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College's five-year plan propagated

President Mooney's 'strategic plan' underway after unanimous Board of Trustees vote

By KATIE KOHLER
Saint Mary's Editor

After a unanimous approval at the Board of Trustees' meeting in October, Saint Mary's College President Carol Ann Mooney's "Strategic Plan" for the College has now been finalized, published and distributed to students, faculty and alumnae through the quarterly College magazine *The Courier* and on the College Website.

The five-year plan, which includes a series of goals and recommendations for the College, is now underway, executive assistant to the president Susan Dampeper said.

The document, entitled "Plan to Leadership 2012," is Mooney's five-year strategic initiative for the College to enhance Saint Mary's national reputation and academic credentials. The Board

of Trustees approved it after their first meeting of the academic year, in October.

"The trustees approved the plan unanimously and were very pleased with the way it turned out," Dampeper said.

Mooney announced plans for the initiative in her College Forum address in August 2006 and held 12 one-hour sessions throughout the fall to explain the plan to the College community.

A committee was later formed, which included the President's Cabinet, four faculty members, a trustee, the director of institutional research, the chief information officer, a staff representative and a student representative. Within the committee, there were subcommittees — including Academic Initiatives, Student Initiatives and Resource Planning.

Since their October meeting, Mooney made some changes to

the plan, as suggested by the trustees. Most of these changes, however, were minor.

"Dr. Mooney took the board's suggestions, but most were with the format, not with the content," Dampeper said.

Mooney pitched the finalized plan to California alumnae between Thanksgiving and Christmas and received more positive feedback, Dampeper said.

"The plan is clear and easy to understand. There isn't a lot of fluff and it's all things we can realistically accomplish," she said.

While Mooney customized her plan for the College's present situation, she is not the first College president to enact a five-year plan. Former College President Marilou Eldred created a similar plan during her administration.

"It was in the natural progression to do [a plan] again," Dampeper said.

Some of the goals of the plan include making Saint Mary's more nationally recognized as one of the best colleges in the nation, diversifying the campus, stabilizing and growing enrollment and increasing financial resources. Each of the goals is followed by Mooney's recommendations to fulfill them.

While some of the goals are lengthier than others, they all have similar priorities, Dampeper said.

"Several of the goals will be happening simultaneously," Dampeper said. "There are certain people responsible for each goal — when it will happen, how long it should take and how much it will cost. This way we can make sure things happen."

The plan is tailored to fit in the five-year window, but many things, such as financial aspects,

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One club sport not squashed

ND students engage in squash events, matches

By THERESA CIVANTOS
News Writer

When most people hear the word "squash," they think of a dish passed around the table at Thanksgiving. For a growing number of Notre Dame students, however, squash is a sport that has grown into a passion.

"People think it's a vegetable," said Randy Rainosek, a member of the Notre Dame Squash Club. "It's such a great sport though."

Squash Club treasurer Pedro Gochicoa agreed, saying that squash players get to travel, meet a lot of people and get exercise in an exciting way.

Squash is a sport similar to racquetball and is somewhat popular in the northeastern United States. At the college level, nine players compose a squash team, with each player engaging in a one-on-one match with a player from the opposing team until one team has won five matches. Professionally, squash is an individual sport like tennis.

Many Ivy League schools have varsity squash teams, leading to a belief that playing squash gives competitive edge to college applicants at top-tier schools.

"We do field a lot of e-mails from high school applicants wanting to play squash here," said Javier Palomo, the club's vice president. "They'll send us their resumes, and we have to tell them we can't help them get in; we're not a varsity sport yet."

The Notre Dame Squash Club has been around since the 1980s, Rainosek said, but "it disappeared for a while." In 2003, the club made a major comeback under the leadership of past president James Zhang.

"The club was pretty weak for a while; James Zhang and Geoff McCuen really brought it back," Gochicoa said. "James Zhang started informally recruiting his friends to join in his sophomore year."

That style of attraction remains. The club does not formally recruit, nor does it hold try-outs to join.

"You're not required to have any level of skill to join the club," Palomo said. "We

see SQUASH/page 4

SMC students return from abroad

Women experience fall semester academic programs in a trio of European countries

By KRISTEN EDELEN
News Writer

Forty-two students have returned from a semester abroad in Italy, Ireland and Spain, while 29 of their classmates who are studying abroad for the full academic year remain overseas.

The Saint Mary's Rome program had a fall 2007 enrollment of 51 students, with 12 of them staying for the academic year, and 47 students joining them putting enrollment at 59 for the spring semester.

"For the past 37 years,

returnees have invariably remarked that studying in Rome is indeed a life-changing experience," Peter Checca, Italian professor and director of the Rome Program said.

He believes the program's strengths are the interdisciplinary aspect of classroom instruction and on-site visits, as well as the connection between courses and Italian culture.

Lisa Anderson, a junior who returned to the College from Rome, agrees with Checca and says she especially enjoyed her Italian cinema class.

see SMC/page 4



Photo courtesy of Mary Ellen Toth

Sophomore Mary Ellen Toth poses during a trip to Lisboa, Portugal. Toth is spending the entire year in Seville, Spain.

MLK Day sees increase in student enthusiasm

Saint Mary's students plan celebration of leader's life, 40 years after assassination

By MANDI STIRONE
News Writer

In March 2007, then-Saint Mary's student body president-elect Kim Hodges shared her dream for the future of the College, while talking about her hopes for the Diverse Students Leadership Conference.

"I have a dream about the way campus should be, how it should look, and how students

should be educated. I'm proud to be a Saint Mary's woman," she said.

One major thing that is working into Hodges' vision is the increasing enthusiasm with which the birthday of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. is being celebrated this year, she said.

"It's just amazing to see how things are working into that vision," Hodges said. "I really feel like God is moving things forward the way that they

should be and the College is moving forward in leaps and bounds."

April 4 marks the 40th anniversary of King's assassination.

This year, instead of a series of various scattered events held by different groups on campus, these groups will be uniting under the newly-formed Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Steering Committee.

The committee — led by the

director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, Larisa Olin Ortiz — is comprised of various faculty and staff on campus.

"In the past what we had, our office had a program and campus ministry had the memorial service. This year we're coordinating all of that," Ortiz said.

Activities will stretch over Monday, the national holiday,

see KING/page 3

INSIDE COLUMN

Dude, where's my bike?

Fortunately, my Clover Ridge apartment was spared during the barrage of burglaries over winter break.

My beloved pink bike, however, was not.

Mary Kate Malone

The ultra-bright two-wheeler was stolen sometime between Dec. 18 and Jan. 15 from a bike rack outside Hesburgh Library.

*Assistant
Managing Editor*

You might call me careless for leaving the Pink Lady outside the library for such a long period of time. But who would have thought someone would take what wasn't theirs with Touchdown Jesus watching?

The saddest part of my story happened Wednesday, when I spotted my bike leaning against a construction fence near Stonehenge. I ran to it, hopped on board, and rode off. With a full day of classes ahead and no lock for the bike, I decided to "hide" it behind a fence post near Alumni Hall. When I returned a few hours later, it was gone.

It's only mildly flattering that my bike is such a coveted item. Though rusty and old, it boasts an extra large seat, giant handlebars, and even an odometer. I broke the news to my mother, who loaned me the bike, yesterday. She's upset (it was a special present from my always well-intentioned father when she turned 40), and I'm in a lot of trouble.

So please, whoever took my bike, bring it back. I work (some would say live), at the Observer office in the basement of South Dining Hall. Park the bike outside and turn yourself in. I promise I won't put a mug shot of you on the front page.

This might be a futile plea, but I've had good luck in the past when my belongings have been lost or stolen. For example, when I was 14, I unknowingly dropped my wallet in our local mall's parking lot. I had been saving up my babysitting money for months and had journeyed to downtown Columbus for a big day of spending at City Center Mall. I didn't realize my wallet was missing until a few hours later, and when I returned to the parking lot to look for it, the blue and black wallet was nowhere in sight. I was teary-eyed the whole way home from the mall.

But, as it turns out, very nice people had found my wallet. Noticing my high school ID card inside, they kindly mailed it to Bishop Watterson High School the very next day. I was called to the front office, and there was my wallet in a manila envelope with a note from "Some Friends" who had wanted to be sure it got back to me.

So here's the deal, bike-snatcher. Be a good friend and give the Pink Lady back. Pretty please?

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

Contact Mary Kate Malone at mmalone@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE "FAMILY GUY" MOMENT AND WHY?



Andrea Jacobson
*sophomore
PW*

"The FCC song. It goes to every outrageous Family Guy moment in about a minute and a half."



Cory Hakanen
*sophomore
Sorin*

"When Stewie says: 'Imagine the dance I'm going to have to do to get our insurance deposit back.'"



John Fullard
*sophomore
Knott*

"When Mayor West rolls around in nuclear waste to get special powers like the Griffins.' It's silly because it's realistic out of nowhere."



Liz Lefebvre
*junior
Badin*

"When Stewie practices for the Olympics and crashes into the glass case. ... Uh-oh!"



Richie Davidson
*sophomore
Knott*

"The chicken fights, because they reference great movie fights like Indiana Jones."



WU YUE/The Observer

Junior David Seibel plays a video game as part of the "Family Guy" trivia contest in the LaFortune Ballroom Thursday night.

IN BRIEF

The film "Miss Navajo" will be shown tonight at 7 and 10 in Browning Cinema in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center as a part of the Worldview Series. Director Billy Luther will be present. Tickets are \$6, \$5 for faculty/staff, \$4 for seniors, and for \$3 all students.

Men's and women's indoor track will host the ND Indoor Opener tonight at 5 at the Loftus Sports Center. Admission is free.

Men's swimming will host Louisville Friday tonight at 5 in Rolfs Aquatic Center. Admission is free.

The Student Activities Office and the Freshman and Sophomore Class Councils will host a Retro Video Dance Party tonight from 9 to midnight in the LaFortune Ballroom. Admission is free.

The Student Activities Office is hosting free ice skating in the Joyce Center this Saturday from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. The free skating will be followed by a showing of the Will Ferrel film 'Blades of Glory' in the Montgomery Auditorium of LaFortune at 11:30 p.m.

The men's tennis team will play matches against Toledo Sunday at 6 p.m. in the Eck Tennis Pavilion. Admission is free.

The film "All About Eve" will be shown in Browning Cinema in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$6, \$5 for faculty/staff, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for all students.

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

OFFBEAT

Third time Isn't a charm

LYNDONVILLE, Vt. — Stacie Warren wasn't satisfied with one husband, so police say she married again and again. Warren, 33, was cited last week on a second charge of bigamy for having three husbands. State police said Warren married Frank Gray last year while she already was married to two other men.

Vermont State Police Trooper Callie Field said Warren married a third time two months after being charged with bigamy in 2007. In that

case, both Warren and her second husband were charged with bigamy because the man also was already married to someone else, police said.

Warren apparently married one man, then moved out, and married another without getting divorced, Field said. He said prescription drug abuse may be a factor in the case.

Boomerangs really do return

BRISBANE, Australia — Boomerangs really do come back — even after 25 years. Officials in an Australian Outback town were surprised when a

boomerang arrived in the post. Along with it was a note from a guilt-ridden American who said he stole it years earlier from a museum in the mining town of Mount Isa, and now felt rotten about it.

"I removed this back in 1983 when I was younger and dumber," said the note, according to Mount Isa Mayor Ron McCullough. "It was the wrong thing to do, I'm sorry, and I'm going to send it back," said the note.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 25 LOW 3	HIGH 15 LOW -3	HIGH 14 LOW -3	HIGH 12 LOW 0	HIGH 20 LOW 10	HIGH 22 LOW 13

King

continued from page 1

and Tuesday — and involve a variety of faculty, staff, students and student organizations. Included on Monday are a Martin Luther King, Jr. and civil rights movement display to be held at noon in the Student Center Atrium followed later by a Memorial March for Peace.

The display will include give-a-ways, bookmarks and quizzes that are designed “just to create more awareness” and to be interactive, Ortiz said.

The march, which is organized by the Sisters of Nefertiti, will commence from the Student Center Atrium at 6 p.m.

Participants will hold candles and listen to Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech, to be read by various people, including President Carol Ann Mooney and several students.

The idea for doing the march came from the advisor to the Sisters of Nefertiti, Stephanie Steward-Bridges, who is also on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Steering Committee, Boone said.

Boone has high hopes for

the march. She is expecting 20-25 students, faculty and staff to attend, she said.

“I just encourage the student body to come out and see what’s going on and to become involved in the experience,” she said.

Hodges, who is currently a member of the Sisters of Nefertiti and served both as

secretary in her freshman year and president her sophomore year, was very supportive of Boone, whom

she says is like a little sister to her.

On Tuesday, there will be another Martin Luther King, Jr. and civil rights movement display in the Student Center, followed by “Martin Luther King, Jr.: Past, Present and Future” in the lower level, an Interfaith prayer service in the Student Center Lounge. The event will feature videos, round-table discussions, and a choral reading of his “Letter From a Birmingham Jail.”

The Interfaith Prayer Service for Justice and Peace is not a new event to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebrations on campus, said Regina Wilson, assistant director of Campus Ministry. Wilson is heading up the planning of the prayer service and is

assisted by religious studies professor Stacy Davis.

“For a number of years, Campus Ministry has been responsible for coordinating the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Interfaith Service for Justice and Peace which is something that the planning committee very much wanted to continue,” Wilson said.

“Our interfaith prayer service has been and will continue to be an important part of the campus commemoration of Dr. King.”

The prayer service seeks to bring together persons of various faiths and creeds in order to pray together, she said.

“We have felt that, toward the end of his life, Dr. King really grew to see the call to unity, peace and non-violence as a universal call which transcends race, creed or nationality,” she said.

The service, which includes different religions, will have several different prayer leaders this time around.

“This year we are pleased and honored that community representatives from the Baha’i, Muslim, Jewish and Christian faiths will be leading prayer and we will have a Buddhist student and Jewish faculty member also leading parts of the service,” she said.

In addition to the various events to be held around cam-

pus, certain classes will be studying Martin Luther King, Jr. themed lessons on Monday or Tuesday and will open their doors to the entire campus.

In an e-mail sent out to Saint Mary’s students on, political science professor Marc Belanger announced that six classes would be made available to the student body on those days.

The events and activities are something Hodges expresses pride in.

“Specifically here I am a minority and [Martin Luther King, Jr. Day] being celebrated

— I feel very proud about that,” said Hodges, who is black.

Her vision for Saint Mary’s is being expressed vividly in the planning and effort that went into next week’s celebrations, she said.

“Even more so with the dream that I had about the college, knowing that actual events and actual concrete plants are already here I feel like I’ve planted a seed in someone here in the college so that when I leave ... it will continue,” she said. “When you plant seeds into individuals and into an institution, it can do nothing but grow and I’m really, really proud of that.”

Contact Mandi Stirone at astiro01@saintmarys.edu

Plan

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retention and beautifying the campus are ongoing, Dampeer said.

Although a chosen body reviewed the plan this year, it will also be reviewed every year in order to keep it as a “living document,” as Mooney described in the plan.

“The committee will be fresh each year by virtue of the fact that people leave their positions, we hire new people, and the students change,” Dampeer said.

Currently, the committee has more than 20 members — including administration, faculty, staff and senior Maggie Siefert.

Several initiatives are already underway. The College is currently working to increase enrollment, and a committee has been formed to change the general education requirements of the College.

“Nothing happens that fast, and there certainly hasn’t been anything dramatic since October,” Dampeer said. “But things are starting and some are clearly moving.”

Dampeer, along with other members on the planning committee, are optimistic about the success of the plan.

“Sometimes you work really hard, but things just sit on the shelf,” she said. “But this is a living document that is already moving forward.”

The full text of the Strategic Plan can be found on the Saint Mary’s Web site.

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohle01@saintmarys.edu

The Observer is now accepting applications for its 2008-09 Editor-in-Chief.

Applicants should submit a resume and 12-15 page application to

The Observer’s South Dining Hall office by Tuesday, January 22 at 5 p.m.

Please contact Maddie Hanna at 631-4542 or mhanna1@nd.edu with questions.

SMC

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Rome Program said.

He believes the program's strengths are the interdisciplinary aspect of classroom instruction and on-site visits, as well as the connection between courses and Italian culture.

Lisa Anderson, a junior who returned to the College from Rome, agreed with Checca and said she especially enjoyed her Italian cinema class.

"I saw the effects of World War II on Italy [through film and lecture] and that was a new perspective for me,"

Anderson said. She credits her family roots in Italy with sparking her decision to participate in the Rome program.

Sophomore Maureen Healy's decision to study in Spain was made with a more academic purpose in mind.

"I chose the Spain program because one of my majors is Spanish," said Healy, who is also majoring in business.

Four Saint Mary's students studied in Spain for the fall semester, said Gerald Gingras, coordinator of the Spanish section of the Department of Modern Languages. One returned and three will remain for the spring semester as well. Also, 18 more students joined the program for the spring semester. The students study in Seville.

Different from the four-star hotel

style living experience offered by the Rome program, Healy lived in complete cultural immersion with a host family.

"I loved living with my host family and was able to greatly improve my Spanish because of it," Healy said. "Since all of my classes were taught in Spanish, I am now able to understand fluent Spanish and have much more confidence in speaking it."

The idea of a language barrier was not a problem for sophomore

Katie Ineich, who returned to campus from a semester abroad in Ireland.

"I picked Ireland because of the fact that they speak English and I've always wanted to go to Ireland," Ineich said.

Without a language barrier, students can participate fully in student life at the National University Maynooth, where Saint Mary's students live and attend classes, said Karen Chambers, Saint Mary's Ireland program director.

Nineteen students participated in the 2007 fall semester, 14 are staying the entire year, and on January 29, eight more students will arrive in Maynooth for the spring 2008 semester, Chambers said.

Ineich says her experience at the large university, located 20 miles outside of Dublin, led her to a greater appreciation for the smaller atmosphere of Saint Mary's.

But, she said, "I'd go back in a heartbeat."

Contact Kristen Edelen at kede01@saintmarys.edu

Squash

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definitely encourage people to join no matter what their skill level at Squash."

Squash, although similar to racquetball, is tougher to master, Palomo said.

"One thing about squash that makes it different from racquetball is that the ball doesn't bounce as much," said Palomo. "You have to practice a little more to start really having fun with it."

The squash team will be competing in the West Coast Round Robin from Feb. 1-3 at the University of Southern California. The squad will also compete at the national championships at Harvard from Feb. 15-17.

Recently, the Squash Club has gained prestige both on and off campus. It won best club of the year in 2007, and past president James Zhang won best president in 2007, as well. The club won the "emerging teams" competition at Princeton in 2006.

"I never played squash before I got here," Rainosek said. "I played tennis, and once it got too cold to play outside, I started playing squash."

"It's a great sport; we definitely encourage people to join," Palomo said.

Contact Theresa Civantos at tcivanto@nd.edu

ACE consulting group names its first director

Special to the Observer

Stephen A. Perla, superintendent of schools for the Catholic Diocese of Worcester, Mass., has been appointed the first director of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) Consulting Initiative. His appointment becomes effective in June.

"ACE is committed to strengthening and sustaining under-resourced Catholic schools," said ACE founder Rev. Timothy R. Scully, C.S.C., director of the Institute for Educational Initiatives at Notre Dame. "This new consulting initiative is one more effort to ensure that our Church's educational ministry remains strong and vibrant. With Steve's experience and passion for Catholic education, ACE Consulting will address many of the most pressing needs in Catholic schools from coast to coast. I am very grateful to the diocese of Worcester for the gift that they are making to our efforts to strengthen and sustain Catholic schools nationally."

Before becoming the superintendent of Catholic schools in Worcester in 2004, Perla served for more than 10 years as the founding executive director of the Parents Alliance for Catholic Education, a Massachusetts group which advocates on behalf of students and Catholic schools. He also has served in a variety of administrative positions in higher education and as mayor of Leominster, Mass., from 1988 to 1992. As a member

of Notre Dame's national Task Force on Catholic Education, he contributed to the report it published in December 2006, "Making God Known, Loved, and Served: The Future of Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools in the United States."

Emphasizing the challenges facing contemporary Catholic education, the report recommended that Notre Dame undertake 12 "strategic initiatives," among them the establishment of ACE Consulting to provide administrators and Catholic school advocates with "high-quality, affordable consultative guidance in marketing, strategic planning, investing and other areas essential to school success."

Founded in 1994, the Alliance for Catholic Education supports a variety of programs serving Catholic schools in the United States and abroad. Central to its mission is the preparation of teachers and leaders for service in Catholic schools. While earning a master in education degree, approximately 180 college graduates serve annually in schools in 32 communities. The ACE Leadership Program was begun in the summer of 2002 to train qualified and faithful principals for Catholic schools. Notre Dame trains more Catholic school teachers and leaders than any other institution of higher education. With the publication of "Making God Known, Loved, and Served," ACE hopes to expand its commitment to serve the Catholic Church's educational ministry.

Ten Years Hence

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business.nd.edu/tenyearshence

February 1

Seven Revolutions

Erik Peterson, Senior Vice President and Director, Global Strategy Institute

February 22

Globalization and Finance: The Future of Islamic Finance as an Ethical Investment

Karen Hunt Ahmed, Department of Finance, DePaul University

March 14

The Economics of Immigration and Immigration Policy

George Borjas, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

March 28

Convention on the Global Commons

James Quilligan, Managing Director, Centre for Global Negotiations

April 4

Energy Security

General Jim Jones, President and CEO, U.S. Chamber Institute for 21st Century Energy

April 11

Green is the "new black", but will it stay in style?

Anne Thompson, Chief Environmental Correspondent, NBC News

April 25

Terrorism: Looking Ahead Through Patterns of the Past

Rev. Edward (Monk) Malloy, C.S.C., President Emeritus, University of Notre Dame

Selected Fridays from 10:40 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. in the Jordan Auditorium, Mendoza College of Business. Lectures are open to the public.

"Ten Years Hence" is listed as BAUG-30210 and MBGR-60210, and is open to all Notre Dame undergraduate and graduate students, and Saint Mary's students. There are no prerequisites to enroll. See your academic advisor or your department chair for additional detail. You are expected to attend all lectures and be prepared to engage speakers. No unexcused absences. This is a "Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory" course. This course requires no textbook purchases, examinations or term papers. **Use an add form to register; registration is not available online.**

WORLD & NATION

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Islamic extremists seize Pakistani fort

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan — In an embarrassing battlefield defeat for Pakistan's army, Islamic extremists attacked and seized a small fort near the Afghan border, leaving at least 22 soldiers dead or missing.

The insurgents later abandoned the fort and melted away into the hills, said military spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas. "There is no occupation of the Sararogha Fort. Militants have gone from there," he said.

The militants did not gain significant ground, but they did further erode confidence in the U.S.-allied government's ability to control the frontier area where the Taliban and al-Qaida flourish.

At least 9 dead in suicide bombing

BAGHDAD — A female suicide bomber struck black-clad worshippers preparing for Shiite Islam's holiest day, killing at least nine Wednesday in an attack that highlighted insurgents' widening array of tactics against a U.S.-led offensive in key areas on Baghdad's doorstep.

A witness said people shouted slogans against al-Qaida in Iraq as they carried the dead and wounded from the blast scene near a marketplace in Diyala province — a region of farmland and palm groves northeast of Baghdad that holds strategic havens for extremists.

Diyala remains one of Iraq's most violent regions and is a main battleground for U.S. and Iraqi troops trying to overwhelm al-Qaida strongholds in the capital and elsewhere around the country.

NATIONAL NEWS

Listeria outbreak linked to dairy plant

BOSTON — Investigators probing the source of a listeria outbreak said Thursday the strain that killed three people was found at a dairy processing plant in central Massachusetts.

But officials have not yet determined exactly where the milk was contaminated.

"We know that there's a problem in that plant and we have connected the patients to the products to the plant, now it would be nice to know exactly how that happened, but that is part of the ongoing investigation," said Dr. Alfred DeMaria, state director of communicable disease control.

Three elderly men have died since June after drinking bacteria-contaminated milk from the Whittier Farms plant in Shrewsbury, about 35 miles west of Boston. The same strain of listeria sickened a pregnant woman, who then miscarried. A second woman also was sickened after drinking milk from the plant.

Man charged for killing police officer

DECATUR, Ga. — A second man was arrested in the apparent ambush slaying of two officers at a crime-ridden apartment complex, and police were searching for at least one more suspect, authorities said Thursday.

Deanthius Jamal Johnson, 28, of Decatur, was taken to the DeKalb County jail and charged with two counts of murder, county Police Chief Terrell Bolton said. Herbie Deshawn Durham, 32, was charged with two counts of murder Wednesday night after a massive search that involved SWAT teams, police dogs and a helicopter.

Bolton made another appeal to the public Thursday for information about the officers' slayings, and issued a warning to those still at large.

LOCAL NEWS

Bill to keep Great Lakes water supply

INDIANAPOLIS — The state Senate unanimously passed a bill Thursday calling for Indiana to join a regional compact intended to prevent water-thirsty states from tapping into the Great Lakes' water supply.

The bill, which passed the Senate 47-0, now heads to the Indiana House for consideration.

Sen. Beverly Gard, R-Greenfield, said both the state's business community and environmentalists have expressed "overwhelming support" for her bill.

She said drought-stricken states are already seeking to purchase water from the Great Lakes, which between them hold about 20 percent of the world's supply of surface fresh water.

UNITED KINGDOM

19 injured during crash-landing

British Airways plane was arriving from Beijing at Heathrow Airport; investigation continues

Associated Press

LONDON — A British Airways jet from Beijing carrying 152 people crash-landed Thursday, injuring 19 people and causing more than 200 flights to be canceled at Europe's busiest airport.

Investigators will speak to the pilots and study the plane's flight data recorder and maintenance records to determine what caused the crash-landing at Heathrow airport, tearing the plane's underbelly and damaging its wings.

Nothing suggested it was terror-related, Scotland Yard said.

Timothy Crowch, an aviation analyst with 35 years of experience as a commercial pilot, said the landing gear punched through both wings, indicating a "massive vertical impact." That suggests a total loss of engine power may have been the cause, he said.

Robert Cullemore of Aviation Economics, a London-based aviation consultancy, said the pilot kept the plane in the air long enough to prevent a disaster.

"If it had landed 200 meters (656 feet) shorter than it did, it may have hit perimeter fence and obviously some other buildings and the car park, clearly we would be dealing with fatalities and obvious damage," Cullemore said.

Fire trucks surrounded the Boeing 777 after it landed, spraying fire retardant foam around the aircraft. Two of the plane's giant wheel units were ripped from the craft during the landing and could be seen on grass near the runway.

Passenger Paul Venter said the trouble started as the aircraft was about to land.

"The wheels came out and went for touchdown, and the next moment we just dropped. I couldn't tell you how far," he said.

"I didn't speak to the pilot, but I saw him, and he looked very pale," Venter said.

The plane's wheels appeared to collapse as it came down in the grass in front of the airport's southern



Wreckage of a British Airways plane covers the runway after it crash-landed at London's Heathrow Airport Thursday. Investigators are still searching for the cause of the crash.

runway, witness John Rowland told the British Broadcasting Corp.

"It crashed into the runway, debris was flying everywhere, there was an enormous bang and it skidded sideways," he said.

Hillingdon Hospital said it was treating 13 injured, and six went to other hospitals. British Airways said one person suffered a broken leg.

The accident on one of Heathrow's two runways occurred just before a plane carrying British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and a delegation of business leaders, including Virgin Chairman Richard Branson, was about to depart for China. The prime minister's plane was about a half mile away.

More than 200 flights were

canceled — nearly a fifth of the day's flights, airport operator BAA said. Planes were able to take off and land on Heathrow's northern runway, air traffic control company Nats said. Some flights were diverted to other airports.

The Air Accident Investigation Branch was investigating, British Airways Chief Executive Willie Walsh told reporters, adding the airline didn't want to speculate on the cause. The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board also said it was sending a team of investigators to help.

It was the first accident involving the Boeing 777, a mainstay of many carriers' fleets, since the plane entered service in 1995, said Boeing spokeswoman Liz Verdier in Seattle.

The Boeing 777 was relatively new at six years old, Walsh said, adding the pilot was one of BA's most experienced having worked for the company for nearly 20 years.

Passenger Jerome Ensink told the BBC that he at first thought the plane had made a hard landing.

"There was no indication that we were going to have a bad landing," he said. "When we hit the ground it was extremely rough."

"Then the emergency exits were opened and we were all told we should go through as quickly as possible, and the moment I was away from the plane I started to realize that the undercarriage was away, and we had missed the runway, Ensink said.

"Now I realize I've had a close call," he said.

10 nurses face child endangerment charges

Associated Press

RIVERHEAD, N.Y. — For months, the nurses complained that they were subject to demeaning and unfair working conditions — not what they were promised when they came to America from the Philippines in search of a better life. So they abruptly quit.

But in doing so, they put more than their careers at risk: Prosecutors hit them with criminal charges for allegedly jeopardizing the lives of terminally ill children they were in charge of watching.

The 10 nurses and the attorney who advised them were charged with conspiracy and child endangerment in

what defense lawyers say is an unprecedented use of criminal law in a labor dispute. If convicted of the misdemeanor offenses, they face up to a year in jail on each of 13 counts, and could lose their nursing licenses and be deported.

The case has unfolded against the backdrop of a chronic nursing shortage in the United States. All of the defendants were from the Philippines, which exported 120,000 nurses last year.

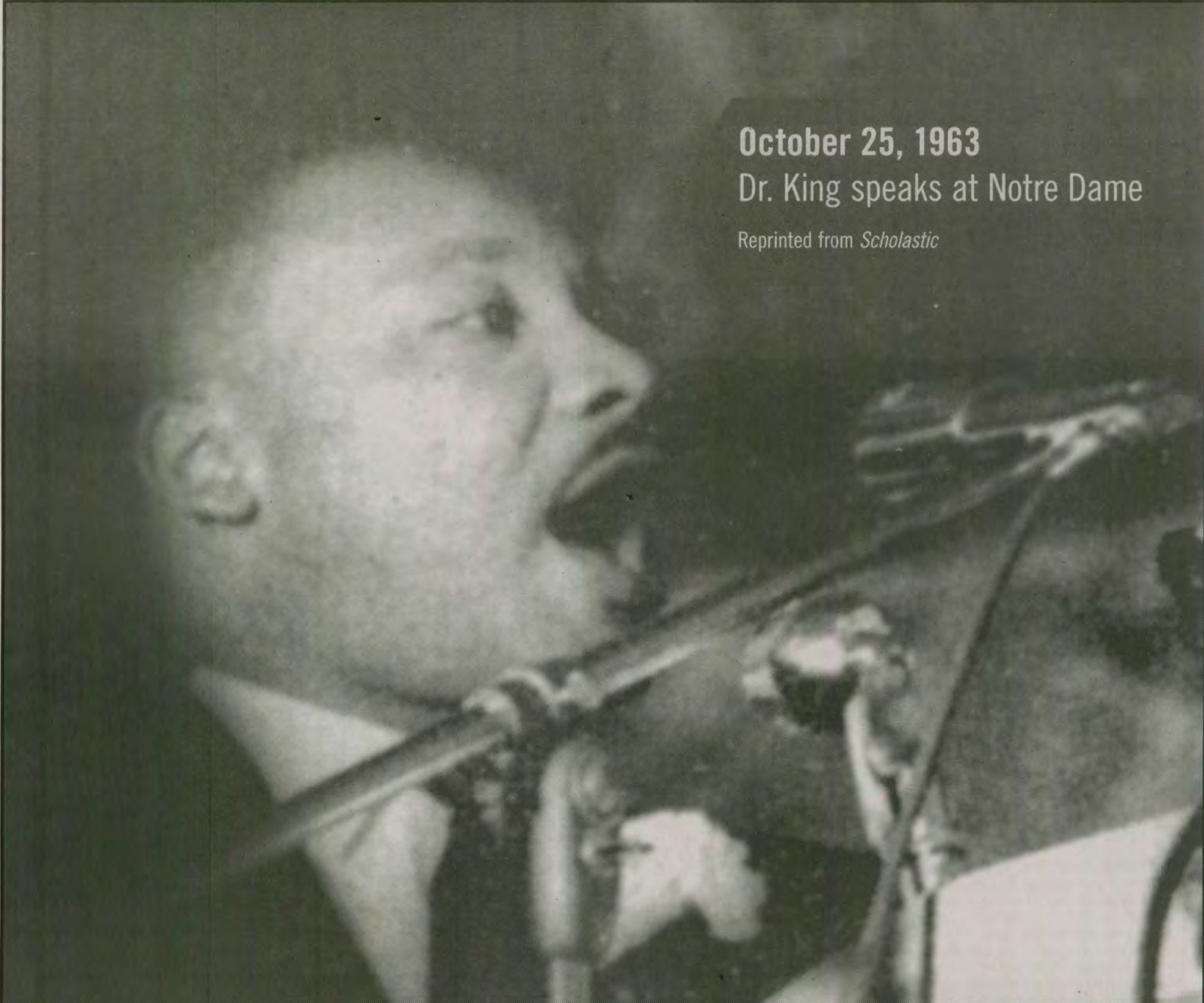
One defendant was a doctor back home and a top scorer on the country's medical board exams, but decided it was more lucrative to be a nurse in the United States. Others had respectable medical jobs back home and viewed their work in New York as a dream

come true.

"Coming to the United States is like the fulfillment of your nursing career," said Maria Theresa Ramos, who arrived on Long Island in 2004.

The nurses are backed by several Filipino organizations in the U.S., as well as both the New York and California state nurses associations, which fear prosecuting nurses who quit their jobs could set a bad precedent.

Prosecutors say the nurses' resignations — without notice — on April 7, 2006, jeopardized the lives of children at Avalon Gardens in Smithtown, where some of the patients are on ventilators and required constant monitoring.



October 25, 1963
Dr. King speaks at Notre Dame

Reprinted from *Scholastic*

Remember the Dream
Prayer Service

Monday, January 21, 2008
12:30 p.m., Main Building Rotunda

Please join **Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C., President**, and **Rev. Hugh R. Page Jr. Dean of First Year of Studies**, as they lead a prayer service to honor the legacy of **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**

All members of the Notre Dame community and their families are welcome.

A reception will immediately follow.



MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones 12,159.21 -306.95

Up: 493 Same: 71 Down: 2,853 Composite Volume: 1,303,935,041

AMEX	2,246.56	-42.72
NASDAQ	2,346.90	-47.69
NYSE	8,818.95	-254.48
S&P 500	1,333.25	-39.95
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	13,783.45	0.00
FTSE 100 (London)	5,902.40	-40.50

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	-2.59	-3.55	133.43
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	-1.39	-0.64	45.41
CITIGROUP INC (C)	-4.88	-1.28	24.96
INTEL CP (INTC)	-2.77	-0.55	19.33

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	-1.94	-0.072	3.640
13-WEEK BILL	-1.97	-0.060	2.980
30-YEAR BOND	-1.55	-0.067	4.253
5-YEAR NOTE	-2.58	-0.077	2.902

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-0.71	90.13
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-1.50	880.50
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+0.73	84.20

Exchange Rates

YEN	106.4600
EURO	0.6830
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.0298
BRITISH POUND	0.5072

IN BRIEF

Construction down 24.8% since 2006

WASHINGTON — The steep slump in housing intensified at the end of last year, pushing home construction down by the biggest amount in nearly three decades.

Analysts forecast more bad news in the months ahead with the big question remaining whether the housing slump will be severe enough to push the country into a recession.

The Commerce Department reported Thursday that construction was started on 1.353 million new homes and apartments last year, down 24.8 percent from 2006. It was the second biggest annual decline on record, exceeded only by a 26 percent plunge in 1980.

The year ended on a weak note with construction dropping by 14.2 percent in December and applications for new building permits, a good indicator of future activity, falling for a seventh consecutive month, indicating that activity will be weak at least through the spring of this year.

Directors reach contract with studios

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood directors reached a tentative contract deal Thursday with studios, a development that could turn up the pressure on striking writers to settle their 2-month-old walkout that has idled production on dozens of TV shows.

"Two words describe this agreement — groundbreaking and substantial," said Gil Cates, chairman of the Directors Guild of America's negotiations committee. "There are no rollbacks of any kind."

Among other things, the three-year agreement establishes key provisions involving compensation for programs offered on the Internet.

That issue has also been a key sticking point between striking writers and the studios, which broke off talks on Dec. 7.

In announcing the deal with directors, the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which represents studios, expressed hope that it would help end what it called an extremely difficult period for the industry.

It also called on the writers guild to engage in informal discussions to determine if there was a reasonable basis for returning to the bargaining table.

House contemplates tax rebate

Federal leaders hope money will increase consumer spending, stave off recession

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — You could find hundreds of extra dollars in your pocket later this year, and the government is hoping you'll go right out and spend it.

Tax rebates are emerging as a key element of a plan to stave off recession, endorsed by President Bush, congressional leaders and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke on Thursday.

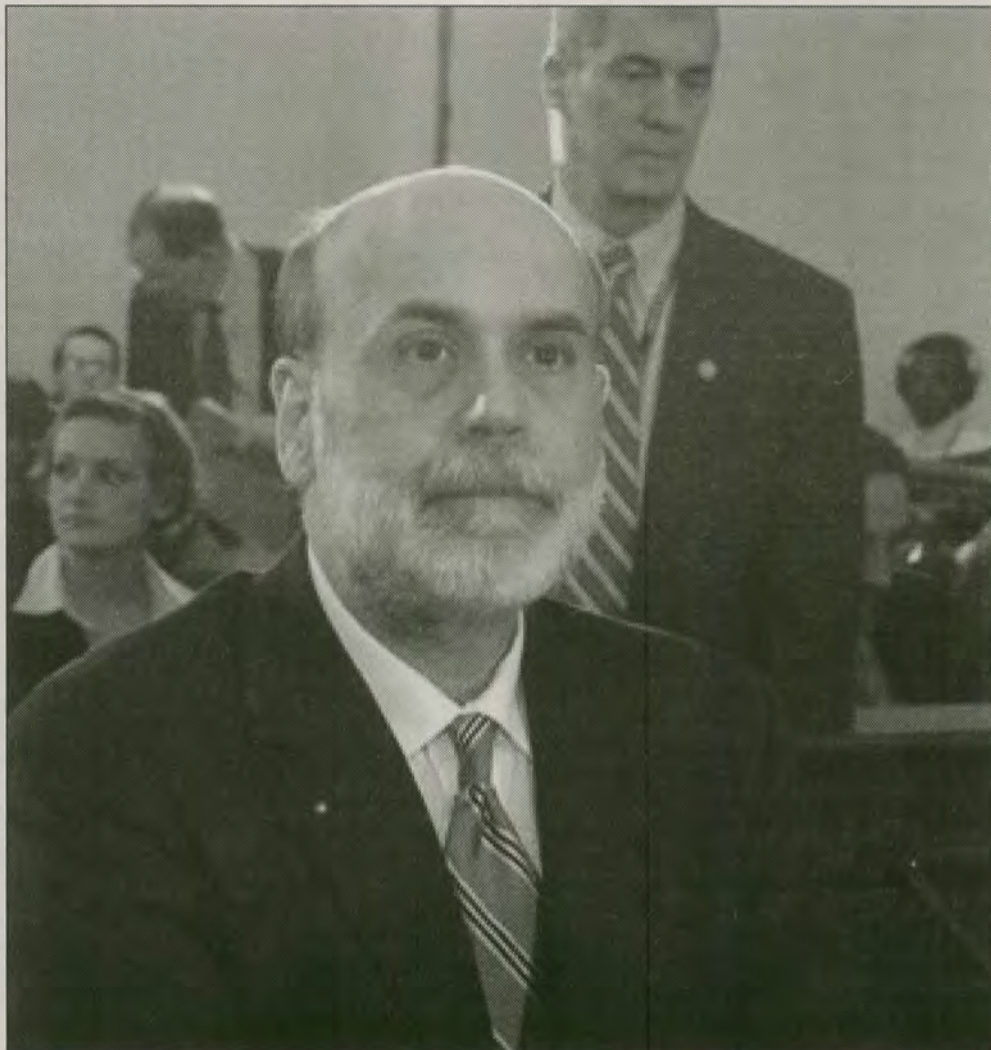
The idea is that if people spend more it will pump up the economy, which has been showing dire signs of falling into the first national recession since 2001. Democratic and Republican leaders in the House are eyeing rebates in the range of \$300 to \$800 a person.

All the talk of rescue efforts failed to soothe Wall Street. The Dow Jones industrials plunged 306.95 points Thursday, underscoring deepening concern about the country's economic health.

The sudden scramble to take action came as fears mounted that a severe housing slump and a painful credit crisis could cause people to clamp down on their spending and businesses to put a lid on hiring.

President Bush told congressional leaders privately he favors income tax rebates for people and tax breaks for businesses, officials said. Bush spoke with congressional leaders as House aides worked behind the scenes on an emergency package that could also include more money for food stamp recipients and the unemployed.

Lawmakers and aides involved in the talks said participants were discussing options including tax rebates of at least \$300 for individuals and likely more — with rebates of \$800 for individuals and \$1,600 for married



Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke addressed the House Budget Committee Thursday, supporting a tax rebate as an answer to the threat of economic recession.

couples a possibility.

The president did not push for a permanent extension of his 2001 and 2003 tax cuts, many of which are due to expire in 2010, one official said. That would eliminate a potential stumbling block to swift action by Congress, since most Democrats oppose making the tax cuts permanent.

Bush planned to lay out his position Friday, but he wasn't expected to go into specifics. Press secretary Dana Perino said he would demand that any package be effective, simple and temporary.

Bernanke voiced his support for a stimulus package in an appearance before the House Budget Committee. He stressed that it must be temporary and must be implemented quickly — so that its economic effects could be felt as much as possible within the next 12 months. "Putting money into the hands of households and firms that would spend it in the near term" is a priority, he said.

Especially important is making sure a plan can put cash into the hands of poor people and the middle class, who are most likely to spend

it right away, he said, though he added that research shows affluent people also spend some of their rebates.

He declined to endorse any particular approach, but he did say he preferred one that would not have a long-term adverse impact on the government's budget deficit.

Bush and congressional leaders from both parties consulted via conference call Thursday for about 30 minutes. Both sides basically were in agreement that they needed to cooperate to do something quickly, Perino said.

NYSE buys Amex, ending old rivalries

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Stock Exchange on Thursday agreed to buy the American Stock Exchange, ending a once intense rivalry that began in colonial times when brokers traded in outdoor markets.

Both exchanges have battled for corporate listings and bragging rights since the early 1900s, with their trading floors just a short walk away from one another in Lower Manhattan. Newspapers around the country all listed the stock swings on the nation's two dominant markets, until investors began paying more attention in the 1990s to technology issues on the upstart Nasdaq Stock Market.

Their evolution took a very different path — with the Big Board forming NYSE Euronext to become the world's first trans-Atlantic exchange. The Amex, unable to compete like it once did, began to focus on trading

options and other financial products.

The Amex, which once hosted the likes of big-name stocks such as The New York Times Co. and The Washington Post Co., now trades generally smaller companies that are often too illiquid to meet the standards of bigger rivals.

NYSE Euronext said it would pay Amex's seatholders, who are generally members that trade at the exchange, \$260 million in stock. In addition, they would receive more stock after the sale of the Amex's landmark building on 86 Trinity Place — an art deco building it moved into in 1921 that sits only blocks away from the World Trade Center site.

The deal will give NYSE Euronext a second U.S. license for an option exchange. It would make the NYSE the nation's third-largest player in the \$1.3 trillion options marketplace.

The NYSE has been looking to move further into the options busi-

ness, and will meld the Amex's floor into its own. Electronic trading of Amex-listed options and ETFs would be done on the NYSE's Archipelago platform.

Shares of NYSE Euronext rose \$2.33, or 3.3 percent, to \$73.40 in after-hours trading after it closed Thursday at \$71.07.

Though many had long expected the Amex to be swallowed up by a larger rival, traders who have worked on Wall Street for decades were still stunned. It marked the latest exchange to go silent in the past few years, following the lead of names like the West Coast's Pacific Exchange.

"You have such a heritage that's involved in this. In a time of need, I think all that heritage — people are willing to throw the books into the fire," said Robert Smith, chairman and chief executive of Smith Affiliated Capital in New York, who has worked on Wall Street for 50 years.

Babysitter charged in toddler's murder

Police report one-year-old was found with bruises, other injuries after his death last week

Associated Press

ELLINGTON, Conn. — Julie Adkins-Gasque never worried when her 1-year-old son sported a fresh bruise. He just played rough with the baby sitter's son, she thought.

Yet there was the working mom on Thursday, burying her boy, Elijah Gasque, in a freezing graveyard and trying to understand how he wound up with a fractured skull in the care of the 25-year-old sitter, Yalines Torres.

"What, did he cry too much for her? I don't know why she would do it," Adkins-Gasque said after the funeral. "I'm angry. I'm confused. I'm blank sometimes. I miss my son."

A judge in Hartford arraigned Torres on a murder charge Thursday and set her bail at \$1 million. Authorities allege the child died last weekend after his head smacked a door frame as she ran around with him slung over her shoulder in a sleeping bag.

A family friend, Mayra Velazquez, said she was stunned by the arrest.

"She's a good mother," Velazquez said through an interpreter. "She takes care of her kids."

Adkins-Gasque said she met Torres two months ago through a friend and asked her to watch her son as much as five days a week. She noticed fresh bruises on him four or five times, but Torres explained that Elijah fought with her son over a toy.

"I thought she was letting her son get out of control," Adkins-Gasque said. "I thought that's just the way it was."

Last Thursday, Elijah came home with a fresh bruise on his forehead, his mother said. But she left her son with at Torres' apartment in Hartford again Friday because she had to work and couldn't find or afford a different sitter.

According to a police report, Torres called Adkins-Gasque at work that night and told her that Elijah had a seizure and collapsed during a game of ring-around-the-rosy.

When officers arrived, Torres made conflicting statements to them about the injury, saying her 2-year-old son struck him in the head with a toy xylophone, and that Elijah may have been hurt when he fell after she twirled him in the air and set him down, the report states.

After more questioning, Torres said the child was injured in a game in which she

bundled him in a sleeping bag and jogged through her apartment with the bag slung over her shoulder, according to the report.

Going through one doorway, Torres lost her balance and the bag struck the door frame twice, police said. When she opened the bag, the boy was pale and not breathing, the report states.

The child died at a hospital the next day. The police report noted Elijah had a skull fracture and bleeding in the brain, and the medical examiner's office ruled the death a homicide.

Torres admitted she had initially lied about the boy's injuries because she was afraid people would think she intentionally hurt the boy if she told the truth, police said.

She was initially charged with risk of injury to a minor and reckless endangerment and was released on bond Tuesday. Officers re-arrested her late Wednesday and charged her with capital felony, a murder charge that carries a possible death penalty or life in prison without parole if she is convicted.

On Thursday, Hartford Superior Judge Carl Taylor granted defense attorney Claudia Jones' request to keep Torres on suicide watch at the jail.

Jones declined comment after the hearing.

Torres, who was shackled and dressed in jeans and a black hooded sweatshirt, didn't speak during her court appearance, but was overcome with emotion and had to sit down.

Fugitives take refuge in Mexico

Wanted criminals flee to the border, hope to avoid prosecution

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — A methamphetamine dealer who gunned down a deputy during a traffic stop in Southern California. A man in Arizona who killed his ex-girlfriend's parents and brother and snatched his children. A man who suffocated his baby daughter and left her body in a toolbag on an expressway overpass near Chicago.

Ordinarily, these would be death penalty cases. But these men fled to Mexico, thereby escaping the possibility of execution.

The reason: Mexico refuses to send anyone back to the United States unless the U.S. gives assurances it won't seek the death penalty — a 30-year-old policy that rankles some American prosecutors and enrages victims' families.

"We find it extremely disturbing that the Mexican government would dictate to us, in Arizona, how we would enforce our laws at the same time they are complaining about our immigration laws," said Barnett Lotstein, special assistant to the prosecutor in Maricopa County, Ariz., which includes Phoenix.

"Even in the most egregious cases, the Mexican authorities say, 'No way,' and that's not justice. That's an interference of Mexican authorities in our judicial process in Arizona."

It may be about to happen again: A Marine accused of murdering a pregnant comrade in North Carolina and burning her remains in his backyard is believed to have fled to Mexico. Prosecutors said they have not decided whether to seek the

death penalty. But if the Marine is captured in Mexico, capital punishment will be off the table.

Fugitives trying to escape the long arm of the law have been making a run for the border ever since frontier days, a practice romanticized in countless Hollywood Westerns.

Mexico routinely returns fugitives to the U.S. to face justice. But under a 1978 treaty with the U.S., Mexico, which has no death penalty, will not extradite anyone facing possible execution. To get their hands on a fugitive, U.S. prosecutors must agree to seek no more than life in prison.

Other countries, including France and Canada, also demand such "death assurances." But the problem is more common with Mexico, since it is often a quick drive from the crime scene for a large portion of the United States.

"If you can get to Mexico — if you have the means — it's a way of escaping the death penalty," said Issac Unah, a University of North Carolina political science professor.

The Justice Department said death assurances from foreign countries are fairly common, but it had no immediate numbers. State Department officials said Mexico extradited 73 suspects to the U.S. in 2007. Most were wanted on drug or murder charges.

Lolita Parkinson, a spokeswoman for the Mexican

Consulate in Houston, said Mexico opposes capital punishment on human rights grounds and has a particular obligation to protect the rights of people of Mexican descent who face prosecution in the U.S.

The U.S. government typically pays more attention to those entering the country from Mexico than it does to those trying to leave the U.S. But Texas

"If you can get to Mexico — if you have the means — it's a way of escaping the death penalty."

Issac Unah
University of North Carolina
political science professor

authorities have begun making checks of vehicles and drivers heading south on the 25 international bridges that connect the state to Mexico.

The initiative, announced in October, was originally intended to catch drug smugglers taking cash or stolen cars into Mexico, but "we would hope it would be a deterrent for fugitives" as well, said Allison Castle, a spokeswoman for Gov. Rick Perry.

In the North Carolina case, local authorities and the FBI are working with Mexican law enforcement to hunt down Cpl. Cesar Armando Laurean, a 21-year-old naturalized U.S. citizen born in Mexico. He is accused of killing 20-year-old Lance Cpl. Maria Lauterbach in mid-December, months after she accused him of rape.

Wanted posters and information on Laurean have been distributed to the Mexican media.

Also recently, prosecutors in Dallas pledged not to seek the

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Omar Bin Laden aspires to peace



Osama bin Laden's son, Omar, 26, and his wife ride horses in Claro. The son supports peaceful Islam.

Associated Press

CAIRO — Omar Osama bin Laden bears a striking resemblance to his notorious father — except for the dreadlocks that dangle halfway down his back. Then there's the black leather biker jacket.

The 26-year-old does not renounce his father, al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, but in an interview with The Associated Press, he said there is better way to defend Islam than militancy: Omar wants to be an "ambassador for peace" between Muslims and the West.

Omar — one of bin Laden's 19 children — raised a tabloid storm last year when he married a 52-year-old British woman, Jane Felix-Browne, who took the name Zaina Alsbah. Now the couple say they want to be advocates, planning a 3,000-mile horse race across North Africa to draw attention to the cause of peace.

"It's about changing the ideas of the Western mind. A lot of people think Arabs — especially the bin Ladens, especially the sons of Osama — are all terrorists. This is not the truth," Omar told the AP last week at a cafe in a Cairo shopping mall.

Of course, many may have a hard time getting their mind around the idea of "bin Laden: peacenik."

"Omar thinks he can be a negotiator," said Alsbah, who is trying to bring her husband to Britain. "He's one of the only people who can do this in the world."

Omar lived with the al-Qaida leader in Sudan, then moved with him to Afghanistan in 1996.

There, Omar says he trained at an al-Qaida camp but in 2000 he decided there must be another way and he left his father, returning to his homeland of Saudi Arabia.

"I don't want to be in that situation to just fight. I like to find another way and this other way may be like we do now, talking," he said in English.

He suggested his father did not oppose his leaving — and Alsbah interjected that Omar was courageous in breaking away, but neither elaborated.

Although there is no way to confirm the details he describes of his childhood and upbringing, the strong family resemblance and Omar's knowledge of Osama's family life have convinced many of his lineage.

"Omar Bin Laden is the son of Osama bin Laden and his first wife, Najwa," a U.S. intel-

ligence official said Thursday, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media. The official confirmed Omar was raised in Sudan and Afghanistan after his father was forced out of Saudi Arabia.

Omar and his wife insist they have not been bothered by Egyptian officials, who said Thursday that the terror leader's son did not pose a threat.

"He comes and goes just like any other tourist," said a security official, also speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. "He is taking a line that is totally different from him father."

Omar said he hasn't seen or been in contact with his father since leaving Afghanistan. "He doesn't have e-mail," Omar said. "He doesn't take a telephone ... if he had something like this, they will find him through satellites."

Omar doesn't criticize his father and says Osama bin Laden is just trying to defend the Islamic world.

"My father thinks he will be good for defending the Arab people and stop anyone from hurting the Arab or Muslim people any place in the world," he said, noting that the West didn't have a problem with his father when he was fighting the Russians in Afghanistan in the 1980s.

Omar is convinced a truce between the West and al-Qaida is possible.

"My father is asking for a truce but I don't think there is any government (that) respects him. At the same time they do not respect him, why everywhere in the world, they want to fight him? There is a contradiction," he said.

Osama bin Laden, believed to be in hiding in the Pakistan-Afghan border region, offered a truce to Europe in a 2004 audiotape and a conditional truce to the United States in a 2006 message. In November, he called on European nations to pull out of Afghanistan in a message seen by some experts as an effort to reach out to Europe.

But in a series of messages since last fall, he also has been calling for Muslims to rally around jihad, or "holy war," encouraging fighters in Iraq in particular to continue their battles with U.S. and Iraqi forces.

At least two of Osama bin Laden's sons, Hamza and Saad, are believed to have an active role in al-Qaida — with Hamza believed to be in the Pakistan-Afghan border zone and Saad thought to be in Iran, perhaps in Iranian custody.

Conservatives resurrect state law

Policy allows public to launch grand jury investigations against citizens

Associated Press

WICHITA, Kan. — Religious conservatives have dusted off a largely forgotten 1887 state law that allows citizens to launch grand jury investigations, and they are using it to help turn Kansas into one of the nation's biggest abortion battlegrounds.

A grand jury that was impaneled Jan. 8 by way of a citizen petition drive is investigating Dr. George Tiller, a Wichita clinic operator abhorred by anti-abortion activists because he is one of the nation's few physicians who perform late-term abortions. This is the second such citizen investigation of Tiller since 2006.

Phillip Jauregui, counsel for the anti-abortion Life Legal Defense Foundation, said Kansans are invoking the 19th-century law because prosecutors are too soft on abortion.

"This is a right the people of Kansas have given themselves," he said.

But others say the law is a dangerous tool.

"This is a witch hunt — plain and simple," said Vicki Saporta, president of the National Abortion Federation, an abortion rights group. "It clearly demonstrates the inherent danger of empowering biased advocacy groups to impanel a grand jury."

Normally, prosecutors decide whether to convene a grand jury to investigate something and bring charges.

Under the Kansas law, enacted during the Gilded Age and the nation's great railroad boom to curb political corruption, the people can force an investigation if they collect signatures from a certain percentage of voters in a county. In small counties, that can be a few hundred signatures; in Wichita's Sedgwick County, about 4,000.

Five other states provide for citizen-petitioned grand juries: Oklahoma, New Mexico, North Dakota, Nebraska and Nevada, accord-

ing to a Tiller attorney.

One of the most publicized grand juries convened by citizen petition was formed in Oklahoma after the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, which killed 168 people. The investigation was prompted by suspicions that Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols had help in the bombing. But the grand jury found no evidence of a wider conspiracy or a government cover-up.

So far, no other state appears to have used the process to pursue a social and moral agenda as extensively as Kansas, which is attacking not just abortion, but pornography.

Since 2005, citizen petitions have forced several grand juries in Kansas to investigate whether adult bookstores

should be charged with obscenity. Twenty stores were indicted, said Phillip Cosby, executive director of the National Coalition for

Protection of Children and Families. Most of the cases have not been resolved.

The strategy? "To strengthen the prosecutor's hand" and let authorities know that "they are not alone — that we the people feel there is a very big problem," Cosby said.

The anti-abortion movement rediscovered the law when David Gittrich used it in 2006 to force an investigation into the death of a Texas woman who had an abortion at Tiller's clinic. Though the grand jury failed to return an indictment, people noticed.

Said Gittrich: "I was inspired by God to use the grand jury."

This time, Tiller is under investigation on suspicion of violating a 1998 state law restricting late-term abortions. He has denied any

wrongdoing.

Tiller has long been at the very center of the nation's abortion battle. His clinic was bombed in 1985, and eight years later, a woman shot him in both arms.

"We see in Kansas a perfect example of a system which has virtually become active vigilantism," said Lee Thompson, an attorney for Tiller. "A very small minority number of people who have a specific agenda can force a criminal investigation — and I think that is a usurpation of the executive power of government."

Forcing a grand jury investigation requires signatures from 2 percent of the number of people who voted in the last governor's election in the county, plus 100 more names. In Tiller's county, activists gathered nearly 8,000, or twice as many as required.

Similarly, in December, a citizen-impaneled grand jury began investigating a Planned Parenthood clinic in the Kansas City suburb of Overland Park.

Then-Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline filed charges against Tiller in 2006, accusing him of performing 15 late-term abortions without the required medical justification and failing to report details to state health authorities. But a judge threw out the case in a jurisdictional dispute involving the district attorney in Wichita.

Then in June, Kline's successor, Paul Morrison,

brought new charges against Tiller, accusing him of not getting the signature of a second doctor before performing late-term abortions.

Abortion opponents complained that the charges did not go far enough, and took matters into their own hands by pressing for a grand jury.

"I am still looking for justice," Gittrich said. "I am going to figure some way to get justice."

"We see in Kansas a perfect example of a system which has virtually become active vigilantism."

Lee Thompson
Attorney

"[The situation] clearly demonstrates the inherent danger of empowering biased advocacy groups to impanel a grand jury."

Vicki Saporta
President
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Directors, studios put pressure on writers

'Groundbreaking' three-year agreement offers compensation for programs on the internet, among other things

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood directors reached a tentative contract deal Thursday with studios, a development that could turn up the pressure on striking writers to settle their 2-month-old walk-out that has crippled the entertainment industry.

"Two words describe this agreement — groundbreaking and substantial," said Gil Cates, chair of the Directors Guild of America's negotiations committee. "There are no roll-backs of any kind." Among other things, the three-year agreement establishes key provisions involving compensation for programs offered on the Internet.

That issue has been a key sticking point between striking writers and the studios, which broke off talks on Dec. 7.

The writers walkout has halted work on dozens of TV shows, disrupted movie production, turned the glitzy Golden Globes show into a news conference and threatened the upcoming Academy Awards ceremony.

The deal between directors and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which represents studios, was lauded by top executives from eight major companies, including Fox, Paramount Pictures Corp., The Walt Disney Co., CBS Corp., Sony Pictures Entertainment, Warner Bros., MGM and NBC Universal.

In a joint statement, the executives said they hoped the agreement would signal the end of an

"extremely difficult period for our industry."

They called on the writers guild to join in the kind of informal talks with industry leaders that preceded the directors' negotiations, and said the deal with directors established a precedent for the industry's creative talent to "participate financially in every emerging area of new media."

The Writers Guild of America said it would evaluate the terms of the directors' proposed contract. The guild also reiterated that it has been calling on the studios to resume negotiations.

"We've been making independent deals, so we're in a negotiating mood," said

Writers Guild of America, West, President Patric Verrone, referring to interim agreements the guild has reached with companies such as United Artists and The Weinstein Co.

Verrone declined to comment on specifics of the deal by directors or compare it to what the writers are seeking until he saw a copy of the proposed contract, which he expected to receive from the directors guild.

Writers previously said directors do not represent their interests.

Alliance President Nick Counter said in a statement that the directors' talks focused on key issues, and the result was a groundbreaking agreement for the industry at large.

"This deal was strongly influ-

enced by the writers strike," said Jonathan Handel, an entertainment lawyer in Los Angeles and a former counsel to the writers guild. "It shows all the earmarks of the improvements the writers were looking for — but it doesn't achieve them by any means."

In the significant area of streaming media, the deal falls short of "fundamental fairness," Handel said.

However, he considers it unlikely the writers can get a better agreement.

The deal with directors gives their union jurisdiction over programs produced for distribution on the Internet and sets a new residuals formula for some paid Internet downloads that essentially doubles the rate currently paid by employers, the guild said.

In addition, it sets residual rates for ad-supported streaming and use of clips on the Internet.

The deal was welcomed by others in Hollywood.

"I'm very pleased with the new agreement and I hope it helps speed up the negotiations" with the writers guild, George Clooney said in a statement.

Clooney has often commented on the need to resolve the strike to put thousands of people back to work in Hollywood.

Roberta Reardon, president of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, which represents actors, singers, dancers, announcers and others, called the deal encouraging and said her guild was optimistic the writers guild would resume negotiations soon.

The directors guild was well-prepared when it started negotiations Jan. 12.

It had spent \$2 million researching the potential value of

new media over the next decade and held a series of meetings with key studio heads to establish a basis for the formal talks.

Gil Cates, who's been involved in union contract negotiations for three decades, served as lead negotiator for directors.

He is also producing this year's Academy Awards, which are imperiled by the writers' standoff.

Last Sunday's Golden Globes show was reduced to a news conference after actors refused to cross writers' threatened picket lines.

NBC lost millions of dollars in ad revenue, and award winners were deprived of instant publicity that could have provided a box-office bump.

New media issues also were expected to dominate negotiations with the Screen Actors Guild, whose contract expires in June.

The directors guild said late last year that it would delay the start of talks to give writers a chance to come to an agreement with studios.

But the guild clearly lost patience after negotiations between the writers and studios broke off last month and the strike dragged on.

Among other things, the studios' deal with directors says programs produced for the Internet will be directed by guild members, with the exception of low-budget shows, and payments for downloaded TV programs and movies will be based on a distributor's gross.

Distributor's gross represents the amount received by the company responsible for distributing the film or TV program on the Internet.

Companies are also contractually obligated to provide the guild "unfettered access to their deals and data," the directors guild said, calling that unprecedented transparency.

In their talks, the writers guild and studios clashed over using a percentage of gross receipts to determine Internet compensation.

The guild said it sought that approach but was told by the alliance it was an unworkable and unacceptable formula. Instead, the studios offered, for example, a flat \$250 payment for a year's use of an hourlong

TV show on the Web. The guild balked, citing the \$20,000-plus residual that writers now earn for a single network rerun of a TV episode.

Also at issue for the writers guild is unionization of reality and animation writers.

Talks broke down after the alliance demanded the guild take that and other issues off the table, claiming there had been an agreement to drop it.

The guild's next move may be influenced by history.

There's a lingering resentment among members over what they considered raw deals in the 1980s involving what eventually became lucrative home-video and DVD markets.

"We've been making independent deals, so we're in a negotiating mood."

Patric Verrone
Writers Guild of
America West
president

"I'm very pleased with the new agreement and I hope it helps speed up the negotiations."

George Clooney
actor

Amtrak may strike for first time ever

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Commuters stranded from Virginia to Massachusetts. Train service shut down at major terminals in New York, Chicago and Boston. A flood of extra cars on congested highways around Washington and San Francisco.

Come Jan. 30, that nightmare could become a reality unless a long-standing labor dispute between Amtrak and nine unions is resolved.

There has never been a strike in Amtrak's 36-year history, and it's still likely that one will be averted, either through a last-minute deal or intervention by Congress.

But if workers do walk out, the 71,000 people who take Amtrak every day won't be the only ones who'll suffer. Hundreds of thousands of people who ride commuter trains will join them, since many such services depend on Amtrak employees or infrastructure, particularly in the Northeast.

The dispute involves about 10,000 employees whose last contract ended Dec. 31, 1999. After years of unsuccessful mediation, a presidential

emergency board issued a report on the dispute Dec. 30, triggering a 30-day countdown until a strike becomes legal.

Siding with the unions, the board recommended that wage increases be made retroactive. Amtrak, which relies on federal subsidies, is worried about whether it can afford the back pay.

Under the Railway Labor Act, most disputes that get to this point end with a contract based on the emergency board's report. In cases when that doesn't happen, Congress usually imposes the board's recommendations.

Still, transportation officials across the country are bracing for the worst.

The biggest impact of a strike would be felt around New York City, where two major services, New Jersey Transit and the Long Island Rail Road, would be disrupted.

Just over half of NJ Transit's 740 weekday trains travel for all or part of their routes on lines owned by Amtrak; if Amtrak employees aren't at work, trains can't run on those tracks. Some 218,000 daily trips are taken on the affected lines.

A Great Cloud of Witnesses: Saints in the Catholic Tradition

January 18-19, McKenna Hall

On the occasion of the first feast day celebration of Blessed Basil Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, this conference will explore the development of the canonization process and the significance of the saints in Catholic life and devotion.

Friday, January 18

4:00 p.m. *Thinking Seriously about the Saints*

Lawrence Cunningham, University of Notre Dame

7:30 p.m. *Making Saints*

Kenneth Woodward, Former Religion Editor, *Newsweek*

Saturday, January 19

9:00 a.m. *All Saints: The Universal Call to Holiness*

Ann Astell, University of Notre Dame

10:30 a.m. *A Great Cloud of Witnesses*

Msgr. Kevin Kostelnik, Rector, Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, Los Angeles

2:00 p.m. *Blessed Basil Moreau*

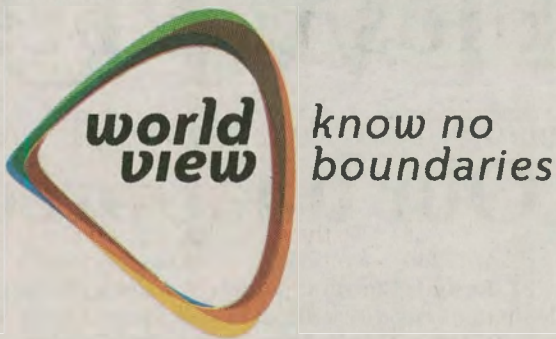
Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, Archbishop Emeritus of Washington, D.C.

3:30 p.m. *Saints in Everyday Life*

Robert Ellsberg, Editor, Orbis Books

On Sunday, January 20, Cardinal McCarrick will preside at the Eucharistic liturgy at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 10:00 a.m.

"By canonizing some of the faithful, i.e., by solemnly proclaiming that they practiced heroic virtue and lived in fidelity to God's grace, the Church recognizes the power of the Spirit of holiness within her and sustains the hope of believers by proposing the saints to them as models and intercessors." (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, #828)



WORLD VIEW IS AN INITIATIVE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT TO PROMOTE CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE ABOUT ISSUES OF RACE, CLASS, ETHNICITY, RELIGION, AND GENDER THROUGH THE ARTS.



In this sensitive documentary, filmmaker Billy Luther, whose mother was crowned Miss Navajo 1966, opens the door to the Miss Navajo competition, inaugurated in 1952. This competition challenges contestants with diverse styles, physiques, and political orientations to answer tough historical questions in the Navajo language and showcase their spiritual and practical knowledge of practices like governance, traditional singing, or butchering a whole sheep. The film subtly illustrates the sacred dimension of Miss Navajo as well—how participation places the young women on a timeless matriarchal continuum going back to creation and the first Diné (Navajo) life-giving ancestor, Changing Woman.

Friday, January 18 at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. in Browning Cinema, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
 Director Billy Luther will discuss the film and answer questions from the audience after the first screening.



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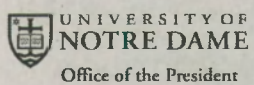
Upcoming World View Events

10 Questions for the Dalai Lama
 February 1
 Director Rick Ray will discuss his film
 Cosponsored with Kroc Institute for Peace, Center for Ethical Education, and DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

Desert Bayou
 February 22
 Director Alex LeMay will discuss his film

The Kite Runner
 March 14

Blood Diamond
 April 3
 Cosponsored with Center for Social Concerns



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P.O. Box 779, Notre Dame, IN 46556
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OFFICE MANAGER & GENERAL INFO
(574) 631-7471

FAX

(574) 631-6927

ADVERTISING

(574) 631-6900 observad@nd.edu

EDITOR IN CHIEF

(574) 631-4542

MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4541 obsme@nd.edu

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4324

BUSINESS OFFICE

(574) 631-5313

NEWS DESK

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

VIEWPOINT DESK

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

SPORTS DESK

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

SCENE DESK

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

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smc.1@nd.edu

PHOTO DESK

(574) 631-8767 obsphoto@nd.edu

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Our unappreciated democracy

On Dec. 27, Benazir Bhutto was tragically assassinated outside a political rally in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. Later that day, I embarked from my parent's house in Northbrook, Ill. for the state of Iowa, where I would learn more about politics in a few days then I have in any poli sci class yet. Half a world away from

Bob Kessler

Guest
Columnist

Pakistan, I set out to film a documentary about the Iowa caucuses, but what I found was real, untarnished democracy that is seemingly taken for granted.

Across southeastern Iowa I met with normal people who were far more involved with the political process than average people from other states. People like Gregory Monroe, a democrat who I spoke with at an Obama rally in Muscatine. He had personally seen many of the candidates, and was struggling to determine who to caucus for. He felt that there were a lot of great candidates to choose from this year and was using his personal meetings with the candidates to help him determine which person was the most honest and qualified to lead this country. While he felt privileged to be able to personally see all of the candidates in Iowa, he might not have fully recognized how fortunate he was.

Benazir Bhutto's death was hanging over my trip to Iowa. She was a former Prime Minister of Pakistan who was the first woman to lead a Muslim country. When she died, she was the leader of the opposition party, and a strong voice in bringing Pakistan back toward democracy. She died in a suicide attack while leaving a campaign rally in preparation for elections that have now been postponed due to her death.

At campaign events in Iowa, similar to the one where Bhutto was killed, I saw leaders of what could be considered our

opposition party talk about the need for change. John Edwards told a group of supporters in Tipton that he was here to fight for the working class. Barack Obama told a crowd in Muscatine that he knew how to bring change because he had been bringing it his entire life. Both men criticized the ruling party, but their lives were not in danger.

In fact, Iowans seemed very receptive to these ideas of change as Senator Obama and former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee won the caucuses using honest tactics to spread their ideas about change. Huge crowds turned out to their events as the candidates were able to shake hands with hundreds of Iowans in the weeks leading up to the caucuses. People were not concerned about what might happen if they supported opposition candidates, and they were free to participate in real democracy. Their choices were not influenced by the state or even the media, but by their opinions after personal encounters with the candidates.

In most of the United States the media and advertisers dominate the political landscape, but in Iowa, democracy is what it was meant to be. Candidates are truly chosen by the people, and retail politics is the way they make their decision. Candidates are able to develop personal relationships with voters, and the voters are able to gain trust in the candidates. This is not only made possible by Iowa's first-in-the-nation status, but also by the strong democratic traditions of the United States.

In Pakistan, a woman was killed for trying to restore democracy to the country, and she was killed at a rally similar in intent to the ones I attended in Iowa. It is not as if this attack came as a surprise either. Earlier in 2007, Bhutto had also been the target of an assassination attempt, but she soldiered on in an attempt to bring democracy back to the

troubled nation.

When I was in Iowa, I came within feet of several of our presidential candidates. John Edwards, Barack Obama, Ron Paul, and Mike Huckabee were all close enough that I might have shaken their hands if I was not preoccupied with filming them shake other people's hands. Yet, I never felt I was in danger. In the United States we sometimes get so caught up in our own political differences and we sometimes become so enamored with criticizing certain candidates that we forget how lucky we are to be able to safely participate in our democracy.

In Iowa, citizens are even luckier as they are able to personally meet our political candidates, and discuss their merits through a caucus process. Nobody gives any thought to the fact that it might be unsafe to go to events where the opposition candidates are speaking and presenting their views, let alone opposition candidates who are mainly arguing for democracy in general.

So as our presidential nominating process continues, and much of the country votes on Super Tuesday, I urge everybody to go out and vote. People rarely contemplate the luxuries we are granted by being born into this country and we must not forget the millions of people in our world who do not have the same rights that we have. While Iowans are particularly lucky, we must remember how privileged we are as Americans living in our United States.

Bob Kessler is a junior majoring in political science and economics. He is also a writer for the Web site SaltyStix.com. He can be contacted at rkessler@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There are some defeats more triumphant than victories."

Michel de Montaigne
French essayist

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Don't be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated. You can't cross a chasm in two small jumps."

David Lloyd George
British politician

Stumping in Iowa for Hillary

Legions of friends and former employees from President Bill Clinton's administration flocked to Iowa to assist his wife, Democratic presidential candidate and New York Senator Hillary Clinton. This writer was among an army of volunteers characterized by one staff person as "everybody but the Third Marine Division out here." The importance of a solid showing in the first presidential contest is vital for any candidate to remain viable well into the primary season.



Gary Caruso

Capitol
 Comments

During her concession speech on caucus night, it was evident that the Clintons certainly are the embodiment of the Democratic party's establishment. The likes of former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and retired Army General Wesley Clark stood on stage behind the Clinton family. Those surrogates were among many stumping throughout Iowa, lending great credibility to their candidate. Despite our intense personal door-to-door and telephone campaigning, Clinton placed third, just one percentage point behind runner-up and second-time caucus candidate John Edwards.

The political caucus process is a folksy, quirky, community-based social gather-

ing that was created for neighbors to publicly discuss and stand up for the candidate of their choice. Unfortunately, the caucus process has evolved over the years with two significant flaws — its short and specific time period limits participation while its casual social setting can lessen the intensity of a campaign. Consequently, Iowans reject pietism, harsh rhetoric and negative television commercials during their first-in-the-nation selection process.

Iowans also demand a personal, up-close style of campaigning that lends to both excitement and exhaustion for the candidates and their staffs. While most caucus goers expect candidates to court them, some actually keep track of how many times each candidate contacts them through mailers, telephone calls and door-to-door visits. By caucus week, many casual Iowans were annoyed by last-minute campaigning and refused any contact from the campaigns. Some even changed their support on a whim, like one college student who abandoned Edwards for Clinton after the Secret Service kept him isolated in 2004 for arriving late at an Edwards event. Interestingly, though, a great number of Iowans remain undecided as they enter the caucus room.

For the Clinton campaign, Hillary enlisted the former president to stump across Iowa — two mega-speakers in one campaign. The president's stump speech laced humor with serious pronouncements as he captivated Democrats in an hour-

long session. He is fond of relaying the story of how a year ago a good friend asked him, as a former president, to arrange tee time on an exclusive golf course near the Clinton home. The crowd chuckles as Clinton quotes his reply to the friend, "You used the operative word, 'former,' but I'll try."

The story continues with how Clinton, as part of a foursome on the golf course, is the last to putt on the green. As he turns to leave, already trailing behind his golf party, Clinton's caddy stops him to admit that he is not a caddy but had to try to speak with the former president. Clinton elicits another chuckle from the audience, "So I think to myself that this guy is either a journalist or a terrorist."

It turns out, Clinton says, that the man is a firefighter from New York City. He tells the president that he needed to relay his thanks for Hillary's work after 9/11 since she was the only official to recognize that the air would harm the recovery workers after the towers collapsed. The firefighter admits that he has the best health insurance available — that is not his issue. He watched his comrades die during 9/11 and as a result of the air afterward. Clinton says that the two of them are standing alone on the green, tears streaming from their eyes, as the firefighter tells the president that he just had to come personally to say his thank you.

At this point in Clinton's speech, the Iowa audience is hanging on his every word. It is absolutely quiet in the hall.

Clinton concludes by saying that when people asked him, who for nearly 40 years best knew Hillary, to tell why she is the best candidate, he did not know how to best put it into words until he met that firefighter a year ago. He tells of Hillary's compassion, intelligence and common sense especially demonstrated in being the first to recognize and act on assistance for the recovery workers.

After the Burlington speech, Clinton staff documented while going door-to-door, that nearly five percent of caucus goers they contacted enthusiastically admitted that they changed their minds to support Hillary after hearing the former president speak. Although icy conditions kept many of her older supporters away from their caucus precincts, it was evident that she had great support despite a one percent deficit from second place. Do not underestimate how profound of an asset her husband can be for her in tomorrow's Nevada caucus and next week's South Carolina primary. The Democratic nomination may just be decided by who has an articulate former president in their campaign camp.

Gary Caruso, Notre Dame '73, is a communications strategist who served as a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at hotline@aol.com

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



U-WIRE

Creating early brand loyalty in kids unethical

An old boss of mine shared with me an anecdote about her young nephew. The boy had overheard his parents arguing over finances and naturally he wanted them to stop. He opened the door to the room in which they were arguing and profoundly stated he had the answer to their problems: debt consolidation.

Be not fooled; this boy was no seven-year old financial prodigy. His knowledge was derived solely from a 30 second commercial that probably interrupted his after-school cartoons.

I wondered about the way this commercial had stuck in the memory of the child. He may not have known what debt consolidation was, but he knew that whatever it was, it fixed money problems.

I was reminded of this story when I read about "pester power." The term is used to describe the ways marketers endorse their products through the relentless way children nag their parents for goods. Not only do marketers recognize this behavior in children, they target and thrive from it. The goal is to appeal to a child so intensely that a child will whine and beg to receive a certain product.

"Fast Food Nation," by Eric Schlosser, discusses "pester power" and other marketing initiatives directed at children. According to the book, the synergy of marketing executives and psychologists is becoming increasingly common. The goal is to explore and understand the psyche of children and direct products to children based on the results. The research includes observation, dream interpretations, interviews and the creation of kids' clubs.

There is an ethical defect in this marketing trend. Not only is it invasive, it is manipulative and far too noticeably resembles brainwashing to be ethically

acceptable.

Marketers are manipulating the innocence and newness of a child's mind to create brand loyalty.

The irony is that I am a declared marketing major.

Excavating the minds of children for the purpose of controlling their behavior as consumers is unethical. I wonder how difficult is it to remain loyal to my ethics and still make a living. When I am not the boss and someone else is calling the shots, are ethics the opportunity cost of a paycheck?

"In studies where consumers are asked about ethics in different professions, advertising executives are ranked low," said Elaine Hollensbe, assistant professor in the Department of Management in the College of Business.

"In the last decade, businesses have become aware of their social responsibility to give back and behave ethically," said Hollensbe. "Companies are starting to realize that it is not profitable to be unethical. There are a lot of watchdogs out there now."

The American Marketing Association has a code of ethics that ambiguously addresses their responsibility in marketing toward children. It states, "We will recognize our special commitments to economically vulnerable segments of the market such as children, the elderly and others who may be substantially disadvantaged."

Diction makes the intentions of this statement rather cryptic. The statement would better address the manipulation of child consumers if "mentally" was substituted for "economically." A deceitful code of ethics? How ironic.

This column first appeared in the Jan. 17 edition of The News Record, the daily publication at the University of Cincinnati.

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

Nicole Green
 University of Cincinnati
 The News Record

Fire Isiah Thomas. Now.

Since taking over as president of basketball operations for the New York Knicks in 2003 and then assuming the role of head coach in 2006, Thomas the Tank Engine has run the Knicks into the ground. The Knickerbockers have remained the little blue and orange engine that couldn't, due in large part to Isiah Thomas' lavish spending, terrible trade decisions and inept leadership.

He has spent more money than the gross domestic product of some third-world countries, assembled a crack squad of washed-up has-beens, never-weres and never-will-bes and made the Knicks into a running joke in the sports world. To quote Ozzy Osbourne, the Knicks have been "going off the rails on a crazy train" for the past four years, and Thomas is the conductor. It's time to cut this ride short.

These days Thomas finds himself serenaded by boos and jeering every time the Knicks take the court at Madison Square Garden, turning what should be a home game into a decidedly hostile environment. Chants of "Fire Isiah" from the Garden faithful have the hoops fanatics of New York calling for his head. The vox populi have spoken and they want Thomas out. It's time to give the people what they want.

Of course, Madison Square Garden isn't the Coliseum of ancient Rome, and thumbs-up or thumbs-down yay-or-nay vocalism from the fans shouldn't determine decisions at the management level. However, in Isiah's case there are plenty of reasons to doubt Thomas. The numbers speak for themselves.

6-14: the Knicks' record this season.

33-49: the Knicks' record last year, Isiah's first as coach.

\$11.5 million: the amount the Knicks and Thomas had to cough up in a sexual harassment settlement to one Anucha Browne Sanders, a former Knicks employee. A civil jury found

Thomas guilty of sexual harassment.

\$15 million: the price Thomas paid to acquire guard Steve Francis, a virtual clone of Stephon Marbury — an undersized me-first, shoot-first point guard who has contributed virtually nothing to the team.

3-12-2007: the date Knicks owner James Dolan extended Thomas' contract by multiple years, citing "significant and evident progress" as the motive for the extension.

4-14: Thomas' record to close out the season after Dolan extended his deal.

101-61: the score of the Knicks' Oct. 17 loss to the Boston Celtics, in which the C's powerwashed the floor clean of any semblance of the Knicks or professional basketball with an absolute drubbing.

In the offseason, the Celtics made bold moves to acquire All-Stars Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen. Perhaps

Thomas should have taken notes. Unlike his many moves which have blown up in his face, the Celtics' two new stars, combined with incumbent superstar Paul Pierce, have created a new-look power triad which has set fire to the league, leading the C's to an 18-2 start.

Using his carte blanche powers as executive and then coach, Thomas has put together a squad of overpaid underachievers who don't play team ball, whine, moan and create a media circus even in a city nicknamed Zoo York. They've made headlines for all the wrong reasons.

Thomas' trade for Stephon Marbury, his prized point guard, has worked out horribly for all involved. Marbury has failed to provide any semblance of leadership, his numbers are down and even worse, he and his coach have taken their feuding public, as highlighted by a slew of recent headlines adver-

tising their malcontent to the sports world.

Then, of course, you have The Brawl with the Denver Nuggets on Dec. 16 of last year, one of the most vicious on-court altercations in recent memory. Even here, Thomas may have played a (mis)guiding role: the fight erupted after he allegedly told one of his players to intentionally commit a hard foul.

The Knicks have had a reputation (and some might even say a tradition) for thuggery dating back to the 1990s and teams featuring Patrick Ewing, John Starks, Anthony Mason and Charles Oakley. However, those Pat Riley-coached teams did something

Thomas' teams don't: they won basketball games.

Even worse, Thomas may now be blaming the fans for causing the team to lose. According to a New York Daily News story, during yet another recent loss,

Thomas was overheard saying the Knicks' fans were "a bad sixth man." Season ticket holders also allegedly overheard Thomas say "it's your fault" to the fans for the mounting losses. They boo because they want to cheer, Isiah.

It's time for Isiah Thomas to stop making excuses and start packing his bags. It's time to give the fans what they want, since it's been abundantly clear that the product on the court can't. Thomas has taken this once-proud franchise and run it into the ground, ensuring that the Knicks will remain terrible for the remainder of this decade and possibly well into the next. It's time for Isiah Thomas to go.

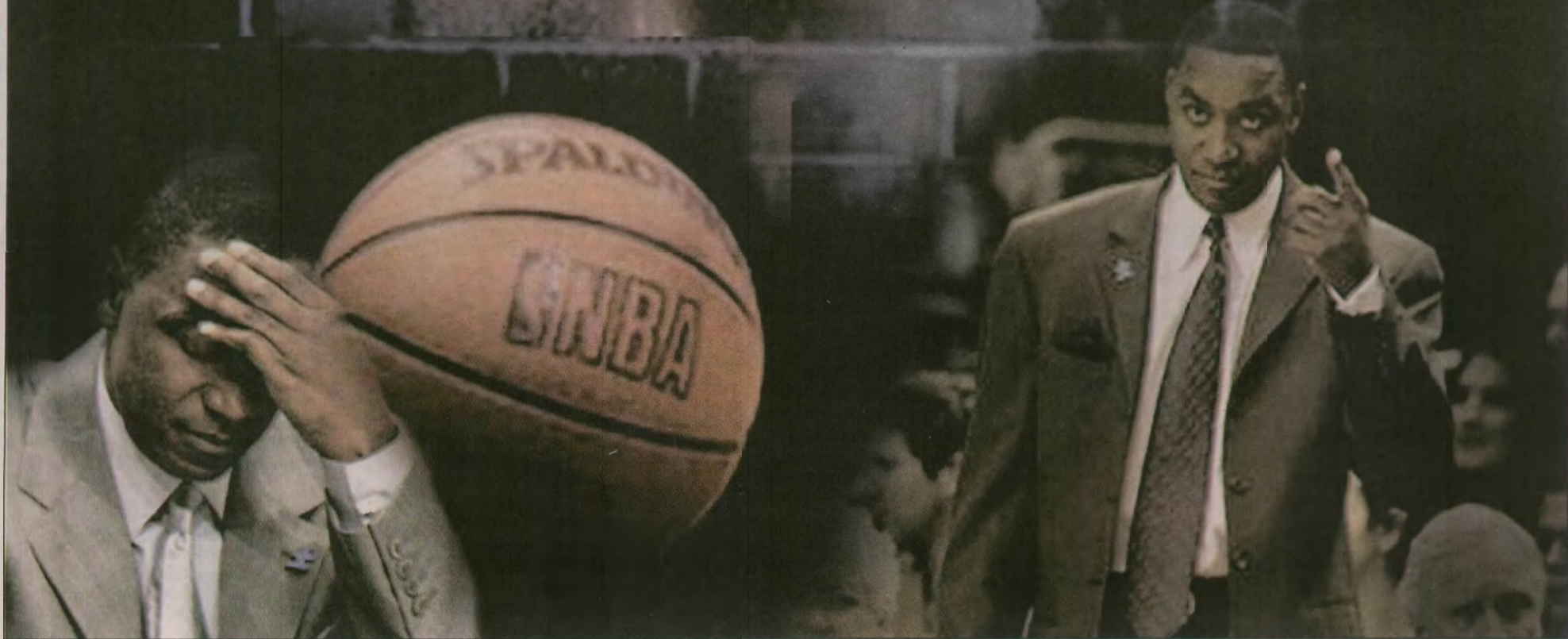
Contact T. Edward Andrews at tandrew1@nd.edu

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

T. Edward
Andrews

Scene &
Heard

To quote Ozzy Osbourne,
the Knicks have been
"going off the rails on a
crazy train" for the past
four years, and Thomas is
the conductor.





MADELINE NIES and MARY JESSE | Observer Graphic

By T. EDWARD ANDREWS
Scene Editor

You might say Brother Ali stands out in the hip-hop crowd. In an industry dominated by black artists and performers, white rappers such as Eminem and Vanilla Ice have always been novelty acts, but Brother Ali goes beyond the pale. He's an albino.

Born Jason Newman in Madison, Wisc., Brother Ali moved to another frigid city in a frigid state. After arriving on the Minneapolis, Minn. hip-hop scene, the fair-skinned MC's career began heating up. Brother Ali, who will be performing at Legends Saturday, eventually managed to prove naysayers and doubters wrong by signing a deal with music label Rhymesayers Entertainment.

As you might imagine, growing up albino made for a difficult childhood for Mr. Ali. As he matured Ali learned to grow a thick skin and worked on his lyrical rhyme schemes. Today, what he lacks in melanin he makes up for with colorful rhymes.

Unlike many of the hip-hop artists cluttering up FM airwaves with trash talk of drive-by shootings and strip club jaunts, Brother Ali's music offers a return to hip-hop's roots in political and social commentary. On his most recent album, "The Undisputed Truth," Ali recorded a song entitled "Uncle Sam Goddamn," in which he vents his frustrations about the American government and the drug- and

crime-infested streets of the nation's inner cities.

"Welcome to the united snakes / land of the thief / home of the slave / grand imperial guard / where the dollar is sacred / and power is God.

"Pioneered so many ways to degrade a human being / that it can't be changed to this day / legacy so ingrained in the way that we think / we no longer need chains to be slaves."

Brother Ali has an interesting, laid-back delivery: His voice makes for smooth listening, and yet it's laced with soul and drips with biting satire. Brother Ali's music features a variety of colorful influences, including some blues, folk and soul accompanying his beats.

Prior to "The Undisputed Truth,"

Brother Ali released an album entitled "Champion" in 2004. Between albums, Brother Ali suffered a fall from grace, including separating from his wife of 10 years, living as a homeless person and battling for custody of his son. His hunger and pain make their way through his voice to the ears of his listeners.

Of his latest album, Ali has said, "I wanted to make an album that gives you no choice but to feel what I'm feeling at the time. I made choices that sent me through a lot of struggle in the past few years and [producer] ANT and I have made music that really communicates the feeling of those situations."

Ali counts among his friends underground rapper Slug from the hip-hop

group Atmosphere. The group is also signed under the Rhymesayers Entertainment music label, and Atmosphere member ANT produced Brother Ali's first album, "Shadows on the Sun" in 2003.

Given that he's legally blind, Brother Ali may actually not see color, which is fitting considering his status as an aberration in the rap world. His MySpace page describes Ali as a "modern urban Normal Rockwell" and "a cross between John Gotti and Mahatma Gandhi." That's fitting praise for a man whose professional career continues to straddle lines of color and convention.

With the release of "The Undisputed Truth" in April of last year, 2007 saw Brother Ali continue to push toward developing a national audience. Hip-hop magazine The Source gave Ali an interview in October of last year, while Rolling Stone magazine named him a "New Artist to Watch." Brother Ali also appeared on "The Late Late Show" and "Late Night with Conan O'Brien," performing his songs "Uncle Same Goddamn" and "Take Me Home."

Brother Ali has made no bones about his future aspirations, saying that he is "trying to be one of the greatest of all time." Much like Muhammed Ali, the greatest boxer of all time and whose image graces the cover of his CD "Champion," Brother Ali has the mouth to talk the talk, and the skills to back it up. After the successes of 2007, Brother Ali kicks off 2008 and continues his push to the top tonight at Legends. The future looks bright for this up and coming hip-hopper.

Contact T. Edward Andrews at tandrew1@nd.edu



Brother Ali
Live @ Legends
Saturday, Jan. 19
10 p.m.

Photo courtesy of rhymesayers.com

SCENE AND HEARD

Comic book supercouple splits, fans cry collective tear

The unthinkable has occurred. As the Associated Press reported in a story Wednesday, longtime comic book heartthrobs and celebrity couple Peter Parker (a.k.a. Spider Man, if you have no knowledge of superheroes, movie theaters or life whatsoever) and his wife of 21 years, Mary Jane Watson, have made like a wishbone and split.

T. Edward
Andrews

Scene Editor

This is bad. Really bad. This is worse than the collapse of Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, the collapse of Bennifer or the inevitable collapse of Brangelina.

And, much like the collapse of the Soviet Union, no one saw this coming.

Well, perhaps one man did. Joe Quesada, the editor-in-chief of Marvel Comics, invented the storyline that tore asunder America's number one celebrity comic book couple, in order to inject new life into the Spider Man mythos.

Who, you ask, is this man to play God with both the heart of Peter Parker and the hearts and minds of his millions of fans?

Well, as it turns out, God has nothing to do with it. On the contrary, in fact, the Peter-MJ split has much more to do with a less-than-desirable cretin from the opposite end of the theological spectrum, an unsa-

very character named Mephisto who essentially plays the role of the Devil in the Marvel comics universe.

In the current Spidey storyline, entitled "Brand New Day," Peter Parker's beloved Aunt May suffers grave injury during an attack. In order to save her, Peter makes a deal with Mephisto in which the Satanic character will restore Aunt May's health in exchange for splitting up Peter and MJ, and even worse, erasing everyone in the universe's memory of it (except, of course, for the wall crawler's fans, who are up in arms over this latest little plot twist).

It would appear that Peter Parker isn't the only one striking deals with the Devil. Mr. Quesada, in a blatant ploy to boost comic book sales, has sold out the fans in the interest of selling them more products.

I've said it before and I'll say it again: Peter and MJ, as he calls her, have stood as the best celebrity couple in comics for as long as I've been alive. "Pem-Jay," as I like to call them, stood for the best of comics: attractive do-gooders with personalities as beautiful as their artificially drawn, inked and colored exteriors. An entire generation of comic book readers has always been able to count on Pem-Jay being there for them.

Comic book aficionados have always wanted to be Peter: smart, nerdy without being too nerdy, ability to stick to walls,



MADELINE NIES and MARY JESSE | Observer Graphic

Peter Parker and Mary Jane's split has caused an uproar in the comic book community and it spells potential doom for couples everywhere.

sling webs, proportionate strength and speed of a spider, and of course, that Spider-sense. And comic book readers have always wanted MJ to be their girlfriend: hot, redhead bombshell, calls Peter "Tiger," improbably ended up dating a high school nerd (sound appealing to a comic book reader?); very hot.

Abandon hope, all ye seniors who date here at Notre Dame and must make important relationship decisions in the coming

months, for it has left these snow-covered parts. If Spider Man, with his tactile ability to climb walls and hyper-adhesive webbing, can't make a relationship stick, what hope do the rest of us have?

Contact T. Edward Andrews at tandrew1@nd.edu

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

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Cardinals take down 13th-ranked Marquette

Cleveland State stuns No. 12 Butler for first regular season win over an AP top-25 team in program history

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Suddenly, Louisville's early season struggles seem a long time ago.

Terrence Williams scored 20 points and David Padgett had 17 points and 10 rebounds to help the Cardinals roll past No. 13 Marquette 71-51 on Thursday night.

Derrick Character added 11 points as Louisville (13-4, 3-1 Big East) dominated the Golden Eagles (13-3, 3-2), shutting down one of the Big East's most dynamic offenses with a suffocating zone defense that choked off passing lanes and controlled the lane.

Jerel McNeal led the Golden Eagles with 16 points and Wesley Matthews had 14, but Marquette shot just 30 percent from the field and got almost nothing from star guard Dominic James.

James scored a season-low three points before leaving with just over six minutes remaining after being fouled by Padgett. He held his right wrist before being helped to the bench. It's unclear whether he'll be able to play on Sunday when Marquette travels to Connecticut.

The rivalry has been marked by thrillers over the last decade, with 14 of the last 22 meetings being decided by five points or less or in overtime.

Not this time. Louisville took the lead two minutes in, using its size to power past Marquette's guard-heavy lineup. Looking inside to Padgett and Character on offense and extending the zone on defense, Louisville played with the kind of efficiency coach Rick Pitino has preached would come once the Cardinals finally got healthy.

Padgett, eight weeks removed from a fractured kneecap, continued to key Louisville's surge. He made 8 of 9 field goals, many of them tip-ins after he maneuvered his way between bodies in the lane.

The Golden Eagles simply had no answer. They missed all 12 3-pointers and were overwhelmed in the lane. Louisville outrebounded Marquette 43-30 and contested nearly every Marquette shot.

Louisville broke it open with a 12-0 run early in the second half after Marquette cut it to 30-26. Padgett started it with a hook shot, the followed with a layup off a nifty pass from Edgar Sosa. Jerry Smith then harassed James into airballing a 3-pointer. Padgett tipped in a miss by Williams, who added an 18-footer on Louisville's next possession. Seldom-used guard Preston Knowles ended the run with a pullup jumper as Marquette coach Tom Crean glared at the



Cleveland State guard Cedric Jackson celebrates after beating No. 12 Butler 56-52 Thursday. Jackson led all Vikings scorers with 14 points and added four assists.



Cardinals forward Earl Clark fouls Marquette forward Dan Fitzgerald in a 71-51 Louisville win Thursday.

officials for a no-call at the other end of the floor.

Marquette managed to make it 50-40 with just over eight minutes left, but an 11-2 Louisville run, capped by a 3-pointer from Williams, sealed Louisville's eighth win in nine games.

Louisville squandered an opportunity to bury the Golden Eagles early. Despite holding Marquette without a basket for nearly seven minutes and forcing the Golden Eagles into 25 percent shooting, Louisville only led 27-19 at the half.

Marquette managed to stay in it by forcing 11 Louisville turnovers, as the Golden Eagles got their hands into passing lanes, allowing them keep within striking distance despite their lowest scoring half of the season.

Things didn't get any better for Marquette after the break. Though the Golden Eagles were briefly able to get the deficit to four, Louisville withstood the onslaught and pulled away.

Vikings 56, Bulldogs 52

Cedric Jackson scored 14 points as Cleveland State, a program in disarray for most of the past 20 years, stunned No. 12 Butler on Thursday night for the Vikings' first regular-season win over an AP top-25 team.

J'Nathan Bullock added 14 points, the last one coming on a

free throw with 2.6 seconds left for Cleveland State (13-5, 6-0 Horizon League), whose students stormed the floor after the final horn.

The Vikings came in 1-26 in games against ranked opponents, with their only win coming on March 14, 1986, against No. 16 Indiana in the NCAA tournament under coach Kevin Mackey.

Freshman Matt Howard scored 16 points to lead Butler (16-2, 5-2), which missed a barrage of 3-pointers in the final seconds as they tried to tie it. Mike Green, the Bulldogs' leading scorer had 12 points of 4-of-11 shooting before fouling out and senior A.J. Graves had 5 and went only 2-of-11 from the floor.

It was Cleveland State's night from the start and the win validated second-year coach Gary Waters' turnaround with the Vikings, who were only 10-21 last season and haven't had a winning season since 2000-01.

Last season, Butler made a school and conference record 20 3-pointers in a 92-50 thumping of Cleveland State. But the Bulldogs were just 6-of-23 from behind the arc and they couldn't buy a 3 when they needed one down the stretch.

Green's two free throws pulled within 50-48 with 3:21 left, but Jackson, a transfer from St. John's, was left open on the right

wing and drilled a 3-pointer to put the Vikings ahead by five.

Cleveland State's fans, who have seen so many potential upsets slip away in the past, began sensing the upset before Graves drove through the lane and dropped in a high-arching shot that went 20 feet in the air.

But with a chance to pull Butler closer after a turnover, Graves, an 89-percent free throw shooter, missed the front end of a 1-and-1 with 2:23 to go. George Tandy then scored inside for Cleveland State and Campbell, Graves and Juilan Betko misfired on 3s in the last minute as Butler lost for the first time in nine games.

Cleveland State has been a mess for years. However, Waters, who built Kent State into a perennial 20-win team, is slowly turning around the Vikings, who were only 3-13 in the Horizon last year.

It's been 21 years since Cleveland State made its memorable NCAA tourney run when guard Kenny "Mouse" McFadden and cast of unknowns upset Bobby Knight's Hoosiers and Saint Joseph's before losing in a regional semifinal to David Robinson and Navy.

All Waters needed was a signature win to make everyone believe the small school could do big things again — and now he's got it.

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PERSONAL

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AROUND THE NATION

Friday, January 18, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 17

NHL

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
New Jersey	26-16-3	55	7-3-0
Pittsburgh	26-16-3	55	9-0-1
Philadelphia	24-15-5	53	8-1-1
NY Islanders	23-18-5	51	5-2-3
NY Rangers	22-20-5	49	4-5-1

Eastern Conference, Northeast Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Ottawa	29-12-4	62	6-4-0
Montreal	23-14-8	54	6-2-2
Boston	22-18-4	48	4-6-0
Buffalo	19-19-6	44	0-5-5
Toronto	17-21-8	42	2-7-1

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Atlanta	23-22-4	48	5-4-1
Carolina	22-22-4	48	3-6-1
Florida	20-23-4	29	2-7-1
Washington	19-21-5	27	6-2-2
Tampa Bay	17-24-5	22	2-6-2

Western Conference, Central Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Detroit	33-10-4	70	6-3-1
St. Louis	22-16-6	50	4-3-3
Columbus	22-18-6	50	6-4-0
Nashville	22-19-4	48	6-2-2
Chicago	21-21-4	46	2-6-2

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Minnesota	26-17-3	55	6-3-1
Vancouver	25-17-4	54	5-5-0
Calgary	23-17-8	54	6-3-1
Colorado	25-18-3	53	4-5-1
Edmonton	21-22-4	46	5-4-1

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
San Jose	25-13-7	57	7-1-2
Anaheim	25-17-6	56	7-2-1
Dallas	25-18-5	55	3-6-1
Phoenix	24-20-1	49	7-3-0
Los Angeles	18-27-2	38	6-4-0

NCAA Women's Basketball AP Poll

team	record	previous
1 Connecticut	15-0	1
2 Tennessee	14-1	2
3 North Carolina	16-1	3
4 Maryland	19-1	4
5 Rutgers	13-2	5
6 Baylor	14-1	8
7 Stanford	14-3	7
8 California	15-2	9
9 LSU	13-3	11
10 Duke	13-3	12
11 Oklahoma	10-3	6
12 Georgia	14-2	10
13 George Washington	13-3	17
14 West Virginia	12-3	16
15 Old Dominion	12-3	18
16 Ohio State	13-3	19
17 NOTRE DAME	13-3	14
18 Oklahoma State	14-1	25
19 Texas A&M	12-4	13
20 Wyoming	14-1	21
21 Auburn	13-4	22
22 Pittsburgh	13-3	NR
23 DePaul	12-3	24
24 Texas	12-4	15
25 Colorado	12-3	23

NFL



O.J. Simpson waves to bystanders at Miami Airport Thursday on his way home from his bail revocation in Las Vegas. Simpson was allowed to return home to await trial for armed robbery, despite the judge doubling his bail.

Simpson returns to Miami, awaiting trial

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — O.J. Simpson returned home to Miami on Thursday, a day after an angry Las Vegas judge doubled his bail but allowed him to stay out of jail while he awaits trial on armed robbery.

Tom Scotto, who coordinated with four other friends to raise Simpson's bail, greeted Simpson after his arrival at Miami International Airport and escorted him to a waiting sport utility vehicle. Neither man spoke to reporters before the vehicle departed from the airport.

When Scotto talked to

Simpson the night before the bail revocation hearing, "He said, 'Pray for me.' That's a first. He was really nervous she wasn't going to let him out."

Simpson, 60, posted bond and was released from jail just after 11 p.m. Wednesday. He walked out by himself, got into a white Mercedes, and was driven away without speaking to the media.

The former football star was picked up last Friday in Florida by a bail bondsman and taken back to Nevada for violating terms of his release.

He had been ordered to have no contact with co-defendants or witnesses

after he was freed on bail in September on charges of orchestrating the armed robbery of two sports memorabilia dealers at a hotel room.

But he found himself before a judge again Wednesday because he mentioned co-defendant Clarence "C.J." Stewart while leaving a sputtering, foul-mouthed phone message two months ago for his bail bondsman, Miguel Pereira of You Ring We Spring.

"I don't know, Mr. Simpson, what the heck you were thinking, or maybe that's the problem — you weren't," Clark County District Judge

Jackie Glass said.

In the message, Simpson asked Pereira to tell Stewart how frustrated he was about testimony during a preliminary hearing several days earlier.

"I just want, want C.J. to know that ... I'm tired of this (expletive)," Simpson said, according to a transcript. "Fed up with (expletives) changing what they told me. All right?"

Though there was no indication Stewart received the message, prosecutor Chris Owens suggested it was threatening. The judge merely said she didn't like the tone.

"I don't know if it's just arro-

IN BRIEF

Commissioner receives three-year extension

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — Major League Baseball owners gave commissioner Bud Selig a three-year contract extension through 2012 on Thursday, a move made two days after some congressmen were critical of his leadership in responding to the sport's drug problem.

Selig, who has been in charge of MLB since 1992, had repeatedly said since December 2006 that he would retire at the end of 2009 and that his mind couldn't be changed.

"This is clearly it," he said after the latest extension was approved in a unanimous vote on the final day of a two-day owners' meeting. "I could say this without equivocation."

Earlier this week, Selig and union head Donald Fehr testified before a congressional committee that both criticized baseball for its steroids problem and praised the sport for strides made during the past three years.

Iverson donates to gun buyback program

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — Allen Iverson donated \$100,000 to a program to keep guns off the streets where he grew up.

The Denver Nuggets guard donated the money to the Peninsula Community Foundation to help the Newport News Police Department continue its gun buyback program, U.S. Rep. Robert Scott, D-Va., announced in a statement Wednesday.

"I can remember growing up in Newport News and Hampton and if we can prevent one more child from being killed and another family from crying and mourning the death of another loved one, then it is more than worth it," Iverson said in a statement released by Scott's office.

The program offers money or gift cards to residents who turn in guns to police, no questions asked. Residents turned in about 400 guns within hours after the program was launched Dec. 15.

World track champion wants to race amputee

World 100-meter champion Tyson Gay says he'd have no problem racing against Oscar Pistorius, the double amputee sprinter who was recently barred from the Olympics.

"I don't see any problems with it," the American sprinter said Thursday. "If you want to go compete and put your heart into it, I see no problem whatsoever."

On Monday, track and field's governing body said Pistorius is ineligible to compete at the Beijing Olympics this summer because his "Cheetah" racing blades are technical aids that give him a clear advantage.

Pistorius finished second in the 400 meters at the South African national championships last year against able-bodied runners.

He is hoping that independent tests will show he doesn't gain an unfair advantage from the racing blades and that that might change the IAAF's stance.

around the dial

NBA

Trailblazers at Heat
7:00 p.m., ESPN

Warriors at Bulls
9:30 p.m., ESPN

NFL

Pair of Patriots returns home

Seau, Harrison to face Chargers for first time as teammates in career

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The last time Junior Seau played in an AFC championship game, his team was given little chance to beat the top seed.

In January 1995, the Steelers won their first playoff game in a rout, while the Chargers eked out a one-point victory that set up the matchup between those teams the following weekend.

"Sitting in my hotel room in Pittsburgh and hearing all the cheers and pep rallies that were going around and all the Super Bowl videos that were being taped, everything was against us," the Patriots linebacker said. "The yellow towels were flying around. It was definitely a time when we thought we were against the world."

But San Diego won 17-13 in Pittsburgh then went on to one of the toughest losses in Seau's 18-year career, a 49-26 rout by San Francisco in the Super Bowl.

Thirteen years later, the Chargers aren't given much of a chance against the perfect Patriots on Sunday, the day after Seau's 39th birthday.

But he knows expectations can fall short. Didn't the Patriots squander a 21-3 lead in last year's AFC title game and lose to Indianapolis, 38-34?

So Seau and safety Rodney Harrison, a rookie on that 1994 Chargers team, are working hard to avoid an upset that can stop New England's unbeaten

season one game short of another Super Bowl appearance.

"I tell the young guys, 'Don't take anything for granted because at any point in time it can be over with, whether it's a season, whether it's a game, whether it's your career,'" the 35-year-old Harrison said Thursday. "I think I have a greater appreciation now that I'm older."

Seau sees many comparisons between this year's San Diego team and the one in 1994 — the last two Chargers clubs to reach the AFC championship game.

"The major comparison is that they're confident," he said. "We look forward to moving on, growing every day to the day it comes we have to go out and perform."

Seau and Harrison will play against the Chargers as teammates for the first time in their long careers. Both missed last season's 24-21 upset playoff win at San Diego with injuries.

Sunday's game, then, should have some special emotions for them, especially since Seau is a native of San Diego.

Right?

"I try not to get too Oprah with it and know that it's just another game and know that I'm so happy for the city of San Diego, my hometown," he said, but "it's going to be a challenge of the game of football, nothing more."

Harrison, a fiery, hard-hitter like Seau, also prefers to show his emotions on the field.

"It's just special to be in the AFC Championship," Harrison said. "I don't know necessarily facing the Chargers makes it any more special."

The Patriots have spent the week building up the Chargers

as the best team in the NFL since Thanksgiving. They were 5-5 before the holiday but 8-0 since then.

New England coach Bill Belichick likes to point out that his team has won fewer games in that stretch. But that's because they had a playoff bye and are 7-0 after Thanksgiving — but 17-0 overall.

San Diego coach Norv Turner isn't surprised that Belichick fawned over the Chargers.

"Everyone knows that New England right now is playing the best football in the league and it's going to be a real challenge for us," Turner said.

Tom Brady's 50 touchdown passes and Randy Moss' 23 scoring catches are NFL single-season records. So are the 589 points the Patriots scored.

But the advanced age of their defense may be catching up. They allowed three scoring drives of at least 80 yards in last Saturday night's 31-20 playoff win over Jacksonville after giving up four touchdowns in a 38-35 win over the New York Giants in the regular-season finale.

The Chargers' defense is younger with a knack for creating turnovers. They led the NFL with 30 interceptions and 48 takeaways then added two interceptions and one fumble recovery in last Sunday's 28-24 playoff win at Indianapolis. All-Pro cornerback Antonio Cromartie's 10 interceptions led the league.

"It's remarkable the things we've done defensively," Turner said. "It seems like one guy tips (the ball) and it goes up in the air and one of our guys finds a way to get it."

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2008 SPRING EXHIBITIONS



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January 13 – March 9, 2008

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RAPTURE: Recent Paintings
by Maria Tomasula
January 13 – March 2, 2008

Rapture, 1998
Maria Tomasula, American
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FENCING

Hurley in Budapest for Olympic dreams

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Kelley Hurley is in Budapest, in pursuit of gold.

The sophomore will fence in the women's epee World Cup Grand Prix event there today and tomorrow. Hurley is No. 2 in the nation in women's epee, behind only her sister, Courtney. Both are fighting for spots on the U.S. Olympic team for this summer's Beijing Games, where the International Olympic Committee is imposing a limit of two women's epeeists per country.

The international event offers twice the rankings points as the domestic event this weekend, and thus gives the sophomore a chance to solidify her strong position in the U.S. standings before Beijing.

Meanwhile, 14 other Notre Dame fencers and one future member of the Irish — top American foilist Gerek Meinhardt — will travel to Atlanta to compete for spots on the U.S. national team. The fencers in Atlanta will battle to qualify for this season's World Championships.

The USFA North American Cup — which will include fencers from the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico and Mexico — has flights for the junior (under-20) and senior competitors. The 11 Irish fencers under 20 years of age can compete for national team

spots in both divisions.

The Notre Dame women dominated the Western Invite at the Air Force Academy last week, while the men went 4-1 and captured a narrow overall victory over Stanford, despite losing to the Cardinal in the head-to-head competition.

"It will be interesting to see how well they compete," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said. "They fenced well [against] Stanford, but it's another step, another class. It's not that they're just fencing against college-aged kids. They're fencing against everyone."

Though the event in Atlanta is not an NCAA-sanctioned competition, assistant coach Gia Kvaratskhelia, who trains the Irish foilists, will accompany the team to Georgia. Bednarski probably will make some of the competition, but he was unsure when he would arrive in Atlanta.

Of the 14 Irish fencers competing, nine are freshman and one is a sophomore. Still, Bednarski is confident that they will not face additional obstacles against older fencers.

"The kids are rather well experienced, who are going," he said. "I doubt that they will have an experience problem. It will be how they work and how well they fence."

Notre Dame returns to team action Jan. 26 in New York for the NYU Duals.

Contact Ken Fowler at
kfowler1@nd.edu

Irish in Atlanta

Men's Sabre:

Freshman Avery Zuck
Freshman Barron Nydam

Women's Sabre:

Freshman Sarah Borrmann
Freshman Eileen Hassett

Men's Epee:

Freshman Andrew Seroff
Junior Karol Kostka

Women's Epee:

Freshman Ewa Nelip
Junior Kim Montoya

Men's Foil:

Freshman Steve Kubik
Freshman Zach Schirtz
Sophomore Teddy Hodges
Junior Mark Kubik
Senior Jakub Jedrkowiak

Women's Foil:

Freshman Hayley Reese

SMC BASKETBALL

Saint Mary's to face Tri-State

Belles look to improve record behind Kessler's offensive prowess

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

After another conference win and a record-breaking night on Wednesday, the Belles are back on the court Saturday as they take on MIAA foe Tri-State in their second home game. Saint Mary's steps on the court after a 72-69 win over Kalamazoo, bringing both its conference (3-3) and overall (7-7) records to .500.

Alison Kessler led Saint Mary's in its win at Kalamazoo Wednesday night, scoring 41 points, breaking the school's previous record, set in the 1998-99 season by Julie

Norman. Kessler's record is just one point off the MIAA record of points in a single game. Her 41 points are also the most points scored in a game by a Division III player this season.

The Belles managed to score the first six points of the game, the biggest lead either team would have in the first half. Kalamazoo led 37-33 at intermission, and Saint Mary's would not manage to regain the lead until Kessler's lay-up made the score 70-69 with 34 seconds to go in the game. Two free throws by Kessler and a missed three pointer by Kalamazoo's Kelsey Bailey solidified the win for the Belles.

Saturday will be the first time

the Belles play a game at home since their conference opener on Dec. 5, when they lost to rival Calvin 67-52. The Belles' last took on Tri-State when they defeated the Thunder 82-68 on Dec. 8.

"We are really looking forward to having another home game Saturday," Kessler said. "We are really focusing on our defense. Tri-State is a good team, so we will need to rebound well and play solid defense to win."

Saturday's game begins at 3 p.m. at Saint Mary's Angela Athletic Center.

Contact Meaghan Veselik at
mvesel01@saintmarys.edu

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Notre Dame to take on Louisville

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Editor

Under coach Jay Louderback, Notre Dame has become a national power, consistently ranked in the national top 10 and a threat each year to make a run in the NCAA Tournament.

On Sunday, No. 9 Notre Dame heads to Louisville to take part in its first dual match of the season.

But this spring, the Irish will be without Catrina and Christian Thompson, one of the most successful doubles teams

in Notre Dame history. To replace the Thompsons, Notre Dame has another formidable duo — senior Brook Buck and junior Kelcy Tefft, who captured the ITA National Indoor Championship in November and are ranked No. 3 to begin the season.

On the singles side, the Irish have significant talent, with five netters ranked in the top-100 to begin the season. Only three other teams in the country can claim this accomplishment. Sophomore Cosmina Ciobanu, at No. 62, is the highest ranked of the group and is coming off a

freshman campaign in which she went 36-5 — including an astounding 26-1 record in dual meets, mostly playing from the No. 5 slot.

Buck sits just behind Ciobanu at No. 64. Buck had an impressive 14-1 dual match record but was sidelined with an injury for a portion of last season. Rounding out Notre Dame's representation in the rankings are No. 82 junior Katie Potts, No. 88 sophomore Colleen Rielley and No. 89 Kali Krisik.

Contact Chris Hine at
chine@nd.edu

LINING UP



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

The Irish hockey squad lines up for pre-game ceremonies before 2-1 Notre Dame victory over Bowling Green Nov. 20.

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ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Team prepares for Big East

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

The Irish will have their hands full this weekend as they take on Louisville at the Rolfs Aquatic Center and then travel to Toledo in preparation for February's Big East Championships.

Only weeks removed from a grueling training trip in Miami, the Irish hope to build off of their strong finish in the Irish Invitational last Saturday against Michigan, Indiana and Illinois and shake off a bit more of the rust they were suffering from.

"I think the girls have dealt with the fatigue really well, but we are definitely not ready for the Big East Conference finals right now," assistant coach Joel White said.

The Irish Invitational was an important stepping stone for the Irish before they take on

Louisville, an important Big East player.

The swimmers seem well prepared to gear up for the run down the stretch.

"The team chemistry the girls have right now is the best I have ever seen," White said. "They are happier than ever before."

Notre Dame brings a 3-0 all-time record against the Cardinals to the pool, including two wins during head coach Carrie Nixon's tenure. This is the second and last Big East team the Irish will face this season before the conference meet on Feb. 28.

"They have one really fast swimmer in each event," White said. "We are going to have to put someone who can come up with the victory in every event if we want to win the meet."

Immediately following the event with Louisville, the Irish will travel to Toledo, Ohio, to face the Rockets. This will be the

Irish's second meeting with the Rockets, and the first since 1996. The Irish won that meeting, and they bring a great deal of confidence for Nixon's first meeting with the team.

"They also have very fast swimmers, but we are hopeful for another win," White said of Toledo.

Leading the way for the Irish is a strong group of young swimmers, including freshman Sam Maxwell, freshman Amywren Miller and sophomore Megan Farrell.

Junior Casey Wagner is coming off a shoulder injury and is coming on strong for the Irish late in the season, providing a big boost, especially for the 800-yard freestyle relay. She led the Irish relay to victory in the Irish Invitational.

The Irish are young but talented, and that creates a high level of uncertainty as to what to expect down the stretch.

"A young bunch like this is hard to predict," White said. "But they are definitely not too far off."

Contact Jared Jedick at
jjedick@nd.edu

MEN'S SWIMMING

Swimmers ready to challenge Cardinals

By ELLYN MICHALAK
Sports Writer

With a 1-1 record in 2008 and a 3-4 record on the season, No. 22 Notre Dame will host Louisville tonight at 5 and then hit the road to Evanston, Ill., where they will take on No. 18 Northwestern Saturday.

"The meets this weekend are really important. The meet against Louisville is an especially big one," Irish coach Tim Welsh said.

Though the Irish lost their first match of the New Year against LSU 167-95, they rebounded and won their first home match of the season last weekend against Oakland. The Irish dominated the Golden Grizzlies and snatched first place in 10 events, resulting in a final score of 174-126.

Leading the Irish to the victory against Oakland were sophomore

John Lytle, sophomore Ross Moore, and junior Michael Bulfin — each with two victories.

Lytle snagged top honors in the 200- and 100-yard freestyle races with times of 1:41.08 and 46.27, respectively. Moore dominated the 200 and 100 butterfly races with times of 1:51.59 and 50.44, respectively.

Mwanwhile, Bulfin controlled the diving boards, winning both the three-meter and one-meter events.

In the second meet of the weekend, the Irish will face Wildcats senior Kyle Bubolz, who is the reigning Big Ten swimmer of the week.

The Irish met with both of this weekend's opponents in the 2006-07 season. Notre Dame lost to the Wildcats 167-131 but beat the Cardinals 146-94.

Contact Ellyn Michalak at
emichala@nd.edu

"They also have very fast swimmers, but we are hopeful for another win."

Joel White
Irish assistant coach

"The meets this weekend are really important."

Tim Welsh
Irish coach

NHL

Modano, Stars win third straight visit in San Jose

Hasek comes up big in goaltenders battle to secure Red Wings 3-2 overtime victory against Vancouver

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Just how much do Sharks fans dislike Dallas? Enough to boo the word "star" both times it's sung in the pregame national anthem.

Yet home ice is no advantage for the San Jose Sharks in this lively rivalry. Mike Modano made himself at home away from home again Thursday night, and the Pacific Division race got another bit tighter.

Modano scored his second goal with 7:06 left, and the Stars improbably won in San Jose for the sixth straight time, 4-2 over the slumping Sharks.

Marty Turco made 28 saves, Niklas Hagman also scored and Jeff Halpern added an insurance goal with 2:09 remaining for the Stars, who won for just the third time in 10 games overall.

Though coach Dave Tippett still is trying to figure out what makes his club so inconsistent, Dallas' slumps are no match for a trip at the Shark Tank, where the Stars have won in all three visits this season — despite being winless in three games against the Sharks back home in Big D.

"Just call us the San Jose Stars," Modano said jokingly. "I don't know why we play so well (here). It's a great crowd. They're really supportive, and they really get into the game. They're fun to play in front of. It's usually a fun and revved-up game."

Modano became the NHL's leading American-born scorer with another two-goal game at the Shark Tank on Nov. 7. The

veteran has just three multi-goal games all season, but he's plenty comfortable on San Jose's rutted ice.

"Our first couple of shifts, we weren't playing hard, and then it kicked in," Turco said. "When certain players begin to play hard, it's inspiring. It was a treat to watch us play."

The win pulled the Stars even with the Sharks in the division standings, just one point behind first-place Anaheim. Dallas finished up a five-game road trip with just two victories, but has a four-game homestand before next weekend's All-Star break.

"It's weird how this series has gone," Tippett said. "I hope we can break the streak someday at home. It's a logjam at the top (of the division), and we're in the middle. It's going to continue to be a battle for spots."

Joe Thornton and Milan Michalek scored for the Sharks, who have lost three straight — all to division rivals — after winning seven of their previous eight. Evgeni Nabokov stopped 27 shots, but only Montreal has fewer home victories than the Sharks' eight.

"Again, we're struggling with our style of play at home," defenseman Craig Rivet said. "Right now, it's a bit lackadaisical. ... They worked harder, and they deserved it."

San Jose has three more home games before the All-Star break, and several players cited this meeting with Dallas and Saturday night's visit from NHL-leading Detroit as an important measure of

their progress.

"If we keep playing this way, we'll get the same results," Thornton said.

After Michalek and Hagman each scored their 16th goals in the first period, Modano put the Stars ahead late in the second on a fine pass from Loui Eriksson from behind the net. The goal snapped a nine-game drought for Modano.

Thornton tied it early in the third period when his attempt at a pass to Steve Bernier ricocheted off defenseman Matt Niskanen's stick and landed behind Turco. The goal was Thornton's second in two games after going 14 games without a goal.

Both teams had good scoring chances before Modano ripped his 14th goal of the season through traffic.

"A team like that, that's been on the road a while, you want to squeeze the life out of them, and we didn't get it done," Sharks coach Ron Wilson said. "You want to have a better performance, considering they're a little road-weary and probably a little desperate, and we didn't match it."

Red Wings 3, Canucks 2

Two of the NHL's best goaltenders squared off for 65 minutes, and then some.

Henrik Zetterberg scored the only goal of the shootout to lift the Detroit Red Wings to a win over the Vancouver Canucks on Thursday night.

Dan Cleary scored twice for Detroit in regulation and Dominik Hasek made 26 saves. The NHL-leading Red Wings snapped a three-game

losing streak.

Henrik Sedin had a goal and an assist for Vancouver and Markus Naslund also scored. Roberto Luongo made 47 saves for the Canucks.

"We threw a lot of shots at Luongo. He's a great goalie, so that's what you have to do," Cleary said. "Dom shut them down. He was great for us."

Zetterberg scored the winning goal in the shootout by slipping a backhand between Luongo's pads after a fake.

"I could have gone high, but he opened up the five-hole," Zetterberg said. "Luongo played a great game."

The Canucks' goaltender praised Zetterberg's move.

"It was a simple, yet brilliant play," Luongo said. "He carried from his forehead to his backhand, waited for the opening and put it five-hole."

Luongo was voted in as a starter for the NHL All-Star game on Jan. 27 in Atlanta but has elected to spend time with his pregnant wife during the break instead. Detroit's other goalie, Chris Osgood, was chosen for the team, and Red Wings coach Mike Babcock said that he would start him if the decision is his.

San Jose's Evgeni Nabokov and St. Louis' Manny Legace are the other two Western Conference All-Star goaltenders.

Vancouver scored twice in the last four minutes of the second period to tie it at 2.

"He [Luongo] gave us a chance to tie up the game and we did it," Canucks coach Alain Vigneault said.

Sedin made it 2-1 with 4:39

left when he put a rebound into an open net for his ninth goal. Naslund tied it with 1:52 remaining when his attempted pass from the right circle deflected in off the skate of Detroit defenseman Brian Rafalski. It was Naslund's 16th goal.

Less than two minutes earlier, during a Red Wings power play, Rafalski had the puck in the slot and Luongo was down and out. But Rafalski's shot hit the crossbar.

"I almost had to laugh," Hasek said. "His shot hits the crossbar on one end and the puck goes in off his skate at the other end."

Cleary's second goal, his 18th of the season, made it 2-0. He tipped in Valtteri Filppula's pass, which came to him through his legs at 1:51 of the second period.

Filppula won a battle for the puck along the right boards, skated across the top of the right circle and made the pass to Cleary.

"Fil made a real headsy play," Cleary said. "Drew a lot of guys to him. I just went to the net. I just tried to get a stick on it as much as I could."

Vancouver didn't have a shot from the eight-minute mark of the first period until 7:32 of the second period, a total of 19:32.

"Obviously, in the first 30 minutes they gave us a lesson in how to generate offense," Vigneault said.

Cleary opened the scoring with 1:16 left in the first period when he tipped Andreas Lilja's shot from the left point out of the air and past Luongo.

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MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Squad looks to build on earlier successes

Indoor Opener starts spring season in Loftus



WU YUE/The Observer

Irish sophomore jumper Matt Schipper pole vaults at the Blue and Gold Invitational on Dec. 7 at the Loftus Center.

By PAT STYNES
Sports Writer

After winning 24 of 31 events at the Blue and Gold Invitational in December, the men's team looks to start out strong in 2008. At the Invitational, both old and new members stepped up, with multiple freshmen earning Big East qualifications and senior Kurt Benninger blazing through the 3,000-meter race to the second-fastest time in the nation this season.

Notre Dame will host the Indoor Opener tonight at 5:30 in the Loftus Center.

Irish coach Joe Piane said he is very pleased with how the younger players are doing well to fill the gaps left by last year's seniors.

"It's tough to come back and perform on a high level when you lose players of that high a caliber," Piane said. "But the underclassmen are stepping up in a big way, and this year's upperclassmen haven't missed a beat."

The Irish will look to freshman Miklos Szebeny in the

short distance events. An international student who hails from Hungary, he came to Notre Dame already a very accomplished sprinter. He captured the national title for his age group multiple times in both the 100- and 200-meter events. He also is co-owner of the record for the 4x400 relay. When Szebeny ran in his first event back in December, he settled in with ease as he took first place in the 200-meter dash.

The long distance events will be an opportunity for veterans to continue to improve. Senior Kurt Benninger will look to dominate in the 3,000-meter race. Meanwhile, sophomore Jake Walker will look to keep improving after an impressive debut at the invitational when he outran the competition in the 5,000-meter race.

The team will also look to freshman thrower Greg Davis, who showed potential with a first place finish at last month's qualifier.

Contact Pat Stynes at pstynes@nd.edu

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

Irish kick off regular season

Connelly looking for freshmen, veterans to compete in event

By ANDY ZICCARELLI
Sports Writer

The Irish will heed the gun of their regular season at 5 p.m. today with the 13-team Notre Dame Indoor Opener.

"We will use Friday night's competition to see where we are after the long break," Irish coach Tim Connelly said. "Most of our team has only been together since Monday."

Though the Indoor Opener officially starts the regular season, Notre Dame has already competed in the Blue-Gold Invitational, which took place on Dec. 7. Some top performers from that meet included Anna Weber,

whose mark of 17.54 meters in the weight throw qualified her for the Big East Championship, and freshman runner Cora Dayon, who won the 500-meter run with a time of 1:14:37. Both are expected to contribute Friday.

The meet will also be an opportunity for new runners to get a chance to compete.

"Most of the people who competed in December will compete again on Friday, but we will have some additions who are now training and should be ready to run," Connelly said.

Among others, the Irish will welcome back returning cross county All-American Sunni Olding who was out

part of the fall because of an injury. Additionally, Notre Dame will welcome back freshman standout Marissa Treece, who had been sidelined with illness. Both will run distance for the Irish.

Notre Dame will look to carry the success it had more than a month ago into Friday's meet.

"Although there will be several more teams here, the level of competition will be similar to the first meet," said Connelly.

The meet will start with the long jump, and the running events will start with the 60-meter dash at 6:30 pm.

Contact Andy Zicarelli at azicare@nd.edu

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Henin extends winning streak to 31

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Justine Henin ran her winning streak to 31 matches Friday, overcoming serving troubles to hold off 25th-seeded Francesca Schiavone 7-5, 6-4 in the third round of the Australian Open.

The top-ranked Belgian star will face Aravene Rezai or Hsieh Su-wei in the fourth round, and a quarterfinal against Maria Sharapova looms.

"I hate to look too far," Henin said. "I just want to get ready, improve my game and be in my best shape. I know the draw, but I like to stay concentrated on myself."

After retiring from the 2006 Australian final against Amelie Mauresmo because of a stomach illness, Henin skipped the event last year because she was going through a divorce.

She has dominated the women's tour since returning,

finishing 63-4, including two majors and the season-ending championship, in 2007. She added the Sydney International title last week to build up for Melbourne Park.

She got only 48 percent of her first serves into play and was lucky it didn't cost her more against Schiavone, who has a similar style.

"It was really exciting. I'm glad to win in two," Henin said. "She's always given me trouble in the past, so it was a tough third round for me."

Henin controlled the crucial points better than Schiavone, who frequently screamed or covered her face after mistakes.

After the two players exchanged four service breaks in the first set, Schiavone served at 5-5. The Italian double-faulted on the first point, then came a foot fault as she served at break point.

In the second, Henin was down 0-1 and 15-30 before

winning 15 of 16 points in four straight games. Schiavone hit back, and had the ideal chance to get back on serve with double break point as Henin served for the match, but over-hit a forehand when she returned a second serve. Henin won the last three points to close.

Nikolay Davydenko, seeded fourth, advanced to the fourth round of the men's draw, beating France's Marc Gicquel 6-3, 6-2, 6-3.

Marcos Baghdatis downed 2005 champion Marat Safin 6-4, 6-4, 2-6, 3-6, 6-2 in a momentum-swinging match that started Thursday and stretched into Friday morning and completed the second round.

Safin was the last player to beat top-ranked Roger Federer in Melbourne, breaking up the Swiss star's four Australian titles with a semi-final upset three years ago.

Baghdatis is one of three losing Australian Open finalists still in contention — a list that will certainly be reduced in the third round. He will play 2005 runner-up Lleyton Hewitt next. Fernando Gonzalez, who lost last year's championship match, beat South Korean Lee Hyung-taik 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

Video of Baghdatis, a Greek Cypriot, holding a flare and apparently yelling "Turks Out," emerged in the Australian media on Friday, 10 months after it was posted on a video sharing Web site.

The 2006 runner-up did not apologize for the video in a statement released Friday in response to criticism from Melbourne's Turkish-Cypriot community, but said he wanted to concentrate only on the tennis.

Cyprus has been divided along ethnic lines since 1974.

The International Tennis Federation and Tennis Australia both said they would not be making any comment.

Federer has reached the finals of the last 10 Grand Slam tournaments and won eight of them, losing twice to Rafael Nadal at the French Open.

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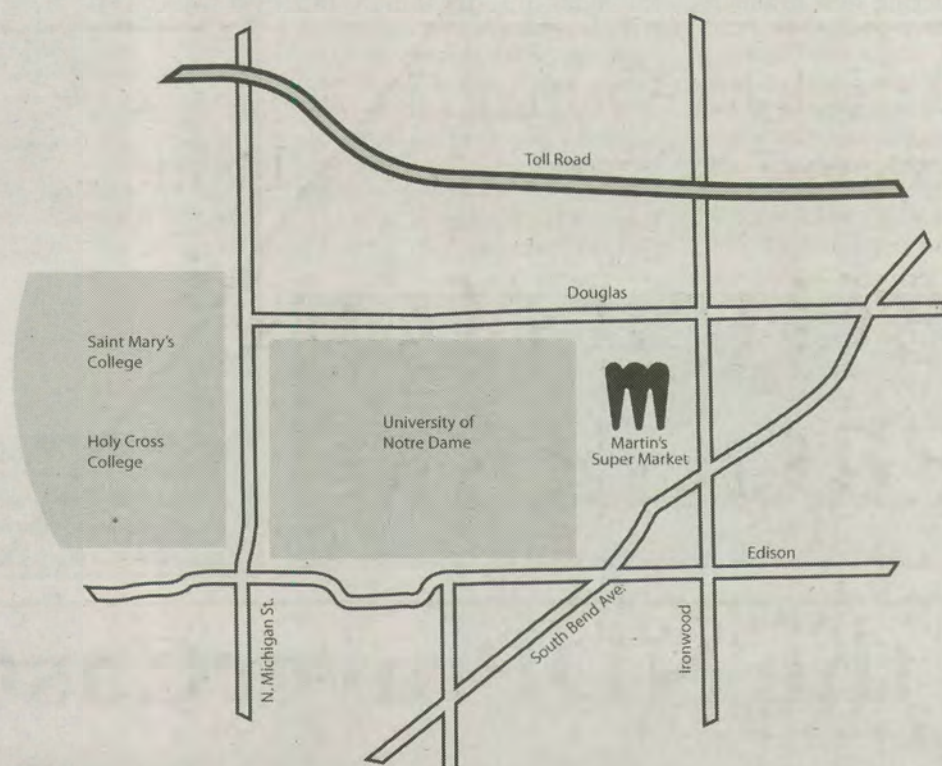
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SMC SWIMMING

Team to look for fresh start in doubleheader

By PETER REISENAUER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's hopes to get back on the winning track this weekend when it faces Olivet and Hillsdale, after dropping its last meet to nationally ranked Hope.

"Hope is one of the best teams in our conference and we definitely put up a good fight

against them," Belles captain Melissa Gerbeth said.

Saint Mary's is fresh off its post-Christmas training in Deerfield Beach, Fla., where the team practiced twice a day in what Gerbeth called the "most intense training we have had all year."

Coach Ryan Dombkowski hopes that team bonding through this training will carry

over to the last five weeks of the season — and especially in the meets against Olivet and Hillsdale.

"This weekend we have two of our most competitive meets of the season," Dombkowski said.

Dombkowski noted the importance of his entire team stepping up this weekend but highlighted a couple of key perform-

ers he hopes will carry them to victory.

"We will need huge individual contributions from our returning conference distance champion, [Gerbeth], to talented stroke specialists Casey Niezer, Caroline Arness, and Maggie Williams, to our sprinters Lauren Hartman and Meredith Lierz, all the way to anyone just swimming in a single event."

Dombkowski said.

He also made special mention of sophomore Lindsey Nelis, who swam to a time of 18:59.01 in the 1,650-yard freestyle against Hope and was named the Saint Mary's college athlete of the week for her performance.

Contact Peter Reisenauer at preisena@nd.edu

Hoyas

continued from page 28

true road game the Irish have played was the loss to the Golden Eagles.

But even though the Hoyas are unbeaten at home, Notre Dame sophomore forward Luke Harangody said the Irish are ready to play well away from South Bend.

"We're going to get it right one of these times," he said. "We have to have confidence like we do when we're at home."

Notre Dame isn't alone in its road woes. So far in the Big East season, home teams are 26-7 — and with only one surprise among the road victories.

"Other than Cincinnati over Louisville, the other road win probably should have happened," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "There hasn't been one where you'd say, 'That was a steal.'"

"Maybe we can change that this weekend."

In order to buck that trend, the Irish will need to contend with Georgetown center Roy Hibbert. Hibbert, who stands at 7-foot-2 and is averaging 12.5 points and 5.7 rebounds per game.

Georgetown runs a "Princeton" style offense, which usually includes the center making passes to cutters from the free throw line. However, Hoyas coach John Thompson III has

modified the style to get Hibbert more touches closer to the basket.

"Early [in their offense] the ball goes to the low post," Brey said. "Throwing it in to Hibbert early in the possession is something they'll do, because he's a very good passer if you double him."

But it's on the defensive end where Hibbert really makes his mark. He has 29 blocks on the season.

Notre Dame's starting forwards, senior Rob Kurz and sophomore Luke Harangody, have been very productive offensively, averaging 13.8 and 19.3 points per game this season, respectively. However, neither is taller than 6-foot-9.

The last time the Irish played against a 7-footer, Connecticut's Hasheem Thabeet, both Kurz and Harangody scored 14 points, but they did it on a combined 10-for-35 shooting from the field — and two of Kurz's baskets came on three pointers. Thabeet also had 10 blocks in the game.

Harangody said he has studied tape of that game in preparation for matching up with Hibbert — focusing mainly on the positives of his performance.

"I watched tape on Connecticut and I saw where I was successful," Harangody said. "I can be physical and get into him, or take him away from the basket and use my speed."

Kurz, whose stellar outside shooting makes him difficult for other big men to guard, said he

may try to draw Hibbert out of the paint to free it up for other Irish players driving to the hoop.

"There are times when he's going to be matched up on me and I'll try to take him away from the basket," Kurz said.

Brey is confident his forwards will be able to score despite Hibbert's presence. In fact, he said he's more worried about his team controlling the ball and having good possessions.

"The biggest key to start is us taking care of the ball early," Brey said. "Turnovers hurt us last year there and turnovers hurt us last Saturday in Milwaukee."

In addition to Hibbert, Georgetown has two other players, forward DeJuan Summers and guard Jonathan Wallace, that average more than 10 points per game, while Austin Freeman averages 9.9.

Notre Dame left Thursday night for Washington, D.C. The team will visit Walter Reed Army Medical Center this morning.

"It's just a powerful personal experience," Brey said of the visit. "Anything we can do to thank our troops, our fighting men and women."

The contest with the Hoyas will tip off at noon Saturday. It will be televised on WMYS, a local South Bend station that is not available in Comcast's on-campus package for Notre Dame.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

Kuntz

continued from page 28

have one more year to play and I'm going to graduate from Notre Dame," Kuntz told AP. "The time is the only thing that's not 100 percent."

Kuntz started the first 10

games at nose tackle for the Irish before suffering torn ligaments in his left knee against Air Force on Nov. 10. Kuntz also cracked a bone in his spine against Navy on Nov. 3. These injuries forced Kuntz to miss Notre Dame's wins over Duke and Stanford to end the season.

Kuntz finished 2007 with 42 tackles and a team-high nine

pass break-ups before the injury. His back-up, freshman Ian Williams, started in place of Kuntz in Notre Dame's last two games and finished the season with 45 tackles en route to being named a freshman All-American.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

Write sports. E-mail Chris
at sports@nd.edu



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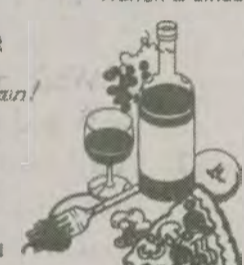
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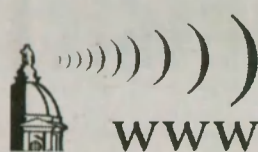
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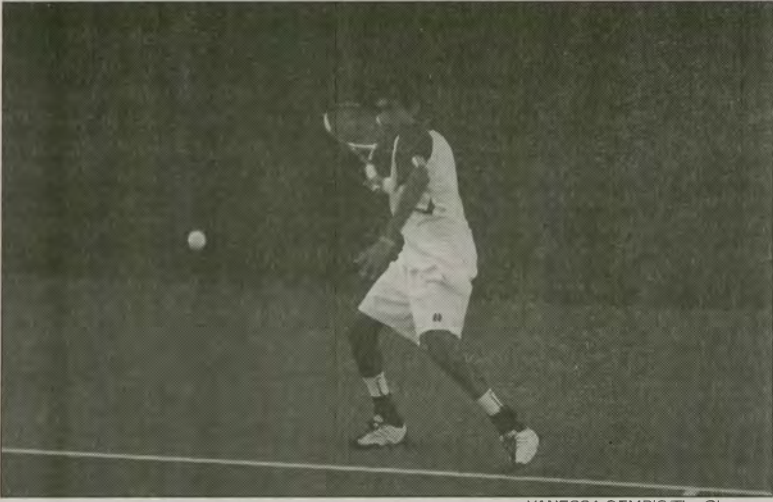
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VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Senior Sheeva Parbhu looks to return a volley during Notre Dame's 7-0 win over Kentucky on April 11.

Toledo

continued from page 28

ior Andrew Roth.

Penn State will provide some steep competition for the Irish, especially in doubles, Bayliss said.

"Penn State plays good doubles, and they will challenge us there," Bayliss said. "They are the 'Beast of The East.'"

Penn State's coach, Todd Doebler, was an assistant under Bayliss from 2003-06.

"They have come a long way under Doebler," Bayliss said. "They have a very talented freshman [Eddie Bouchier] from Australia, and their No. 1, Michael James, hits a very big ball. Brett [Helgeson] will have a tough match against him."

Helgeson and Parbhu make a very strong doubles tandem for the Irish. The duo returns as well as anyone but they tend to break down at net. Bayliss compared playing doubles to a mar-

riage. Like a married couple, a doubles relationship can go south if not everything goes right, he said, and the pair spends much time together. However Parbhu and Helgeson are good friends both on and off the court.

"Unfortunately with those two, neither likes to take charge," Bayliss said.

While the Irish lost good players to graduation last season, Bayliss feels his team is deeper than the 2006-2007 squad. Sophomore Sean Corrigan and Montoya were both on the team last year, but didn't see much playing time. This year, however, both are in the hunt for open positions. They are less experienced than last year, but Bayliss feels the freshmen will grow from their experiences.

After the Irish host Penn State on Sunday, they will also host Toledo at 6 p.m. No. 1 Virginia will come to South Bend to take on the Irish on Jan. 27.

Contact Katelyn Grabarek at kgraba01@saintmarys.edu

Big East

continued from page 28

said. "You have to go into every game expecting a battle."

Pacing the charge for the Hoyas will likely be senior forward Kieraah Marlow, who leads the team with 15.2 points per game — Georgetown's only scorer in double figures. She also has 6.8 boards per game.

"Marlow is a tough match-up for us," McGraw said. "She will be able to face up our big guys and post up our guards."

McGraw also said her squad will have to match up well with Georgetown's big women, especially 6-foot-5 center Aminata Diop. McGraw said she will likely give more minutes to centers Erica Williamson (6-foot-4) and Melissa D'Amico (6-foot-5). In Notre Dame's 69-58 win over Villanova Wednesday, Williamson played only eight minutes and D'Amico never came off the bench.

"[Villanova] is a small team and they took advantage of Mel defensively last year," McGraw said. "Erica looked better in practice last week guarding on the perimeter so she got the start. Mel, Erica and [freshman forward] Becca [Bruszewski] should all get more minutes against their bigs."

McGraw said she will not tinker with her lineup from Wednesday night's win, choosing to keep freshman forward Devereaux Peters on the bench — at least at tip-off.

Peters had a strong game at

both ends of the court against the Wildcats, tallying 15 points, six boards, seven steals and three blocks in 28 minutes. McGraw said she would like to see Peters get more minutes, something that could be difficult since Peters has fouled out of all but one of conference game this season.

Another big factor for Notre Dame's offense against the Hoyas will be junior guard Lindsay Schrader, who hit all five field goal attempts against Villanova despite giving McGraw her biggest scare of the season.

Schrader went down hard on the court grabbing her left knee, bringing memories to the Irish coach of when Schrader tore the ACL on her right knee last preseason. Schrader said after Wednesday night's game that she knew it was not the same kind of pain as when she tore her ACL, but McGraw said that it was still a "personal scary moment" for her.

The Hoyas do not present the same 3-point threat that Villanova did, having hit only 31.7 percent of their shots from beyond the arc. Against Notre Dame, Villanova was 9-of-16 from three-point land — something that has been McGraw's biggest concern for the last two seasons.

"They had a kid last year who made five, but she graduated," McGraw said. "But we still have to guard them tight out there. I think most of Villanova's were in transition and not against the man-to-man."

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

Michigan

continued from page 28

The Irish have reason to be confident heading into this match-up, having beaten the Wolverines in all three of their meetings last season, including a 7-3 thrashing at Yost Arena and a 2-1 victory in the 2007 CCHA Championship.

"The fact that we have had success against them might give us a little more confidence heading in there," Jackson said. "But that was then and this is now and we're going to have to make sure we do the things that are necessary to have success."

The Irish will need to add life to their power play that has looked weak since the beginning of winter break. Notre Dame has failed to score in its last 30 chances with the man advantage. Breaking out of their slump against Michigan won't be an easy task for the Irish: The Wolverines have killed 89.5

percent of power plays against them this season — fourth best in the country.

"We just need to get back to basics," junior forward Erik Condra said. "You can't think about it too much because then you start not scoring and the streak continues."

Jackson echoed Condra, saying that breaking out of their power-play slump would be crucial to getting points this weekend.

"We're going to have to score a couple of goals to win," Jackson said. "Because there's no question that they're going to get a lot of scoring chances."

In addition to putting pucks in the net, the Irish will need to shut down Michigan teammates Kevin Porter and Chad Kolarik. Porter and Kolarik make up the highest-scoring duo in college hockey, combining for 68 points on the season.

"Each one of our lines and

defensive pairs is going to have to be accountable," Jackson said.

"We're going to have to score a couple of goals to win."

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach

"That line is going to get their opportunities, we just have to make sure they don't get too many."

Notre Dame currently sits in third in the CCHA standings, three

points behind Michigan, though the Wolverines have played two fewer games than the Irish. A good showing this weekend would improve Notre Dame's chances of receiving a top seed in the conference tournament.

"It's like playoff hockey," Condra said. "They're in the top four in our division and we're fighting for playoff spots."

While these will be two of Notre Dame's toughest games of the season, Jackson is more excited about the opportunity than concerned about the opposition.

"Hopefully these games will help make us better," Jackson said. "But at the same time, we'll have to be at our best and try to steal some points."

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Second chance

Notre Dame will look for a big win against the Hoyas in D.C.

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Editor

One week ago, Notre Dame was crushed on the road against a ranked opponent.

On Saturday, the Irish will get a chance to redeem themselves.

After bouncing back from the ugly 92-66 loss to Marquette last Saturday with a 91-74 win over Cincinnati Tuesday, Notre Dame travels to Washington, D.C. to take on No. 5 Georgetown at the Verizon Center.

The Hoyas and the Irish are tied with two other teams atop the Big East at 3-1. Georgetown is coming off a 69-60 loss on the road at Pittsburgh Monday. Its only other loss this season came at No. 2 Memphis on Dec. 22.

Notre Dame is 11-0 at home this season, but just 2-3 away from the Joyce Center. The only

see HOYAS/page 24



Senior forward Rob Kurz scrambles for the ball in Notre Dame's 91-74 victory over Cincinnati Tuesday. The Irish travel to Washington, D.C. to take on Georgetown Saturday.

VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

FOOTBALL

Kuntz not in school for spring

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Associate Sports Editor

Defensive tackle Pat Kuntz is not enrolled at the University this semester for what he told the Associated Press was "personal reasons."

Kuntz did not elaborate when contacted by AP at his Indianapolis home, and Director of Football Media Relations Brian Hardin said the University would have no further comment — other than that Kuntz is not enrolled — due to federal education privacy laws.

The 6-foot-3, 285-pound junior told AP that he hopes to return to Notre Dame as early as this summer and still hopes to play football for the Irish in the fall.

"No matter what I'm going to be back there. I'm going to

see KUNTZ/page 24

HOCKEY

Icers lace up for two against Wolverines



WU YUE/The Observer

Irish Left wing Garrett Regan shoots in Notre Dame's win over Nebraska-Omaha on Nov. 30. The Irish face Michigan this weekend.

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will take on the top team in the country for the second time this season when it faces No. 1 Michigan in a two-game series this weekend. The Irish hope to pull another upset, having already beaten then-No. 1 Miami (Ohio) on Nov. 9.

The Irish will play both games in front of a mostly hostile crowd. Tonight's opening game will be played at Michigan's Yost Arena,

dubbed by Notre Dame coach Jeff Jackson as "without a doubt the most difficult, challenging place to play in college hockey." The second game, technically a home contest for Notre Dame, will take place at The Palace of Auburn Hills, Mich.

"It's a little bit more challenging knowing that we'll be on the road for both games," Jackson said. "But knowing that we'll have last change and having our fans and our band there will go a long way towards helping us."

see MICHIGAN/page 26

MEN'S TENNIS

Team set for doubleheader

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame, ranked No. 12 in the Intercollegiate Tennis Association preseason poll, will open its spring season Sunday with a doubleheader against Penn and Toledo.

"We are very untested, and we will see how the young team handles the pressure of the ranking," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "Their perception might change, so we will see how they handle it,

and hopefully they will learn from it."

The team returned to South Bend a week early and started two-a-day practices on Jan. 7. Also, the Irish took part in the Mary Davis Memorial Shootout at the Eck Tennis Pavilion on Jan. 13.

Despite the rigorous practice schedule, the team is fairly healthy.

"We have a few bumps and bruises, but no major injuries," Bayliss said. "[Freshman Matt] Johnson is the only one who, if

we played tomorrow, couldn't go. He hasn't been able to serve for a week, but we're hoping he can get back on court soon."

The top two singles spots are filled by junior Brett Helgeson, and senior Sheeva Parbhu, but the other four spots are still up for grabs. Bayliss said five freshmen — Johnson, Stephen Havens, David Anderson, Daniel Stahl and Tyler Davis — are competing for the spots along with junior Santiago Montoya and sen-

see TOLEDO/page 26

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish to test press against Hoyas

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame will face another tough Big East road test this weekend when it travels to Washington to play Georgetown Sunday at 2 p.m.

The Hoyas are next to last in the Big East at 0-3, but still hold an overall winning record (10-6) like every other team in the conference. Georgetown has done a good job of securing its home court so far this season, with its only loss in the MCI Center a 57-47 defeat at the hands of No. 5 Rutgers Tuesday.

"There are no easy conference games, even at home," Irish coach Muffet McGraw



WU YUE/The Observer

Irish junior guard Lindsay Schrader drives to the basket in Notre Dame's 77-46 win over Michigan on Dec. 2.

see BIG EAST/page 26