

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 43 : ISSUE 71

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2009

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Obama inaugurated as 44th president



AARON STEINER/The Observer

Please turn to
page 8 for
full coverage.

Onlookers clap and take pictures on the National Mall yesterday as Barack H. Obama is inaugurated.

Millions crowd the Capitol to witness historic inauguration

By JENN METZ
News Editor

WASHINGTON — The millions of those who poured in from across the country, braved the cold and waited in hours of disorganized lines to witness history, rejoiced in celebration shortly after noon on Tuesday as Barack H. Obama was sworn in as the 44th president of the United States.

His inaugural address, delivered before a crowd perhaps unlike anything our nation's capital city has ever seen before gathered on the National Mall, once again enumerated the challenges to come but also called for an America that returns to the ideals set forth by its forefathers, an America that is "ready to lead

once more."

Those in attendance, forming an indistinguishable sea of waving American flags, listened almost in reverence to the words of the first black president of the United States, who expressed his humility at being able to go down in the history books as the 44th man to take the oath of office.

"I stand here today humbled by the task before us," he said, "grateful for the trust you have bestowed, mindful of the sacrifices borne by our ancestors."

Obama, just after taking the oath of office on the same Bible Abraham Lincoln used in his 1861 inauguration, spoke for almost 20 minutes, assuring his fellow Americans that

see SPEECH/page 8

Many travel to Washington to be a part of celebration

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Associate News Editor

WASHINGTON — Yearning to be a part of history, more than a million people thronged around the U.S. Capitol Tuesday to witness the swearing-in of the 44th president of the United States of America, Barack Obama.

Thousands arrived in the District before dawn broke, cramming onto Metro trains or walking into the city only to stand in queues that stretched around buildings and under bridges, past museums and between barricades.

Those who had tickets to the viewing areas closest to the Capitol were scarcely better off than those who did not, as lines for the largest tick-

eted area, the silver zone, stretched on for over a mile.

When the hour of the noon swearing-in drew near, those in line at Independence and 3rd St. to get into one of the ticketed areas began chanting, "Let us in," and waved their silver viewing tickets to security.

About 20 minutes before the ceremony began, their chants were answered as thousands more were allowed onto the National Mall behind the Reflecting Pool. Stepping over collapsed net fencing, beside a row of hundreds of portable toilets, those who had waited in line for hours took their place, shoulder to shoulder, to watch the peaceful transition of power, as President

see TRAVEL/page 8



JESS LEE/The Observer

Students in LaFortune Student Center watch President Barack H. Obama speak on television yesterday.

Students watch ground-breaking event at locations around campus

By EMMA DRISCOLL
News Writer

Tuesday's historic inauguration of President Barack Obama was an inspirational moment to remember for many students, a moment they'll remember for the rest of their lives.

"It was important that I saw history being made," sophomore Sean Gibbons said. "Just how historic it was, not just the fact that he's black, but the fact that so much of the world has

been inspired by his election."

Senior Emma Whitten took in the inauguration from the lounge area of LaFortune Student Center, where many students chose to watch the inauguration.

"It was really cool watching it with a ton of people," Whitten said. "Everybody cheered at all the right moments and I cried a little bit."

Even from the television screens in LaFortune, Whitten was impressed with the amount of people that

gathered to be at the actual inauguration.

"It was kind of incredible when they showed the shots of everybody out in the Mall," Whitten said.

Senior, Caitlin Conway watched the inauguration from her off-campus house. She enjoyed Aretha Franklin's performance.

"I'm from Detroit, so I loved the Aretha song — one of Michigan's natural resources [as voted by the Michigan legislature]."

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INSIDE COLUMN

Challenge me

I love challenges in football. Referees getting calls wrong isn't 'part of the game' like in baseball, where balls and strikes or safe-out calls are subject to umpires' discretion. But I'm sick of the commentary surrounding challenge calls, both from the commentators and other people in the room.

Bill Brink

Sports Editor

There's nothing worse than hearing Mike Tirico babble on about how many feet you need in bounds for a catch while you watch Andre Johnson drag his feet on the sideline for the sixth time. It's the same principle with John Madden and the on-screen pen. I can see that it's third-and-seven. Don't circle the graphic on the screen that displays down and distance.

The commentators treat challenges like a magic eye — if you look at it enough times, eventually it will get clearer and clearer. How else can you explain seeing the replays over and over? Once you've seen all the different views once or twice, what can we glean from repeated viewings?

The worst doesn't come until you're watching a game with nine other people. You get nine versions of the NFL rulebook as you're watching the replays. I also feel like I'm watching in the radio booth. You hear nine people narrate what you can clearly see in front of you: "His knee's down there..." (I can see that) "...and the ball comes out there..."

Enough. Stop treating me like I'm four. At this point, most people watching football have seen enough challenges — and the subsequent analyses that go with them — to understand how they work. So here's what I propose: show all the angles of the replay, then have a football trivia game. If Donovan McNabb doesn't know the overtime rules, how much do you think the average fan knows about obscure rules of the game?

For example, a question about challenges, since that's the topic of the column. If a coach wins all of his challenges, how many does he get? Three. And did you know that if you put in your third-string quarterback before the fourth quarter, the first and second string QBs cannot re-enter the game?

I'd rather do trivia than hear an endless loop of readily apparent information spat at me until "the ground can't cause a fumble" gets stuck in my head like "Single Ladies."

Another alternative: give me a microphone inside the referee's huddle after a controversial play, and a camera under the hood where the referee watches the replay. Give me a transparent view of how they make their decisions. Anything to break the monotony of replays and analysis.

Final thought: American Idol-ize the challenge procedure. Allow viewers at home to text their votes to the refs; most votes wins. After watching Santonio Holmes' touchdown get taken away by a challenge in the AFC Championship game, that method might be more fool-proof than the current system.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

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: How do you plan to celebrate the 2009 Presidential Inauguration?



Anna Jones

senior
Walsh

"Watching CNN, spending time with friends and family, and having the occasional 'celebratory toast.'"



Mike Healy

senior
off-campus

"I'm having pheasant, duck and molasses sweet potatoes for lunch."



Jay Datar

senior
off-campus

"I'm spending it by waiting for change."



Serene Bethune

senior
McGlinn

"By talking to my 97 year old grand-daddy about this moment in history and 'toasting' too."



Megan Savage

senior
off-campus

"Living vicariously through my sisters who live in Washington, D.C."



WU YUE/The Observer

Lee Svete, the director of ND Career Center is hosting the "Preparing for the Career Fair" workshop in Howard Green Lounge, yesterday

OFFBEAT

Fishermen spent a month floating in an ice box

CANBERRA — Two Myanmar fishermen have survived for almost a month in shark-infested waters by floating in a large ice box after their boat sank, rescue officials said.

The men, both aged in their 20s, were on a 12-meter Thai fishing boat with 18 others when it sank in heavy seas off Australia's north coast on December 23, said Australian Maritime Safety Authority spokeswoman Tracy

Jiggins.

"They had no safety equipment, no beacons, no means of communication and they'd been drifting for 25 days," Jiggins told Reuters Tuesday, describing the ice box as "desk sized."

"For them to have even been spotted in a huge body of water is amazing," she said.

New shelter houses dogs of homeless owners

BRUSSELS — A shelter in the Belgian city of Liege has opened its doors to dogs this winter to persuade their

homeless owners to come in from the freezing cold.

The city's social welfare agency has agreed to house about eight homeless people with their pets at a local soccer club when it is freezing outside.

Michel Faway, secretary-general of the agency, said the programme started because many homeless people refused to come inside without their dogs no matter how cold it got.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Author and Senior Astrophysicist at the Space Telescope Science Institute at Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Mario Livio, will give a Public Lecture entitled, "Is God a Mathematician?" Today at 7:00 p.m. in the Hesburgh Library Auditorium. A book-signing will precede and follow the talk.

Tim Robbins will be giving a lecture called "Theater as Community" at 7 p.m. Today in Leighton Concert Hall in DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets can be purchased online or through the ticket office for \$5.

John Smart, president of the Acceleration Studies Foundation will give his lecture entitled "Foresight Development in a World of Accelerating Change: Thoughts from an Evo Devo Futurist" in the Jordan Auditorium, Mendoza College of Business as part of the Ten Years Hence Lecture Series. This event will be held on Friday at from 10:40 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

There will be a panel discussion entitled "Pornucopia: Living in a Pornified Culture." It will be held in Room 100, Hesburgh Center Auditorium on Thursday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. with a reception to follow in the Great Hall. This event is sponsored by Gender Relations Center (GRC), Gender Studies, Ethics & Culture, Philosophy Dept, Phys Ed Wellness, Campus Ministry, and IDND.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 26 LOW 20	HIGH 10 LOW -11	HIGH 32 LOW 21	HIGH 27 LOW 11	HIGH 13 LOW 5	HIGH 11 LOW 9

Atlanta 42 / 23 Boston 23 / 14 Chicago 28 / 21 Denver 67 / 39 Houston 68 / 45 Los Angeles 72 / 52 Minneapolis 31 / 14 New York 26 / 18 Philadelphia 26 / 20 Phoenix 81 / 55 Seattle 47 / 35 St. Louis 43 / 27 Tampa 55 / 32 Washington 31 / 19

COR

Group examines dorm relations

Project would encourage same-sex friendships outside of dorms

By LIZ O'DONNELL
News Writer

Same-sex dorm events were the topic of discussion at the Council of Representatives' (COR) first meeting of the semester.

Drawing from a campaign promise made by student body president Bob Reish, COR discussed ways to increase communication and friendship among students of the same gender.

"If you're not from the same dorm, contact is often awkward or forced," said Reish.

The aim of the project would be to encourage students to participate and coordinate activities with same-sex dorms.

One area of discussion was whether or not monetary funding would be offered as an incentive to participate.

Other incentives were discussed including possibly giving away points toward the Hall of the Year Award.

Money for funding would most likely come from the Student Government budget or be asked for during allocations for this specific purpose.

"The most important way of publicizing this issue will be to talk about it," said Reish, "That's definitely something we want to do."

Various COR members discussed their participation in some of the same-sex events already on campus.

Highlighted among these events was the Dillon-Alumni Big Red Dawg dance, the Keenan-Stanford Masses, and the grouping together of same-sex dorms during Frosh-O activities.

COR members stressed they were not trying to



WU YUE/The Observer

Student body president Bob Reish, left, and Vice president Grant Schimdt, right, discuss dorm relations at Tuesday's meeting.

force contact between same-sex dorms, but encouraging it.

"Seeing people outside of class, just seeing them in a different setting gives you the ability to see them in a new light," said Reish.

Ideas for potential events included 5-K runs, inter-dorm masses, and dances.

The focus for these events would be more on the planning process than on the outcome, that way students would be able to work together with other students and get to know them more personally.

Reish said that if the program were to be funded, it would only be so for a short period of time, possibly no longer than two years.

In other COR news:

♦ Reish said the off-campus eatery discount booklets have arrived and were

approved. They should be available soon for purchase

♦ COR has a new appeal form that will be implemented. A few changes were made to the old form including a new event history portion.

♦ Reish also took the time at the end of the meeting to preview new topics that will be up for discussion during this semester's COR meetings. These included evaluating the ticket lottery process for home games, increasing student activity fees to include a spring concert, a new student orientation for students transferring in during the spring semester, and an update on the Peer Advocacy Program.

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SMC honors Moreau feast day with play

By MEGAN LONEY
News Writer

What do a yoga class, a vision, the Notre Dame fight song and a gardener have in common? Father Basil Anthony Moreau, of course.

Saint Mary's College honored the feast day of Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau, the Founder of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, with a play incorporating all of these seemingly unrelated entities.

"The Fighting Jardiniers" is a play written by Bill Lawrence at the prompting of Saint Mary's director of special events, Richard Baxter. Baxter said he asked Lawrence to develop a script that would examine Holy Cross spirituality.

"Following the Beatification of Father Moreau, I wanted to do something at Saint Mary's which would help us better understand where we were with Father Moreau's intent to establish Holy Cross ministries," Baxter said.

Lawrence and Baxter met while studying at the University of Utah and both are now affiliated through their work at Holy Cross Institutions.

Though the play was created to help establish an understanding of the influence of Father Moreau's vision in the lives of students at Saint Mary's, Notre Dame and Holy Cross, it is lively and invokes smiles and laughter, Baxter said.

"This is not meant to be a boring, dull, educational evening of material regurgitated from dusty history books," he said.

The play takes place at Holy

Cross High School, a fictional high school in Indiana, and how Moreau's vision of Holy Cross has been fulfilled, Baxter said. The school's mascot is the Fighting Gardner, or jardinier in French, which is where the title of the play comes from, according to a press release.

The production featured Saint Mary's students and faculty including assistant professor Michael Kramer, associate professor Bill Svelmoe, and sophomore Maria Chipman.

There was more on the agenda for the cast than providing quality

entertainment for the audience, Baxter said. He hopes the audience took the lessons presented in the play to heart.

"I'd like for people to leave [the play] with an appreciation of continuing Moreau's hope that we educate the whole person — not just the mind," he said. "I also hope they leave with an appreciation for the call to sainthood, something Father Moreau took to heart. This is something we all must face day-to-day, minute-by-

minute, in the trenches of our routines."

The play was also one of the activities the College planned to celebrate Heritage Week, a week to remember and celebrate the origins of Saint Mary's, including celebrating Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau, the founder of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, who was beatified on September 15, 2007 and whose feast day was yesterday, Baxter said.

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Vatican official discusses immigration challenges

By ROBERT SINGER
News Writer

Speaking about the plight of migrant workers, war refugees, and religious pilgrims, Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, a Vatican official on immigration, said the issue has become "an event that affects the structure of our society and comprises a problem that is a social, cultural, political, and not least, pastoral reality."

Marchetto, who gave a lecture entitled "Immigration: Global Perspective" Tuesday, discussed the Church's role in helping migrants adapt to their new surroundings. An aspect of pastoral care, this effort seeks to create a "culture of welcome" for people displaced by economic hardship and civil war.

Refugees fleeing countries torn by civil war face many challenges, Marchetto said.

"Civil war migration is a phenomenon that brings a lot of suffering," he said. "You do not know the customs, the language. You are emerged in a world that is not yours, but you must find work."

Marchetto said the bishop of the region that has an influx of immigrants is responsible for their pastoral care to ensure that their language, culture and popular devotion are respected while they adapt to new surroundings.

"It is important that there is a dialogue between the church of origin and the church of arrival, so that the integration of the migrants is going on smoothly," Marchetto said.

As people migrate, they often

leave family members behind. The Church must work to alleviate the hardship caused when a family's caretaker or provider is separated, Marchetto said. "One of the biggest problems of the migrants is the question of the family. In many cases, there is rupture. More or less, 50 percent of the migrants are women."

Sometimes, especially in countries suffering from civil war, tension develops when family members are forced to fight on separate sides. Marchetto said that the Church is working to peacefully reunite families — most notably in Uganda, where children have been kidnapped and trained to kill their parents.

"In Africa, the Catholic Church is playing a role to reconcile children back to their families," Marchetto

said.

Marchetto also touched on the poverty in the developing world that is causing many to migrate to more affluent countries. He called for a world in which "goods are more equally distributed" and voiced optimism that President Obama could help the economies of impoverished nations.

"This phenomenon also raises the ethical issue of the search for a new economic order," he said. "This was raised by the new president today, and I hope that it is something that is really in his conscience."

As the global economic downturn makes it difficult for many citizens of wealthy nations to find employment, Marchetto said anti-immigrant sentiment is rising and will pose challenges in the future.

"If there are less jobs, and the local people have to fight to have the jobs, and they find in their way other people who are not from their country, it is easy for them to have animosity," he said. "So, this is really a point of difficulty in the future."

But Marchetto expressed optimism about the possibility of an integrated world in which people of different cultures interact peacefully.

"Sometimes there is a fear to be surrounded by migrants, but I think it is a splendid opportunity to meet people and to see that we have the same suffering and the same joys and that we are one family," he said.

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Please recycle The Observer.

Holy Cross fathers share stories of priesthood

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

University president Father John Jenkins said that as an undergrad at Notre Dame, if someone had told him he would become president of the University, he would have had them committed.

"I couldn't imagine anything less likely," he said. "Life takes funny turns."

Jenkins shared his experiences as a priest in the Congregation of Holy Cross as part of the celebration of the Feast of Blessed Basil Moreau Tuesday in Washington Hall in a talk entitled "Men in Black: Holy Cross Stories."

Jenkins attended Notre Dame as a lay student, and did not enter into the seminary until after graduation from the University.

"What led me to take priesthood seriously was not so much a sense of the role of being a priest, although that is impor-

tant, it was sense that whatever I did in my life should be meaningful," he said. "I think that desire has been fulfilled in tremendous ways."

Jenkins said his vocation has been "satisfying work" from his first job as a parish priest to teaching at Notre Dame.

"I loved teaching. I feel that the vocation of a teacher is close to that of a priest," he said. "You engage [students] at a deep level, and it is just a great privilege to teach people and to raise questions in their life."

As a priest, Jenkins said he has been privileged to preside over weddings, work with people who have dedicated their lives to service and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Although many people think Confession is a challenge in the priesthood, Jenkins said at those times people are not at their worse, but at their best.

"The Sacrament of Confession is particularly powerful," he said. "You really see

the working of God's grace in people's lives, and to be a witness to that intimately is a privilege."

However, priesthood does have its challenges, Jenkins said. If a layperson and loses his or her temper, they are considered a jerk, he said. But if a priest and loses his temper, people ask how a priest could do that.

"To stand for something more than yourself is a daily challenge," he said.

Fathers Bill Lies, executive director of the University's Center for Social Concerns, Robert Dowd, assistant professor of political science and Peter McCormick, rector of Keough Hall also shared stories at the event.

Lies said he attended Catholic school and grew up in a religious family, surrounded by relatives who were priests and nuns.

"I was doomed from the start," he said.

His mother taught him very

early on in life that life was about inviting people in and building community, Lies said.

"I realized that I had some choices to make," he said. "I knew I loved the lord and loved the Church, and I thought, if someone like me doesn't think about serving God as a priest, who will?"

Lies said he loved Holy Cross from the moment he met the Holy Cross priests at Notre Dame.

"We give one another a home," he said.

Dowd said he grew up admiring his parish priest for his humility and the kind way he

treated the people of the parish, and pictured a similar path for himself.

"As a small kid I used to celebrate mass quite often," he said. "I was famous for fire and brimstone homilies, but over the years I have softened up."

Later, as an adolescent, Dowd said he thought less about joining the priesthood, and instead dreamed of becoming a major league baseball player.

It was not until enrolling as a

Notre Dame undergrad that he again considered the priesthood, Dowd said.

"I was really inspired by the priests and brothers I met here at Notre Dame," he said. "It began to seem plausible to me, and very attractive."

McCormick said he thought seriously about priesthood in high school, but did not pursue the vocation until after college. He said he came to Notre Dame, knowing nothing except that a friend of his was living in Old College.

"What I found when I got here though, was the beginnings of another family," McCormick said.

Later, when serving a parish in Phoenix, McCormick said he finally truly believed that priesthood was what he was called to do.

"It was the people that taught me what it means to be a priest," he said.

McCormick is currently the rector of Keough Hall, which he said has been a joyous experience.

"[The students] teach me a lot," he said. "They give me a lot of laughs, and they even taught me to play guitar hero and for that I am eternally grateful."

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Professor discusses Vatican II

By MOLLY MADDEN
News Writer

Last night, the third part of the Second Vatican Council lecture series sponsored by the Orestes Brownson Council on Catholicism and American Politics took place. The Orestes Brownson Council chose to have this lecture focus on the document Gaudium Et Spes, or The Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World.

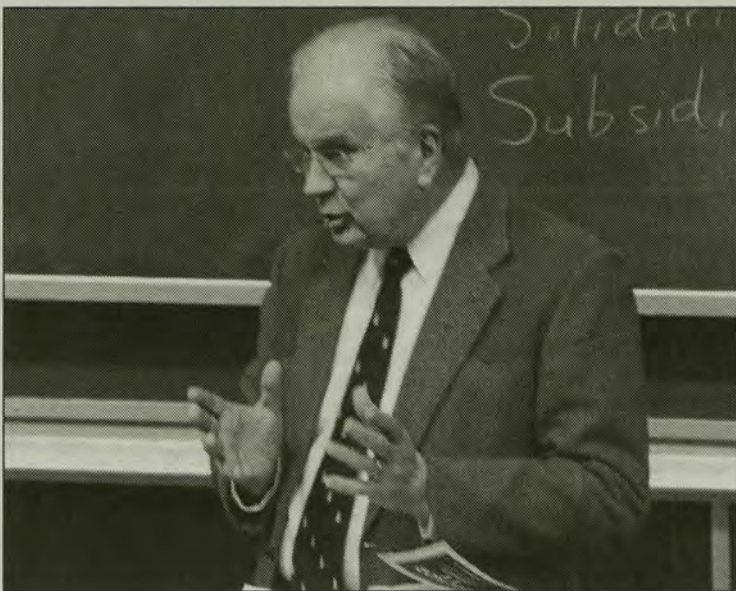
"Gaudium Et Spes is the document of Vatican II that gathered up information from past encyclicals and gathered it all up into one cohesive text," said Professor Walter Niegorski of the Program of Liberal Studies.

The Gaudium Et Spes document was made public by Pope Paul VI on December 7, 1965, the day of the council's conclusion. The document is considered to be one of the chief accomplishments of the council as it addresses issues about the Church's role in the modern world.

Niegorski said that the document had four basic principles of dignity, sociality, solidarity and subsidiary, which contributed in the shaping of the document's main goal.

"I believe, that in reading this document, one sees an emerging goal. Along with this goal, they can see four principles that have shaped the goal and therefore they can also see the spirit and the means used to achieve this goal," he said.

This overall goal is to answer the question of what role Church plays in the modern world. Given the time period in which the document was written, there are many social and political implications that need to be taken into account



Professor Walter Niegorski of the Program of Liberal Studies participates in the Second Vatican Council lecture series Tuesday.

when addressing this goal.

"Gaudium Et Spes is reflective of that period of the early 1960s," Niegorski said. "Here in America, we had the Civil Rights Movement, the beginnings of Vietnam, and the threat of nuclear war. In other parts of the world intense decolonization struggles were taking place."

In light of all these struggles the Council used the document to try and help develop the full caliber of human dignity, he said.

"The whole essence of human dignity is to participate in life," Niegorski said. "The solidarity aspect of the document is that it makes distinct efforts to help make the modern world a better place in where ideas can be spread, no matter where those ideas came from."

Another aspect of Gaudium Et Spes is an extension of acceptance of others, he said.

"Gaudium Et Spes condones openness with others," he

said. "This openness with embracing others extends to all people who respect genuine values; it even extends to non-believers such as Atheists."

However, Niegorski said that the Council acknowledged in the document its own limitations.

"The document states that the Church does not always have a ready answer to every question. What this does is help to solidify the vision that the Church stands for in the modern world," he said.

Overall, Niegorski says that the document says that we all have a responsibility to embrace the good in the world.

"The vision and goal of the Church with Gaudium Et Spes is to endorse the fullness of human life; the life in which religious dynamism is open and free to be fulfilled in light of the Gospel," he said.

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Right to Life club funds trip to Washington

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Writer

The majority of students traveling to Washington, D.C. to participate in the March for Life left last night, to see the sights and attend events in the capitol tomorrow and march in the Right to Life March on Thursday.

The trip is sponsored by the Right to Life Club.

"Tons of people go. It's literally a river of people just walking past the Capitol. It's exciting. There are motivational speakers talking, famous people," said freshman Gabrielle Stroik, who attended the march last year and is going again this year.

Stroik said that some of those marching hold signs, some of which have statistics, or promote adoption and saving lives.

The March begins at 4th Street and ends at the Supreme Court building, said Stroik. The March will pass the Capitol building on the way, she said.

"When you go to something like this, you know that you are promoting a good cause and spreading awareness of something that should be understood by people, especially with the Freedom of Choice Act coming up. This is the perfect time to go show our support for life," said Stroik.

The Freedom of Choice Act will "protect, consistent with Roe v. Wade, a woman's freedom to choose to bear a child or terminate a pregnancy," according to the National Right to Life Web site.

According to the Web site, President Barack Obama said to a Planned Parenthood Action Fund in July of 2007, "The first thing I'd do as president is sign the Freedom of Choice Act. That's the first thing that I'd do."

Conscious of President Obama's intentions, freshman Patrick Hess is going on march in order to show the nation that he disagrees with abortion.

"Our country needs to be aware that there are different opinions," said Hess, who wants to go to D.C. to see the sights, to have a good time, and to "stand up and let [my] voice be heard to our nation's capitol."

Hess understands that as a male, he personally will never make the decision whether or not to get an abortion, but "it's just kind of one of those things that the more voices the louder the cry," he said, and travels to D.C. with the intent of showing his support for the right to life.

"I can have my voice be heard and show the nation that there are people that support life and want to end abortion," he said.

Stroik finds her pro-life stance primarily based in her Catholic faith.

"I've grown up in a Catholic family. I have five siblings and I've just grown to really appreciate life," said Stroik. "Children are great ... and even the tiniest child will grow up to a famous engineer or scientist. Life really begins at conception. It's a core part of the Catholic faith to respect life."

Hess's views also come his faith.

"From what I've been taught through my faith and my own reasoning, the miracle that is life is from conception through death. That is what I feel is life, said Hess.

Students attending the March that did not leave last night will go on a shorter trip to D.C. and leave tonight, Stroik said. They will be in D.C. in time to march on Thursday, she said.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Russia restarts gas flow to Europe

MOSCOW — Russia's Gazprom gas monopoly says it has restarted gas shipments through Ukrainian pipelines to Europe after halting them nearly two weeks ago amid a pricing dispute.

Gazprom spokesman Boris Sapozhnikov says EU-led monitors will track the flow of the gas being pumped into Ukraine. He says the gas flow was restarted around 1030 Moscow time (0730 GMT) Tuesday.

Officials say it could take 36 hours for gas to reach consumers in Europe.

Russia halted gas shipments to Europe on Jan. 7 as it argued with Ukraine over 2009 gas prices. Europe gets about one-fifth of its gas from Russia via Ukrainian pipelines.

Supplies were restarted after Russian and Ukrainian officials signed a deal Monday that doubled the price for supplies to Ukraine.

China appeals to U.S. for cooperation

BEIJING — China made a rare appeal for cooperation between its normally secretive military and Washington on Tuesday but said U.S. arms sales to Taiwan remain a "serious harm to Sino-U.S. relations."

The statements came as China issued a major policy paper on national defense that said blocking formal Taiwanese independence remains the chief concern for one of the world's fastest-growing armed forces.

A Chinese military spokesman presenting the paper made an apparent reference to Taiwan as one of the "obstacles" the Pentagon should remove for better relations with China.

NATIONAL NEWS

Blagojevich misses second deadline

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich on Tuesday missed his second deadline for filing formal answers to an impeachment charge, with a Senate trial over his ouster now less than a week away.

The second-term Democrat, whose criminal lawyers quit his impeachment defense in protest of the trial's rules last week, had until 4 p.m. to file a request to dismiss the charge and kill the Senate proceeding. Had he done so, senators, sitting as judges in the trial, would have voted on whether to grant the request.

As a result of his inaction, the Senate will presume that the governor pleads "not guilty" to the charge and move toward opening the historic trial on Monday, said Toby Trimmer, spokesman for Senate President John Cullerton.

485 now affected by salmonella

ATLANTA — Health officials say the number of people sickened in a national salmonella outbreak involving peanut butter has grown to 485 cases.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Tuesday the number has been inching up as lab tests confirm that new cases have the same genetic fingerprint as the outbreak strain. The illnesses have been reported in 43 states and Canada, and may have contributed to the deaths of six people.

LOCAL NEWS

Man donates eyebrows to charity

BLOOMFIELD, Ind. — A 72-year-old man with eyebrows so long he brushed them each morning raised \$1,600 for charity from people who paid to take turns trimming his out-of-control brows.

Some of the wiry hairs shorn from Si Burgher's shaggy eyebrows measured more than three inches long because the former jeweler's brows had never been trimmed.

Burgher's eyebrows were so long he used to brush them before leaving the house. But he agreed to have the overgrown brows tamed last week by members of the Bloomfield Rotary Club to raise money for a polio eradication campaign.

GAZA STRIP

Hamas claims victory in Gaza

Despite celebratory rallies, terrorist group offers no plans to rebuild devastated Gaza

Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Waving green Islamic flags atop the ruins of Gaza, Hamas proclaimed victory in rallies attended by thousands of supporters Tuesday, saying it survived Israel's military onslaught despite the destruction and massive death toll suffered by Gazans.

Beyond its fiery words, however, Hamas offered no plans for rebuilding Gaza, which suffered some \$2 billion in damage during three weeks of fighting. Gaza's borders with Israel and Egypt, largely sealed since the Islamic militants seized power 19 months ago, remain closed and are unlikely to open unless the militants relinquish some control.

Israel has also claimed victory, but neither side was the clear winner.

The fighting killed some 1,300 Gazans, the vast majority civilians, and thousands of Palestinian homes were destroyed. Israel emerged from the war with relatively few casualties — 13 dead, including 10 soldiers — but halted fire before reaching its objectives. No internationally backed truce deal is yet in place to prevent Hamas rocket fire on southern Israel or arms smuggling into Gaza.

Israel had withdrawn the bulk of its forces from Gaza by Tuesday evening, coinciding with the inauguration in Washington of Barack Obama as president. However, the temporary cease-fire remained shaky. Israel's air force struck a Gaza mortar squad after it shelled Israel, the military said.

Hamas held more than a dozen victory rallies across Gaza, choosing bombed-out buildings as backdrops to underscore its message of defiance and its claim to have survived battle against a vast-



A Palestinian boy holds the hand of his father as they arrive to inspect their destroyed house in the southern part of Gaza City Tuesday.

ly more powerful enemy.

Addressing a crowd near Gaza City's demolished parliament building, Ismail Radwan, a Hamas leader, declared: "Hamas today is more powerful." Nearby, militants held up a huge banner proclaiming in Hebrew: "Hamas is victorious. Israel has been defeated."

A few hundred yards away, U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon toured the local U.N. headquarters, inspecting damage from an Israeli shelling attack last week. It hit three warehouses where flour, oil and other food rations for Gaza's needy were stored.

Piles of rice, beans and

medicine still smoldered Tuesday, sending white smoke into the air. Ban said he felt "utter frustration, utter anger" over the shelling of the compound and two U.N. schools, and demanded a full investigation. As he spoke, the buzz of Israeli unmanned aircraft could be heard overhead.

Israel has said troops responded to fire from militants from the areas, a claim the U.N. has vehemently denied.

During a tour, Ban was told that hundreds of tons of food and medicine were destroyed. "It's totally outrageous and unacceptable," he said, shaking his head.

He later visited the Israeli border town of Sderot, a frequent target of Hamas rockets and expressed sympathy with residents.

"You live every day with a threat of a rocket falling from the sky. No human being can live in a state like this," Ban said. "I expect basic humanitarian law to protect civilian life to be respected and restored and not violated as Hamas has done."

The Palestinian Center for Human Rights has reported that 156 militants were killed in the fighting, including 48 from Hamas, 34 from Islamic Jihad and the rest from Palestinian President

Boats scour river for plane engine

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Authorities using sonar in the search for the missing engine from US Airways Flight 1549 detected something about the size of the massive aircraft part deep in the frigid, murky Hudson River on Tuesday, but divers ran out of daylight before they could locate the object.

Crews will resume their search Wednesday. Police have already located several pieces of debris from the flight, including 35 flotation seat cushions, 12 life jackets, 15 pieces of luggage, two brief cases, 11 purses, 15 suit jackets and shirts, four shoes,

and two hats, according to NYPD spokesman Paul Browne.

The missing left engine, however, is the most coveted prize. Investigators will examine it along with the plane's attached right engine to better understand how the jet conked out Thursday after hitting a flock of birds. All 155 people survived the miracle crash landing on the river, and US Airways said Tuesday that not even a pet perished.

New York Police Department harbor officers working with a sonar expert from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration got a reading on an object 16 feet long and 8 feet wide in about 60 feet of water

north of the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum, near where the plane made its emergency landing. The engine is about the same size as the object picked up by sonar.

Swift currents made it impossible to drop a robotic device with a video camera to confirm whether it is the engine, and evening fell before divers could find anything.

Since the crash landing, the NYPD has recovered more than 40 pieces of the aircraft, including four window exits and an access panel door. All the debris and passengers' belongings are being turned over to the National Transportation Safety Board for its investigation into the crash landing.

Kennedy well after seizure

Senator hospitalized after collapse at post-inauguration luncheon

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, ill with a brain tumor, was hospitalized Tuesday but quickly reported feeling well after suffering a seizure at a post-inauguration luncheon for President Barack Obama.

"After testing, we believe the incident was brought on by simple fatigue," Dr. Edward Aulisi, chairman of neurosurgery at Washington Hospital Center said in a statement released by the senator's office.

"He will remain ... overnight for observation, and will be released in the morning."

The statement said the 76-year-old senator "is awake, talking with family and friends, and feeling well."

The statement did not disclose the tests that were performed on Kennedy, whose seizure was witnessed by several fellow senators seated with him at lunch.

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., told reporters he and Kennedy's wife, Vicki, grabbed the senator as he became ill.

Added Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., "It took a lot out of

him. Seizures are exhausting."

Even so, Dodd quoted Kennedy as saying, "I'll be OK, I'll see you later" as he was put into an ambulance.

"The good news is he's gonna be fine," Dodd added.

Kennedy had appeared in good health and spirits a few hours earlier when he stepped out of the Capitol and onto the inauguration platform where Obama took the oath of office. His endorsement of the former Illinois senator had come at a pivotal point in the Democratic presidential race, and the older man campaigned energetically for the younger one.

Sen. Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., told reporters that Obama noticed when Kennedy became ill, and rushed over to his table.

"There was a call for silence throughout the room," he said. "The president went over immediately. The lights went down, just to reduce the heat, I think."

In his remarks, Obama said his prayers were with the stricken senator, his family and wife.

"He was there when the Voting Rights Act passed, along with John Lewis, who

was a warrior for justice," the newly inaugurated president said.

"And so I would be lying to you if I did not say that right now a part of me is with him. And I think that's true for all of us," Obama said.

Sen. Robert C. Byrd, 91, also left the luncheon early, but his office and others said his health was not the reason.

Byrd "is currently in his own office ... and is doing fine, though he remains very concerned about his close friend, Ted Kennedy," said Mark Ferrell, a spokesman for the West Virginia Democrat.

Kennedy was diagnosed last May with a particularly aggressive type of brain tumor, called a malignant glioma, after suffering a seizure at his Massachusetts home. He had what his doctor described as successful surgery to remove as much as possible of the tumor in his left parietal lobe. Kennedy then underwent radiation and chemotherapy, necessary because doctors know that even if they remove all of the visible tumor, stray cells almost certainly remain.

Religious diversity seen at inauguration

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The clergy were Protestant, and so was the new head of state.

But the inauguration Tuesday of President Barack Obama aimed for a much broader audience: an increasingly diverse America, where people want their beliefs acknowledged in the nation's most important ceremony.

In his address, Obama referred to God and Scripture, saying, "the time has come to set aside childish things," from 1 Corinthians.

But he also reached out to American secularists, calling the United States, "a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus — and nonbelievers." The Center for Inquiry and the Council for Secular Humanism, based in Amherst, N.Y., called recognition in the inaugural address "truly historic and remarkable."

Evangelical pastor Rick Warren, whose participation drew criticism from liberals and gay rights groups, directly invoked Jesus as expected in his invocation, but did so personally.

"I humbly ask this in the name of the one who changed my life," he prayed.

He also quoted from the most important prayer in Judaism, the Sh'ma, when he said, "Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God. The Lord is One," and he called God "the compassionate and merciful one," a phrase from Muslim devotion.

"His was as inclusive a prayer as an evangelical can give," said Richard Mouw, president of Fuller Theological Seminary, a leading evangelical school in Pasadena, Calif.

The Rev. Joseph Lowery, a United Methodist considered the dean of the civil rights movement, focused on poverty and social justice.

"Lord, on the complex arena of human relations, help us to make choices on the side of love, not hate. On the side of inclusion, not exclusion. Tolerance, not intolerance," he said.

He called the stage where Obama took his oath "this mountaintop," a reference to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s final speech. Lowery also quoted from the song known historically as "The Negro National Anthem."

"God of our weary years, God of our silent tears," he said, at the start of his benediction.

Prayers at inaugural ceremonies generally draw little attention, but this year was different. Obama spoke of his faith openly during the election, trying to change the image of the Democratic Party as hostile to religious voters. He has also welcomed nonbelievers, who tend to vote

Democratic, in his speeches and public appearances since his earliest days of campaigning.

His supporters had been deeply upset by the prominence of the Christian right during the administration of President George W. Bush, and they watched to see what religious signals Obama would send at his swearing-in.

Warren is a Southern Baptist who wants to broaden the evangelical agenda to include environmental protection, fighting poverty and ending AIDS. He also backed Proposition 8, which banned gay marriage in his home state of California. Gay rights advocates and liberals were outraged that Obama had given Warren a place of honor at the ceremony.

Obama, who prays with Warren, said he wanted the event to reflect diverse views and insisted he remains a "fierce advocate" of equal rights for gays. The new president had also asked Bishop Gene Robinson of New Hampshire, the first openly gay Episcopal bishop, to give the opening prayer Sunday at the inaugural-kickoff event at the Lincoln Memorial.

In his invocation Tuesday, Warren did not refer to the controversy. However, he asked God to forgive "when we fail to treat our fellow human beings and all the Earth with the respect that they deserve." He also prayed for "civility in our attitudes, even when we differ."

Warren said Jesus' name in four languages — English, Spanish, Arabic and Hebrew — and ended his invocation with "The Lord's Prayer," from the Sermon on the Mount.

Rabbi Gary Greenebaum, who leads interreligious outreach for the American Jewish Committee, called Warren's invocation "inclusive even as it was slightly exclusive," for praying in Jesus' name and ending with "The Lord's Prayer."

"I don't think the language of the prayer itself is offensive, but the context of the prayers, coming from Christian Scripture, is somewhat exclusive," Greenebaum said.

Some atheists and agnostics had sued unsuccessfully ahead of the swearing-in to keep references to God out of the event.

Obama began the day at St. John's Episcopal Church, where presidents since 1933 have prayed before being sworn in. Several evangelical clergy spoke at the service, including the Rev. Luis Leon and the Rev. Joel Hunter of Northland church in Longwood, Fla. Bishop T.D. Jakes, a Dallas megachurch pastor, gave the sermon.

Older blacks celebrate change

Citizens who suffered through Jim Crow see hope in Obama

Associated Press

ATLANTA — As she watched Barack Obama descend the steps of the U.S. Capitol to be sworn in as the 44th president of the United States, 107-year-old Ann Nixon Cooper leaned forward in her seat, grinned and let out a contented sigh.

One of her grandsons asked, "How do you feel about having a black president?"

"Well," Cooper said at her home on Martin Luther King Jr. Drive in Atlanta, "I helped put him there."

And so she had.

It was not just Cooper. It was all the men and women of the black generations who endured the cruelties of Jim Crow, who knew the indignity of separate drinking fountains and the terror of snarling dogs. They fought back with sit-ins and boycotts and ballots.

On Tuesday, with weathered hands and an excitement that belied their age, they applauded Obama — and the role they played in sending one of their own to the White House.

"I was hoping for a great change that would happen in my day," said Cooper, whose story was highlighted in Obama's speech the night he won the election. "I put my thoughts into ideas pointed towards better days for our people."

Mary K. Jones, a 78-year-old retired university professor in Detroit, has come a long way from the sweltering heat and segregation of Arkansas. She grew up there, along the banks of the Mississippi River, on the same

40 acres her great-grandmother — a former slave — received from the U.S. government.

"Jim Crow and segregation were something we were born into. It was just a way of life," Jones said Tuesday. "We lived in a certain area. We all knew where we could go or couldn't go. You stayed where you were. But they [whites] were in their place, too."

When Obama took the oath of office, Jones sat up in her chair, clasped her hands to her chest and smiled.

"There is still integrity. It's not lost," Jones said. "I feel very full."

Sam Cain stood up and threw his hands in the air, tears streaming down his face after Obama took the oath of office. The 61-year-old South Carolina native was born in the midst of Jim Crow's heyday, barred from eating and drinking with his white neighbors in his Bishopville hometown.

"From the time you're 2 or 3, you know your place," Cain said, though he said he now believes life has changed for his family, his race and all Americans with Obama's election.

"I do believe in my lifetime he can bring this country together," Cain said.

In his inauguration speech, Obama looked to inspire the nation with a "new era of responsibility" and a recognition of how far the nation has come.

"This is the meaning of our liberty and our creed — why men and women and children of every race and every faith can join in celebration across

this magnificent mall, and why a man whose father less than 60 years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath," Obama said.

Obama then led an inaugural parade that paid further homage to pioneers in the fight for equality. Re-enactors from a black Civil War regiment, World War II's surviving Tuskegee Airmen and Freedom Riders who battled for civil rights followed the new president's limousine down Pennsylvania Avenue from the Capitol to the White House.

In Birmingham, Ala., where protesting blacks faced fire hoses and police dogs in the 1960s, thousands gathered in historic Boutwell Auditorium to view the inauguration on a huge video screen. The old hall had the feel of a church revival, with gospel songs and flags waving.

"I never thought it would ever come," said 77-year-old Ted Roberts, who marched in civil rights demonstrations in Birmingham when segregationists held power.

At the historically black Alabama State University in Montgomery, Tonea Stewart was among those brought to tears watching the new president take office.

The 60-year-old chair of the theater department grew up in Greenwood, Miss., worked in the civil rights movement and campaigned for Obama. "I knew it would happen, but to see it happen in my lifetime is so powerful and so significant for this whole nation," Stewart said.

Please recycle
The Observer.

MARKET RECAP

Stocks			
Dow Jones	7949.09	-332.13	
Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:
442	84	3,369	3,122,537,568
AMEX	1,329.65	-53.54	
NASDAQ	1,440.86	-88.47	
NYSE	5,058.06	-329.44	
S&P 500	805.22	-44.90	
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	8,065.79	0.00	
FTSE 100 (London)	4,091.40	-17.07	
Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+1.78	+0.041	2.345
13-WEEK BILL	-13.04	-0.015	0.100
30-YEAR BOND	+1.83	+0.053	2.947
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.21	+0.003	1.454
Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+2.23	38.74	
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+15.30	855.20	
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-2.65	80.68	
Exchange Rates			
YEN		89.8200	
EURO		1.2909	
CANADIAN DOLLAR		1.2656	
BRITISH POUND		1.3924	

IN BRIEF

Madoff investors will get low return

NEW YORK — Investing a dollar and getting 10 cents back in return is a bad deal even in today's market. But recovering 10 cents on the dollar might be optimistic for investors who gave their cash to Bernard Madoff.

Moreover, they face a years-long process to get any money back as investigators search to find Madoff's assets. Dozens of lawsuits and the possibility the fraud was committed over decades makes the chance of recovery even more difficult.

Madoff has become one of the most vilified people in America since news broke Dec. 11 that he had confessed to running a giant Ponzi scheme, paying returns to certain investors out of the principal received from others. He's estimated to have duped investors out of as much as \$50 billion.

Experts agree that the first of any recovery payments might be years in the future.

USPS struggles with mail hoarders

DETROIT — Some of those who are supposed to endure snow, rain and gloom of night to deliver the mail have resorted to hiding tons of it in garages, a self-storage unit and the dark of their basements.

Carriers from North Dakota to North Carolina have been hauled in recently for hoarding mail. Though the U.S. Postal Service says the offense is rare, it smacks at the agency's image.

"I heard a couple of people come in and say, 'Can I pick up my mail — or is it in storage?'" said Annette Koss, the postmaster in Howell, 50 miles northwest of Detroit. A former carrier there, Jill Hull, pleaded guilty Tuesday to deserting the mail, a misdemeanor.

The part-time, fill-in carrier had kept thousands of pieces of unopened mail, including 988 first-class letters, in a self-storage unit that managers opened in September after she failed to pay her bill. Some of the mail had postmarks from 2005.

"We just didn't understand it," Koss said. "It's such a stupid thing to do."

During a brief hearing in federal court in Detroit, Hull simply said, "I was unable to deliver all the mail." A postal investigator said in a court filing that Hull had intended to catch up with late payments and apparently keep the mail under lock and key until she died.

Stocks fall on Inaguration Day

Obama suggests Wall Street will be subject to greater oversight by new administration

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The dawn of the Obama presidency could not shake the stock market from its dejection over the rapidly deteriorating state of the banking industry.

Financial stocks, many of them falling by double digit percentages, led a huge drop on Wall Street Tuesday that left the major indexes down more than 4 percent and the Dow Jones industrials down 332 points. Although traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange paused to watch the inauguration ceremony and Obama's remarks, the transition of power didn't erase investors' intensifying concerns about struggling banks and their impact on the overall economy.

The market's angst, which began with multibillion dollar losses reported last week by Bank of America Corp. and Citigroup Inc., intensified after the Royal Bank of Scotland's forecast that its losses for 2008 could top \$41.3 billion.

The collapse in bank stocks was swift: State Street Corp. plunged 59 percent, Citigroup fell 20 percent and Bank of America lost 29 percent. Royal Bank of Scotland fell 69 percent in New York trading.

"The reason we're having a panic drop is the fact that Europe is catching our cold, and we could have deeper and deeper problems that could require more and more money. And eventually the government is going to have to stop spending," said Keith Springer, president of Capital Financial Advisory Services. "It's a pretty dangerous situation to be in."

The shrinking value of bank stocks means the financial industry accounts for less than 10 percent of the Standard & Poor's 500 index for the first time since 1992. At the end of 2006, banks made up 22 percent



Traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange pause to watch the inaugural speech of President Barack Obama Tuesday.

of the stock market benchmark.

And the market's retreat Tuesday means Wall Street has eaten through most of the advance it made from Nov. 20 through Jan. 6. The S&P 500, which had been up as much as 24 percent, is now up only 7 percent from its November low.

Fears about banking eclipsed the shift in Washington. Royal Bank of Scotland's forecast for what would be the biggest loss ever for a British corporation left investors fearful that government's would have to nationalize banks to keep them from collapsing. The British government injected more money into the struggling bank Monday and announced another round of bailouts for the country's banks.

State Street and Regions Financial Corp., a bank with branches primarily in the Southeast, both reported big earnings drops Tuesday.

Acknowledging the global economy's woes, Obama suggested Wall Street would see greater oversight: "Without a watchful eye, the market can spin out of control," he said in his address outside the Capitol.

Obama warned the economic recovery would be difficult and that the nation must choose "hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord" to overcome the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

Investors are expecting Washington will be a central part of the economic recovery. But the first hours

of the new administration did little to ease their concerns.

"At this stage, markets in general and bank investors specifically are really looking to government as the way out," said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at Harris Private Bank. "Certainly, of just about all of inaugurations that I can recall today's event probably has the not only the symbolic importance but really tangible importance to the stock market."

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 332.13, or 4.01 percent, to 7,949.09, its lowest close since Nov. 20, when the blue chips ended at 7,552.29 — their lowest point in more than five years. It was also the blue chips' biggest drop since Dec. 1.

FBI: Broker planned disappearance

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — A missing hedge fund manager who owed investors a \$50 million payout told his wife in a note he felt guilty about mismanaging people's money, and threatened to kill himself, according to a sheriff's report released Tuesday.

However, the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office said it believes Arthur G. Nadel planned his disappearance and that it was ending its search for him.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation will continue to investigate complaints from investors who were expecting Nadel to deliver the \$50 million redemption on Jan. 15, the day after he disappeared.

The Florida financier's car was found at a Sarasota airport, and Sheriff's Lt. Chuck Lesaltato said they believe Nadel left on his own volition.

"He doesn't want to be found," Lesaltato said.

Also on Tuesday, pepper spray manufacturer Mace Security International claimed Nadel owed them \$2.2 million. The company said in a release they'd been informed the deposits could not be located, and that documents Nadel had provided were not authentic.

"We have already filed a report with authorities, and we intend to take all possible legal action against the Victory Fund," Mace CEO Dennis Raefield said, referring to one of Nadel's hedge funds.

The 76-year-old financier disappeared last Wednesday. Nadel told his wife he was going to his office, but was not there when she arrived about two hours later. Later, Nadel called and said he'd left something for her in a desk drawer at their ranch-style home in Sarasota. That's where she found a suicide note, the sheriff's report states.

In it, Nadel told his wife how much he loved her. He also said he felt guilty over losing other people's money.

"The subject wrote that as a result of his management of other people's money that there are those that would like to kill him," the sheriff's report states, "but that he will do it himself."

Speech

continued from page 1

the problems that face our nation will eventually be overcome.

"Today I say to you that the challenges we face are real, they are serious and they are many," he said. "They will not be met easily or in a short span of time. But know this America: They will be met."

Among these challenges: A faltering economy, that is "badly weakened, a consequence of greed and irresponsibility on the part of some but also our collective failure to make hard choices and prepare the nation for a new age," he said.

Michelle Obama held the Bible for her husband, a "man whose father less than sixty years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant," as he said in his speech.

His words were not only addressed to the American people, but "all other peoples and governments" who watched the ceremony on television all over the world, "from the grandest capitals to the small village where [Obama's] father was born."

Marking Tuesday as a new era in the history of the nation, Obama called all citizens to work toward a better tomorrow.

"We must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of

remaking America," he said.

The response from the crowd at several moments during Obama's speech was ear shattering — all were clapping, some cheering loudly and others still weeping from happiness.

Obama, who arrived at the Capitol Tuesday morning with President George W. Bush, repudiated some of the policies put in place by his predecessor, calling for change where change is needed.

"The question we ask today is not whether our government is too big or too small, but whether it works, whether it helps families find jobs at a decent wage, care they can afford, a retirement that is dignified," he said. "Where the answer is yes, we intend to move forward. Where the answer is no, programs will end."

At the close of his address, the new president called upon the nation to "remember these timeless words:

"With hope and virtue, let us brave once more the icy currents, and endure what storms may come; let it be said by our children's children that when we were tested we refused to let this journey end, that we did not turn back nor did we falter," he said. "And with eyes fixed on the horizon and God's grace upon us, we carried forth that great gift of freedom and delivered it safely to future generations."

Contact Jenn Metz at jmetz@nd.edu

Campus

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Conway said.

Conway noted that the inauguration was particularly exciting for the current generation of college students.

"Our generation, it's the first inauguration of a new president that we can remember really well," Conway said. "It's inspiring to see someone who I know is going to being change we need."

She said she is confident Obama can handle the challenges of the presidency.

"I thought [Obama] did a good job of integrating the issue of the economy and things that are most pressing with things that are pushed to the way-side, like healthcare, education and environmental sustainability," Conway said.

"He gave me hope that he's going to try to solve a lot of problems at once instead of handling things for the short term." Senior Lorna Bath said

"Our generation, it's the first inauguration of a new president that we can remember really well. It's inspiring to see someone who I know is going to being change we need."

Caitlin Conway
senior

she was moved after watching the inauguration in her dorm room.

"I felt like Obama touched on everything that had gotten him the presidency, focusing on his ideas of change and how immediate action need to be taken in order to solve the problem that we're in," Bath said. "He emphasized that we have a solution. It's in our history, we were brought up with this notion that as Americans, we can do anything."

Whitten said that Obama's perspective on government stood out to her.

"I really liked when he said some people question whether a government is too big or whether a government is too small, but the real question is whether

a government works. I thought that was very

insightful," Whitten said.

For Gibbons, the attitude of the rest of the world toward Obama and his election has been inspiring.

"I think it's really encouraging that so much of the world is so hopeful about his presidency and so inspired by his election. I think it's really impressive how the whole world came together to celebrate his election and I think it bodes well for his presidency."

Sean Gibbons
sophomore

came together to celebrate his election and I think it bodes well for his presidency."

Gibbons said Obama's speech demonstrated that the nation has work to do, but also confident that America can resume its leadership position and be an example for the rest of the world.

"I definitely got the feeling from [Obama's] inauguration speech that we have a lot we need to do as a country," Gibbons said. "A lot of changes are going to be necessary, a lot of difficult changes."

Contact Emma Driscoll at edriscoll@nd.edu

Travel

continued from page 1

George W. Bush became the former president, and Obama became America's first black president.

On the Mall and along the parade route, Notre Dame students, professors and alumni witnessed the historic event. Approximately 50 members of the Africana Club and members of the College Democrats of Notre Dame arrived in Washington Tuesday morning on separate buses.

Juniors Chris Luken, Matt Howard and Cate McGillivray, all members of the Washington Program, had tickets to the viewing area on the Mall. They left their apartments in north Washington at 7:30 a.m. to make it to the ceremony.

"A lot of people in the program didn't support Obama," Howard said, "But everyone came today."

Louis Pignatelli, a graduate student at Notre Dame, has

been a supporter of Obama since his entrance into Illinois politics. When he met Obama in Illinois several years ago, he said he thought he was bound for bigger things.

Pignatelli said he has high hopes for the Obama presidency.

"In the longer term, I think what we are going to see is a second coming of [Franklin Delano Roosevelt's] promise for America," he said.

The highlight of Inauguration Day, 1968 Notre Dame graduate Richard DiLorenzo said, was listening to Obama's speech. DiLorenzo, 62, and wearing a hat from his alma mater, arrived in Baltimore from Ohio with his wife Tuesday morning in time to see the ceremony.

Thousands waved flags. Many wore Obama gear. All were dressed warmly to withstand the winter temperatures, which hovered around 30 degrees.

Julia Jett, 75, drove from Birmingham, Ala. with several members of her family to see the inauguration. The trip

took 13 hours.

"It was worth it," she said.

Jett's granddaughter, Laketha Robinson, 32, brought her daughter Ariyuna, 6, to the inauguration, waking up at 2 a.m. to make it to the city in time to stand in line at an entrance gate.

"I want her to remember the crowd," Robinson said. "The importance of being here."

The crowd stretched the length of the National Mall, from the Capitol building to the Lincoln Memorial and flooded out to the side streets off the grassy expanse.

"It's crowded, but everybody's friendly," Robinson said. "You step on a person's toe, and it's OK."

People in attendance at the inauguration came from around the country, and some from distant parts of the world.

Three days ago, Faosat Idowu, 62, took an 18-hour flight from Nigeria to be present when Obama took the oath of office.

"It's a new beginning. It's a

new dawn for us," she said. "We believe he is going to bring a change economically, financially, all the works."

Idowu was wearing traditional Nigerian garb — a hand-woven shawl and a headdress — decorated with Obama's image. The rest of her family was watching the inauguration from Nigeria.

Inauguration Day, Idowu said, is "something that will stay with me for the rest of my life."

The trip to the inauguration was much shorter for Sarah Robinson, 52. Robinson, who has lived in Washington, D.C. since she was 11, brought several members of her extended family with her to the Capitol grounds. She was standing hundreds of yards away from the Capitol, still waving an American flag after Obama had left the platform to drive to a lunch and then participate in the parade.

"It's just a blessing to see how far we came as a people, from the riots, to the discrimination, to today, with Obama as our president," said



AARON STEINER/The Observer

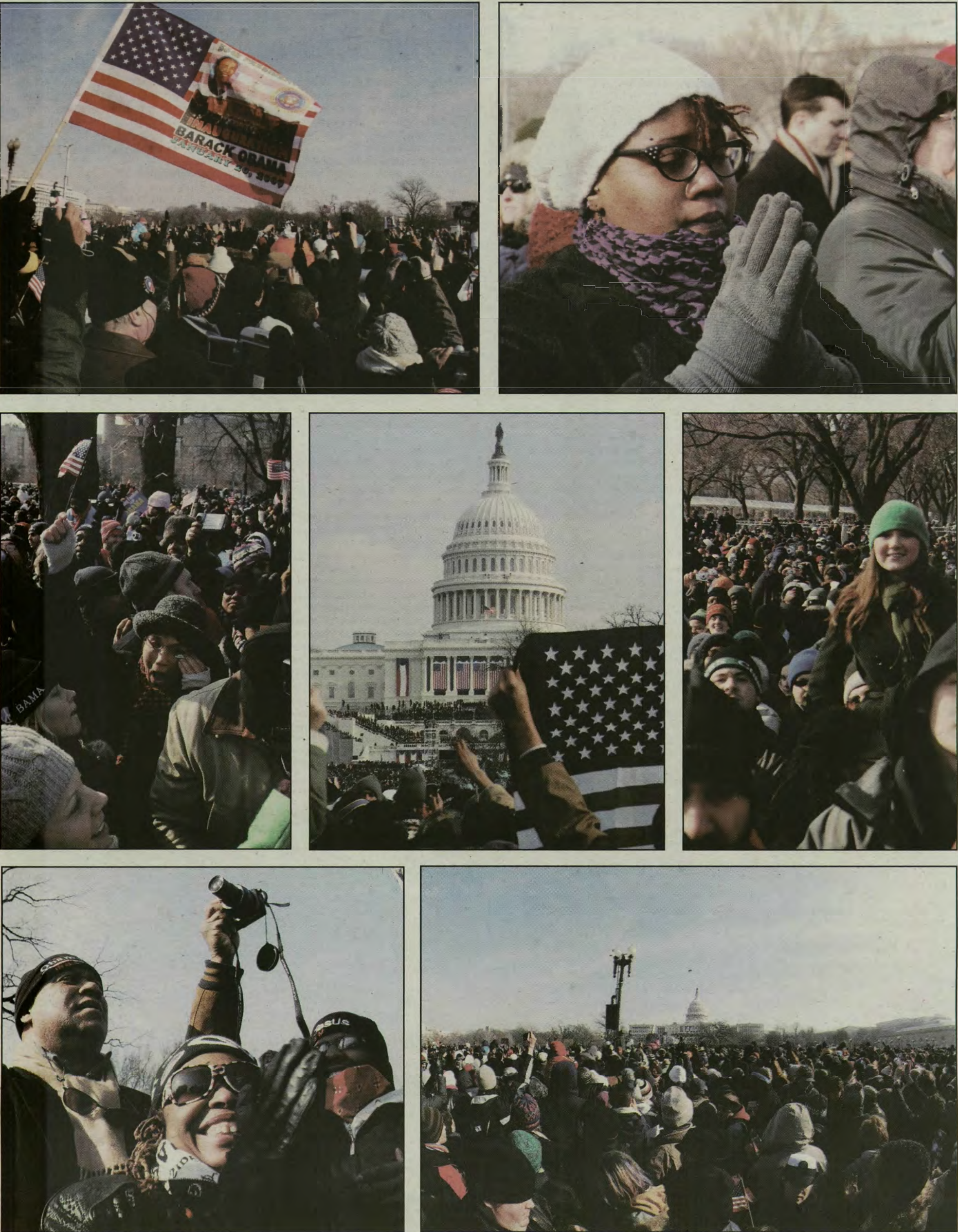
Sarah Robinson, 52, waves a flag on the National Mall during the inauguration yesterday.

Robinson, who is black. "I didn't care how far away I was, I just wanted to be on the ground, because it's truly a blessing from God."

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THE INAUGURATION OF BARACK OBAMA



Over one million people crowded the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Tuesday morning for President Obama's inauguration, most traveling from long distances from around the country. Obama delivered his inaugural address shortly after noon on Tuesday to a captive audience. Those in attendance braved cold weather, long lines and chaotic crowds to catch a glimpse of the country's 44th president.

AARON STEINER/The Observer

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 10

Wednesday, January 21, 2009

THE OBSERVER

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

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Viewpoint space is available to all readers. The free expression of all opinions through letters is encouraged. Letters to the Editor must be signed and must include contact information.

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Chris Hine.

POST OFFICE INFORMATION

The Observer (USPS 599 2-4040) 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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On friendship

As I work through my last semester, I reflect on the many things I have learned in my tenure here. The only topic on which I have reached any sort of conclusive thought is, I now realize, friendship. And so I grace you with my seemingly disjointed yet eventually fitting tract on the nature and application of friendship (in 900 words).

Who can be considered friends? Is there a distinction between a friend and an acquaintance? How can this distinction be practically realized?

I will begin my discussion with the creation of a scenario to which I will return throughout: Fred, Gary and Chris are three people who went to the same high school. They are all seniors in college now. Fred and Chris attend Blank U; Gary attends Blank State. They have been in close contact since the summer before their sophomore year of high school and still keep in touch regularly.

Fred, Gary and Chris are not inherently friends. Working under the givens of the scenario they are merely people who have spent ample time together over the past seven (plus) years. But you might think that the sheer amount of time spent together would make them friends. The fault in this argument can be found in the following: I have known my uncle my whole life (more than seven years) and remain in close contact with him due to the fact that he lives within 10 miles of my parents. Yet I would not call or define my uncle as a friend because he is my family, my blood. So though time seems a compelling factor, there must be a condition underlying this span of time which will determine for us whether Fred, Gary and Chris are in fact friends.

Let us then assume that Fred, Gary and Chris share several interests which we will define as: taste in music, sense

of humor and similar approaches to larger issues (somewhat nebulous, but let us proceed regardless). This connection through basic personality also does not make Fred, Gary and Chris friends. For example, in a discussion in a class of mine I found a classmate who shared my taste in music, understood my jokes and thought like me. But neither of us was compelled to spend any more time together than our brief contact in class. Therefore personality does not inherently induce people to forge long-lasting connections with similarly minded people.

Again, our heroes have been granted another factor explaining their relationship but no essential element determining it or defining it as friendship. A seemingly endless list of related factors could be given further illustrating the interactions of Fred, Gary and Chris: Their parents' homes are in close proximity, they played sports together, they registered for similar classes, they spent time with the same group of people, etc. Over and over, these items can be tested to show that nothing on this level would make Fred, Gary and Chris friends. Nothing that can be rationally discerned or logically argued can bestow upon these three people the honor of friendship.

So what does?

As I have come to understand it, a friend is someone upon whom you grant your trust, your respect and your potential for vulnerability. Without trust, similar likes and dislikes or a copious amount of time spent in the same circle will never allow two people to build an interdependence and symbiotic understanding. Without respect any of the above factors are rendered meaningless. Without becoming vulnerable in the presence of the other person, or persons, an individual will never be able to build a level of trust or respect necessary for the friendship to commence. Without all three factors working in unison, a friendship is malformed and incomplete. Such a degraded friendship (and not necessarily degraded, but, more simply, unfinished) is how I have defined acquaintanceship. The distinc-

tion between the two concepts is firm and internally felt by an individual — or at the very least should be in order for the person to understand the different types of relationships in his or her life. The primary factors of friendship can be present in an acquaintanceship: trust and respect can exist together, vulnerability and respect can exist together, and so forth. Only when the three are unified and complete may a friendship germinate.

All friendships, then, necessarily start in a stage where the people are acquaintances. Furthermore, friendships (understood by me to be constantly evolving structures) can move freely between the levels of friendship and acquaintanceship as the people involved shift and develop their own consciousnesses and psyches. A friend can become an acquaintance as quickly or as slowly as an acquaintance can become a friend. The practical realization of friendship or acquaintanceship rests less practically than internally on the independent beliefs of the various individuals involved. This then leads to the case in which a Fred could view a Gary as a friend but that same Gary could view that same Fred as an acquaintance.

In conclusion, there is no steadfast or ultimately determined pathway to define friendship. The relationship itself remains irrational and emotionally derived. From the outside, we can never tell if Fred, Gary and Chris are friends. To us they are merely people who remain in close contact and to judge them as anything else is presumptuous and wrong.

True friendship is difficult to explain. Even with my "conclusive thought" I still do not know how I can explain to you why Fred, Gary and Chris are friends. But they are. And sometimes that's enough.

Andrew Miller is a senior English major. He can be contacted at amille15@nd.edu

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



Andrew Miller

The Roads
Scholar

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence."

Robert Frost
U.S. poet

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to the Editor at

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If you would win a man to your cause, first convince him that you are his sincere friend."

Abraham Lincoln
former U.S. president

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Research is not the enemy

Regarding Prof. Rice's editorial in Monday's Observer ("Catholic identity," Jan. 19):

I generally enjoy the articles by Prof. Rice, as he brings a good Catholic point of view to the editorial pages. However, as a practicing Catholic and a grad student, I must disagree with his opinion that increasing Notre Dame's research initiatives and academic stature will only decrease its Catholic identity.

When Prof. Rice claimed that Notre Dame and other schools have funded research mainly through increases in undergraduate tuition and fees, I had an awful vision of myself — a mosquito of a grad student, fattening myself on the blood and sweat of unfortunate undergraduates and their parents! I must protest at this portrayal.

Graduate students in my discipline (mechanical engineering) generally receive a tuition waiver and a stipend. I could not find exact percentages, but I know that much of this money comes from external grants. According to an April 16, 2008 press release, Notre Dame has received over \$90 million in external

research funding. My own advisor's research is funded from sources as diverse as the Indiana 21st Century Fund and the U.S. Army.

It's true that tuition increases have hit everyone hard in the past few years. However, with the abundance of external funding, I feel it is unfair to blame tuition increases on ND's research initiatives. Call me an idealist, but I believe that Notre Dame's Catholic identity is not doomed by its goal to become a great research university. I was most saddened by the way that good scholarship and strong faith are portrayed as inherently conflicting.

Prof. Rice bemoans the lack of Catholic professors at Notre Dame, but Catholic professors don't exactly grow on trees. I for one appreciate Notre Dame's Catholic identity, especially since academia can sometimes seem like the sole province of committed skeptics.

According to a July 2007 article in Harvard Magazine, 37 percent of professors at "elite research universities" are atheist or agnostic. It doesn't take a math Ph.D. to figure that of the remaining 63

percent, there are probably a small minority who are Catholics, and an even smaller minority who are actually practicing their Catholic faith. This gives Notre Dame a fairly small pool of candidates to choose from. However, I think Notre Dame is in a unique position to help remedy this situation.

By increasing research funding and recruiting Catholic graduate students, Notre Dame can create a pool of talented Catholic academics who could become the ND professors of the future. It might take some time, but Notre Dame could actually reverse the trend of fewer Catholic professors by increased research funding. I envision a cooperation with other Catholic universities to build up this talent pool of Catholics in academia. Idealistic, I know, but not impossible in my opinion.

Research at Notre Dame is also beneficial to undergraduate students. In our research group we have a number of undergraduates doing their own research. This gives them hands-on exposure to science as well as major advantages in applying to graduate and professional schools. I'm impressed by their

smarts and initiative, and I wish I had had the same opportunities at my undergrad alma mater. But without funding, undergraduate research would be impossible.

In closing, we graduate students, beneficiaries of Notre Dame's push to become a top research university, are not the enemy. Not all of us are die-hard secularists bent on destroying ND's Catholic identity. Some of us do appreciate ND's uniqueness and the opportunities she offers to grow in our faith.

I agree wholeheartedly with Prof. Rice when he says, "the false dichotomy between faith and academic quality distorts reason as well as faith." He might be pleasantly surprised to find that he does indeed have support for preserving the Catholicity of Notre Dame among the graduate student population — and many of us would not be here without Notre Dame's increased commitment to research!

Christina Merrill
grad student
off campus
Jan. 19

Trying to go (lap)topless during class

I'm easily distracted. I have to have my background noise while studying, and during class there are plenty of things that can steal my attention away from the professor — Gchat, Digg and Perez Hilton, to name a few.

The majority of my distractions have one thing in common — they originate on a lovely little thing we call "the Internet" and are accessible on a portable device called the "laptop." For all the great advancements in communication and technology that the Web has allowed, it is a brick wall standing in between a pile of research and a student's term paper. Even worse, open web browsers are tempting eye-candy for those of us who go the old-fashion route and Five-Star it.

There's no reason why students should use the Internet so heavily during class. Unless a professor asks everyone to navigate to a certain page, open laptops do nothing more than attract eyeballs that should be attending to lecture notes. Bright, shiny monitors in front of a college student during lecture are evolved bug-zapper lamps.

Sure, you may say that you're not affected by it. That you can pay attention, take good notes and still catch up on the latest headlines at nytimes.com. Or that you have the discipline to remain oblivious to your neighbor's open PennLink page. But then you'd be lying to yourself.

The evidence? Take this annual example. Every spring, there's that one fraternity pledge who causes a stir in a big lecture class because he's watching porn in the first row. If no one was paying attention to the laptop ahead of him or her, the annual commotion would never occur — but it always does, without fail. Just wait a few weeks from now.

Currently, some Penn professors choose to ban laptops from the classroom to prevent any distraction they can create. Marketing professor Tony Adams announces on the first day of his classes that his is a "topless" class. And he's not talking about clothing.

"How could you have been 'great' (in class) if you were hiding behind a lap top

screen?" he asked in an e-mail. "My last 2 undergrad classes, I've instituted the 'topless' rule — and everyone seems to get more out of class."

Of course, taking notes on a computer has many benefits, and more and more students are doing so. I mean, it's easy. Students can write more information quicker and more accurately. For those who love the greener side of the street, electronic notes also reduce the amount of paper thrown out at the end of the semester. When a class is heavy on content, a computer definitely comes in handy.

So to cut out distractions and get the most out of our tuition dollars, one drastic and evil option is to shut down wireless access in classrooms. And since we finally, sort of, have one AirPennNet system, I don't advocate this.

But last spring, the University of Chicago Law School took this step to cut out non-class related computer use. As Dean Saul Levmore said in his letter to the school's students and faculty, "we know that class time is not for shopping and e-mailing."

Still, that's what it has become in many lecture halls around campus. You can find a wide array of non-academic content popping up on every computer around. Perhaps, then, this problem shouldn't be blamed on wireless internet access or the presence of laptops, but on students themselves. If students don't care to pay attention to class, then it's their loss.

In the name of the New Year, let's all make a resolution to cut our internet activity while a professor is talking. If not in the name of our own GPA, then for the sake of our classmate whose notes may suffer because they're distracted by the porn two rows up.

Whatever the case, the overabundance of web surfing during class detracts from the overall atmosphere. We go to the class for the material — not to read over our peers' shoulders as they catch up on the latest celebrity gossip.

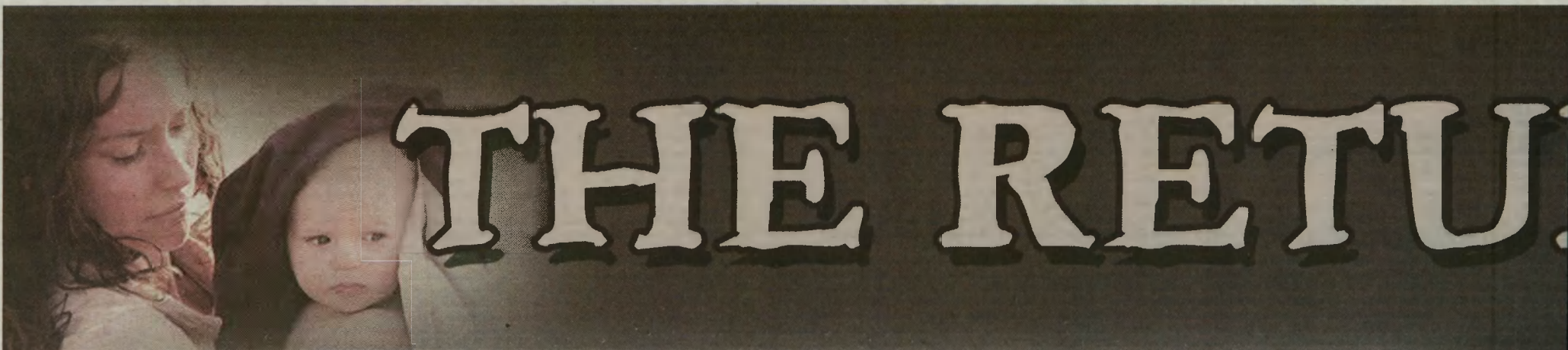
This column first appeared in the Jan. 20 edition of Daily Pennsylvania, the daily paper of the University of Pennsylvania.

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

Your letter should be here.

Submit a Letter to the Editor

obsviewpoint@gmail.com



THE RETURN

A 'Lost' recap: For those who have lost track of 'Lost'

By ALEXANDRA KILPATRICK
Scene Writer

The fourth season of 'Lost' clearly marked a sharp transition in the viewers' motivation for watching the show. The audience was no longer waiting to see if the passengers from Oceanic Flight 815 would ever get rescued from the island, but instead looking for an explanation to the secrets of the island.

The fourth season is also marked by a battle between two groups, the Others and Charles Widmore's science team:

The science team: Headed by Charles Widmore, an extremely wealthy industrialist, the team arrives to the island via helicopter from a freighter, called the "Kahana," at the beginning of the season. The passengers of flight 815 quickly realize that the team is not there to rescue them, but rather hired by Charles Widmore to explore the island's strange properties and essentially exploit it.

The Others: A group of people who have been living on the island for many years, long before the Dharma Initiative, a research proj-

ect designed to conduct experiments on the island beginning in the 1970s. They do not want the island to be manipulated by Charles Widmore's team.

The Others include:

Benjamin Linus: The leader of the Others who takes many drastic measures in a last-ditch effort to save the island. Linus is also slowly phased out as the leader of the Others as flight survivor John Locke begins to learn more about the island's secrets and gains more of a leadership role among the Others. At the end of the fourth season, Linus uses a wheel underground to move the island in time and space, which causes it to apparently disappear.

Richard Alpert: Linus' advisor who seems to be ageless as he appears in several flashbacks at many different times but never appears to change in physical appearance. Flashbacks show that he helps Linus to kill off the Dharma Initiative in 1992, recruits Juliet, a fertility doctor from Miami, to the Others as a scientist in 2001, and appears at Locke's birth in 1956. In the fourth season, he leads the Others to "The Temple."

Jacob: The Others' highest authority, Linus receives orders

from him and is the only person in regular contact with him. He lives in a cabin on the island that seemingly moves and is invisible to some people. Locke visits Jacob's cabin, but he can only hear Jacob, not see him.

Charles Widmore's team, also known as the "Kahana" crew, includes:

Miles Straume: a spiritualist who can apparently talk to the dead, an important characteristic on an island where people appear who are supposedly dead, including flight survivor Jack Shephard's father, Christian.

Daniel Faraday: a quirky, nervous, theoretical physicist, who recognizes that there are strange physical properties on the island. For example, when a helicopter takes Desmond Hume and Sayid Jarrah to the freighter or the Kahana, Faraday notices that prime dilation occurs, a phenomenon in which time begins moving slower when something is moving at the speed of light time. He also helps Desmond, who becomes unstuck in time between the years 1996 and 2004 while traveling to the freighter, by telling him to find a reliable constant in both time periods.

Kevin Johnson: Flight survivor

Michael Dawson, famous for yelling Walt every chance he gets, appears as a spy for Linus on Widmore's freighter under the alias Kevin Johnson. He is the janitor aboard the "Kahana" and attempts to disarm a bomb on the freighter but fails and is killed, along with another flight survivor Jin Kwon.

Other significant elements of the fourth season include:

The flash-forwards: Following with the canon of the third season finale, the fourth season includes significantly more flash-forwards than flashbacks. These flash-forwards show the lives of a few passengers after they safely leave the island (yes, they do get rescued from the island) and give hints as to who is included in the Oceanic 6. However, a few flashbacks follow the lives of the supposed rescue team.

The Oceanic 6: The six characters aboard Oceanic flight 815 who eventually safely leave the island are revealed in the flash-forwards. This group includes Kate Austen; Sayid Jarrah; Sun Kwon; Claire Littleton's baby, Aaron; Hugo "Hurley" Reyes; and Jack.

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Lost? No, I'm right here.

Although undying love or hatred for a cultural phenomenon is easy to understand, indifference is somewhat harder to pin down. This Wednesday, while so many of my friends are anxiously awaiting the premiere of the penultimate season

James McGuire

Scene & Heard

of ABC's hit serial "Lost," I will probably be doing homework or trolling around cable looking for "Dirty Jobs." I have been judged and met with bewildered stares on this subject dozens of times. "You don't watch 'Lost'?! But it's the best thing ever." The way I see it, a large segment of the American populace has drunk the Kool-Aid once more, and I'm just riding things out with water.

Being the pop culture maverick that I am, I have always been aware of "Lost." I have a vague idea of who Kate, Jack, and Sawyer are, and I know that their shenanigans involve an island, a hatch, and one of the hobbits from

"The Lord of the Rings," but it has never quite struck my fancy. There always seemed to be a lot going on: things blowing up, people pulling guns on each other, and I think there was even an abominable snowman one time. Maybe I just hit it on a bad day on those several dozen occasions I caught it.

However, that begs the question: Is there something wrong with me? I like to think that I am an intelligent person with a biting wit. Maybe it's just how I'm wired. I don't watch "American Idol" either (that's more of a Ryan Seacrest thing though) or "The Office." Perhaps I'm not meant to watch anything that is in the Top 20 in the Nielsens. I like my old standards, my tried and true hits. Was I the only one excited when Spike TV started airing "Married...with Children" again? Or who doesn't mind that TBS will air about twelve hours of "Family Guy" in a row? There is no accounting for taste, I suppose, but most of what the major net-

works have churned out over the past few years seems interchangeable to me. Can anyone actually tell me what the difference is between "Private Practice" and "Grey's Anatomy"?

Maybe it's because I have been burned by addictive television shows before. "The X-Files" was just about the greatest thing ever when I was thirteen (I'd take the Cigarette Smoking Man and the black oil over the Dharma Initiative any day) but was torn asunder when David Duchovny left and they thought that the bad guy from "Terminator 2" would be an acceptable substitute. And "ER" really was "must-see-TV" until everyone interesting either left (Dr. Ross), died (Dr. Greene), or got mangled by a helicopter (Dr. Romano). I'm a TV commitment-phobe at this point.

Not to say that you shouldn't give things a chance, but you should never have to "work" at liking TV. You also shouldn't have to be ashamed of what you do watch either. If you like provoca-

tive, cerebral television (like "Mad Men" or "Damages," for instance), then you should have at it. Is 24-hour cable news your thing? Well, I'm sure Nancy Grace has orchestrated another elaborate child disappearance for you. Do you design your class schedule so that you can run back to your dorm and watch John and Marlena do the dramatic, shifty eyes at each other on "Days of Our Lives"? Then come out of your shell and be proud of your taste in television (or lack thereof). Life is too short to pretend that you are cool and actually know why the people on the island had to keep their finger on that button in the hatch for all those years. It's time to express yourself (and see what else is on).

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

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RN OF LOST

My love for 'Lost'

Along with many other fans I will sit down tonight in front of the television and watch "Lost" with ardent attention in hopes of gaining answers to the plethora of questions presented over the seasons. I have to know whether the Oceanic 6 return to the island and why. I have to know if and how Locke died. And I have to make sure Sawyer's (Josh Holloway) shirtless body is okay back on the island.

Caitlin Ferraro

Scene & Heard

I love the show because of the tangled yet prearranged design of the "Lost" universe. The show is about more than the passengers of Oceanic Flight 815 crashing on a mysterious island. Yes, the nature of this show is a supernatural one, but it is predominantly about relationships. Each episode centers on one or two people, making the show a complex character study.

And because of the show's big cast, there is a character everyone can identify with or root for.

The man in my corner is the heroic yet tortured Dr. Jack Shephard (Matthew Fox). Early on in the series Jack takes on the responsibility of everyone else's lives, including siphoning his own blood out of his body in an effort to save a dying Boone's life. Regardless of who you root for, "Lost" fascinates the audience because every episode gives a glimpse of a particular character's life, usually off the island. And just when I was used to learning about the characters through flash backs, the third season finale tricked us and was instead a flash forward reminding viewers to expect turns and twists at every corner.

"Lost" is certainly a complex mythology, and viewers have to be committed to every single episode, but the effort is worthwhile because the show is unafraid to be

inventive. No one is safe, and anyone can die at any time. A piece of the magic of "Lost" is that there can be beauty in even death on the show. For example, the first single of Charlie's (Dominic Monaghan) band is the last song he hears before he dies. Every detail whether it be a city, name, song or even a book in the background has a reason for being there. It is amazing that millions of devoted fans spend hours writing and reading blogs trying to decipher these clues at to understand what is going on.

I love "Lost" because I care about the characters and their relationships. I am invested in Desmond and Penny's love affair that trans- verses time. I will debate any Sawyer-Kate fan endlessly that Jack and Kate (Evangeline Lilly) belong together. I pray that Jin (Daniel Dae Kim) is somehow alive so that he can be reunited with Sun (Yunjin Kim). The characters even

have connections to each other that they don't know about such as the fact that Claire (Emilie de Ravin) is Jack's sister. It is impressive and intriguing how every story is inter- twined somehow.

Although ABC wants more episodes, writers Damon Lindelof and Carlton Cuse want to preserve its creative success and have set an end date for the series. Sadly, this means I only have so many more episodes to enjoy.

"Lost" is series of unanswered questions, but although a single episode might tell me nothing, I am still excited by it. "Lost" is genuinely unpredictable but I have faith that all will be revealed in the end.

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

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'Lost' in translation

The plot of "Lost" focuses around some sort of sick, twisted quasi- experiment of stranding plane-loads of people on a remote island, completely out of contact with the outside world. The series' aim, on the whole, must also be a sick experiment. What sick experiment? It tests viewers' abilities to suspend all knowledge of what being stranded on an island entails hygienically. It tries viewers' patience to follow and endlessly convoluted and inex- haustible plot and character supply. And it experiments with the TV audience's commitment to a show that apparently is so jam packed that missing one episode will leave you in a jungle of confusion almost as incomprehensibly mysterious as the island itself. There is no doubt that the characters of "Lost" are not the only ones suffering from this forsaken island. In fact, even we, the TV watching public, are nothing more than guinea pigs in a cruel, cruel joke of the series that is "Lost."

Jess Shaffer and Kaitlyn Conway

Scene & Heard

Where you lead, I will follow?

"Lost" is a show that should be watched daily. Yes, daily. Once a week is just not enough. This is not because it's so irresistibly addictive. Instead, a daily refresher is entirely necessary to keep up with the completely random plot developments that are not only unpredictable but also unnecessary and ludicrous. Seriously, this show attracts new, random, and arbitrary plot lines faster than free pizza draws non-

interested passer-bys to obscure campus events. The pre-episode recap is just not long enough to summarize the twist and turns that leave viewers tangled up in knots week to week. So the only solution is to watch every week. Or if you have a life, and can't quite budget that in on a weekly basis, you have to entirely abandon the task of trying to comprehend what's going on. There is no "picking up" this series. In fact, there is no casually follow- ing "Lost." You're options are care- ful attention to your addiction or complete ignorance of what's hap- pening.

Hygienic heist

If your plane crashed on a tropic jungle, how much deodorant, make- up, hair products, and shaving sup- plies would you have? Additionally, how long would this store last you? Apparently on "Lost," chins, legs, (though I prefer not to think about it) armpits, stay completely smooth and hairless. Apparently faces and hair remain spruced and clean, looking attractively disheveled and the diet of the average inhabitant of a desert island is the exact formula for maintaining weight. Many "Lost" characters have better hygiene than the typical college student. Alas, maybe this is still another undevel- oped plot line. The island has spe- cial powers to keep its victims clean and fresh. Now that's a code that should be cracked. Maybe this is the big secret of the series.

No man is an island

While no man may be an island, it seems that there is a seemingly end- less supply of people on an island.

Luckily for the series, this island has just the right amount of only semi- important people. Hence, minor characters are fortunately expend- able, allowing the series to kill peo- ple off for dramatic purposes with- out losing the core cast. Additionally, there are always new people to add into the "Lost" uni- verse. I guess I got confused in the geography lessons of my youth. See, I thought islands were land locked, making it therefore implausible for such a continuous new supply of fresh cast members to appear. I also thought a main premise of the cast being stranded is that this island is lost, incapable of being found. So either this is only a figurative island that in reality is attached to the door of a Hollywood casting center or everyone knows about this island except for the poor souls living on it.

The plot thickens

We all like a good plot, a nice cliffhanger to leave us wanting more at the end of our favorite show. "Lost" takes this a step too far. This show has an endless supply of plot twists, throwing in a surprising amount of new, interesting, and mysterious finds for an unknown island. The ever-growing cast of characters never lacks for some- thing new to explore, or to provide them with the tools of survival. This has even been known to include a shower. The plumbing behind this has never been explained. This has also been coupled with massive amounts of death in the form of minor characters. But don't worry— the main cast members won't kick the bucket until a dramatic, infuri- ating season finale, marking the end

of yet another season of shows that have done absolutely nothing to explain the mysterious goings on of the island

Let's blow something up

Among these numerous plot twists is the revelation of massive amounts of explosions. Some of these are found on the (plot twist!) pirate ship that had landed on the island. These are used to open the hatch, which leads us into another long, twisted season of 'what does it all mean?' At one point, there's even enough to blow up a submarine. Let's not talk about how implausible that is on a not-so-deserted island. There also seems to be a gratuitous amount of guns on the island, which are often misfired and used to kill the minor characters that no longer have a place in the labyrinthine storyline.

We can see how "Lost" draws peo- ple in. The never-ending mystery is fascinating, but the frustration caused by the fact that you never learn anything and can never catch up makes the show less pleasurable to watch and more like a hopelessly tangled knot you only work on because of stubbornness. The day "Lost" will finally start to resolve itself is the day that the velocirap- tors will finally appear on the island.

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

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NHL

Ducks quack over refs in loss to Rangers

Bell scores third of Senators' three power-play goals with 1:22 remaining to give Ottawa win over Washington

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Henrik Lundqvist thought the New York Rangers' winning goal was anything but a thing of beauty. The Anaheim Ducks were not really sure it should have even counted.

Despite the varying opinions, Scott Gomez's chip shot from the side of the net found its way past Jonas Hiller, snapping a tie and lifting the "It didn't look good," Lundqvist said of his team's power play that somehow clicked twice. "We really struggled on the power play, but two goals went in. It felt like they were not really sharp, but that's what happens sometimes."

Nikolai Zherdev passed the puck onto Markus Naslund's stick in the crease and he deftly slid it to Gomez at the right post for a jam shot that got past Hiller for the winner with 7:21 remaining.

"They made a play in the crease area and Naslund backed into our goalie and moved the puck over to the other side with both feet in the crease," Ducks coach Randy Carlyle said. "Gomez was almost behind the net when he tapped it in."

Naslund, who scored a power-play goal in the first period, had his back to Hiller, but the goalie put more blame on himself for letting Gomez's shot sneak through.

"He was outside the crease, I think," Hiller said. "I should still be able to stop it."

The Rangers, playing their first home game following a 3-1-1 trip, hopped back over the New Jersey Devils into first place in the Atlantic Division. New York is now off for a week for the NHL All-Star break.

"It's a good little run of points here. It's such a tight division, it's such a tight race. Every night is a big game," Rangers captain Chris Drury said. "It's going to be a big test for us when we get back."

Gomez also had an assist, Fredrik Sjostrom added a short-handed goal in the second period, and

Lundqvist made 32 saves for his 24th win. The Rangers bounced back from a lackluster 3-0 loss at Pittsburgh on Sunday that wrapped up the trip.

New York (28-16-4) scored 12 goals in its final six games before the break, but earned nine points in that stretch.

"We're just kind of playing to our strengths," Drury said. "We know we're not a high-scoring team, but that's OK. We'll win games with defense and goaltending. We'll win 2-1 or 3-2 with an empty net. A win is a win."

Anaheim, 1-2 on a five-game trip that continues Wednesday on Long Island and concludes after the break, got goals from Corey Perry and rookie Bobby Ryan. Jonas Hiller stopped 26 shots, giving a break to Western Conference All-Star starter Jean-Sebastien Giguere.

Hiller was pulled for an extra skater with 1:25 left, while Anaheim was on a power play, but Blair Betts sealed the win with a short-handed, empty-net goal with 33.9 seconds to go.

"Right now, we're just shooting ourselves in the foot," Ducks defenseman Chris Pronger said. "It's not fun."

Anaheim answered with a late goal in each of the first two periods to forge ties. Soon after the Rangers failed on a

power play, in which they were whistled for icing twice, Perry got the Ducks even at 2 with his 14th goal.

Lundqvist had made a quick left pad stop against George Parros on a redirect in tight, but that only briefly protected New York's lead. Perry took a pass from Andrew Ebbett in the slot and blew past defenseman Dmitri Kalinin before beating Lundqvist.

New York had gone ahead 2-1 at 3:22 of the second when Sjostrom chased down teammate Michal Rozsival's long clearing attempt during an Anaheim power play and scored from the left circle. It was Sjostrom's third goal and snapped his 26-game scoring drought.

Naslund staked the



Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist, right, blocks a shot by Ducks center Samuel Pahlsson during New York's 4-2 win over Anaheim Tuesday.

Rangers to their first lead when he ripped in a drive from the slot with 7:13 remaining in the opening period. Naslund was set up perfectly after brothers Scott and Rob Niedermayer knocked the puck right to him while trying to clear the Anaheim zone, and scored his 15th goal to move into a tie with Drury for the team lead.

Ryan made it 1-1 with his 14th goal, which got him into a tie among NHL rookies at 13:45 of the first. Ryan, chosen No. 2 in the 2005 draft after Sidney Crosby went first to Pittsburgh, has played in only 30 games this season with the Ducks. He spent the first 18 games in the minors, but has come on recently with six goals in seven games — including a hat trick.

Senators 3, Capitals 2

OTTAWA — Brendan Bell scored Ottawa's third power-play goal of the game with 1:22 remaining to lift the Senators to a win over the Washington Capitals on

Tuesday night.

Bell put a shot from the right side past Jose Theodore 18:38 into the third with five seconds remaining in a penalty to Washington's Alexander Semin.

Dany Heatley scored a pair of power-play goals in the first to stake the Senators to a 2-0 lead.

Brian Elliott started his fifth in a row for Ottawa, which has seven points in four games (3-0-1), including a 5-4 shootout loss to Montreal on Saturday.

Sergei Fedorov and Dave Steckel scored in the second to help the Capitals erase a two-goal deficit and tie it at 2 midway through the

middle period. Semin was called for tripping with 3:17 remaining after he upended Senators captain Daniel Alfredsson while he was carrying the puck through the neutral zone.

Washington ended a three-game winning streak following a 2-1 road win in overtime over the New York

Islanders. The Capitals had won 16 of their previous 21.

Theodore, 9-2-0 in his previous 11 starts, made 31 saves in his fifth straight start.

Ottawa's Peter Regin made his NHL debut. A 22-year-old chosen in the third round of the 2004 draft, Regin was called up from Binghamton of the AHL earlier in the day and became the fifth Danish-born player in league history, centering a line with Mike Fisher and Nick Foligno.

Fedorov scored his fifth goal of the season 37 seconds into the second, moments after a lengthy video review determined that an earlier shot by Fedorov had not entered the net.

The Russian veteran left no doubt on his next shot as he one-timed pass from Semin and drove a slap shot from the slot between Elliott's pads to draw Washington within 2-1.

Steckel tied it at 2 with his sixth goal at 9:58.

Recently moved to the Senators' second power-play unit, Heatley opened the scoring with his 20th goal 8:11 in.

The two-time 50-goal scorer made it a two-goal lead at 15:54 with his second goal of the period, his team-leading 21st.

"It's a good little run of points here. It's such a tight division, it's such a tight race. It's going to be a big test for us when we get back."

Chris Drury
Rangers captain

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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PERSONAL

Suck on it, Sensenbrenner.

Special thanks to the good people of the 5th District of Wisconsin for not showing up.

Obama's List of Things To Do:

1a) Fix worst recession since Great Depression

1b) Do so without crippling future generations with unimaginable level of debt

2a) Successfully transfer forces from Iraq to Afghanistan

2b) Work on the fact a large % of the world is not so fond of America

3) Make medical care and Social Security work

4) Improve ailing public school system

5) Many many more

Tough list huh

AROUND THE NATION

Wednesday, January 21, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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Division I Men's Hockey USCHO Rankings

	team	points	record
1	NOTRE DAME (38)	986	19-3-3
2	Boston Univ. (7)	931	16-5-1
3	Cornell (5)	877	13-1-3
4	Denver	828	15-6-2
5	Northeastern	821	15-5-2
6	Minnesota	753	12-5-5
7	Vermont	673	13-5-3
8	Michigan	637	16-8-0
9	Princeton	562	13-5-0
10	Miami	507	13-8-3
11	New Hampshire	468	11-6-4
12	Ohio State	467	16-6-2
13	Colorado College	427	13-8-5
14	Boston College	320	9-8-3
15	North Dakota	316	14-10-2
16	Wisconsin	280	13-10-3
17	Minnesota-Duluth	123	11-7-6
18	Dartmouth	117	10-7-0
19	Alaska	100	11-8-5
20	Airforce	94	15-6-1
21	Nebraska-Omaha	67	13-8-4
22	Yale	39	11-5-1
23	Minnesota State	26	11-11-3
23	Quinnipiac	26	12-8-2
25	RIT	16	14-9-1

Division I Women's Swimming CSCAA Rankings

	team	points	record
1	Georgia (7)	293	10-0
2	Stanford (2)	291	4-1
3	Florida (1)	273	9-1
4	Arizona	271	9-1
5	Auburn	263	7-0
6	Texas A&M	258	3-0
7	Tennessee	239	8-1
8	California	229	4-1
9	Minnesota	218	4-1
10	Virginia	209	3-2
11	Michigan	193	6-0
12	North Carolina	188	3-1
13	Penn State	174	2-3
14	SMU	173	5-1
15	UCLA	157	4-2
16	Arizona State	148	1-3
17	Texas	131	9-1
18	LSU	119	6-1
19	Indiana	118	6-2
20	Wisconsin	114	9-1
21	Missouri	94	3-2
22	Florida State	92	13-2
23	Virginia Tech	90	9-2
24	Washington	90	6-4
25	USC	64	6-2

NCAA Division I Fencing Rankings

Men	Women
1 Penn State	Penn State
2 Ohio State	Barnard
3 Columbia	Harvard
4 Harvard	NOTRE DAME
5 St. Johns	Ohio State
6 NOTRE DAME	Northwestern
7 Pennsylvania	St. Johns
8 Princeton	Pennsylvania
9 Stanford	Princeton
10 Duke	Yale

around the dial

NHL

Blues at Blackhawks
8:30 p.m., CSN

MLB



Philadelphia first baseman Ryan Howard has asked for \$18 million in salary arbitration, the third-highest figure submitted since the process began in 1974. Philadelphia offered him \$14 million, a raise of \$4 million.

Players seek big bucks in arbitration

Associated Press

NEW YORK, N.Y. — Ryan Howard proposed a salary as prodigious as one of his home runs.

The Philadelphia Phillies first baseman asked for \$18 million in arbitration Tuesday, the third-highest figure submitted since the process began in 1974.

Philadelphia offered \$14 million to the 2006 NL MVP, who is not eligible for free agency until after the 2011 season. Howard had a major league-leading 48 homers and 146 RBIs last year, helping the Phillies win their first World Series title since 1980. Before the season, he was awarded

\$10 million in arbitration rather than Philadelphia's \$7 million offer.

Houston pitcher Roger Clemens set the record for highest request in arbitration at \$22 million in 2005. Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter is second at \$18.5 million in 2001.

Milwaukee first baseman Prince Fielder had the second-highest request this year at \$8 million and was offered \$6 million by the Brewers, who renewed his contract last year for \$670,000. He had 34 homers and 102 RBIs as Milwaukee reached the playoffs for the first time since 1982, down from 50 homers and 119 RBIs in

2007.

Colorado third baseman Garrett Atkins was third at \$7.95 million. The Rockies offered a raise from \$4.44 million to \$6.65 million after he had 21 homers and 99 RBIs.

Forty-two players reached one-year agreements Tuesday just before the exchange. Among them were Seattle left-hander Erik Bedard (\$7.75 million), Pittsburgh first baseman Adam LaRoche (\$7.05 million), New York Yankees outfielder Xavier Nady (\$6.55 million) and Boston closer Jonathan Papelbon (\$6.25 million).

While 111 players filed for arbitration last

Thursday, just 46 exchanged figures with their teams. That group included Baltimore right fielder Nick Markakis, who has a tentative agreement on a \$66 million, six-year deal.

Yankees center fielder Melky Cabrera settled just after the swap, agreeing to a \$1.4 million, one-year deal.

Howard's \$4 million gap was the largest among players who exchanged figures with their teams. Tampa Bay and third baseman Willy Aybar had the smallest margin at \$150,000, with the player asking for \$1.05 million and the club offering \$900,000.

IN BRIEF

Steelers' Ward may be out for Super Bowl

PITTSBURGH, Penn. — Hines Ward needs extensive work to rehabilitate his sprained right knee for the Super Bowl, but Pittsburgh Steelers coach Mike Tomlin still expects the wide receiver to play.

"We're definitely not going to count him out," Tomlin said Tuesday. "We're going to save a seat on the bus for 86."

Ward, the Steelers' career receiving leader, sprained a medial collateral ligament while making a catch in the first quarter of the AFC championship game against Baltimore on Sunday night. If the Steelers played this week, he may not have been ready.

Tuesday was the players' scheduled day off, yet Tomlin observed Ward doing extensive rehabilitation work in the team's practice complex. The Steelers leave Monday for Tampa and the Feb. 1 game against Arizona, but only after they go through a regular week of practice.

Jayhawks' Bill Self faces recruiting snafu

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Kansas officials are checking to see if basketball coach Bill Self's brief encounter with a top recruit might constitute an NCAA infraction.

Self agrees he said hello to John Wall, a 6-foot-4 guard who had just played in a high school tournament in Springfield, Mo. It happened during an evaluation period last week when college coaches are not allowed contact with prospects other than to exchange greetings.

"We are aware of the report, and the administration is looking into it," said Chris Theisen, a Kansas spokesman.

Wall is rated the No. 1 overall recruit in the class of 2009 by Rivals.com. The Springfield News-Leader said the exchange took place between Self and Wall outside Wall's locker room after a game Thursday night.

"Basically, it's accurate," Self said after beating Texas A&M 73-53 Monday night.

Cardinals fans set McNabb's lawn on fire

CHANDLER, Ariz. — Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb recently had to play defense at his off-season home in Chandler.

Two Arizona Cardinals fans hung their team's flag in a tree and burned "Go Cards," "Go Kurt," and "I heart AZ" in McNabb's yard with diesel fuel, Chandler police Sgt. Joe Favazzo said Tuesday.

Favazzo said the fans hung the flag Thursday, and McNabb laughed it off and even left it hanging.

Then the fans returned Saturday and left a cardboard box in the driveway with "Go Cards" written on one side and "Beat Philly" on the other. McNabb laughed that off, too, when he discovered it at about midnight, Favazzo said.

But McNabb stopped laughing when he went outside Saturday morning, smelled diesel fuel and realized someone had burned Cardinals cheers into his lawn, causing about \$2,000 in damage.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Wake Forest yawns at top ranking

Associated Press

Wake Forest was riding the bus home after beating Clemson when a walk-on broke the news: Pittsburgh lost, clearing the way for the Demon Deacons to jump to No. 1.

The last remaining unbeaten team in Division I then greeted that update with a collective yawn.

"Nobody really got excited, like, 'We've got a chance to be No. 1,'" guard Jeff Teague said. "It was like, 'Oh. It doesn't matter to us — (the Panthers) don't play in the ACC.'"

Forgive their tunnel vision. Wake Forest may have returned to the top of college basketball after its school-record 16-0 start, but the Demon Deacons can't stop to enjoy the view. Just down Tobacco Road are No. 2 Duke and No. 5 North Carolina in a concentration of big-time basketball power.

"You really can't enjoy it much, because your goal is to be No. 1 at the end of the year," guard Ishmael Smith said. "The funny thing is, you can be No. 1 today, and Wednesday night after the (Virginia Tech) game, you could drop down to 10 or 12 just as easy. ... When people recognize it, you say, 'Thank you,' but you've really just got to keep pushing and keep pressing."

Through the years, it has been an occasional struggle for tiny Wake Forest — the smallest school in the ACC, with an enrollment of about 4,500 undergraduates — to claw its way past in-state rivals Duke, North Carolina and N.C. State and claim the spotlight. Each of those three programs has won multiple national championships while combining for nine NCAA

tournament titles.

The Demon Deacons have produced plenty of household names — Tim Duncan, Josh Howard, Muggsy Bogues — but they reached their only Final Four in 1962, when they were led by eventual TV analyst Billy Packer.

Their only previous appearance at No. 1 came four seasons ago when late coach Skip Prosser and guard Chris Paul guided them to the top spot for two weeks in November.

"A lot of times, you do get overshadowed (in North Carolina)," said Paul, now a star with the New Orleans Hornets. "And that was part of my reason for going to Wake ... to try to build that school, to try to get recruits like we have there now."

While the Demon Deacons may have slipped under the national radar for the past few years, the recruiting experts certainly never lost track.

Big men Al-Farouq Aminu and Tony Woods were part of a freshman class rated No. 3 nationally by Scout.com. They were among the high school stars being recruited in person by Prosser the day before he died in July 2007 of an apparent heart attack. They honored their non-binding commitments to Wake Forest when the coach's longtime right-hand man, Dino Gaudio, was tabbed two weeks later to succeed him.

Teague and forward James Johnson also stuck with the Demon Deacons and showed

flashes of potential as freshmen last season, leading them to an upset of then-No. 2 Duke that marked Gaudio's first big victory.

This season, the Demon Deacons have made a rapid climb from a preseason ranking of No. 21. They snapped BYU's Division I-best 53-game home-court winning streak, beat the then-No. 3 Tar Heels and went on the road last week to knock Clemson from the ranks of the unbeaten.

Teague averages 21.4 points and is the ACC's second-leading scorer, trailing only defending national player of the year Tyler Hansbrough of North Carolina while leading a run-and-gun offense that averages 85 points.

Wake Forest makes more of its shots (51 percent) than any other team in the ACC. It is tougher to shoot against than anyone else in the conference, allowing its opponents to shoot just 36 percent.

Johnson and Aminu rank among the league's top rebounders. And 7-footer Chas McFarland is one of four players who stand 6-11 or taller — giving the defense-minded coach plenty of options for stopping Hansbrough and other dominant post players.

"That's the good thing about this team — we're so talented, yet we still have so much more to work on," Smith said. "I still don't think everybody has played well at the same time. ... We still have a whole lot to work on to get better."

"You really can't enjoy it much because your goal is to be No. 1 at the end of the year."

Ishmael Smith
Wake Forest guard

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

New look, same game for Nadal

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Rafael Nadal ditched his trademark sleeveless top in favor of a more conservative T-shirt.

His bulging biceps may no longer be exposed to view, but they're certainly still driving the top-ranked player's muscular approach to the game.

The 22-year-old Spaniard bullied Christophe Rochus around Rod Laver Arena on Tuesday night with some brutal forehands and 10 aces in a 6-0, 6-2, 6-2 first-round win at the Australian Open.

He hit 47 winners in 22 games and Rochus, a Belgian who turned 30 last month, could get nowhere near most of them.

Having the last match of the opening round had its advantages for Nadal. He'd already had a chance to see how Roger Federer, defending champion Novak Djokovic and fourth-ranked Andy Murray had progressed.

He would get another look at Federer and Djokovic in the second round Wednesday. Match two in Federer's quest to tie Pete Sampras' record 14th Grand Slam title is against Russian Evgeny Korolev.

Nadal deflected a question about his intentions with such an aggressive start. He was less interested in upping the ante on his highly ranked rivals, he said, than in gauging himself after a 1½-month layoff for tendinitis in his right knee.

"I am not thinking nothing about this," he said. "I just think about try to play well myself. Roger and Novak and Murray, they are far (away) in the draw."

"I just can play with them in semifinals or finals, no? I have to think (only) about next match right now."

His next match is against 26-year-old Croatian Roko Karanusic, who was ranked 92nd and has never gone past the second round at a major.

No. 9 James Blake beat Canadian Frank Dancevic 6-4, 6-3, 7-5 in the other night match, joining fellow American men — No. 7 Andy Roddick, Mardy Fish and Amer Delic — in the second round. The other three are in action Wednesday.

The Williams sisters navigated the first step in the path to a potential semifinal showdown and, rather than do their own thing on the days between singles matches, have decided to team up in the doubles.

Serena Williams opened her campaign for a 10th major — and to continue her odd-year pattern of Australian titles that stretches back to 2003 — with a 6-3, 6-2 victory over 123rd-ranked Yuan Meng.

The temperature topped 104 degrees during the match, prompting Williams to finish points quickly, spend time in the shade and conserve fuel.

"I was able to just take my time and play a lot slower, not giving 1,000 percent," she said. "I think it was pretty important for me not to ... go crazy out there."

The temperature had dropped to 79 degrees for Venus Williams 6-3, 6-3 win over Angelique Kerber of Germany.

Olympic gold medalist Elena Dementieva beat Germany's

Kristina Barrois to extend her winning streak to 11 matches. No. 13 Victoria Azarenka of Belarus and 2006 champion Amelie Mauresmo of France also made it through.

Murray needed only 12 games and 45 minutes to reach the second round, advancing when Andrei Pavel retired while trailing 6-2, 3-1 due to a back problem.

Since his career-best run to the final at the U.S. Open, he's grown in confidence and is now talking openly about "going one better."

He lost to Federer at the U.S. Open, but has beaten the Swiss star three times since then. He's also had two wins over Nadal and one over third-ranked Djokovic.

The 21-year-old Scotsman is not the only one encouraged by the run: British bookmakers are listing him as co-favorite to win the Australian Open.

Fifth-seeded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, the Muhammad Ali lookalike who launched his run at the last Australian final with a win over Murray and beat Nadal in the semifinals, started this time with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-0 win over Juan Monaco of Argentina.

Fellow Frenchman No. 6 Gilles Simon and No. 24 Richard Gasquet also advanced.

No. 13 Fernando Gonzalez of Chile, runner-up here to Federer in 2007, ended Lleyton Hewitt's 13th Australian Open. Hewitt, the 2001 U.S. Open and 2002 Wimbledon champion, lost the 2005 final here to Marat Safin.

Nadal has never reached the Australian final, but has improved one round each time he's come back to Melbourne Park. If that trend continues, he'll be in the championship match this time.

He's never won a Grand Slam on a hard court, but won the Olympic gold medal in Beijing in August last year and had a tour-high 46-10 record on the surface.

That was better than Federer (34-10), who has won eight of his 13 majors on the hard courts in New York or Melbourne.

Rochus is touting Nadal, who beat Federer in the French Open and Wimbledon finals and usurped his No. 1 ranking last year. Rochus was playing his 31st Grand Slam tournament and couldn't remember getting so badly mauled.

He later joked that the this Grand Slam event — only his second since the 2007 French Open — would be his last.

"He was going full power on every shot, and to every corner of the court," Rochus said, still shaking his head long after the match. "He was really impressive. He was confident, he knew he had almost no chance to lose."

Nadal had no mercy, stalking the baseline with a menacing look, seemingly concentrating on each point as if it was a breakpoint chance against him. He didn't need the practice, not having to face any of those.

"You know, the sport is like this," he said. "Because if you are not playing all the time 100 percent — if I had some mistakes in some moments — he can come close back to me and anything can happen."

Where the girls are.

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Wonder where ND girls are living next year?

Brand new Irish Row Apartments and Irish Crossings Townhomes are leasing fast for both the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years.

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NFL

Images of Fitzgerald a nightmare for Steelers

Preparing for Super Bowl, Pittsburgh players, coaches remember Arizona wide receiver's play at University of Pittsburgh

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Larry Fitzgerald might be the most scouted player in Pittsburgh Steelers history. For two years, they needed only to look out their office windows to watch him.

Fitzgerald's exceptional hands, his knack for making difficult catches while heavily covered and his high jumper-like leaping ability might pose the biggest obstacle to the Steelers beating the Arizona Cardinals in the Super Bowl on Feb. 1.

As Steelers coach Mike Tomlin suggested Tuesday, scouting and a good game plan alone aren't enough to slow Fitzgerald, whose 419 yards receiving are the most in a single NFL post-season, with one game remaining.

"If you get down the field one-on-one with him, he's going to come back with the football," Tomlin said. "He is the best in the world at that, bar none."

Not that any one needs to remind the Steelers.

Displayed in their Heinz Field press box, alongside pictures of former and current Steelers players, is a large photo of Fitzgerald leaping above three Texas A&M defenders to make a touchdown catch while at Pitt in 2003. He couldn't have been more covered, yet it made no difference. The football was there, and, in Fitzgerald's mind, nobody else was going to get it.

Ask the Philadelphia Eagles about plays like that.

Fitzgerald's series of three, can-you-top-this touchdown catches in the NFC championship game Sunday prevented an all-Pennsylvania Super Bowl.

It also set up an improbable matchup between the Cardinals, an old franchise that could hardly be less successful, and the Steelers, an old franchise that could hardly be more successful.

"Larry Fitzgerald, is quite simply, the best receiver in the world down the field in one-on-one situations," Tomlin said. "If we're to be successful in Tampa, we need to limit the number of times we're downfield with him one-on-one. Invariably, he's going to come up with the football. The (video) tape tells us that."

So did their own eyes.

Although the Steelers and University of Pittsburgh never practice together on the four-field complex they share on the city's South Side, more than few Steelers employees were tempted to sneak a few peeks at Fitzgerald when he played for Pitt in 2003 and 2004.

Why wouldn't they? In his two college seasons about being recruited by former Pitt coach Walt Harris, a passing game whiz, Fitzgerald caught 161 passes for 2,677 yards and 34 touchdowns, with at least one TD catch in a record 18 consecutive games.

The Steelers also influenced Fitzgerald, too.

Not long after the Cardinals drafted Fitzgerald No. 3 overall in 2004, when the Steelers drafted Ben Roethlisberger eight spots later, Fitzgerald said his goal wasn't just to be the receiver who made the occasional highlight-film catch. Instead, he wanted to be as steady and reliable as the Steelers' Hines Ward.

Now, Fitzgerald probably needs to be better than Ward if



Cardinals wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald, left, runs away from Eagles defensive back Quintin Mikell during Arizona's 32-25 win over Philadelphia Sunday.

the Cardinals are to win their first NFL championship since 1947 — three cities and 61-plus years ago. Curiously, the then-Chicago Cardinals beat the Eagles to win that '47 title, a week after Philadelphia beat the Steelers in a rare playoff game for the Eastern Conference playoff.

Former NFL receiver Cris Collinsworth, the NBC analyst, agrees with Tomlin that Fitzgerald's ability to make plays when the ball is in the air is

unmatched.

"I don't know what Larry Fitzgerald's vertical leap is, but he looks like Michael Jordan playing out there to me," Collinsworth said Tuesday. "If it's a tie, you just throw the ball up in the air and Larry Fitzgerald comes down with it."

Tomlin isn't about to tip his hand about the Steelers' coverage plans for Fitzgerald, but no doubt cornerback Ike Taylor and safety Ryan Clark are keys to it.

Taylor isn't as well known as

the showpiece players on Pittsburgh's defense — Troy Polamalu, Defensive Player of the Year James Harrison and linebacker James Harrison — yet he allowed only two touchdowns in coverage all season and is a Pro Bowl alternate.

If Fitzgerald runs into All-Pro safety Polamalu, it might be when he goes over the middle rather than deep, as Polamalu often plays as much like a linebacker as he does a defensive back.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Cinderella George Mason preparing for dance again

Associated Press

FAIRFAX, Va. — George Mason coach Jim Larranaga always begins practice with a thought for the day. He didn't have to think hard to come with one on Tuesday.

"Yes, we can!" he told his players as they gathered at midcourt at 11:30 a.m. at the Patriot Center, about a half-hour before Barack Obama was sworn in as president.

Then came laughter as the group singled out senior Chris Fleming, the team's sole Republican.

"Everyone else voted for Barack," Larranaga said, "so they wanted him to have to say the words."

Larranaga's inspirational ploys were well documented during George Mason's unexpected Final Four run in 2006, and apparently he hasn't lost his touch. This year's team is off to the best start in school history, with a 14-3 record that includes an immaculate 7-0 in the

Colonial Athletic Conference.

It leads to a refrain they'll keep repeating in Fairfax until everyone finally has the message: The Patriots plan to keep right on making noise on the national scene.

"A lot of us still have that chip on our shoulder," senior Darryl Monroe said. "Like, 'Hey, this wasn't just a one-time thing.' We want to let everybody know this is

a good program and we want to contend for a conference title, national title, all of it."

Anyone paying attention already has received the message. The Patriots failed to make the NCAA tournament after losing the CAA tournament championship game in 2007, but last year they took the conference title and were back in the big dance.

This year looks promising as well, although this week will go far in determining George Mason's postseason worth. The Patriots play road games against the two

one-loss teams in the conference: Wednesday at Northeastern and Saturday at Virginia Commonwealth.

"For us to get any consideration at all," Larranaga said, "we're going to have to have a huge year in the league."

That's because the Patriots' non-conference schedule wasn't very strong this season. Their current RPI is 48, well below the 2006 rating that earned them an NCAA at-large berth.

In some ways, everything changed when Mason went to the Final Four. People no longer say "Who?" at the mention of the school's name. Attendance has risen steadily at the Patriot Center, and recruiting is much easier.

In some ways, though, nothing has changed. George Mason — and the CAA at large — still gets barely a mention in college hoops discussions during the regu-

lar season. Face it: The world doesn't come to a halt when the Patriots host William & Mary.

"The high-major schools will always get the most attention because they have multiple t e a m s r a n k e d," Larranaga said, "and deservedly so."

On campus, t h o u g h, Larranaga is still a rock star, not afraid to break a mold or two. His players thought they would miss the inauguration when they learned of Tuesday's practice time, but the coach interrupted the workout at 11:57 a.m. and sent them to the locker room to perch in front of the television.

The players applauded when Obama took the oath and again after the speech. Then it was back to the court to finish practice.

Tuesday night, after landing in Boston for Wednesday's game, Larranaga planned to show

"A lot of us still have that chip on our shoulder. Like, 'Hey, this wasn't just a one-time thing.'"

Darryl Monroe
George Mason senior

"Yes we can!"

Jim Larranaga
George Mason coach

NFL

Ross won't let Big Tuna get reeled in elsewhere

After buying Dolphins, new majority owner says Parcels will remain in charge of football operations

Associated Press

MIAMI — New Miami Dolphins majority owner Stephen Ross won't mess with success: He says Bill Parcels will remain in charge of the football operation.

Ross, a New York real estate billionaire, completed his purchase of 95 percent of the franchise for \$1 billion Tuesday, with Wayne Huizenga retaining a 5 percent interest.

Ross then addressed speculation he and Parcels might not be hitting it off. The sale triggered a clause in Parcels' contract allowing him to leave and still receive the \$9-12 million remaining on the four-year contract he signed a year ago.

"Parcels is in charge," Ross said in a conference call. "He's staying, and I think we're very fortunate to have someone like Bill Parcels, who I think people have come to recognize as probably the best football mind in America."

Thanks to Parcels, Ross takes over with the franchise's fortunes on the upswing. When the first phase of his purchase was completed last February, the Dolphins were coming off a 1-15 season, worst in team history. Under the new Parcels regime, they improved to 11-6 this season and made the playoffs for the first time since

2001.

Parcels broke his silence Tuesday on the subject of his status. Scouting players practicing for the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala., he spoke briefly with several reporters and was asked if he planned to remain as the Dolphins' vice president of football operations.

"What does it look like I'm doing?" he said. "What do your eyes tell you?"

When asked why he wouldn't commit outright to staying, Parcels said experience taught him never to rule anything out. He said if something happened to change his mind, he'd "hate to be called a liar."

But Parcels said he likes Ross and is not seeking a new contract.

"It's not about money," Parcels said. "I've got more than I can spend."

Ross said he's 100 percent certain Parcels will stay for another season.

"I feel very, very comfortable with him, and I think he feels comfortable with me," Ross said. "I think we've developed a good rapport. ... Bill Parcels

thinks like a businessman: You don't solve all your problems with money; you solve them with brains."

General manager Jeff Ireland said the sale won't affect the way he, Parcels and coach Tony Sparano go about things.

"It doesn't really change what I do, it doesn't change what

Tony does, it doesn't change what Bill does," Ireland said in Mobile. "We've got to win games."

In February 2008, Ross bought 50 percent of the franchise, Dolphin Stadium and surrounding

land from Huizenga for \$550 million, with an agreement to later become managing general partner.

Ross closed on the purchase of an additional 45 percent Tuesday. That part of the agreement received pre-approval from the NFL in October.

Huizenga, 71, became sole owner of the Dolphins in 1994. A year ago he said it was time for someone else to assume control.

Ross plans to meet Friday with Parcels, Ireland and

Sparano, and said he foresees no changes on the football side. He said he found the atmosphere at the Dolphins' recent playoff game electrifying and wants to build on this season's success.

"That is the most important thing, and the thing that drives me — creating and being part of a winning organization," Ross said. "There is nothing more important than that."

Ross said Bryan Wiedmeier will remain as team president, and negotiations regarding a position on the business side are ongoing with Arlen Kantarian, former U.S. Tennis Association CEO. Ross said he's talking to potential minority partners, but none has agreed to invest yet.

Huizenga bought 15 percent of the Dolphins and 50 percent of the stadium from team founder Joe Robbie's family in 1990. Total cost of those purchases was \$168 million.

The Dolphins never reached the Super Bowl under Huizenga's ownership.

"The sale represents a bitter-sweet moment for me, but the timing is right to complete it," he said in a statement. "I know under Steve's leadership the Dolphins are in outstanding hands. We are still a 5 percent partner in the franchise and the stadium. The Huizenga

family and organization will do everything we can to support Steve and the team for the benefit of all of South Florida."

Ross, 68, made his billions as a lawyer and developer and is chairman of Related Companies, an international real estate development company. He has homes in New York and Palm Beach, and he ranked 78th in 2008 on Forbes' list of richest Americans with a net worth of \$4.5 billion.

Ross attended Miami Beach High School and the University of Florida, then earned degrees from Michigan and Wayne State law school. He began his career in Detroit as a tax attorney, and the Michigan business school bears his name.

Once a minority partner with the New York Islanders, Ross was part of a group in 1990 that tried to bring baseball to Miami before Huizenga became founding owner of the Florida Marlins. He also made an unsuccessful bid for the New York Jets in 1999.

"When I read the paper, the first section I go to is the sports section," Ross said. "Since I wasn't going to make it as a player, it was a dream to become an owner."

Last year Forbes Magazine valued the Dolphins at \$1 billion, with a revenue stream of about \$232 million.

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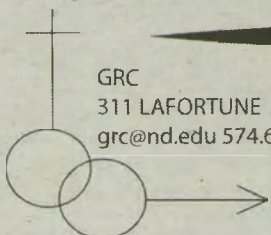
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NHL

Things keep getting worse for Islanders

Hampered by persistent swelling and soreness in left knee, goalie DiPietro decides to shut it down for the season

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Rick DiPietro's season ended before the New York Islanders' franchise goalie really got a chance to get it going.

Lingering persistent swelling and soreness in his left knee that required surgery twice in four months kept DiPietro out for all but five of the team's 46 games this season and led to Tuesday's decision to shut him down.

"Everyone's consensus is that Rick should rest the knee, allow the postoperative swelling from two surgeries in a relatively short timeframe to resolve, and get him ready for next season," said Dr. Elliott Hershman, an associate team orthopedist, who participated in the second operation.

"At this time, we're not anticipating any further surgery but we're certainly following this knee to make sure that the inflammation and swelling does resolve on a more permanent basis so he is able to return fully," Hershman added.

DiPietro is in the third season of a landmark contract, having agreed to a \$67.5 million, 15-year deal in the summer of 2006. Islanders gener-

al manager Garth Snow said he isn't concerned that DiPietro won't be able to play through the remaining years of the deal.

"We've taken all the correct measures and the right steps throughout this process. Talking to the doctors, that scenario has never come up," Snow said. "Obviously, when you have a goalie of Rick's caliber, it's disappointing when you don't have him in the lineup."

"We got more than one set of eyes to look at him and we just wanted to take our time and make an informed decision."

The 27-year-old DiPietro made a few early season appearances following surgery that was believed to be on his right knee, but was clarified to be the left on Tuesday by Hershman. He then was shelved again after a second tear of the lateral meniscus was revealed by an MRI and repaired with a second arthroscopic procedure in October.

After the initial knee surgery in June, DiPietro backed up Joey MacDonald for the first four games of the season, but didn't see any action.

The Islanders (12-29-5) will enter this weekend's All-Star break with the fewest wins and points in the 30-team

NHL, but Hershman said DiPietro's season would be over even if the team was in playoff contention.

Hershman didn't question his decision to clear DiPietro to play twice this season.

"We were incredibly cautious, actually, and I thought that at each time we had Rick trying to play it was the right time," he said. "If anything, we have been exceedingly cautious with him. At each juncture we responded to the way that Rick was progressing. I wouldn't second guess myself at all."

Several doctors, including famed surgeon Dr. James Andrews, either examined DiPietro or studied the MRI and determined rest to be the best recommendation now.

"There was a lack of

improvement from the time of the first surgery to the second surgery," Hershman said. "It was up and down and we really didn't have a sense that it was progressing as it should when Rick tired to play on it. The response was not what we expected."

The injury is not believed, at this point, to be career threatening. DiPietro is expected to be re-evaluated in six-to-eight weeks to see if the swelling and discomfort has diminished.

Upon returning from his early-season break, DiPietro made three straight starts, but lasted only one period against Carolina on Oct. 25. DiPietro had arthroscopic surgery Oct. 31 to repair the torn meniscus. He allowed five goals on 33 shots in a loss at Phoenix on Jan. 2, his final appearance of the season.

"This has been one of the most frustrating situations I have ever had to deal with, but this is the right decision for me and the team," DiPietro said in a statement. "I am confident this will allow me to make a complete recovery, be ready in plenty of time for next season and compete to my highest ability for many years to come."

DiPietro has had three operations in seven months,

including a hip procedure in March. That was the second time DiPietro had hip surgery, once on each side in consecutive years. He also has a history with head injuries.

"The problem is that the lateral meniscus when it's damaged and has surgery on it two times, it can take quite a while to recover," Hershman said. "A lot of the stress of the knee in hockey goes through the lateral compartment."

"I don't think it is related to the hips. I think both his hips are doing quite well right now. I do think he is recovered."

DiPietro, an NHL All-Star starter last year, went 1-3-0 this season with a 3.52 goals against average and a .892 save percentage.

After becoming the first goalie chosen No. 1 overall when the Islanders took him in the 2000 draft, DiPietro has posted a mark of 117-112-8-24 with a 2.79 goals against average and a .905 save percentage in 273 NHL games.

He is expected to resume skating sometime during the summer.

"The most important thing is that at this point we give the knee some time to rest, free from on-ice activity, and see what the knee does," Hershman said. "When we do

"We've taken all the correct measures and the right steps throughout this process."

Garth Snow
Islanders general manager

NBA

Oden responds to self-challenge with breakout game

Portland rookie center sees 24 point 15 rebound effort against Milwaukee as evidence of his potential

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Greg Oden challenged himself.

Weary of play even he perceived as inconsistent, the Trail Blazers' 7-foot center made a conscious decision to break out.

The result was Monday night, when he scored a career-high 24 points and had 15 rebounds in Portland's victory over the Milwaukee Bucks.

"I just wanted to start stepping up my game," he said. "Being inconsistent, I've been saying that all year. It's time to change that."

Oden didn't just become more confident and aggressive, he seemed to snap out of a funk that had largely clouded his rookie season so far. He high-fived fans after the game, then smiled and joked with reporters gathered around his locker.

"It feels good," he said. "I convinced myself that when I'm out there I play good, and when I'm not, I don't. This was one of those times it showed."

Oden was the top pick in the 2007 NBA draft. His rookie year was delayed when he had microfracture surgery on his knee, a blow to Portland fans

who saw him as the future of the franchise.

Despite his absence on the court last season, the former Indiana Mr. Basketball from Lawrence North still had a big profile with the Blazers. He became known for his toothy grin on the bench, an affable manner and even his humorous blog posts.

This season, however, the happy-go-lucky Oden vanished. He injured his foot in the

Blazers' opener and missed six games. When he did come back, his play was disjointed, and at times he seemed sullen. Smiles and jokes were rare.

Although Oden was going through typical first-year growing pains, there was tremendous pressure from fans and the media. Even rapper Lil' Wayne proclaimed Oden a bust in a commentary for ESPN.com.

The Trail Blazers, for their part, stood steadfast in their intention to let Oden progress at his own pace.

"I think I put just as much pressure as anybody else would on a job they love to do, and wanted to do good at it," he said.

His numbers are not bad for a rookie center. He is averag-

ing 8.3 points, seven rebounds and 1.09 blocked shots. But he has struggled with fouls, as well as maintaining his energy level.

In Portland's 102-85 victory over the Bucks, Oden had just two fouls.

The Bucks were without top rebounder Andrew Bogut, who missed his third straight game because of back spasms. Bogut is averaging 10.4 boards a game.

Bogut's absence helped Oden, and the Bucks were forced to go with a smaller lineup when Dan Gadzuric got into foul trouble.

It was Oden's team-high 12th double-double.

"It's hard because the season's so long and you're going to have ups and downs, especially as a rookie," Blazers guard Brandon Roy said. "But I think the good thing about it is that he's definitely staying involved with trying to loosen up. It's not like he's going to happen to wake up one morning and be totally loose. He's going to have to continue to work on it."

Now the question is whether Oden can keep it up. The Trail Blazers host LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers on Wednesday night.

"I'm not going to say I'm all the way disappointed with myself or down on myself," he said. "I'd just say I need to step up my game."



Portland center Greg Oden puts up a shot during the Blazers 102-85 win over Milwaukee Monday.

"I just wanted to start stepping up my game."

Greg Oden
Portland center

Big East

continued from page 24

Cardinals was an 85-82 upset at the hands of Nevada-Reno on Nov. 29. The Cardinals still have the brunt of their conference schedule left, including trips to UConn, Notre Dame, Marquette and a rematch at the Bearcats all still to come.

UConn (18-0, 4-0)

The best team in the country isn't the best in the conference standings, but only as a result of scheduling. The Huskies have played fewer conference games than Louisville, in part because they played in one of the biggest out-of-conference matchups of the season: a 1-vs-2 game last Monday at North Carolina. Connecticut crushed the Tar Heels 88-58, snapping a 31-game home win streak for North Carolina and proving they are the best team in the country beyond a shadow of the doubt. UConn also has arguably the best player in college basketball, sophomore forward Maya Moore, who averages 29.2 points per game on 53.4 percent shooting.

Notre Dame (15-2, 4-1)

The Irish remain alone in third place in the league after Cincinnati's loss Wednesday night, but could be worse off if not for clutch play against St. John's this weekend. Notre Dame has won both close games and

had blowouts in the conference season, but still have to travel to Pittsburgh and Storrs. Notre Dame has a chance to make a statement in the league in the coming week with a matchup with No. 21 Rutgers at the Joyce Center.

Pittsburgh (13-4, 3-2)

The Panthers jumped up to the fourth spot in the conference after the Cincinnati loss, despite the loss of all-Big East center Mercedes Walker, who graduated last May. Guard Shevonte Zellous has picked up the scoring for Pitt so far this season, averaging 24.1 points and 5.4 rebounds per game. The Panthers showed how good they could be in their last game out, when they crushed Seton Hall 76-40 on the road. (Just for the record, the Irish only beat the Pirates 66-60 on that same court.)

Cincinnati (13-5, 3-2)

Cincinnati has only two losses so far, but has avoided playing most of the big dogs in the league. The Bearcats have beaten up on Seton Hall, West Virginia and Villanova in their wins, but lost to Louisville and last year's surprise of the season Syracuse. Cincy avoids the Huskies thanks to scheduling, but has a three-game road trip later this season where it have to travel to Pitt and Rutgers back-to-back. A solid performance in those games could help put the Bearcats over the top and get them the second bye

game.

Rutgers (10-5, 3-2)

How the mighty have fallen. The national runner-up of a year ago and a No. 2 seed last season, the Scarlet Knights have already lost twice in conference, at Syracuse and at Louisville. Even though every coach in the conference will say it is tough to win on the road, C. Vivian Stringer should know that her team needs to win games like those if they want to remain among the elites. Rutgers has only one player in double figures – guard Epiphany Prince with 20.8. They don't score much, but the Scarlet Knights also have a stifling defense, allowing only 52.5 points per game.

Georgetown (12-5, 2-2)

The Hoyas have see-sawed in their conference season so far this season, alternating wins with big losses. Georgetown has struggled against the two top tier teams it has played (Notre Dame and Louisville) and will likely fall quickly in the standings in the next few weeks: They play Marquette, Pitt and UConn in their next four games. Those three are all at home, but with how the Hoyas have played so far, they will be lucky to go 1-2 in those games.

Marquette (11-7, 2-2)

The Golden Eagles are another team looking to find their way in the league. They started off by beating USF before falling on the road to Seton Hall. Marquette then

snapped Notre Dame's win streak with a 75-65 victory Jan. 13, but then lost to Rutgers by 23 five days later. Marquette is lucky to avoid any long road trips this season, and has the luxury of playing its road games against some of the other middling teams in the conference.

Villanova (2-2, 10-7)

The Wildcats are just where they should be on paper, beating West Virginia and Providence and losing to Rutgers and Cincinnati. They have a chance to make a statement game against the Irish on Saturday to improve their league standing and postseason opportunities. Otherwise, Villanova has a chance to win out at home (Providence, St. John's, DePaul, Louisville and USF) and get into the top half of the Big East bracket.

DePaul (14-5, 2-3)

The Blue Demons have had to replace their leading scorer from a year ago, forward Allie Quigley, and have done so with some ease. The team has three players averaging in double figures this season: Deirdre Naughton with 17.3 points per game, Natasha Williams with 15.4 and Keisha Hampton with 10.4. DePaul already has one big win on its NCAA resume, a 69-62 victory at Pittsburgh.

Syracuse (13-5, 2-3)

The Orange have one of the more prolific offenses in the country, averaging 71.1 points per game with four

players in double figures. Sophomore guard Erica Morrow leads the way with 17.7 points per game. The Orange started their conference schedule strong with wins against Rutgers and Cincinnati before falling at home to Seton Hall and getting doubled up by UConn.

South Florida and Seton Hall have matching 2-4 conference records, and have gotten them in very similar fashions, beating only other teams in the bottom half of the bracket. With every team making the Big East tournament this season, there is less pressure on these teams to step up their games in February in order to make a postseason appearance, but seeding still helps as both will try to turn things around quickly.

St. John's, Providence and West Virginia are the current league cellar dwellers, but that is not to say they are all bad teams. St. John's played the Irish close until the final whistle, refusing to play dead, and the Mountaineers are, if at all possible, a good 0-5 team in the Big East. Four of their losses are against the top half of the league and the final one was a two-point squeaker at Villanova. Top-to-bottom, the Big East is a solid league, where even the worst team in the league (WVU) boasts a winning record (11-7).

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at
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NHL

Oilers win in final minute

Associated Press

EDMONTON, Alberta — Ales Hemsky put on a show and helped the Edmonton Oilers head into the All-Star break on a high note.

Hemsky scored his second goal with 34.9 seconds left to play, giving the Edmonton Oilers a 4-3 win over the Columbus Blue Jackets on Tuesday night.

Hemsky added two assists, and Lubomir Visnovsky and Denis Grebeshkov also scored for the Oilers (24-19-3) who have won five of their last six to move back into a playoff position in the Western Conference.

"That was unreal, I haven't seen anything like that in a while," said Oilers head coach Craig MacTavish of Hemsky's performance Tuesday. "Two goals and two assists. We've seen that before. But not where all four are world-class plays."

"It couldn't have come at a better time. He single-handedly willed the win for us. It was a great effort from Ales."

Jared Boll, Marc Methot and Jason Williams scored for the Blue Jackets who have lost two of their last three.

The Oilers tied the game at 3 with 4:42 to play, just as a power play expired. Hemsky spotted a pinching

Grebeshkov and he put everything he had into a shot that beat Steve Mason to tie the game 3-3.

Hemsky got the job done almost single-handedly at the end to give Edmonton the win as he came in on the right hand side and beat Mason up high.

"When you have four points or something like that you are always asked if it is the best game in your career," Hemsky said. "For me every game we win is what I feel good about. I just want to go out there and do my part. It felt great to win the game. It's a great feeling in this room right now."

Edmonton got out to an early lead, scoring on the power play five minutes into the opening period when Visnovsky sent a cross-ice pass to Hemsky, then crept in from the point for the return feed and blasted the puck past Columbus starter Steve Mason.

The Blue Jackets tied it a minute and a half into the second, when Williams sent

a shot into a crowd of players standing in the crease. The puck caromed to Boll and Roloson was unable to stop the tap-in.

Edmonton regained the lead in the middle of the second period as Hemsky sped past Fedor Tyutin and beat Mason on a backhand-der.

It didn't take long for the Jackets to knot the game again, as just a minute and a half later, Melhot blasted a shot past Roloson to make it 2-2.

Columbus took its first lead of the game with five minutes to play in the period, when Williams took a shot from in tight that Roloson waved at with his glove.

The Blue Jackets came close to going up by two midway through the third as a puck sneaked behind Roloson before Ladislav Smid fished it out. The play ended with Roloson throwing punches at Boll for crashing the crease.

"We pissed it away," Columbus coach Ken Hitchcock said. "We turned it over twice in the neutral zone and we gave it away. They had nothing going, we were completely controlling the hockey game. We gave it away. We had a turnover with 47 seconds left. You can't do that."

"For me every game we win is what I feel good about. I just want to go out there and do my part."

Ales Hemsky
Oilers wing

"We gave it away. We had a turnover with 47 seconds left. You can't do that."

Ken Hitchcock
Blue Jackets coach

SMC BASKETBALL

Saint Mary's travels to face winless Hornets

By ALEX WEST
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's (8-7) looks to bounce back from its first MIAA loss of the year when it plays at Kalamazoo (0-13) today.

The Belles will look to use their height inside and speed in the transition game on offense against the Hornets, who rank last in the MIAA in scoring defense and give up more than 75 points per game.

Coach Jenn Henley said the Belles will also need to play well defensively.

"We need to do a better job on defending the drive and shutting down Kalamazoo's inside game," Henley said. "Our focus continues to be on defense, regardless of our opponent."

The Belles lost 77-72 to Albion last Wednesday, dropping their conference record

to 6-1. Kalamazoo's latest lost came against Albion last Saturday by a score of 68-38.

Although the Hornet's still remain winless, Henley said she doesn't believe her team will overlook them.

"In this league, you can't overlook anyone. Records and standings never truly indicate the strength of a team," she said.

She also said the Hornets' defense could test the Belles.

"They play a lot of different defenses, so we need to be able to recognize what they are playing and execute our offense," Henley said.

Belles leading score Erin Newsom is coming off of an 18-point effort against Albion. She averages almost 15 points and more than nine rebounds a game this season to lead the Belles in both categories.

Contact Alex West at awest@hcc-nd.edu

"We need to do a better job on defending the drive and shutting down Kalamazoo's inside game."

Jenn Henley

NHL

Marleau's overtime goal gives Sharks win

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Joe Thornton set up Devin Setoguchi's tying goal in regulation and Patrick Marleau's overtime winner, and the San Jose Sharks celebrated Claude Lemieux's return to the NHL after a 5½-year absence with a dramatic 2-1 victory over the Vancouver Canucks on Tuesday night.

Lemieux played a regular shift on the fourth line in his first NHL game since 2003 for the Sharks, who gave one of their most listless efforts of the season until the last minute of regulation. Evgeni Nabokov made 13 saves for San Jose, which will enter the All-Star break with at least a share of the overall league lead.

Roberto Luongo stopped 27 shots for the Canucks, who lost their sixth straight after surrendering Setoguchi's tying goal with 39.1 seconds left. With Nabokov pulled for an extra attacker, Thornton threaded a pass from behind the goal to Setoguchi, who found a slight opening.

After Daniel Sedin committed


a hooking penalty midway through overtime, Thornton made a cross-ice pass to Marleau for the San Jose captain's 25th goal. Marleau is expected to be added to the West All-Star team soon, joining Thornton, defenseman Dan Boyle and coach Todd McLellan in Montreal.

A violent scrum erupted as the teams left the ice when Henrik Sedin ran into Nabokov and Ryane Clowe, who responded angrily. Both teams traded shoves, and Vancouver enforcer Shane O'Brien was frustrated in his attempt to confront Clowe.

Taylor Pyatt scored in the first period for the Canucks, who were a few moments away from becoming just the second opponent to win a regular-season game in regulation at the Shark Tank since last Feb. 14. Calgary ended San Jose's streak of 31 consecutive home games with at least one point last Thursday.

All eyes at the sold-out Shark Tank were on Lemieux, the 43-year-old forward who won four Stanley Cups and a playoff MVP award during parts of 20 NHL seasons.

B u i l d S t r o n g e r



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Jackson

continued from page 24

Superior State.

How many Notre Dame students have even heard of Lake Superior State?

But in a sense, that was the college hockey world's view of the Irish program before Jackson took over in 2005; the previous year, Notre Dame had won just five games and had been all but dismissed from relevance.

Immediately, Jackson made an impact. The Irish went 13-19-4 in Jackson's first year, nearly tripling their previous win total in the only losing season of Jackson's head-coaching career.

The next year, with stud goaltender David Brown between the pipes, the Irish set a new "Gold Standard" — a slogan that graces many a sign around the team's locker room and offices — by winning 32 games, posting a .898 winning percentage and holding the top spot in the national polls for seven straight weeks.

And last year, with a new goalie (current netminder Jordan Pearce, who has since emerged as one of the CCHA's best) and a shallow senior class (which overachieved but

lacked highly-recruited players because of the coaching change), Jackson did perhaps his best coaching job — guiding a team that barely made the NCAA tournament as the last at-large selection all the way to the Frozen Four, past top-ranked Michigan and into the title game.

The '07-'08 Irish may have been a Cinderella story, but midnight has long since past, and Notre Dame is still standing strong. With a 20-game unbeaten streak and a No. 1 national ranking it has held for six straight weeks, the program is clearly here to stay — as long as Jackson is (which appears to be the case).

Just how dominant have the Irish been? They haven't lost a game they have led after two periods, and Notre Dame ranks in the top five nationally of every major statistical category except for scoring offense — for which the Irish rank eighth.

And just how long have the Irish been that dominant?

They haven't lost since Oct. 25 — the day the football team beat Washington. Since that day, the football team ended its season (and lost four more times) and the men's basketball team began its campaign (and has lost five times).

A new president has been elected and inaugurated in that

time, in case you've been too consumed with the Irish hockey team's streak.

That's the great thing about the team's success, too — students are taking notice. Games are selling out, and general interest and enthusiasm for the program is quickly rising, thanks mostly to the positive results Jackson's teams have posted in such a short time-frame.

Jackson doesn't have the football team's budget or the new facilities several other Notre Dame programs have received in recent years — the hockey team's facilities are regarded as among the worst in college hockey, but that's another (less positive) column.

But that hasn't stopped Jackson from bringing talented players and, more importantly, wins to Notre Dame. He's already helped bring CCHA championship and Frozen Four banners to the Joyce Center, and he'll get his national championship soon enough.

Why?

He's the best coach in college hockey — it's what he does.

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

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

Clagett

continued from page 24

Dame midfielder had been selected by the Riptide in the MLL draft in May, but did not see any action in Los Angeles' 2008 season.

In his career with the Irish, Clagett was one of the nation's top faceoff specialists, ranking No. 4 nationally with a .619 winning percentage his senior year. Clagett also led the team with 63 ground balls in his final season.

A leader of several strong Notre Dame defenses, Zimmerman was chosen by the

San Francisco Dragons in the third round of the draft. The defenseman played in all 58 games in his career with the Irish, starting 45.

Zimmerman helped Notre Dame's defense rank No. 4 in the nation his junior season and No. 5 in the NCAA in 2008. The Great Western Lacrosse League named Zimmerman to the all-conference team his senior year.

Wharton, drafted in the seventh round by the Washington Bayhawks, led Notre Dame his senior year with 53 points and 32 assists.

Wharton, who netted 31 goals with the Irish, helped Notre Dame rank fourth in the NCAA in offense, averaging

12.09 goals per game.

Clagett, Zimmerman, and Wharton will join three other classmates in the MLL that were selected in May's MLL Collegiate Draft. Midfielder Michael Podgajny, goaltender Joey Kemp and defenseman Sean Dougherty were selected over the first four rounds of the draft and comprised the largest draft class ever from Notre Dame.

The 2009 version of the Irish, ranked No. 9 in the "Inside Lacrosse" preseason poll, will begin play with several new starters Feb. 14 against Loyola in Atlanta.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

NBA

Jazz extend home win streak

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — When the game got tight, Mehmet Okur took over for the Utah Jazz.

After the Minnesota Timberwolves cut a big lead to one, Okur hit consecutive 3-pointers to boosted the Jazz past Minnesota 112-107 Tuesday night for their seventh straight home win.

Deron Williams twice drove to the basket and collapsed the defense to set up Okur.

"My shot was cold in the first half but I tried to mix up my game in the second half," Okur said. "I knew it was going to be a long game, so I stayed focused and hungry. Deron did a good job finding me."

The Wolves never led, but cut the lead the 97-96 on Randy Foye's 3-pointer.

With a chance to claim their first lead, Al Jefferson, who had 25 points and eight rebounds, missed a jump hook and Okur grabbed the rebound. He then made his consecutive 3s and added a free throw.

"Okur hit two big 3s, really big," Minnesota coach Kevin McHale said. "We just couldn't

score and we really didn't get good looks after we got it to a one-point game. We had an opportunity there and we just couldn't capitalize."

Williams, who had 17 points and 11 assists, followed Okur's shots with a jumper to expand the advantage to 106-97.

Paul Millsap led Utah with 28 points and 15 rebounds and his dunk gave the Jazz a 97-89 lead midway through the fourth quarter.

"I wanted to step up tonight. I had a tough game last time and I'm not used to that, so I felt like I needed to crash the boards hard tonight," Millsap said.

Ryan Gomes and Foye led Minnesota's rally with late 3-pointers and each finished with 19 points. Sebastian Telfair scored 17, but couldn't keep the Timberwolves from losing a sixth consecutive game in Salt Lake.

Williams and Kyle Korver made six free throws down the stretch to keep the Wolves at bay.

"When they got within one point of us, we could have folded our tents and said, 'Okay, this is it.' But we made some stops on

them, about three or four, and kept them from getting what they wanted," Utah coach Jerry Sloan said.

Minnesota fell to 7-2 under coach Kevin McHale in January, who took over for Randy Wittman last month, and finished a three-game road trip 2-1.

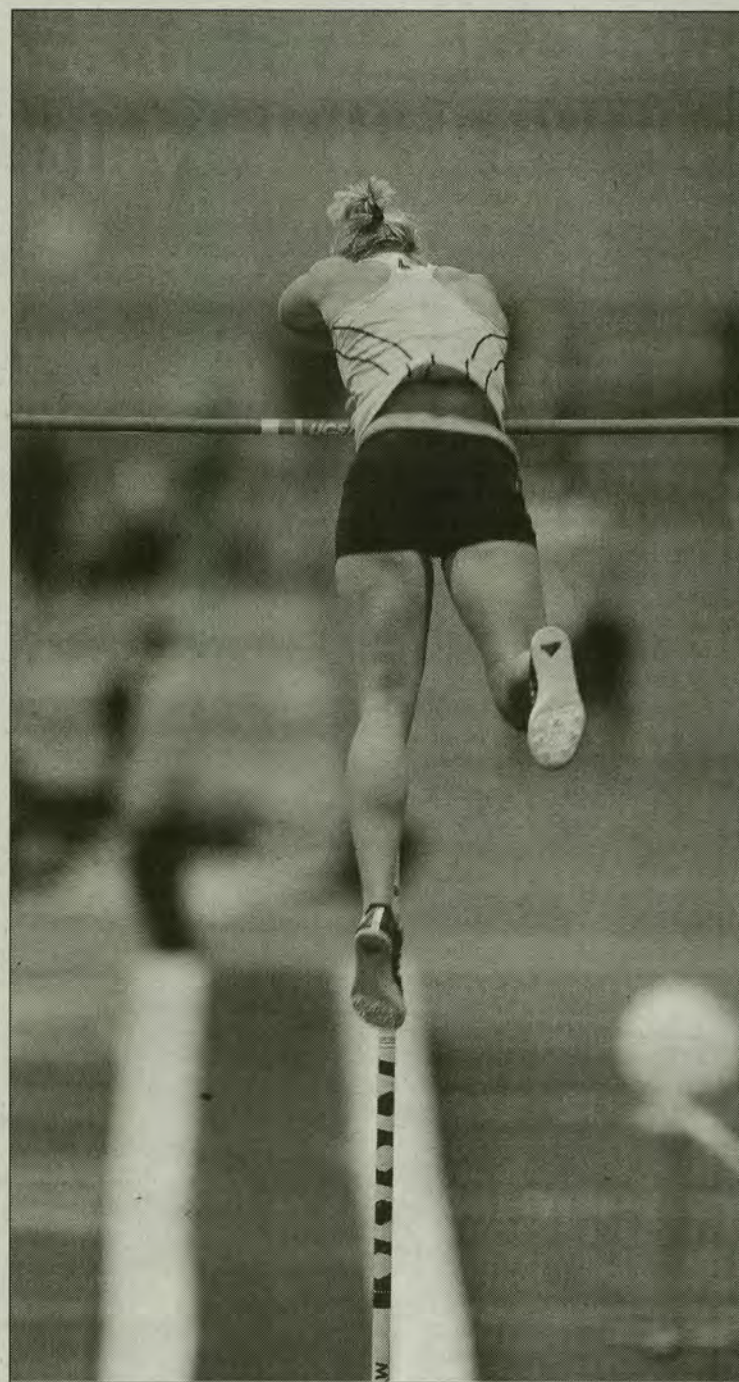
The Jazz jumped out to a 12-0 lead as the Wolves couldn't find the net until the 8:46 mark when Telfair finally made a jumper.

"We spotted them too many points. Got down by 14 points in the third, but we fought back hard," McHale said.

Once Minnesota got going, the Jazz could not shake the Wolves.

The Jazz never led by double-digits in the fourth quarter and were aided by Minnesota's free throw woes to escape. The Timberwolves missed five of seven foul shots in the final period.

Millsap, who had 19 straight double-doubles before he was derailed with a bruised right knee earlier this month, had nine offensive rebounds and kept five Utah fourth-quarter possessions alive with his second efforts.



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Senior Mary Saxer sets the Loftus Center record in the pole vault at the Indoor Opener on Jan. 16.

Saxer

continued from page 24

give credit for her success to her coaches and teammates.

"My coach is so supportive and upbeat and I always look forward to practice because he makes it fun for all of us," she said. "My teammates are like family to me and without them I don't know where I would be. They are the people that you are around the most and they have been there for me through both the fun and difficult times in my life."

Being this successful certainly has its perks.

"In high school, I had little girls come up to me at meets and ask for my autograph," she said. "It's moments like

that where I just smile and think how lucky I am to have been given this talent."

Garnham offered one example in particular that speaks volumes about Saxer's popularity within the pole-vaulting community.

"We had a young lady in for an official visit this past fall and, when she was introduced to Mary, the recruit exclaimed: 'You're Mary Saxer, you're Mary Saxer!' [The girl] was so excited to meet her," he said. "It was a pretty funny moment."

For Saxer, moments like

these give her an opportunity to look back on and truly appreciate what she has accomplished during her career.

"When that recruit recognized me like that, it made me smile. For a moment, I took a step back and realized everything that I had accomplished," she said. "It's easy to get caught up in the day to day practice and the struggles, but when I look at my pole vault career as a whole, I have a lot to be proud of."

"I am a pretty modest person so I don't like to boast, but it's cool sometimes to think that people actually look up to me and think so highly of me and what I have accomplished."

Saxer is well on her way to achieving her goals for this season after

just three meets. Her season-high jump of 13-3.75 feet has qualified her for the NCAA Regional and Big East Championship meets at the end of the season. It is the sixth-highest jump in the NCAA this season and also tied her record from last year's NCAA Mideast regional.

With much of the indoor season remaining and the entire outdoor season on the horizon, the sky's the limit for this experience veteran.

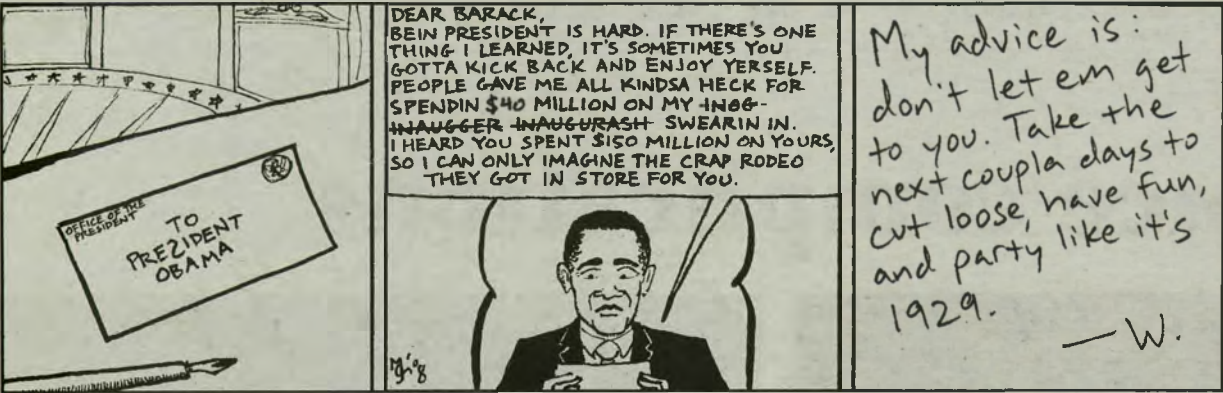
Contact Alex Barker at abarker1@nd.edu

Jim Garnham
Irish coach

"We had a young lady in for an official visit this past fall and, when she was introduced to Mary, the recruit exclaimed: 'You're Mary Saxer, you're Mary Saxer!' [The girl] was so excited to meet her."

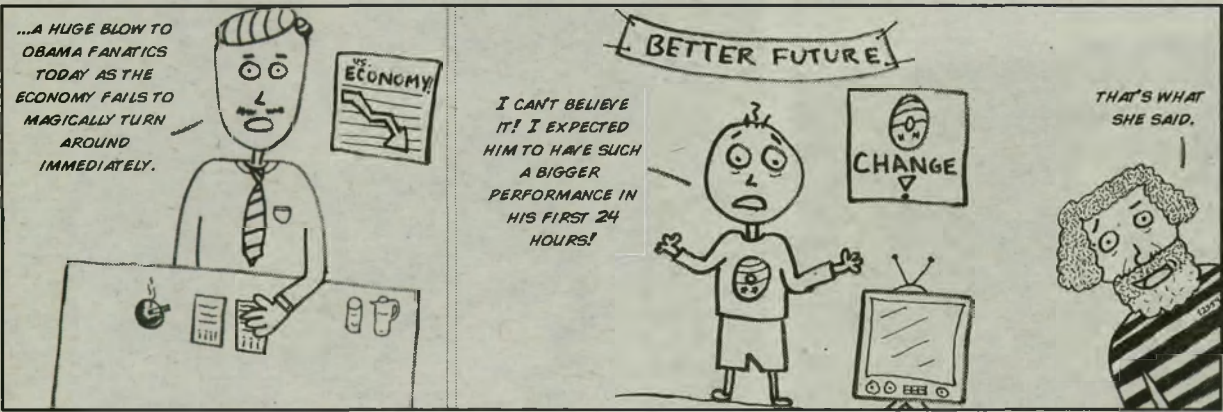
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MICHAEL MIKUSKA



THE DOME PIECE

DAVID CAVADINI



CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**

1 Inundated

6 Trailblazed

9 Caught congers, e.g.

14 Entrance

16 They may have a view of a bridge

17 Nut in a can of premium mixed nuts

18 Bitmap bit

19 On occasion

21 Salon job

22 "One Soldier" (antiwar song)

23 Yuppie (chronic fatigue syndrome)

26 Wind up

27 Yesteryear, nostalgically

32 Some football linemen: Abbr.

33 Hyatt alternative

34 "A Thousand Acres" novelist Smiley
- 35 Order of the Arrow members

39 Low- diet

42 Competitor of uBid

43 Emergency PC key

46 Makes something better in a big way

50 Kind of jacket

51 Tricky

52 Leatherworker's tool

53 Singer/songwriter Aimee

54 Ducky

59 One of the Gandhis

62 Sherwood Forest minstrel

63 Like lapis lazuli

64 "Two cents plain" drink

65 Staff members, and what the circled letters in this puzzle represent
- Down**

1 Electric gauge

2 Not staying in one's lane

3 Climbs

4 Natty

5 Actress Lamarr

6 Door-to-door delivery service?

7 Opera singer Pinza

8 Ignoring

9 Lay out

10 Land o' leprechauns

11 Not enforcing all the laws

12 CBS logo

13 Alternative to dial-up

15 Tafari (Haile Selassie)

20 Tuesday (53-Across's pop band)

23 "Black box" regulator: Abbr.

24 Former White House adviser Noziger

25 Exhaust, with "up"

27 Schmaltz

28 "Peg Heart"

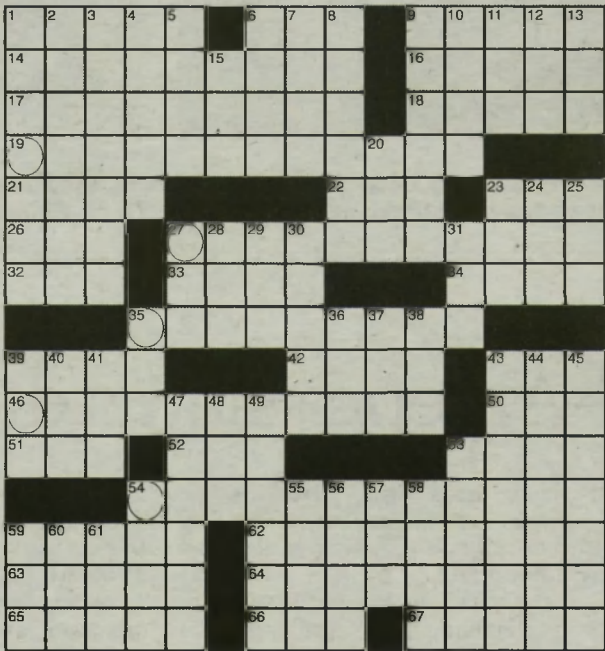
29 Turn- (thrills)

30 Cut into small cubes

31 Spinners of the Spinners, e.g.

35 Air gun ammo

36 U.K. honor



- Puzzle by John Farmer
- 37 Onetime Mideast letters

38 Game show host Treadway and others

39 Music store stock

40 "You've got mail" co.

41 Spain's Carlos I or II

43 Spring

44 "Happy Gilmore" star, 1996

45 House Judiciary Committee chairman John

47 Gives up

48 "The devil looks after his"

49 Div. for the Mets and Marlins

53 Angry with

54 Boot

55 First-aid salve

56 Zippo

57 Some evidence

58 Crow cousins

59 Fled or bled

60 dye

61 Project

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JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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

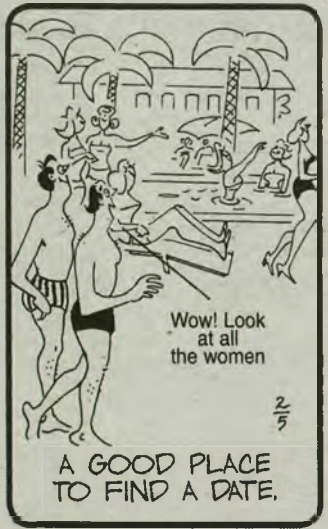
YAWLB

EMAHR

TREFER

PRAMCE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



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

Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: TOKEN AGENT HECKLE DEAFEN
Answer: Hemming dresses all day left the seamstress — ON THE "EDGE"

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Rob Bourdon, 30; Gary Barlow, 38; Stacey Dash, 43; Bill Maher, 53

Happy Birthday: Don't overreact, overdo or drown your sorrows when what you should be doing is assessing your situation and making the necessary reforms, improvements or direction changes to suit your needs. You are the one responsible for the outcome of your life — no one else can do things for you. Question your actions and do what needs to be done to make your life better. Your numbers are 3, 5, 17, 20, 25, 36, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be a hero and do for others. The opportunity to learn something about yourself and the people you hang out with will help you make an important decision that will influence your future. Don't get wrapped up in the moment if someone is trying to talk you into a risky financial deal. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be far too emotional to deal with professional matters rationally. Step back and view what everyone else is doing before you make a decision that may be difficult to reverse. Don't take unnecessary chances. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't expect the ones you love to be as accommodating as your friends and colleagues. Added responsibilities may make your day a little more difficult but it will be a learning experience that will help you out in the future. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A deal, settlement or legal matter can be wrapped up. Expect a tempting offer from someone you love and respect. Added responsibilities are present but will bring great joy and pride. A change at home will add to your security. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look on the bright side. Once you have positive thought flowing freely, you can manipulate whatever situation you face with friends or colleagues. You will come up with a brilliant idea that will be well received. 5 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's best to keep a stiff upper lip and ride out any storm you face. Stick close to the people who think the same way you do but don't argue with the ones who do not. Listen, assess and organize. 2 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You cannot go wrong if you organize or plan something that will enhance your chance of getting ahead. Share a creative idea with people you know will be interested. A short trip will lead to information and suggestions. 4 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): This isn't the time to overreact or jump to conclusions. Put things in perspective and realize your losses and gains. Nothing is a waste of time and every lesson learned will contribute to your future success. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You have to push to do the things you enjoy if you want to be successful. Don't let anyone who is uncomplimentary discourage you from following through with your plans. Be true to your dreams. 3 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Open up and be receptive to a cause. You may be surprised by the connections you make. A deal that required some changes in order to move forward can be closed if you are willing to compromise. 4 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't take anyone or anything too seriously, especially if emotions are high and tempers are hot. Be willing to bend a little to get along. A partnership can turn out to be much better if you get to know one another. 2 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A broader look at your situation and how it's affecting others will give you a better idea of what will help and what won't. You cannot assume anything when it comes to how people will react. Secret information may leak. 5 stars

Birthday Baby: You are open, interesting and intelligent. You are forward thinking, progressive and often ahead of your time. You are sensitive and emotional.

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

THE OBSERVER

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Conference complications

Big East has five of its teams in the top 25

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Senior Women's Basketball Analyst

The Big East is out to prove that it is the best conference in the NCAA, and it is doing it in force. Every team but Providence (7-11) is above .500 so far this season, and the conference boasts five teams ranked in the Associated Press top 25 — including top-ranked Connecticut. No Big East game is a given, especially on the road, and each win is even more important this season as the top four seeds get two bye games in the Big East tournament.

Louisville (19-1, 6-0)

By virtue of having played more games than Connecticut, the Cardinals are currently on top of the table in the Big East, having just beaten Cincinnati 66-50 Tuesday night. The lone blemish on the No. 7

see BIG EAST/page 20



Huskies forward Maya Moore drives to the hoop during No. 1 Connecticut's 88-58 win over No. 2 North Carolina Monday. Right, Irish guard Lindsay Schrader handles the ball during Notre Dame's 70-67 win over St. John's Saturday.



AP and TOM LA/The Observer

ND WOMEN'S TRACK

Saxer eyes NCAAs, All-America status during senior season

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

A three-time all-Big East selection, participant in last year's NCAA Midwest regional meet and holder of a number of school and meet records, senior pole-vaulter Mary Saxer has certainly enjoyed an illustrious career at Notre Dame.

But she's far from done. "This year I have my eye set on the NCAA Championships

and placing so I can be All-American," Saxer said. "I know that I have the ability to achieve this if I really put my mind to it."

She won't be alone on this journey. New pole-vaulting coach Jim Garnham will be at her side willing and able to assist her along the way.

"When I met with Mary this fall after taking this job, I asked her if she had accomplished everything that she wanted to accomplish athletically,"

Garnham said. "Her answer was no. She said she wanted to be an All-American and that's our goal."

That's hardly a stretch for the Lancaster, N.Y., native who is no stranger to performing at an elite level.

Saxer was the first high school female to clear the 14-foot mark, owns the national high school pole-vault record and, until recently, held the female American junior record as well as the female U-17

world record. She was named the National High School Indoor Athlete of the Year in 2005 and also received All-America honors from numerous associations including Nike and USA Today.

As if that wasn't enough, she also claimed the national championship in the long jump at Nike's Indoor Nationals in 2004.

Garnham said he believes her high school career has given her a great edge over most of

the competitors at the collegiate level.

"Mary's past experiences in the pole-vault set her apart from her competitors. She had a lot of success in the event in high school and I think having that experience really helps in different situations," Garnham said. "Her maturity and her mental toughness are her strongest attributes."

Saxer prefers, however, to

see SAXER/page 22

HOCKEY COLUMN

Just how good is Jackson? Success speaks for itself

Is there a better college hockey coach than Jeff Jackson?

Simply put, no.

Midway through his fourth year at Notre Dame, Jackson has already elevated the

Matt Gamber

Associate Sports Editor

program from an occasional contender to a perennial power in the CCHA, one of the nation's top conferences. And after last year's Frozen Four run, the Irish have proven they can be a force on the national scene as well.

Looking at Jackson's résumé,

that comes as no surprise.

He's coached — and won — at every level, from the Canadian junior league to the National Hockey League, where he was an assistant with the New York Islanders for two seasons. Jackson headed the U.S. National Team Developmental Program for five years, and as head coach won a silver medal at the World Junior Championships in 1997.

And in the early 1990s, Jackson won two national titles and 75 percent of his games in six seasons as the boss at Lake

see JACKSON/page 22

MEN'S LACROSSE

Three grads taken in draft

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

Three former Irish stars will take their games to the next level after being selected in the Major League Lacrosse Supplemental draft.

Midfielder Taylor Clagett, defenseman Ross Zimmerman and attack Alex Wharton were all selected in the draft held on Jan. 14.

Clagett was the first Irish graduate off the board in the draft, chosen by the Los Angeles Riptide in the first round. The former Notre



Observer file photo

Former Irish midfielder Taylor Clagett chases the ball during a game in 2007. The Los Angeles Riptide took Clagett in the first round.

see CLAGETT/page 22