THE OBSERVER

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STUDENT SENATE

Group passes Domer Dollars resolution

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Assistant News Editor

The Student Senate unanimously passed a resolution Wednesday that asked the University to review the Domer Dollar card swipe systems on campus.

The resolution — prepared by Residence Life chair Pat Knapp and Alumni Hall senator Danny Smith for his Campus Life Council (CLC) Student Concerns task force — identified occasional service interruptions in the card swiping system.

The resolution said students should have access to a service for which they have already paid. To avoid problems with the wording of the resolution, Knapp said he has already spoken with all the parties involved.

"We structured it in such a way that we communicated with the CLC and the administrators first and then went back and worked on the language on it and talked to pretty much everyone who would be effected — the stakeholders," Knapp said.

The resolution asked that the Department of Food Services work with the Office of Information Technologies and the Vending Software Company to allot resources to make the card swipe systems reliably accept Domer Dollars.

"We would like the administration to conduct a study or review, whatever you want to call it, to determine the best way to fix the system per [Vending Operations Manager] Dean Winter's and [Director of Food Services] David Prentkowski's recommendations and then implement those recommendations," Knapp said.

The resolution will be presented to the CLC for approval

see SENATE/page 4

PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

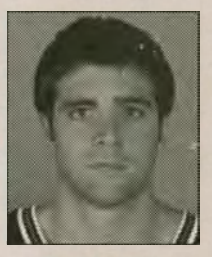
Chief executive assistant Liz Brown, left, listens as student body president Lizzi Shappell speaks at the Student Senate meeting.

Brey addresses decision

McAlarney suspension saddens hoops coach

By BOB GRIFFIN
News Writer

Two days after Notre Dame suspended sophomore basketball player Kyle McAlarney, the University had not released official information, although head coach Mike Brey commented on the situation after the team's 71-68 loss to St. John's Tuesday.



McAlarney

Brey — who spoke about his developing bond with McAlarney as the season progressed — said he was devastated when informed of the Office of Residence Life and Housing's decision to suspend the guard for the spring and summer semesters.

"I love Kyle McAlarney," Brey told the New York Post following Tuesday's game. "He's really like a son to me and I miss him. To say that wasn't a dagger to all of us would be an understatement."

McAlarney was arrested in the early morning hours of Dec. 29 on marijuana possession charges. Janice McAlarney, Kyle's mother, said Brey and Athletic Director Kevin White

see MCALARNEY/page 6

New passport laws affect spring breakers

Students returning from Mexico, Caribbean will need to travel with additional documentation

By ROHAN ANAND
News Writer

Starting on Tuesday, the United States Department of Homeland Security began requiring air travelers re-entering the United States departing from cities in Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean and Bermuda to carry a passport with them — changes that will affect Notre Dame students who intend to travel to the involved countries either for spring break or study abroad.

It is the first of a two-pronged phase initiated by the 9/11 commission, titled the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) — and will likely affect Spring Break travelers in March.

The second component of the WHTI, which takes effect on Jan. 1, 2008, will extend the passport requirements to include travelers entering the United States crossing land and sea borders.

"These new laws were implemented most likely because of increasing risks in air travel," said Kayleen Carr, leisure manager for Anthony Travel. "They were actually supposed to begin last year, but the airlines kept postponing the dates because of the potential effect they could have on tourism in Mexico and [the] Caribbean."

Because the National Passport Processing Center in New Orleans will most likely be receiving an influx in applications owing to the new laws, Mary Kowalksi, vice president of travel services at Anthony Travel, recommended that these stu-

see PASSPORTS/page 6

SMC gym improves security measures

By MANDI STIRONE
News Writer

Students trying to lose extra post-holiday weight or stay in shape this semester may be happy to hear Saint Mary's Angela Athletic Facility implemented new rules to guarantee their safety.

Under the new rules, students will have to show their school identification at the door to enter the facilities — an upgrade from previously nonexistent security measures.

Other changes include the addition of a second desk worker at the Angela's north door, which will be locked at 7 p.m. every night, Athletics Director Lynn Kachmarik said.

Students seemed optimistic about the new procedures.

"It makes more sense because anybody could walk in here," sophomore Kaela Hellmann said.

Senior Michelle Lonnee agreed, noting that the lack of security in the past has opened the gym doors to people who don't belong there.

"It's a good idea because a lot of random people come here to workout," she said.

Kachmarik also said she hoped to get a scanner system in the future that would

see SECURITY/page 3

Newspaper readership thrives

By MANDI STIRONE
News Writer

Newspaper readership programs implemented last year at Notre Dame and three years ago at Saint Mary's have proved successful — even gaining momentum over time — say student government representatives and students.

Through the College Readership Program, copies of national newspapers are made available for free on both campuses every weekday. Students, faculty and staff can peruse The New York Times, The Chicago Tribune, USA Today — and, at Saint Mary's, the South Bend Tribune as well.

Notre Dame student body

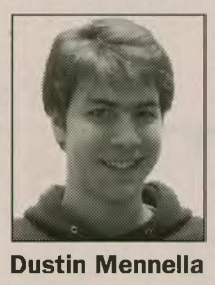
see NEWSPAPER/page 4

DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

Junior Tony Salpino takes advantage of the College Readership Program by reading a free copy of The New York Times at SDH.

Inside Column

The joy of rocks



Dustin Mennella

Photo Editor

Rocks are everywhere. There is no doubting that, nor do I think anyone would. However, like some friend who is always around eating your food, I think rocks are unappreciated. Think about it — if that friend was to leave, you may have more food, but something would still be missing.

Well, that metaphor may have fallen short, but the point remains. Rocks, or naturally occurring aggregates of minerals by definition, have played an important role in the history of the world up to this point. In fact, the Earth itself could be viewed as a large compilation of solid and molten rock (without which we would be as homeless as hobo Joe).

And hey, the Stone Age? Without rocks, what would cavemen have used to invent tools? But moving on, this isn't about the past — there are plenty of rocks around to appreciate today. You could be walking along the road and come across a felsic Rhyolite (an igneous type), or perhaps even a nice metamorphic Gneiss, who knows?

For as long as I can remember I have always enjoyed climbing, and I would climb anything really. Trees were major targets, but jungle gyms, cars and even houses as I got older were all summited in turn. As we grow older though, different things are expected of us, and alas my tree climbing days are now very few and far between.

However, I recently discovered the Rockne Memorial contains a rock climbing room — "climbing on rocks?" I thought. Sure, I don't see why not! I tried rock climbing out for size, and with it rediscovered my joy of climbing. I found the challenge of traversing an inclined face, or completing a certain climbing route entertaining, and also a good way to keep in shape.

But I digress, back to rocks. As of now I have only climbed in man-made gyms, but I hope to climb actual rocks in the future. Perhaps a nice sandstone wall or granite boulder would be nice, I'm not really sure what rock-types are good for climbing. By the way, did you know that from an engineering perspective, rocks larger than three inches in diameter are classified as boulders?

New Mexico. Just one word away from traditional Mexico, which is also the traditional Spring Break destination. However, for my Spring Break, I signed up for a geologic field trip into the Bandelier Mountains of New Mexico for some true rock appreciation. Carlsbad Caverns is also on the itinerary, where the nation's deepest limestone cave exists within a Permian-age fossilized reef. Needless to say, I am already excited.

Perhaps next year I should plan to study the black sand beaches and Basalt lava-flows of Hawaii for spring break ...

Contact Dustin Mennella at dmennell@nd.edu

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

Corrections

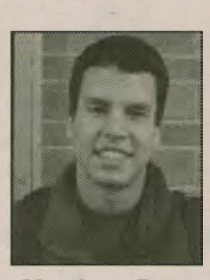
The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

Question of the Day: *How many times do you check Facebook each day?*

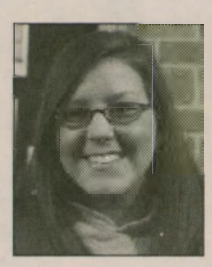
Jasmin Jones
junior
PW
"Annie checks Stalkbook for me."

John Linnemanstons
sophomore
Alumni
"I do it about three or four times."

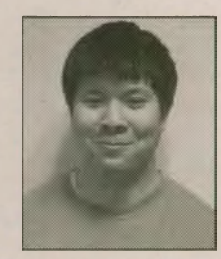
Keriann Hopkins
freshman
PE
"I don't know if I want to reveal that to The Observer."



Matthew Baca
sophomore
Fisher
"Everyone knows I never check Facebook."



Meggan Borchardt
sophomore
McGlinn
"Way too much."



Mychal Stanley
freshman
Alumni
"That's what she said."

QUENTIN STENGER/The Observer

George Peng Wang of Ohio State University delivers a lecture Wednesday in the Nieuwland Science Hall entitled "Glycopharmaceuticals: A spoon of sugar makes the medicine go down."

Offbeat

Scientists can't get sloth to move

JENA, Germany — Scientists in the eastern German city of Jena said Wednesday they have finally given up after three years of failed attempts to entice a sloth into budging as part of an experiment in animal movement.

The sloth, named Mats, was remanded to a zoo after consistently refusing to climb up and then back down a pole, as part of an experiment conducted by scientists at the University of Jena's Institute of Systematic Zoology and Evolutionary Biology.

Neither pounds of cucumbers nor plates of homemade spaghetti were appetizing enough to make Mats move.

"Mats obviously wanted absolutely nothing to do with furthering science," said Axel Burchardt, a university spokesman.

Wash. lawmaker says bars shouldn't ban dogs

OLYMPIA, Wash. — If dog-loving lawmakers prevail, Fido could soon be sidling up to bar stools around Washington state under a measure that would allow well-behaved, leashed canines to join their human companions as they down their favorite microbrews.

The measure was introduced by Sen. Ken Jacobsen, a Seattle Democrat who got the idea at the Fish Tale Brewpub, formerly known as the Fish Bowl, in downtown Olympia

"I was sitting at the Fish Bowl looking at all the dogs outside sitting in the cold and the rain, while all the owners were warm inside," said Jacobsen, who doesn't own a dog.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

In Brief

Kellogg institute visiting fellow **Cecilia Martinez-Gallardo** will give a lecture on **"The Use of Appointment Strategies in Presidentialism"** from **4:15 to 6 p.m. today** 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 **today 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.**

U.S. Comptroller General David Walker will speak **today** at **10:40 a.m.** about **"America in 2017: Making Tough Choices Today Can Help Save our Future,"** part of the Ten Years Hence lecture series. Walker will talk about projecting U.S. fiscal health in the **Jordan Auditorium** in the Mendoza College of Business.

Summer Shakespeare presents **"The Romeo and Juliet Story: In Concert" Friday** at **7:30 p.m.** in the **Decio Mainstage Theatre** in the Debartolo Performing Arts Center. The performance features two singers, three actors and a 30-piece orchestra onstage. Ticket prices range from $12 to $50.

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

Local Weather

	TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
HIGH	20	15	30	33	18	18
LOW	13	13	20	10	6	5

Atlanta 49 / 33 **Boston** 25 / 19 **Chicago** 25 / 14 **Denver** 49 / 20 **Houston** 55 / 40 **Los Angeles** 71 / 46 **Minneapolis** 24 / 09
New York 30 / 25 **Philadelphia** 34 / 24 **Phoenix** 67 / 44 **Seattle** 48 / 37 **St. Louis** 36 / 24 **Tampa** 63 / 47 **Washington** 38 / 28

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KRISTY KING/The Observer

Students work out at Saint Mary's Angela Athletic Facility. Recent security concerns prompted College officials to require identification from all those entering the gym.

Security

continued from page 1

require students to slide their school identification to gain access to Angela. Notre Dame currently employs a similar system.

"We are just working to make sure that those who come into our facility have the authority to do so, for liability reasons," she said.

"As our equipment has improved, many non-community members have found their way into Angela."

Lynn Kachmarik
Athletics Director
Saint Mary's

As our equipment has improved, many non-community members have found their way into Angela."

Erin Sullivan, the director of student workers in Angela, said the changes were directly related to safety concerns. With the old system, staff members were not able to determine whether people entering the gym belonged there.

The security upgrades were triggered by a recent incident where a man not affiliated with SMC interrupted a softball practice in Angela to play basketball with his children, according to security director Dave Gariepy.

When the Angela staff confronted the stranger he became "verbally abusive and belligerent," he said.

Security officials were called to the scene but the man and his children left Angela before they arrived.

Gariepy also said the man's name has been obtained and a "no trespass warning" has been sent to him.

Saint Mary's Security will also continue to work with the Angela staff to prevent any security breaches in the future.

Contact Mandi Stirone at astiro01@saintmarys.edu

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Newspaper

continued from page 1

president Lizzi Shappell said she considers the program a complete success, hearing nothing but positive feedback since its August start.

Notre Dame's fledgling program has a consumption rate of about 90 percent, she said.

In fact, it has been so popular while coming in under-budget that a sixth newspaper distribution center was added, making daily papers available in Hesburgh Library, South and North Dining Halls, LaFortune and a location for off-campus students in C lot.

Senior Chris Harris, coordinator of the Readership Program at Notre Dame, agreed with Shappell's analysis.

"I haven't heard one bad thing about it from anyone taking part in the program," Harris said.

He said he has received no complaints about the program from the student body, and noted that the 90 percent consumption rate is only an average.

He added that students have even been stepping up and recycling.

"I think the students realize they have a civic duty to recycle, and if they don't, USA Today takes recycled papers collected at the end of the day anyway," he said.

Saint Mary's is also seeing similar levels of success with its College Readership Program, which began during the 2003-04 school year. Unlike with Notre Dame's program, students must swipe their ID cards at boxes on campus to access the newspapers for free.

The Chicago Tribune was added to the mix — along with the locked boxes — at the beginning of this academic year, as the budget for the program was increased from $7,500 to $13,000 per year.

Saint Mary's student body president Susan McIlduff said 2005 was the first year the program was not limited to the spring semester; before then, it was about half the size of the current program.

Originally, there were only two distribution sites — the Student Center and LeMans Hall — but locations at the library and Madeleva were added this year, she said.

"When Kellye Mitros and I were elected as student body president and vice president [for 2005-06], we decided to offer the program for the entire academic year," McIlduff said.

During the past year, McIlduff and current student body vice president Maggie Siefert worked to add The Chicago Tribune to the program to cater to the many students from the Chicago area.

McIlduff said she thinks the "students benefit greatly from the papers."

"They're always gone by mid-day," she said. "Also, I have noticed that more professors are assigning current event journals relating to the course's subject matter."

Students at both schools generally seem to approve of the program.

Notre Dame senior Walter Machnicki said he particularly likes The New York Times — that program's most popular publication.

"I like that they have The New York Times instead of just grabbing The Chicago Tribune for my non-Observer news," he said.

Likewise, Saint Mary's sophomore Beth Alexander also enjoys the opportunity to read a national newspaper.

"A lot of us are so busy that we don't have time to watch the news on TV with the newspapers we can read at leisure," Alexander said.

Contact Mandi Stirone at astiro01@saintmarys.edu

Senate

continued from page 1

Feb. 5.

Since the resolution was passed with little debate, most of the meeting was spent on committee reports and Senate administrative business.

Student body president Lizzi Shappell, vice president Bill Andrichik and chief executive assistant Liz Brown said they are preparing their report to the Board of Trustees next Thursday. The report will focus on four main areas — the upcoming community summit, the eating disorders conference, alumni-student relations initiatives and follow-up on the status of the College Readership Program, Shappell said.

Siegfried senator Jim Lockwood asked Shappell whether the program could provide more New York Times papers and fewer editions of The Chicago Tribune and USA Today. Lockwood also asked about the possibility of adding The South Bend Tribune to the program. Shappell said she would consider these suggestions.

"We wanted to do a full year of the College Readership Program as it is and then we will reevaluate it," she said.

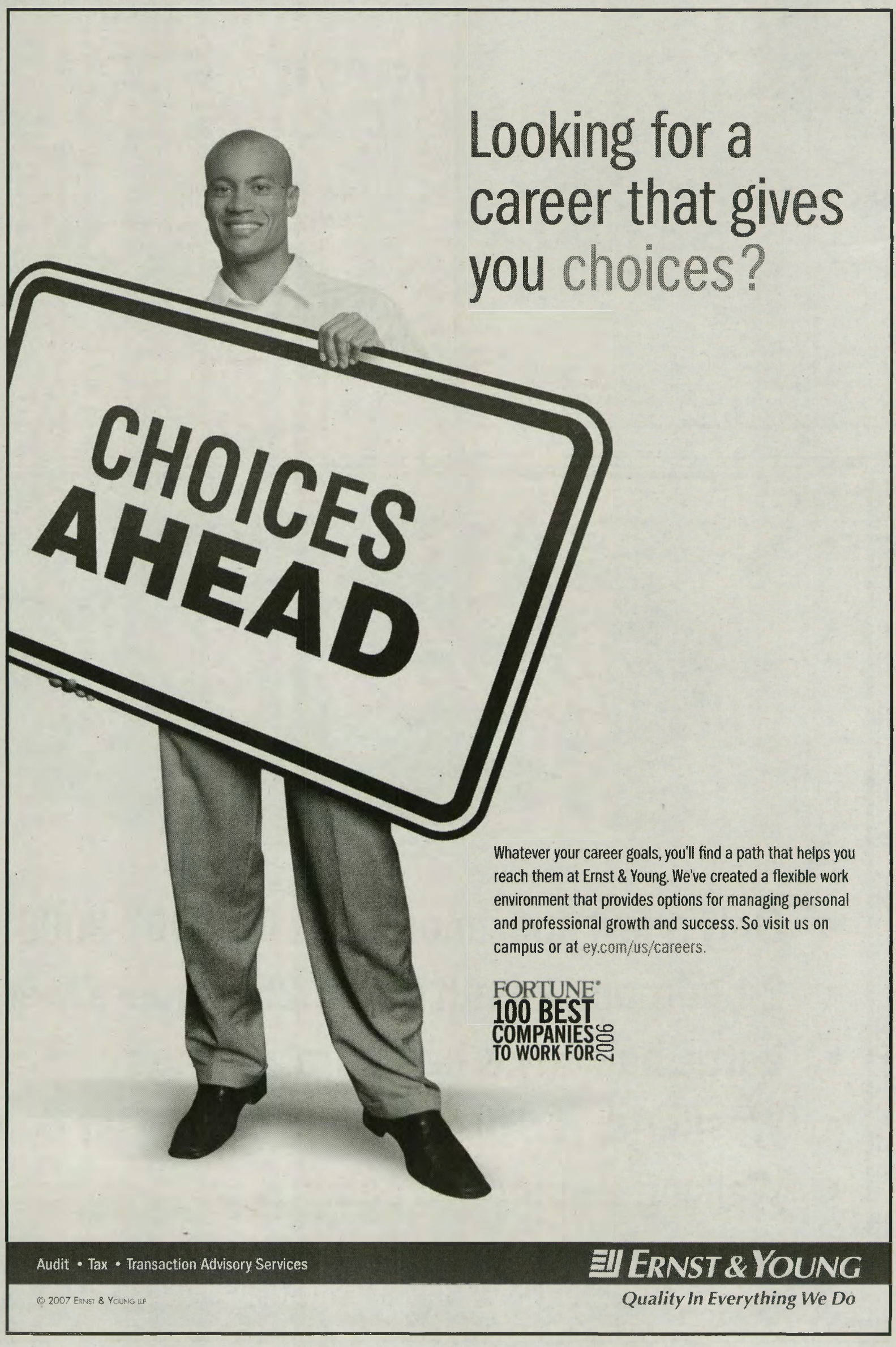
Gender Issues chair Ashley Weiss said right now it's "crunch time" for her committee's work on the eating disorders conference that will take place Feb. 8-10. Her committee is now working on advertising and finalizing the paperwork for the event, she said.

Andrichik asked the senators to remind people that, although the conference is free for Notre Dame students, they should still register on the Center for Continuing Education's Web site.

Minority Affairs committee chair Destinee DeLemos said she is working with the College of Arts and Letters to explore the creation of a Native American studies minor.

Since Dillon Hall senator Tyler Langdon left this semester to study abroad, the CLC lost one of its Senate liaisons. Lockwood was elected as the new liaison and Pasquerilla East senator Emily Cooperstein was selected as the alternate.

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Israeli president faces rape charge

JERUSALEM — Israeli President Moshe Katsav, facing charges of rape and abuse of power, asked parliament Wednesday to temporarily remove him from office in an effort to blunt growing calls for his resignation, including one from the prime minister.

At a stormy, emotional news conference at his official residence, Katsav blamed Israeli media for his plight, using terms like "witch hunt," "McCarthyism" and "persecution." He shouted at a local TV reporter, pounding on the podium and gesturing angrily during a rambling diatribe that lasted nearly an hour.

The president has been under intense pressure to quit since Attorney-General Meni Mazuz notified him Tuesday that he planned to indict him after a monthslong investigation into allegations by four women who worked for him. The charges include rape, abuse of power and sexual assault.

Italy uncovers human trafficking

ROME — More than 2,000 people throughout Italy — most of them foreign — are accused of human trafficking following an investigation that uncovered minors and adults forced into prostitution and working in sweatshops, police said Wednesday.

The four-month investigation uncovered hundreds of trafficking rings, some of them as small as three or four people, said Chief Superintendent Chiara Giacomantonio.

"There were no surprises. Unfortunately it's all well known," Giacomantonio said. "It's Albanians exploiting Romanian women, Chinese exploiting Chinese, Africa on Africa.

Most of the people running the operations and their victims came from countries in Eastern Europe, including Moldavia, Albania and Romania, as well as countries in Asia.

NATIONAL NEWS

Kerry removes name from candidacy

WASHINGTON — Democratic Sen. John Kerry, who fell 118,601 Ohio votes short of the White House in 2004, said Wednesday he will not run for president in 2008.

"We came close ... certainly close enough to be tempted to try again," the Massachusetts senator said, recalling his defeat.

"There are powerful reasons to want to continue that fight now. But I have concluded this isn't the time for me to mount a presidential campaign."

His decision leaves a field of nine Democrats running or signaling their intention to do so, including Sens. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York and Barack Obama of Illinois, and John Edwards, Kerry's 2004 vice presidential running mate.

Flu infects cruise ship passengers

SAN FRANCISCO — A highly contagious form of stomach flu sickened hundreds of passengers during a worldwide voyage on the famed Queen Elizabeth 2 cruise ship in what health officials called an unusually large outbreak.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported 276 passengers and 28 crew members had come down with norovirus by the time the ship docked Wednesday in San Francisco for a regularly scheduled stop, though only four passengers remained sick.

LOCAL NEWS

Indiana hostages found unharmed

ELKHART — Kimberly Walker's ex-boyfriend had been convicted before in an attack on her, so when the woman called during the three days he allegedly held her and their four children hostage, her family knew by a code word that she wasn't all right.

The ex-boyfriend, 30-year-old Jerry White, is accused of bursting into Walker's home Saturday, shooting one man and kidnapping Walker and the children, ages 16 months to 9 years old. On Tuesday, police found the family safe at a motel near Walker's home and arrested White.

Pentagon criticizes Bush's plan

Sending more troops to Iraq may hinder quick response to crisis at home

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush's troop buildup in Iraq and the demands of the four-year-old war are causing concern at the Pentagon that the conflict could hamper the military's response to domestic crises.

The head of the National Guard said Wednesday his troops lack the necessary equipment and that will hurt their ability to respond to natural or manmade disasters at home.

"I am not as comfortable as some others seem to be in accepting the low readiness levels here at home," Lt. Gen. Steven Blum said. "It creates a problem. It will cost us time and time will translate into lives."

Adm. Timothy Keating, commander of U.S. Northern Command, also said there may be "specific equipment shortfalls that, in the longer term, could have an impact on our ability to respond."

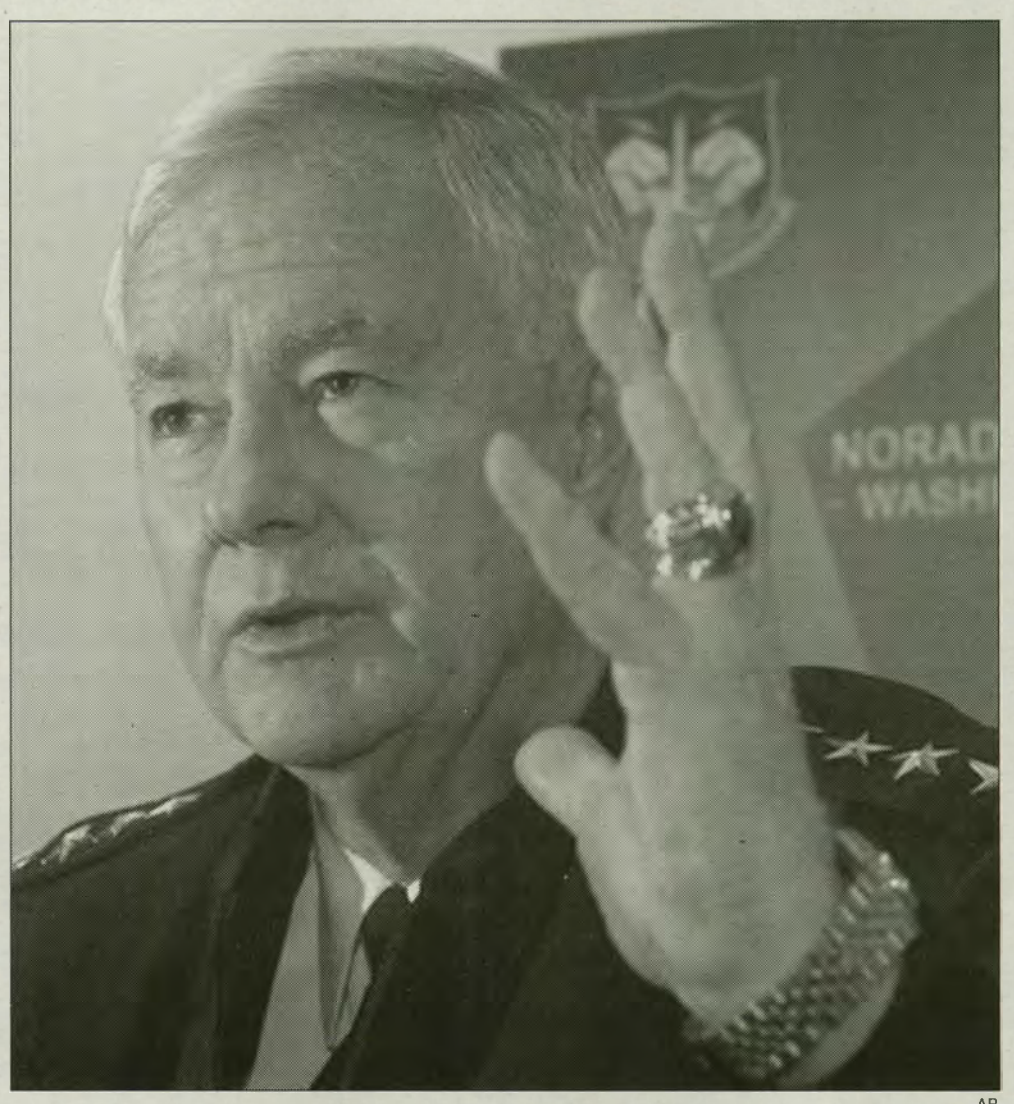
Keating also said that right now, "the analysis we've done does not indicate any significant degradation in our ability to respond" to a crisis at home.

Their comments came as opposition grew in Congress to President Bush's plan to send more than 21,000 additional troops to Iraq in the coming months.

The military leaders, in interviews with The Associated Press, echoed warnings from other military commanders about the buildup's potential effect on the readiness levels of forces at home.

Some at the Pentagon believe the training and equipment shortfalls affect homeland defense. Yet others believe the military is big enough and strong enough to respond to any crisis — but that response would not be as neat or as quick as it should be.

Gen. Peter Schoomaker, the Army chief of staff, and Gen. James Conway, commandant of the Marine Corps, told the House Armed Services Committee that the buildup is putting more pressure on the military, and that the response to a crisis elsewhere probably would be slower and more risky.



AP

Adm. Timothy Keating, of the North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command, answers questions during an interview at the Pentagon.

Schoomaker said Army units moving into Iraq are fully trained, staffed and equipped. But, he said, "I have continued concerns about the nondeployed forces," as well as the "strategic depth of our Army and its readiness."

Army officials also say it will be a struggle to get all the equipment they need for the buildup. Some troops, they said, may not have all their equipment as they train for the mission, but would have it as they cross into Iraq from Kuwait.

Equipment and training are main concerns for the troops at home, particularly for National Guard units that have scrambled to get equipment. Units have resorted to swapping equipment among the states to ensure that trucks, helicopters and communications equipment are where they are needed most.

Noting the Guard was short on equipment before the war began, Andrew Feickert, national defense specialist with the Congressional Research Service, said deployed units then had to leave much equipment in Iraq.

"Units that have returned are trying to replace and repair their equipment," Feickert said.

"With this new situation, they might be called upon to come up with even more equipment to bring deploying units up to strength."

Keating said concerns focus more on whether the military has the training and equipment to respond to multiple situations at one time.

The military, he said, needs more training and equipment for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear attacks, including chemical suits, medical equipment and treatment facilities.

IRAQ

U.S., Iraqi troops clash with Sunnis

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — U.S. and Iraqi troops battled Sunni insurgents hiding in high-rise buildings on Haifa Street in the heart of Baghdad Wednesday, with snipers on roofs taking aim at gunmen in open windows as Apache attack helicopters hovered overhead.

Iraq said 30 militants were killed and 27 captured.

New details also emerged about the downing of a private U.S. security company helicopter on Tuesday, with U.S. and Iraqi officials saying four of five Americans who died in the incident were shot execution-style. Violence was unrelenting in Iraq on Wednesday, with at least 69 people killed or found dead, including 33 tortured bodies found in separate locations in Baghdad.

With President Bush pushing a controversial plan to increase troops strength in Iraq, government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said the latest joint raid was aimed at clearing the Haifa Street area of "terrorists and outlaws" targeting residents. He promised such operations would continue as U.S. and Iraqi troops prepare for a broader security crackdown to stanch the sectarian bloodletting that has turned Baghdad into a battlefield.

At 5 a.m. Wednesday, Iraqi army and American troops moved into the Sunni stronghold to launch targeted raids in a third bid this month to clear the neighborhood of militants. Armored vehicles massed along Haifa Street, where a median with trees separates four lanes of traffic lined by tall apartment houses built by Saddam Hussein for loyalists and dissidents from other Arab countries, mainly Syria.

The U.S.-Iraqi force faced fierce resistance from insurgents using hand-grenades, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms from the high-rises, the American military said. The explosions were so loud they could be heard across the capital.

Passports

continued from page 1

dents act soon to insure they receive their documents on time.

"We have been seeing more people coming in and asking about new passport applications," Kowalski said. "It used to take four to six weeks to process a passport; now, it will probably take up to eight weeks."

Sophomore Nicole Bernal, who's traveling to Baja, Calif. for Spring Break, wasted no time in submitting her documents.

"I noticed my passport had expired before Christmas, and because I'm also traveling to Rome for the architecture program junior year, people told me I should get my passport renewed fast," she said. "I sent off everything a week before Christmas break, and it took almost six weeks before I got it back."

The experts at Anthony Travel recommend that even students who are going on cruises or driving across borders should still pay attention to the laws and insure that they have a renewed passport to carry with them in case of an emergency.

"We're planning a lot of student spring break travel, including a cruise to Mexico, Belize and the Bahamas," Carr said. "Though the cruise doesn't require a passport, if there is an emergency and somebody people had to fly home, they won't be able to re-enter easily without one."

According to the U.S. Department of State, students who most recently renewed their passports at the age of 15 and below are only covered for five years before expiration, and will have to reapply for a new one for a fee of $97. However, students who last renewed their passports after the age of 16 only have to renew their passports each decade for a fee of $67.

Moreover, if somebody needs to expedite their passport renewal with a guarantee to receive it back after processing within three weeks, it will cost them an extra $60, plus roughly $30 to send it via express mail.

Fortunately, the Notre Dame post office is now accepting passport applications and is equipped with all the necessary resources to help students with international travel, so they don't have to go to the trouble of visiting the passport agency downtown.

"We are an authorized passport acceptance agency, and we check to make sure that all of the paperwork is correct before forwarding them to the National Passport Processing Center," said Ellen Bystrom, postmaster at the Notre Dame Post Office. "We also can take photos on site, and we recommend students make appointments between classes, but we also accept walk-ins."

The Notre Dame Postal Office charges a $30 processing fee, and an extra $15 for photos. Customers seeking passport photos may not wear hats or headgear obscuring the hairline, nor dark or nonprescription glasses with tinted lenses.

Additionally, students will have to bring along with their application proof of citizenship, either using a previous passport or a certified copy of their birth certificate, a government issued photo ID such as a driver's license or military ID and two checks or money orders — one to send to the Department of State and one for postal fees.

"It was fairly busy back in December, even though it's only a fifteen-minute procedure," Bernal said. "I'm relieved that I got it sooner, so I suggest that students get an appointment soon. They ask numerous questions including citizenship, place of birth, where you are going and why you are traveling there."

Anthony Travel projects that over 75 percent of its Notre Dame customers have valid passports for travel, but should always be aware of changes to the border patrol regulations and have contingency plans in case something goes awry during their journeys.

"It's always best to check with your travel professional," Kowalski said, "and that's why we're here for the Notre Dame community."

Contact Rohan Anand at ranand@nd.edu

McAlarney

continued from page 1

were "shocked" by the University's decision, which she said came after her son's meeting Monday with Residence Life and Housing officials.

Senior Associate Athletics Director John Heisler and Notre Dame sports information director Bernie Cafarelli both declined to comment Tuesday. Cafarelli said Brey could not comment either.

Associate Vice President for News and Information Don Wycliff and Residence Life and Housing Associate Director Lori Maurer also said Tuesday they could not comment on individual disciplinary cases.

McAlarney's arrest happened close to campus, hours after the sophomore scored a career-high 21 points in a Notre Dame victory over Rider.

He entered the St. Joseph's County pre-trial diversion program, a system that gives subjects the opportunity to have charges expunged from their records, on Jan. 18.

McAlarney was averaging 10.3 points and 5.4 assists per game prior to his suspension.

The Observer could not reach McAlarney for comment Wednesday.

Contact Bob Griffin at rgriffi3@nd.edu

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones	12,621.77	+87.97

Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:
2,273	142	1,007	2,783,313,800

AMEX	2,088.94	+2.14
NASDAQ	2,466.28	+34.87
NYSE	9,268.49	+68.76
S&P 500	1,440.13	+34.87
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	17,549.03	+41.63
FTSE 100(London)	6,314.80	+87.20

COMPANY	%CHANGE	$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100 TR (QQQQ)	+1.65	+0.72	44.306.15
SUN MICROSYS (SUNW)	+8.66	+0.49	20.89
INTEL CP (INTC)	+1.41	+0.29	26.04
CISCO SYS INC (CSCO)	+3.26	+0.85	26.89

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	+0.12	+0.006	4.810
13-WEEK BILL	-0.30	-0.015	4.990
30-YEAR BOND	+0.27	+0.013	4.910
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.13	+0.006	4.806

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE ($/bbl.)	+0.33	55.37
GOLD ($/Troy oz.)	+2.30	648.20
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+2.88	+2.88

Exchange Rates

YEN	120.2200
EURO	0.7716
POUND	0.5085
CANADIAN $	1.1778

IN BRIEF

McDonald's quarterly profit doubles

CHICAGO — McDonald's Corp., the world's largest fast-food chain, said Wednesday that its fourth-quarter profit more than doubled, thanks in large part to the spinoff of a burrito chain and strong sales in Europe.

The earnings were in line with preliminary results released last week but the stock slipped after some analysts said operating profits were below their expectations.

The restaurant company earned $1.2 billion, or $1 a share, in the quarter ending Dec. 31. That was up from $608.5 million, or 48 cents a share, during the same period last year.

McDonald's revenue climbed 11 percent to $5.6 billion, from $5.01 billion during the year-ago period.

Even without the gain from the spinoff of its Chipotle chain, McDonald's said income from continuing operations climbed to $761.2 million, a 26 percent increase from $604.8 million last year.

Home Depot CEO earns small salary

ATLANTA — The Home Depot Inc. is paying new Chief Executive Frank Blake a fraction of what it paid his predecessor, Bob Nardelli, and has taken the unusual step of promising Blake no severance package if he leaves.

But executive compensation experts don't expect the decision announced Wednesday by the world's largest home improvement store chain to set a trend in corporate America, despite the ire that hefty salaries have drawn among investors.

"I wish it were a trend," said Lowell Peterson, a New York labor attorney who is familiar with executive compensation issues. "I suspect it's unique to Home Depot because the pay and severance package given to Nardelli was so out of line."

Atlanta-based Home Depot said in a regulatory filing that Blake could earn as much as $8.9 million in total compensation this year.

That's a fraction of the $25.7 million a year on average that Nardelli was earning at Home Depot excluding stock options.

Congress halts minimum wage bill

Lawmakers cite tax break attachment as reasons for delay in Washington

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The minimum wage increase that was supposed to zip through Congress veered onto a collision course Wednesday as lawmakers argued over business tax breaks that would be attached to ensure Republican support.

Democratic leaders in the House began laying groundwork to blame the Republicans for any impasse. Senate Democrats, however, cautioned their House colleagues not to jeopardize legislation they'd promised to approve if they gained control of Congress.

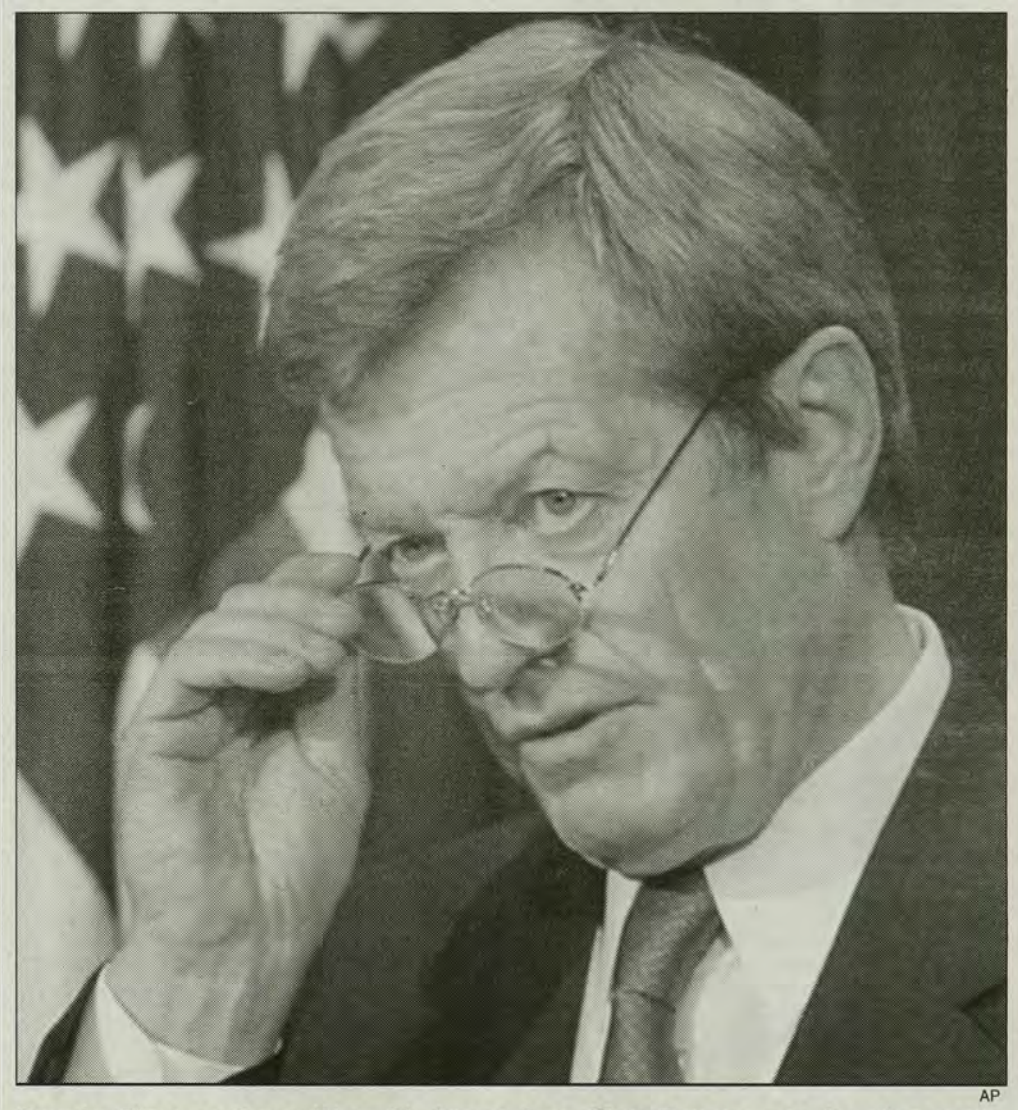
House Democrats demanded a clean bill from the Senate — no tax attachment — setting up a confrontation that could delay final congressional passage of the $2.10 an hour increase.

The Senate did vote 54-43 to advance a House-passed measure that would lift the pay floor without any accompanying tax cut. However, that was well short of the 60 votes needed to keep that version moving.

The vote was a signal to the House that without the tax breaks a minimum wage bill appeared doomed in the Senate. And the Senate promptly moved to a broader bill, backed by its Democratic leaders, that would raise the minimum wage to $7.25 an hour over 26 months and provide $8.3 billion in tax benefits to businesses over 10 years.

In the House, Democrats threatened to stifle that effort by enforcing constitutional precedents that require all tax bills to originate in the House. They blamed Republicans for the brewing impasse.

"Democrats are committed to helping small businesses, but we should not delay a minimum wage increase another day in order to negotiate a tax package," said Brendan Daly, a spokesman for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.



AP

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Sen. Max Baucus speaks at a news conference at Capitol Hill regarding the minimum wage situation Wednesday.

Senate Democrats seemed more willing to accept the tax portion if it meant fulfilling their campaign promise.

"Both bodies want to keep their eye on the ball," said Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., a co-sponsor of the Senate tax break provisions.

House Democrats could try to alter or even remove the tax package from the Senate version when the two houses try to reconcile their differing versions in a conference committee.

In the meantime, the confrontation exposed difficulties the Democratic majority may well encounter when sending other House legislation to the Senate, where the minority Republicans enjoy more power to shape legislation than in the House.

Still, in a separate vote Wednesday, the Senate effectively killed a modified line-item veto bill. The Republican-inspired measure would have permitted a president to pluck individual items out of spending bills and submit them to Congress for a vote.

Senators also defeated a Republican amendment that would have given only the states the right to increase the minimum wage.

The federal minimum wage has been unchanged for 10 years. In the meantime, a number of states have moved on their own to increase their minimums.

According to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, a liberal leaning think tank, inflation has eroded the value of the minimum wage to its lowest level in more than 50 years.

"Minimum wage workers are men and women of dignity," Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., a longtime advocate of raising the wage floor, said. "They do some of the most difficult, back-breaking jobs in our society. They deserve a fair wage that respects the dignity of their work and they shouldn't have to live in poverty."

Since the House passed its version two weeks ago, Speaker Pelosi, D-Calif., and Rep. Charles Rangel, the chairman of the taxwriting Ways and Means Committee, have prodded the Senate to keep tax proposals out of the bill.

Tech sectors help boost Wall Street

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street bounded higher Wednesday, lifting the Nasdaq composite index well over 1 percent after profit reports from Yahoo Inc. and Sun Microsystems Inc. restored investors' confidence in the tech sector. The Dow Jones industrials logged fresh trading and closing highs.

Tech stocks have borne most of Wall Street's concern about the health of corporate earnings in recent weeks. Restive investors, taking their cues from a flurry of profit reports, have been at turns pleased and concerned about the prospects that profit growth will help drive stocks higher following a sharp run-up in 2006.

There was little overall movement in the energy and health sectors in response to President Bush's State of the Union address, during which he called for expanded health insurance coverage and a 20 percent reduction the country's consumption of gasoline over the next 10 years. Some alternative-energy companies pulled back after rising sharply before the speech.

In an essentially all-earnings day, investors were left without new economic data to help provide some clues about the direction of interest rates.

"I think investors were waiting with the techs for the earnings to come out," said Neil Massa, equity trader at John Hancock Funds. "Investors were in the show-me mode. They had to be shown good numbers because they didn't want to take anything for granted because they had been laggard for a while."

The tech-laden Nasdaq composite index jumped 34.87, or 1.43 percent, to 2,466.28. The gain marked the Nasdaq's biggest one-day increase since early December.

The Dow rose 87.97, or 0.70 percent, to 12,621.77 after rising 56.64 on Tuesday. The Dow surpassed a record close of 12,582.59 set Jan. 16; it was the Dow's 26th record close since the blue chip average began its surge higher at the start of October. The Dow also reached a record intraday high of 12,623.45, topping a trading high of 12,614.00 reached a week earlier.

THE OBSERVER

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

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Save it for the toilet

Liz Coffey

The Coffey Grind

Toilet paper is an immensely valuable creation, without which we'd be relegated to using newsprint, our left hand, or perhaps even discarded sheep's wool (like those in the Viking age of England did) to unsoil ourselves in the lavatory.

While toilet paper is typically used to clean messes, any high school kid could tell you that it can also be used to make messes — messes of hate, that is.

After all, the juniors hate the seniors. The soccer players hate the football players. The cheerleaders hate the pom-pom squad.

And how do they manifest this hate? By thrusting roll after roll of Charmin onto their enemy's trees.

The ensuing mess often enrages lawn maintenance-freak fathers and sometimes even prompts principals to hold school-wide assemblies in which they threaten to disband the football team if the "toilet paper vigilantes" persist.

But toilet paper isn't the only good thing in America that can be used in a bad way. The list even extends beyond eggs, shaving cream or any other of the array of household items that teenage angst teaches high-schoolers to abuse.

In fact, what perhaps tops the should-be-a-good-thing-but-can-cause-trouble list is not actually a thing at all. Yet it leads to hate and fuels a desire in some not only to damage property, but to damage lives.

What is it, you ask? Believe it or not — American Pride.

American Pride can be beautiful — when we resound in chords of "God Bless America," when we fly American flags from our front porches and when we plop ourselves on lawn chairs on a muggy July night, waiting for the pop of the Independence Day fireworks.

But other Americans take this Pride too far. They plop themselves on lawn chairs in the stifling Arizona desert, day after day waiting for wanna-be immigrants to cross the American border. These Americans might see fireworks too — fireworks made by the shotguns some choose to carry.

Many of these "border vigilantes" profess to be part of a group that describes itself as "a citizens' Neighborhood Watch on our border." They call themselves "The Minuteman Project."

The Minutemen? Most Americans know about the original Minutemen — that rag-tag bunch of Revolutionary War-era New Englanders who pledged to be ready to toil with the Redcoats at a mere "moment's notice." History has everafter heralded them as heroes.

But the modern-day Minutemen? Heroes? Hardly.

"We are a nation of immigrants." President George W. Bush spoke these words over and over again in the spring of 2006. But do most of today's pride-filled Americans even understand what that means?

It seems as though the only American history many know of is that of the white Lexington and Concord Minutemen, who thrust America into a War of Independence, after which the nation expanded tenfold as a result of a so-called "God-ordained" Manifest Destiny. This led prideful Americans to believe they had the right to enslave the blacks and exterminate the Native Americans as they marched across the continent.

But in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many of our white ancestors were not marching across a continent; instead, they were sailing across an ocean. They didn't enter America at Roanoke, Jamestown, Plymouth Rock or any of the other historically romanticized "ports of entry." Instead, they landed in America cramped and crowded at Ellis Island.

And they were hated. The Protestants hated the Catholics. The Germans hated the Irish. And everyone hated the Italians.

And how did they manifest this hate? By killing one another — sometimes even with hatchets.

But by and large, we don't see riot-rousing hate between these groups anymore. Americans of varying degrees of whiteness co-exist in the same neighborhoods and even marry one another without thinking twice about it.

While sneaking across the American border is certainly illegal (as is toilet-papering trees, I might add), that doesn't mean that you, as an ordinary pride-filled American, should sit at the border with a shotgun. True, the immigration debate is a complex issue, but need we further soil the debate by turning it into another mess of hate?

After all, being a modern-day Minuteman doesn't make you a hero; instead, it makes you like one of those pathetic people who remain frozen in the high school world long after graduation.

Toliet paper shouldn't make a mess. And American pride shouldn't make you a bigot.

Liz Coffey is a senior American Studies major and Journalism, Ethics and Democracy minor. Her column appears every other Thursday. She can be reached at ecoffey@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON

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

"Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn."

Robert Burns
author

Seeking solidarity

Richard V. Warner, CSC
FaithPoint

The first weeks of the beginning of the second semester are always marked by three special dates and occasions, all of which point toward different aspects of unity and solidarity.

The first celebration is when the Catholic Church celebrates a World Day of Peace. The Catholic understanding of peace is that it is both a gift from God but a human work as well. And as each new year begins, at least recently, more wars are raging, more innocent victims are dying every day, many of the members of our armed forces are in harm's way and continuous streams of refugees and suffering people could fill the headlines every day if such tragedies had not become so commonplace among us. I am always encouraged to see student organizations who take up the causes of peoples who suffer as a result of wars and struggles. And as the years have passed, the work of the Kroc Institute has become very significant and made its mark as one of the outstanding academic programs and institutes in the United States. Every Friday, the 5:15 p.m. Mass is celebrated in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart to pray for peace. In the face of such human suffering, it may seem fruitless to spend 30 minutes in prayer. But in the face of such human suffering and injustice, we do let our prayers and voices rise for our brothers and sisters and ask the Lord to continue to raise up among us people who will pursue peace with justice for all God's people.

The second celebration in January is the national holiday honoring the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. On our own campus, University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh is always interviewed when this day is celebrated because of the contributions he made as chairman of the Civil Rights Commission when the landmark law which King promoted and died for ended years of segregation and racial intolerance, creating a solid legal basis on which to begin what remains a long and difficult struggle in our country and other countries around the world. One of the members of our staff, Chandra Johnson, is one of the outstanding campus ministers in our country with innovative and significant programs which enable us to participate in the important work of cross-cultural ministry.

Finally, the Catholic Church celebrates the Octave of Church Unity during the third week in January. The prayer of Jesus is that all Christians may one day be united, and significant work in ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue has taken place for the past four years since the closing of the Second Vatican Council. The preface for the Masses during the Octave state beautifully what we pray for and seek during these days. "Through Christ you bring us to the knowledge of your truth, that we may be united by one faith and one Baptism to be His body. Through Christ you have given the Holy Spirit to all peoples. How wonderful are the works of the Spirit revealed in so many gifts! Yet how marvelous is the unity the Spirit creates from their diversity, as He dwells in the hearts of your children filling the whole Church with His presence and guiding it with His wisdom!" While significant work in ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue takes place through members of our Department of Theology and in the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem, another member of our staff, Priscilla Wong, offers Prayer From Around the World in different Christian, Muslim, Hindu and Jewish traditions.

It is important for us to promote solidarity in all of these for us and others as well. As we begin a new year, it is also important for us to be reminded of these three elements of human solidarity.

This week's FaithPoint is written by Father Richard Warner, director of Campus Ministry. He can be reached at rwarner@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

McAlarney suspension justified

In the article regarding Kyle McAlarney's suspension for two semesters (Jan. 24, 'University suspends McAlarney'), I find the statements by his mother to be a bit disturbing. All Notre Dame students — athlete or not — are given a thorough description of du Lac. Each student is given an orientation of du Lac and knows what the rules at Our Lady's University are and what is expected of each individual. You may argue the point that in your opinion the punishment may not fit the crime, but that decision is for University officials to make. Stating that the University is using this individual to make an example out of is ridiculous. The University did not make the error in judgment to possess the substance, the individual did. I do understand the feelings that are being expressed by the individual's mother, however — to make allegations that are inaccurate and sound more like excuses to try and cover up the mistake that was initially made. A Notre Dame student, athlete or not, is subject to the rules in du Lac — period. Notre Dame is in the spotlight 24/7 and actions that are taken by our family members make headlines internationally. We are scrutinized far more than any other school I have ever seen. Therefore, it is of high importance that such matters be addressed by the University in an appropriate manner and whether the individual or his parents agree with the decision, it is the consequence to the action. In this case, the University is handling the situation with the individual and dealing with someone who broke the rules of du Lac. I understand how difficult this must be for the individual and his family; however, the University should not be targeted for doing its job.

Lucy Lopez
Class of 1996
Tampa, Fla.
Jan. 24

Suspension was overkill

It is often said that college is a microcosm of the real world. If that were that case, then Kyle McAlarney would have been back playing against Georgetown or Tank Johnson would have been placed on death row. For those of you on the University judicial board, please — gain some perspective. An overwhelming amount of illegal underage drinking is allowed in each residence hall every weekend, yet one student is suspended an entire semester for having marujuana in his car. As I remember the stories, a past student was booted from his residence hall for being in Pasquerilla West Hall at 12:30 a.m. studying on a Monday, yet another student throwing around sexist remarks directly at a female rector got a "firm talking-to ..." Either there is a serious consistency problem, or the administrators guiding the process are seriously screwed up in the head. I vote for both. Meanwhile, there's one point guard who has seven more months to learn a lesson that I am sure he already understands, while a good chunk of the current Notre Dame student body will break the law tomorrow night in Dillon Hall.

Hapa Dima
Los Angeles
Jan. 24

After reading of the University's decicison to dismiss Kyle McAlarney from Notre Dame in this morning's South Bend Tribune, I shared the news with a fellow Michiana resident who also has very close ties to the University. (Two of our parents were employed at Notre Dame for about 25 years). I thought I would share his thoughts when I relayed the message of the decision to dismiss Kyle. "Actually, I am quite relieved. I was afraid they were going to have him stoned to death in front of Sacred Heart Chapel. Whoever made this decision needs to look deep into their Christian heart and see exactly what was the motivation behind this decision. I doubt it is anything Jesus would be proud of. What has happened to mercy and forgiveness? If they believe that Notre Dame as an institution has anything to offer, to better the Christian character of their students and help them make good choices, then why would they send Kyle away from that environment and cast him out? I think this decision is flat-out wrong and reflects very poorly on the University." I think his comments are well stated, not to mention true and appropriate.

Todd Maher
Granger
Jan. 24

I just read on NDNation.com that Kyle McAlarney was suspended from school. Please tell me this isn't true. Frankly, it's embarrasing. The punishment certainly doesn't match the misdemeanor. Has the University gotten so caught up in its conservative self-righteousness that it's now making an example of one of its more visible members? I hope not. Suspension from the basketball team for the remainder of the year is much more fitting. McAlarney's smoking marijuana does affect his stamina and does hurt the team. It should not be tolerated. McAlarney's smoking marijuana does not hurt the Notre Dame community. It may offend some of the community's more conservative members. However, let's not confuse smoking marijuana with murder or rape — or invading countries that pose no threat to you. As importantly, we should look to the past as a means to move forward. In my four years at Notre Dame, a number of kids were caught smoking marijuana. None of them were suspended from school. All of them received some form of discipline. However, none of these punishments were as draconian as academic suspension. Now would be a great time for University President Father John Jenkins to intervene in the name of common sense. Clearly, common sense went hugely wanting at McAlarney's disciplinary review.

Jeff Barber
Class of 1982
Pittsburgh
Jan. 24

Fashion show restrictions unreasonable

The Bernina of America Fashion Show is scheduled to take place at Saint Mary's on March 11. Saint Mary's women received an email about this event, which is raising money for a new Breast Care Center at Memorial Hospital. This is a great cause, and I fully support their efforts.

However, I do not agree with the requirements for models. The email stated that the models must must be at least 5'9", have a bust of around 35", a waist size around 25" and hips around 35". I don't know too many women that fit this description. I realize that the people organizing the fashion show are trying to raise money for something that will benefit many women, but in the process they are just reinforcing a harmful stereotype. The image that they will be presenting is one that will not make women feel better about themselves. I know that my body isn't even close to those requirements, but I don't think it should be. With all of the body issues that are present on college campuses, why should we reinforce the feelings of inadequacy? It's time that we see real women on a stage.

Sarah Nielson
junior
Regina Hall
Jan. 22

DPAC FEATURE

Student Film Festival returns for 18th year

Thirteen movies demonstrate the admirable talent of student filmmakers

By ANALISE LIPARI and ERIN MCGINN
Assistant Scene Editors

Annually, the Notre Dame Student Film Festival allows student filmmakers a chance to exhibit their dramatic, humorous and occasionally off-kilter work to the University and general public. This is the 18th year for the festival, which has come a long way since its original inception in the basement of what is now McKenna Hall.

"I think there were about seventy-five people who showed up," said Film, Television and Theater professor Ted Mandell. "The students put the show together and just about any film that they could get their hands on was in the show."

Over the years the film festival grew bigger and kept moving to larger locations, reaching its final home in the Browning Cinema in 2004.

All of the films shown at the Film Festival were created in production courses within the Film, Television and Theatre (FTT) department.

"They are projects done for class, just like a research paper in history, except that many of them are seen by an audience of 1200 or more." Mandell said. "I believe the quality of filmmaking has improved every year. This year's batch of films, overall, are really well done."

Photo courtesy of Jean Milan

Even the simplest of scenes takes extensive planning in order to film. The students shown here are filming a scene for Jean Milan and Rama Gottumukkala's film "My Rapist."

Often engaging the community by filming with students and locals in well-known area locations, this year's crop of films may prove to be the strongest yet. The Film Festival will play host to 13 different and diverse selections from students within the FTT department.

"I think students will be surprised at the quality of filmmaking and surprised at the topics undertaken," Mandell said. "Many of the thirteen films are made to convey a strong message or tackle tough subjects in thought provoking ways. Others are just plain enjoyable, plus there's a surprise star who pops in too."

In light of the recent debate over the presence of "The Vagina Monologues" on campus, one film of interest for students may be "Loyal Daughters," a film by Molly Miner, Kathleen Kudia and Monica Engel that profiles the cast of Notre Dame's last production of the Eve Ensler play. In the context of the heated discussions that took place in recent memory, as well as last fall's student-produced work of the same name, "Loyal Daughters" will inevitably be an affecting look at a controversial and timely subject.

18th Annual Notre Dame Student Film Festival

When: Thursday - Saturday, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.
Where: Browning Cinema
Cost: $3 students, $5 faculty and staff, and $6 general public.

Directed by Jean Milan and Rama Gottumukkala, "My Rapist" takes a straightforward and powerful approach to discussing this most personal of crimes with three victims. (Gottumukkala is an assistant managing editor of The Observer). The film alludes to the issue of breaking the silence about the victimization of these women, and in turn asks the audience to examine its own views and sensitivities as well as the consequences of remaining silent.

A third film to tackle deeper issues of personal identity and the complexity of societal pressure is "Flipped," by Lisa Goepfrich, Brandon Kusz and Fabian Farias. In a somewhat "reversed" environment, "Flipped" envisions a high school where the majority of the students and teachers are gay, and a young heterosexual student named Nick struggles with hiding his sexuality. The difficulties, harassment and even violence that Nick faces during the film quietly echo what the filmmakers view as our society's own discomfort with homosexuality and the problems that gay teens face today.

"Many of the thirteen films are made to convey a strong message... others are just plain enjoyable."

Ted Mandell
professor

Taking a lighthearted, more humorous approach is a film by Katie Johnson and Tamara Gillings entitled "Yiayia and the Evil Eye," in which a Greek teenage boy is convinced, courtesy of a story from Greek folklore, that his blue eyes — with their supposedly uncontrollable power — could unwittingly bring about destruction and death. Is the evil power of his eyes a real, terrifying phenomenon, or is the problem, as his optometrist suggests, entirely in his head? When the optometrist disappears, all bets are off.

Noble Robinette, Jacob Imm and Mike Molenda bring a documentary filmmaker's insight to the discussion with "Welcome to Snyderville." Filmed in the tiny town of Roseland, Ind., "Welcome to Snyderville" looks at the ever-present and at times stifling voices of David and Dorothy Snyder, two town council members whose stronghold on Roseland politics often left the town's residents disgruntled and protesting. Whether viewed as an exposé on small-town politics or a character study in power and its affect on the human ego, "Welcome to Snyderville" takes a different and intriguing approach to the community right outside the boundaries of Notre Dame.

Another film that takes a different angle on a familiar subject at the University, vocation to the priesthood, is Emily Andreas' and Rin Westcott's "Stained Glass Ceiling." Through interviews and alternated voice-overs, the film chronicles one devout woman's desire to be ordained as a Catholic priest, questioning the audience's and Church's opinions on the subject in a subtle and compelling way.

The most literary film is that of Trevor Park and Pacifico Soldati's black-and-white "Adaptation," literally an adaptation of the short story "Theft" by Depression-era writer Katherine Anne Porter. It tells the story of a dispute over a missing purse between a young maid and an older woman.

There is also the heart-wrenching "In Memory," in which Ishira Kumar, Nich DeCapioi and Beth Napoli examine one woman's descent into Alzheimer's disease, through the eyes of her young granddaughter who watches her grow older and slowly becomes senile.

The ambitious "SAGE-WISE da Versitle 1," is a documentary by Edward Song following Stefan Rios, a northern Indiana UPS deliveryman, on his break dancing journey across the United States. He travels from Indiana all the way to New York to try and fulfill his dreams.

The film festival rounds out with another four films, including "Unseen" directed by Gottumukkala and Dan Moore, "666-7734" directed by Tedd Hawks and Ishira Kumar, "Shadow Boxing" directed by Darrin Bragg, Michael Burke and Mike Peterson and "De Capo al Fine" directed by Erin Allen and Beth Napoli.

Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu and Erin McGinn at emcginn@nd.edu

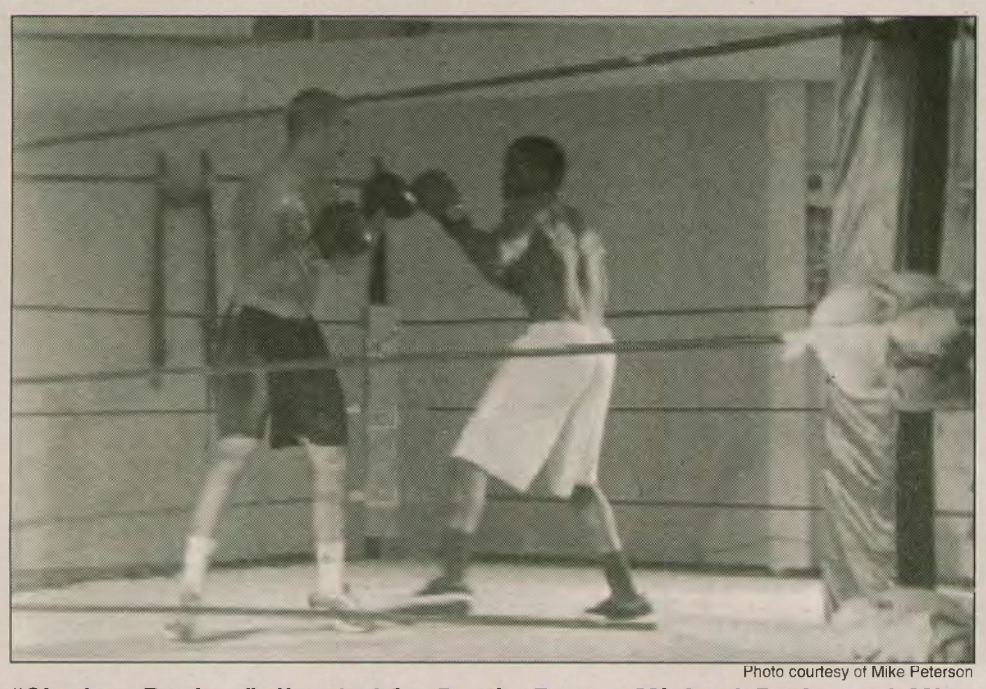
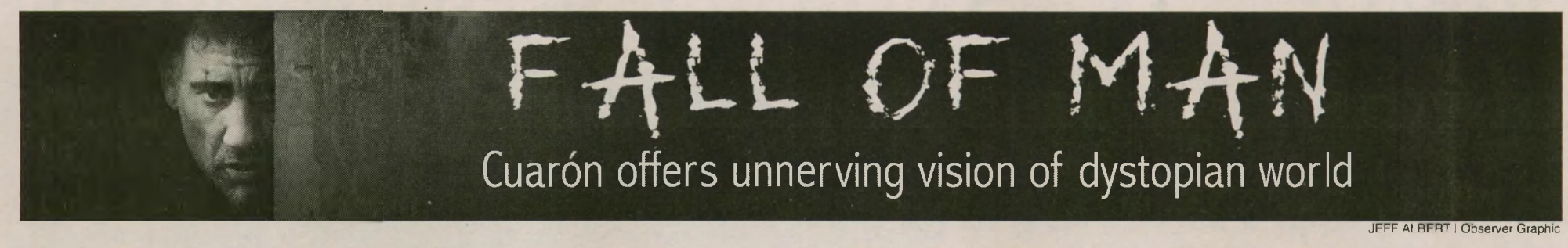


Photo courtesy of Mike Peterson

"Shadow Boxing," directed by Darrin Bragg, Michael Burke and Mike Peterson, is one of the thirteen films being shown at this year's film festival.

Photo courtesy of Jean Milan

Students are responsible for every aspect of filmmaking, from writing the screenplays to directing the films, and finally, to editing the finished product.



FALL OF MAN

Cuarón offers unnerving vision of dystopian world

JEFF ALBERT | Observer Graphic

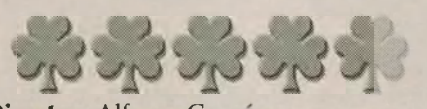
'Children of Men' Finds Hope in Desolate World

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA
Scene Critic

As a bomb explodes dangerously close to Theo, he grimaces with pain and covers his ears, trying to blot out the excruciating tinny sound that accompanies the blast. But he can't and neither can we, as director Alfonso Cuarón allows that awful sound to linger for a full minute after the fact.

"You hear that ringing in your ears?" Julian (Julianne Moore), Theo's ex-wife, asks him after another such explosion. "That's your ear cells dying. You'll never be able to hear that frequency again. Enjoy it while you can."

Children of Men



Director: Alfonso Cuarón
Writers: Alfonso Cuarón and Timothy J. Sexton
Starring: Clive Owen, Julianne Moore, Michael Caine and Claire-Hope Ashitey

These horrific sights and sounds pepper the landscape of "Children of Men," a film that offers a frightening vision of how far a world — perhaps even ours — could plummet toward chaos. Marked by violence and desolation, it's a dark reality that threatens to shatter the most brittle of humanity's commodities — hope.

In 2027, mankind is gasping its last breath, struggling in a world where procreation is a distant memory. After all, if women can't have babies anymore, what else is there to hope for? Indeed, hope seems the most important word in the film as these characters have so little of it.

A former peace activist, Theo (Clive Owen) is resigned to civilization's inevitable fate. But when Julian enlists Theo's help, he is faced with guarding a miracle. He is charged with safely transporting Kee (Claire-Hope Ashitey), a young, pregnant black girl, to the scientists of The Human Project. If Kee and her baby live, so too might the rest of humanity.

The promotional material behind "Children of Men" almost shouts a single question: "Why are women infertile?" Cuarón argues that the answer doesn't matter, and his movie never offers a solution to this seemingly central question. Women stopped having babies 18 years before the opening credits roll. And by the time the end credits roll, that question has gone unanswered.

Instead, what the film does so brilliantly is take us on one man's odyssey to restore hope to a world that severely lacks it. Far from a traditional high-concept film, viewers are thrown headlong into the second act. It's an atypical choice that allows Cuarón more time to play in a world that is painstakingly realized.

Nowhere is this more apparent than the film's Academy Award-nominated cinematography. The camera employed by Cuarón to tell this story is as unstable as the world around it. In one breathtaking segment, we're thrown headlong into the rubble of a refugee camp. As the angry hiss of machine gun fire, tanks and explosions rock the scenery, Theo scrambles to find Kee in a shot that continues unbroken for nine minutes. Debris falls all around and blood spatters onto the camera surface in an exhausting, masterful segment that mirrors the peril of Theo's journey.

It's easy to forget how often Owen has been in front of the camera in the last few years. Since his first major role as a sniper in 2002's "The Bourne Identity," Owen has had memorable turns in "Sin City," "Closer" and "Inside Man." But here, he is at his very best. He has to portray a fragile character, someone dangerously close to the edge of a precipice that much of mankind has already fallen over. As the heart and soul of the picture, Owen dominates every scene he's in, which helps because he's in so many of them.

Hope is one of the two most eagerly sought commodities in cinema, the other being redemption. Characters find hope and lose it all the time. But with "Children of Men," Cuarón tortures his characters by continually holding it an arm's length away, seemingly impossible to reach. He keeps it from them for so long, without offering a clear reason why, that when we glimpse it near the film's end, we finally understand what made Theo suffer after it in the first place.

Contact Rama Gottumukkala at rgotumu@nd.edu

Cuaron's Latest Demonstrates His Potential

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Scene Editor

Alfonso Cuaron's "Children of Men" starts out as a complex rumination on society, but ultimately reveals itself as a glorified chase film. Ultimately, the visceral impact of "Children of Men" punches the gut more than it picks the brain, but as a "thinking man's thriller," it has few peers.

The film is set in London in 2027 in a world in which women are no longer able to have children. In its opening scene, the audience is informed that 18 year-old "Baby Diego," the youngest person alive, has just been killed. Theo Faron (Clive Owen), an office worker with a checkered past as a protestor, discovers Kee (Claire-Hope Ashitey), a girl who has become pregnant. Working with an activist group led by his ex-wife Julian (Julianne Moore) called The Fish, Faron tries to bring Kee to a boat that contains the so-called "Human Project" in order to save the human race.

In terms of sheer craftsmanship, "Children of Men" is nearly flawless. Cuaron's previous work includes both artsy independent films ("Y Tu Mama Tambien") and Hollywood blockbusters ("Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban"), but "Children of Men" is his most accomplished film to date. The hand-held cameras and "cinema veritae" documentary style is at first jolting, but becomes increasingly immersive as the film wears on. Cuaron's camera is constantly moving, one of the director's trademarks, but rarely without purpose. Many of the war scenes are so perfectly choreographed that they resemble a musical more than a chaotic thriller.

The performances are solid throughout, but nobody outside of Owen is really given a chance to fully explore his/her character. In particular, Moore's fiery, sensitive turn as Julian would have benefited from more screen time. Michael Caine has a show-stealing turn as the hippy-ish Jasper Palmer, and Danny Huston has a memorable cameo that recalls Joe Turkel's diabolical Eldon Tyrell from "Blade Runner."

"Children of Men" is set in the future, but it's not a futuristic film. In fact, its deliberate resemblance to modern day is unsettling, but effective, evoking a "1984"-esque vibe without over-reliance on typical sci-fi trappings. In fact, the most spectacular special effects are during the technically complex war sequences, which resemble "Saving Private" more than they do "Star Wars."

"Children of Men" has a lot to say about a lot of social issues ranging from immigration to religion, but its approach is not quite comprehensive or clear enough. There are many unanswered questions, and while that might be deliberate, it muddles many of the film's themes. In ways, it feels like an incomplete picture, and probably could have benefited from another 20 minutes or so in order to slow down and more fully explore its intriguing premise. As it stands, it plows through its two hours with bulldozing force that leaves the viewer stunned and exhausted.

Some of the questions the film raises (why can women no longer have children?) are irrelevant, but others (why is Kee able to get pregnant?) would clarify the plot and give the film a better thematic anchor. Kee herself is held at an odd distance, and the audience is never given a chance to really understand her, or understand why she is so important to the human race.

Children of Men

"Children of Men" is a very good film, but it's far from perfect. Its technical accomplishments and visceral approach to intellectual material is unique, but audiences are inclined to leave the theater with more questions. Cuaron has proven himself a great director, but he has yet to make a truly great film. "Children of Men" is his best to date, but it's easy to wonder if there's a "Director's Cut" already waiting in the wings. Most films falter from being too long. "Children of Men" is one of the precious few that suffers from being too short.

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtade@nd.edu

Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Rebel Jasper Palmer (Michael Caine), left, and disillusioned bureaucrat Theo (Clive Owen) discuss an impending attack in Alfonso Cuaron's latest film.

Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Theo (Clive Owen) protects the planet's last hope, the pregnant Kee (Claire-Hope Ashitey) in a world that has grown desolate and left in violent ruin.

NBA

Sixers down Cavs in double overtime thriller

Nash, Suns win 15th straight for second time this season

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Andre Iguodala scored eight points in the second overtime and finished with a with a season-high 34 as the Philadelphia 76ers handed Cleveland an embarrassing loss with a 118-115 win over the slumping Cavaliers on Wednesday night.

Samuel Dalembert added 20 points and 10 rebounds before fouling out in the second OT as the Sixers snapped a five-game losing streak on the road and won for just the third time in 20 games outside Philly.

Kyle Korver's two free throws with 2.1 seconds left put the Sixers ahead by three, and Philadelphia held on when LeBron James, who made two 3-pointers in the final 8 seconds to get Cleveland within one, was long with a 3 before the horn.

James scored a season-high 39 points — 13 in the second OT — and Larry Hughes added 26 for the Cavaliers, who have dropped five of six and have lost two straight at home where they are 15-5.

Cleveland, the NBA's worst free-throw shooting team at 68 percent, went 25-of-34 from the line. The Sixers, meanwhile, went 26-of-27 on their free throws with Iguodala making all 12 of his attempts.

Rodney Carney had 18 points and Andre Miller 16 with eight assists for the Sixers.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas had 23 points and 10 rebounds for Cleveland.

Iguodala, who made big plays all night, fouled out Ilgauskas on a questionable call underneath — the Cavs' center appeared to get all ball on a block — and the Sixers' swingman made two free throws with 2:24 left to give Philadelphia a 108-104 lead.

But James kept the Cavs in it by making three 3-pointers and scoring 11 points over the next 1:38 before Korver's free throws and James' failed final fling ended the 3-hour, 1-minute game.

James banked in a 5-foot runner with 1:04 left in the first OT to give the Cavaliers a 99-98 lead, and after Anderson Varejao drew a charging foul in the lane on Miller, it appeared Cleveland would survive.

Suns 112, Knicks 107

Amare Stoudemire scored 26 of his 30 points in Phoenix's big second half, and the Suns beat the New York Knicks Wednesday night for their second 15-game winning streak of the season.

Barely a month after establishing the longest winning streak in franchise history, the Suns equaled it by turning things around after a sluggish first half in the second night of a back-to-back.

Steve Nash finished with 21 points and 14 assists as the Suns scored 63 points in the second half after an un-Sunslike 49 in the first two periods. Shawn Marion added 18 points, Leandro Barbosa had 15, and Stoudemire grabbed 11 rebounds.

Phoenix became the first team to have two separate 15-game winning streaks in the same season since the Los Angeles Lakers had streaks of 19 and 16 in a row during the 1999-00 season. The Suns will go for a franchise-record 16th straight win Friday night at Milwaukee in the third game of a five-game trip.

Jamal Crawford scored 29 points, 23 in the fourth quarter in an attempt to keep New York close.

Eddy Curry added 25 points for the Knicks, but only four in the final 33-plus minutes. He also left with an injury in the final quarter of New York's second straight loss.

The Knicks were already without starting point guard Stephon Marbury, who missed his first game of the season because of left knee tendinitis.

Raptors 90, Hornets 88

Chris Bosh scored a season-high 35 points, including a tying 3-pointer with 1:01 left, and the Toronto Raptors rallied for a victory over the New Orleans Hornets on Wednesday night.

Jose Calderon had four points and a block in the final 30 seconds for the Raptors, who trailed by as many as 15 in the fourth quarter.

Bosh pumped his fists after his 3-pointer tied it at 81. Calderon followed with a layup to give Toronto its first lead of the game with 28.4 seconds left. Bobby Jackson tried to drive past Calderon for a layup on the next play, but Calderon blocked his shot and followed with two free throws,

Jackson followed with a layup with 14.6 seconds left, but Bosh made two free throws with 13.8 seconds remaining to make it a four point lead. Bosh finished 11-for-19 from the field and 12-for-18 from the line.

New Orleans' Rasual Butler missed a 3-pointer and Peterson made one of two free throws with 2.6 seconds left.

Butler had 19 points for the Hornets, who lost in Philadelphia on Tuesday night.

Toronto won despite shooting just 18-for-27 from the line.

The Raptors improved to 3-1 on their five-game homestand. Toronto won despite missing starting point guard T.J. Ford and No. 1 pick Andrea Bargnani.

The Hornets began the fourth on a 10-0 run capped by Brown's 3-pointer, but Toronto followed with a 14-3 run to cut the lead to three. Peterson capped it with a 3-pointer.

Pistons 103, Bobcats 92

Richard Hamilton scored 22 points and Rasheed Wallace added 11 of his 20 in the fourth quarter to help the Detroit Pistons salvage a season series split with Charlotte with a win over the Bobcats on Wednesday night.

Chris Webber added 19 points for the Pistons, who shot 52 percent in winning their third straight game.

It wasn't easy for Detroit, which has struggled against Charlotte all season. The Bobcats had won the last two meetings, including a 103-96 win in Detroit two weeks ago.

With their lead cut to 84-82 on Derek Anderson's layup with just over 5 minutes left, Chauncey Billups hit a 3-pointer on the next possession to start an 8-2 run. Tayshaun Prince's 3 with 3:24 left gave the Pistons a 92-84 lead.

Wallace's two free throws with 1:19 left gave Detroit its first double-digit lead as the Pistons earned a 2-2 series split.

Pacers 96, Heat 94

Danny Granger scored 14 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter and overtime as the Indiana Pacers rallied from a 20-point second-half deficit to beat the Miami Heat Wednesday night.

The Pacers' victory spoiled the return of Shaquille O'Neal, who came off the bench after missing 35 games while recovering from knee surgery. O'Neal finished with five points and five rebounds in 14 minutes.

Dwyane Wade, who missed Miami's victory at New York on Monday due to a sprained left ankle, scored 32 points.

After trailing 65-45 in the third quarter, the Pacers pulled to 70-66 on two 3-pointers by Granger and one by Darrell Armstrong to begin the fourth. Marquis Daniels' runner 4 minutes later gave Indiana a 75-74 lead, its first since early in the first quarter.

The Pacers built a six-point lead with 1:30 left, but consecutive 3-pointers by Jason Kapono and Wade down the stretch tied the score at 87 with 17 seconds remaining.

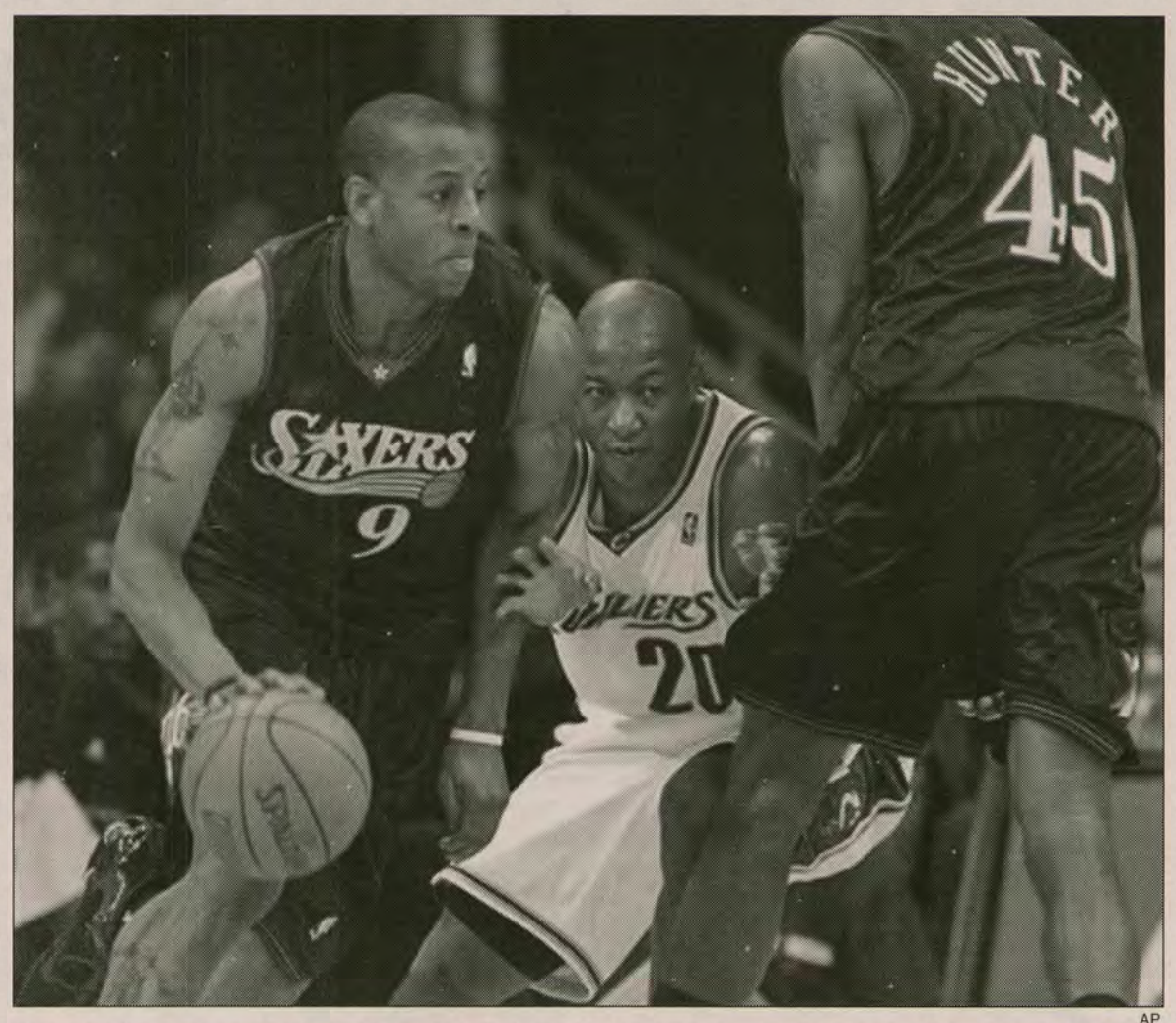
Hawks 82, Celtics 76

Joe Johnson and Josh Smith each scored 21 points as the Atlanta Hawks handed the Boston Celtics their ninth straight loss, Wednesday night.

The Celtics have dropped 16 of their last 18 and are tied with Philadelphia for fewest wins in the Eastern Conference at 12.

Zaza Pachulia added 10 points and nine rebounds off the bench for Atlanta, which snapped a three-game losing streak and has won both meetings with Boston this season.

Boston, already without leading scorers Paul Pierce and Wally Szczerbiak, also lost Al Jefferson due to an ankle injury in the fourth quarter.



AP

Philadelphia swingman Andre Iguodala, left, looks to go to the basket during the 76ers' 118-115 win over the Cavs Wednesday. Iguodala finished the contest with 34 points.

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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What do cows do for entertainment?

They rent moovies!

You know that little indestructible black box that's used on planes? Why can't they make the whole plane out of the same substance?

Why is it that when you transport something by car, it's called a "ship"ment, but when you transport something by ship, it's called "car"go?

B-
E-
D!

NHL

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	OT	points
New Jersey	29-14	5	63
N.Y. Rangers	23-21	4	50
Pittsburgh	21-17	8	50
N.Y. Islanders	22-21	4	48
Philadelphia	11-31	5	27

Eastern Conference, Northeast Division

team	record	OT	points
Buffalo	33-12	4	70
Montreal	27-17	5	59
Ottowa	28-20	2	58
Toronto	22-21	6	50
Boston	22-20	4	48

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	OT	points
Atlanta	27-15	8	62
Carolina	25-19	6	56
Tampa Bay	26-22	2	54
Washington	20-21	7	47
Florida	18-22	10	46

Western Conference, Central Division

team	record	OT	points
Nashville	34-12	3	71
Detroit	30-14	5	65
St. Louis	19-21	8	46
Columbus	18-25	5	41
Chicago	17-24	7	41

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	OT	points
Vancouver	27-19	2	56
Calgary	26-17	4	56
Minnesota	25-20	4	54
Colorado	24-20	3	51
Edmonton	23-21	4	50

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	OT	points
Anaheim	30-12	8	68
San Jose	32-16	0	64
Dallas	29-18	1	59
Phoenix	22-24	2	46
Los Angeles	16-28	6	38

Women's Basketball MIAA Standings

	team	league record	overall record
1	Calvin	9-0	16-1
2	Hope	8-2	16-2
3	Albion	5-5	10-8
4	Olivet	6-4	9-8
5	ST. MARY'S	6-4	7-10
6	Alma	3-6	7-9
7	Adrian	3-7	8-9
8	Kalamazoo	2-8	3-15
9	Tri-State	2-8	4-14

around the dial

NBA
Dallas at Chicago
8 p.m., TNT

New Jersey at L.A. Clippers
10:30 p.m., TNT

TENNIS
Australian Open Semifinals
3 p.m., ESPN

NFL

AP

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell talks to the media last August. Under Goodell, the NFL has strengthened its drug testing program, adding more tests and forcing players to rescind part of their signing bonus after a positive test.

NFL stiffens steroid test policy

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The NFL is going deeper into the wallets of players who get caught using steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs.

After four months of sometimes intense negotiations, the league and union announced Wednesday more extensive testing for performance-enhancing drugs and the addition of the blood-boosting substance EPO to its list of banned substances.

The union also agreed that players suspended after testing positive will, for the first time, forfeit a portion of their signing bonuses in addition to the salary they will lose during their time away. That is significant because the signing bonuses often are the only guaranteed portion of a player's salary and can be larger than salaries, which sometimes are kept artificially low to keep the team under the salary cap.

"It is important that the NFL and its players continue to be leaders on the issue of illegal and dangerous performance-enhancing drugs in sports," NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said. "These latest improvements will help ensure that we continue to have a strong and effective program. As we have done in the past, we will review and modify the policy on an ongoing basis."

In addition to the new test for EPO, the agreement includes an increase from seven to 10 of the number of players on each team randomly tested each week during the season for steroids and other performance-enhancing drugs. That means there will be 12,000 tests each season, up from the current 10,000.

The new policy will make the NFL the only North American sports league to regularly test for EPO. Urine will be tested, not blood, for EPO. Baseball did a round of urine testing for EPO in 2005. Rob Manfred, MLB's executive vice president for labor relations, said Wednesday there were no positives among the 500 samples tested.

Baseball conducts urine tests of major and minor league players for performance-enhancing drugs and stimulants, with each player tested at least twice randomly per year. Baseball does not conduct blood tests and does not test for EPO or human growth hormone. Baseball and its players union have agreed they will test for HGH if a urine test for that drug is validated.

IN BRIEF

Weir tries for fourth straight U.S. title

SPOKANE, Wash. — For a three-time national champion, Johnny Weir makes a pretty good underdog.

Weir is going for his fourth straight title at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships this week, a run that would put him on par with the likes of Brian Boitano and Scott Hamilton. But figure skating is all about 'what have you done for me lately,' and the guy making the noise these days is Evan Lysacek.

"Being an underdog coming in is natural," Weir said Wednesday. "I'm not always going to be invincible, I'm not always going to be top dog. Evan Lysacek has had a great season. I'm going to fight as hard as I can to be the four-time national champion.

"All the chatter...is just talk and is not something I take very seriously," Weir added. "It doesn't change the way I'm prepared for this competition."

Ford ends its Champ Car series sponsorship

DEARBORN, Mich. — Ford Motor Co. said Wednesday it has withdrawn as an official Champ Car World Series sponsor.

Ford had participated in Indianapolis-based Champ Car and its predecessor, CART, since re-entering open-wheel racing in 1992, first providing engines and then sponsorship.

"We evaluate all of our racing programs on an annual basis and have decided that this sponsorship does not align with our current business objectives," said Dan Davis, director of Ford Racing Technology.

Davis said Ford's withdrawal from Champ Car will not affect the other racing programs the company supports, including NASCAR's three major national touring series, the NHRA PowerAde Drag Racing Series, the Grand-Am Rolex Sports Car and KONI Challenge Series, as well as several U.S. Auto Club-sanctioned series.

Dungy plans on making career decision after season

INDIANAPOLIS — Colts Coach Tony Dungy will wait until the end of this season before considering his future with the team.

Dungy signed a contract extension last year that would keep him in Indianapolis through 2009. But many have wondered whether the 51-year-old coach, who had said previously he intended to retire at age 50, might resign if he wins the Super Bowl.

"That's something I've not thought a whole lot about," he said Wednesday. "I'll sit down with (owner) Jim (Irsay) and my wife at the end of the year. The first thing you have to do is make sure you're still wanted back. I never take that for granted any more."

Dungy made a similar statement after last season when the Colts were eliminated from the playoffs in a 21-18 loss at home to eventual Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Gonzalez prevails over second-ranked Nadal

Williams, Sharapova advance on women's side of the bracket

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Rafael Nadal limped out of the Australian Open complaining his leg was too sore to challenge Fernando Gonzalez in the quarterfinals. With Gonzalez stinging winners past him from both the forehand and backhand sides, though, even a fit Nadal might have struggled.

The 10th-seeded Gonzalez had 41 winners in a 6-2, 6-4, 6-3 upset over the second-seeded Nadal on Wednesday, earning him a semifinal spot along with top-ranked Roger Federer, Andy Roddick and Tommy Haas.

In the women's semifinals later Wednesday, the unseeded Serena Williams was to continue her unlikely quest for an eighth Grand Slam title. Limited to only four tournaments last year by recurring knee problems, Williams was not expected to be a serious contender at this year's Australian Open.

But she was one win away from the final, as was top-seeded Maria Sharapova — who reached the semis with a 7-6 (5), 7-5 win over Anna Chakvetadze, a fellow 19-year-old Russian.

Williams was to face 17-year-old Nicole Vaidisova of the Czech Republic in the first semifinal, followed by Sharapova against fourth-seeded Kim Clijsters.

Gonzalez, who will be playing in the semifinals of a Grand Slam tournament for the first time, will get a day off to watch Thursday's semifinal between defending champion Federer and sixth-seeded Roddick. Gonzalez will face Tommy Haas on Friday.

French Open champion Nadal was the only player to beat Federer at this stage of a tournament last year, doing it four times in finals. Federer was 91-1 against everyone else — his only other loss an upset to Andy Murray at Cincinnati.

It was a five-setter against Murray on Monday that Nadal thinks derailed his prospects of making the Australian Open final.

"I can't run a lot," he said Wednesday. "It was difficult to play one match like this, quarterfinals of one Grand Slam, with pain. If I am playing bad, well, you can go home and say disappointing. But today I just say, 'Well, I can't do more. I try my best.'"

He called for a medical timeout in the third set and had to go to the locker room to remove his long, green shorts for treatment on his upper left leg and buttock.

Roddick is only 1-12 against Federer, but the 24-year-old American had match points against Federer at the Masters Cup last November and beat him in the final of an exhibition tournament at Kooyong on Jan. 14.

Gonzalez was hardly a contender until he beat local favorite Lleyton Hewitt in the third round and fifth-seeded James Blake in the fourth. The 26-year-old Chilean won 12 of 15 matches to end 2006 and made three finals — losing two to Federer.

He always had a powerful forehand but was too erratic with it, often criticized for swinging and missing too many times on big points. But since starting work last year with Larry Stefanki, who coached John McEnroe and helped Marcelo Rios and Yevgeny Kafelnikov reach No. 1, Gonzalez has been improving.

"I used to just hit, hit, hit, and maybe I win the point — now I have other strategies," he said. "I am playing great tennis. I can do great things in my game."

Gonzalez broke Nadal's serve twice in the first set, in the opening game of the second and twice again in the third, and only faced three break points. He had support from a scattering of Chilean supporters wrapped in flags and chanting in Spanish.

And he had growing support from the local crowd. Early in the third set, a man yelled: "You're the man, speedy."

Clijsters reached the women's semis by defeating Martina Hingis 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 on Wednesday. Hingis' comeback run from three years in retirement ended last year in a quarterfinal loss to Clijsters, who also beat her in the same stage at the French Open.

"It's great playing her and everything, but I don't want to see her in the quarterfinals ever again," said Hingis, who won three titles here and figured in six straight finals through 2002.

Clijsters has reached the semis in every trip she's made to Australia since 2002, and has bowed out to the eventual champion every time — losing three times in the semis and dropping the 2004 final to Justine Henin-Hardenne.

AP

Chile's Fernando Gonzalez celebrates after defeating Rafael Nadal 6-2, 6-4, 6-3 in their quarterfinal match Wednesday.

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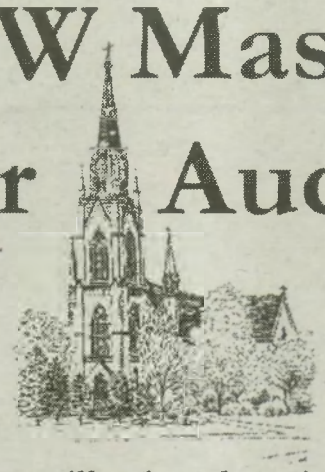
JPW Mass Lector Auditions



JPW Lector auditions will take place in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on each of the following dates:

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For further information, please contact Harv Humphrey at 631-8520 or by email at humphrey.17@nd.edu

CM
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ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish center Erica Williamson, right, puts a shot over Syracuse forward Lina Lisnere in Notre Dame's 83-55 win Saturday.

Handling

continued from page 20

steals per game, almost an entire steal more than Connecticut, who ranks second in that category in the Big East at 11.06.

One standout performer in the last three games in regards to turnovers has been freshman guard Melissa Lechlitner. In the past three games, Lechlitner has only one turnover, coming against Marquette Tuesday. Over that same stretch, the freshman has notched 18 assists, including a career high nine against Syracuse.

"I think we're making better decisions," McGraw said. "I don't think we're forcing things, I think we're taking more shots rather than trying to force a turnover."

The other key factor in Notre Dame's success this season has been free throw shooting. The exceptional free throw rate has not only helped the Irish maintain their leads or shrink those of their opponents, it has in fact saved two important road wins. Notre Dame's wins against Michigan on Dec. 1 and Valparaiso Dec. 19 were each the result of last-minute free throws.

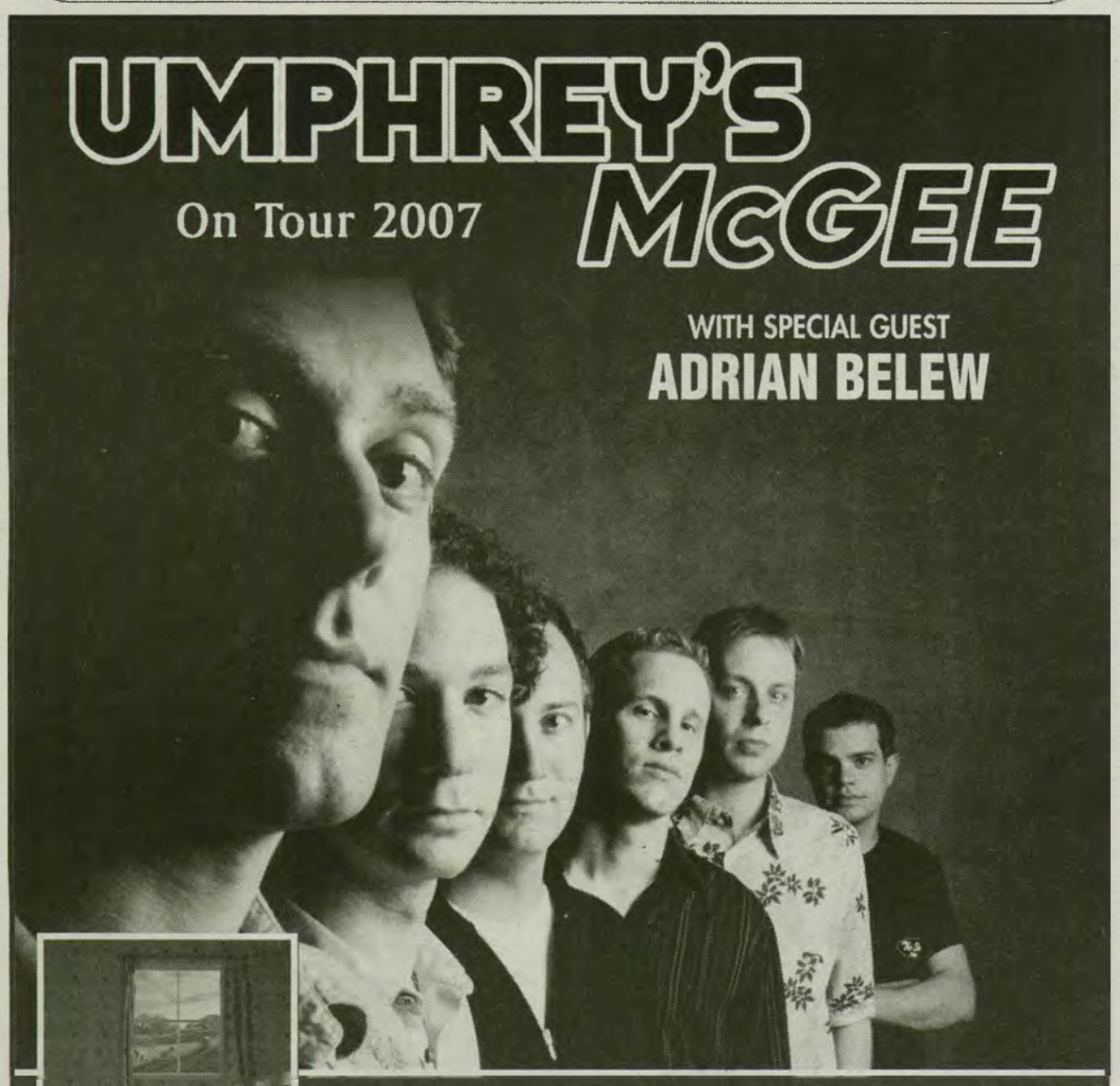
Against the Wolverines, guard Tulyah Gaines sank the go-ahead points with four seconds to play before guard Charel Allen iced the win at 61-58 with two more foul shots in the final seconds.

At Valparaiso, Breona Gray sank one of her two free throws in the final second to give the Irish a 60-59 win to add to their NCAA Tournament resume.

Even though limiting turnovers and making free throws are important aspects of winning, McGraw understands that her team needs to do more if it hopes to succeed in the remainder of its Big East schedule.

"We don't talk about [turnovers at practice] at all, and we don't talk about the free throws, and those are two things we're doing well," she said. "I think I might just shut up about everything and see if we get good at something else," she said.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu



Write for sports.
Call Ken at
1-4543.

Belles

continued from page 20

Henley said.

Henley said the Scots played a "triangle-and-two" defense in which two players played man-to-man while the other three were in zone coverage. The two man-to-man defenders matched up with Kessler and senior point guard Bridget Lipke and were successful in reducing their contribution.

Saint Mary's bench scored only two points in Saturday's 84-72 win over Adrian but the reserves came up big on Wednesday. In total, the Belles bench contributed 19 points to the cause and freshman guard Patty Duffy dropped 15 points in 21 minutes of play.

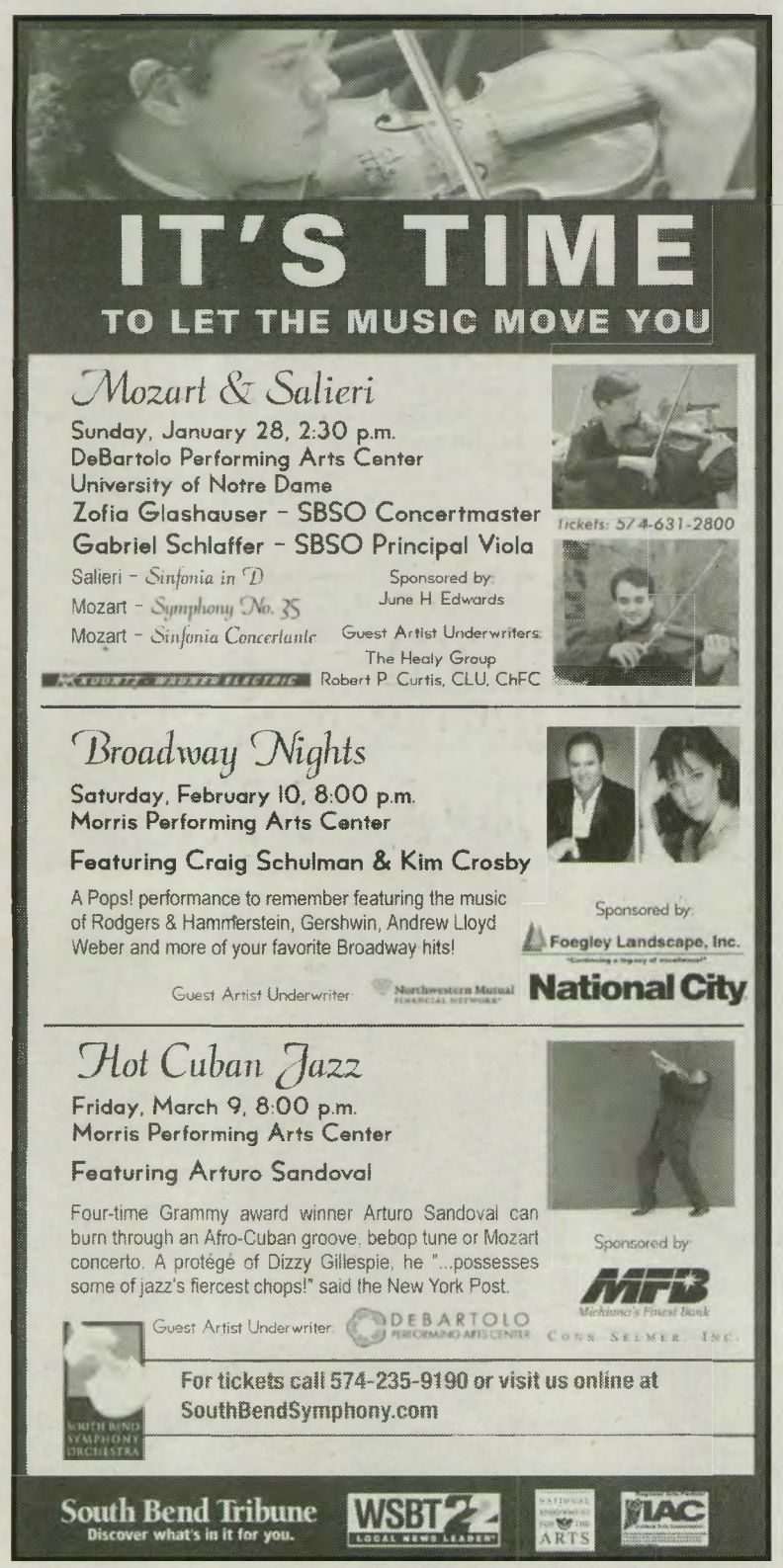
"We needed another shooter and Patty gave us a momentum swing," Henley said. "She hit some tough shots from outside."

Duffy, who has been plagued by ankle injuries, was 3-of-6 from behind the arc and was able to take pressure off of Kessler and Lipke.

Henley also mentioned free throw shooting as a key to Saint Mary's success. The Belles made 82 percent of their free throws and Kessler was 6-of-6 from the charity stripe.

Saint Mary's has now won two in a row and three of their last four. The Belles travel to Angola, Indiana to face Tri-State — who is 2-8 in the MIAA and 4-14 on the year – at 1 p.m. Saturday.

Contact Dan Cooper at dcooper1@nd.edu



Changes

continued from page 20

opponents are now able to focus on stopping Jackson's offensive game, which is very different than McAlarney's.

McAlarney was a better outside shooter than Jackson, but he was not as quick. Unfortunately for the Irish, teams are sagging off Jackson outside, respecting his quickness but daring him to take outside shots that he hasn't been consistently making. As a result, Jackson is only averaging 5.2 points per game, compared to McAlarney's 10.3 before the suspension.

Still, there are positive signs. Jackson is slowly taking on McAlarney's leadership role and has been effective running Brey's motion offense to the tune of 5.2 assists per game.

Another player thrust into playing time has been freshman Jonathan Peoples. Peoples, who played sparingly early in the season, was expected to spend this season acclimating to the college game. Instead, he's been breaking full court presses against Villanova and Seton Hall. Peoples has been a solid defender and an effective ball handler, averaging barely a turnover per game, but opponents know he isn't a threat to score.

McAlarney was an important cog in Notre Dame's machine, but without him the Irish are still a special group.

With the scoring from the point guard position down significantly, Notre Dame's other players will have to pick up the slack.

First and foremost, Irish leading scorer senior Russell Carter will have to take his game to even higher heights. Carter showed he is capable of taking over games after his 32-point outburst against St. John's Tuesday. That's not necessarily good news, however. The Irish lost to the Red Storm 71-68 because they were too reliant on Carter offensively.

Furthermore, a major offensive strength of this team has been its balance. For most of the season, other teams have had to respect the ability of most of the Irish team to score if left open. Even without McAlarney, the Irish cannot panic and get into a pass-to-Russell-and-stand-around offense that will be too easy to defend.

Senior guard Colin Falls will be one of the players whose play will be crucial to take the pressure of Carter. Without McAlarney, Falls is Notre Dame's only major outside shooting threat. As such, teams will be more focused on denying him the ball outside three-point arc most the time. Despite this, the Irish need to get Falls the ball, whether it be through the senior's hustle or a designed play from Brey.

The best way to get defenders to give Falls and Carter space on the outside is to make opponents respect the scoring ability of Notre Dame's inside players.

Sophomore forward Zach Hillesland has shown potential to pick up the scoring slack in MacAlarney's absence. The 6-foot-9 Hillesland has the size of a big man, but the ball handling ability and quickness of a guard. Like Jackson, he struggles with his outside shooting, but his size and athleticism present serious matchup problems for most opponents. This season is Hillesland's first year with extended playing time, however, and he is only averaging 5.6 points per game so far. If the Irish want to reach their goals despite losing their point guard, they need Hillesland to use his athletic ability to get to the basket more often.

For Notre Dame's more traditional post players — junior Rob Kurz, sophomore Luke Zeller and freshman Luke Harangody — the absence of McAlarney has meant, and will continue to mean, a greater reliance on them to score and rebound. Without McAlarney's outside shooting presence, the Irish getting the ball into the post has been both harder and more important, and more missed outside shots have meant more offensive rebounds.

So far, Kurz and Harangody have both stepped up to the challenge at various times, but have not always been consistent.

Zeller has seen reduced playing time due to his struggles with back-to-the-basket offense. His shooting ability does add a different dimension, however, and Brey may start to use him in the future to draw larger defenders away from the basket to open up driving lanes for Carter and Jackson.

McAlarney was an important cog in Notre Dame's machine, but without him the Irish are still a special group. It will take maturity from younger players thrown into action and hard work from players learning new roles, but, even without its original starting point guard, Notre Dame can still accomplish its goals this season.

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

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Lawsuit

continued from page 20

jobs. That's what everyone else says because they want to put words in your mouth. The bottom line is when you're unhealthy, you're unhealthy, do you something about it."

In his autobiography, No Excuses, however, Weis had a less confrontational tone.

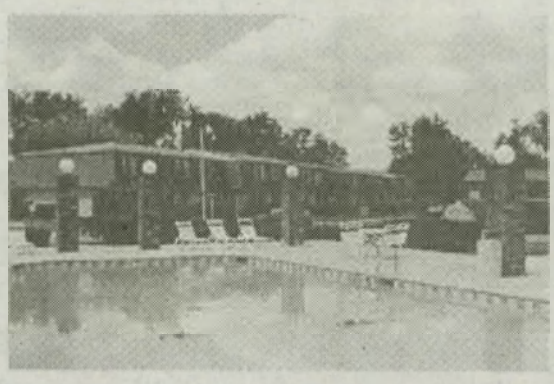
"I said, 'Look at that fat ass,' " Weis wrote in No Excuses. "I wish I had been looking at someone else. Unfortunately, that fat ass was me."

Weis has insisted that the surgery was not an attempt to increase his chance at getting a head coaching job. At the time of the surgery, Weis was considered one of the top offensive coordinators in the NFL but weighed around 350 pounds.

Weis' case is going to trial more than two years after a Massachusetts review board decided he had enough evidence to go forward with the lawsuit.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

Turtle Creek Apartments



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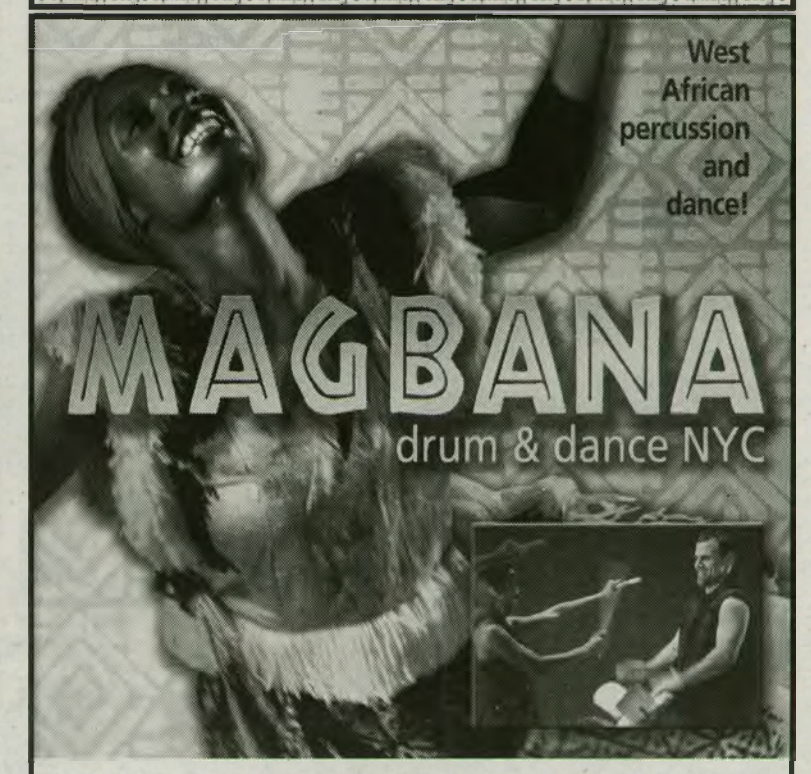

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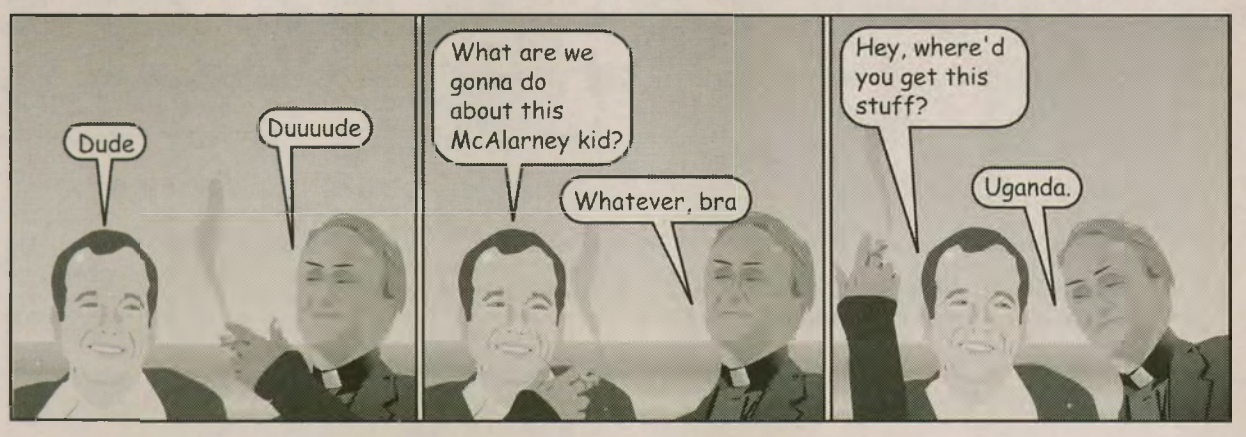


Crossword

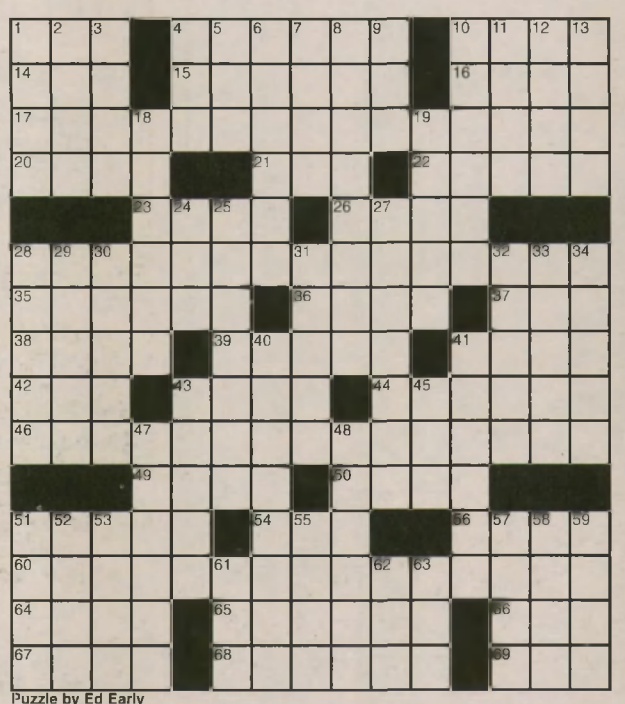
WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

1 Hairstylist's supply
4 It may be high or faint
10 Bud
14 Newcastle Brown, e.g.
15 Cry with an outstretched hand
16 Venetian magistrate of old
17 Start of a riddle
20 Diva ___ Te Kanawa
21 Tic-tac-toe loser
22 Line on which y = 0
23 Start of Massachusetts' motto
26 Music at many a memorial
28 Riddle, part 2
35 Tractable
36 Boosts
37 One with Red Cross training, maybe: Abbr.
38 Lena of "Polish Wedding"
39 Better suited
41 City near Crawford, Tex.
42 Golfer's concern
43 Another, in Madrid
44 Person bringing much happiness
46 Riddle, part 3
49 Dugout shelter
50 Z ___ zebra
51 Shot
54 Command to Fido
56 Wagner heroine ___ of Brabant
60 End of the riddle
64 Author Silverstein
65 Marx collaborator
66 Penciled-in eyebrow, e.g.
67 Timbre
68 Land on Lake Victoria
69 See 60-Across

DOWN

1 Hang around at an accident scene
2 Like some educ. publishing
3 Shakespeare's "very foolish fond old man"
4 Many a prof.
5 Car introduced in 1904
6 Anna's lover in "Anna Karenina"
7 ___ facto
8 Glib romancer
9 Poetic contraction
10 Music storage place
11 Con
12 Wrinkly fruit
13 Allen and Ott
18 Connects
19 Bygone N.L. team
24 Penguins' home?: Abbr.
25 Person in a sauna
27 Maryland's ___ Air Force Base
28 ___ von Baeyer, 1905 Chemistry Nobelist
29 Page in an account book
30 More treacherous in the winter
31 Gripper
32 "Easter 1916" poet
33 Ed Sullivan, e.g.
34 Cache
40 Browning and simmering
41 ___ Bros.
43 "Yippee!"
45 Hilo garland
47 Snitch
48 Glossy fabric
51 Attention-getter
52 Happy cry in song
53 Animals in harness
55 Swenson of "Benson"
57 Goldbrick
58 A lot of Eurasia, once: Abbr.
59 Writer Sholem
61 Not old: Ger.
62 Municipal pol.
63 Civil War inits.



Puzzle by Ed Early

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

D	A	U	B		C	L	E	M		C	R	A	P	S
A	L	P	E		R	O	X	Y		M	A	C	A	W
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E	A	R	N	S		O	U	S	E		N	E	E	D

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Jumble

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

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www.jumble.com

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

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

Ans: A ___ - ___

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SKUNK DRAWL WOBBLE BOTTLE
Answer: What happened to the library thief? — HE WAS "BOOKED"

Horoscope

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mischa Barton, 21; Tatyana Ali, 28; Yakov Smirnoff, 56; Neil Diamond, 66

Happy Birthday: Just when you least expect it, someone will call your bluff, so make sure you have done your homework and are ready to move forward. Bragging will set you back and cause stress. You can turn your financial situation around this year if you look for new ways to bring in more moola. A creative idea will go the distance. Your numbers are 9, 25, 29, 33, 35, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Expand on ideas you have. Gather information that will make you more knowledgeable before you try to convince others to back your plans. A connection made at an event will help you put things in perspective. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Just when you think you have everything covered, someone will create a problem for you. Don't take things too seriously. Stay playful but determined to finish what you started. It's your attitude that will make the difference today. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): As long as you stick to what you have already laid out as the way to go, you will be fine. It's the sudden alterations that will get you into trouble. It's time to trust in yourself. 4 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone isn't on your side and will probably offer you help, only to renege. Count on your own merit and talent to get things done. Don't waste your energy arguing or stewing about what others are doing. 2 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take pride in what you do and you will attract plenty of well-wishers and support. Love will be knocking at your door. A creative idea you have can now be launched, but stick to your game plan. Last minute changes will backfire. 5 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone you are close to will overreact, leaving you confused. Worrying won't do you any good. Acceptance will be what keeps you out of trouble and moving forward in a positive direction. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Start something new, meet new people, get involved in something that interests you, travel or set your sights on love. Get out and enjoy what life has to offer. A talk will lead to interesting information regarding someone from your past. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may have to do a quick step to avoid some emotional turmoil happening at home. The more time spent with acquaintances or trying something new, the more you will learn, prosper and get ahead. Travel will lead to information. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Invite people over who have the same interests or who belong to a group you are involved with. The more getting-to-know you do, the better off you'll be. Someone will offer you something you don't expect. 5 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may think you have everything in order but a problem may develop with a friend, relative or neighbor. Get in touch with someone from your past who may have the knowledge you are looking for to proceed. 2 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A good deed will be repaid. Consider what you want to do and put yourself in a position to do so. Interviews, sending out your resume, starting your own business or teaming up with people who can compliment your talents should be your goal. 4 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be sure before you put too much on the line. Get your legal papers in order and look for an opportunity to make your move. If you don't stick to the truth, you will not get away with it. Be upfront about what you want and what you know and can do. 3 stars

Birthday Baby: You are an action person who thinks standing up and is always prepared to jump with both feet. You are creative, unique and competitive.

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

THE OBSERVER

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

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FOOTBALL

Weis' malpractice case set to begin

Irish coach fell into a coma following 2002 gastric bypass surgery

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis' lawsuit against the two doctors who performed his gastric bypass weight-loss surgery in 2002 has been scheduled to begin in court Feb. 12.

Brian Hardin, director of football media relations, said Weis was recruiting away from campus and unavailable for comment Wednesday. Hardin said Weis likely would not comment on the lawsuit in the future.

In the days following the surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital, Weis suffered from internal bleeding. He went in for a second surgery and fell into a coma for two weeks.

In the lawsuit, Weis alleges that physicians Charles M. Ferguson and Richard A. Hodin failed to meet the proper standard of care. The Boston Globe reported that New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, who Weis has said was a frequent guest at his house and help with his kids after the surgery, will be a key witness in the case.

Weis' lawsuit claims that as a result of the surgery, Weis suffers from limited movement in his legs and feet and continues to experience significant pain.

Weis has said repeatedly in the past that his father's death from a heart attack at age 56 was a primary factor in his decision to have the high-risk surgery.

"You want to know why you do it? Because for 10 years you're over 300 pounds and your father died at 56 of a second heart attack," Weis said at the press conference introducing him as Notre Dame's coach in 2004. "You're afraid if you stay at the same level, you're going to drop dead. That's why you do it. It has nothing to with getting

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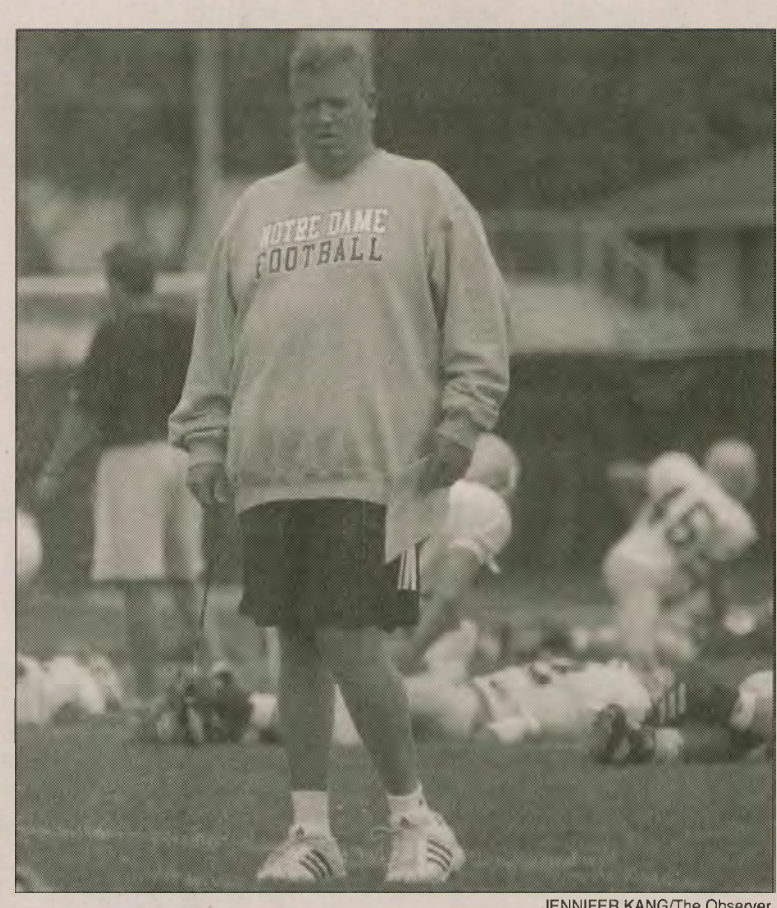

JENNIFER KANG/The Observer

Irish coach Charlie Weis watches stretching before practice on Aug. 25. Weis is 19-6 in two seasons at Notre Dame.

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles top Alma for road win

By DAN COOPER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's traveled to Alma Wednesday night and returned home with a victory after defeating the Alma Scots 66-58.

The win lifts the Belles record to 7-10 overall (6-4 MIAA), while the Scots drop to 7-9 (3-6 MIAA), respectively.

It was a close game throughout and the Belles took a narrow 37-36 lead into halftime. In the second half, the Belles took control and pulled away by outscoring the Scots 29-22.

Alma's defense was tough, holding junior guard Allison Kessler to 11 points — eight points off her season average — on just 2-of-9 shooting.

"You have to credit Alma, they took Kessler out of the game," Belles coach Jennifer

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish cut down on turnovers

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Despite falling to Marquette 71-62 Tuesday night, the Irish still sit in the top half of the Big East standings, due in part to their ability to limit turnovers and sink free throws.

Notre Dame is the best free-throw shooting team in the conference at 77.8 percent and second only to South Florida in turnover margin at plus-3.84 turnovers per game.

"We're not trying to do too much, I think we're playing within ourselves and I think that's why we're not turning the ball over," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.

In 19 games this season, the Irish have committed 330 turnovers, but have limited that number to 10 against St. John's Jan. 16, 11 against Syracuse Saturday, and only 12 against the Golden Eagles. Accompanying this low turnover rate has been Notre Dame's ability to steal the ball effective. Notre Dame averages 11.95

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ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish guard Charel Allen, right, looks to pass around Syracuse guard Mary Joe Riley in Notre Dame's 83-55 win over the Orange Saturday.

MEN'S BASKETBALL COMMENTARY

Players must step up to replace McAlarney

Sophomore point guard Kyle McAlarney has been suspended for the semester and will not play again for the 2007 Irish.

That news has been out for a couple of days now and McAlarney is headed home to ponder his future.

Chris Khorey

Associate Sports Editor

But what about the future of the team? No. 21/22 Notre Dame is still in the hunt for an NCAA Tournament bid and possibly even a Big East title. However, without McAlarney, several Irish players will have to adjust to new roles.

Notre Dame has played without its former starting point guard for eight games now, going back to the Stony Brook win Dec. 30. The Irish are 5-3 in those games, winning all five home games and losing three on the road.

The most obvious change to Notre Dame's lineup over the past eight games has been freshman Tory Jackson stepping into the starting point guard role in place of McAlarney. Jackson had been getting 15-20 minutes per game while McAlarney rested early this season and his energy had been a spark. He was able to come in for short spells and shut down the opponent's point guard completely while making athletic plays on the offensive end.

Now that he's been thrust into the starting job, however, Jackson won't just be a role player. Playing 30-35 minutes per game means he can't expend the energy defensively that he could off the bench and, consequently, he's less of a shut down defender. Also,

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SPORTS AT A GLANCE

MEN'S TENNIS

Fernando Gonzalez defeats second-ranked Rafael Nadal in straight sets in the Australian Open semifinals.

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NBA

76ers 118
Cavaliers 115

Cleveland guard Lebron James misses buzzer-beater as Philadelphia wins in double overtime.

page 12

NBA

Suns 112
Knicks 107

Phoenix extends winning streak to 15 in victory.

page 12

NBA

Raptors 90
Hornets 88

Toronto forward Chris Bosh scores 35 points to lead his team to a narrow victory.

page 12

NBA

Pistons 103
Bobcats 92

Detroit tops Charlotte behind 22 points from guard Richard Hamilton.

page 12

NBA

Pacers 96
Heat 94

Indiana pulls off overtime win after trailing by 20 in the second half.

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