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'Monologues' returns to campus

Anthropology, Sociology departments co-sponsor play; performances to be followed by academic panels

By MARY KATE MALONE
News Writer

After being held at an off-campus location in 2007, "The Vagina Monologues" will be performed in a DeBartolo classroom at Notre Dame from March 26-28.

Organizers tailored the production to fit specific guidelines set forth by University President Father John Jenkins — who, after speaking with students and faculty for 10 weeks in 2006 — decided not to prohibit the sexually explicit Eve Ensler play at Notre Dame.

His guidelines, which he delivered in April 2006, entrust academic departments with deciding what events should and should not be sponsored, and they emphasize the need for multiple viewpoints on controversial topics.

As a result, each performance of the "Monologues" will be followed by an academic panel discussion that will approach the play from different intellectual perspectives.

"We used those [guidelines] and sat down and considered, 'How can we make this event fulfill this criteria?'" said senior Lisa Rauh, one of the play's lead organizers.

"The Vagina Monologues"

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DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

Then-senior Stefanie Dittert performs in the 2006 production of "The Vagina Monologues" in DeBartolo 101.

ND: No double-take for twins

Siblings' applications reviewed separately

By ANN-MARIE WOODS
News Writer

On average, about six sets of twins apply for admission to Notre Dame every year. In 2005, Chris and Lindsay Holland were one of them.

Though both had dreamed of attending Notre Dame, only Chris was admitted to the class of 2010.

"I think she was happy for me but it was both of our dreams to come here and I would have loved to share that with her," Holland said.

The Hollands' case should put to rest any uncertainties about the University's handling of twin applicants, Assistant Provost for Enrollment Dan Saracino said. Notre Dame reviews twins' applications separately, he said, quenching rumors that the University would — by policy — either accept both twins or reject both.

"Applicants' files are each viewed separately," he said.

In this way, Saracino said, every student has the opportunity to excel in the admissions office, based on his or her credentials. He said it's not a good idea to base admissions decisions on whether the applicant's twin sibling is also a good candidate.

"It would not be fair to the twin applicant pool or to the entire applicant pool," Saracino said.

But freshmen twin brothers Kennedy and Coleman Collins said during their application process last year, a Notre Dame represen-

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Witness of Rockne crash remembered

By MEG MIRSHAK
News Writer

James "Easter" Heathman, who was 13 when he rushed to a pasture near his family's home in Chase County, Kan., to find the plane crash that killed Notre Dame football coach Knute Rockne, died Jan. 29. He was 90.

Heathman died at an Emporia, Kan., hospital of complications from pneumonia, his son, Tom Heathman, said.

On a cold, foggy March morning in 1931, Easter Heathman heard the sound of engines roaring, his son said. Seeing nothing outside, Easter Heathman thought it was a car racing along the highway.

Shortly after, the phone rang and a telephone operator from Bazaar, Kan., informed the Heathman household that a plane had crashed near their home, Tom Heathman said.

"Dad, his dad and a few of his brothers jumped in their Model-T and drove up there," Tom Heathman said. "They saw the tail of the plane in the air and the engines driven into the ground."

At the crash site, which is on a cattle pasture located three miles south of Bazaar, Heathman saw five bodies thrown from the plane and three more still inside. Just a week shy of his 14th birthday, Heathman was one of the first people to arrive at the scene.

A few days later, newspapers reported that Rockne was among the victims but even then, "it didn't mean anything to [Easter]," Tom Heathman said.

Rockne, who was 43 at the time of his death, led Notre Dame to consecutive undefeated seasons in his last two years. In his 13 years at Notre Dame, Rockne's team won six national championships.

President Herbert Hoover called Rockne's death "a national loss."

But to a young Easter Heathman in a small Kansas farming community, Notre Dame football was not a topic of everyday conversation, Tom Heathman said.

"Dad became more interested in Notre Dame from talking to people," he said.

After he retired, Easter Heathman got permission to take people to the crash site, which is located on private property. He took people on free tours to the site for about 20 years, Tom Heathman said.

"He loved taking people up there and enjoyed the people he met who made an effort to come to Chase County from everywhere," Easter Heathman's daughter, Sue Ann Brown, said.

A monument was erected in 1934 on the site by the Chase County Chamber of Commerce to honor the eight victims of the accident.

"Dad took it upon himself to show people the monument because he didn't want the guys who died in the crash to be forgotten," Tom Heathman said.

The limestone rock and marble monument, which stands at about 10 feet tall, is engraved with the names of all eight victims. But even before the monument was there, Easter Heathman had taken it upon himself to honor those who were killed.

"Dad built eight wooden crosses because he wanted people to know that there were eight people, not just Knute Rockne," Tom Heathman said.

see HEATHMAN/page 4

'Peru Days' to aid quake victims

By DENNIS SLATER
News Writer

On Aug. 15, 2007, a powerful earthquake killed more than 500 people in the region just south of Lima, Peru. Today, the Kellogg Center for International Studies will start auctioning the work of internationally acclaimed Peruvian photographer Guillermo Rivas to benefit the victims of the tragedy.

In exhibition at the Great Hall of the Hesburgh Center for International Studies since Jan. 28, Rivas' photographs focus on the colorful Feast of the Virgin of Candelaria, which is going on now in the Andean town of Puno, near Lake Titicaca. The artist's daughter, senior Andrea Rivas Dreyfuss,

see PERU/page 6

Photo courtesy of Kellogg Institute

Guillermo Rivas' photographs of Peruvian dances, including the one above, are being auctioned for charity at the Hesburgh Center.

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Members discuss a possible taxi flat rate

By JOSEPH McMAHON
Assistant News Editor

The Council of Representatives (COR) met Tuesday to discuss a plan to make taxi services in South Bend cheaper and more reliable for students.

Sophomore Gustavo Gari, the Keenan senator and chairman of the Campus Life Council's taskforce on community relations, presented to the Council the basic ideas of a proposal that will be given to Vice President of Student Affairs Father Mark Poorman at the beginning of April.

The proposal will outline suggestions, including the possibility of a flat rate for students.

"We'd like something where we can involve cab companies and different parts of the administration to get something where students get charged a flat rate," Gari said.

Many COR members voiced concerns that cab companies charge students more than other South Bend residents. Gari said the implementation of a flat rate would help fix

see COR/page 4

Inside Column

Rooting and recruiting

Tae Andrews

Scene Editor

Today is perhaps the most exciting day in college sports. At least in the off-season. Sorry, Mr. Mora, I'm not talking about playoffs, and no, Mr. Iverson, I'm not talking about practice.

I'm talking about National Signing Day.

On a day more exciting to some than Super Tuesday, grown men across the country will check their Internet browsers to see if very large and highly athletic young men across the country have signed on the dotted line with their college of choice.

Notre Dame happens to be one such college.

After suffering through the worst season of football in Notre Dame history, Irish fans, media and recruiting acolytes turn to the future, as names such as quarterback Dane Crist and receiver Mike Floyd have the potential to become the Brady Quinns and Jeff Samardzijas of the future.

Given the utter ineptitude of the 2007 campaign, the Irish faithful found themselves reduced to reveling in the schadenfreude of other programs' struggles (see Michigan-Appalachian State, or Ohio State's blowout loss to LSU in the title game) and trading on-field trash talk for wait-till-next-year wagers. So what if (insert team from the 2007) blew out Notre Dame? Our recruiting class is top-five, baby!

As of Tuesday night, recruiting Web site rivals.com had Notre Dame's crop of committed recruits rated third in the nation, up there with the likes of powerhouse programs such as Florida, Alabama and Oklahoma.

Unfortunately, during the wooing, wining and dining process recruits can vacillate more than Mitt Romney discussing abortion. The wild and woolly world of college football recruiting features more conniving, de-committing, backstabbing and betrayal than an episode of "The Real World."

As such, nothing is set in stone until it's set in ink, which is why today is such an important day for Notre Dame football. One highly-rated prospect, Omar Hunter (cue Darth Vader "kill" chant), already fled the coop for Florida, marking the second time in as many years that Gators coach Urban Meyer (cough cough @$^%&$*) has poached a Notre Dame recruit.

Hopefully, all of Notre Dame's recruits will put their ink where their mouth is and make good on their verbal commitments. If they do, the Golden Dome looks to have more four- and five-stars gathered in one place than a staff meeting at the Pentagon.

So keep your fingers crossed and hope for a little luck for the Irish. Notre Dame's Golden Dome has been lacking in luster as of late. Keeping all of our recruits would help get back some of that golden glow.

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

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrew1@ndedu

Corrections

The Feb. 1 article, "ND looks to boost financial aid," said that over the past 18 years, spending on financial aid has risen from $55 million to $72 million. The 1990 figure, however, is actually $5.5 million. The article also said the University's spending on financial aid has increased by 13 percent since 1990. That figure, however, is actually the average annual growth of University aid resources from 1999-2008. Finally, the article said tuition has only increased about five to six percent over the last 18 years. Tuition has actually increased about six percent every year since 1990.

The Observer regrets these errors.

Question of the Day: *What are you giving up for Lent?*

Peter Tooher

senior
Morrissey

"Warm showers."

Megan Dunne

freshman
Pasquerilla East

"Peanut butter."

Kelly Sciacca

freshman
Pangborn

"Peanut butter."

Elizabeth Dillon

freshman
Breen-Phillips

"Starbucks."

Catherine Dunne

senior
off campus

"Taking classes at DeBartolo."

Brian Boll

freshman
Dillon

"Nothing. I follow Thor."

BRITTANY BURGESON/The Observer

Freshman Cecilia Scrafford climbs the rock wall at the Rockne Memorial Tuesday.

Offbeat

Beer gets seatbelt, child doesn't

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. — Police have arrested a motorist they say had a 24-pack of beer strapped in with a seat belt but had a 16-month-old girl unrestrained in the back seat with the toddler's mother

Tina D. Williams was pulled over in St. Augustine on Sunday for allegedly running a red light.

A 24-pack of Busch beer was strapped in with the passenger-side seat belt, according to an arrest report. The girl was in the back seat with 20-year-old Amber Tedrick, who is the toddler's mother.

Williams, 46, said she didn't know why the child wasn't restrained.

Williams refused to take a breath test and a deputy found two metal pipes commonly used to smoke drugs in her purse, authorities said.

Store clerk robbed twice in one evening

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Two different armed robbers hit a Grand Rapids convenience store in one evening, taking money from the same store clerk on both occasions. Tommy Gutierrez, 31, works at the Shell station on the city's northwest side.

The robbers struck a little more than two hours apart on Sunday night.

Gutierrez told WZZM-TV he gave the thieves what they asked for and no one got hurt.

Gutierrez said he has no plans to quit his job at the store because he has bills to pay and a wife and children to support.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

In Brief

Ash Wednesday services will be celebrated in the **Basilica of the Sacred Heart** at **11:30 a.m.** and **5:15 p.m. today**.

The **"Lest We Forget: Two Years After Katrina & Rita"** forum will take place **today** at **5:30 p.m.** in the **Coleman-Morse Student Lounge**. The event features an **affected student panel for discussion** and **ticket giveaways** for the upcoming World View Film Series showing of **"Desert Bayou."**

NDVotes '08 will host a **Super Tuesday and early primaries analysis** featuring political experts from the Univrsity **tonight** at **7:30** in the **Coleman-Morse Lounge**.

A campus-wide **Lenten penance service** will be held **tonight** at **8** in the **Basilica of the Sacred Heart**.

The **student body primary election debates** will be held **tonight** at **8** in the TV lounge of **LaFortune** in front of the Dooley Room.

The **deadline** for **Spring 2008 Intramural entries and fees** is **Thursday**. Entries are due at **Rolfs SportsRec Center**. The **badminton doubles fee** is **$5** and the **floor hockey fee $50**.

Father Diego Irarrazaval, the director of Formation for the Holy Cross District of **Chile**, will deliver the lecture **"Culture and Religion in Latin American Theology" Thursday** at **4:15 p.m.** in **room C-103** of the **Hesburgh Center**.

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

Local Weather

	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
HIGH	35	30	35	33	32	22
LOW	20	15	22	21	15	10

Atlanta 72 / 54 **Boston** 44 / 43 **Chicago** 29 / 26 **Denver** 31 / 13 **Houston** 75 / 67 **Los Angeles** 68 / 43 **Minneapolis** 23 / 12
New York 62 / 52 **Philadelphia** 63 / 41 **Phoenix** 57 / 39 **Seattle** 43 / 37 **St. Louis** 50 / 47 **Tampa** 82 / 65 **Washington** 67 / 54

BOARD OF GOVERNANCE

Committee seeks funds for Midnight Madness

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
News Writer

The head of the committee for Saint Mary's annual Midnight Madness, senior Noreen Sherred, sought funds for the event at Tuesday's Board of Governance (BOG) meeting. Midnight Madness, co-sponsored by the athletic department, is an annual night of games, food and door prizes inside the Angela Athletic Facility.

"[The event] brings the Saint Mary's community together and builds Saint Mary's pride," said Sherred, who is also the athletic commissioner.

This year, the event will be run by students more than in the past, she said.

"Midnight Madness is put on to reward the women for all of the service they give the community throughout the year," Sherred said.

And it's only fair that they are in charge of it, she said.

The committee for the event has sent out letters and is currently receiving donations for prizes, Sherred said. However, it still needs more funding for food and decorations. The usual stipend from the athletic department has been cut back this year because the department believes it shouldn't spend too many resources on events that aren't specifically for Saint Mary's athletes, she said.

In other BOG news:

◆ Student body president Kim Hodges announced there will be a birthday party for Father Basil Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, on Feb. 11 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the dining hall.

◆ Sister Pushpa Teresa Gomes will be speaking at the first leadership lunch of the semester on Feb. 11 at noon in the Student Center, chief of staff Sarita Fritzler said.

◆ The president of the Student Diversity Board, Abby Henchy, said the Diversity Student Leadership Conference (DSLC) will be held Feb. 13-15. Issues such as immigration, women in business and socio-economic injustices, among other topics, will be covered.

◆ Elections for the new leadership of the Student Diversity Board and the Residence Hall Association will be held Feb. 11, said Maggie Siefert, elections commissioner. Sarah Barnes and Andriana Rodriguez are running for president of the Student Diversity Board and Maura Claugherty and Shannon Egan for the Residence Hall Association. There will be a chance to meet the candidates on Thursday at 6:30 in the west wing of the dining hall.

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Mass, penance scheduled

Notre Dame, Saint Mary's offer services for Ash Wednesday

By NIKKI TAYLOR
News Writer

With the start of the Lenten season today, both Notre Dame and Saint Mary's will be offering prayer services and Masses to observe Ash Wednesday.

Mass will be celebrated at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart today at 11:30 a.m. and 5:15 p.m. At Saint Mary's, Mass will be celebrated at 7 and 11 a.m. at the Church of Our Lady of Loretto and at 9 p.m. in the Regina Chapel. There will also be a Liturgy of the Word and distribution of ashes at 12:15 and 6 p.m. in the Regina Chapel.

"Ash Wednesday services will be standing room only in the chapel," Judy Fean, director of Campus Ministry at Saint Mary's, said.

Father Joe Carey, assistant director of Campus Ministry (CM) at Notre Dame, said he expects students to fill the Ash Wednesday services.

"The Masses in the Basilica and the residence halls are well attended every year," Carey said.

Since one of the main focuses of Lent is penance, CM will host a campus-wide Lenten Penance service Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. After the prayer service there will be 10 priests available for individual confessions, Carey said.

For a deeper spiritual experience, both schools also will be offering retreats during the Lenten season. The Four:7 Catholic fellowship is sponsoring a Lenten retreat, "The Journey Through the Desert," this weekend. At Saint Mary's, there will be a Busy Person's Retreat, designed to fit the hectic schedules of students.

Running from Feb. 10-14, this type of retreat takes up one hour every day. Participants spend 30 minutes per day in prayer and then another 30 minutes talking with a spiritual guide, Fean said.

Father John Pearson will host a three-part analysis on Catholicism and Lent entitled, "Sin, Grace, and Reconciliation." He will discuss these topics during the next three Tuesdays.

The Lenten tradition of Stations of the Cross will be observed at both campuses. Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday during Lent at 7:15 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. In addition, Saint Mary's and Notre Dame will both be hosting campus-wide Stations of the Cross in March.

Notre Dame's Cross Cultural Ministries will also be hosting a Lenten Day of Reflection at Creek House on Feb. 24.

Fean said she hopes the variety of events and services available to students will allow them to fit some of them into their schedules.

"We have different events from last year. We are looking forward to offering opportunities throughout the six weeks so students can take advantage and grow spiritually," Fean said.

This is "a season when everyone in this community is encouraged to examine his or her life and see how they can live holier lives," Carey said.

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Write News. Call 631-5323.

Heathman

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He also repaired the wood-post and barbed-wire fence that surrounds the monument.

"He felt almost a moral obligation to do it out of deference to the people it honored who perished at the site," Notre Dame Assistant Registrar David Kil said.

Kil, who first visited the Kansas site in 1973, met Easter Heathman when he stopped to ask for directions to the memorial. After learning Heathman was the young boy who arrived at the crash scene, Kil accepted his offer for a free tour.

"He was a silent hero in taking it upon himself to take people to the site no matter who they were," Kil said.

The unofficial caretaker of the monument, Notre Dame recognized Easter Heathman's work on March 31, 2006. During the ceremony commemorating the 75th anniversary of the crash, Easter Heathman was presented with a Notre Dame shadow box, an unusual award for a non-alumnus.

"He thought Notre Dame was special for the way alumni and fans treated him," Kil said.

At a pep rally for the 2006 Notre Dame football game against Penn State, Easter Heathman, accompanied by multiple family members, was inducted as an honorary member of the Notre Dame Monogram Club, Kil said.

Brown said her father feared the plane crash story would be lost once he could not take people to the site anymore. But last November, fundraising efforts began in Chase County for the creation of a Knute Rockne Museum, Brown said.

"Dad wanted to see it opened," she said.

She said the effort began after a member of the Rockne family offered to donate a 1932 restored Rockne Studebaker car if a place to display it could be furnished.

The Chase County Historical Society has since purchased a building that is currently being refurbished to house the car and other memorabilia, according to Brown.

And while a museum might effectively carry on the story of what happened on March 31, 1931, Tom Heathman said his father's own version will also live on among those who knew him.

"Dad has touched a lot of people and I don't think we will quit hearing about [his story]," Tom Heathman said.

Kil agreed, saying Easter Heathman and all the members of his family "are exceptional people in the way they treat others and respect the legacy of Knute Rockne. Just knowing him, to everyone who came to him and visited him, he treated everybody equally."

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COR

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this problem.

"It's a legitimate concern and one of the major reasons we're exploring a flat rate," he said.

The taskforce, Gari said, is currently doing extensive research on the issue by talking to various groups in the Notre Dame administration, including Poorman, Notre Dame Security/Police and Card Services. The task force has also contacted other universities, including the University of Virginia, Duke and Vanderbilt, to learn about the programs they currently have in place.

"The list of schools we're researching for this report has a range of city sizes," student body president Liz Brown said.

Gari said Virginia's system was especially interesting because it allows students to swipe their student ID inside the cab and charge the fare to their university account.

In other COR news:

◆ The Council also discussed the possibility of making the Student Business Board general manager a voting member.

The proposal, which was put forth by Student Union Board treasurer Kedeja Gaines, would require a change to the Student Body Constitution. Though there wasn't an official vote, Brown conducted an informal "straw poll," where the majority of the members polled said they would not support the proposal.

The Student Business Board is comprised of two student-owned businesses — Irish Gardens and Adworks. According to the group's Web site, "it is the responsibility of the Student Business Board to provide students with practical experience in a business environment and offer convenient services to the Notre Dame community. The minimum goal of the Student Business Board is to break-even after all debts are paid."

Gaines said she "feels strongly that the Student Business Board manager should be added" to the voting list. But for various reasons, many COR members disagreed with her.

Chief executive assistant Sheena Plamoottil said she wasn't sure any of the issues discussed in COR would apply to the Student Business Board manager.

"I don't really see the value of him being in COR," she said.

Junior class president Robert Reish suggested that perhaps the Student Business Board manager should be added as a nonvoting member, but Brown said she did not see the purpose in that move.

◆ Brown also announced student government will be hosting a town-hall meeting on the University's policy of hiring Catholic professors. The meeting most likely will be held in Washington Hall in late February.

There will be a debate followed by a question-and-answer session exploring whether the University should set a quota for the number of Catholic faculty members. In addition to members of the student body, some Notre Dame faculty and administrators will attend.

Attendance will be mandatory for all student government members.

◆ COR received a brief update on the student government elections from Judicial Council president Ashley Weiss.

Weiss said there would be no changes to the schedule of the "Vote Like a Champion" events and that the primary election will still be held Feb. 11 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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Play

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was first performed at Notre Dame in 2002. More than 600 colleges and universities stage the production during the months of January, February and March as part of the worldwide V-Day campaign, which aims to raise awareness about sexual violence against women.

Jenkins questioned the presence of the production at Notre Dame in a series of speeches after the play had been performed as a theatrical event on campus for four consecutive years. Ten weeks of discussions about sponsorship, endorsement, academic freedom and Catholic character followed his address, culminating in his decision to allow the "Monologues" at Notre Dame. That year, the play was performed in DeBartolo 101 and was followed by academic panels each night.

"[The girls] came forward with a very responsible proposal that really focused on this play as an intellectual event from several different perspectives"

Mark Schurr
Chair of the anthropology department

But last year, organizers failed to find a department to sponsor the production and held the "Monologues" at South Bend's First Unitarian Church. This was due to hurried planning — not faculty or department unease, Rauh said.

The sociology and anthropology departments are co-sponsoring the 2008 "Monologues." Faculty members in both departments agreed to do so unanimously, according to Mark Schurr, chair of the anthropology department, and Rory McVeigh, chair of the sociology department.

The academic panel schedule is still being finalized, Rauh said. The first panel is scheduled to present a theological perspective on the play, and the second panel will study the play from sociological and anthropological standpoints.

The final panel will most likely examine how the "Monologues" can help victims of sexual violence heal and move forward — a topic "that has never been included" in panel discussions in the past, Rauh said. "I think that's an aspect of the play that is really important."

The panel for the psychological discussion will include psychology experts who study performance and music "as a part of the healing process," Rauh said. Some — but not all — of the play's performers are victims of sexual violence or know individuals who have been, Rauh said.

In pairs, Rauh and other lead organizers of "The Vagina Monologues" presented their proposal for the play's production to various departments in the College of Arts and Letters.

"The girls have done a fantastic job. ... They came forward with a very responsible proposal that really focused on this play as an intellectual event from several different perspectives," Schurr said. "For [the anthropology department], the interest was that they had one panel specifically directed toward social science approaches."

Schurr has not noticed discussion among faculty members regarding the "Monologues" — a signal, he said, that Jenkins' final decision regarding the production was well received.

"You could put any play on in the DPAC, and if it was just a play by itself it would be entertainment," he said. "But if it was engaged ... talked about by professors, used as a course assignment ... it becomes an intellectual event. It's up to the students and faculty to look for the intellectual content in life. That's one of the things we should be doing as a university."

The event, though controversial, will "spark important discussions about important topics and issues that will benefit the community" especially with the inclusion of different academic perspectives, McVeigh said.

Students participating in the V-Day campaign are asked to fulfill two criteria in order to perform the "Monologues" on their campus: It must be performed on campus and raise money for local anti-violence organizations.

The Notre Dame production has been granted an exception for not fulfilling those criteria. Jenkins' decision prohibited such events from raising money on campus. Rauh is still finalizing which DeBartolo classroom the play will be performed in.

"The Vagina Monologues" has a purpose and place at Notre Dame as long as "new intellectual information can be brought to bare" every year, Schurr said.

He likened it to a production of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" or an elective course at Notre Dame — they are rarely presented annually in order to ensure that students are always engaging fresh material.

"If [the 'Monologues'] did change every year," he said, "I could see having it every year. If it didn't change much, I think it would be perfectly reasonable to have it less frequently."

Sophomore Stephanie Newsome is directing the "Monologues" this year.

Contact Mary Kate Malone at mmalone3@nd.edu

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NATIONAL NEWS

Al-Qaida training militants in Pakistan

WASHINGTON — Al-Qaida, increasingly tamped down in Iraq, is establishing cells in other countries as Osama bin Laden's organization uses Pakistan's tribal region to train for attacks in Afghanistan, the Middle East, Africa and the United States, the U.S. intelligence chief said Tuesday.

"Al-Qaida remains the pre-eminent threat against the United States," Mike McConnell told a Senate hearing more than six years after the Sept. 11 attacks.

McConnell said that fewer than 100 al-Qaida terrorists have moved from Iraq to establish cells in other countries as the U.S. military clamps down on their activities, and the organization "may deploy resources to mount attacks outside the country."

McConnell said while the level of violence in Iraq has dropped sharply since last year, it is going to be years before Iraq is stable.

"It is not going to be over in a year. It's going to be a long time to bring it to closure," he said.

Ban on rentals to immigrants challenged

FARMERS BRANCH, Texas — A lawsuit was filed Tuesday over this Dallas suburb's latest effort to keep out illegal immigrants by barring home rentals to people who can't prove they are in the country legally.

The suit, filed on behalf of real estate broker Guillermo Ramos, alleges the Farmers Branch City Council violated the Texas Open Meetings Act when it drafted and approved the new rule late last month.

The law requires prospective tenants to get a city license to rent houses and apartments.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Tensions rise between Sunnis, U.S.

BAGHDAD — The U.S. military faced complaints Tuesday from its Sunni allies over claims that more civilians had been killed by American forces — amplifying tensions as the Pentagon tries to calm anger over an airstrike last week that claimed innocent lives.

The disputes have further strained ties with anti-al-Qaida fighters considered crucial in turning the tide against extremist violence.

The latest deaths occurred when U.S. soldiers — acting on tips — stormed a squat, mud-brick house in the village of Adwar, 10 miles south of Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit. The predominantly Sunni area is home to many former members of Saddam's regime, and has been the frequent site of American raids.

Israel retaliates, kills 8 Hamas militants

GAZA CITY — Israel killed eight Hamas militants Tuesday, firing missiles into the sandy courtyard of a Hamas police station as the Islamic militant group claimed responsibility for a bold strike inside Israel, the first suicide mission in over a year.

The latest round of violence followed two weeks of anarchy on the Gaza-Egypt border that has heightened Israeli concerns that Islamic militants could use the chaos to infiltrate into Israel to carry out attacks.

LOCAL NEWS

State drops plan to privatize hospitals

INDIANAPOLIS — The Family and Social Services Administration has dropped a plan to privatize three state hospitals, throwing new uncertainty into its future care for chronically mentally ill patients.

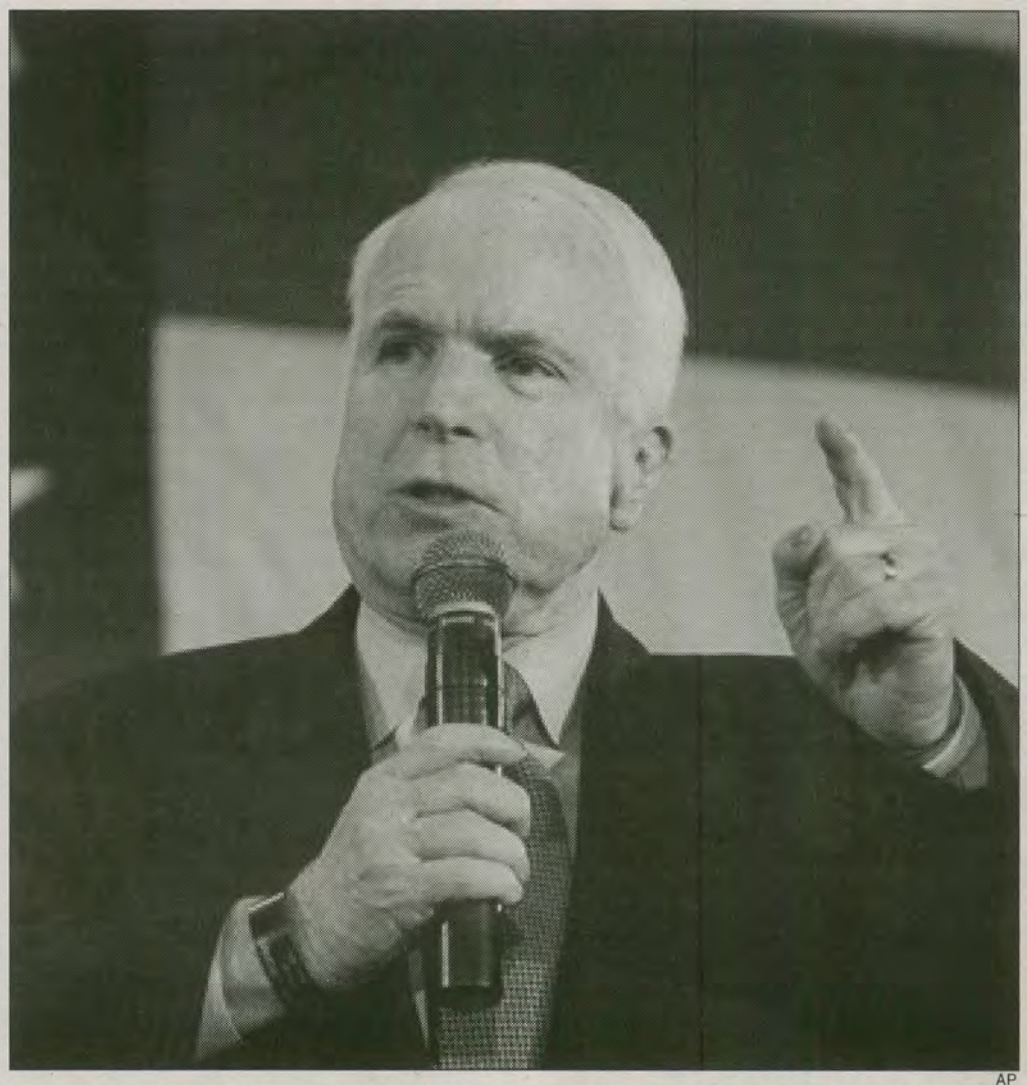
Less than five months after FSSA Secretary Mitch Roob told a state panel that a federal audit showed Indiana needed a new way of delivering care to chronically mentally ill patients, he has ended negotiations with a group vying to take over Richmond State Hospital.

Roob for the past 2 years maintained that the best way for the hospitals to remain open decades from now was for local nonprofits to take over their operations. However, in a Jan. 24 letter to the leader of the Richmond group, he said the state needed to revamp its system of care for mental patients.

McCain seizes GOP command

No end in sight for Democratic race; Clinton takes Calif., Obama still alive

Associated Press



AP

Arizona Senator John McCain speaks during a campaign rally in Florida Monday. McCain won the state's 57 delegates in the Republican primary election Tuesday.

WASHINGTON — Sen. John McCain seized command of the race for the Republican presidential nomination early Wednesday, winning delegate-rich primaries from the East Coast to California. Democratic rivals Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama traded victories in an epic struggle with no end in sight.

Clinton won Super Tuesday's biggest state, California, in the Democratic campaign, capitalizing on backing from Hispanic voters. Obama fashioned victories in Alabama and Georgia on the strength of black support.

McCain's own victory in the Republican race in the Golden State dealt a crushing blow to his closest pursuer, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

"We've won some of the biggest states in the country," McCain told cheering supporters at a rally in Phoenix, hours before California made his Tuesday Super. An underdog for months, he proclaimed himself the front-runner at last, and added. "I don't really mind it one bit."

In the competition that counted the most, the Arizona senator had 561 delegates, nearly half of the 1,191 needed for the nomination — and far ahead of his rivals.

Even so, Romney and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee said they were staying in the race.

Neither Clinton nor Obama proclaimed overall victory on a Super Tuesday that sprawled across 22 states, and with good reason. Obama won 13 states and Clinton eight plus American Samoa. But with victories in New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts, the former first lady led narrowly in the early tabulation of delegates for the night.

Missouri was so close that although Obama won the vote count it was likely to be hours before it became clear whether he or his rival had captured a majority of the state's 72 delegates.

The Democratic caucuses in New Mexico remained unsettled.

"I look forward to continuing our campaign and our debate about how to leave this country better off for the next generation," said the former first lady, looking ahead to the primaries and caucuses yet to come.

Obama was in Chicago, where he told a noisy election night rally, "Our time has come. Our movement is real. And change is coming to America."

Polling place interviews with voters suggested subtle shifts in the political landscape.

For the first time this year, McCain ran first in a few states among self-identified Republicans. As usual, he was running strongly among independents. Romney was getting the votes of about four in 10 people who described themselves as conservative. McCain was winning about one-third of that group, and Huckabee about one in five.

Overall, Clinton was winning only a slight edge among women and white voters, groups that she had won handily in earlier contests, according to preliminary results from interviews with voters in 16 states leaving polling places.

Obama was collecting the overwhelming majority of votes cast by blacks — a factor in victories in Alabama and Georgia.

Clinton's continued strong appeal among Hispanics — she was winning nearly six in 10 of their votes — was a big factor in her California triumph, and in her victory in Arizona, too.

McCain, the early Republican front-runner whose campaign nearly unraveled six months ago, won in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Missouri, Delaware and his home state of Arizona — each of them winner-take-all primaries. He also pocketed victories in Oklahoma and Illinois.

CHAD

Cease-fire reached after hundreds die

Associated Press

N'DJAMENA — Hundreds of civilians have died in fierce fighting between rebels and government forces in Chad's capital, Red Cross officials said Tuesday, as the insurgents agreed to a cease-fire and their momentum faded. Former colonial power France threatened to enter the fight to support the government.

Chad's government told the French military it still was fighting rebels using "air power" outside of N'Djamena, the capital, according to French military spokesman Cmdr. Christophe Prazuck.

Chief rebel leader Mahamat Nouri charged they were being bombarded by French Mirage jets — but France said it had not yet gone on the attack. French intervention in the past helped stave off a major rebel attack in this oil-rich country on President Idriss Deby, accused by the insurgents of corruption and embezzling millions in oil revenue.

Tuesday, bodies lay rotting under a tropical sun in N'Djamena, according to a local reporter who left his home Tuesday for the first time since the rebels entered on Saturday.

Corpses of more than 10 military and civilian victims were sprawled across Avenue Mobutu, a main thoroughfare. The charred hulks of two tanks and several pickup trucks, used by both sides in the fighting, littered the streets.

Most downtown shops and buildings have been looted. Further from the center, the state broadcasting station and the parliament building were stripped by rampaging looters.

The Presidential Palace, which backs onto the Chari River, was off limits, the entrance blocked by tanks and tree limbs. Presidential Guards patrolled outside.

Chad Red Cross officials said hundreds of civilians have died, most from bullet wounds. The officials, who were driving around looking for wounded, said they were too scared to give their names.

More than 1,000 people have been wounded, the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

Twins

continued from page 1

tative in Florida told them the University would not accept one unless it also accepted the other.

"I never had to worry about whether or not I would come to Notre Dame if Coleman didn't get in. They told us that they wouldn't split up twins if they had comparable or borderline scores and applications," Kennedy Collins said.

Just as legacies, ethnic minorities, athletes and the children of faculty members are given particular weight in the admissions office, "some special consideration is given to twin students applying to Notre Dame," Saracino said.

If one of the twins is borderline admissions material, the University may admit him or her to avoid breaking up the pair.

"But they have to be close [in terms of academic performance]," Saracino said.

Currently, there are approximately 24 sets of twins enrolled at Notre Dame, Saracino said.

The Admissions office always hopes to be able to give good news if possible to both twins applying for admission — but never at the expense of lowering admissions standards, Saracino said. And in cases like the Hollands', where twins are indeed split up, he suggested the option of transferring into Notre Dame later on.

"Each student ends up where they are supposed to be, whether that is Notre Dame or some other school," Saracino said.

And that also applies to the dorms they may end up living in.

"We do not encourage twins to live in the same dorm together, but rather we try to put them in the same housing lottery as every other student," Saracino said.

Contact Ann-Marie Woods at awoods4@nd.edu

Peru

continued from page 1

obtained his permission to organize the exhibit and auction the prints. The display and the silent auction — which starts today and ends Feb. 13 — are part of Peru Days, a celebration of the country's culture put on by the Kellogg Institute and a group of Peruvian students.

Peru Days expands on last year's Peru Day — also organized by the Kellogg Institute — to educate the campus community about "the richness of Peruvian culture and, of course, about its delicious and varied cuisine," Rivas Dreyfuss said.

"Very few people know much about Peru and its three totally different regions in the coast, the Andes and the Amazon jungle so we wanted to teach people," she said.

She and fellow student coordinator Claudia Barbachan helped plan tonight's Peña Criolla, an event with free food, music and demonstrations on Afro-Peruvian dancing. The areas most affected by August's earthquake — the cities of Chincha and Pisco — are also the birthplaces of this form of dance and music, Rivas Dreyfuss said.

The U.S. Geological Survey National Earthquake Information Center said 80 percent of Pisco was destroyed during the two-minute earthquake.

"When I visited the areas hit hard after the earthquake, people were sleeping on the streets and plazas because even if their houses had survived, they could crumble at any moment," Rivas Dreyfuss said.

She hopes the silent auction raises money for the victims.

"We are hoping people will begin to bid on [Rivas' photographs] for this charity," Rivas Dreyfuss said.

Her father's photographs had previously been displayed in Lima's National Museum and during China's world-famous Pinyao international photography festival in 2006.

"So whatever the photos end up going for, it will be a steal," Rivas Dreyfuss said.

Peña Criolla will begin at 6 p.m. today at the Hesburgh Center Main Hall. Peru Days will run until Feb. 13 when the silent auction ends. That same day, there will be a screening of the film "Dias de Santiago" in the Hesburgh Center auditorium. Filmmaker Josue Mendez will present the movie and answer questions.

Contact Dennis Slater at dslater@nd.edu

SRI LANKA

Rebels killed in major military offensive

Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — Government troops launched an offensive Wednesday against rebel fortifications in northern Sri Lankan, destroying 30 bunkers and killing 12 Tamil Tiger fighters, while air force jets bombed a meeting of the separatist group's leaders, the military said.

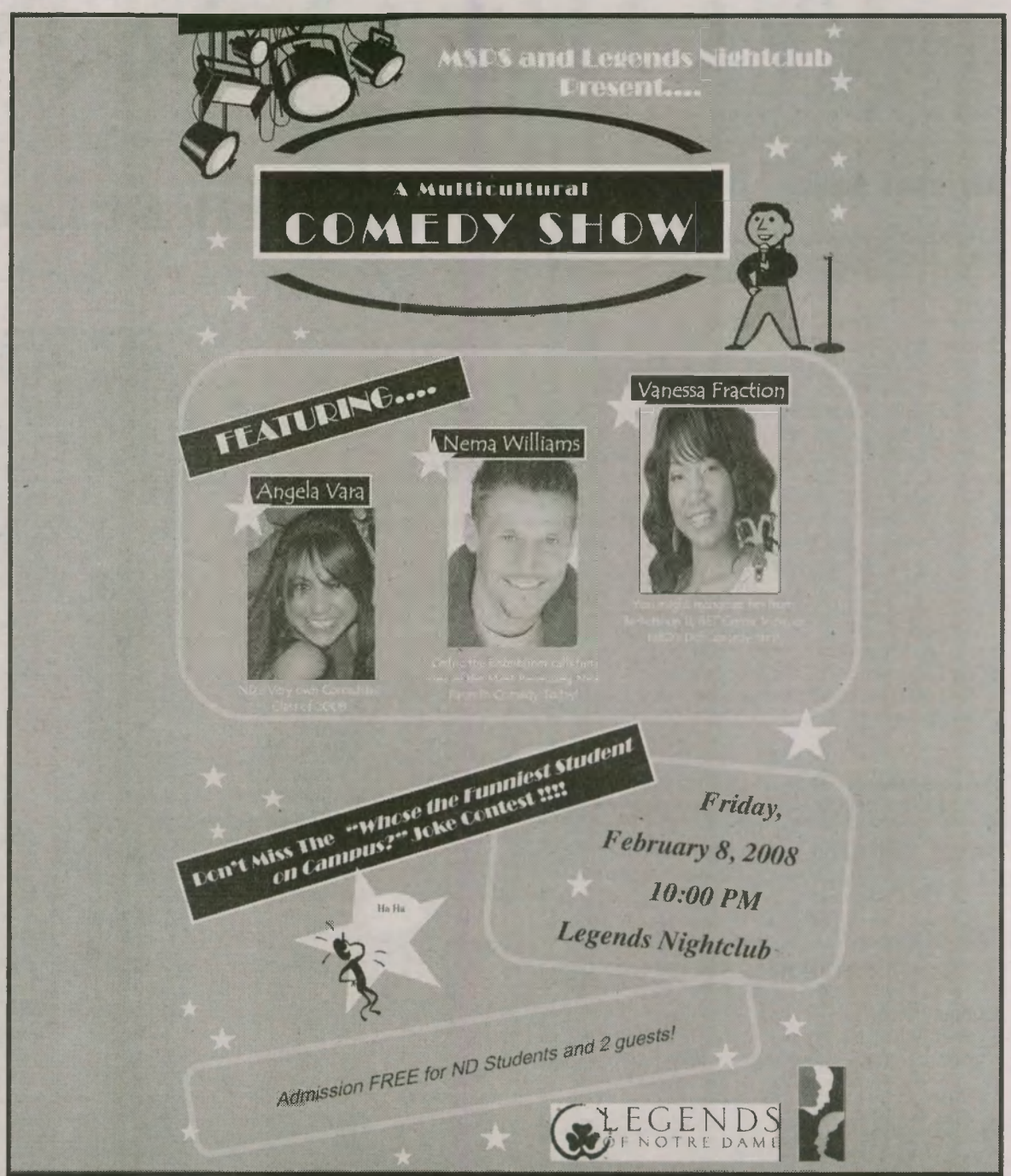
The attacks were part of an escalating operation against the rebels' de facto state in the north. President Mahinda Rajapaksa's government has promised to destroy the group by the end of the year and end the long-running war in this Indian Ocean island nation.

In the fighting Wednesday morning, troops backed by artillery, mortar fire and tanks crossed over the front lines south of rebel-held territory about 5:15 a.m. and attacked a string of Tamil Tiger bunkers, said military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara.

After about an hour of fighting that killed 12 rebels, the troops returned to their positions, he said.

"We don't want (the Tamil Tigers) to get organized in the first line of defense so they would start troubling us," he said. "We wanted to give them maximum damage and maximum destruction."

Two hours later, air force jets bombed a meeting of rebel leaders northwest of Kilinochchi, the main town controlled by the Tamil Tigers, Nanayakkara said.



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MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones	12,265.13	-370.03

Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:
637	77	2,710	26,812,286

AMEX	2,210.30	-46.62
NASDAQ	2,309.57	-30.51
NYSE	8,874.50	-303.39
S&P 500	1,336.64	-44.18
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	13,178.16	-567.34
FTSE 100 (London)	5,868.00	-158.20

COMPANY	%CHANGE	$GAIN	PRICE
S&P DEP RECIEIPTS (SPY)	-2.68	-3.69	134.13
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	-2.85	-1.28	43.69
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-3.71	-1.12	29.07
ISHARE RUS 2000 INDX (IWM)	-2.56	-1.84	69.95

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	-1.54	-0.056	3.587
13-WEEK BILL	-1.15	-0.025	2.145
30-YEAR BOND	-0.73	-0.032	4.342
5-YEAR NOTE	-3.90	-0.108	2.664

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE ($/bbl.)	-1.61	88.41
GOLD ($/Troy oz.)	-19.10	890.30
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+0.10	93.00

Exchange Rates

YEN	106.5500
EURO	0.6833
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.0072
BRITISH POUND	0.5088

IN BRIEF

Stocks fall as investors sense recession

NEW YORK — Wall Street plunged Tuesday, driving the Dow Jones industrials down 370 points after investors saw an unexpected contraction in the service sector as evidence the economy is sinking into recession. It was the Dow's biggest percentage drop in almost a year.

The volatility that pummeled stocks in January returned with the news that the service sector shrank last month for the first time since March 2003. The report from the Institute for Supply Management wiped out the nascent optimism about the economy that had sent stocks surging higher last week.

"The report drives a nail into the coffin from investors' minds that we're in a recession," said Todd Salamone, director of trading at Schaeffer's Investment Research. "That doesn't mean stock prices in the months ahead will be lower. But when you see headline numbers like this, there tends to be a reactionary sell."

Treasury watching global markets

WASHINGTON — U.S. and global financial markets are continuing to adjust to a period of prolonged turmoil and the Bush administration is closely monitoring developments, two top Treasury Department officials said Tuesday.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, testifying before the Senate Finance Committee, said the administration has been closely watching capital markets since a severe credit crisis hit in August, roiling markets around the globe.

"While we are in a difficult transition period as markets reassess and re-price risk, I have great confidence in our markets," Paulson told the committee. "They have recovered from stressful periods in the past and they will again."

Paulson and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke will be in Tokyo this weekend for a meeting of finance ministers and central bank presidents from the Group of Seven major industrial nations.

David McCormick, the department's undersecretary for international affairs, said that the market turmoil would be a top item on the discussion agenda at the Saturday meeting among the G-7 countries. Those nations are the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada.

Service sector shrinks in January

Decline the first of its kind since 2003; observers surprised; recession feared

Associated Press

AP

Jawua House gets his hair cut by barber Andrew Crumpton in Richmond, Va., Tuesday. For the first time in almost five years, the nation's services sector contracted in January.

NEW YORK — For the first time in almost five years, the nation's services sector — including restaurants, travel, banking, construction and retail — contracted in January, stoking rising worries of a recession.

The Institute for Supply Management's report, released Tuesday, shook the stock market while bond prices surged. The Dow Jones industrial average, the Standard & Poor's 500 index and the Nasdaq composite index all fell.

"This is an absolute collapse of this index," said Nigel Gault, chief U.S. economist at Global Insight.

The Institute for Supply Management reported that its new composite index measuring the health of the service sector was 44.6 in January. A reading above 50 indicates expansion, while below 50 indicates contraction. ISM introduced the composite index on Tuesday.

ISM's measure of non-manufacturing business activity fell to 41.9 in January from a revised reading of 54.4 in December. Economists surveyed by Thomson Financial/IFR had expected a slight slowdown but had still forecast growth, with a median estimate for the index of 53.

The consensus among survey respondents was that the services sector, which accounts for about two-thirds of the economy, has "come to the end of a long-term period of growth," said Anthony Nieves, chairman of the Institute for Supply Management's non-manufacturing business survey committee.

Gault said that in March 2001, the beginning of the last recession, the index had a break-even reading of 50 and during that recession, the index hung around 48 or 49 — several points higher than January's reading.

"This is a very bad report," Gault said, in terms of convincing economists that we may be in or headed for recession. "I think it will be tipping plenty of people over the edge."

Price increases have slowed while costs are up, said Nieves, who is also senior vice president for supply management at Hilton Hotels Corp. Survey respondents cited recession fears taking hold, high energy prices, and worries over inflation and the housing market.

"It gives me a dose of reality that this sector, which has been resilient for some time, now it has become susceptible to all the influences in the economy," Nieves said.

ISM said only three service industries reported growth, while 14 showed contraction. The three growing segments — utilities, professional services and educational services — include more crucial needs such as doctor visits. Meanwhile, cutbacks in less-essential spending has dragged down such segments as arts and entertainment, fishing and hunting, and lodging and food services.

Two measures that fell were those for new orders and employment, which Nieves said were more forward-looking — so their drops could indicate trouble ahead. New orders fell to 43.5 while employment fell to 43.9.

"That's not instilling any confidence in me that we're going to see any real strong uplift," he said.

Administration defends Bush's budget

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Top administration officials were on Capitol Hill Tuesday defending President Bush's $3.1 trillion budget plan from complaints by Democrats that it adds almost $800 billion to U.S. debt and doesn't pay for the war in Iraq.

Democrats on two Senate panels tossed brickbats at Bush's budget and some key Republicans criticized it as well as lawmakers made it plain that they would ignore the president's proposals to cut Medicare and Medicaid spending.

At the Senate Budget Committee, White House budget chief Jim Nussle put in a combative performance, returning criticism of Bush's budget with attacks on lawmakers for not fully funding his long-pending war request and challenging them to join Bush in curbing the rapid growth of benefit programs.

Senate Budget Chairman Kent Conrad, D-N.D., slammed the budget for piling $761 billion in debt onto the government's books, both in bonds held by investors at home and abroad and IOUs in the Social Security trust funds.

"The debt has done nothing under this president's watch but skyrocket," charged Conrad.

"Then let's open up mandatory spending," Nussle shot back, referring to the spiraling growth of benefit programs like Medicare.

Top panel Republican Judd Gregg of New Hampshire again criticized the Bush blueprint for having "some serious flaws from the standpoint of accuracy and even more serious flaws from the standpoint of policy." But he also attacked Democrats for assuming phony revenue boosts when passing a congressional budget plan last year.

A few floors below, at the Finance Committee, with jurisdiction over taxes and Medicare, the atmosphere was more sedate, but the Bush budget plan wasn't faring any better.

"A good budget must be realistic," Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., said at a hearing featuring Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson. Baucus, Finance Committee chairman, said key aspects of the Bush budget — proposed cuts in health programs, making Bush's tax cuts permanent and omitting war costs in predicting a budget surplus by 2012 — failed that test.

The top Republican on the panel, Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa, chided the administration for not considering the costs of adjusting the alternative minimum tax in future years and acknowledged that people's attention was already shifting to the next administration. "The focus is not going to be on the president's budget. The focus is going to be on what the next president will do."

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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Maddie Hanna.

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Support the bouts

Charles Rice

Right or Wrong

Are they nuts? 237 students returned from Christmas to go into training for the Bengal Bouts. In addition to endless push-ups, sit-ups, running, etc., they invite the rearrangement of their own facial landscapes.

No, they are not crazy. Let me tell you why. A family of four among the ultra-poor served by the Holy Cross missions in Bangladesh would live for at least a week on the $3.87 we casually drop for a latte at Starbuck's. In 2007, the Bouts contributed $60,000 to those missions. The Holy Cross Brothers had run a boxing program at Notre Dame in the mid-1920s, but the Bengal Bouts began in 1931, with all proceeds going to the missions as they have every year since then.

Bangladesh has 140 million people in a country the size of Iowa. It is 88.3 percent Muslim, 10.5 percent Hindu and 0.3 percent Christian. The per capita annual income is $1,470. Holy Cross missionaries came there in 1854. There are 145 Holy Cross priests, seminarians and brothers (133 of them Bangladeshi) and 70 Holy Cross sisters there. They run two colleges, eight high schools and 10 parishes as well as other apostolates. In addition to political violence and corruption, they have to deal with the effects of Cyclone Sidr last November 15, which killed at least 5,000 people, injured 40,000, destroyed or damaged 1.2 million homes and 1.6 million acres of cropland and killed 1 million livestock.

The missions depend on the Bengal Bouts, according to Father Tom Smith of the Holy Cross Mission Center. The needs are basic: sanitation, clean water, safe shelter, electricity, etc. In Khalippur Parish, 20 villages of poor tribal people need for each village a latrine, costing $25 each and a tube well at $150 each.

St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Srimangal needs to repair seven one-room primary schools of mud-wall or bamboo construction with tin roofs. A primary school hostel for forty boys (kindergarten through grade five) needs a roof and benches. The only way students from remote villages can get an education is to live in those primitive hostels.

Space limits prevent mention of many other urgent needs. But the next time you interview for a job after graduation, give a thought to Holy Cross Parish in Dhaka which needs to hire a full-time teacher-catechist to work among the Telegu, a people of the lowest caste, many of whom are joining the Church. The teacher's annual salary will be $1,000.

The participants in the Bouts take their purpose seriously. The program, under the sponsorship of Rich O'Leary and Dave Brown of RecSports, is run by the officers of the Boxing Club, president Hunter Land and captains Jesse Brawer, Patrick O'Brien, Patrick Ryan, Lawrence Sullivan, Michael Lee, Leo Rubinkowski, Mark Weber and Andres Villalba. "We run a tough program," Hunter Land said, "but the rewards are great, including the camaraderie and friendships and especially the certainty that we are helping those who need it most."

The toughness of the program is largely the doing of Tom Suddes, a Columbus developer who runs practices guaranteed to reduce the number of participants. Tom describes the practices as "character building." Those who survive tend to agree. "The boxing alumni," notes Tom, "say that what they remember above all about Notre Dame is the Bengal Bouts and the resulting friendships." Tom and the other head coaches — Chicago attorney Terry Johnson and University pilot Pat Farrell — are former Bengal champs and volunteer their time. The assistant coaches include Sweet C. Robinson of the Buchanan Police Department, former boxers Ryan Rans, Chip Farrell, Thad Naquin, Judge Roland Chamblee and Father Brian Daley. Jimmy Rogers, of RecSports, doubles as coach and supervisor.

The emphasis is on safety, with no serious injuries in 77 years. Dr. Jim Moriarty, the University physician and his staff, keep that record going with strict testing and safety rules. Emergency Medical Technician Terri Engel attends every sparring session along with EMTs Eva Chu, Baker Jones, Jordan Lacy, Wayne Bishop, and Gordon Martinzak of the Notre Dame Fire Department.

If you think that no one is indispensable, let me introduce you to the student managers, Melanie Rodarte, Meghan O'Farrell, Kelly Garvey, Ashley Mensch and Katherine Johnston. They maintain the financial, sparring, equipment and other records. They organize, they solve problems and they leave no doubt in anyone's mind that if they faltered, the operation would descend into chaos. They share the view expressed by Melanie when asked why she gives so much time to this. "One word," she said. "Bangladesh. When I graduate, I want to know that I did something special here that helped real people in real need."

The Bouts will be held in four sessions, all in the Joyce Center: Feb. 25 and 28 at 6:30 p.m., March 11 at 7:00 p.m. and the finals on March 14 at 7:30 p.m. The first two sessions will have two rings operating simultaneously. A "season ticket," at $10, will admit you to all sessions. Admission on Feb. 25, the preliminaries, is free.

One final word, from Father Louis Cruge, who runs the Nevin Clinic for the Sick Poor in Dhaka: "So many sick people are coming to us from the city slum area, the budget is always in the red. Most expensive is our care for cancer patients. We never have enough to care for all the sick who come. The patients can offer very little. Please pray for us so that we can do something good for the poor and needy sick people and show God's kindness and mercy to them."

Please support the Bengal Bouts. They are fun to watch. And they are one of the very best things we do at Notre Dame.

Professor Emeritus Rice is on the law school faculty. He can be reached at (574) 633-4415 or at rice.1@nd.edu.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON

OBSERVER POLL

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It is not the mountain we conquer, but ourselves."

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mountaineer and explorer

U-WIRE

Vote for bears

Jed Pressgrove

The Reflector

The incredible story of 2008 thus far and not likely to be dethroned in terms of newsworthiness unless an event of overwhelming importance transpires in the next 11 months, presidential candidates Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton hugged.

Politicians rarely hug. As we know, they are not normal people. And normal people hug quite a bit. Appropriately in stores and inappropriately in church.

These candidates, in fact, are more like bears. Both are ferocious, and both will leave you alone if you play dead. You could think of delegates as skittish salmon. (I would be skittish too if two hunky bears like Hillary and Barack were after me.) Yet again, even as an easy comparison can be drawn between these officials and bears, we see the same delineation. Bears hug, politicians don't.

After drilling into my brain for answers, something told me politicians embrace for reasons akin to those of large mammals that lust after honey, run at surprisingly high speeds and protect their families swift-paw.

My understanding of the academic literature on bears hugging is admittedly limited. Still, persistent thought and reading have led me to three reasons to share, three reasons that bears hug.

As we move from reason to reason, I will evaluate whether these are plausible explanations for the warm display of these two politicians.

First, bears have reported in several surveys that they hug to crush the bones of humans. One researcher, Frances Skalayhew, probed a community of bears on why its members dismantle human anatomy in this way. The reason given? Unfocused anger.

I suppose this theory is somewhat credible. We have seen both Hillary and Barack deface the other in recent news. Perhaps they wanted to crush human bones because of unfocused anger. Neither was strong enough — or unfocusedly angry enough — to do this, so scratch that possibility.

Second, researchers have discovered at least 25 bear religions (as opposed to bare religions, such as the Christian Nudists). In seven of these religions, hugging is a ritual believed to build kind habit and informed doctrine. For a bear, kind habit is spraying insecticide for the community. Informed doctrine is defecating into a river.

I doubt this possibility, frankly. Neither candidate could ever be privy to the technique involved in poison spraying. I also doubt either would be willing to defecate in a river or able to recognize one, whichever comes first.

Third, research has established a theory where bears hug each other to display affection. This affection can be genuine or pageantry, planned or spontaneous, heartwarming or awkward. In this way, bears are like humans.

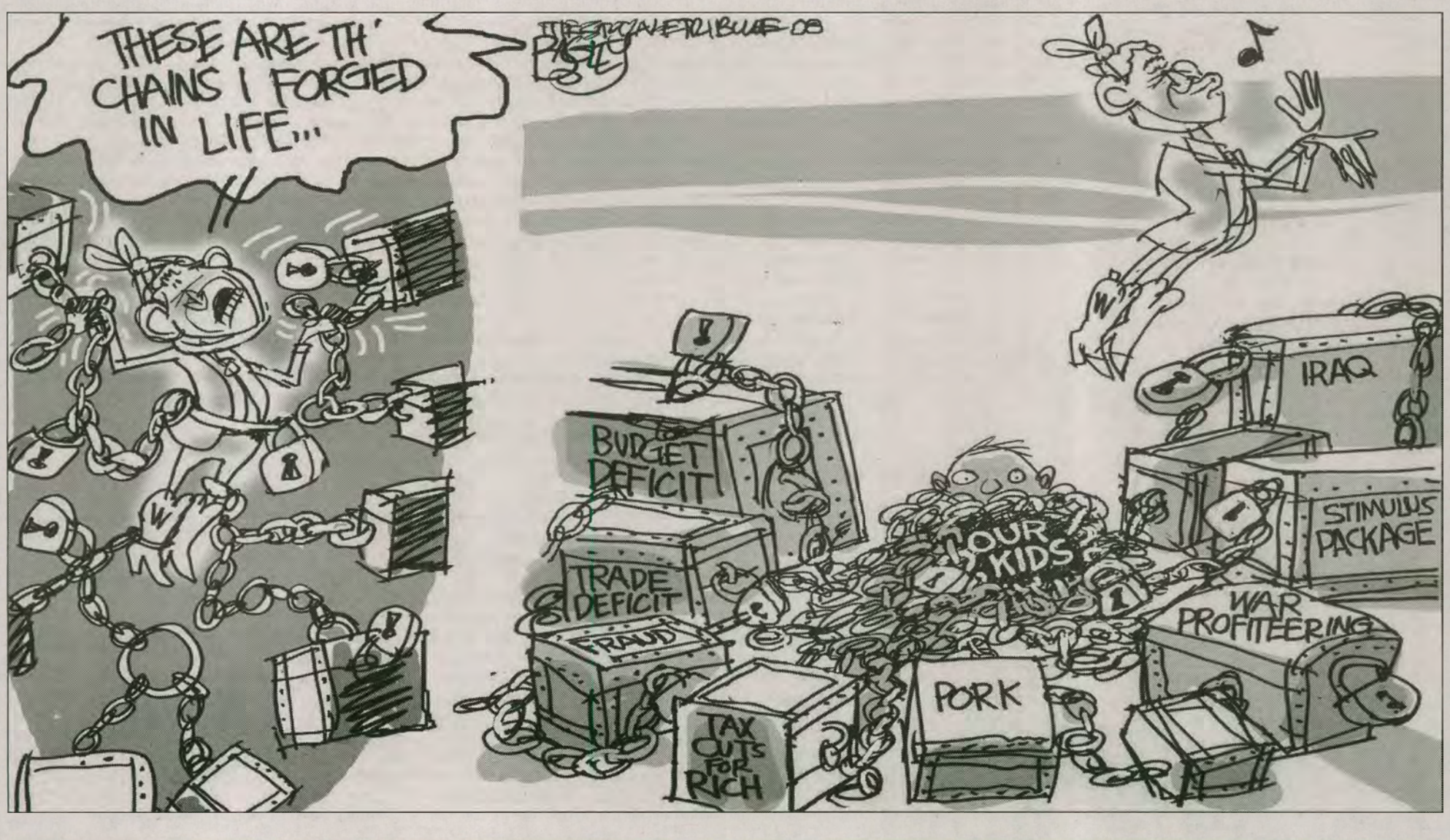
Having established politicians are not normal people and as this final reason links the behavior of bears to that of normal people, I reject this notion.

So unfortunately, despite promise and a well-oiled theoretical engine, I cannot say the obvious connection between politicians and bears can illustrate why Hillary and Barack wrapped their suit-clad bodies around each other.

This column originally appeared in the the Feb. 5 edition of The Reflector, a publication of Mississippi State University.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



A compelling argument for McCain

Staff Editorial

The Daily Californian

After eight long years under President Bush, there's hardly a face in the Republican field that wouldn't represent a welcome departure from the status quo. Among these candidates, however, Sen. John McCain stands out for his pragmatism and political courage.

In years of public service, McCain has repeatedly taken bold stances unpopular within his own party, reaching across the aisle to like-minded Democrats in the process.

His work on campaign finance reform demonstrated real bipartisan leadership, and we applaud his unequivocal opposition to the use of torture on terror suspects.

In calling for the closure of the facilities at Guantanamo Bay he takes a position even many Democrats find too hard to market, giving us some hope that he has the backbone to salvage the rotting remains of U.S. moral authority abroad.

The senator's staunch defense of the war in Iraq — occasionally bordering on outright enthusiasm — is unsettling to those who found the venture misguided from the get-go. That said, his position is typical of the Republican candidates, and we can at least trust McCain as a veteran and former POW to prioritize the best interests of U.S. troops when formulating military strategy.

In the realm of economic policy and on social issues such as abortion we have additional disagreements with the senator — and every other viable Republican in the race. But our concern is mitigated by the reasonable belief that as president McCain would respect the limits of the office, allowing the legislature and judiciary to provide the input Bush has consistently ignored, manipulated and suppressed.

Mitt Romney's history of growing businesses and bridging the party divide is appealing given the impending economic downturn. Unfortunately, it is accompanied by an equally lengthy record of complete reversals on a range of issues, indicating a shallowness and political opportunism that make McCain seem all the more appealing.

As for Mike Huckabee — his tendency to confuse the Bible for the Constitution rules him out as potential leader of a country whose diversity and international commitments demand a far broader ideological understanding.

We are wary of the some of the senator's policy preferences, but deeply respect his character and record of principled argument.

Vote McCain for Republican nominee for president.

This column originally appeared in the the Feb. 5 edition of The Daily Californian, a publication of The University of California at Berkeley.

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

Lipstick Jungle

highlights slate of new shows

NEW BREED OF HIGH-POWERED WOMEN NAVIGATE "LIPSTICK JUNGLE"

By CASSIE BELEK
Assistant Scene Editor

Carrie, Miranda, Charlotte and Samantha are the women of the past as "Sex and the City" grows up in Wendy, Nico and Victory of "Lipstick Jungle" — the new hour-long NBC series based off of Candace Bushnell's book of the same name. The show's promos say it all: They're not looking for Mr. Big. They are Mr. Big.

"Lipstick Jungle," which premieres Thursday at 10 p.m., follows three high-powered New York City women as they balance family, friendship and careers. It goes beyond "Sex and the City" as it focuses less on the politics of sex and more on the everyday struggles of working women. Brooke Shields stars as movie executive Wendy Healy, Kim Raver stars as editor in chief Nico Reilly and Lindsay Price stars as fashion designer Victory Ford. Much like in "Sex and the City," the central component of the show is the characters' friendship, something they lean on to get through just about everything. "Lipstick Jungle" is a departure from "Sex and the City" yet it still draws inspiration from its predecessor.

"The women are a little older, a little wiser but sort of equally as flawed," NBC development executive and Notre Dame alumna Katie O'Connell said by phone Monday. O'Connell, who developed recent dramas "Chuck" and "Bionic Woman," convinced Bushnell to bring "Lipstick Jungle" to NBC. "I knew Candace and I had read her book over the summer and I loved it and I thought that it lent itself so cleanly to a television series," O'Connell says.

O'Connell got the ball rolling on the series two and half years ago when she started a development department for NBC in New York City. After hearing that Bushnell had almost closed a deal with another network, O'Connell sent the "Sex and the City" author a giant basket of lipsticks and had a fortuitous run-in with her at fashion designer Cynthia Rowley's wedding. In the end, O'Connell convinced Bushnell that NBC was the network for "Lipstick Jungle."

Bushnell isn't the only big name attached to the project. The most notable leading lady is Shields, the popular star who had another series with NBC in the late 1990s — "Suddenly Susan." O'Connell first met with the actress about "Lipstick Jungle" when she was starring as Roxie Hart in "Chicago" on Broadway. By the time the show was ready to cast for the pilot, Shields was pregnant, but thanks to the pushing back of production, she was able to do the series after all.

"She's always loved the book and she's always been kind of the prototype for us for the Wendy character," O'Connell says of Shields.

O'Connell also praises executive producer Timothy Busfield, who has acted in series such as "30-something" and "The West Wing" and is a co-executive producer of both "Without a Trace" and "Ed." "I think he's really captured a tone that I haven't seen in television in a long time," she says. It's a tone that Busfield has said he brings from "30-something" and it's a tone that, according to O'Connell, sets "Lipstick Jungle" apart from new ABC rival "Cashmere Mafia."

The two series have already drawn endless comparisons even as they try to set themselves apart from one another. "Cashmere Mafia" comes from the creative mind of Darren Star, who created a cultural juggernaut with Bushnell in HBO's "Sex and the City." O'Connell recognizes that the shows are rather similar on the surface, but she adds: "Our cast is completely different, our tone is a little bit more grounded and it feels a little bit more relatable."

As an NBC executive, O'Connell says that she relates to the struggles of the characters in the show, which she says is one of the reasons that she has been so involved in the development of the series.

"What we've endeavored to do is really explore for each character a robust personal life and a robust professional life," she says. Wendy, Nico and Victory get through their professional and personal lives in each episode through the strength of their friendship. "It's really a celebration of successful women and the benefits that come with and also the challenges that come with that," O'Connell says.

Starting tomorrow, three new fashionistas will navigate the jungle of New York City with careers, friends and family, and they'll do it wearing perfect lipstick and stiletto heels. They just won't need Mr. Big.

Contact Cassie Belek at cbelek@nd.edu

OBSERVER GRAPHIC | Madeline Nies

NEW SPRING TELEVISION

By CASSIE BELEK
Assistant Scene Editor

The writers' strike may have extended into the cold winter months, but that doesn't mean the networks don't have any new scripted programming left. The following are the mid-season replacements offering a break from game shows and reality programming.

"Cashmere Mafia," Wednesday, 10 p.m. (ABC)
Premiere Date: Jan. 6
Starring: Lucy Liu, Frances O'Connor, Miranda Otto and Bonnie Sommerville
Summary: Four high-powered female executives living in New York City balance their careers with their family and love lives. In the pilot, Mia (Liu) loses her fiancé after beating him out for a job, Juliet (Otto) decides to take a lover after discovering her husband's affair, Caitlin (Sommerville) thinks that she is a lesbian, and Zoe (O'Connor) searches for a new nanny.

"Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles," Monday, 9 p.m. (FOX)
Premiere Date: Jan. 13
Starring: Lena Headey, Thomas Dekker and Summer Glau
Summary: A continuation of the "Terminator" movie franchise, "The Sarah Connor Chronicles" begins where "Terminator 2: Judgment Day" left off. As Sarah (Headey) and John (Dekker) concentrate on stopping the creation of Skynet, a new Terminator (Glau) poses as a female high school student to protect John at his school.

"Eli Stone," Thursday, 10 p.m. (ABC)
Premiere Date: Jan. 31
Starring: Johnny Lee Miller, Victor Garber and Loretta Devine
Summary: Eli Stone (Miller) has it all. He works for a top San Francisco law firm and he's engaged to the boss' beautiful daughter. But when he begins to have visions of George Michael singing "Faith" in his living room and is diagnosed with a brain aneurysm, he has to figure out if he's sick or if he's a prophet being guided to take certain cases.

"Welcome to the Captain," Monday, 8:30 p.m. (CBS)
Premiere Date: Feb. 4
Starring: Fran Kranz, Chris Klein, Jeffrey Tambor and Raquel Welch
Summary: The new sitcom focuses on the life of former writer hot shot Josh Flug (Kranz) after he moves into a famous old Hollywood apartment building, the El Capitan. His life becomes intertwined with the eclectic group of residents who dub their home, "The Captain."

"Knight Rider" (NBC)
Premiere Date: Feb. 17
Starring: Justin Bruening, David Hasselhoff and Will Arnett (voice of KITT)
Summary: In this new version of 1980s series "Knight Rider," Bruening stars as Mike Traceur, the estranged son of original lead Michael Knight (Hasselhoff). Hasselhoff will make a cameo in the two-hour pilot. KITT (Arnett) has been upgraded and now includes additional features such as xenon headlamps with infrared night vision and self-regeneration and damage repair.

"Unhitched" (FOX)
Premiere Date: March 2
Starring: Craig Bierko, Johnny Sneed, Shaun Majumder and Rashida Jones
Summary: The new comedy focuses on a group of friends who find themselves newly single and starting over in their 30s. Familiar face Jones (Karen of "The Office") is the divorce lawyer of the three guys in the show who moves into the brownstone next to Gator (Bierko) when she herself gets dumped.

"New Amsterdam" (FOX)
Premiere Date: March 4
Starring: Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Zuleikha Robinson and Alexie Gilmore
Summary: Dutch soldier John Amsterdam (Coster-Waldau) obtains immortality 1642 after saving the life of a Native American girl. Amsterdam will not become mortal until he finds his one true love. In the present day, Amsterdam lives as a New York City homicide detective and a recovering alcoholic who has seen all his family and friends die over the centuries.

"The Return of Jezebel James" (FOX)
Premiere Date: March 14
Starring: Parker Posey and Lauren Ambrose
Summary: In this sitcom, Sarah (Posey) is a successful children's book author who decides she wants to have a child. When she discovers that she cannot carry her own baby, she turns to sister Coco (Ambrose) to carry it for her. The estranged sisters move in together and Sarah turns Coco's childhood imaginary friend, Jezebel James, into a new children's book.

Contact Cassie Belek at cbelek@nd.edu

NBA

Newcomer Gasol leads Lakers to easy victory

Williams pushes Bucks to comeback win over Grizzlies; 17-0 fourth quarter run helps 76ers snap losing streak

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Kobe Bryant was hurting and coming off his worst scoring night in more than a year, and yet kept coming back to the same word: easy.

Thanks to Pau Gasol, the Lakers no longer need Bryant to be great every night anymore.

Gasol had 24 points and 12 rebounds in his Los Angeles debut, and the Lakers beat the New Jersey Nets 105-90 on Tuesday night despite a season-low six points from Bryant, his first single-digit effort in more than a year.

"He played extremely well," Bryant said. "Defenses are used to playing a certain way. You know, screen-and-roll, where I come off the pick, they're used to playing a certain way. Now they have to evaluate how they play that. It's going to be a little bit more for defenses to kind of try to come up with a scheme."

Derek Fisher matched a season high with 28 points to lead the Lakers, who improved to 3-1 on their nine-game road trip. Bryant shot 3-of-13 from the floor but had eight assists in his lowest-scoring effort since an eight-point game against Denver on Jan. 5, 2007.

"I think if you would tell us that going into the game, we'd have a pretty good chance of winning," Nets guard Jason Kidd said. "But that just shows the player that Kobe is, if his shot's not going he found Gasol or whoever else. Because he gets so much attention, he found the open guys and he's got a nice addition of Pau to the team, which he can help take care of that load. And if you pay attention to those two guys, then Derek knocks down 3s."

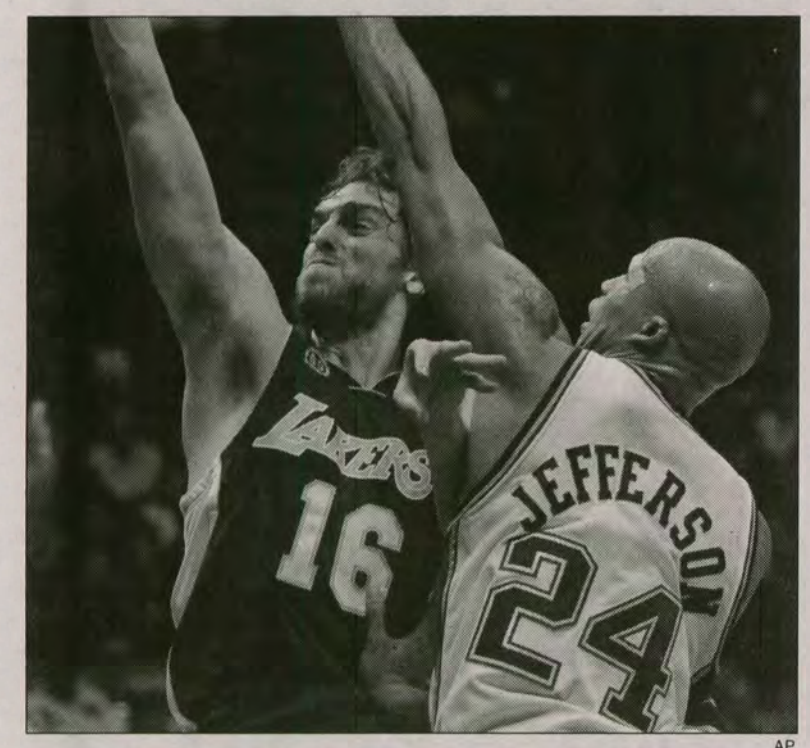
Bryant, who dislocated the pinky finger on his right hand, seemed to work well with Gasol, who was 10-of-15 and showed he may help the Lakers get by just fine until Andrew Bynum returns from his knee injury.

"I still don't know a lot of the wrinkles and a lot of details, but my teammates helped me out a lot on it through the whole game," Gasol said. "I was pretty comfortable."

Vince Carter scored 27 points for the Nets, who trailed by only three points midway through the fourth quarter before Gasol keyed the decisive surge.

Consecutive baskets by Richard Jefferson cut the Lakers' lead to 84-81 with 6:13 remaining before Gasol pulled down the rebound of Bryant's missed jumper and put it back while being fouled. His three-point play made it a six-point game and kicked off an 11-2 spurt, and he added another bucket off a feed from Bryant before Fisher capped it with a layup to make it 95-83 with under 3 minutes to play.

Despite having just one practice and one shootaround with the Lakers, Gasol was in the starting lineup and received a loud ovation when he was announced during introductions.



AP

Lakers forward Pau Gasol shoots while guarded by Nets forward Richard Jefferson in Los Angeles' 105-90 win Tuesday.

Bucks 102, Grizzlies 97

Mo Williams made sure the short-handed Milwaukee Bucks didn't fall to the new-look Memphis Grizzlies.

Williams scored 32 points and led a fourth quarter rally to help the Bucks snap a three-game losing streak with a victory over the Grizzlies on Tuesday night.

"We really needed to get some guys shooting, and Mo was really on a mission," Bucks coach Larry Krystkowiak said. "He really got it revved up and got his flow going."

Williams, who was 14-of-22 from the field, scored all 10 Milwaukee points as the Bucks overcame a five-point deficit in the final 2 minutes.

"I had one thing on my mind, just to play," Williams said. "I play my best when I let my instincts take over."

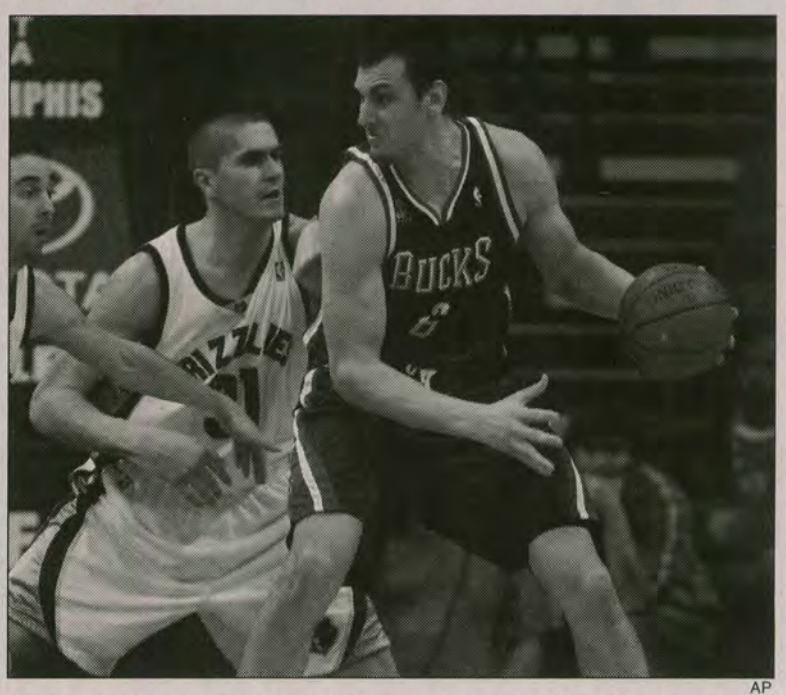
Memphis was down 100-97 when Rudy Gay's 3-pointer bounced off the rim with 8 seconds left. Mike Miller's 3-pointer as time ran out also was off the mark, sending the Grizzlies to their fourth straight loss.

"I had a perfect look at it," Gay said of the shot that would have tied the game. "Usually I would knock it down, but not today."

Charlie Bell finished with 17 points for Milwaukee, while Charlie Villanueva had 16 points and 16 rebounds. Andrew Bogut added 12 points for the Bucks.

Miller led Memphis with season-high 32 points, while Gay contributed 21 and six assists. Darko Milicic had 11 points and 12 rebounds, his third-straight double-double.

The Bucks were without two of their key pieces — leading scorer Michael Redd, who is still suffering from a left knee strain, and Yi Jianlian, who injured his right shoulder in the Bucks' 91-83 loss to the Houston Rockets on Saturday.



AP

Bucks center Andrew Bogut posts up against Grizzly Darko Milicic Tuesday in Milwaukee's 102-97 win.

But Williams, who also had seven assists, took care of Milwaukee down the stretch, scoring 12 of the Bucks final 14 points to overcome the Memphis lead.

76ers 101, Wizards 96

After watching the 76ers get off on the wrong foot, coach Maurice Cheeks had to know a comeback against the Wizards would be no easy feet, make that, feat.

With Cheeks sitting on the bench and suffering from gout, Philadelphia played a near-flawless fourth that helped their popular coach be able to kick his feet up and celebrate.

Andre Iguodala scored 20 points and Philadelphia stunned the Wizards with a 17-0 run late in the fourth quarter that lifted the 76ers to a win on Tuesday night. It was Washington's fourth straight loss.

"That was a great win for us the way we stayed in there, the way we hung in there after getting down," Cheeks said.

The Sixers trailed by 12 early in the fourth and showed few signs of taking off on such a decisive spurt. Then the Wizards got sloppy, missing nearly every shot — including all 10 3-point attempts — and the scrappy Sixers capitalized with one of their more impressive comeback victories of the season.

"You get a steal here, a deflection there and it just kept going," Iguodala said. "We just kept making little things happen. We got a lot of hands on a lot of balls."

Rodney Carney's open dunk off a steal tied the score at 90 and Iguodala's layup at the 4 minute mark put the 76ers ahead 92-90. They would never trail again.

The dismal Sixers couldn't have been blamed if they were waiting for the other shoe to drop. After all, Cheeks coached his second game in two nights wearing only one shoe — on his right foot — because of gout. His left foot was grotesquely swollen, he walked with a limp and only briefly paced on the sideline.

"I saw his foot before the game and I was like, 'man, I'd never seen nothing like that before,'" Carney said. "He said it's not going to bother him. He's going to coach like he always does."

Instead of another collapse — the Sixers blew a 20-point lead a night earlier in a loss at Atlanta — Cheeks had to enjoy watching the Sixers put their best foot forward.

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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Only try this with a goldfish you don't like.

On average, 12 newborns will be given to the wrong parents daily

The phrase "rule of thumb" is derived from an old English law which stated that you couldn't beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb.

One million $1 bills weighs 1 ton

CollegeSwimming.com NCAA Men's Swimming Top 25

rank	*team*	*points*
1	Texas	300
2	Arizona	289
3	Stanford	288
4	Michigan	271
5	Auburn	265
6	Florida	251
7	Tennessee	250
8	Indiana	236
9	Minnesota	212
10	Georgia	211
11	California	201
12	Purdue	192
13	Ohio State	179
14	North Carolina	171
15	Virginia	160
16	Penn State	151
17	Texas A&M	136
18	LSU	134
19	Northwestern	129
20	Missouri	113
21	SMU	101
22	Harvard	68
23	Louisville	59
24	UC-Santa Barbara	58
25	BYU	58

CollegeSwimming.com NCAA Women's Swimming Top 25

rank	*team*	*points*
1	Georgia	293
2	Stanford	291
3	Florida	273
4	Arizona	271
5	Auburn	263
6	Texas A&M	258
7	Tennessee	239
8	California	229
9	Minnesota	218
10	Virginia	209
11	Michigan	193
12	North Carolina	186
13	Penn State	174
14	SMU	173
15	UCLA	157
16	ASU	148
17	Texas	131
18	LSU	119
19	Indiana	118
20	Wisconsin	114
21	Missouri	94
22	Florida State	92
23	Virginia Tech	90
24	Washington	90
25	USC	64

MIAA Women's Basketball Standings

rank	*team*	*conference*	*overall*
1	Hope	10-0	18-0
2	Albion	8-3	15-4
3	Calvin	8-4	12-7
4	Olivet	6-4	8-10
5	SAINT MARY'S	5-6	9-10
6	Adrian	4-6	6-12
7	Alma	4-6	7-10
8	Tri-State	2-9	5-14
9	Kalamazoo	1-10	4-15

around the dial

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Connecticut vs. Syracuse
7 p.m., ESPN

Duke vs. North Carolina
9 p.m., ESPN

MLB

AP

Former Yankees pitcher Roger Clemens walks on Capitol Hill Tuesday after being deposed before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, which is investigating steroid and HGH use in professional baseball.

Clemens denies steroid use in testimony

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Roger Clemens spoke under oath for about five hours to congressional lawyers Tuesday, and said afterward that he told them he did not use performance-enhancing drugs.

"I just want to thank the committee, the staff that I just met with. They were very courteous," Clemens said after emerging from the offices of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee.

"It was great to be able to tell them what I've been saying all along — that I've never used steroids or growth hormone," the seven-time Cy Young Award winner and former New York Yankee said.

Clemens, wearing a pinstriped gray suit, did not take questions from reporters. Carrying a black briefcase and accompanied by two attorneys, Clemens headed to an elevator to exit the building.

Someone down the marble hallway at the Rayburn House Office Building yelled out the pitcher's nickname, "Rocket!" That drew a quick wave of a hand from Clemens as he stepped into the wood-paneled elevator.

Clemens, 45, ranks eighth in major league history with 354 career wins. He put off retirement yet again in 2007, returning to the Yankees in June and going 6-6 with a 4.18 ERA.

His closed-door, sworn testimony on Capitol Hill came one day after his Yankees teammate and workout partner, Andy Pettitte, gave a deposition to committee staff for 2? hours.

Both players' interviews are part of preparation for a Feb. 13 hearing, a public session expected to focus on allegations made in the Mitchell report by their former trainer, Brian McNamee. McNamee said that he injected Clemens more than a dozen times with human growth hormone and steroids in 1998, 2000 and 2001.

"I look forward to being here, I guess in this room, next week," Clemens said in his 25-second statement after the deposition.

He has chosen various ways to strongly deny what McNamee said, including a taped TV interview, a live news conference and, repeatedly, through his lawyers.

Tuesday's deposition was the first time Clemens addressed the allegations under oath — meaning it also was the first time he faced legal risk if he were to make false statements.

IN BRIEF

Arkansas asks NCAA to let Mallett play in '08

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Arkansas will ask the NCAA to allow transfer quarterback Ryan Mallett to play immediately for the Razorbacks without sitting out a year.

Mallett transferred from Michigan after Rich Rodriguez replaced retiring coach Lloyd Carr.

"After visiting with Ryan and his parents, we feel that it is appropriate to file a waiver in this case based on extenuating circumstances," Arkansas athletic director Jeff Long said in a release. "While the outcome of the waiver request is uncertain, we feel strongly that as an institution we should offer our full support to Ryan and his family in this process."

The 6-foot-7 Mallett, who played in 11 games for the Wolverines last year, has three years of eligibility remaining. Mallett appears well suited to a pro-style offense, but Rodriguez's offense works well with a more mobile quarterback.

Packers sign McCarthy to five-year contract

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The Green Bay Packers signed coach Mike McCarthy on Tuesday to a five-year contract that runs through the 2012 season.

"We have accomplished some of our goals over the past two seasons, but there remains much left to be done," McCarthy said in a statement. "I am excited by the opportunity to meet those challenges and someday return another Lombardi Trophy home to Green Bay."

McCarthy, who had a year left on his original three-year deal, reportedly agreed in principle last month to the new contract, which is worth about $4 million per season.

"Mike brings tremendous passion, work ethic and structure to his position," general manager Ted Thompson said. "These are the traits we saw in him when he was hired, and we're very happy for the success we have had under his guidance."

Pats' Anderson pleads not guilty to possession

LOWELL, Mass. — New England Patriots defensive back Willie Andrews pleaded not guilty to drug possession Tuesday, hours after authorities said they found him with a half-pound of marijuana.

Andrews was charged with possession of marijuana with intent to distribute and driving an unregistered motor vehicle. Prosecutors said he had $6,800 in cash, three bags of marijuana, and no means to smoke the drugs.

According to authorities, Lowell police responded to an anonymous caller who reported possible drug activity in a black motor vehicle. Police later pulled over the car, and when they approached it, detectives smelled a strong odor they believed to be marijuana, District Attorney Gerry Leone said.

Andrews was released on personal recognizance after entering not guilty pleas during his arraignment in Lowell District Court.

NFL

Giants celebrate Super Bowl win with parade

Associated Press

NEW YORK — On a day for jumping and whooping it up, Michael Strahan showed the throngs of jubilant fans just how it's done, New York Giants style.

The star defensive end fires up his team — a wildly improbable NFL champion — with a leap that he calls "stomping you out." And with that, Strahan jumped skyward on the podium at a Super Bowl rally Tuesday, lifting his knees to his shoulders.

"We would like to extend this to every other team in the NFL and particularly for the last team we defeated, the New England Patriots," he said, his teammates standing behind him. "Because you know what we did to you? We stomped you out!"

Two days after the Giants won the title with a 17-14 victory that ended the New England Patriots' perfect season, fans gathered at City Hall Park after a ticker-tape parade to watch their team get the keys to the city.

And those fans, umbrellas raised in a light rain, made a plea to Strahan, who is contemplating retirement. "One more year!" came the chant as soon as he got to the podium.

"One more year?" Strahan said. "We'll see."

Eli Manning, the MVP of the Super Bowl, said the team was proud to "bring the championship back to New York City."

"It's been an unbelievable journey," he said.

Manning and Strahan were joined by the entire Giants organization in a parade through the "Canyon of Heroes" before hundreds of thousands of fans, many decked out in Giants blue, to celebrate one of the city's great sports triumphs.

After the Manhattan lovefest, the team took buses back to New Jersey, where it was met by a crowd of more than 20,000 fans at Giants Stadium. The crowd saved its loudest cheers for coach Tom Coughlin, who emerged from a tunnel holding aloft the Super Bowl trophy.

"You believed in us and this group of young men believed in themselves," he said. "And that's why we're standing here today."

The crowd burst into cheers when wide receive David Tyree was introduced and pressed a football to his head, simulating his astonishing catch in the final minutes of Sunday's game.

State Senate President Richard J. Codey took a jab at the Patriots when he referred to their videotaping scandal at Giants Stadium against the Jets in September.

"If the Patriots were here today, they could film all they want," Codey said.

Earlier, across the Hudson River, the Giants rode in floats and many players carried video cameras to record the moment. A huge cheer went up when Manning joined Strahan at the front of a float. The float also carried Mayor Michael Bloomberg as well as the Vince Lombardi Trophy, which was cradled like a baby in Strahan's massive arms.

AP

Giants quarterback Eli Manning holds the Vince Lombardi Trophy in the Super Bowl parade in New York Tuesday. Manning was the MVP in New York's 17-14 win over New England Sunday.

"I've never ever played with a bigger group of goofballs than this group here," Strahan said. "And you know what? We won the Super Bowl!"

Bloomberg gave team officials and players keys to the city after the festivities. Gov. Eliot Spitzer and Sen. Charles Schumer were among the politicians joining Bloomberg at City Hall.

"The Giants may not be perfect but no one is, at least not this year in the NFL," Bloomberg said, taking a shot at the Patriots' 18-1 season.

Schumer said: "Now the Giants aren't just New York's team, they're America's team."

Coughlin thanked the city for the outpouring of enthusiasm.

"That parade and that show of loyalty and the response to our championship season is just something we'll remember for the rest of our lives," he said.

While it clearly was a day for a parade, it was also a day for politics: New York and the 23 other Super Tuesday states were holding primaries.

Near City Hall, signs for Democratic candidate Barack Obama were surrounded by fans wearing Giants red, white and blue. Spitzer told the crowd he had written in Coughlin for his presidential pick, with Manning for vice president.

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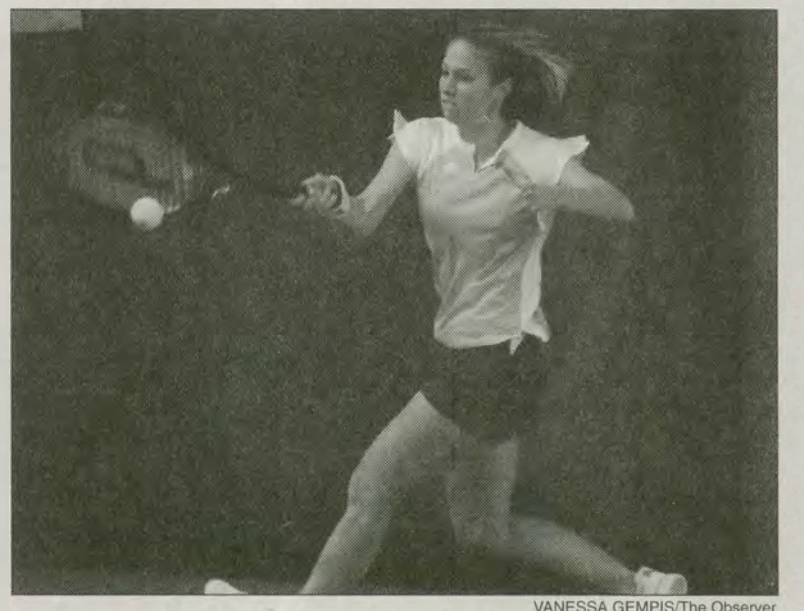
ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish edge BYU in first home match



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Sophomore Cosmina Ciobanu hits a forehand in a Feb. 16, 2007 match against North Carolina. The Irish won 5-2.

By DAN MASTERTON
Sports Writer

The No. 19 Irish (2-2) opened their home schedule with a 4-3 win over BYU (2-5) Tuesday in front of a large crowd at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

Notre Dame got the ball rolling by taking the doubles point.

"We knew going into it that BYU was winning doubles points," Irish captain Brook Buck said. "So that point was crucial, and it got our momentum going."

After the pair of Cosmina Ciobanu and Colleen Rielley took their match 8-3, Buck and doubles teammate Kelcy Tefft sealed the doubles point for Notre Dame with an 8-5 victory. Buck and Tefft are now 4-0 for the dual season.

No. 89 Kali Krisik and Tefft kept the momentum going as each won handily in two-set singles victories to put the Irish ahead 3-0 for the match.

BYU appeared to be mounting a comeback as the Cougars' Anastasia Surkova upset No. 62 Ciobanu 6-2, 6-3, but Notre Dame responded.

The chance to seal the match fell to No. 88 Colleen Rielley, and the sophomore delivered with a hard-fought victory, 6-4, 7-6 (9-7).

"Colleen was the clincher," Buck said. "She had a close match, and she fought off five set points. She did well under pressure knowing we needed one more win to clinch the victory."

"[Colleen Rielly] did well under pressure knowing we needed one more win to clinch the victory."

Brook Buck
Irish captain

No. 64 Buck and No. 82 Katie Potts were both upset in long, three-set matches after the Irish already had the match wrapped up.

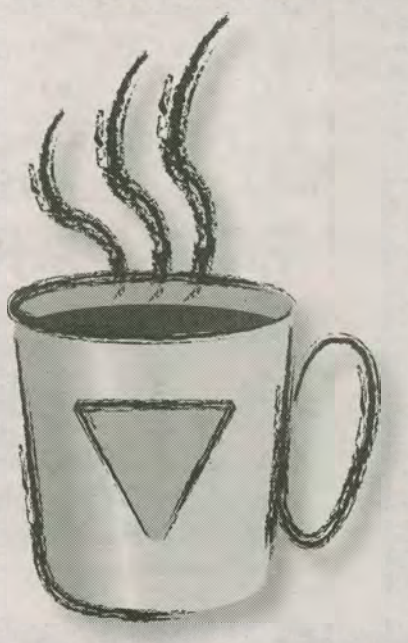
Buck said playing at home will be "a huge advantage" as the season goes on, Buck said.

The Irish were pleased with their overall effort but have no time to rest on their laurels.

"It was a good start to an intense week of tennis," Buck said.

The Irish now look to the National Team Indoors in Madison, Wisc. at the end of the week.

Contact Dan Masterton at dmastert@nd.edu



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NBA

Cavs continue hot play with win over Celtics

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LeBron James scored 33 points and barely missed a triple-double as the Cleveland Cavaliers beat Boston for the second time this season, downing the Celtics 114-113 on Tuesday night.

James added 12 assists, nine rebounds and five steals to pace the Cavaliers, who improved to 15-4 since Dec. 25 and handed the NBA's best road team just its fifth loss away from home. Cleveland also beat the Celtics in overtime on Nov. 27.

For a change, James, who leads the league in fourth-quarter scoring, didn't have to do it all by himself down the stretch.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 21 points, Larry Hughes had 18 and seldom-used Ira Newble had 15 for Cleveland. Also, guard Daniel Gibson made a big steal in the final minute to help the Cavs hang on.

Ray Allen scored 24 points and Paul Pierce 19 for the Celtics, who were again without Kevin Garnett. The All-Star center missed his fourth straight game with an abdominal strain sustained on Jan. 25, and is likely to sit out Friday's game in Minnesota, his first visit back there since the Timberwolves traded him to Boston last summer.

For three quarters, a matchup between two of the East's top teams looked more like one between two up-and-down Western Conference teams as defense was scarce. But with the game on the line in the fourth quarter, both teams tightened things up.

The Celtics pulled to 97-96 before James drained a 3-pointer and drove the lane before feeding Ilgauskas for a dunk. Gibson then scored on a circus-like scoop shot in the lane and James hit a jumper to put the Cavs up 106-98 with 4:43 left.

Boston, though, quickly cut it to two as Kendrick Perkins scored on a three-point play and Pierce drained a 3.

Rajon Rondo made a jumper and two free throws as the Celtics pulled within 110-108 with 1:48 remaining. But on Cleveland's next possession, Boston's defense was so concerned about stopping James that the Celtics let Newble, who needed four stitches to close a gash over his right eye in the first half, drive the baseline for a dunk.

Pierce's basket got Boston within two, and the Celtics had a chance to tie it but Gibson stripped Rondo and Ilgauskas made two free throws with 16.6 seconds left to put Cleveland ahead 114-110.

James Posey dropped a 3-pointer for Boston at the horn to close the scoring.

Already playing without Sasha Pavlovic (sprained foot) and Anderson Varejao (sprained ankle), the Cavaliers lost forward Drew Gooden early in the third with a strained right groin.

Gooden hurt himself while crashing the boards, grabbing a rebound and dunking over an unsuspecting Allen.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Lawson likely out for UNC

Speedy sophomore on crutches with sprained ankle for Duke game

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Roy Williams went to the training room Tuesday morning to see how point guard Ty Lawson was recovering from a sprained left ankle. The answer was enough to give the North Carolina coach reason for concern.

"He walked in the trainer's room on crutches," Williams said, "and I think it's awfully difficult to go from crutches one day to playing against Duke the next day."

Lawson's status has become the biggest variable in the latest matchup of college basketball's most intense rivalry. With a healthy Lawson, the third-ranked Tar Heels can run with their typical zeal and better handle the second-ranked Blue Devils' perimeter pressure. If the speedy sophomore is limited or can't play at all, North Carolina will be a different team.

Lawson was hurt about four minutes into Sunday's 84-73 overtime win at Florida State and didn't return. He missed practice Monday and was unavailable for comment before Tuesday's practice because he was receiving treatment. Afterward, team spokesman Steve Kirschner said Lawson was unable to participate in team drills and managed only some light shooting on his own while wearing an air cast, though he has not been ruled out.

It is the second time this season Lawson's ankles have been a hot topic leading up to a game. He sat out at Ohio State in November after spraining his right ankle against BYU in the Las Vegas Invitational.

But this time, the Tar Heels (21-1, 6-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) have less depth to handle it. Reserve Bobby Frasor, who started against the Buckeyes and could play both guard positions, was lost to a season-ending knee injury in December.

That leaves the Tar Heels with senior Quentin Thomas, a career reserve and the only active player remaining from the 2005 NCAA championship team. He would likely inherit the starting role if Lawson is out with junior swingman Marcus Ginyard also to see time at point against the Blue Devils (19-1, 7-0).

"For me personally, it's being ready for anything," said Thomas, who had a career-high nine points to go with six assists in 36 minutes against the Seminoles. "And whenever my time is to go out there for the game, I just have to be prepared. ... Whether it's 36 minutes or 2 minutes, I just need to do what it takes."

Either way, both teams sound ready to run in a matchup of two of the nation's top offenses. North Carolina ranks second nationally in scoring at 91 points per game, while Duke ranks third at 85.7. Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski is preparing his team as though Lawson will play at full strength.

"I just think it's tough to keep any kid out of this game, from either side," Krzyzewski said.

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SMC BASKETBALL

No. 5 Belles set to host rival Alma

Team hopes to pick up second straight conference victory

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's broke is MIAA losing streak Saturday with a 10-point victory over Adrian College. The Belles will look to continue their success against conference rival Alma tonight. The fifth-place Belles (5-6 MIAA, 9-10 overall) kick off a stretch of five home games when they play the Scots at 7:30 in the Angela Athletic Center.

Losing three consecutive conference games wasn't the statement Saint Mary's wanted to make to the rest of the MIAA during the last three weeks. After losses to third-place Calvin and the nation's No. 1 Division III team, Hope, Saint Mary's lost its third contest in a row to Olivet Jan. 30.

Against Adrian, the Belles came back in the second period after being down 31-28 at the half. The Belles shot 42.3 percent for the half, with junior Erin Newsom scoring 10 points in the first seven minutes of play. Katie Rashid, another junior, chipped in eight points in the half and 14 overall.

"I thought our team played a great second half against Adrian on Saturday," Belles coach Jenn Henley said. "And I am expecting to build upon that performance as we face Alma."

The Belles' concentration is on enhancing their defense.

"We continue to focus on improving our overall team defense while controlling the boards," Henley said.

Saint Mary's has been outrebounding opponents by an average margin of 41-37.4 per game. But Adrian pulled down just as many rebounds as Saint Mary's on Saturday.

Looking ahead to its game against Alma, Henley has outlined additional goals for her team.

"We have been working on ways to score on the inside to prepare for Alma," Henley said. "They are a strong team that will show us a lot of different looks defensively."

This season, Saint Mary's has been scoring an average of 67.2 points per game while Alma has been averaging 58.5 points per contest.

Alma stands at seventh place in the MIAA, two spots behind Saint Mary's. In their three meetings last season, the Belles defeated the Scots by scores of 72-60, 66-58 and 66-54.

"The game against Alma will be another great MIAA matchup," Henley said.

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@nd.edu

Recruits

continued from page 20

involved the recruits with the inner workings of the program, informing them via e-mail with the day-to-day operations of the team.

Nearly a year ago, the Irish received their first commitment for this class from Mike Golic Jr., son of former Irish defensive lineman Mike Golic. They received their latest commitment from Deion Walker on Jan. 5. In between, Weis gained a slew of top commitments, including scout.com's No. 1 tight end Kyle Rudolph, Minnesota wide receiver Michael Floyd, California quarterback Dayne Crist, Oregon defensive end Ethan Johnson, and Chicago linebacker Darius Fleming, all slated to attend Notre Dame in the fall.

Last season, the Irish had three early enrollees — quarterback Jimmy Clausen, running back Armando Allen, and cornerback Gary Gray — who began attending the University last spring semester. This year, only one recruit, offensive lineman Trevor Robinson, decided to enroll early.

Photo courtesy of Notre Dame High School

Notre Dame verbal commitment Anthony McDonald walks back to the huddle during a game in his senior season.

Part of Weis' success recruiting this season came as a result of learning from his mistakes in the past.

After losing multiple prospects last season just before Signing Day, Charlie Weis instituted a policy that said he would revoke scholarship offers from recruits who gave their verbal commitments to the Irish, then took scheduled visits at other schools. Hunter chose to take an official visit to Florida, and Weis subsequently revoked his scholarship offer.

The rest remained committed to Notre Dame, giving even the most despairing Irish fan hope for the future.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

Write for Sports.

Call Chris at 631-4543.

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In addition to her 32 honorary degrees, Dr. Cole has received numerous awards, including the TransAfrica Forum Global Public Service Award, the Radcliffe Medal, the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal, the 2001 Alexis de Tocqueville Award for Community Service from United Way of America, The Joseph Prize for Human Rights presented by the Anti – Defamation League, The Uncommon Height Award from the National Council of Negro Women.

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IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Irish senior defenseman Brock Sheahan controls the puck during Notre Dame's 2-1 win over Bowling Green on Nov. 20.

Sheahan

continued from page 20

at this level, and hopefully in moving onto the next level. That's just the I way I play, and that's the way the game should be played — hard and physical."

As important as the protection he provides for Irish goaltender Jordan Pearce is the role he has acquired as a mentor to freshman defenseman Teddy Ruth, a second-round NHL pick and one of Notre Dame's budding stars.

"We've become pretty good friends off the ice, which is interesting for a guy five years younger than me," Sheahan said. "It's pretty unique having a relationship with a guy who I think is going to be in the NHL some day.

"He can be a leader for years to come on this team, even as a sophomore [next year], and that's something I'll tell him as I'm moving on — just make sure he keeps working and carrying on the Notre Dame tradition."

After the Irish won only five games in his freshman season, Sheahan has seen his squad's win totals more than double in each of the past two years: from five to 13 as a sophomore, to a school record 32 last season.

"We were here in that transition period, so we definitely got to see the program transform into more of a powerhouse, nationally-prominent program," said Sheahan, one of Notre Dame's five seniors. "Our class, along with the senior class from last year, had a big part in changing the culture of the program and the expectations of the players, and that's my biggest memory."

Those with whom he shares that memory realize both the impact Sheahan makes on a daily basis and the imprint he's put on the team and program.

"He's fired up every day, and he brings it in practice every single day," senior forward Evan Rankin said. "When you have a guy who's one of your leaders, a captain, and he's coming out every single day in practice like that, it make you want to give that extra effort, too."

As much of an impact Sheahan has had on the Notre Dame program, Jackson has returned the favor to the defenseman.

"Ever since Coach Jackson has been here, it's been about doing all the little things to the best of your ability — little things in practice like doing push-ups after you miss the net," Sheahan said. "I hope to carry that over into every aspect of life, and hopefully that helps me as a person — just doing the right things and good things will happen."

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

Hall

continued from page 20

Saturday.

The Irish, who lead the conference in rebounding margin, will have an advantage in the frontcourt against Seton Hall — mostly because of leading scorer Luke Harangody.

The sophomore forward is averaging 24.4 points in conference games, including 28 per contest during Notre Dame's current three-game winning streak. Harangody has also pulled down double-digit rebounds in six of eight conference games.

"We'll probably start off in man and see what happens."

Luke Harangody
Irish junior forward

Although the sophomore, who is the reigning Big East player of the week, has been Notre Dame's offensive leader, he doesn't feel an obligation to score all the time.

"I wouldn't say I feel pressure at all," Harangody said. "There are other guys on the team that will pick it up."

What Seton Hall lacks in frontcourt play, the Pirates make up for with shooting from their guards. Guard Brian Laing leads the Pirates with 19.3 points per game; he scored 24 against the Hoyas to keep the game competitive.

Three other guards — Eugene Harvey, Jeremy Hazell and Jamar Nutter — average double-figure points per game. Against Louisville on Jan. 19, Hazell scored 29 points and hit eight 3-pointers.

Last time Notre Dame played a team that could shoot as well as Seton Hall from the outside — a 90-80 win over Villanova on Jan. 26 —the Irish used a 1-2-2 zone to try to keep the Wilcats from getting good looks.

Harangody said the team is practicing several defenses to use against the Pirates, but he wouldn't go into specifics.

"We went over a couple things yesterday at practice," he said. "We'll probably start off in man and see what happens."

Notre Dame is 1-2 in true road games this season, although the atmosphere in Newark's Prudential Center probably won't reach the animosity the Irish saw in games at Marquette, Georgetown and Villanova.

The Prudential Center is five miles from Seton Hall's campus and is not known for being an intimidating venue. However, the game is sold out, something that rarely happened when the Pirates played at the larger Continental Airlines Arena, 14 miles from their campus.

Note:

High school junior Jack Cooley of Glenview, Ill., orally committed to play for Notre Dame beginning in the 2009-10 school year.

Cooley, a 6-foot-8, 210-pound forward, has been compared to Harangody. Cooley also had scholarship offers from Illinois and Wisconsin.

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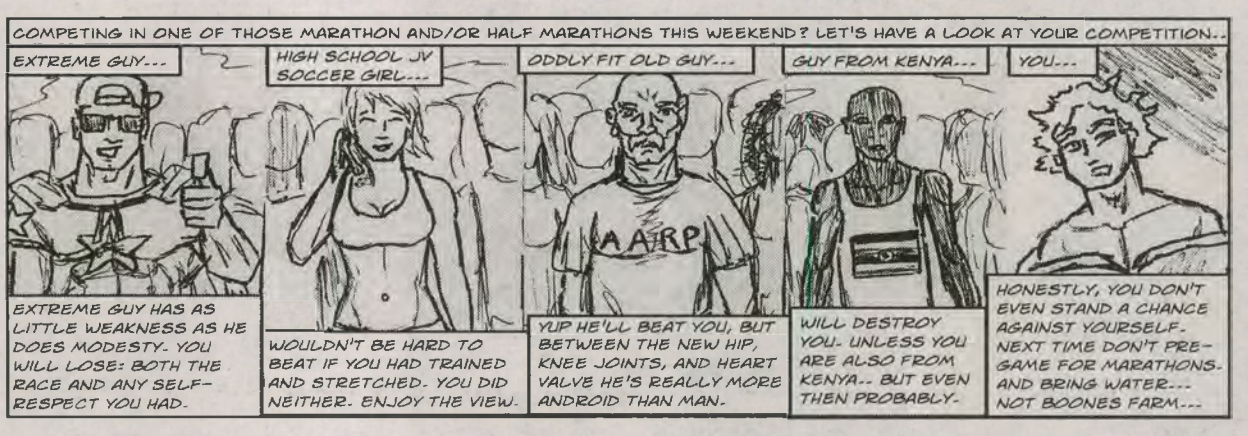


The Observer is now accepting applications for new cartoonists.
Contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu

Crossword

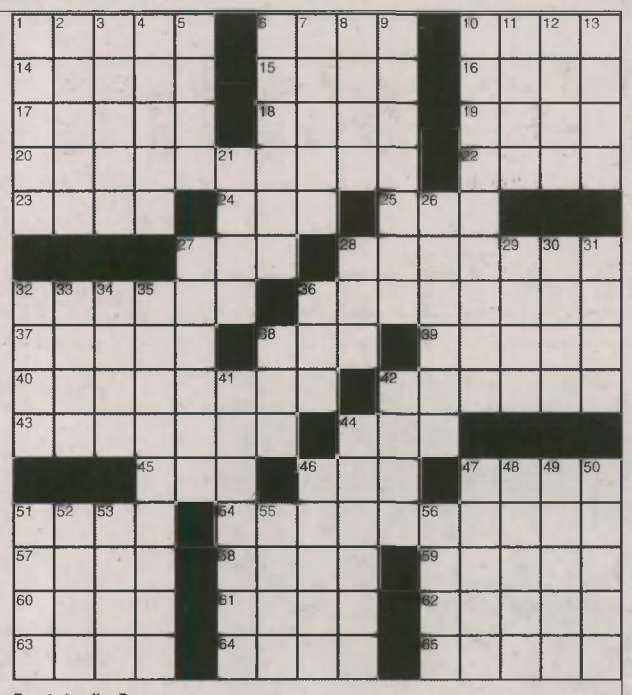
WILL SHORTZ

Across

1 Wrong
6 Study hard and fast
10 Daunt
14 Game follow-up
15 Sole
16 Orsk's river
17 Like Green Beret units
18 The triple in a triple play
19 Just beats
20 "The Defiant Ones" co-star, 1958
22 Rocket launcher
23 Many an M.I.T. grad: Abbr.
24 Brillo rival
25 The second Mrs. Michael Corleone
27 Felipe Calderón's land: Abbr.
28 Sony music player introduced in 1984
32 Delineated, with "out"
36 Movie chase scene, e.g.
37 Yo-yo
38 Song from 65-Across that's hidden in 20- and 54-Across and 10- and 35-Down
39 Just beat
40 Hashish source
42 Massages
43 Some socks
44 Would-___ (aspirants)
45 "___: Miami"
46 Cross-referencing word
47 Organ piece
51 Pale hue
54 Cornmeal dish often served with maple syrup
57 Gore Vidal historical novel
58 Langston Hughes poem
59 Back biter?
60 Not discounted
61 Terse denial
62 Trims in Photoshop, e.g.
63 Itinerary data: Abbr.
64 Heroic exploit
65 Hit Broadway musical based on a comic strip

Down

1 Glacial ridge
2 Deep pink
3 Hockey no-no
4 Rakish sort
5 Something risky to work on
6 Bleach brand
7 One-sided contests
8 Not backing
9 Field utensils
10 2003 Kentucky Derby winner
11 Andrea Bocelli delivery
12 Microwaves
13 "Lohengrin" role
21 Hand-me-down
26 Quakers in the woods
27 Most are good conductors
28 Boxing Day mo.
29 Prefix with bucks
30 Nailed
31 Beatty and others
32 Easily split mineral
33 Month after Shevat
34 Unwelcome auto noise
35 Vehicles at a petting zoo
36 Part of S.S.S.: Abbr.
38 Grafton's "___ for Noose"
41 2008 Olympics host
42 Razor-sharp
44 1984 gold-medalist marathoner Joan
46 Scoring attempts
47 Show contempt toward
48 Kite's clutcher
49 Six-foot-tall African animal
50 As such
51 Fit for duty
52 Conk out
53 "Superman II" villainess
55 Oklahoma tribe
56 Workout locale, for short



Puzzle by Jim Page

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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T	R	I	N	I			E	T	A		B	A	M	
		N	E	T	M	E	N		R	E	A	P	E	D
E	L	E	V		B	U	O	N	N	A	T	A	L	E
D	O	S	E		A	R	F	S		S	H	R	E	K
U	S	S	R		S	O	F	A		E	S	T	E	E

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, $1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

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Jumble

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

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

OATAR

NEKIF

SAWURL

DOHOKE

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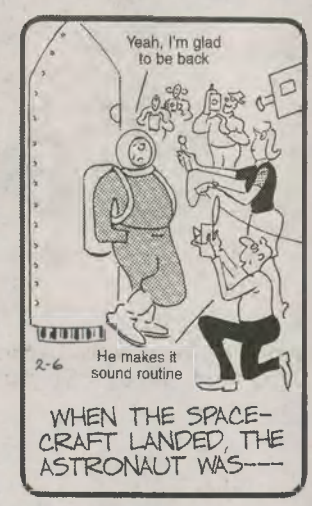
www.jumble.com



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

Ans: ____ TO "____"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BYLAW HAREM FERRET CAMPER
Answer: A good place to find a date — A PALM TREE

Horoscope

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jennifer Jason Leigh, 46; Christopher Guest, 60; Barbara Hershey, 60; Roger Staubach, 66

Happy Birthday: A serious outlook will enable you to work toward your personal goals. Be aggressive and it will show others you mean business and won't stop until you reach your destiny. Take the initiative and you will find yourself in a power position that will set the stage for many years to come. Your numbers are 14, 16, 27, 31, 38, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't wait for things to fall apart. Position yourself so you can handle whatever comes your way. Someone you trust may let you down, so don't share your secrets, concerns or ideas. 2 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take care of your own responsibilities so that no one can point the finger or complain about you. Love is on the rise and a trip, outing or some form of fun and entertainment should be in your plans. 5 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can dazzle everyone with your clever ideas and ways of doing things. Focus on what you want and how you can make more money and you will be successful. It's important to push while the going is good. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take a closer look at your personal papers and investments. There may be a few things you should change or clear up. Get any matter out of the way that concerns government agencies, large corporations or institutions. Love is in the stars. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be emotional, lovable and in the mood for a little romance today. Don't make a promise you aren't going to keep or tell someone you are in love if you aren't. As long as what you do and say comes from the heart, you will build a solid base and a strong relationship. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a break and do something nice for yourself. A little pampering time alone with someone you love or even a new look, outfit or attitude will enhance you personally, helping you get what you want. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Explore new avenues, try new things and, most of all, experience things that will give you greater perspective on your future and your personal life. Don't get disgruntled if someone you are close to doesn't approve. 5 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let the people closest to you cause you upset. They are only trying to look out for you. You may not please family but you must please yourself. Take a deep breath and proceed to the finish line. You won't be sorry. 4 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Explore the interests you have and you may find a way to turn something you love doing into a profitable endeavor. Hard work, dedication and believing in your abilities will lead to the winner's circle. 3 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stand your ground and you will get your way. Your determination and resistance will be what counts. Don't let anyone who is negative stand in your way. Now is not the time to slouch when there is so much to gain. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take a second look at something that interests you. Trying something different will lead to a host of new friendships and plans. An unusual pastime or hobby can provide greater confidence and possible prosperity. 3 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your personal life mysterious and focus on what you can offer professionally. If you can be totally businesslike, you will intrigue the people you are dealing with and therefore get more in return. 4 stars

Birthday Baby: You like to be in the lead, to take things apart to see how they work and to race about until you find or get what you want. You are determined, aggressive and strong-willed.

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

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FOOTBALL

Good news, bad news

Irish prepare for National Signing Day

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Editor

National Signing Day — the day die-hard fans have longed for since Notre Dame's season of record-setting futility began — is finally here.

During a season that saw the Irish start 0-4 for the first time in school history and finish a dismal 3-9, the prospect of nabbing a top-tier recruiting class buoyed fans weighed down by depressing performances on the field.

And barring a rush of last-minute defections, fans should get their wish.

Notre Dame has the second best class lined up, according to scout.com. It has third-best according to rivals.com and No. 1 according to Tom Lemming of CSTV.

Irish coach Charlie Weis, doing his best impersonation of Illinois coach Ron Zook, managed to recruit well in a year when his team failed to perform. Luckily for the Irish, they received 18 of their 22 verbal commitments before the regular season began and managed to prevent all their prospects, aside from defensive tackle Omar Hunter, from backing out of their commitments.

Over the course of the season, the Irish coaching staff

see RECRUITS/page 17

Photo courtesy of Notre Dame High School

Notre Dame verbal commitment Dayne Crist of Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks, Calif., is one of several prospects the Irish hope to secure on National Signing Day.

Reports: Yeatman arrested for DWI

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Irish tight end and lacrosse player Will Yeatman has been suspended indefinitely from both teams.

The South Bend Tribune reported Tuesday that Yeatman had been arrested on Jan. 28 for operating a vehicle while intoxicated. In 2005, the University suspended fullback Rashon Powers-Neal from extracurricular activities after he was arrested for a similar crime in his home state of Minnesota.

Yeatman, a rising junior, was the football team's No. 2 tight end in 2007, behind senior John Carlson. With Carlson's graduation, Yeatman was expected to take over the top spot at his position.

Rising sophomore Mike Ragone and non-scholarship rising senior Kevin Brooks are the only other returning tight ends on the Irish roster.

Notre Dame is expected to sign two top-rated high school senior tight ends today, which is the first day seniors can sign binding scholarship offers with schools.

Cincinnati prospect Kyle Rudolph — ranked by analysts as the No. 1 tight end in his class — and Joseph Fauria, of Encino, Calif., are considered solid Irish commitments.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish get set to battle Pirates

Squad looks to snag away win against Seton Hall in N.J.

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Editor

Life in the Big East doesn't allow for much downtime.

After two wins in three days over Providence and DePaul last weekend, No. 21 Notre Dame travels to Newark, N.J., to take on Seton Hall tonight at 7.

The Irish (16-4, 6-2 Big East) sit in second place in the conference, 1 1/2 games behind first-place Georgetown. But with Louisville (7-3) and Connecticut (6-3) hot on Notre Dame's tail, the team can't afford to slip up.

The Pirates (15-7, 5-4) enter tonight's contest in a three-way tie with Pittsburgh and West Virginia for seventh place in the conference after losing 73-61 to the Hoyas on

see HALL/page 18

DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Irish forwards Luke Harangody, left, and Zach Hillesland fight for a rebound in Notre Dame's 89-80 win over DePaul Saturday.

HOCKEY

Jackson calls Sheahan a 'warrior' on the ice

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

As the old saying goes, you don't get a second chance to make a first impression. When he met Irish coach Jeff Jackson for the first time in May 2005, current senior defenseman and alternate captain Brock Sheahan didn't need one.

"When I first came in here, it wasn't difficult to pick out the guys who I thought could help us build our identity as a program, and Brock was one of those guys from day one," said Jackson, who took over after Sheahan's freshman season when former coach Dave Poulin resigned. "That's because he has great intensity, a great work ethic, a great desire to become a great player; and I could tell immediately that he'd be one of the guys to try to build the culture around."

Sheahan, a native of Alberta, Canada, has lived up to Jackson's lofty expectations, emerging as a vocal leader, an elite blue-line defender and a gritty, hard-nosed player for the Irish.

"He's a warrior," Jackson said. "He's not the biggest man, but he plays extremely big. He has no fear, he constantly will physically pay the price, and he's smart with the puck.

"I'm extremely proud of Brock and what he's done, and I don't know if there's a better defensive player in the CCHA."

Sheahan's tenacious, hard-hitting style stems in part from what he calls being a "late bloomer" — the trait that led him to Notre Dame in the first place.

"My goal was to play college hockey — I wasn't going to be playing major junior hockey back home because I was too small," Sheahan said. "I've learned I have to play a hard-nosed game to be successful

see SHEAHAN/page 18