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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

1,150 applicants admitted early to ND

Total applications down three percent from last year; University boosts international recruiting efforts

By ROHAN ANAND
News Writer

In mid-December, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions completed evaluating more than 4,288 applications submitted by prospective students worldwide for seats in the Class of 2012. Of those, approximately 1,150, or 35 percent of the applicant pool, were offered early admission to the University and have until May 1 to accept or decline the offer.

The average SAT score

was a 1452 on a 1,600-point scale and the average ACT score was a 33 on a 36 point scale. The average class ranking was within the top three percent of the students' graduating class, making the academic selection criteria competitive.

"We did finish unbelievably strong with [early action admissions] and it tailed off so that with regular action admissions, we will finish slightly down from last year's all-time high," Dan Saracino, assis-

see EARLY/page 6

Class of 2012 Applicants

14,000 applicants

- Second largest in history

4,288 Early Action applications

1,510 admitted

- High school rank-in-class of top 3%

- 1452 SAT (reading and math) and 33 ACT

- More ethnic minority and international students admitted

Observer Graphic by Matt Hudson

15 student films debut at festival

Introductory classes allowed to participate

By GENE NOONE
News Writer

Fifteen students will have their Notre Dame cinematic debut as the 19th annual Notre Dame Film Festival begins tonight in the Browning Cinema of the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts. The films will be screened for University and general audiences.

Film, Television and Theatre (FTT) professor Ted Mandell said this year's selection of films is an especially creative and entertaining group.

One new feature of this year's festival is the addition of films from students in the Introductory Film class.

"Many years we don't have the opportunity to screen projects from the Intro class because of time constraints due to the number and length of advanced projects," Mandell said. "This year we were able to get a few of those in there."

"They add a unique energy to the festival. It's great for students just starting out to have their work shown to a large audience."

The three-day festival will feature films created entirely by students in their FTT courses. Most of the films are produced in groups of two to three students and are the result of a semester's worth of work, Mandell said.

This year, the festival will screen 15 films — two more than last year — due to the short length of sever-

see FILM/page 4

STUDENT SENATE

Brown delivers final Senate address



Student body president Liz Brown delivers her State of the Student Union Address at Wednesday's Senate meeting.

Student body president notes quick response to issues, looks ahead to final two months of term

By JOE McMAHON
Assistant News Editor

Student body president Liz Brown delivered her final State of the Student Union address to the Student Senate Wednesday. In her speech, Brown commended student government's response to unexpected, hot button issues.

"Writing down my remarks would make this appear it was rehearsed," said Brown, who gave her speech without any formal notes. "And nothing this year was rehearsed."

Brown said she was pleased with her administration's work on the party permit ordinance, rising course packet prices, issues surrounding energy use

and the environment and the forum on immigration.

"We've had a handle-it-as-it-comes attitude, and a lot of that was helpful in dealing with the ordinance," she said.

The unexpected issues have at times prevented Brown and student body vice president Maris Braun from pursuing their campaign agenda, Brown said. Still, Brown has plans in place for her final two months in office.

Brown said next year's academic forum will focus on energy and the environment. Her administration has helped organize a 10-week contest in which dorms will compete to see which residence hall can gather the

see SENATE/page 4

Students volunteer on Gulf Coast

Service trip sponsored by ACE, focuses on local Catholic schools

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

Nearly two and a half years after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, residents are still working to rebuild. During winter break, 12 Notre Dame students traveled south to aid their cause.

The weeklong trip, which was sponsored and organized by the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE), focused on restoration of Catholic schools in the area.

ACE places Masters students in underprivileged Catholic schools throughout the country where they teach while earning graduate credit. ACE sent the 12 undergraduate

see ACE/page 4



Students on the ACE Gulf Coast trip pose by a sign for Sister Thea Bowman Catholic school in Jackson, Miss.

Photo courtesy of Greg Robinson

Actors from London visit ND for the week

Members will perform 'The Taming of the Shrew'

By BECKY HOGAN
News Writer

After 33 years touring nationwide, the Actors From the London Stage will be returning to Notre Dame this week to perform "The Taming of the Shrew." The company, which is based in London, tours American colleges and universities through the patronage of the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts. The University initially established the partnership in 2000, company manager Amy Atkinson said.

"The University administers the program throughout the United States, serving as the company's American home and

the touch point for the actors as they move around the U.S.," Atkinson said.

The AFTLS performs two different Shakespearean plays each year — one in the fall and another in the spring semester. Past performances have included "Romeo and Juliet," "Hamlet" and "The Merchant of Venice."

In addition to the performances, the actors present workshops throughout their week spent at the University.

"Faculty members request actors to come into their classrooms and the actors then determine who among them is best suited for each class. They

see LONDON/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

Sexy slip

The following passage can be found in duLac, Notre Dame's student handbook, on page 105: "Because a genuine and complete expression of love through sex requires a commitment to a total living and sharing together of two persons in marriage, the University believes that sexual union should occur only in marriage. Students found in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary suspension or permanent dismissal."

Bill Brink

Sports Production Editor

In 2008, this may seem slightly comical, but because we attend a Catholic institution, the rules mirror Catholic tradition.

An attention-grabbing contradiction has since become apparent.

Inside my history notebook, which I purchased at the Notre Dame bookstore, I found an advertisement offering to save me up to 93 percent on magazine subscriptions. The first magazine advertised is Cosmopolitan. On the cover, next to Grey's Anatomy's Katherine Heigl, are the headlines: "Naughty Sex: 8 Hot New Positions We've Never Published Before" and "The Sexiest Things To Do After Sex." Below that, Glamour magazine, with a headline reading "30 Things Every Woman Should Know About Sex By Age 30."

Interesting. By no means am I against naughty sex, nor do I particularly care whether magazines describing it are advertised in my notebook or not. But it made me think about the fact that a university that bans sex on its campus would allow these advertisements in notebooks bearing its name. Remember, this is the university that ordered Pangborn Hall to change a sign because it "took the Christ out of Christmas."

Maybe I'm reading too much into this. An issue of Entertainment Weekly, with a picture of the Soprano family, is also advertised. I don't think the University means to advocate the acceptability of organized crime. Maybe the University figured it would gain more money from the advertisement than it would lose in donations from radical Catholic donors who took offense.

Maybe the University never saw the advertisement before it went in the notebook. Maybe the University just doesn't care what Cosmo thinks about après-sex antics.

But it got me thinking. I don't think this will cause the University to unveil a vigorous anti-sex campaign, nor do I think it will repeal parietals and edit duLac. I don't want it to either. Does the University care? Should I care? (If you're wondering, I don't. I'm all for Cosmo and it's feminine secrets. It's an invaluable resource for all men; it's like Michael Strahan stumbled across Bill Belichick's playbook. Guys can learn what girls really think.)

I don't know what to think about it. I don't know whether it never reached the desk of any university official because it's so inconsequential and insignificant and my imagination is blowing it out of proportion, or if a fierce battle raged inside a business manager's head as to whether to allow the ad and whether the revenue was worth the risk.

It made me think twice, but as of now, I've gotten nowhere productive.

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

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

CORRECTION

Due to a reporting error in the Jan. 23 article, "SMC panel announces election day," Saint Mary's Student Body President elections were stated as being held on Tuesday. They will be Monday. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT MOVIE/ACTOR SHOULD HAVE BEEN NOMINATED FOR AN OSCAR?



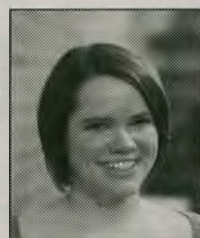
Christie Mistrucci
freshman
BP

"For Best Supporting Actress: Julia Roberts in 'Charlie Wilson's War' because she's Julia Roberts."



Kerry Hutton
junior
off campus

"For Best Picture: A late entry from 'P.S. I Love You,' because Denny from 'Grey's [Anatomy]' isn't in it."



Mary Aldred
senior
McGlinn

"For Best Feature Length Documentary: 'Transformers.'"



Nella McOsker
sophomore
PE

"For Best Actor: Heath Ledger in that one movie where he kills himself... what, too soon?"



Ryan Simmons
junior
Keough

"For Best Supporting Actor: Christopher Walken in 'Hairspray,' because he is good in everything."



Society of Women Engineers (SWE) officers speak at the annual pizza chat for first-year female engineering majors. SWE is a nationally recognized professional, educational, non-profit service organization.

ABIGAIL WILKINS/The Observer

IN BRIEF

The Notre Dame Post Office will offer a Passport Fair today from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. On this day only, no appointment will be necessary to apply for a passport. Applicants should bring proof of U.S. citizenship, proof of identity and two recent photos.

Actors From The London Stage will present "The Taming of the Shrew" tonight, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Student tickets are available for \$12.

Prints from the Snite Museum of Art's collection that focus on artistic subjects from the 17th century will be displayed Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The exhibit, "Rembrandt and the Art of Printmaking in Holland," will highlight the golden age of Dutch art, depictions of landscapes, portraits of animals and individuals in non-aristocratic social and economic classes, and scenes of their everyday life.

There will be a men's and women's indoor track invitational Friday at 5 p.m. in Loftus Sports Center. Admission is free.

The Harlem Globetrotters will be playing Friday at 7 p.m. at the Joyce Center. For tickets, call 631-7356.

Men's hockey will play Bowling Green Friday at 7:35 p.m. at the Joyce Center ice rink.

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

dentally shooting his right foot.

According to an arrest warrant, Roberts dropped a .45-caliber handgun in front of Gasland USA on Sunday. The gun hit the ground and went off, a bullet striking Roberts in the foot.

Roberts faces several charges that include attempted robbery with a dangerous weapon and possession of a weapon of mass destruction. Police said the handgun had been altered to fire .410 shotgun shells.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

OFFBEAT

Woman takes 55,000 pennies to the bank

SHREVEPORT, La. — Vicki Armstrong has been saving her pennies for almost 19 years and she was making plans this week to cash them in at a bank — all 55,000 of them.

She knows the \$550 won't make her rich, but says the symbolism reinforced frugal spending habits. "It helped me be a little bit more conservative in my lifestyle," said Armstrong, who is planning to retire at the end of the year from Christus Schumpert Highland Hospital, where she works as a maternity technician.

Armstrong has been storing pennies in vases, bowls and the occasional shoebox. In 1993, The (Shreveport, La.) Times reported she had squirreled away 14,000 pennies. Armstrong resisted the temptation of cashing them in and kept saving.

Unsuccessful robber shoots self in foot

CHERRYVILLE, N.C. — Authorities said an unsuccessful robber shot himself in the foot... by shooting himself in the foot. Police said Kelvin Ethelbert Roberts, 28, botched his plans to rob a Cherryville convenience store by acci-

	TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 17 LOW 0	HIGH 7 LOW -3	HIGH 22 LOW 15	HIGH 33 LOW 27	HIGH 32 LOW 22	HIGH 35 LOW 28

Atlanta 46 / 33 Boston 38 / 29 Chicago 22 / 10 Denver 34 / 20 Houston 68 / 42 Los Angeles 60 / 43 Minneapolis 10 / -5
New York 39 / 31 Philadelphia 39 / 30 Phoenix 66 / 37 Seattle 44 / 26 St. Louis 29 / 17 Tampa 74 / 59 Washington 41 / 32

Gaining club status made easier

Club Coordination Council moves to Internet-based applications

By BECCA LaLONDE
News Writer

Money not only makes the world go around, but it also makes the club world turn at Notre Dame.

The Club Coordination Council (CCC), which oversees the allocation of student activities fees to the 223 undergraduate clubs at the University, is undergoing changes to make gaining club status easier, CCC president Paul Robbins said.

"In the past, clubs have had to fill out lengthy budget forms on paper, have them signed by their club advisor and handed in before spring break," Robbins said. This year, the group will use an online budget form.

The switch to online is designed to streamline the fund allocation

process in several ways: reducing paperwork, allowing for better and more efficient allocations, and providing clubs with an electronic copy of their budget to help guide their spending through the year.

"In the future we will be able to make things even easier for clubs by

"In the past, clubs have had to fill out lengthy budget forms on paper, have them signed by their club advisor and handed in before spring break. This year, the group will use an online budget form."

Paul Robbins
CCC president

having their advisors able to 'sign' their budget request online," Robbins said. "This is all in an effort to make things easier and more efficient for clubs."

The role of the CCC is often overlooked, Robbins said.

"We hard-lined 33 percent of the activities fees last year; that turned out to be about \$300,000," Robbins said. "Throughout the year we also review appeals to

three different funds that are available for unplanned club expenses."

Funds under the umbrella of the CCC include the Contingency Fund, for a single club seeking additional funds; Club Collaboration Fund, for two or more clubs seeking funding for an event; and the Council of Representatives Collaboration Fund, for a club and another student body organization also seeking funding, Robbins said.

Clubs are grouped into subdivisions: academic, athletic, cultural, performing arts, social service and special interest, Robbins said. Each division can have up to four representatives elected from clubs within their division.

Elections for division representatives are occurring next week. Robbins said it is "important that students active in clubs join the council so that each division may be properly represented." Allocations for next year will be made in March.

Contact Becca LaLonde at rlalonde@hcc-nd.edu

Cardinal George to speak at conference

Special to The Observer

A theological conference specifically designed for undergraduate students will bring Cardinal Francis George of Chicago and other speakers to Notre Dame on March 31.

The conference, "Christ is Risen! So Now What?" has been organized by the Center for Liturgy and the Notre Dame Vocation Initiative (NDVision), which held a similar conference on vocations for undergraduates last year.

"We thought it important to assist and encourage theological discussion of issues of personal concern to undergraduates," said David W. Fagerberg, director of the Center for Liturgy and one of the conference organizers. "In this conference, which will take place a few days after Easter, we want to address what appears to be a false dichotomy between those who pray and those who act—that is, between the student drawn to a contemplative retreat and the student more inclined toward service and pursuing justice. We wish to show that both these demands of Christian discipleship have their source in the empty tomb."

The conference will consist of three presentations, all in the ballroom of the LaFortune Student Center.

Joan Neal, executive vice president of U.S. operations for Catholic Relief Services (CRS), will speak on "A Life of Service" at 4 p.m. A graduate of Loyola University in Chicago, Neal holds a master's degree in pastoral studies and a certificate in biblical spirituality from Catholic Theological Union. She directs CRS domestic programs and advocacy,

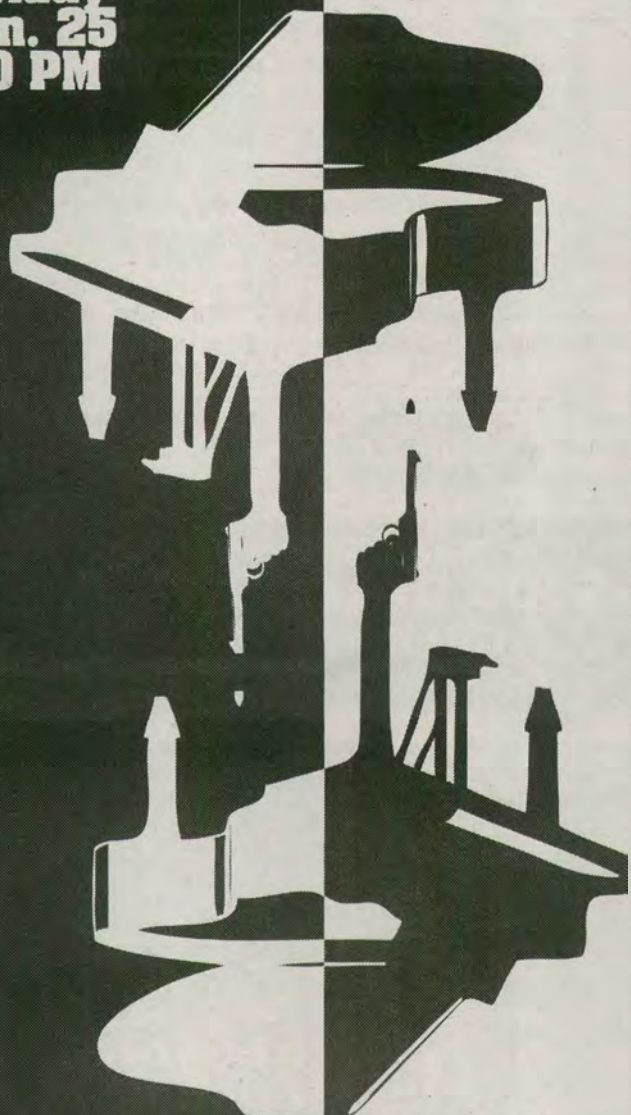
overseeing six regional offices across the country and working in partnership with dioceses, parishes, colleges, universities and other Catholic organizations. Before joining CRS in 2002, she was president of her own management consulting firm whose clients included Catholic agencies, dioceses, organizations and parishes in the Midwest.

Rev. Cyprian Consiglio will speak on "A Life of Prayer" at 7:30 p.m. Father Consiglio is a musician, composer, author, teacher and monk of the Camaldolese Congregation. For 10 years, he lived at New Camaldoli Hermitage near Big Sur, Calif., serving as liturgist, choir director and teacher. Deeply interested in comparative religion, he frequently visits India to study and teach. He divides his time evenly between his home in Santa Cruz, Calif., and travel for performing, teaching and leading retreats.

Cardinal George will speak on "Easter: The Font of Prayer and Service" at 9:30 p.m. A native of Chicago, he oversees the second largest Catholic archdiocese, after Los Angeles, in the nation. Recently elected president of the American bishops conference, Cardinal George has taught in several seminaries and served as vicar general of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, the religious order to which he belongs. He holds master's degrees in philosophy and theology from Catholic University of America and the University of Ottawa, respectively, a doctorate in American philosophy from Tulane University and a doctorate in sacred theology from the Pontifical Urban University in Rome.

DUELING PIANOS

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Jan. 25
10 PM



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MIDNIGHT

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ON THE LIST!

London

continued from page 1

then go into a variety Notre Dame and Saint Mary's classrooms to explore not only Shakespeare, but language as a whole," Atkinson said.

She explained that these educational residencies are geared to help students convey the meaning of words — which can range anywhere from analyzing a text in an English class or developing public-speaking skills in a business class.

The troupe's wide range of experience isn't just limited to theatre performances. This week, they will also meet with students interested in film and television for an informal discussion about these industries.

"We can't send students to

New York, L.A., and London — the centers of film and television — and it's difficult for students to be able to get in touch to those kinds of places, so bringing them here is invaluable," said film and television professor Christine Becker.

"This gets students in direct contact with professionals who are doing what our students are interested in [pursuing]."

AFTLS tours 10 universities in the fall and eight universities during the spring. Besides Notre Dame, the current tour of "The Taming of the Shrew" will travel to Massachusetts, Texas, California and Mississippi, Atkinson said.

Many of the actors in the troupe have been trained at prominent companies such as the Royal Shakespeare Company, the Royal National Theatre of Great Britain and

Shakespeare's Globe Theater.

"While we do not tour internationally, AFTLS actors present two performances in London following their time in the United States," Atkinson said. "These shows are held at the prestigious Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts and enable the actors' colleagues and countrymen to see their work."

The actors are cast in Britain where they rehearse for several weeks before coming to the United States, Atkinson said.

The AFTLS makes minimal use of props, lighting or sets in its productions.

The Actors From the London Stage will perform "The Taming of the Shrew" tonight and Friday at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall.

Contact Becky Hogan at rhogan@nd.edu

Film

continued from page 1

al of the films. The total running time for all 15 films is 110 minutes.

In choosing what films to screen, FTT faculty looked at the combination of writing, shooting, editing and acting — all the elements that make up a strong production, Mandell said.

"We spend a lot of time in class discussing ideas, working on scripts, analyzing rough cuts, and polishing re-edits," he said. "The final film is the result of both creative collaboration among students as well as the battle to beat the deadline, which lurks at the end of every semester. Filmmaking takes much more time and labor than most people think."

Junior Bill DiPiero, who co-directed the film "LuvPod" with sophomore Michael Rohman, found production for his film took

a great deal of time.

"The filming process was a bit tedious because we did multiple takes of each shot," DiPiero said. "We actually had to shoot the film twice in its entirety after the first take had some lighting issues and was not up to our standards."

DiPiero and Rohman's film is the comedic story of a stolen iPod that leads to a not-so-chance encounter between a boy and girl looking for love.

Junior Mark Weber, who co-directed the film "The White Tree" with senior Julian Owyong, said the greatest challenge in making his film was the actual filming process because their script required a large cast.

"With a large cast, we had to complete most of the shooting in one day in only a few short hours," Weber said. "We had to be very efficient with both our actors and our crew to get everything shot."

"The White Tree" is based on real events that occurred at Jena High School in September 2006

where racial tensions erupted in the Louisiana high school.

"The events at Jena High framed a powerful story which I thought the students at Notre Dame, black and white, could learn from," Weber said.

Weber said he hopes students who see the film will understand "that racial tension is still an issue we face in our society today, and it is up to us youth to change that."

The festival's other films come from several genres including documentary, comedy, horror and drama.

Tickets for the festival are \$3 for students, \$5 for Notre Dame faculty and staff, and \$6 for the general public and can be purchased in advance at the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts or online at performingarts.nd.edu.

The festival will run twice each night for three nights at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Contact Gene Noone at enoone@nd.edu

ACE

continued from page 1

volunteers to schools that both sustained major damage from the hurricane and currently employ ACE teachers.

"ACE wanted to serve the Catholic schools still affected by Katrina and give an opportunity to open students' eyes to what happened," said Greg Robinson, a sophomore who works for the ACE program and participated in the trip.

The students first traveled to Jackson, Miss., and went to different Catholic schools to help out in any way they could while meeting teachers and students who lived through the catastrophe.

"We would wake up, have a quick breakfast, and then went to the grade school where we would do jobs for them. They had a shed that needed to be cleared out for storage. They didn't have the manpower to do it themselves," Robinson said.

Later in the day, the students interacted with the children.

"We helped them with their math timed tests, and taught them cursive," he said. "The kids were so happy to have the big kids there. They are excited to show you how good they are at subtracting with big numbers. We also played games of tag, and they dragged us into a game of touch football."

The day-to-day routine continued as the students traveled

along the Gulf Coast.

"We did odd jobs. We painted benches, cleaned a lot of windows, and again, in the afternoon we were working with the kids," Robinson said.

The volunteers traveled as inexpensively as possible, Robinson said. The \$100 fee per person covered the van fare and basic food.

"We didn't use a lot of expenses," Robinson said. "We got three vans to drive down, and ate a lot of peanut butter and bread. Throughout the trip we would stay in high school gyms, which I imagine didn't cost money. The ACE program has good relations with schools in the area. Parents would give us dinner everywhere we went. They were very hospitable."

An important part of the service trip was learning about the disaster and its aftermath. Various survivors spoke to the students about their experiences.

"We heard from some ACE teachers, and a couple who had their house destroyed in New Orleans," Robinson said. "We heard from a teacher who is living in a trailer on her front yard, which is what most people are still doing down there. It's a huge deal to have gotten into your house. People are still waiting after two and a half years."

After working in the schools, the volunteers traveled into the heart of New Orleans.

"It was a really powerful day," Robinson said. "Seeing how much devastation there

still is, and how much has not been touched. We saw a couple of houses that still have the red X and marks with the date the house was searched and the number of bodies found."

While the trip lasted only a week, the students plan to continue aiding the cause back at Notre Dame.

"We are trying to figure out how to keep the trip alive," Robinson said. "We are giving a presentation around Mardi Gras to spread awareness, and looking back on how much the kids loved it, we are trying to arrange a pen pal program."

"I am so thankful for what I still have' was probably the biggest message we got from the trip."

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Senate

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most recyclables.

"One thing we've seen a lot of energy on campus about is energy and environmental issues," she said.

In addition, there will be a follow-up student forum sometime within the next few months to further discuss the "controversial" issue of immigration, she said.

Brown said she recently submitted a proposal to Vice President of Student Affairs Father Mark Poorman requesting more money for residence hall workout facilities.

"This is an example of how we've responded to student needs on campus," she said. Lastly, in order to help improve relations with the surrounding community, Brown said there will be an educational session for students moving off campus. The meeting will inform future off-campus students of the expectations of their neighbors.

"In August and September, we realized there was a gap between the expectations of living in the dorm and living off campus," Brown said.

In other Senate news:

♦The Senate listened to a presentation by Executive Chef Donald Miller from Notre Dame Food Services on the importance of using locally grown food.

In a 15-minute PowerPoint pres-

entation, Miller said using locally grown foods reduces the carbon emissions caused by transporting them. Also, he said, locally grown foods have more nutrients.

"Sustainable food is a way of producing and consuming food that ultimately promotes the continuous well-being of our selves and our planet," he said.

Miller said 85 percent of Notre Dame's dairy products are produced locally. Moreover, he said, locally grown foods are more fla-

vorful and free of pesticides and preservatives.

"This is an example of how we've responded to student needs on campus."

Liz Brown
student body president

♦The Student Senate unanimously passed a resolution recommending that two new printers be added to the computer cluster in DeBartolo. The move would

help reduce the pressure on printers that has been caused by more teachers putting readings on-line rather than forcing students to pay for costly course packets.

♦Alumni Hall rector Father George Rozum was honored Wednesday with an official Senate resolution thanking him for his 30 years of service.

Since becoming rector in 1978, Rozum has seen a great deal of change. "When I came to Alumni 30 years ago, they didn't have individual thermostats and there was only one light in the room over the sink," he said. "There was cold and hot water, but it was never joined."

Contact Joe McMahon at jmcmaho6@nd.edu

TOP
TEN

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Congo leaders sign peace agreement

GOMA, Congo — Years of fighting in Congo's restive east ended — on paper at least — Wednesday as warlords and militia fighters signed a long-awaited peace accord with the government of this huge Central African country.

The deal commits all sides to an immediate cease-fire, followed by a pullback of fighters from key areas that will become a U.N.-patrolled buffer zone, said Vital Kamerhe, a government spokesman for the talks.

Observers praised the deal but said fulfilling it would be long and difficult work, with many details yet undecided.

At least 17 dead in Iraqi bombing

BAGHDAD — A thunderous blast tore through a vacant apartment building in northern Iraq on Wednesday, killing at least 17 civilians and wounding more than 130 in adjacent houses just minutes after the Iraqi army arrived to investigate tips about a weapons cache.

Rescue crews searched under toppled walls, collapsed ceilings and piles of debris tossed by the explosion that blew apart the empty building, which Iraqi authorities said was used by insurgents to stash weapons and bombs.

The hunt through the wreckage stretched for hours, raising the possibility the final casualty toll could climb. The huge blast went off just after the troops arrived, and no soldier was reported killed.

NATIONAL NEWS

Drought may shut down power plants

LAKE NORMAN, N.C. — Nuclear reactors across the Southeast could be forced to throttle back or temporarily shut down later this year because drought is drying up the rivers and lakes that supply power plants with the awesome amounts of cooling water they need to operate.

Utility officials say such shutdowns probably wouldn't result in blackouts. But they could lead to shockingly higher electric bills for millions of Southerners, because the region's utilities may be forced to buy expensive replacement power from other energy companies.

Already, there has been one brief, drought-related shutdown, at a reactor in Alabama over the summer.

Mexican cop found guilty in drug case

McALLEN, Texas — A former Mexican police commander was convicted Wednesday of helping run the notorious Gulf cartel's drug smuggling operation.

Carlos Landin Martinez was found guilty of nine counts including drug trafficking, conspiracy and money laundering over alleged cartel activities from 2005 to 2007.

Prosecutors said Landin oversaw an operation in which traffickers wanting to use lucrative smuggling routes across the border into South Texas had to pay Landin a "piso," or tax, to move drugs in cartel territory. Landin was the Gulf cartel's second-in-command in Reynosa, a Mexican city south of McAllen, prosecutors say.

Drugs came across on people, on rafts and through a tunnel that opened up through a manhole in Hidalgo, Texas, among other means, according to investigators. The proceeds from drug sales all over the United States were then smuggled back into Mexico, authorities said.

LOCAL NEWS

Governor requests aid for flood damage

INDIANAPOLIS — Governor Mitch Daniels is requesting federal assistance for people affected by flooding earlier this month in northern Indiana.

Daniels declared a disaster emergency in the area on Wednesday and sent a letter to President Bush asking for federal aid.

Three people, including two children, died in the flooding that began January 7.

The letter says more than 800 homes were damaged, with as many as 400 destroyed or having major damage. Nearly 1,000 people have been displaced, it said.

The letter seeks assistance including disaster housing, unemployment assistance and U.S. Small Business Administration disaster loans.

SWITZERLAND

Afghan president warns of terror

Karzai delivers bleak message at World Economic Forum amid fears of global recession

Associated Press

DAVOS — Afghanistan's president warned Wednesday that the whole world could suffer from the "wildfire" of terrorism engulfing his region, a grim message for a meeting of political and business leaders already fretting over the threat of global recession.

Formally opening the World Economic Forum, Hamid Karzai gave a sobering rundown of recent attacks attributed to Islamic extremists — among them the assassination of Benazir Bhutto and bombings in Afghanistan and Pakistan that have killed hundreds, including many children.

With militant violence still on the rise in the two nations six years after the ouster of the Taliban, "it seems like the mutant of extremism is dangerously unleashed across the region," Karzai said. The trend "bodes terribly badly for the whole world," he said.

In an apparent allusion to Pakistan — whose president, Pervez Musharraf, originally supported the Taliban — Karzai called terrorism "a venomous snake that some among us tried to nurture and befriend at the expense of others, which I hope we realize now was a mistake."

Musharraf, now a U.S. ally in the war on extremist groups, has often been accused by Karzai of not doing enough to shut down sanctuaries for Taliban fighters in Pakistan's tribal region along the border with Afghanistan.

The Pakistani president is attending the conference in Davos as well, as part of a European tour seeking to reassure the West that he is in control of his country after months of political instability and increased attacks by Islamic militants.

Both leaders held separate talks Wednesday with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, but there was no indication they would meet with each other.

Musharraf's spokesman Rashid Qureshi told The Associated Press the meeting



Afghan President Hamid Karzai speaks Wednesday at the start of the opening session of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

with Rice "went very well," saying there was "total consonance and unanimity of views" on joint efforts to fight terrorism.

How to stem terrorism is one of the themes at this year's World Economic Forum, along with dealing with climate change, implementing a workable peace process in the Middle East and discussing how technology is ushering in a new age of social networking that knows no borders.

Still, with many participants watching stock markets slump and sharing the realization that economic downturn can breed political turmoil, the main focus Wednesday was on the chances for worldwide recession.

Rice, in a nod to the eco-

nomix anxiety, told an audience of chief executives, politicians and others that the U.S. economy is resilient and will remain an "engine of growth."

She urged the world to "have confidence in the underlying strength of the global economy — and act with confidence on the basis of the principles that lead to success in today's world."

But many leading participants shared the view that the world cannot escape the effects of America's economic slowdown, marked by the subprime mortgage crisis, loss of business confidence, poor corporate profits and a sharp drop in stock prices.

A year ago, Davos attendees predicted the global economy would move ahead with confidence. But now

many seemed to share a glum mood that the world could be sliding into recession.

"We're in Round 1 or 2. This is a 15-round fight," said Guillermo Ortiz, governor of the Central Bank of Mexico, suggesting the worst might yet be coming.

Billionaire George Soros called for a radical cure — the imposition of heavy regulation and oversight over financial markets whose participants he accused of using "excessive" freedom to create "not a normal crisis but the end of an era."

"Authorities ought to go in and examine the books" of financial institutions, and provide assurance that "they will rescue and even take over banks that become insolvent," Soros said.

New technique improves organ transplants

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — In what's being called a major advance in organ transplants, doctors say they have developed a technique that could free many patients from having to take anti-rejection drugs for the rest of their lives.

The treatment involved weakening the patient's immune system, then giving the recipient bone marrow from the person who donated the organ. In one experiment, four of five kidney recipients were off immune-suppressing medicines up to five years later.

"There's reason to hope these patients will be off drugs for the rest of their lives," said Dr. David Sachs of

Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, who led the research published in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Since the world's first transplant more than 50 years ago, scientists have searched for ways to trick the body to accept a foreign organ as its own. Immune-suppressing drugs that prevent organ rejection came into wide use in the 1980s. But they raise the risk of cancer, kidney failure and many other problems. And they have unpleasant side effects such as excessive hair growth, bloating and tremors.

Eliminating the need for anti-rejection drugs is "a huge advance," said Dr. Suzanne Ildstad, a University of Louisville immunology specialist who

had no role in the work.

"It still needs some fine-tuning so that everyone who gets treated gets the same consistent outcome ... It's not the holy grail of tolerance yet," she cautioned.

The results do not mean that it is safe for current transplant patients to go off their medicines. Doing so could lead to organ rejection and even death, doctors warn. And Sachs said the treatment will not solve the country's organ shortage.

In the 1990s, Sachs showed the treatment could work in a kidney recipient who was a good genetic match. The woman, who had an organ and marrow transplant in 1998, has not needed anti-rejection drugs for a decade.

Early

continued from page 1

tant provost for Undergraduate Admissions said, adding that overall applications submitted for consideration is down three percent to 14,000 from last year's total count of 14,500.

"In terms of numbers, though we are down, the total pool in academic and ethnic diversity will be greater than ever before," he said. "And we're excited about the opportunity that these changes present to us."

A favored system

The University has long-endorsed a non-binding, non-restrictive Early Action program which allows applicants to submit an application for consideration on Nov. 1, an earlier date than the Dec. 31 regular admission deadline that the majority of applicants choose to meet.

Under the Early Action program, candidates are notified by mid-December of an admissions decision of either admit, defer or deny. Deferred applicants have their files re-evaluated in the regular decision admissions process and are notified along with the regular decision applicants at the end of March. Students denied under any admission program may not reapply within the same academic year.

Notre Dame's Early Action is unique from other schools in that it is designed to give prospective applicants a clear admissions decision in time for the student to have many options to make the right college selection. Saracino said high school counselors have always "praised" the admissions procedure the University offers.

Prospective high school students also favor this component of the admissions process at Notre Dame because it helps them prepare well for the havoc of college applications in general. Henry Hodes, an early-action admit from Rockhurst High School in Kansas City, Mo., said Notre Dame's early admissions process made applying to colleges, "a lot easier."

"The college admissions process is so crazy and complex, and we are always being advertised with e-mails and notifications," he said. "Notre Dame is very clear on when to apply even when it's [your] number one choice, the online application is very friendly and easier to use."

Hodes also said he liked the non-binding nature of Early Action, which allowed him to consider his acceptances at peer institutions such as Boston College and Georgetown just in case he felt his needs could be satisfied at those universities.

"Still, I've known that Notre Dame has always been my number one choice," he said. "While [those schools] have much to offer, I have realized that Notre Dame fits my needs the best; academically, socially, and spiritually."

Reaching out

The University is reaching out further than ever to prospective students in order to compile a diverse and talented class, Saracino said.

"We have undergraduates calling and e-mailing students, deans from various

colleges contacting students, as well as setting up chat rooms and chat times for admissions and First Year of Studies representatives to give information about things like FYS and financial aid," he said.

All admitted students and parents are invited to Open House programs, which will be held on Feb. 21, as well as April 10, 17 and 24.

In addition, select students will be invited to attend special programs to learn more about the University. One well-known program is the Spring Visitation Programs for ethnic minority students. There will be three offered this year from Feb. 21-24, April 3-6, and April 17-20.

Two Reilly Visitation Weekends will be held March

27-30 and April 10-13 for the most academically-talented students. There will also be one science and engineering program Feb. 7-8.

This year, however, admissions established a program that allows international students to explore the

University to a greater degree. The program, known as the Hesburgh International Scholars program, was a recommendation of the Notre Dame Alumni Association's International Committee last spring and will invite students from Latin America to visit campus.

"The program was created in honor of Father Hesburgh's longtime commitment to the internationalization of Notre Dame," said Ruben Medina, assistant director of Undergraduate

"In this day and age of globalization, it is imperative that we create world leaders that will make a positive impact when they return to their home countries."

Ruben Medina
assistant director of
Undergraduate
Admissions

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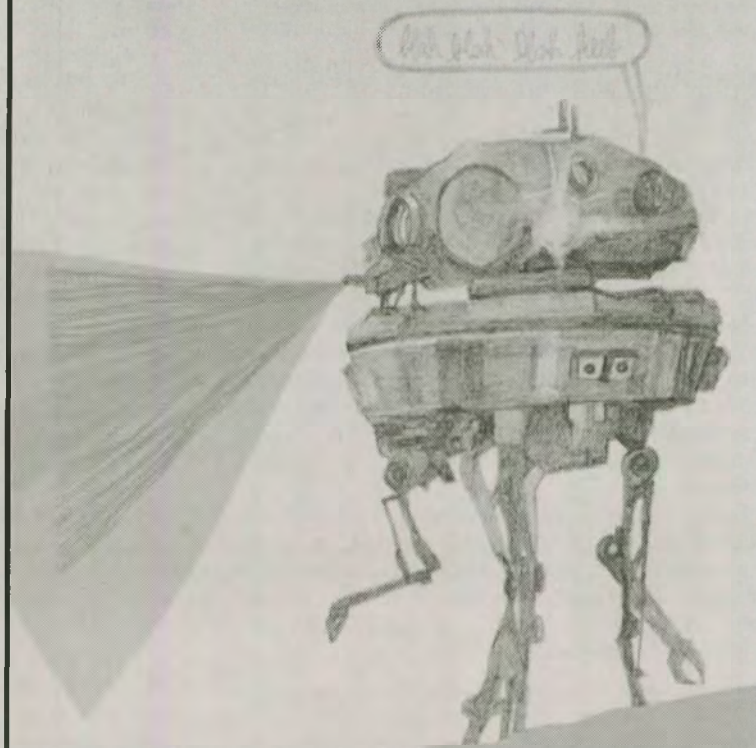
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Stocks

Dow Jones **12,270.17** +298.98

Up: 1,406 Same: 70 Down: 1,955 Composite Volume: 2,255,296,934

AMEX	2,145.44	-26.94
NASDAQ	2,316.76	+156.85
NYSE	8,805.68	+144.51
S&P 500	1,338.76	+28.10
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	13,045.60	+216.54
FTSE 100 (London)	5,609.30	-130.80

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
S&P DEP RECIEPTS (SPY)	+2.40	+3.14	133.86
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	-0.36	-0.16	44.02
FINANCIAL SEL SPDR (XLF)	+7.10	+1.85	27.90
CITIGROUP INC (C)	+8.03	+1.96	26.36

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	-1.66	-0.058	3.426
13-WEEK BILL	-5.38	-0.120	2.110
30-YEAR BOND	-1.23	-0.052	4.175
5-YEAR NOTE	-2.17	-0.057	2.566

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-2.22	86.99	
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-7.20	883.10	
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-0.15	83.80	

Exchange Rates	
YEN	106.6850
EURO	0.6841
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.0243
BRITISH POUND	0.5116

IN BRIEF

eBay CEO to step down in March

SAN FRANCISCO — Meg Whitman will soon step down as chief executive of eBay Inc., the online auction company that went from wobbly startup to multibillion-dollar household name in her 10-year tenure.

Whitman, 51, had been reported to be plotting the move and handing the job to John Donahoe, 47, who has been heading eBay's core auction and e-commerce businesses. She confirmed her March 31 departure as eBay reported fourth-quarter earnings Wednesday.

Whitman will remain on eBay's board of directors.

"With humor, smarts and unflappable determination, Meg took a small, barely known online auction site and helped it become an integral part of our lives," said Pierre Omidyar, eBay's founder and chairman. "We're all enormously grateful that Meg dedicated herself to stewarding eBay through its 10 most formative years."

GM and Toyota even in global sales

DETROIT — General Motors, a symbol of American industrial might and the world's top seller of motor vehicles since Herbert Hoover was president, has finally been caught by a foreign rival.

GM conceded Wednesday that Toyota Motor Corp. pulled even last year, each of them selling about 9.37 million vehicles, in another sign that the balance of corporate power is shifting from West to East.

It's the first time GM has been anything other than the exclusive global sales leader since 1931.

The figure of 9,369,524 vehicles sold around the world was a 3 percent increase from 2006 for GM. But Toyota's strong sales growth in the United States in recent years — and declining sales for GM in its own backyard — finally closed the gap.

Earlier this month, Toyota reported global sales of about 9.37 million vehicles for 2007. The Japanese automaker said Wednesday it would not release more precise figures, so who's No. 1 remains unclear.

Wall Street pulls off comeback

Potentially massive decline avoided by largest turnaround in over 5 years

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street pulled off a stunning comeback Wednesday, surging higher in late trading and wiping out what looked to be yet another massive decline. The Dow Jones industrials, down more than 323 points in earlier trading, ended the day with an advance of just under 300 points.

Such volatility has become a hallmark of Wall Street's performance in recent months amid the ongoing housing and credit crisis and growing fears of recession. And, after five straight days of pullbacks, a rebound was to be expected. But analysts saw some positive signs in the day's trading.

The Federal Reserve's decision Tuesday to lower its benchmark federal funds rate by 0.75 percentage point to 3.5 percent, while met with some skepticism, did give intrepid investors a reason to buy Wednesday.

"You might say this is a belated reaction to what the Fed did this week, compounded by hopes for the Fed to do more next week," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Avalon Partners. Traders who bet on the Fed's target fed funds rate were pricing in on Wednesday a 100 percent chance of a 0.50 percentage-point cut by the central bank when it meets next Tuesday and Wednesday.

Rate cuts are designed to stimulate borrowing and, in turn, business activity and the overall economy. They also will eventually boost profit margins for banks and other lenders, which have been working to lower costs and raise cash levels through layoffs and stock sales after having lost billions of dollars to bad mortgages and mortgage-related



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Wednesday where another early decline was followed by a stunning Wall Street comeback.

investments. Those companies — including Citigroup Inc., Washington Mutual Inc. and Merrill Lynch — were the big winners Wednesday.

"The early leaders in a market recovery tend to be banks, REITs (real estate investment trusts) and homebuilders, as these are the groups that typically would benefit first from a turnaround. And those have been the market leaders this week," said Steve Goldman, chief market strategist at Weeden & Co. "What has happened is the Fed is flooding the system

with liquidity and eventually we should see some traction in the economy. And stocks tend to respond first."

Still, analysts were mindful that in the past months, Wall Street has been known to soar one day and succumb the next, and that there are still many economic unknowns for the market to weather. And, given that stocks are so badly beaten down, bargain hunting played a part in Wednesday's turnaround.

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 298.98, or 2.50 percent, to

12,270.17, having fallen as much as 323.29 earlier.

Before Wednesday's session, the Dow had fallen nearly 10 percent since the start of the year, and it was down more than 15 percent since its record close of 14,164.53 on Oct. 9.

Wednesday's swing from negative to positive territory of 631.86 points is the largest point swing since July 24, 2002, according to Dow Jones indexes. The largest intraday point swing, a metric that Dow started calculating in July 1995, was a 721-point swing on April 14, 2000.

EGYPT

High oil prices concern energy secretary

Associated Press

CAIRO — U.S. Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman warned Wednesday that high oil prices can harm the U.S. economy when they reach \$100 a barrel.

"The economy has been able to withstand this big run-up in price," Bodman said. "But I believe the \$100 price of oil is going to have an impact." He spoke at a luncheon held by the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt attended by reporters.

He noted that while the current U.S. economic woes are largely due to the subprime mortgage crisis, "the price of oil as an immediate factor has been a contributor to our problems."

After briefly topping \$100, oil has been falling in recent weeks. The front-month Nymex contract traded Wednesday morning at \$87.37, down

\$1.84 on concerns that a slowing U.S. economy would reduce energy demand.

Bodman noted, however, that a new U.S. stimulus package, as well as Tuesday's sharp Federal Reserve rate cut, could send oil prices back up in the short term.

"The goal of those would be to stimulate the U.S. economy and to encourage economic growth to occur. If that occurs, that would have, I expect, a moderate increase in the price of energy," he said at the end of an eight day trip that has taken him to Jordan, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

Jolted by global recession fears, the Fed slashed interest rates Tuesday and President Bush and leaders of Congress joined in a rare show of cooperation in promising urgent action to pump up the economy with more than \$150 billion in tax cuts and government spending.

Market meltdown around the globe

and growing anxiety at home stirred lawmakers and the administration toward swift action, possibly within a few weeks. Wall Street plummeted as Tuesday began, following Asian stocks, then warily eased its sell-off after the Fed ordered the biggest cut on record in a key interest rate.

Stocks pulled back again Wednesday. Investors are worried about the health of the economy after reports from big corporate names like Apple Inc. and Motorola Inc. dashed any notion that the Fed's surprise rate cut could swiftly mend the economy.

In the course of his trip, Bodman said he asked major oil producing countries to raise output because of the harm prices were doing to world economies.

"Higher oil prices are having a significant effect on the U.S. economy, but they are having an even more profound effect on the developing nations," he said.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Little to like in Hillary or Mitt

If Hillary had left Bill when he didn't have sexual relations with that woman, I could have suggested a pretty good husband.

Back in 1998, he was 51 years young, wealthy, and good-looking. He was a politically ambitious liberal. He and Hillary would have made great bedfellows.

Who is contestant number one? Willard Mitt Romney.

Of course, since 1998, a few things have changed.

Today, Hillary and Mitt couldn't be much farther apart. While Hillary whines about the "Republican attack machine," Romney invokes "HillaryCare" as shorthand for the big-government universal health care plan that he loathes. But — at least, in political terms — Romney and Clinton would still look pretty good together.

After all, both would do just about anything to become president of the United States. And both are fighting back challenges from maverick, anti-establishment candidates with terrifyingly similar, dishonest tactical maneuvering.

It's pretty easy to get the impression that Mitt just continues to trot out whatever message he believes is most politically expedient at the time.

In Michigan, Romney sounded almost Edwards-ian as he asserted, "I'm going to fight for every single job. I'm going to rebuild the industry. I'm going to take burdens off the back of the auto industry."

Please. As Romney asserted that he would "fight for every single job," he blamed only higher emissions standards for the decrease in jobs rather than acknowledge that the free trade he so ardently supports might play a role.

In Florida, meanwhile, Romney is running an ad in Spanish, which includes a laughable "Soy Mitt Romney, y apruebo

este mensaje." Romney's efforts to appeal to the Latino community would be admirable — if he hadn't also repeatedly appealed to the anti-illegal immigration wing of the Republican party by emphasizing his desire to establish the United States as an English-only country.

Most prominently, Mitt has become a member of the Christian Coalition. 1990s-Mitt was — to use his words — "effectively pro-choice." 2008-Mitt bemoans his de facto pro-choiceness as "the biggest mistake" he's "ever made." While 1990s-Mitt asserted that "as we seek to establish full equality for America's gays and lesbian citizens, I will provide more effective leadership than" Sen. Ted Kennedy, 2008-Mitt spends little time talking about the importance of gay rights. Except, of course, when he's speaking of the importance of limiting them to protect "traditional" marriage.

Does anybody doubt that Mitt would say anything and twist any rhetoric to be president of the United States?

But Mitt's not alone. Consider the Hillary campaign's maneuvering in the last month: While apologizing for the invocation of "teenage drug use" by Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton's chief strategist Mark Penn managed to up the ante by reminding voters that the drug in question was cocaine.

Earlier this month, meanwhile, Clinton called Barack Obama's opposition to the Iraq war a "fairy tale" — even though a popular YouTube video from 2002 shows the then-state senator warning the country not to give the president a "carte blanche" and trumpeting increased inspections instead of war.

Even her emotions seem disingenuous and calculated. She's become notorious (thanks, of course, to Jon Stewart and YouTube) for an overdone laugh that she uses to get out of tough questions. And some — though not all — insist that her near-crying earlier this month was a calculated maneuver to appear more human. The very fact that that so many assumed she was being disingenuous suggests that she's gained a reputation for embracing Romney-like cal-

culative-ness.

Does anybody doubt that Hillary would do anything to be president of the United States?

In their rhetoric, Hillary stands for nothing and Mitt stands for everything. The Clinton campaign is like a high school cheerleader, seeming to revel in the tactical nastiness of a campaign — she called it "the fun part" at a debate earlier this year. If Hillary's the cheerleader, Mitt is the insecure kid who'll do anything to seem cool. He revels in being liked, no matter what he needs to say.

Together, they reflect the worst in American politics.

On Tuesday, Sen. Obama observed, "If you get the kind of looseness with the facts that Senator Clinton's displayed and you're willing to say anything to get a political or tactical advantage — that erodes people's trust in government.

"It makes them cynical. It's part of the perpetual campaign that is how Washington all too often operates these days and it keeps us from solving problems."

Therein lies the problem with a Clinton candidacy. People are already conscious of Hillary as a do-or-say-anything tactician — her ideas are, by and large, dismissed with vitriolic personal vilification. The contentious primary has again revealed the Clinton penchant for shameless twisting of facts and phrases. It's not, as some would have you believe, her experience that keeps her from being an effective candidate. It's her reputation — long recognized by Republicans, and increasingly by Democrats. She hardly stands a chance.

Unless, of course, her opponent is Mitt Romney.

Then we all lose.

Andrew Nesi is a junior American Studies major from Fairfield, Conn. He drank an entire two-liter bottle of Diet Pepsi — straight — to prepare to write this column. He encourages you to contact him at anesi@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Domer dating: 'Man up'

Man up! While reading Aristotle in La Fun the other day (the only place lively enough to keep me awake to power through the Politics), I couldn't help but overhearing a single girl talking to her best guy friend about her frustration with Domer dating (or lack thereof). I am so tired of hearing students complain about how screwed up gender relations are at Notre Dame.

This is not to say that gender relations are normal; they're not. It's true that there is a lack of dating culture at Notre Dame, but this deficiency is self-inflicted. People like to blame our abnormal gender relations on everything from the Notre Dame "family" mentality to the cold weather keeping everyone in hiber-

nation for winter. Girls always complain that guys never ask them out on dates but are far too suspicious of any guy who may try to strike up a conversation (especially if he is less than attractive). Guys, on the other hand, insist that all the cute girls already have boyfriends and that Notre Dame simply doesn't attract the same "talent" other schools do.

Since I am a guy, I'll speak to the guys. Guys, there are far more girls here than guys (especially if you include the all-girls school across the street). There are many single, cute girls just dying for a genuine guy to simply take them out on a date. Stop giving excuses, man up, and ask a girl out for coffee, lunch, or even dinner. She might say no,

but she might say yes. You might go on a second date, or you might not. You might end up with a girlfriend, or you might end up with a new friend.

As much as people complain about dating here, it's a lot harder out in the real world. Don't go your entire college career never having gone out on a date. Man up, fellas. This girl wasn't looking for a long-term boyfriend that would come through with the ring-by-spring at the end of senior year. All she wanted was a date. I hope she gets one.

Mark Weber
junior
Keough Hall
Jan. 23

OBSERVER POLL

Who will win the Republican nomination?

Mitt Romney John McCain
Mike Huckabee Fred Thompson
Ron Paul Rudy Giuliani

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There is nobody so irritating as somebody with less intelligence and more sense than we have."

Don Herold
English writer and illustrator

SYR — Seeing Your Roommate

"You're becoming a priest?!"

I still remember dropping the phone as my college roommate told me he was entering the priesthood. He was a poli-sci major. I was PLS. I was supposed to be the one with all the vocation. Plus, he was a varsity tennis player, and took Regis Philbin's daughter to an SYR — neither of which, granted, eliminates anyone from the priesthood. It just didn't seem to fit. But what contributed to my surprise more than anything was the certain fact that we hadn't ever — ever — had we? — no, absolutely not, in four years in Alumni Hall, talked about a vocation to the priesthood. What, in God's name, was happening? He told me later. He had been reading the Gospels.

The Gospels are not about keeping the status quo. We acknowledge this frequently enough. But perhaps we fail to acknowledge how difficult a reality this is. Most of us reasonably crave stability and predictability, including and especially in our relationships.

But the first pages of the Gospels serve as fair disclosure that all bets about predictable outcomes are off. In them we hear the story of the baptism of Jesus, during which John hesitantly pours water from the Jordan River upon Jesus, only to have the skies open, the Spirit descend upon Jesus in the form of a dove, and a voice thunder from the heavens, "This is my Beloved Son." And the Church calls this

**Father Lou
DeFra**

Faithpoint

the beginning of "Ordinary Time?" (Yeah, and my walk outside this morning felt a lot like "Spring Semester.") John enjoyed upsetting the norm as much as anyone. Yet even he seems, well, stunned, as the fullness of the Gospel breaks into the world in the person of Jesus.

If we read these early Gospels carefully, we might detect a hint of startle in this rebel's voice — as if John is beginning to glimpse the full reality of who Jesus is, but can't quite absorb it all at once. In fact, we catch John saying about Jesus: "I did not know him." "I saw the Spirit come down like a dove upon him. And I did not know him."

What is John talking about? How can he possibly say he does not know Jesus? Of course John knew him. In fact, outside of Mary and Joseph, maybe nobody knew Jesus, and all that Jesus was to become, better than his cousin, John the Baptist. For this reason John was born: to prepare the way of the Lord. It was John who jumped in Elizabeth's womb when Mary arrived pregnant with Jesus. (So John knew Jesus before Jesus knew Jesus!) It was John who pointed to his disciples, while Jesus was but a silhouette in the morning horizon, "There is the one we have been waiting for!" Yet, still, the eruption of the awesome power of the Gospel into John's life leaves even John occasionally overcome: "I did not really know him."

Think about any significant relationship you are in, or have been in. The deeper the relationship, the better. Think about how the relationship first began. The other

person was interesting to you in some way. And so you began to spend time together — all the while coming to know the other person more fully. If it is your best friend, you perhaps come close to being able to say: "I know you. I've come to know who you are." You come to know their family. Their most deeply held convictions. What they think about God. Where their wounds and sorrows are. It's one of the most beautiful things we experience as humans — to come to know another person like this.

And then, one day — it happens. The person you know, almost inexplicably, does something, says something, implies something, and you stop dead in your tracks, and say, "Where did that come from?" Sometimes, it's a good change the person surprises us with. Sometimes, it's a hurtful change. Sometimes, the change has been developing for months or even years, and finally one day, it becomes manifest. And sometimes, the person you are watching all this happen to is — you.

Such moments, we must admit, are often threatening, for we prefer security and comfort and the familiar. And when a person changes, our security and comfort are often threatened, especially if that person is our self or a close friend. The problem is the Gospel often evokes just such changes in those it reaches. There is hardly a Gospel story in which the person who encounters Jesus does not change in some remarkable way.

So, here is one great lesson from these first days of "Ordinary" time. Once John

recognizes the work of grace in his friend's life — even though the grace was revealing in Jesus realities beyond even John's untamed imagination — John does not hinder this new reality, but chooses to spend his life empowering Jesus to become who he is called to be.

I suppose the point is this. When people in our life — including ourselves — begin to grow in unanticipated ways, this can stir up all kinds of things in us — fear, insecurity, jealousy, over-protectiveness. All of these feelings are normal, and even sometimes justified. But John challenges us, as people of faith, to realize that grace is constantly transforming each one of us — including our best friends, our roommates, the people we encounter so frequently that it becomes hard to see them anew — into new creations.

Each one of us lives under a sky that is continually opening above us, trying to persuade us of our deepest identity: "You are my beloved child." This is no small calling. It has the power to carry us down paths of freedom and challenge that we have not imagined. So be generous — with yourself and others. Who knows where Jesus is leading you and them?

Father Lou DeFra is the director of Campus Ministry Bible Studies, which meets Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the ACE Office. He can be reached at delfra.2@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Contraception doesn't equal abortion

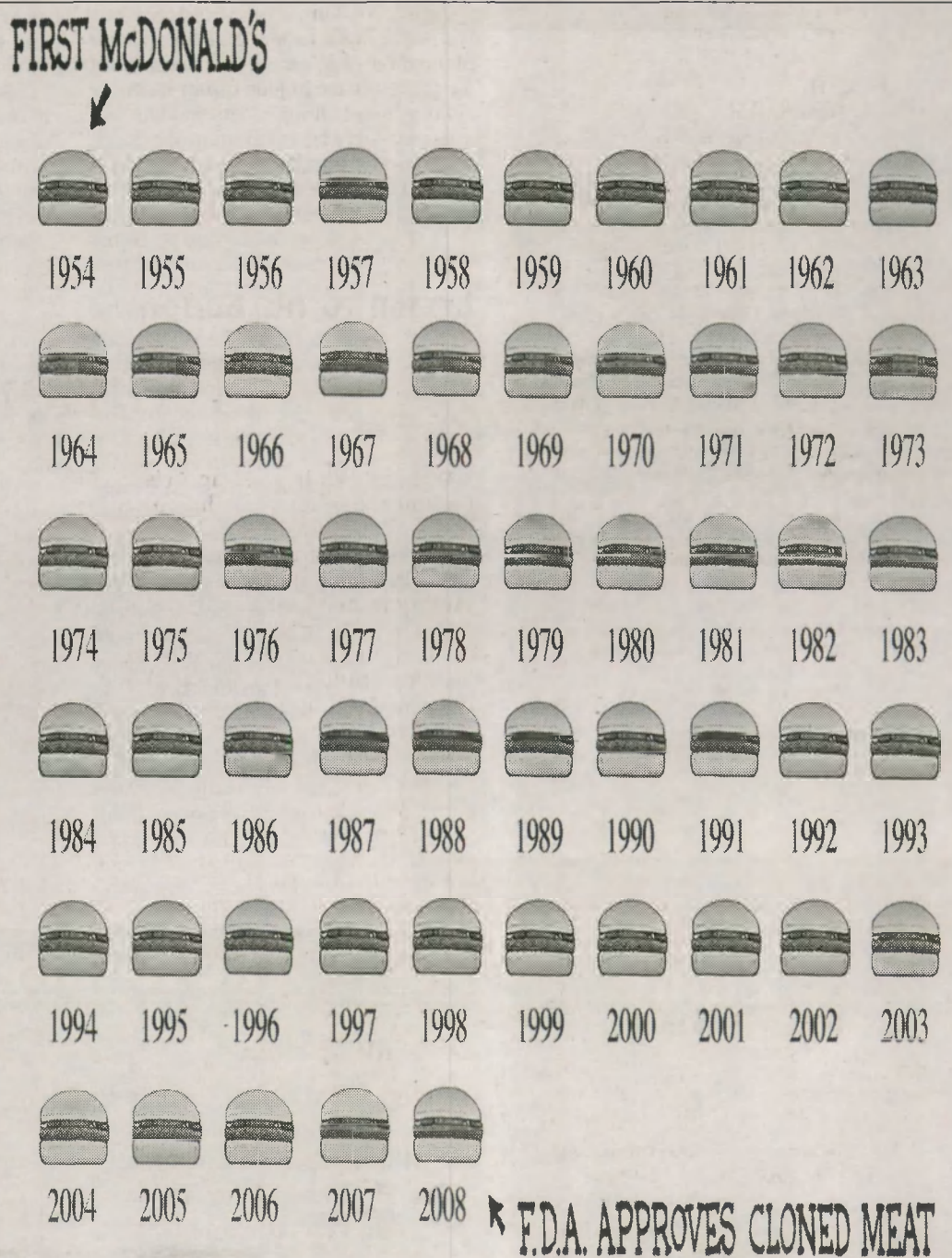
First, I'd like to say that the Catholic Church promotes using family planning as a method of birth control acknowledging that a couple is still open to life. How is that any different from other forms of birth control? I'm not saying it justifies abortion, but what I am saying is that currently, people do decide when to create life and when not to. By being abstinent, you are deciding not to create life, and even having sex while using any form of contraception, the possibility of life is always there. So to say, "If you claim the right to decide when life begins you will predictably claim the right to decide when it ends, as in abortion and euthanasia," is still just "predictably." It doesn't mean someone is right to make such a jump, but we also live in a world where we mix pro-life with anti-abortion. Pro-life is pro-helping foster children, anti-death penalty, pro-improving the adoption system, pro-economic justice, and pro-social justice.

The truth is that our world is becoming increasingly small due to improvements in health care and technology. The result is that you can not tell everyone to just pop out kids all the time because then we'll all have huge families, the world will get overpopulated, and we will all fight over resources. Wait, we already do that. Not that huge families are bad, but years ago, having many kids was part of a necessity for survival. We are surviving, far longer than ever in human history, and we do not need to have a litter of kids because most of them will live to reach adulthood. So, let's try this, every married person: Abstain from sex for two weeks out of each month, then you'll only have kids five percent of the time. That, however, deprives us of our sexual being, and in fact, simplifying sexuality down to sex down to reproduction deprives us of our sexual being.

Did God not create the clitoris? Does sex not feel great? Is there not pleasure involved? Well, there is, and to deny that the importance of pleasure in building a relationship with another person and God is to deny a piece of us that is God-given. Contraception only impedes, but doesn't do away with, the possibility for life. Now, abortion, that clearly ends life, and I am anti-abortion due to abortion being done not out of love for our neighbors as Jesus loves our neighbors. The point I'm trying to make is that the Catholic Church could do a world of good if it considered just for a moment that contraception doesn't equal abortion. Their form of contraception, family planning, has the same results as others — that it prevents pregnancy from occurring most of the time — but people can still get pregnant.

Robert McKeon
graduate student
Fischer Graduate Residence
Jan. 23

EDITORIAL CARTOON



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caglecartoons.com

Pope Michael



19th Annual Student Film Festival

A Convenient Truth



Dancin' Uncle Sam



Ring By Spring



My Dinner With Zibby



PREVIEW: FILM FESTIVAL KICKS OFF

By CASSIE BELEK
Assistant Scene Editor

Notre Dame students who labored in film production classes for an entire semester will be able to see their finished products in front of audiences of hundreds starting tonight. For some of these aspiring filmmakers, they may reach their largest audience ever this weekend, but for others, the 19th annual film festival may be just a starting point in their illustrious filmmaking careers.

The film festival's roots can be traced back to the 1980s when film production students would screen their films for their parents on graduation weekend. With the help of Notre Dame professor Ted Mandell, that screening led to the creation of an official film festival with contributions from students of all years. The first film festival took place in the basement of McKenna Hall. Students compiled the films to be shown, and Mandell said one of the first problems the festival encountered was a long running time.

The students "threw everything in there," he said.

Today's film festival is limited to 120 minutes, and with the construction of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, it has found a permanent home in the Browning Cinema. That location makes the film festival "more accessible to a larger audience," Mandell said. Additionally, it's an opportunity for the filmmakers to see their own work in a real movie theater in front of an audience.

In this year's film festival, four films came from the introductory film production course, six came from the intermediate course and five came from the advanced digital course. Mandell said the content of the films is up

to the students, but the professors are there to guide them through to their final product.

"We know everything in the film and how it got from point A to point Z," he said.

The films range from the humorous to the dramatic, and some have sparked controversy throughout the years. Mandell remembers one such controversial film, entitled "The Woman's Guide to the Penis," which featured a significant amount of male nudity. The film was smartly made, he said, but not everyone in the audience warmed to the content.

The film festival usually features a few Notre Dame-themed films that reflect on various aspects of life at Notre Dame.

"If it's a good film and it has an ND flavor, it makes it fun for the students," Mandell said.

This year's Notre Dame-related films focus on the "Ring by Spring" tradition, an obsessed fan's date with Tom Zbikowski and overpricing at the bookstore.

Mandell begins the festival screening each year with a funny film that has in the past featured campus celebrities such as Mike Brey, Tyrone Willingham and Brady Quinn. He's keeping this year's intro a surprise, but says that it will be a good one.

Several of this year's filmmakers graduated last May and have moved on to start careers in the film and television industry.

"This is how you get your foot in the door. You make a film, you create a reel," Mandell said.

Tickets are still available for all screenings and may be purchased online at performingarts.nd.edu or by calling 574-631-2800.

Contact Cassie Belek at
cbelek@nd.edu

2008 FILM FESTIVAL LINE-UP

"Pope Michael"

(Adam Fairholm, Emily Gorski, George Heidkamp)

Typing away on his computer in the basement of a small farmhouse in Delia, Kan., stands Pope Michael, winner of the papal election of a handful of "true" Catholics who believe the papacy was vacated with Vatican II.

Corman would have been proud of this low-budget thriller about a guy, a girl and a horse.

"The Bookstore Is Too Expensive"

(Hank Voge)

Textbook sticker shock overcomes an undergrad during his semiannual trek to the bookstore.

"In Memoriam"

(Maria Iuppa, Katie Parrott)

A young woman searches for the key to bringing back her dear friend.

"LuvPod"

(Bill DiPiero, Michael Rohman)

A stolen iPod leads to a wacky not-so-chance encounter.

"The White Tree"

(Mark Weber, Julian Owyong)

A racist high school clique confronts the new kid in town.

"Banana Who?"

(Justin Mack, Jake Griswold)

Orange you glad this guy's not your roommate?

"Wake Up"

(Matt Degnan, Brian Doxtader)

A cup of coffee and a mysterious femme fatale launch a noirish nightmare for a tired businessman.

"The Deal"

(Hank Voge)

A rubber deal goes foul in this quick-witted shortie.

"The Reimann Hypothesis"

(Dan Milan, Josh Talley)

A troubled high school teacher gets a surprise from a not-so-prized pupil.

"The Smoke of Torment"

(Ian Cooney, Joe Piarulli)

Apparitions and revelations haunt a young man during his daily trip to school.

"A Convenient Truth"

(Dan Moore, Rama Gottumukkala, Corey Baggett)

Stuck in the Midwest, and inspired by the work of Al Gore, a Notre Dame undergrad tries to take advantage of the global warming trend, and make frigid South Bend, Ind., a warmer place for everyone.

"Dancin' Uncle Sam"

(Mike Peterson, Jessica Guanajuato)

The tax season brings out some odd marketing gimmicks, including a likeable, street corner dancer dressed like Uncle Sam, whose friendly wave and infectious smile turns a mundane job into a daily public performance.

"Ring By Spring"

(Jean Milan, Tammy Gillings, Katie Johnson)

Notre Dame undergrads share the moments surrounding their recent engagements. "Ring by Spring" refers to the Domer race to find a spouse before graduation, and hopes of leaving campus with both a class ring and a wedding ring.

"My Dinner With Zibby"

(Nich DeCapio, John Lowe)

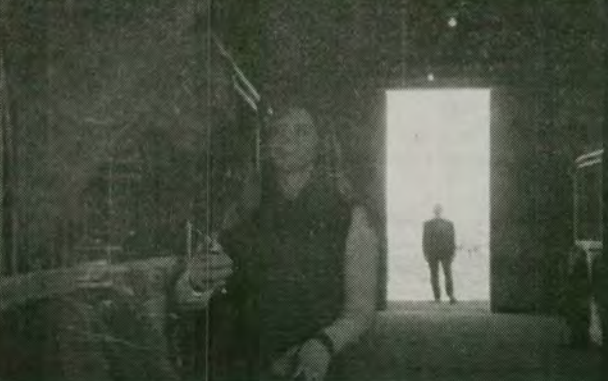
With a wink to the 1981 Louis Malle film, a dream date for an obsessed fan turns into a candid glimpse inside the everyday life of a famous Notre Dame athlete, and how he handles the hassles of stardom.

"The Killing Pastures"

(Jerry McKeever, Marty Schroeder)

B-horror master Roger

The Killing Pastures



In Memoriam



Notre Dame Film Festival

MATT HUDSON | Observer Graphic

FILM FESTIVAL SPOTLIGHT

By TAE ANDREWS
Scene Editor

"A Convenient Truth," Rama Gottumukkala and Dan Moore

Why document when you can "mockumentary?"

"A Convenient Truth" was actually not our first attempt at a documentary," Rama Gottumukkala said.

Working alongside his friend and fellow filmmaker Dan Moore, Gottumukkala — a former Observer assistant managing editor — and company had originally planned on shooting an "art imitating art" project centered on the work of local South Bend filmmakers, both amateur and professional. When that idea fell through, the Gott Moore? duo began scrambling for a replacement.

In a polar opposite to Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth," a sobering documentary about the damaging effects of global warming, "A Convenient Truth" takes quite a different angle.

"Another classmate pitched the basic idea for a movie about someone who thought global warming was a good idea," Moore said, "and then we took it and ran with it."

"What really sold us on the idea was this great opportunity to create a character, along with our lead actor and friend Chris Cimino, who any warm-blooded human being could root for," Gottumukkala said, "or at least pity, despite his outlandish actions."

In the end, the production decided to scrap its original idea of a straight-up documentary in favor of a hybrid "mockumentary" — a narrative based on a ridiculous character, but told through interview and shot in the documentary film style.

"We decided to make it

much more about the character and his journey," Moore said. "It became more about a personality than the issue of global warming, really. But obviously I don't endorse the behavior of the character in the film. I really just wanted to make a funny story for people to laugh at without taking any strong side in the global warming issue. The idea was fun."

Although Moore hasn't seen Al Gore's original film to date, he nonetheless maintains that he has a "green streak" and admonishes children everywhere to "recycle your cans, kids!"

The pair, which wrote, directed and edited the film, also collaborated on another Notre Dame student film festival entry, last year's "Unseen." The two struck up a friendship during their first film class at Notre Dame, and concluded their careers in FTT in the Advanced Digital Production class, in which they shot and pieced together "Truth."

"It was wonderful to work with Dan again, one of my closest friends at Notre Dame," Gottumukkala said. "Our sensibilities and passions in film — as well as our style of humor — are quite similar, so it was easy to merge the two while producing this film."

If nothing else, Gottumukkala said the team had a lot of fun making the film. "What greater, more satisfying feeling can you ask for than that one?" he said.

It would appear that Gott Moore? got it right the second time around.

"Wake Up," Brian Duxtader and Matt Degnan

Appropriately enough, Brian Duxtader and Matt Degnan's stark and dark film noir, "Wake Up," revolves around a cup of coffee. That, and a plot including a femme fatale and black-and-white film — two staple features of the genre.

Degnan brewed up the original idea for "Wake Up."

"He had the basic premise in mind and we sort of took it from there," said Duxtader, a former Observer Scene editor.

"I've always loved film noir as a genre and was really enthused about the possibility of making one, which was compounded by the fact that we shot black and white."

Degnan and Duxtader collaborated on the script, which consists almost entirely of action given that "Wake Up" is silent film. Degnan then created a storyboard from Duxtader's shot list.

One of the most defining features of film noir as a genre is its distinctive look. To this end, Duxtader watched several old film noirs in order to better grasp an understanding of the genre's aesthetic.

"More than most genres, film noir emphasizes the lighting using a technique that is colloquially known as 'pools of light,'" Duxtader said. "The high-contrast lighting and use of shadows and darkness was a big factor in how we approached the film, especially in one of the key scenes in the middle of the movie."

Duxtader said that shooting with a limited amount of film and on a tight budget

presented the production with the challenge of making adjustments on the fly in order to create a complete product on time.

"A big element of filmmaking is improvisation," he said. "What's funny is that you are only provided a certain amount of film and when it's out, it's gone, baby, gone. So you plan and plan and make sure you have shots and lighting and etcetera, perfectly set up and then you get to the set and things don't go like you'd hoped."

So much for best laid plans. On one day, a miscommunication resulted in a missing actress on the set, and the production was forced to substitute a member of the crew for the absent actress in order to complete the day of shooting. On another day, the crew accidentally took some shots with a gradient filter on the lens, resulting in unusable film and a reshoot on a different day.

Duxtader said the experience of planning, budgeting and shooting a film helped shed some light on the challenges of the film industry, for good and for bad.

"You are essentially your own writer, director, cinematographer and editor, and that allowed us to fully control every aspect of the process," he said, although he also noted that assistance from classmates helped him complete his film.

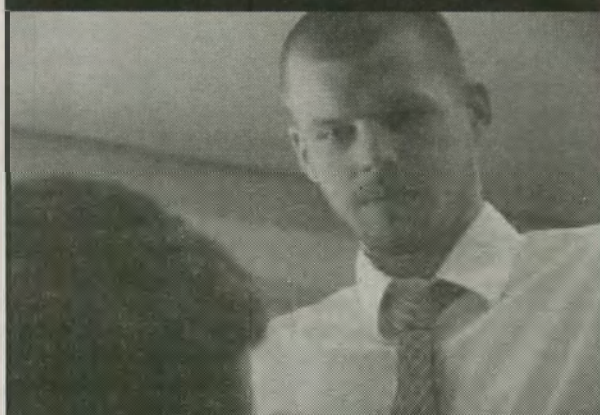
"One thing that's really great about the FTT department's approach to production is that it is extremely hands-on and collaborative. Everyone worked on everyone else's picture, which allowed us to really get a feel for filmmaking. The other members of the class were really helpful and creative."

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrew1@nd.edu

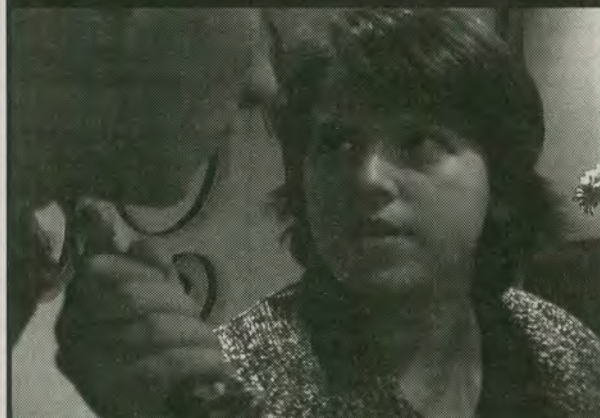
The Smoke of Torment



The Reimann Hypothesis



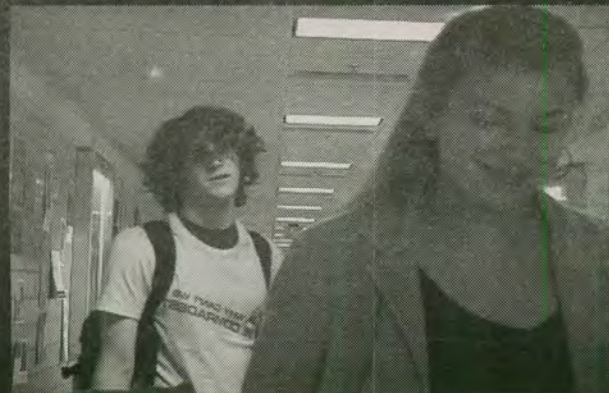
The Deal



Wake Up



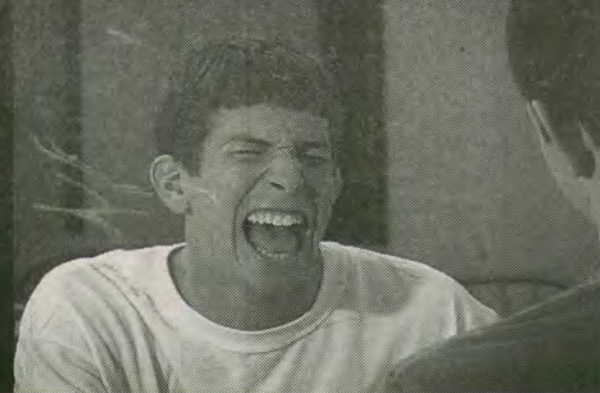
LuvPod



The White Tree



Banana Who?



SMC BASKETBALL

Belles come up short to conference rival Calvin

By GRIFFIN DASSATTI
Sports Writer

Despite another solid night from their starters, the Belles' recent luck in close games finally ran out as they fell on the road to Calvin 66-62. Saint Mary's (8-8, 4-4 MIAA) came into Wednesday night's game in Grand Rapids riding a two-game conference winning streak. In both games, the Belles trailed for a significant period but managed to come away with a three-point victory in each contest.

Wednesday's game seemed to run on the same script. The Belles trailed the Knights for the entire first half and despite being down by 10 points with 7:48 left in the period, the squad managed to pull within one point before heading to the locker room.

The second half was more of the same: a back-and-forth contest in which Calvin pushed the lead to eleven with 13:07 to go in the game, only to see that lead dissolve as the Belles went on an 11-1 run to cut the lead to one with six minutes

remaining.

Saint Mary's senior guard Alison Kessler capped off a 20-point night by hitting two free-throws with 1:11 left to close the deficit to 63-62. It looked like Saint Mary's might pull out yet another close win.

But Calvin junior guard Marcia Harris had other plans. Harris' two free-throws with four seconds left iced the game for Calvin and prolonged the Belles' eleven-year drought against the Knights.

Saint Mary's squandered stand-out performances by Kessler, sophomore forward Anna Kammrath, who finished with 16 points and nine rebounds, and junior guard Katie Rashid, who added 14 points.

The Belles' defense also had a relatively successful night. Harris, who finished with 23 points, was the only Knight to score in double figures.

Saint Mary's will look to rebound from the loss when they host Hope Saturday afternoon at the Angela Athletic Center.

Contact Griffin Dassatti at
gdassatt@nd.edu



Senior guard Alison Kessler looks for an open pass to her teammates during the Belles 82-68 win over Tri-State on Jan. 19.

NFL

Struggling Falcons select rookie Smith as head coach

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Falcons have picked a rookie head coach to lead a struggling team that next might have to draft a rookie replacement for Michael Vick.

Jacksonville defensive coordinator Mike Smith was offered the job by general manager Tom Dimitroff, another rookie, and owner Arthur Blank, a person familiar with the search said Wednesday.

The person requested anonymity because contract talks between the Falcons and Smith had not been completed as of late Wednesday afternoon. Smith's hire is expected to be announced on Thursday.

Smith, the Jaguars' defensive coordinator since 2003, had his second interview with the team Friday. He has never been an NFL head coach, but Falcons quarterback Byron Leftwich, who was with Smith in Jacksonville for four years, says Atlanta made the right choice.

"I've played against his defense more than anybody in the world," Leftwich said. "I did it every day in practice for four years. I think he's a great guy for the job."

"A lot of people might not know his name, but I've seen the work he puts in every game, how guys were so prepared on Sundays that they knew exactly what teams were going to do."

Smith, a former defensive assistant with Baltimore, had the league's No. 12 defense with Jacksonville this season after ranking second in 2006 and sixth in 2005.

Leftwich said Smith would never receive enough credit in Jacksonville because many assumed Jaguars coach Jack Del Rio, a former defensive coordinator, was the real mas-

termind of the defense.

Jaguars defensive end Marcellus Wiley confirmed that opinion when he said on ESPN Wednesday "Jack Del Rio was the defensive coordinator, and if it wasn't him, it was (linebacker) Mike Peterson."

Wiley said Smith "was just a guy who stood at the front of the room when Jack Del Rio was leading the defense."

Wiley said the Falcons "really went down low on the totem pole."

Leftwich said he was aware of the Wiley's comments but said of Smith: "I was with him for four years. Somebody had to be calling those plays in Jacksonville. It was him."

"We always said Smitty would be a great head coach because the time he put in and the way he interacted with players and

how seriously he took his job."

Smith and Del Rio did not return phone messages on Wednesday.

The Falcons were mostly woe-ful in their 4-12 season, but most of the few bright spots were on defense, where Smith will find several established or rising stars: John Abraham, Rod Coleman, Keith Brooking, DeAngelo Hall, Lawyer Milloy and Michael Boley.

Even before hiring Dimitroff, Blank's search focused on defensive coaches. The Falcons may try to build a strong defense around those established players while rebuilding an offense devastated by the exit of Vick, the star quarterback who was the face of the franchise before his guilty plea to federal dogfighting charges.

Vick is serving a 23-month sentence. He also is under an indefinite suspension by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell.

A key early decision by Smith and Dimitroff will be whether to chose a new quarterback with

the Falcons' first pick, as high as No. 3 overall, in April's NFL draft.

The Falcons tried three starting quarterbacks in 2007, but Leftwich, Joey Harrington and Chris Redman are not seen as long-term answers at the position.

The loss of Vick was too much for first-year coach Bobby Petrino to overcome. Petrino quit with a 3-10 record to take a job at Arkansas, leaving secondary coach Emmitt Thomas to finish out the 4-12 season as the interim head coach.

Smith will be Atlanta's sixth coach since December 2003. Before Petrino quit, Dan Reeves and Jim Mora were fired. Wade Phillips and Thomas worked three games each as interim replacements.

Smith first interviewed with Blank before the Jaguars lost to the New England Patriots in a divisional playoff game. His second meeting with the team was his first opportunity to meet Dimitroff.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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AROUND THE NATION

Thursday, January 24, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 13

Men's AP College Basketball Poll

	team	points	previous
1	Memphis	1777	2
2	Kansas	1751	3
3	Tennessee	1591	6
4	Duke	1543	7
5	North Carolina	1536	1
6	Washington State	1442	8
7	Indiana	1351	9
8	UCLA	1312	4
9	Georgetown	1235	5
10	Michigan State	1175	11
11	Wisconsin	1048	17
12	Texas	887	19
13	Pittsburgh	781	15
14	Vanderbilt	748	16
15	Butler	742	12
16	Dayton	567	14
17	Mississippi	529	18
18	Villanova	502	25
19	Texas A&M	502	10
20	Stanford	444	27
21	Marquette	332	13
22	Drake	313	26
23	Xavier	230	20
24	Arizona State	182	22
25	Baylor	173	37

Women's AP College Basketball Poll

	team	points	previous
1	Connecticut	1250	1
2	Tennessee	1192	2
3	North Carolina	1131	3
4	Maryland	1103	4
5	Rutgers	1065	5
6	Baylor	968	6
7	Stanford	953	7
8	California	894	8
9	LSU	882	9
10	Duke	746	10
11	Oklahoma	656	11
12	West Virginia	627	14
13	Old Dominion	594	15
14	Oklahoma State	573	18
15	Ohio State	541	16
16	NOTRE DAME	529	17
17	Georgia	494	12
18	Wyoming	375	20
19	Pittsburgh	357	22
20	George Washington	356	13
21	Texas A&M	216	19
22	Kansas State	161	27
23	Georgia Tech	119	28
24	Syracuse	106	29
25	Auburn	75	21

USFCA College Fencing Coaches' Poll

Men's		Women's	
	team		team
1	Penn State	1	NOTRE DAME
2	Ohio State	2	Ohio State
3	NOTRE DAME	3	Columbia-Barnard
4	St. John's (N.Y.)	4	Penn State
5	Columbia	5	Harvard
6	Pennsylvania	6	Northwestern
7	Harvard	7	St. John's (N.Y.)
8	Princeton	8	Pennsylvania
9	Brandeis	9	Temple
10	Stanford	10	Princeton

around the dial

NBA

Spurs at Heat
8 p.m., TNT

Nets at Warriors
10:30 p.m., TNT

AUSTRALIAN OPEN



Switzerland's Roger Federer reacts while playing American James Blake in their men's singles quarterfinal match Wednesday at the Australian Open in Melbourne. Federer advances to the semifinals Friday.

Federer joins young trio in Australian Semis

Associated Press

MELBOURNE — It's fine for Roger Federer to talk about the tension and nerves players feel before a Grand Slam semifinal. He is about to play in his 15th in a row, after all.

But while it might reassure Novak Djokovic to hear that the man he'll be facing in his first Australian Open semifinal experiences some nerves too, he'd better be wary of the rhetoric.

"I remember when I made my first Grand Slam semifinals or my finals, I was so nervous," Federer said in an almost confiding tone, after beating James Blake 7-5, 7-6 (5), 6-4 on Wednesday. "Now it's been

so many that it's almost become some sort of a routine. That's helped me a great deal being able to cope with those moments."

Federer has a brilliant conversion rate, reaching the last 10 Grand Slam finals and winning 12 of the last 18 dating to his first at Wimbledon in 2003.

The momentum and experience gives Federer the edge, he says: "Maybe they blink a little bit in those important moments, whereas maybe usually they wouldn't."

At 26, Federer is the oldest of the men's semifinalists, and will meet the youngest in 20-year-old Djokovic on Friday. The third-ranked Djokovic beat

No. 5 David Ferrer of Spain 6-0, 6-3, 7-5 to complete a run to the semifinals at all four majors.

Rafael Nadal, who will play unseeded Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the other semifinal, is the longest-serving No. 2 in tennis history, and he's only 21. Nadal knows something about catching Federer on a bad day in a Grand Slam, though, after beating the Swiss star in the last two French Open finals.

Still, Federer prefers to see the No. 2 and No. 3 players as potential rivals at the end of each major.

"It's great that Rafa made it through, as well, with Novak. It's good for tennis," he said. "It's not just one

guy, but it's a few guys now who have been playing very consistently.

"It's going to be interesting to see. I'm excited playing against Novak, no doubt."

Djokovic has two fellow Serbians in the women's semifinals.

No. 3 Jelena Jankovic ousted defending champion Serena Williams, and No. 4 Ana Ivanovic beat Venus Williams 7-6 (3), 6-4.

It's the second time in four majors that the Serbian trio has made it to the semis, repeating their run at the last French Open, and gives the end of the women's draw a distinctly eastern European accent.

IN BRIEF

Ravens hire Cam Cameron as new offensive coordinator

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — Cam Cameron, coming off a 1-15 season as head coach of the Dolphins, was hired Wednesday as offensive coordinator of the Baltimore Ravens.

Cameron, 46, was fired by Miami earlier this month. His only victory came against the Ravens. He's the first assistant hired by new Ravens coach John Harbaugh.

Cameron was the San Diego Chargers' offensive coordinator for five seasons before his one-year stint in Miami. In 2006, the Chargers led the NFL in scoring with 492 points.

The Dolphins finished near the bottom of the league in yards and points last season, and Cameron was fired Jan. 3 by new Dolphins executives Bill Parcells and Jeff Ireland.

The Ravens went through several offensive coordinators under former coach Brian Billick, who was fired Dec. 31.

Rockies give SS Tulowitzki six-year, \$31 million deal

DENVER — Troy Tulowitzki went into spring training last season just hoping to secure a spot on the Colorado Rockies' roster.

That won't be a concern this season. Tulowitzki and the NL champions finalized a \$31 million, six-year contract on Wednesday that includes a club option for the 2014 season.

"It's surreal," Tulowitzki said. "It's awesome."

The 23-year-old slick-fielding shortstop showed up for his news conference wearing a black suit, white shirt and purple tie, and was flanked by teammates Matt Holliday and Garrett Atkins.

Tulowitzki said he's just getting over the sting of being swept by the Boston Red Sox in the World Series.

However, the team's success played a big role in committing to a long-term deal.

Subpoena of former All-Star Knoblauch still not served

WASHINGTON — Former major leaguer Chuck Knoblauch had not been tracked down as of early Wednesday evening by federal marshals trying to serve him a subpoena from a House panel investigating steroids in baseball, a committee staffer told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because staffers were not authorized to make public comments on the matter.

Knoblauch, a four-time All-Star who played for the Yankees, Twins and Royals from 1991-02, originally was asked to appear Thursday for what was supposed to be the first of five depositions or transcribed interviews scheduled by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

Those sessions are in preparation for a hearing Feb. 13, when the witnesses are scheduled to include seven-time Cy Young Award winner Roger Clemens.

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Bulls

continued from page 20

opponent's home venue. The result often is a contest against a lower-echelon team, commonly called a "body-bag game."

Notre Dame will have to schedule several "one-off" games to fulfill Athletic Director Kevin White's goal of seven home games, four road games and one neutral site game each season.

"This is part of our commitment to play more games in South Bend," Heisler said.

This time, at least, Notre Dame found a way to play an extra home game against a solid team on an upward trajectory.

In fact, it appears South Florida jumped at the chance to play in South Bend.

"Our football program and fans deserve this type [of] matchup," South Florida Athletic Director Doug Woolard said in a statement. "It features one of the most storied programs in college football history against a young program that has risen to prominence at a record pace."

Besides South Florida's strong showing in the 2007 season, the Bulls have a major recruiting advantage that should help them build future competitive teams. Central and south Florida are hotbeds of high school talent, and the opportunity to play and live in the temperate climate of Tampa can woo players averse to colder weather.

The agreement between the two schools appears to have been in place for some time, but South Florida and Notre Dame only openly acknowledged it after the Tampa Tribune's report. On Wednesday, Heisler could not confirm the date of the game because his files on Notre Dame's future schedules were "in boxes" stored away.

Still, neither side is rushing to sign an official contract, which would include all financial and broadcast terms of the deal.

"We frankly have not been worried about signing contracts for a game down the road to a great extent because so many of the media things and language in the contract become [obsolete]," Heisler said. "For instance, the creation of the Big Ten Network and the Big Ten's latest agreement with ABC, ESPN and the Big Ten Network creates a whole new set of rules related to footage, Web sites [and] coaches' shows."

Heisler said the use of video on new media platforms, which are changing rapidly, creates a particular problem when trying to sign a contract three years before a game.

"All that's just gotten way more complicated. Web sites in particular are a huge item in use of footage," Heisler said. "Part of this is getting NBC involved on any of these relationships so that there's a complete understanding of when an institution comes to South Bend what can they do."

NBC owns the broadcast rights to all Notre Dame home football games.

As for the Big East, Heisler said Notre Dame has yet to plan exactly how it will fulfill its goal of playing three teams each year.

"All that has not completely been put in place," he said. "... I don't know that there's a school in the conference that we haven't had conversations with."

Notre Dame will have some return games against Big East opponents, but there are likely to be more home-only games announced in the future.

"We'll end up with some home-and-home situations, but we can't do that with everyone in the league probably," Heisler said.

Contact Ken Fowler at
kfowler@nd.edu

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For information, contact Judy Madden 631-8508 or jmadden2@nd.edu

Opener

continued from page 20

goals and 25 assists.

Joining Yeatman on the attack will be junior Ryan Hoff, who netted a team-high 40 goals for the Irish last year. Even more impressive than Hoff's scoring might have been his accuracy — he posted a .500 shooting percentage on the season.

While the Irish graduated only three starters from last year's squad, midfielders Lucius Polk and Brian Hubschmann will be key losses. Hubschmann, an honorable mention selection to the All-America team, was among the top three for the Fighting Irish in points, goals and assists.

Polk was also a solid offensive contributor for the Irish, tallying 18 goals and seven assists.

"We've definitely lost the most in our midfield," Corrigan said. "We have to solidify and prove ourselves in the midfield this season."

Pacing the midfielders will be senior Michael Podgajny, who has 70 points in his career at Notre Dame. Playing alongside him will be senior Taylor Claggett, a face-off specialist, who has a .595 winning percentage in his career.

The Irish face a tough schedule that includes three NCAA Tournament teams from last season — Loyola, Albany and North Carolina. In addition, the Irish will participate in the inaugural GWLL Tournament at the conclusion of the regular season.

"It should be fun, and a great environment to play in," Corrigan said. "It's a great way to end the regular season and experience tournament pressure without the one and done of the NCAA Tournament."

Notre Dame begins its season Sunday with an exhibition at home against Robert Morris. The Irish will open the regular season Feb. 16 at Loyola.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

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Eire

continued from page 20

trip to include an educational aspect.

"One of the things I'd like to do is get our guys in a course this summer on Ireland so they have some feel for it," Brey said.

This idea did not sit well with sophomore guard Tory Jackson, who said he wanted to spend his spare time doing "anything fun." According to Jackson, taking a class about Ireland does not qualify as "fun."

"I may skip out on the trip," Jackson said. "Don't tell anybody, but I might skip out."

Despite Jackson's strong objections, Brey said he'll force the guard to join the trip anyway and pondered changing his name to suit the Irish population.

"Oh, he's going," Brey said. "His name may be Tory McJackson for the two weeks we're over there."

The team will hardly be alone. Anthony Travel is currently organizing travel options for others wishing to make the trip.

"I just think it's just so natural,"

Brey said. "And we'll have a lot of fans tagging along on some golf trips, some excursions going over there."

Brey said the trip will be a good learning experience for his team, especially this year's freshmen, who have seen limited minutes all season.

"It's going to be great for our basketball program because we'll get ten days of practice which we'll start at the end of summer school," Brey said. "For our freshmen who aren't playing, think about it for them, their season starts Aug. 1, not Oct. 15, and we can get them in games there because those games aren't counting for the NCAA Tournament. We can look at different lineups and experiment. It's just a great head start for next season."

Note:

◆ Brey said McAlarney sat out Wednesday's practice because of an injured hip, but the injury shouldn't interfere with his playing time Saturday against Villanova.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

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CONTACT:

Skip Rigsby or Chris Guerra
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Fan

continued from page 20

before I got back, he used to stand up in the bathtub," Appleby said. "Watching him grow up in pictures sucked more than anything. There were days when we had mail calls, and I used to hate it."

He talked to Betsy on the phone as often as he could, and she put up pictures of their son on MySpace for him to see. He also found a better way to keep track of his beloved Notre Dame hockey team than just watching the Gametracker that he said "sucked, it was so slow."

Appleby had conversations with Irish players Dave Brown, Dan VeNard, Christian Hanson and more on AOL Instant Messenger. VeNard said over the summer Appleby asked him how their lifts and training were going.

"I'd ask him about, not necessarily the details, but getting an understanding of what he's doing over there," VeNard said. "We talked a lot about when he'd come home and stuff, looking forward to the future and stuff."

"It was a nice relationship we developed."

Hanson said he didn't know Appleby before he shipped to Iraq, but one day Appleby sent him a message explaining who he was, that he was in Iraq and that he was a huge Irish hockey fan. The two talked about the season in general every week or so.

"It takes guts for him to go over and do what he did," Hanson said. "He left a wife and a newborn to go over and serve our country, and that takes guts."

Appleby even scheduled his rest and relaxation trip back to the U.S. to coincide with the senior game last February against Ferris State. He brought a MasterCard-style sign that read "Watching Dave Brown play hockey ... priceless." After the game, Brown saw the sign and gave his stick to Appleby before

talking and taking pictures with him.

"To have a fan that's as dedicated as we are to this team is incredible," VeNard said. "... It's nice that we put on a good show for him, and for the few hours in the middle of the night over [in Iraq], that he can just rest and have no worries about what else is going on."

Discovering hockey

Appleby didn't know that Notre Dame had a hockey team until a little more than two years ago.

He grew up with a love of everything Notre Dame in his hometown of New Castle, Ind., about 50 miles east of Indianapolis, but never had a chance to visit campus. He attended Vincennes University after high school and met his future wife, Betsy, who was a student at Indiana University-South Bend.

"I told [Betsy] that if she ever took me to see Notre Dame, I'd marry her," Appleby said.

Betsy Appleby took Kory to visit campus in December 2005 and Kory was true to his word. He discovered another important part of his life that day, however.

The couple was visiting the merchandise store attached to the hockey dome when Kory heard the banging sticks and pucks of the practice going on nearby. Intrigued by what was going on, he stayed for practice and talked to backup goalie Rory Walsh. It was all he needed to get hooked on hockey.

"It's a sport that you can actually get into as a fan," Appleby said. "I know [Irish coach] Jeff Jackson encourages fans to hit the glass if an opponent gets smashed into it. That makes it kind of fun, the atmosphere of it. The guys, whether they lost by four or five goals or whatever, they're still going to come out and talk to you and sign autographs."

By the middle of that 2005-06 season, he and his wife were season ticket holders and have been since. They brought signs to the senior game at the end of that season with "Rory for

President" written on them that they smuggled past the turnstile attendants and ushers.

When he flashed the sign to Walsh at the end of the game, the third-string goalie gave him his stick. The stick still hangs on a wall of his apartment, next to Brown's stick and other Notre Dame memorabilia that hockey and baseball players have given him or autographed for him. His son Keating's name was taken from the middle name of Irish relief pitcher Jess Stewart, who he met at a baseball dinner during his weekend home from Iraq last year.

Appleby said he chose to make a sign for Walsh because no one knew who he was, which started a tradition, now in its third year, for Appleby and his wife to honor one player a season.

The year after, when he was in Iraq, Appleby said he decided to choose Brown because he wanted to stick with a goalie. This year, however, Appleby finished his tour in Iraq and made it back to Indiana on Sept. 26, a few weeks before the hockey season started.

'VeNard Nation'

With his player-selecting tradition, Appleby wanted to go back to its roots and choose a lesser-known player. He picked senior defenseman and alternate captain VeNard, who has moved in and out of the lineup with injuries over his career.

To honor VeNard, Appleby made navy blue hooded sweaters for himself and his wife that say "VeNard Nation" on the front with a monogram ND. The back read, "He'll puck you up." Betsy Appleby came up with the slogan, and the two wear them in their season ticket seats along the glass to the right of the Irish bench. They have also given the sweaters to VeNard and his mother and father, who wear them to games sometimes.

"I think it's hilarious, it is a riot," VeNard said. "The whole thing is a joke because you could do a sweatshirt of Mark [Van Guilder] or Brock [Sheahan], the little more high-profile guys. Doing a plug like myself, it's



Photo courtesy of BETSY APPLEBY

United States Army soldier Kory Appleby salutes a commanding officer during a tour of duty in Ramadi, Iraq.

pretty funny."

Appleby gave the sweater to VeNard during the season kickoff dinner. When he did, Hanson joked that maybe people did love VeNard after all.

Appleby and his wife wait after home games this year to talk to VeNard, his parents and all the other Irish players. When he was in Iraq, the players would approach his wife after the games to ask how Appleby was doing in Iraq and how she was holding up at home.

"He's a great guy," VeNard said.

Appleby already knows which player he will pick next season,

and he and his wife have already planned out the sweater they will make.

Back from Iraq, with no chance of ever being sent back, Appleby will be at every game in the Joyce Center from now on with his wife and son, pounding on the glass and yelling encouragement at players.

"We're just out here playing a game and having fun in college, and this guy's over there fighting a war in Iraq, risking his life for ours," Hanson said. "It means something."

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu

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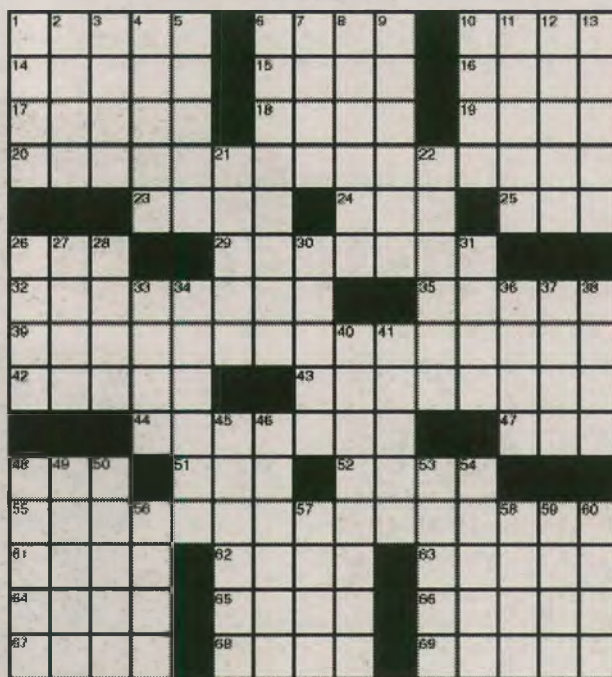
CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

Across	29 Gave another hand	64 Fire
1 Solicits in bulk	32 One way to get a witness	65 Darling
6 Flings	35 Setting for the setting of el sol	66 Auto in a Beach Boys song
0 Commodious craft	39 End of some addresses	67 Exchange words?
4 Detail in a Georgia O'Keeffe painting	42 Rolled the dice	68 Curling targets
5 Plat book unit	43 Renaissance Faire entertainer	69 "Gotta run!"
6 "Gotta run!"	44 Some widows	
7 "Lincoln Heights" actress Hubbard	47 "Wednesday" (Jane Fonda film)	Down
8 Set down	48 Journal (legal periodical)	1 sheet
9 James who sang the ballad "At Last"	51 It's "just a number"	2 Jacopo, composer of the earliest surviving opera
20 End of some addresses	52 Small hit	3 Squabbling
23 It may go in a lock	55 End of some addresses	4 "Miracle on 34th Street" name
24 Shade of blue	61 Device for rotating one's tires?	5 Engage in a bit of swordplay
25 "Getting to _____" (best seller about negotiating)	62 Unbelievable	6 Chipotle, e.g.
26 Zogby poll partner	63 Adversary	7 "_____ in gloves catches no mice"
		8 The Dolphins retired his #12
		9 "Oh! Carol" singer, 1959
		10 Provided unbeatable service?
		11 Swank
		12 Douglas or Smith of the W.N.B.A.
		13 Afternoon fare
		21 Timeworn
		22 Hose
		26 Not mint
		27 Powerful feline
		28 Construction beam
		30 "Timecop" star Van _____
		31 Item packed by a mountain climber

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

HAD THEMA SKIED
OBI SONAR HITME
BLACKJACK ANSON
NALA OCA ODES
ORING TWOFORONE
BENDERS VFW YAY
IRE MER POUR
GOLDENPARACHUTE
IDEE TEX MOO
BEE EAR SPOTTER
BAJILLION POISE
CHAS RON INCA
GOOEY AGOODDEAL
URBAN HAZES APT
SABRE SNELL REY



Puzzle by John Farmer

33 Baker's dozen, maybe
34 One singing "Those Were the Days?"
36 "CSI" woman
37 Feds
38 Silthery
40 Hoops bloopers
41 "To wrap up ..."
45 Exclamation at an epiphany
46 "Justine" novelist
48 Riveted
49 Like a sidebar
50 Runner-up to Ike
53 "Darn!"
54 Kith and kin
56 Prizefighting prize
57 Blackthorn fruit
58 Jazz singer Anderson
59 Grant for a filmmaker?
60 Plimpton portrayer in "Paper Lion"

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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tiffani Thiessen, 34; Mariska Hargitay, 44; Princess Caroline of Monaco, 51; Richard Dean Anderson, 58

Happy Birthday: Things will start to fall into place and you will begin to realize what you want to pursue. Everything is starting to make sense this year. Love can now move forward and the hold-ups of the past can be put to rest. You can turn past mistakes into future gains. Your numbers are 8, 15, 21, 26, 29, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Go after whatever you can in order to spice up your life. Love is on the rise and travel, entertainment and trying new things should all be put into play. An emotional issue can be dealt with before it becomes unbearable or impossible. 5 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Think before you do or say something you will regret in the future. It won't be worth it to let your emotions lead the way. In time everything will become clear but don't try to manipulate the situation. 2 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): This is your day to accomplish no matter whether it is at home, work or school, so pick up the slack and get ahead. In the end you will feel better, do better and position yourself for praise. 4 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stick to what you know not what others want you to do. You have to be true to yourself if you are going to do a good job. You may like things to remain the same but sometimes it's good to spice things up. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Passion, love and romance should be your intent, not trying to trick or fool someone into something. Consider what's best for everyone. You are in control but you don't want to hurt anyone. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Secrets are being kept but that doesn't mean you should go on a rampage because you think you are being left out. Do your own thing until the information is revealed to you. To push someone will only set you back. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Try something new or get involved in something unusual. A chance meeting with someone will take you out of your normal routine but be careful that you aren't being lead astray. Creative pursuits will open your mind. 4 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't take anything or anyone for granted. A financial gain can be made but only if you take care of your own money transactions. Nothing is likely to get done if you don't do it yourself. 2 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You will come up with some interesting concepts that are surely going to draw attention. You will be positioned well for making money or putting your plans into play. Your masterful way of doing things will lead to your success. 5 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't give in because you don't want to hurt someone's feelings. Do what's best. Focus on taking charge, moving forward fast and putting whatever needs to be done behind you. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotional matters will rise to the surface, so deal with them head-on. This can be a particularly passionate time for you if you address pressing issues and build a solid and secure life-long partnership. 3 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your plans to yourself. Someone will try to talk you out of doing what you feel is necessary. Don't let your emotions come between you and a good decision, especially regarding work, education or health matters. 3 stars

Birthday Baby: You are persistent, dynamic and engaging and can manipulate any situation you face. You are ahead of the times and highly intuitive.

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

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FOOTBALL

Team adds Big East's South Florida to 2011 schedule

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

The Bulls will run in South Bend in 2011.

Notre Dame and South Florida have agreed to play a game at Notre Dame Stadium that season, an addition that will help Notre Dame fill its goal of seven home games.

The Tampa Tribune first reported the agreement between the two schools, saying they would play on Nov. 19, 2011. South Florida confirmed that date in a news release Wednesday, although John Heisler, Notre Dame's senior associate athletic director in charge of football scheduling, said a conflict might force the schools to move the game from that date.

South Florida, a member of the Big East Conference, stunned college football observers this season with a strong start to the season, including wins over Auburn and West Virginia. The Bulls, who ran a run-first spread offense, climbed as high as No. 2 in the Associated Press poll before finishing the season 9-4 with a loss to Oregon in the Sun Bowl.

Heisler said the game is not neces-

sarily part of Notre Dame's plan to play three Big East teams each year. There will be no return trip to Tampa, but South Florida officials expressed great pleasure in having the opportunity to play at Notre Dame Stadium.

"I'm humbled and excited about adding Notre Dame to our schedule," South Florida coach Jim Leavitt said in a statement. "Games like this

are what you work so hard for; they help further the image of this program and they present a great opportunity for our fans and players."

Traditional powerhouse teams often have trouble scheduling home games against quality opponents without agreeing to a game at the

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HOCKEY

From half a world away

National Guardsman supported team while posted in Ramadi, Iraq

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

Kory Appleby woke up before dawn in the desert around Ramadi, Iraq, almost every Saturday and Sunday last winter.

The 21-year-old .50-caliber machine gunner in the Indiana National Guard sacrificed rest in between long days in the troubled capital of the Al-Anbar province to power up his computer at 4 a.m. In only a few hours, Appleby would have to get back to fighting a war, but sitting in front of the computer, he could forget about Iraq and the pain of having to leave his wife and newborn son.

Appleby followed every Notre Dame hockey game except one

last season live on the play-by-play Gametracker, not caring about the eight-hour time difference between Ramadi and South Bend. He called his wife, Betsy, who sat in the front row next to the Irish bench every game, for the starting lineups before he settled in to watch the game statistics flash onto his computer screen.

"It gave you a break. You do your job everyday, you see stuff that is just ridiculous," Appleby said. "You see Humvees being blown up and parts of Humvees that have been blown up. That was your time to get away."

Shipping off

Appleby shipped to Iraq on Oct. 1, 2006 for a one-year tour of duty. His son, Keating, was born on the same day, but his military duty prevented him from being there.

"I missed the birth of my little boy. He started taking his steps

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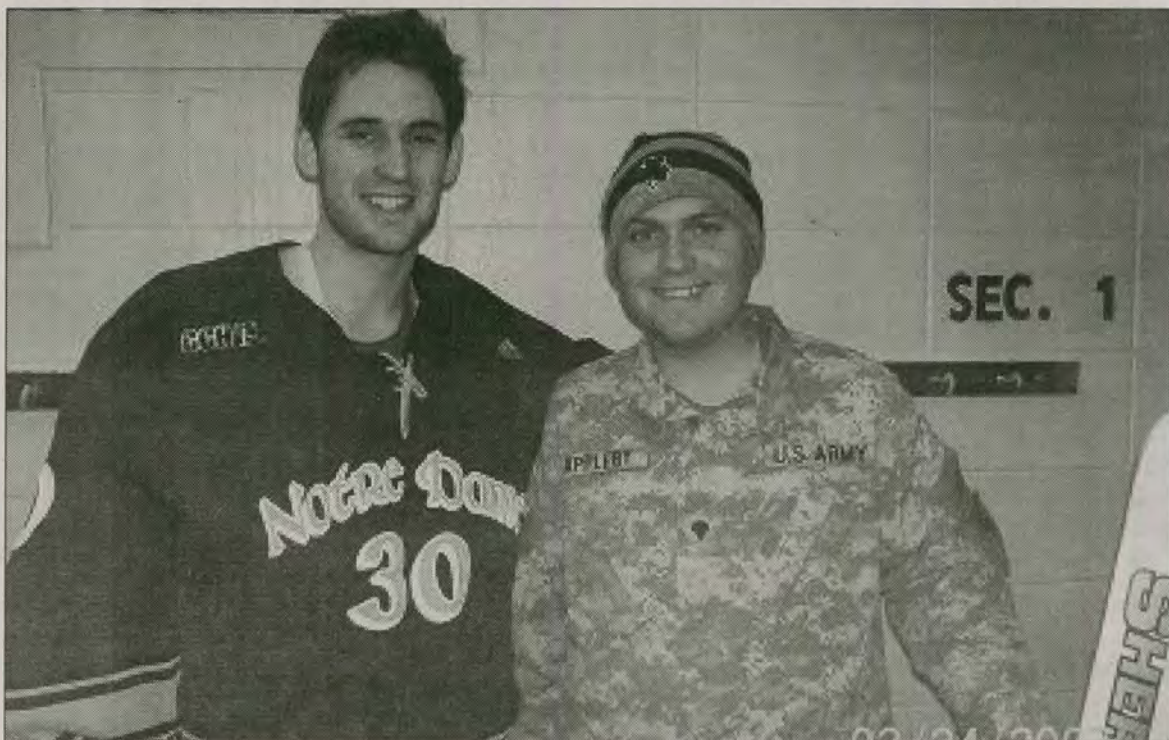


Photo courtesy of BETSY APPLEBY

United States Army soldier Kory Appleby poses with former Irish goalie Dave Brown after the senior game last February. Appleby traveled home from Iraq for three days to see his family and watch the game.

MEN'S LACROSSE

Squad looks to build on last season's success

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

Returning most of the starters on a powerful offense and the toughest defense in program history, Notre Dame will try to use its mix of talent and experience to make another championship run this season.

The Irish return seven starters from last year's 11-4 campaign. After losing three of its first five games to strong non-conference opponents, Notre Dame reeled off eight straight wins to close the regular season.

The streak included a perfect 5-0 record in Great Western Lacrosse League competition, earning the Irish their 10th GWLL title. The Irish advanced to the NCAA Tournament with a No. 8 ranking, but fell in overtime to eventual national champion Johns Hopkins in the first round.

Notre Dame enters the season with high expectations,

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ranked fifth in the Lacrosse Magazine preseason poll.

"Our guys have very high aspirations," Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said. "We return a lot of experience on a strong offense and defense."

Returning in net for the Irish is senior captain Joey Kemp, a preseason All-American selection and the 2007 GWLL player of the year. A four-year starter for Notre Dame, Kemp has a 26-11 record and 7.43 goals-against average for his career.

Senior Sean Dougherty, another preseason All-American, anchors an Irish defense that gave up a program-best 6.66 goals per game last season.

Two-sport athlete Will Yeatman, the 2007 LaxPower rookie of the year, will return as the leader of a strong Irish attack. Yeatman, who also plays tight end on the football team, led Notre Dame in points as a freshman with 21

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Staten Island Catholic school in Jackson, Miss.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish set to tap their roots

Hoopsters looking forward to Ireland trip this summer

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Editor

Part of being an athlete at Notre Dame means sacrificing the possibility of spending a semester abroad, but this August, coach Mike Brey will give his squad a taste of overseas travel when it heads to Ireland to participate in the Inaugural Emerald Hoops Program.

The Irish will compete in a tournament Aug. 13-25 against the national teams from Ireland and Poland while the coaching staff will take part in clinics set up by the Basketball Federation of Ireland, which developed the program. Under NCAA rules, each program is permitted to take one foreign trip every four years.

"We were in the rotation for a foreign tour and we said, 'Where do we want to go?'" Brey said. "To me, always, the Fighting Irish and Ireland was a



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Junior forward Kyle McAlarney shields the ball during Notre Dame's 108-62 win over Northern Illinois Dec. 8, 2007.

natural fit and it just so happened the Basketball Federation was looking to kick off a few things with this event."

For some on the team, like junior forward Zach Hillesland, the trip represents the first opportunity in their lives to leave the United States.

"Coach Brey was like, 'You guys are probably going to be like rock stars over there,' and I think we'll get a lot of that with [junior guard] Kyle [McAlarney] with that Irish name, and overall it should be a good experi-

ence," Hillesland said.

McAlarney, who felt the need to clarify that he is of Irish descent, said he was excited to explore Ireland in his spare time.

"I just want to walk around, enjoy the sights. I heard it's beautiful over there," McAlarney said. "Eat some Irish food, visit some Catholic churches, and take the time out to just enjoy it."

Brey said he also wants the

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company's American home and