BSFRVF

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2007

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Tickets vie for student body votes

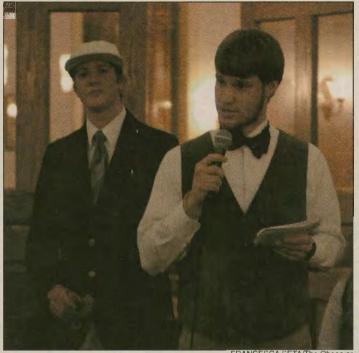
Presidential candidates campaign in debate

By SONIA RAO

The four tickets for Monday's student body presidential election met at LaFortune Student Center for the traditional presidential debates Wednesday

Junior Liz Brown and sophomore Maris Braun, juniors Danny Smith and Ashley Weiss, freshman Cipriano Rivera and sophomore Catherine Kane, and freshmen Garret Coggon and Mike Padberg were given a plat-form to present their respective proposals to improve student life at Notre Dame and sway a few votes before Monday's elec-

see DEBATE/page 8



Running mates Mike Padberg, left, and Garret Coggon present their platform during Wednesday's presidential debates.

Lack of realistic goals shocks, dissappoints

I've come to the conclusion that no one on this campus knows just how impotent student government is.

And yes, that's impotent, not impor-

tant. Perhaps "no one" is an

overstate-

Assistant News Editor

Amanda Michaels

ment. Because I certainly do, and I've heard enough people complaining about it to know that I'm not

But apparently, the candidates for student body president and vice president are clueless — or at least expect student voters to

see COLUMN/page 8

Campus culture can be culprit for disorders

Weight gain concerns may lead women, men to bulimia, anorexia, excessive exercising

By AARON STEINER News Writer

Last year, when an anorexic Brazilian supermodel died weighing 88 pounds and designers announced the creation of size 00 clothes for the thinnest customers, body image debates raged through the style capitals

of the world. Notre Dame may be far removed from runways, but it hasn't escaped the same problems that plague the fashion industry — and that's the reason behind Student Senate's "Eating Disorders and the Campus Culture" conference, which begins today.

Disorders such as anorexia, bulimia, binge eating disorder and muscular dysmorphia are as prevalent at Notre Dame as at other college campuses — if not more so - due to a variety of factors within the University's environment, say University staff members and the conference's student organizers.

Perfectionism and competition

Student body president Lizzi Shappell said students in any top-20 university like Notre Dame are ambitious in the classroom and outside of it too.

'It's a very competitive, perfectionist culture," Shappell said. "I think that combined with the pressures that most women and men, even, experience from the media — those two things together make the college campus a high pressure environment for keeping up that aura of perfec-

Notre Dame Food Services nutritionist Jocelyn Antonelli also stressed the dangers of perfectionism, which she said creates a proneness to eating disorders.

"[Students] want perfection in every area - including how they look and how they eat," Antonelli

Such perfectionism can foster eating disorders and body image issues, ranging from compulsive exercising and anorexia to bingeing and purging meals, Shappell

"[Notre Dame] is really a pressure cooker for these disorders," she said.

Valerie Staples, a counselor and eating disorders specialist at the University Counseling Center, said typical Notre Dame students work hard and play hard.'

"Both can be positive. Both can be negative," she said. "Finding a balance is a challenge for many students. Many have excelled [in the past] and find it difficult when they aren't 'number one,' but one of many very successful stu-

The fear of transitioning from superstar to another face in the

see CONFERENCE/page 6

College VP featured in SMC talk

Incandela speaks as part of Theology series

By ABBY RICHARDSON News Writer

Recognizing the difference between right and wrong was simply the starting point for Wednesday night's Theology Discussion.

Saint Mary's Associate President and Dean of Faculty and College Professor Incandela



Incandela

stepped out of his administrative duties to share personal stories and advice about moral choices, conscience, constituency and conflict.

He defined conscience as a personal indicator of what is good, what to avoid [and] what to pursue" an ingrained sense of purpose and obligation, he said.

Conscience would not be necessary, however, without free will - choices that take us closer to destination, or literally we are damned," he said. "Choices [bring] us closer or further away from God. When we go against our conscience, we diminish who we are.'

Incandela said it is important to realize how our actions are definitive of

see FIRE/page 9

Snow no match for removal team

Crews work through winter weather to keep ND roads, sidewalks clear



JENNIFER KANG/The Observe

A snow plow clears a sidewalk Monday near the Jordan Hall of Science.

By EMMA DRISCOLL

While students are often looking for a reason to cut class, snow is not a viable excuse at Notre Dame. Within hours of any snowfall - heavy or light walkways and roads on campus are cleared to make cross-campus travel as safe as possible for stu-

That snow doesn't clear itself, however. The work is done by Notre Dame's Landscape Services Landscape Department, which employs

see SNOW/page 8

Media expert launches College lecture series

By KATIE KOHLER Assistant News Editor

Dr. Kathleen Hall Jamieson spoke to a full house in the Little Theater at the Moreau

Center for the Arts at Saint Mary's Wednesday n i g h t . Jamieson, the director Annenberg Public Policy Center and professor of communication



at Annenberg School

Communication at University of Pennsylvania gave a lecture entitled "Deception in Politics," a field in which she is nationally accredited as an expert in political communications.

Jill Vihtelic, the College's acting vice president and dean of faculty, opened the series, welcoming Jamieson and explaining the preface of the first annual Plamondon Endowed Lecture in Communication Studies. The lecture series was named for retiring communicaprofessor Plamondon, who has been at Saint Mary's since 1981.

see JAMIESON/page 9

INSIDE COLUMN

A woman's scorn

Dateline Italy — The land of pizza, Popes and pasta. Enter the latest, hottest political scandal. No, it's not about pregnant chads, a stained dress, or even a major political figure yelling "byaaaa" during a speech.

John-Paul Witt

It's about honor, loyalty, and respect. I'm talking about, of course, the scandal involving the former Prime Minister

News Wire **Editor**

of Italy, Silvio Berlusconi, 70. It seems that he made a few comments, such as, to Miss Amazonia Aida Yespica, "I'd go with you anywhere." And about a Member of Parliament of his own party, Mara Carfagna, "Take a look at her! I'd marry her if I weren't married already.'

If I weren't married already. He's married, of course, to the (beautiful, if I say so myself) former model and actress Veronica Berlusconi, 50. His wife of 27 years.

To us Americans, this may not seem so bad. Admittedly, those old enough to remember the last 10 years have been desensitized to extramarital affairs in government. But it seems that, while that evokes a "boys will be boys" response from the electorate, the deliberate, public, verbal besmirching of a woman's honor is intolerable. I mean, I didn't see any letters to the New York Times after the events of 1998.

But Veronica returned fire: "These are affirmations that I see as damaging to my dignity, affirmations that ... cannot be reduced to jokes," she wrote in a letter to the La Repubblica newspaper. I am impressed. I applaud Veronica for having the courage to stand up for this affront to her self-respect.

On the other hand, in 2002, while he was prime minister, Berlusconi said of the Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen that Rasmussen was "the best-looking prime minister in Europe ... He's so good looking, I'm even thinking of introducing him to my wife.'

He also said that he charmed the Finnish prime minister, a woman, into allowing the EU to build a facility in Italy by using "all my playboy tactics, even if they have not been used for some time.

Between you and me, I think Veronica should've seen this coming. If Berlusconi wasn't using his A-game "playboy tactics" at home, he had no business using them abroad. You don't slack off during the year and work hard during summer vacation.

Now Veronica has a tell-all book deal, for "Veronica's Tendency," and Don Silvio tendered an apology: "I was reluctant in private, because I am playful but also proud. Challenged in public, the temptation to give in [to you] is strong. And I can't resist.

I think Veronica is great for standing up to this maltreatment. But a book deal? Skip that, and do things the American way: turn the name recognition and publicity into a bid to become Italian's first female prime minister. At least then she could check out the other male prime ministers, instead of her husband.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact John-Paul Witt jwitt1@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

In the Feb. 7 edition of The Observer, the article "New Engineering building approved," reported that the University did not disclose the name of the architect charged with the construction project. In fact, the University did announce BSA Design, an Indianapolisbased firm, is already working on the project.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT'S THE BEST WAY TO STAY WARM IN THE COLD?



Joey Statz freshman Alumni

"Surround yourself with big sweaty men."



Christine Kennedy

freshman McGlinn

"Hot chocolate and warm clothes."



Alex Gorrell

freshman Alumni

"A very furry suit."



Mike Schubert

iunior Alumni

"Beast up."



Elisha Acosta

senior Badin

"It's impossible."



Britta Zoeller

seniors Badin

"Under armor."



OUENTIN STENGER/The Observer
Students eat and discuss interrace issues with panelists at the "Dialogue on the Americas: A Multi Race Conversation" forum Wednesday in the Coleman Morse Center.

OFFBEAT

Woman fakes heart attack. scares off intruder

HAMPDEN, Maine — An 80-year-old Hampden woman who was watching the Super Bowl alone faked a heart attack to scare off a man who had broken into her home and was pushing her into the bedroom, police said.

Daniel Thanem, 45, of Winterport was arrested a short time later and charged with aggravated criminal trespass and assault. Thanem is a convicted sex offender in Alabama, police said.

The woman was watching Sunday night's Super Bowl when she spotted a man walking through her house,

TODAY

said Hampden police Sgt. Dan Stewart. When she asked the man what he was doing, he grabbed her from behind and began pushing her toward the bedroom.

Stewart said the woman pretended she was having a heart attack and told the intruder her heart medication was in her car in the garage. After they retrieved the medication, the man fled.

Malaysia weighs college bathroom course

KUALA LUMPUR — It's never too late for toilet training. Some Malaysian colleges may soon offer courses on how to keep public restrooms clean, the national news agency reported Thursday.

The effort is meant to help Malaysia's public lavatories become as hygienic as those in countries such as Britain and Singapore, Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Robert Lau was quoted as saying by Bernama news agency.

"Clean toilets cannot merely be judged by the eyes," Lau was quoted as saying. "This matter also involves the use of cleaning equipment, soap, fragrances and proper tis-

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

SATURDAY

IN BRIEF

Freelance writer, editor and publisher Anne Elizabeth Moore will teach her tricks of the trade at 3 p.m. today in the Notre Dame Room, LaFortune Center.

David Lodge from the department of Biological Sciences will give the lecture "The Other Alien Debate: Biology and Policy of Invasive Species" at 4 p.m. today in room 120 of the Law School.

Efraim Inbar, Professor of Political Studies at Bar-Ilan University, will give the lecture "Israel's Security Environment" tonight at 8 in Room C-103 of the Hesburgh Center.

As part of the Notre Dame Literary Festival, writer, novelist, essayist, editor, and founder of the independent book publishing house McSweeney's, Dave Eggers will read from his latest work in Room 101, DeBartolo Hall tonight at 8.

Join the ND community for "Artists for Africa," a special evening of celebration for Africa with music, dance, and education at 10 tonight at Legends.

The Kellogg Institute will be hosting the annual Celebration of Brazilian Carnaval featuring live music by the group "Unicago Samba," Friday from 8 p.m. to midnight in South Dining Hall. Admission is free.

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

LOCAL WEATHER

HIGH

LOW

17 3



HIGH

LOW

TONIGHT

HIGH 12 -2 LOW



FRIDAY

18 7



HIGH 20 LOW 2

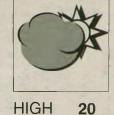


HIGH 17

LOW



SUNDAY



MONDAY

LOW 3 12

Atlanta 30 / 18 Boston 31 / 16 Chicago 17 / 2 Denver 43 / 25 Houston 71 / 56 Los Angeles 66 / 51 Minneapolis 9 / -11 New York 28 / 17 Philadelphia 30 / 15 Phoenix 77 / 51 Seattle 50 / 42 St. Louis 26 / 13 Tampa 73 / 55 Washington 33 / 16

STUDENT SENATE

Fair Trade products urged

Amnesty International seeks new campus-wide coffee campaign

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Associate News Editor

Notre Dame Amnesty International president Gary Nijak took the podium at the Senate meeting Wednesday to brief senators about progress made in the Fair Trade coffee campaign.

On Oct. 4 Senate passed a resolution calling for Fair Trade coffee to be exclusively offered in all non-franchised Food Services operations. This exclusivity has not been achieved.

The campaign needs a new marketing strategy, Nijak said Wednesday. They are aiming for a "new attempt at marketing a social justice program rather than what has been happening on campus," he said.

Nijak has met with Dean Carolyn Woo of the Mendoza College of Business and other people in the business school to discuss different ways to market.

Amnesty International also discussed its marketing techniques with David Prentkowski, the director of Food Services. They talked about clearer labeling of the Fair Trade coffee available at the dining halls, posting information at the sites about what Fair Trade means and possibly advertising for related lectures on the LCD screens in the dining halls.

Nijak wants to branch the initiative beyond just coffee and try to introduce Fair Trade chocolate to campus.

"This isn't something that is limited to coffee," Nijak said. "This is a much larger idea."

An Oct. 5 Observer article described Fair Trade pricing as a commitment to pay farmers \$1.26 per pound of coffee beans, which should be enough to support a family. Fair Trade coffee allows farmers to sell beans directly to the roaster rather than go through millers, exporters and importers.

Amnesty International and other groups on campus have several events planned for later in the semester regarding the Fair Trade issue, including a showing of the movie "Black Gold" at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center and a lecture by theology professor Mary D'Angelo on Fair Trade and how it relates to teachings of the Catholic Social Tradition.

The majority of Wednesday's meeting was spent discussing details regarding oversight in the student government — a topic that has been the subject of much debate in Senate and in the Council of Representatives over the past few weeks. The Senate first passed a resolution that allows the chairperson of the Senate to "waive committee assignment of any resolution,

letter or order and hold immediate consideration of it before the Senate in extraordinary circumstances."

This resolution allows all nonconstitutional amendments to be passed through Senate more quickly should the need arise.

After this resolution was passed, Senate Oversight committee chair Chris Hollon brought up two more oversight issues for discussion. The senators debated transferring the account number for presidential programming from under the Student Union Board (SUB) to student government and also increasing the monetary limit an organization like SUB may spend before it must notice the Financial Management Board. Questions, discussions and debate continued for approximately 30 minutes until Lyons senator Mariana Montes said the senators should delay debating the issue until a resolution has been written.

In other Senate news:

♦ Faculty senate representative Linda Sharp said the Faculty Senate discussed clarifying the honor code and developing definitive plans for crisis situations in classrooms at Notre Dame at their meeting this week.

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu

Saint Mary's Web site restructured, updated

By ROHAN ANAND News Writer

Visitors to Saint Mary's homepage might have been surprised at what they saw when they accessed the Web site after Jan. 12.

After nearly six years, the College's homepage unveiled its new look in early January — an initiative freshman Ashley Nealon deemed a "good public relations move."

Keith Fowlkes, chief information officer at Saint Mary's, explained from a technological standpoint that a Content Management System (CMS), which allows for easier updating, more interactive features and the ability to share information amongst multiple sites on campus, now drives the new system.

"Basically, it's the newest, latest and greatest edition of software allowing us to keep up to date and manage all of the information on the Web site," he said.

Fowlkes said the OIT system at Saint Mary's would no longer use an HTML editor for creating web pages. In addition, the internal Web site has new forums and discussion centers which will allow visitors to partake in interactive surveys and polls.

"The main purpose of our

new design was to add a little bit more flexibility for our visitors," said Janet Flahaven, assistant director of web communications at Saint Mary's. "Our old design, which hadn't been updated since 2001, was a little more static, but these changes will give us more freedom to move things around and feature new things."

Flahaven also mentioned that feedback from faculty and students has been, on the whole, very positive.

"People seem to appreciate the fact that the Web site is easier to navigate and operate," she said.

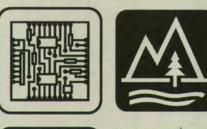
The tinkering, however, isn't quite yet finished. Employees at Saint Mary's office of information technology are still working on other projects to increase ease and convenience for students and faculty.

"We still have some projects with CMS that we'll be working on for the next few months, including chat services and blogs for admissions and alumni relations," Fowlkes said. "The software gives us so much levity in what we can do, and we're still trying to figure out what's best for the college and its outside constituents."

Contact Rohan Anand at ranand@nd.edu









ENGINEERING

THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING WELCOMES EARLY ADMITTED ENGINEERING INTENTS

Matthew A. Abeling J. Augustinsky **Brandon Barrett** Megan E. Barry Jonathan M. Barry Charles W. Bernhard Graham P. Boechler Michael J. Bohnert Christopher M. Borchers Nicholas W. Bosler Ryan P. Calkin Arianna S. Cassani John C. Cockerham Thomas A. Connelly Emily M. Cook Matthew D. Drummond **Kelsey Dubois** Daniel E. Ferrara Megan E. Fitzgerald **Paul Fleury Matthew Fordonski** Maria Gaither Taylor H. Gilbert Charles A. Gray **Thomas Griffith** Katherine R. Heinzen Kyle Higdon Michael D. Hill

Abigail L. Jackson

Steven R. Jaconette

Alyssa Jank Ryan A. Jansen Joseph Jensen Sam Karch Connor P. Keenan Katrina R. Keller Marie E.N. Kelly **Eric Leis** Kathryn M. Lentini Amy P. Libardi Danny C. Lucero-Dixon Danielle J. Mai Michael McArtor Sean P. McMillan Kathleen Mehary **Ashley Meklis** Meeghan M. Miller Zachary D. Miller Charles W. Mitchell Zane M. Norman **Onyebuchi Offodile** Robert F. Pacione James M. Pappas Benjamin J. Peters



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WE HOPE TO SEE YOU IN OUR CLASS OF 2011.

Former EPA head addresses environmental issues

Whitman suggests increased federal action to cut back on emissions, served one term as first female governor of N.J.

By JOHN TIERNEY News Writer

While the environment is in better shape than it was 50 years ago, there is still work to be done, former Environment Protection Agency Administrator and one-time New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman said Wednesday during her "Shaping the Future: America's Environment Today" lecture.

Whitman, a Republican who served for two years in he Bush White House, stressed the importance of market-based solutions to the environmental crises of greenhouse gas and fossil fuel emissions.

"What is good environmental stewardship is also good for business," she said. "We don't have to make a choice between having a healthy environment and a thriving economy."

Although the modern environmental movement began in the 1970s with the federal government mandating stricter emission standards against the wishes of business leaders, the roles have changed.

"Today, the responsible leaders of American businesses are objecting that the federal government is not taking mandatory actions," she said. "It's a natural progress in

most responsible leaders that they are more concerned with the environment."

While the Bush administration has enacted voluntary environmental reform programs, Whitman said these initiatives do not go far enough to help cure the challenges the world faces.

Although she hailed voluntary governmental programs such as Energy Star and Climate Leaders, Whitman said more federal action is essential.

"A mandatory carbon cap is necessary and probable within the next five years," she said.

Whitman advocated a solution to the environmental crisis that requires businesses to meet certain standards, but allows them to meet these standards in a way that is profitable to the company. As part of this so-called "capand-trade" system — similar to the system employed to reduce acid rain - the government would set target to be reached, but companies have to decide how to reach them in accord with their own best interests.

When companies are unable to reach the mandatory targets, they are able to buy emission capabilities from companies that have not surpassed the regulations. The cap-and-trade system is most effective because "the govern-

ment is not innovative, but the private sector is," Whitman said

Whitman said environmental responsibility will not limit economic and industrial growth.

"Businesses can protect the environment in a way that enhances their bottom line and doesn't limit their growth," she said.

"We need to make it profitable for businesses to do the right thing for the environment. I don't care about their motives if they're doing the right thing," Whitman said.

Whitman said the White House did not manipulate climate change scientific evidence during her two years at the EPA, but she believes that policy dictates the results of scientific investigation at the federal level.

"When the science goes against what certain people want, it just gets dropped from the report," she said.

"The policy doesn't always have to be based on just the science, but they need to let the science be the science."

In her fight for environmental responsibility, Whitman said she does not hold others to a higher standard than she holds herself. The former governor drives a Toyota Prius, which — according to Car and Driver Magazine— averages 60 miles per gallon in the city.



QUENTIN STENGER/The Observe

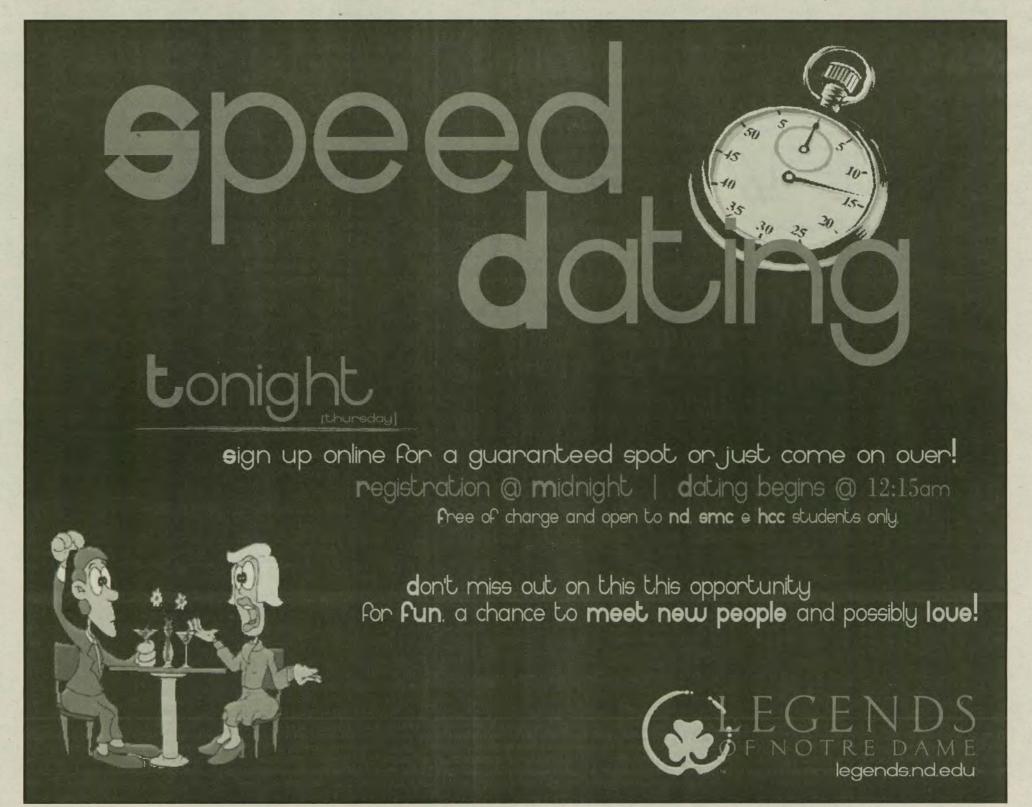
Former EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman speaks Wednesday in Leighton Hall where she addressed environmental concerns.

"I love my Prius, but we're not going to change what cars people drive right away," she said.

Whitman served as the fiftieth and first female governor of New Jersey from 1994 to 2001. She left the governorship to become administrator of the EPA during the Bush administration in January of 2001 — a post she held until June of 2003.

Whitman also serves as the president of The Whitman Strategy Group, a consulting firm specializing in the environment and governmental bipartisanship. She is also the leader of the It's My Party Too political action committee, which works to elect moderate Republican candidates.

Contact John Tierney at jtierne 1@nd.edu



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Lebanese, Israelis exchange fire

JERUSALÉM — Fighting broke out between Israeli and Lebanese soldiers Wednesday night as Israel searched for Hezbollah bombs along the frontier between the two countries, officials from both sides said.

Lebanese soldiers opened fire and Israeli troops responded with tanks and light weapons, Israeli security officials said on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Lebanese military officials said their troops opened fire with machine guns on a bulldozer after the vehicle crossed the so-called Blue Line — the U.N.-demarcated boundary — and entered about 20 yards into Lebanon

Prehistoric remains found hugging

ROME — They died young and, by the looks of it, in love. Two 5,000-year-old skeletons found locked in an embrace near the city where Shakespeare set the star-crossed tale "Romeo and Juliet" have sparked theories the remains of a far more ancient love story have been found.

Archaeologists unearthed the skeletons dating back to the late Neolithic period outside Mantua, 25 miles south of Verona, the city of Shakespeare's story of doomed love.

Buried between 5,000 and 6,000 years ago, the prehistoric pair are believed to have been a man and a woman and are thought to have died young, because their teeth were found intact, said Elena Menotti, the archaeologist who led the dig.

"As far as we know, it's unique," Menotti told The Associated Press by telephone from Milan. "Double burials from the Neolithic are unheard of, and these are even hugging."

NATIONAL NEWS

Air Force cadets caught cheating

AIR FORCE ACADEMY — Nineteen freshman cadets at the Air Force Academy have admitted cheating on a test of general knowledge about their branch of the military, and nine others are under investigation, the school said Wednesday.

The cadets admitted obtaining answers to a test and forwarding them through an Internet social group and private computer messages.

Academy spokesman Johnny Whitaker said the test was part of a weekly series of exams that covered everything from quotes by famous military leaders to current events. The tests do not affect cadets' grade-point averages, but they must pass to advance to the second year.

Of 28 students caught up in the probe, 19 are athletes, but the school declined to identify their teams, citing privacy issues.

Mistrial declaired for soldier

FORT LEWIS — A judge declared a mistrial Wednesday in the court-martial of an Army lieutenant who refused to deploy to Iraq, saying the soldier did not fully understand a document he signed admitting to elements of the charges

Prosecutors said 1st Lt. Ehren Watada admitted in the document that he had a duty to go to Iraq with his fellow soldiers. Watada, however, said he admitted only that he did not go to Iraq with his unit, not that he had a duty to go.

LOCAL NEWS

Homeless men charged with murder

SOUTH BEND — A second man was arraigned Wednesday on four counts of murder in the deaths of four homeless men over what police describe as a dispute over scrap metal.

Randy Lee Reeder, 50, requested a public defender during his appearance and was ordered held without bond. He is scheduled to appear before Superior Court Judge John Marnocha on Feb. 20.

Reeder and another homeless man, Daniel J. Sharp, 56, are accused of killing Michael S. Nolen Jr., Michael W. Lawson, Brian Talboom and Jason Coates between Dec. 18 and 21 and dumping their bodies in manholes.

Astronaut faces serious charges

Family friend speaks out about challenges, stress on female astronauts

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Lisa Nowak chose a juggling act of dauntingly high difficulty: to be an astronaut and a mother of three.

Her background — high school valedictorian, Naval Academy graduate, test pilot — seemed to equip her for the challenge. Yet as she and some of her acquaintances acknowledged, the stresses on her and her family were extraordinarily intense.

On Wednesday, transformed from space hero to criminal suspect, Nowak returned to Houston for a medical assessment, a day after she was charged in Florida with attempted murder and attempted kidnapping in what police depicted as a love triangle involving a fellow astronaut.

The woman viewed as a role model by the school-children she often addressed was met on the tarmac by police and escorted into a waiting squad car. Her head was covered by a jacket. She was later released on bail, with orders to stay away from the other woman and to wear a monitoring device; she faced a medical exam at Johnson Space Center.

NASA, at a loss to explain what went wrong, said it would revamp its psychological screening process in light of Nowak's arrest. The review will look at how astronauts are screened for psychological problems and whether Nowak's dealings with co-workers signaled complications.

Nowak's children were with her husband, Richard, who works for a NASA contractor. She was being replaced as a ground communicator for the next space shuttle mission in March, a job in which she would talk to the astronauts from Houston during their flight.



Donald

Astronaut Lisa Nowak stands before an Orlando judge with attorney Donald Lykkebak. She is charged with attempted kidnapping and attempted murder.

Some part of any breakdown may defy rational explanation, but those who know Nowak and NASA could sense the stress she was under.

Dr. Jon Clark, a former NASA flight surgeon who lost his wife, astronaut Laurel Clark, in the 2003 Columbia disaster, said Nowak provided invaluable support to his family then, at the cost of losing time with her own family.

"She was the epitome of managing a very hectic career, making sacrifices to accommodate her family," Clark said in a telephone interview. "All those stresses can conspire to be over-

whelming. ... Clearly she suffered a lot of mental anguish"

"There is a lot of marital stress in the astronaut corps in general — a huge amount," Clark said. "It's not unheard of for things to change into relationships that are beyond professional."

Clark also said there can be extra pressure on NASA's female astronauts — and the men, like himself, who marry them.

"They made more sacrifices than the 'Right Stuff' guys," he said, comparing women astronauts to the original all-male astronaut corps. "They have to bal-

ance two careers — to be a mom and wife and an astronaut. ... You don't come home at night, like most of the male astronauts, and have everything ready for you."

Clark expressed empathy with Richard Nowak, who separated from his wife a few weeks ago after 19 years of marriage.

"He was a real low-key, go-with-the flow, unobtrusive person," Clark said. "You almost have to be to survive in the realm. ... It was hard on our marriage to have my wife gone all the time, and eventually have her career surpass mine."

North Korea restarts peace talks

Associated Press

BEIJING — International talks on North Korea's nuclear program convene Thursday with a new sense of optimism about the possibility of the first tangible progress on the communist nation's disarmament since negotiations began more than three years ago.

The main U.S. envoy said Wednesday that the first steps on dismantling Pyongyang's nuclear weapons could be agreed upon at this round of meetings in Beijing, though he expected "hard bargaining"

Ahead of the six-nation negotiations, the North has also signaled it's satisfied with changes in the United States' attitude, following an apparent greater willingness by all sides to compromise.

The latest nuclear standoff with the North started in late 2002 after Washington accused Pyongyang of having a secret uranium enrichment program in violation of a 1994 deal between the two countries. North Korea kicked out nuclear inspectors and restarted its main reactor, moves that culminated in the country's first atomic test detonation in October.

Although the U.S. and key North Korean allies China and Russia backed U.N. sanctions after the nuclear test, Washington has since engaged in a series of diplomatic overtures that have drawn praise from Pyongyang.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill went to Germany last month to meet North Korean nuclear envoy Kim Kye Gwan, and the North later said the sides had reached an unspecified agreement. The specifics of what they discussed haven't been made public.

Washington has also held separate talks on financial restrictions it has placed on a Macau-based bank where the North held accounts, accusing it of complicity in the regime's alleged counterfeiting and money laundering. Blacklisting that bank has scared off other financial institutions from dealings with the North for fear of losing access to the U.S. market.

Conference

continued from page 1

crowd contributes to the development of eating disorders, she said.

Disordered eating and exercising

Junior Ashley Weiss, chair of the Student Senate Gender Issues committee, and graduate student and co-conference coordinator Ali Wishon said they believe eating disorders are more common across Notre Dame's campus than people realize — or are willing to accept.

"It's something that you wake up and see everyday," Weiss said. "You see the girls that wake up and go running every morning or the guys that are constantly at the gym — and then at the dining halls, you can see the health food craze," she said. "None of [these things] are bad, but just taken to the extreme."

Shappell agreed, saying she knew a substantial number of people in high school and at Notre Dame afflicted with eating disorders.

"I think that body image is something that nearly every young woman has struggled with, at least at some point in time," she said.

At Notre Dame, Antonelli said she thinks eating disorders often stem from dieting or restrictive eating habits. Whether a student stops snacking, skips meals or eliminates carbohydrates, these habits — often paved with good intentions — can lead to disorders, she said.

Overall, students seem to put great emphasis on eating and staying healthy, but in some cases students become so food-conscious they are anxious about eating, she added

"Some people are so concerned about the 'freshman 15,'" Antonelli said. "This summer I had several students call before school started, stating they were anxious about [gaining weight]. That's never happened before."

Antonelli said she regularly sees students for nutritional counseling. If she believes a student is suffering from an eating disorder, she will refer the student to the Counseling Center, she said.

In addition to problems with food, obsessive or compulsive exercising may also become an issue for those struggling with body image disorders.

With a high percentage of former varsity athletes comprising the Notre Dame student body, "our campus is extremely athletic," Shappell said. Such athleticism can place too much attention on staying fit and looking good, she said.

Notre Dame RecSports co-director Sally Derengoski said while RecSports provides services to students that promote healthy exercising habits — including the new personal training program — staff members see some students "take it to the extreme."

"The great majority of students who come to play or work out are doing so within a range that is helpful and healthy," Derengoski said. "Do we see cases that exceed that range? Certainly, and in those cases we work with the Counseling Center and the Office of Student Affairs to best provide for the student."

However, a person doesn't have to exercise excessively long or hard to be suffering from an eating disorder, Staples said.

"Even a reasonable amount of exercise could be questionable when the individual does so for the sole purpose of burning calories or reshaping their body rather than to be healthy or reduce stress," Staples said.

Staples also mentioned binging and purging — two behaviors conducted much more secretively,

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she said.

Male body image: an overlooked issue

While research and media coverage have highlighted the problems of eating disorders among women, men are not exempt from eating disorders or image issues, Wishon said.

"That's absolutely not true," she said. "The current statistic is that 10 million women and one million men are suffering in the U.S."

The conference's keynote speaker, Dr. Roberto Olivardia, a Harvard Medical School scholar, will specifically address the male body image issue, she said.

"There's really no name for it," she said. "Men don't know what to say when they are compulsively exercising, lifting weights so much they can't do anything else."

Derengoski said male Notre Dame students who exercise to a certain extent have attracted attention.

"We have had incidents with both males and females where concern has been expressed, either by a patron or staff," she said.

Staples said the athletic culture at Notre Dame could also be a contributing factor behind these disorders.

"Certainly athleticism is a piece of what drives this," she said. "Men tend to increase exercise and working out as a way to reshape their body rather than by dieting as women do."

While the Counseling Center sees only "a few" men each year with eating disorder issues, that certainly does not mean there aren't many of them affected, Staples said.

"Men are not immune to the cultural focus on appearance, but often find it more difficult to acknowledge a problem for fear of being seen as having a woman's problem," she said.

Counseling Center services in place

While conference organizers hope the event creates awareness of and dialogue about eating disorders, the Counseling Center already has a variety of services to help students struggling with disorders, Staples said. Options include individual or group counseling sessions.

"The approach to treatment is comprehensive and involves students working with a physician from Health Services," she said.

The Counseling Center also consults family, friends and faculty members to detect potential victims of food or body image disorders, Staples said.

Students can call to schedule an appointment or contact health services. Wherever they feel most comfortable starting, they "will be put in touch with the other aspects of the treatment team," Staples said

Staples said that an estimated 13 to 15 percent of the students who come to the Counseling Center each year seek counseling for eating, weight or body image concerns.

Contact Aaron Steiner at asteiner@nd.edu

Quality In Everything We Do



BUSINESS

MARKET RECAP

	Stocks	A PART E
Dow Jones	12,666.87	+0.56

Up: Same: Down: Composite Volume: 1,889 168 1,349 2,643,792,170

AMEX	2,162.95	+14.07
NASDAQ	2,490.50	+8.37
NYSE	9,353.62	+8.37
S&P 500	1,450.02	+2.02
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	17,338.30	+45.98
FTSE 100(London)	6,369.50	+23.20

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-0.47	-0,14	29.37
NASDAQ 100 TR (QQQQ	+0.93	+0.41	44.46
INTEL CP (INTC)	+0.94	+0.20	21.51
CISCO SYS INC (SUNW)	+0.92	+0.06	6.59

Ireusu	iries		C 10 10
10-YEAR NOTE	-0.42	-0.020	4.745
13-WEEK BILL	0.00	0.00	5.010
30-YEAR BOND	-0.37	-0.016	4.852
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.59	-0.028	4.727
Commo	dities	46.00	
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)		-1.17	57.71
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)		-1.40	657.30
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)		-1.28	102.70
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YEN			120.8850
EURO			0.7683

IN BRIEF

CANADIAN \$

POUND

Apple CEO Jobs hits at RIAA

LOS ANGELES — Apple Inc. CEO Steve Jobs challenged major record labels to strip copying restrictions from music sold online, but their trade group fired back Wednesday, suggesting the company should open up its anti-piracy technology to rivals instead.

Doing so, argued Mitch Bainwol, chairman and chief executive of the Recording Industry Association of America, would eliminate technology hurdles that prevent music fans from buying songs at Apple's iTunes Music Store and playing them on devices other than the iPod.

"We have no doubt that a technology company as sophisticated and smart as Apple could work with the music community to make that happen," Bainwol said in a statement.

In an essay posted on the Cupertinobased company's Web site Tuesday, Jobs called on record labels to abandon their requirement for online music to be wrapped in Digital Rights Management, or DRM, technology that prevents unauthorized copying.

The DRM protections prevent the iPod from playing music bought from many other competing online stores.

Shareholders approve buyout offer

CHICAGO — Equity Office Properties Trust shareholders overwhelmingly approved a \$23 billion all-cash buyout offer Wednesday from private equity firm Blackstone Group, sealing the deal on an acquisition that ended with a down-to-thewire bidding war.

Company officials, who favored Blackstone's \$55.50 per share proposal over a rival bid of cash and stock from suitor Vornado Realty Trust, said the acquisition will be completed Friday.

They said more than 92 percent of ballots cast during the vote supported the

The Blackstone deal had the support of Equity Office trustees, even though it was less than the \$56 per share in cash and shares offered by Paramus, N.J.-based Vornado.

EU debates emission restrictions

European Commission sets goal for lowering carbon dioxide output by 2012

Associated Press

BRUSSELS European Commission proposed binding Wednesday force automakers to cut carbon dioxide emissions from new cars sold in the European Union by 2012, arguing the tough measure was crucial for fighting global warming.

The plan faces strong opposition from the auto industry, and EU officials acknowledged it would likely lead to a rise in the sale price of new cars.

It foresees lower emissions limits of nearly 210 grams of carbon dioxide per mile for new cars sold or imported into the EU by 2012. Average emissions are now around 260 grams per mile.

EU Industry Commissioner Guenter Verheugen urged governments to offer subsidies and tax rebates to buyers who seek out more environment-friendly cars.

'We have to be clear about this, this is something which would considerably increase manufacturing costs per car," he said, but added that extra costs "will be more than balanced by the fact that cars will have greater fuel efficiency.

0.5075

1.1854

The plan also calls for increased use of biofuels and cleaner fossil fuels, meant to reduce car emissions by 25 percent, even lower than the 210-gram objective, EU **Environment Commissioner** Stavros Dimas said. It also calls for added research to get a 153-gram-per-mile level by 2020.

"If action is delayed, it will cost far more," Dimas said.

He pointed to a U.N. scientist panel report Friday that warned that global warming was so severe that it would continue for centuries.

"Winning the battle to prevent dangerous climate change ... will require very substantial reductions of greenhouse gases. All sectors of the economy should



EU Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry Guenter Verheugen spoke in Brussels Wednesday. The European Union discussed rules to cut carbon dioxide in car emissions.

participate and transport is very important," he said.

The United States does not regulate carbon dioxide emissions from vehicles, although the government and several states are looking into proposals, said John Millett, a spokesman for the **Environmental Protection**

California has adopted a plan, which the auto industry has challenged in a lawsuit, for incremental decreases in carbon dioxide emissions, beginning with cars made in 2009. Cars and light trucks made that year would be limited to 323 grams of carbon dioxide per mile. By 2016, that figure would drop to 205 grams per mile, a 30 percent reduction over cars made in 2002.

EU officials argued the new rules, if backed by EU governments, would keep Europe's ailing car industry viable in the long-term, amid growing cheap imports from

"The EU car industries are at the core of our economies," said EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso. "By positively taking up the climate change challenge, they will preserve and enhance their competitiveness in the long term.'

Barroso is pushing EU governments to shift the 27nation bloc to a low carbon economy as a way of tackling global warming and carving out a new industrial niche for European indus-

EU officials have said automakers have failed to meet voluntary caps on car emissions set with the commission nine years ago, when they pledged to reduce average emissions from new and imported cars to 225 grams of carbon dioxide per mile by 2008.

Lawmakers grab third rail in capital

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Back-channel efforts by the White House and Capitol Hill Democrats to begin trying to negotiate a solution to the fiscal problems of Social Security and other federal benefit programs appeared to collapse Wednesday.

At issue is a little-publicized attempt by the White House and members of Congress to set up a working group of lawmakers and top administration officials to fortify benefit programs like Social Security and Medicare for the severe future fiscal challenges due to the looming retirement of the Baby Boom generation. Three-fourths of the group, evenly split between Democrats and Republicans, would have had to agree on any solution.

But Senate Budget Committee Chairman Kent Conrad, D-N.D.,

accused the White House of acting in bad faith at a panel hearing that turned acrimonious over White House Budget Director Rob Portman's unwillingness to acknowledge that tax increases should be part of any fix for the long-term problems of the huge federal benefit programs.

We have an opportunity here to work together, but the only way I know in human relations for there to be resolution between parties who have different views is for both sides to compromise," Conrad said. "Unfortunately I see virtually none on your side. And I regret that more than I can say.

Conrad then gaveled the hearing to an end and immediately left.

Portman says the administration is willing to come to the negotiating table with no preconditions —a change from the stance President Bush took two years ago, when he ruled out hikes in Social Security payroll taxes. But Portman told reporters, "The first step shouldn't prejudge where we end up.'

The idea of establishing the negotiating group had come close to fruition, Conrad said in an interview Saturday, but Vice President Dick Cheney set talks back last month after saying in a Fox News Sunday interview that the administration continues to oppose payroll tax hikes as part of a broader Social Security solution.

The panel was likely to have first focused on Social Security.

The Senate Budget Committee's top Republican, Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, said House Democrats opposed the idea.

People on the other side are more interested in the next election than the next generation," Gregg said.

Snow

continued from page 1

30 people who work three different shifts for campus snow removal, said Bill Thistlethwaite, superintendent of landscape services.

Three employees work from 2 a.m. to 10 a.m., using any of the department's four brooms, three Bobcat machines with buckets, three pick-up trucks with plows, four small dump trucks with plows and three big dump trucks with plows, Thistlethwaite said.

Four employees work from 3:30 p.m. until 11:30 p.m., and if snowfall isn't too heavy, Thistlethwaite said the department operates on a third shift from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. During that

period, the most workers are employed.

There are always exceptions, though. Precautions are taken for every scenario as soon as flurries begin.

When there's more than two inches of snow, Thistlethwaite said, additional people join the second shift, which then runs an extra four hours to end at 2 p.m.

The current bitterly cold temperatures only complicate the matter. When the thermometer drops below zero and snow falls during the day, the removal process slows down.

In subzero temperatures, chemicals used to remove the snow and break down ice are less efficient than in warmer weather, Thistlethwaite said.

"When the temperatures are in the twenties, we can

have the walks down to bare pavement and dry by the end of the day," he said.

When snow falls at a rate of over two inches an hour during the daytime, the removal process becomes more cumbersome. But areas of campus that require snow removal are prioritized to make the process more efficient.

"The walks and the roads are the top priority," Thistlethwaite said. "But along with that are the parking places for faculty, staff and commuting students."

Although Thistlethwaite realizes that it may irritate students, student parking lots are the lowest priority for snow removal, he said.

Thistlethwaite said workers plow the student lots last because most of the cars are already there and

most students are already on campus. While Landscape Services does the best they can to clear parking lots, they do not intend block people from their cars, he said.

"Contrary to popular belief, we don't really try to plow people in. That's not our goal," Thistlethwaite said. "Sometimes this is just something that happens when cars are left in lots that need to be plowed."

Landscape Services is also trying to cut the use of salt by using other compounds, he said.

"We like to think we're

one of the leaders in using the environmentally friendly chemicals," Thistlethwaite said. "These chemicals are byproducts of ethanol that are not corrosive and do not harm plant life."

While several tons of salt are still used on average each year, its use has been greatly reduced at Notre Dame.

"We still use salt because we have to, but over the last six or seven years, we have cut our salt use by about 40 percent and [we] still keep our roads better than everybody else in the area," Thistlethwaite said.

Since shifts are long and weather conditions harsh, those operating snow removal equipment need to stay focused.

"It's very mentally taxing," Thistlethwaite said.
"You have to stay alert all the time. When you work long hours and you can't see because of the snow, things can get hairy."

Contact Emma Driscoll at edriscol@nd.edu

Debate

continued from page 1

The candidates brought different experiences and perspectives to the table, beginning with Brown and Braun's extensive involvement in student government. Collectively they have served on seven of the nine student senate committees.

Fellow contenders Rivera and Kane, members of ROTC, offered their military leadership experience, while Smith and Weiss highlighted their across-theboard participation in student government.

Coggon and Padberg used comedy to compensate for their lack of involvement in student councils.

"We're the only men on the ticket and therefore morally superior to others," Coggon quipped in his opening statement.

Smith and Weiss emphasized their "technology initiatives" as the heart of their campaign, presenting proposals to make the purchase of football tickers available online and the use of Domer Dollars in the Notre Dame Stadium possible. The pair also proposed an alliance with Ruckus Network, Inc. to "provide a free and safe alternative to downloading music," Smith said.

Brown, however, had doubts concerning Ruckus' ability to provide a complete music experience. "Unfortunately we came up with some concerns through OIT. ... There's too many personal security issues going on there [and] incompatibility with Macs and iPods," she said.

Smith contended there was "absolutely no problem concerning security," though he admitted iPod compatibility "is an issue."

Brown and Braun shared several proposals for the enrichment of campus life, including a guest meal exchange plan that would "let you take one of your unused meals and turn it into a voucher allowing your guests to save fifteen dollars," Braun said. The all-female ticket also proposed a free shuttle to the South Bend Airport, as well as making Martin Luther King Jr. Day a University-recognized holiday.

For Rivera and Kane, having free tutoring available to all grade levels was a main priority, as well as allowing ID cards from other dorms to work on side doors. He also mentioned discussions with Chipotle about opening a restaurant on campus. Though the Rivera-Kane

ticket has no student government experience, "we both have experience in leadership positions," Kane said, noting that ROTC people can "get things done."

The most unorthodox ideas came from Coggon and Padberg, who proposed a five-year plan to make two separate campuses for men and women. Under this proposal, "women will not be allowed within five hundred yards of men's dorms [and vice versal" Coggon said. In addition, Coggon proposed " a wall on South Quad to block the wind,' separate lanes on sidewalks for slow walkers, fast walkers and bicycles, and "implementing a squirrel season here so that squirrels may be harvested via slingshot." Padberg had little to say other than the word "havoc," and provided a musical compliment to Coggon's proposals with makeshift instruments.

In terms of communication with constituents, each ticket had its own ideas. Rivera and Kane proposed more information in The Observer, Brown and Braun suggested online student government applications and forums, Smith and Weiss wanted to reach out to off-campus students and provide a MAC network, and Coggon and Padberg said that they would communicate via "message in a bottle," allowing for "divine intervention as to which suggestions we are able to get," Coggon said.

In their closing statements, each ticket reinforced their commitment and desire to lead the student body next year.

"We think we can bring a lot to the table even though we're lacking in student government per se experience," Kane said.

Weiss quoted a Volkswagen commercial.

"In life there are passengers and drivers," she said. "Danny and I are drivers and we look forward to driving you into the future of Notre Dame."

Braun emphasized the passion she and Brown share for student government.

"Liz and I love this place," Braun said. "We want to make it better, we want to leave it better, and we're doing it for you guys. It's not for us."

"Drawing on our experience we know what's possible and what's not," Brown added.

Coggon said that "as candidates, we feel that we are those who are most well qualified." Padberg changed his one-word answer of "havoc" to "blarg" for his part in the closing statement.

Contact Sonia Rao at sraol@nd.edu

Column

continued from page 1

At last night's uninspiring and uninspired debate, I was struck by how ridiculous many of the tickets' primary platform pieces are. Garrett Coggon and Mike Padberg notwithstanding — they were ridicu-

notwithstanding — they were ridiculous in the best sense of the word — all the tickets were foolishly optimistic about what they could accomplish at the helm of student government.

Maris Braun

— vice presidential candi-

date to Liz Brown — stood up during her ticket's opening statement and declared that she and Brown's approach was totally innovative and totally new. She looked into the crowd and said we could raise our expectations and not be disappointed.

And then she and Brown unveiled their plan for the Guest Meal Exchange Program, which would allow students to convert their unused meals into vouchers to use when friends or family came to visit.

Sure, it's a great idea. It's incredibly frustrating that the University fleeces students and their families over dining hall food. But Food Services is notoriously reluctant to go along with policies that could lose it money.

It took two years of work by former senator (and presidential candidate) James Leito to get laundry costs dropped by 25 cents for everyone who used Domer Dollars to pay for their washing and drying. Leito's original intention, of course, was to drop prices for everyone, but who would want that?

When current student body president Lizzi Shappell worked to get more food options in Grab 'n Go, we got cups of ramen, popcorn and snack packs. I'm pretty sure you can get all over those for less than fifty cents at Meijer.

Food Services won't even release its annual budget — and I've seen student government ask for it all four years

I've been here.

also cheap for the

University. I'd be

absolutely shocked if

we ever saw that

budget -which is

where I think any

dealings with Food

Services should start.

Brown said she was already in talks with the head of Food Services, Dave Prentkowski. Talk is good, but it is also cheap for the University. I'd be absolutely shocked if we saw any action on it. I'd also be shocked if we ever saw that budget — which is where

I think any dealings with Food Services should start.

To step off Brown-Braun - I'll save my utter skepticism about their ability to get the University to make Martin Luther King, Jr. Day a holiday for another column -Danny Smith and Ashley Weiss had

their fair share of castle-inthe-air promises.

First, let's talk about Ruckus Network, the Smith-Weiss solution for legal downloading. If you look back in The Observer archives around

2005, you'll see several articles about the Student Senate considering, and ultimately reject-

spring

ing, proposals to join with Ruckus. The idea was thoroughly explored at the time, and although Ruckus has waived its fee (which doesn't make any sense to me, and Ruckus' extraordinarily vague Web site doesn't help clarify), it wasn't a good fit for the University.

If students want it, they can go to ruckus.com now and sign up. The only thing they'll miss out on is movies and TV. So why is this Smith-Weiss' primary campaign point? Is there something more to this that I'm missing?

Near the end of the debate, Smith brought up the problem of escalating tuition at Notre Dame, and how as student body president, he would work to bring it down. It was at that point that I choked on my Coke Zero.
Given, he admitted that he wasn't sure how much he could do to affect it, which at least showed he wasn't delusional. Smith did guarantee, however, that he would bring it up during the student government's seasonal presentation to the Board of Trustees and ask them to work to find a solution.

Let's all just take a moment and imagine the faces of some of the wealthiest and most influential men and women in the country as they're being asked to let the University take a hit in earnings and national competitiveness — just as it's gearing up to make its name as a "research university"?

Yeah, it makes me smile too.

I'm going to leave the Rivera-Kane and Coggon-Padberg tickets alone. The former is young and, as is obvious from Kane's comment to The Observer on Feb. 2 stating that her experience in high school student government is sufficient because "school government is the same anywhere," they

haven't figured out quite how Notre Dame works yet. The latter was a surprisingly funny joke ticket - not quite White-Powers, but better than what the freshmen at Zahm usually turn

out.

Let's just all take a moment

and imagine the wealthiest

and most influential men and

women in the country as

they're being asked to let the

University take a hit in

earnings and national

competitiveness - just as it's

gearing up to make its name

as a "research university"?

With all the student government experience, however, Brown-Braun and Smith-Weiss shouldn't be let off the hook. Either they have no idea how the organization they've been working for functions, or they're being deceptive in order to win. Because I would bet that the most that will come out of 75 percent of their campaign promises is "dialogue."

And I don't know about you, but I've had enough "dialogue" over the past year.

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

Contact Amanda Michaels at amichael@nd.edu

Jamieson

continued from page 1

Jamieson then took the stage and immediately grabbed the audience's attention by tackling her grave subject material with an interactive approach.

"Why don't we co-create this lecture?" she asked.

Jamieson referenced Aristotle's theories on enthymemes and public speech, which favor deductive arguments and interaction with the audience, respectively.

ly.
"Using enthymeme, we can make active communication, which will make this talk more powerful," she said.

Jamieson, a renowned expert in political advertising and deception, has appeared on CBS and other television programs as an authority in the field.

Jamieson traced the duplicity of politics to the 1964 presidential election, inviting the audience to analyze President Lyndon Johnson's controversial anti-nuclear warfare ad campaign.

She said the 1964 election was "the dirtiest election in politics. It all started here," she said. "This ad served as an iconic reference point for dirty politics."

Jamieson asked the audience to interpret the ads and explain how they swayed their thoughts on each candidate.

She proceeded to show another Johnson ad, which never aired due to its sensationalist content. It featured video clips of the Ku Klux Klan and said members supported Republican candidate Senator Barry Goldwater.

"People are often bothered by the juxtaposition of ads and the placement of people and

things," she said.

Jamieson then fast-forwarded to the 2004 presidential election and the role of the Internet in political campaigns. She said a verbal slipup from Vice President Dick Cheney led audiences to visit an online blog that endorsed the John Kerry-John Edwards ticket instead of Republican platforms — mistakenly benefiting his opponent.

These blogs and other Webbased news feeds may determine future political outcomes as their popularity among the voters increases, she said.

"Although [bloggers] are one-sided, they are complete and show the future of campaigning and reaching the audience," she said.

She said political contenders down the road would need to integrate the growing trend to their campaigns' strategies.

"In politics today, young people need to find a way to make [the Internet] work for them," she said. "You can fix the system using technology and find new ways to change the system."

Jamieson ended the lecture with questions.

After Jamieson's farewell, Pauley took the stage again and invited Plamondon to say a few words. Pauley presented her with a collection of letters from the alumnae who endorsed her lecture series.

Vihtelic recognized Plamondon's accomplishments and her lasting impact on her students in her opening state-

"We want to note her [Plamondon's] many contributions to Saint Mary's and her impact on countless young women," she said. "Over 1,000, to be exact."

Students from the graduating classes of 1981-2004 were responsible for the series and provided funding for the endowment.

Dr. John Pauley, communications professor and chair of the Communication Studies department, was the driving force behind the series to honor his longtime colleague.

"[Plamondon] stood beside, behind me and with me since I came here in 1991 and this has not changed," he said.

Plamondon said the expansion of the department during her time in the College would have not been possible without the contributions of the entire Saint Mary's community.

"The department has grown and changed over the years," Plamondon said. And I want to clear up the deception ... everything I have accomplished has been due to the wonderful support of my students, colleagues and administration."

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohle01@saintmarys.edu

Fire

continued from page 1

who we are, and should be done with good intentions.

"Our actions affect our beliefs," he said, "and our beliefs affect our actions. ... The only things we do are those that we see as good."

To foster good character, Incandela said one must learn and practice morally good skills — traits that define moral character.

Like a coach guides a team, he said, the plays of your life must be learned from others' guidance.

"It matters a great deal what community we are part of," Incandela said. "None of us form our conscience on our own."

Defining your personal community, he said, allows you to see what kind of character you possess.

Being part of a community calls you to compromise—
"a debate between standing out and fitting in,"
Incandela said.

At the lecture's conclusion, Incandela asked students to reflect on his words

"I thought that tonight was beneficial because Professor Incandela related our conscience and beliefs directly to our actions," junior Kelly Payne said. "Realizing that our actions affect our beliefs is an important factor in how we live our daily lives."

Incandela also said it is important to realize actions and beliefs mutually affect each other.

"We don't do things that are out of our character," he said. "Our character is the accumulation of moral choices."

Contact Abby Richardson at aricha01@saintmarys.edu

Law &

Please join the Law School for its 2006-2007 series of interdisciplinary discussions. All programs begin at 4:00 p.m. and will be held in Law School room 120.

Thursday, September 28, 2006

Human Rights and Human Atrocities in Uganda

Presenter: Todd David Whitmore

Department of Theology

Respondent: Doug Cassel

Center for Civil and Human Rights,

The Law School

Thursday, November 9, 2006

The Biophysics of Life and Public Policy Disputes:

Interfacing with the Scientific Community

on Bioethical Issues

Presenter: Phillip Sloan

Program of Liberal Studies

Presenter: Phillip Sloan Program of Liberal Studies Respondent: Carter Snead The Law School

Thursday, February 8, 2007

The Other Alien Debate: Biology and Policy of Invasive Species

Presenter: David Lodge
Department of Biological Sciences
Respondent: Alejandro Camacho
The Law School

Thursday, March 1, 2007

Identifying Tax Effects on Charitable Giving
Presenter: Daniel Hungerman
Department of Economics and Econometrics
Respondent: Lloyd Mayer
The Law School

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> Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Mike Gilloon.

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TODAY'S STAFF

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Read this, or I'll break your knees

It's that time of year again — when the arctic South Bend air will induce frostbite in mere minutes and when you wonder why on earth you endure such excruciating conditions just to get an education.

And as you witness countless students wiping out on the ice-coated sidewalks, your thoughts might skate backwards in time to a young woman who was once the epitome of "trouble on ice" - former figure skater Tonya Harding.



Coffey

The Coffey Grind

True — Harding was the first woman to nail the triple axle, double toe loop combination, but we all know that her name would've melted into obscurity - that is, if she hadn't been a co-conspirator in the 1994 clubbing of her nemesis, Nancy Kerrigan.

And yet this skating saga was a measly single axle compared to that spectacle that would spin in the coming summer, boosting former football star O.J. Simpson into Gold Medal position on the award stand of infamy.

True — Simpson was the first NFL running back to rush for over 2,000 yards in a single season, but we all know that his name would bear nowhere near the notoriety that it does today, had he not allegedly slain (oh, wait, he was acquitted in the criminal trial) his ex-wife, Nicole Brown, and her friend, Ron Goldman.

And yet both the football-playerturned-murderer and the figureskater-turned-clubbing-conspirator realized eternal renown without dropping thousands of dollars (and adding dozens of layers of clothing) en route to a top-tier education. After all, Simpson was simply enrolled in classes (perhaps a ballroom dance class?) at the University of Southern California, and Harding didn't even graduate from high school (although she later earned her GED).

Oh, well — at least the pair possessed some degree of athletic apti-

But what about those with noneducationally or athletically-oriented "talents" who also managed to squeeze their way onto the podium of infamy?

What about the talent-less former back-up dancer Kevin Federline? As subzero temperatures descended upon South Bend last Sunday, Federline starred in a Super Bowl commercial, our society's sure sign of infinite repute. And how did he attain that sought-after status symbol? He merely married (and then divorced) a trampy pop music icon.

What about former White House intern Monica Lewinsky? She simply 'pleased" then-President Bill Clinton, thus securing her own medal of notoriety.

What about former Enron CEO (and now deceased) Kenneth Lay? Well, he surely would've netted straight 6.0's in the category of egregious corporate fraud. And after that unfeeling feat, his name was undoubtedly propelled into another esteemed category - that of the forevermore recognizable.

Likewise, what about Lorena Bobbit? I needn't tell you what she did to earn her place among the notorious; more likely than not, you're already familiar with her butcherous tale.

And what about Notre Dame alumnus Steve Bartman? In 2003, he caught the scorn of a city - and thus, eternal infamy. And he did this using only his hand, not his coveted Notre Dame degree.

So why then do we trek through polar snows and tolerate the "wind tunnel" of South Quad? After all, we can clearly attain everlasting renown without either an education or that highly sought-after piece of paper.

So what's the moral of this story? Perhaps you should ditch your goose-down coat and your Biology textbook. Maybe what you really need is a trampy wife or a black leather glove that you can claim doesn't fit.

Otherwise you, as just one of the many well-meaning students who slip on the ice in front of DeBartolo, will slip into obscurity like Tonya Harding should have.

You surely don't want a frostbitten nose. But don't you want to be frozen in time?

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

What was your favorite Super Bowl commercial?

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

"It's kind of fun to do the impossible."
Walt Disney producer

VIEWPOINT

Think about what Lent will mean to you

Last Sunday's Super Bowl garnered the second-largest TV audience in the history of our country for a sporting event. My own conviction is that I sometimes prefer the conference playoff games because I find them more exciting than the Super

Bowl itself. But a lot of people enjoy watching the advertisements that sell for millions of dollars. One would assume that paying that much money for a 30-sec-

Richard V. Warner, CSC

FaithPoint 1

ond or 60-second ad would encourage the advertisers themselves to put their best foot forward. That certainly did not seem to be the case on Sunday.

We all know how significant the media is in forming our convictions and even determining what values should be the most important ones for us as a people and a culture. If that is the case, the spate of rather violent episodes in the Super Bowl advertisements seems to be a cautionary light for us. A number of the advertisements contained violence at some level of one kind or another. In thinking about that, I could not help but reflect on two different matters which I have been thinking about lately.

We know that in our country a lack of respect for people is something that is all too easily taken for granted. This is not true only with regard to the way we talk about and refer to people who are different than we are, but it also spills over into the relationships between men and women, our national conversation with regard to immigrants, the lack of progress in terms of racial equality which we are reminded about every time we celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. or just give even a passing thought to the situation in our country and a growing intolerance for some of the institutions which have made our country what it is over the course of the

For over a decade now, young people have been spending hours entertaining themselves with violent video games, the object of which is to kill as many people as possible in the course of the game itself. I wonder if the effects of this kind of exposure are not slowly eroding away the idea of respect among us and even our respect for life

Within fewer than two weeks, we will once again begin our Lenten observance which will prepare us for the great feast of Easter. It is probably not too soon to begin thinking about what we would like this Lent to be for us and what changes we would like to see take place within our own lives. If we begin giving some thought now to how we will live out this holy season of grace, we will not have to scramble at the last minute and perhaps fall back

into previous Lenten practices which, although they are very good in and of themselves, may not be what we need at this moment in our lives.

Increased devotion to the Eucharist should certainly be a part of our Lenten observance. There is no higher degree of human solidarity than when believers gather around the Eucharistic table to listen to the Word of God, to encourage one another in their quest to make Jesus the center of their lives and who share together in receiving the body and blood of Our Lord.

It may also be a time for us to really examine how we live in solidarity with other people and what role the poor should play as we determine the almsgiving that has to be part of our Lenten resolu-

If we take time now to think about where we would like to be on Easter as a result of our Lenten season of grace, this may be a super Lent for each

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

U-WIRE

Declare your own personal snow day

Let's face it. No matter how much of this white stuff piles up, "Kent State University - Classes Canceled" is not going to find its way onto a school closing ticker any time soon.

So if you're lucky enough to complete the commute here successfully, avoid pile-ups, defy zero-visibility and avoid the urge to turn your swerving, saltspackled vehicle back

Szymczak Kent State University Daily Kent Stater

Ryan

toward the direction of your bed — which is still warm — then you'll find yourself in park, gazing out with anguish at a snow

Certainly, you'll shake your head in a "why me?" sort of way before pushing your door open to find your hands have instantly turned a few beaten hues of

Then, sloshing through ridges of brown slush, you'll track your way through your schedule, making stops at Bowman, Satterfield, and Business Administration to find two of your three classes are canceled anyway and only you and some coughing/sneezing classmate were brave enough to weather the weather.

Your professor will walk in, conduct a session that runs about half the usual time, and say things she's sure to repeat next class to get everyone else

caught up. You'll get up to leave, zipping, buttoning, latching, wrapping and bundling yourself, while noticing the murky puddles beneath the desks of you and sick boy. Sick boy will sneeze in your direction and smile. He'll sniffle and smear whatever is dripping out of his nose back up there with an open palm before attempting to hand you the pen you leant him earlier that class. "Keep it," you reply.

Isn't winter fun? If you're one of these responsible types who feel a severe sense of guilt when your name isn't inked on an attendance sheet,

make note:

"Trotting in frigid temperatures is not a significant means to keeping you warm,' said Keith C. Heidorn, author of And Now the Weather" and

> frequent contributor to National Public Radio. Movement actually reduces clothing's effectiveness by 20 percent." Heidorn suggests wearing

several layers as opposed to one thick coat to maintain a healthy temperature

"If you're shivering, that's your body attempting to increase your metabolic heat input," he said. Your body temperature is getting lower and your brain is

slowing down. You're unable to think clearly and move as well as your normally would. This means note taking is going to be physically and mentally trying. Well,

more so than usual.

By the way, Heidorn warns that "when the surface of your skin is exposed to below freezing temperatures for an extended period of time, ice crystals begin to form within the live cells of the skin, killing them in the process.'

Pesky little ice crystals.

That's OK. The tip of your nose is overrated anyway. Rest assured that come spring time, stubs are going to be the new must-have.

In the meantime, you have three options tomorrow morning:

1. Stay indoors and declare your own personal snow day.

2. If you dare, do all of your classmates a favor. All you need is a computer, 7 cents in FlashCash, a call number, a disregard for severe repercussions and a strip of Scotch tape. It's that easy.

Your third choice? Lose your nose. It's up to you.

This column originally appeared in the Feb. 7 edition of the Daily Kent Stater, the daily publication at Kent State University.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

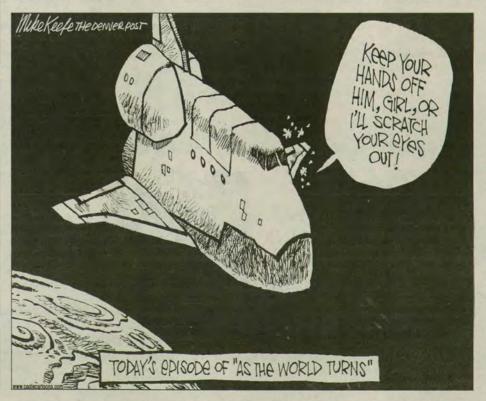
Parallels exist between drunks, awesomeness

Dear Mark Poyar (Feb. 7 Letter to the Editor, 'Parallels exist between drunks, government') - welcome to America! One of your rights as a citizen of this great nation, and part of what makes this country so amazing, is that you are free to spew your Bush-Bashing, tree-hugging, French-loving propaganda in Viewpoint as much as you want. Because of your right to freedom of speech, we won't even begin to touch on the topic of how you believe it's not OK to kill terrorists, yet you claim abortion as an

"American value." ... Even though neither of us thinks unborn babies are the real enemies of democracy. There is a much more important issue that needs to be addressed. The one thing that has always been a central part to the soul of America, one thing that we cannot and will not allow you to disrespect, is drinking. Ever since the Puritans embarked on their passage to America with more beer aboard their ships than water, this country has been centered around drinking. In the 17th century, abstainers had to pay ten percent more for health insurance because it is almost a scientific fact that those who drink all the time are healthier, stronger and more awesome than those that don't. If you cannot appreciate and respect the importance of alcohol in America, then feel free to move to some place like Canada, or at the very least, switch to a dry dorm like Morrissey.

> Tom Martin Siegfried Hall president Patrick McMaster Siegfried Hall spirit commissioner

EDITORIAL CARTOON



SCENE SCENE

CD REVIEWS

There's no 'Wincing' at The Shins' success

By CHRIS McGRADY

Assistant Scene Editor

The Shins have done it again, but not at all in the same way as before. The group's newest effort "Wincing the Night Away" is the type of speaker candy that makes the listener once again have faith in the modern music industry.

In the world of electronic Paris Hilton songs, covers of covers and "American Idol," "Wincing the Night Away" is more than just a breath of fresh air, it is an oxygen tank for the drowning musical aficionado.

The band originally formed in 1997 in Albuquerque, New Mexico and has been making music ever since. Originally started as a passion project of singer/song-writer/guitarist James Mercer, the band dominated the underground indie music scene for several years before reaching a national audience when two of their songs were featured in the 2004 movie "Garden State," starring Zach Braff and Natalie Portman. The soundtrack for the movie

The Shins

Wincing the Night Away

Sub Pop

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received widespread praise for its originality and the overall quality of the songs, and The Shins found themselves at center stage as a bulk of the soundtrack's success was placed squarely on the band's shoulders. With the release of "Wincing the Night Away," the spotlight won't be leaving the group anytime soon.

The CD is one of those types that finds its way into your CD player and manages to stay there for weeks, even months. The album starts strong and never wavers and becomes one of those rare CDs that can be played from start to finish without the listener ever wishing to skip to the next song.

The first track, "Sleeping Lessons," opens quietly like a dream. Just when it almost induces you into a trance, the drums come in and bring the song to life. From the start the CD appears to be great.

The next song, "Australia," is equally appealing. The best part about The Shins' sound is how much fun their music is to listen to. Listeners can't help but smile when the airy, bright songs

bounce along the airways just begging for you to sing along.

The band may have its best song in the song, "Turn On Me." The track is so enjoyable that audio players' repeat buttons may quickly become worn out. This track has the type of feel-good sound that com-

Photo courtesy of nelimedia.com

The Shins have been well-received by critics and fans alike since their popular debut on the highly-regarded soundtrack for the movie "Garden State."

pels the listener to sing along. Overall the sound is bright and brilliant, the lyrics witty and addictive and the instrumentation clever and clear. The song is nothing short of wonderful.

The song "Spilt Needles" follows the precedent of the rest of the album, and is in itself another great track. The Shins are lyrically on top of their game and possess some of the most unique and enjoyable sounds to come along in years. This truly is a band that is streaking its way to the top, beyond any indie success they previously had.

Overall, this album could quickly find itself on the way into the "album of the year" discussion. Several of the songs could be picks for single of the year, and The Shins sound is pleasant, fulfilling and overall impressive. When Natalie Portman references The Shins in "Garden State," she says, "You gotta hear this one song, it'll change your life I promise you." Well, you have to hear this album, it'll change your life – I promise you.

Contact Chris McGrady at cmcgrad1@nd.edu

Recommended tracks: 'Sleeping Lessons,' 'Australia,' 'Turn on Me' and 'Spilt Needles'

Applause worthy for latest 'Clap Hands' album

By CHRIS McGRADY Assistant Scene Editor

Clap Your Hands Say Yeah is one of those bands that defies any definition. Somewhere between pop-rock, folk, electronica and alternative lies the true harmony that comprises the music produced by these Brooklyn/Philadelphia rockers and the band's most recent effort, "Some Loud Thunder" is evocative of this heterogeneous mixture of musical sounds.

Clap Your Hand Say Yeah is a band that is a prototype of the power of the Internet music scene. The band formed in 2004 and self-produced and self-promoted its own music. The band's addictive sound caught onto Internet listeners and the effect snowballed from there, gathering more listeners and fans every day. As the group garnered praise on indie music blogs, its fan base increased. By the time 2005 was over, the group had signed with Wichita Records and was one of the hottest bands in the country.

hottest bands in the country.

Their newest CD, "Some Loud Thunder," is the group's second release

and is reminiscent of so many different bands that it is difficult to label just one. The band's five members — Alec Ounsworth, Robbie Guertin, Lee Sargent, Tyler Sargent and Sean Greenhalgh — met at Connecticut College and now contribute to one of the most diverse-sounding rock groups around.

The CD opens with the title track, "Some Loud Thunder" and starts off on a sub-par note. The song sounds like it is too much for speakers to handle and has a grainy, distorted effect. After trying built-in computer speakers, satellite speakers and headphones, the conclusion is that this is the way the song is meant to sound. However, the overall effect of this is one of annoyance. The vocalists' whiny voices are amplified, and while this style of singing works for most of the band's songs, this particular track is negatively affected.

The CD takes a sharp upward turn on the next track, however, with "Emma Jean Stock," a feel-good catchy sound that features sharp guitar-picking and interesting electronic effects.

Another highlight of the album is the

song "Satan Said Dance," a track which opens with some particularly odd electronic sounds and transitions into 5-minutes of high-paced musical action. Next is "Goodbye to Mother and the Cove," a particularly addictive song. The opening guitar pattern



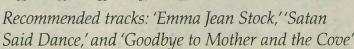
Photo courtesy of bighassle.com

Clap Your Hands Say Yeah is one of the more successful groups to self-promote their own music over the Internet before finally being signed to a label.

Clap Your
Hands Say Yeah
Some Loud Thunder

Clap Your Hands Say





will have the listener bobbing his or her head to the tune within the first 15 seconds of the track. There are no vocals for the first minute of the track and this period serves to display the musical talent that Clap Your Hands Say Yeah really has.

"The Sword Song" is the bonus track on the disc and is also one of the best songs. The song features a strong drum base, overlaid with melodic guitar riffs. The overall effect is an addictive mix and this very well might be the best track on the entire CD. For once, the bonus track on an album is actually a bonus. The interesting thing about the group Clap Your Hands Say Yeah is that vocally, they really aren't very talented. Often at times, the notes they sing sound forced and unharmonious. The thing is, the band just doesn't care. In the style of Bob Dylan, not known for his great voice, CYHSY builds greatness through lyrical genius and musical diversity and talent. The name of the band, in fact, is fitting—its music simply makes the listener clap his or her hands and say, "Yeah!"

Contact Chris McGrady at cmcgrad1@nd.edu

IRISH INSIDER

Thursday, February 8, 2007

ORSERVER

Recruiting Class of 2011

Cavalry coming

Notre Dame signs top-10 recruiting class for second straight year, despite late defections

By CHRIS KHOREY
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame has signed 18 freshmen for the class of 2011, head coach Charlie Weis announced Wednesday.

"I think we basically attained what we were trying to do at all positions," Weis said. "I have to tell you, I'm very happy with the group of young men we're bringing in here."

The Irish expected to sign two more players Wednesday, but wide receiver Greg Little of Durham, N.C., and offensive lineman Chris Little of Jeffersonville, Ga., decided at the last minute to sign with North Carolina and Georgia, respectively.

Notre Dame signed eight offensive players, seven defensive players, a kicker and two players — Andrew Nuss out of Ashburn, Va., and Emeka Nwankwo out of Hollywood, Fla. — who could play on either the offensive or defensive lines. Weis said

sive lines, Weis said.
Overall, Notre Dame's class was rated eighth in the nation by Rivals.com and eleventh by Scout.com.

Quarterbacks

On April 22, 2006, the day of the Blue-Gold Game, Notre Dame received a verbal commitment from the nation's toprated high school passer, Jimmy Clausen of Westlake Village, Calif.

Clausen, the younger brother of former Tennessee quarterbacks Casey and Rick Clausen, passed for 3,428 yards and 49 touchdowns as a senior, leading Oaks Christian High School to a state championship. He was undefeated as a starter at Oaks Christian.

"Obviously he comes in with high accolades," Weis said. "The fact that he's 42-0 as a starter, it doesn't get any better than that."

Clausen enrolled at Notre Dame at the beginning of the spring semester and will compete for the starting signal-caller job with rising junior Evan Sharpley and rising sophomores Demetrius Jones and Zach Frazer.

Running Backs

Notre Dame signed two tailbacks with very different styles.

Armando Allen, of Hialeah, Fla., is a speed back who runs a 4.35-second 40-yard dash. He also enrolled at the beginning of the semester and will participate in spring practice.

participate in spring practice.
"This kid can flat out fly,'
Weis said.

Allen broke his leg during his senior season, but is expected to be at full strength by spring workouts.

by spring workouts.
Robert Hughes, out of Hubbard High School in Chicago, is a bruising, 228-pound back who rushed for more than 1,000 yards as a senior. He committed to the Irish in January after choosing Notre Dame over Illinois.

Both Allen and Hughes could push for playing time next season in Notre Dame's backfield, left wide open by the early departure of Darius Walker for the NFL.

Receivers

touchdowns as a senior, leading Oaks Christian High School ing wide receivers Rhema



Photo courtesy of WILLIAM MOOSE

Irish signee safety Harrison Smith dives over a defender during his senior season at Knoxville Catholic High School. Notre Dame pulled Smith away from childhood favorite Tennessee.

McKnight and Jeff Samardzija, Notre Dame signed two wideouts and a tight end to the class of 2011.

"The two guys we have coming in are very contrasting in their styles," Weis said.

Duval Kamara, of Hoboken, N.J., verbally committed to Weis on May 10, 2006. At 6-foot-4, he is similar in style to former Irish receiver Maurice Stovall and is ranked the eighth best receiver nationally by Scout.com.

Golden Tate, out of John Paul II high school in Hendersonville, Tenn., is a smaller, quicker receiver in the mold of Notre Dame rising junior David Grimes. Tate is listed at 6-foot but runs a 4.4-second 40.

Mike Ragone, out of Cherry Hill, N.J., was Notre Dame's only tight end signee for 2007. He was ranked second nationally at his position by Scout.com. Ragone stands 6-foot-5 and weighs 230 pounds. Six of his nine touchdowns went for 60 yards or longer.

"You won't find many tight ends that run as fast as him," Weis said.

Linemen

Notre Dame signed two true offensive linemen for the class of 2011 — Taylor Dever of Grass Valley, Calif., and Matt Romine of Tulsa, Okla. — and one true defensive lineman — Ian Williams of Longwood, Fla.

Dever was credited with 80 pancake blocks during his senior season.

Romine had to be pried away from his home-state Sooners. "He's an Oklahoma kid, but

"He's an Oklahoma kid, but he's a Notre Dame fit," Weis said. "He's a guy we wanted. He fit great with our players."

Williams stands 6-foot-2 and weighs 295 pounds. His style is similar to that of Notre Dame fifth-year senior Trevor "This guy is a very disruptive interior defensive lineman, the type of guy that can make us better in a hurry," Weis said.

The Irish also signed Nuss and Nwankwo, who could play either side of the ball.

"As you go through the offensive line/defensive line process, it was important for us to find a couple players that could play either offense or defense because we couldn't really take the risk of doubling the numbers up," Weis said. "But we had to find a couple guys that were capable of playing our offensive or defensive line."

Linebackers

Notre Dame signed four linebackers to strengthen a unit that struggled at times in 2006

Kerry Neal was the first Irish commitment for the class of 2011. He gave his verbal to Weis Feb. 24, 2006. Neal, from Bunn, N.C., weighs 230 pounds and will play outside linebacker in new Notre Dame defensive coordinator Corwin Brown's 3-4 personnel package.

The Irish also picked up commitments before the season from Aaron Nagel of Lemont, Ill., and Steve Paskorz of Allison Park, Pa. Weis said both players will probably end up playing inside in the new defensive alignment.

In January, Notre Dame offered a scholarship to outside linebacker prospect Brian Smith out of Overland Park, Kan. Smith had committed to Iowa, but changed his mind after the Irish offered. Smith's father Chris played at Notre Dame from 1981-85.

"When our system changed [to a 3-4], he became a perfect fit," Weis said.

Scout.com's No.1 and No. 2 linebackers, Lorenzo Edwards

and Chris Donald, strongly considered Notre Dame, but signed with Florida and Tennessee, respectively.

Defensive Backs

The Irish picked up five defensive backs last year and limited their offers in the secondary this year, picking up cornerback Gary Gray from Columbia, S.C., and Harrison Smith from Knoxville, Tenn.

Gray was rated Scout.com's sixth best cornerback. After decomitting from South Carolina this summer, he choose Notre Dame over the Gamecocks and enrolled at Notre Dame along with Allen and Clausen at the beginning of the spring semester.

Smith, who grew up in the Volunteers' back yard, runs a 4.45 40-yard dash and had scholarship offers from Tennessee and Auburn in addition to Notre Dame.

"The thing we're bringing him in as a safety who can cover from sideline to sideline," Weis said. "One of the things we think we need to do is get additional range in the secondary with our safeties."

Kickers

Late in the recruiting process, Notre Dame got a commitment from Brandon Walker of Findlay, Ohio.

Walker had previously committed to Louisville, but he decided to come to Notre Dame after Weis offered. He will push sophomore Ryan Burkhart for the starting kicking job next year.

"I was only interested in bringing in a guy at this position with another scholarship if it was a guy who had a chance of unseating somebody and being able to get on the field for us as a freshman," Weis said. "We think, looking at this kid, he has the potential to do that walking in the door."

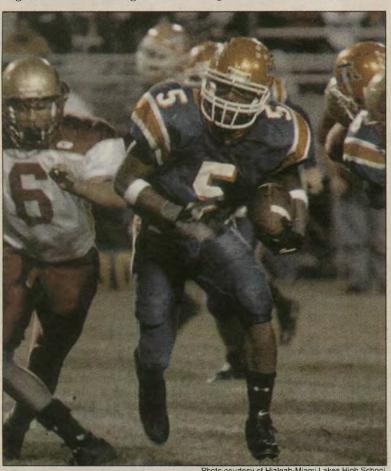


Photo courtesy of Hialeah-Miami Lakes High School Irish signee running back Armando Allen runs through a hole for Hialeah-Miami Lakes High School during his senior season.

Cause and effect affects smaller schools most

Early signing period wouldn't help teams like Ball State

Justin Trattou is a star defensive end out of Don Bosco Prep in Ramsey, N.J. He verbally committed to Notre Dame way back in June, and it made perfect

sense. He's a kid from a Catholic high school less than an hour from Franklin Township, where Irish coach Charlie Weis led a team to a state title. He was going to be the next big defensive end for the Irish.



Ken Fowler

Sports Editor

Until Florida stepped in. Gators coach Urban Meyer nabbed Trattou from Notre Dame en route to Florida's consensus No. 1 recruiting class. With the loss of Trattou, a scholarship spot opened for the Irish.

Brian Smith is a mid- to highlevel linebacker from Overland Park, Kan. He was Iowa's second-best linebacker recruit when he verbally committed to the Hawkeyes. A kid from a good family with a football background, he looked destined to be a great addition for Iowa.

Until Notre Dame stepped in. The 6-foot-2, 230-pound Smith wasn't a target for Notre Dame early, even though his father is a member of the school's

Monogram Club. But then, the Irish had an extra spot in the recruiting class and new defensive coordinator Corwin Brown decided Smith was a perfect fit. Smith verbally committed just days after Trattou's spot opened

Bruce Davis is a weak-side linebacker from Cleveland. He wasn't the biggest recruit — in fact, he wasn't even listed as one of Scout.com's 50-best players at his position. But he was a solid land for Ball State.

Until Iowa stepped in.

The Hawkeyes only found out about Davis during the winter and offered the 5-foot-11, 230pound linebacker in January as soon as Smith was destined for Notre Dame. Davis accepted the spot immediately and signed with Iowa Wednesday.

Thanks to Florida, Notre Dame lost one of its best defensive recruits. Instead, the Irish got a second option. Thanks to Notre Dame, Iowa lost one of its best defensive recruits. Instead. the Hawkeyes went to their second option. Thanks to all three, Ball State lost one of its best defensive recruits. In a year when they went to the South to

sign a quarterback prospect out of Georgia, the Cardinals were out of luck for a key defender.

In today's college football, that's what happens when you're in the Mid-America Conference, and recruits start to treat verbal commitments like statements of

"On a national basis ... more guys switched last year and this year than ever before," said Tom Lemming, national recruiting analyst for CSTV. "It's happening more and more nowadays."

And the complaints poured in across the country Wednesday. But while the reality hurts Notre Dame and Iowa because they haven't dominated lately like Florida has, it hurts teams like Ball State the most.

'The simple thing that happened with us was really a reaction from when the young man who was committed to Notre Dame committed to Florida, Ball State coach Brady Hoke said in a telephone interview with The Observer Wednesday. "That chain reaction happens, and that's part of [recruiting].

Hoke said his staff debates how best to keep players committed to Ball State, a program close in geography to Notre Dame but far apart in almost every other way

"On a national

basis ... more guys

switched last year

and this year than

ever before."

Tom Lemming

recruiting analyst

that matters in recruiting. The idea of an early signing day intrigues him, but schools like his which he wishes weren't called "mid-majors" don't have the financial and human resources to handle the increased burden of hosting official

visits nearly every home game, Hoke said.

What he didn't mention is that most players could hold out hope for getting an offer from a major conference school as the early signing day comes and goes.

'I think then you've got a real conflict of preparing your team and recruiting," he said. "For the major schools, it's probably not as major a problem, but for schools of our level, I think it would be.

Hoke's right. For the Irish, with an extensive support staff and the resources to oil the wheels every week, in-season visits aren't a problem.

commits. In fact, Weis wants an early signing period with an Aug. 1 national signing day. He says this allows high school players to finish the recruiting cycle before their senior season and gives coaches a chance to look for replacements if a verbal commitment has a last-minute change of heart. For Notre Dame, when wide receiver Greg Little of Raleigh, N.C., went to the Tar Heels and offensive lineman Chris Little of Jeffersonville, Ga., faxed his letter of intent to the Bulldogs Wednesday, the Irish had no time to react. Twenty recruits became 18, and the Irish

Lemming said that most coaches don't like the number of late switches and the custom of recruiting powerhouses poaching from other schools, but they're not sure what to do about it. He said athletic directors worry about kids signing binding letters of intent before the usual time for a coach to resign or be fired, and an early signing period would cause that situation at 15 or more schools every year.

This year, the Irish indeed benefited by allowing players to reconsider their commitments once a coach leaves

In an interview last week with The Observer, kicker/punter signee Brandon Walker's former coach, Cliff Hite, said Walker knew he wanted to go to Notre

Weis has a new

policy for

commitments, and

it's simple: no soft

verbals, no silent

Dame when he was a sophomore. But the Irish didn't come calling during the early recruiting season, and Walker chose to go Louisville.

He was happy with his deci-

sion until Louisville coach Bobby Petrino jettisoned the Cardinals for the Falcons of the NFL. Hite said Walker decided to open up his recruitment again, and Notre Dame's kicking woes in 2006 steered the Irish to the Findlay, Ohio, product.

A week ago, Walker grabbed the offer from the Irish. He signed his letter of intent Wednesday.

Notre Dame's main problem is when a recruit says he's coming and the Irish feel confident that he's telling the truth only to have the prospect sign elsewhere. So

Weis has a new policy for commitments, and it's simple: no soft verbals, no silent commits, no quiet verbals and no visits to or conversations with other schools if you commit to Notre Dame.

Irish defensive end recruit Kerry Neal eyes the quarterback during

his senior season. Neal is the only DE in the class of 2011.

But Ball State can't afford that sort of a policy, which is where Weis' parallel thought — "if you're looking, we're looking" — only keeps schools like Ball State mired in unwinnable recruiting situations.

Weis' two-pronged approach certainly isn't hypocritical; it just doesn't solve the problems for the smaller schools. The early signing day and refusal to accept soft verbal commitments will protect major-conference powers, but the belief that any player "looking" is fair game leaves the smaller schools vulnerable to poaching by bigger schools.

So why should the NCAA make it easier for big-time programs to recruit while not doing anything to help the schools with less prestige or tradition? An early signing period would help only some, and those some are the major programs with national reputations that aren't able to convince players to stick with them come February.

Weis is trying to do what's best for his team and the entire Irish program. But the early signing day, which the NCAA would have to pass, will amount only to elitist protectionism.

But then again, when was the NCAA charged with anything

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

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu



Irish signee Gary Gray jukes a defender during his senior year. Gray originally committed to South Carolina before choosing ND.

LASS OF

were out two top-150 prospects.

Aaron Nagel, Kerry Neal and Steve Paskorz orally committed to Notre Dame within 24 hours of receiving their offers.

Brian Smith's father and former Irish running back, Chris Smith, is on the Monogram Club board of directors.

Emeka Nwankwo played for Team USA in the 2007 NFL Global Junior Championship XI in Ft. Lauderdale as part of Super Bowl XLI festivities. Canada, Mexico, Panama, France and Japan also participated.

Jimmy Clausen's brothers Rick and Casey both played quarterback at the University of Tennessee. The 2004 Volunteer squad lost to Notre Dame 17-13 in Knowville, Tenn., after Rick entered the game for injured starter Erik Ainge.

Steve Paskorz is a former champion of the national Punt, Pass and Kick competition.

Harrison Smith and Brian Smith join current linebackers Scott Smith and Toryan Smith as the four Irish players that share the most common last name in the U.S. Brown (Sergio and Justin) is the second-most common surname among Irish players.

Armando Allen posted the eighth best 110-meter high school hurdle time in the U.S. (13.82) in 2006 and the best in the state of Florida.

Golden Tate's full name is Golden H. Tate III. His father Golden Tate, Jr. played wide receiver at Tennessee State and was drafted in the fifth round of the 1984 NFL draft by the Indianapolis Colts.

Opportunities available for talented newcomers

Quarterback competition headlines Irish spring agenda; freshmen look to replace holes at receiver and running back

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Hello, position battles.

Spring ball and summer camp will feature a slew of freshmen battling for starting jobs, Irish coach Charlie Weis said Wednesday. And the most high-profile position battle of all will be the competition at quarterback.

Weis said early-enrolling recruit Jimmy Clausen of Westlake Village, Calif., will compete in spring and summer for the starting job with rising junior Evan Sharpley

and rising sophomores Demetrius Jones and Zach Frazer. And none hold a clear edge going into practices, Weis said.

Clausen, who will not throw passes until the end of February

in an effort to rest his arm, enters as the consensus No. 1 quarterback in the country. Jones and Frazer were both in the top 15 at their position last year.

Behind the team's new signal-caller could be one of two freshmen at any point. Small and speedy Armando Allen from the Miami area and the bruising Robert Hughes of Chicago come to Notre Dame with high expectations and an open running back race following junior Darius Walker's entrance into the NFL Draft.

At the final offensive skill position, the Irish could see one of two freshmen in the mix for the second receiver's spot. Rising junior receiver David Grimes is the only Irish wide out with more than three career receptions. Senior Chase Anastasio, who Weis said Wednesday will apply for a fifth year, has three catches and rising sophomores George West and

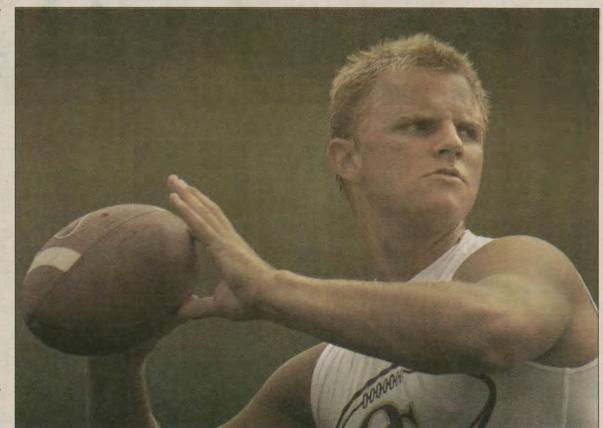
Robby Parris have two and one catches, respectively.

Weis said 6foot-4, 205pound Duval
Kamara from
Hoboken, N.J.,
reminds him of
former Irish
wide out
Maurice Stovall,

who now plays for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

"He's athletic, big, fast," Weis said. "We see him coming in here and challenging walking in the door."

Meanwhile, Weis called 6-foot, 195-pound Golden Tate of Hendersonville, Tenn., a "perfect compliment" to Kamara.



Notre Dame freshman quarterback Jimmy Clausen warms up before an Oaks Christian High School practice in Westlake Village, Calif. Clausen will compete for the starting job this spring.

"This kid is as good an athlete as I saw this year," Weis said.

On special teams, Weis said he would only sign a kicker who could compete immediately for the starting job. In Brandon Walker, Weis thinks he found his guy. Walker made a 50-yard field goal and averaged 7 yards deep on kickoffs from the 40-yard line as a junior.

At tackle in the team's new 3-4 personnel defensive scheme, Ian Williams, a 6-foot-2, 295-pounder from Florida, is expected to fight for the starting job immediately. Weis said 340-pound current offensive lineman Chris Stewart would get a look there, but Weis wants Williams to play immediately.

"Ian knows we're counting on him getting involved in the mix walking in the door," Weis said.

At outside linebacker in the team's new defensive scheme, Weis said freshmen Kerry Neal of Bunn, N.C. and Brian Smith of Overland Park, Kan., fit well and could see playing time

What's more, Weis said early enrollee Gary Gray, a cornerback from Columbia, S.C., would be in the heart of the defensive back picture as a "cover corner."

The numbers game
While the Irish may have

defensive

"[Kamara is] athletic,

big, fast. We see him

challenging walking in

the door."

Charlie Weis

Irish coach

struggled in recruiting and lost commitments in the final 24 hours before the letters of intent started pouring in across the fax wires, they at least got one important tangible benefit out of this year's recruiting class: stabi-

lizing numbers.

In 2006, Weis signed 28 players to letters of intent because of a relatively small base of scholarship players on the team at the time, due to the attrition of the already low number of signees during the three-year reign of former coach Tyrone

Willingham. The annual limit is 25, but three enrolled early so the Irish could count them against the previous year's total of 15. With a maximum of 85 players on scholarship at one time, Weis said his goal is to sign around 20 players yearly, which would allow five or more seniors

with extra eligibility to apply for a fifth year.

"I'm trying to compensate a little bit for the fact that next year's senior class only has seven or eight guys on scholarship," Weis said. "Between the fourth year

guys next year that ask and are granted a fifth year and our class next year, I think that will finally put us on track to have the numbers as I perceive they should actually be "

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"[Tate] is as good an

athlete as I saw this

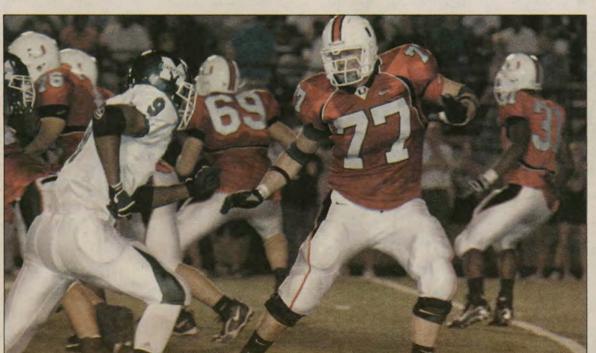
year."

Charlie Weis

Irish coach

VINCENT D. JOHNSON/IHSFW.com

Irish signee running back Robert Hughes stiffarms a defender during his senior season at Chicago's Hubbard High School.



Kidwell's Photography

Irish signee offensive tackle Matt Romine pass blocks for Union High School in Tulsa, Okla., during his senior season. Notre Dame will replace three starters on next year's offensive line.

by the numbers

Notre Dame's class of 2011 team ranking according to Rivals.com and ESPN.com

Players that originally verballed elsewhere but signed with ND: Gray, Walker, and Brian Smith. The Irish also had three public verbal commitments (Trattou, Chris Little, Greg Little) sign with other schools.

True defensive tackle — Ian Williams — to sign with the Irish in the past two classes and the first since Derrel Hand in 2005.

Different states represented by the 18 players in this class. Fla. (3), Calif. (2), III. (2), N.J. (2), Tenn.2), Kan., N.C., Ohio, Okla., Pa., S.C. and Va.

Offensive lineman signed in the past two classes. The Irish signed nine in the four years previous.

10

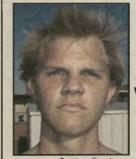
Players in the Top 100 list of either Scout, Rivals or ESPN: Clausen, Ragone, Allen, Gary, Kamara, Hughes, Tate, Romine, Neal.





Armando Allen running back 5-10, 185 Hialeah, Fla.

State champion 110-meter hurdler missed his senior season with a leg injury ... Rivals.com No. 2 all-purp. back



Jimmy Clausen quarterback 6-3, 195 Westlake Village, Calif.

Rivals.com No. 1 player overall ... 3,428 yards, 49 TDs, 6 INTs in 2006 ... 43-0 as a starter



Taylor Dever offensive lineman 6-6, 300 **Grass Valley, Calif.**

Scout.com No. 29 offensive tackle ... No. 4 tackle in state ... benches 325 lbs ... 5.2 40-yard dash



Gary Gray cornerback 5-11, 165 Columbia, S.C.

ESPN.com No. 2 CB ... 47 tackles and 1 INT as a senior ... standout in U.S. Army game



Robert Hughes running back 5-11, 228 Chicago, III.

Scout.com No. 7 RB ... 1,900 yards, 24 TDs as a senior ... benches 420 lbs, squats 520 lbs



Duval Kamara wide receiver 6-1, 215 Hoboken, N.J.

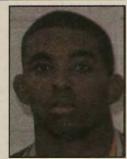
Rivals.com No. 6 receiver... 24.2 YPC, 9 TDs as a senior ... started U.S. Army game for East



Courtesy U.S. Army Boy

Aaron Nagel linebacker 6-1, 215 Lemont, III.

Rushed for 902 yards, 13 TDs as running back ... 42 tackles, 5 sacks as a safety in 2006



Kerry Neal defensive end

6-3, 230 Bunn, N.C. ESPN.com No. 4 defensive

end ... 132 tackles, 30 TFL, 16 sacks as a senior ... verballed Feb. 24, 2006



Andrew Nuss defensive lineman

6-5, 285

Ashburn, Va. Rivals.com No. 9 player in state ... originally recruited as offensive lineman, will

begin next fall on defense



Emeka

Nwankwo offensive lineman 6-5, 270 Hollywood, Fla.

ESPN.com No. 19 offensive tackle ... played both sides of the ball in high school, may switch to defensive



Steve

Paskorz linebacker 6-2, 220 Allison Park, Pa.

Surpassed 4,000 career rushing yards at running back ... missed senior year with hamstring injury



Mike Ragone tight end 6-5, 230 Cherry Hill, N.J.

Scout.com No. 2 tight end .. 46 catches, 8 TDs as junior ... injured knee during senior season



Matt

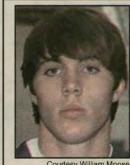
Romine offensive lineman 6-6, 270 Tulsa, Okla.

Rivals.com No. 3 tackle ... started U.S. Army game ... won two state titles at Union High School



Brian Smith linebacker 6-2, 230 Overland Park, Kan.

ESPN.com No. 4 middle linebacker ... 126 tackles, 9 sacks as a senior ... father Chris played at ND



Courtesy William Moos

Harrison Smith safety

6-2, 205 Knoxville, Tenn.

Gatorade State Player of the Year ... Scout.com No. 25 safety ... 61 tackles, 2 INTs in 2006



Golden **Tate**

athlete 6-0, 180 Hendersonville, Tenn.

ESPN.com No. 2 wide receiver ... 1.923 all-purpose yards, 29 TDs, 3 INTs in senior season



Brandon Walker kicker 6-2, 190 Findlay, Ohio

Rivals.com No. 16 kicker, Scout.com No. 6 punter ... will compete for both jobs next season



lan Williams defensive tackle 6-1, 290 Longwood, Fla.

82 tackles, 23 TFL, 3 sacks in 2005 ... ESPN.com No. 12 defensive tackle ... benches 350 lbs, squats 540 lbs

SCENE SCENE

DPAC SPOTLIGHT

Gender explored in successful 'Transamerica'

By MARTY SCHROEDER

Assistant Scene Editor

Although it may be a mainstream film that holds both dramatic tension and an accurate portrayal in high regard, "Transamerica" is an effective picture that brings pain and joy to viewers through the eyes of a transsexual woman named Bree

Bree (a marvelous Felicity Huffman, who was nominated for an Oscar for this role) is about to have sexual reassignment surgery when she discovers

Transamerica

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Where: Browning Cinema, DPAC

When: Saturday at 10 p.m.

she has a son living on the streets of New York the result of a one-night stand when she was still a man. In order to get approval for her surgery from her therapist, Bree travels to New York to meet

her son Toby (Kevin Zegers). They then begin a cross-country road trip from New York back to Los Angeles where they discover that not all of the preconceptions they had about each other

The script by Duncan Tucker is clever and funny while still able to cap-ture the spirit of Bree. Her character travels through emotions as she travels across the country, and this film is as much about family as it is about trust

- trust not only in others but also in one's self.

Felicity Huffman shines as Bree, Kevin Zegers is outstandingly edgy as Toby and Graham Greene is gentle and kind as the rancher Calvin Many Goats, who falls for Bree and is basically the only character in the film who treats Bree as the woman she wants to be.

Many other minor characters make colorful appearances, such as Bree's parents whom Bree meets in a last ditch effort for help. Neither her mother or father can forgive Bree, whom they call their son, and Fionulla

Flanagan is wonderfully camp and tragic as the parent who can't let go of the past.

Aside from the acting, the costumes and cinematography are excellent and the

film won the award for Excellence in Costume Design — Contemporary from the Costume Designers Guild. Huffman's costumes are those of a woman worried about appearing feminine and Flanagan's are horribly campy while suiting the character perfectly. The travel across America is also beautifully well shot and the vastness of the United States is spectacularly viewed in this film. New York, Kentucky and the Southwest are all present in this film as well as the



Bree (Felicity Huffman) travels with her newly discovered son Toby (Kevin Zegers) on a cross-country trip from New York to Los Angeles in "Transamerica."

denizens — some kind, others not who inhabit them.

Overall, this film is moving not because it tells the pain of someone so the audience can walk out of the theater and feel they have done something humanitarian. Of course, some people responded that way. However, if a different frame of mind is brought into this film, it can be very rewarding not only as a piece of excellent cinema but as a film that allows us to examine who we are and change — change not only to be more tolerant or accepting but change ourselves into what we really

This film will be showing as part of the film series entitled "Qlassics: Reimagining Sexuality and the Self in Recent American Cinema." It will be screened at 10 p.m. this Saturday in the Browning Cinema in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. This is a free event, but tickets must be picked up at the DPAC Box Office.

Contact Marty Schroeder at mschroe1@nd.edu

DVD REVIEW

Disney's smash-hit 'Cars' races to winning DVD

By SEAN SWEANY Assistant Scene Editor

Pixar has done it again. The digital animation studio that has turned out such hits as "Toy Story" and "Finding Nemo" has once again made a movie that is funny, entertaining, engaging and thought-provoking at the same time with its 2006 hit "Cars."

The John Lasseter ("Toy Story") directed film was the seventh produced in the partnership between Pixar and Disney (and the last before Disney bought Pixar outright), which dates back to 1995's "Toy Story." "Cars" clocked in as the secondhighest grossing domestic film in 2006 (behind "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest") and was recently released

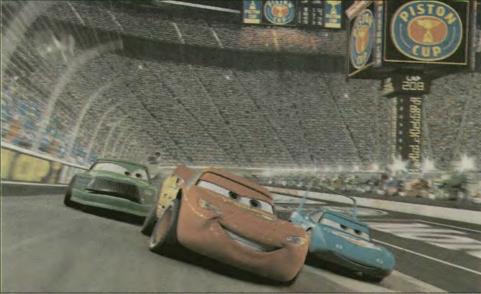
The story centers around a hot-shot, rookie race car named Lightning McQueen (voiced by Owen Wilson) who wants to make it big in the racing world. In his quest to win a racing title, he comes into a tie with the old guard race car, The King (Richard Petty), and his rival, Chick Hicks (Michael Keaton).

A tie-breaker race is set, but on his way there, McQueen gets lost in Radiator Springs, a town set on the historic Route 66 that has been passed by in the era of the interstate highway. McQueen's stay in Radiator Springs lasts longer than expected and through his interactions with the town's few residents, who include the Porsche Carrera Sallie (Bonnie Hunt) and a 1951 Hudson Hornet "Doc" (Paul Newman), he learns that there is more to life than winning races and sponsorship

There is no doubt that "Cars" is different than any of the Pixar films that preceded it. There are no talking animals here, nor immediately endearing and recognizable characters and many critics cited these among the reasons why the film was not the smash success that the other Pixar films were. Film success must be viewed in relative terms, and while "Cars" was not a grand slam by Pixar's standards, it still hit a home run by containing a stronger message than in any other Pixar film, being entertaining and by taking computer animation to a new

Indeed, computer animation has become Pixar's forte, and the work done here does not disappoint. Turning cars into animate, living objects would seem a difficult task, yet every character in this

film has as many distinct mannerisms and personality traits that one could expect from live actors. Everything is in the details, from the expressions of the characters' eyes placed on cars' windshields — to how they use their tires as hands to subtle contortions of car struc-



Lightning McQueen (Owen Wilson) races against Chick Hicks (Michael Keaton) and The King (Richard Petty) in Pixar's latest animated film, "Cars."

tures to indicate both movement and emo-

These animations are aided by excellent voice performances, especially by Wilson and Newman, with entertaining supporting roles voiced by celebrities including George Carlin, Larry the Cable Guy and even Bob Costas.

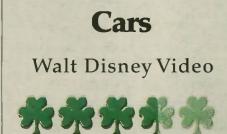
Aside from the characters, the Southwestern desert setting of the film is the most realistic yet for Pixar and the extended driving scenes capture perfectly images familiar to anyone who has taken

Hanging over all of this is the film's message — that in the frenetic whirlwind that is life, taking time to enjoy the simple things can bring great joy. Lasseter constantly weaves this theme in and out of the narrative without it become overly apparent. He also manages to tell a compelling story at the same time — a true sign of excellent filmmaking.

The DVD is light on special features, especially when compared to other Pixar releases. Several deleted scenes and one short featurette are all that give viewers insight into the making of the film, and one must wonder if the DVD was rushed into production without a full slate of

In spite of this, "Cars" is still a delightfully entertaining and meaningful film worthy of purchase on DVD. It is clear that Pixar still has the magic when it comes to computer animation.

Contact Sean Sweany at ssweany@nd.edu





NBA

Supersonics sneak past Pacers; Spurs upend Wizards

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Ray Allen is making up for his All-Star snub by scoring points. Lots of them.

The six-time All-Star had 33 points and nine assists Wednesday night, and rookie Andre Brown made the goahead basket with 23 seconds remaining to give the Seattle SuperSonics a 103-102 victory over the Indiana Pacers. The win snapped a 15-game road losing streak for the Sonics.

"I hate losing. I hate losing," said Allen, who has had 29, 29 and 33 points in the three games since the Western Conference All-Star reserves were announced last week.

"Let me just say, I have a lot of people that are very supportive, especially of all of my accomplishments in my career, he said. "I'll just have another shot next year.

Allen had 10 points in the fourth quarter, including two straight baskets after the Pacers went ahead 99-92 in the final

Brown scored on a layup, was fouled and hit the free throw to put the Sonics up 101-100 with 54 seconds left.

Jamaal Tinsley, who led Indiana with 25 points, then scored on a drive to the basket for the Pacers' final lead seconds later. Brown scored again but missed a free throw, giving the Pacers one more chance to take the lead.

Tinsley missed another drive to the hoop, and desperation shots off rebounds by Danny Granger and Tinsley were no good as time ran out.

"Coming off the bench, you have to be ready when your team calls your number,

"I'm an aggressive guy. I take

pride in that," he said. "I made some key baskets. Once you continue to be aggressive, things fall for you."

The Pacers were without All-Star Jermaine O'Neal, who did not play because of swelling from a bruise on his left knee.

"Tough loss," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "We worked so hard to get the lead, then had a string of missed shots. ... The second-chance opportunities killed us. This is one we shouldn't have let get away.

Tinsley, allegedly involved in a bar scuffle after Monday night's game against Golden State, would not talk about the fight and received a smattering of boos from the home crowd during introductions. He said he got the shot he wanted at the

"They challenged the shot, and I just missed it," he said.

Chris Wilcox added 17 points for Seattle. Brown finished with nine points, one off his career

Spurs 110, Wizards 83

The San Antonio Spurs had five days to prepare, allowing them to spend some time at home during their make-orbreak rodeo road trip.

The Washington Wizards were missing Antawn Jamison, and they've mostly looked like a team playing 4-on-5 since he got hurt.

But those reasons alone can't account for San Antonio's manhandling of Washington on Wednesday night. The bigger picture has emerged over the last few weeks: The Wizards, even though they're a contender in the East, can't hang with the top teams in the West.

"That was just a flat-out, 48minute, thorough beating right from the beginning to the end," Washington coach Eddie Jordan said.

Tony Parker and Tim Duncan scored 20 points apiece for the Spurs, who shot 62 percent in the first half and led by double digits for all but the first 4:05 of the game. Duncan, who frequently had his way against the undersized Wizards frontcourt, shot 9-for-16 and had seven rebounds and five assists. Manu Ginobili added 18 points on 6for-8 shooting.

Before the game, coach Gregg Popovich said the Spurs' eightgame road stretch was a "a season-making trip for us — or season-breaking." San Antonio had dropped two straight, but the win over the Wizards put the Spurs at 2-2 during their annual get-out-of-town that coincides with the February rodeo show back home.

"It was one of our better games of the year, very honestly, at both ends of the court,' Popovich said.

The Spurs, who last played Feb. 1 at Phoenix, have had trouble holding onto big leads, and it nearly happened again against the Wizards. A 24-point, second-half lead was down to 11 in the final minute of the third quarter, but Fabricio Oberto kept a possession alive by punching a missed free throw to a teammate. The sequence helped put San Antonio ahead 84-70 entering the fourth, and Ginobili opened the final period with three 3pointers and a pair of free throws in a 12-2 run to increase the lead back to 24.

"We're getting a little bit old," Parker said, "and all those close games we used to win, this year we've got a tendency to lose them. But I think we're in the right direction. I think we're improving. We definitely still



Sonics guard Ray Allen hits a fadeaway jumper over Pacers guard Rawle Marshall during Seattle's 103-102 win Wednesday.

have a chance to win (the West). It's going to be down to Game 7 and one possession, like always. It's going to be a big battle.'

Cavaliers 94, Clippers 77

Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored 16 points with a season-high 16 rebounds, Larry Hughes scored 15 points and the Cleveland Cavaliers hardly needed LeBron James in an easy victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Tuesday night.

James scored 11 points three above his season low and 15 below his average — and spent the first half of the fourth quarter watching as the scuffling Cavaliers, who came in just 4-8 since Jan. 16, won their fifth straight at home against the Clippers.

Sasha Pavlovic added 16 points and Drew Gooden 13 for Cleveland, which held the Clippers to 35 percent shooting.

Elton Brand led Los Angeles with 21 points and Shaun Livingston added 19 for the Clippers, who have dropped three in a row.

In the aftermath of a stinging loss to Detroit on Sunday, both James and Hughes said the Cavaliers should be running more, their argument being the team is better suited for an uptempo offensive game than the slowdown style preferred by coach Mike Brown, who preaches defense first.

The Cavs pushed the action no drastic change in their offense. What was new was that they made a few more free throws, going 21-of-28 (75 percent) from the line.

Cleveland has been the NBA's

worst free-throw shooting team all season and came in making just 68 percent of its attempts.

James didn't get to the line until the final minute but sank both his tries.

Leading by 11 at halftime and 13 after three quarters, the Cavaliers pushed their lead to 21 with 5:15 remaining when James drilled a 3-pointer.

With upcoming games later this week against Miami and the Los Angeles Lakers, the Cavs, now 7-1 at home against Western Conference teams, needed a relaxing night and the Clippers seemed only too willing to give them one

Los Angeles forward Corey Maggette was inactive, one day after he criticized coach Mike Dunleavy following the club's loss in New York. Maggette, second on the team in scoring and rebounding, was unhappy about playing just 17 minutes against the Knicks, who overcame a 10point deficit to win.

"It's just more of Dunleavy's (stuff) again," said Maggette, who recently had a meeting with owner Donald Sterling, Dunleavy and general manager Elgin Baylor to end trade speculation about the seven-year veteran. "I don't get it, I really don't. It's crazy. I put in work. I deserve to play. It's totally mind-boggling to me.'

The Cavaliers were just 1-of-13 to open the second quarter before Ilgauskas hit a jumper to when they could, but there was snap a 35-all tie. Hughes scored nine straight points and Cleveland closed the period with a 10-2 spurt to open a 54-43 halftime lead.

Cavaliers guard Daniel Gibson tries to pass while falling past Clippers guard Daniel Ewing and another defender during Cleveland's 94-77 win Wednesday.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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18 year olds are stupid.

Somewhere in Middle America.

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NHL

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
New Jersey	32-15-6	70	7-1-2
Pittsburgh	26-17-9	61	8-0-2
N.Y. Islanders	25-21-7	57	4-2-4
N.Y. Rangers	25-24-4	54	3-7-0
Philadelphia	13-32-7	33	2-5-3
Eastern Cor	nference, N	ortheas	t Division
team	record	pts.	last 10
Buffalo	35-15-4	74	4-5-1
Montreal	29-19-6	64	4-5-1
Ottawa	30-21-3	63	7-2-1
Toronto	26-21-6	58	7-3-0
Boston	23-24-4	50	3-7-0
Eastern Cor	ference, S	outheas	t Division
team	record	pts.	last 10
Atlanta	29-18-8	66	5-5-0
Tampa Bay	29-23-2	60	8-2-0
Carolina	26-22-7	59	3-4-3
Washington	22-25-7	51	3-7-0

Western Conference, Central Division

20-24-10

Florida

team	recora	pis.	tust 10
Nashville	37-14-3	77	7-3-0
Detroit	34-14-6	74	7-2-1
St. Louis	21-24-8	50	6-3-1
Columbus	21-27-5	47	5-5-0
Chicago	19-26-7	45	2-6-2

Western Conference, Northwest Division

ieam	recoru	pis.	tust 10
Calgary	29-17-6	64	6-2-2
Vancouver	29-20-4	62	5-2-3
Minnesota	29-21-4	62	7-2-1
Edmonton	26-23-4	56	5-5-0
Colorado	25-23-4	54	4-5-1

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Anaheim	32-13-8	72	4-4-2
San Jose	34-18-1	69	6-3-1
Dallas	31-20-2	64	5-4-1
Phoenix	24-27-2	50	4-6-0
Los Angeles	18-30-7	43	2-7-1

NCAA Basketball Men's Big East Standings

		Conference	Overall
	team	record	record
1	Pittsburgh	8-1	20-3
2	Marquette	7-2	20-4
3	Georgetown	7-2	17-5
4	West Virginia	7-3	18-4
5	Louisville	6-4	16-8
6	NOTRE DAME	6-4	18-5
7	Syracuse	5-5	16-8
8	Providence	4-4	14-7
9	Villanova	4-5	15-7
10	Connecticut	4-6	15-8
11	St. John's	4-6	13-10
12	DePaul	4-6	13-11
13	Seton Hall	3-6	12-10
14	South Florida	3-6	12-11
15	Rutgers	2-8	9-14
16	Cincinnati	1-7	10-12

around the dial

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL Notre Dame at DePaul

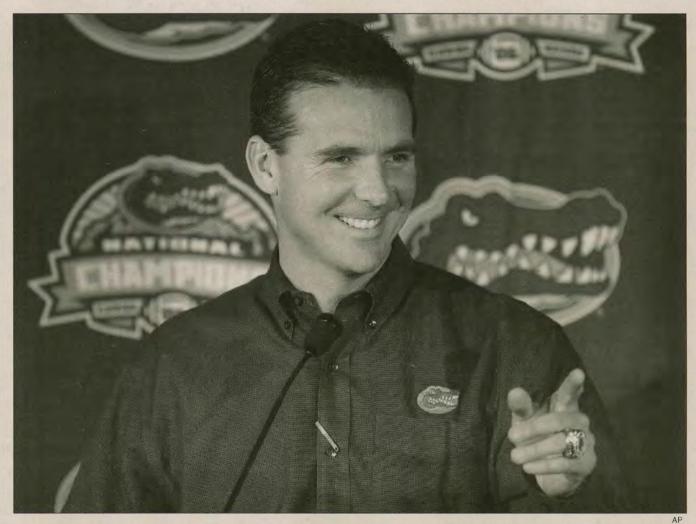
7 p.m., ESPN

Memphis at UAB

9 p.m., ESPN

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Duke at North Carolina
7 p.m., ESPN2

NCAA FOOTBALL



Florida coach Urban Meyer answers questions Wednesday about the Gators' 2007 recruiting class. Florida signed 10 five-star recruits this year, including the top players from three states.

Florida signs top 2007 recruiting class

Associated Press

Florida won the recruiting crown in nearly as dominating fashion as the national championship.

The Gators capitalized on last month's national title win over Ohio State and down years from Sunshine State rivals Florida State and Miami to bring in the top recruiting class in the country Wednesday.

"No one is even that close to them," said recruiting analyst Tom Lemming of CSTV. "They got help everywhere. In the past 10 years, this has to rank right at the top in recruiting classes.

Every position absolutely loaded."

The Gators also were picked as the top class by SuperPrep, Rivals.com and National Blue Chips, beating out Southern California, SEC rivals Tennessee and LSU, and Texas.

The Trojans closed strong, adding top running backs Joe McKnight from Louisiana and Broderick Green from Arkansas on Wednesday to a class that already included another top back in Marc Tyler; defensive end Everson Griffen, SuperPrep's No. 1 overall player; the nation's No. 1 receiver, Ronald Johnson

from Michigan; and blue chip linebacker Chris Galippo from Anaheim, Calif.

"USC continues to be the place that a lot of skill-position players look to first," said analyst Bobby Burton of Rivals.com. "That doesn't mean the guys they get on defense aren't special. It just means they have the pick of the litter when it comes to offensive skill players."

But the Gators' class was best of all, signing eight of the top 16 players in talent-rich Florida and the No. 1 players from South Carolina, Indiana, Maryland and

New England, according to Rivals.com.

A coaching change at Miami and another down year for Florida State played a key part in the Gators' success.

"They play an exciting brand of ball on offense and defense and a lot of kids want be in that situation," said Allen Wallace, the national recruiting editor for Scout.com and publisher of SuperPrep magazine. "There's no question they've moved into the catbird seat in Florida. They have taken advantage of tough times for both the Hurricanes and Seminoles.'

IN BRIEF

Mike Tyson enters rehab after most recent drug arrest

PHOENIX — Mike Tyson has checked himself into an inpatient treatment program for "various addictions" while awaiting trial on drug charges, his lawyer said Wednesday.

"He needed to get involved in something that would help him with his addiction," attorney David Chesnoff said. Chesnoff wouldn't describe Tyson's addictions, but police said the former heavyweight champion told officers that he used cocaine frequently.

Chesnoff said Tyson checked himself into an undisclosed facility shortly after appearing in a Phoenix court-

The 40-year-old Tyson pleaded not guilty on Jan. 22 in Maricopa County Superior Court to felony drug possession and paraphernalia possession counts and two misdemeanor counts of driving under the influence of drugs.

Dale Earnhardt Inc. signs Jeffrey Earnhardt

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — As Dale Earnhardt Jr. continued contract extension negotiations with DEI, the company came to terms with another driver named Earnhardt.

Jeffrey Earnhardt, the 17-year-old grandson of the late Dale Earnhardt, has signed a "long-term driving services contract" with Dale Earnhardt Inc. The signing came as Earnhardt Jr. prepared to meet Wednesday with team officials to discuss his future with his father's company.

Earnhardt Jr.'s contract with DEI is up at the end of the season, and negotiations have been tense since stepmother Teresa Earnhardt seemingly questioned his commitment in a December interview with The Wall Street Journal.

With the season set to begin with the Daytona 500 on Feb. 18, team officials would like to resolve Earnhardt Jr.'s situation. Landis could receive 2-year ban from racing in France

PARIS — Floyd Landis could be banned from racing in France for the next two years if the country's anti-doping agency issues a maximum penalty Thursday for his positive doping test at last year's Tour de France.

The American cyclist will not attend the hearing, but will be represented by his lawyers, Landis' spokesman Michael Henson said Wednesday in a conference call.

The lawyers can present arguments to the nine-member panel, which includes French magistrates. The agency's president, Philippe Bordry, said Landis would receive a fair hearing.

"It's not because someone is positive that he must be automatically suspended," Bordry said. "The rights of the defense are very important."

PGA

The International nixed from PGA schedule



Ernie Els chips onto the green during The International at Castle Pines Aug. 4, 2004.

Mickelson.

tain Tom Lehman.

promoted aggressive play and

featured some dramatic finish-

es, along with a roll call of

champions that included Ernie

Els, Vijay Singh and Phil

Dean Wilson won last year in

a playoff over Ryder Cup cap-

"It's a good thing I had this format this week," Wilson said.

He would have been 9 under

par in stroke play, while

Lehman would have finished at

Tiger Woods only played

twice, the last time in 1999

when it was played a week

after the PGA Championship,

and that became an issue with

Vickers. He often lamented the

absence of golf's top draw, and

he continued to ask the tour

for different dates. It moved

from a week after the PGA Championship to two weeks

before the final major, then the

week before the PGA.

Associated Press

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. — The International, known for its unique scoring system on a Castle Pines golf course held in the mile-high air outside Denver, will no longer be on the PGA Tour schedule effective immediately, a tour official said Wednesday.

The absence of a corporate sponsor was mostly responsible for canceling the 21-year-old tournament, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the decision had not formally been announced.

PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem and tournament founder Jack Vickers were expected to make it official Thursday morning. They spent the last two weeks in a final effort to find a sponsor, then agreed to end it now.

International spokeswoman Joanna Busack said Vickers would not comment until Thursday.

The cancellation leaves a hole in the PGA Tour schedule on July 5-8, but tour officials have been working on a contingency plan over the last month and are expected to announce a replacement by April.

The leading candidate is Washington, the largest U.S. market without a PGA Tour event. The nation's capital had a tour event since 1968, but that presumably ended when title sponsor Booz Allen bailed out last year because it was not part of the FedExCup portion of the PGA Tour schedule.

Other markets under consideration are Minneapolis, Philadelphia and Kansas City.

The tour official said there was sponsorship interest in several major markets, although none of those sponsors was interested in the International.

The International began in 1986 and used a modified Stableford scoring system, rewarding points for eagles and birdies and deducting points for bogeys or worse. It

Gymnastic medalists will rejoin US team after college graduation

Associated Press

OLYMPICS

A few months ago, Paul Hamm was pretty sure he was finished with gymnastics.

The Olympic gold medalist and twin brother Morgan were having too much fun being regular college students. They actually had free time, and no coach or training schedule to dictate what they should do with it. They could focus on school and were close to finishing their degrees

The more they talked, though, the Hamms realized they weren't quite ready to walk away. The Beijing Olympics are a year and a half away, and the brothers want one more chance to show what they can do.

And, they hope, snag the United States a few more medals in the process.

"The time off gave us what we needed to really develop the motivation that we have right now," Paul Hamm said Wednesday. "We see a goal in front of us, and we're going for it. Sometimes when you're in the daily grind of gymnastics, you forget it.

"We know for a fact if we're in good shape, we can help the team."

Paul and Morgan Hamm's announcement Tuesday that they are returning to competitive gymnastics after an 18-month layoff was an immediate boost for the U.S. men, who plummeted from the silver medal in Athens to an unseemly 13th-place finish at last year's world championships.

The Hamms, now 24, were two of the world's best gymnasts when they went on hiatus. They were responsible for half of the U.S. squad's scores in the team final at the Athens Olympics, helping the American men win their first medal in 20 years. Paul

Hamm also was the first U.S. man to win the Olympic allaround title.

Hamm twins prep for '08

Soon after the event, however, the International Federation Gymnastics acknowledged a scoring error had been made on South Korean Yang Taeyoung's second-to-last event. Yang wound up with the bronze, and the Koreans protested. When FIG president Bruno Grandi suggested Hamm share the medal as acknowledgment of a mistake, Hamm was forced to defend his gold well after the games were over, all the way to the Court of Arbitration for

CAS eventually declared Hamm the rightful gold medalist, and

"Our No. 1 goal is

to help the team get

back into medal

contention."

Morgan Hamm

American gymnast

Grandi told the AP in October that he considered the American the true Olympic champion. But the episode soured the Hamms on gymnastics for a while, and they decided in July 2005 that they

wanted to focus on their educations at Ohio State.

Morgan gets his degree in exercise science in March, and already has plans to go to the National University of Health Sciences after Beijing for his doctorate in chiropractic medicine. Paul will graduate with an accounting degree in June and wants to go to business school. Both have 3.8 grade-point averages.

ages.

"I'll be laughing at him because he'll still have to go to school, and I can concentrate on gymnastics," Morgan Hamm said of graduating three months before his brother.

The time off also gave them a look at what life was like outside of the gym. Because they've been doing gymnastics since grade school, they'd always had to juggle schoolwork and training.

Suddenly, they didn't.

"There's no one looking over your shoulder, no coach seeing if you did this before practice, if you went out over the weekend," Paul Hamm said. "It was nice to have that freedom for the first time in our life. Mostly, we devoted ourselves to school."

The twins got so used to being "regular" college students, they thought as recently as last summer that their competitive careers were over

"We were sure they were done," said their mother, Cecily Hamm. "But when it came down to the point where they needed to decide, they got closer and closer to changing their mind.

"I told them, if they decided, they'd have to jump in with both feet. It's all or nothing. They had to find that place inside them selves where they feel that energy and the desire."

They did.
"A love of the sport is a big

part of it," Morgan Hamm said of what changed their minds. "We love gymnastics. We want to see what we can accomplish, to see if we can make the Olympic team again and win medals in Beijing.

"Our No. 1 goal is to help the team get back into medal contention."

The Hamms are training six days a week at Ohio State and said they're surprised at how quickly their skills have returned. Their bodies no longer ache from a decade's worth of pounding, and the shoulder injury that limited Morgan's strength improved so much he's hoping to compete in the all-around for the first time since 2000.

They plan to compete at the U.S. championships in August in San Jose and then resume a full competitive schedule in 2008 that will culminate with the Olympics in Beijing.

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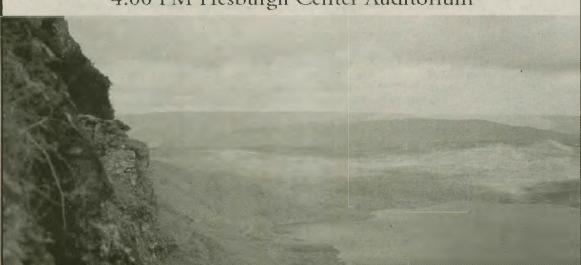


A Missing Chapter on the Missing Chains: Telling Tales and Making it up in the Irish Countryside

Guy Beiner

Department of History Ben-Gurion University of Negev

Thursday, February 8th 4:00 PM Hesburgh Center Auditorium



Followed by the launch of Beiner's new book Remembering the Year of the French: Irish Folk History and Social Memory Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2007 by James Smyth, Department of History

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NCAA BASKETBALL

Streaking Georgetown takes down Louisville



Hoyas guard Jeremiah Rivers, right, defends Cardinals guard Edgar Sosa during Georgetown's 73-65 win at Louisville Wednesday.

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — On a night when Louisville honored one of its greats, it was Georgetown that ended up turning back the clock.

The 22nd-ranked Hoyas continued their rise Wednesday night, easing by Louisville 73-65 for their sixth straight win.

"We are definitely settling into a groove and a lot of the experiences that we went through earlier in the year are paying off now," said Georgetown coach John Thompson III.

If the Hoyas (17-5, 7-2 Big East) keep dominant performances from center Roy Hibbert, their early season struggles may finally be behind them

Hibbert controlled things at both ends of the floor, scoring 20 points and grabbing 11 rebounds while making 9-of-10 from the field and limiting Louisville center David Padgett to just one field

"I just wanted to be dominant as much as I could," Hibbert said. "I was just open on the baseline ... and my teammates got me the ball down there.'

Hibbert scored in a variety of ways, getting dunks, lay-ups and even mixing in a jump shot. He never tired despite playing a season-high 35 minutes and helped the Hoyas keep their composure whenever the Cardinals made a

"I just felt we needed to keep him in there," Thompson said. "His presence at both ends was felt. What I didn't want was David to get into a comfort zone. I felt Roy's size would kind of contain him a little bit.'

Earl Clark tied a career-high with 14 points for Louisville (16-8, 6-4), who had been searching for a signature win to bolster its hopes for an NCAA Tournament bid. But the Cardinals shot just 33 percent from the floor in losing their 13th straight game to a ranked opponent, spoiling a night when Louisville named the floor at Freedom Hall in honor of former coach Denny Crum.

'We could have played them 10 times and they would have won nine," said Louisville coach Rick Pitino. "We would have had to play almost a perfect game to

The Cardinals were nearly perfect in one sense, committing a school-record low one turnover,

setting a Big East record in the process. Still, it wasn't nearly enough to stop the Hoyas, who rarely let the Cardinals get off an uncontested shot and came up with every important rebound and loose ball.

The Hoyas outrebounded the Cardinals 35-30, outscored them 30-14 in the paint and shot 56 percent from the floor. Forward Jeff Green was nearly as hot as Hibbert, making 7-of-10 from the field and adding seven rebounds.

"We used our height advantage and they couldn't defend us,' Green said. "We got stops on defense and ran our offense.

The Hoyas did whatever they wanted offensively, getting it inside to Hibbert and Green with ease. Whenever the Cardinals sent extra bodies to doubleteam, the Hoyas simply kicked it out for open 3-pointers.

The win was Georgetown's first by single digits this season. And while the Hoyas were never really threatened - Louisville never got closer than five in the second half - Georgetown responded each time the Cardinals made a run.

"We've been in this environment, in very difficult environments like this all year,' Thompson said. "The crowd gets into it, they go on a run and our guys are used to that. We did a good job of just settling down."

Louisville pulled within 58-53 on a free throw by Edgar Sosa with under four minutes to play, but Hibbert dunked on Georgetown's next possession, and DaJuan Summers followed with a 3-pointer to push the lead up to 10. Louisville would get no closer than seven the rest of the

"We stuck together when they made runs," Hibbert said. "We didn't want to go back-and-forth. We wanted to keep it to our

As dominant as the Hoyas were, Thompson is wary of getting ahead of himself. Georgetown started the season ranked in the Top 10, only to fall all the way out of the rankings in December. They're back in the Top 25 and confident they're not the same unfocused bunch that stumbled out of the blocks three months ago.

'We're much more of a team," Hibbert said. "We've gotten older and we're smarter."

NASCAR

Ohio school offers motorsports class

Students learn race car engine mechanics

Associated Press

LIMA, Ohio — Michael Klenke learned in class how to assemble a race-car engine and tear apart its transmission. He also learned the best way to handle a problem that crops up when a stock car is flying around a dirt race track at 60 mph.

"It's more than just step on the gas and turn left," Klenke said of driving for the University of Northwestern Ohio's stock-car team. "It makes you realize you really are going to use what you learn here."

Klenke's school is one of a handful of places where students can study how to build a race car from the bottom up. The high-performance motorsports program readies them for a career in auto racing — whether it be working in a pit crew or in the shop.

"A lot of people just see NASCAR on Sundays," said Steve Klausing, an instructor who works with the school's race club. "There's a lot that goes into the six days before the race"

Auto racing's growing presence on television and its widening appeal to mainstream fans has led to more leagues,

teams and job opportunities in a sport that increasingly needs highly skilled crew members.

"It used to be that growing up with your dad in the garage was good enough to get you through,"

said Don Radebaugh, spokesman for the ARCA series. "But it requires more than turning wrenches in a garage. We're seeing more and more drivers and crew members who are college graduates."

ARCA has become a stepping stone race league for not only the drivers, but also crew members.

About 20 students from the Ohio school spent their weekends last year working with ARCA teams. A group from the school traveled to Florida this week to work at the ARCA 200 on Saturday at Daytona International Speedway.

They'll work on the engines, clean the cars for the race and watch how the pros adjust the aerodynamics of the cars to make them run faster.

"It gives any racing program a place to look for help," said Bill Kimmel, crew chief for eight-time ARCA champion Frank Kimmel. "If you take a kid off the street, we have to show them every step of the way."

He usually pairs a student with an experienced crew member. Kimmel's team, based in New Albany, Ind., hired one of the students who worked for him a year ago to be a mechanic.

Motorsports students at Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis compete for internships in the Champ Car World Series and with the Panther Racing team in the Indy Racing League.

"We work with teams to configure the classes around what the teams need," said Peter Hylton, director of the IUPUI motorsports program.

ARCA car owner Wayne Hixson, of Soddy Daisy, Tenn., said there's still a learning curve when students start working with a pro team.

"We're looking for somebody who can carry tires over the wall and put them on," he said. "I teach them how to carry tires, put them on and put air in them"

About 1,000 students are enrolled in the motorsports program at the University of Northwestern Ohio, which offers two- and four-year degrees in business and technologies

The new \$7 million motorsports complex is where they learn about building transmissions, welding frames and shaping fenders.

Classrooms are attached to the garages where stock cars and dragsters are taken apart and put back together. "There's a lot of big-boy toys here," said Tom Grothous, a dean in the college of technologies.

In one of the garages, the metal frame of a stock car sits on a lift, but soon it will be fit-

"I teach them how

to carry tires, put

them on and put

air in them."

Wayne Hixson

ARCA car owner

ted with an engine and ready for the racing season in April. Outside, there's a 500-foot track for drag racing and a small oval for stock cars. Mounds of rocks and dirt are for the off-road rac-

The school also boasts what it calls the world's largest motorsports classroom — a 1/4-mile banked dirt track that the university bought nine years ago. As many as 100 students line up on Friday nights in the spring and summer to work on the pit crews with weekend drivers who come to the Limaland Motorsports Park.

Anywhere from 2,000 to 5,000 fans show up on race night to watch the sprint cars, stock cars and trucks.

The university's first stockcar team started competing there last year. This season, it will have two teams racing in cars with "student driver" on the rear bumper.

"It lets everyone know that they're out there to learn and not to push the other guys into the wall," said university president Jeffrey Jarvis, who can be found on race nights talking with fans and drivers.

The motorsports program at the Ohio school started in 1993. Other colleges have since added the training, including Lincoln Tech in Indianapolis and WyoTech at its campus in Fremont, Calif.

The University of Northwestern Ohio doesn't track how many graduates end up in racing. But former students now work for teams in NASCAR, the Indy Racing League and minor league circuits

FIGURE SKATING

Shen, Zhao lead pairs competition

Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Shen Xue and Zhao Hongbo had no problems expressing themselves on the ice in taking the lead of the pairs competition at Four Continents after the short program Wednesday night.

Off the ice is a different story. "We're retiring," Shen said through an interpreter after their performance.

From skating? After Four Continents? Really?

After a quick huddle with their interpreter — while a buzz went around the room — they got the translation straight.

"We're taking some time off after the World Championships (in March)," Shen said with a smile.

Shen and Zhao lead Chinese counterparts Tong Jian and Pang Qing by 3.49 points heading into Thursday's free skate.

Not bad considering Shen and Zhao almost skipped Four Continents. Coming so close after the Asian Winter Games and given Zhao's superstitions about events at high altitude, the pair almost stayed home. "We're very tired," Shen said.

"We're very tired," Shen said.
Considering their recent
medical maladies, Tong and
Pang are just happy to be skating.

Tong wears a headband to hide the scar from a Jan. 1 car accident in Beijing — his head crashed through the window — and Pang can't skate longer than an hour at a time in practice due to a kidney ailment.

However, they turned in a fairly polished short program.

"Going to this competition is a high point for us," said Tong, who had 16 stitches to close the wound to his head.

Defending Four Continent champions Rena Inoue and John Baldwin landed their signature throw triple axel, but they still were in third place, 7.56 out of the lead. Brooke Castile and Benjamin Okolski, who won the U.S. Championships in January, are in seventh place after each made a mistake on a side-byside double axel.

"It's about the skate and not about the title," Castile said. "We look at this as another experience."

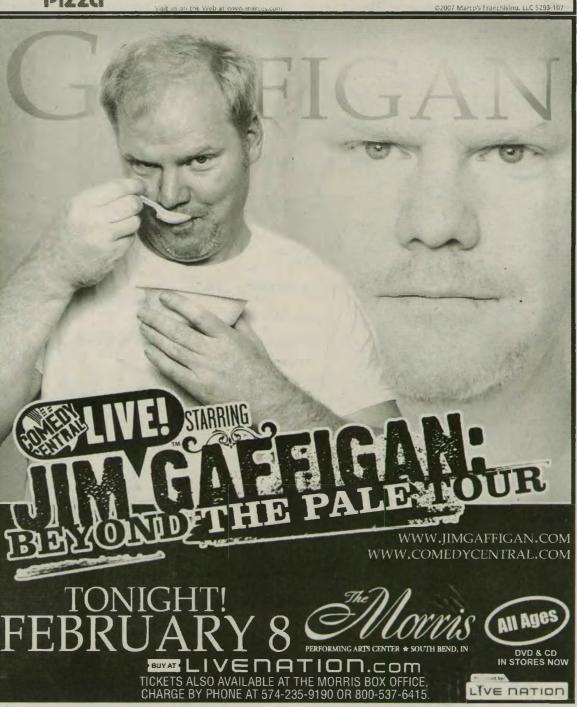
Baldwin was upset with some of the marks after their performance. He thought the pair deserved higher, especially for their spiral sequence.

"That's one of our best things," Baldwin said. "We kind of got held down on that. I'm not sure why.

"I'd like to see the judges reward us a little bit more on the second mark instead of holding us back and protecting other teams. We're trying hard things, we're doing things no one else in the world is doing. Give us some credit for that. ... Be fair to us."

Language was no problem in the ice dancing, where Benjamin Agosto blurted out a response before a question was asked





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As part of the Law School Admissions Council sponsored National Minority Law School Recruitment Month, the conference is designed to provide guidance to students who are interested in or considering attending law school. The conference is free of charge and open to all.

Friday, February 16, 2007 12 noon to 3 pm

The program will include a Student Panel (Question and Answer session focusing on law school student life), a presentation on Applying to Law School Topics include: Preparing for the LSAT, Personal Statements, and Letter of Recommendation Choices and a presentation on Financing a Legal Education.

You can register online through our website www.lawadmissions.nd.edu or by calling (574) 631-6626 on or before February 9th. Lunch will be served during the conference

SOCCER

U.S. tops Mexico in friendly

Associated Press

GLENDALE, Ariz. — The sellout crowd belonged to Mexico. The game went to the United

States, as usual.

Jimmy Conrad scored his first international goal, Landon Donovan converted a late breakaway and the Americans defeated Mexico 2-0 in an exhibition Wednesday night, extending the dominance of their regional rival.

"We've clearly done well. I think mentally we do have an edge," Donovan said. "But we were also a little bit lucky."

Playing in front of a heavily pro-Mexican sellout crowd of 64,462, the Americans improved to 8-2-1 against Mexico since 2000. The United States is 7-0-1 against Mexico on home soil in that stretch, outscoring its southern neighbor 13-0.

"Right now, we're on top, and we're going to try to stay there," U.S. defender Chris Albright

The victory provided a boost for interim coach Bob Bradley, who is hoping to persuade the U.S. Soccer Federation to lift his interim tag. Before the game, USSF president Sunil Gulati told reporters the result "is not going to lead to a direct decision as to who the national team coach will be."

Bradley is 2-0 since he was hired Dec. 8 to replace Bruce Arena.

"The work that we put in this month has been very good," Bradley said. "Not only to prepare us for these two games but to establish a foundation for every camp."

The United States started slow but finished in a rush.

Conrad, playing his 19th international game, headed home a corner kick by Donovan in the 52nd minute, beating goalkeeper Oswaldo Sanchez inside the left post. It was the 24th career assist for Donovan, the U.S. career leader.

Donovan added the clincher in the 90th minute off a pass by Ricardo Clark. It was the 27th goal in 86 international appearances for Donovan, who scored in his second straight game after going scoreless in 18 consecutive national team appearances over 1 1/2 years.

"I think we showed what we're made of," said Conrad, who played an outstanding twoway game.

But Mexico didn't go quietly in the first game under coach Hugo Sanchez. The Mexicans had nine shots, seven in the second half, and pressured the Americans relentlessly after Conrad's goal.

"I think the way the team functioned, the way it looked on the field, left us satisfied," Mexican captain Rafael Marquez said through a translator. "All the same, it hurts because of the rivalry between the two teams and the importance of the match. However, we have to take the positive from the match. We created a lot of opportunities but we just couldn't convert. It's just the beginning."

Sanchez had assembled a veteran team in a clear attempt to win rather than evaluate players for the upcoming World Cup cycle. "They made it pretty open that they came to win this game and they were bringing everybody, and maybe mentally now [we] have even more of an advantage," Donovan said.

Tim Howard, bidding to take over from Kasey Keller as the top American goalkeeper, shut out the Mexicans in his first national team appearance since last May.

Both teams are preparing for the CONCACAF Gold Cup, the championship of North and Central America and the Caribbean, and the start of 2010

World Cup qualifying next year. It was the first game for the Americans against the Tricolores since Sept. 3, 2005, when the United States clinched its fifth straight World Cup berth with a 2-0 victory at Columbus, Ohio

Emotions flared late, with Marquez and American forward Eddie Johnson exchanging shoves. After the final whistle, the Mexicans strode off the field without shaking the Americans' hands or exchanging jerseys, as is customary.

"The sportsmanship — it would be nice if you guys [reporters] and the Mexican press talked about it, because it's really poor," Donovan said. "When we lose to them there, we shake their hands and say, 'Good job.' There's none of that reciprocally, and it's kind of disappointing."

NHL

Cheechoo doubles up in Sharks' win

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Jonathan Cheechoo was worried because his scoring was down this year after he led the league with 56 goals last season.

He made up some ground on Wednesday night, scoring twice in San Jose's 3-2 victory over Anaheim. Milan Michalek scored on a power play with 3:46 remaining to give the Sharks the win and a split of their two-night, home-and-home series against the Ducks.

"I was a little worried because I wasn't getting the chances earlier, so it meant that I was obviously doing something wrong and maybe got into some bad habits," said Cheechoo, who has 20 goals this season

"But I've been working hard in practice and trying to do a little extra to get my game back."

Cheechoo also had two goals in a 7-4 loss to Anaheim the previous night, and usually seems to play well against the Ducks. He had his first career hat trick against them on Dec. 20, 2005.

"He's been a thorn in our side," Anaheim coach Randy Carlyle said. "He can find those open spaces in the net and he's patient with the puck. He scored two again tonight and we've got to find a way to limit his offensive production."

Ryane Clowe assisted on all three San Jose goals, and Joe Thornton assisted on both of Cheechoo's scores.

"Joe's an amazing passer," Cheechoo said. "I got to see it firsthand last year. I've been struggling this year, but he's been kind of finding a way to get me the puck and I'm just letting loose and shooting it."

The Sharks' victory in the rematch 'moved them back within five points of the Pacific Division-leading Ducks.

"Our stick-to-itiveness and combativeness were much better tonight," San Jose coach Ron Wilson said. "It was nice to see some guys who struggled get rewarded by getting some big points, like Cheech and Milan.

"We need those two guys if we're going to do anything as we go through the stretch run

With Anaheim's Joe DiPenta off for hooking and just 3 seconds remaining on the ensuing power play, Michalek took a pass from Marc-Edouard Vlasic all alone in the slot and beat Ilya Bryzgalov with a 40-foot slap shot that trickled between the goalie's pads.

Vesa Toskala made 20 saves for the Sharks, who outshot Anaheim 13-4 in the third period. Bryzgalov stopped 26 shots for Anaheim.

Teemu Selanne and Shawn Thornton scored for the Ducks.

Anaheim captain Scott Niedermayer, in his second game back from a foot injury, blamed himself for the defeat. "I can take responsibility for those first two goals. I made bad decisions that allowed them to get those opportunities," the Norris Trophy-winning defenseman said. "In close games like that, it comes down to a couple of mistakes or breaks either way."

Cheechoo pulled the Sharks even at 2 with his second goal of the game, midway through the third period. Thornton, skating down the crease, slid the puck to Cheechoo on the right side. Cheechoo waited for Bryzgalov to commit, then flipped the puck over the goalie's shoulder.

Shawn Thornton scored 44 seconds into the third period, just his second goal of the season, to give the Ducks a 2-1 lead.

Selanne had tied it 1-1 at 14:52 of the second period. The goal was the 36-year-old Selanne's 32nd of the season and 63rd point.

Following a scoreless first period, Cheechoo put the Sharks ahead at 9:22 of the second. It took more than a minute and a half for the score to go on the board.

Cheechoo, in the slot on the left, one-timed Thornton's pass from behind the goal line and the puck sailed past Bryzgalov and into the net. But it bounced all the way back out, the red light didn't go on and referee Tim Peel immediately waved it off, even as Cheechoo raised his arms in celebration.

NBA

Pacers involved in bar fight

No arrests made after post-game altercation

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Pacers guard Jamaal Tinsley and teammates Marquis Daniels and Keith McLeod were involved in a fight with a bar manager after a home loss to Golden State, police said.

No one was immediately arrested or charged after the Tuesday fight. Indianapolis police Lt. Doug Scheffel said Wednesday it would take several days to a week to complete the investigation to determine whether charges would be filed.

The players all denied any involvement.

The Indianapolis police report said the bar manager of the 8 Seconds Saloon might have a fractured jaw and severed earlobe. He told officers that Tinsley had threatened to kill him, the report said. Witnesses told officers that McLeod had shoved people during the scuffle that happened about 2:15 a.m. at the club on the city's west side.

The confrontation followed another fight involving a person who employees thought was trying to steal coats from the coat check area, police said.

The manager and witnesses told officers that Tinsley, Daniels and a man with them punched the manager in the face and head.

The manager "stated that he was unable to defend himself, at which time both witnesses ... stated that they felt that the life of the victim was in dan-



Pacers guard Jamaal Tinsley, right, was involved in a bar fight with teammates Marquis Daniels and Keith McLeod Tuesday.

ger," according to the report.

Pacers CEO Donnie Walsh said in a statement Wednesday that the team was aware of the allegations but would have no further comment until police complete the investigation.

A phone number provided by the NBA Players Association for Tinsley's agent, Raymond J. Brothers, was answered by a message saying it was no longer in service.

The three players all said they not taken part in the fight.

"I had nothing to do with this," Tinsley said in a statement released by the team. "I'm extremely upset that my name has been associated with this." Daniels' agent, Glenn Schwartzman, said the players were at the nightclub for an event celebrating the Indianapolis Colts' Super Bowl victory and that Daniels was not involved in the fight.

"It is 100 percent, no doubt about it," Schwartzman told The Associated Press. "He is a good guy who did nothing wrong other than be an NBA player and out with the community after the Colts won the Super Bowl."

Tinsley was at a strip club with then-Pacers teammate Stephen Jackson in October when a fight broke out during which Jackson fired a gun into the air several times before he was hit by a car.

SERIE A

Top club teams could play in empty stadiums

Associated Press

ROME — The Italian Cabinet approved measures Wednesday that could force many of the teams in the nation's top soccer leagues to play in empty stadiums.

Play in Serie A, Italy's top league, will resume this weekend, according to Barbara Moschini, spokeswoman for the Federazione Italiana Giuoco Calcio, the country's soccer governing body. Inspections Thursday will determine which stadiums will be allowed to have spectators.

The decree approved by the Cabinet also bans clubs from selling blocks of tickets to visiting fans and allows authorities to bar suspected hooligans from entering stadiums, even if they haven't been convicted of crimes.

"The measures are severe and without precedent," Deputy Interior Minister Marco Minniti said. "Our objective isn't to play the games behind closed doors. Our objective is to play the games in safe stadiums with open doors."

The Italian news agency ANSA said that only six soccer stadiums in Italy meet the required security standards, including Rome's Stadio Olimpico. The San Siro stadium — home to AC Milan and Inter Milan — is among the stadiums completing work to meet the requirements, ANSA reported.

The Italian soccer league said its officials will meet Thursday in Rome with the presidents of all 42 teams in Serie A and Serie B — Italy's top two

leagues. The stadiums subject to the spectator ban will be announced then.

Other measures ban clubs from having economic ties with fan groups and stiffen prison terms for committing violence against police from five to 15 years

The measures must be approved by parliament within 60 days to remain in effect. The Cabinet also approved a proposal for more long-term changes, putting club stewards in charge of guaranteeing security inside stadiums and involving the clubs in the ownership of the sports arenas, now owned by local authorities.

Premier Romano Prodi's Cabinet was reacting to the fatal attack on 38-year-old policeman Filippo Raciti last week.

At least 38 people have been arrested, including 15 minors, and at least two more taken in for questioning in Friday's violence at Catania's stadium, where the local team was playing cross-island rival Palermo. The violence led to the postponement of Italian league games Saturday and Sunday.

Investigators in Catania were examining a film of the fatal attack in hopes of identifying suspects, police said.

Authorities did not say what the stadium's closed-circuit cameras contained. Italian news reports said the film showed the fighting outside that began after the Catania-Palermo match had started Friday night, including youths with partially covered faces approaching Raciti and one of them hitting him in the abdomen.

NBA

Center John Amaechi comes out as first openly gay player

Associated Press

The small, exclusive club of openly gay professional male athletes has a new member.

Former NBA center John Amaechi, who spent five seasons with four teams, on Wednesday became the first NBA player to publicly come out.

Amaechi will appear on ESPN's Outside the Lines on Sunday, and his autobiography "Man in the Middle," will be released Feb. 14.

"He is coming out of the closet as a gay man," Amaechi's publicist Howard Bragman said.

Martina Navratilova, perhaps the most famous openly gay athlete in the world, praised Amaechi's decision and said it's imperative for athletes to come out because of what she called an epidemic of suicides among young lesbians and gays.

"It's hugely important for the kids so they don't feel alone in the world. We're role models. We're adults, and we know we're not alone but kids don't know that," she said. "He will definitely help a lot of kids growing up to feel better about themselves."

Three years after his playing career ended, Amaechi become the sixth professional male athlete from one of the four major American sports (NBA, MLB,

NFL, NHL) to publicly discuss his homosexuality.

Former NFL running back David Kopay came out in 1977; offensive lineman Roy Simmons and defensive lineman Esera Tuaolo came out more recently. Glenn Burke, an outfielder for the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Oakland A's in the 1970s, and Billy Bean, a utility player in the 1980s and 1990s, also have come out.

Each did so after retiring. Burke died of complications due to AIDS in 1995.

"What John did is amazing," said Tuaolo, who came out in 2002. "He does not know how many lives he's saved by speaking the truth."

Tuaolo said coming out would be a relief to Amaechi.

"Living with all that stress and that depression, all you deal with as a closeted person, when you come out you really truly free yourself," Tuaolo said. "When I came out it felt like I

was getting out of prison."

NBA commissioner David
Stern said a player's sexuality is
not important.

"We have a very diverse league. The question at the NBA is always 'have you got game?' That's it, end of inquiry," he said.

In his book, Amaechi describes the challenge of being gay in a league where it's

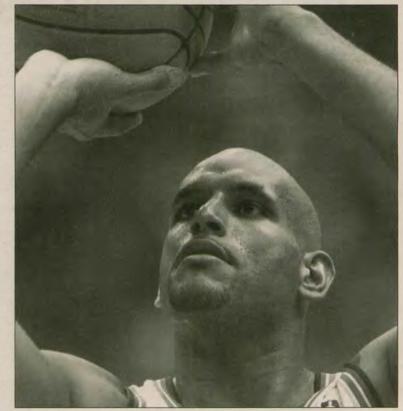
assumed that all players are heterosexual. He describes the blatant anti-gay language and attitudes he experienced in NBA locker rooms, and writes that while playing in Utah, coach Jerry Sloan used anti-gay innuendo to describe him.

Sloan said Wednesday that although his relationship with Amaechi was "shaky" because of the player's attitude, he didn't know Amaechi was gay. Sloan had no comment about Amaechi's contention that Sloan used anti-gay innuendo when referring to him. Amaechi said he found out about it in e-mails from friends in the Jazz front office.

When asked if knowing Amaechi was gay would have mattered, Sloan said: "Oh yeah, it would have probably mattered. I don't know exactly, but I always have peoples' feelings at heart. People do what they want to do. I don't have a problem with that."

Amaechi, 36, who was raised in England, writes in the book that he never touched a basketball before the age of 17. A quick study despite being a "terrible athlete," he found his confidence in the game and made it his goal to play in the NBA.

He competed for Penn State, then played in 301 NBA games over five seasons. The 6-foot-10



Jazz center John Amaechi announced in his autobiography "Man in the Middle" that he is gay.

center averaged 6.2 points and 2.6 rebounds. He began his career with the Cleveland Cavaliers in 1995-96, then spent a few years playing in Europe. He rejoined the NBA to play for the Orlando Magic from

1999-01, then played two seasons for the Utah Jazz.

The Jazz traded him to Houston, which traded him to the New York Knicks. When the Knicks waived him in January 2004, he retired.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

UNC hands rival Duke third straight loss

Hansbrough, Wright score in double figures

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — The crowd was rowdy and hostile. Duke, determined to end a nagging losing streak, had built a big lead behind a surge of emotion.

Yet North Carolina's youngsters kept coming. And by the end, those Tar Heels had escaped one of college basketball's most intimidating arenas with a confidence-building win Wednesday night.

Freshman Brandan Wright scored 19 points while Tyler Hansbrough added 16 to lead the fifth-ranked Tar Heels past No. 16 Duke 79-73, earning their second straight win in Cameron Indoor Stadium and handing the Blue Devils their first three-game losing streak in nearly eight years.

Rookie Ty Lawson added 15 points for the Tar Heels (21-3, 7-2 Atlantic Coast Conference), who trailed by 10 points early in the second half before finally going ahead to stay in the final minutes.

Last year, Hansbrough led a youth-laden group into Cameron to close the regular season and spoil All-American J.J. Redick's final home game in an 83-76 win. And once again, the Tar Heels rallied from a double-digit deficit and came up with the game's big baskets in the final minutes.

This time, however, the Tar Heels hung around while constantly subbing in an endless stream of fresh bodies while pressuring Duke's ballhandlers the entire way. By the time the game was entering its final minutes, North Carolina looked fresher and found ways to knock down the critical shots against the fast-starting Blue Devils (18-6, 5-5).

North Carolina didn't take its first lead until there were about 5 minutes left, but shot 59 percent after halftime and hit 7 of 8 free throws in the final 31 seconds to seal it.

"We started to get tougher as the game went on, as it starting winding down," said Hansbrough, who scored 12 points in the second half. "That's maybe what we need to do at the beginning of the game, too."

It was a strong way to bounce back after an surprising weekend loss to North Carolina State — an 83-79 setback that had an irked coach Roy Williams calling his team "fat and happy" afterward.

The always-demanding coach won't be saying that now. At least for a while, anyway.

"I was extremely impressed with how competitive our team was, especially when you compare it to what we did last Saturday," Williams said. "We were down 10 a couple of times and I told our guys that if we keep attacking ... that we would be there at the end, and I really felt that way."

Freshman Jon Scheyer had a career-high 26 points for the Blue Devils, who have lost three straight games for the first time since 1999 — when they lost to Connecticut in the NCAA championship and opened the 1999-2000 season with two straight

The Blue Devils had their chances despite blowing the lead, but went just 3-for-10 at

the foul line in the second half as the game slipped away.

"I thought we played a terrific game tonight, but it wasn't enough to beat a terrific team," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "They're very, very talented, and the depth that they have means they never take a break. So when they're playing like that, you have to be incredibly resilient."

North Carolina took its first lead at 62-60 when Gerald Henderson was whistled for a goaltending on Reyshawn Terry's fast-break layup with 5:15 left, then pushed the lead to 64-60 when Wright knocked in a tough shot over Josh McRoberts on the next possession

Duke managed to close the gap to 64-63 shot in the lane from Henderson, then looked poised to go ahead when DeMarcus Nelson got to the foul line after a turnover. But Nelson missed both shots and Hansbrough knocked down a straightaway jumper on the next play to make it 66-63 with 3:15

left

That started a six-point run from the Tar Heels, who took their largest lead at 70-63 on Lawson's driving basket while drawing the foul for a three-point play with 1:46 left. Scheyer managed a three-point play to make it 70-66 with 1:17 left, but Lawson followed with a driving basket against three defenders that allowed the Tar Heels to seal it at the line.

It was another late-game fade for the Blue Devils, who failed to score on the final play of a 68-66 overtime loss at Virginia and a 68-67 home loss to Florida State. Krzyzewski responded by shaking up his starting lineup against the Tar Heels, pulling tri-captains McRoberts and Nelson — who had started every game this season — in favor of freshmen Henderson and Brian Zoubek.

Scheyer got the Blue Devils off and running, scoring 14 firsthalf points — including a stickback of a Henderson miss that gave Duke its largest lead at 35-25 at the 4-minute mark.



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Kurz

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out with a lot of energy and focus," Hillesland said.

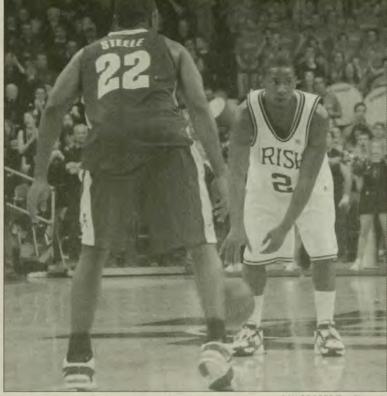
The Blue Demons (13-11, 4-6 Big East) are led by sopho-Wilson forward Chandler, who averages 14.4 points and 6.7 rebounds per game, and senior guard Sammy Mejia, who puts up 13.5 points and 6.6 rebounds.

"We're playing a really talented team in DePaul," Brey said. "They have arguably the best talent in the league.

The Irish are ranked No. 21 in the Coaches poll, but they dropped out of the AP poll after Saturday's loss. Brey said his team isn't paying attention to the ranking.

"It's a non-factor," he said. "We're thinking bigger things now and we're trying to get some consistency.

After DePaul, Notre Dame returns home for a game against Providence and then travels to Cincinnati. After that, the Blue Demons come to the Joyce Center for a rematch before the Irish host Marquette in their final home game. Notre Dame finishes its season against Rutgers on the



Irish guard Tory Jackson squares up against Tide guard Ronald Steele during Notre Dame's 99-85 win over Alabama Dec. 5.

in the Big East, half a game behind Louisville for fifth and one game behind West Virginia for the fourth and final bye in the conference tournament.

oad. "We've got six games left," The Irish are currently sixth Brey said. "One thing I talked

to the guys about was that, in the criteria for the NCAA Tournament, they look at your last ten games.

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Gray

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which the Irish overcame a 12point hole, Gray hit a long-range shot that helped curb a Cardinal run and allowed the Irish to cut the growing deficit back into single figures. With 2:05 left in the first half, Gray's shooting ended a 10-1 Louisville run and helped Notre Dame reduce a 29-17 Louisville lead to nine points. Early in the second half, Gray, who finished with 12 points, shrank the lead from 11 to eight and helped kick-start a 12-2 Notre Dame run that gave the Irish their first lead since a 12-11 advantage with 10:23 to go in the opening half.

At times, Gray was left alone on the perimeter and practically begging for the ball and the opportunity to add another bucket to her 4-for-9 total.

"I was feeling it today, so I took what I had," Gray said.

Still, she should have gotten

more looks.

Beyond bringing the Irish closer to the lead, Gray's timely buckets also helped awaken a Joyce Center crowd that the Cardinals had kept quiet. Irish coach Muffet McGraw said the game reminded her of the 67-58 Dec. 6 win over Purdue in the Joyce Center — when Gray had a season-best 22 points.

"I think it had that atmosphere," McGraw said. "I think the crowd felt it and that really spurred us on.'

Even when not scoring, Gray

was more often than not the most important Irish player on the court. After the Irish moved out of the zone near the end of the first half, Gray fulfilled her more traditional role of No. 1 defensive stopper, as she was assigned to stopping Louisville forward Angel McCoughtry.

In the second half, Gray held McCoughtry, who had 19 of her 29 points in the first half off of a perfect 5-for-5 shooting from 3point range, to just two field goals. And one of those was a putback with 53 seconds left in the game. McCoughtry, who McGraw called "the best player in the conference" was 0-2 from long-range after halftime

We really wanted to limit her touches, and that's where I think Bre[ona Gray] is just outstanding," McGraw said. "I think she's the best defender in the conference and she went out and didn't let [McCoughtry] get the ball.

Still, it was Gray's opportune shooting that stood out most Wednesday night.

By the time the Irish embarked on a 16-0 run that gave them the lead for good, Gray had finished scoring from the field, but her importance to the effort never wavered.

"Bre did it with her defense, and she added some nice offense," McGraw said.

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

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Defense

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beyond the arc. McCoughtry took over the game in the first half, scoring 19 points, including 11 straight for the Cardinals.

Notre Dame switched to a boxand-one defense at the break and quelled Louisville's offense.

"I was absolutely thrilled with the defense in the second half," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "I thought Breona [Gray] really shut [McCoughtry] down in the second half when we went to the box-and-one. I thought that was a big key to the win.

Louisville coach Tom Collen felt poor play, rather than the defensive adjustment, caused his team's second-half melt-

"Obviously it was a tale of two halves," he said. "In the second half they went to a junk defense, they played the box-and-one, and put a chaser on [McCoughtry]. It didn't really bother us, to be honest with you. We were still scoring on it.

The Irish trailed by as many as 12 points with 2:25 to go in the first half, but battled back before halftime. Freshman Ashley Barlow hit a 3-pointer with two seconds remaining in the half to pull the Irish within

"Barlow really made a difference in the game and that's why we started her in the second half," McGraw said.

Barlow finished with 15 points her second consecutive double-figure performance — and six rebounds.

Notre Dame used second-half scoring runs of 11 and 16 points to seal the game. The first began with 14:13 left and put the Irish



Irish guard Breona Gray takes the ball up the court during Notre Dame's 64-55 win over Louisville Wednesday.

ahead by one. The second run clinched the win for the Irish, who scored every point over an eight-minute span.

We had that run up against us against West Virginia, and we didn't like it much so we thought we'd try it ourselves," McGraw

Guard Charel Allen scored five of her 21 points during the second run. McGraw credited part of Allen's shooting to her teammates' screens, particularly those by forward Crystal Erwin

and center Erica Williamson. "My teammates were setting screens for me, and I'm going to take the shot when I'm open," she said. "It just felt good, and most of the time it left my hand,

so I continued to shoot." The second scoring run energized the Joyce Center crowd.

"I think the crowd felt it, and when we got close the crowd really helped us," she said. That really spurred us on.

The Irish, who have struggled on the boards, out-rebounded Louisville 34-29 and held the Cardinals to 19 rebounds under their season average

McGraw attributed the vast improvement in the second half not only to the defensive change but to individual performances

"Charel, as always, kept us in the game with her offense. Bre did it with her defense,' McGraw said. "We had our points, we rebounded well, we did everything we needed to do defensively down the stretch.'

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

MIAA

continued from page 24

will be a lot different and we will be ready to compete at our best level," Gerbeth said. "Coach Ryan [Dombkowski] and Alicia [Dombkowski] as well as all the team will be strong factors in pumping everyone up and giving them the confidence to swim at their

Saint Mary's is looking to use its months of training and are regarding the championships as an excellent opportunity to build a continued confidence.

"[The MIAAs] will help build energy into next year so we can continue to become more competitive within our conference," Niemann said.

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RAINING THREES



Irish guard Colin Falls attempts a jump shot during Notre Dame's 82-58 win over South Florida Jan. 21 at the Joyce Center.

Write Sports. Call Ken at (574) 631-4543.

CROISSANTWORLD

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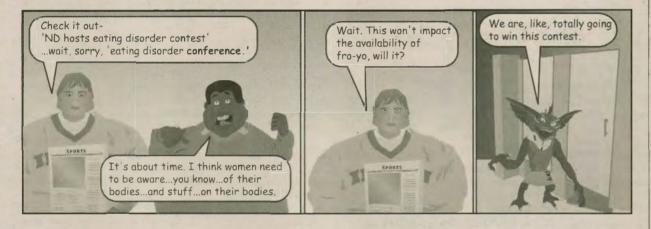
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57 Greek porches

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1 Learning device

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3 Cockpit readings

2 Earliest person

59 Intermediary

63 Adelaide-to-

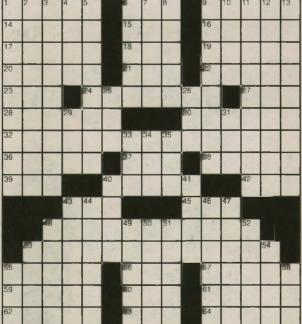
64 Upper sky

typically

- 8 Stopping place in a Carlo Levi title
- 9 Cohort 10 Bygone spray
- 11 Opposite of eternally
- 12 Quaint school togs
- 13 Hair quality promised by some shampoos
- "___ gods ...!": Brutus, in "Julius Caesar"
- 26 Imogene's comic partner 29 Abbr. in a

Bible's name

WILL SHORTZ



31 McSorley's offering

33 Tiny bit 34 "Evil Woman"

- grp., 1975 35 Good Samaritan's
- offering
- 40 Golden _ 41 Flair
- 49 Get up 50 A little better than average

43 "You

44 FIV

46 Isolate

48 Sabre or

Senator

bother'

- 51 Vegas request
- 52 Pioneering musician in stereo
- 53 How food may be ordered at a restaurant
- 54 Benefit
- 55 Rod
- 58 Old geog. inits.

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

47 Outfielder's cry

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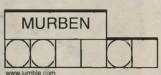
JUMBLE

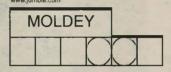
letter to each square,

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one

to form four ordinary words DARTY

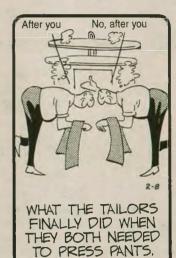






HENRI ARNOLD MIKE ARGIRION

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

Yesterday's

OZONE Answer: What the shepherd got when he took his herd to

FACIAL GLANCE

market -- A "FLEECING"

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tina Majorino, 21; Ashton Kutcher, 28;

Set your mind on what you want to see happen this year and you can make it happen. You must not show anger but instead be disciplined, focused and determined to get what you want in a diplomatic and ingenious way. Your numbers are 16, 22, 27, 31, 38, 42 Happy Birthday: You will overcome some very unusual circumstances this year.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can surprise someone who is interested in what you have to say and do. A chance to make money or come into a gift is apparent. Be careful not to take what's not yours. If you are uncertain as to what belongs to

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't get angry about the way things are being done and the lack of reforms being made. Instead, do something about it. Speak up for what you believe in and for those unable to fend for themselves. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will have an opportunity you must take advantage of today. By concentrating on one thing, you can make the greatest change. Now is not the time to spread your talent around. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A change in your personal life will be exhilarating. Do something a little different with your spare time but don't overspend. Your heart will be in the right place but that doesn't mean you should bail someone you love

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be honest with yourself about a partnership you are in and you will make the right decision. An opportunity to give back to your community will make you feel good. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't get angry about work or with the people you have to deal with today or little will be accomplished. Take the time to do your job circle and disregard what others do or say. You will be the one who gets shead if

right and disregard what others do or say. You will be the one who gets ahead if

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Travel, entertainment and pursuing a creative dream should all be a part of your day. Plan your next vacation or start off on a trip. An opportunity to turn one of your hobbies into a lucrative pastime looks promising.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Tempers may be mounting, especially with people with whom you deal regularly. Don't let these people get to you. Your feelings regarding a certain someone appear to be changing. ***
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec 21) You will want to be in the center of whatever

is going on today. You will have lots of wonderful suggestions but someone may take what you are trying to do the wrong way. Diplomacy will be important. ***
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make some very worthwhile changes to the way you earn your living. Think about the things you enjoy doing most and you will discover the direction that best suits you. It's time to incorporate your talents into your daily schedule. *** talents into your daily schedule.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): This is a perfect time to do some fixing up to make your home more comfortable. Inviting someone to stay with you or opening

your doors to a group you belong to will help put you in a superior position. Romance should be on your mind. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your changing moods may confuse some of the people in your life. It is probably due to a secret you've been keeping. Money matters can be cleared up but only if you stop being a spendthrift. *'

Birthday Baby: You are a free thinker and a natural born inventor. You are very changeable and adaptable. You are adventurous, inquisitive and always searching

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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S PORTS

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Clipping the Cardinals' wings

By BILL BRINK Sports Writer

A defensive shift at halftime allowed Notre Dame to shut down No. 17 Louisville's offense and erase a seven-point halftime deficit on its way to a 64-55 win at the Joyce Center Wednesday.

The win was the second time this season the Irish defeated a ranked opponent, the first coming against then-No. 10 Purdue Dec. 6 at the Joyce Center.

Louisville shot over the Irish zone early in the game, helping them grab the early lead. Forward Angel McCoughtry led the Cardinals' 3-point offense, sinking all five of her shots from

see DEFENSE/page 22



Irish guard Melissa Lechlitner dribbles upcourt during Notre Dame's 64-55 win over No. 17 Louisville Wednesday at the Joyce Center. It was the team's second win over a ranked team this season.

SMC SWIMMING

Saint Mary's closes out season with MIAAs

By LORENZO REYES Sports Writer

With only one meet remaining, the Belles feel they can finish their season on a high note beginning today at the MIAA championships in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Saint Mary's finished the regular season 2-7, but the team remains optimistic about its ability to succeed in several events this weekend. The Belles are focused on performing well not only in individual events, but in the relays as well.

"Personally, I will concentrate on having a strong 200 [yard] back and 500 [yard] free so hopefully I can advance to the freshman Sara Niemann said. "However, I think relays are going to be the key part to our team's success."

Sophomore Melissa Gerbeth is also confident in her team's ability to perform well at the conference championships.

"We have a chance to score more points at the meet than we have in a few years, so every placing in the top-12 will be important as far as scoring points is concerned," she said. "It is going to be important for every swimmer to give their maximum effort in order to

Because the MIAA championship is a three-day meet, the Belles will need to conserve their energy and remain focused for the duration. One way Saint Mary's has tried to stay fresh for this weekend has been a lighter practice schedule this week.

This last week we started tapering, which gave us rest and allowed our muscles to relax," freshman Lindsey Nelis said. "Tapering is very important in order to allow your body to heal as well as gave us a chance to visualize and think about our races.

Even though the Belles have rested for a week, they are confident that once the racing begins they will be able to perform well.

"Once we get in the atmosphere of the championship meet everyone's mental state

see MIAA/page 22

Gray's defense, 3-point shooting lead Notre Dame past Louisville

Hours before Notre Dame's 64-55 win over No. 17 Louisville, senior guard Breona Gray playfully took shots from the top of the stairs in The Pit, a good 30 feet from the basket.

And they were going in.

By the time the game began, the Irish co-captain was still hot from long-distance. Gray, normally a defensive standout, shot 50 percent from beyond the arc and made three of Notre Dame's five 3-point baskets.

One of the things we work on is if you're open, shoot it," Gray

Wednesday night, the senior guard, whose .333 shooting percentage is lower than all but freshman Melissa Lechlitner's .299 in the eight-man rotation, proved why she has started every game for Notre Dame this sea-

Gray, whose 12-point total was only the fourth highest on the night for Notre Dame, hit the biggest shots at the biggest times to help the Irish come from behind and pull out a double-digit

Twice during the game, in which the Irish overcame a 12point hole, Gray hit a long-range shot that helped curb a Cardinal run and allowed the Irish to cut the growing deficit back into single figures. With 2:05 left in the first half, Gray's shooting ended a 10-1 Louisville run and helped Notre Dame reduce a 29-17 Louisville lead to nine points.

see GRAY/page 22

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Notre Dame travels to DePaul with healthy Kurz

By CHRIS KHOREY

Associate Sports Editor

Good news and bad news await No. 21 Notre Dame for its game against DePaul in Rosemont, Ill., tonight.

The bad news is that the Irish are on the road, where the team is just 3-5 this season and where they are coming off a loss to Big East bottom-feeder South Florida.

The good news is Notre Dame's leading rebounder, junior forward Rob Kurz, is expected to play his usual 28 minutes against the Blue

Demons. Kurz saw limited action in Notre Dame's 69-63 loss to South Florida Saturday because of an ankle injury.

"[My ankle is] feeling a lot better," Kurz said. "I think it's going to be 100 percent Thursday.' Kurz, who averages 8.5

rebounds per game, gathered in just one in 19 minutes in the loss to the Bulls.

"We need him healthy to be at our best," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "He's gotten better each day since Saturday."

The Irish (18-5, 6-4 Big East) beat Syracuse at the Carrier Dome 103-91 Jan. 30, ending a three-game road losing streak. They fell back to their old road woes with the loss Saturday.

"We just didn't play tough," Notre Dame point guard Tory Jackson said of the South Florida game. "Things could have gone better, but they got the momentum and we waited too long to fight back."

forward Hillesland said Notre Dame can re-create its effort against the Orange versus DePaul tonight.

"It's just a matter of coming

see KURZ/page 22



Irish forward Rob Kurz shoots over a Rams defender during Notre Dame's 90-45 win over Winston-Salem Nov. 29.

NCAA BASKETBALL

UNC 79 Duke 73

Tyler Hansbrough's 16 points lead the No. 5 Tar Heels past No. 16 Duke.

page 21

NBA

Former center John Amaechi becomes the first NBA player to be openly gay.

page 20

NCAA BASKETBALL

Georgetown 73 Louisville 65

The Hoyas win their sixth straight behind a double-double from center Roy Hibbert.

page 17

PGA

The International at Castle Pines is no longer on the Tour due to a lack of a corporate sponsor.

page 16

NCAA FOOTBALL

Florida grabs 10 fivestar high school players to take the No. 1 recruiting class of 2007.

page 15

NBA

Sonics 103 Pacers 102

Seattle guard Ray Allen scores 33 points and dishes out nine assists in the Sonics'

page 14