandems.

"Early in the year we kind of struggled," he said. "We were just switching players around, trying to find the best combinations that we were most comfortable with."

Fortunately for the Irish, it worked.

Since the Baylor match on Feb. 11, Louderback's changes have resulted in Notre Dame securing the doubles point in nine of the past 10 dual matches.



The doubles team of senior Brook Buck, left, and junior Kelcy Tefft is now ranked No. 1 nationally and has helped lead the resurgence of Notre Dame's doubles performance.



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

see DOUBLES/page 17