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University suspends McAlarney

Irish point guard to miss spring, summer semesters following December possession charge

By BOB GRIFFIN
News Writer

Notre Dame basketball player Kyle McAlarney was suspended for the spring and summer semesters Monday and is currently on his way home to Staten Island, N.Y., his mother said in a phone interview Tuesday afternoon with The Observer.

Janice McAlarney said her son — a sophomore who was charged with possession of marijuana Dec. 29 — was not dismissed from the University, but the news of a two-semester suspension came as a shock.

"[Notre Dame] coach [Mike]

Brey thought he was dressing Kyle ... tonight for the St. John's game," Janice McAlarney said. "I have not spoken to Coach Brey [since the decision was made]. He's 16 miles away from me right now with the team, and he's where he has to be. I don't blame basketball in this at all. I think he was caught way off guard also."

"The athletic department and [Notre Dame Athletics Director] Dr. [Kevin] White told me they

were as surprised as I am, they were shocked."

Senior Associate Athletics Director John Heisler told The Observer Tuesday he was unable to comment. Notre Dame sports information director Bernie Cafarelli said she could not comment due to privacy laws.

Brey cannot comment on the situation either, Cafarelli said.

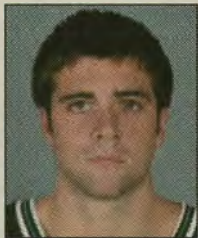
McAlarney, who was pulled over during a routine traffic stop near campus early in the morning on Dec. 29, is at least the seventh Notre Dame athlete to face suspension or dismissal in the past eight years.

In 1999, Irish tailback Tony Driver was suspended from the

football team for a parieters violation. In early 2002, football players Lorenzo Crawford, Justin Smith, Donald Dykes and Abram Elam were dismissed from the University following accusations of raping a female Notre Dame student in an off-campus house. Later in 2002, Irish running back Julius Jones was suspended for academic delinquency.

Since McAlarney is suspended for the spring and summer semesters, not dismissed — which under the University's disciplinary handbook, du Lac, means permanent expulsion — he will have the opportunity to

see MCALARNEY/page 4



McAlarney

Students, professors evaluate Bush address

State of the Union reaffirms Iraq troop increase, generates debate nationwide, on campus

By JOHN TIERNEY and
KAITLYNN RIELY
News Writers

U.S. President George W. Bush's State of the Union address Tuesday night came at a time when his approval ratings are low and Republicans and Democrats alike are questioning his recently announced plan to send more than 20,000 new troops to Iraq.

Bush reiterated his optimism about his recent decision to deploy more troops to Iraq as he appeared before the joint session of Congress and millions of Americans looked on — among those Notre Dame stu-



Taking a break from snacking and studying, students gather around one of the new flat-screen televisions in the LaFortune Student Center to watch Bush's State of the Union address Tuesday.

see PRESIDENT/page 6

Coalition reexamines Lunch Fast program

By STEVE KERINS
News Writer

It has been more than 30 years since the World Hunger Coalition (WHC) began to confront Notre Dame students with the stark realities of malnutrition in some of the poorest nations on earth.

Now, after watching participation slacken in its signature Wednesday Lunch Fast program, the Coalition is preparing to renew its commitments to feeding the hungry and raising awareness by encouraging student involvement in new ways.

"We do our best to fight hunger," said the group's pres-

ident, junior Jessica Pillarella. "One of the best things about us is that we steer clear of the politics ... I think anyone can agree that feeding the hungry is a good thing."

The WHC's primary activity on campus is the Wednesday Lunch Fast, in which students pledge to donate one meal per week from their meal plans. The money from the unused lunch is then given to the WHC, which forwards it to organizations dedicated to stamping out hunger.

"The Wednesday Lunch Fast, for a low semester, it brings in \$8,000," Pillarella said. "For a great semester we'll bring in

see HUNGER/page 4

'West Wing' actor visits College

By LAURA BAUMGARTNER
News Writer

Renowned actor, playwright, author and producer Anna Deavere Smith, known for her roles in "The West Wing," "The Practice," "Philadelphia" and "The American President," is a featured guest lecturer of the Saint Mary's communication and performance studies department this week.

The College prepared for Smith's arrival by introducing her work to the community — it hosted a free screening of the film "Twilight

Los Angeles," based on Smith's Obie award-winning one-woman play, at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday night in Vander Vennet Theater.

As a theatre major, senior Rachel Sokolowski said she has especially looked forward to Smith's visit.

"After graduation [theatre majors] have a huge variety of options, and it's definitely exciting to see someone who's taken herself so far in her field," she said. "It's very inspiring to have her come and share her thoughts."

Smith will present a series of lectures open to the public over a three-day period. Assistant professor of communication and performance studies Colleen Fitzpatrick said Smith's first presentation, "The Art of Listening," will be targeted

toward theatre majors.

"Smith will be working with the theatre students and actually running an interactive class with them," she said. "I think it will be a great experience for the students and will really give Smith the opportunity to engage with our students."

Fitzpatrick also said Smith will be having lunch exclusively with the students of the theatre department.

Theatre department chair John Pauley said he hopes Smith's visit will "open students' eyes to think about possibilities they might not have thought about," especially those considering a career in the performance arts.

see ACTOR/page 4

Two tickets face off in SMC race

Davis-Kennedy first pair to be eliminated

By KELLY MEEHAN
Saint Mary's Editor

The Annie Davis-Courtney Kennedy ticket was the first eliminated Tuesday from the three-way race for the helm of Saint Mary's student government.

While that pair clinched 24 percent of the vote, the Colleen Ferreira-Jenny Antonelli and Kim Hodges-Kelly Payne tickets are competing in the runoff election that began at 12:01 this morning and will end at 11:59 tonight. Percentages will not come into play during the runoff calculations — meaning the pair with the most votes wins.

With approximately 35 percent of the student body voting, Ferreira-Antonelli received 38.3 percent of the vote — a mere 1.9 percent more than Hodges-Payne, at 36.4 percent. The narrow lead, candidates said, makes the opportunity to campaign for the runoff more valuable than ever.

"I'm optimistic that we'll get more voters," Hodges said. "I think our biggest draw is the open forum meetings where students will be able to voice concerns, comments and what's in their hearts."

While Hodges and Payne announced their promises and catered to voters with free cookies outside Noble Family Dining Hall Tuesday, Ferreira-Antonelli did not let their lead overlook the need to continue their campaign.

"[Being the top vote-getters] makes us feel that we are com-

see ELECTION/page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

ESP me

Apple has once again excited gadget geeks and businessmen alike by unveiling the iPhone, which, in his demo of the new product, Apple CEO Steve Jobs so eloquently described as “cool” and “awesome.”

Watching the keynote demo on Apple’s Web site got me thinking about the way the transfer of information is constantly being revolutionized.

Chad Hurley and Steve Chen, the creators of YouTube, gave the world a new outlet for conveying information (whether viewers find it relevant or ridiculous). But beyond the simple conveying of information, I am consistently struck by how quickly the knowledge of a particular video can spread, especially at a place like a college campus (think: “OMG — shoes.”).

Jeff Albert

Graphics Editor

Since people seem to be taking it upon themselves to use these contrivances to establish communities, small or large, where they can interact with like-minded individuals, it seems more than likely that product designers will actually put the establishment of these communities at the forefront of their future designs. Virgin America has designed an in-flight entertainment system that, among other things, would allow passengers to email/SMS/instant message among themselves, creating an airborne community.

With the arrival of Web 2.0 (which encourages community and user-generated content), and talk of Web 3.0 (a “Semantic Web”), a man by the name of Seth Godin has proposed a Web4, where the network would take initiative based on the way a person uses the Internet. It’s a smarter Internet that takes into account how a person has previously behaved online, and proposes the best way to go about any particular internet task.

It would perform autonomous searches that could benefit you (for example, just as you’re about to order the latest TV-on-DVD boxed set, Web4 steps in and informs you of a cheaper price on another site).

Additionally, the network would be aware of a person’s activities that are similar to others, and would be able to put those people in touch. Essentially, it would consist of a network of “machines talking to machines.”

This is where I would like to step in and suggest the future of community-based technology — extra-sensory perception, or ESP. Well, sort of. More like the ability for people in a network to access each others’ thoughts, and, in a way, brainstorm.

ESP is not some revolutionary new technology, and science isn’t even sure it exists. But if the concept of ESP could be applied in technological terms, you would have the highest form of information communication.

Essentially, it would be communication sans effort. By allowing “machines” to do what they do best — that is, process information — and then interact with each other as well as with each particular user, a powerful network without rival will have been created.

Microsoft’s Zune allows sharing of music within a local network — so why can’t that technology be applied directly to our mind’s thoughts?

Just think: In the future, you may hear your best friend say, “ESP me.”

Contact Jeff Albert at jalbert1@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’S YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE OF ALL TIME?



Anne Marie Giangiulio

senior
Pasquerilla West

“A Few Good Men’ — I’m partial to anything Aaron Sorkin does.”



James Aldridge

sophomore
Keenan

“Roots’ because it’s my roots.”



Kallen Wade

freshman
Knott

“Godfather.’ I like to see people get shot.”



Laura Martinez

junior
Howard

“Ferris Bueller’s Day Off.’ I wish I could have done that in high school.”



Marcela Monsalve

sophomore
Pasquerilla East

“I would need to check my facebook ... but ‘Monsoon Wedding’ (Bollywood) or ‘My Fair Lady’ or ...”



Vince Houghton

graduate student
off campus

“Super Troopers.”



Charles Cossell, center, and Jeff Lakusta, both members of the Freshman Class Council, put their cashbox to work as they sell Class of 2010 shirts at South Dining Hall Tuesday evening.

OFFBEAT

Dunking parakeet becomes Web video star

BRADENTON, Fla. — Teaching a parakeet to putt is no tap-in. Ask David Cota, who spent months training his Indian ringneck parakeet A.J. to use a tiny putter to sink putts on a miniature green, making the 5-inch tall bird an Internet video star.

“It doesn’t look all that tough nowadays, but try to get a bird to hold a little stick basically in its beak. The first time, he snapped it right in half,” Cota said. A.J. can also dunk a tiny basketball on a tiny court.

He rolls over. He shakes. His play dead is spooky.

A “Tonight” show darling from the end of the Johnny Carson era, A.J. and Cota are staging a comeback thanks to such Web sites as YouTube.com. A.J. has a MySpace.com page and his own Web site.ermanent resident card.

Woman takes potty break, falls in lake

SANDUSKY, Ohio — A woman going to the bathroom outside lost her balance and fell into Lake Erie, said police, who had to pull her out of the frigid

water. Officer Kevin Youskievicz and the woman’s friend helped pull her out early Monday and wrapped a blanket around her until an ambulance arrived.

She was treated at a hospital and released.

The woman’s friend told police the woman needed to go to the bathroom and lost her balance near the water.

The name of the 25-year-old woman was not released.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

A reading of **Homer’s Iliad** will take place today in the Oak Room of South Dining Hall at 6:10 p.m.

RecSports is sponsoring a blood drive today from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Thursday from 9 a.m. at Rolfs. Registration is required.

Today is the last day to make changes to class schedules for the semester on InsideND.

The Academic Council Meeting is taking place today in the McKenna Hall auditorium from 3 p.m. to 5. Attendance is by invitation only.

Kellogg institute visiting fellow Cecilia Martinez-Gallardo will give a lecture on “The Use of Appointment Strategies in Presidentialism” from 4:15p.m. to 6 Thursday in room C-103 of the Hesburgh Center. Sponsored by the Kellogg Institute for International Studies, the event is free and open to the public.

The 18th annual ND Student Film Festival will take place Thursday through Saturday at the Browning Cinema in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The festival features 13 short films made as class projects during the past year. Tickets are \$6 for general admission, \$5 for faculty/staff and \$3 for students.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 28 LOW 15	HIGH 15 LOW 5	HIGH 20 LOW 13	HIGH 30 LOW 22	HIGH 33 LOW 10	HIGH 18 LOW 6

Atlanta 54 / 35 Boston 39 / 25 Chicago 29 / 19 Denver 43 / 18 Houston 49 / 42 Los Angeles 71 / 44 Minneapolis 24 / 15 New York 40 / 28 Philadelphia 42 / 27 Phoenix 64 / 41 Seattle 50 / 38 St. Louis 40 / 25 Tampa 67 / 51 Washington 42 / 27

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Organizations' funds reviewed

By SONIA RAO
News Writer

Members of the Council of Representatives (COR) reviewed the 2006-07 reallocation budget in a brief meeting Tuesday night in LaFortune.

The total budget of \$41,037 was allocated to various organizations, including a \$3,000 reimbursement of the technology fund.

"[The reallocation] is really a spending review and not a reallocation per se," said Student Union assistant treasurer Kadeja Gaines, who added that the treasury reserves the right to take money away from organizations that have not been spending requested funds.

In the case of this semester, \$3,000 was reallocated from the Class of 2007 funds to Senior Week, Gaines said. In addition, Judicial Council received \$1,000, student government \$5,000 and Student Union Board \$21,018.90.

In other COR news:

The Class Councils of 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010 were the collective "Organization Spotlight" for the week. Each class president took a turn describing recent and upcoming events for his/her class, including new freshman T-shirts, a service opportunity at a local soup kitchen for sophomores, care packages for transfer students, the junior class' Holy Half Marathon and future alumni events for seniors. Most notably was the recent Freshman Class Mass, which drew participation from 600 class members.

Contact Sonia Rao at
srao1@nd.edu

Hispanic Outlook honors SMC

College one of eight Ind. schools chosen for providing opportunities

By KATIE KOHLER
News Writer

Saint Mary's recently joined the ranks of only eight Indiana colleges and universities to be recognized by Hispanic Outlook magazine for providing the best educational opportunities for Hispanics. The publication honored schools from each state by placing them on the 2006 Publisher's Pick List. Notre Dame was also included.

For Saint Mary's to be included in a list like this is an honor, said Melanie McDonald, director of media relations at the College.

"Schools are selected based on interviews with students of the institution," she said. "The Saint Mary's students surveyed obviously felt supported and felt that a network of programs and people are in place at the College to make a Latina student's experience at Saint Mary's a positive one."

With the aid of the National Center for Education Statistics, Hispanic Outlook compiles the list each year using student surveys as well as an important calculation: the number of degrees granted in proportion to the Hispanic population at the institution. The list represents the magazine's "latest and best thinking about which colleges and universities offer Hispanic students a solid chance of aca-

demic success," publisher José López-Isa said on the magazine's Web site.

The Admissions Department at Saint Mary's has been working diligently to increase diversity on campus. This fall, the Office for Enrollment Management presented the most diverse class in 15 years, according to McDonald.

"Prospective Latina students, who make up a portion of that underrepresented [minority] group, are learning that Saint Mary's offers support to Hispanic students in many forms," McDonald said.

Latina students have various campus organizations and offices that cater to their continued success, such as the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Center for Women's InterCultural Leadership, the Mexico Study Tour, the Student Diversity Board and La Fuerza, a student-run group.

Jeanne Choquehuanca, co-president of La Fuerza, sees inclusion on this list as a way for Saint Mary's to distinguish itself from other institutions.

"The honors tell us that we are making a difference in our efforts for greater diversity and tolerance," she said. "Still, there is an obvious lack of diversity at our college, and this award hopefully will not indicate to our community that efforts for greater diversity should lessen."

La Fuerza works to promote Latina culture both on and off campus.

"This organization especially aims to reach out to incoming Latina and minority students. These efforts are sometimes difficult, but we always extend our welcome and support to all students," Choquehuanca said.

Veronica Dominguez, a sophomore Latina student at the College, said Saint Mary's offers a welcoming environment — to all its students.

"I do not feel that Saint Mary's is only a good environment for Hispanics. It is a caring environment with the common goal of preparing strong women for the future," she said.

This recognition by Hispanic Outlook is not the first distinction for the College regarding academic rankings.

"Just like our number one ranking by U.S. News & World Report, recognition by Hispanic Outlook brings news of our excellence to a broader audience," McDonald said.

Hispanic Outlook Magazine has served as the premier news source for Hispanic education in higher education for 17 years. Published biweekly, the magazine reaches approximately 50,000 readers annually.

Contact Katie Kohler at
kkohle01@saintmarys.edu

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Hunger

continued from page 1

\$2,000 a week, so it's a great moneymaker ... because we don't have much overhead at all."

The group was able to donate \$7,184 to provide food for the hungry last semester, which it collected entirely from the lunch fast.

Pillarella said the specific organizations chosen to receive funds vary each year. This year, money will be donated to Oxfam and the South Bend Food Pantry.

The World Hunger Coalition can also choose to direct some of the funds raised from the Wednesday Lunch Fast to initiatives on campus combating world hunger.

"It's nice because poverty is

kind of a hot topic this year on campus," Pillarella said.

Citing the program's current enrollment of 280 students — down from 1,400 sign-ups in 2003 — faculty adviser E. Jane Doering stressed the group's objective to renew interest in the program this semester.

"What I really do believe is that the Notre Dame student wants to participate in a way that will be effective [in alleviating hunger]," Doering said. "We're hoping [declining participation] is due to not knowing, as opposed to not caring."

Doering also emphasized the value of the Wednesday Lunch Fast as the starting point for further exploration of the roots and varied effects of

world hunger.

"What I like about this program is that it's not just giving money," Doering said. "It's a small sacrifice on the part of

students [as well]."

Pillarella said that the World Hunger Coalition plans to broaden its involvement later in the semester.

"Right now, we're focusing on sign-ups for the [Wednesday] Lunch Fast," she said. "Later,

we will be involved with the ND canned food drive and putting together Easter baskets through the South Bend Food Pantry."

The World Hunger Coalition will have its next meeting Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Center for Social Concerns

Coffeehouse. To enroll in the Wednesday Lunch Fast, send your full name, e-mail address and ndID number to whc@nd.edu.

Contact Steve Kerins at skerins@nd.edu

"One of the best things about us is that we steer clear of the politics ... I think anyone can agree that feeding the hungry is a good thing."

Jessica Pillarella
president
- World Hunger Coalition

Actor

continued from page 1

"What is particularly laudatory about [Smith] is the projects she is involved in have been especially relevant," he said. "What she writes about are issues Americans are dealing with, sometimes successfully, sometimes unsuccessfully."

Senior Kelly-Lynn Plush said she expects Smith's visit to be a relevant and beneficial experience for herself and other theatre majors.

"Smith's presence will provide theatre majors a glimpse into the world of theatre beyond our comfort zone here on Saint Mary's campus," she said. "Her experiences can provide [us]

with valuable insights that can help to mold and shape our future careers, whether on stage, or behind the scenes."

The Margaret M. Hill-endowed chair in theatre is sponsoring Smith's visit.

Hill, a Broadway theatre producer and 1961 graduate of the College, established the endowment during the College's sesquicentennial in 1994. Pauley said.

"Every year with revenues off the endowment, we can bring in someone in theatre and performance studies

to speak to the community and work with theatre students in a rather short, concentrated format," he said.

Contact Laura Baumgartner at lbaumg01@saintmarys.edu

"Smith's presence will provide theatre majors a glimpse into the world of theatre beyond our comfort zone here on Saint Mary's campus."

Kelly-Lynn Plush
senior

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LIVE NATION

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Ethiopian troops start to withdraw

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Ethiopian troops whose military strength was crucial to helping Somalia's government drive out a radical Islamic militia began withdrawing Tuesday, raising fears of a power vacuum unless peacekeepers arrive soon in this chaotic nation.

Somali government spokesman Abdirahman Dinari said Ethiopia helped chase out the Council of Islamic Courts militia, which had taken over the capital and much of southern Somalia. But it was time for the neighboring forces to leave.

"As of today, the Ethiopian troops have started to withdraw from Somalia. We are grateful that they played an important role in the restoration of law and order in the country," Dinari said.

Ethiopia's government spokesman, Zemedkun Tekle, confirmed Tuesday's pullout but gave no details.

The intervention of Ethiopia last month enabled a military advance that proved a stunning turnaround for Somalia's 2-year-old government. Without Ethiopia's tanks and fighter jets, the administration could barely assert control outside one southern town and could not enter the capital.

Canadian pig farmer faces charges

NEW WESTMINSTER, British Columbia — A Canadian pig farmer whom prosecutors said confessed to killing 49 women told police in a videotaped interview shown to jurors Tuesday that the allegations against him were "hog-wash," yet concedes he's "a bad dude."

Robert Pickton, 56, is charged with killing 26 women, mostly prostitutes and drug addicts who vanished from a drug-ridden Vancouver neighborhood in the 1990s. He has pleaded not guilty to the first six counts. A separate trial will be held for the other 20 murder charges.

NATIONAL NEWS

Lawyer says: Libby was sacrificed

WASHINGTON — White House officials tried to sacrifice vice presidential aide I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby to protect strategist Karl Rove from blame for leaking a CIA operative's identity during a political storm over the Iraq war, Libby's lawyer said Tuesday.

After Libby complained "they want me to be the sacrificial lamb," Vice President Dick Cheney personally intervened to get the White House press secretary to publicly clear Libby in the leak, defense attorney Theodore Wells said in his opening statement at Libby's perjury trial.

The new details of behind-the-scenes conflict at top levels of the Bush White House, along with some previously unseen blunt language from Cheney, were the high points of a dramatic day in which the prosecutor and the defense dueled in multimedia statements to the jury.

State Farm to settle Katrina lawsuits

State Farm Fire & Casualty Co. agreed Tuesday to settle hundreds of lawsuits by policyholders and reopen and pay thousands of other disputed claims, a landmark deal potentially worth hundreds of millions of dollars for Mississippi homeowners devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

The settlement calls for State Farm to pay about \$80 million to more than 600 policyholders who sued the company for refusing to cover damage from the Aug. 29, 2005, storm. State Farm also agreed to pay at least \$50 million—but possibly hundreds of millions more—to thousands of Mississippi policyholders whose claims were denied but didn't sue the company.

LOCAL NEWS

Abducted mother, kids found safe

ELKHART, Ind. — A mother and her four children were found safe Tuesday night at a motel, three days after police said they were abducted by the woman's former boyfriend.

The man, Jerry D. White, 30, was arrested, Detective Sgt. Bill Wargo said.

Authorities had issued an Amber alert for the four children, ages 16 months to 9 years, and their mother, 31-year-old Kimberly N. Walker, on Saturday.

Bush tries to persuade Democrats

Address calls for bipartisanship; covers health care, energy, education, immigration

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

President Bush faces long odds in trying to make headway in this divided-government town with his latest batch of domestic initiatives—even though many appear tailored to address longtime Democratic concerns.

Democrats, now the majority party in Congress, reacted coolly to Bush's effort to regain control of the agenda with a handful of new and recycled State of the Union proposals on health care, energy, education and immigration.

Beyond fresh calls for bipartisanship from both sides, Bush faced skeptical lawmakers and a nation mired in an unpopular war, with the 2008 elections increasingly becoming a complicating factor.

In his address, he congratulated the new Democratic majority, singled out House Speaker Nancy Pelosi for praise and called for bipartisanship. "Like many before us, we can work through our differences," he said.

Many of the goals he outlined were "the kinds of things Democrats would generally support," said Stephen Wayne, a professor of government at Georgetown University.

But for Bush, it's likely to be a hard sell.

Polls suggest he failed to shift public opinion earlier this month when he outlined his plan to increase troop strengths in Iraq. And Democrats on Tuesday sought to keep attention on Iraq.

"We go into this process with no illusions about the atmosphere in which we're operating in," said White House counselor Dan Bartlett.

Perhaps Bush's best shot at success is immigration overhaul. But then his proposal for a guest-worker



President Bush receives applause before delivering his annual State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill Tuesday.

program and a path to citizenship always had more support among Democrats than among fellow Republicans. Noting that "convictions run deep" on immigration, Bush urged a "serious, civil and conclusive debate" on the issue.

Bush's comments on immigration brought more Democrats than Republicans to their feet.

In general, an unusually subdued Bush signaled a "readiness for bipartisanship" in his speech that had largely been missing in his past appearances, said Wayne Fields, a specialist in presidential rhetoric at Washington University in St. Louis. "Otherwise, what he was talking about was pretty familiar."

Bush also proposed reducing gasoline consumption in the U.S. by 20 percent over the next 10 years through tougher fuel economy standards and mandatory production of more ethanol and other alternate fuels. It was welcomed by some environ-

mentalists, but they said it didn't go far enough to combat global warming without a mandatory cap on carbon production.

Bush also pushed a tax plan to pay for health care costs, but that had already been received skeptically by Democrats, who suggested it wouldn't do enough to help the poorest of the uninsured and could encourage some younger and healthier workers to drop out of workplace plans.

Polls show that rising health care costs are now the major economic concern of Americans. And Bush called for extending and expanding the No Child Left Behind education law, which expires this year.

But critics suggested his plan didn't go far enough to fully fund the program.

Bush's State of the Union agenda was clearly an effort to try to change the subject away from Iraq.

Bush wanted "to get the public to see him and his

last two years as not exclusively about Iraq," said Bruce Buchanan, a University of Texas political science professor. Ross Baker, a political scientist at Rutgers, said that while Bush's State of the Union was an attempt "to breathe life into this administration," it mainly offered just a "large collection of non-starters."

Bush achieved early successes in striking bipartisan agreements with Democrats in Texas when he was governor and in the early days of his presidency, such as the No Child Left Behind law. But the dynamics are now different and the parties more polarized.

In theory, the thin margins of Democratic control should present an opening for working toward bipartisan solutions to pressing long-term domestic problems, such as shoring up Social Security and Medicare, both of which are headed for serious financial difficulties.

CHINA

Country continues one-child limit

Associated Press

BEIJING — China will not loosen its one-child policy, despite a top family planning official's acknowledgment Tuesday that it was partly to blame for a worsening problem of too many boy babies and not enough girls in the world's most populous nation.

In 2005, some 118 boys were born in China for every 100 girls. In some regions, the figure has hit 130 boys for every 100 girls; the average for industrialized countries is between 104 and 107 boys for every 100 girls.

Zhang Weiqing, minister of the National Population and Family Planning Commission, said the gov-

ernment is committed to solving gender imbalance within 10 to 15 years with education campaigns, punishments for sex-selective abortions and rewards-like retirement pensions—for parents who have girls.

"This problem is a reality of country life in China," said Zhang. "We have a 2,000-year feudal history that considered men superior to women, that gave boys the right to carry on the family name and allowed men to be emperors while women could not."

He called gender imbalance "a very serious challenge for China."

Bates Gill of the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington said pension benefits

would help, but other financial incentives like school fees for girls, would also need to be included. He also thought the effects of such projects would take several years before families learned they could trust the government to deliver on their promises.

Zhang said China's basic policy—in effect since the late 1970s—was reviewed and renewed without change last month. The policy limits urban couples to one child and rural families to two to control the population and conserve natural resources. Beijing says it has helped prevent 400 million births and has aided the nation's rapid economic development.

Election

continued from page 1

municating well to the student body about the changes we want to make," Ferreira said. "We may have had the top turnout in the votes, but tomorrow is a completely new vote."

That vote, Hodges believes, will have students reconsidering their previous election decisions.

"I think some of the votes were loyalty votes to friends," she said. "[While] the principles of the [Ferreira-Antonelli] platform are in line with ours, those who didn't vote yesterday would have a voice by electing our ticket."

While both tickets build on the ideas of increased diversity and continuation of College traditions, Ferreira believes her platform contains goals — such as campus-wide wireless Internet — that "can be accomplished" in her term.

"It's not going to take five years," she said.

Regardless of the competition, Payne said she is "extremely excited."

"It shows that the student body is ready for a change and our goals are attainable," she said. "We're here to work for them."

While the road to presidency continues for Ferreira-Antonelli and Hodges-Payne, Davis and Kennedy still have a strong desire to serve Saint Mary's, Davis said.

Davis, who called the results a "huge disappointment," said she encourages students to vote for the Hodges-Payne ticket in today's election.

She said she believes "they deserve it more than [Ferreira-

Antonelli] because they are more dedicated to Saint Mary's."

Davis and Kennedy both said they wished they had further pursued an appeal they sent to the elections appeal board during their campaign.

Kennedy said the two attended the Dec. 12, 2006 mandatory election meeting unopposed, but the Hodges-Payne and Ferreira-Antonelli tickets were permitted to run despite their failure to attend the campaign forum.

Student body president Susan McIlduff said although the tickets did not attend the meeting, they were allowed to run because they explained their absence and subsequently attended a follow-up election meeting after winter break.

McIlduff said elections commissioner Christin Molnar maintains the executive right to hold additional campaign meetings to increase the number of tickets in any given election.

"I think all in all, the more competition the better," she said. "Having more than one ticket allows [more voices to be] heard, and people are elected because they have earned it."

Should Hodges and Payne win the election, Davis and Kennedy said they would consider serving on their board, but neither has yet decided their particular future involvement in student government.

Molnar did not return Observer phone calls Tuesday night.

Liz Harter contributed to this article.

Contact Kelly Meehan at kmecha01@saintmarys.edu

McAlarney

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reapply for the fall 2007 semester.

Associate Vice President for News and Information Don Wycliff told The Observer Tuesday morning he "can't talk about any individual's disciplinary or other records," and Residence Life and Housing Associate Director Lori Maurer said under federal law she's unable to comment on the specific case of any individual student.

But Janice McAlarney said her son met with Office of Residence Life and Housing officials Monday at 4:30 p.m. Brey was only present for 10 minutes before he had to leave for New York City, Janice McAlarney said. The Irish play tonight against St. John's at Madison Square Garden.

She said her son received the decision a little before 5 p.m.

"He's lonely, he hit the road last night, my husband flew to Ohio to meet him ... he can't drive all the way by himself," Janice McAlarney said. "He's heartbroken, he didn't expect this."

Janice McAlarney said she understands Kyle McAlarney made a bad decision, but feels strongly that "the punishment does not fit the crime."

Nobody has given her any answers, she said, as to why her son was suspended for both the spring and summer sessions instead of only the spring term.

"Why did you suspend him for two semesters?" Janice

McAlarney said. "Other students I know who the [Residence Life and Housing] committee met, they were suspended for one semester. I'm not getting an answer for why he was suspended for two semesters."

Maurer did say the University makes no distinction between athletes and non-athletes when it comes to disciplinary matters.

Students, like Kyle McAlarney, possess the opportunity to submit a case review if there's a "procedural defect in the disciplinary process which would have been substantial enough to have changed the outcome" or "the discovery of substantial new information which was unknown to the student at the time [of the hearing]," according to page 184 of du Lac.

Students cannot submit a case review if they feel the punishment is too severe.

According to page 94 of du Lac, "students who possess illegal substances including marijuana 'shall be subject to disciplinary suspension or permanent dismissal.'" On the other hand, distributing illegal substances "is a serious violation which shall result in disciplinary suspension or permanent dismissal."

There is nothing in the specific section of du Lac stating that possession of marijuana is automatic grounds for suspension or dismissal from the University.

Janice McAlarney said she felt the decision had something to do with making an example of her son, given his position as a public figure at Notre Dame.

"I think he would have gotten one semester if he was just a

regular student. I think we could accept that, understanding [he broke a law]," Janice McAlarney said. "But two semesters, and when he already sat seven Big East games? And they did it without his teammates around him, I mean, where is the compassion?"

Two weeks ago, McAlarney entered the St. Joseph's Country pretrial diversion program, a system that allows certain offenders to have charges eventually expunged from their records. Janice McAlarney and her husband had been with their son at Notre Dame for the previous three weeks. But Janice McAlarney returned to New York on Sunday night.

"I had left. I had just left town a couple hours before," she said. "I'm very angry that they did not tell me, as the mom that, 'you know what, maybe you should stick around because it's not good news.'"

Janice McAlarney said the family wouldn't encourage Kyle McAlarney to explore his options at other schools, and that it's been her son's dream — as well as the family's — for him to attend Notre Dame. While she said that "[Kyle McAlarney] still wears the Notre Dame shirt proudly," right now, they're unhappy with the specific disciplinary process.

"I think they made their decision three weeks ago and that's what angers us," Janice McAlarney said. "I think they strung us along for three weeks. I think they should have just put it out on the carpet then."

Contact Bob Griffin at rgriffi3@nd.edu

President

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dents huddled around televisions in dormitories and the LaFortune Student Center.

"... [N]othing is more important at this moment in our history than for America to succeed in the Middle East, to succeed in Iraq and to spare the American people from this danger," Bush said.

The speech's intent, said political science professor Louis Ayala, was "the desire to find consensus on some domestic policy issues and an emphasis on making clear that he has a specific goal for Iraq and he really believes in the surge."

College Democrats of Notre Dame co-president Megan Hawley said Bush's new surge plan and his speech Tuesday aren't enough to persuade the Democrats — who now make up a majority of both the House of Representatives and the Senate — to support the increased troop deployment.

"I think he is going back to the rhetoric of fear that he has been using forever," Hawley said.

Hawley and other College Democrats gathered in the basement of Breen-Phillips Tuesday night to watch the speech. Hawley doesn't think Bush's plan to send 20,000 more troops to Iraq will achieve peace in the country — and she's fairly sure the Democrats in Congress won't think so either.

"I don't think we have as many troops as he wants to send," Hawley said. "... I simply don't think this is going to work."

Bush asks for bipartisanship

Early in his speech, Bush congratulated the Democratic majority on its victory in the midterm elections, but stressed that the responsibilities the Congress has to the nation remain the same. Bush encouraged the new composition of the House and the Senate to use bipartisanship as they work on their agendas.

"Our citizens don't much care which side of the aisle we sit on — as long as we are willing to cross that aisle when there is work to be done," Bush said.

In a return to his pre-presidential reputation as a "uniter, not a divider," Bush delivered his annual State of the Union address in a calculatedly bipartisan tone, said Notre Dame political science professor and presidential expert Peri Arnold.

"I found notable Bush's relative degree of moderation," Arnold said. "In the past, Bush has taken pressure on him as a reason to be even sharper and more hostile. But tonight, he was more moderate. He could've done a lot worse, and he has."

Because the Democrats control both houses of Congress, Arnold said, Bush was forced to finally address issues that Democrats care about, such as the energy crisis, immigration and health care.

"The president was bipartisan in his speech by gesturing toward the Democrats, but he still took his own Republican

positions on issues that the Democrats care about," Arnold said. "He put forth Republican initiatives on Democratic issues."

The president still made a marked turn to the center — best seen in his energy initiatives, Arnold said.

"He started to sound like an ecological president by calling for reduced use of gasoline, clean energy sources and even mentioning climate change for the first time," Arnold said. "This was truly a more moderate Bush tonight."

Arnold said the Democrats must do something to address both the domestic and foreign issues raised by Bush Tuesday in the months ahead.

"At the end of the day, the Democrats have to do business with the president if they want him to sign anything. They can't just strong-arm legislation through all the time [as they are with the minimum wage bill]; sometimes they do need to negotiate," Arnold said.

Arnold said the Democrats must address the domestic and foreign issues Bush raised in his address.

"I see [the Democrats] most likely to be willing to do business with Bush on immigration and education issues," Arnold said. "In fact, the president is closer to the Democrats on immigration than he is to the Republicans."

Notre Dame College Republicans president Sarah Way said the president's stance on immigration is not strong enough. But she said she

believes "it's good for the president to reach across party lines."

"He's obviously learned something from the last elections and it's a step in the right direction, even though I don't like the policy that much," Way said.

As part of his education agenda, Bush asked Congress to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind Act — a law enacted five years ago that has been "preserving local control, raising standards and holding schools accountable for results," Bush said.

Ayala predicted that some version of the Act "will likely survive."

But Hawley said the Democrats won't support No Child Left Behind.

"Most Democrats recognize it as a failing program," she said.

Also on Bush's domestic agenda were balancing the federal budget, fixing Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security and creating affordable and available health care for all Americans. In addition, Bush said he wants to keep the country's borders safe while allowing foreign workers to enter the country legally to work on a temporary basis. Bush said the United States must also develop alternative fuel sources and lessen its dependency on foreign oil.

Hawley isn't sure Bush will achieve all the objectives.

"I'm curious to see what he actually does with them," Hawley said. "A lot of these words are empty words to me."

Arnold said the State of the Union address was successful for Bush.

"In terms of public opinion polls, this speech won't help the president," he said. "But in terms of how the political class views it, yes, it was successful."

Sophomore Jill Karas, who watched the speech at the Badin Hall State of the Union watch, said that she has more respect for the president after hearing him speak.

"He came across as more genuine and better presented this time than he did during the last speech about Iraq, which was terrible," she said.

Karas agreed with the president's position concerning Iraq that "we can't just give up."

"I liked how Bush said that no matter how people voted on the war, they didn't vote to lose," she said.

Pelosi makes history

Bush was not the only person people were watching Tuesday night. For the first time in American history, the Speaker of the House, who sits with the Vice President behind the President during the speech, was female.

Bush called it a "high privilege and distinct honor" to address Nancy Pelosi as the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

For Hawley and her co-president Helen Adeosun, this was an exciting moment for them as well.

"The highlight of the speech, for two female co-presidents, was hearing 'Madame Speaker,'" Hawley said.

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"It's good for the president to reach across party lines."

Sarah Way
president
College Republicans

"The highlight of the speech, for two female co-presidents, was hearing 'Madame Speaker.'"

Megan Hawley
co-president
College Democrats

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Peri Arnold
professor
political science

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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New kids on the block

The Observer has graciously decided to allow two intelligent, charming and ridiculously good-looking men (Don't believe us? Check out our facebook profile.) To write a bi-weekly column for the Viewpoint. In addition to the seminal columns written by Gary Caruso, Joey Falco and Liz Coffey, among others, you will find a new one authored by yours truly, Mark Poyar and Zach Einterz. Since we are a new column this semester, we thought it would be prudent to begin by introducing ourselves and our ideas.

First, let us explain the title of our column, "Bulletproof Ideas." Our inspiration for this title comes from the movie "V for Vendetta." (If you have seen this movie and thought it was a good movie, possibly the best movie ever, we congratulate you. If you haven't seen this movie, you should rent it as soon as possible.) In one of the closing scenes, the anti-authoritarian hero V becomes riddled with bullets from his assailants, including Mr. Creedy, and the following dialogue ensues:

Creedy: Die! Die! Why won't you die?
... Why won't you die?

V: Beneath this mask there is more than flesh. Beneath this mask there is an idea, Mr. Creedy, and ideas are bulletproof.

Of course, we did not choose this title because we believe that our ideas are bulletproof, or that our arguments are invincible, although that may be the case. We chose this title because we believe that social change has to come from ideas. Progress doesn't come from forceful coercion; it comes from persua-

sion by logic and reasoning. Unlike a Britney Spears marriage, or a dining hall meal that slides through your gut by the time you make it back to your dorm, good ideas can last forever. Our goal here is to give you some new ideas.

We are both members of the College Libertarians, and as such, our columns will generally be written from a libertarian viewpoint. What do we mean by libertarian? Simply put, libertarians believe in the freedom of the individual. We believe that each individual has an inalienable right to life, liberty, property and self-government. We believe that the only moral function of government is to protect these inalienable rights and that government used for any other mean constitutes an immoral use of force. Each person should have the right to choose what is best for himself/herself, so long as his/her actions do not interfere with the rights of others. We also believe that the United States Constitution, as the founding document of our great Republic, should be regarded as relevant and not brushed aside to suit the political whims of a particular interest group. For a very general idea of the libertarian stance on political issues, libertarians usually oppose war, interventionism, taxes, gun control and censorship, while supporting free markets, immigration and civil liberties.

This is a very brief and broad overview of libertarianism, and we promise to elaborate in our future columns. Hopefully, by reading our columns you will be given a different look at the world. You won't only see the world as red and blue, Republican and Democrat, or conservative and liberal. We don't expect you to agree with everything we write — in fact you probably won't — but at least you will have been given a new perspective on the

world around you. We hope to make this a conversation of ideas, not a monologue, so please write back when you disagree with us.

Finally, if you find that you agree with a lot of what we have to say, don't be apathetic! Come out as a libertarian! Are you disillusioned and disenfranchised by the current state of politics? Did you have horrible memories of putting your dog down as a child because he/she/it broke zoning ordinances? Do you like "South Park" and Clint Eastwood? If you said yes to any of the preceding questions, then you may already be a libertarian! Libertarians encompass a wide range of peoples. We include everything from anarcho-capitalists, environmentalists, and potheads to fundamentalist Christians and atheists. The only thing necessary to become a libertarian is a commitment to liberty. For more information on the College Libertarians of Notre Dame, visit our website at www.nd.edu/~liberty. Otherwise, stay tuned for our articles, words of wisdom and rants. We'll be back again in two weeks. Look for us above that ever-present letter from grad student Dan Hicks.

Zach Einterz is a junior majoring in economics and environmental sciences. He has turned to politics after giving up on an unsuccessful sports career. Contact Zach at zeinterz@nd.edu

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

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A revolutionary education?

It's a common scene early in the semester: students at their computers, shuffling around their classes, sometimes dropping a course or adding another. In an attempt to fulfill the University literature, music or history requirement, a student will scroll through the course descriptions searching for an interesting, or — at the very least — easy, class. It was through this search that a friend alerted me of certain disconcerting choices being offered to fulfill those requirements.

One such class fulfilling the literature requirement in the English Department is called "Decadent Modernity" (ENGL 20405). A glance at the course description reveals that the course aims "to explore visions of decadence spanning the last two centuries and more." Students are instructed to "bring a tolerance for the grotesque and for authors who deliberately challenge deeply held Western attitudes about morality and values." Several "literary

texts, visual arts and modern cinema" are to be considered, but the "conceptual groundwork" is to be laid with Freud and Nietzsche.

I choose this particular class — there are several others — because I feel it well exemplifies many of the humanities courses being offered at universities across the nation. These courses appeal to students' anti-authoritarian tendencies to draw them, ironically, to a not particularly tolerant, alternative orthodoxy. "Sticking it to the man," as some have put it, does not necessarily imply liberation, for what if the new "man" who replaces the old one brings even worse tyranny?

There must always be a "man," an authority, and those who claim to free us from all authority in reality bind us to their own. Yes, rejecting traditional values sounds enticing, but this proposition raises an important question: what new set of values will replace the old ones we are so emphatically encouraged to abandon? Were this pro-

posed new ethos original, empowering or socially progressive, as it claims to be, it would be worth consideration. But, upon closer examination, it seems to be merely a soufflé of old Gnosticism of different flavors, marinated in the arguments of 1960s Cultural revolutionaries and spiced with some witty quotes from the Pre-Socratics. And, added to it all, in the manner of the Fairy Godmother in the latest "Shrek" film, is "just a hint of ... lust."

An education such as this, of course, prepares us, in a strange but certain way, to be the leaders of the Twenty-First century, to carry on the torch — there was a torch somewhere, wasn't there? — and, in general terms, to achieve the new, recasted American dream: becoming filthy rich without getting caught.

Chris Spellman
senior
off campus
Jan. 23

OBSERVER POLL

If the Democratic
primary were held today,
who would you vote for?

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

"Answer a fool according to his folly, or he will be wise in his own eyes."

Proverbs
26:4

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Revisiting ethics at Catholic university

This letter is in response to James Welle's ("Ethics and morals not synonymous," Jan. 23) comment, "My point is that morals cannot and should not ever be used to justify ethics."

Whose morals are we talking about?

As written in DuLac, the mission statement of the University of Notre Dame states, "Notre Dame's character as a Catholic academic community presupposes that no genuine search for the truth in the human or cosmic order is alien to the life of faith ... There is, however, a special obligation and opportunity, specifically as a Catholic university, to pursue the religious dimensions of human learning. Only thus can Catholic intellectual life in all disciplines be animated and fostered and a proper community of scholarly religious discourse be established."

The founders of our university believe that truth is not alien to faith; they believe that truth and morality as established by faith are not foreign to one another. The search for truth about ethics at this university should be guided by a profound understanding of Catholic morality. The mission statement also states, "A Catholic university draws its basic inspiration from Jesus Christ as the source of wisdom and from the conviction that in Him all things can be brought to their completion." All things includes the examples of ethical dilemmas James provided; the founders of this university believe that ethical decisions can be justified by the moral ideas as established by the Catholic church. Catholics cannot have separate moral and ethical stances.

Daniel Dugovic
junior
Knott Hall
Jan. 23

Raising wage has consequences too

The silence from the living wage community had gone on for far too long, apparently, as even a South Bend resident felt the need to chime in. I don't doubt Louis Myers' good intentions, but his argument is plain sophistry. Mr. Myers calls for Notre Dame to pay its employees "at least a living wage, which would be about \$12/hour now." Two questions come to mind after reading this statement.

First, should we separate wages from earnings? Notre Dame employees, like other employees in a free society, earn their wages. We cannot dictate what one earns by circumventing the market wage.

The second involves a more alarming concern with minimum wage arguments. Myers includes the words "at least" when ordering what the administration should pay its workers. Is it not obvious that we have scarce resources in a society and, therefore, in a university? As William F. Buckley Jr. once said, "Idealism is fine, but as it approaches reality, the costs become prohibitive."

I can only hope that those students calling for an increase in wages will not be the same ones up in arms when it forces further increases in the already astronomical tuition hikes. Instead of rallying behind Myers' motivational effort, let's think about what it is we are doing when we undermine basic economic principles. It is through flexible, not set, prices that capitalism functions most efficiently. That includes the price that an employer is willing to pay a given worker for his/her labor, and I have yet to see a worker chained to a buffet line or a mop bucket, so I can only assume that Notre Dame is offering the most competitive wages for the necessary skills.

Whether one likes it or not, Notre Dame must operate as a business — not to turn a profit, but to be responsible stewards of the students' tuition dollars. There is nothing theologically sinful about adhering to the competitive, market-clearing wages already in place.

Brad Duffy
junior
Fisher Hall
Jan. 23

Sex is good, condoms or not

Let us be frank about the fact that sex is good. In fact, sex is great. It is holy. God is a big proponent. And I get the feeling that a lot of what God made is good, in and of itself, apart from its function. Creation was good before humans ever exploited it.

I would agree with Eleanore Strong ("Contraceptive society morally harmful," Jan. 21) that God knows best. But I take strong issue with the idea that the Catholic Church always knows best. Passive acquiescence to theology with such far-reaching implications, when the experience on the ground screams in pain for theological review, cannot be our best answer.

Theology is the work of every man and woman trying to discern how to live their lives. I will not deny that 2,000 years of collective experience and wisdom, in many realms of life, is truly a great resource. But contraception is too new, and its theology is just being worked out at a time when there are life and death decisions riding on the Church's interpretation.

People, including priests, make mistakes. It doesn't mean everything the Church says is wrong. Far from it. It just means we need to be careful. So with that said, the irony of the Church's position is that while attempting to uphold the sanctity of sex, it actually demeans it. Objectifies it, really, in the same way our worth as humans today tends to be tied to what we can produce for our efficient profit-driven society. For whatever reason, we are uneasy with the idea that something can be good just because it is, not because of what it can produce. And the union of two people into one flesh through sex is something that is holy whether or not it can or does produce another human life.

It is an expression of love, a very deep and binding one, and not one that condoms or a pill can even begin to defile. If you want culprits for "more abortions, fewer children, more divorce and more AIDS cases," I suggest something other than contraceptives as the scapegoat. Millions of lives are riding on that careless statement.

Try looking at our society of material decadence, where we exploit what we want from people and the environment, and then discard without thought.

Try looking at the general commercialization of sex on TV and every other sphere of our lives. The problem is deep within each of our psyches. Fewer children can be attributed to more women in the workforce due to greater empowerment, not least of which is our greater access to education, not just reproductive control.

I cannot tell you what causes higher divorce rates, but something tells me its not just condoms. And AIDS could be prevented through greater education and access to preventive tools, and less stigma associated with the virus so that people might actually want to get tested. Even promiscuity probably has little to do with birth control — it probably has everything to do with chastity just being difficult.

Talk about sex is so taboo that most sex education is left to schools, as I have a feeling that most of our generation never got a real sex talk from our parents. Coupled with the fact that our faith exposure to sex when we are young is primarily through warnings against carnal temptation, which suddenly changes as sex becomes holy when we are to be married, it seems as if we are trying to coax our minds to jump through schizophrenic hoops once we have a ring on our finger, or else abandon the cause of not saying more than we mean — the concept of chastity — long before. Which is really a shame, because the Church has some great theology about sex, under the title of "theology of the body," which unfortunately is still relatively obscure. And for all of the Church's 2,000 years of struggling with chastity directly, if given the chance, it may have insights which we find helpful.

But please do not try and tell me that condoms remove "permanence from marriage." I'm sure there are a number of octogenarians still going strong, who in their heyday used birth control, but who nonetheless are now celebrating their 50th anniversaries. A piece of plastic does not kill the significance of sex or cause societal destruction. We do, if we allow it.

Amanda Tarkowski
sophomore
Lyons Hall
Jan. 22

Condoms are not the cause

Eleanore Strong recently argued in her Letter to the Editor ("Contraceptive society morally harmful") that contraceptives threaten humanity as condoms and other forms of sexual-protection "erode respect for human life." But there is something else plaguing the world, and it too has no "respect for human life." It's called HIV and this pandemic has already claimed the lives of 25 million people.

We, however, can fight this disease with that which Strong finds so morally repulsive — condoms. To end this great death requires more than idealistic policies of abstinence. These have been proven to be insufficient and leave future victims without the ability to make personal decisions and to protect themselves. As she continues in her misguided approach to solving the world's moral afflictions, Strong contends that contraception robs the human race of a "stable, loving family" structure.

Guess what? There are 40 million AIDS orphans in Sub-Saharan Africa and I don't think condoms have orphaned anyone yet. You may find it morally wrong to protect the gift of life and the promise of a family through sexual-protection, but I think otherwise. The letter continues with her attack on such preventative-measures, claiming contraceptives "implicitly condone promiscuity." This broad assumption lacks any empirical evidence. Sexual protection allows for couples to physically express themselves without the fear of death, disease or an unwanted pregnancy. In no means do they cause individuals to have sex. They simply serve as protection, not as encouragement.

And she doesn't stop there. Strong alleges that the prevalence of contraceptives in our society has also caused a terrible sequence of events: they lead to more abortions and the spread of AIDS. These claims are devoid of truth, any supportive evidence, and are the result of reckless, misguided assumptions. Contraceptives prevent unwanted pregnancies that could easily result in more abortions and condoms prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS. Such preposterous attitudes toward sexual protection have already claimed the lives of millions in Africa, where rumors suggest having sex with a virgin to cure AIDS. To further such lies is surely more immoral than choosing to protect oneself. To dismiss contraceptives as immoral is to call wearing a seatbelt a sin. They provide a healthy choice for individuals wishing to express themselves with a partner and encourage physical and mental well being. It is a blessing that we now have an avenue to stop the spread of AIDS. It is time to utilize it and we have a moral obligation to do so.

Daniel Savage
freshman
Morrissey Hall
Jan. 23



Ayla Brown

Fantasia Barrino

Kelly Clarkson



AMERICAN IDOL FEATURE

'American Idol' breeds talent, brings fame

It's hard to avoid the "American Idol" phenomenon. Everyone knows who Simon Cowell is and can name at least one of the "Idol" winners or contestants. The show has produced a Grammy winner, a Golden Globe winner, a Country Music Award (CMA) female vocalist of the year and several platinum-selling recording artists. And it's only getting bigger and better.

When the first season of "Idol" aired in 2002, it had nine million viewers. The premiere of the current sixth season enjoyed more than 57 million viewers. Its success single-handedly revived the talent show genre and gave rise to several successors, including "America's Got Talent," "Rock Star: INXS" and the latest, NBC's "Grease: You're the One That I Want."

While "Idol" first began as a quest to find the best undiscovered young pop superstar, the show has since evolved and has lessened its age restrictions and opened itself to more genres, including rock and country.

Even before the 24 finalists (12 males and 12 females) are named, the city open-call auditions are almost as popular to watch as the final contestants. As exciting as it is to see the young new talent, it is equally as fun to watch the delusional masses attempt to perform.

The season three auditions introduced U.C. Berkeley student William Hung to the world, and he has since become a cult

celebrity — even releasing his own album. Season five brought the Brittenum twins, Derrell and Terrell, and all of their accompanying drama. They both made it to Hollywood out of Chicago, and Derrell quit when he mistakenly heard that his brother had been cut.

After he realized his error, he begged Cowell and the other judges to let him have his spot back. They agreed, but both twins were disqualified when they were recognized for being wanted for identity theft. Although the sixth season is only several weeks young, there have already been several (in)famous auditions, and several ambitious people have posted online guides to the MySpace profiles of some of the worst auditionees.

The show has become so popular that appearing on "American Idol" is enough in itself to make the individuals almost instantly famous. They do not necessarily even have to win the contest to become a true American idol.

As viewership has increased yearly, more and more of the finalists outside of first and second place have become exceptionally popular. Of the season five finalists, more than a third of them either already have a debut album on store shelves or are set to release one. Several more finalists, like Ace Young, have released singles online.

Even beyond just selling albums, the



Photo courtesy of media.hamptonroads.com

Randy Jackson, left, Paula Abdul, center, and Simon Cowell serve as the judges for the "American Idol," which has brought fame to winners and losers alike.

"Idol" alums have met with success even outside the music arena.

Most recently, season three contestant Jennifer Hudson won a Golden Globe and has been nominated for an Academy Award for her supporting role in "Dreamgirls." Season three winner Fantasia Barrino starred in a Lifetime movie based on her book, "Life Is Not a Fairy Tale." Season five contestant Kellie Pickler is getting her own sitcom, currently in production with FOX.

Within the musical arena the original

Idol, Kelly Clarkson, garnered herself two Grammys and season four winner Carrie Underwood has twice won the CMA award for top female vocalist of the year, and has also been a Grammy nominee.

With all of the success that "American Idol" and its contestants have enjoyed, it is a sure thing that it is not going away anytime soon and will continue to exist for the American public to enjoy — William Hungs and all.

Contact Erin McGinn at emcginn@nd.edu

CD REVIEW

'Daughtry' a solid album from popular 'Idol' rocker

From his very first audition, Chris Daughtry made his presence felt during season five of "American Idol." While Bo Bice and Constantine Maroulis cracked open the door of the rock genre during season four, Daughtry blasted it open. His pulse-pounding performance of Fuel's hit "Hemorrhage" was praised by all three judges and was popular with the audience.

His performance even impressed the members of Fuel, who asked him to be their lead singer after his departure from the show. His unforgettable renditions of Johnny Cash's "Walk the Line" and Bon Jovi's "Wanted Dead or Alive" cemented his fan base and earned him a spot among the "American Idol" greats. He finished the season as the fourth-place finalist.

After the show ended, Daughtry declined the offer to join Fuel and instead chose to follow his own solo career. He formed his own band and recorded "Daughtry," a debut album that debuted at number two on the Billboard charts. His first single off of the album, "It's Not Over," is currently rated at 21 on the Billboard charts and is gaining in airtime popularity. The song, co-written by Daughtry and fellow "Idol" contestant Ace Young, exemplifies his style of

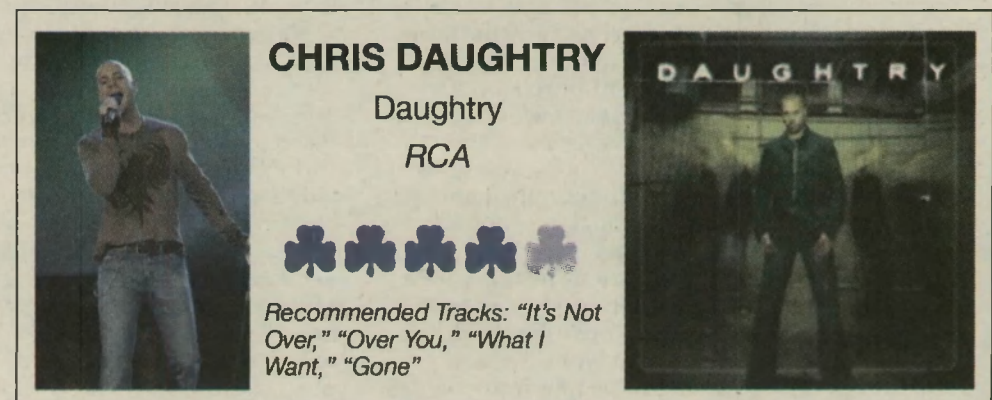
solidly blending together rock and pop qualities (much in the vein of artists such as Nickelback).

Most of his album is a mesh of pop and rock, although individual songs vary on where they fall on the pop to rock scale. Songs like "Used To" and "Home" easily fall under the pop category, whereas "What I Want" and "Gone" are nothing but rock.

His version of rock, however, is much more blended and stylized than some of his hard-rocking predecessors, and it is fairly easy to assume that Daughtry will find much more success in the pop circuits than in the rock.

Although he tends to be grouped and compared to acts like Nickelback or Fuel, Daughtry still manages to impress upon his listeners his own unique sound — and it's obvious from the energy and enthusiasm of his album that he is doing what he loves to do.

Daughtry's talent becomes apparent in the fact that there really isn't a bad track on the album. He wrote or co-wrote every song on the album with the exceptions of "Feels Like Tonight" and "What About Now," the latter written by Ben Moody



CHRIS DAUGHTRY

Daughtry
RCA

Recommended Tracks: "It's Not Over," "Over You," "What I Want," "Gone"

from Evanescence.

Daughtry's vocals are great on all of the songs, and he sounds even better than he did when he was on "Idol." The rest of the band is also excellent, with the guitarists specifically standing out. The song "What I Want" even features a special guest appearance by Guns 'N Roses guitar legend, Slash.

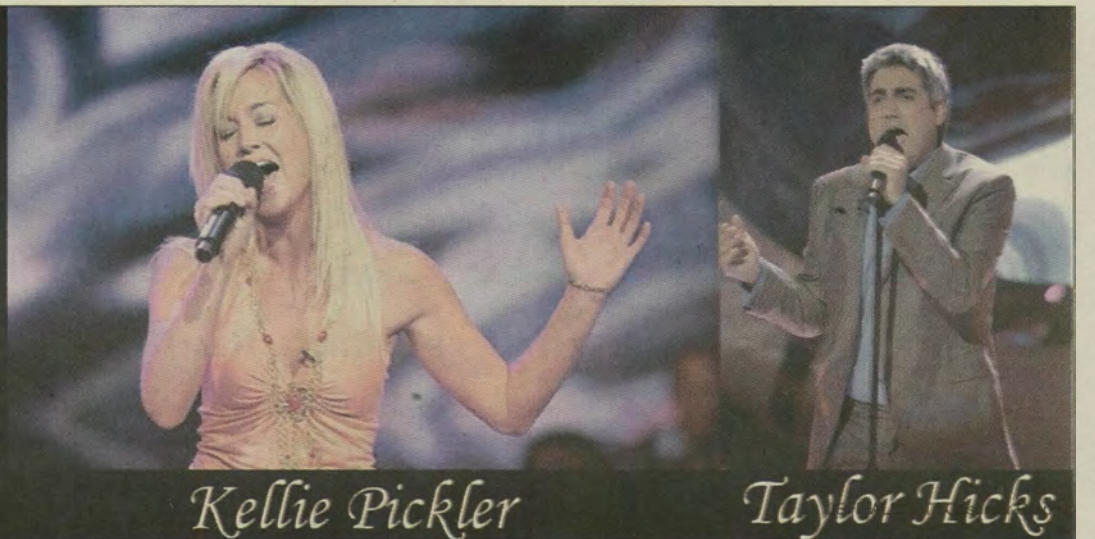
The people behind "American Idol" never miss a beat, and this album is no exception. Every store carries the same "Daughtry" album except for one — Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart features a special "bonus"

edition of the album, which contains two extra tracks: acoustic versions of "Home" and "Crashed."

"Daughtry" is a solid hit through and through — it has already gone platinum — and its success only guarantees a promising future for its artist. Chris Daughtry has managed to do what some former Idol contestants struggle with — he transcended the "Idol" fan base and created an album that even non-Idol fans can't help but enjoy.

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American Idol
er Spawns CD Success
Erin McGinn



Kellie Pickler

Taylor Hicks

CD REVIEWS

Personality helps Pickler after loss on show

Jessica Simpson gained dubious fame for asking a now infamous question while pondering a can of Chicken of the Sea. "Is it chicken or tuna?" Following in Simpson's vein of dumb-blond antics is Kellie Pickler, whose debut came in season five of "American Idol."

Whether it was her confusing the meanings of "minx" and "mink" or her drawn-out Southern pronunciation of calamari, Pickler gained as much — if not more — attention for her naïve personality as for her musical abilities.

She was so endearing and adorable, even when calling her fake eyelashes "tarantulas," that she warmed the hearts of all her viewers. Even the stone-cold Simon Cowell admitted that

he was a Pickler fan. In the end though, her personality wasn't enough and she was eliminated from the competition in sixth place.

Even after being bounced, the "Idol" producers recognized her lasting popularity and they filmed a recurring segment called "Puck 'n Pickler," where chef Wolfgang Puck introduced Pickler to unusual food for comic relief on the show. She continued to be popular on the show, singing in the finale episode and doing several promotional spots for later shows.

Although she finished in sixth place, Pickler has returned to the public eye with the release of her debut album, "Small Town Girl," which debuted at

number one on the Billboard country chart. The album is standard fare as far as country music goes, and her catchy lyrics and upbeat voice will make the release instantly popular with country fans.

Her first single off of the album, "Red High Heels," has consistently been in the top-20 of the country charts since its debut. A catchy and sassy song that talks about her love for collecting shoes, it is the perfect introduction for Pickler to the world outside of "Idol."

In a break from tradition and a show of support for Pickler, the production company for the "Idol" contestants released her album two months before "Idol" winner Taylor Hicks was set to release his. In previous years, all of the contestants were under contract not to release their albums until after the first and second-place winners released theirs.

"Small Town Girl" is full of energy, and Pickler celebrates everything that makes up her vivacious country personality. Although much of the album is upbeat and energetic, it also balances out these moments with more emotional, sentimental songs.

The tearjerker track "I Wonder," which is scheduled to be her second single release, is an ode to her mother, who left her when she was a young child. It's

obvious that Pickler put her heart and soul into the song, and it is sure to be a successful country ballad in the future.

Throughout the album Pickler ranges from sounding almost cynical on "Things That Never Cross a Man's Mind" to showing some heartbreak on "Didn't You Know." The song "One of the Guys" shows that she knows how to have fun, and then she goes back to being sentimental on "My Angel," a tribute to her grandmother.

Although Pickler puts together a great album and her performances are definitely better than the ones she gave while on "Idol," she still doesn't have the wide musical appeal in the mainstream community necessary to become a big star.

Pickler will find easy and rapid success in the country music circuits, but unlike her country-"Idol" predecessor, Carrie Underwood, she doesn't quite have the vocals to make an impact outside of the somewhat self-contained country circle.

Overall, "Small Town Girl" is a great country album, with both upbeat songs and ballads that hit all of the right notes. For fans of that genre, Kellie Pickler's album is a fantastic addition to any collection.


Contact Erin McGinn at emcginn@nd.edu



KELLIE PICKLER
Small Town Girl
Bna Entertainment

♣♣♣♣♣

Recommended Tracks: "Red High Heels," "I Wonder" "One of the Guys"



Pop singer, basketball star has promising debut

All it takes now is simply an appearance on "American Idol" to become a recording pop artist. Ayla Brown, who released her debut album "Forward" last year, is proof of that. Although she made the top-24 field of finalists, she was eliminated in week three of the finals. Even though she lasted a relatively short time on the hit television show, her brief stint sufficed to gain enough of a fan base to warrant recording an album.

Typically albums can take a long time to record, but Brown and her team at Double Deal Records managed to record, mix and produce her debut CD all in less than two weeks. She only had a limited time to record her album because she is also a freshman at Boston College, which she attends on a full basketball scholarship. She only had a small window of opportunity between the end of her "Idol" contract and her official enrollment at BC, where she is obligated to follow NCAA regulations concerning the recording and promotion of music.

"Forward" has a very contemporary pop feel to it. From the upbeat first single "Know You Better" to the inspirational ballad "Ten Cent Wings," Brown displays a decent vocal talent which is

as good as most recording pop artists today — where it doesn't take the most amazing voice in the world to make a hit song.

Much like "Know You Better," which is gaining in radio play, her covers of "I Quit" and "Sugah" are driven by up beats and catchy lyrics. Her version of "Sugah" is much more developed than the one recorded by fellow "Idol" alums Justin Guarini and Kelly Clarkson for their cinematic travesty, "From Justin to Kelly" (2002). Likewise, Brown's arrangement for "I Quit" is much more upbeat and faster than Hepburn's original release.

Most of Brown's album is written by such well-known songwriters as Diane Warren ("I Don't Wanna Miss A Thing") and Tommy Sims ("Change the World"), but she did manage to co-write two of her songs — the love ballad "Falling Into You," as well as one dedicated to her family and friends entitled "Thanks To You." Both songs, while not terribly deep, are heartfelt and catchy.

Two of the better songs on the album have a more theatrical feel to them: "Miles Away (Too Fast For You)" and "Ten Cent Wings." Both demonstrate a great deal of vocal maturity from an artist who has really had limited expo-



AYLA BROWN
Forward
Cbu Entertainment

♣♣♣♣♣

Recommended Tracks: "Know You Better," "I Quit," "Ten Cent Wings," "Miles Away (Too Fast for You)"



sure to singing. While they aren't quite radio-friendly — and are unlikely to ever be released as singles — they are easily the most thought-evoking and enjoyable songs out of the collection.

The most unique track on "Forward" is the "Jock Jams"-esque "Breaking Away." The up-tempo, easy-to-workout-to song features the sound of a dribbling basketball as part of the beat and is well-suited as a tune coming from a basketball player.

The biggest downside to the album — and for Brown in general — is that there isn't enough to make her stand out from the rest of the pop world. While it's a great pop album, it doesn't do enough to

distinguish itself from the rest of the homogenous pop albums. Likewise, Brown isn't quite unique enough to stand out on her own, and she didn't make it far enough on "Idol" to have that built-in level of success.

While Kelly Clarkson's first album wasn't terrific, she had the support of her "Idol" win to continuously put her name in the public eye until she truly was good enough to stand on her own. Brown's next release will surely be better, but the question remains as to whether this album will garner enough success to warrant another.

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PAN'S LABYRINTH

Del Toro unravels imaginative world on big screen

JEFF ALBERT | Observer Graphic

'LABYRINTH' WEAVES COMPLEX TALE OF FANTASY, REALITY

By MARTY SCHROEDER
Assistant Scene Editor

Few films are able to meld the everyday world with a fantastical, mythical dream world better than "Pan's Labyrinth." This film tells its story through the eyes of a little girl who finds herself undergoing Herculean tasks at the bidding of a seven-foot faun while dealing with the after effects of the Spanish Civil War.

The grittiness of the war is clear in the violence, the fantasy of her hidden kingdom is clear in her awe and the way these two worlds mirror each other is

Pan's Labyrinth



Director: Guillermo del Toro
Writer: Guillermo del Toro
Starring: Ariadna Gil, Ivana Baquero, Doug Jones and Sergi Lopez

undeniably clear in the brilliant parallels director and screenwriter Guillermo del Toro weaves into this film.

Few films this year will be as lush and beautiful as "Pan's Labyrinth." This, in relation to the story it tells, is the strongest aspect of the film. The lighting is beautifully done, especially during scenes shot at night. The proper amount of eeriness and fantasy is inserted into the film, which brings the war-torn real world together with the fantastic underground kingdom, a place described in the prologue as a world without pain or sadness.

The central driving force of the narrative revolves around a young girl named Ofelia who travels with her mother to live with her mother's new husband, Captain Vidal. Vidal is a captain in the Nationalist army that has just overtaken control of Spain. He's been assigned to a rural outpost to quell any opposition posed by Republican forces hiding in the forests.

The actor behind the vicious and ruthless Captain Vidal is Sergi López, who puts in the best performance of the film.

He is exacting and unbending in his quest to destroy the small Republican force and raise his son under his militaristic guidance.

Vidal's bloodthirstiness is matched by one other character in the film — the Pale Man, a fearsome antagonist young Ofelia faces in the second task she is given at the labyrinth near her house. Only the imagination of a first-rate filmmaker could have thought up the nightmare that is the Pale Man, whose eyeballs are embedded in his hands. The only way to truly experience the character is to see his inspired design on the big screen.

The makeup in "Pan's Labyrinth" — which was recently nominated for an Academy Award — is incredible. The fantasy elements are impeccable because they are not life-like. This may seem an odd assessment, but the makeup helps sell these creatures in exactly the way a young child might imagine them. The fantastic characters here do not attempt to be real in the way those in Peter Jackson's "Lord of the Rings" do.

The faun and the denizens of Ofelia's fantasy world exist in her world, not in ours. This makeup also extends to some of the most gruesome bloodshed in a film to date. There is not much blood, but the mutilation some characters endure can be unnerving even for the strong of mind and stomach.

However, this mutilation has a purpose, unlike that found in the rash of torture/horror films that have been released recently. The real world is full of tenderness but also war, bloodshed and pain and the fantasy world of "Pan's Labyrinth" reflects this. The two worlds are separate yet identical.

"Pan's Labyrinth" can best be characterized as very sad and heart-rending, yet life-affirming and hopeful. It is not only a beautiful film to look at but also a beautiful story that transcends language. Del Toro's vision shows how those who are young at heart can dream to rise above the mundane and cruel aspects of an everyday world.

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IMAGINATIVE FILM LACKS DEPTH AND MEANING

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Scene Editor

"Pan's Labyrinth" wants badly to be a great movie, but its reach exceeds its grasp. It is a creative and unique film, and its originality is admirable, but it never pulls together as a singular work, and that lack of cohesiveness ultimately prevents it from being as good a picture as it could be.

Set against the turmoil of 1944 Spain, when the Spanish Civil War was coming to a close, "Pan's Labyrinth" follows Ofelia (Ivana Baquero), a girl who accompanies her mother Carmen (Ariadna Gil) to a military camp. Carmen has married the brutal Captain Vidal (Sergi Lopez), who is attempting to weed out a group of rebels who have taken to the mountains. Carmen and Ofelia are looked after by Mercedes (Maribel Verdu), one of Vidal's servants. Mercedes' brother, however, is one of the leaders of the rebels, and Mercedes is secretly aiding them. During all of

this, Ofelia is drawn to a nearby labyrinth and confronted by a mysterious faun named Pan (Doug Jones, who also plays the eerie Pale Man), who informs her that she has the soul of a lost princess and must pass three tests to prove herself and take her rightful place in her true father's kingdom.

The biggest problem with "Pan's Labyrinth" is that, despite its multifaceted complexity, it's not nearly as immersive as it should be. The continual narrative shifts between the "real world" and the "fantasy world" are jolting and the film's narrative footing is too dependent on Mercedes and the rebellion when it should concentrate on Ofelia. The three tests that Ofelia is given are simplistic in nature, and occasionally complicate (rather than clarify) her character.

The film's lack of cohesiveness detracts from the movie as a whole, though there is much to admire, particularly in its craftsmanship. The film is undeniably beautiful, especially in its art direction and sense of form. The

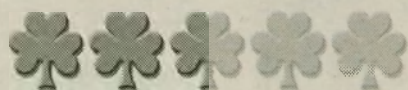
script, penned by Del Toro, is humorless but complicated, brimming with ideas and creativity. Unfortunately, it too often lacks thematic unity, spiraling in several different directions without fully exploring most of them.

"Pan's Labyrinth" is also quite dark and violent, with many disturbing scenes that are difficult and off-putting. For a film touted as an escapist fantasy, there's simply too much reality. The harshness and brutality of the "real world" threaten to overshadow what is ostensibly the narrative crux of the picture, which dilutes much of the film's impact.

Ivana Baquero, all of 12 years old, is superb as Ofelia. In many ways, the film rests on her shoulders, and her controlled, measured performance mixes innocence and wisdom perfectly. Sergi Lopez offers the other standout performance as the monstrous Captain Vidal, evoking shades of Ralph Fiennes' Amon Goeth from "Schindler's List."

It's not hard to see why critics are raving about "Pan's Labyrinth," since it

Pan's Labyrinth



feels like a picture specifically designed to make an artistic statement. Unfortunately, it never quite coalesces as a complete work, but it does hint at future greatness from a filmmaker starting to hit his stride.

Del Toro has proven himself a director capable of great visual beauty, but he has yet to make a movie that fulfills his enormous potential. He is far more talented than previous works like "Mimic," "Blade II" and "Hellboy" might have indicated, and "Pan's Labyrinth" is a great leap forward for him as an artistically-minded filmmaker. The picture itself, however, is never as immersive or emotionally effective as it should be.

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Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

A passageway lies before Ofelia (Ivana Baquero) in the Oscar-nominated "Pan's Labyrinth," which uses dramatic cinematography to create two vivid worlds.



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Ofelia (Ivana Baquero), left, encounters Pale Man (Doug Jones), one of the many eerie and fantastic characters in Guillermo del Toro's film, "Pan's Labyrinth."




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 Sat, Jan 27 at 7 pm and 10 pm

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Directed by Tom Tykwer
 R, 96 minutes
 Thu, Feb 1 at 7 pm and 10 pm
Shut Up and Sing (2006)
 Directed by Barbara Kopple
 R, 99 minutes
 Fri, Feb 2 at 10 pm
 Sat, Feb 3 at 10 pm
 Sun, Feb 4 at 4 pm

Iraq in Fragments (2006)

Directed by James Longley
 NR, 94 minutes
 Kurdish, Arabic, and English languages
 with English subtitles
 Fri, Feb 2 at 7 pm
 Sat, Feb 3 at 7 pm

Birth of a Nation (1915)

PAC Classic 100
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NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Nardi and Reynolds guide Nova to victory

Auburn knocks off ranked team for second time in six days; strong defense helps Illini top No. 23 Hoosiers

Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Mike Nardi had a game-high 19 points and Scottie Reynolds added 18 to lead Villanova to an 82-73 win over Providence on Tuesday night.

It was the third straight victory for the visiting Wildcats (14-5, 3-3).

Sharaud Curry and Dwain Williams had 18 each for the Friars (13-6, 3-3), who had their 12-game home winning streak snapped.

Reynolds put Villanova ahead, 55-42, on a 3-pointer five minutes into the second half.

Curry, who scored 11 of his points after intermission, fueled a late Friar comeback. Geoff McDermott stole the ball and dunked it with 1:28 left to bring Providence within four, 76-72.

McDermott couldn't convert on an attempted alley-oop play and moments later Dante Cunningham dunked on a breakaway and scored two more points on free throws for Villanova.

Herbert Hill, the Friars' leading scorer, was held to 12 points on 4-of-5 shooting.

Nardi, who scored 16 of his points by halftime, made 4-of-5 3-pointers, including one with four seconds left in the first half, to put Villanova ahead 41-37 at the break.

Auburn 81, Alabama 57

Korvotney Barber scored 18 points and Frank Tolbert added 17 to lead Auburn to an upset of No. 12 Alabama on Tuesday night, ending a seven-game losing streak to the Crimson Tide.

The Tigers (13-8, 3-3 Southeastern Conference) scored the first eight points of the second half to overcome a 36-35 deficit and shot 58 percent.

They hadn't beaten Alabama (15-4, 2-3) since 2003 and have now won two games against ranked teams in a six-day stretch after ending an 0-for-15 stretch against then-No. 22 Tennessee.

Josh Dollard added 16 points and Quan Prowell 14 points and 10 rebounds for Auburn, which held Alabama to just 21 points after halftime. Tolbert made 6-of-7 shots, the only miss an errant 3-pointer in the final two minutes.

The Tide's road struggles continued. Alabama has lost its first three SEC road games by an average of 24 points to unranked teams. Western Division teams are now 0-15 in SEC road games.

Alabama shot just 32 percent in the second half.

Ronald Steele led Alabama with 19 points, but he also had five turnovers. Jermareo Davidson added 18 points and 11 rebounds. He only scored two points after halftime.

Alonzo Gee had 11 points. Richard Hendrix played much of the game in foul trouble and finished with just four points — 10 below season average — in 19 minutes.

Steele made 5-of-9 3-pointers. The rest of the team was 0-for-10, unable to counter Auburn's aggressive, trapping defense.

The Tigers churned out a stream of breakaway dunks and fast-break scores, swiping 12 steals and dishing out assists on 22 of 34 baskets. Quantez Robertson led Auburn 10 assists.

By the end, Auburn fans weren't content with rare hoops dominance in the rivalry. They chanted "We want Saban," a reference to new Tide football coach Nick Saban.

The Tigers scored the first eight points of the second half and led the rest of the way.

The Tide cut the lead to 43-39 on Steele's 3-pointer with 16:43 left, but did little else after that. Rasheem Barrett's 3-pointer capped a 17-4 run that started the rout, making it 62-45 midway through the half.

Alabama never came closer than 11 points after that.

Illinois 51, Indiana 43

Indiana coach Kelvin Sampson didn't like the way the Hoosiers played their first game as a ranked team.

Rich McBride scored 15 points to lead Illinois to victory over No. 23 Indiana on Tuesday night, the Illini's first win against a ranked opponent in five tries this season.

"I didn't like our identity tonight," Sampson said. "I know that we just got ranked ... But we're not the kind of team that if we don't play with a chip on our shoulder or an edge, we're just not very good."

D.J. White scored 12 points for Indiana (14-5, 4-2 Big Ten), which had a five-game winning streak snapped.

Both teams had horrific shooting nights as Indiana was just 17-for-44 (39 percent) and Illinois was 17-for-42 (40 percent).

The Illini (15-7, 3-4) held the Hoosiers without a field goal for almost 9 minutes — from the 12:21 mark in the first half until the 39 seconds remained. After Earl Calloway hit a 3-pointer to give Indiana an 18-11 lead, the



Villanova guard, Scottie Reynolds, left, is fouled by Providence forward Herbert Hill as he goes up for a shot Tuesday night. The Wildcats defeated the Friars 82-73.

Hoosiers went cold from the field missing their next nine shots.

Mike White ended the drought with a jumper to tie the game at 23-all heading into the half.

"Their defense was good," Sampson said. "I didn't think our offense was very good either."

Illinois opened the second half with a 10-2 run highlighted by two 3-pointers by McBride. Indiana rallied back to close to 39-37 on Armon Bassett's jumper with 6:07 left.

The Illini answered with a 10-0 spurt to put the game away.

Illinois Bruce Weber said the credit belonged to his defense.

"I just like how they fought," he said.

The game was Sampson's first trip to Champaign since a fall recruiting controversy over Indianapolis high schooler Eric Gordon. Gordon orally committed to Illinois in late 2005, then reconsidered and eventually committed to Indiana.

The Big Ten has said Sampson broke no rules by recruiting a player who had already orally committed to another school. But Illini fans showered Sampson with boos as he entered and exited the

court.

As the game wound down, Illinois' student section hit Sampson with a chorus of "Cheaters never win."

Both coaches said too much was made by news media of the recruiting incident.

"That's not nearly as big a deal as you guys make it out to be," Sampson said.

Air Force 72, TCU 39

Dan Nwaelele scored 13 points and the 16th-ranked Air Force Falcons used sharp shooting and a stifling defense to cruise past TCU on Tuesday night for their 27th straight home win.

Matt McCraw and Tim Anderson each added 11 points for the Falcons (19-2, 6-1 Mountain West), who turned the tables on TCU, which brought the league's best field goal percentage defense (41 percent) into Clune Arena but were quickly overwhelmed at both ends of the court.

The Falcons shot 62 percent from the floor and 50 percent from beyond the arc.

It was the Horned Frogs (10-8, 2-4) who couldn't find an offensive rhythm, shooting 32 percent.

They doomed themselves to a fourth straight loss with a slow start, making just one jumper, one layup and one free throw in the first 13 1/2 minutes and falling behind 19-6, an insurmountable deficit against the disciplined Falcons.

Air Force pushed its lead to 33-15 at halftime, closing with an impressive 8-0 run over the final three minutes, including 3-pointers from Anderson and John Frye, who picked up the slack with seven first-half points when starting center Nick Welch got into foul trouble and took a seat just 5 minutes in.

Air Force was coming off a season-low 39-percent shooting performance against San Diego State on Saturday but sank 60 percent of its shots in the tone-setting first half, when the Horned Frogs shot 26 percent.

It didn't stop there. Anwar Johnson's midcourt steal and breakaway jam highlighted a 10-2 spurt that made it 55-28 and Jacob Burtschi stole an inbound pass for an easy bucket in a 12-0 run that made it 67-32. By the time it was over, coach Jeff Bzdelik had used all 15 of his players, 11 of whom scored.

CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 3 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

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AROUND THE NATION

Wednesday, January 24, 2007

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

Men's Basketball Associated Press Top 25

	team	record	points
1	Florida	17-2	1759
2	Wisconsin	19-1	1720
3	UCLA	17-1	1679
4	North Carolina	17-2	1597
5	Ohio State	16-3	1470
6	Texas A&M	16-2	1438
7	Oregon	18-1	1387
8	Kansas	16-3	1248
9	Pittsburgh	17-3	1203
10	Duke	16-3	1091
11	Memphis	15-3	954
12	Alabama	15-3	937
13	Oklahoma State	16-3	867
14	Butler	17-2	856
15	Marquette	17-4	726
16	Air Force	18-2	676
17	Arizona	13-5	545
18	Nevada	17-2	534
19	Clemson	18-2	507
20	Washington State	16-3	418
21	LSU	13-5	392
22	NOTRE DAME	16-3	304
23	Indiana	14-4	210
24	Virginia Tech	14-5	177
25	USC	15-5	149

Men's Basketball ESPN/USA Today Top 25

	team	record	points
1	Florida	17-2	763
2	UCLA	17-1	739
3	Wisconsin	19-1	714
4	North Carolina	17-2	691
5	Ohio State	16-3	632
6	Texas A&M	16-2	620
7	Oregon	18-1	580
8	Kansas	16-3	531
9	Pittsburgh	17-3	522
10	Duke	16-3	416
11	Butler	17-2	407
12	Alabama	15-3	397
13	Air Force	18-2	395
14	Memphis	15-3	360
15	Nevada	17-2	332
16	Oklahoma State	16-3	301
17	Clemson	18-2	295
18	Washington State	16-3	281
19	Arizona	13-5	224
20	Marquette	17-4	185
21	NOTRE DAME	16-3	163
22	LSU	13-5	90
23	Virginia Tech	14-5	71
24	Indiana	14-4	70
25	Kentucky	15-4	52

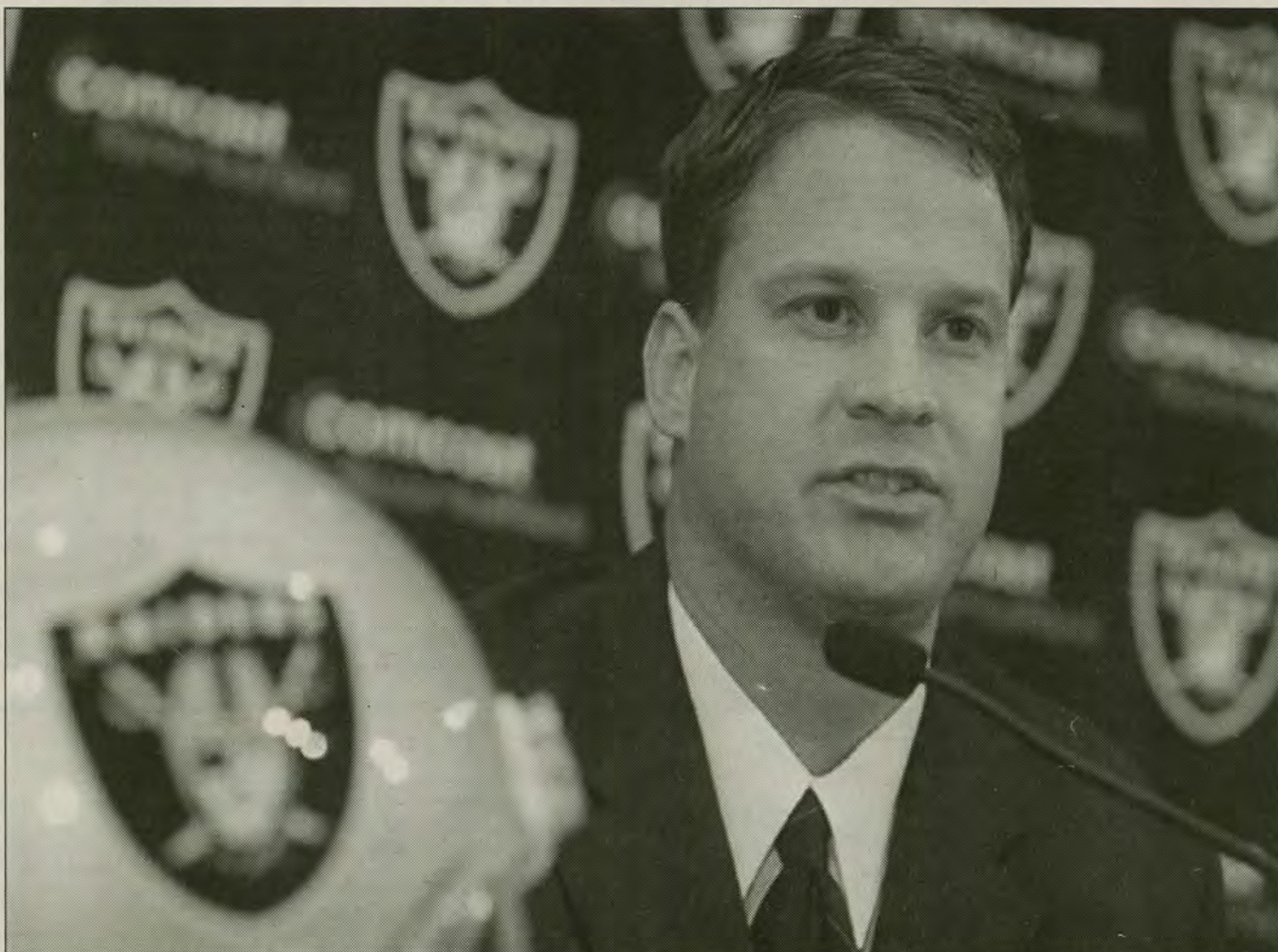
Men's Basketball Big East Standings

	team	Big East record	overall record
1	Pittsburgh	5-1	17-3
2t.	Marquette	4-2	17-4
	Syracuse	4-2	15-5
	Louisville	4-2	14-6
5.	Georgetown	3-2	13-5
6t.	NOTRE DAME	4-3	16-4
	West Virginia	4-3	14-4
8t.	Villanova	3-3	14-5
	Providence	3-3	13-6
	Seton Hall	3-3	11-7
	DePaul	3-3	12-8
11.	St. John's	3-4	12-8
12.	Connecticut	2-4	13-6
13.	Cincinnati	1-3	10-8
14t.	South Florida	1-5	10-10
	Rutgers	1-5	8-11

around the
dial

NCAA BASKETBALL
North Carolina at. Wake Forest
7:00 p.m., ESPN

NFL



Lane Kiffin, 31, speaks with the media after he was hired as the head coach of the Oakland Raiders Tuesday. The former Southern Cal offensive coordinator became the youngest head coach in the National Football League.

Raiders hire USC's Kiffin as head coach

Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif. — After four miserable seasons, Al Davis knew the Oakland Raiders needed a fresh start. He couldn't have found a new coach much more fresh than Lane Kiffin.

The Raiders officially hired the 31-year-old Kiffin on Tuesday, putting the former Southern California offensive coordinator in charge of restoring glory to a three-time Super Bowl champion that fell to the NFL's worst record last year.

Kiffin, who took the job Monday, became the youngest head coach in

club history and the NFL's youngest in several decades. If the job of rebuilding a 2-14 club intimidates him, Kiffin didn't show it while sitting next to Davis in a sharp black suit.

"I'm extremely excited about this opportunity and where I see this place going," Kiffin said at the Raiders' training complex. "It's a historic franchise that has had greatness and has fallen on tough times, but we will bring it back to where it was before. We will do that through hard work. I'm prepared to roll up my sleeves and go to work."

Kiffin, the son of Tampa Bay defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin, has just one season of NFL experience as Jacksonville's defensive quality control coach in 2000. But the 78-year-old Davis wasn't afraid to hire a coach young enough to be his grandson.

In fact, Davis wanted another talented young offensive mind to lead the franchise where John Madden, Mike Shanahan and Jon Gruden excelled in their 30s. Shanahan and Gruden won Super Bowls with other teams after leaving the Raiders rancorously when their ideas clashed with Davis'

vision for the franchise.

"I think, '31 years old, wow, that's young,'" Davis said. "But you don't have to be old to be great. You have to be good. You have to want it. You have to have a desire, a passion for football."

The Raiders also will retain defensive coordinator Rob Ryan, who built an above-average defense last season despite the offense's woes. Kiffin, who left for the Senior Bowl after Tuesday's news conference, plans to hire an offensive coordinator soon.

And he has plenty of additional work ahead with the Raiders.

IN BRIEF

Minnesota fires Casey due to inconsistency

MINNEAPOLIS — The Timberwolves fired coach Dwane Casey on Tuesday, one day after Minnesota lost its fourth consecutive game and only 1 1/2 seasons since he took over.

Casey, in his first head coaching job, was unable to solve the Timberwolves' inconsistencies and push them back into the thick of the competitive Western Conference, prompting vice president of basketball operations Kevin McHale to make the move.

"We were at a point as a team where we were just treading water," McHale said. "The ups and downs, we just couldn't find any consistency."

The Timberwolves looked to be turning the corner at the start of the new year, when they opened 2007 with seven wins in their first eight games.

But they lost their next four games, including one to Phoenix without leading scorers Kevin Garnett and Ricky Davis.

Bears' Johnson cleared to play in Super Bowl

SKOKIE, Ill. — Chicago Bears defensive tackle Tank Johnson will play in the Super Bowl with court approval.

Cook County Judge John Moran granted a defense request Tuesday to allow Johnson to leave the state as he awaits trial on gun possession charges. The Bears will play the Indianapolis Colts in the Super Bowl in Miami on Feb. 4.

Johnson's attorney, Lorna Propes, said Johnson will have no special restrictions placed on him while in Miami.

"Terry Johnson is going to Miami to play football and represent the Bears," she said.

Johnson was arrested Dec. 14 after police raided his home in Gurnee, about 40 miles northwest of Chicago. Prosecutors say officers found six weapons and ammunition in Johnson's home. He faces 10 counts of possession of firearms without a state gun-owner identification card.

Roddick cruises to semifinal showdown with Federer

MELBOURNE, Australia — Andy Roddick was ruthless, treating his close friend like little more than warmup fodder for his semifinal showdown with Roger Federer.

The 2003 U.S. Open champion flattened Mardy Fish without blinking Tuesday, making only four unforced errors in a 6-2, 6-2, 6-2 quarterfinal win at the Australian Open.

"I played pretty flawless, I thought," Roddick said. "I feel good going into the semis."

Roddick said he could remember making more errors in one game than he had in the entire match against Fish, who lived with him in Boca Raton, Fla., for a while and went to his high school.

"I tried my best to kind of put our friendship to the back of my head," Roddick said. "You know, it's always difficult. It's a weird, weird situation."

NHL

Young duo's charm expected to boost buzz

Associated Press

DALLAS — Sitting side by side at a table, facing question after question about being the faces of the new NHL, Sidney Crosby and Alex Ovechkin flashed their grace and charm.

Asked about trying to bring the game to a wider audience, Ovechkin smiled, turned to Crosby and said, "Can you answer?" And the 19-year-old delivered smoothly, giving a thoughtful response that included the line, "We're going to do our best to make that possible."

Then came the subject of the league's MVP thus far. Ovechkin leaned right into the microphone and said, "Crosby!" Crosby laughed, started giving a politically correct answer about there being "too many guys right now," then broke into a smile and said, "I mean, the best answer would be Ovechkin right now, right?"

Pretty good, eh?

Well, they should be even more dazzling on the ice Wednesday night.

"Those guys," said 10-time All-Star Teemu Selanne, "could do a lot of damage."

The Gretzky and Lemieux of their generation (at least that's what the NHL is banking on) Crosby and Ovechkin will be teammates for the first time when they lead the East's best against the West's best in the league's first mid-season gathering since 2004 — or since the lockout that

left hockey even less of a factor for sports fans in the United States.

While the league spouts attendance figures that show popularity is zooming, the reality is the entire NHL is counting on this exciting young duo to get TV ratings up and to generate more buzz.

That's why they were the only two players selected to meet the media Monday in a group setting.

And it explains how Ovechkin, a 21-year-old Moscow native, got stuck trying to compare himself and Crosby to Larry Bird and Magic Johnson.

"I feel comfortable," Ovechkin said. "And I think Sidney feels comfortable, too. We concentrate on the game and don't think about our faces, the NHL or Magic Johnson or Larry Bird. We

concentrate on our game and our team."

Crosby plays for the Pittsburgh Penguins and leads the league with 72 points, five more than anyone else. That's a whopping amount considering the rest of the top-20 scorers are separated by one or two points.

In his bid to become the youngest MVP since Gretzky, Crosby already has become the youngest top-vote-getter for the All-Star game.

And he lives with Lemieux, who as the owner of the Penguins also is his boss.

"It's been very exciting for my family. My four kids really love him," Lemieux said. "They play hockey with him

all the time in the basement. They have a great time. He's a great kid, a great person, a great ambassador for our

league. I feel very fortunate to have a chance to watch him play."

Ovechkin, of the Washington Capitals, has 65 points and 29 goals, one off the league lead. He also beat out Crosby last season for rookie of the year honors.

Yet as great as they are separately, it's hard to talk about one without mentioning the other.

"It's fun to watch the highlights every night because you know there will be a lot from both of them," Ottawa's Dany Heatley said. Happily their

teammate this week, Heatley added, "It gives us a good chance."

During a light practice Monday night, Crosby (No. 87) and Ovechkin (No. 8) shared a few passes without showing off too much. On Tuesday afternoon, they worked with other All-Stars to build a Habitat for Humanity house, then were to log more ice time together during the skills contest; both were taking part in shootout events.

"We've seen each other casually at events like this, but we haven't spent a lot of time together," Crosby said. "We're on the same team, we're sitting next to each other in the (dressing) room, so I'm sure I'll talk to him a bit."

The better they are, the better for the NHL's long-term health.

"Those guys ... could do a lot of damage."

**Teemu Selanne
Ducks wing**

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Alma

continued from page 20

The last time these two teams met, Alma forward Ashley Matuzak paced her team with 27 points and a contest-high 12 rebounds. Saint Mary's won that game at home by a score of 72-60.

"Ashley Matuzak is a very good player. She creates problems for us defensively," Saint Mary's head coach Jennifer Henley said.

In order to neutralize Matuzak, Belles freshman center Anna Kamrath and sophomore forward Erin Newsom will need to play well.

Newsom has been steadily improving throughout the season and is averaging eight rebounds a game. Kamrath has become a dominant presence in the paint and is also pulling down an average of eight rebounds per contest.

"We are going to have to give more help on [Matuzak] when she attacks the basket and find her earlier in transition defense," Henley said.

Kamrath and Newsom have been keys to Saint Mary's recent success. After a rocky start the Belles have turned their season around.

"I think our early struggles were due to three factors: adjusting to a new coach, playing an incredibly tough non-conference schedule and our overall youth," Henley said.

The Belles roster of 15 players includes only three upper-classmen. These elders — most notably junior guard Alison Kessler — have been key contributors throughout the season. But the Belles have found success when their younger



KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

Belles guard Alison Kessler attempts a free throw last season against Alma. Saint Mary's faces the Scots tonight.

players came into their own.

Having other contributors has allowed the Belles to spread the ball around and alleviate the pressure that opposing defenses devoted to stopping Kessler and senior guard Bridget Lipke.

"[When] more people contribute to our offense, it really takes the pressure off Bridget and Alison," Henley said. "We are no longer a team that relies solely on our points coming from these two guards."

Henley said that she has

emphasized the importance of establishing an inside game.

"We have improved [our inside game] with the help of players like Anna and Erin," she said.

Alma has lost its last two games — against Olivet and Hope — by a total of 35 points, but its has not lost more than two consecutive games this year.

Contact Dan Cooper at dcooper1@nd.edu

Hughes

continued from page 20

juice in Chicago, especially in the Chicago Public League."

Frank said Brown's career path and style resonate with

coaches in the league, and that familiarity can trickle down to the top players as they decide what school to choose.

National Signing Day — when high school seniors can sign binding letters of intent with their chosen colleges — is Feb. 7, but three recruits have

already enrolled early for the spring semester at Notre Dame — Allen, quarterback Jimmy Clausen of Westlake Village, Calif., and cornerback Gary Gray from Columbia, S.C.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

Frosh

continued from page 20

has a lot of depth," Carroll said. "The points they are able to get definitely help us and they're only getting better."

While the freshmen may not always win their events, their ability to finish strongly and score third, fourth or fifth-place points are essential to Notre Dame's hope of capturing a Big East title next month.

"There are quite a few of them going to the Big East meet," Carroll said. "It's good

for them to get their feet wet and get experience."

At the prestigious U.S. Open meet — an event that featured Olympic quality competition — freshman Natalie Stitt finished 11th in the one-meter dive, while Tiffany Robak placed 16th. Megan Farrell and Ashlee Edgell placed 48th and 58th in the 200-meter individual medley. Numerous freshmen also hold top team times in their respective events, including Lexie Shue (500-meter freestyle), Farrell (200-meter fly), Stacey Nedrud (200-meter backstroke) and Stitt (one-meter dive). Right on their heels are other fresh-

man team members who hold the second-best times in their events, such as Edgell (200-meter backstroke), Vivian Healey (100-meter breaststroke), Zeina Shanata (200-meter fly) and Robak (one-meter dive).

Despite their accomplishments in the pool, Carroll, who won three events at the Michigan Invitational, said their biggest impact has come out of the water.

"They are a light-hearted and funny group," she said. "They don't take it too seriously, and they help lighten the mood."

Carroll said the freshman group's hunger and work ethic has also encouraged the rest of the team to maximize its potential.

"I train with Ashlee Edgell and Megan Farrell. They push me everyday. Their times are really good and are only going to get better," Carroll said. "It's so hard to single them out individually because all of them contribute in their own ways to the team."

The squad has two more events — the Shamrock Invitation at home Friday and Saturday and a dual meet at Louisville Feb. 3 — before the all-important Big East meet Feb. 14-17.

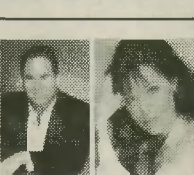
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Salieri - *Sinfonia in D*
Mozart - *Symphony No. 35*
Mozart - *Sinfonia Concertante*
Sponsored by: June H. Edwards
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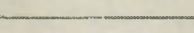
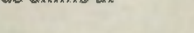
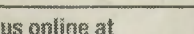
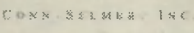
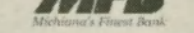
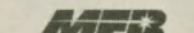
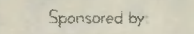
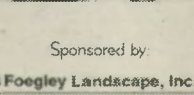
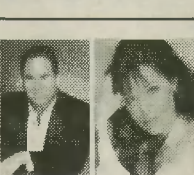


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EXPIRES:
February 14, 2007

Storm

continued from page 20

view. "It slowed them down and changed their rhythm."

So when Red Storm forward Anthony Mason Jr. dumped the ball inside to Hamilton with less than 20 seconds remaining and the score tied at 68, Irish forward Russell Carter cheated from his position outside of the paint to prevent Hamilton from getting an easy bucket.

Once Carter took a step inside, Hamilton spotted St. John's guard Larry Wright open beyond the three-point line between the corner and the wing. Hamilton kicked the ball out to Wright, who drained the shot before Carter could get back outside.

Wright's clutch shot gave the Red Storm a 71-68 lead with 9.9 seconds left.

"We gave ourselves a lot of chances to win the game," Brey said. "Wright made a big shot right there. We had our opportunities. We certainly had our opportunities."

Notre Dame guard Colin Falls had tied the game at 68 by hitting one of two free throws with 40.3 seconds left. The Irish (16-4, 4-3 Big East) had a chance to tie the game again after Wright's shot, but Carter's shot from well beyond the NBA three-point line missed, giving St. John's (12-8, 3-4) the win.

"I don't want us hanging our head too much here," Brey said. "You just don't have time for that in league play."

Despite missing the final shot, Carter led Notre Dame with a career-high 32 points and five rebounds, including an 11-0 personal run to begin the second half — in a game Brey wasn't even sure he'd play in.

Carter hit the floor hard twice going after rebounds in Notre Dame's win over South Florida Sunday.

"He was kind of questionable for this game. He didn't practice yesterday and was very sore this afternoon," Brey said. "I said tell me after warm-ups how you feel."

Carter was "great," Brey said. "He gave us a great start ... I thought he was fabulous."

Carter's early second-half spurt erased the Red Storm's 49-41 halftime lead. When Carter cooled off, however, the rest of the Irish could not pick up the slack. Notre Dame scored one bench point the entire game and, besides Carter's 10-for-20 performance, shot just 27 percent from the field. The Irish also

struggled from the free-throw line, shooting only 15-for-25 (60 percent).

Defensively, the Irish kept themselves in the game, limiting St. John's to just 30 percent shooting in the second half. Their inability to put the ball in the basket late, however, prevented them from taking a significant lead.

Falls finished with 16 points on 5-of-13 shooting, but converted only one of his six second half 3-point attempts.

Notre Dame forward Rob Kurz could not duplicate his 21-point, 10 rebound performance against the Bulls. Kurz ended up with seven points on 1-of-8 shooting Tuesday.

Hamilton finished with 23 for the Red Storm on 8-13 shooting and 12 rebounds, with all of his points coming in the first half. Wright finished

with 11 including the game-winner while St. John's guard Eugene Lawrence added 13.

The loss drops Notre Dame from second to sixth place in the Big East standings as it prepares to face Villanova Saturday at the Joyce Center. The Wildcats defeated Notre Dame 102-87 last Wednesday in Philadelphia.

"[Villanova's] very good and very hot right now," Brey said. "But they bumped us so I hope our guys remember that."

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

Eagles

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finish."

Notre Dame was unable to knock down shots when it needed to most, especially in the paint. As a team, the Irish shot only 35.5 percent from the floor, including 4-for-13 from beyond the arc. In the post, the Golden Eagles were able to outscore the Irish 36-26 as well as outrebound them 37-31.

"I thought we lost the game on the boards and in the post," McGraw said. "They scored on the inside — I think they got 36 points in the paint. Late in the game, they got like three or four offensive boards for put-backs. We just didn't do a good job boxing out."

Despite the outcome, the Irish were able to keep the game close with Marquette throughout the first half, even taking a 13-12 lead at 13:44. The Golden Eagles would soon recapture that lead, however, and would hold on to it the remainder of the match.

The Irish had one more chance at the lead after guard Melissa Lechlitner drove the lane for a layup and was fouled, making the score 42-41. Lechlitner missed the free throw for the old-fashioned

three-pointer and — even though forward Ashley Barlow grabbed the rebound — missed the go-ahead layup. After that, Marquette continued to pull farther away from the Irish, eventually wearing out an 11-point lead with 3:42 to play that would be good enough to ride to victory.

Another disappointment was the play of guard Charel Allen, who put up 17 points and eight rebounds in the loss. Although this would be a good line on most nights, Allen scored 56 points in two games last week, a feat that earned her Big East player of the week honors. But Allen finished the game against the Golden Eagles a meager 6-of-20 shooting, missing both of her 3-point tries.

Allen did not give up hope late in the game.

She continued to try and find her shot, and was integral in keeping the score reasonable by making crucial baskets in the second half.

"I was happy that [Charel] continued to shoot even though she was having an off night," McGraw said. "I was a little disappointed that nobody else could pick up the slack."

Defensively, the Irish were only able to contain Marquette's potent offense, not effectively shut it down. Golden Eagle guard Krystal Ellis — the team's leading scorer — scored below her

season average of 19.3 with only 12 points on 4-of-12 shooting.

"I thought as a whole the whole team did a good job in guarding [Ellis]," McGraw said. "I think that was one of the things we did pretty well. We did a pretty good job on her."

But forwards Christina Quaye and Efueko Osagie-Landry added 12 and 15 points, respectively, to help bolster the Golden Eagle offense.

Notre Dame's bench was also not the strong presence it has been in recent games. Against Marquette, the freshman trio of center Erica Williamson and guards Barlow and Lechlitner were effectively shut down, providing the Irish offense only 17 points off the bench.

"Our bench has been excellent this year and tonight they weren't," McGraw said. "Ashley Barlow gave us a lift early, but nobody really played well. We just didn't do anything well."

After the loss, McGraw said that there was not one single thing the Irish could do to improve after their performance against Marquette before a matchup with No. 5 Connecticut.

"You look at a game like that where you didn't do anything right, so you feel like you're stuck back at ground zero," she said. "But I just think everybody's got to come ready to play."

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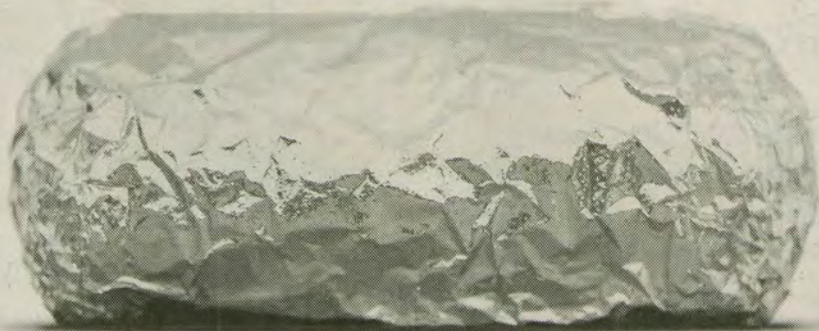
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FOOTBALL RECRUITING

Chicago running back Hughes commits to Weis, Irish

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Chicago running back Robert Hughes, a highly regarded 5-foot-11, 228-pound bruise from Hubbard High School, announced in a press conference Tuesday he will attend Notre Dame.

"I think he brings a very physical style of play to Notre Dame," said Mike Frank, who covers recruiting for Irisheyes.com, a member of the Scout.com recruiting network.

"The one thing you know you're going to get from Robert is you're going to get 100 percent of his effort."

Hughes chose Notre Dame over Illinois after an intense recruiting battle.

With the pickup, the Irish now have 19 recruits in this year's incoming class, including two running backs. Miami-area prospect Armando Allen verbally committed to Irish coach Charlie Weis at the beginning of December, and the addition of Hughes gives Notre Dame its second-straight recruiting class

with two premier tailbacks. In 2006, the Irish signed current freshmen James Aldridge and Munir Prince. Aldridge ran 37 times in seven games for a 3.8 yards-per-carry average. Prince saw action in 10 games but had only 15 attempts for 21 yards.

Allen is considered to be one of the fastest backs in this recruiting class. But in Hughes, Frank said, the Irish land a physical specimen with impressive size.

"It's all solid muscle," Frank said of Hughes' large frame. "He's a very cut, very strong

kid. I just think he's going to bring a real toughness to Notre Dame."

Hughes eclipsed 1,000 yards in his first three seasons at Hubbard, and his best performances came in his third season, in which he rushed for more than 1,900 yards.

"He brings a bigger back with some power, but he's also shifty," Frank said. "He's got the ability to cut right and left, which is not something all the bigger backs have."

Full stats from Hughes' senior season were unavailable.

Hughes, who is listed as running the 40-yard dash in 4.6 seconds, played in the Chicago Public League, the high school conference of new Irish defensive coordinator Corwin Brown. Brown was an all-state player at Julian High School in Chicago and was scheduled to meet with Hughes Monday, Frank said.

"Having Corwin Brown in Chicago is going to be a big thing," Frank said for long-term Irish recruiting in the area. "He's a guy who has a lot of

see HUGHES/page 17

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Red menace

ND falls to St. John's on three-pointer with 9.9 seconds left

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

After St. John's forward Lamont Hamilton scored 23 points in the first half, Notre Dame shut him down in the second by making a key defensive adjustment.

The adjustment, however, contained an Achilles heel that ultimately cost the Irish in their 71-68 defeat to the Red Storm Tuesday at Madison Square Garden in New York City.

Notre Dame switched from man-to-man defense to zone midway through the first half in an attempt to stop Hamilton from scoring by keeping more defenders near the basket.

"The zone gave us a chance," Notre Dame coach Mike Brey said in a post-game inter-



Irish guard Russell Carter looks to pass in Notre Dame's 71-68 loss to St. John's Tuesday. Carter scored 32 points in the game.

see STORM/page 18

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles head to Alma for MIAA tilt

By DAN COOPER
Sports Writer

After a big win over Adrian last Saturday, Saint Mary's travels to Michigan today to face the Alma Scots in an MIAA matchup with tournament implications.

The Belles — 5-4 in the MIAA and 6-10 overall — are currently in a three-way tie with Albion and Olivet for third in the conference. Alma is sixth in the conference at 3-5 and 7-8 overall on the season.

see ALMA/page 17

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Talented freshmen give squad depth, humor

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

No. 19 Notre Dame entered the final event of last week's Michigan Invitational — the 400-yard freestyle relay — with a slim 7.5-point lead over No. 10 Michigan for second place. Things looked up for the Wolverines when one of their teams touched the wall first and grabbed 40 points.

A few seconds later, however, the Irish broke any hopes

the Wolverines had of catching up. Four Irish relay teams managed to outscore the rest of Michigan's squad and preserve Notre Dame's finish over a higher-ranked opponent.

And while the Irish upperclassmen were important to the upset, senior captain Katie Carroll said the keys to the event were the six Notre Dame freshmen who contributed to the scoring.

"Overall the freshman class

see FROSH/page 17

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Marquette tops ND, 71-62

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

In a night where everything had to go right for the Irish, nothing did.

Notre Dame (13-6, 4-2 Big East) started its three-game road trip Tuesday with a loss to No. 19 Marquette (18-2, 5-1) 71-62 in Milwaukee.

"I don't think anything went right for us tonight," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said in a phone interview after the game. "It was just a bad game from start to

see EAGLES/page 18



Irish guard Melissa Lechlitner dives for a loose ball in Notre Dame's 71-62 loss to Marquette Tuesday.

NHL

The NHL hopes young All-Stars Sidney Crosby and Alex Ovechkin can be the new faces of the league.

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NFL

The Oakland Raiders name USC offensive coordinator Lane Kiffin as new head coach.

page 15

TENNIS

Andy Roddick advances to the finals of the Australian Open to face Roger Federer.

page 15

NCAA BASKETBALL

Villanova 82
Providence 73

Mike Nardi scores 19 in the Wildcats win over the Friars.

page 14

NCAA BASKETBALL

Auburn 81
Alabama 57

The Tigers beat their second ranked team in six days with the win over the Tide.

page 14

NCAA BASKETBALL

Illinois 51
Indiana 43

The No. 23 Hoosiers lose their first game after appearing in the Top 25 Monday.

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