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Jenkins, ND representatives travel to Uganda

Trip results from fall forum on global health

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Associate News Editor

Four months after he listened to three speakers discuss the global health crisis at the Notre Dame Forum, University President Father John Jenkins led a group of delegates to Uganda to see firsthand the village the University will partner with through the Notre Dame Millennium Development Initiative (NDMDI).

Notre Dame's commitment to helping the poor in Uganda grows directly out of its mission as a Catholic university, Jenkins wrote in an online journal entry.

The University delegation spent a week in Uganda meet-

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Photo courtesy of the Office of the President

Notre Dame representatives attend a community gathering in Nindye, the University's partner village in the Millenium Development Initiative, on the fourth day of their visit to Uganda earlier this month.

Nindye selected as project partner village

By KATE ANTONACCI
News Editor

After driving west from Uganda's capital city of Kampala for an hour and a half, Notre Dame leaders — including University President Father John Jenkins — arrived in the small village of Nindye on Jan. 9 to meet with local leaders and villagers about their participation in the Millennium Village Project.

Nestled in the Nkozi subcounty and Mpigi District of the small east African country, Nindye and its 5,000 villagers will serve as the geographic area that Notre Dame and Uganda Martyrs University will work with to "fight extreme poverty and to learn

see NDMDI/page 4

Preventive action deters burglary

By KELLY MEEHAN
Saint Mary's Editor

While several break-ins occurred at student residences over the month-long winter break, it's not just luck that deterred more burglars, police said Tuesday.

Sergeant Lee Ross of the South Bend Police Department Crime Prevention Unit said students' preventative measures caused a drop in burglaries at student residences from eight during the 2005-06 winter break to only three this year.

Ross said a record number of residents took part in the home watch program by alerting SBPD as to when their home or apartment would be vacant.

"When students alert us that they will be gone ... they should get at least three [officer] patrol drive-bys each day," Ross said.

Ross said it was crucial for students to inform the SBPD of their absence, because if they do not know the house is empty officers "might not go by the houses at all."

Although Ross linked locked doors, closed blinds and functioning alarm systems to the decreased burglaries, not all students were immune to theft.

Two of the three break-ins

see ROBBERY/page 8

Observer file photo

Popular student apartment complexes like Stadium Club Condominiums did not get hit by burglars during the break.

Volunteers aid during holidays

Students, alumni help rebuild New Orleans

By ROHAN ANAND
News Writer

It's been nearly 18 months since Hurricane Katrina wreaked havoc upon the Gulf Coast and New Orleans, but Notre Dame students who traveled to aid in the clean-up process still encountered the remnants of destruction in the ravaged city.

The University's Gulf Coast Task Force, founded by junior Caity Schneeman, led a group of approximately 15 students to gut three homes and one school in two suburbs of the city, Lakeview and East New Orleans, from Dec. 29-Jan. 3.

Sophomore Sean Hoskins returned to New Orleans this winter for his third time volunteering for the task force and said he still felt that a great deal of restoration was needed.

"After visiting so many times, you finally get the full effects of what's happening," he said, "and you feel compelled to return and see the damage and how much work needs to be done."

The Gulf Coast Task Force has sent hundreds of student volunteers to the Big Easy during the past year to help revive the city. But this time its trip did not receive any sponsorship from the Center of Social

see SERVICE/page 4

Students enjoy New Orleans despite loss

FRANCESCA SETA/The Observer

The Irish Guard marches during the halftime performance at the Sugar Bowl against LSU Jan. 3 in New Orleans. The Irish lost 41-14.

By BECKY HOGAN
News Writer

The Big Easy Sugar Bowl matchup against LSU was anything but easy for the Fighting Irish, who struggled against the No. 4 Tigers in a 41-14 loss.

Despite doubts about how Notre Dame would perform on Jan. 3, students flocked to New Orleans to cheer on the Irish and take in the spirit of the city.

"I think a lot of us were leery about how we were going to play just because [LSU] was such a highly ranked team," said junior Holly Christianson. "I was hoping we were going to be able to pull through."

The defeat was an NCAA-record ninth straight bowl game loss for the

see FANS/page 6

Inside Column

Beckham in the U.S.

Greg Arbogast

Sports Production Editor

What's the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear the term "MLS"?

The acronym for a medieval language studies program? An abbreviation for miles? Hopefully, last week's signing of David Beckham by the Los Angeles Galaxy for the sum of $250 million over five years will enlighten the average American that "MLS" in fact stands for Major League Soccer.

Yes, the U.S. has its own professional soccer league, and it has been doing quite all right for itself without spending the GDP of some countries on a global superstar. Expansion, soccer specific stadiums or stadium deals for eight of the league's 13 franchises and a new $100 million advertising deal with Adidas all point toward an economically stable and growing sporting league. But these signs are not nearly enough to indicate that MLS will ever become relevant in the overcrowded American sporting market.

Enter Beckham.

Let's get one thing straight from the beginning. Signing David Beckham will not instantly turn MLS into a mainstream American sport competing with the likes of MLB, the NBA or the NFL. Nor will it unleash a migration of top European footballing talent towards America. Beckham will, however, give MLS the type of publicity boost it has never previously enjoyed.

Perhaps the most recognizable athlete in the world, Beckham garners a trail of headlines wherever he goes. After the Beckham signing was announced last Thursday, it became the headline story on ESPN.com in addition to a top story discussed on prominent shows such as Around the Horn and Pardon the Interruption. Even CNN felt compelled to cover the story, conducting a live interview with Beckham from Madrid.

The attention created by the Beckham signing will manifest itself in many ways, including increased attendance, corporate investment, merchandise sales, TV ratings and an international following. For a man who has reportedly been asked by Brad Pitt to give his son soccer lessons, Galaxy games may even become an A-list event. The most crucial effect of Beckham's signing, however, will be the increased interest in MLS of the common American sporting fan.

There is a market for soccer in America. This past summer, the World Cup between the U.S. and Italy drew a 5.2 overnight rating. To put that in perspective, the NHL finals averaged around 1.5 while the NBA finals averaged an 8.0 rating. The problem is that the current American soccer market demands top class soccer, and MLS's product is by no means first-rate.

The increased interest of the common American sporting fan, like every other effect of the Beckham signing, will be short term, and if MLS plans to truly capitalize on the Beckham signing — to make itself relevant in the American sporting world — it must parlay the Beckham signing into a consistent improvement of MLS's on-field product.

What Beckham has given MLS is an opportunity — a chance for soccer to finally become relevant in America.

And MLS has 250 million reasons not to mess this up.

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogas@nd.edu

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

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 was the best part of your break?*

Chantelle Bryant
freshman
Pasquerilla West
"Seeing my boyfriend."

Priscilla Do
freshman
Pasquerilla West
"Sleeping in for 11.5 hours."

Genevieve Dupuis
sophomore
McGlinn
"My favorite part of break was baking a cake."

Danielle Keller
freshman
Cavanaugh
"The Sugar Bowl."

Steph Nienaber
sophomore
Walsh
"Waking up to my golden retriever."

Susie Skirtich
junior
Holy Cross
"Eating American food after being abroad."

KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

Members of the Notre Dame football team stand together and sing the Alma Mater at the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans Jan. 3. LSU defeated the Irish 41-14. Senior quarterback Brady Quinn, far left, played his last game for Notre Dame.

Offbeat

Couple has unexpected triplets

TUTTLE, N.D. — Lynette and Dusty Johnson expected to have another large baby, after their first two weighed more than 9 pounds. Instead of one large baby, they got three

Triplets Marissa, Silas and Anna were born Nov. 14. A community benefit was held last Sunday to help with medical costs and living expenses.

"It touches our hearts that (our neighbors) put other people's needs ahead of theirs," Dusty Johnson said.

The Johnsons' oldest child, Christopher, now 3, weighed more than 9 pounds at birth. His 1-year-old sister Abigail weighed 10 pounds, their mother said.

Lynette gave birth to the triplets at home, and her midwife quickly prepared for a multiple birth after Marissa, the first of the three, was born and she realized more babies were on the way.

Dog saves owner from fire

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. — A savvy Labradoodle has one lucky owner. Firefighters said Bella, a mix of poodle and Labrador retriever, saved the life of her owner Matt Carcerano on Monday, waking him before his Santa Cruz cottage went up in flames.

At 3:30 a.m. Bella woke Carcerano, a 32-year-old welder, with a combination of growling, whimpering and barking.

"It was weird. I was sound asleep and she made noises I'd never heard before," Carcerano said. "I opened my eyes and it was just orange."

The floor-to-ceiling wall heater in the 50-year-old, two-room cottage was on fire, and Carcerano rushed out in socks and pajamas just as the entire place went up in flames.

In Brief

The **Snite Museum** is hosting a **new exhibit** of 290 photos taken during the Vietnam War by photojournalists who died in the violence. The exhibit, titled "Requiem," will be on display at the museum from **Jan. 4-March 4**. Admission is **free**.

An **information session** for students interested in **running for student body president** will be held **today** from **7 p.m.- 8** in the Montgomery Theater in **LaFortune**.

A lecture titled "**Grand Challenges in Environmental Science and Engineering**" will be held **Thursday** from **4 p.m.-5** in **102 DeBartolo.**

Sophomore **Emerson Spartz,** the author and founder of the **mugglenet.com** and Ben Schoen, co-author and webmaster of mugglenet.com, will be at **Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore today** at **4:30** p.m to discuss and make predictions about J.K. Rowling's seventh Harry Potter Book, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows."

The Notre Dame Track and Field **Indoor Opener** will be held **Friday** at **5:30 p.m.** at the **Loftus Sports Center**.

The Notre Dame **women's basketball team** will play **Syracuse Saturday** at **2 p.m.** in the **Joyce Center Arena**.

The Notre Dame **men's basketball team** will play **South Florida Sunday** at **1 p.m.** in the **Joyce Center Arena**.

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	SUNDAY
HIGH	25	15	30	25	23	27
LOW	14	4	19	12	14	19

Atlanta 45/ 31 **Boston** 23 / 12 **Chicago** 29 / 23 **Denver** 34 / 14 **Houston** 39 / 37 **Los Angeles** 69 / 43 **Minneapolis** 27 / 18
New York 31 / 24 **Philadelphia** 33 / 24 **Phoenix** 60 / 39 **Seattle** 36 / 29 **St. Louis** 37 / 28 **Tampa** 72 / 60 **Washington** 36 / 26

BOARD OF GOVERNANCE

College loses, drops staff members

By LIZ HARTER
News Writer

Saint Mary's Board of Governance (BOG) members discussed several changes to the College's staff that occurred over the semester break at their first meeting of the semester Monday night.

Student body president Susan McIlduff said two staff members have left Student Activities and Vice President of Student Affairs Karen Johnson will start attending BOG meetings.

Georgeanna Rosenbush, former director of the Office of Student Activities, helped BOG and attended meetings in past semesters, but she has retired due to medical needs, McIlduff said.

Frances Bruder's position as assistant director of Student Activities has been eliminated from the hierarchy in the Office of Student Activities, McIlduff said.

Johnson attended the meeting and promised the Board that all the events planned for this semester would still happen, despite the office shake-up.

"Everything is under control," Johnson said. "We have lots of people volunteering to help us out [with the events]."

She also said she wants to keep student government involved in the search process for a new director of Student Activities.

"I want you to know that we aren't going to leave [BOG] out," Johnson said.

In other BOG news:

◆ Saint Mary's is in the process of changing its e-mail system. Students must switch to the new Zimbra Zmail system by Jan. 30. Links and a five-minute overview can be found on the Saint Mary's @Home page.

◆ Heritage Week is Jan. 21 through Jan. 27. There will be events each day, culminating in the Heritage Week dinner Friday evening.

◆ Plans have been finalized for the Saint Mary's Formal on Feb. 3. The event will take place at the Palais Royale in downtown South Bend from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. The theme is "All That Jazz," and tickets will be on sale starting today for $10 per person.

Contact Liz Harter at eharte01@saintmarys.edu

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Project to improve ND-town relations

By SONIA RAO
News Writer

Improving town-gown relationships was the focus of the Council of Representatives (COR) meeting Tuesday night, as student body president Lizzi Shappell shared developments in the upcoming Community Summit project.

The Community Summit is an event that aims to provoke thought and discussion about how to better foster a positive relationship between University students and members of the surrounding community. Set to take place in late February, it will include students from surrounding colleges and universities along with local government officials, Shappell said.

"Basically [the goal is to] share ideas under the umbrella theme of how to better integrate college students into the South Bend and Mishawaka communities," she said.

Shappell presented three main discussion points for the Community Summit, which include creating "freshman initiatives" to get students involved in the community early, promoting student investment in the outside community and looking to the outside community as a place for internships and job opportunities.

Members of the Mishawaka community have said they wished Notre Dame students knew there was "more to Mishawaka than just Grape Road," and that areas such as downtown Mishawaka would be explored more by students, said student body vice president Bill Andrichik.

Several COR members put forth ideas about improving the relationship between college students and their surroundings, including making information available to freshman students about some of the restaurant and entertainment options in the surrounding area.

In other COR news:

◆ Steve Cartwright, a member of VOICE, a student advisory board at the Center of Social Concerns (CSC), discussed the board's happenings and goals as part of the organization spotlight of the week. The organization acts as a liaison between staff and students and tries to "better inform staff decisions as it concerns student opinion," he said.

In addition, Cartwright said VOICE is focusing on marketing goals, including how to attract underrepresented students to the CSC.

"The most underrepresented student is the white male business student," he said.

Contact Sonia Rao at srao1@nd.edu

ND mourns economics professor

Special to The Observer

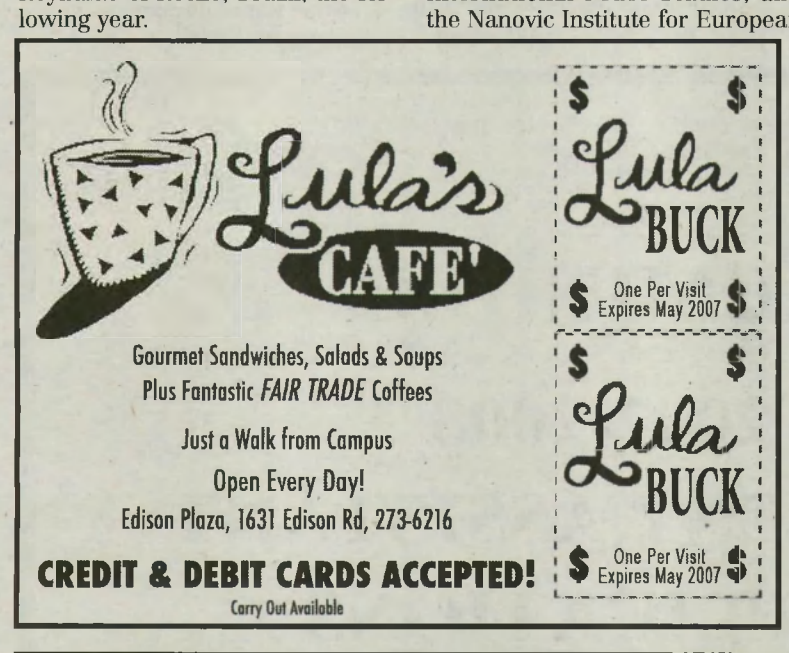
Denis A. Goulet, professor emeritus of economics and policy studies and William and Dorothy O'Neill Chair in Education for Justice at Notre Dame, died Dec. 26 at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in South Bend. He was 75 years old.

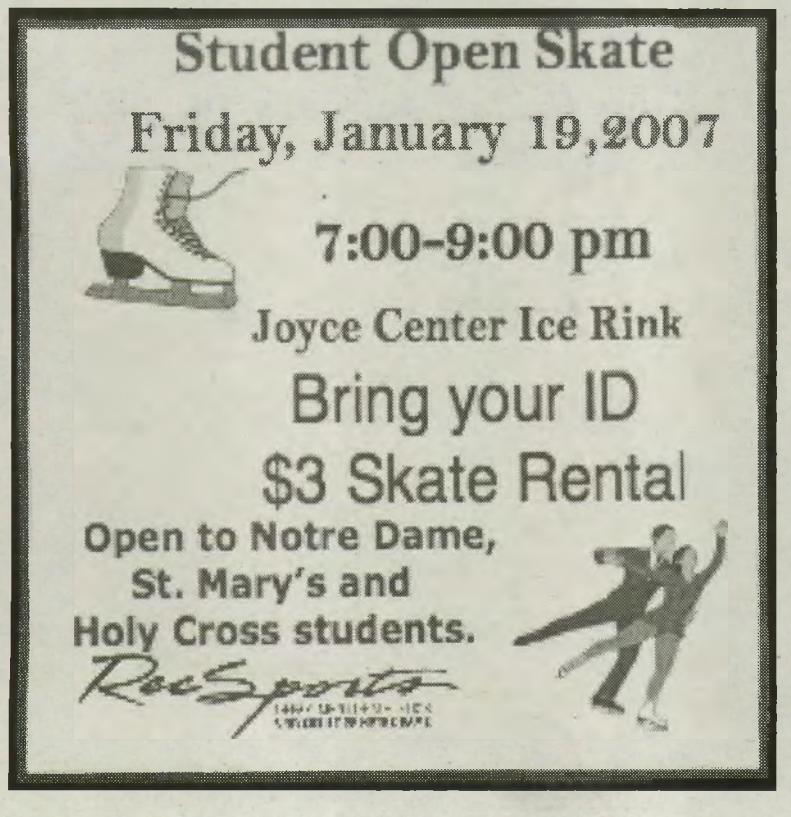
Goulet, a native of Fall River, Mass., joined the Notre Dame faculty in 1979. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in philosophy from St. Paul's College in 1956; a master's degree in social planning from IRFED in Paris in 1960; and a doctoral degree in political science from the University of São Paulo, Brazil, in 1963. He married AnaMaria Reynaldo of Recife, Brazil, the following year.

A pioneer in the interdisciplinary study of development ethics, Goulet, who often described himself as a "philosopher of development," conducted field research in Algeria, Lebanon, Brazil, Guinea-Bissau, Sri Lanka and Mexico. He wrote more than 160 articles and 11 books, including "The Cruel Choice: A New Concept in the Theory of Development," "The Uncertain Promise: Value Conflicts in Technology Transfer" and, most recently, "Development Ethics at Work: Explorations 1960-2002." At Notre Dame, in addition to holding the O'Neill Chair for Education for Justice, he was a faculty fellow of the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, and the Nanovic Institute for European Studies.

A much admired lecturer with an endearing weakness for puns and wordplay, Goulet was profoundly influenced by the writings and example of such intensely religious French intellectuals as Charles de Foucauld, Simone Weil, and the "worker priests" of the last century. In his career, the "hunger and thirst for justice" exalted in Matthew's gospel found precise and compelling academic description.

Goulet is survived by his wife, AnaMaria, their daughters, Andrea and Sinane; sons-in-law, Jed Esty of Champaign, Ill., and Eric Anderson of Chicago; four grandchildren; and two brothers, Bernard Goulet of Florida and Jean-Louis Goulet of New Hampshire.





Service

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Concerns (CSC). Because Notre Dame was scheduled to play LSU in the Sugar Bowl, the CSC felt that it was best for the group to coordinate with the Alumni Office instead, said Bill Purcell, assistant professional specialist for the CSC.

"Usually we give grants to the student volunteers to organize themselves," he said. "But since the Alumni Office was organizing a lot of things because of the bowl game, working at similar sites with similar partners, it made sense for the task force to ally with them."

The task force works with Catholic Charities, a subdivision of Operation Helping Hands that assists uninsured, elderly or disabled people in New Orleans. Relying completely on volunteers, Catholic Charities assigns approximately 15 individuals per house, and provides them with instructions and tools to gut them for the homeowners.

More than 30 alumni volunteers teamed up with the task force to clear out St. Mary's of the Angels school in East New Orleans, a Catholic school for impoverished girls.

"It was a lot of fun getting to work with the alumni," said senior Kyle Becker. "Though the first floor of the school was completely destroyed, we were able to clear out the entire second floor with an expanded group."

Other Notre Dame students have also made their way down to New Orleans to volunteer. Hoskins and junior Radhika Deva spent eight weeks last summer gutting homes. Deva led a group this winter to gut homes in the West Bank area of the city.

"We would simply go into these homes and remove anything imaginable belonging to the homeowners: food, couches, carpets, refrigerators, countertops, walls, nails, countertops, bathroom sinks and tubs," Deva said. "Basically, anything that carried mold had to be cleared."

After this process, the houses would still be intact so homeowners could rebuild their homes according to their own preferences and prevent the city government from seizing the property.

Deva's work did not go unrecognized. Kenneth Fitzpatrick, head of Catholic Charities, nominated Deva for the Community Quarterback Award presented by the NFL's New Orleans Saints. She received a $1,000 grant and was invited to attend the Saints game against the Carolina Panthers.

"It was just incredible to see the looks of gratitude on the faces of the homeowners," she said. "These people have been living in trailers for years trying to finance the gutting and rebuilding process, so it's very uplifting to assist them."

But some of the other volunteers were discouraged by the attitudes of some local New Orleans inhabitants and said that for "every good action, there came a negative response."

"Though I'm optimistic about all of the effort that Catholic Charities is putting in, I'm not very positive about the future of the city," Hoskins said. "The French Quarter is completely revived, and tourists only see that. The local government, not Catholic Charities, should be lifting the city on its back."

Becker also felt that traveling to New Orleans during a bowl game made the trip different for the volunteers from previous ones.

"We realized ... that a lot of people thought we were down there just for the bowl game, and we were a little taken aback by that," he said. "We had spent almost 40 hours gutting houses, living in slums and we sponsored our own travel. We got to see what New Orleans really was about."

But these circumstances haven't discouraged Hoskins, who is taking over the task force this semester while Schneeman studies abroad. He hopes to attract more volunteers during spring break and over the summer.

"Based on our experiences, we felt a whole spectrum of emotions," he said. "But aside from the politics, it's our aim this semester to help New Orleans get on a fast road to recovery like Mississippi has."

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NDMDI

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the lessons that help us promote human development more widely," Father Bob Dowd and Assistant Director of NDMDI Tim Lyden wrote in a journal entry from Uganda.

"We went to learn about how the Millennium Village Project works, to visit villagers, to talk to the team," Dowd, a Holy Cross priest, said Tuesday. "We have to adopt the posture of learners. That's what learning lessons are all about. To promote human solidarity, it's important to listen and to learn."

To learn "what Millennium Village Project is all about," Dowd said delegates visited a clinic, a primary school and attended a community meeting of more than 300 villagers under a tree in Nindye.

"This gathering was certainly the highlight of our visit," Dowd wrote in a journal entry online. "We were warmly welcomed with smiling faces and rhythmic clapping."

At the gathering, the project's goals were discussed and members of the organizing committee "tried to make it very, very clear that this project is not about us swooping in and about us achieving goals," he said.

"It's about the villages achieving goals. It's about empowerment and allowing them to be in control of the project," Dowd said. "The Millennium Village Project team will be facilitating and the villagers need to be driving."

Nindye was chosen to be the village Notre Dame supports in its Millennium Village Project by Ugandans and faculty at the Uganda Martyrs University, where much of the leadership team is based.

"They chose the village, they formed a selection team," Dowd said. "We wouldn't know where to begin. Ugandans would know where to begin."

Before visiting Nindye, Dowd and the rest of the Notre Dame group visited Ruhiira, a village in the Isingiro district of Uganda where a Millennium Village Project was launched in March.

Dowd described Nindye villagers as "very hardworking people," 20 percent of whom are involved in fishing. The remaining 80 percent work in agriculture, growing bananas, maize and corn.

The village, located 15 kilometers from Lake Victoria, has a mix of religions present, with "probably more than 50 percent being Catholic," Dowd said.

"I just saw a lot of rosaries out there," Dowd said about the group of villagers gathered under the tree. "But I think it is important that we be involved in an area that includes more than just Catholics. We do our best to serve all people. We are serving the Church and this is good for the Church."

> *"We went to learn about how the Millennium Village Project works, to visit villagers, to talk to the team. We have to adopt the posture of learners. That's what learning lessons are all about. To promote human solidarity, it's important to listen and to learn."*
>
> **Father Robert Dowd**
> **NDMDI Director**

While to an extent, Notre Dame is serving the people of Nindye, Dowd said the idea that villagers will just be recipients should be dispelled.

"They will be more than recipients — they will be setting priorities," he said.

The people, Dowd said, will participate both physically and financially.

"They pledge to contribute — the villagers contribute in any way they can," he said. "At least 10 percent of the cost of a project is to be provided by the villagers themselves. It was as high as 20 to 25 percent in Ruhiira and that shows how enthusiastic they are."

Notre Dame will help facilitate and support progress by "providing expertise when requested if possible" and by providing students and faculty with the opportunity to do research in the village that promotes the goals of the project.

The work that takes place in Nindye depends on the needs of the villagers and the priorities set by them.

In Ruhiira, villagers decided the school needed repair, additional classrooms, new latrines and a school lunch program. They also said the clinic needed better stocking, and better ways of accessing and purifying water needed to be developed.

"In Nindye, I imagine that the priorities will not be all that different — the challenges will be different," Dowd said.

"The idea is to empower people, to give them the ability to sustain themselves," Dowd said.

The saying "to pull themselves up by their bootstraps," he said, is hard to apply people who do not have bootstraps — the basic tools to succeed. Since many of the people in Nindye are experiencing extreme poverty, Dowd said it becomes the mission of Millennium Village Project and Notre Dame to help get those people onto the first step.

At the five-year mark, there will be an assessment, at which point — ideally — the resources from the outside will be scaled back, Dowd said.

"What we are part of here is a real learning experience," he said. "It is really important for us to monitor the change that takes place."

Such indicators would be if children are staying in school, if incomes are increasing and if fewer people are suffering from malaria and AIDS/HIV related deaths.

"And if not, why not?" Dowd said. "Hopefully we can help to monitor change and point to the explanations for change or lack of change."

Notre Dame has given money to the Millennium Village Promise Corporation, which will go into the implementation of other projects. Today, there are 11 Millennium Village Projects, The oldest is in western Kenya.

To keep the Notre Dame community active and aware of issues related to human development, a student advisory council has been formed, Dowd said. Members will be sent out in pairs beginning in February to facilitate discussions in dorms.

Additionally, in late March, Dr. Johnson Nkuuhe, the Uganda country coordinator of Millennium Village Project, and David Siriri, the science coordinator at Ruhiira, will visit Notre Dame for about a week.

"It's important to give students ways to engage this topic of human development without going to Uganda," he said.

Lyden will also head back to Uganda in February for about a month, Dowd said, to help "iron out any of the details with Uganda Martyrs University ... and to be a part of the baseline survey work that needs to go on in Nindye."

Contact Kate Antonacci at kantonac@nd.edu

REMINDER

2007-2008
RESIDENT ASSISTANT
APPLICATIONS

must be submitted by *this Friday*, January 19, 2007

to the

Office of Student Affairs

316 Main Building

Applications are available for downloading at:

http://osa.nd.edu/

or

http://osa.nd.edu/hall-staff-opportunities/ra.shtml

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Israeli army chief of staff resigns

JERUSALEM, Israel — Israeli army commander Lt. Gen. Dan Halutz, under fire for failures in last summer's war in Lebanon, has resigned, the Defense Ministry said early Wednesday.

Halutz has been under pressure to step down since the end of the 34-day war, which failed in its goals of defeating the anti-Israel militant group Hezbollah and bringing home two captured soldiers.

Israeli launched a full-scale attack on Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas after they seized the two men and killed three other soldiers in a cross-border raid July 12.

Army Radio reported that Halutz sent his letter of resignation to Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, saying that he was taking responsibility for the outcome of the war.

"For me the concept of responsibility is everything," Halutz wrote, according to Army Radio.

Tours to be extended in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan —The top U.S. commander in Afghanistan said Tuesday he wants to extend the combat tours of 1,200 soldiers amid rising violence, and Defense Secretary Robert Gates said he was "strongly inclined" to recommend a troop increase to President Bush if commanders believe it is needed.

Gates also said Pakistan must act to stem an increasing flow of Taliban fighters into Afghanistan as U.S. military officials cited new evidence that the Pakistani military, which has long-standing ties to the Taliban movement, has turned a blind eye to the incursions.

The prospect of a troop increase in Afghanistan, at the same time Bush is ordering 21,500 more troops into Iraq, raises new questions about the military's ability to sustain its war-fighting on two major fronts. There now are about 24,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

NATIONAL NEWS

Improbable Katrina survivor born

COVINGTON, La. — Rescued from a great flood while he was just a frozen embryo in liquid nitrogen, a baby boy entered the world Tuesday and was named after the most famous flood survivor of them all, Noah.

Noah Benton Markham — 8 pounds, 6 1/2 ounces — was born to 32-year-old Rebekah Markham by Caesarean section after growing from an embryo that nearly defrosted in a sweltering hospital during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

"All babies are miracles. But we have some special miracles," said Wanda Stogner, a cousin of Markham's.

Hunter charged with racial murder

MARINETTE, Wis — A white man was charged Tuesday with murdering a Hmong hunter in the woods in a slaying that rekindled racial tensions in Wisconsin and raised fears among Southeast Asian immigrants that the killing was payback.

James Nichols, 28, shot and stabbed Cha Vang, 30, whose body was found Jan. 6 in a wildlife refuge near Green Bay where both were hunting squirrels, authorities said.

District Attorney Brent DeBord gave no motive for the killing, which Vang's family said appeared to be racially motivated.

Two years ago, a Hmong deer hunter shot six white hunters to death after being accused of trespassing in the Wisconsin woods.

LOCAL NEWS

Fear spreads after 4 homeless killed

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — William Abrams never felt in danger sleeping on his bedroll in hidden alleyways or along one of the city's viaducts. That all changed last week.

The discovery of the bodies of two homeless men in a manhole south of downtown on Jan. 9 made Abrams uneasy. The discovery three days later of two more dead homeless men in a manhole less than a block away scared him and others living on the city's streets.

"We don't know why these deaths took place. We don't know what was behind it," said Abrams.

IRAQ

Bombings kill 65 at university

U.N. says 34,000 civilians were killed last year, 142 Iraqis found dead Tuesday

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Twin car bombs tore through a leading Baghdad university as students left classes Tuesday in the deadliest attack in Iraq in nearly two months, and the United Nations reported 34,452 civilians were slain last year, nearly three times more than the government reported.

A total of 142 Iraqis were killed or found dead Tuesday, in what appeared to be a renewed campaign of Sunni insurgent violence against Shiite targets. The sharp uptick in deadly attacks coincided with the release of U.N. figures that showed an average of 94 civilians died each day in sectarian bloodshed in 2006.

The blasts wrecked two small buses as students at Al-Mustansiriya University were lining up for the ride home at about 3:45 p.m., according to Taqi al-Moussawi, a university dean. At least 65 students died.

The attackers stationed a man wearing a suicide belt in the expected path of fleeing students to take even more lives, but he was spotted and shot by security men before he could blow himself up, the dean said.

"The only guilt of our martyred students is that they pursued education. They belong to all religions, sects and ethnic groups," said an angry al-Moussawi, himself a Shiite. "The terrorists want to stop education. ...Those students had nothing to do with politics."

After the explosions, a rescue worker and three men in civilian clothes scrambled through the debris to carry a charred victim away in a sheet. Firefighters in yellow helmets examined the charred wreckage of an bashed-in, overturned minivan.

The university's well-shaded campus occupies several square blocks in north central Baghdad, a mostly Shiite area. The school ranks second among institutions of higher education in Iraq. Founded in 1963, it was named after one of the oldest Islamic schools, established in the 13th century during the Abbasid dynasty that ruled the Muslim world. Thousands attend the university, known especially for its colleges of science, literature and education.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki blamed the attack on "terrorists and Saddamists" seeking revenge for Monday's hanging of two of Saddam Hussein's top aides, convicted with him for the slaying of 148 Shiite men and boys after a 1982 assassination attempt in the northern town of Dujail.

The violence Tuesday against Shiites may signal a campaign by Sunni insurgents to shed as much blood as possible before the deployment of 21,500 more American troops. Most of the additional U.S. troops will be used to back up the Iraqi army in a security sweep to rid the capital of Sunni and Shiite gunmen.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, in Kuwait for a meeting with eight Arab nations to discuss ways to keep Iraq from sliding into civil war, sought to lower any expectations that the troop buildup would quickly pacify the country.

"Violent people will always be able to kill innocent people," she said. "So even with the new security plan, with the will and capability of the Iraqi government and with American forces to help reinforce Iraqi forces, there is still going to be violence."

She said the U.N. civilian death figures differ from others. "But whatever the number of civilians who have died in Iraq — and there obviously are competing numbers — but whatever the number is, it's too many," she said.

AP

Firemen stand at the site of blasts outside a university in Baghdad Tuesday. Two minivans exploded near the school as students were leaving after classes.

Rescued boy glad to return home

Associated Press

KIRKWOOD, Mo. — Ben Ownby has spent a lot of time watching TV since he was rescued from a man accused of kidnapping him and another boy, but there's one face he's tired of seeing.

"I've seen too much of me on there," he said.

Ben was quiet and shy but appeared happy and well-adjusted Tuesday in an interview with The Associated Press at his home in the rural town of Beaufort, where he was kidnapped Jan. 8. Christmas decorations, including the tree, were still up, adding to the festive atmosphere inside the home.

Ben, who has been asked by investigators and his parents to avoid discussing details of his captivity, said it was great to be back with family.

"It feels like I'm getting bruises from too many hugs," he said.

Earlier Tuesday, in an interview on NBC-TV's "Today" show, Ben's mother recalled the words a police officer used to tell her they had recovered her son, who had been missing for four days: "We have him."

"And I said, 'We have who?' 'cause I thought he was talking about the bad guy," Doris Ownby said in a recorded interview broadcast Tuesday on NBC-TV's "Today."

Michael Devlin, a 41-year-old pizza shop employee who also held a job answering telephones at night at a funeral home, was being held in lieu of $1 million bail. He is charged in the kidnapping of 13-year-old Ben, but authorities also expect to charge him with abducting Shawn Hornbeck, a 15-year-old abducted four years ago.

Both boys were found Friday in Devlin's apartment in the St. Louis suburb of Kirkwood.

Ben and his parents thanked Mitchell Hults, 15, a friend who helped authorities find him by identifying a small white pickup seen speeding away after Ben's abduction. The middle school where both Ben and Mitchell attend planned an assembly Tuesday to honor Mitchell.

Fans

continued from page 1

Irish.

Christianson said the atmosphere of the game changed drastically for the Irish in the third quarter.

"It was definitely a lot more somber in the second half," she said.

Sophomore band member Tony Ginocchio said the atmosphere at the game was dismal —much more so than last year's Fiesta Bowl.

"The Ohio State fans last year were a lot more respectful than the LSU fans," Ginocchio said. "It was an extremely harsh environment, which made it hard to get through, but we just played louder."

"We had so much fun going down there. It was just fun being with Notre Dame kids out of the school environment. It was definitely a blast."

Holly Christianson
junior

The most disappointing part about the game, Ginocchio said, was that the players seemed to "give up."

Ginocchio, a trombone player, is the third generation in his family to play at a Sugar Bowl. His grandfather played for West Virginia's band in the 1951 Sugar Bowl, and his parents played on the Notre Dame Drum Line in 1981. All three Sugar Bowl games resulted in big losses for the Ginocchios' teams.

Nearly all of the 380 students in the band played at the Sugar Bowl, Ginocchio said. The University paid for airfare and hotel rooms for all band members and gave them each a $200 stipend, he said.

While in New Orleans, the band visited Holy Cross High School — the second establishment founded by the Holy Cross priests after Notre Dame. The band donated instruments to the school to help rebuild its music program after Hurricane Katrina.

"The entire high school came to watch us practice the first day that we were in New Orleans," Ginocchio said. "It was a powerful experience for the band."

Seeing the destruction from Hurricane Katrina was "eye-opening," senior band member Grant Cummings said.

"The insides of buildings were completely decimated."

"The Ohio State fans last year were a lot more respectful than the LSU fans. It was an extremely harsh environment, which made it hard to get through, but we just played louder."

Tony Ginocchio
sophomore band member

Over in the French Quarter, Bourbon Street was a hot spot for many students who traveled to New Orleans for the game.

"We got there early Tuesday and saw the pep rally and later went to Bourbon Street on Tuesday night," Christianson said. "We saw everyone on Bourbon Street."

Cummings said it was exciting to be in New Orleans in the days leading up to the game.

"The atmosphere in the city was great, and there was lots of entertainment and music."

Although she felt Notre Dame students were well received in New Orleans, Christianson said she did run into trouble with pick-pocketers.

"I was wearing a wristlet and had my credit card and Notre Dame ID stolen out of it while I was wearing it on my wrist," Christianson said.

Ginocchio said that he and other members of the band were warned not to wear a lot of Notre Dame gear around New Orleans by University staff and Louisiana police officers.

"It was definitely an away game for us and a home game for [LSU]," Ginocchio said.

Despite the loss of both the game and her cards, Christianson thought the trip to New Orleans was worthwhile.

"We had so much fun going down there," Christianson said. "It was just fun being with Notre Dame kids out of the school environment. It was definitely a blast."

Contact Becky Hogan at rhogan2@nd.edu

Uganda

continued from page 1

ing with members of the Holy Cross community, touring schools, and seeing a current Millennium Village and the village Notre Dame will sponsor.

"This trip was a chance for some of us in the Notre Dame community to begin to understand the needs of a particular community in Uganda," Jenkins wrote.

Jenkins was joined on the trip — which ran from Jan. 5 to Jan. 12 — by Executive Assistant to the President Frances Shavers, Associate Vice President for Marketing Communication Todd Woodward, NDMDI Director Father Bob Dowd, NDMDI Assistant Director Tim Lyden, Africana Studies department chair Richard Pierce and sophomore Tess Bone.

"This trip was a chance for some of us in the Notre Dame community to begin to understand the needs of a particular community in Uganda."

Father John Jenkins
University president

Lyden, who visited Uganda earlier in the semester along with Dowd, said the trip was beneficial because it allowed Notre Dame representatives face-to-face contact with the Holy Cross priests and brothers, the Uganda Martyrs University (UMU) faculty and administration and the villagers themselves.

"The whole point [of the trip] was to see where we are going to be working and see the people we are working with," Lyden said. Reading reports about the country and the Millennium project cannot replace the value of personal contact, he said.

"Only in talking to people face-to-face can you see that this is unlike so many projects that have failed," Lyden said.

The trip also allowed Jenkins, the head of a university founded by the Congregation of the Holy Cross, to embrace the ties to the large Holy Cross Congregation present in Uganda, he said.

"It meant a lot to the Holy Cross priests and brothers in Africa to see that Notre Dame values what's going on in Africa," Lyden said.

On its first morning in Uganda, the group attended a deaconate ordination for three African Holy Cross religious at St. Augustine Church in Kampala. The nearly three-hour Mass, Bone said, was "probably the most beautiful Mass I have ever been to." Most of the Mass was in English, but many of the songs were song in Luganda, she said.

"It was a nice welcome, jumping into the culture," Bone said.

Bone, a 2006-07 grant recipient in the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), is conducting a research project titled "The Notre Dame Millennium Development Initiative: Methods and Lessons."

The next morning, the group went to a local Mass in Jinja, where it saw the source of the Nile River at Lake Victoria.

Class of 2006 alumni Matt Young and Clay Allison, who are teaching in Uganda for a year and a half through Holy Cross and Notre Dame, showed the group around Lake View Secondary School and St. Jude's Primary School later on the second day.

Bone said it was difficult to see the dismal conditions of the school facilities.

"The latrines and the kitchen and the classrooms were these tiny dank dark rooms," Bone said. "I could not imagine kids actually learning there."

The group traveled on Jan. 8 to Ruhiira, where a Millennium Village Project (MVP) had been running for 10 months.

Visiting a site where the Millennium Village had already impacted the community was helpful because it showed the delegation one case in which the program had been implemented and let them see the effect it had on peoples' daily lives, Shavers said.

"We really wanted to try and learn to understand more broadly the issues that affect the people of Uganda. That was very much accomplished."

Frances Shavers
executive assistant to the president

In her office in the Main Building, Shavers has a picture on her computer of a young African girl she met in Ruhiira outside of their health care center.

This girl and other Africans like her don't have the things we take for granted, but still manage to be cheerful, Shavers said.

The picture of this girl, Shavers said, reminds her of "their extreme generosity and warmth and laughter that comes from people despite not having heat, as we have it right now, electricity, computer access, a toilet, running water and all of these things."

"It meant a lot to the Holy Cross priests and brothers in Africa to see that Notre Dame values what's going on in Africa."

Tim Lyden
NDMDI assistant director

During the tour of the village and the education and health facilities, Bone said she noticed the people were happy even though the kids were running around shoeless, in rags, and one girl she saw had a distended belly.

"You could visibly see the problems they were living among but you could also see the smiles on their faces," Bone said. "It was a very interesting dichotomy."

On Jan. 9, the group met representatives of Uganda Martyrs University (UMU), the largest Catholic university in the country. UMU will partner with Notre Dame and the villagers in the MVP.

Lyden, who has now met with members of UMU five different times, said he thinks this will be a long-term partnership.

"There's a stereotype of African universities as ivory towers that don't mix with the abject poverty that is sometimes right outside their walls, but I think UMU is of the mindset that they intend to take it to the next level," Lyden said. Professors at the University seem excited, he said, and have indicated that they are ready to help out the community.

Later that day, the Notre Dame delegation drove to Nindye, the village Notre Dame and UMU will join in the MVP. When the group drove into Nindye, approximately 300 villagers had gathered to greet the delegation with handshakes and applause, Shavers said. For most of the 5,000 villagers, this was the first time they had heard that Notre Dame would be partnering with them, Lyden said.

Dr. Johnson Nkuuhe, country coordinator of the Millennium Village Project in Uganda,, introduced the group and explained why it had come to Nindye. Nkuuhe encouraged the villagers to ask questions about the process, Shavers said, and they asked "tough questions."

"They are willing to do the work and they realize that," she said. "They want nothing but to be a part of making their own dreams and plans come to fruition."

The day after seeing the village for the first time, group members were able to process everything they had seen and the people they had met, Bone said.

Some members of the group attended a lunch and a meeting Jan. 11 with the Uganda Episcopal Conference of Bishops. They talked about the challenges of Catholic education in the United States and Uganda and discussed Notre Dame's objectives in its involvement in the MVP, Lyden said. The four-hour meeting was an "open and free dialogue," he said.

The group concluded its Africa visit Friday with a trip to the Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI) at Makerere University, where it met with Dr. Miriam Opwonya, who visited Notre Dame in September to speak at the global health forum.

Shavers said the trip was successful in accomplishing the University's goal of exploring the problems facing the Nindye villagers.

"We really wanted to try and learn to understand more broadly the issues that affect the people of Uganda," Shavers said. "That was very much accomplished."

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks		
Dow Jones	12,582.59	+26.51

Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:
1,663	121	1,651	2,599,548,630

AMEX	2,060.80	+2.77
NASDAQ	2,497.78	-5.04
NYSE	9,139.56	-0.38
S&P 500	1,431.90	+1.17
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	17,078.12	-124.34
FTSE 100(London)	6,215.70	-47.80

COMPANY	%CHANGE	$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100 TR (QQQQ)	-0.07	-0.03	45.28
INTEL CP (INTC)	+0.77	+0.17	22.30
SUN MICROSYS (SUNW)	0.00	0.00	6.06
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-0.16	-0.05	31.16

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	-0.42	-0.020	4.751
13-WEEK BILL	0.00	0.000	4.955
30-YEAR BOND	-0.35	-0.017	4.844
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.46	-0.022	4.737

Commodities		
LIGHT CRUDE ($/bbl.)	-1.78	51.21
GOLD ($/Troy oz.)	-1.00	625.90
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+0.83	91.70

Exchange Rates	
YEN	120.8350
EURO	0.7738
POUND	0.5099
CANADIAN $	1.1761

IN BRIEF

Workers, farmers protest free trade

SEOUL, South Korea — Protesters slamming free trade negotiations between South Korea and the United States took to the streets Tuesday as officials pushed for breakthroughs on contentious issues that threaten to torpedo a deal.

Shouting "Stop the Korea-U.S. FTA," a group estimated by police at 3,000 people held a peaceful sit-down protest on a Seoul thoroughfare across town from the heavily guarded talks in a hotel.

Protesters, including opposition lawmakers, cattle farmers, laborers, medical workers and students, later marched toward the negotiation site but were blocked by special police riot buses from approaching the hotel.

About 50 demonstrators scuffled briefly with police but there were no injuries.

Authorities have deployed about 15,000 riot police on the streets of the capital this week, many of them near the site of the negotiations, which, as during talks in Seoul in July, has turned into a virtual fortress.

Demonstrations against the proposed deal dogged the previous two rounds in South Korea. The talks have drawn sometimes fierce resistance from farmers, laborers and even filmmakers who say free trade threatens their livelihoods.

P.M. involved in bank investigation

JERUSALEM, Israel — Police will open a criminal investigation Tuesday into Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's role in the privatization of an Israeli bank, the Justice Ministry said.

The ministry said a preliminary investigation raised allegations that in 2005, Olmert favored business associates as finance minister during the sell-off of a controlling share of Bank Leumi, one of Israel's largest financial institutions.

If Olmert is indicted, he would have to step down, according to legal precedents.

The Justice Ministry said the preliminary investigation of the allegations raised in a report by the state comptroller about the bank sale "led to the conclusion that a foundation of evidence has been built that would justify opening a criminal investigation."

Citrus disaster hits California

Prices for oranges, lemons, avocados expected to soar after record-low temperatures

Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. — Shoppers will feel the sting from a string of subfreezing nights in California's citrus groves and other farming areas, with prices for oranges, lemons, avocados and other produce poised to double or triple in coming weeks, according to industry officials.

"We may adjust the prices as we discover the full extent of the damage next week, but for now, if you bought an orange at the supermarket for 50 cents, expect to pay a dollar to $1.49 for it," said Todd Steel, owner of Royal Vista Marketing, which sells California citrus to markets throughout the country.

With the NFL playoffs in full swing, some fans may choose to go without two traditional favorites.

"Avocados are expensive enough as it is," said Joseph Vasquez, a 32-year-old school teacher from Pasadena. "We may have to do without guacamole for a while. And we may be drinking our Coronas without limes."

Nearly every winter crop is affected by the freeze, from avocados to strawberries to fresh-cut flowers, but it's the state's citrus crop that stands to take the biggest economic hit. California is the nation's No. 1 producer of fresh citrus, growing about 86 percent of lemons and 21 percent of oranges sold in the U.S., according to the California Farm Bureau. Florida produces more oranges, but those are mostly processed for orange juice.

More than 70 percent of this season's oranges, lemons and tangerines — nearly $1 billion worth of fruit — were still on the trees as nighttime temperatures in California's Central Valley dipped into the low 20s and teens on four straight nights beginning Friday. The freeze ruined as much as three-quarters of the California citrus crop, growers say; the fruit is threatened whenever the mercury falls below 28 degrees.

AP

Farmer Keith Nilmeier, left, shows Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger his orange trees as they look at the vulnerable citrus crop Tuesday in Fresno, Calif.

"Limited amounts were harvested before the freeze, so it's not like the markets are going to dry up suddenly," said Claire Smith, a spokeswoman for Sunkist Growers Inc., a Los Angeles-based cooperative owned by some 6,000 growers in California and Arizona.

Still, the diminished supply is bound to drive up prices, Smith said. Sunkist may import oranges and other fruit from South Africa and other countries.

On Tuesday, a Visalia-based citrus broker was selling 40-pound boxes of oranges for $22 to $32, depending on the variety. That's up from $6 to $14 a week earlier, and with the National Weather Service calling for at least one more night of frigid temperatures in many areas, prices could continue to escalate.

Some shoppers took advantage of still-reasonable prices Tuesday, as many of the fruit on market shelves was picked before the freeze. Shopper Lindsay Beamish, 29, was surprised to see a 10-pound bag of oranges selling for $10 at a Vons supermarket in Pasadena.

"I might just have to get 10 pounds worth because that's not going to last," she said of the price.

Damages from the current freeze will likely surpass those from a three-day cold snap in December 1998 that destroyed 85 percent of California's citrus crop, a loss valued at $700 million, state Agriculture Secretary A.G. Kawamura said.

The state also suffered a deep freeze in 1990 — one that completely wiped out the $1 billion crop. It took growers two years to recover.

Labor leaders are also watching the weather closely. They estimate as many as 12,000 field workers and packing house employees could lose their jobs for the remainder of the season.

Dow at record high for a third day

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street ended an erratic session mixed Tuesday with the Dow Jones industrials reaching a third straight record close despite concerns about corporate profits and the impact of falling oil prices.

The market struggled to digest a drop in oil prices, which fell to a 19-month low near $51 a barrel on a report that OPEC leader Saudi Arabia said there may be no need for further production cuts. The statement punished shares of major oil and gasoline companies, though lower energy prices are a boon to consumers.

Investors also tried to reconcile conflicting views about the pace of corporate earnings. The first wave of reports have already shown strength, with Intel Corp., Wells Fargo & Co. and TD Ameritrade Holding Corp. posting robust results.

But the market was still uneasy after profit warnings from companies including home builder Centex Corp. and software maker Symantec Corp.

"The markets have had a big run-up, and it is really trying to continue on a positive pace while also alleviating some of the overbought characteristics before earnings really get going," said Scott Fullman, director of investment strategy for Hapoalim Securities USA. "Lower oil has brought back confidence to the consumer, but the Dow has been hurt as it struggles with the drop in big oil companies."

The Dow rose 26.51, or 0.21 percent, to 12,582.59. The index reached a new trading high of 12,585.08 earlier in the session.

Broader stock indicators were mixed. The Standard & Poor's 500 index was up 1.17, or 0.08 percent, at 1,431.90, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 5.04, or 0.20 percent, to 2,497.78.

The bond market drew some support from a New York Federal Reserve report that the pace of manufacturing in its region reached its lowest level since the summer of 2005.

Robbery

continued from page 1

occurred at Park Jefferson Apartments and the other was reported at 312 St. Peter Street, where Notre Dame senior Jeff Manship did not share the good fortune of his fellow off-campus residents.

Manship — who lost approximately $400 worth of electronics — said he "was kind of expecting it to happen."

The criminals broke through a first floor window and took a television and DVD player from Manship's second floor bedroom, along with stereo equipment and an Xbox from the first floor.

"It [stinks] knowing that some random creep was in my bedroom," he said.

Although Manship said he regrets having the only bedroom door without a functioning lock, he is grateful that the criminals did not take more of their valuables.

Manship blames the robbery partially on the lack of an activated alarm system — something landlord Mark Kramer said is key to deterring criminals.

Of the approximately 150 residences Kramer rents to students, he said there's been only one attempted and one successful break-in.

"The attempted break-in was on Notre Dame Ave.," he said, "and they did not get anything because the police were there within two minutes."

In addition to the SBPD, Kramer said he has a staff of off-duty police officers that patrols his residences during breaks.

Both SBPD and Kramer encourage students to make it seem like someone is home even when the house is vacant.

Many students made their homes seem "lived in" during break by leaving television sets and lights on, Kramer said.

Ross said students should try to take their valuables home with them, even if it seems inconvenient.

"If [students] just grab their laptop before they go, it will save them a lot of trouble," he said.

Although students also had the option of storing boxed valuables in the Notre Dame Security/Police building as part of the ND Safe Lock program, this opportunity will not be available during spring or Easter breaks, said Assistant Director of NDSP Dave Chapman.

Despite the lessened number of break-ins during winter break, off-campus residents must remain vigilant during the school year, Ross said.

"There have been an average number of break-ins during the year," he said. "[Students] leave doors open and unlocked when everyone is here and then burglaries happen."

The number of burglaries in the city of South Bend has also risen, Ross said, so students should not think they are immune from theft.

Students should not stop setting alarms and locking doors, Kramer said.

"I would like to see zero percentage [of break-ins]," he said, "but obviously by our numbers [we] have done pretty well."

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmeeha01@saintmarys.edu

Ailing Castro taking steps to smooth transition of power

Havana officials deny reports that Cuban leader has cancer; repressed opposition remains silent, inactive

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Cuban President Fidel Castro, ailing and out of sight, has been meeting with a trickle of international guests in recent months, a U.S. government official said Tuesday.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitive situation with Cuba, declined to say with whom Castro was meeting. But the meetings, generally with visitors from Latin America, suggest he may be setting the stage for a transition of power that he hopes will protect the government he has built over four decades.

In a review of global threats last week, National Intelligence Director John Negroponte said that Castro and his brother Raul, who has taken over as Cuba's temporary leader, are trying to create a "soft landing" during the transfer of control.

"From the point of the United States policy, we don't want to see that happen," Negroponte said. "We want to see the prospects for freedom in that country enhanced as a result of the transition" from Fidel Castro.

Negroponte also said Castro's days "seem to be numbered," a view supported Tuesday by the U.S. government official. That official said U.S. intelligence believes that Castro is likely to die within a month or two, although analysts don't yet know the precise nature of his illness.

That assessment narrowed the life-expectancy estimate of U.S. intelligence agencies, which previously had said Castro was not expected to make it through the end of this year.

The Spanish newspaper El Pais reported on Tuesday that Castro has had at least three failed operations and is suffering complications from an intestinal infection, leaving him with a "grave prognosis."

The reported rare details about his medical treatment, citing two unidentified sources from Madrid's Gregorio Maranon hospital, which employs surgeon Jose Luis Garcia Sabrido. An expert in the digestive system, Sabrido flew to Cuba in December to treat Castro and returned insisting that the 80-year-old was recovering slowly from a serious operation.

One of the journalists who wrote the article told The Associated Press that Sabrido was not one of the two sources. The journalist, Oriol Guell, said the sources were both doctors at the hospital, but he declined to identify them.

A Cuban diplomat in Madrid said the El Pais report was false. "If anyone has to talk about Castro's illness, it's Havana," the diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of official policy.

U.S. officials will not disclose how they glean clues to Castro's health. But American spy agencies employ physicians who study images, public statements and other information coming out of Cuba and other countries.

Some intelligence officials believe Castro is suffering from diverticular disease, which can cause bleeding in the lower intestine, especially in people over 60. Others believe that Castro has cancer of the stomach, the colon or perhaps the pancreas.

Yet Cuban officials told a delegation of U.S. lawmakers visiting last month that Castro did not have cancer, and the Spanish doctor who came to check on him said the same.

Havana's public position is that Castro is alive, healthy and will return to power, which U.S. analysts discount.

Negroponte said last week it is an open question whether Castro's death could trigger a popular demand for democratic change.

"What is not known is whether people are holding back — maybe we're not seeing the kind of the ferment yet that one might expect to see once Mr. Castro has definitively departed the scene," said Negroponte, who has been nominated by President Bush to be deputy secretary of state.

Pressed further by senators on whether the U.S. knows what to expect in Cuba, Negroponte added: "We don't know in large measure because it is a repressive society. They've repressed their opposition so severely over all these years, so people aren't exactly speaking up yet."

Despite uncertainty about the future of Cuba, the island's Communist Party retains firm control on the island. And the head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Lt. Gen. Michael Maples, said Raul Castro probably will maintain power and stability after his older brother dies — "at least for the short term."

"Raul Castro has widespread respect and support among Cuban military leaders who will be crucial in permanent government succession," Maples said in written testimony to the Senate Intelligence Committee.

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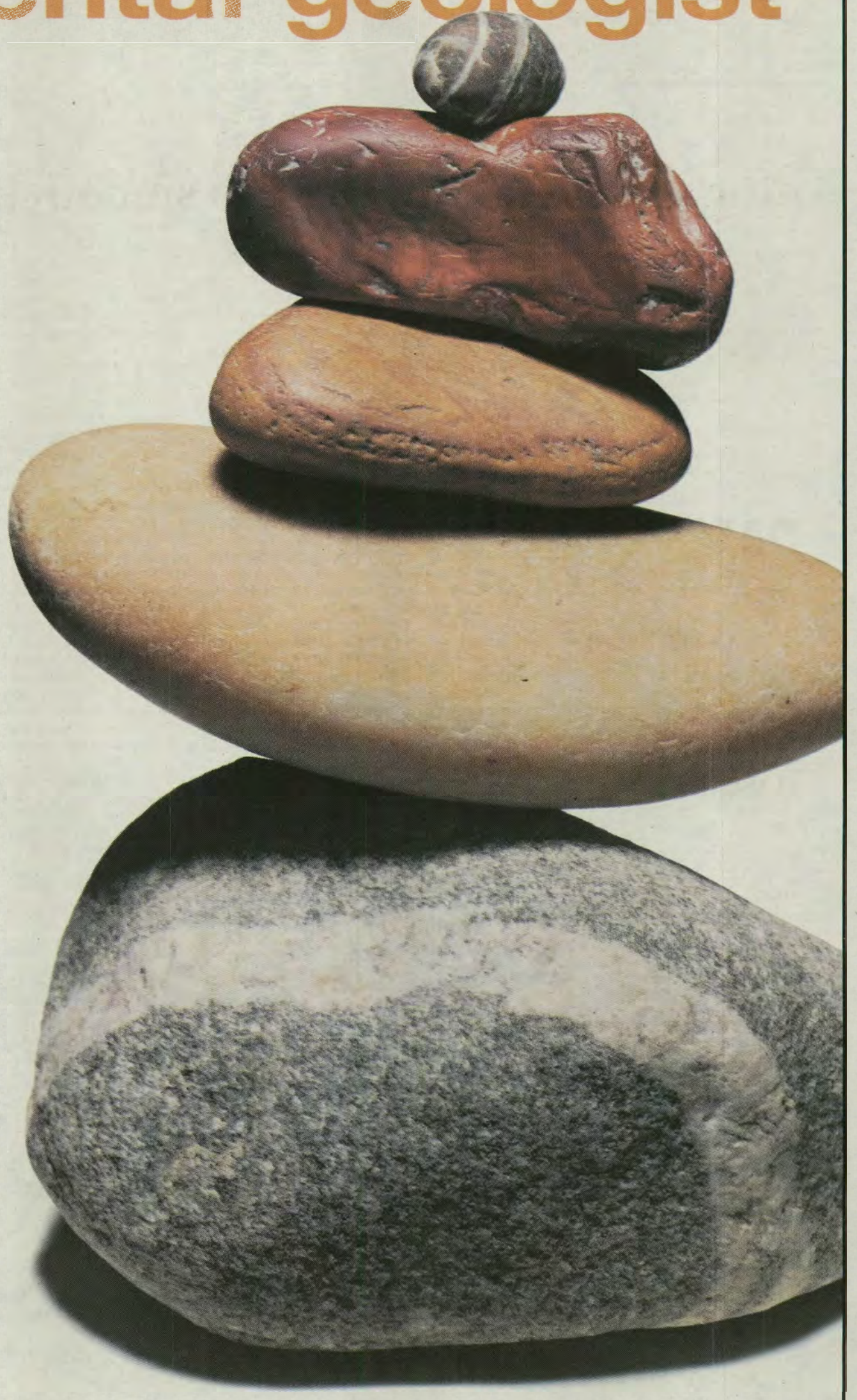

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Power to the people

Katie Palmitier

A Word to the Wise

"War is over".

The American people, as well as the whole world, are longing to hear those three small words sung by John Lennon decades ago. Unfortunately, war is not over. Rather, it seems as if there is no end in sight. And with the President's recent surge of over 20,000 troops to the Middle East, a continued long war is in the forecast. The increase in troops has raised a lot of questions among the American people, Democrats in office, as well as several Republicans. Will the surge of troops be beneficial? Can this war be won? Will the Iraqis fulfill their promises made to us? The more our senators and representatives ask questions, the more accountable the administration will be held, and the more representative the democracy in America will be.

Props to Americans. The 2006 midterm elections proved to the Bush Administration that America was ready for a change and an end to the ongoing conflict in Iraq, and proved that apathy in America is not as prevalent as previously thought. Although Bush's anthem before the elections was that we are winning the war, Americans were not fooled. Democrats were elected and took control of the House and Senate, and a clear war plan and withdrawal of troops finally seemed tangible.

However, just two months after the elections, progressive as well as frustrated voters' hopes were crushed. Bush announced last week that he intends to send over 20,000 more troops to the Middle East. The President is either not up to date on current Gallup polls about his approval rating, or he has some ulterior motives. Needless to say, American citizens are concerned, and members of Congress from both parties have started to question the President's agenda.

Bush's new proposal, his apparent ulterior motive, appears to be an effort to better his legacy, not the situation in Iraq. And because a re-election is of no concern for him, he can do whatever he wants to save the face of his wartime presidency. NBC's Meet the Press host Tim Russert said after the President's address, "Bush bet his presidency on the war in Iraq, and tonight he made that bet double or nothing." Bush's decision to go to Iraq has proved to be unsuccessful thus far, so he is now committing more troops, insisting that more troops will lead to victory. If the President's new plan fails, the public's poor opinion of him from here on out will most likely stay the same. Yet if Bush's new strategy does improve the situation in Iraq, public opinion of him and the war will also improve, and thus he will hold the legacy of being a successful wartime president. Bush has nothing to lose.

Members of Congress, however, have their jobs on the line until the elections in 2008 and cannot afford to make bets. Republicans have an exceptionally high number of seats up for re-election, and with America closely watching the government's war plan, the time is now for candidates to make their case. And luckily for us voters, our representatives are now starting to listen. Before now, our elected officials were too concerned with patriotism, party loyalty and re-election than the well-being of Americans and the rest of the world. In 2004, Hillary Clinton and John Kerry both supported the war out of fear of losing votes. Although they had doubts about the legitimacy of intelligence reports on weapons of mass destruction and were hesitant about breaking ties with the UN, they voted in accordance with the President to appear patriotic, thus saving their careers. On the other hand, high-ranking political leaders such as Tom Daschle were accused of being unpatriotic when questioning and opposing the President's plan, and as a result were not re-elected into office. While they have long been opposed to Bush's war plan but too chicken to act, Democrats, as well as many Republicans, are now beginning to publicly oppose the President's new strategy.

A recent USA Today/Gallup poll indicated that only 12 percent of people polled want a troop increase. Although among the 78 percent of people who are frustrated and depressed about the recent call for more troops, I feel that we have reached a turning point for democracy in America. Elected officials are finally paying attention to the polls and listening to the voices of the people they represent, and therefore change is likely to occur. Bush's legacy, however, seems as though it has no chance for improvement. The more he acts in opposition to public opinion, the more his approval rating will plummet. Our senators' and representatives' approvals, however, will skyrocket. By being a true representative of the people and by staying true to their consciences on what is best for the United States, Congress has the opportunity to show America that our voices are being heard, and that our cares and concerns do matter.

While "War is Over" is not yet the tune to America's new political rhythm, the song's following line, although often overlooked, holds the key to success: "War is over... if you want it". The American people wanted it, as demonstrated by the midterm elections. Congress wants to satisfy and represent the wants of the American people. And hopefully soon Bush will too, and concentrate more on what is best for America, not his legacy.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON

"WHERE ARE WE GOING AND WHAT ARE WE DOING IN THIS HANDBASKET?!?"

OBSERVER POLL

Do you think Father Jenkins' trip to Uganda was important for Notre Dame?

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

Submit a Letter to the Editor at www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A wise man will make more opportunities than he finds."

Sir Francis Bacon
English philosopher

The other side of the coin

Mark Poyar
Actual Common Sense

One of my favorite philosophers once said that man is a rational being. After taking an unfortunate interest in politics for over the last four years, I now believe a far more accurate statement: man is capable of thinking rationally, but rationality is chosen, not automatic. Perhaps the most common mental error people make when making some sort of political claim is the refusal to examine what their support for a certain public policy necessarily implies. Support of minimum wage laws are a perfect example of this error in thinking.

Minimum wage laws have been around for so long that most Americans instinctively accept, if not support, such laws. Many view them as an acceptable government policy in the "war on poverty." Democrats are especially notorious for recommending the increase of the minimum wage, although many Republicans also support its increase as well. However, virtually none of these same people would disagree with the statement that a person owns himself; indeed, most of the supporters of the minimum wage also claim that a woman has a right to seek an abortion because she is the owner of her body. But the claim that a person owns himself and the claim that there should be a minimum wage are entirely incompatible, for one's support of the minimum wage necessarily implies that the person cannot also believe in self-ownership. Like the front side of a coin, the claim that there should be a minimum wage law is readily apparent to all that witness it, but its unspoken rejection of self-ownership, like the back side of a coin, is not so obvious but implicit in the first claim.

In order to see why it is impossible to simultaneously support both minimum wage laws and the axiom that you own yourself, it is necessary to see why accepting the idea of self-ownership automatically rules out support of the minimum wage. If it is true that man owns himself and that ownership means the right of control over something, then he is free to do anything he wants with his own property (his person and possessions) except those actions that infringe on the right of others to do the same. This means that because man is the sole owner of his body, he is free to use it in any way he sees fit to support his life as long as those efforts do not infringe upon the rights of others. Murder, slavery, and rape are subsets of the same crime: taking control through the use of force of the body of another without the person's consent. All actions that violate a man's right of self-ownership are inherently wrong because they deprive the person of the right to control his own body.

Because a man owns his own body and is thus free to use it in any way he wishes, he has the right to agree to rent his body to a firm in exchange for money, goods, or services, or any sort of other compensation as long as both parties agree to it. Likewise, the owners of a firm have the right to rent the services of another in exchange for some mutually agreed upon form of compensation. Both parties to this contract have violated no one's rights; it is the right of the worker to contract his labor out to others since he owns himself and it is the right of the owners of the firm to buy the labor of the worker using some form of compensation as long as the worker is not forced into the deal.

Minimum wage laws necessarily violate a man's right of self-ownership because they deprive the person of the right to control his own body. Pretend that the government imposes a minimum wage of $10 per hour but I agree to work at In-N-Out Burger for $9 per hour, a rate at which the company agrees to pay me. I should be able to contract my labor out to any company at any compensation level that I wish as long as the company consents by virtue of the fact that I own myself and therefore have the right to do with it what I please. Similarly, the owners of a firm have the right to buy the services of others at any rate which is acceptable to both parties by virtue of the fact that they own the firm. The minimum wage denies both employer and employees these rights.

It comes down to this: if you support minimum wage laws, you can't also believe that you own yourself because a belief in self-ownership necessarily leads to a rejection of minimum wage laws; it is impossible to support both. If one denies self-ownership, all morality goes out the window, for there cannot be any consistent opposition to rape, murder, or slavery without the belief that actions which violate another's person are wrong.

When making any political claim, make sure to not just look at the claim itself, but also the implications of the claim. Look at both sides of the coin.

Mark Poyar is a junior finance major and vice president of the College Libertarians. Their website is http://ndlibertarians.blogspot.com. He is currently studying abroad in England and can be contacted at mpoyar@nd.edu

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Death penalty debate

Norman Timberlake lives each day with the belief that he is being tortured by a machine. He thinks that this machine is trying to kill him in order to prevent word of its existence from spreading. This, he believes, is one of the two main reasons why the state of Indiana will be executing him this Friday at midnight

Norman Timberlake is a sick, deluded man who perpetrated a terrible crime, shooting and killing Indiana State Trooper Michael E. Greene in 1993. However, his death will not bring healing, happiness or any improvement to our society. Instead we will all be left standing with the knowledge that the government killed someone who has been rendered harmless for over a decade. We will know that, on our behalf, they marched him down a hallway, strapped him to a gurney and injected him with chemicals that paralyzed his lungs and heart, killing him. This will be done for us because the government believes that this is what we want and that this is what is best for society.

We at ND ASK will be sending a loud, clear message to Governor Mitch Daniels and the state of Indiana that we refuse to have Norman Timberlake's blood on our hands and death on our conscience. We will be standing outside of Michigan City Prison at the time of Timberlake's execution and we will make it known that we do not condone state-sponsored execution of criminals. We invite all who are interested to join us in our vigil and encourage everyone who may be interested in finding out more about this event to contact us as notredameask@gmail.com.

We hope that you join us in ensuring that the upcoming execution is the last in the state of Indiana and working towards a more humane, fair and rational justice system.

Will McAuliffe
co-director of Notre Dame Against State Killing
senior
off campus
Jan. 17

Reflecting on the Notre Dame Ugandan Initiative

The Notre Dame Millennium Development Initiative (NDMDI) truly is an unprecedented opportunity for the entire Notre Dame community to be involved in an amazing undertaking of such responsibility to "turn its talents in the classroom towards a cause that calls for real world, global applications" as stated in the Dec. 6 Observer article "Ugandan initiative to provide aid, research." This bold Notre Dame initiative provides the unique potential to work "with" local institutions and villagers to address concrete "problems that are essentially the result of ignorance, indifference and injustice" according to NDMDI director Fr. Robert Dowd. The NDMDI has the potential to "contribute to human development," to serve as a wonderful model for other universities, and Notre Dame has the "real ability to help." Even more importantly, the NDMDI has the unprecedented potential of radically transforming and changing us at Notre Dame.

I pray that as the planning, mobilization, and implementation of the NDMDI in Uganda continues to focus on specific and "various opportunities to help Africa," that we will continue to faithfully reflect and remain open to Africa helping us. An authentic relationship of solidarity and cooperation has the profound ability to challenge our relationships and understanding of the world, our education, our very selves, our faith, and even God.

I pray that the Notre Dame Initiative devotes equal energy, time, talent, theological reflection, and prayer to genuinely allowing the Ugandans to help and change us. Ugandans have the real ability to transform us as well. With openness and mutual respect, I pray that the Notre Dame community will come to cherish the God given talents of the Ugandans, share in their worldview, celebrate in their deep sense of family and community, experience African generosity and hospitality, and rejoice in the East African spirit of prayer and worship to a loving God whose reign breaks forth in the world today. The NDMDI truly is a "first time" opportunity for an American university and a Catholic institution to be truly "Universal" in its approach to global problems in which Africa might really help us

Marty Roers
grad student
Dec. 8

U-WIRE

Coloring in the lines

Gina Beach
Ohio University Post

Twenty years. That's a relatively long time to be walking the Earth.

So I entered the time otherwise known as "the rest of my life" Friday. It was my birthday, and I've left my teenage self in the dust, wondering where the past year went as my new twentysomething self begins to stretch her legs and realize that ...

Nothing exciting happens when you turn 20. At all.

Eighteen has its infinite possibilities and privileges associated with becoming an adult: voting, lottery tickets, cigarettes and porn. Just the prospect of leaving the perceived confines of childhood is enough to make the age thrilling.

Nineteen is a little more of a stretch and a bit of a drive to test out the casinos and bars in Canada. The last year to revel in or resent being a teen..And now I've crossed the threshold and arrived in a strange sort of purgatory. I have no new privileges, and I can't even complain on my blog because with my new decade, I've kissed all rights to teen angst goodbye.

I now have to face my problems without whining or sulking. I've missed my chance to dress all in black and have it be "just a phase." And although I'm not lamenting the passing of my angst, having that option was a nice last resort.

On the upside, I will rest assured that I'll never be a tragic teenage mother, but I'll also never be a child protege, and should the desire to be a beauty queen arise, I'll have to go for the real deal. Miss Teen USA won't take my application.

.And so, with my newfound sense of youth, I headed out to celebrate. That's when I felt particularly young. It'll be a whole year before I can go to the bars, which in this town seems like an important milestone. The emphasis on turning 21 is certainly a rite of passage for college students, but it also marks the end of anticipating birthdays. I might feel old, but I still have a big birthday ahead of me. I still have the feeling of eagerness, of something to look forward to.

So even though it doesn't come with fancy bells and whistles, it has a certain optimism and excitement that is a hallmark of birthdays from two to 20. This might be the last year I have to be enthused about my next birthday.

I have the rest of my life to feel old. For the next 350 odd days, I'll consider myself 20 years young.

This article first appeared in The Post, the daily paper of Ohio University,, on January 16.

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

AWARDS SHOWS SPOTLIGHT

Hollywood lauds its best at Golden Globes

Annual awards show recognizes achievment in film and television

By CASSIE BELEK
Scene Writer

When camera shutters hushed and nominees and friends polished off the last glasses of champagne, Monday night's Golden Globes were remembered for indicating the year's potential Oscar winners.

While the Hollywood Foreign Press awards honors in both the film and television categories, television is melted by the heat of the Oscar race. The Globes may not be able to predict who will win the Emmy in the fall, but they can predict wins for the upcoming Academy Awards — the most prestigious honor in Hollywood.

One guaranteed Oscar winner is the timeless Helen Mirren, who won both Best Actress in a Miniseries or TV Movie and Best Actress in a Motion Picture Drama for portraying Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Elizabeth II, respectively.

The Best Actress race is clearly cemented, with Mirren's only competition coming from Meryl Streep, nominated as the Best Actress in Motion Picture Musical or Comedy for "The Devil Wears Prada." The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences tends to award dramatic performances over comedic ones, and with Streep's 13 nominations and two wins, it may be Mirren's year to shine.

Despite Mirren's impending glory, Streep stole the evening with the best acceptance speech. No music cut off this acting powerhouse as she observed, "I think I've worked with everybody in the room," and complimented her fellow female nominees by saying, "I just want you to know, all of you, that this has been such a fun year to watch movies because of you gals, and it makes you want to cry with gratitude, until next year."

In fact, the year's best actress crop was rather ripe compared to recent years that struggled to find worthy nominees. Other females to shine during the evening included Jennifer Hudson, the "American Idol" reject turned movie star in "Dreamgirls" and America Ferrera, who has made ugly beautiful in ABC's new comedy "Ugly Betty."

Hudson won Best Supporting Actress in a Motion Picture for her portrayal of diva Effie White in the musical inspired by the Supremes. In a tearful speech, the Hollywood newcomer expressed thanks in being welcomed to the Hollywood community and said, "You do not know how much this does for my confidence," only to realize her words made her sound just like her character Effie.

AP

Tom Hanks speaks at the 64th Annual Golden Globe Awards. The Golden Globes are often seen as the precursors to the Academy Awards, held in March.

Ferrera brought the audience to tears as she accepted her award for Best Actress in a Comedy TV Series. Looking anything but ugly in a beautiful purple gown she helped design, Ferrera said, "It's such an honor to play a role that I hear from young girls on a daily basis how it makes them feel worthy and lovable and that they have more to offer the world than they thought." "Ugly Betty" also won Best Musical or Comedy TV Series in just its freshman year.

Despite the lack of on-screen scandal, the Globes remain more fast-paced and even more entertaining than the Academy Awards.

On the movies side, Sacha Baron Cohen won Best Actor in a Motion Picture Musical or Comedy for "Borat," and Forest Whitaker won Best Actor in a Motion Picture Drama for "The Last King of Scotland," beating Leonardo DiCaprio, who was twice-nominated in the category. Whitaker was literally speechless despite the critical acclaim that indicated his positive chances at taking home the Golden Globe that evening.

"Dreamgirls" garnered two more awards with Eddie Murphy's win for Best Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture and the movie's win for Best Motion Picture Musical or Comedy. "Babel" won Best Motion Picture Drama without winning any other awards during the evening.

In perhaps another Oscar prediction, Martin Scorsese won Best Director for "The Departed," beating Clint Eastwood's two nominations in the category. Scorsese is the Susan Lucci of the Academy Awards having never won an Oscar in his six nominations, but the Academy may finally be ready to give him his proper recognition especially since Eastwood already won the category for "Million Dollar Baby" two years ago.

Upsets during the evening were few and far between. The revenge win of the night went to Hugh Laurie of "House" for winning Best Actor in a Drama Series. Laurie beat FOX's "24" star Kiefer Sutherland who won the Emmy just a few months ago. In one of the worst snubs in recent Emmy history, Laurie was not even nominated for his role despite having won last year's Golden Globe in the same category.

Movie star-turned-television actor Alec Baldwin won Best Actor in a Musical or Comedy Series for his role in "30 Rock," beating last year's winner Steve Carell.

In a show of strength, all four of NBC's leading men from its Thursday night comedy block — Baldwin, Carell, Jason Lee and Zach Braff — were nominated in the Best Actor category, demonstrating a major sign of improvement for the struggling network that is attempting to recreate Must See TV.

On the drama side, Kyra Sedgwick won Best Actress for "The Closer" after losing to an un-nominated Mariska Hargitay at the Emmys, and primetime medical soap "Grey's Anatomy" took home the Best Drama TV Series despite being shut out in every acting category.

Even with an open bar and bottles of champagne on every table, the evening continued without any drunken mishaps of Danny DeVito proportions. Annette Benning was never seen without a glass of champagne in her hand and Baron Cohen's co-star Ken Davitian was seen drinking directly from a bottle of wine after the man behind "Borat" relived the haunting memories of their nude wrestling match on stage.

Prince failed to show to accept his award for Best Original Song for "Song of the Heart" from "Happy Feet," leaving presenter Justin Timberlake to fumble around before crouching down to Prince's height and accepting the award for him.

Prince mysteriously appeared on camera later in the ceremony only to block the camera with his hand. However, presenters Hugh Grant and Drew Barrymore finally revealed that the musician had previously been stuck in traffic and then gave him the time to stand up and take a bow for receiving the award.

Despite the lack of on-screen scandal, the Globes remain more fast-paced and even more entertaining than the Academy Awards. The Golden Globes are less predictable than the Oscars, which come at the end of Awards season, and they offer a unique mix of movie and television stars not present at most other award shows.

Oscar nominees will soon be announced, and Globe winners are ensured of a nomination and in most cases, a win. As the first major award show of the season, the Globes set the tone for what is to come.

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Photo courtesy of hpfa.org

"Lost" actors Daniel Dae Kim, left, Yunjin Kim, center, and Jorge Garcia walk the red carpet in Beverly Hills, Calif. before the Golden Globe Awards Show.

Photo courtesy of hpfa.org

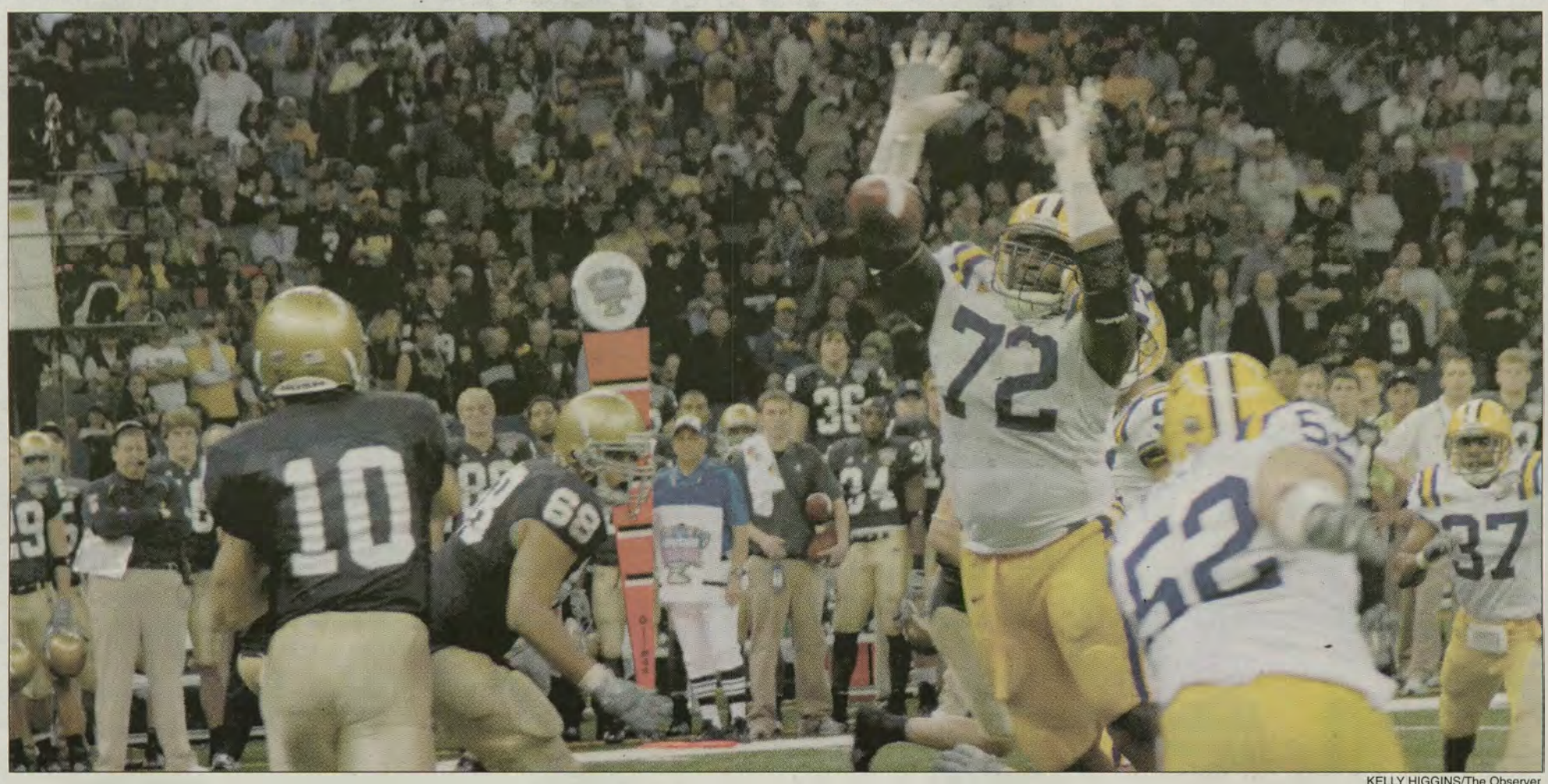
Producer Laurence Mark, center, poses with the main cast of "Dreamgirls" after winning the Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture Musical or Comedy.

Irish Insider

Wednesday, January 17, 2007 — The Observer — LSU 41, Notre Dame 14

Swamped.

Explosive Tigers run, pass all over Irish in Sugar Bowl romp



KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

LSU defensive tackle Glenn Dorsey stuffs Irish quarterback Brady Quinn's pass at the line during the Sugar Bowl at the Louisiana Superdome Jan. 3. Quinn completed just 15-of-35 passes for 148 yards in his final collegiate game. The Tigers beat the Irish 41-14.

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

NEW ORLEANS — Louisiana State's team buses rolled down Notre Dame Street on their way to practice at the Superdome every day leading up to the Sugar Bowl Jan. 3. When game time arrived, the No. 4 Tigers rolled over the No. 11 Irish in a 41-14 victory in front of a jubilant Louisiana crowd.

After a competitive first half, LSU pounded Notre Dame in the second with suffocating defense and a persistent, efficient offense. The Irish trailed just 21-14 after two periods, but the Tigers defense bore down in the third and fourth quarters, and a flat Notre Dame team never showed signs of coming back. The result was a 333-to-30 advantage in second-half yards for the Tigers and a second straight BCS blowout loss for the Irish.

"Obviously, it was a team effort," said Irish quarterback Brady Quinn after his final collegiate game. "We really weren't converting on third down, making plays when we had the opportunity, and really, when you look at it, we weren't productive."

Quinn finished his prolific career with his worst game in two seasons, completing just 15-of-35 attempts for 148 yards, two touchdowns and two interceptions. LSU's star quarterback, JaMarcus Russell, completed touchdown passes of 11 and 58 yards and ran for a 5-yard score en route to earning game MVP award.

"I have great respect for their great quarterback, Brady Quinn," Tigers coach Les Miles said. "I just think I have the best quarterback in the country."

Russell finished 21-of-34 for 332 yards, two touchdowns, one interception and a fumble.

Notre Dame gained only two first downs in the second half, including one on a pass interference penalty. After the first, the Irish went three-and-out; after the second, Quinn threw an interception on the following play.

The turning point of the game was Russell's 58-yard pass to wide receiver Early Doucet with 1:40 remaining in the first half. With the game tied at 14, Doucet got to the Irish 5 and Russell ran the ball in for a score from a four-wide formation, one of LSU's common offensive themes for the night.

"From ... that little two-minute touchdown they got right before halftime, for the rest of the game they really laid the wood on us," Irish coach Charlie Weis said.

And even if the Irish offense was clicking, the Tigers made sure Notre Dame wouldn't have much time to make a comeback. LSU held the ball for more than 21 minutes in the second half.

Notre Dame's defense was porous and its offense stagnant. The Tigers torched the Irish after time, and Quinn never found a rhythm passing.

For the Tigers, any problems they had ceased after halftime.

After two Colt David field goals, Russell threw a second 58-yarder, this time a touchdown, to freshman Brandon LaFell with 18 seconds left in the third quarter to extend the LSU lead to 34-14. On the first play after starting Irish cornerback Terrail Lambert collided with Notre Dame linebacker Maurice Crum and briefly left the game, Russell attacked the backup corner, Irish freshman Darrin Walls. LaFell beat Walls deep, and safety help from Irish senior Chinedum Ndukwe arrived too late.

"You just have to tip your caps to them because they came to play and we didn't," Ndukwe said. "They were throwing deep balls all over the place."

Notre Dame's only strength on the night, its rushing attack, fell victim to an LSU lead that forced Weis to abandon the ground game and rely solely on the inefficient air attack.

Irish tailback Darius Walker rushed 18 times for 125 yards in the first two quarters. He carried only four times for 3 yards after halftime.

"In the second half, I didn't get a chance to run the ball a lot because we were down," Walker said. "Naturally when you're behind, you really can't run the ball that much because you're trying to score points. And then when you get down even further and further behind, you might as well forget about the running game because you need touchdowns right away."

While Notre Dame had just one successful rushing half, the Tigers ran over the Irish all night, and the LSU ground attack wore down Notre Dame's defense in the second half. Led by tailback Justin Vincent's 71 yards on just seven carries and Williams' 108 yards on 14 attempts, the Tigers averaged 6.6 yards per rush. Williams capped the game's scoring with a 20-yard touchdown run with 7:27 left in the fourth quarter to give LSU its decisive 41-14 advantage.

Both Weis and Irish strong safety Tom Zbikowski said LSU ran from four-wide formations more than the Irish were expecting.

"They did a nice job of going in and out from spreading the field with three wide receivers to four wide receivers, and I think they called a nice game and put a lot of pressure on our defense," Weis said.

Notre Dame started slow, gaining two first downs on its opening possession before a failed fake-punt run gave the ball the to LSU on the Irish 34. And the Tigers attacked immediately. Russell connected with Doucet for a 31-yard gain. Running back Keiland Williams ran for the score on the next play, and LSU had an early 7-0 lead.

The Tigers then took a 14-0 lead on Russell's 11-yard strike to wide out Dwayne Bowe halfway through the first quarter. But Notre Dame responded with an eight-play, 80-yard drive that concluded with a 24-yard touchdown throw from Quinn to Irish sophomore David Grimes.

The Irish and Tigers exchanged punts and missed field goals until Quinn found Samardzija on the right side of the end zone for a 10-yard score, and momentum seemed to be back in favor of Notre Dame.

But Russell immediately struck with his bomb to Doucet, and the rout was on.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

player of the game

JaMarcus Russell

The Tigers quarterback was the game's unanimous MVP after picking apart the Irish secondary.

stat of the game

245

Yards rushing LSU gained against the Irish defense. Notre Dame couldn't even slow the Tigers.

play of the game

Russell's 58-yard pass to Early Doucet

The deep ball with two minutes left put LSU in position to go up at halftime and put the Irish away.

quote of the game

"Right now, we're just a nice, solid team. That won't cut it. We want to be an upper-echelon team."

Charlie Weis
Irish coach

report card

C- **quarterbacks:** Quinn had his worst game since Charlie Weis took over the offense. He made one stupid decision that led to an interception and failed to connect with open receivers on crossing routes.

A **running backs:** Walker's 3-yard second half is misleading. The junior got just four carries after the half but made the most out of his first-half touches. He hit holes hard and showed explosiveness.

D **receivers:** Grimes made a good play on his TD catch, but Samardzija committed a stupid taunting penalty and McKnight didn't make anything happen. The two seniors were disappointments.

B- **offensive line**: Quinn had to scramble at times, but Morton and Santucci pulled to perfection on running plays. Walker's tall total in the first half reflects this unit's efforts.

C- **defensive line:** After Landri left with an injury, LSU regularly dominated the Irish front four. The only positive of the night was Russell's fumble, which was as much a result of the corner blitz as it was of front-four pressure.

D **linebackers:** Brockington and Thomas had a difficult time in pass coverage, and LSU's 6.6-yard rushing was a testament to this unit's inability to aid in rush defense.

D+ **defensive backs**: The Irish secondary couldn't keep the LSU receivers in front of it. Russell lofted passes to his receivers and Ndukwe was beat long on multiple occasions.

D **special teams:** Even if the fake punt was a good call, it was poorly executed. Price punted fairly well, but Gioia ended his career with another missed field goal.

D **coaching:** It's Weis' job to prepare the offense for the toughest defenses. For the third time in as many chances this year, he failed. On defense, Rick Minter couldn't get the job done. But for the game, Minter was no worse than Weis.

1.70 **overall:** The biggest disparity of the night wasn't in talent; it was in quality preparation. LSU was ready to go. The Irish looked lost.

adding up the numbers

43 Brady Quinn's completion percentage in the Sugar Bowl. The mark was his lowest since 2004.

4 Rushing attempts by Irish running back Darius Walker in the second half. Those were the final four carries of Walker's Notre Dame career.

0 Number of points the Irish scored in the second half. Notre Dame had not been shut out in a half all season prior to the Sugar Bowl.

2 Number of 58-yard passes LSU quarterback JaMarcus Russell threw in the game. Russell also completed a 31-yard throw.

6.6 LSU's rushing average. The Tigers pounded the ball for 245 yards and 16 first downs on the ground.

8:43 Notre Dame's time of possession in the second half. LSU ran 22 plays for 132 yards and two field goals in its first two possessions after the break.

286 Yardage advantage the Tigers had over Notre Dame. The Irish gained just 291 yards to LSU's 577.

9 Consecutive bowl losses for Notre Dame. Though not an official record, the streak is the longest in NCAA history.

FRANCESCA SETA/The Observer

LSU defenders jumping for interceptions were an all-too-common occurrence during the Sugar Bowl for Irish quarterback Brady Quinn. But Quinn's low completion rate was not as worrisome as the team's lack of emotion.

One question: where's the fire?

Mike Gilloon

Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS — The Notre Dame fans have fled Bourbon Street. The Allstate banners have come down in the Superdome. And LSU has stopped scoring. (I think).

It's now time to look at what turned the Irish from confident underdogs into bags of Tiger Bait ready for use at the Baton Rouge zoo.

They couldn't block, couldn't tackle and couldn't complete passes from one first-round draft pick to another.

Barring the burst of life that shot Notre Dame back into the game in the second quarter of last Wednesday night's Sugar Bowl, the Domers were terrible.

As usual, LSU was marvelous. The Tiger running backs raced over and around the Irish defense. LSU quarterback JaMarcus Russell threw for 300 yards and a pair of touchdowns and used his almost-300-pound body to run for another score.

The Tigers were the most talented team in New Orleans. There's no doubt about that. Russell must have been raised on another planet — he made former Steelers quarterback Terry Bradshaw (a bruiser himself) look like David Grimes during a FOX network promo.

The LSU defensive line, led by All-America tackle Glenn Dorsey, pushed the Irish around like most experts expected.

In the press box, the game's lopsided outcome wasn't a shock. The fact that Notre Dame played without any confidence with 30 minutes remaining was.

All week in New Orleans, every press conference included a mention of Notre Dame's lack of speed and LSU's superior athleticism. LSU coach Les Miles did his best Lou Holtz impression, smiling and praising Notre Dame's potential. Weis did his best Charlie Weis impression, scowling and scolding a reporter who asked how Notre Dame could stay "competitive" against the big, bad Tigers.

"We didn't come here to be competitive," Weis snapped. "We came here to win the football game."

They did?

It would be hard for anyone watching the Sugar Bowl's second half to think that Notre Dame thought it had a chance to win the game.

There was no sense of urgency; no gang tackling; no realization that this was the last — and the biggest — game of the season.

Down 27-14 with four minutes left in the third quarter, Notre Dame had the ball and an opportunity to close within a touchdown. What happened? The Irish offense — which everyone agreed was the team's best weapon — couldn't even convert a first down for the rest of the game.

Even Brady Quinn couldn't keep the Irish afloat. The toughest player on the field fought to keep from breaking down during his post-game interview. He's done all he can and more this year. If there is anyone to blame for the loss, it's not him.

Even Brady Quinn couldn't keep the Irish afloat. The toughest player on the field fought to keep from breaking down during his post-game interview. He's done all he can and more this year. If there is anyone to blame for the loss, it's not him. All signs point to Weis.

All signs point to Weis.

Notre Dame played flat in every big game this season. To be fair, throw the Michigan contest out of the equation. The favored Irish were surprised by an underrated Wolverine squad.

Against USC and LSU, the Irish had nothing to lose and everything to gain. They were the underdog with every reason to play with energy and intensity. But instead of playing like a team possessed, they played with all the energy and enthusiasm of a bye-week walk through on Cartier Field.

It's the same lack of hunger and confidence that has hurt Notre Dame for the past several years. One of the biggest criticisms of former coach Tyrone Willingham was that the Irish were blown out every time they played more talented competition. Remember the Michigan (38-0), USC (45-14) and Florida State (37-0) losses in 2003? Besides an obvious upgrade on offense, it's hard to say there was a huge difference between those defeats and recent losses to Ohio State, USC and LSU.

In each one, Notre Dame acted as if losing was inevitable. And in each one, Notre Dame played with less desire than its opponent. If anything, the underdog should have more desire. (See: Boise State.)

Weis can sell tickets. He can woo recruits to South Bend. He can develop quarterbacks and vastly improve an offense. But questions remain about his ability to motivate players for a crucial game.

It's been two years since the decade's second Return to Glory began. Has anything really changed?

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

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Irish fire Minter after torching

Report: NY Jets defensive backs coach to replace two-time coordinator

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer

After surrendering 42 points to LSU in this month's Sugar Bowl, it appears the Irish are set to change defensive coordinators.

The South Bend Tribune reported Jan. 13 that New York Jets defensive backs coach Corwin Brown will be named Notre Dame's defensive coordinator, replacing the fired Rick Minter.

The paper also reported that quarterbacks coach Peter Vaas had been let go along with Minter, and that Notre Dame director of personnel development Ron Powlus will take over as quarterbacks coach.

University officials declined to comment on the reported coaching moves.

This is not the first time that Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis has worked with Brown. Weis was an assistant with New England when Brown was drafted by the Patriots out of the University of Michigan in 1993. The two both moved to the New York Jets in 1997 and worked together until 1999, when Brown joined the Detroit Lions.

Brown joined the Jets in 2004 and was a holdover during the team's transition from head coaches Herman Edwards to Eric Mangini.

Under Brown's tutelage in New York this season, Jets safety Kerry Rhodes developed into one of the AFC's premier defensive backs.

In his second year, Rhodes had 98 tackles — including 75 solo — in 16 regular season games, four interceptions and nine passes defended. In two years in the league, Rhodes has 203 tackles, six sacks and five interceptions.

As a unit, the Jets secondary surrendered 201.4 yards per game in 2006. A year earlier, the Brown-led unit was second in the NFL, allowing an AFC-loe 172.2 yards per game.

Brown, 36, received a degree in English from Michigan in 1993 and first coached at Virginia, where he led the Cavaliers special teams. He is a graduate of Chicago's Julian High School, a Public League school on the city's south side.

During his playing days in the NFL, Brown had three interceptions. Two came in his final season as a pro, while he had the other in 1998 with the Jets. In college Brown also had three picks — one in each of his final three seasons.

This will be the first college coaching job for Powlus, a former Notre Dame quarterback. He will help coach Notre Dame freshman quarterback Jimmy Clausen, who many analysts say is the most hyped Irish recruit since Powlus arrived on campus in the fall of 1993.

Powlus finished his Notre Dame career with 20 school records, including marks in total offense (7,479 yards), passing yards (7,602), completions (558) and pass attempts (969) — all of which were broken by outgoing Irish quarterback Brady Quinn.

KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

Irish safety David Bruton catches Tigers receiver Early Doucet from behind duirng the fourth quarter of the Sugar Bowl. LSU had 332 yards passing.

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Weis: Nine seniors apply for fifth year

Landri does not return to game after injuring knee; field goal money goes to N.O.

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Nine Notre Dame seniors applied to the faculty board on athletics for a fifth year of eligibility, Irish coach Charlie Weis announced last week.

If the faculty board accepts all nine, the key returners for the Irish will be standout tight end John Carlson, safety Tom Zbikowski and center John Sullivan.

Also applying for a fifth year were starting linebackers Travis Thomas and Joe Brockington, nickleback Ambrose Wooden, punter Geoff Price, defensive tackle Trevor Laws and reserve defensive lineman Dwight Stephenson, Jr.

Carlson was one of three finalists for the Mackey Award in 2006, given annually to the nation's best tight end. Despite missing the final two games of the regular season, Carlson had 47 catches for 634 yards and four touchdowns. Before the season, he had just 13 receptions for 87 yards playing behind Anthony Fasano, now a member of the Dallas Cowboys.

Though Zbikowski didn't have an interception, he finished with 79 tackles, a 25-yard fumble recovery for a score and a 52-yard punt return touchdown. He averaged 9 yards per punt return.

Sullivan started all but four games since his sophomore season. He has played in 37 straight games for the Irish.

Though starting in the defensive backfield, Thomas saw action on offense, defense and on special teams. He had 13 carries for 81 yards — including a 43-yard scamper on a fake punt against Penn State — to go along with his 35 tackles.

Price finished the season with 50 punts and an average of 45.4 per boot.

Laws had 62 tackles in the 2006-07 season, including 9.5 for losses and 3.5 sacks. Laws also had an interception against USC.

Landri injured in final game

Irish senior defensive tackle Derek Landri injured a knee in his final collegiate game and left the contest before halftime.

"I don't know the severity of the knee," Weis said after the game. "But I know that they told me that they were going to bring him in and put an ice bag on him and that he was going to be returning to the game."

Weis did not disclose further details and has not been available for comment since his post-game news conference.

Quinn finishes assault on record books

Despite Irish quarterback Brady Quinn's 15-of-35 performance, the senior eclipsed several milestones in his final collegiate game.

With his two touchdown passes, Quinn finished in a tie foro seventh all-time in Division I-A with 95 scoring throws. What's more, Quinn finished with 11,762 passing yards to rank 10th all-time and 929 completions for 11th in Division I-A history.

Money to charity

The $10,000 earmarked for the Notre Dame general scholarship program as a result of Jay Specter's attempted field goal at half time was donated to Catholic Charities of New Orleans, University President Father John Jenkins said.

Specter missed the 25-yard attempt.

Price is right

Price finished the game with four punts of 50 yards or longer and, in doing so, set a new school record for season punting average.

It was the second time this season Price had three or more punts of at least 50 yards.

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scoring summary

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total
Notre Dame	7	7	0	0	14
LSU	14	7	13	7	41

First quarter

LSU 7, Notre Dame 0
Keiland Williams 3-yard run with 11:16 remaining. (Colt David kick)
Drive: 2 plays, 34 yards, 0:49 elapsed

LSU 14, Notre Dame 0
Dwayne Bowe 11-yard reception from JaMarcus Russell with 6:03 remaining. (David kick)
Drive: 8 plays, 80 yards, 3:31 elapsed

LSU 14, Notre Dame 7
David Grimes 24-yard reception from Brady Quinn with 1:26 remaining. (Carl Gioia kick)
Drive: 8 plays, 80 yards, 4:37 elapsed

Second quarter

LSU 14, Notre Dame 14
Jeff Samardzija 10-yard reception from Quinn with 2:25 remaining. (Gioia kick)
Drive: 8 plays, 80 yards, 2:39 elapsed.

LSU 21, Notre Dame 14
Russell 5-yard run with 1:15 remaining. (David kick)
Drive: 5 plays, 82 yards, 1:10 elapsed.

Third quarter

LSU 24, Notre Dame 14
David 25-yard field goal with 9:34 remaining.
Drive: 13 plays, 73 yards, 5:26 elapsed

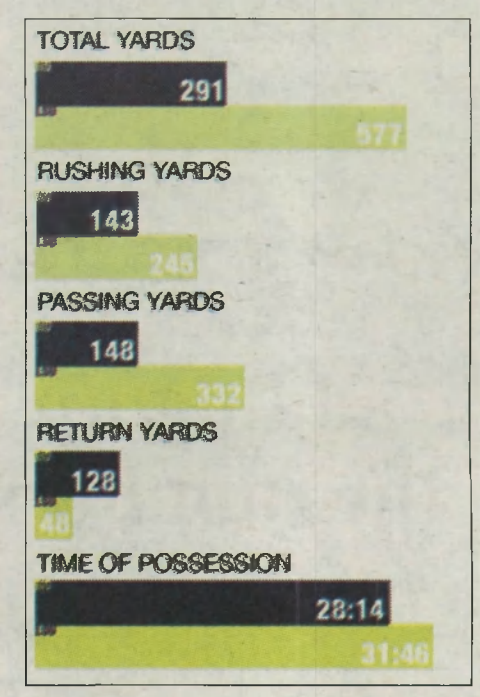
LSU 27, Notre Dame 14
David 37-yard field goal with 3:48 remaining.
Drive: 9 plays, 59 yards, 3:57 elapsed

LSU 34, Notre Dame 14
Brandon LaFell 58-yard pass from Russell with 0:18 remaining. (David kick)
Drive: 5 plays, 73 yards, 1:38 elapsed

Fourth quarter

LSU 41, Notre Dame 14
Williams 20-yard run with 7:27 remaining.
Drive: 9 plays, 76 yards, 4:11 elapsed

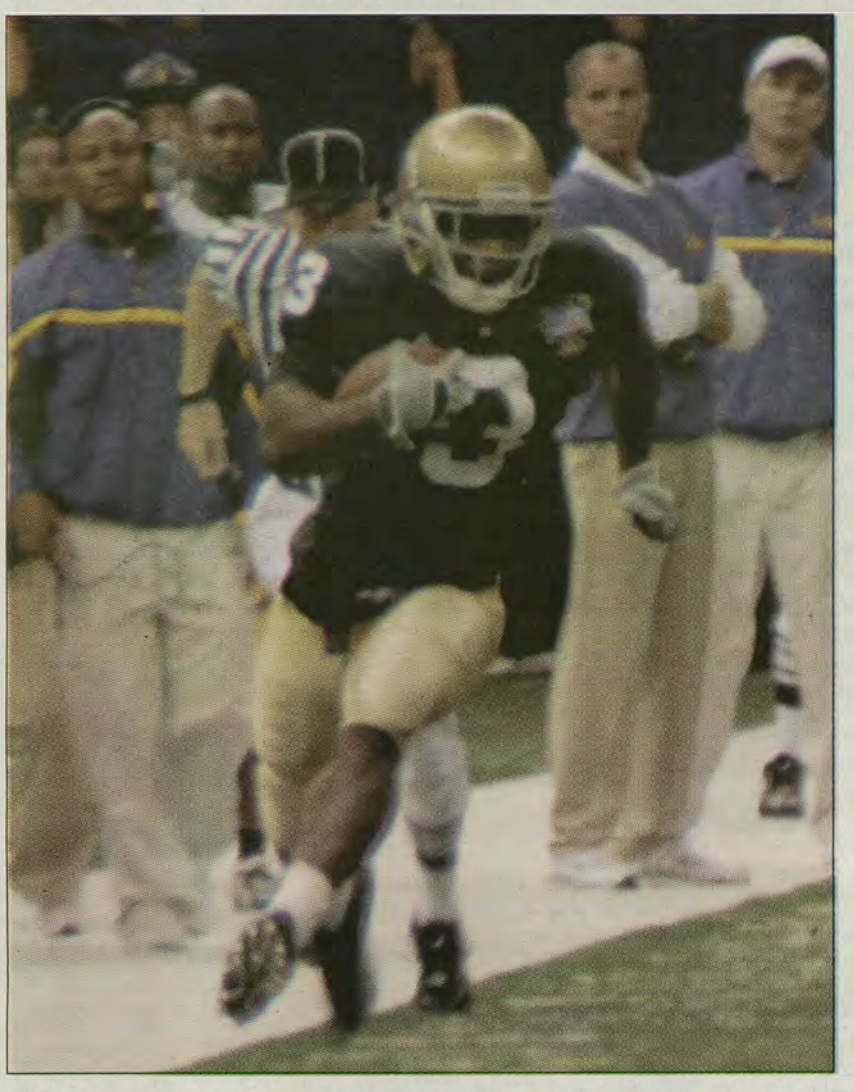
statistics



31-143	rushes-yards		37-245
15-35-1	comp-att-int		21-34-1
5-237	punts-yards		2-87
0-0	fumbles-lost		2-1
4-40	penalties-yards		9-95
17	first downs		31
	passing		
Quinn	15-35-2	Russell	21-34-1
	rushing		
Walker	22-128	Williams	14-108
Aldridge	3-7	Vincent	12-71
Quinn	3-6	Hester	3-25
	receiving		
Samardzija	8-59	Doucet	8-115
McKnight	3-22	Bowe	5-78
Walker	2-30	Davis	4-50
Grimes	1-24	Vincent	2-19
Carlson	1-13	LaFell	1-58
	tackles		
Ndukwe	12	Jackson	6
Zbikowski	10	Landry	6
Crum	8	Dorsey	5
Richardson	6	Highsmith	5
Bruton	4	Francis	5
Brockington	4	Beckwith	5
Wooden	4	Hester	4

Bayou bungle

Before the game, Charlie Weis used his confrontational style to make a point how the Irish "didn't come here to be competitive." By the end of the night, Irish fans wished they would have done just that. Brady Quinn ended his career on a low note, and Weis explained how Notre Dame was only a "nice" team — not an elite one. A BCS blowout made that evident for the second straight year.



Photos by FRANCESCA SETA and KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

Top left, Tigers cornerback Chevis Jackson wraps up Irish receiver Rhema McKnight. Top right, Notre Dame wide out Jeff Samardzija hauls in an 11-yard touchdown pass. Bottom right, Irish cornerback Mike Richardson turns upfield after an interception in the end zone. Bottom right, Notre Dame running back Darius Walker sprints along the sideline for a chunk of his 128 yards. At middle, LSU running back Keiland Williams cuts back as a Tigers blocker stuffs Irish linebacker Travis Thomas.

DVD REVIEWS

Depp, 'Dead Man's Chest' sail onto DVD

By SEAN SWEANY
Assistant Scene Editor

Robotic pirates have been singing it for 40 years — "Yo, ho, yo, ho, a pirate's life for me." The theme song from the popular Disneyland attraction "Pirates of the Caribbean" is known worldwide for bestowing a "pirate's life" to its bard. This past summer, Walt Disney Pictures had a pirate's life at the box office and with the release of "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" on DVD, it was a pirate's Christmas as well.

The sequel to the hit 2003 film "Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl" again took viewers on a whirlwind ride with Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) and crew across the high seas of the Caribbean.

"Dead Man's Chest" picks up soon after the events of the first movie, with the arrest of the soon to be wedded Will Turner (Orlando Bloom, "Kingdom of Heaven") and Elizabeth Swann (Keira Knightley, "King Arthur") on the charge of aiding Jack Sparrow. In what turns out to be an epic quest for their freedom, the two must work with sparrow to obtain the Dead Man's Chest from Davy Jones (Bill Nighy, "Love Actually"), which controls the fates of dead souls.

The plot is grand, and slightly confusing, but this is intentionally done with the knowledge that a third film, to be released in May 2007, will wrap up the numerous loose ends concocted in "Dead Man's Chest."

Director Gore Verbinski ("The Weather Man") handles the enormous production, including its complex story, with a deft touch that balances action with softer moments akin to the first movie and ultimately gives a greatly entertaining film.

Perhaps Verbinski's biggest accomplishment is that he elicits even better performances from his actors than in the first "Pirates" film. Bloom and Knightley cease being merely background characters and become compelling, rounded people. Bill Nighy, whose movements were recorded and overlaid with a CGI figure, is delightful as Davy Jones, even though the character is completely computer animated.

The movie, however, belongs to Johnny Depp and could just as easily be titled "The Captain Jack Sparrow story." Depp steals every scene he appears in, which is essentially the entire movie. His quirky, off-kilter style is more prominent and more pronounced than in the first film, and this is what helps "Dead Man's Chest" accomplish a difficult feat — to exist as a sequel but rival the first film in a series in quality.

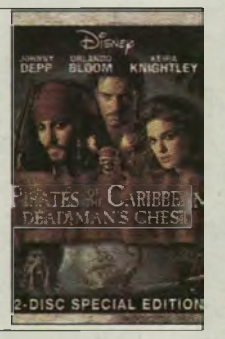
Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) runs from the natives in "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest." The film was the top grossing movie of 2006.

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest

Widescreen Edition

Walt Disney Pictures



The two-disc collector's edition DVD of this film has a treasure trove of special features and is a must have for even the most casual fan of the films. Numerous special features include in-depth featurettes on Jack Sparrow and the film's top-notch production design, which endured hurricanes, tropical storms and budget problems while filming the picture.

An "Anatomy of a Legend" feature looks at the process behind creating the Davy Jones character, showing the technology the filmakers used to bring the otherworldly creature to life. A very unique feature examines how Disneyland added the iconic characters of Sparrow and Captain Barbossa from the "Pirates" films to the original, 1966 Disneyland attraction.

The video and sound of "Pirates" have an excellent transfer onto DVD, especially the Hans Zimmer score, which is as good as the first film's soundtrack. The incredibly lifelike CGI in the film — from Davy Jones and his otherworldly crew to the Kraken — are crisp and detailed even on the small screen.

Amidst skepticism about its success potential and criticism of its length and twisted plot, "Pirates of the Caribbean – Dead Man's Chest" triumphed, becoming one of the most successful films of all time while delighting audiences and critics alike. As a middle film of a trilogy, "Dead Man's Chest" sets the stage well for the third film, but ultimately succeeds because it can stand alone against its forebear as one of the best swashbuckling films of all time.

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'Descent' finds acclaim at top of horror film list

By ERIN McGINN
Assistant Scene Editor

While the British excel at many things, creating excellent horror movies is far from the top of the list. Aside from several notable exceptions, British horror tends to be, quite frankly, not scary. Director Neil Marshall, however, is making great strides in reversing the fortune of British horror.

Coming off the 2002 success "Dog Soldiers," Marshall wrote and directed "The Descent," which was released to British audiences in 2005, and the summer of 2006 in the United States. "The Descent" not only ascended to the pinnacle of British horror, but was by far the best horror film of 2006.

"The Descent" follows a close group of six adventuresome female friends who frequently take high-risk outdoor vacations together. This time, the women explore an isolated and previously unexplored cave system in the Appalachian mountains.

After experiencing a cave-in they are left to their own devices to find a new way out, only to discover that they are not alone in the caves. The confined spaces and darkness of the caves, as well as the terrifying creatures, lead to a constantly high level of horror.

Of the cast, the movie focuses the most on Sarah (Shauna Macdonald) who, after recently suffering a family tragedy, is trying to get her life back together and Juno (Natalie Mendoza) who recklessly and purposefully led them into the wrong caves to try to bring the women closer together.

When "The Descent" was released in America, it was not the same version that was shown to British audiences the year prior. The original, and albeit darker, ending was edited so that the film ended early, leaving a slightly happier version for American filmgoers. The unrated DVD release of the film is the original director's cut that was shown in Britain, which includes the longer and darker ending that was previously left out.

The decision to change the ending for the American version became so controversial that the disc includes a featurette in the special features section entitled "DescENDING" in which the reasoning for the change is examined.

Also included in the special features are approximately 20 minutes of deleted and extended scenes, a fairly humorous blooper reel, storyboard-to-scene comparisons and an almost hour-long "making-of" featurette.

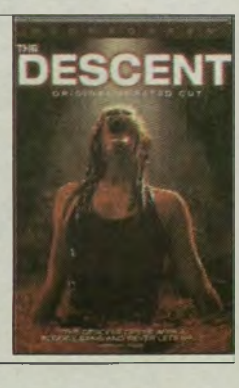
Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Sarah (Shauna Macdonald) tries to escape to daylight after a caving expedition goes wrong in "The Descent." The horror film was one of the best in 2006.

The Descent

Unrated Widescreen Edition

Lions Gate



The unrated DVD also has two great commentaries. The first features writer-director Marshall, along with several of the actresses who appeared in the film (Nora Jane Noone, Saskia Mulder, MyAnna Buring, Shauna McDonald and Alex Reid), and the second commentary features Marshall along with the film's production crew (producer Christian Colson, editor Jon Harris, assistant editor Tina Richardson and production designer Simon Bowles).

Marshall aptly leads the way in both commentaries, guiding everyone through and giving the others a chance to speak as he reminisces with them and asks several questions. For obvious reasons the commentary track with the crew is more technical, while the one with the actresses is much more anecdotal.

"The Descent" excels at scaring viewers both on the surface level — with monsters hiding in the dark — as well as delving deeper into more psychological fears. Without letting up for an instant, the movie manages to stay a thrilling ride from the beginning until the end.

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NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Huskies fall to 2-3 in Big East with loss to Pitt

D.J. White ties personal highs in points and rebounds as Indiana tops the Hawkeyes 71-64 in Big East showdown

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — No. 6 Pittsburgh pulled away midway through the second half behind Aaron Gray's strong inside play and Ronald Ramon's perimeter shooting, wearing down Connecticut in a typically rugged Big East rivalry game for a 63-54 victory Tuesday night.

Gray, helped by an injury that kept UConn's 7-foot-3 Hasheem Thabeet out for most of the first half, had 22 points and 19 rebounds. Ramon went 4-for-4 from 3-point range while adding 17 points as the Panthers (17-2, 5-0) won their seventh straight. They are the only team still unbeaten in conference play.

Gray missed by a rebound of becoming the first Pitt player with as many as 20 points and 20 rebounds in a game since Chris McNeal against Boston College in 1992.

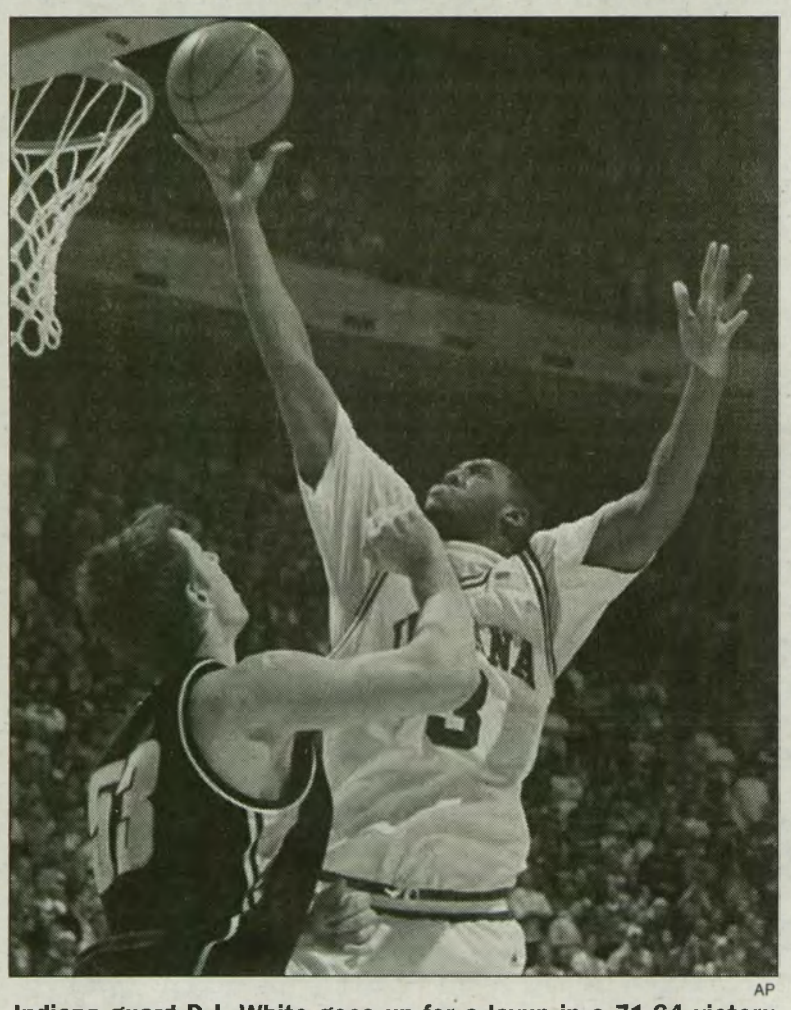
UConn (13-4, 2-3) lost for the fourth time in six games mostly because of poor shooting — the Huskies shot 35.6 percent — yet led 33-32 with 12 minutes remaining.

But the Huskies went scoreless for 4 1/2 minutes shortly after that during a 7-0 Pitt run started by Levance Fields' 3-pointer. Levon Kendall followed with a jumper from the wing, one of only two baskets before he fouled out, and Gray also scored inside.

The Panthers made it 53-40 on Mike Cook's driving layup with 2:41 remaining, then spent most of the remaining time on the free throw line as UConn fouled early in every Pitt possession to try to get the ball back.

The Big East's two most successful programs since 2001 — no team is close to them in regular season victories — are known for their intense, physical styles. This one was no different, as was evident when Thabeet caught an elbow from Gray above his eye less than 2 minutes into the game.

Thabeet was assisted to the locker room in obvious pain and didn't return late in the half. With Thabeet out, Gray took advantage by getting 11 rebounds by halftime.



AP

Indiana guard D.J. White goes up for a layup in a 71-64 victory Tuesday night. White had 23 points in the game.

Indiana 71, Iowa 64

D.J. White tied career highs with 23 points and 12 rebounds to lead the Indiana Hoosiers to a victory over the Iowa Hawkeyes on Tuesday night.

Roderick Wilmont had 15 points and Armon Bassett scored 10 for the Hoosiers (13-4, 4-1 Big Ten), who won their fourth straight conference game since a Jan. 2 loss at No. 7 Ohio State.

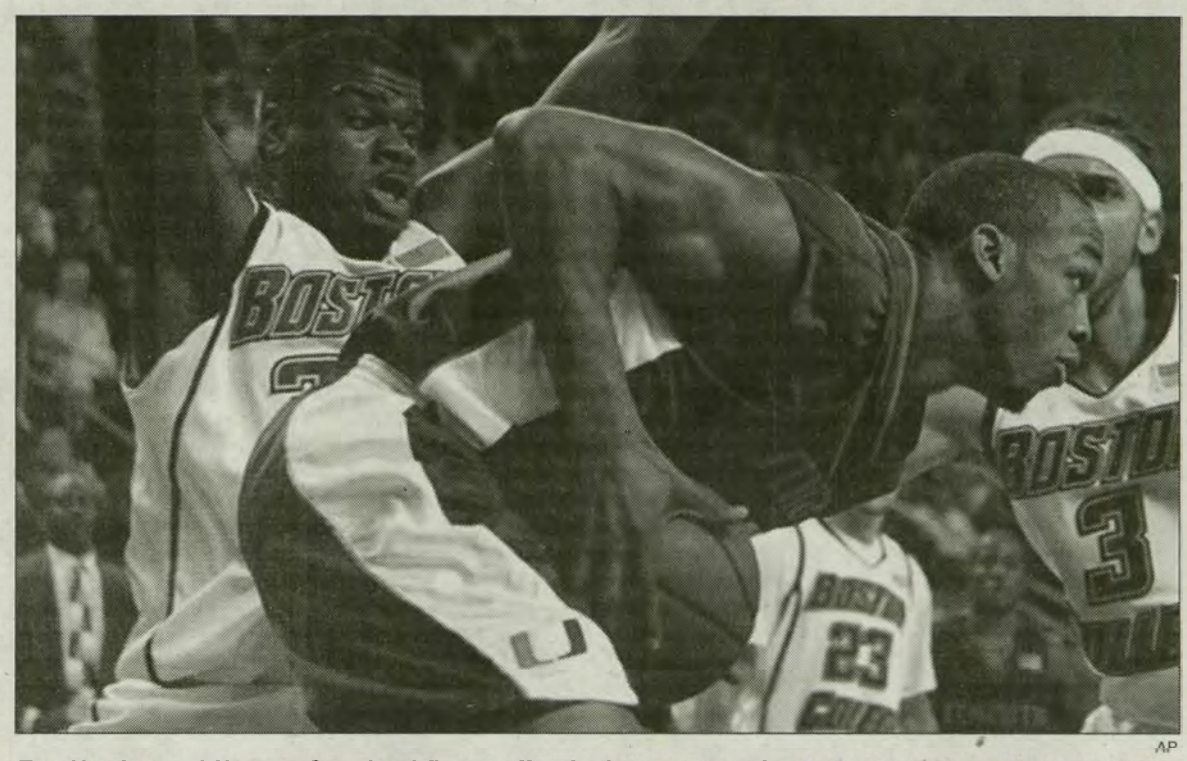
Adam Haluska, the Big Ten's leading scorer entering the game, finished with 21 points and Tyler Smith added 17 points and six assists for Iowa (10-8, 2-2), which rallied from a 21-point deficit in the second half to make the game close.

The Hoosiers, who improved to 10-0 at Assembly Hall this season and snapped a four-game losing streak against Iowa, took charge early in the first half following Haluska's layup that put Iowa ahead 10-8.

White's rebound and putback tied the score and sparked an 11-0 run by Indiana over the next seven minutes. Lance Stemler's 3-pointer gave the Hoosiers a 19-10 advantage with 7:30 left.

Indiana extended its lead to 24-13 after White's basket with 6 minutes remaining, and the Hoosiers went up 29-17 on Wilmont's 3-pointer to end the half.

Wilmont made three 3-pointers and scored 11 points, and White added eight points and six rebounds to lead Indiana in the first half. The Hawkeyes shot 32 percent from the field and committed 10 turnovers before the break.



AP

The Hurricanes' Keaton Copeland fights off a double team against Boston College Tuesday night. The Eagles were able to hold on for the 82-63 win at Silvio O. Conte Forum in Boston.

Boston College 82, Miami 63

Sean Marshall scored Boston College's first nine points as the Eagles opened a 20-point halftime lead on Tuesday night and coasted to a victory over Miami.

Marshall finished with 20 points and Jared Dudley scored 18 for BC (13-4, 5-0 Atlantic Coast Conference), which won its fourth straight game since he returned from a foot injury and sixth in a row overall. Tyrese Rice had 16 points and a career-high 12 assists, and Shamari Spears scored nine with 10 rebounds.

Dwayne Collins scored a season-high 24 points and added 13 rebounds as Miami (9-10, 2-3) lost for the sixth time in eight games, including an 85-63 loss to No. 14 Duke on Sunday. He was the only Hurricanes player to make more than half his shots as they shot 28 percent in the first half and fell behind 42-22 at the break.

Virginia 103, Maryland 91

Mamadi Diane scored a career-high 26 points and Sean Singletary added 25 and seven assists Tuesday night to lead Virginia past Maryland, ending the Cavaliers' three-game losing streak.

Virginia (10-6, 2-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) blew a 20-point first half lead, allowing Maryland to close to within three early in the second half.

But the Cavs scored 12 straight to make it 70-55 with 9:50 remaining, and from there the Terrapins (15-4, 1-3) couldn't get closer than eight.

Mike Jones led Maryland with 18 points. Greivis Vazquez made five 3-pointers and scored 17. Ekene Ibekwe also had 17 before fouling out in the closing minute.

Two free throws by Ibekwe pulled the Terps to within 58-55 with 14:36 to play. After Virginia turned the ball over on a 10-second violation, Maryland also turned it over and Jamil Tucker hit his third 3-pointer in as many tries for the Cavaliers.

Maryland turned the ball over three more times and missed all five of its shots over the next four-plus minutes, allowing Virginia to rebuild its advantage.

A dunk by Jason Cain gave Virginia a 50-30 lead with 2:45 left in the first half, but then the Cavaliers self-destructed, turning the ball over on four straight possessions. The Terps scored the last 13 points of the period, with Vasquez making all of his eight first half points in 30 seconds.

Western Michigan 86, Central Michigan 76

Joe Reitz scored 26 points to lead Western Michigan to a victory over Central Michigan on Tuesday night.

Four starters reached double figures for the Broncos (7-10, 2-2 Mid-American), who won their sixth straight home game with their highest point total of the season.

Giordan Watson led Central Michigan (7-9, 2-2) with 19 points, 13 of them in the second half when the Chippewas saw a two-point lead evaporate into a deficit of up to 15 points.

David Kool added 15 points for Western Michigan, Michael Redell scored 14 and Derek Fracalossi 12. Reitz scored 10 of his points at the free-throw line.

The teams combined for 20 3-point baskets, led by four each from Watson and Jordan Bitzer, who added 15 points for Central Michigan.

The Broncos used a 9-0 run early in the second half, including six straight points by Reitz, to grab the lead for good and defeat the Chippewas for the sixth time in seven meetings. Western Michigan made 57.1 percent of its shots in the second half as Central Michigan's shooting cooled to 38.5 percent.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

PERSONAL

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Men's Basketball Associated Press Top 25

	team	Record	points
1	Florida	16-2	1761
2	Wisconsin	17-1	1722
3	UCLA	15-1	1666
4	North Carolina	15-2	1552
5	Kansas	15-2	1527
6	Pittsburgh	15-2	1396
7	Ohio State	16-2	1348
8	Texas A&M	14-3	1310
9	Oregon	15-2	1204
10	Alabama	16-1	1139
11	Arizona	14-2	997
12	Oklahoma State	13-3	894
13	Air Force	15-2	786
14	Duke	17-1	758
15	Nevada	14-3	699
16	LSU	16-1	658
17	Memphis	12-4	642
18	Butler	13-3	620
19	Clemson	15-2	508
20	NOTRE DAME	17-1	466
21	Texas	15-2	404
22	Tennessee	13-3	295
23	Virginia Tech	13-4	250
24	Marquette	15-4	185
25	Kentucky	14-3	168

Men's Basketball ESPN/USA Today Top 25

	team	Record	points
1	Florida	16-2	764
2	UCLA	15-1	738
3	Wisconsin	17-1	714
4	North Carolina	15-2	683
5	Kansas	15-2	631
6	Pittsburgh	16-2	590
7	Ohio State	14-3	581
8	Texas A&M	15-2	553
9	Alabama	14-2	459
10	Oregon	16-1	458
11	Air Force	17-1	448
12	Arizona	13-3	435
13	Nevada	16-1	392
14	Oklahoma State	15-2	334
15	Butler	15-2	323
16	Clemson	17-1	307
17	Duke	14-3	304
18	Memphis	13-3	264
19	LSU	12-4	226
20	NOTRE DAME	15-2	160
21	Washington State	15-3	100
22	Maryland	15-3	95
23	Texas	13-3	90
24	Tennessee	13-4	79
25	Virginia Tech	13-4	66

around the dial

AUSTRALIAN OPEN
Early Round Play
4 p.m., ESPN2
Early Round Play
9 p.m., ESPN2

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
North Carolina at Clemson
7 p.m., ESPN
Illinois at Minnesota
7 p.m., ESPN2

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Indiana at Purdue
4:30 p.m., CSN

NBA
Lakers at Spurs
9 p.m., ESPN
Bulls at Bucks
8 p.m., CSN

NFL

AP

California head coach Jeff Tedford, right, leads his team out before a Sept. 9, 2006 game against Minnesota. Tedford agreed to an extension that will keep him at California through 2013.

Tedford extension valid through 2013

Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — California coach Jeff Tedford has agreed to a four-year contract extension that will keep the two-time Pac-10 coach of the year with the Golden Bears through 2013, The Associated Press learned Tuesday.

The UC Board of Regents was scheduled to discuss the deal at a closed meeting Tuesday, and athletic department spokesman John Sudsbury said approval is expected Thursday.

Tedford is 43-20 in five seasons, leading the Bears' longest sustained period of excellence in a half-century. He led Cal to a 10-3 record, a Pac-10 co-championship and a victory over Texas A&M in the Holiday Bowl in the just-completed season.

With his offensive acumen and impressive success at a relatively low-profile football school, Tedford annually appears on the coaching wish lists of big-school athletic directors and NFL general managers. This winter alone, he was linked him with openings at Alabama and with the Atlanta Falcons.

But Tedford seems comfortable at Cal, where he has transformed a once-struggling program into a West Coast power with burgeoning fan support and new facilities on the way.

The Bears have reached the top 10 in three straight seasons while appearing in four consecutive bowl games — winning three — for the first time in school history. Cal's share of the Pac-10 crown this season was its first conference title since 1975, and Tedford also has beaten archrival Stanford five straight times.

After Tedford's 2004 club went 10-2 and reached a No. 4 national ranking, he received a five-year contract that will be worth $2 million per season if he collects a retention bonus for staying the length of the deal. Financial terms of his proposed extension weren't immediately available, but should be public record when the deal is approved.

Tedford is best known for his acumen in tutoring quarterbacks, both at Cal and during his time as an offensive coordinator at Oregon and Fresno State. The former Canadian Football League quarterback has sent Trent Dilfer, David Carr, Akili Smith, Joey Harrington, A.J. Feeley, Kyle Boller and Aaron Rodgers to the NFL.

IN BRIEF

Armstrong urges Iowans to support cancer research

DES MOINES, Iowa — Lance Armstrong urged Iowans on Tuesday to support a presidential candidate who is dedicated to expanding cancer research.

In a speech to 1,500 guests of the Greater Des Moines Partnership's annual dinner, the seven-time Tour de France champion described the power Iowa holds as the nation's leadoff state in the presidential nominating process.

"The cancer question has to be asked, and it has to be on the agenda for the most powerful man in the world," Armstrong said.

"This is a very important state for a lot of reasons, most notably for your position in the political calendar and your ability to be able to engage with the people who want to lead the free world," he said.

Armstrong said his "new race" in life is finding a cure for a disease that kills 600,000 people a year.

Crede signs one-year contract extension

CHICAGO — Third baseman Joe Crede and the Chicago White Sox agreed Tuesday to a $4.94 million, one-year contract and avoided arbitration.

The 28-year-old batted .283 last season with 30 home runs, 94 RBIs and had a .978 fielding percentage in 150 games.

The deadline for exchanging salary-arbitration figures was Tuesday, and there has been speculation that Crede's time with the White Sox might be nearing an end. He is eligible for free agency after the 2008 season.

"We certainly have a track record of trying to lock up core guys prior to reaching free agency — the key thing being that we have Joe under control through the 2008 season, so it's not an immediate concern to address," assistant general manager Rick Hahn said.

Federer into third round of Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia — Defending champion Roger Federer advanced to the third round of the Australian Open with a 6-2, 6-3, 6-2 victory over Jonas Bjorkman on Wednesday.

It was Federer's second lopsided win over Bjorkman in the last three Grand Slam tournaments. He beat the 34-year-old Swede in straight sets in the Wimbledon semifinals last year as a warmup to beating Rafael Nadal in the final.

Bjorkman relied on drops and some improvised shotmaking to work Federer around, but it rarely worked consistently in the match that lasted 1 hour, 35 minutes.

Federer maintained his record of never dropping a set against Bjorkman.

"Jonas is a great guy, he always puts up a good fight," said Federer, who is chasing a 10th Grand Slam title.

NFL

Gostkowski fills big shoes for Pats

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — Pressure rolled off Stephen Gostkowski's back as smoothly as the football flew off his foot and sent New England to another AFC championship game.

Bill Belichick didn't hesitate to send Gostkowski out for the winning field goal at San Diego. The Patriots coach had done that so many times with Adam Vinatieri.

And, just like Vinatieri, the cool rookie came through in a big playoff game.

Gostkowski easily made his 31-yarder with 1:10 left Sunday, giving the Patriots a 24-21 win and stunning the favored Chargers in their home Sunday. The "k" in Gostkowski is as silent as the crowd, screaming for the Chargers throughout the game, fell when his kick sailed through the uprights.

"He's doing great," Tom Brady said. "Cross your fingers, hope it lasts another week."

The kick, as important as it was, was a prelude to an even bigger game Sunday — against Vinatieri and the Indianapolis Colts, with the winner going to the Super Bowl. Vinatieri's kicks already have won two of them for the Patriots, one on the final play of a 20-17 win over St. Louis in 2002, the other with 4 seconds left in a 32-29 victory over Carolina in 2004.

That's what Gostkowski had to follow when the Patriots chose him in the fourth round of the April draft, one month after Vinatieri ended 10 seasons in New England by signing as a free agent with the Colts.

So far, so good for the 22-year-old rookie.

He's made all six of his field goal attempts in the playoffs after connecting on 12 of his last 14 in the regular season. His leg is stronger than Vinatieri's and he even did something his predecessor never did in the playoffs. His 50-yard field goal that gave the Patriots a 3-0 lead over the Chargers is the longest in the team's postseason history.

The distance didn't surprise his coach at Memphis, Tommy West. But the accuracy took a lot of hard work from the day he walked on to the college team after receiving a baseball scholarship.

"When he came to Memphis, strong leg, no accuracy," West said Tuesday while on a recruiting trip in Alabama. "It was dangerous to stand on the other side of the line. He made himself into the kind of kicker he is."

Gostkowski's winning field goal was his first since a 35-yarder with 6 seconds left gave Memphis a 38-35 win at East Carolina. The stage is much bigger now, but he considers every attempt a pressure kick.

"If you can't handle pressure, you shouldn't be in the business," he said the day he was drafted. "You want to be able to kick that game-winning kick, because that's where people fall in love with you."

SMC Swimming

Belles end two-year win drought

Saint Mary's beats Alma 130-103 to capture first conference victory

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

Lindsey Nelis, Sara Niemann and Melissa Gerbeth each won two individual races along with Saint Mary's two relay victories in the Belles' 130-103 victory over Alma Saturday.

"The sixteen bonded as a team. You can tell they're a much different group."

Ryan Dombkowski
Belles coach

Nelis won the 200-meter freestyle with a time of 2:04.12 and the 500-meter freestyle in 5:38.19. Niemann won the 50-meter freestyle in 27.08 seconds and the 200-meter backstroke in 2:22.75. Gerbeth took the 1,000-meter freestyle in 11:25.73 and the 200 individual medley in 2:24.04.

Saint Mary's relay teams also performed well, winning both races. The 200-meter medley relay team, consisting of Niemann, Jen Lebiedz, Meredith Lierz, and Kelly Tighe, won with a time of 2:04.93. The 200-meter freestyle relay, swum by Gerbeth, Lierz, Nelis and Tighe, took first with a time of 1:50.40.

This meet was the team's first since a training trip to Florida over Christmas Break, a 10-day excursion attended by 16 swimmers.

Belles coach Ryan Dombkowski saw improvement in two departments due to the trip.

"They worked pretty hard," he said. "They swam doubles eight of the ten days, and even though their bodies are broken down, their endurance increased immensely."

The camaraderie of the team was also bolstered.

"The sixteen bonded as a team," Dombkowski said. "You can tell they're a much different group as far as the team is concerned. They really supported each other at Alma, and they push each other in practice. They've really come together as a unit."

"You can't win them all until you win one, and we'll take this one now."

Ryan Dombkowski
Belles coach

Dombkowski was surprised at the results in the Alma meet after a hard training trip.

"You don't usually see the best times," he said. "They knew they had the opportunity to win the meet, and heart and determination won close races."

Although the majority of the races this season have been won by the same four swimmers, every member of the team has contributed. Freshmen Jackie Cattie took fourth in the 500 freestyle, finishing 27 seconds ahead of Alma's Kelly Marks. The finish was not consequential in the individual race, but very important in the scoring, says Dombkowski.

"This was her third event of the day," he said. "It was neck and neck, and she pulled it out in the end. It was her best time of the season by twelve seconds. Even though it's fourth place, the team gains two points instead of one. If all swimmers win little tiny battles, it makes a difference in the long run. Between fifth and sixth place is a big battle, a swing of 26 points in the meet."

This meet was also the first conference meet the Belles have won since the 2004-2005 season.

"It shows recruits that Saint Mary's can be successful," Dombkowski said. "It makes a big difference toward the psyche of moving in the right direction. You can't win them all until you win one, and we'll take this one now."

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

ND Swimming

No. 16 Irish off to best start in past 30 years

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

After a long period of training over winter break, the Notre Dame women's swimming team started 2007 with a second place finish at the Michigan Invitational in Ann Arbor last weekend.

Meanwhile, the No. 16 men's team spent its winter break training in Boca Raton, Fla., then hit the road again to face off against Oakland and participate in a four-team meet at Cleveland State.

The Irish defeated Oakland 181-119 last Friday. Sophomore diver Michael Bulfin, freshman John Lytle, and freshman Ross Moore each posted two wins at the meet.

Notre Dame then went on to defeat Cleveland State, Xavier, and Duquense in a quad meet Saturday. The three wins improved Notre Dame's their record to 8-0 this year in individual meets, their best start since the 1974-75 season.

The No. 19 ranked women's team scored 1074 points in Ann Arbor, finishing behind No. 13 Indiana (1460.5 points), but ahead of No. 10 Michigan (1052.5).

"This was great. It's always great to perform well in a big event like this," women's head coach Carrie Nixon said.

Notre Dame entered the final event of the meet, the 400-yard freestyle relay, with a small lead over the Wolverines. Even though Michigan managed to take the top spot in the event, the Irish scored better overall. The team of senior Katie Carroll, freshman Megan Farrell, senior Rebecca Grove, and sophomore Christa Riggins placed third in the event for the Irish while Notre Dame's four other relay teams finished fifth, sixth, ninth, and seventeenth respectively.

"It's always great when you beat Michigan. They're huge rivals of ours," Nixon said.

Carroll captured three events at the invitational by posting winning times in 200-yard butterfly, 500-yard freestyle, and 200-yard individual medley.

"It was self-assuring because this came off a training trip," Carroll said. "So, it's definitely good for the rest of the season."

Fellow senior Julia Quinn swam a season's best time in the 200-breaststroke, while junior Caroline Johnson set a season best time in the 50-yard freestyle (23.57), good enough for third. She also placed seventh in the 100-freestyle while Rigging placed fifth in the same event.

"Katie had a great meet," Nixon said. "Julia swam the breaststroke two seconds faster than at this time last year and the 50 and 100-freestyle were breakout swims for Caroline."

After competing in last month's U.S. Open, the team spent most of winter break training in Honolulu.

"The girls trained very hard. They have set themselves up for another championship season," Nixon said. "They're doing the little things well, playing to their strengths and capitalizing on other's weaknesses."

The main purpose of the trip, Nixon and Carroll said, was to prepare for the Big East meet in February.

"Mainly, we built up our endurance. Also, it was nice to get out of South Bend and into some nice weather," Carroll said.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

SMC Basketball

Kessler gets award for stellar conference play

Junior guard leads team to fourth place in MIAA standings

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

After a 1-6 start that included a four-game losing streak, Saint Mary's has gone 4-3 since Dec. 6.

Since a 72-69 win over Anderson in their conference opener on Nov. 20, the Belles have defeated Adrian, Alma, Tri-state and Kalamazoo and lost to Hope, Olivet and Calvin en route to a 4-3 conference record, good for fourth in the MIAA.

A large factor in this recent upswing has been the play of junior guard Alison Kessler, who was named MIAA Player of the Week for the week of Dec. 31 to Jan. 6. During the three games that week, Kessler averaged 24 points and six assists per game against Olivet on Jan. 4 were both MIAA season highs.

Kessler shrugs it off as a side-effect of good basketball.

"When the team's playing well, all the individual players play well," she said.

The Belles are in position to make the conference tournament, a goal that seemed distant during the frustrating start. They are fresh of a 72-40 drubbing of Kalamazoo at home, a game in which four starters scored in double figures. They will travel tonight to face an Albion team that has won two straight and also blew out Kalamazoo.

> *"I'm grateful for my teammates as well. It's a win for the team, for everyone."*
>
> **Alison Kessler**
> **Belles guard**

The Britons are 8-7, 3-4 in conference play. Led by senior guards Jessica Babcock, who averages 12.7 points per game, and Amy Aemisegger, who shoots 50 percent from three-point range, the Britons average 59.1 points per game.

The game should be a close one, and the Belles, with a win and an Olivet loss, could jump to third in the MIAA standings. Saint Mary's is hitting its stride, scoring more points, shooting better and committing fewer turnovers than in the first half of the season. Kessler believes maturation has a large part to play in the surge.

"We're maturing. We're a really young team," she said. "We're mostly freshmen and sophomores. We only have three upperclassmen. We're more mature now and are getting used to the physical play."

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Walker

continued from page 24

near future. Although disappointed, we wish him nothing but the best."

While Walker will not graduate this semester, he said he will be only four courses shy of earning a degree. His mother, Laverne, said the family discussed the academic repercussions of the decision at length.

"I told Coach Weis when we met with him, and all of the fans and anybody else that really has that concern for Darius, as a mother and a parent, like I told Coach Weis, you do not have to worry about Darius Walker getting his college degree, because he will do that," she said. "I will see to that."

The departing tailback and resident of O'Neil Hall added his own affirmation of the fact.

"This isn't the last Notre Dame is going to see of me," he said. "You can tell O'Neill Hall that they can keep a dorm reserved for me for when I come back."

Walker had consecutive 1,000-yard seasons after rushing for a program-record 786 yards as a freshman. In 2005, Walker totaled 1,196 yards rushing on a 4.7 yards-per-attempt average. As a junior, Walker averaged 5 yards a carry and gained 1,267 yards on the ground.

His most valuable assets for NFL teams, however, may be his soft hands. The native of Lawrenceville, Ga., was third on the team this season with 56 catches for 391 yards. He finished his career with 109 receptions for 816 yards.

Walker's final game at Notre Dame may have been his best. The 5-foot-10, 208-pounder ran for 128 yards on 22 carries against the vaunted LSU defense in the Sugar Bowl, including 125 yards in the first half. With Notre Dame trailing, the Irish abandoned the successful running attack and Walker got only four carries after halftime.

Other running backs to enter the draft with a year of eligibility remaining include Adrian Peterson of Oklahoma, Michael Bush of Louisville, Antonio Pittman of Ohio State and Marshawn Lynch of California.

With freshman running backs James Aldridge and Munir Prince developing — and coveted tailback recruit Armando Allen arriving on campus for the spring semester, Walker may have faced more of a challenge for the majority of carries in 2007.

"I feel like I've been able to show what I can do."

Darius Walker
former Irish running back

Walker has until today to withdraw his name from the draft if he has second thoughts, and he has not yet hired an agent. He wouldn't predict where he would go in the draft, but said he was confident in his skills.

"I feel like I've been able to show what I can do — I can run the ball, catch the ball, block, everything that a running back is supposed to do," the media-friendly footballer said, before adding a final laugh. "You really can't control what happens and what team you go to as far as that is concerned unless you're one of the Mannings."

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

Observer File Photo

Former Irish tailback Darius Walker scores his first career touchdown against Michigan Sept. 11, 2004. Walker ran for 3,249 yards and 23 touchdowns in his Notre Dame career.

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Red Storm

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said. "She was clicking."

Allen's play also helped spark her teammates, including freshman guard Ashley Barlow, whose 3-pointer with 6:16 left in the half got the run started.

"When [Allen] gets going, it gives everybody confidence," Barlow said. "We just gotta keep getting her the ball."

During the first half, the Irish — who turned the ball over a season-low 10 times all game — gave the ball away just twice, compared to St. John's 11 first-half turnovers.

Still, McGraw was not comfortable with Notre Dame's 44-34 halftime lead.

"I was a little worried," McGraw said. "We were only up 10 ... [after] playing as good as we could play. I'm glad we were able to extend the lead [in the second half]."

The Irish quickly began pulling away in the second half. Notre Dame made each of its first five 3-point attempts, including two each from Allen and Barlow — who finished with 14 points — in a 15-5 run to start the half that extended the lead to 61:39 with 12:44 to go. After an 0-6 start from behind the arc, the Irish went on a 7-for-9 stretch that spanned halftime.

"Normally we stop shooting after [a bad start]," McGraw said. "We did a better job in the second half against their zone moving the ball."

The Irish also emphasized working the ball inside in the second half, and center Melissa D'Amico scored eight of her 10 points in the second half. D'Amico also finished with a career-high 11 rebounds, and tallied the third double-double of her career.

ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish guard Melissa Lechlitner drives to the basket in Notre Dame's 54-51 loss to Indiana Dec. 2.

"She had a size advantage," McGraw said. "In the second half we got it in a little more and she hit the boards harder."

The Irish also clamped down on the Red Storm's field goal offense. After shooting 56.5 percent from the field in the first half, St. John's went just 9-for-24 from the field after halftime. Of its 31 second-half points, only 19 came from the field.

"I think in the beginning we handled their pressure well, but their pressure wore us down," said St. John's head coach Kim Barnes Arico.

For the game, the Irish outshot the Red Storm 76-47 and outrebounded them 38-29.

"I thought we shot the ball better and we really rebounded well," McGraw said.

Note:

◆Freshman guard Melissa Lechlitner had a career-high nine assists.

Contact Eric Retter at eretter@nd.edu

USFA

continued from page 24

Columbus.

Because of Ghattas' injury, he had limited success in December's USFA event in Richmond. The senior sabre struck in top form this weekend, though, posting a tie for third place. Ghattas finished behind only Mike Momtselidze of Ohio State and two-time Olympian Keeth Smart of New York City.

"Patrick Ghattas is improving tremendously," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said. "He made a great jump forward in a strong field, too. He's showing he should be taken seriously for the national team."

Because of Ghattas' downtime, the strong showing was important for his Olympic hopes. Ghattas, who will be competing in Istanbul, Turkey, this weekend said he's glad to have a good tournament under his belt after the injury.

"It's definitely nice to be back on top," he said. "It was a strong tournament — a lot of good fencers. ... It's always frustrating coming to practice and, in my case, you can't always go 100 percent."

On the women's side of the discipline, Irish senior Valerie Providenza and junior Mariel Zagunis — both from Beaverton, Ore. — tied for third as well.

PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Notre Dame junior foil Melanie Bautista competes against Ohio State Feb. 26, 2006 at the Joyce Center.

Bednarski praised the performances of both Zagunis and Providenza as examples of continued excellence. Providenza won the NCAA title in her discipline as a freshman, and Zagunis captured Olympic gold before arriving at Notre Dame. Yet, Bednarski said, both have worked hard to continue improving, and the work paid off with the strong showings in Columbus.

In the women's epee, Irish freshman Kelley Hurley took sixth at the competition, while senior Amy Orlando was No. 15 and sophomore Kimberlee Montoya finished No. 24. Bednarski noted Hurley's potential and her development in her short time at Notre Dame.

Rounding out the top Irish finishers, sophomore Mark Kubik took 11th in men's foil.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

Notre Dame ANNUAL FUND

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LSSU

continued from page 24

2005-06 season.

"It's still January and our whole focus is on Western Michigan right now," Jackson said. "If we start thinking about that we will get ourselves in trouble."

The only loss of the break came in a Jan. 7 upset to the Colonials of Robert Morris University at the Joyce Center. After jumping out to a 2-0 lead, Notre Dame gave up four unanswered goals to the Colonials, including three in the third period. Center David Boguslawski led the way with a goal and an assist in Robert Morris' first victory over a ranked team in program history.

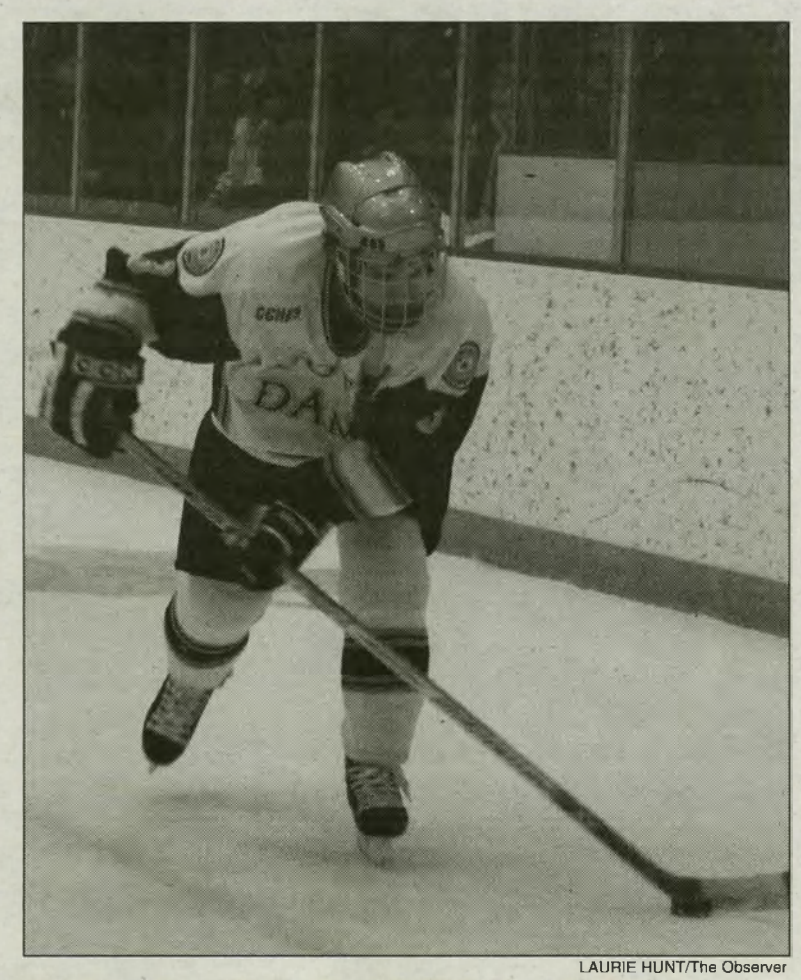
"It was not having enough respect for our opponent. It is hard to get motivated for a non-conference opponent in January," Jackson said. "We just didn't prepare ourselves to play with the same level of intensity that we have."

Notre Dame's four other wins were over conference foes Michigan and Northern Michigan. Seven different skaters scored for the Irish in a 7-3 toppling of the then-No. 7 Wolverines on the road. Garret Regan scored twice in the second meeting at the Joyce Center to lead the Irish to another win.

After a two-week break, Notre Dame was able to keep its win streak going with two wins over Northern Michigan in another home-and-home series. The pair of victories capped off a perfect December for the Irish, who won all six of their contests in the month.

During that span the team racked up four wins over ranked opponents while outscoring the opposition 24-12. Junior Mark Van Guilder led the team with five goals and is currently tied for the season lead with freshman Ryan Thang at 13 apiece. Van Guilder is also third in points scored (25) behind freshman Kevin Deeth and Condra with 26 and 33, respectively.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu



LAURIE HUNT/The Observer

Irish freshman defender Brett Blatchford skates up ice in Notre Dame's 3-1 win over Alaska Dec. 2 at the Joyce Center.

CCHA STANDINGS

Observer Graphic/Jeff Albert

2006-07 CCHA CONFERENCE STANDINGS

Notre Dame	19-4-1
Miami	17-8-1
Michigan State	14-8-1
Michigan	15-9-0
Lake Superior	13-8-3
Ohio State	9-9-4
Nebraska-Omaha	10-9-6
Western Michigan	8-12-1
Alaska	7-11-4
Northern Michigan	9-14-2
Ferris State	6-14-3
Bowling Green	5-19-1

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Recycle The Observer.

Break

continued from page 24

Washington, D.C. on Jan 6. The victory also moved Notre Dame into a tie for second in the Big East with Syracuse.

The Irish, now ranked twentieth, will go for their first win of the spring semester tonight against Villanova in Philadelphia.

For Peoples, the Seton Hall game was his biggest contribution since arriving on campus. The freshman point guard had been receiving more playing time in recent games in relief of starter and fellow freshman Tory Jackson.

On Sunday, Peoples scored a career-high nine points in 19 minutes. Jackson scored four points in 36 minutes, adding five assists and four rebounds.

Jackson was thrust into the starting role against Stony Brook Dec. 30 after sophomore Kyle McAlarney was arrested on charges of marijuana possession Dec. 29 and suspended indefinitely. Peoples, who had only been seeing spot duty, suddenly became the second option at point guard.

Both were also crucial in breaking Seton Hall's full court press, which the small, quick Pirates employed for much of the game.

"They played old," Irish coach Mike Brey said of his young point guards' ability to break the press. "They were more like juniors out there."

Sophomore forward Zach Hillesland also had his best game in an Irish uniform, scoring 12 points, grabbing 10 rebounds and coming two assists short of a triple double with eight.

"It was a matter of finding open guys, knocking down shots, grabbing rebounds, and just doing the little things here and there," said Hillesland of his performance.

Senior guard Russell Carter led all scorers with 24 points and had a double-double of his own with 10 rebounds.

The Pirates led 9-5 early, but a 9-0 Irish run put Notre Dame ahead 14-9 with just under 14 minutes left in the first half.

With the game tied at nine, senior Carter gave the Irish their first lead at 12-9 with a 3-pointer. Carter followed up his shot with a steal and outlet pass to Jackson for an easy layup, forcing a Seton Hall timeout.

After Carter's outburst, Notre Dame kept the lead for the remainder of the first half, extending it to as many as 10. The Pirates, however, took some momentum into the locker room after a buzzer-beating NBA-range 3 by guard Jamar Nutter cut the lead to six at 44-38.

Seton Hall switched to the full court press immediately after the half, unsettling the Notre Dame offense and allowing the Pirates to pull within three. But six straight points by Irish junior forward Rob Kurz pushed the Irish lead back to nine at 50-41 with 16:17 left in the game.

Notre Dame continued to extend the lead, pushing it to as many as 21 after Harangody's layup with just under 11 minutes left.

The Irish lead was 17, at 77-60, when the Pirates made a run. Nutter hit a three and freshman guard Eugene Harvey had two consecutive steal-and-scores to cut the lead to 10.

The Irish stopped the bleeding with two free throws from Peoples, but a free throw from junior forward Brian Lang and another layup by Harvey cut the lead to single digits at 79-70 with 3:44 remaining.

At that point, however, the Pirates went cold, allowing the Irish to coast to the final margin.

Senior guard Colin Falls played only 19 minutes and scored just four points due to the flu.

"He should be fine by tomorrow," Brey said. "By four o'clock or so it should be out of his system, in time for practice."

The win was Notre Dame's 13th straight at home this season.

Notre Dame 61, West Virginia 58

West Virginia forward Frank Young's shot last ditch effort with one second left fell short, giving Notre Dame its second Big East win of the year and handing the Mountaineers their first conference loss Jan. 9 at the Joyce Center.

The Irish had built a comfortable 55-45 lead with five minutes to play, but an 8-0 West Virginia run cut the lead to just two and brought back painful memories of last minute Notre Dame collapses in the 2005-06 season.

But the Irish didn't fall apart. Freshman forward Luke Harangody hit two free throws to extend the lead to four, and, after a defensive stop, senior guard Russell Carter hit a jump shot to put Notre Dame up six.

A three pointer by Young brought the Mountaineers to within three and the West Virginia forward grabbed the rebound after Irish senior forward Rob Kurz missed the front end of a one-and-one. But Carter cut Young off and forced him to take an off-balance runner that fell well short of the rim as time expired.

Carter led all scorers with 19 points, while fellow senior Colin Falls hit four 3s and totaled 14 points.

Georgetown 66, Notre Dame 48

Georgetown jumped out to a 20-point first half lead and held Notre Dame to its lowest point total of the year in handing the Irish their first conference loss Jan. 6.

The Hoyas dominated from the opening tip, taking an early 18-2 lead and never looking back. Georgetown center Roy Hibbert scored 18 points on 8-for-9 shooting.

Carter led Notre Dame with 12 points. The Irish shot just 31 percent from the field, including 4-for-22 from behind the 3-point arc, while the Hoyas caught fire, connecting on 57 percent of their shots and making 10 3s on 20 attempts.

Notre Dame 78, Louisville 62

Tory Jackson poured in 14 points in only his second career start as Notre Dame opened the Big East season with an easy home win over Louisville Jan 3.

The Cardinals came into the game riding a five-game winning streak, but shot just 42 percent from the field and never really challenged the Irish.

Notre Dame led 43-29 at halftime and coasted an easy victory.

Notre Dame 95, Stony Brook 66

In their first game without the suspended Kyle McAlarney, Notre Dame beat an overmatched Stony Brook team that won just four games last year on Dec. 3.

Carter led the Irish with 22 points.

Notre Dame 101, Rider 51

Notre Dame hit triple digits for the first time this season Dec. 28 against Rider at the Joyce Center. Kurz led the Irish with 23 points and Harangody added 18.

The game was the fourth straight road game for the Broncs, who shot just 31 percent.

Notre Dame 88, Army 47

One month and three days after the Notre Dame football team routed Army, the Irish hoops squad did the same Dec. 21.

Notre Dame dominated the glass, out-rebounding the Cadets 45-22. Falls scored 24 points, hitting six 3s.

Notre Dame 86, Portland 69

Carter poured in 28 points as Notre Dame demolished Portland Dec. 19. The loss was the eighth straight for the Pilots, who shot 50 percent from the field but had no answer for Carter or Kurz, who had 23 points of his own.

Notre Dame 94, Elon 63

Notre Dame jumped out to a 10-0 lead and never looked back in an easy win over Elon Dec. 16. Notre Dame outrebounded the Phoenix 55-30.

Carter once again led the Irish in scoring with 21 points.

Notre Dame will face Villanova tonight in Philadelphia. The Wildcats are 1-3 in Big East play.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

Information Session

for those interested in the position of

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for University Residences

Thursday, January 18, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

OR

Wednesday, January 24, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Fischer Community Center

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For further information visit http://osa.nd.edu/

THE OBSERVER

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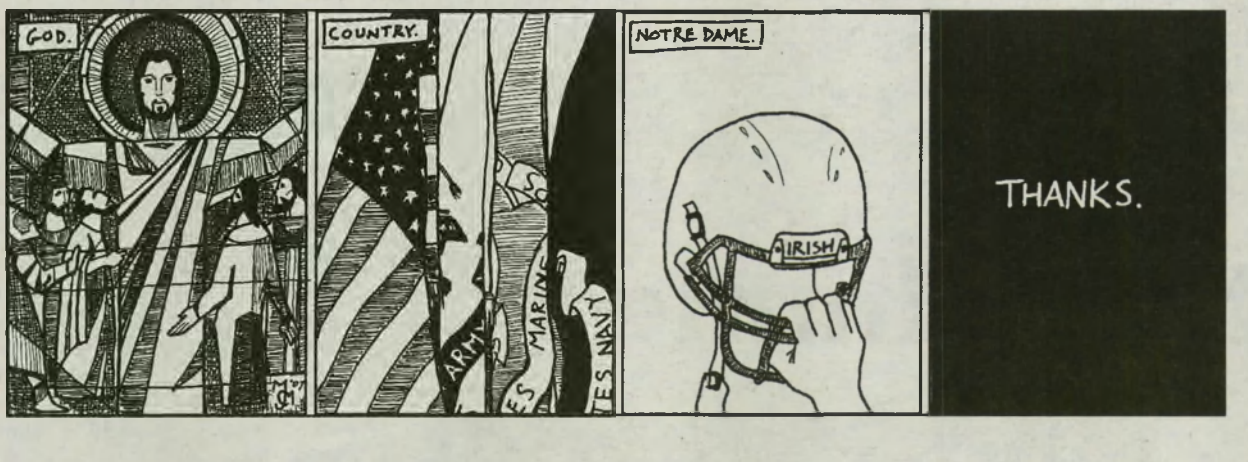


Kaleidoscope McDaniels

LIAM MORAN

Crossword

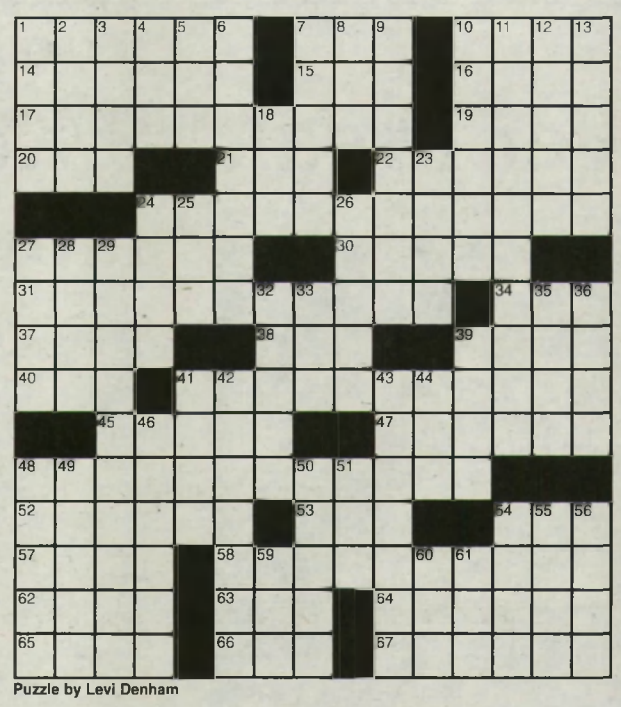
WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

1 One way to pay
7 "Mazel ___!"
10 "___ next?"
14 Illinois River city
15 "___ tu," aria sung by Renato
16 Disabled
17 Chessboard extremities
19 Suffix with corrupt
20 Tapped out
21 Grunt: Abbr.
22 Coal, essentially
24 Adventurous hero of old
27 Goodbyes
30 Temper, informally
31 Hip-hop subgenre
34 Einstein's birthplace
37 "Them!" bugs
38 Trial lawyer's advice
39 Simple rhyme scheme
40 Arctic explorer John
41 Intruder in Mr. McGregor's garden
45 $10 to $12 an hour, e.g.
47 Sans intermission, maybe
48 Some public transportation
52 The heebie-jeebies
53 Subsidy
54 Question calling for an explanation
57 Tease
58 Continental connection ... and a hint to 17-, 24-, 31-, 41- and 48-Across
62 6⅞, e.g.
63 Baton Rouge sch.
64 Calif. barrio locale
65 Son of Aphrodite
66 Unexplained phenomenon
67 Take from the top

DOWN

1 Popular MP3 player
2 Prefix with -itis
3 Perfume name
4 "You ___ here" (map notation)
5 Title for Isaac Newton
6 One pulling strings?
7 Extra inning
8 TV planet
9 Innards
10 Fan sounds
11 Words to a good-looker
12 DuPont fiber
13 Blockage reliever
18 G.P.A. part: Abbr.
23 "What ___!" ("That's robbery!")
24 They're tapped
25 Sweater letters
26 Pull: Fr.
27 Food thickener
28 Delany of "China Beach"
29 Between-acts musical fare
32 Perfume name



Puzzle by Levi Denham

33 Feel regret for
35 Of the flock
36 Drudge on the Internet
39 Genesis victim
41 One of 12 popes
42 English-born centenarian actress Winwood
43 Track foundation
44 Singer DiFranco
46 Blows away
48 A mummy may have one
49 Studio sign
50 Accumulated
51 Purge
54 Part of a home entertainment system
55 Leer at
56 Sport
59 Long-eared beast
60 1990's Indian P.M.
61 Prefix with bar

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

L	I	L	L	I		M	I	I	I		M	A	Z	E
U	N	I	O	N		I	N	C	A		I	D	E	A
R	F	K	S	T	A	D	I	U	M		T	E	A	R
E	R	E		O	M	I	T		B	A	G	E	L	S
D	A	S	H	T	O		I	C	I	E	R			
			M	O	R	T	A	R		S	A	N	T	A
T	A	B	S		E	R	L	E		O	D	I	U	M
O	N	E	P	M		O	R	T		P	U	L	S	E
R	A	D	I	I		M	E	A	T		A	S	K	S
A	G	E	N	T		P	A	N	O	U	T			
		A	Z	T	E	C		P	N	E	U	M	O	
R	A	F	F	I	A		T	O	I	L		L	E	G
A	R	L	O		M	R	I	S	C	A	N	N	E	R
S	T	I	R		P	O	O	H		C	E	A	S	E
H	Y	P	E		A	N	N	A		E	A	S	E	S

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

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Jumble

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JUMBLE

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

DEXUE

MAITY

UNMIFF

REVOOD

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www.jumble.com

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

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

Answer here: A " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: THYME FAMED SCRIBE BOYISH
Answer: What he improved when he jogged — HIS MEMORY

Horoscope

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mason Gamble, 19; Kate Moss, 31 Debbie Allen, 55; John Carpenter, 57

Happy Birthday: You can fool just about anyone with your ability to sympathize this year. You are very capable of doing just about anything by yourself. It will be group effort that counts this year, so prepare to be patient, a teacher and a team player. Your numbers are 10, 14, 19, 22, 38, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Do your best and acquire success. Whoever is causing you a problem will be shown up once and for all. Progressive and positive action will be your best recourse. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may have trouble with authority figures if you haven't done everything by the book. Educational pursuits may be interesting but may also set you back financially. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If someone wants to set you up for a business or personal meeting, you must attend. Something good will unfold that can result in making money. Don't pick up the tab or donate. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may not realize what someone expects of you. Ask questions and demand answers. You may not like what you hear, but at least you'll know where you stand.**

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You're the boss today, so act like one. The power plays you make will only make you more attractive to onlookers, especially if you manage to make headway at the same time. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone may be waiting for a chance to catch you off guard and ask you for a contribution. Be prepared to say no. Do something nice for yourself; you deserve it. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Today is all about relationships and how you handle the people around you. As tough as it might get, remain consistent or you may end up looking foolish and losing control. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put your energy into what you enjoy doing the most. It could turn into something lucrative as well. You should be following your heart and doing your own thing. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Today is about you and your friends and doing things that will make you feel good about yourself. Love is in a high cycle so prepare to romance someone special. *****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): What you think and do may not thrill someone who means a lot to you. Explain your actions or compromise so that you can keep the peace. Gossip may cause a problem. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Join in and discuss all the ideas you have with a friend you trust. A short trip will prove interesting and informative. Put your plans in motion. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may be considering changing your occupation or looking for something new to do with your time. Be careful that someone doesn't mislead you or take advantage of you. ***

Birthday Baby: You aren't afraid, nor will you back down. You will try anything once and will not give up when others walk away. You are strong, steadfast and courageous.

Check out Eugenia's Web sites at astroadvice.com and eugenialast.com

Please recycle The Observer.

THE OBSERVER
SPORTS
Wednesday, January 17, 2007

FOOTBALL

Junior tailback Walker declares for NFL draft

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Notre Dame junior running back Darius Walker has decided to run to greener pastures.

The versatile tailback announced last week he would forego his senior season at Notre Dame and instead enter the NFL Draft.

"I sat down, spoke with the folks and all of the people who have influenced me and have supported me and everything," Walker said. "Wrote down the pros and cons, all that type of thing, and just really feel like, you know, it's the right thing for me to do at this time. It's the right thing for me to go on and to go to the NFL now rather than wait."

While hoping to keep some things "private," Walker said he did not make a "blind move."

"It's definitely something that I put time and research in, something that I feel is right," he said.

"Darius Walker and his parents informed me of his intent to make himself eligible for the NFL Draft," Irish coach Charlie Weis said in a statement read to the media by Brian Hardin, Notre Dame director of football media relations. "He guaranteed me that he would graduate from Notre Dame in the

see WALKER/page 18

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Storming the Johnnies

Allen scores 31 points as Notre Dame blasts Red Storm, 83-65

By ERIC RETTER
Associate Sports Editor

Charel Allen scored a career-high 31 as Notre Dame beat St. John's 83-65 Tuesday night at the Joyce Center.

Allen was 14-for-19 from the floor, the highest field goal total for any Irish player since Katrina Gaither made 16 on Jan. 9, 1995.

"My teammates were looking for me and my shots were falling," Allen said. "I wanted to be aggressive the whole 40 minutes this game.

Despite Allen's efforts, Notre Dame opened slowly, and the Red Storm held a slim lead for much of the early going behind 56.5 percent shooting from the floor.

But after St. John's forward Tiina Sten's 3-pointer gave the Red Storm a 27-23 lead with 6:32 to play in the second half, the Irish offense took over the game.

Notre Dame rattled off a season-best 19-0 run over the next 4:40 to take a 42-27 lead before Kia Wright's layup ended the Red Storm drought with 1:52 to play in the half.

"I think it was mostly Charel [Allen, who had eight points during the stretch]," Irish coach Muffet McGraw

see RED STORM/page 20

ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer
Irish guard Charel Allen shoots in Notre Dame's 54-51 loss to Indiana Dec. 3. Allen scored 31 points Tuesday against St. John's.

FENCING

Team tunes up at USFA Cup events

NCAA season begins this weekend with Notre Dame Duals

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

The Notre Dame Duals and the beginning of the NCAA schedule arrive this Saturday for the Irish, but the squad spent the winter break fine-tuning its skills with individual competition.

The Irish also returned to the path of team success last week at a USFA North American Cup event in Columbus, Ohio — and the team's top fencers hope that's the same path to follow to their Olympic dreams.

Fencers accumulate points at USFA events, and the season's top point-collectors earn their spot at the Olympic trials.

For the weekend, the top story for Notre Dame was the return to form of its top male fencer.

Irish senior Patrick Ghattas tore his hamstring in a training camp in New York City last Aug. 22 but finally returned to his normal skill level and medaled in the competition in

see USFA/page 20

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish win eight over break

By CHRIS KHOREY
Associate Sports Editor

Jonathan Peoples dribbled through the Seton Hall full court press and saw Luke Harangody wide open under the basket.

The freshman point guard hit his classmate with a perfect pass for an easy layup to extend No. 22 Notre Dame's lead over the Pirates to 72-51 with 11 minutes remaining and allowed the Irish to cruise to a 88-76 win Sunday at the Joyce Center.

For Notre Dame (15-2, 3-1 in the Big East), the win was its 14th in 15 games and ended a winter break during which the Irish went 8-1, losing only to Georgetown in

see BREAK/page 22

DAN COOPER/The Observer
Irish junior forward Rob Kurz drives in Notre Dame's 99-85 win over Alabama Dec. 7 at the Joyce Center.

HOCKEY

Sweep of Lake Superior moves ND into first

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

With a sweep of Lake Superior State last weekend, Notre Dame moved in to sole possession of first place in the CCHA for the first time this season.

The Irish beat head coach Jeff Jackson's former team 4-3 in overtime Friday and 4-1 on Saturday night.

Sophomore Erik Condra beat Laker goalie Jeff Jakaitis on the first shot of overtime to secure the first victory and added another goal Saturday as four different players scored to complete the two-game road sweep.

"I have a lot of friends up there and so much of my history is up there, so I just wanted to go up there and be proud of our team," Jackson said.

Senior goaltender Dave Brown made 31 saves in the second game — including 17 in the final stanza — to keep the Lakers at bay and secure Notre Dame's spot atop the conference.

The No. 3 Irish went 7-1 over Christmas break to improve their overall record to 19-4-1 and 13-2-1 in the conference. The 19 wins so far this season surpasses the total number of wins for Notre Dame in the past two years. The team was held to five wins in Dave Poulin's final year behind the bench and Jackson collected 13 in the

see LSSU/page 21

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles junior guard Alison Kessler named MIAA Player of the Week.

page 17

ND SWIMMING

The No. 19 women's team takes second in an invitational in Ann Arbor, while the No. 16 men places first at a quad meet in Cleveland.

page 17

SMC SWIMMING

Saint Mary's 130
Alma 103

The Belles earn their first conference win since the 2004-05 season.

page 16

NCAA BASKETBALL

Pittsburgh 63
UConn 54

The Panthers stay unbeaten in Big East play with a win over the Huskies.

page 14

NCAA BASKETBALL

Indiana 71
Iowa 64

D.J. White has 23 points and 12 rebounds in Hoosiers' win.

page 14

FOOTBALL

LSU 41
Notre Dame 14

The Irish defense collapses in the second half as the Tigers run away with the Sugar Bowl.

Irish Insider