THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 42 : ISSUE 93 | FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2008 | NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Grad student lends aid in Bangladesh

Shawn Ahmed postpones studies, liquidates accounts to chronicle service trip to East Asia

By JOSEPH McMAHON
Assistant News Editor

The mission of the University of Notre Dame calls its students to rise to extraordinary levels in service to others. Still, it is rare to see a student liquidate his accounts, postpone his studies, and travel halfway around the world to hand out mosquito nets and clean water in a disaster area.

Shawn Ahmed, a 26-year-old graduate student in sociology, did exactly that, all the while chronicling his exploits on YouTube and Flickr under the pseudonym, "The Uncultured Project." Ahmed has been in Bangladesh since late June.

"I call it 'The Uncultured Project' because there really is nothing sophisticated about it," Amed said. "I have no formal training or concrete plan. I just bought a camera, grabbed my computer, and flew to Bangladesh to see if I could make a difference."

His mission was inspired by Notre Dame's 2006 forum on world health, which featured Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, a renowned poverty expert.

"I would not have started [the Uncultured project] if I was just an undergraduate from my old University," said Ahmed, who previously attended Toronto University. "In September of

see AHMED/page 3

Photo courtesy of Shawn Ahmed

Shawn Ahmed, left, hands out blankets to impoverished victims of the Cyclone Sidr disaster in Bangladesh last year.

Wabruda sponsors conference

Club promotes unity, history through event

By KATIE PERALTA
News Writer

In observance of African-American Heritage Month, the Notre Dame student group Wabruda will sponsor the first-annual Black History Conference this weekend.

Wabruda, named Notre Dame's club of the year for 2006-07, means "brother" in Swahili. The club has been around for about seven years and has grown to 20 members, said William David Williams, who has been president of the club for the past two years.

The group aims to promote brotherhood in the Notre Dame black community through professionalism, community service and intellectual elevation, Williams said. It also works to prepare its members for success after Notre Dame by educating them about the need for more black men in corporate America.

Williams said service is an important part of the club's mission and has included such efforts in the past as a Black History Month presentation at the Robinson Community Learning Center and playing bingo with seniors at Healthwin Center.

"When you give back to the community, it makes you better as well," Williams said.

see WABRUDA/page 4

Irish Green construction to resume this spring

University could complete park behind Debartolo Performing Arts Center for Fall 2008

HALEY BEAUPRE/The Observer

The area behind the Debartolo Performing Arts Center will be turned into a park called Irish Green, set to resume construction this spring.

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

Construction on the Irish Green, a park behind the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center (DPAC), will resume this spring, with the hope of being completed for the beginning of the Fall 2008 semester, University Architect Douglas Marsh said.

The park is being built with an unspecified amount of money given by an anonymous donor, Marsh said.

The Irish Green is considered part of the DPAC site in the 2002 Campus Plan, which aims to allow the University to expand in a way that retains the character of the campus, but also does not prevent or stifle growth.

The park will feature 200 large specimen trees, a lawn, and a terrace extending from the DPAC that "will act as a place for receptions, performances, and other special events," Marsh said.

Weaving through the lawn

see PARK/page 4

Jazz Festival celebrates 50th anniversary at ND

By GENE NOONE
News Writer

The annual Notre Dame Collegiate Jazz Festival (CJF) celebrates its 50th anniversary in Washington Hall this weekend, and features new judges, bands and performances this year.

"To celebrate the 50th anniversary, we have added a few things that we normally wouldn't do," said senior Chris Francica, who is co-directing the festival with senior Katie Helm.

The oldest college jazz festival in the nation, CJF will feature 12 university bands that will be judged by seven acclaimed musicians. In past years, the festival featured only 10 bands and five judges.

Francica said the additions will make the performances more exciting and will allow the performing groups to get better feedback on their playing.

"This year, since we're celebrating the 50th anniversary, we had a higher volume of bands and higher quality of jazz programs apply to the festival," he said. "Geographically, we have groups from as far away as Texas, Louisiana and Pennsylvania, as well as more local groups from universities in Michigan and Illinois."

The festival will also include performances from the African-American Jazz Caucus/Historically Black Colleges and Universities All-Star Big Band. This band features the best jazz musicians from the nation's historically black colleges and universities who come together to perform at select locations throughout the year.

Another addition to the festival is the diversity of jazz music that will be played. From classical to con-

see JAZZ/page 4

College to hold Hypatia Day

By KATLYN SMITH
News Writer

Saint Mary's College will welcome over 90 seventh-grade girls from Michiana Saturday for the 18th annual Hypatia Day this Saturday in Madeleva Hall.

The event is named for the first female mathematician, Hypatia of Alexandria, and celebrates accomplishments of Saint Mary's students in math.

Saint Mary's professor of mathematics and director of the event, Ewa Misiolek, emphasized the need for women to pursue math and science-orientated curriculum, despite the fact that students may find those classes more difficult.

"There is a temptation in high school for students to choose unchallenging classes to maintain a high GPA," Misiolek said. "We want them to meet other women interested in math and science and encourage them to stay with math their four years of high school."

Saint Mary's professor of mathematics, Mary Connolly, has been involved with the event since its inception. She said Hypatia Day has been very successful in the past.

"Girls leave Saint Mary's bubbling over what they have developed and constructed in the lab. We want to encourage them to hang on to that excitement over math," Connolly said.

Close to 30 Saint Mary's math students are involved, along with representation from the math, science, nursing and chemistry clubs.

This year's participants were specifically selected by their local math and science teachers. They had to demonstrate their abilities and mathematical talents and as a result, Misiolek has high expectations for the event.

"After meeting in our classrooms and labs with our students who have succeeded in math and science, we hope these younger students will feel confident that they can do it too," Misiolek said.

Jessica Brinker, president of the math club and a math major, highlighted the event's significance.

"Hypatia Day is a great opportunity for local girls to get a glimpse of college life and become more excited in math and science," Brinker said.

The day begins with a keynote speaker, typically a female figure in the math

see HYPATIA/page 4

Inside Column

Labor of Love

I still remember three years ago what Tom Bettag, then the producer of ABC's "Nightline," told my journalism class about the news industry.

"You have to be kind of masochistic and love hard work," he said. "If you can be normal, and not be so compulsive, God bless you. But if you can't, and you're stuck with that, go into news."

Maddie Hanna

Editor-in-Chief

I'm stuck with that. I've known it for years. What I didn't realize yet was how many other people were the same way.

It's not that everyone at The Observer is seriously considering a career in journalism. (There are just a few, actually.) And it's not that all of us are passionate about news, either. Nearly 200 hundred people contribute to this paper, and for plenty of different reasons. Many aren't as idealistic as that "ethical obligation" to tell the truth, inform the public and uphold democracy — the lessons we're taught in journalism classes.

Still, there's a little masochist in so many of us.

From 12-hour shifts to three-Insider weeks to one-dollar-an-hour paychecks, I'm continually amazed by what people will tolerate — and with little complaint. (OK, people do complain about the paychecks.)

I've watched people step into demanding editing roles they didn't want because they knew how much they were needed. I've watched writers and photographers quickly agree to inconvenient last-minute trips when the team they've been covering makes it into a tournament. And I've watched reporters drop everything when something more important than midterm papers happens — like the deaths of two students earlier this week.

Whether it's ditching classes, skipping nights out, running on three hours of sleep — or putting up with a certain staff member who listens to nothing but Carole King — everyone at this paper makes sacrifices.

But I've done virtually nothing to instill this sense of responsibility in staff members.

They already have it.

I shouldn't be surprised. After all, people show up in the basement of South Dining Hall intending to work. But you wonder how many extra articles and 4 a.m. nights a sane person is willing to handle.

Then again, most people down here aren't completely sane. When people start making jokes about how convenient it would be if we had cots and a shower in the office, though, you know their sleeping patterns (and personal hygiene) are a little off, to say the least.

I'm fully aware of how much the general public distrusts the press. While I know many of their criticisms have merit — Jayson Blair, anyone? — I still dislike when people issue vague, sweeping attacks against "the media." I know that in my career, I'll meet those journalists that give all of us a bad name — the self-important, talking-head types who thrive on splashy headlines and their own prominence.

But I've spent four years with some pretty selfless people. Whatever you've thought of the paper this year, I know they worked hard for it.

For me, masochism isn't something destructive. It's a labor of love. To all those who have labored with me, I'm beyond grateful. Thank you.

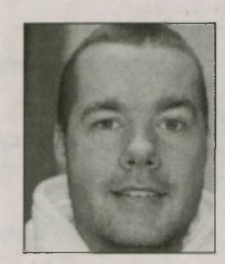
The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu

Corrections

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

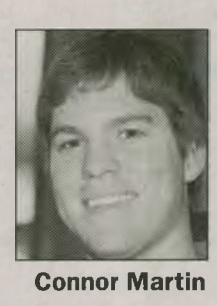
Question of the Day: *What will get Best Picture at the Oscars?*



Brad Duffy

senior
Fisher

"Juno because it's a pro-life movie."



Connor Martin

senior
off-campus

"I party harder than Paul Wall."

Heather Johnson

sophomore
Welsh Fam

"No Country for Old Men."

Laura McCarty

freshman
McGlinn

"Ratatouille."

Molly Boyle

freshman'
Pasquerilla East

"'Ten Things I Hate About You,' as a tribute to Heath Ledger's greatest role in a teen movie."

Stephanie Leyva

senior
off-campus

"Definitely Juno."

VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Former Irish basketball great Austin Carr cries in jubilation during his welcoming in the Joyce Center at Notre Dame's 82-70 win over Pittsburgh Thursday night. Carr was recently inducted to the College Basketball Hall of Fame.

Offbeat

Fish launched into space to study motion sickness

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Seventy-two small fish were briefly launched into space by researchers Thursday, hoping their swimming patterns would shed some light on motion sickness.

German researchers sent the cichlids on a 10-minute rocket ride that blasted off from a launch pad in northern Sweden, said Professor Reinhard Hilbig, who was in charge of the project.

"They were very happy, I think they want to have another flight," he said.

The thumbnail-sized fish were filmed as they swam around weightlessly in small aquariums during the unmanned space flight.

The German team will now study the video to see if some of the fish swam in circles because that is what fish do when they experience motion sickness, said Hilbig, of the Zoological Institute at the University of Stuttgart.

Man arrested twice within four hours

MOSCOW, Pa. — Police say a Lackawanna County man suspected of drunken driving was released in custody of his sister, who took his keys. But four hours later police got another call. This time it was to a Covington Township intersection where authorities say the man crashed his car into a state Department of Transportation end loader.

State police say Daniel Corbett, 56, of Spring Brook Township, was taken to Community Medical Center both times — about 2 a.m. Wednesday and again about 6 a.m.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

In Brief

As part of the **Ten Years Hence** lecture series, professor **Karen Hunt Ahmed** from the department of finance at DePaul University will speak at **10:40 a.m. today** in the **Jordan Auditorium** of the **Mendoza College of Business**.

Mass will be celebrated for the **Feast of the Chair of St. Peter today** at **5 p.m.** in **Alumni Hall Chapel**. **Father Brian Daley** will preside and the **Notre Dame Gregorian Schola** will perform.

There will be **Stations of the Cross today** at **7:15 p.m.** in the **Basilica of the Sacred Heart**. Stations will be held each **Friday** during **Lent**.

The **50th Annual Collegiate Jazz Festival** will begin **today** at **7 p.m.** with a concert featuring at least four different bands. The festival will conclude **Saturday** with an afternoon concert at **1 p.m.** and an evening concert at **7 p.m.** All events will be in **Washington Hall**.

There will be a **Lenten Retreat** of reflection, mass, and reconciliation sponsored by **Communion and Liberation at Notre Dame Campus Ministry** in **330 Colman-Morse Center**, **Saturday** from **9 am-12 pm.** All are invited to attend.

Notre Dame hockey will play **Ohio State today and Saturday at 7:35 p.m. and 7:05 p.m.** in the **Joyce 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	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH	27	20	33	35	40	27
LOW	20	17	18	25	20	15

Atlanta 57 / 40 **Boston** 34 / 20 **Chicago** 26 / 13 **Denver** 49 / 23 **Houston** 67 / 61 **Los Angeles** 61 / 51 **Minneapolis** 26 / 6
New York 33 / 22 **Philadelphia** 32 / 21 **Phoenix** 78 / 51 **Seattle** 50 / 40 **St. Louis** 26 / 19 **Tampa** 79 / 66 **Washington** 32 / 28

Ahmed

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2006 we had the Notre Dame World Health Forum where [Sachs] basically said this is your homework — to end poverty in your lifetime. I was working towards my masters and Ph.D. in sociology [at Notre Dame], and eventually wanted to get a career field of development with a charity or the U.N. or something."

Ahmed said that his mission is simply to spread awareness about global poverty issues through his online videos and photos, and he stressed that he is not looking for any money.

"Anyone who does aid work knows that it's much easier when you don't have to carry a camera around and that it saves time when you don't have to edit video," he said. "The reason I'm doing all that is because I want to get the word out and get other people thinking about poverty. I'm not just trying to get a pat on the back for the aid work I'm doing. I'm trying to get people to realize that we can end poverty in our lifetime if our generation makes it their personal responsibility to do so."

One of the major reasons Ahmed chose Bangladesh is that he still has a lot of family there. His father attended Notre Dame College in Dhaka before deciding to immigrate to Canada during a bloody civil war when Bangladesh split from Pakistan. However, he still has roots in the rural villages, and his grandmother still has a house in the small town of Mobipheur.

"Well, Bangladesh was actually the easiest for me because I have family here, this way I don't have to worry that much about room and board and my transportation. I have aunts, uncles, and my grandmother here," he said.

Ahmed said people in the rural villages are often surprised that he has decided to return to his native country.

"In the rural villages, where I have a family connection, most people are used to people emigrating out," he said. "Once people go to North America, they rarely come back. In my case the reaction was 'This person has come back and now he's trying to give us stuff?' It surprised a lot of people."

"The reason I'm doing all that is because I want to get the word out and get other people thining about poverty."

Shawn Ahmed
Graduate student

Ahmed has spent much of his time working in the local villages, giving out water purification systems, water bottles, mosquito nets, and wind-up flashlights so that kids can do their homework in the dark. He has done all of this with only his own and some of his parents' money.

"I've been trying to do small things off-camera and on-camera to show people what they can do with very little money," he said. "I'm not trying to be a charity or NGO, I'm trying to show what you can do with a little bit of money here and there to inspire others."

He has also been working with other organizations, including a clinic that administers to native people sponsored by Notre Dame's Bengal Bouts in the village of Jalchatra.

"I found a clinic not far from my grandmother's village that gets Bengal Bouts funds and hopefully I can go there and see what they need as well as film what is going on," Ahmed said.

Since coming to Bangladesh, Ahmed has endured many trials, including Cyclone Sidr — a storm more destructive than Hurricane Katrina that killed over 4,000 people. Ahmed decided to travel to the disaster area to hand out blankets to needy families, and chronicled his experience in a video entitled "Cyclone Sidr Disaster — The Hard Lessons of Aid Work."

"Some of it is rural villages, some of it is in the outskirts of the city, and some of it was in the disaster area. It felt like a bomb had just gone off — all the homes were destroyed," he said.

After Ahmed had run out of blankets, the local villagers chased him back into his boat. As he was leaving, he saw a small boy standing on the shore, naked and shivering. Next to him was a family under a blanket.

"So he slept in the cold and those people get to stay warm at night. It didn't seem fair," Ahmed said. "I thought that there would be this warm and fuzzy feeling, but if I could be honest, it's not there because when you're on the ground, you can always see that no matter how much I'm doing, there's always someone else left out in the cold."

In addition, when he first arrived in Bangladesh with his mother, she contracted dengue fever, which "basically turns you into a hemophiliac." The illness added several thousand dollars to the already expensive venture.

"It's also been really tough on the family as well," he said. "I was really worried about my mom when she got dengue fever."

Nonetheless, Ahmed continues his aid work in Bangladesh, undeterred by these unfortunate events. However, he knows the venture is financially unsustainable over the long term, and he hopes to eventually enroll again at Notre Dame.

"I think we can [end poverty in our time]. It's not going to happen automatically"

Shawn Ahmed
Graduate student

"Right now I'm reapplying to resume the [sociology graduate] program," he said. "I haven't heard back from them yet. Other than that I definitely know aid work and development is something I want to do the rest of my life. I would keep doing what I'm doing now if it was something that was financially sustainable, but my family can only donate so much money to this."

Moreover, Ahmed is still just as inspired as the day when he heard Dr. Sachs speak at the University, and he insists that we can end poverty in our lifetime, even though it will take a lot of hard work.

"I think we can [end poverty in our time]. It's not going to happen automatically," he said. "We're going to need a commitment to make poverty a top priority back in America while poverty around the world may not be one of the top priorities right."

Note:

◆Alumni Hall has decided to spend the remainder of the academic year raising money for Ahmed, said Alumni Hall president Matt Kernan. Kernan met Ahmed through YouTube several months ago, and said he hopes to raise money not only in Alumni but also in other dorms to send to Bangladesh.

"The first thing I thought when I heard is story of just how amazing a person it takes to drop out of school and liquidate your checking account and just fly over there," Kernan said. "It really takes an amazing person and I think Shawn is the perfect guy for the job over there."

Kernan actually had to convince Ahmed to take the money.

"He said he's not looking for fundraising, he just wants to get the word out about his message of how we can end poverty," Kernan said. "I said that you want it to be inspiring, but what do you want to inspire them to do. Most [Notre Dame students] aren't going to get up and fly to Bangladesh. The best thing you're going to have a chance at inspiring them to do it to give money."

Contact Joseph McMahon at jmcmo6@nd.edu

Looking for solid business and accounting experience to put on your resume?

The Observer is accepting applications for a 2008-09 Business Manager and Controller. Responsibilities include preparing a yearly budget and handling payroll for a 200-person staff.

Since the Controller will take over as the 2009-10 Business Manager, Controller applicants should be sophomores, or juniors staying for a fifth year.

Both positions are salaried, about six to 10 hours a week. Please contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu or Kyle West at kwest1@nd.edu if interested.

Park

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and terrace will be pathways, benches, and a monument, that has not yet been designed.

The opening of the Irish Green is timed to coincide with the beginning of the construction on the Eddy Street Commons, Marsh said. By incorporating the park into the Eddy Street plan, the University hopes the Irish Green will serve as a link between the campus and the South Bend residential community.

"It is designed to be a transitional space between campus and community," Marsh said. "We believe that it will be attractive to the entire Notre Dame and South Bend community."

The Irish Green's proximity to DPAC will also play a major role in its utility.

According to Marsh, DPAC will be able to use both the terrace and the large expanse of the lawn to host performances and other events.

Contact John Tierney at jtierney1@nd.edu

Jazz

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temporary jazz, all-percussion steel drum bands to a salsa jazz band, and from groups of 20 people to less than 10 people, this year's CJF will be unlike any past festivals.

Francica said the biggest change this year is the addition of a new concert block on Saturday from 1-5 pm. In previous years, the festival only ran Friday and Saturday nights, but it will now feature four extra hours of performance time on Saturday afternoon.

Within this added time will be a student jam session where musicians from several of the visiting bands will gather onstage for an hour-long set.

"Nothing like this has ever been done before at CJF, so we expect it to be an exciting performance," Francica said.

Unlike other collegiate festivals, CJF is a non-competitive festival that focuses on learning. The seven judges will be critiquing the performances in private feedback sessions directly after the performances.

The judges include Jamey Aebersold, saxophone, Gene Bertoncini, guitar, Jim McNeely, piano, Dan Morgenstern, writer and historian, Larry Ridley, bass, Marvin Stamm, trumpet, and Clif Wallace, drums. Each of these judges performed at CJF when they were college students.

Aside from judging, these seven musicians will perform in their own session Saturday night at 10 p.m.

Bands chosen for the festival were selected from a group over 200 applicants who were asked to submit a CD of their performances. Groups were chosen based on their talent level and diversity of sound, Francica said.

In past years, CJF has hosted jazz greats like Henry Mancini, Cecil and Dee Dee Bridgewater, John Faddis, the Clayton brothers, and 2008 Album of the Year Grammy-winner, Herbie Hancock.

"For 50 years Notre Dame has been bringing top-tier jazz programs to campus to celebrate this American-born style of music, and we are committed to keeping the standard high," Francica said.

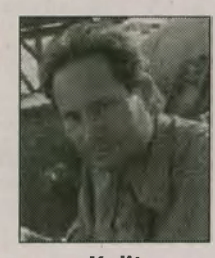
All CJF events are free for Notre Dame, Saint Mary's, and Holy Cross students. Tickets are required for Friday's 7-11 p.m. session and Saturday's 1-11 p.m. session and are available in the Lafortune Box Office.

Contact Gene Noone at enoone@nd.edu

Professor studies west Irish vilages

Special to the Observer

A ghost town of stone houses frozen in time for decades, the island Inis Airc, located just off the western coast of Ireland, is an uninhabited graveyard where roofless buildings remain untouched after the islanders were forcibly relocated to the mainland by the government in 1960.



Kuijt

"It's eerie," said Ian Kuijt, associate professor of anthropology at the University of Notre Dame.

Kuijt, who in 2005 wrapped up a 5-year excavation studying the origins of agriculture at a Neolithic site next to the Dead Sea in Jordan, decided his next project would take place in a more hospitable climate and now, along with some of his students, is exploring the history of Inis Airc, and other eroded, abandoned villages along Ireland's west coast.

"My wife and I spent three weeks bicycling through western Ireland on our honeymoon in 1995," he explained through a grin, "and it was just so beautiful and so accessible. I fell in love with the place."

His reasons for ultimately selecting this corner of the world to research are more dutiful and actually evolved from his wildly popular Archaeology of Ireland class, which he teaches every two years and for which he and his students travel to Ireland over fall break to tour heritage sites.

"I wanted to look at what, in many ways, is very much an understudied problem," he said. "What process created the cultural landscapes of the Irish coast? The core of it, in many ways, is the archaeology or materiality of The Great Famine. There has been surprisingly little research on the human ecology and ethnology of this period of time."

Kuijt's international, multi-disciplinary research team is comprised of graduate and undergraduate students and, along with Notre Dame, researchers from University College Dublin, Trinity College Dublin and Cardiff University.

The group is conducting a general study of the mountainous Conemarra region and case studies on Inis Airc and Omey islands, Errislannan and Streamstown Bay in County Galway. Many of the islands have no road or train access, and there are no medical facilities or services, which prompted their evacuation by the government.

Last summer, Kuijt took seven Notre Dame undergraduate students to conduct a feasibility assessment of the sites. Sophomore Ryan Lash helped with an archaeological survey of Omey Island.

"We recorded all of the abandoned cottages and artifacts, including a medieval shell mound, by mapping them using satellite recording systems and describing their features," Lash explained. "We uncovered more than 100 sites."

While the students took note of what was above ground, Mark Schurr, associate professor and chair of anthropology at Notre Dame, used a remote sensing (ground-penetrating radar) device to locate underground remains. His detection of abandoned fireplaces, shell mounds and buildings buried by sand dunes will help minimize damage in future digs.

"I was impressed with the incredibly rich archaeological record and how relatively little is known about it," Schurr said.

Now that the "groundwork" has been laid, this summer Kuijt and his team will spend a week at Inis Airc recording all of the abandoned buildings and use this to understand other areas where destruction has taken place. They also will conduct excavations at several villages, where Kuijt hopes to learn more about the famine.

"We have information about potatoes being a critical resource, which they were," he said. "But we have no understanding of what other types of food people ate, so how do we understand the impact when one particular resource disappears?"

In addition, three students will interview people who lived on Inis Airc until 1960 but now reside in nearby towns. They'll ask what life was like back then and what understanding they have of the years before and after the famine, as well as the migration of people to the United States. They hope to convince at least a few people to journey back and be interviewed on video camera in an effort to document folklore and life on the islands.

Wabruda

continued from page 1

Another defining aspect of the group is that members dress in shirt and tie the first class day of every month.

Wabruda also promotes unity between its members, Williams said, adding that he has become close with many other men in the group.

"I have been very encouraged by the unity of this group," he said. "We want to bring all kinds of people together,"

Williams said he hopes to attract people of all ages and races to the conference.

"Black history is American history. It affects everyone, and we all have a lot to learn about these issues," he said.

The weekend's events aim to educate audiences about black history and how it has affected the lives of African Americans today.

"[The events] give homage to our ancestors," Williams said.

The group encourages members to come together to share its experiences, differences and commonalities. Williams said the group's advisor, Dr. G. David Moss plays an integral role in the life of the club, and spends much of his time advising members.

"He is really passionate about our mission," Williams said.

This weekend's conference not only aims to promote understanding and appreciation of African American history, but also to unite faculty, staff and students from all of the University.

"If we are going to solve American problems, we have to come together to learn. It's like what they say in [Notre Dame] football — together as one," Williams said.

The club has organized several weekend events, which include three lectures Saturday morning and afternoon, which are to take place in the Jordan Hall of Science.

The first, featuring Reginald L. Robinson, a visiting Professor of Law and Critical Theory at Southern Illinois University, is entitled "Wake up! It's a Bleeping Con: Reawakening the Great Potential of Black Americans."

The second lecture will focus on African American history during the Civil War era. It will feature Verge "Brother Sage" Gillam, founder of the Association of African American Role Models (AAARM), and is titled "Underground Railroad."

In the third lecture Bishop Gideon Adjei, founder of Crystal Horizons Investment, will give a talk titled "Vision for Victory."

Saturday's activities will commence with a performance at Legends by spoken work artist Taalam Acey, from 10 p.m. until midnight.

The conference will take its activities off the Notre Dame campus Sunday for a day of immersion in black history in several historical sites in southern Michigan, including a visit to the Underground Railroad Cemetery in Vandalia, Mich., a family farm in Paw Paw, Mich., and the Sojourner Truth statue in Battle Creek, Mich.

Contact Katie Peralta at kperalta@nd.edu

Hypatia

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or science field. This year's speaker is Professor Joan F. Brennecke, professor of chemical engineering at Notre Dame and the director of the Notre Dame Energy Center.

The seventh graders will work alongside Saint Mary's students in the college's laboratories. Immersion activities include working with Fibonacci numbers and decoding messages.

In addition, the day will involve a role-playing activity, featuring dressed-up Saint Mary's students portraying historical scientists and mathematicians. The seventh graders will also partake in a campus tour.

The Saint Mary's financial aid office will offer presentations on financial preparation for college for parents.

Contact Katlyn Smith at ksmith01@saintmarys.edu

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E-mail obsnews@nd.edu

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WORLD & NATION

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Ex-colonel to testify for terror suspect

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — In a stunning turnaround, the former chief military prosecutor at Guantanamo Bay said Thursday he would be a defense witness for the driver of Osama bin Laden.

Air Force Col. Morris Davis, who resigned in October over alleged political interference in the U.S. military tribunals, told The Associated Press he will appear at a hearing for Salim Ahmed Hamdan.

"I expect to be called as a witness ... I'm more than happy to testify," Davis said in a telephone interview from Washington. He called it "an opportunity to tell the truth."

At the April pretrial hearing inside the U.S. military base in southeast Cuba, Hamdan's defense team plans to argue that alleged political interference cited by Davis violates the Military Commissions Act, Hamdan's military lawyer, Navy Lt. Brian Mizer, told the AP.

U.S. gives U.N. more data about Iran

VIENNA, Austria — For the second time in recent weeks, Washington has given the U.N. nuclear watchdog information on what it says were Tehran's attempts to make atomic weapons, but much of it is of doubtful value, diplomats said Thursday.

The diplomats also told The Associated Press that, after handing over a large file last week to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.S. agreed to let the Iranians look at some of the material so they could respond, but Tehran has shown no interest.

NATIONAL NEWS

20 million pounds of recalled beef eaten

LOS ANGELES — More than a third of the 143 million pounds of California beef recalled last week went to school lunch programs, with at least 20 million pounds consumed, officials with the U.S. Department of Agriculture said Thursday.

About 50 million pounds of the meat went to schools, said Eric Steiner, deputy administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service's special nutrition programs.

Of that amount, about 20 million pounds have been eaten, 15 million pounds are on hold at storage facilities and 15 million pounds are still being traced, he said.

Officials said, however, that they still weren't able to provide the names of all the places the meat wound up.

"Sitting here today, I cannot tell you how many locations the product has gone to," said Dr. Kenneth Peterson, of the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service. "Our focus is identifying the locations and making sure the product is under control."

Poor economy threatens clean energy

Governors who want clean energy to be a national priority are trying to bring together states with wildly different ways of producing power, like tapping ocean temperature differences off Hawaii and mining coal in West Virginia.

But a souring economy has tightened state budgets and forced spending cuts that could temporarily short circuit renewable energy development.

Twenty states now project budget gaps, which together total $34 billion for 2009.

LOCAL NEWS

Republicans protest immigration bill

INDIANAPOLIS — Republicans walked off the floor of the Indiana House Thursday night in protest of a move by majority Democrats to prevent any GOP amendments from being offered to legislation aimed at penalizing employers who hire illegal immigrants.

It was unclear whether they would return to the floor Thursday night.

Some Republicans said the bill was too weak on tackling illegal immigration. Some wanted to offer changes that among other things would prohibit the state or local governments from providing public assistance to illegal immigrants. That would include help in obtaining employment, housing, higher education or other types

SERBIA

Mob breaks into U.S. embassy

Rioters protest American support for Kosovo's independence; one charred body found inside

Associated Press

AP

Rioters in Belgrade, Serbia walk past a burning car in front of a damaged McDonald's restaurant after a protest rally against Kosovo's independence on Thursday.

BELGRADE — Angry Serbs broke into the U.S. Embassy and set fire to an office Thursday night as rioters rampaged through Belgrade's streets, putting an exclamation point of violence to a day of mass protest against Western support for an independent Kosovo.

At least 150,000 people rallied in Belgrade, waving Serbian flags and signs proclaiming "Stop USA terror," to denounce the bid by Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority to create their own state out of what Serbs consider the ancient heartland of their culture.

Protesters burned American flags and the mob that attacked the embassy tore down the U.S. flag there. Crowds also ransacked a McDonald's, looted stores and fought with police in front of other diplomatic compounds in a display of the resentment seething in Serbia over the secession of what has been its southernmost province.

A charred body was found in the U.S. Embassy after the fire was put out, but all staff were accounted for, embassy spokeswoman Rian Harris said. Belgrade's Pink TV said the body appeared to be that of a rioter.

White House spokesman Dana Perino strongly criticized Serbia' government, saying the embassy "was attacked by thugs" and Serb police didn't do enough to stop it. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said the U.S. warned Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica and Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic that it would hold them personally responsible for further damage.

At the mass rally earlier, Kostunica attacked the U.S. and others for supporting Kosovo's independent. "Is there any other nation on Earth from whom (the great powers) are demanding that they give up their identity, to give up our brothers in Kosovo?" he told the crowd.

Coming after smaller outbursts of violence in Belgrade as well as attacks on a United Nations building and police checkpoints in Kosovo, the surge of rioting underlined the determination of Serbs not to give up Kosovo quietly.

The Serbian government has said it won't resort to military force, but the street violence could be a tactic to slow moves by more countries to follow the U.S., Britain, Germany and France in quickly recognizing Kosovo's independence.

Russia and China lead the states standing with Serbia, worrying that Kosovo's example could encourage separatist sentiment elsewhere. The Kremlin has underlined its displeasure by hinting it might back separatists in pro-Western nations such as the former Soviet republic of Georgia.

Serbian officials dismissed violence earlier in the week as "insignificant," and no police were guarding the U.S. Embassy compound even though it had been targeted previously. American officials said the offices had been closed at midday because of security concerns.

Milorad Veljovic, a top Interior Ministry official, said that security forces had the situation under control and that mobs had been broken up.

Masked men smashed their way inside the compound's consular building, tore down the U.S. flag and tried to throw furniture from an office. They set fire to the office and flames shot up the side of the building.

The State Department officials said no protesters got into the embassy's main chancery section, a separate area that was manned by a U.S. Marine guard unit and some security personnel.

Police arrived about 45 minutes after the blaze broke out, and after the rioters left the building. A half dozen fire trucks also appeared and quickly doused the flames, leaving the front facade and two police guard posts on the sidewalk smoldering.

UCLA files for restraining order on activists

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The University of California went to court Thursday to try to keep animal rights activists away from UCLA employees and graduate students who say they have been threatened because of their research.

Three times since June 2006, Molotov cocktail-type devices have been left near the homes of faculty members who oversee or participate in research that involves animals, according to a statement from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Researchers' homes have also been vandalized and they have received threatening phone calls and e-mails, according to the university. On at least one occasion a faculty member received a package rigged with razor blades, the statement said.

"Enough is enough," UCLA Chancellor Gene Block said. "We're not willing to wait until somebody is injured before taking legal action to protect our faculty and administrators from terrorist tactics, violence and harassment."

The University of California's Board of Regents filed suit in Superior Court in Santa Monica on Thursday, seeking a temporary restraining order and permanent injunctions keeping activists away from UCLA employees and graduate students engaged in such research, said university spokesman Phil Hampton.

At any one time, the university has several hundred ongoing research projects that involve the use of animals, he said.

Hampton said the suit specifically requests restraining orders and injunctions against the Animal Liberation Front, the Animal Liberation Brigade, the UCLA Primate Freedom Project and five protesters believed to be affiliated with those groups.

The suit alleges that the defendants invaded researchers' privacy, interfered with business practices and intentionally caused emotional distress. It also asks the court to prohibit the defendants from vandalizing their property, violating local noise ordinances or disseminating personal information about university personnel over the Internet.

Clinton to Obama: Stop stealing words

New York senator accuses rival candidate of political plagiarism, elicits disapproval from Democratic audience

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Hillary Rodham Clinton accused presidential rival Barack Obama of political plagiarism Thursday night, but drew boos from a Democratic debate audience when she ridiculed him as the candidate of "change you can Xerox."

Obama dismissed the charge out of hand, then turned the jeers to applause when he countered, "What we shouldn't be doing is tearing each other down, we should be lifting the country up."

The exchange marked an unusually pointed moment in an otherwise civil encounter in the days before March 4 primaries in Texas and Ohio — contests that even some of Clinton's supporters say she must win to sustain her campaign for the White House.

The former first lady has lost 11 straight primaries and caucuses, and trails her rival in convention delegates. Obama has won a pair of big union endorsements in the past two days.

In a university auditorium in the heart of Texas, the two rivals agreed that high-tech surveillance measures are preferable to construction of a fence to curtail illegal immigration.

They disagreed on the proper response to a change in government in Cuba in the wake of Fidel Castro's resignation. Clinton said she would refuse to sit down with incoming President Raul Castro until he implements political and economic reforms. Obama said he would meet "without preconditions," but added the U.S. agenda for such a session would include human rights in the Communist island nation.

They also sparred frequently about health care, a core issue of the campaign.

Clinton said repeatedly that Obama's plan would leave 15 million Americans uncovered.

But he, in turn, accused the former first lady of mishandling the issue by working in secrecy when her husband was in the White House.

"I'm going to do things differently," he said. "We can have great plans, but if we don't change how the politics is working in Washington, then neither of our plans are going to happen."

Clinton was combative and complimentary by turns, and reflected on her well-known personal struggles in the debate's final moments.

"Everyone here knows I've lived through some crises and some challenging moments in my life," she said — a thinly veiled but clear reference to her husband's affair with Monica Lewinsky and subsequent impeachment. But she added that nothing she had been through matched the everyday struggles of voters.

Then, offering unprompted praise to her rival, the one-time front-runner said, "No matter what happens in this contest, I am honored to be here with Barack Obama."

Both candidates were plainly popular with the debate audience. During one break someone in the crowd shouted "Si, se puede," Spanish for Obama's trademark phrase, "Yes we can."

Clinton largely sidestepped a question about so-called superdelegates, members of Congress, governors and party leaders who were not picked in primaries and caucuses. She said the issue would sort itself out, and "we'll have a united Democratic party" for the fall campaign.

But Obama, who has won more primaries and caucuses said the contests must "count for something ... that the will of the voters ... is what ultimately will determine who our next nominee is going to be."

> *"Words are important and words matter but actions speak louder than words."*
>
> **Hillary Clinton**
> **New York senator**

Clinton went into the debate needing a change in the course of the campaign, and waited patiently for an opening to try to diminish her rival, seated inches away on the stage. "I think you can tell from the first 45 minutes Senator Obama and I have a lot in common," she said.

Barely pausing for breath, she went on to say there were differences.

First, she said she had seen a supporter of Obama interviewed on television recently, and unable to name a single accomplishment the Illinois senator had on his record.

"Words are important and words matter but actions speak louder than words," she said.

Obama agreed with that, then noted that Clinton lately had been urging voters to turn against him by saying, "let's get real."

"And the implication is that the people who've been voting for me or are involved in my campaign are somehow delusional," Obama said.

Clinton also raised Obama's use in his campaign speeches of words first uttered by his friend, Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick.

"If your candidacy is going to be about words then they should be your own words," she said. "...Lifting whole passages from someone else's speeches is not change you can believe in, it's change you can Xerox."

> *"If your candidacy is going to be about words then they should be your own words."*
>
> **Hillary Clinton**
> **New York senator**

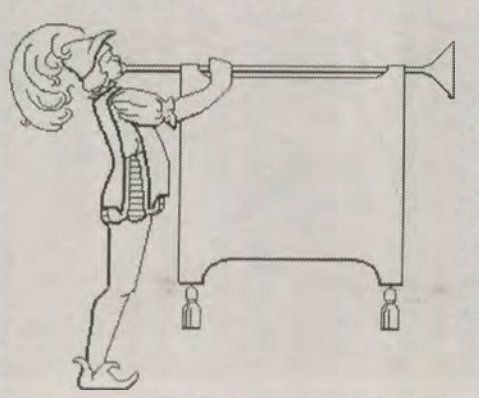
The debate audience booed.

Obama said the entire controversy was evidence of a "silly season" that the public finds dispiriting. Besides, he said of his speeches at one point, "I've got to admit, some of them are pretty good."

The two rivals sat next to one another in swivel chairs in a University of Texas auditorium for the 90-minute debate, one in a dwindling number of opportunities for the former first lady to chart a new course in the presidential race.

She has lost 11 straight primaries and caucuses to Obama — including an overseas competition for support among Americans living aboard — and has fallen behind in the chase for the number of delegates needed to become the presidential nominee.

Obama's strong showing has made him the man to beat in a historic struggle between a black man and a white woman, and even former President Bill Clinton has said his wife must win both Ohio and Texas early next month to preserve her candidacy. New polls show Texas a dead heat, and give Clinton a lead in Ohio, but far smaller than the one she held in recent weeks.



Announcing the Year 2008 Annual Awards of the Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship

Thanks to a generous gift from the Albert Ravarino family, the Italian Studies Program is pleased to announce the year 2008 annual competition for travel in support of summer research and foreign study in Italy. Grants will be made in amounts not to exceed $3,000, and will not normally cover all expenses. Notre Dame graduate and undergraduate students who are planning to pursue research or a formal program of summer study in Italy are invited to apply. Students must have completed at least one year of Italian language. The course work will normally be in Italian; will involve the study of Italian language, literature, and culture; and must be applicable to a student's degree program at the University of Notre Dame.

Recommended programs for foreign study include, but are not limited to: Loyola University in Rome, Boston University in Padua, UCLA in Pisa, Miami University in Urbino, Columbia University in Scandiano. Interested students are encouraged to consult the materials on Italian foreign study in the Department of Romance Languages, 343 O'Shaughnessy Hall.

Students are invited to submit a letter which should include:

1) an explanation of how the proposed research or foreign study will enhance their degree program at Notre Dame;
2) a personal statement indicating their background, interests, and long-term goals;
3) a description of the research project or the program they intend to follow;
4) a budget indicating the costs involved;
5) two letters of recommendation
6) a transcript showing all grades and courses completed
7) a list of other sources of funding (being sought or confirmed) for the same project (i.e. Office of International Studies, Nanovic Institute, etc.)

Application Deadline: Wednesday, February 27, 2008
Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship
Program in Italian Studies
343 O'Shaughnessy Hall
University of Notre Dame

MARKET RECAP

Stocks			
Dow Jones	12,284.30	-142.96	
Up: 898	Same: 82	Down: 2,430	Composite Volume: 3,707,656,389
AMEX	2,258.19	-6.17	
NASDAQ	2,299.78	-27.32	
NYSE	8,977.73	-96.23	
S&P 500	1,342.53	-17.50	
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	13,467.37	-220.91	
FTSE 100 (London)	5,932.20	+38.60	

COMPANY	%CHANGE	$GAIN	PRICE
S&P DEP RECIEIPTS (SPY)	-0.83	-1.13	134.79
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	-0.96	-0.42	43.52
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-0.43	-0.12	28.10
LEVEL 3 COMM INC (LVLT)	-4.89	-0.11	2.14

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	-3.40	-0.133	3.784
13-WEEK BILL	-1.61	-0.035	2.140
30-YEAR BOND	-1.96	-0.091	4.553
5-YEAR NOTE	-6.21	-0.186	2.807

Commodities		
LIGHT CRUDE ($/bbl.)	-1.47	98.23
GOLD ($/Troy oz.)	+11.00	948.80
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-0.93	95.25

Exchange Rates	
YEN	107.4650
EURO	0.6758
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.0122
BRITISH POUND	0.5095

IN BRIEF

Chinese industry loses ground on cost

SHANGHAI — The teddy bears selling for $1.40 in Shanghai's IKEA store may be just about the cheapest in town, but they're not made in China — they're stitched and stuffed in Indonesia.

The fluffy brown toys reflect a new challenge for China: Its huge economy, which has long offered some of the world's lowest manufacturing costs, is losing its claim on cheapness as factories get squeezed by rising prices for energy, materials and labor.

Those expenses, plus higher taxes and stricter enforcement of labor and environmental standards, are causing some manufacturers to leave for lower-cost markets such as Vietnam, Indonesia and India.

Costs have climbed so much that three-quarters of businesses surveyed by the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai believe China is losing its competitive edge.

The higher costs mean Western consumers are bound to face steeper prices for iPods, TVs, tank tops and many other imported products made by small Chinese subcontractors.

Britain, France propose Iran sanctions

UNITED NATIONS — Britain and France formally introduced a Security Council resolution Thursday calling for a third round of sanctions against Iran over its failure to suspend uranium enrichment.

The United States pushed hardest for the sanctions, but China and Russia, as the remaining permanent members of the 15-nation council — along with Germany have been in general agreement on them.

The six nations circulated a draft earlier calling for bans on travel and equipment that can be used in civilian and nuclear programs, more monitoring of Iran's financial institutions and inspection of air and sea cargo heading to or from Iran.

Iran says it will only deal with the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency, which found last November that Tehran was generally truthful about aspects of its nuclear history. But the new resolution, elaborating on the earlier draft, encourages European Union to continue working with Iran on finding "a negotiated solution ... with a view to create necessary conditions for resuming talks" on its nuclear program.

Bleak data fans fears of recession

Regional manufacturing news and index of leading economic indicators disappoint

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The stock market finished with a sharp loss Thursday after bleak readings on the economy heightened investors' fears of recession. The Dow Jones industrial average fell more than 140 points.

Wall Street was disappointed when the Philadelphia Federal Reserve reported that regional manufacturing fell more than predicted. Another piece of bad news was the Conference Board's January index of leading economic indicators, which posted its fourth straight drop.

Investors have already been pricing in another interest rate cut — perhaps up to half a percentage point — after minutes from the Federal Reserve's last policy-setting meeting indicated central bankers will remain vigilant about the economy. The Fed, which meets again March 18, has forecast slower growth and continued risks to the economy from housing and credit markets.

Though investors been assured by the central bank that it will lower rates again if necessary, that expectation has not been enough to galvanize their confidence in the stock market and the economy. Wall Street remains concerned that the economy could be so weak that rate cuts, which take months to work their way through the economy, won't prevent further deterioration.

"The Fed cutting rates is a little bit like a fire engine pulling up to your house," said Brian Gendreau, investment strategist for ING Investment Management. "You're happy help has arrived, but still, your house is burning down."

AP

Traders and brokers work on the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange a short time before the closing bell Tuesday. Stocks declined sharply Thursday.

The Dow fell 142.96, or 1.15 percent, to 12,284.30.

The biggest loser among the 30 Dow components was General Motors Corp. after lender GMAC LLC, which is part-owned by GM, said it will slash hundreds of jobs at its auto finance business. GM fell $1.24, or 4.9 percent, to $24.30.

Broader indexes also declined. The Standard & Poor's 500 index shed 17.50, or 1.29 percent, to 1,342.53, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 27.32, or 1.17 percent, to 2,299.78.

"What you're seeing is a tug of war out there," said Arthur Hogan, chief market analyst at Jefferies & Co. "There are those that believe we're in a recession and earnings will move lower, and others that feel we're working on a bottom. That can change the direction of stocks minute-by-minute."

Bond prices moved sharply higher on expectations of a rate reduction. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, fell to 3.78 percent from 3.89 percent late Wednesday.

Light, sweet crude for April delivery dropped $1.47 to settle at $98.23 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, after the government reported that U.S. crude oil inventories increased by more than expected last week. Crude had reached a new record above $101 in overnight trading.

Gold jumped to a record high above $950 an ounce on Thursday, while the dollar dipped slightly against most major currencies.

Earthquake hits northeastern Nevada

Associated Press

WELLS, Nev. — Windows shattered and building facades and signs fell, but no one was seriously injured when a powerful earthquake shook this rural northeastern town on Thursday.

The quake, which had an estimated magnitude of 6.0, according to the U.S. Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Center in Golden, Colo., struck at 6:16 a.m., near Wells in a sparsely populated area near the Nevada-Utah line.

Elko County commissioners declared a state of emergency. "Almost all of the businesses are shut down. We have no services and no fuel," Commissioner Mike Nannini said.

Donna Anderson of Wells said she was surprised by how abruptly the quake hit.

"It just immediately jumped into rattling the walls," she told The Associated Press from the Wagon Wheel residential motel where she lives with her dog, Sis. She said it seemed like the shaking went on for "five or six hours" but probably lasted only a few minutes.

"I wasn't terribly scared but it felt like everything was just going to crumble down around us," she said.

Gov. Jim Gibbons toured the area and said most everyone was safe, citing just three minor injuries.

"I think we were just blessed that Mother Nature struck when it did ... rather than some time later on when the people would be out and about and the sidewalks might have had more people on them when these structures came down," he said.

Almost all the 700 residential structures in town had some damage, said Tom Turk, a state spokesman at the scene.

The temblor was felt across much of the West, from northern Idaho and Utah to Southern California, and as many as 30 aftershocks were reported.

"Definitely a lot of people felt this, and if they were sleeping, they were awoken," said USGS geophysicist Carrieann Bedwell.

In Wendover, Utah, on the Nevada-Utah line, Tammy Wadsworth was ironing clothes when the quake hit.

"I kept thinking, 'When is it going to quit?' A couple pictures fell off the walls," she said. "One of my grandkids ran outside. They didn't know what else to do. It scared them."

The most serious damage was reported in Wells' largely unoccupied historic district, where an estimated 20 to 25 buildings have been "heavily damaged," Elko County Sheriff's Sgt. Kevin McKinney said.

CUBA

Cuba to decide its future

Country likely to keep Castros in power in Sunday's elections

Associated Press

HAVANA — A technocrat whose reforms are credited with saving Cuba's economy after the Soviet collapse. A former Fidel Castro aide who persuaded the U.N. to condemn Washington's embargo. The Communist Party's international relations man.

These men are the next generation of Cuba's leadership, and their fortunes in the government shake-up coming Sunday will say a lot about where the island is headed now that the 81-year-old Fidel is giving up the presidency.

Parliament will almost certainly keep the Castros in charge by replacing Fidel with his younger brother, Raul. Raul, 76, has been first in line for the presidency for decades and has been acting president since his brother took ill in July 2006.

Already, Raul has spoken of unspecified "structural changes" and called for an open discussion of problems with the system. But it is unclear what kind of economic openings Cuba's communist leadership is willing to allow, and its choice of vice presidents will be crucial in determining whether the president has a mandate for change.

It's up to the National Assembly — the 614-member parliament elected last month — to meet Sunday to select the 31 people who as the Council of State will lead Cuba for the next five years.

A parliamentary committee has been privately debating the new council's makeup for several weeks, probably taking into account the recommendations of the Castro brothers as well as top Communist Party leaders.

On Sunday, the assembly will name the president, first vice president and five other vice presidents, and 24 other members of the Council of State. Fidel, who was re-elected to the National Assembly, could remain on the council but is unlikely to receive a top position.

The current Council of State is overdue for renewal, with two-thirds of its members over 60 and only two each in their 30s and 40s. Only four women sit on the council, and about half the members fought in the revolution in the late 1950s.

While nothing is certain, most people expect Raul will be the next president. The No. 2 slot remains more up for grabs.

The leading candidate is Carlos Lage, balding and baby-faced, who at 56 is a generation younger than the Castro brothers. He is already a vice president, and as Cabinet secretary is a sort of de facto prime minister. Quiet and unassuming, Lage has always sidestepped public feuds.

He is credited with designing the modest economic reforms in the early 1990s that helped Cuba survive the Soviet collapse. With Raul's support, he pushed through proposals for limited self-employment, foreign investment, cooperative farms, farmers markets and the legal use of the U.S. dollar.

Those moves created cash flow that improved people's lives without sparking political turmoil many Cubans fear after witnessing the fall of communism in eastern Europe. But then, as now, both Lage and the Castros said there would be no changes at the expense of socialism, including the free social services most Cubans consider a birthright.

While he supported temporary, limited economic openings in a time of crisis, Lage has suggested that is as far as he wants to go, telling state managers last year that Cuba will not copy the forays of communist-ruled China and Vietnam into capitalism.

Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque has a reputation for more ideological orthodoxy, especially given his seven years as Fidel's personal secretary. He fiercely defended the government's crackdown on dissidents in 2003, calling them mercenaries.

> *"Fortunately, our process can still count on cadres from the old guard and others who were very young in the early days of the Revolution."*
>
> **Raul Castto**
> **acting Cuban president**

Short, slightly stocky and freckled, the 42-year-old has a narrower experience in government than Lage. But he has directed Cuba's foreign policy for nine years, and as U.N. ambassador he is largely credited with orchestrating U.N. resolutions calling for an end to the U.S. economic embargo.

Less well known is Fernando Remirez de Estenoz, 56, but he is someone to watch. He served as chief of Cuba's mission in Washington in 1995-2001, a period in which the Baltimore Orioles played baseball in Havana and young Elian Gonzalez was returned from Florida.

Remirez now serves as the Communist Party's representative abroad and has traveled with Raul to Vietnam and China. With perfect English and a pleasant, bespectacled face, Remirez would be a key player if the next U.S. president accepts Raul's pleas for talks.

One man who could thwart efforts to put a younger man in the No. 2 spot is Ricardo Alarcon, who would have to resign as president of the National Assembly to take the position. At 70, he is a long shot, but he has wide experience, including a stint as foreign minister and two tours as U.N. ambassador.

Urbane and eloquent, Alarcon speaks fluent English and has long been Fidel's point man on Cuba-U.S. affairs, representing his country in talks with U.S. officials. He was a key player in Cuba's successful battle to return Elian Gonzalez to his Cuban father.

Fidel seems ready for the generational shift, referring to both older and younger leaders in his resignation letter.

"Fortunately, our process can still count on cadres from the old guard and others who were very young in the early days of the Revolution," he wrote. "... There is also the intermediate generation, which learned with us the basics of the complex and almost unattainable art of organizing and leading a revolution."

LIBERIA

Bush reassures ruined country in African tour

Associated Press

MONROVIA — President Bush offered encouragement and help Thursday to lift this shattered country from years of ruinous fighting as he concluded a tour of Africa and turned toward other global problems.

In Liberia, the final stop on Bush's five-country trip, almost nothing works and people are nervous about their future in the aftermath of a 14-year civil war that ended in 2003.

The country is overrun with weapons, malnutrition is pervasive, half of children are not in school, and many buildings are uninhabitable. There is little running water or electricity and no sewage or landline phone system.

> *"It's easier to tear a country down than it is to rebuild a country."*
>
> **George Bush**
> **president**

"It's easier to tear a country down than it is to rebuild a country," Bush said. "And the people of this good country must understand the United States will stand with you as you rebuild your country."

Though Bush's entourage was a bit jittery about his seven-hour stopover, Liberia's president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, declared at one point, "You're safe."

Bush used his five-country trek to showcase how billions in aid and diplomatic engagement are improving the everyday lives of people across the continent.

Though each nation he visited already receives huge amounts of assistance, Bush had new announcements for Africa ready to drop at each stop:

◆Ghana, $350 million to battle tropical diseases across the developing world.

◆Rwanda, $100 million to train and equip African peacekeepers going to Sudan.

◆Tanzania, a $700 million development compact and help providing an anti-malaria bed net for every child between 1 and 5 in that country.

◆Benin, $6 million for textbooks, teacher training and scholarships. Liberia: 1 million textbooks and 10,000 desks by the start of the next school year.

Liberia, founded by freed American slaves, offered an opportunity to trumpet a success in Bush's "freedom agenda," which faces an uncertain future in Iraq and many other nations.

"We're working to heal the wounds of war, and strengthen democracy, and build a new armed forces that will be a source of security for the Liberian people instead of a source of terror," the president said.

Liberia's civil strife brought unspeakable violence. Hundreds of thousands were massacred, boys were conscripted as soldiers to commit horrifying atrocities against countrymen, and the diamond trade was hijacked to finance fighting. At the center of the problem was one-time rebel warlord and dictator Charles Taylor.

As the crisis escalated in 2003, the United States imposed sanctions. Liberia's deterioration dominated Bush's trip to Africa that year, and on his return to Washington, the president offered logistical support for peacekeepers — mostly offshore and arriving after Taylor fled into exile in Niger.

The U.S. has since helped a transition government hold elections, supported Sirleaf's new government, and funneled millions in aid, including funding for the modernization of Liberia's security forces "from the ground up," as White House spokesman Gordon Johndroe put it.

'Ελληνικά

العربيَّـة للمُسَـافرين

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Man poisons wife with lethal dose of antifreeze

Associated Press

ELKHORN, Wis. — A man was convicted Thursday of poisoning and suffocating his wife, who left behind a letter implicating him should she come to an "early demise."

Mark Jensen, 48, was found guilty of first-degree murder in the death of his wife, Julie Jensen, and faces a mandatory life prison sentence, with the judge to determine if he should ever be eligible for parole.

Mark Jensen stared dourly at the jurors as each concurred with the judgment. Bailiffs led him quietly out the side of the courtroom afterward.

"I'm convinced the jury reached the wrong decision," defense attorney Craig Albee said. "I'm hopeful that Mark will get a new trial."

Julie Jensen, 40, was found dead in her Pleasant Prairie home on Dec. 3, 1998, after being sick for a few days. Mark Jensen was charged with killing her in 2002, but legal wrangling over evidence repeatedly delayed the trial.

The evidence included a letter she wrote implicating her husband of 14 years should anything happen to her, as well as her statements to police, a neighbor and her son's teacher that she suspected her husband was trying to kill her. At the time, Mark Jensen was having an affair with a woman he has since married.

"I pray that I am wrong and nothing happens, but I am suspicious of Mark's suspicious behaviors and fear for my early demise," Julie Jensen wrote in the letter. She told the neighbor to give it to police only if she died.

Julie Jensen's four brothers spoke at a news conference afterward, thanking the jurors, law enforcement agents and witnesses who testified against Mark Jensen.

"The witnesses had to endure hardship and muster a lot of courage to come forward," Michael Griffin said, adding that he hoped the case would give hope to other victims of domestic violence.

Jurors deliberated for about 32 hours over three days before reaching a verdict Thursday.

Juror Sandra Schott described Julie Jensen's letter as "extremely important" in their deliberations.

"At first, (the letter) wasn't making any sense to me. I was one of the people having doubts," she said. But she turned around as jurors delved deeper into Julie Jensen's words and the evidence supporting the prosecution's claims.

In closing arguments, attorneys on each side had said there wasn't enough evidence supporting the other's theory about the way Julie Jensen died.

Prosecutor Robert Jambois said Mark Jensen plotted to kill his wife, searching the Internet for information on ethylene glycol — commonly used as antifreeze — and then giving her sleeping pills and making her drink juice spiked with the toxic chemical.

When Julie Jensen's health appeared to improve, her husband pushed her face in a pillow and suffocated her, Jambois claimed.

Feds research new flu vaccine

Government hopes next year's shot will be more successful than this year's

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Next year's flu vaccine is getting a complete overhaul to provide protection against three new and different influenza strains — hopefully better protection than this year's version.

Advisers to the Food and Drug Administration unanimously backed the new recipe on Thursday, echoing an earlier decision by the World Health Organization. It's a highly unusual move: Seldom are more than one or two strains swapped out from one year to the next.

"There's a lot of work that will be going on ... to try and make sure that everything comes together in such a way that there will be plenty of vaccine."

Dr. Nancy Cox
director
Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Now the question is whether vaccine manufacturers can make such a big change in time to produce more than 100 million doses by the fall.

"It's going to be a really busy spring and summer, and of course we're always looking for fallback positions just in case things don't work out well," said Dr. Nancy Cox, flu director at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "There's a lot of work that will be going on ... to try and make sure that everything comes together in such a way that there will be plenty of vaccine."

One concern: A strain called Brisbane/10 that's responsible for much of this winter's misery doesn't grow very quickly in the laboratory, potentially complicating already laborious vaccine production.

The flu vaccine must be reformulated every year to keep up with the fast-evolving influenza virus, and this year the government made a rare wrong bet on which strains would cause the most disease. The flu season got off to a slow start, but it rocketed in mid-January as some new strains arrived — and the CDC found the vaccine is a good match for only about 40 percent of the virus now spreading in the U.S.

That Brisbane/10 strain is the big culprit, one first spotted in Australia late last winter, too late for scientists to include in this year's vaccine recipe even if they had predicted it would gain steam.

Flu viruses come in different strains that constantly mutate, until one that few people have immunity against emerges and is able to spread widely. Each year's vaccine contains protection against two varieties of the harsher Type A flu — subtypes known as H1N1 and H3N2 — and one from the more benign Type B family.

CDC and international authorities expect Brisbane/10, a version of the H3N2 flu, to still be around next year. They predict a second new Type A strain, known as H1N1/Brisbane/59, also will hit, along with a newer Type B/Florida strain, prompting Thursday's decision to put all three in next year's vaccine.

It's a gamble based on tracking illness around the globe, and the CDC does have a pretty good record: 16 of the last 19 flu seasons had well-matched vaccines.

Still, "as we always say, influenza is quite unpredictable," Cox cautioned Thursday.

The recipe must be set about eight months before manufacturers start shipping doses because flu vaccine production is so complex. Health authorities come up with seed stocks of the virus strains that manufacturers then must grow in chicken eggs.

Makers of vaccine for the Southern Hemisphere already have added the troublesome Brisbane/10 strain to their own shots, and found it doesn't grow easily. Scientists now are working on a solution to that technical problem, such as using a very similar virus — it's even called "Brisbane/10-like" — found in Uruguay that would provide the same protection, Cox said.

"It's certainly a challenge for all the manufacturers," said Nancy Kavanaugh of Medimmune Inc., which makes a nasal spray flu vaccine, the only non-shot version. "We're working with three new strains. ... There's some unknowns related to those and how they're going to grow."

As for the rest of this winter, the CDC says the current vaccine should provide some protection, perhaps resulting in a milder case of flu than if someone hadn't been inoculated. It's too early to tell if this winter's flu will be more deadly than usual. Every year, the flu infects up to 20 percent of the population, hospitalizes 200,000 people and kills 36,000.

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Center for Applied Mathematics

EPA reports industry decline in toxic wastes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Toxic chemical pollution from industrial plants and factories declined by 2 percent in 2006 despite increases in the mining and petroleum sectors, the government said Thursday.

Companies reported that 4.25 billion pounds of toxic chemicals were released into the air, onto land, into waterways, injected deep into the ground, or stored on site as waste. That is about 105 million pounds less than 2005.

About one-third of the chemicals, or 1.41 billion pounds, were reported released into the air, 7 percent less than in 2005, the Environmental Protection Agency said. An additional 250 million pounds of chemicals went into surface waterways, a 3 percent decline.

The annual Toxic Release Inventory Report covers 2006, the latest year for which figures are available:

◆ The metal mining industry reported it released into the environment or disposed of 1.22 billion pounds of toxic chemicals. That was 4 percent more than in 2005.

◆ The electric utility industry had the second largest release, 1.02 billion pounds. But it also reported the largest decrease, about 6 percent.

◆ Next was the chemical industry, which reported a drop of 4 percent, to 514 million pounds.

◆ The petroleum sector reported 76 million pounds of releases, an increase of 8 percent.

◆ About one-third of the chemicals, or 1.4 billion pounds, were deposited on land.

◆ Industries injected about 14 percent, or 606 million pounds, injected into deep underground wells.

The 2006 figures reflected a change that the EPA allowed, reducing the amount of information that some companies needed to report. Companies could turn in shorter, less detailed forms if they used less than 5,000 pounds of toxic chemicals or released less than 2,000 pounds.

In the past, more detailed information had to be provided in longer forms at a threshold of 500 pounds. The new rule maintains that reporting threshold for only some of the most dangerous chemicals.

Opponents of the change have said the more lenient reporting allows some facilities to hide data about toxic chemical releases. The EPA said the changes only streamlined the reporting process.

The EPA said 22,880 industrial and manufacturing facilities submitted 87,900 forms on the 2006 data. The reporting covered 650 chemicals.

THE OBSERVER

The Independent, Daily Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

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THE OBSERVER *ONLINE*
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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Maddie Hanna.

POST OFFICE INFORMATION

The Observer (USPS 599 2-4000) is published Monday through Friday except during exam and vacation periods. A subscription to The Observer is $100 for one academic year; $55 for one semester.

The Observer is published at:
024 South Dining Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779
Periodical postage paid at Notre Dame and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER
Send address corrections to:
The Observer
P.O. Box 779
024 South Dining Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556-0779

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Harangody for Big East player of the year

THE OBSERVER
Editorial

In light of his 23-point, 12-rebound performance in Notre Dame's 82-70 win over Pittsburgh last night and his inspired play this season, The Observer endorses forward Luke Harangody for Big East player of the year.

The 6-foot-8 bear of a power forward has lifted the Irish throughout this season, displaying an uncanny combination of raw power, intensity and skill.

The numbers don't lie. Sporting a svelte new frame, (having dropped a few pounds over the summer) Harangody has shown a velvety touch around the rim in averaging 20.5 points per game go along with 10.4 rebounds per game. Leaner and meaner, Harangody has transformed himself into a veritable back-to-the-basket bucket machine. He leads the entire Big East in scoring and is currently ranked second in the conference in rebounding.

Most importantly, due in large part to Harangody's efforts, Notre Dame has built a 10-3 conference record and a 20-5 record overall. The Irish also currently sit near the top of the standings. Harangody has also led the Irish to a scoring average of 80.2 points per game, good for first in the Big East.

Whether laying out for loose balls, muscling for boards or playing his physical brand of defense, his style of play brings football rather than basketball to mind at times. Perhaps we should be endorsing Harangody for Heisman. Throughout the past two seasons, Harangody has built a hard-nosed reputation for himself by hustling, bustling and generally outworking the competition, battling for boards and scoring in all manner of put-backs, baby hooks and bank shots.

It's safe to say no one would call the Big East the Big Easy. Bear in mind that Harangody's prodigious numbers come from grinding night in and night out against stiff competition in a conference many claim to be the toughest in the country from top to bottom. And Harangody fits right in with the Big East's hard-nosed style of play, having borne more than his share of hard fouls, bruises and floor burns in this hardwood school of hard knocks.

Nine days ago, Harangody turned in one of the best performances of his young career, dropping 32 points and grabbing 16 caroms in a losing effort against Connecticut on Feb. 13. He scored a career high in points despite having to contend with the long arms of 7-foot-3 Huskies center Hasheem Thabeet, making his feat all the more impressive.

For leading the Big East in scoring, leading Notre Dame to a likely NCAA Tournament berth, we commend Harangody's play thus far this season and endorse him for Big East player of the year.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

So gay?

I was sitting in LaFortune a little while ago listening to two of my friends in the business school discuss a recent test. When discussing a certain section of the test, one of them exclaimed, "Yeah, that part was gay." I got this strange feeling when I heard this. It was not because I was shocked that he would use the word "gay" to describe a business test, but rather that describing things as "gay" has become such an integral part of our day-to-day conversation.

I cannot pinpoint a reason or time when everything seemed to become "gay." But I can't think of any adults I know who refer to basic concepts and objects as "gay," so it is clearly something that has developed during our generation. I also do not know why things have become "gay." For example, it is technically impossible for a test to be gay. Tests do not mate or have physical desires to other tests (last time I checked). But everything that we do not like now is "gay," and no one ever seems to stop and think why we do this.

I will admit that at many points in my life I have described things as "gay." Friends who would annoy me would be "gay," teachers who gave lots of homework were "gay," and music that I did not enjoy was "gay." Calling things "gay" is now natural. Yet in (almost) all of these instances, the thing I was describing was in no shape or form "gay." There are plenty of other good words that I could use to describe these things. They could be lame, stupid, dumb, weird, or idiotic. But whenever I encounter something that rubs me the wrong way, it instinctively becomes "gay," and it makes no sense.

What makes this even weirder is that if we were to use another orientation to describe these disagreeable things, the reaction would be much different. If I were to describe a friend who was acting funny as "so Catholic," people would freak out. Same thing if I were to call a homework assignment "so Asian." Yet if either of these things were called "gay," everyone else would most likely agree, even though it makes no sense.

Everyone knows that Notre Dame is not the most accepting place for homosexuals, but we should not use this as a reason for things to be called "gay." The issue at hand is not the morality or concept of homosexuality. It is about making sense and showing respect. No matter how you slice it, calling something "gay" is nonsensical. There are much better, more accurate words to describe things we do not like. The rather significant portion of the world that is gay probably does not like to be associated with all things lame either. No affiliation should suffer this fate, no matter how much one disagrees with it.

I do not think that this name-calling will ever really end. It has become such a part of us that most of us do not even think about it. In fact, I bet that someone will read this and ironically proceed to call it "gay." But I hope that at some point in the future we can all stop, think, and maybe come up with a better word to describe things that bother us.

Tim Gallo
sophomore
Stanford Hall
Feb. 20

EDITORIAL CARTOON

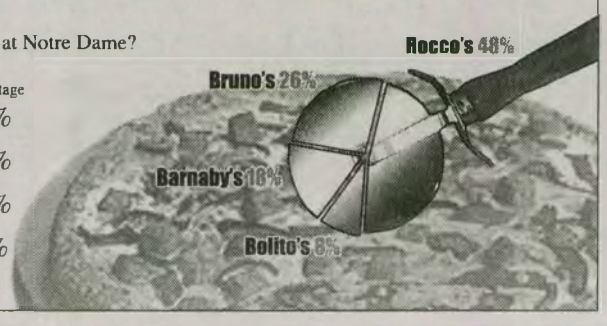
Submit a Letter to the Editor. (Please.)

www.ndsmcobserver.com

Observer Poll

What is your favorite local pizzeria at Notre Dame?

	Votes	Percentage
Rocco's	576	48%
Bruno's	310	26%
Barnaby's	213	18%
Bolito's	101	8%



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading."

Henny Youngman
U.S. comedian

Confessions of a latte liberal

Gary Caruso

Capitol Comments

By my count, this is my 200th column for the Viewpoint section. Throughout the years, my themes contained more than simply the seasonal political analysis. They featured a wide variety of topics including athletic department foibles, the meaning of Lent, earthly angels who inspire us on campus and even a retrospective of why I lost the Notre Dame student body presidency race to a king and his running mate — a cat. Yet, despite a magnitude of issues, many readers still focus on a single word while turning a blind eye to the entire page.

For me, readers seem to fall into two categories. The "Gottcha" reader is like comedian Lewis Black whose gesticulations flail about in an effort to refute me. How dare I recently suggest in what an Iowan called another of my "Clinton-Return-To-Glory-Friday columns" that primaries attract more voters than a caucus. Surely I dissed Iowa and must not have ever attended their caucus. Actually, in January I attended the Columbus Junction precinct where 98 Iowans stood up: Obama 38, Clinton 31, Edwards 26 and Biden 5 — out of 968 registered voters of which 371 voted in the 2006 election. Gottcha back!

I will admit, however, that I purposely egg on the gottcha types by describing my experience in the last administration at the end of each column. Some of these readers suffer from the same germ that plagues our political process ... they cannot let go of the past. Mention the word "Clinton" anywhere in my column, and instantaneously I become a vampire. In one e-mail, a reader proudly tied a newly discovered terrorist group to a bevy of Puerto Ricans whom President "You-Know-Who" pardoned ten years ago. Just shows that even presidents can have a cloudy crystal ball. Chalk a gottcha up for that reader.

I describe my alternate category the "Schoolmarm" group because those readers scold and strictly correct my content. Last year, a Notre Dame Sports Information marm quickly e-mailed me to correct my bowl appearance comparisons between Charlie Weis and Ty Willingham. I noted that both had equally appeared in bowl games, but was painfully corrected by the fact that Willingham never appeared in a "BCS" bowl regardless of how much money his bowls paid to the university. In a uniquely marmly way, a postscript added that Weis was graduating students at a higher rate than Willingham. Unfortunately, I received no reply when I asked if those students were, in fact, Willingham's recruits. I'll call this one a draw.

Apparently, I again showed my Clinton bias by describing elite, educated far-left Democrats who tend to support Obama as the Starbucks wing of the party. According to the reader, not only did I insult the entire liberal community of Notre Dame, I insulted everyone on campus because they are educated. Furthermore, I even displayed a disrespect for those who support Obama.

Suprisingly, I do confess to my transgressions. I am a Latte Liberal from that same educated elite wing of the Democratic party. I may not be of the pure skim version, but I belong behind the barista's counter. I'm more of a caramel macchiato ... one who out of a sense for history stood overnight in line to pass by Ronald Reagan's casket in the Capitol Rotunda. I strayed from the glorious liberal path because I worked in Bill Clinton's White House while watching Hillary up close. I support her bid for the presidency based upon my first-hand knowledge and the belief that she is better qualified. You caught me. I confess.

Over all, though, I have learned much from readers as I celebrate my bicentennial milestone. Comments through e-mail or Viewpoint's letters section frequently amuse me. Oftentimes what they read into this column is not what I wrote. Still, I find it enlightening when others comment, regardless of whether or not I lump them into my gottcha or schoolmarm characterizations. Most importantly, I find my writing experience exciting yet humbling.

This column does not politically hack an issue, does not arrogantly dismiss an opposing opinion, nor does it retreat from an augument. Read every word for its challenge and humor. Read every word again for its nuanced balance.

In his day, John Pierpont Morgan, financial magnate of the J.P. Morgan empire was pejoratively labeled a Robber Baron. He countered by saying that a man always has two reasons for what he does — a good one, and the real one. Conversely, let me play upon Morgan's quote by coining my own, namely, that a reader always has two reasons to reply — a good one, and an imaginary one.

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

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

Culture war at Notre Dame

Stephen Bant

Guest Columnist

Vagina Monologues being held amid controversy, Catholic Faculty issues dividing the alumni, faculty, students and administration, Catholic Bishops avoiding campus in protest; the list goes on and on. I find it surprising that few have tried to relate these internal campus struggles to the wider "culture war" being waged in America today. In it, conservatives support pro-life measures and protect traditional marriage and family norms, while liberals back pro-choice policies and sponsor gay marriages and adoptions. In my mind the two groups are strikingly similar, with many of the same people arguing these national issues taking corresponding positions on these Notre Dame concerns. I feel that our contemporary issues on campus are parallel to, perhaps even a microcosm of, the overall culture war in the United States today. However, unlike the national issues, ours can actually be solved.

You may think I'm over-generalizing on this whole "culture war" idea, but my personal experiences suggest it exists. Shockingly, I seem to find that my more liberal friends don't care about a majority Catholic faculty and think that the Monologues are part of academic freedom and female expression, while my more conservative friends think having a preponderance of Catholic faculty is imperative to retaining our Catholic character and find the Monologues disgusting and an affront to women everywhere. The moderates seem either split, confused or apathetic on many of these issues, just as they are in the real political spectrum of the broader culture war. When I think about it, these unassuming and silent moderates appear to make up the plurality of students at Notre Dame ... at least for now.

Perhaps unfortunately, widespread conversation and extremist proselytizing tends to polarize people to a point where nothing happens. Meanwhile, most Americans are actually everything but polarized. Here's an example. Poll data shows that a vast majority of Americans support abortion in certain instances (ex. rape, incest, damage to mother's health, etc.); while about the same vast majority strongly opposes unrestricted and late-term abortions (ex. partial-birth abortions and "I don't want this baby" abortions). Very few people polled thought abortion should be legal or illegal in all circumstances. This may surprise you, as the media only portrays the extreme opposing sides of any issue; America is painted as chock full of rabid "baby-killers" and protesting religious "extremists". Cautiously, I would dare to say that this data is fairly indicative of how most people feel about culture issues and I feel this moderate approach could be applied to our problems and issues.

For example, I think most would agree that women should be able to express themselves over the issues of female oppression and objectification, as the Monologues seek to do. However, I'm guessing many of these same people would agree that a woman rolling around on the stage faking an orgasm and the glorified raping of a 16-year-old girl by an older woman hardly qualifies as "healing academic expression."

A more important issue for Notre Dame is perhaps that of Catholic faculty, something where some moderation could definitely be helpful. I think most people would agree that Catholic faculty is important at Notre Dame and is valuable to us in any discipline, and perhaps more so in certain Arts and Letters subjects (e.g. Theology), due to the Catholic background and perspectives they bring to our academic atmosphere. Further, I doubt anyone, even those who think a Catholic preponderance is important, wants the University to hire a Catholic professor over a better qualified non-Catholic professor to meet some quota. Still, there is nothing wrong with hiring practicing Catholics preferentially if we aren't surrendering quality; the same argument applies and is used in defending the preferential hiring of minority faculty. And for you extremists out there, don't try your whiney "but only 6% of [new] Ph.D.s are Catholics, so the applicant pool is insufficient when attempting to create a great research institution" argument on me. Only 9% of US Ph.D.s are granted to minorities, and they are in much greater demand than Catholic Ph.D.s as universities seek to diversify their faculty. Therefore, the challenge in seeking both targets is equally difficult, yet we should and are pursuing both.

If I were a doctor, I would write Notre Dame a prescription of judicious moderation and reasoned discussion. Nothing is inherently wrong with anyone's ideas, but we need to be reasonable in our approach. Maybe we should present an altered version of the Vagina Monologues that doesn't promote lesbianism and appear like soft-core pornography, so we can celebrate femininity instead of objectifying it. And perhaps we should dare to be bold and unique in our faculty hiring, as the Administration seeks to, by doing what's necessary to hold onto our slight Catholic majority, attempting to expand to a representative minority faculty and becoming a premiere research institution all at the same time. While it sounds difficult and improbable, it is possible as none of our objectives are mutually exclusive. We can have it all. We can overcome extremism and partisanship to solve the problems we face in our lives, on our campus and in our nation. You just need to have faith and some moderation.

Stephen Bant is a sophomore accounting major. He can be contacted at sbant@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Student section despicable

In response to Michael Lenahan's Letter to the Editor ("End Juvenile Cheer," Feb. 19), I am in full agreement with his sentiment that the "suck it" cheer is not only "unbecoming of a Domer," but also despicable, deplorable and a slap to Our Lady's pristine face. Lenahan's article was a good start, however, his ideas did not go far enough. Not only should the aforementioned chant (I will spare you the awful words) be banished, but I propose that we, as the Domerist of Domers, ban all cheering against our respectable opponents. Our main concern should be focused on all of the players having fun, not on belittling our opponents. Thus, I urge all under Our Lady's caring watch, to replace all cheers with the cheeriest of cheers — "Let's have fun! Keep it safe!" God Bless.

Cameron Compton
sophomore
Fisher Hall
Feb. 20

Start a viewpoint war. Be a columnist. E-mail Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu to apply.

THE OBSERVER
SCENE

"No Country" should take top honors

Cassie Belek
Assistant Scene Editor

Get ready for the best night of the year as Oscar turns 80 and we breathe a sigh of relief that the show can go on after the 100-day writers' strike. We'll see if host Jon Stewart can fair better his second time around or if we're left praying that Billy Crystal would just come back and host again. And even though we can't wait to see the best-dressed starlets and the monstrous suit that Johnny Depp will inevitably show up in, the real reason for Oscar night is to honor the industry's best. Assistant scene editors Cassie Belek and Stephanie DePrez give their picks on who will take home the Oscar gold. Tune in Sunday at 8:00 p.m. on ABC to see if they're right.

Best Supporting Actor

Javier Bardem ("No Country for Old Men"). Hal Holbrook is brilliant and heartbreaking in "Into the Wild" and I would love to see him take home the Oscar just for being an adorable old man, but Javier Bardem is guaranteed to win for "No Country for Old Men." He deserves it too. Bardem portrays a man who on the outside appears to be a psychopathic killer, but really, his character just operates by different principles and a different morality. Bardem makes it so that by the end of the film, we don't hate his Anton, but we do fear him.

Best Supporting Actress

Amy Ryan ("Gone Baby Gone"). This is really the only major Oscar category that is still wide open. Ryan had some serious momentum going into awards season, but now Cate Blanchett, Ruby Dee, Saoirse Ronan and Tilda Swinton have all caught up. However, Ronan is unlikely to win since hers is the only acting nomination for "Atonement," which had a disappointing morning when the nominees were announced. The race comes down between Ryan and Blanchett (who impressively morphed herself into Bob Dylan), but I'm going to give it to Ryan just because I loved her so much in Season Two of "The Wire."

Best Animated Film

"Ratatouille." Although I was pleasantly surprised by the nomination of "Surf's Up" (it really should have been nominated at the Golden Globes too), nothing can stop the juggernaut that is Disney-Pixar. "Ratatouille" was received with such universal praise, that it is considered one of Disney-Pixar's best. Its critical and box office reception was enough of a victory considering the film's concerns about marketing something with a funny name centered around rats handling the food we eat. In fact, many people believed that "Ratatouille" should have been nominated in the Best Picture category, something that hasn't been done since 1991's "Beauty and the Beast," when there was no separate category for animated films.

Best Original Score

"Atonement." Since "Into the Wild" and "There Were Be Blood" were excluded from this category, I'll throw "Atonement" a bone and go with it. Just for the record, my pick would have been "There Will Be Blood," but it was disqualified due to a little something called Rule 16, which determined that the score wasn't eligible because it included pre-existing music. Nevertheless, Radiohead's Jonny Greenewood did a phenomenal job adding to the madness we felt watching Daniel Day-Lewis on screen.

Best Original Song

"Falling Slowly" (from "Once"). It's called vote-splitting folks, and that's what's going to ruin Alan Menken and Stephen Schwartz's chances with "Enchanted." The Disney duo are geniuses, but Glen Hansard and and Markéta Irglová's captivating performance of "Falling Slowly" is more than deserving. In "Once," the music is the film so it's only fitting that it gets a win in the original song category.

Best Cinematography

"There Will Be Blood." I wish "There Will Be Blood" had been nominated in a different year than "No Country for Old Men" because it deserves so many more awards than it will win. But this category is one that should go to Roger Deakins for his impossible shots in the film about an oil tycoon who loses his humanity to his ambition. There was one shot in particular in the film that made me gasp and turn to my friend to see if she had the same reaction. Films don't usually take my breath away for those reasons.

Best Actor

Daniel Day-Lewis ("There Will Be Blood"). Day-Lewis' Daniel Plainview is a force to be reckoned with in "There Will Be Blood." Much like Charles Foster Kane in "Citizen Kane," when Daniel is on screen no other character matters. Day-Lewis, who stayed in character even when the cameras turned off, intensely portrays the crazed effects of a man driven by ambition until he finally drinks Paul Dano's milkshake once and for all. We can only hope that Day-Lewis' acceptance speech will be as touching as his Heath Ledger-inspired speech at the Golden Globes.

Best Actress

Julie Christie ("Away From Her"). Her strongest competitor is Marion Cotillard ("La Vie en Rose") with Ellen Page ("Juno") gearing up for the surprise attack, but Christie will certainly add the Oscar to her already-filled awards shelf come Sunday. She last won the Oscar for 1965's "Darling." A win for Christie would be validation for older actresses throughout Hollywood.

Best Adapted Screenplay

"No Country for Old Men." The adapted screenplay and director categories will be (slightly) early indications as to whether or not "No Country" will win best picture. It's true that "No Country" was most captivating in its silences, -but the dialogue we did hear was brilliant. Its main competition is "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly," which just won the BAFTA, but look for the Academy to show its love for "No Country."

Best Original Screenplay

"Juno." The indie comedy gem won't win best picture so original screenplay will be its consolation prize. That comes as no surprise since original screenplay is usually the best bet for indies anyway. Remember last year's "Little Miss Sunshine"? And while the script isn't perfect, Diablo Cody deserves the Oscar for expressing young voices without dumbing them down. "Juno" is filled with heart and wit, and we have the mind and pen of Diablo Cody to thank for that.

Best Director

Ethan Coen and Joel Coen ("No Country for Old Men"). It's about time isn't it? These are the fine filmmakers who brought us "Fargo" and "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" and now they've brought us the dark and suspenseful "No Country," the film they may become best remembered for. However, Julian Schnabel could upset the duo in their quest for Oscar gold. He won the Golden Globe in January and his "Diving Bell" failed to garner a best picture nod. The Academy could decide to share the wealth on Sunday.

Best Picture

"No Country for Old Men." If you haven't been able to tell from my previous predictions, I'm going with "No Country for Old Men." The choice seems almost too predictable, but that's what everyone said about "Brokeback Mountain" and we saw what happened there (Really? "Crash"?) The acting is impeccable, as is the directing and everything else. However, I think the upset watch goes to "Michael Clayton" and not "Juno." "Michael Clayton" managed to garner multiple acting nods, a director nod and an original screenplay nod. Let's just say that it's bringing its own set of weapons to compete with "No Country's" cattle gun and sawed-off shotgun.

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

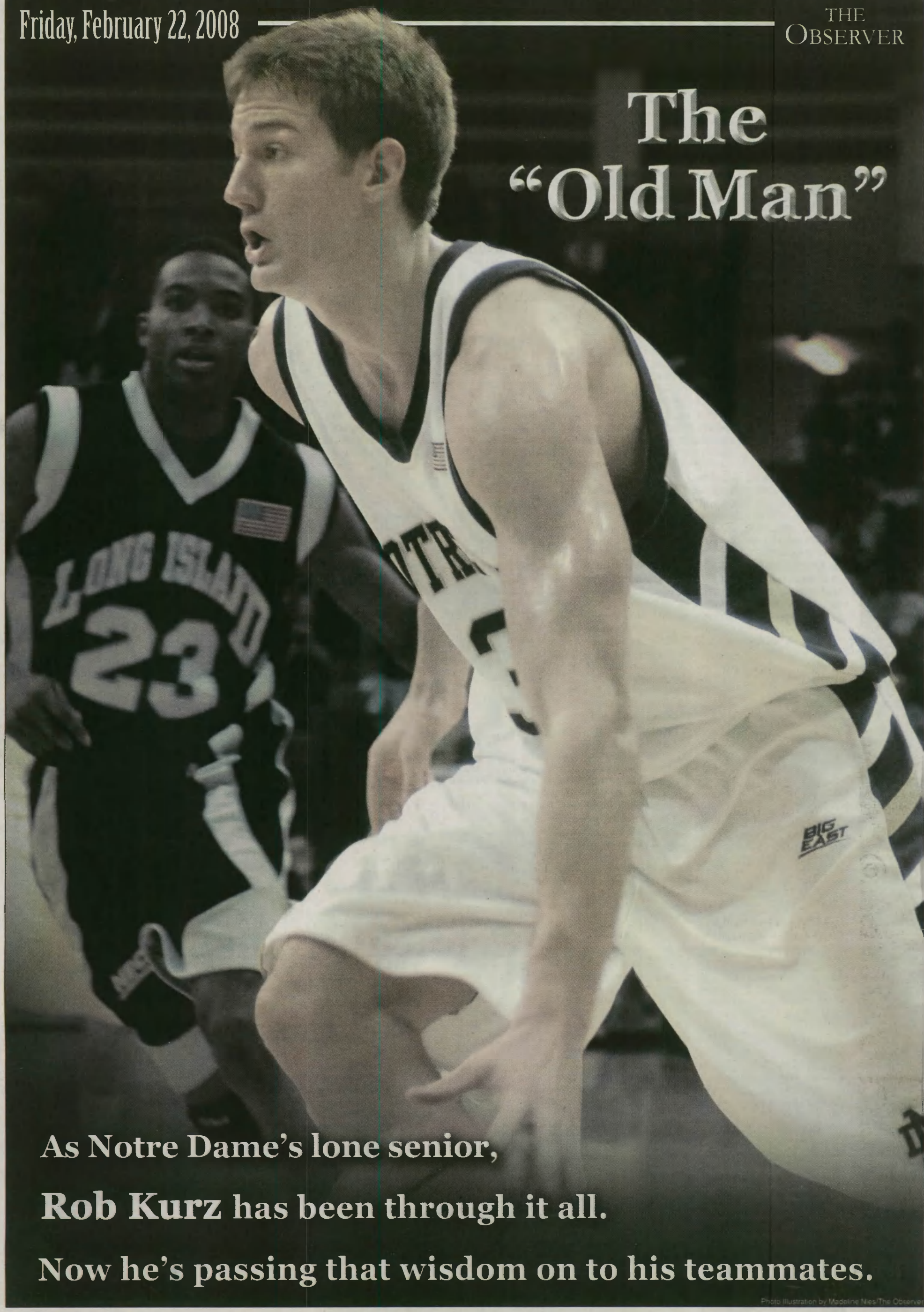
Contact Cassie Belek at cbelek@nd.edu

IRISH INSIDER

Friday, February 22, 2008

THE OBSERVER

The "Old Man"



As Notre Dame's lone senior,

Rob Kurz has been through it all.

Now he's passing that wisdom on to his teammates.

Photo illustration by Madeline Nies/The Observer

COMMENTARY

Kurz's leadership crucial for success

Chris Khorey
Sports Editor

Each of Notre Dame's starting five brings something different to the table.

Forward Luke Harangody is the star, the Big East Player of the Year candidate who is capable of putting up 30-plus point performances with a dazzling array of hook shots, up-and-unders and out-of-nowhere tip ins.

Guard Kyle McAlarney is the sharpshooter — the short, scruffy guy from Staten Island with perfect form and a dead-eye jump shot.

Point guard Tory Jackson is the distributor who seemingly racks up assists just from being in the game and can hit runners in the lane even after he's disappeared among much taller players.

Swingman Zach Hillesland is the high-flyer, throwing down alley-oops and darting around heavy-footed centers for reverse lay-ups.

And then there's that other guy.

He's the one you never hear TV announcers yelling about. The one whose highlight video consists entirely of mid-range jumpers. The other player in front-page photos waiting for a rebound in case Harangody misses that spinning hook shot.

He may not be flashy, but the Irish would not be where they are today without Rob Kurz.

Kurz, the only senior on the 2007-08 roster, is also the team's only captain. He's a coach on the floor, directing traffic and keeping everyone on the same page.

Kurz keeps the squad on an even keel. He's the only player on the roster that was here for the late season collapse in 2005, when the Irish lost five of their last six, including a first-round NIT game against Holy Cross. And he remembers the painful winter of 2006, when Notre Dame lost five straight games by a combined 11 points.

Maybe that's why the only senior on the Irish roster seems to be the one to hit the big shot when his team needs it.

On Jan. 5, after Notre Dame saw a 21-point lead slip away against Connecticut, it was Kurz who hit a three pointer with 3:11 left to give the Irish a 64-61 lead they wouldn't relinquish.

Last Sunday against Rutgers, with Notre Dame clinging to a 67-66 lead and under a minute remaining, Kurz buried a baseline jumper to put his team up three and allow it to hold on for the win.

Sometimes, however, the captain realizes that his best contribution is to get out of the way. In both match-ups with the Huskies, the 6-foot-9 forward spent most of his time on the perimeter so that Connecticut forward Jeff Adrian couldn't help double team Harangody.

Kurz's consistency this season has bordered on absurd. While other players have career highs one night and then are off the next, Kurz gets a near double-double every game.

The senior has been in double figures in either points or rebounds (often both) all but three conference games so far — and in two of those "off nights," against Marquette and Connecticut last week, he was battling the flu.

It hasn't been easy to be a senior in Notre Dame athletics this school year. The small number of football seniors was brought up by many (including myself) as a main reason for the team's struggles. Other teams, like hockey and women's soccer, also have small senior classes.

When a team has very few seniors, outsiders often assume it's a "rebuilding" year. Notre Dame was picked to finish ninth in the Big East this year.

Rob Kurz made sure that didn't happen. He accepted his mantle of leadership, brought his younger teammates together and, so far, has led the Irish to their best season since he's been in South Bend.

Not bad for "that other guy."

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

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WU YUE/The Observer

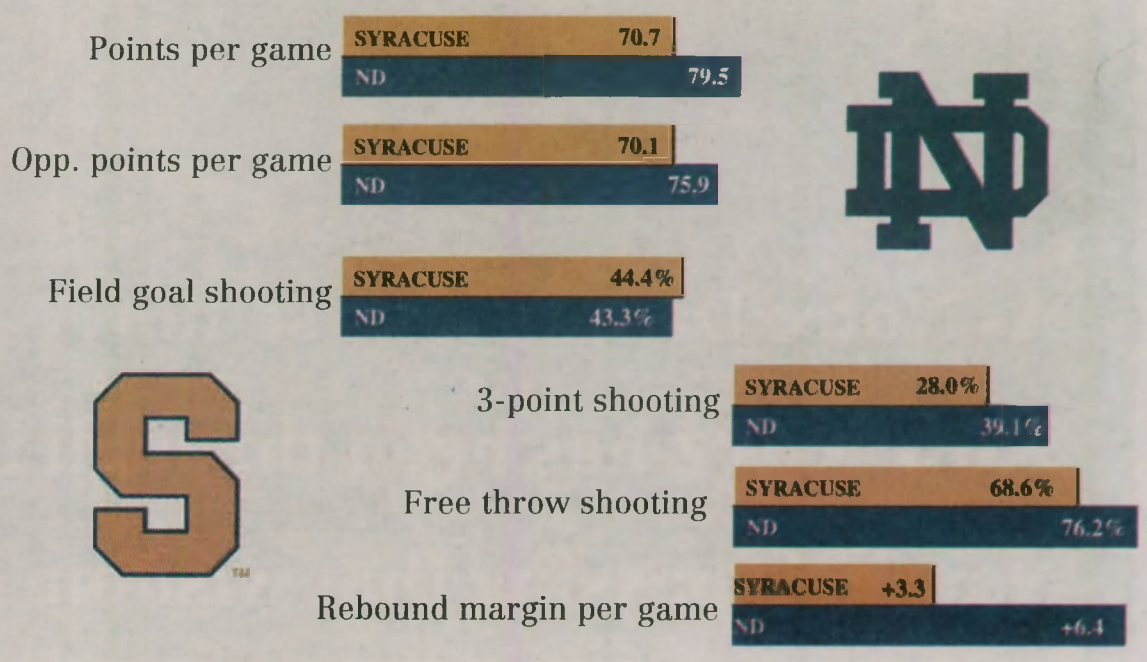
Irish senior forward Rob Kurz drives to the basket in Notre Dame's 108-62 win over Northern Illinois on Dec. 8, 2007.

2008 Big East Standings

	Last game	Next game
(11-3)	W, 65-58, Prov.	vs Cincinnati
(11-3)	W, 61-50, Syr.	at Pittsburgh
(10-3)	W, 65-60, DePaul	at Villanova
(10-3)	W, 82-70, Pitt	vs Syracuse
(9-5)	W, 73-64, St. John's	vs Rutgers
(8-5)	W, 52-51, USF	at Georgetown
(7-6)	L, 70-82, ND	vs Louisville
(7-6)	L, 56-78, Nova	vs Providence
(7-7)	L, 50-61, 'Ville	at Notre Dame
(6-7)	W, 78-56, WVU	vs Connecticut
(5-8)	L, 60-65, UConn	at Seton Hall
(5-8)	L, 68-89, WVU	vs DePaul
(4-10)	L, 64-73, Marq.	at Duke
(4-10)	L, 58-65, G'Town	at West Virginia
(2-12)	L, 51-52, Cincy	vs Seton Hall
(2-12)	L, 68-71, ND	at Marquette

Crunching the numbers

BIG EAST STATISTICS



Everybody loves Rob

Only Irish senior leads with consistent play, 'wise' advice and a little unintentional humor

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Editor

It takes a lot to make Rob Kurz angry. But two years ago, when Kurz watched the NCAA Tournament, he couldn't stand what he was seeing.

Fresh off a 2005-2006 season full of agonizingly close losses, Kurz and his Notre Dame teammates failed to make the Tournament for the second year in a row. For Kurz, his career at Notre Dame was not going the way he planned and watching others fulfill their dream of playing in the NCAA Tournament while he sat at home certainly didn't help his blood pressure.

"It was so frustrating and as soon as the season ends, you're working toward next year and the first thing you think of is your No. 1 goal to make the Tournament," Kurz said. "... It's incredibly frustrating and just the amount of attention the Tournament gets, it's tough to not be a part of it. It's brutal watching the Tournament games in your room when the season is over."

In Kurz's sophomore season, the Irish experienced enough heartache to inspire a B.B. King album — losing in overtime to Louisville and then-No. 3 Connecticut, in double overtime to Pittsburgh, Georgetown and Michigan, and less than three points to No. 6 Villanova, West Virginia and Marquette.

"It was brutal because we felt like we had a much better team and had more talent to be playing better than we did," Kurz said. "The way we competed in a lot of games showed we could have had a really good year, but for whatever reason, we just couldn't get over the hump."

But after living through the 2005-06 nightmare and watching others succeed in the Tournament, Kurz and former guard Colin Falls resolved to banish that maddening sense of disappointment forever.

"We absolutely learned a lot about ourselves and our team after the tough season with the close losses," Falls, who is playing professionally in Italy, said in an e-mail. "I think more than anything, Rob and I being the leaders of the team, set the tone in the off-season that hard work and sense of urgency were the only things that were going to get the Notre Dame basketball team back on track. And I think the pain of that season and not wanting to ever experience that feeling again is what drove us that summer."

"I tease him about being an old man or a father or something like that."

Tory Jackson
Irish guard

The next season, the Irish were playing in the Big Dance, thanks in large part to the play and leadership of Kurz, who averaged 12.3 points and eight rebounds per game. Irish coach Mike Brey said Kurz developed the voice he would need as the lone senior on this season's team.

"I think toward the end of last year, being around Colin, hanging out with Colin, he saw how Colin helped manage the group, and he took a page out of that book and I thought he did a great job over the summer," Brey said. "That was the first time he was really a voice with our guys."

Despite the Tournament appearance, last season still left some unfinished business for Kurz. Notre Dame lost 74-64 to Winthrop in the first round and Kurz wants to make a run deep in the Tournament this season.

"Obviously, my first two years were learning experiences and I've gotten the opportunity to really enjoy our success these past two years," Kurz said. "Getting back to the Tournament this year would be unbelievable but getting there isn't enough."

But before the Tournament arrives, Kurz and the Irish have a chance to win the Big East regular season title. The Irish have a 10-3 record in conference, and like two years ago, Notre Dame has faced its share of close games, but this time has come out on the winning end of most of them.

And Kurz is a big reason for that change. He hit a clutch jumper to put Notre Dame up three in its 71-68 over Rutgers on Sunday, hit a tie-breaking 3-pointer late in Notre Dame's 73-67 win over Connecticut on Jan. 5 and hit another key 3-pointer in overtime to lift the Irish over Providence 81-74 on Jan. 31.

"I think he's accepted the role as the silent enforcer," former Irish coach and current ESPN analyst Digger Phelps said. "He's the one guy that when it's crunch time, is always there to get it done. He'll end up with a double-double, and he's the one guy that makes this team what it is."

Kurz said the difference this season is a change in the team's attitude late in games.

"I don't think it enters into your mind because the focus this year is on 'Let's go out and win this one,' where two years ago it was 'Are we going to win the game? Can we escape with the win?'" Kurz said. "It was just a different mentality because it seemed like we couldn't win any of those close games. Now, our mentality has evolved to the point where we're going to leave it all on the floor and play fearlessly and aggressively."

As the sole captain, his teammates say his leadership style mirrors his style of play on the court — steady, consistent, never flashy, but always dependable. And that helps to keep everything together in close games.

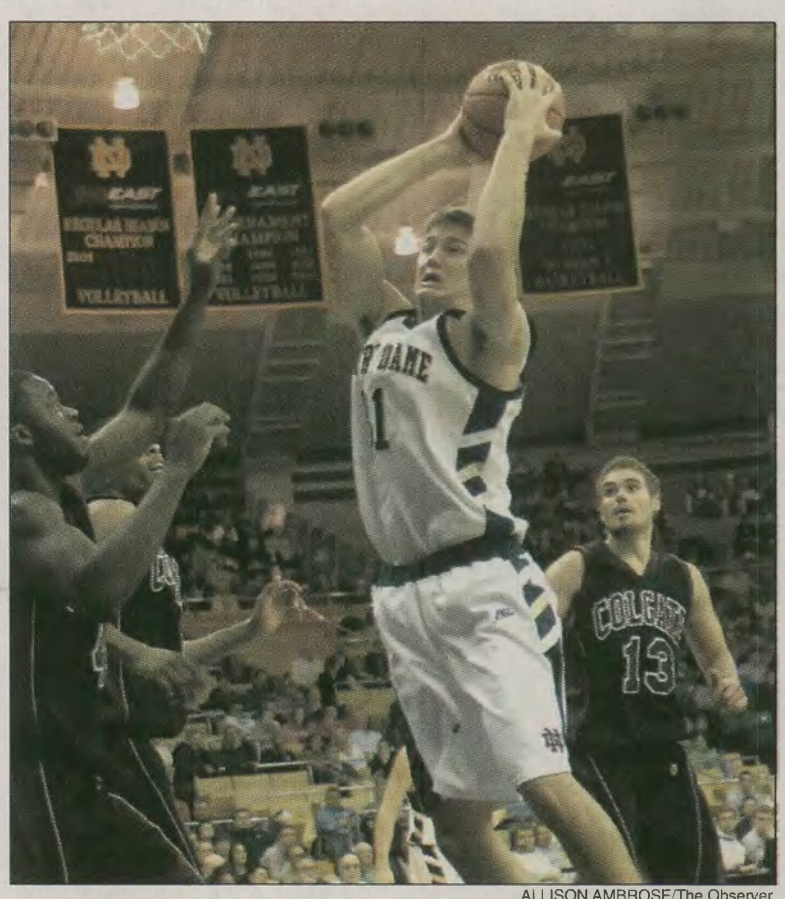
"I tease him about being an old man or a father or something like that," sophomore guard Tory Jackson said. "But he's wise, keeps us out of trouble, just like a father would. He keeps everybody together. As a leader on the floor, he keeps everybody calm and in the game. Everything about his personality is why we're in the position we are now."

His teammates describe him as an easy-going guy who gets along with everyone, but most importantly, as captain of the team, he has everyone's respect, especially Jackson's.

"He's willing to give you his whole house if he could," Jackson said. "He's just an open guy. Rob's a great person. If I had a kid, I'd have him look up to Rob to see how to carry himself."

Kurz lends a valuable voice in the huddle and in the locker room, but he's most effective as a leader when he says nothing at all. He's constantly in the gym, even on off days, and that lays a guilt trip on some of his teammates, who might want to spend their time off doing nothing.

"Even during summer in the off-season, even if it's a day that I don't feel like working out or shooting, I know he's kind of the same way like me where I feel a little guilty if I'm not in the gym and he's in there," junior guard Kyle McAlarney said. "... I always believed that no one works as hard as me when I came here and I see what Rob does and it makes me work harder."



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish senior Rob Kurz comes down with a rebound in Notre Dame's 94-63 win over Colgate on Nov. 26 at the Joyce Center.

Junior forward Zach Hillesland said that his work ethic shows everyone on the team what it takes to play in the Big East.

"He's a steadying force. His work ethic is kind of contagious," Hillesland said. "He sets a great tone for the rest of the guys who may not understand how much work it takes to be a great player in college basketball."

"He's a steadying force. His work ethic is kind of contagious."

Zach Hillesland
Irish forward

But Kurz isn't all business all the time. Jackson called him "the silent prankster" and he will always remember Kurz's special way with words when he leaves Notre Dame.

"I'll miss his creative words. Just funny, such as quoting [dirty lines] from 'Superbad,' or instead of saying my name, he'll be like, 'What up Tee-Zee?!' and he'll have me dying," Jackson said.

Hillesland said he also makes everyone laugh when he doesn't mean to, thanks to a propensity to randomly forget where he is or what he's doing.

"We were walking towards the weight room one day and he was walking with Kyle and [Irish forward Luke Harangody] and Rob was like, 'You know what?' and the guys were like 'What?' and then he just didn't say anything else," Hillesland said. "He tends to space out. He went to the movie 'Fool's Gold' and ordered three tickets to 'Fools Rush In.'"

And when he messes up on the court, Kurz is always the first to admit his mistakes — except when Digger comes around.

"I'll say, 'Come on, where have you been? You're making me look bad on TV!" Phelps said.

Kurz then tries to hide until Digger leaves.

"He usually gets on me after a bad game, so if I see him in the training room after a loss, I'll just try to sneak right by because I know he's got something to say to me," Kurz said.

But when the pressure is on late in the game, Kurz is always front and center willing to take a big shot or make an aggressive move to make something happen instead of playing on his heels and hoping his team pulls it out.

"My sophomore year we felt the pressure in close games because everybody was saying, 'You can't win the close games,' and we almost allowed it to get to us to the point where it affected us late in games," Kurz said. "After experiencing that, we knew we couldn't win like that, and we had to be fearless and willing to take the shot even if it means it's your responsibility if you lose that game."

Even if Notre Dame's season ends prematurely and Kurz graduates without seeing the Sweet 16, the relationship he's developed and the help he has offered to the underclassmen ensure that his mark on Notre Dame's basketball program will last for years to come.

"He is someone that everyone likes being around and has no enemies," Falls said. "I think that is just his upbringing, he comes from a great family, he respects and treats everyone the right way, and I think people really respect him because of that. I feel lucky to have become so close with him over the last few years, and we're like brothers now."

ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish senior Rob Kurz drives to the basket in Notre Dame's 94-63 win over Colgate on Nov. 26 at the Joyce Center.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

Injuries slow Orange quest for NCAA berth

Young Syracuse team in the midst of crucial eight-game stretch

By FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame has a chance to damage — if not burst — the bubble of NCAA hopeful and Big East rival Syracuse when the Orange visit Notre Dame Sunday.

Syracuse defeated No. 8 Georgetown last Saturday but fell to No. 18 Louisville Monday. The team is in dire need of another resume-building win before Selection Sunday.

The Orange are in the midst of a month-long stretch in which seven of their eight opponents are or have previously been ranked this season.

Syracuse (17-10 overall, 7-7 Big East) has fought hard to remain in the thick of the Big East race. The squad lost junior guard Eric Devendorf to a season-ending knee injury in a 125-75 victory over East Tennessee State on Dec. 15.

Devendorf averaged 17 points per game in 10 games this season but has been confined to the bench for the entirety of Big East play.

Notre Dame point guard Tory Jackson of Saginaw, Mich. played on an AAU squad with Devendorf, who is from neighboring Bay City. Jackson said he has rarely watched Syracuse play since his former teammate was sidelined.

"I really haven't seen that much of them," Jackson said. "After my friend got hurt, I really haven't watched them too much."

Jackson said Devendorf also has difficulty watching the Orange play as they attempt to make a late-season run.

"I talk to him a lot and it hurts," Jackson said. "It kinda gets under his skin because he sees he can't really help them out."

> *"They've been hurt with a couple injuries but they're getting more experienced as the season goes on."*
>
> **Zach Hillesland**
> **Irish forward**

Orange freshmen Donte Green and Jonny Flynn have shouldered much of the load to keep Syracuse competitive in Devendorf's absence. Green averages 17.6 points and 7.4 rebounds per game while Flynn drops 15.2 points per contest.

"They've been hurt with a couple injuries but they're getting more experienced as the season goes on," Irish junior forward Zach Hillesland said. "They've got a lot of confident players and certainly a great coach over there."

Syracuse Hall of Fame coach Jim Boeheim is 767-271 in 31-plus years with the program but this year he has had his work cut out for him. Losses to Massachusetts, Cincinnati and South Florida have hurt Syracuse's RPI, which currently stands at No. 46.

Along with the contest at Notre Dame, Syracuse has remaining games against Pittsburgh, Seton Hall and Marquette to impress the NCAA Tournament committee.

But Notre Dame captain Rob Kurz said the Irish are just as hungry as the Orange for strong conference wins.

"It's obviously gonna be a critical game for them but at this point in the season, it's a crucial game for everybody," Kurz said.

The top four Big East teams are awarded byes in the first round of the conference tournament and the Irish (19-5 overall, 10-3 Big East) now sit in fourth place.

On a national scale, Notre Dame has the No. 21 RPI, which would leave them in line for an NCAA Tournament seed between five and seven if the postseason were to begin today.

"We're fighting for our lives to get an NCAA tournament bid and obviously to get a first-round bye in the Big East tournament," Kurz said. "So, I mean, to say that they have more to play for than us ... depends on how you look at it because we feel like we have just as much, if not more, to play for."

AP

Syracuse guard Paul Harris drives past Louisville guard Preston Knowles in a 61-50 Orange loss Monday in Louisville, Ky.

Kurz said the Irish will focus on shutting down Syracuse's top scorers, who he feels can catch fire at any time.

"The main thing for us: They obviously shoot a lot of threes and they have some young athletic guys," Kurz said. "The key for us is gonna be how well we defend them."

Hillesland said the Irish know what this game means for Syracuse and will try to match the intensity of the visiting Orange.

"I'm sure they relish the opportunity to get another resume-building win, to come in here and add to the win they got against Georgetown," he said. "We're expecting a very focused team to come in here and certainly we'll be focused as well."

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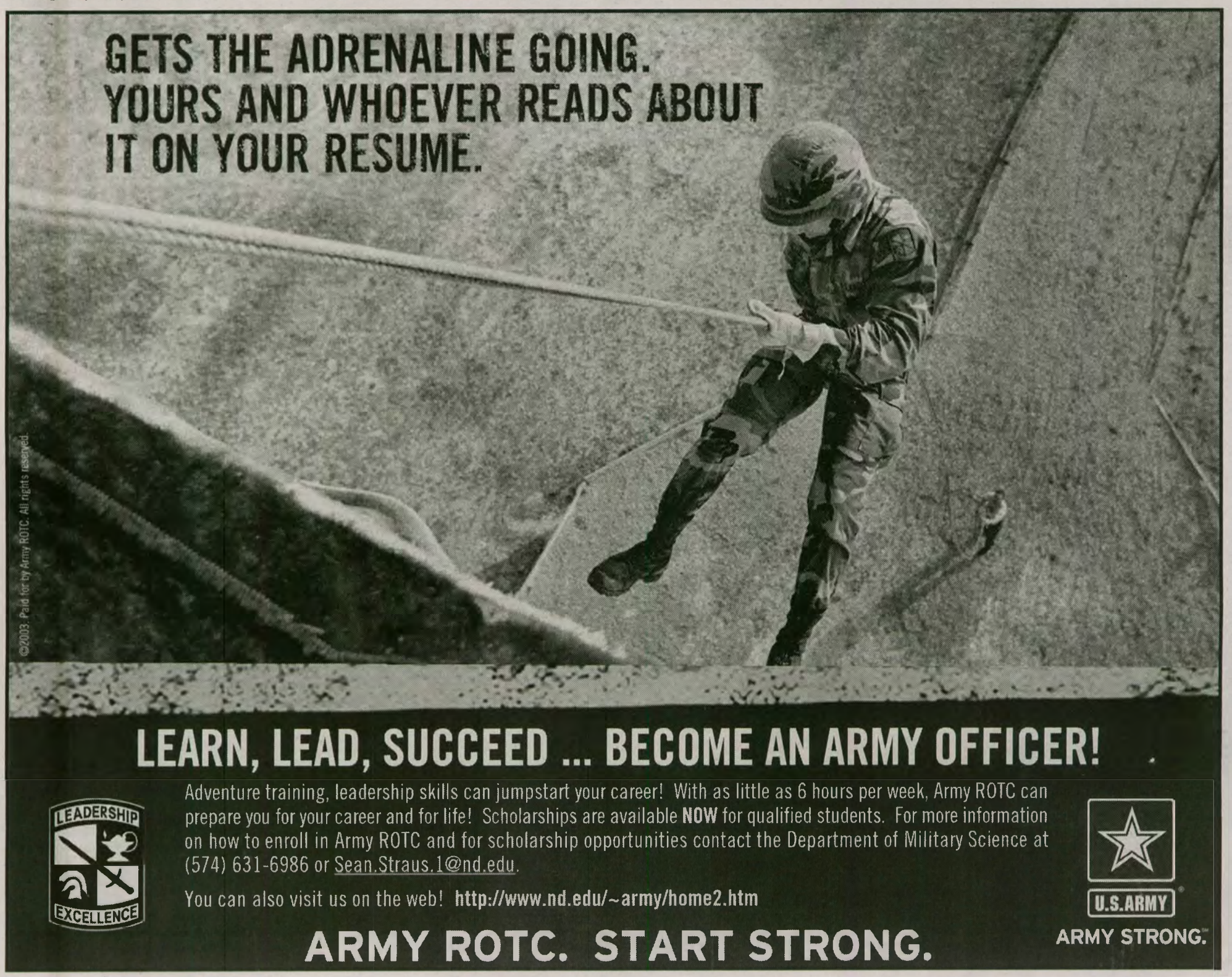

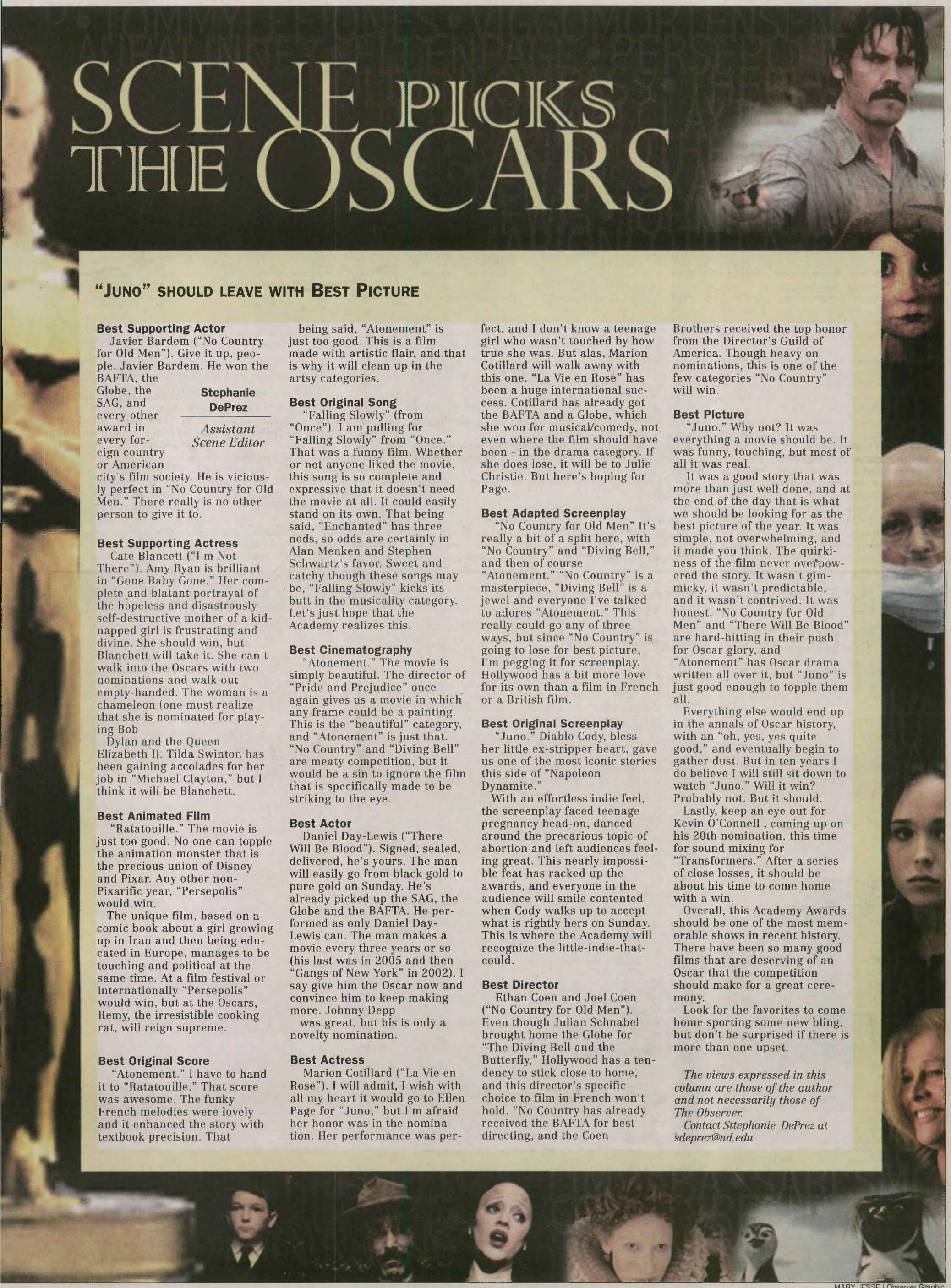

SCENE PICKS THE OSCARS

"JUNO" SHOULD LEAVE WITH BEST PICTURE

Stephanie DePrez
Assistant Scene Editor

Best Supporting Actor

Javier Bardem ("No Country for Old Men"). Give it up, people. Javier Bardem. He won the BAFTA, the Globe, the SAG, and every other award in every foreign country or American city's film society. He is viciously perfect in "No Country for Old Men." There really is no other person to give it to.

Best Supporting Actress

Cate Blancett ("I'm Not There"). Amy Ryan is brilliant in "Gone Baby Gone." Her complete and blatant portrayal of the hopeless and disastrously self-destructive mother of a kidnapped girl is frustrating and divine. She should win, but Blanchett will take it. She can't walk into the Oscars with two nominations and walk out empty-handed. The woman is a chameleon (one must realize that she is nominated for playing Bob Dylan and the Queen Elizabeth I). Tilda Swinton has been gaining accolades for her job in "Michael Clayton," but I think it will be Blanchett.

Best Animated Film

"Ratatouille." The movie is just too good. No one can topple the animation monster that is the precious union of Disney and Pixar. Any other non-Pixarific year, "Persepolis" would win.

The unique film, based on a comic book about a girl growing up in Iran and then being educated in Europe, manages to be touching and political at the same time. At a film festival or internationally "Persepolis" would win, but at the Oscars, Remy, the irresistible cooking rat, will reign supreme.

Best Original Score

"Atonement." I have to hand it to "Ratatouille." That score was awesome. The funky French melodies were lovely and it enhanced the story with textbook precision. That being said, "Atonement" is just too good. This is a film made with artistic flair, and that is why it will clean up in the artsy categories.

Best Original Song

"Falling Slowly" (from "Once"). I am pulling for "Falling Slowly" from "Once." That was a funny film. Whether or not anyone liked the movie, this song is so complete and expressive that it doesn't need the movie at all. It could easily stand on its own. That being said, "Enchanted" has three nods, so odds are certainly in Alan Menken and Stephen Schwartz's favor. Sweet and catchy though these songs may be, "Falling Slowly" kicks its butt in the musicality category. Let's just hope that the Academy realizes this.

Best Cinematography

"Atonement." The movie is simply beautiful. The director of "Pride and Prejudice" once again gives us a movie in which any frame could be a painting. This is the "beautiful" category, and "Atonement" is just that. "No Country" and "Diving Bell" are meaty competition, but it would be a sin to ignore the film that is specifically made to be striking to the eye.

Best Actor

Daniel Day-Lewis ("There Will Be Blood"). Signed, sealed, delivered, he's yours. The man will easily go from black gold to pure gold on Sunday. He's already picked up the SAG, the Globe and the BAFTA. He performed as only Daniel Day-Lewis can. The man makes a movie every three years or so (his last was in 2005 and then "Gangs of New York" in 2002). I say give him the Oscar now and convince him to keep making more. Johnny Depp was great, but his is only a novelty nomination.

Best Actress

Marion Cotillard ("La Vie en Rose"). I will admit, I wish with all my heart it would go to Ellen Page for "Juno," but I'm afraid her honor was in the nomination. Her performance was perfect, and I don't know a teenage girl who wasn't touched by how true she was. But alas, Marion Cotillard will walk away with this one. "La Vie en Rose" has been a huge international success. Cotillard has already got the BAFTA and a Globe, which she won for musical/comedy, not even where the film should have been - in the drama category. If she does lose, it will be to Julie Christie. But here's hoping for Page.

Best Adapted Screenplay

"No Country for Old Men" It's really a bit of a split here, with "No Country" and "Diving Bell," and then of course "Atonement." "No Country" is a masterpiece, "Diving Bell" is a jewel and everyone I've talked to adores "Atonement." This really could go any of three ways, but since "No Country" is going to lose for best picture, I'm pegging it for screenplay. Hollywood has a bit more love for its own than a film in French or a British film.

Best Original Screenplay

"Juno." Diablo Cody, bless her little ex-stripper heart, gave us one of the most iconic stories this side of "Napoleon Dynamite."

With an effortless indie feel, the screenplay faced teenage pregnancy head-on, danced around the precarious topic of abortion and left audiences feeling great. This nearly impossible feat has racked up the awards, and everyone in the audience will smile contented when Cody walks up to accept what is rightly hers on Sunday. This is where the Academy will recognize the little-indie-that-could.

Best Director

Ethan Coen and Joel Coen ("No Country for Old Men"). Even though Julian Schnabel brought home the Globe for "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly," Hollywood has a tendency to stick close to home, and this director's specific choice to film in French won't hold. "No Country has already received the BAFTA for best directing, and the Coen Brothers received the top honor from the Director's Guild of America. Though heavy on nominations, this is one of the few categories "No Country" will win.

Best Picture

"Juno." Why not? It was everything a movie should be. It was funny, touching, but most of all it was real.

It was a good story that was more than just well done, and at the end of the day that is what we should be looking for as the best picture of the year. It was simple, not overwhelming, and it made you think. The quirkiness of the film never overpowered the story. It wasn't gimmicky, it wasn't predictable, and it wasn't contrived. It was honest. "No Country for Old Men" and "There Will Be Blood" are hard-hitting in their push for Oscar glory, and "Atonement" has Oscar drama written all over it, but "Juno" is just good enough to topple them all.

Everything else would end up in the annals of Oscar history, with an "oh, yes, yes quite good," and eventually begin to gather dust. But in ten years I do believe I will still sit down to watch "Juno." Will it win? Probably not. But it should.

Lastly, keep an eye out for Kevin O'Connell , coming up on his 20th nomination, this time for sound mixing for "Transformers." After a series of close losses, it should be about his time to come home with a win.

Overall, this Academy Awards should be one of the most memorable shows in recent history. There have been so many good films that are deserving of an Oscar that the competition should make for a great ceremony.

Look for the favorites to come home sporting some new bling, but don't be surprised if there is more than one upset.

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

Contact Sttephanie DePrez at sdeprez@nd.edu

MARY JESSE | Observer Graphic

NHL

Walker's three pushes Hurricanes past Thrashers

Flailing Flyers lose ninth straight at the hands of San Jose; Satan's late goal lifts Islanders 1-0 over Tampa Bay

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — In the congested Southeast Division, one sustained stretch of solid play could make the difference between winning the division or missing the playoffs.

After the Carolina Hurricanes overwhelmed the Atlanta Thrashers 5-3 Thursday night, Carolina coach Peter Laviolette hopes the Hurricanes are in the middle of such a spurt.

"That's five out of six games where I've really liked the way we've played," Laviolette said.

Even after losing captain Rod Brind'Amour to a season-ending torn ACL on Feb. 14, the Hurricanes are 4-1-1 in their last six to carve out what counts for breathing room in the Southeast.

With the victory, the Hurricanes extended their division lead to four points over the second-place Washington Capitals and five over the third-place Thrashers.

Carolina is also 5-0-1 in its last six home games.

"This time of your year, you've got to look within your own stall and say, 'I've got to bring what I've got tonight to help out," Carolina's Scott Walker said. "That's what everybody's been doing. I think everyone's been doing a great job."

Walker led the way for the Hurricanes with one goals and two assists. Ray Whitney, Ryan Bayda and Sergei Samsonov scored second-period goals, and Keith Aucoin also scored for the Hurricanes. Cam Ward made 25 saves.

Eric Perrin, Mark Recchi and Todd White scored for Atlanta.

Thrashers goalie Kari Lehtonen had one of his busiest nights of the season, making 41 saves. Twenty-one of those came in the first period when Carolina carried the play, outshooting the Thrashers 21-5. Only Lehtonen's stellar play kept Atlanta in the game.

Sharks 3, Flyers 1

Simon Gagne is out for the regular season. Peter Forsberg squashed his comeback attempt. Danny Briere has not played up to his hefty $52 million free-agent contract.

Throw in other assorted injuries and a confidence shortage and it's no wonder the Philadelphia Flyers are on a nine-game winless streak.

Douglas Murray and Milan Michalek scored 42 seconds apart early in the third period to lift the San Jose Sharks to a victory over the Flyers on Thursday night.

"This is a challenge and there is nobody outside of our locker room that is going to make a difference," Philadelphia coach John Stevens. "It's up to each guy to make a difference."

The season keeps getting worse for the Flyers, who started the month as one of the top teams in the Eastern Conference. They lost their ninth straight game (0-8-1) and the home crowd booed a team that dropped out of the conference playoff standings.

"It's pretty much rock bottom now," Flyers captain Jason Smith said. "We better turn things around quickly now or we're not going to be in a good spot."

Jonathan Cheechoo scored his 17th goal for the Sharks, who snapped a five-game losing streak. Evgeni Nabokov made 26 saves for San Jose.

Islanders 1, Lightning 0

This New York Islanders victory had it all: spotless goaltending from Rick DiPietro, timely scoring from Miroslav Satan, and blissful quiet from Chris Simon.

The Tampa Bay Lightning never stood a chance.

Satan snapped a scoreless tie in the third period and DiPietro stopped 32 shots for the New York Islanders, who welcomed back suspended forward Simon and won their sixth straight with a victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning on Thursday night.

DiPietro was perfect in snapping the Lightning's 10-game road run of earning at least one point (7-0-3). He blanked Tampa Bay for the second time this season despite New York missing key injured defensemen Brendan Witt, Andy Sutton, Bruno Gervais and Chris Campoli.

"Good living and good praying. I'm not sure what it is," Islanders coach Ted Nolan said.

Ever since the Islanders broke a seven-game skid on Feb. 12 with a win against Philadelphia, they have been unstoppable.

New York is enjoying its best stretch since another six-game winning streak from Dec. 21-31, 2003, and has climbed back into the Eastern Conference playoff chase.

Simon returned from a record 30-game suspension levied by the NHL against him in December for his skate stomp on the back of the leg of Pittsburgh's Jarkko Ruutu.

Simon took his first shift 2 1/2 minutes into the opening period, alongside rookies Blake Comeau and Frans Nielsen on the Islanders' fourth line, and heard a few cheers and louder boos when he hit the ice and touched the puck.

"The most important thing is that we won," he said. "My teammates have been so supportive and have been great to me. I can't control what other people think and how they react. I respect that they have their opinion, and I'm just going to keep working hard in gaining them back."

AP

Hurricanes players Sergei Samsonov, Frantisek Kaberle, Andrew Ladd, and Trevor Letowski celebrate after Carolina's 5-3 win over Atlanta Thursday.

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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Thanks

to everyone on the

2006-2007 Observer ed board!

AROUND THE NATION

NCAA Men's Hockey USCHO.com/CSTV Division I Poll

		record	previous
1	Michigan	25-3-4	1
2	North Dakota	19-8-2	3
3	New Hampshire	19-7-2	4
4	Colorado College	21-8-1	5
5	Miami	25-6-1	2
6	Michigan State	20-8-5	8
7	Boston College	16-7-7	7
8	Denver	19-10-1	6
9	NOTRE DAME	21-10-3	9
10	Wisconsin	14-12-6	10
11	Minnesota State	16-11-4	13
12	Clarkson	17-10-3	11
13	UMD	12-10-6	12
14	Northeastern	14-11-3	15
15	Providence	13-11-4	14
16	St. Cloud State	14-13-3	19
17	Princeton	15-10-0	17
18	UMASS Lowell	13-11-4	18
19	Qunnipiac	17-9-4	16
20	Niagra	16-8-4	20

CCHA Conference Standings

	team	conference	overall
1	Michigan	18-2-4	25-3-4
2	Miami	17-6-1	25-6-1
3	Michigan State	16-5-3	20-8-5
4	NOTRE DAME	14-7-3	21-10-3
5	Nebraska-Omaha	11-11-4	14-14-4
6	Bowling Green	12-12-0	15-15-0
7	Ferris State	10-10-4	13-12-5
8	Northern Michigan	10-12-2	13-16-3
9	Alaska	8-14-4	8-17-5
10	Ohio State	6-16-2	10-21-3
11	Lake Superior	4-15-5	6-18-6
12	Western Michigan	3-19-2	7-22-3

NCAA Men's Baseball Preseason USA Today/ESPN Top 20

		record	previous
1	Arizona State	0-0	5
2	North Carolina	0-0	2
3	South Carolina	0-0	10
4	Rice	0-0	3
5	Vanderbilt	0-0	25
6	Texas	0-0	9
7	Mississippi	0-0	14
8	San Diego	0-0	16
9	Wichita State	0-0	20
10	Oregon State	0-0	11
11	Florida State	0-0	1
12	Missouri	0-0	15
13	Miami	0-0	24
14	Cal State Fullerton	0-0	NR
15	Clemson	0-0	7
16	UCLA	0-0	13
17	Michigan	0-0	22
18	Long Beach State	0-0	18
19	Virginia	0-0	NR
20	Texas A&M	0-0	17

around the dial

NBA BASKETBALL
Denver at Chicago
8 p.m., ESPN

NBA BASKETBALL
Boston at Phoenix
10:30 p.m., ESPN

NBA

AP

Ben Wallace, right, was traded to the Cleveland Cavaliers along with Wally Szczerbiak in a three-team deal that sent Larry Hughes and Drew Gooden to the Bulls.

Cleveland acquires Wallace in deadline deal

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LeBron James finally got some help to win an NBA title.

In an 11-player trade involving Cleveland, Chicago and Seattle, the Cavaliers acquired center Ben Wallace from the Bulls and forward Wally Szczerbiak from the SuperSonics, two players to possibly get James and the Cavs through the Eastern Conference and back to the finals.

Cleveland general manager Danny Ferry, unable to finalize major deals in the past, pulled off a colossal one as the clock ticked down in the final hours before Thursday's 3 p.m. deadline.

The Cavaliers sent guard Larry Hughes, forwards Drew Gooden and Cedric Simmons, and guard Shannon Brown to Chicago for Wallace, one of the game's top inside enforcers, and forward Joe Smith.

Cleveland acquired the sharpshooting Szczerbiak and guard Delonte West from Seattle for forwards Ira Newble and Donyell Marshall.

The Cavaliers will also get Chicago's second-round pick in 2009. The SuperSonics will receive guard Adrian Griffin from the Bulls.

The deal caps a busy month of trades around the NBA as several stars, including Shaquille O'Neal, Jason Kidd, Shawn Marion and Pau Gasol, all were dealt to new teams. The Gasol swap triggered an arms race of sorts among the Western Conference's top squads, while this one could have a big impact at the top of the East.

Plagued by injuries this season, the Cavaliers are nine games behind Detroit in the Central Division and are fourth overall behind Boston, the Pistons and Orlando in the conference standings.

James, who is having an MVP-caliber season, had hoped Ferry could pull the trigger on a deal as the deadline neared. But Cleveland's superstar probably couldn't have imagined such an overhaul.

Ferry traded 60 percent of the starting lineup Cavs coach Mike Brown sent out on the floor for Wednesday night's game in Indiana.

In the 33-year-old Wallace, the Cavaliers are getting a defensive intimidator. But Big Ben will give them little or nothing on offense. He was a disappointment for the underachieving Bulls, who enter Friday's game 17_ games out of first in the Central.

Chicago signed Wallace to a four-year, $60 million contract in 2006. He has two years remaining on that deal worth roughly $30 million.

IN BRIEF

Candace Parker to forgoe seinor season at Tennessee

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Candace Parker, the Tennessee All-America forward who made dunking in women's basketball almost commonplace, ended all the speculation.

Parker, the first woman to win a national slam dunk contest, will skip her final season at Tennessee for the chance to play professionally.

"This was the most difficult decision I've ever had to make, but my family and I think this is the best choice for me," Parker said Wednesday.

"I've been blessed with great coaches and teammates, an outstanding education and the best women's basketball crowd support in the country. I will miss Tennessee, but I am eager to take this next step in my career."

The redshirt junior will graduate at the end of this season and plans to participate in the summer Olympics.

Memphis faces Tennessee in battle of powerhouses

Tenn — Tigers vs. Volunteers used to mean bragging rights within Tennessee. Come Saturday night, this usually inconsequential state rivalry, struts across the national stage.

No. 1 Memphis hosts No. 2 Tennessee — the 38th game between teams ranked Nos. 1 and 2 but only the fifth time the teams are from the same state.

"These 1-2 matchups are usually reserved for Tobacco Road or some place in Indiana or Ohio," Tennessee coach Bruce Pearl said Thursday.

"And the fact that it's in Tennessee is something that I think all high school basketball players and high school coaches and different folks that love basketball in the state of Tennessee are certainly proud of."

Cincinnati and Ohio State played each other twice in the 1960s as No. 1 vs. No. 2, and Duke and North Carolina met twice in the 1990s.

Slugger Howard wins arbitration case

CLEARWATER, Fla. — Everywhere Ryan Howard turned, pe ople wanted to dig into his pockets.

Howard's bank account just skyrocketed like one of those home runs he deposits into the upper deck. Baseball's best bargain finally will be getting big bucks.

Howard won his salary arbitration case against the Philadelphia Phillies on Thursday when he was awarded $10 million, the highest figure given a victorious player.

Now teammates expect him to pay for their meals and pick up the tab on their nights out.

"My reaction is mostly relief," Howard said. "It was an interesting process. Anyway you look at it, it's a win-win because it's a substantial raise."

Howard made $900,000 last year and $355,000 during his MVP season in 2006. lion, but Howard became the first player to win in six arbitration cases

MEN'S TRACK

Notre Dame tries to defend Big East title

By EUGENIA ALFONZO
Sports Writer

The Irish will be tested this weekend as they travel to New York to defend their Big East conference title for the third year in a row.

Even though the team has been qualifying members for the Championship since the Blue and Gold Invite from the beginning.

"We worked quite hard last week," Irish coach Joe Piane said, "We worked quite hard last week, so we've been tapering down to let the kids who have been banged up recover".

The Irish have achieved over 45 qualifications for the championships since December.

"John Cavanaugh is ranked first for the 800-m race," Piane said. "Also, Justin Schneider is ranked first for the heptathlon while the distance medley, 4 x 400-meter relay, and 4 x 800-meter relay are excellent as well."

The Irish hope that the well balanced structure of their team will give them an advantage as they head into tough competition at the New Balance Track and Field Center this weekend.

"Each event has some real quality in it and we've got to score points in a lot of them," Piane said. "The 60-meter race is going to be an important event because Georgetown is ranked first and second."

The 60-meter isn't the only event in which the Irish will face a challenge.

"There's four teams that could win it, and we're certainly one of the four."

Joe Piane
Irish coach

"The mile should be real good to watch along with the throws," Piane said. "Really every event will be good to watch."

The Irish are prepared to face off against Connecticut, Louisville, and Georgetown, forming four of the biggest contenders for this year's championship.

"There's four teams that could win it, and we're certainly one of the four," Piane said.

The first day of the meet starts at 8:00 a.m. this Saturday.

Contact Eugenia Alfonzo at ealfonzo@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S TRACK

24 to compete in conference tourney

Failure to capture individual titles in 2007 led to second place finish

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

In the book of numbers, Notre Dame has the edge.

Last year in the closely contested Big East Indoor championships, Notre Dame finished a close second to Georgetown.

That time, the Irish had 22 athletes who qualified to participate. This year, they have 24.

Notre Dame will try to convert this advantage into better results in the form of team and individual championships.

But Irish coach Tim Connelly is not as concerned about improving the team's overall finish as much as he is rooting for better individual results from his athletes. Notre Dame's failure to capture individual titles in 2007 doomed the team's chances.

"We're really not sure what to expect team place-wise, as there are a number of really strong teams that should be in the hunt to place high," Connelly said. "To be honest we really focus more on each athlete doing her best and contributing all that they can to the team effort."

The Irish have a slew of athletes who are favorites to place well in their respective events.

First among them is Anna Weber, who will look to continue her dominance in the weight throw and the shot put. Weber has set school records in both events and has already qualified for the NCAA meet in the shot put.

WU YUE/The Observer

Irish hurdelers compete during the Blue-Gold Invitational on Dec. 7, 2007 at the Loftus Center.

A reigning All-Big East performer, Mary Saxer looks to improve on her second-place finish last year.

Meanwhile, Alyissa Hasan has a strong chance to win the Pentathlon; she has already qualified for the NCAA meet.

The Notre Dame runners — led by Joanna Schultz, Cora Dayon, Natalie Johnson and Kelly Langhans — hope to find more success in the running events than the Irish had last year.

Connelly's outlook for the team this weekend is simple.

"Right now the goal is to go in there and have each of the 24 women who will compete try to compete as well as they can and come away feeling that they did all they could to help the team," Connelly said. "In this sport you can't control what the other person or team does, all you can control is your own effort."

Contact Alex Barker at abarker1@nd.edu

HARANGODY SMASH

VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Irish forward Luke Harangody shoots during Notre Dame's 82-70 win over Pittsburgh Thursday in the Joyce Center.

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ND Women's Tennis

Duke overcomes doubles loss, downs squad

By DAN MASTERTON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame could not hand undefeated Duke its first loss of the season, as the No. 8 Blue Devils beat the Irish 4-3 in Durham, N.C. Thursday.

Colleen Rielley and Cosmina Ciobanu started the match strong with an 8-5 doubles win, and Kali Krisik and Kristen Rafael clinched the doubles point for No. 15 Notre Dame (6-5) with an 8-6 victory.

Even with the doubles point in hand, Brook Buck and Kelcy Tefft, the No. 3 pair in the nation, made a strong showing, completing a sweep of the doubles matches with an 8-6 win.

Duke stole the momentum back, however — Ciobanu and Katie Potts dropped the first two singles matches, each by the score of 6-3, 6-1.

Krisik responded for the Irish by winning a hard-fought match over Duke's Amanda Granson, 6-1, 7-6 (7-3). Granson pushed Krisik to a tiebreaker in the second set, but Krisik overcame Granson's rally to tie the match at two.

The Blue Devils answered back when Tara Ayer defeated Buck 6-3, 6-4. Ayer's victory put the pressure back on Notre Dame, and it was up to Rielley and Tefft to win both the remaining matches.

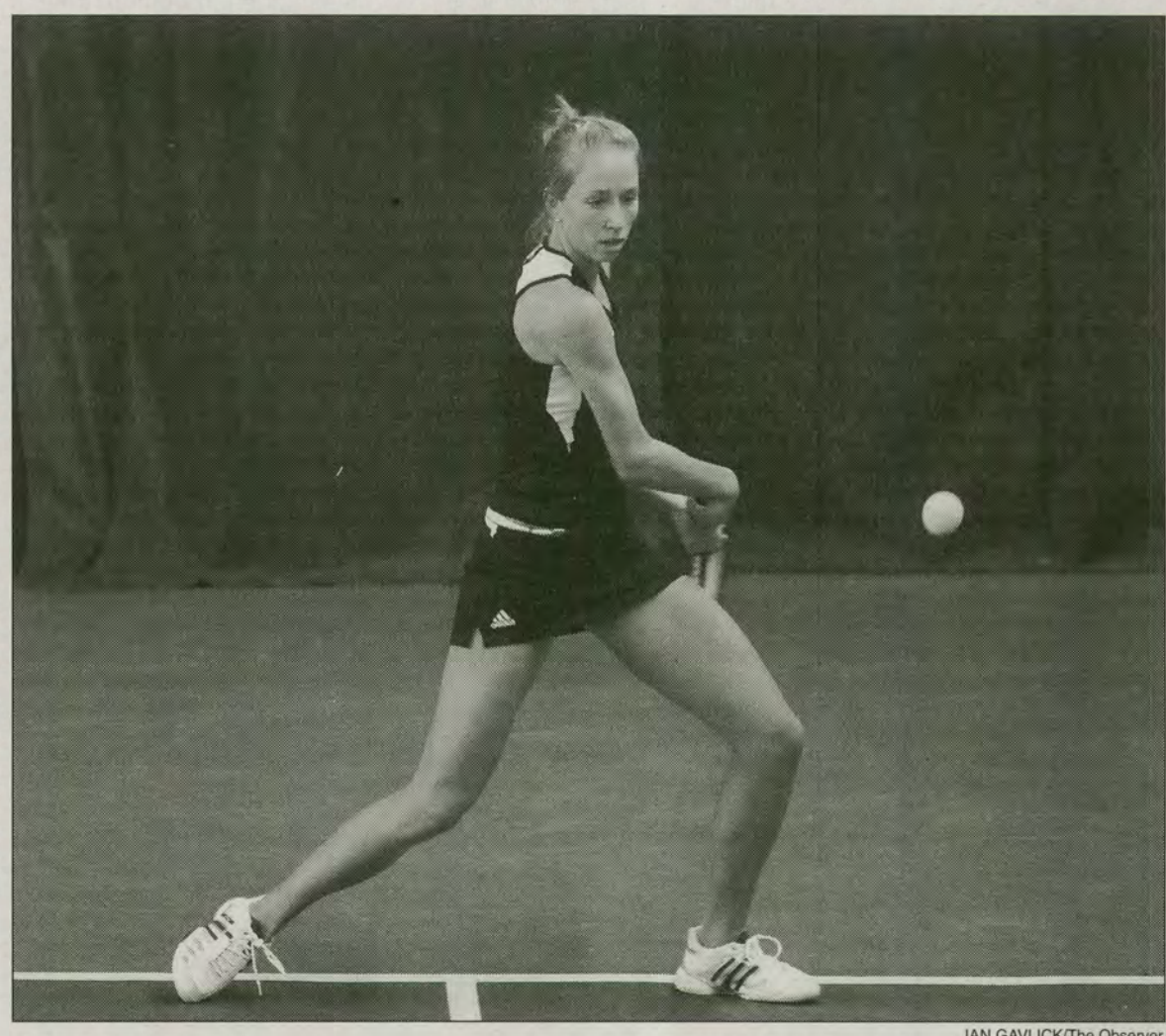
Rielley pushed Duke's Reka Zsilinszka to three sets, but the No. 13 singles player in the country won the third set convincingly. Zsilinszka's 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 victory won the match for Duke.

The Irish finished strong as No. 59 Tefft fought her way to an upset victory over No. 16 Ellah Nze. Tefft rallied after losing the first set to improve to 10-1 in singles play on the dual season. Her 5-7, 8-6, 10-7 win made the final score 4-3 in favor of Duke.

The Irish will have to put this loss behind them quickly — two more elite opponents loom on this weekend's three-game road trip. The tough stretch continues today as the Irish travel to Winston-Salem, N.C., to battle No. 19 Wake Forest (2-1).

The Demon Deacons have not played in 19 days, but they will try to shake off the rust and avenge a 7-0 loss to Notre Dame last year. The all-time series is tied 9-9, but the Irish have won three straight. They will look to make it four in a row at the WFU Indoor Tennis Center at 3 p.m. today.

Contact Dan Masterton at dmastert@nd.edu



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Irish junior Katie Potts returns a volley during Notre Dame's 5-2 win over Ohio State on February 14 in the Eck Tennis Pavilion. The Irish lost to Duke 4-3 Thursday.

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Men's Tennis

Irish attempt to boil Purdue

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

The Irish will look to rebound after falling short at the ITA National Indoor championship this past weekend when they play Purdue at home Sunday. Notre Dame (8-3) fell 4-0 and 5-0 to No. 8 UCLA and No. 12 North Carolina, respectively at the Indoor Championship but managed to defeat No. 16 Penn State 4-2.

"I was disappointed in the loss to UCLA," coach Bobby Bayliss said. "We gave it a good shot though. The score could have easily been 4-3."

The Irish were up at No. 1 and No. 2 singles when the Bruins clinched the 4-0 win to end the match.

On Saturday, the Irish faced the Nittany Lions. When Notre Dame and the Irish last faced off in January, the Irish defeated the Nittany Lions 5-2. On Sunday, the Irish fell 5-0 to North Carolina in the final round of the consolation bracket.

"I was pretty disappointed with the loss on Sunday," Bayliss said. "We underestimated them. They played an inspired match against us and Butler on Saturday. They are one of the top eight in the nation. I didn't feel all of the guys played their 'A' games."

While the Irish struggled as a team, junior Brett Helgeson provided a bright spot in Seattle.

"Brett won the one match that he finished," Bayliss said. "He had the match point against UCLA, and could have had three wins if they hadn't ended the match."

Another standout on the weekend was freshman Daniel Stahl. Bayliss said that Stahl has continued to surprise the coaching staff, and that his strength lays in his ability to put pressure on people from the back of the court.

Bayliss also noted that Purdue and the Irish have similar lineup styles.

"We both have good top of the lineup players," Bayliss said. "They are an improved team. They have a very talented No. 1 singles player in sophomore Branko Kuzmanovic."

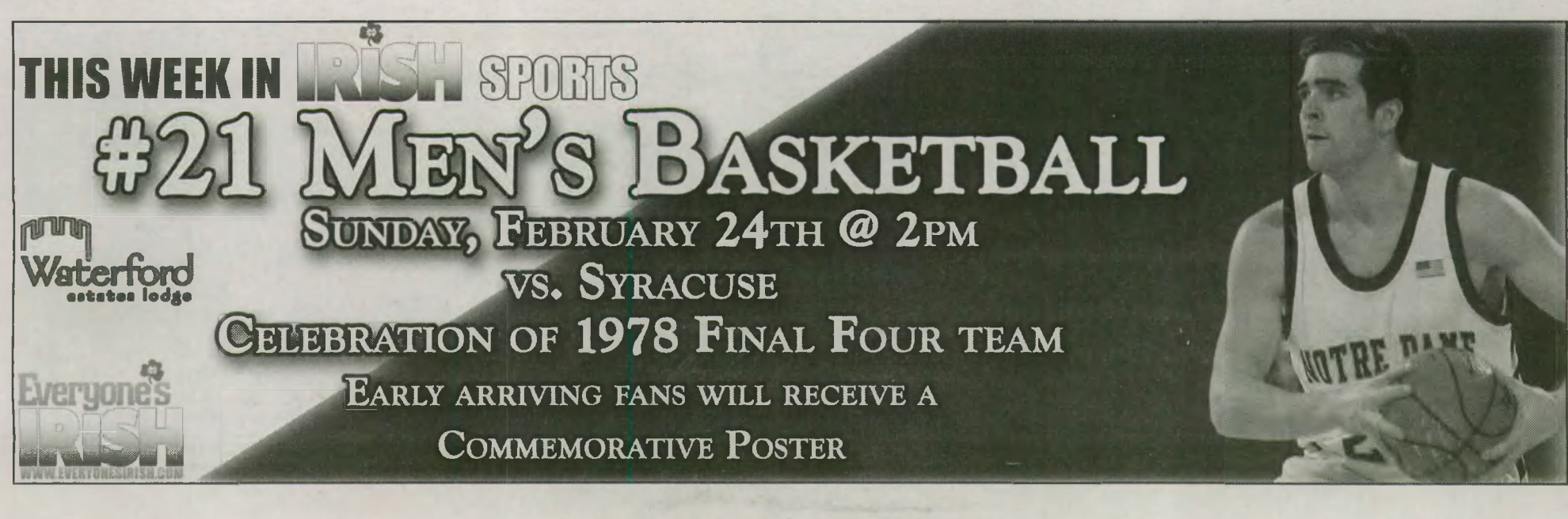
Kuzmanovic, a native of Serbia, is a force at the top of the Boilermakers singles and doubles lineup.

"He has pushed a lot of the top players," Bayliss said. "They also have a new second singles player in sophomore Slavko Bijelica."

Bayliss also praised Purdue's coach Tim Madden and noted that the Boilermakers will be feisty and competitive.

The Irish will try to pick up the five match win streak they were on before heading to Seattle last weekend. The match is set to start at noon at the Eck Tennis Pavillion.

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgraba01@saintmarys.edu



ND Softball

ND to play 2 in Gainesville

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

Following days in the desert, the Irish seek water.

A week after splitting four games in the Kajikawa Classic in Tempe, Ariz., Notre Dame will find a little hydration at the Aquafina Invitational tournament in Gainesville, Fla.

Notre Dame will play a doubleheader today, facing Gardner-Webb at 11 a.m. and North Florida at 1:15 p.m. Irish coach Deanna Gumpf's squad will then go up against undefeated No. 7 Florida on Saturday

"Florida has a great team," Gumpf said. "They have a great pitching staff and they're hitting the tar out of the ball."

At 14-0, the Gators are off to their best start in school history.

"The goal with [Florida] is to win a big game," Gumpf said. "We've got to go in there, give them a good game, and beat them."

The Irish hope to improve on their 2-2 showing in Arizona last weekend. The Irish beat Utah and California but came up short against Western Kentucky and No. 3 Texas A&M.

"I expect to play better than we did last weekend," Gumpf said. "That's my No. 1 expectation."

Over the week, Gumpf said the team worked on situational plays, in order to improve defensively and in pressure hitting situations. Gumpf said she tried to give the team "as many situational, game-like reps as possible."

"We do the best when we're at home, but when we hit the road it's softball time."

Deanna Gumpf
Irish coach

The Big East honored two Irish players this week, naming second baseman Katie Laing conference player of the week and adding pitcher Brittney Bargar to the conference honor roll.

Laing led the Irish in batting average in Tempe, hitting .429 over the four games. Laing also notched a game-winning, walk-off double against Cal.

Bargar pitched three games, winning two and losing only to the third-ranked Aggies, despite holding them to four hits.

"I think they deserved those honors," Gumpf said. "Katie, offensively, was on fire for us and came through big in situational hitting. Bargar did a great job off the mound for us."

Heading to Florida is just another trip for Notre Dame, who this week had to travel from Tempe back to campus, then down to Gainesville — a total trip of more than 2,500 miles. Gumpf said she wouldn't let the team be affected by the travel.

"It's in our mental state," Gumpf said. "It's going to affect us if we let it affect us and it won't affect us if we don't let it affect us.

"We do the best when we're at home, but when we hit the road it's softball time."

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

SMC Basketball

Belles try for rebound at Olivet

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

After a nine-point loss to the No. 1 Hope on Saturday, Saint Mary's is back on the road tonight as it takes on Olivet in Olivet, Mich., at 7:30.

"Olivet is another strong team in the MIAA," Belles coach Jenn Henley said. "They have a new coach and a lot of fresh faces."

Olivet is 7-9 overall and 5-3 in MIAA play.

Saint Mary's (8-9, 4-5 MIAA) held its own against Hope (17-0, 9-0 MIAA), leading 33-30 at the half. Leading Hope scorer Jordyn Boles's 18 points in the first 10 minutes of the second period, however, gave her team a lead Saint Mary's couldn't overcome. The Belles lost 82-73, tying with conference foe Alma for Hope's second smallest winning margin this season.

"I thought our team played very well all last week, despite two losses," Henley said. "If we can keep that same type of focus and intensity throughout the rest of the season, we will have a strong finish."

Regardless of the loss, Saint Mary's managed to put up some impressive numbers. Senior guard Allison Kessler, the leading scorer for her team and the MIAA, scored a team-high 21 points. The Belles shot 40.3 percent from the floor, going 81.8 percent from the line with four players in double digits.

"Our goals continue to be to improve our defense and keep points out of the paint."

Jen Henley
Belles coach

The bench has been productive as well. Juniors Erin Newsom and Katie Rashid score 10.7 and 9.4 points per game, respectively. Sophomore Anna Kammrath holds her own in this group of upperclassmen with 9.9 per game this season.

Saint Mary's out-rebounded Hope this past weekend with a total 38 rebounds, an area which Henley said her team has shown improvement throughout this season.

"I feel our rebounding has improved all season and we need to continue those efforts," Henley said.

The Belles average 41.4 rebounds per game.

Saint Mary's has showed consistent improvement on the court as its season continues, but it is always striving for perfection.

"Our goals continue to be to improve our defense and keep points out of the paint," Henley said.

Olivet's new head coach, Heather Bateman, served as assistant coach for the Comets for the past six seasons, making her no stranger to MIAA competition.

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@saintmarys.edu

Women's Lacrosse

Irish travel to Ohio State to take on rivals

By ANDY ZICCARELLI
Sports Writer

Last weekend marked two important events for Notre Dame. The Irish notched 22 goals in their 22-10 win over Canisius — a tie for the school record for most points scored in a home game. More importantly, Sunday's 16-4 win over Duquesne marked the 100th victory in the history of the program, all of which have been under the direction of coach Tracy Coyne.

"Because I have been here since the beginning, I have a lot of fond memories of many games," Coyne said. "I have a lot of people that I have shared these great wins with."

"How can you not be excited to go play Ohio State?"

Tracy Coyne
Irish coach

Helping the program reach its milestone was the play of junior Jillian Byers. Byers was picked as a unanimous pre-season All-Big East player, and has received other accolades as well early this season. In the two games last weekend, Byers scored 11 goals, while also tallying 2 assists. Her play has been one of the reasons for the team's success thus far.

"She is an awesome finisher," Coyne said. "Jill understands how to work her defender and get herself open and the team has been great at been finding her so she can finish."

Indeed, Coyne is quick to credit the teamwork that the Irish have displayed so far this season, beyond Byers scoring prowess.

"We had some really beautiful combination goals. It has definitely been a team effort," Coyne said.

The team will take its first road trip of the year this weekend, traveling to Columbus to face Ohio State on Saturday. While the Buckeyes own a 6-5 lead all-time in the series, Notre Dame has won the last two meetings, including a 16-9 win last season.

"It is a rivalry," said Coyne. "How can you not be excited to go play Ohio State?"

The game should be an aggressive one. Coyne expects to see a lot of pressure from the Buckeye defense, particularly against Notre Dame scoring threats like Byers. The Irish will need players to step up and put points on the board against Ohio State, who represents a considerable step up in competition from the first two games.

"We have to be ready to handle those types of situations," said Coyne.

The Irish take on Ohio State in Columbus at 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

Contact Andy Ziccarelli at aziccare@nd.edu

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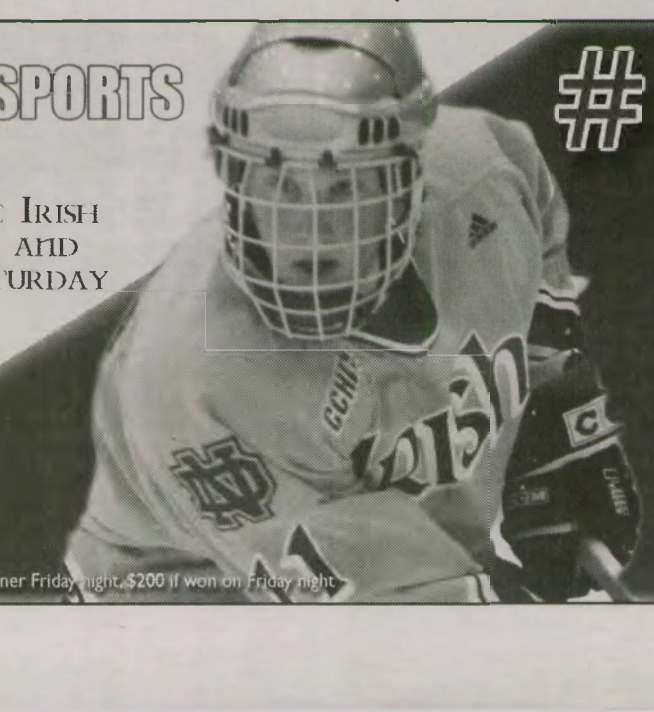
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BASEBALL

Irish open season this weekend with four games

By FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writer

It might be hard to believe considering the gloomy Notre Dame weather, but the Irish open their season with four games this weekend.

The squad will leave behind the frigid Indiana winter to compete in the Clearwater Invitational at Jack Russell Stadium in Clearwater, Fla. The Irish are slated take on tournament host Liberty today before playing a double-header Saturday and finishing up against Albany Sunday.

Irish coach Dave Schrage said the event is a good opportunity to gauge his team's progress since the beginning of spring practice.

"The nice part about coming down here and playing early is, at the end of the three days, you have things to work on and you find out what are some of the things we need more work on," Schrage said. "It'll be a good measuring stick to see how far along we are compared to last year."

Last year was Schrage's first with the Irish and, despite posting a 28-28 record, he said the season was a learning experience for many of the players.

"I think that having a year under our belt — some of our veteran players have a little more experience, they know our system a little better so it's been a little bit smoother spring," Schrage said.

When the Irish take the field in Clearwater, they'll have their first outdoor action of the season. The team will attempt to readjust to external factors that are not an issue at the team's indoor practice facilities.

"You work on picking up fly balls in the sun and communication between infielders and outfielders and things like that, things you don't normally work on," Schrage said.

Despite the difficulties encountered with playing outside again, Schrage said he expects a good showing from his team this weekend.

"Its always an adjustment, I think, just the depth perception and the background with being outside," he said. "But I think we're a lot farther along this year than we were last season."

In the team's season opener, the Irish will take on Liberty today at 1 p.m. Schrage said Liberty should be the most formidable team of the three the Irish face in the tournament.

"They're ahead of everybody a little bit because they've just been outside," Schrage said. "And they're usually one of the best three teams in the Big South [conference] anyway... They'll be a good squad."

The Irish will look to shut Liberty down behind right-handed ace David Phelps, who posted a 1.88 ERA last season.

On Saturday, Notre Dame will play a day-night doubleheader, with a game against Iowa during the afternoon then a nightcap against Albany. The Irish will face Albany again on Sunday.

Schrage said he is not necessarily concerned with the team's record this weekend, saying instead he hopes the Irish treat the trip as an opportunity to improve.

"We don't go into it saying, 'I want to win four' or 'I want three,'" Shrage said. "Our biggest thing is just play good and get better every day down here. And get the younger kids, get them some experience, test the nerves out and see where we're at."

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Senior Brett Lilley throws to first base during Notre Dame's 7-3 win over Ball state on April 24, 2007.

MEN'S LACROSSE

Undefeated team to host Nittany Lions

By GRIFFIN DASSATTI
Sports Writer

Even though Notre Dame is 1-0 heading into Sunday's game against Penn State, Irish coach Kevin Corrigan isn't worried about his team's record.

"Obviously there's only two possible situations at the start of the season," Corrigan said Thursday. "You're either 1-0 or 0-1 and 1-0 beats the hell out of 0-1. The ranking and all that stuff [are] meaningless at this point. It's February, for goodness sakes. We're just worried about how we're playing and what we're doing."

Notre Dame opened the season with a 7-6 win against No. 17 Loyola, Md., Saturday and is ranked as high as No. 5 in some national polls.

The Irish showed some balance in the win over Loyola — a different player scored each of the seven goals. Senior attack Alex Wharton, junior attack Duncan Swezey, sophomore attacks Colin Igoe and Matt Ciambella, and junior midfielder Dan Gibson each had an assist in the win.

"We need to do a little bit of everything well," Corrigan said. "Penn State is a very good team. They're very athletic and very experienced. I think a lot of things are going to be a factor in this game. We need to clear the ball well and counteract their athleticism. There are a lot of challenges in a game like this.

"These are two teams that like to play like to get up and down the field," he added. "It should be a fun game to watch and fun game to play."

The game begins at 1 p.m., in the Loftus Center.

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Squad ready for DePaul rematch

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Associate Sports Editor

When Notre Dame first played DePaul on Jan. 22, Irish coach Muffet McGraw called her squad "the worst defensive team in the Big East." How things have changed.

Over No. 14 Notre Dame's last six games — a five-game win streak ended by a 57-51 loss to No. 5 Rutgers on Tuesday — it has only allowed 60.2 points per game. McGraw credited the improvement to a change from a mostly man-to-man defense to an exclusive zone scheme.

"I was really pleased with the defense [against Rutgers], and I have not been most of this season. I am really happy with the zone," she said.

The defensive improvement is even more impressive considering the amount of injuries the team has suffered in the last few weeks. The Irish lost forward Devereaux Peters for the season against Pittsburgh on Feb. 10 with a torn anterior crucial ligament.

But McGraw said the team has been fine without Peters so far this season.

"We are controlling things, we can control and a lot of players have been able to step up without [Peters]," she said.

This week, guard Tulyah Gaines injured her shoulder against Syracuse and forward Becca Bruszewski broke her hand against Rutgers.

The Irish will get a chance to show the Blue Demons their new and improved defense Sunday afternoon in Chicago. DePaul — like last season — is Notre Dame's only repeat game this year.

The last time DePaul hit the court Wednesday, it beat Georgetown 82-78 in the McDonough Arena in Washington, D.C. — the same court on which the Irish beat the Hoyas 104-86 on Jan. 19.

McGraw said she thinks DePaul has improved since the teams' first matchup, in large part because of senior guard Allie Quigley. Quigley had 36 points on 15-of-21 shooting against the Hoyas on Wednesday.

"Allie Quigley took over the game last night [against Georgetown]. She seems to be playing like a senior who is refusing to let her team lose. She is carrying the team," McGraw said.

The Irish have their own senior who has taken over the team this season. Charel Allen leads Notre Dame in scoring for the second straight year, with 14.3 points per game. The senior guard also has 63 assists and 53 steals.

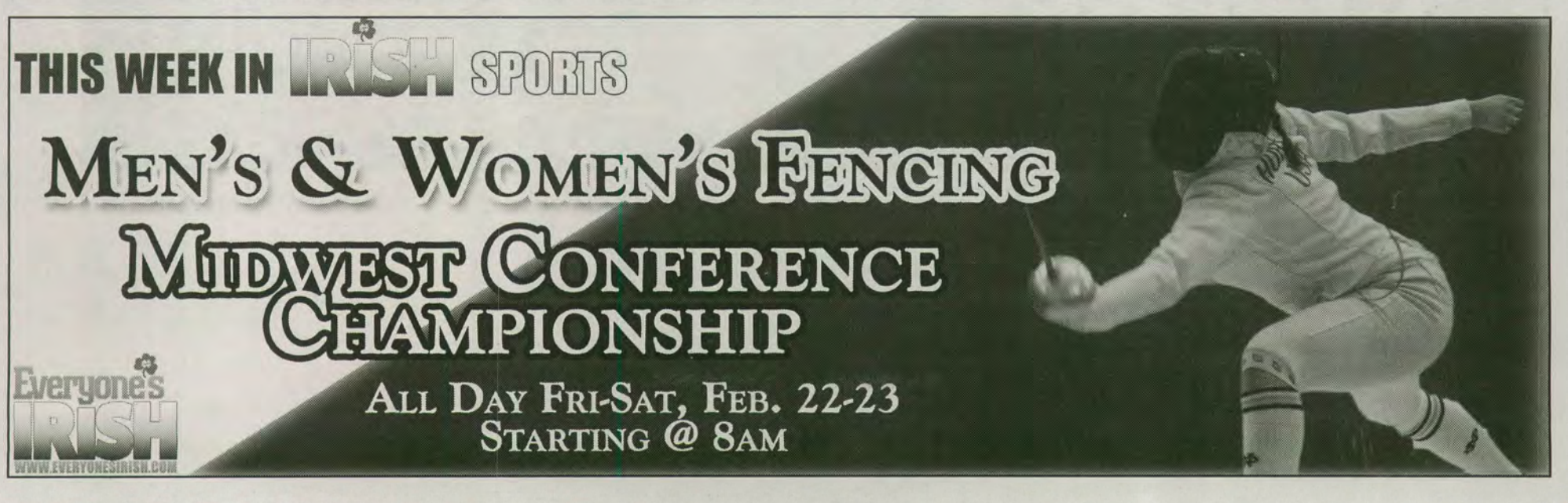
"Charel Allen is a unanimous first team Big East player this year," McGraw said. "She has been our go-to player for almost four years."

Sophomore Ashley Barlow has given Allen help offensively, but McGraw said that she is more of a behind-the-scenes player than Allen.

"She does a lot of dirty work and a lot of little things," McGraw said. "She will shoot some late threes, but Charel still gets the first look."

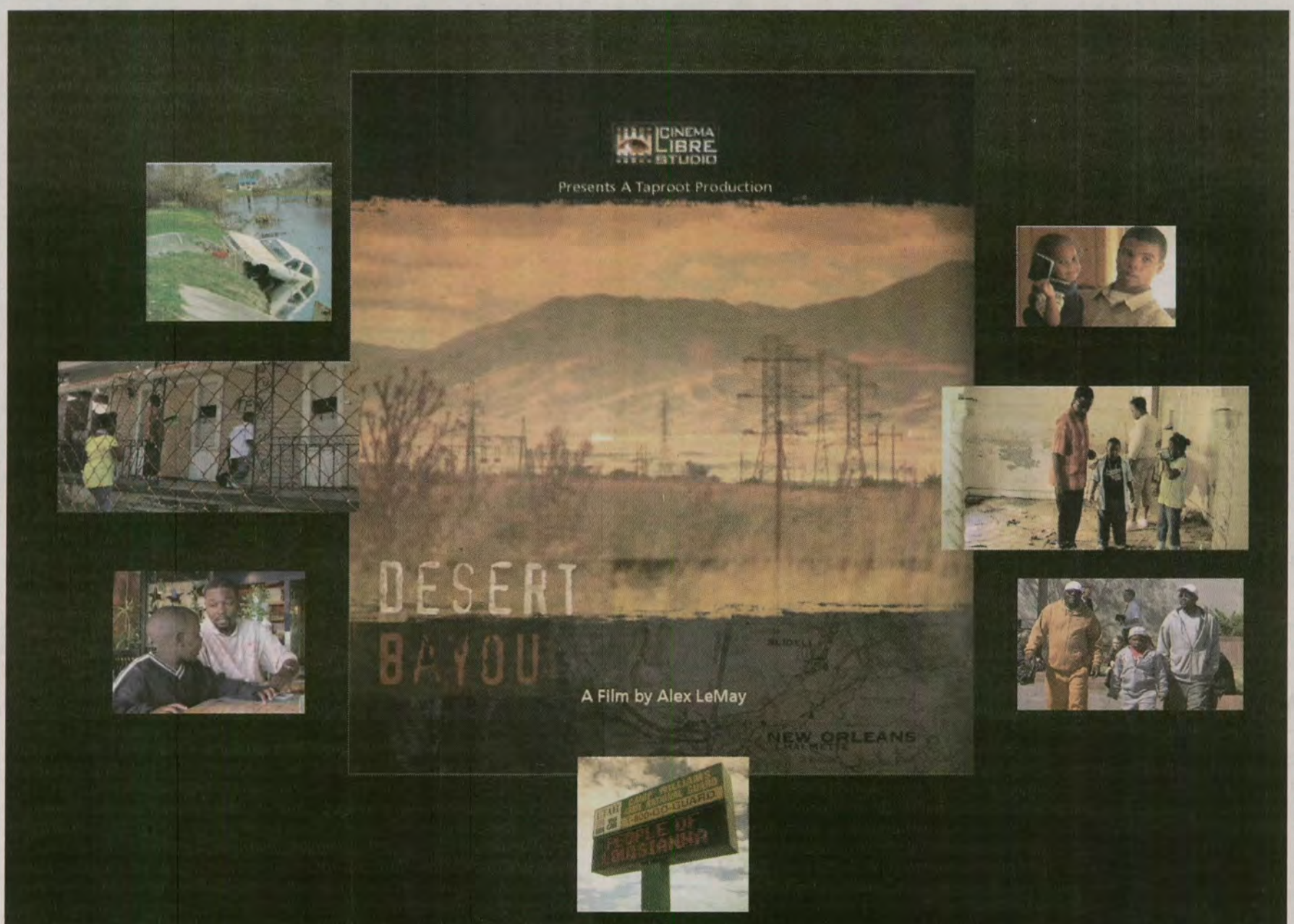
Tipoff is at 2 p.m. on ESPNU.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu



world view know no boundaries

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



In the wake of one of the worst natural and humanitarian disasters ever to visit American shores, nearly 600 African Americans were airlifted to the almost entirely white state of Utah without knowing where they were going. Desert Bayou seeks to examine whether two cultures can come together in a time of utter chaos, or whether their differences prove too great a challenge to overcome. In their own words, evacuees of Hurricane Katrina tell how they survived the storm-of-the-century and out of the rubble ended up at a military installation in the desert of Utah. With interviews from recording artist Master P, celebrity Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, evacuees, political and military leaders, and community and social figures, the questions of race, politics, and religion hurtle toward each other in this truly American story: a story of loss and reunion, sorrow and rebirth, anger and rejoicing, but most of all, a story of hope.

Director Alex LeMay will discuss his film and answer questions from the audience following the first screening. LeMay is an award-winning feature film and broadcast director. Over his 14-year career, he has directed a number of acclaimed feature films, as well as provided commercial media for some of the world's top-tier companies.

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DEBARTOLO PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Jackson

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"I tried to cross over and I lost the ball because the ball was so grippy and my hands are so small — I ain't got no big man hands," Jackson said. "I ended up getting it back — I thought I lost it — and I spun because the [defender] tried to cut me off. I just ended up spinning and I saw a wide open basket."

Jackson's bucket began a 22-6 run that turned the tide of the game and gave the Irish a 75-64 lead with 1:50 remaining in the contest. The spurt was capped off with two free throws by junior forward Ryan Ayers, who had drilled a 3-pointer two minutes earlier.

"I told [Ayers] to be more aggressive offensively," Brey said. "That was a huge [3-pointer] up top."

With 6:54 left to play, Irish junior guard Kyle McAlarney drilled a 3-pointer to cut Notre Dame's deficit to one point. Less than a minute later, McAlarney hit another trey to tie the score at 61-61. Before draining those two deep shots, McAlarney had made just 1-for-6 from beyond the arc.

"When I got my first good look of the second half, I just put it up and it went in," said McAlarney. "I'm kind of a streak shooter. If I hit one I know that kinda gets me going a little bit and makes me feel good, helps me get into a rhythm on both ends of the court."

Brey said he was pleased that McAlarney never stopped hunting for shots.

"The one bomb he took to kind of break their backs, that wasn't a great shot but I loved that he took it because of the belief," Brey said.

"I told [Ayers] to be more aggressive offensively."

Mike Brey
Irish coach

McAlarney scored 13 of his 15 points in the second half.

On the Pittsburgh possession after McAlarney's game-tying 3-pointer, Irish forward Luke Harangody stole a pass by Panthers forward Tyrell Biggs at the top of the key. Harangody, who finished with 23 points and 12 rebounds, cruised to the other end of the floor for a two-handed dunk that gave Notre Dame its first lead of the second half.

"It was the loudest I ever heard it get in there tonight."

Luke Harangody
Irish forward

"I saw his eyes and I just made a gamble and went for it and luckily got it," Harangody said. "Throwing that one down felt real good."

There were 11 lead changes in the first half but Pittsburgh made a run at the end of the period to go into the locker room with the 35-30 lead.

Notre Dame led 28-27 with 3:39 remaining in the half but Pittsburgh guard Gilbert Brown hit a jumper to give the Panthers a lead they would not relinquish until Harangody's slam. Pittsburgh guard Keith Benjamin knocked down a 3-pointer with 12 seconds left to give the Panthers the 5-point advantage.

After the break, Pittsburgh built on its lead and was up by 10 with 17:42 to play in the contest.

But the Panthers could not close out Notre Dame as most of the Joyce Center fans stood and cheered throughout the second half. The Irish notched their 35th straight home win in front of the boisterous crowd.

"It was the loudest I ever heard it get in there tonight," Harangody said. "That's a great thing to have. It definitely helps a lot."

Brey agreed with Harangody, saying that the home fans gave the Irish the boost they needed to overtake the Panthers.

"It's a state of mind that you believe you're gonna find a way here," Brey said. "When you play here in this crowd, you can play through fatigue better than the road team. And we did that tonight."

Irish senior captain Rob Kurz scored 14 points as the Irish improved to 20-5 overall and 10-3 in the Big East.

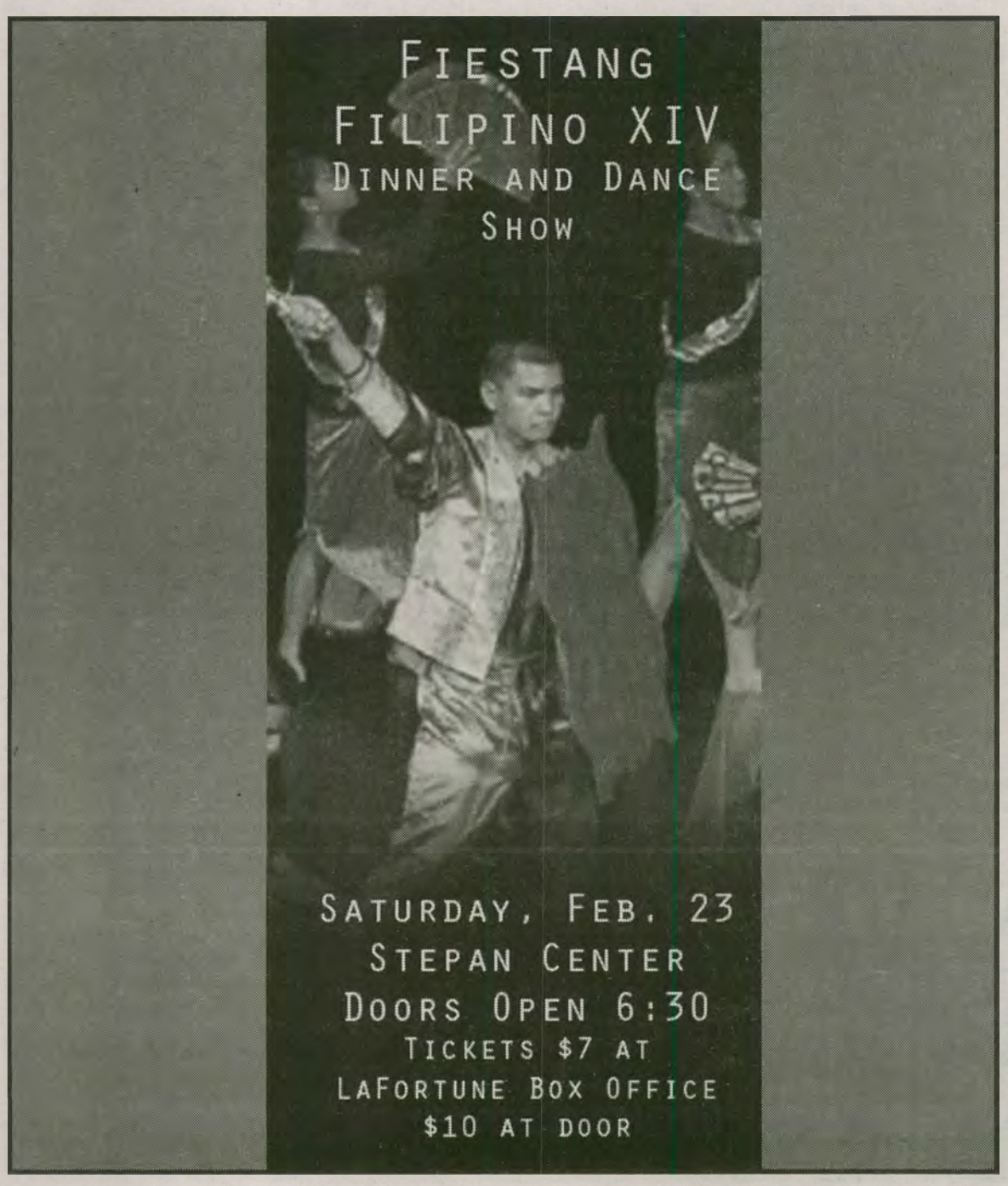
Note:

◆Notre Dame honored Irish all-time leading scorer Austin Carr with a video tribute at halftime. Carr scored 40 points or more 23 times during his three-year varsity career and was named a consensus All America and the AP/UPI Player of the Year in 1970-71. In an emotional speech, Carr said the greatest experience of his life was playing for Notre Dame. After the ceremony, he walked off the court to chants of "We love Austin."

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Junior forward Ryan Ayers dunks during Notre Dame's 82-70 win over Pittsburgh Thursday in the Joyce Center.



Tenuta

continued from page 24

to learn the players and what they can do first and foremost and adapt to that aspect."

Tenuta made no secret of the fact that he relished the opportunity to coach at Notre Dame. The University, he said, had a great allure to it.

"This is Notre Dame. You get so many opportunities to coach in your career," he said. "There's a lot of good jobs, but this is a great job. So Notre Dame is Notre Dame."

The personal touch of coach Weis, he said, cemented in his mind the need to come to Notre Dame. Tenuta said he had offers from other schools, but when Notre Dame came calling, it didn't use its athletic department bureaucracy to contact him like other schools did. Weis picked up the phone himself.

"To me, that was big," Tenuta said. "That put even more in it for me."

Tenuta's connection to Notre Dame started early, when he was a child growing up in Ohio.

"Growing up in Ohio you had Ohio State, you had Michigan, you had Notre Dame," he said. "That's just the way it was.

"Every Sunday morning whether I can remember back when John Huarte was a quarterback with [Terry] Hanratty and [Jim] Seymour and [Joe] Theismann to [Tom] Gatewood ... I mean, that's Notre Dame."

Now that he's here, Tenuta has to help fix an Irish defense that allowed 195.4 rushing yards per game last season. He will work closely with Brown, whose philosophies, he said, are similar to his.

"It's based on the people he's been around and some of the people we've been around, I've been around, so all of it comes into play," he said.

Losing his play-calling abilities did not bother Tenuta in the least. He said his past jobs allowed him the versatility to accept whatever role he played.

"I've been a coordinator most of my career and also not been a coordinator," he said. "So that part is no big deal."

Tenuta said adapting to Brown's 3-4 defense would not pose problems because in his 4-3 scheme, he would often drop a defensive end into coverage, essentially creating a 3-4 defense.

The Yellow Jackets made bowls in each of Tenuta's six seasons. Last season, Georgia Tech's defense led the nation in sacks with 3.69 per game. The defense ranked No. 20 in the nation in both yards allowed and rushing yards allowed.

Tenuta was previously a defensive coordinator for Marshall, Kansas State, Southern Methodist, Ohio State and North Carolina.

Known for his heavy blitz packages, Tenuta said he and Brown would continue to send extra men.

"I'm an aggressive attacking guy, so obviously, I hope and Corwin is, too," he said. "So we're going to attack and get downhill and make things happen."

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

OSU

continued from page 24

appearance at the Joyce Center two weeks ago, when the Irish were outplayed by Ferris State in a 5-3 loss and 2-2 tie. Before that series, the Irish held an 8-1 home record and hadn't lost in the Joyce Center since its second home game — a 3-1 loss to then-No. 5 Denver on Oct.19.

"This league is a lot better than people give it credit for," coach Jeff Jackson said. "Just because Ohio State isn't in the top eight of our standings doesn't mean they're not a good team. You really can't take anybody lightly in this league – that's just way it is, especially this time of season when everybody's jockeying for playoff position. If you're just a little bit off, you're going to get beat."

Despite the Buckeyes' (10-21-3, 6-16-2 CCHA) poor record, they have shown their dangerous potential with CCHA wins over No. 1 Michigan and quality clubs like Bowling Green and Alaska.

"It's a team with a lot of talent that's obviously underachieved, so the scary thing is that if they start playing the way they can, they can be really good," senior captain Mark Van Guilder said. "We've played these guys for three years, so we know what they're about. It's just not taking them lightly."

Notre Dame is 15-2-1 when scoring first this season and will try to jump out to a quick start against a young, up-tempo Ohio State squad. Though the Irish struggled in their first game home from Alaska last season (a 5-2 loss to Ferris State Feb. 23, 2007), Jackson believes his team has made the right preparations to avoid a repeat performance.

"I thought giving them an extra day off after coming back might help, but we'll find out because last year we came home from Alaska and we were flat," said Jackson, who didn't hold a mandatory practice until Wednesday. "I think they feel good with the extra time off and hopefully be able to come out sharp on Friday, because that's my motivation in giving them the day off."

The Irish are hoping they left their scoring woes in Fairbanks, where they managed just three goals in two games despite firing 71 shots at Nanooks goalie Wylie Rogers, who made 40 saves in Saturday night's 1-1 tie.

"I can't put it in the net for them, and I know that they want to put it in the net, but it's a matter right now of us running into good goaltenders," said Jackson, who was pleased with his team's ability to get to the net throughout the Alaska series. "But, we're also not clicking as well as we'd like to be right now. If we were, we'd be scoring six goals a game."

Buckeyes goalie Joe Palmer, a sophomore Jackson calls "one of the best young goalies in the country", presents another stiff backstop hoping to thwart the Notre Dame attack.

"The biggest thing against all goalies is just trying to move it across the crease on them," junior left wing Garrett Regan said. "[It's just] bringing it to the net as much as possible, as well as keeping screens and tips in front — if he can't see the puck, he's not going to be able to stop it."

With just one regular season home contest remaining after this weekend, the sense of urgency has been elevated, especially by the Irish veterans who know what it will take to repeat as CCHA tournament champions.

"We just need to continue to focus on what we need to do, work hard, and stick to our system," Condra said. "It's time to ramp it up for playoff-style hockey."

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

Zahm

continued from page 24

tried to put it in off the rebound," Rowland said. "We had two shots at it, and I finally put the third one in."

Zahm nearly answered after the Rowland goal, but Kearns stuffed another two-on-one attempt, keeping the momentum on the Dillon side until a pair of Big Red penalties gave the Zahmbies a man-up advantage for four straight minutes midway through the half.

"It's pretty much like the Stanley Cup. It's as good as it gets."

Greg Antell
Zahm sophomore

With just a few seconds remaining on the extended power play, senior Conor McNamara, a Carroll resident, received a textbook pass from sophomore Tim Thayer, who was stationed behind the net. McNamara blew the shot right by Kearns from eight feet, knotting the score at one and frustrating the Big Red bench.

"They just kept up the intensity and didn't commit stupid penalties," Rowland said. "We took too many cheap shots, and it cost us."

Three minutes later, sophomore Greg Antell — another Carroll resident — gave the Zahmbies the lead for good with an unassisted short-handed goal. Antell took the puck from behind his own net, sliced through virtually the entire Dillon defense, then fired a wrister near the blue-line that beat Kearns to the top corner.

"I was just trying to full throttle the whole way — Charlie's Angels 2 style," Antell said. "I just like to snipe and dangle, and that's what I tried to do as much as possible there — a la Bobby Orr."

With just over two minutes remaining, Hall stuffed Dillon's last real scoring chance, and the Big Red were forced to pull their goalie with a minute left and yet another player in the penalty box. Antell took advantage of the empty net and iced the game with 11.9 seconds remaining, clinching the title for the undefeated Zahmbies — who were a little more lighthearted during the victory celebration.

"I'd just like to thank the support system here for everything," Antell said. "I have to thank God, my mom, my grandfather, everyone. It's pretty much like the Stanley Cup. It's as good as it gets.

"Did I give a good sound byte there?"

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

NBA

Houston beats Miami for tenth straight win

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Rockets' 10th straight win was somewhat bittersweet.

Tracy McGrady scored 23 points and Yao Ming added 21 in a 112-100 victory over Miami on Thursday night that sent the Heat to their 10th straight loss.

Earlier in the day, the Rockets learned Mike James and Bonzi Wells were traded to New Orleans for Bobby Jackson and Adam Haluska and that Kirk Snyder was sent to Minnesota in exchange for Gerald Green.

"Everything happens for a reason and we've got to understand that this is a business," Carl Landry said. "We've got to be positive about the situation and try to go on and continue the winning streak."

Houston has won 14 of its last 15 games and the winning streak is its longest since the championship season of 1993-94 when the team opened with 15 straight. It is the fourth time in team history that the Rockets have had a double-digit winning streak.

They won't have to wait long to see two of their old friends as they meet West-leading New Orleans on Friday night.

"We lost a couple of guys that were well-liked around here, well liked in the locker room," Rafer Alston said. "That's the business side of basketball, but you've got to go out there and play."

Miami, the NBA's worst team playing in its first game since the All-Star break, has just nine wins and has lost 25 of its last 26 games.

The Heat got 33 points from Dwyane Wade, and Shawn Marion added 18 points and 10 rebounds in his fourth game with Miami since being traded from Phoenix in the Shaquille O'Neal deal.

The Rockets led comfortably most of the way and were ahead by 11 before Carl Landry wowed the crowd by putting his arms out as if he were flying on his way down from a dunk that made it 98-85 midway through the fourth quarter. Landry had 19 points.

The Heat wouldn't threaten again after that play.

"We dug a hole that was too deep and it is hard to come back," Marion said. "We had to exert so much energy in the comeback and we ran out of gas."

McGrady, who had 10 assists, got back on track after struggling with poor shooting in his last five games to post his first 20-point game since Feb. 4.

The Heat went on a 10-4 run, capped by a 3-pointer by Marion, to open the third quarter and cut it to 66-58. The Rockets reeled off five straight points to push their lead to 13 at 71-58 with about 7 minutes left in the quarter.

Miami cut the lead to eight points two more times in the third, but each time the Rockets answered with a small run to get the advantage back into double digits.

The Heat's ineptitude was on display in the second quarter when after a steal, Luther Head found a wide-open McGrady for the alley-oop dunk that pushed Houston's lead to 48-29 about eight minutes before halftime.

Wade crashed into Shane Battier in the lane on a layup attempt with about three minutes left in the second quarter and came up from the collision limping on his surgically repaired left knee. Battier was called with the foul.

He appeared OK after a time-out and made both free throws.

The scare had to have been a bit of deja vu for Wade as it was the one-year anniversary of a collision in Houston with Battier that separated his left shoulder. Wade was taken off the court in a wheelchair in tears in that one and missed the rest of the season and the early part of this one. It was his first return to Houston since the injury.

"I'm just thankful that I am not going to have to see him again this year," Wade said. "So hopefully I can stay healthy."

Houston led by as many as 20 in the second quarter and were up 62-48 at halftime.

The Rockets led 41-26 after the first quarter thanks to 14 points by McGrady, who was 6-of-8 with five assists. Alston added 11 points and six assists in the first quarter as the Rockets shot 81 percent to open the game and help Houston to a season-high for points in a quarter.

Alston finished with 16 points and 11 assists.

Hear the cool sounds of the

Festival Schedule

Wednesday, February 20
8-10:00 CJF Coffeehouse
LaFortune Ballroom
Featuring ND Jazz Band II

Thursday, February 21
8-11:00 CJF Swing Night
LaFortune Ballroom
8-9:00 Free swing lessons with ND Swing Club
9-11:00 Open swing dancing with live music
Featuring M.O.B.B. and the AAJC/HBCU All-star Big Band

Friday, February 22
7-10pm Evening concert block
Located in Washington Hall

Saturday, February 23
10-11:00 am Judges' Jazz Clinic
Ricci Band Building
Open to the public
1-10pm Afternoon/Evening concerts
Located in Washington Hall

For an extended schedule, visit
www3.nd.edu/~sub/cjf/

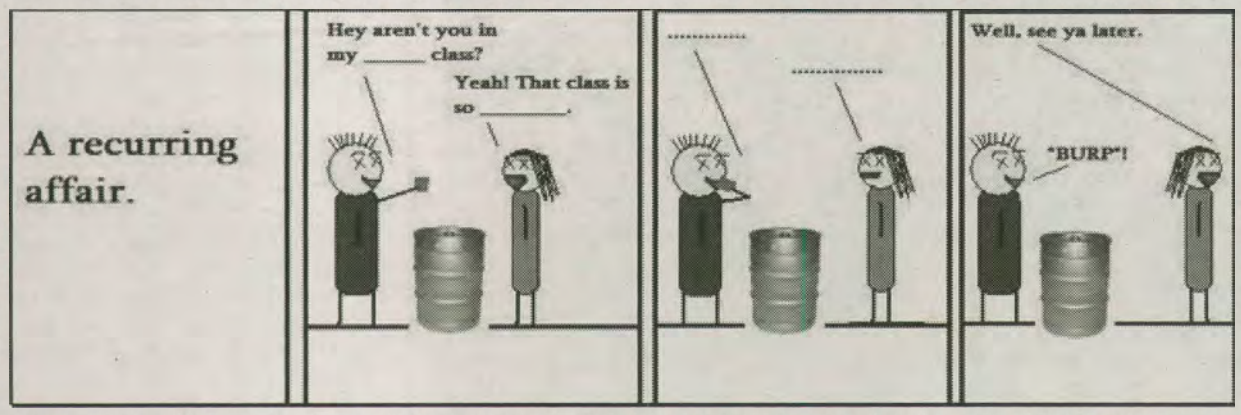
CJF sub

Black Dog

MICHAEL MIKUSKA

Lollerskates

DIDIER LEWIS



The Single Life

LINA PAEK

Crossword

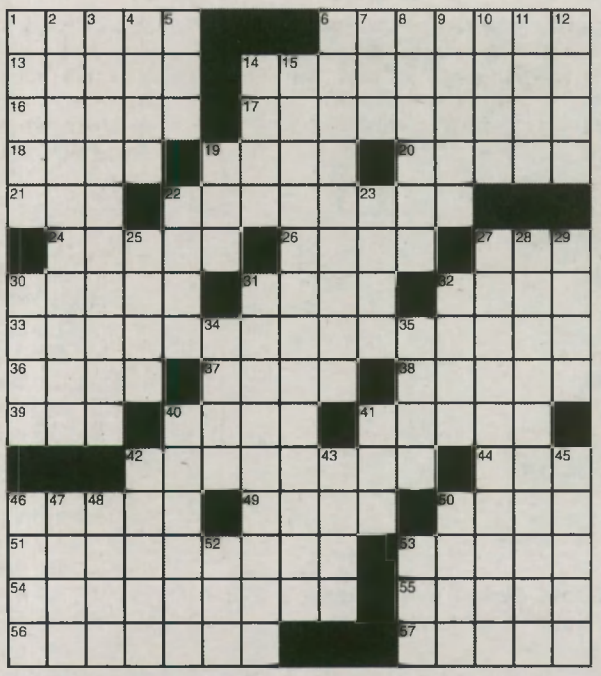
WILL SHORTZ

Across

1 Kind of year
6 Fed up with
13 It can be scary to go under this
14 Key
16 How some ashes are scattered
17 GQ figure
18 Detente
19 Dried out
20 Sound of contempt
21 Indication of feigned fright
22 They act on impulses
24 Like smooth-running engines
26 Black birds
27 Airport uniform abbr.
30 Mathematician famous for his incompleteness theorems
31 Pasta choice
32 One guarded in a soccer game
33 What you take when you do the right thing
36 Co-worker of Dilbert
37 Start of the Boy Scout Oath
38 Innovative chair designer
39 Innovative
40 Natural fluid containers
41 Backyard Jul. 4 event
42 Decision time
44 Fill-in
46 "Bummer"
49 Shortened word on a yellow street sign
50 It follows Shevat
51 "Win some, lose some"
53 Historic capital of Scotland
54 Concerning
55 "Outta sight!"
56 "Outta sight!"
57 ___ Landing (Philadelphia area)

Down

1 Pass superficially (over)
2 Free
3 Ditsy waitress player on "Mad About You"
4 Rough estimate
5 "Guilty," in a Latin legal phrase
6 Exchange of thoughts?
7 Burn up
8 Name of 11 ancient kings
9 Some collars
10 "White Flag" singer, 2003
11 Recovered from
12 Believed
14 Sign
15 Transition to a heliocentric model of the universe, e.g.
19 Late rocker Barrett
22 Auction
23 Draft
25 Nut cracker, perhaps
27 Negative sign
28 Requirement
29 They make connections
30 Fed
31 Sunburn preventer
32 Really take off
34 Winter coat?
35 Moon unit?
40 Minds
41 Drive nuts
42 Some sisters
43 ___ cat
45 Practices zymurgy
46 Toiletry brand introduced in 1977
47 Nail-biter's cry
48 Loud outburst
50 Long
52 Moon unit
53 Bribe



Puzzle by Mike Nothnagel

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

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	T	L	A	S		T	E	A	R		D	A	R	C
T	R	I	N	E		E	N	N	E		E	G	A	L
T	I	N	K	E	R	T	O	Y	S		N	O	N	O
N	O	A	H	S	A	R	K		T	B	I	R	D	S
					T	A	I	L	O	R	M	A	D	E
B	E	A	U	S				E	R	O	S			
A	G	G	R	O		S	L	E	E	K		S	I	S
J	O	H	N	L	E	C	A	R	R	E	B	O	O	K
A	S	A		I	G	O	R	S		I	R	A	N	I
			E	C	R	U				N	A	K	E	D
S	O	L	D	I	E	R	B	O	Y					
A	W	A	I	T	S		O	P	E	D	P	A	G	E
M	E	S	S		S	P	Y	C	A	M	E	R	A	S
O	N	T	O		E	R	E	I		A	T	I	L	T
A	S	S	N		S	O	R	T		J	E	S	S	E

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.

RATIE

GHEED

YURSLE

CEDITE

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www.jumble.com

WHAT THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR DID WHEN HE PICKED UP THE HITCHHIKER.

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

A: " " HIM

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BERET CHAMP CAUGHT MASCOT
Answer: When the winning doubles partners wore the same outfits, it was — GAME, SET, "MATCH"

Horoscope

FRIDAYS with FRAN

Celebrity Birthdays: Ferdinand Magellan (528 years old), Koby Clemens (20), Limp Bizkit (9), Al Roker (6 years skinny), Anna Nicole Smith (1 year dead)

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Whether you're a feminist or a male chauvinist, at least you can agree that you really like women.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct.22) Lie like a rug today.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) The last four letters of Snite Museum of Art are F-A-R-T. Haha, now I like art.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Would you rather snuggle or cuddle? Text your vote to (317) 258-1272. All votes will be kept confidential.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Bust a cap. Make creamed corn. Case closed.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) The soda fountain and speakeasy are primed for comebacks and it's up to you to make the magic happen.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Ponder this: In 60 years, you'll be bragging to your grandchildren that you remember when a beer at a bar was ONLY three or four dollars. And they'll be amazed.

Aries (March 21-Apr. 19) Crotchety is a funny word, isn't it?

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20) Quick, spell camofloge. Oh, you cheated and tried to use my spelling of the word, didn't you? You're a real rat.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) Slam a car door on someone's finger today. It'll make that person appreciate all those moments when his or her finger isn't getting crushed by a car door.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) Carmelo Anthony will be in town for the basketball game this weekend. Spread the rumor. Rumors can only lead to good things.

Leo (July 23-Aug.22) Did you know that there's a new Web site for college kids where you can anonymously post anything you want? You did already know that, Leo, you perv.

THE OBSERVER

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BASKETBALL

A double shot of T-Jack

Jackson's double-double leads team to victory

By FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writer

Tory Jackson is a mere 5-foot-11.

But he played as if he was a foot taller than that Thursday as Notre Dame came from behind to beat Pittsburgh 82-70 at the Joyce Center.

In a matchup between the two best rebounding teams in the Big East, the Irish point guard grabbed 13 rebounds to go with his 16 points and five assists.

"He's got great athletic ability and strength and he's got such a will about him and heart," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "He's a winner. He really is a winner."

Notre Dame trailed 58-53 with just over eight minutes to play when Jackson took the ball coast-to-coast for a layup. The sophomore appeared to lose control of the ball but managed to keep his dribble and spin through two Pittsburgh defenders before converting the basket.

see JACKSON/page 21

VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Irish sophomore guard Tory jackson goes for a layup during Notre Dame's 82-70 win over Pittsburgh Thursday. Jackson had 16 points and 13 rebounds.

FOOTBALL

New coach says blitzes fit with ND

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

Despite facing questions about his defensive style meshing with defensive coordinator Corwin Brown's 3-4 scheme and his affinity for the blitz, the only doctrinal tidbit John Tenuta revealed in his introductory press conference Thursday was his strategy for sneaking into the football stadium at Ohio State.

"I never got caught," Tenuta said with a proud smile. "For six years they couldn't catch me."

Tenuta, who joined the Irish as the new assistant head coach/defense on Jan. 31 after serving as the defensive coordinator at Georgia Tech for six years, will coach the linebackers next season. He arrived in South Bend Monday and has been working with the linebackers, but said he's not sure exactly what he has to work with.

"I've watched lots of film," he said. "But, I mean, that's a tough question after four days. I've got

see TENUTA/page 21

HOCKEY

Irish return home for OSU

Icers take on Buckeyes in two games at JACC

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Writer

The Irish return home this weekend for a two-game set with conference foe Ohio State — and after last weekend's trek to Fairbanks, Alaska, the Joyce Center has never seemed so appealing.

"We're pretty excited to get back home and get our crowd back on our side," said junior right wing Erik Condra, who leads Notre Dame with 33 points this season. "We need to get [our fans] excited about coming here and get ourselves excited about coming back home and dominating here."

With a win in either tonight's 7:35 opener or tomorrow's 7:05 p.m. finale, the Irish (21-10-3, 14-7-3 CCHA) can clinch fourth place in the CCHA, which comes with a bye and a guaranteed home series in the conference tournament that begins March 7.

To do that, though, Notre Dame must re-establish the home-ice advantage it squandered in its last

see OSU/page 22

WU YUE/The Observer

Irish right wing Ryan Thang shoots during Notre Dame's 2-1 win over the U.S. Under-18 National Team on Feb. 1.

INTERHALL HOCKEY

Zahm upends Dillon to claim championship

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Writer

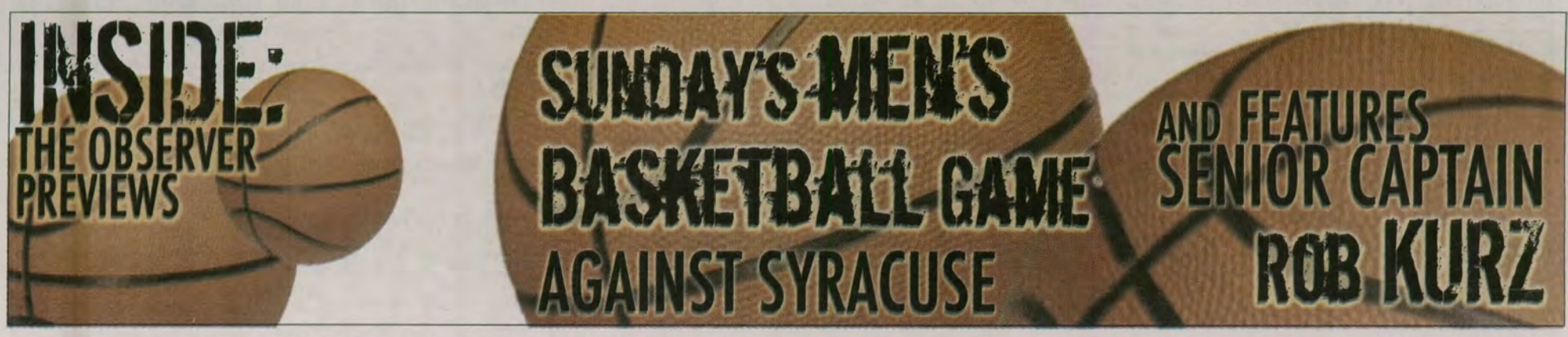
Before the puck was even dropped for Wednesday night's Interhall hockey title game — before Dillon even stepped onto the ice for warm-ups — Zahm had set the tone.

With its serious (well, as serious as Interhall gets) approach, which included professional-style jerseys, an organized pregame routine, and a rowdy fanbase, the Zahmbies were able to outlast the defending champions 3-1 by scoring three unanswered second-half goals.

"We've been a second-half team all year," said Zahm junior goalie Chris Hall, who made 17 saves to lock down the win. "I think our depth was really a key, and we were able to bounce back and keep throwing new guys out there. They had two rotating lines ... eventually, you're going to get tired."

The teams played a fast-paced but scoreless first half, during which Zahm fired 19 shots, including five straight on one power play, at Dillon freshman netminder Sean Kearns, who made an array of spectacular saves with his stick, glove and body.

Despite all the Zahmbies' chances, it was the Big Red that broke into the scoring column first. Though many of its early attempts came in transition following Zahm misses, it wasn't until Dillon senior Jamie Rowland put home a rebound from junior Will Cushing 30 seconds into the second half that the Big Red made the score 1-0.

"I just crashed the net and

see ZAHM/page 22