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University makes diversity a priority

Notre Dame makes small strides in hiring women, faculty of color, but more progress is required

Female faculty
Fall 2006

Notre Dame: 23%

Association of
American
Universities: 28%

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Editor

The University has made small strides in hiring and retaining women and faculty of color in recent years, but two committee reports issued at the behest of University President Fr. John Jenkins indicate Notre Dame is falling behind other universities in maintaining a diverse faculty.

Fr. Jenkins and University Provost Tom Burish released a letter to faculty on March 2 that pledged to make faculty diversity a priority.

"The University has made

progress increasing the number of women faculty and faculty of color in recent years, but the reports demonstrate that more progress is required," the letter said. "In particular, Notre Dame must do better in recruiting and retaining senior women faculty, and in recruiting and retaining faculty of color at all levels."

The University Committee on Cultural Diversity and the University Committee on Women Faculty and Students began examining the issue of recruiting and retaining women faculty members and

see DIVERSITY/page 6

Faculty of color
Fall 2007

82% White
13% Minority
5% Non-resident alien

University of Chicago:
20% Faculty of color*
*Led the AAU schools

Professors react to stem cell decision

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Writer

In response to President Barack Obama lifting the limits of federal funding for stem cell research, Notre Dame professors took a stance on the issue and explained how it will affect Notre Dame as a Catholic university.

Obama's executive order overturned former President George W. Bush's policy, which gave federal funding only to research that used embryos left over from in-vitro fertilization clinics already going to be destroyed. Now, Obama will give federal funding to research that uses embryos created solely for the sake of research, associate professor of Law Orlando Carter Snead said.

"President Obama does not make any sort of distinction between the sources of embryonic stem cells that are eligible for research funding," Snead said. "That's the most radical proposal that's ever been suggested."

Obama's decision sparks controversy because many disagree over the nature of a human embryo and whether or not it deserves the same rights as every human being, Malcolm Fraser Jr., professor of biological sciences, said.

He said he believes that lifting the ban was the appropriate action to take because it will force society to face the issue and make the "hard decisions."

see STEM CELL/page 4

SMC to elect members to Alumnae Board

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

The Saint Mary's Alumnae Board will be choosing four new members during their annual spring meeting Thursday as four former alumnae will be retiring, Kara O'Leary, director of Alumnae Relations said.

They will be electing two new alumnae, as well as two current student members.

"At this meeting the Board will also be interviewing and selecting one member each from the classes of 2010 and 2011 to serve on the Board. The student member is a newly created position with the senior having full voting privileges and the junior being mentored by the senior to assume the student member position her senior year," O'Leary said.

The Board visits the College twice a year to conduct business.

"As a group they meet on campus each fall and spring. Many also return to campus to assist with events sponsored by the Alumnae Association and to participate in reunion."

While visiting, the Board will have committee meetings, attend general sessions, hear presentations from College administrators, and meet with student groups., O'Leary said.

"Several members will also be participating in an Alumnae Panel that is part of the Diverse Student Leadership Conference

see ALUMNAE/page 6

Group sponsors toiletry drive

Undergraduate Women in Business Club gives goods to YWCA

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Writer

The Undergraduate Women in Business Club is conducting a toiletry drive for the first time and the collected goods will be donated to the South Bend Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), vice president Elizabeth Slawin said.

"This is the first year that we've really done any kind of service project," Slawin said. "We thought that doing something with the women's shelter would be very appropriate for our club just because our club is about giving women the skills to enter the business world."

Slawin said the club called the YWCA to see what sort of supplies they need. The drive is collecting basic toiletry items like shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and towels, Slawin said.

She said they decided to do the drive after spring break because many people will have just been home and could possibly bring items back from home to donate.

Although the club has only been around for five years, they have wanted to do a service project for a while, Slawin said.

"We want to make service part of our club because our club is all about helping girls gain the skills they need to

have successful careers," Slawin said.

It is important for them to implement service into their club, she said, because for a lot of women at Notre Dame, and especially for the girls in the club, maintaining a relationship with the community is important.

Because this is the first year that the drive is being conducted, Slawin said they do not expect any certain number of goods to be collected.

"The more the better. We didn't really set a goal because this is our first year," she said.

Slawin isn't as concerned with the number of donations,

see WOMEN/page 6

Bookstore Basketball to benefit Jamaican youth

By MOLLY MADDEN
News Writer

The annual Bookstore Basketball tournament is more than a popular activity for students; it also works to help the less fortunate.

Established in 1995, the Jumpball Basketball Program is run through the Notre Dame Club of Jamaica that raises money to help the youth of Kingston, Jamaica. A considerable portion of the team registration fees goes towards the Jumpball Program.

"What makes Jumpball unique is the ability to

impact children's lives and help make Jamaica a better community through one person at a time," said Chad Sutcliffe, the director of the Jumpball program and a 1995 Notre Dame graduate.

Sutcliffe was one of the initiators of the influential program that organizes basketball clinics for the kids living in Kingston. It is an effort to help keep the disadvantaged youth from the drugs and violence that is extensive in their neighborhoods.

"With the high poverty rate, we felt that by running a free clinic during

see BOOKSTORE/page 4



Students and faculty participate in last year's Bookstore Basketball tournament.

IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

INSIDE COLUMN

NCAA bracket tips

I first remember filling out an NCAA tournament bracket in fifth grade English class.

I haven't stopped filling my soul with optimism since. Is there a better feeling than finishing the bracket you are sure is "the one," that will predict 63 games correctly?

Douglas Farmer

Sports Writer

I haven't stopped watching Bucknell or Davidson break my heart since. Is there a worse feeling than watching your Elite Eight dark horse fall in the first round, bracket busted?

With two midterms and a paper this week, I swore, no brackets this year. Then Sunday night came and I was at the LaFortune computer cluster printing out 10 copies.

So for the bracket novices out there, from Kansas or Connecticut, Canada or Colombia, here are some tips:

Alabama State will not beat Louisville; Morehead State eliminated them tonight.

Morehead State will not beat Louisville; Wake Forest will.

Notre Dame will not win the NCAA tournament; the Irish are in the NIT tournament.

A twelve-seed will beat a five-seed; it is likely that two, if not three, will.

If a team beat Notre Dame, that does not justify them as exceptionally good; 10 teams in the tournament did so.

Making picks based on mascots is not only allowed, but often effective.

VCU stands for Virginia Commonwealth University, but it really doesn't matter, just pick UCLA, which stands for UCLA.

When forced to pick between Boston College and USC, a Notre Dame football fan picks the bullet. A Notre Dame basketball fan doesn't care, so trust the Trojans.

This is the first year North Dakota State was even eligible for the tournament. That does not mean they won't win a game or two while in it.

Temple's point guard is named Christmas. Unfortunately for him, the grass is green and Christmas is nine months away.

Stephen F. Austin is a long name, so don't waste ink advancing the Lumberjacks.

BYU is not allowed to play on Sundays, but Notre Dame football can play on Christmas Eve.

Do not pick all one-seeds to make the Final Four. Last year was a fluke, and no one will respect you.

A nine-seed over an eight-seed is not an upset. A 10-seed over a seven-seed barely qualifies.

Missouri will not make the Sweet Sixteen, but Portland State will.

No Big East teams will advance to the Final Four, but three ACC teams will.

Memphis will choke in the final, again, and Roy Williams will finally win a title with his own players.

Actually, the safest bet is probably Alabama State. The Hornet's best player is named Chief Kickingstallionsims.

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

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

Due to a reporting error in the March 17 edition of The Observer, it was said that voting for the Saint Mary's Student Government Association Constitution began March 17 and will continue through March 23. The voting does not begin until March 23. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT BASEBALL?



Nathan Furtado
sophomore
Dillon

"Getting home to see my Red Sox at Fenway Park."



Sarah Weber
sophomore
LeMans

"Baseball means spring."



Rachel Hamilton
freshman
Lewis

"Sitting in the sunshine."



Julie Wamser
freshman
Lewis

"Cheering on the Fighting Irish."



Tiz Shadley
sophomore
Lewis

"The tight pants."



GRACE KENESEY/The Observer

The Oblates of Blues play during the Michael Signer Graduate Research Scholarship Fund benefit Monday March 16th at Legends.

IN BRIEF

Finance professor Carl Ackerman will lead a Senior Transition Seminar on personal finance today at 6 p.m. The seminar will be held at Legends.

Brittany Maier and the Notre Dame Hand Bell Choir will perform tonight at Washington Hall in a concert to support Disability Awareness Month. The concert will begin at 7 p.m. and is open to faculty, staff, and students. Parking and shuttle service will be available at Stepan Center.

Efren Rivera Ramos, professor of law at the University of Puerto Rico, will deliver a lecture titled "Territory, Citizenship, and Rights: The Challenges of Overcoming American Colonialism in Puerto Rico" Thursday at 4 p.m. The lecture will be given in 200 McKenna Hall and is open to the public. It is part of the Institute for Latino Studies' lecture series titled "Caribbean Flights: From the First Colonial Cities in America to Metropolis U.S.A."

A lecture entitled "The USA and the EU: Two Modern Forms of Empire?" will take place in the C-103 Hesburgh Center for International Studies at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday. Lunch will be available after the lecture.

Gaelic Storm will be performing a concert at 2 p.m. on Saturday in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Purchase tickets online, visit or call the ticket office at 574-631-2800.

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

OFFBEAT

Officer finds crack inside sack of dog food

AUBURN, Mass. - Finding a bag of dog food in a car carrying a dog is not unusual. But a sharp-eyed Massachusetts state trooper knew something was awry when he noticed a plastic bag inside the sack of food in the back seat of a car he pulled over on the ramp from the Massachusetts Turnpike to Interstate 290 in Auburn on Monday night.

Police said there were about 20 grams of crack cocaine in the plastic bag.

Two brothers were charged with drug traffick-

ing. One man was also charged with possession of a dangerous weapon, a double-sided knife. They are scheduled to be arraigned Tuesday.

State police said arrangements have been made to care for the dog.

71-year-old man fends off robber with ice scraper

RAPID CITY, S.D. - Police said a 71-year-old man, armed only with an ice scraper, frustrated a 20-year-old would-be robber who approached him with a knife. Police said the man was scraping ice off his car Friday when

the 20-year-old pulled out a knife and demanded money.

Police Sgt. Pete Ragnone said the man used his ice scraper to fend off the attacker — who then ran to his girlfriend's home nearby.

That's when a fight broke out between the 20-year-old and his girlfriend.

The would-be attacker surrendered to police and faces charges of attempted first-degree robbery and aggravated assault-domestic violence.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 60 LOW 35	HIGH 45 LOW 33	HIGH 43 LOW 25	HIGH 50 LOW 30	HIGH 57 LOW 35	HIGH 63 LOW 45

Atlanta 69 / 49 Boston 56 / 35 Chicago 57 / 42 Denver 54 / 33 Houston 79 / 57 Los Angeles 69 / 54 Minneapolis 51 / 25 New York 41 / 22 Philadelphia 61 / 39 Phoenix 90 / 59 Seattle 52 / 39 St. Louis 67 / 52 Tampa 78 / 62 Washington 67 / 41

New challenges arise for minorities in 2010 census

Associated Press

What seems like a simple question — How many Hispanics are living in the United States? — has become surprisingly complex as the 2010 census approaches.

Hispanics and other minorities have historically been undercounted in the once-a-decade survey. Advocacy groups are now launching their traditional efforts to ensure an accurate count, but a variety of factors have created new problems for the painting of America's official portrait.

Activists and government officials say fears over immigration enforcement and government snooping are making people more reluctant to share their information. The economic meltdown and Bush administration budget cuts have slowed funding for the census. Millions of laid-off renters and foreclosed homeowners are on the move.

There are more immigrants here, speaking more languages,

than ever before. Some of those immigrants may not know what a census is, or may come from countries where such information is used against rather than for the people.

"This country is just much more complex now, on many different levels," said Terry Ao, director of census and voting programs for the Asian American Justice Center.

The 2000 census counted 35,305,818 Hispanics in the United States. Hispanic groups estimate that several million more were missed. In 2007, the most recent year available, the Hispanic population had grown to an estimated 44,852,816.

The Constitution mandates that every ten years, each person living in the country — regardless of citizenship or immigration status — must be counted.

The census results are used to draw congressional districts and allocate hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding for schools, roads and other services. The data also trickles

down to state and local governments for determining everything from the size of hospitals to the placement of bus stops.

On a more emotional level, the census is the measure of our nation, a literal definition of what we are. That can touch nerves left raw by the simmering immigration debate.

Anti-immigration groups don't object to an accurate count, which may provide fuel for their arguments. But they are opposed to the past practice of suspending immigration raids while the census is being conducted. And they have major objections to counting non-citizens when drawing congressional districts.

Steven Camarota, director of research at the Center for Immigration Studies, called the practice "an assault on the 'one man, one vote' idea."

"It transfers political power to the citizens who live in districts with high numbers of illegal aliens," he said. "If you live in Southern California, your vote counts a great deal more than if you live in Michigan or somewhere with lower immigration."

Ensuring that the maximum number of minorities are counted "seems to be a much bigger issue for the ethnic interest groups and advocacy groups, because that's how they build their interests and political power," said Ira Mehlman, spokesman for the Federation for American Immigration Reform.

Those interest groups point

out that everyone suffers if undercounting leads to less funding for schools, roads or hospitals.

"If you go back to your district, regardless of how many people there are citizens or voters, when you're counting one million and need to count two, this has a huge impact on whether you can deliver services for your voters," said Efrain Escobedo, senior director of civic engagement for the National Association of Latino Elected Officials.

Numbers certainly do mean power, so the census has long been subject to political maneuvering.

Earlier this year, for example, a brief dispute arose after President Barack Obama nominated Republican Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire to head the Commerce Department, which oversees the census. Minority groups protested that Gregg and other Republicans had voted to cut census funding because counting additional minorities or urban dwellers was unlikely to lead to more GOP votes or districts.

The White House responded by saying it would take a greater role in supervising the census — which prompted a Republican outcry over possible Democratic manipulation of the redistricting process.

The exploding Hispanic population has been widely noted in political circles, and Hispanics were considered a key component of Obama's presidential

victory in states like Florida, Nevada and Colorado.

Hispanic groups are now at the forefront of a coalition spanning politics, social services and Spanish-language media that is planning a broad census effort. They are hoping to partner with the Census Bureau on community-based programs, public service announcements and paid advertising. They also want minorities hired to plan the outreach and conduct door-to-door surveys in areas with high percentages of immigrants and other hard-to-count populations, such as black men.

"We're prepared to mount our own national campaign to count ourselves," Escobedo said. "We are going to motivate every ounce of people power that we have ... to let people know it's so critical for your child's education, and for your services in the community."

The Census Bureau seems receptive to these efforts.

For the first time, it will mail bilingual forms to 13 million homes this year. It has a more accurate database of addresses and demographic information thanks to the annual American Community Survey, which began in 2001. It is soliciting employees who can speak languages other than English.

Stephen Buckner, a Census Bureau spokesman, said it will be working with minority groups to "hire indigenously."

"When somebody knocks on your door and you answer it, you're almost going to see a reflection of yourself," he said.

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Bookstore

continued from page 1

the summer we could have a positive impact," Sutcliffe said. "We are trying to teach the children life skills through the sport of basketball."

Using the money that is raised through Bookstore Basketball and from donations, Jumpball organizes a week of free basketball clinics for the inner-city youth. In addition to providing basketball training, it also awards the children based on their ability, attitude and sportsmanship, and provides them with a T-shirt and a free lunch.

"There are a number of kids that end up coming to Jumpball simply because it is a free event and lunch is provided," Sutcliffe said. "These are some of the kids we hope to influence the most as they do not normally have this kind of opportunity."

Sutcliffe said that before Jumpball came to Kingston in 1995, there were little activities for the children of the city to participate in.

"There was a tremendous interest in basketball from all around the city. With this, the poverty level and the lack of activities for children, we really felt like we were filling a need," he said.

Looking at the level of participation, it appears Jumpball has filled this need since the program's inception in 1995.

"Jumpball has grown gradually from 75 participants to over 600 today," Sutcliffe said. "We believe we have had a huge impact on many of the children. They are offered a free opportunity to be part of a highly organized event where they are exposed to a high quality of coaching and teaching."

Sutcliffe says that the program also focuses on the Jamaican coaches that participate. Members of Jumpball have determined ways in which the program can help these adults as well.

"We provide training for the coaches specifically in terms of running and operating a Jumpball clinic but also as part of a nationally recognized training program which can assist them in obtaining jobs as teachers or coaches," he said. "Finally, this coming year we are offering two scholarships to our volunteer coaches to assist them financially in attending a secondary school."

Involving members of the Kingston community has made the youth participants

able to see the impact of Jumpball as a whole.

"The kids are able to see not only the U.S. volunteers but also the Jamaican coaches giving back to the community," Sutcliffe said. "In many cases the volunteers are former campers that have grown up through Jumpball. There is a high level of enthusiasm that is contagious."

To date, Jumpball has raised around \$20,000 for the Kingston community.

Sutcliffe says that none of it would have been possible without the continuous support from the University and the proceeds from the Bookstore Basketball tournament.

"In recent years due to the help of Bookstore we have been able to expand the program. Some of this growth is directly attributable to Bookstore's donations. Without a doubt, Bookstore Basketball has had a tremendous impact on the number of boys and girls that Jumpball is able to reach each year."

Contact Molly Madden at mmadden@hcc-nd.edu

Stem Cell

continued from page 1

Fraser said due to Obama's decision, "there will be public debate and public scrutiny, and hopefully we as a society will come to an understanding about what we can or cannot allow."

He said although he personally would prefer to find alternatives to human embryonic stem cell research, he thinks that lifting the ban was the appropriate approach because it does not limit scientific investigation or force one point of view.

"I value the contributions of science to humankind too much to want any one person or group telling scientists what they can or cannot explore," Fraser said.

Snead disagrees with the argument that no avenues of research should be closed off.

"I don't find that compelling. Obviously there are and should be ethical limits to science," Snead said.

"What we owe to human embryos is a moral question, not a scientific question."

Snead does not support Obama's decision to lift the ban on federal funding for stem cell research.

"I think it's regrettable that tax players are being compelled to support this kind of research, especially in light of all the alternative sources of stem cells that don't require the destruction of embryos," Snead said.

Notre Dame currently does not participate in stem cell research, Fraser said.

However, Notre Dame does participate in adult stem cell research, which takes stem cells from tissue that does not require the destruction of a human embryo, like from umbilical cord blood, fat cells or bone marrow, Snead said.

"If [Obama] decides to disproportionately fund embryonic stem cell research to the exclusion of other forms of stem cell research, our researchers may see a drop in funding," Snead said.

Both Snead and Fraser are in favor of exploring alternative methods to embryonic stem cell research.

"I think we should seize this opportunity to be truly reflective of our convictions and initiate a research program expansion in stem cell research so that we not only espouse non-embryonic stem cell research from an ideological perspective, but we

also participate in, if not pioneer, the development of real scientific advancements that provide alternatives," Fraser said. "Talk is cheap. We need action at the scientific forefront of this endeavor, and we need it at this University."


Contact Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu

"Talk is cheap. We need action at the scientific forefront of this endeavor, and we need it at this University."

Malcolm Fraser Jr.
professor of biological sciences


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WORLD & NATION

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Pope addresses use of condoms

AOUNDE, Cameroon — Pope Benedict XVI said condoms are not the answer to the AIDS epidemic in Africa and can make the problem worse, setting off criticism Tuesday as he began a weeklong trip to the continent where some 22 million people are living with HIV.

Benedict's first statement on an issue that has divided even Catholic clergy working with AIDS patients came hours before he arrived in Cameroon's capital — greeted by thousands of flag-waving faithful who stood shoulder-to-shoulder in red dirt fields and jammed downtown streets for a glimpse of the pontiff's motorcade.

In his four years as pope, Benedict had never directly addressed condom use, although his position is not new. His predecessor, Pope John Paul II, often said that sexual abstinence — not condoms — was the best way to prevent the spread of the disease.

Army gives control to Rajoelina

ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar — In one tumultuous day, Madagascar's top generals handed over control of this Indian Ocean island nation to the opposition leader on Tuesday, hours after the president himself stepped down and tried to put the military in charge.

In a ceremony broadcast from a military camp in the capital, Vice-Admiral Hyppolite Rarison Ramaroson said he and two other generals rejected President Marc Ravalomanana's attempt to transfer power to a military directorate.

Instead, Ramaroson said the military was installing the president's bitter rival, opposition leader Andry Rajoelina, as the country's leader.

NATIONAL NEWS

Amish farmer gets jailtime

EBENSBURG, Pa. — A western Pennsylvania Amish farmer was sentenced Tuesday to 90 days in jail after refusing to bring a pair of outhouses into compliance with state sewage laws.

Andy Swartzentruber, of Ebensburg, cited his conservative religious beliefs in refusing to abide by a court order to make the privies used by schoolchildren compliant and pay a \$500 fine.

Cambria County Judge Norman Krumenacker said he respected the Amish's religious beliefs but had no choice but to sentence Swartzentruber to jail and fine him \$1,000 for being in contempt of court.

Creationists add Darwin exhibit

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A controversial Kentucky museum that trumpets the Bible story of creation and rejects evolution is making room for an odd guest: Charles Darwin.

A new exhibit at the Answers in Genesis Creation Museum argues that natural selection — Darwin's explanation for how species develop new traits over time — can coexist with the creationist assertion that all living things were created by God just a few thousand years ago.

"We wanted to show people that creationists believe in natural selection," said Ken Ham, founder of the Christian ministry Answers in Genesis and frequent Darwin critic.

LOCAL NEWS

Obama nominates Indiana judge

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama nominated a moderate Indiana judge Tuesday to serve on a Midwestern federal appeals court, his first step toward reshaping the federal judiciary and preparing for a possible Supreme Court opening.

The White House chose U.S. District Judge David Hamilton of Indiana for the Chicago-based 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, contending Hamilton was a mainstream jurist who could overcome the bitter Senate confirmation fights of the past several years.

Obama has 15 federal appellate vacancies to fill, including the 7th Circuit court that covers Wisconsin, Indiana and Illinois.

Irish pride celebrated across the nation

People take a break from their economic worries to celebrate St. Patrick's Day

Associated Press

NEW YORK — St. Patrick's Day revelers took a break from worries about the global economy to enjoy a day of shamrock-themed frivolity, dyeing city fountains green, taking icy ocean plunges and crowding sidewalks along parade routes to see and be seen.

Organizers predicted 200,000 participants — and at least as many spectators — would line New York's Fifth Avenue for the city's 248th annual march.

Holly Lopez, a nurse from Buffalo, stood in the dozen-deep Manhattan crowd wearing a temporary shamrock tattoo, green feather necklace, an Irish flag in her cleavage and — she said — green underwear.

She was part of a group of women who have attended for 20 years, "except for pregnancies," said Pam Dempsey.

"We were here before we met our husbands and we'll be here until we're dead," said their friend, Lucy Hoffman.

One of the women held up a sign thanking soldiers. Another sign read: "Is it cold under those kilts?"

Earlier in the day at his Manhattan pub, Ciaran Staunton served up an over-the-top Irish breakfast — sausages, bacon, black and white pudding, home fries, fried tomatoes, and baked beans.

Even with all the revelry, the Ireland native said his thoughts drifted to his nephews back home — an unemployed carpenter, bricklayer and electrician who helped push Ireland's jobless rate past 10 percent.

"The economy's in shreds in Ireland," said the 45-year-old pub owner. "People are being laid off as we speak."

Ken and Mary Ferguson, of Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, were on vacation in New York and reflected on the economy as they watched the marchers pass by on Fifth



Bagpipers play in the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade Tuesday. People also celebrated the holiday by dyeing city fountains green and taking icy plunges in the Atlantic

Avenue.

Ken Ferguson, a truck driver, said his work week had been cut to four days.

But on Tuesday they were soaking in the St. Patrick's Day spectacle.

"It's bigger and better than in Ireland," Ken Ferguson said of the parade.

In Los Angeles, a Roman Catholic priest celebrated St. Patrick's Day by giving away some green.

Father Maurice Chase went to Skid Row with a wallet packed with \$20 bills to give to some of the city's neediest residents. More than 300 people lined up for cash.

Cities and towns around the nation honored Ireland with their own signature celebrations.

In Portland, Maine, 75 people greeted the day with an icy plunge in the Atlantic Ocean, charging into the 37-degree water and celebrating with a Guinness afterward.

Before dawn in Indianapolis, dye was poured into the city's downtown canal, triggering a fountain of green water before the city's parade. Fountains at the White House in Washington also ran green for the day.

And in Savannah, Ga., masses of revelers clad head-to-toe in green, crammed sidewalks and oak-shaded squares for the best parade view.

A sad note rang through the New York festivities when a member of a New Jersey police band suffered a fatal

heart attack. Steve Dunne, a 59-year-old tenor drummer in the Police Pipes and Drums of Bergen County, collapsed near 75th Street and was pronounced dead at St. Luke's Hospital shortly after 12:30 p.m.

Dunne, a state court officer, was a founding member of the band in 1992.

Despite all, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg summed up the spirit of the day.

"I can't think of any better time for a parade, when some people are distressed and some people are disappointed and some people are depressed," he said. "People need a pick-me-up, people need to know that we can get through this together."

SRI LANKA

Deaths blamed on lack of medical supply

Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — A lack of medical supplies has led to the needless deaths of hundreds of hospital patients in parts of northern Sri Lanka ravaged by civil war, the regions' top health officials said.

The international Red Cross said conditions for civilians were "deteriorating by the day," and the U.N. Children's Fund said thousands of children were at risk because of "a critical lack of food, water and medicines."

In a letter to the Health Ministry, officials from two northern Sri Lankan regions said just 5 percent of the needed drugs and dressings were received in the last quarter of 2008

and the first part of this year.

The letter, seen Tuesday by The Associated Press, was signed by the health officers of Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu. Kilinochchi was the headquarters of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam until it was overrun by government troops in early January.

The last remaining remnants of the rebels are fighting in Mullaitivu to hold on to a shrinking swath of land — estimated at 13.5 square miles (35 square kilometers) — on the northeast coast.

The letter said more than 500 patients died since January after arriving at hospitals and that thousands of others may have died outside of hospitals.

"Most of the hospital deaths could

have been prevented if basic infrastructure facilities and essential medicines were made available," it said.

On Tuesday, a further 23 patients died out of 108 wounded civilians taken to a makeshift hospital in the northeast, said Kandasamy Tharmakulasingham, a hospital administrative officer.

Human Rights Minister Mahinda Samarasinghe said any letter coming out of the rebel territory is "suspicious and subject to verification." He declined further response until he could consult senior health officials.

The U.N. says 150,000 to 180,000 civilians, displaced from Kilinochchi and Mullaitivu, are trapped in the war zone.

Alumnae

continued from page 1

(DSL) that will also be taking place on campus this week," O'Leary said.

During this visit, the Board will also hold meetings to discuss alumnae engagement, as well as prepare some plans for the reunion this June.

"The various committees will be communicating with the Board their strategies to work more effectively with club leadership, provide programming to foster alumnae engagement, and ways to educate students about alumnae involvement," O'Leary said.

The group also has plans to choose recipients of the Alumnae Association awards, which include Distinguished Alumna, Alumna Achievement, Humanitas and Outstanding Young Alumna,

O'Leary said.

Each time the Board visits, student groups are allowed to participate with them. "Students serve on the Clubs and Resources, Student-Alumnae and Alumnae Engagement committees. At each meeting the Board meets with two to three student groups the evening they arrive," O'Leary said. "At this meeting they will be meeting with members of the Student Academic Council (SAC) and several RA's."

Out of 19 members, 17 will be attending this visit. Some members of the Board will be staying at the College at Riedinger House, LeMans Hall and The Inn at Saint Mary's, O'Leary said.

They will arrive March 19, and will remain on campus through March 21.

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu

Women

continued from page 1

but the impact the drive will have on the connection the club can build with the YWCA.

"Even though this might end up being kind of a small start, it could help our club build a relationship with them," Slawin said.

The club will also be hosting a bake sale in conjunction with the toiletry drive at the end of the week, said senior Dana Gates, a member of the Undergraduate Women in Business Club.

"We thought cookies would get people's attention and promote what we are doing a little better," Gates said in an e-mail.

Slawin said a few members of the club will bring the collected items to the YWCA next week.

"Ultimately it is about empowering women."

Contact Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu

Chinua Achebe to give lecture series

Special to the Observer

Nigerian novelist and poet Chinua Achebe, winner of the 2007 Man Booker International Prize, will deliver the third biennial Blessed Pope John XXIII Lecture Series in Theology and Culture at the University of Notre Dame on March 23, 25 and 26 (Monday, Wednesday and Thursday).

Widely regarded as the father of modern African literature, Achebe is best known for his 1958 novel "Things Fall Apart," which has been listed as one of the most important books of the 20th century.

"The Igbo and their Perception of God, Human Beings and Creation" is the central theme of

the lecture series. The March 23 lecture will focus on "God," the talk on March 25 will focus on "Human Beings," and the March 26 presentation will focus on "Creation." Each lecture will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Jordan Auditorium in Notre Dame's Mendoza College of Business.

Achebe's works, which include four additional novels and numerous collections of short stories and poetry, have sparked international dialogue around the effects of colonization on African culture and the way in which Western writers have depicted Africa and Africans over time. Achebe currently is the Charles P. Stevenson Professor of Languages and Literature at Bard College in New York.

Diversity

continued from page 1

faculty of color in the fall of 2007 and released reports to Fr. Jenkins with suggestions on how to create a more diverse faculty at Notre Dame.

Film, Television and Theater Professor Susan Ohmer, chair of the committee on women faculty and students, said the University recruits female faculty members at a higher rate than other universities, but lags in retaining them in the long term.

In the fall of 2006, 23 percent of Notre Dame faculty members were female, compared to a total of 28 percent at private universities that are members of the Association of American Universities (AAU), according to the committee's report.

The report said that for every 100 female faculty members at AAU private schools, Notre Dame had 82, a ratio that has dropped 10 percent in the past 10 years. But at the recruiting level, for every 100 assistant professors at AAU private schools, Notre Dame hires 105.

"In recruiting women, we do better than other schools," Ohmer said. "But we can't keep them."

In order to understand why women are leaving, Ohmer said the committee examined exit interviews, which recorded reasons female faculty members left the University over the years.

"Spousal hiring and child-care were issues that came up," she said.

The report proposed several suggestions to improve child-care opportunities for faculty members and a spousal hiring program, which would establish a fund to "support dual academic hires" when both spouses work in the field of academia.

The report also suggested creating a hiring plan that would increase the number of senior women faculty members.

While the Committee on Women Faculty and Students found that the University recruited female faculty members in high numbers, but did not retain them, Ohmer said the Committee on Cultural Diversity concluded Notre Dame is not recruiting high numbers of members of faculty of color, nor is it retaining

the members it does hire.

"When it comes to faculty of color, we don't even do enough at the recruiting point, let alone keep people," she said. "We need to get them here so in that sense, it's more dire."

The report released by the Committee on Faculty Recruitment and Retention — a subcommittee of the Committee on Cultural Diversity — said that in the fall of 2007, 82 percent of Notre Dame faculty were white, 13 percent minority and 5 percent non-resident alien.

According to the report, Notre Dame ranks lower than many AAU

private Universities. The University of Chicago led AAU schools in 2007 with 20 percent faculty of color, compared to Notre Dame's 13 percent.

Ohmer, who was also involved with examining the report on faculty of color, said location is a large part of the issue.

"University of Chicago is very international, very cosmopolitan," she said. "We are working on that. We are becoming more global, but it's not the same."

Ohmer said the committee wants to look into ways to make faculty of color more comfortable with Indiana and Notre Dame.

"They need to know that Notre Dame is a welcoming place for people from diverse backgrounds," she said. "We want it to be for students' sake and faculty's, but sometimes it's a harder sell."

Another obstacle in recruiting faculty of color is the competitiveness of the field, Ohmer said. The scholars often have multiple offers, so the University needs to make Notre Dame appealing.

The report suggested creating a fellowship program for faculty of color, a hiring plan to recruit new faculty members, mentoring programs and an office devoted to diversity.

"In recruiting women we do better than other schools. But we can't keep them."

Susan Ohmer
chair of the committee
on women faculty and
students

Many other top universities already have programs like those proposed by the committee, Ohmer said.

Ohmer said she is delighted by Fr. Jenkins' response to both committees' reports. She said the University has already committed to increasing funding for the Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC), and starting in August, faculty members in the Office of the Provost will be assigned to work to increase faculty diversity.

"In the committee, we feel we are getting real results," she said.

In the letter circulated to faculty, Fr. Jenkins said creating and maintaining a diverse faculty is essential to the Catholic character of the

University.

The letter stated the University will implement several of the committees' suggestions immediately, such as a Dual Career Assistance program for spouses of faculty members and a new postdoctoral training program to "attract top young academics from underrepresented groups, especially women and faculty of color."

Ohmer said she is pleased with the progress the University is making in creating a diverse faculty and she said she hopes the efforts will help Notre Dame emerge as a more globally aware and enriched university.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

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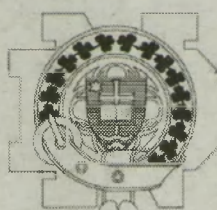
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Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:
2,877	98	889	2,768,816,768
AMEX	1,318.72	+15.61	
NASDAQ	1,462.11	+58.09	
NYSE	4,868.14	+139.23	
S&P 500	778.12	+24.23	
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	7,949.13	0.00	
FTSE 100 (London)	3,857.10	-6.89	

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
CITIGROUP INC (C)	+7.73	+0.18	2.51
BK OF AMERICA (BAC)	+1.46	+0.09	6.27
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	+3.06	+2.32	78.18
FINANCIAL BULL 3X (FAS)	+15.28	+0.74	5.61

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+1.76	+0.052	3.00
13-WEEK BILL	+2.27	+0.005	0.23
30-YEAR BOND	+1.04	+0.039	3.80
5-YEAR NOTE	+3.14	+0.060	1.97

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+1.10	47.35	
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-8.10	922.00	
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+3.00	88.50	

Exchange Rates			
YEN		98.8200	
EURO		1.3034	
CANADIAN DOLLAR		1.2693	
BRITISH POUND		1.4068	

IN BRIEF

2,400 Caterpillar employees laid off

PITTSBURGH — Caterpillar Inc. on Tuesday announced plans to lay off more than 2,400 employees at five plants in Illinois, Indiana and Georgia as the heavy equipment maker continues to cut costs amid the global economic downturn.

Caterpillar, the world's largest maker of mining and construction equipment, has seen its sales wither as the sluggish world economy and the credit crisis weaken demand for its products, used to build everything from houses to highways. The company had expanded dramatically in recent years, helped by a building boom in developing countries.

In response to the worsening conditions, Caterpillar in January announced job cuts that will ultimately eliminate 20,000 positions. It also said it would slash executive compensation by up to 50 percent and offer buyouts to about 25,000 U.S.-based employees. Caterpillar, which employs about 112,000 people worldwide, said it had imposed a global hiring freeze.

In the latest cuts, the Peoria, Ill.-based company said 2,365 support and management workers had been notified of layoffs expected to last at least six months — including 245 announced previously — and 89 workers will be let go permanently.

Government aids small businesses

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Internal Revenue Service issued guidelines Tuesday that will allow tax relief and refunds for some Bernard Madoff victims who were levied for investment earnings that turned out to be nonexistent.

IRS Commissioner Douglas Shulman told Congress the new guidelines are for taxpayers who have suffered losses from Ponzi investment schemes such as the massive Madoff swindle.

He said the guidelines will apply to victims of all Ponzi schemes — financial scams in which early investors are paid returns from money put in by later investors. But given the scope of the Madoff scandal, the IRS wanted to establish an easy system for investors to recover taxes they paid on "fictitious income," Shulman said. has their ability to thrive or survive.

Wholesale housing prices edge up

Critics view increase in housing construction as only a "temporary gain"

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Housing construction posted a surprisingly large increase in February, bolstered by strength in all parts of the country except the West.

While the surge in construction was far better than the continued decline economists had expected, experts viewed the rebound as a temporary gain given all the problems the housing industry still faces.

The Commerce Department reported Tuesday that construction of new homes and apartments jumped 22.2 percent in February compared with January, pushing total activity to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 583,000 units.

Meanwhile, the Labor Department said wholesale prices edged up a slight 0.1 percent in February as a big drop in food costs offset a second monthly increase in energy prices.

After the news, investors reignited Wall Street's rally, snapping up financial and homebuilder stocks among others. The Dow Jones industrial average and other major indexes all finished with gains of more than 2 percent, with the tech-laden Nasdaq composite index jumping more than 4 percent.

The protracted housing downturn, rising foreclosures and a deepening U.S. recession have battered homebuilders and scared off many potential buyers. Analysts expect mounting job losses and foreclosures and tightening lending standards to continue to suppress home sales.

"Building permits are indicating that starts could improve modestly in coming months, but we believe the reprieve will be short-lived," Soleil Securities Group analyst Anna Torma wrote in a research note.

Even with the big increase, construction activity remains 47.3 percent below where it was a year



A new house is under construction in Iowa. The Department of Commerce reported that housing construction increased by 22 percent in February.

ago. The strength in February was led by a sharp gain in apartment construction, which can be highly volatile from month to month.

All areas of the country reported an increase in February, except the West, which has been hardest hit by the housing slump.

Patrick Newport, U.S. economist for IHS Global Insight, said the uptick in construction was driven by improving weather in February, particularly in the Northeast, where a severe winter had slowed construction in December and January.

"The numbers are so low that any increase will give you a big percentage increase," Newport said.

He said a surer sign of a

turnaround would be a three-month sustained increase in single-family permits.

"We got several months over the past three years where permits increased only to drop the following month," Newport said.

The 0.1 percent increase in wholesale inflation was much lower than the 0.8 percent surge in January and smaller than the 0.4 percent increase economists had expected. Compared with a year ago, wholesale prices are actually down 1.3 percent.

Core inflation, which excludes energy and food, edged up 0.2 percent in February, only slightly higher than the 0.1 percent gain economists had expected. Core prices had risen 0.4

percent in January. The world economy remains soft and is getting weaker, making it difficult for companies to raise prices, said Nigel Gault, chief US economist at IHS Global Insight.

"Inflation is clearly very quiet," Gault said. "The risks, if we're looking over the rest of the year, are more toward deflation than inflation, but deflation certainly is not here yet."

Companies are continuing to slash costs.

Caterpillar Inc. on Tuesday announced plans to lay off more than 2,400 employees at five plants in Illinois, Indiana and Georgia as the heavy equipment maker continues to cut costs amid the global economic downturn.

Taxpayers unhappy about AIG bonuses

Associated Press

For many Americans who could use a bailout just to balance their checkbooks and make it through the month, the thought of their tax dollars going to million-dollar bonuses for AIG executives is enough to make them furious.

"It's difficult to comprehend how screwing up gets you rewards," said George Padilla, a teacher in El Paso, Texas. "I tell my students that if they don't put in the effort and get passing grades, I will not pass them." He added: "I use the old 'In the real world ...' line to point out that you would be fired if you didn't do well in your job. Well, I guess 'the real world' proved me wrong."

Workers, business owners and taxpayers interviewed across the country this week fumed over the \$165 million payout, with some question-

ing whether the government should even be in the business of bailing out Wall Street — an attitude that could dangerously undermine further efforts by the Obama administration to prop up the economy.

"Wasn't Obama supposed to fix this?" said Maria Panza-Villa, a mother of two in Hillsboro, Ore. She said she has lost three jobs since November as one employer after another folded.

The intensity of the populist fury became plain when a member of the Senate, Iowa Republican Charles Grassley, actually suggested AIG executives should follow the Japanese warrior example and resign or commit suicide.

While many ordinary Americans said Grassley's comments were out of line, others weren't so sure.

AIG executives are "not going to

bleed to death because I'm not sure that they've got blood. I think it's ice water that runs through their veins," said Gary Jarvis of Herron, Ill., who lost his job as a forklift driver in a factory closing two years ago. "To me, it's just stunning to think they're not even ashamed of their disgusting greed."

AIG — teetering on the brink of collapse because it insured many of the toxic mortgage-backed securities at the vortex of the financial crisis — has mostly been an unknown quantity to the general public, in part because its business is so complex.

But paying bonuses to people responsible for nearly bringing the company, and the economy, to its knees may be even more incomprehensible to nearly anyone who runs a business or tries to balance a household budget.

CANADA

Bush refuses to criticize Obama, 'deserves my silence'

Former president plans to write book, wants "people to understand what it was like to sit in the Oval Office"

Associated Press

CALGARY, Alberta — Former President George W. Bush said on Tuesday that he won't criticize Barack Obama because the new U.S. president "deserves my silence," and said he plans to write a book about the 12 toughest decisions he made in office.

Bush declined to critique the Obama administration in his first speech since leaving office in January. Former Vice President Dick Cheney has said that Obama's decisions threatened America's safety.

"I'm not going to spend my time criticizing him. There are plenty of critics in the arena," Bush said. "He deserves my silence."

Bush said he wants Obama to succeed and said it's important that he has that support. Talk-show host Rush Limbaugh has said he hoped Obama would fail.

"I love my country a lot more than I love politics," Bush said. "I think it is essential that he be helped in office."

The invitation-only event titled a "Conversation with George W. Bush" attracted close to 2,000 guests who paid \$3,100 per table. Bush received two standing ovations from the predominantly business crowd. About 200 protested outside the event.

Bush is unpopular in Canada but less so in oil-rich Alberta, the country's most conservative province and one sometimes called the Texas of the north.

"This is my maiden voyage. My first speech since I was the president of the United States and I couldn't think of a better place to give it than Calgary, Canada," Bush said.

The event's organizers declined to say how much Bush was paid to speak at the gathering.

Bush said that he doesn't

know what he will do in the long term but that he will write a book that will ask people to consider what they would do if they had to protect the United States as president.

He said it will be fun to write and that "it's going to be (about) the 12 toughest decisions I had to make."

"I'm going to put people in my place, so when the history of this administration is written at least there's an authoritarian voice saying exactly what happened," Bush said.

"I want people to understand what it was like to sit in the Oval Office and have them come in and say we have cap-

tured Khalid Sheik Mohammed, the mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, the alleged killer of a guy named Danny Pearl because he was simply Jewish, and we think we have information on further attacks on the United States," Bush said.

Bush didn't specify what the 12 hardest decisions were but said Iraq is better off without Saddam Hussein in power.

Bush was also full of jokes during his appearance. He joked that he would do more speeches to pay for his new house in Dallas.

"I actually paid for a house last fall. I think I'm the only American to have bought a

house in the fall of 2008," he quipped.

He also said his mother is doing well. Barbara Bush was released from a Houston hospital Friday, nine days after undergoing heart surgery. "Clearly he can't live without her," Bush said of his father and former President George H.W. Bush.

Bush seemed to enjoy himself even though the event started a half later than expected because of tight security. "I'll sit here all day," Bush said during a question-and-answer session. "I'm flattered people even want to hear me in the first place."

MEXICO

11 dead in Mexico tour bus accident

Associated Press

SALTILLO — A drunken driver lost control of his tractor-trailer and slammed into a bus carrying Canadians and Americans touring northern Mexico, killing 11, officials said Tuesday.

Seven Americans, three Canadians and the Mexican bus driver were killed, said Jose Angel Herrera, a federal homicide detective in northern Coahuila state.

They included two Texas middle school teachers on a spring break, a retiree from Iowa and a Quebec business consultant easing into retirement with a tour of the U.S. and Mexico. Many were snowbirds from colder climes who spent their winters in Texas' Rio Grande Valley.

Todd Huizinga, a spokesman for the U.S. consulate in the nearby city of Monterrey, said nine Americans were injured and that most were in stable condition.

Herrera said the tractor-trailer driver lost control, swerved onto the shoulder to his left, then overcompensated to the right and crashed into the bus coming from the opposite direction on Monday. State civil defense officials said 16 people were injured, many seriously.

Photos showed much of the side of the bus torn off.

"I can't believe anybody got out alive," said Beverley Kinnammon after speaking by phone with her sister, Barbara Jewell Dalke, of Mission, Texas, one of the survivors.

"She said it was really bad," Kinnammon said by telephone after speaking with her sister earlier in the day. "We feel very lucky that Barbara seems to be OK."

Herrera said the truck driver, who was among those hurt, had been intoxicated and

would be charged with involuntary homicide.

Two of those killed were middle-school reading teachers at Cummings Middle School in Brownsville, Texas: Ana Maria Bujanos of Brownsville and Rebecca Pemelton of Harlingen.

"Tomorrow would have been our 33rd wedding anniversary, that's why I'm taking it so hard," said Bujanos' husband, Chris.

Bujanos, 56, had taken similar trips for years, her husband said.

The Canadian Press news agency identified the Canadians who died as Robert Lacas, 56, of Quebec, Carolyn Kowaleski, 68, of Caledonia, Ontario, and Marilyn Jackson, 67, of Vancouver.

Lacas was "a man who worked hard all his life and was finally, slowly going into semiretirement and he was really excited about taking this trip," said Jean-Luc Morin, who worked with Lacas for 14 years. Lacas's wife, Line Carrier, 55, was among the four injured Canadians.

The couple had been touring the southern United States in a recreational vehicle. They left it at a campground in McAllen and boarded the bus for a whirlwind trip in northeastern Mexico, Carrier's son Christian Poulin said.

"They raised their family, worked hard and were thinking about themselves — and it was time to do that — and sadly misfortune has befallen them," Poulin said.

Ron Christy 73, of West Liberty, Iowa was an avid bocce ball and shuffleboard player who operated the sound system for dances and church services at an RV park in Donna, Texas, where he wintered with his wife Margaret Christy, 69.



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Former 1970s radical released from prison

Associated Press

CHOWCHILLA, Calif. — A former 1970s radical associated with the group that kidnapped newspaper heiress Patty Hearst finished her California prison sentence Tuesday, ending a legal drama that harkened back to a violent era of social unrest.

Sara Jane Olson, 62, was freed from the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla shortly after midnight and was allowed to serve her yearlong parole in Minnesota, the state she adopted during her 24 years as a fugitive.

Olson served seven years — half her sentence — after pleading guilty to helping place pipe bombs under Los Angeles Police Department patrol cars and participating in the deadly 1975 robbery of a bank in a Sacramento suburb.

The crimes took place while she was a member of the Symbionese Liberation Army, a relatively short-lived but violent group that sought to overthrow the government while engaging in killings, robberies and gun battles with police. Then she was Kathleen Soliah; she changed her name after fleeing to Minnesota.

Among the group's victims was 42-year-old Myrna Opsahl, a mother of four who was gunned down during the bank robbery.

"I'm just glad that the former SLA members were finally held accountable for the murder of my mom," Jon Opsahl, who is now living in Southern California, said Tuesday after hearing of Olson's release.

"It does finish out this chapter, and I hope it's the last chapter," he said. "I'm glad she's leaving the state."

Olson was released by mistake a year ago after California corrections officials miscalculated her parole date; she was re-arrested after spending five days with her family. Authorities now say she has served the proper seven-year sentence; she had been sentenced to 14 years but got time off for good behavior and prison work.

"She was definitely relieved that it all went smoothly," said David Nickerson, one of Olson's attorneys.

He said Olson and her husband, Dr. Gerald "Fred" Peterson, were trying to make travel arrangements to return to their home in St. Paul, Minn., and their three daughters. A bouquet of flowers was left at the couple's home Tuesday morning, but no one was there to receive it.

Not everyone in Minnesota will be happy to see Olson return.

Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty and police protective leagues in Los Angeles and St. Paul wrote Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, urging him to have Olson serve her parole in the state where she committed her crimes. Some Minnesota lawmakers also called for Olson to remain in California.

"I think today is a slap in the face of California law enforcement and (other) law enforcement," Los Angeles Police Protective League President Paul Weber said in an interview.

Schwarzenegger said he deferred the decision to the cor-

rections department. Department spokeswoman Terry Thornton said parole decisions are intended to give former prisoners the best chance of reintegrating into society and avoiding re-arrest.

"Being with their family increases the chances that they will succeed on parole," she said.

More than 1,000 California parolees are being supervised in other states. They typically have a week to report to the state in which they will serve their parole.

Several hours after her release from the prison, which sits among orchards and vineyards about 150 miles southeast of San Francisco, Olson and her husband returned to a Madera County parole office to finish paperwork.

Neither her lawyers nor corrections officials would say where they went afterward, other than to say they were making arrangements to leave the state.

Olson's mother and younger sister declined to speak to reporters when they returned Tuesday afternoon to the family home in Palmdale, a working-class suburb in the high desert north of Los Angeles.

In a brief telephone conversation, the younger woman identified herself only as Martha. She said she had not spoken to her older sister since her release from prison but had heard through someone else that she was doing fine and looking forward to going home. When asked how her mother, Elsie Soliah, was doing, the younger woman said, "She's just glad everything is over."

The Symbionese Liberation Army was a band of mostly white, middle-class young people. In addition to the 1974 Hearst kidnapping, it claimed responsibility for assassinating Oakland Schools Superintendent Marcus Foster and was involved in a shootout with Los Angeles police officers that killed five SLA members.

In a sign of those turbulent times, the group adopted a seven-headed snake as its symbol and the slogan, "Death to the fascist insect that preys upon the life of the people."

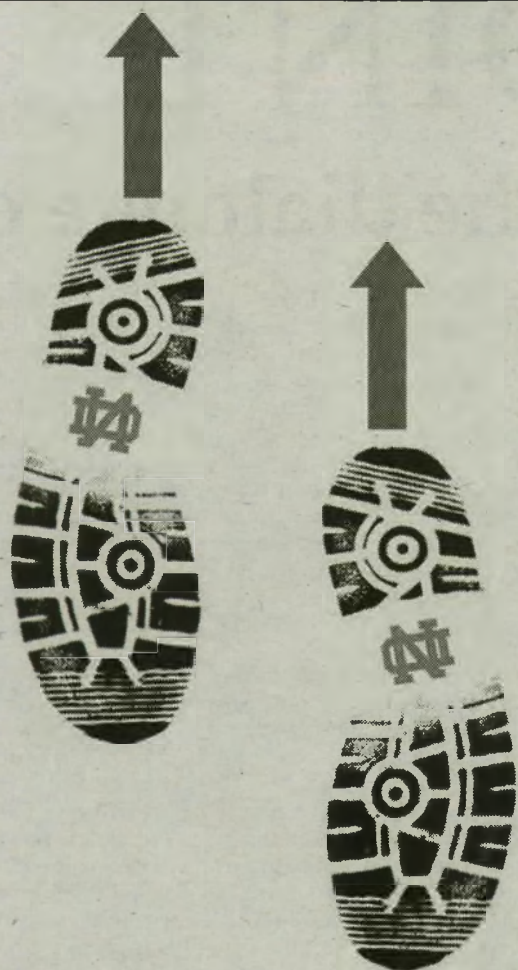
"We were young and foolish. We felt we were committing an idealized, ideological action to obtain government-insured money and that we were not stealing from ordinary people," Olson wrote in an apology before her sentencing for the bank robbery. "In the end, we stole someone's life."

In Minnesota, Olson developed an identity that was worlds apart from her California past. She volunteered in social causes and acted in community theater while raising the couple's daughters. The Olson home was a frequent site of dinner parties.

Her past resurfaced in 1999, when she was arrested while driving a minivan after she was profiled on the television show "America's Most Wanted."

All former SLA members but one have been released from prison.

Emily Montague-Harris was paroled in February 2007 after serving half her eight-year sentence. She says she accidentally fired the shotgun that killed Myrna Opsahl.



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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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THE OBSERVER

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Do not let the dialouge die

We would like to applaud Christie Pesavento ("A nation of cowards," March 3) for her willingness to confront issues of race that face this country. However, we feel that this particular line of dialogue may serve to undermine our collective efforts and stunt an honest and thorough conversation on race.

Black Students Association

Guest Column

Firstly, one need not be the literal author of a particular piece of legislation to be a figurative one. Even if we grant Pesavento's point, it would seem that we cannot demand accountability or moral responsibility from a President based on a particular bill passed through Congress. Is this the kind of slope we want to travel on?

Secondly, we do agree that it is unlikely that the New York Post cartoonist set out with an intent to create a racist cartoon. However, we cannot logically infer that a particular cartoon is not racist from a belief that intentions that caused this particular cartoon were decidedly non-racist. Simply put, it is possible for a cartoon to be racially offensive without its author intending racism, and since many black people believed it was racist, it was. Al Sharpton and other critics were objecting to the actual content of the cartoon being racist, not its author.

As a matter of course, media outlets must be more sensitive to publishing potentially offensive material in a way that some of us may not be in everyday discourse. Consciously reflecting on, considering and publishing a reasonably offensive (whether non-affected persons regard it as offensive is irrelevant) cartoon for mass consumption is an entirely different exercise than a person saying something off-the-cuff that could potentially be construed as offensive.

Thirdly, while our nation's efforts at recognizing the accomplishments of the black community and legislating of equal rights laws must be noted, we must also recognize that the de jure ending of segregation does nothing to alter the de facto segregation that still exists institutionally. Most of the pressing problems that America faces today (unemployment, failing schools, poverty, health care, crime, etc.) disproportionately affect the black community. These circumstances are direct effects of that ugly era where "we" took Africans into slavery, "we" denied them citizenship and basic human rights and "we" continued to employ blatantly segregationist measures well into the 20th century.

Attorney General Holder, in calling us a nation of cowards, was merely imploring us to come to terms with our past. Real dialogue cannot begin until we can dig through the attic of our nation's history and reflect on how certain actions and attitudes brought us to where we are today, and how we can move forward. Superficial dialogue, as we believe Pesavento's piece reflected, is not enough. Simply constructing arguments along the lines of "But my best friend/President is black!" undermines the entire dialogue on race.

Lastly, we wish to make two intertwined points. Frankly speaking, black people have historically been victims in this nation. This does not mean black people should continue to be victims, but to ignore acts (however seemingly innocuous) that may serve to perpetuate the racial divide is irresponsible of the black community, and, furthermore, of our nation's citizens. If one is not black, it is inherently difficult to explicate why or why not a black person should feel victimized in a particular situation. Some blacks feel victimized in some situations, some don't. Some tend to feel victimized more often than others. In any case, this judge-

ment should be reserved solely for members of the black community. We're all (for the most part) trying to contribute to the dialogue on race, not fuel the fire.

On a different side of the same coin, it is inherently difficult for a non-racial minority who has not had to cope with the lingering effects of racism (of the institutional, not the individual sort) to empathize with those who have felt historically victimized just because of the color of their skin. But their experiences are a reality. Though race is, by most accounts, a socially constructed concept, it is still real insofar as we recognize it and have historically recognized it; how we have historically recognized it is a crucial factor in how we interact and have interacted with our fellow countrymen.

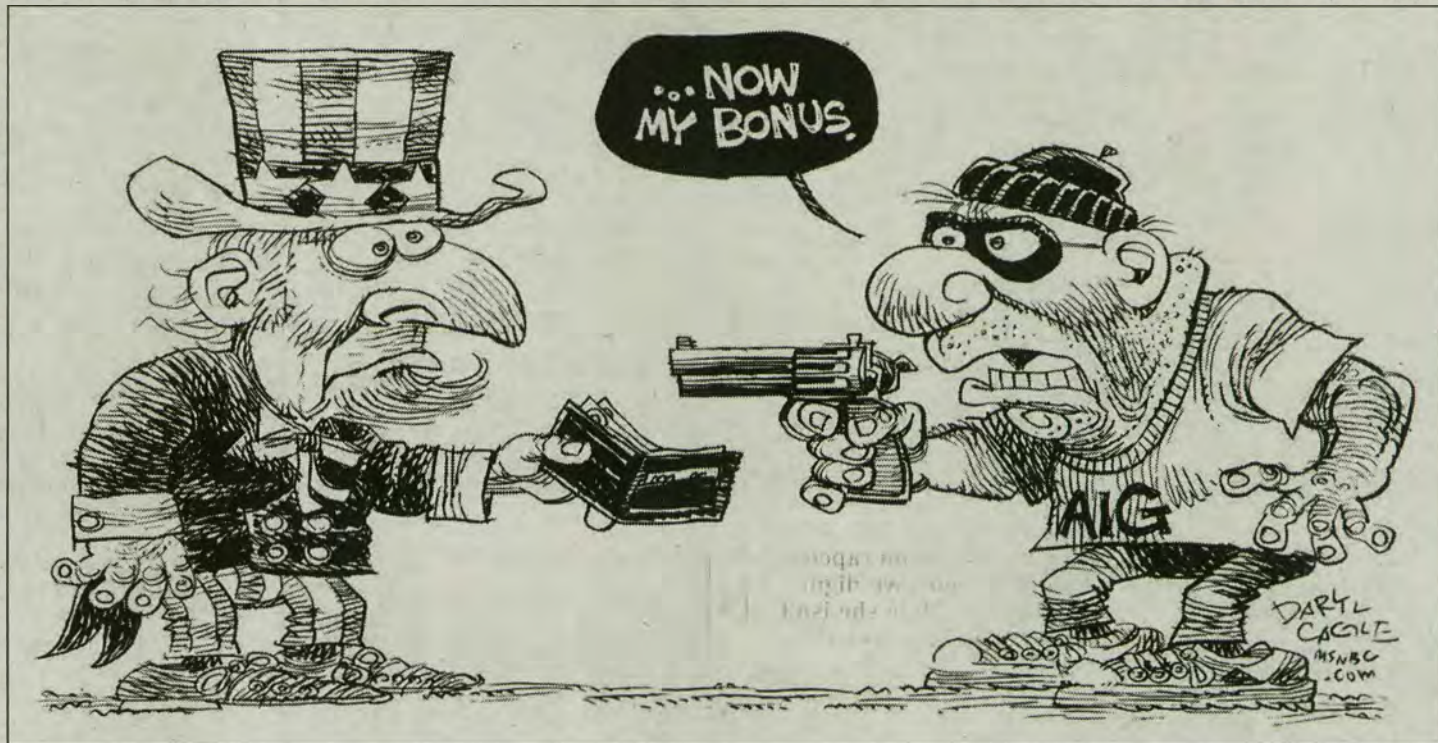
Pesavento calls us to see each other as fellow humans, but we must not forget that race plays a significant part in our socio-cultural identities. We will always have a history of strained race relations, no matter how far they run into the distant past. The sentiment, however, that race does not sufficiently define us as humans is crucial, and our most important task is to balance these two notions in our construction of a truly diverse society.

We would like to thank Pesavento again for opening an opportunity for dialogue, and we sincerely hope that the dialogue does not die a tragic death at the end of the week.

This letter is written on behalf of the executive board of the Black Student Association. Its contributors include: Aaron Quarles, Megan Black, Danielle Keller, Chrisandra Downer, Courtney Haynes, Khai Thomas and Marques Camp. They can be contacted at BSA@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Ninety percent of the politicians give the other ten percent a bad reputation."

Henry Kissinger
U.S. diplomat and scholar

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The opportunity for brotherhood presents itself every time you meet a human being."

Jane Wyman
U.S. Actress

The blacker the berry the bigger the fool

For the first 15 years of my life, I wandered aimlessly through an analog wasteland, losing hope after generation upon generation of mobile phones failed to plug me into the so-called "Information Superhighway." Sure, I found phones that could make crystal clear calls and wouldn't shatter when I dropped them. I wasn't forced to hoard quarters and find pay phones in order to get in touch with someone when I wasn't home.



Brad Blomstrom

The Daft Punk

Nonetheless, every text message I tapped out in T9 caused a feeling of hollowness to grow within me. Something was missing from my cell phone, but I couldn't quite put my finger on it. Little did I know that "it" was a little, white trackball.

When the BlackBerry arrived in 2002, I soon realized that it represented the final link between the human and the Divine. I am convinced that if Michelangelo were alive and painting today, Adam's outstretched hand on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel would feature three fingers tightly wrapped around this wondrous device. At long last, I feel truly connected to the world

around me. In my pre-BlackBerry life (or what I like to refer to as the "Dark Ages"), I had to log on to a computer to check my e-mail. Eww. How 1990s is that?

Never mind that Research in Motion created the BlackBerry for traveling business people; I clearly need one. I am a college student, and that means that I receive extremely important emails that require action A.S.A.P. (Did you know that this Friday is Salsa Funk Nightclub Night at Legends, btw? No, you didn't. You don't get Notre Dame Gmail on your pathetic Motorola).

Furthermore, my Facebooking has improved exponentially since I got my BlackBerry. I give status updates in real-time now (Currently: "The Daft Punk is venting his disdain for inferior people with inferior phones"). I've cut my average wall-to-wall response time down to 3.7 minutes, and I now adhere to a strict R.S.V.P. policy for all event and group invitations. Side note — you're welcome, "Need Numbers: Lost My Phone While Drunk" groups. Without me, you'd have zero responses. Maybe next time you'll think about getting a real phone instead. But I digress.

Thank God I have my BlackBerry. Otherwise, I'd be forced into second class citizenship and would be excluded from the conversations of Notre Dame's power elite. To offer you a

concrete example from my semester abroad in London, take a conversation I held with my girlfriend at the time and two other people (N.B. The Daft Punk has made up a lot of stories in his day, but this one is pretty much the truth). Three of the four people in the room had BlackBerries. I, unfortunately, had left mine in the States because I didn't think the BlackBerry culture had taken over London yet. In less than five minutes the three cool people in the room were BBM-ing (BlackBerry Messaging, for the ignorant layperson) instead of talking, while I just sat there and contemplated my miserable existence. I knew I was outclassed, and I cried myself to sleep for the rest of my time on that horrible island.

To be honest, the best part about my BlackBerry is that it has made me a better man. It's taught me how to communicate in ways I'd never dreamed possible, and has taught me which people to eliminate from my social circles. In a moment of weakness, I started dating a girl who didn't have a BlackBerry. Although we got along well and she was a wonderful person in many respects, after a few weeks it became obvious that things just weren't working out. She kept asking stupid questions like, "What is BrickBreaker?" and "How do you even use that keyboard?" I didn't say anything about it at the time, (The Daft Punk has some class, mind you), but I

wanted to scream at her: "I have a BlackBerry, which means my time is valuable! Do you think I really have the luxury of wasting precious seconds and oxygen answering inane questions like those? Go call your mom with your Razr and check your e-mail using America Online." You better believe that relationship didn't last. Social Darwinism got a bad rap in the 1800s but it really came through in the clutch for me there.

Listen, I'd love to stay and chat, but ... wait, who am I kidding? You could tell I was done with this conversation two minutes ago when I quit listening to you and started scrolling through the message boards on my favorite Web site, CrackBerry.com. For a glimpse of my awesomeness, search the website to see how I was willing to be hit with 100 paintballs on my bare chest in order to get a BlackBerry Storm. Shoot me a BBM sometime and maybe we'll discuss it. Until then, enjoy the SMS world. Loser.

Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T.

Brad Blomstrom is a senior majoring in Finance & Economics. He is currently wandering the analog wasteland but is excited to join the BlackBourgeoisie this summer. He can be contacted at bblomstr@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Rape vs. abortion: culture war

Recently, an abortion was performed in Brazil. Brazil's one of those places where that's only legal in cases of rape (she had been), incest (it was her stepfather) and to preserve the health of the mother (she was a nine-year-old bearing twins — her body couldn't take that. This is one of the many, many reasons you do not have sex with children). The mother of the child and the doctors who performed it were all summarily excommunicated, and their excommunication has been upheld by Pope Benedict. Even worse, the rapist/pedophile who did this to her has been deliberately not excommunicated, because, while child molestation may be "heinous," abortion is, of course, a great deal worse.

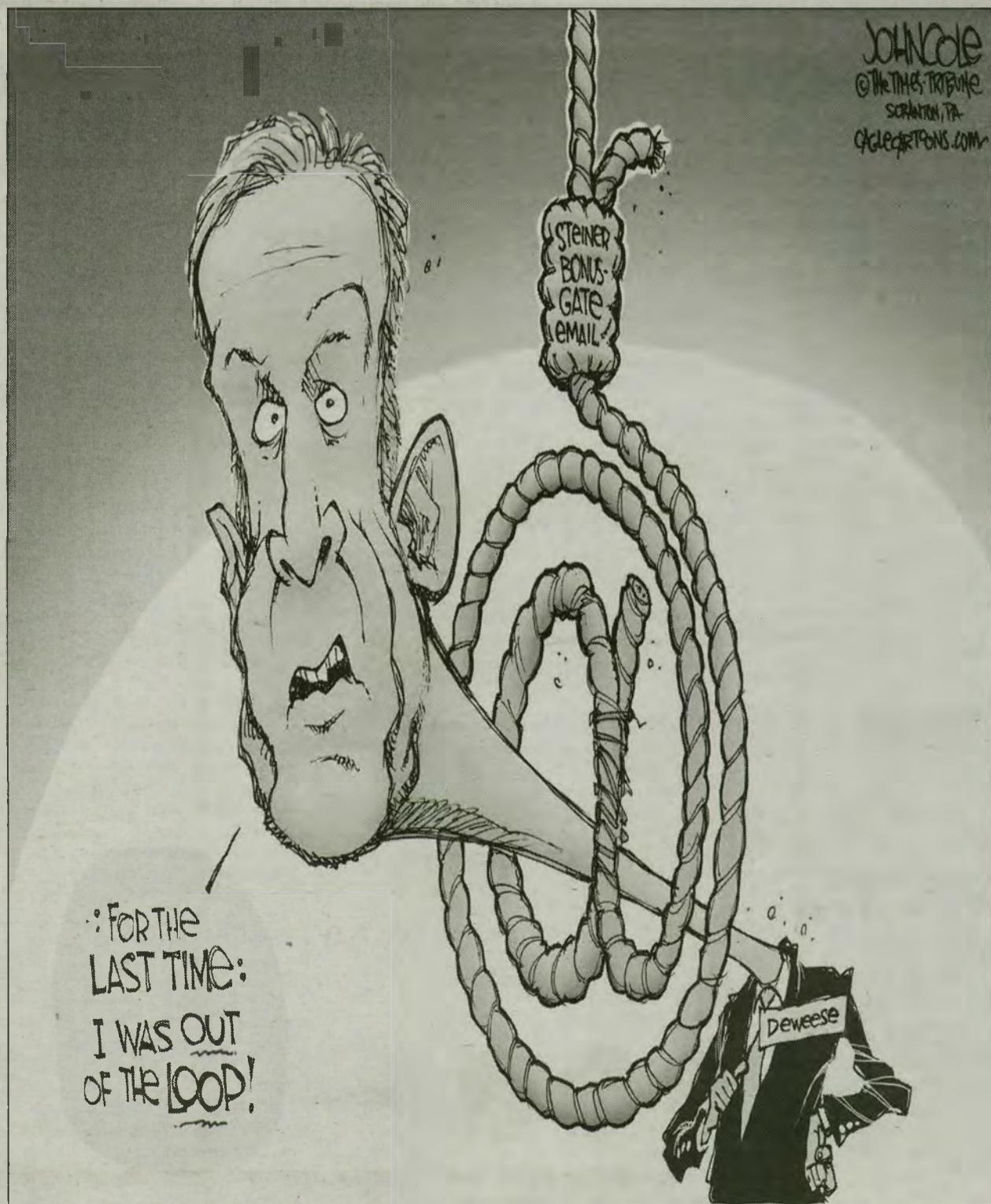
This is not morality, nor is it ethics. When the Catholic Church explicitly values unborn, undeveloped fetuses over a nine-year-old girl who has already experienced rape and trauma at the hands of her stepfather, and now gets to grow up knowing that this same event led her mother to be excommunicated from their religion, something is wrong. The pain and suffering of living, breathing people — of children — is secondary to their "moral" grandstanding.

Similarly, in the March 2 issue of the Irish Rover, staff writer Mary Kate Daly argues that some raped women have not "robustly defended their own dignity" (by, you know, not being all slutty). While she isn't "blaming" victims for their rape (she's only declaring that victims "share responsibility," which, if you're a writer for the Irish Rover, apparently means something completely different), she is saying that our current focus on "consent" in terms of sexual assault, instead of how responsible the victims are, and how not responsible drunk rapists are, misses the point.

Maybe I'm spotting a trend where there isn't one, but we seem to have lost the plot here. Moral priorities are all out of whack, when the things you're worried about in these situations is that a raped nine-year-old carries to term and gives birth to twins and that raped women stop wearing sexy clothes. Maybe this isn't morality — maybe this is simply a culture war. If it is, then I guess I know what side I'm on.

James Spitalere
 senior
 off-campus
 March 17

EDITORIAL CARTOON



WATCHMEN



A history of the 'Watchmen'

By NICK ANDERSON

Scene Writer

Twenty-four years ago, Alan Moore introduced a different world: Nixon was in his third term, America had left Vietnam victorious and masked heroes patrolled the streets, pursuing law, order and justice. Until they were outlawed, that is. It is against this dark backdrop that Moore is able to tell one of the best tales of the last century, while stripping away any of the shining brilliance remaining on our super heroes. Moore's epic 12-chapter graphic novel changed the way people look at both the medium and the subject of super hero comics. Gone was the American dream, replaced with stark humanity. The novel is fantastic but human, gritty but realistic, preachy but not condescending. These characteristics play into its brilliance.

When confronted with such a stunning piece of literature, Hollywood has no choice but to turn it into a full-length movie. As early as 1987, two years after the initial publication, a film was in the works from Fox. Not only were several big names attached to the film, it even

had the blessing of its creator.

Few were surprised when plans were delayed. First there were the special effects issues — one of the main characters glows blue and has the ability to grow several stories in height. Furthermore, the plot is complex, the scenery is ambitious and the guaranteed audience is small. Unable to get enough funding from Fox, the film went into turnaround in 1991 and the long wait for the fans began.

A decade later, superhero movies were gaining buzz following the spectacular success of "X-men." After spending short spans of time at just about every studio in Hollywood (with the exception of Disney), "Watchmen" ended up in development at Warner Brothers. After achieving significant critical and financial milestones with the reboot of the Batman franchise, the studio was ready for another great comic.

Several unseen problems lay ahead. Moore, with a sour taste in his mouth from his previous work in Hollywood, wouldn't even lend his name to the script. Yet as the movie lost one major name, it gained another: Zach Snyder, a golden figure after the release of "300."

Recognizing his ability to win filmgoers, Warner Brother's gave Snyder near complete creative control of the film. With fans cheering his every move, Snyder changed the PG-13 script to a full-fledged R, restoring all the violence, sex and profanity of the novel.

As stills, posters and trailers reached the public, excitement grew within the fan base and spilled into the general consciousness. It seemed the film might live up to expectations and maintain public appeal, but a lawsuit from Fox threatened all this hope. While not given much notice when it was filed, a judge had ruled that Fox still had the rights to the film. After weeks of questions, the studios settled out of court and prepared to finally release "Watchmen."

After surviving over 20 years in development, one question remained: Would the film faithfully portray the book and satisfy its fans or will it fulfill the deepest fears of its creator? Now that "Watchmen" has hit theaters, audiences can finally know.

Contact Nick Anderson at nanders5@nd.edu

Snyder captures the spirit of 'Watchmen'

By MAIJA GUSTIN

Scene Writer

"Watchmen" is based on a revolutionary 80s comic book many have never heard of, but "Watchmen" isn't a tale of a superhuman man from Krypton or a noble-hearted billionaire-vigilante. The subjects are all-too-human costumed superheroes, often with more flaws than the criminals they fight. It is set in a dystopic America, with Nixon in his third term as president and nuclear war hovering over its head. The heroes of "Watchmen" were once society's greatest protection and powerful tools of the government in the Vietnam War, but they have since been outlawed. Dr. Manhattan (Billy Crudup), however, still remains the government's greatest asset. Once a nuclear scientist, Jon Osterman became Dr. Manhattan after a terrible lab accident. He can change matter at his will and seems the only thing protecting America from a nuclear war with the Soviet Union.

After the death of one of these costumed vigilantes, The Comedian (Jeffrey Dean Morgan), fellow hero Rorschach (Jackie Earl Haley) begins to suspect a plot against

his comrades. What he uncovers is actually a scheme much greater than even the audience can imagine.

Many have called "Watchmen" unfilmable. Its plot is thick with detail, its themes are as dense as a piece of classic literature, it requires amazing special effects and it has a loyal fan base with high expectations. Director Zack Snyder is clearly a fan of the comic book and he struggles to keep his film as close as possible to the original material. Some necessary changes were made, including a major twist in the ending, but the film stays mostly true to the comic. Snyder even keeps the original setting of Cold War-era America when many thought he would choose a modern context involving terrorism and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The special effects are truly spectacular. Each scene is vivid and intense. Snyder never shies away from the graphic violence of the comic. "Watchmen" isn't just violent, though — it is gruesome and gory. The film is not for the queasy or the faint of heart. The violence is necessary. Unlike traditional comics, "Watchmen" strives to be brutally realistic. The costumed heroes don't disarm their opponents and turn them in to the police. They kill them with bloody brutality. The violence, while gruesome, is necessary to the integrity of the film.

Snyder also succeeds in beautifully transitioning his film between the present story and important flashbacks. Many of the nuances of the plot are told through flashbacks, and they are necessary for character development. Snyder makes the scenes flow naturally, adding to the beauty of "Watchmen."

Rorschach, an unabashedly violent but somehow moral costumed vigilante, narrates and

drives the film. Jackie Earl Haley gives an outstanding performance, even though he spends most of his screen time behind a mask. He dives into his character and never resurfaces. Billy Crudup as Dr. Manhattan is also excellent. He may be blue, but his quiet voice and subdued demeanor perfectly fit the used-to-be-human who has lost all compassion for the human race. Jeffrey Dean Morgan receives more screen time than you'd expect. He features mostly in flashbacks, but he is unforgettable. He is violent, selfish, a sexual deviant and altogether amoral. Unfortunately, the film doesn't show as much humanity in The Comedian as the comic did, but Morgan plays him as a multifaceted character that needs a bit more back-story.

The rest of the cast, however, doesn't fare as well. Patrick Wilson as Night Owl II is a lonely and pathetic wreck after years of retirement from fighting crime, as he should be. However, he is almost too pathetic to believe that he could zip up his suit again and save the world. Malin Akerman as Silk Spectre II does her job of wearing a yellow spandex suit and heels, but fails at anything else. Her acting is decent and mostly awkward. She rests in the mold of a one-dimensional female that her character is supposed to break. Matthew Goode is fine as Ozymandias, but not great. He does well as the supposed smartest man in the world, but he is easily the most forgettable character.

"Watchmen" is a very cool movie. It's visually stunning and a better adaptation of the comic than many expected. While it succeeds with its overall intentions, it fails at developing some of its deeper themes. It can also feel a bit slow at times. But, regardless, it's an enjoyable flick worth seeing.

Contact Maija Gustin at mgustin@nd.edu

Watchmen

Director: Zack Snyder

Starring: Billy Crudup, Jackie Earle Haley, Malin Akerman, Patrick Wilson



'Watchmen' fails to meet source material

By SZYMON RYZNER
Scene Writer

Originally released in 1986, the "Watchmen" comic was almost instantaneously greeted with unanimous praise. Covering topics from war-mongering to the deification of human scientists, it quickly gained popularity and ultimately achieved a spot on The Times 100 greatest novels. The film is a justification of the novel's relevance, yet it fails as an influence within current media.

For a movie that attempts to Xerox its source material, "Watchmen" introduces flaws that detract from its quality. Instead of creating and establishing the uneasiness of a terrorist-like attack on one of America's heroes, the film chooses to mimic Nixon and commercials from the 80s. Despite consistent copying of the time period and

characters from the comic for the film, "Watchmen" chooses to pursue topics that were insignificant to the viewers and destructive to the building tension. Important dialogues and soliloquies present in the comic were often rushed or avoided, most likely due to the philosophical subject matter that would not appeal to general audiences. An overlong sex scene detracts from the film by breaking momentum only to satisfy the director's apparent longing for R-rated material. The film often loses sight of its goal, its philosophy and its attempt to appeal to the masses.

Despite the lack of blockbuster actors, all of the characters are well received. Jackie Earle Haley takes on the role of Rorschach with perfect execution, providing both an image and a voice for a character that has fascinated fans for years. He plays the part as though he has lived the character and steals every scene in which he partakes. Billy Crudup as Dr. Manhattan is also memorable as he provides a foil to the mortal heroes.

For the most part, "Watchmen" manages to surround itself with a high quality soundtrack to provide a sort of back-story into the very different world of Watchmen, starting with Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are A-Changin'." Other tracks,

such as "All Along The Watchtower" by Hendrix, and "99 Luftballons" by Nena help solidify the films meaning through musical and imagery-oriented allusions. Other original tracks by Tyler Bates contribute and create a feel for the film. Unfortunately these high quality moments are intermittent and often tracks, seemingly provided by the director, detract from the overall soundtrack.

The film has moments of brilliance, but succumbs to mediocrity with extreme frequency and this becomes frustrating for the audience. It entangles the viewers with strong characters but fails to deliver a strong conclusion. The development of the heroes seems wasted on the ending, which fails to dignify any characters other than Dr. Manhattan and Rorschach.

A common failure of many adaptations, "Watchmen" fails to establish itself as a film of significance by relying too heavily on the source material. It never quite becomes its own work, riding on the coattails of its predecessor. Through flashbacks it builds characters but never quite establishes a soul of its own. The film endlessly relies on the graphic novel for guidance, sacrificing its own identity. As pleasant as it is to witness a simulacrum of the beloved novel, "Watchmen" never comes to life on its own.

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Watchmen

Director: Zack Snyder

Starring: Billy Crudup, Jackie Earle Haley, Malin Akerman, Patrick Wilson



At best, 'Watchmen' reminds audience of comic

By JACK THORNTON
Scene Writer

"Watchmen" is the only graphic novel included in Time Magazine's list of the 100 greatest novels of all time. Unfortunately, the film version of "Watchmen" will probably never be on anyone's list of the greatest movies.

On the surface, Alan Moore's novel is about masked vigilantes trying to solve a murder and prevent a possible nuclear war, a very common plot for any superhero movie or comic. What separates it from the rest of the pack are the complex characters and the depths that Moore goes to get inside their heads. The characters' philosophy and psychology propose questions to the reader that are not found in any other superhero story. If there were masked vigilantes in the real world, why assume that they would be squeaky-clean citizens like Superman or

Spiderman? What is it that would actually motivate a person to dress up in a costume and fight crime? If a person did don a costume and fight crime, what would this do to his or her psyche? Would society react positively or negatively to costumed heroes working outside of the law?

The answers to these questions unfold in the gritty, intense and depressing world of "Watchmen." Almost all the heroes have major psychological problems, and their opinions of humanity are so negative that they allow themselves to operate almost completely free of conscience. The paranoid, crazy Rorschach tortures random people to get information from them and inflicts punishment on the criminals he captures without any real authority. The brutal Comedian tries to rape one woman, and murders a former lover. The god-like Dr. Manhattan almost completely loses touch with humanity and feels little motivation to help prevent nuclear holocaust. The development and revelation of the vigilantes' characters through flashbacks are both gripping and repulsive, making "Watchmen" a thought-provoking book.

Sadly, the movie almost completely fails to go past the surface of the "Watchmen" story. Occasional glimmers of the novel's themes come through, but on the whole it is merely another entertaining superhero movie, albeit a very dark, harsh and violent one. Although

almost every frame in the movie directly corresponds to a panel of the book, the movie fails to capture the intricate philosophical themes that make the book so riveting. Director Zach Snyder uses deeply philosophical moments from the book as mere excuses to throw in some stomach turning violence. Snyder is very good at filming action sequences, but in matters of heart or head he fails to capture the book's brilliance. The philosophical insights into human nature illustrated by the characters are lost in a whirlwind of graphic violence and sexuality (the latter peaks in one awkward, unnecessary and painfully long love scene between Silk Spectre and Nite Owl). The only character in the movie who comes close to the emotion and intensity of the book's version is Rorschach (Jackie Early Haley). A few other actors convey glimpses into their characters' true psyches, namely Patrick Wilson (Nite Owl), Jeffrey Dean Morgan (The Comedian), and Billy Crudup (Dr. Manhattan), but these moments are few and far between. The other actors are mostly average, except for Malin Akerman (Silk Spectre II), who might be the worst actress on the planet.

The best part of this movie is how it reminds the audience of the comic book's brilliance. The film is not brilliant in itself. It seems that Alan Moore was correct when he insisted that his story simply could not be adequately portrayed on film.

Contact Jack Thornton at jthorn1@nd.edu

Watchmen

Director: Zack Snyder

Starring: Billy Crudup, Jackie Earle Haley, Malin Akerman, Patrick Wilson



NBA

James scores Cavaliers' last five points to seal victory

Spurs victorious over Timberwolves without Duncan; Horford, Smith lead Hawks to win over Kings

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — LeBron James dropped a long 3-pointer with 47.4 seconds left and added two free throws with 8.7 seconds to go as the Cleveland Cavaliers improved to 30-1 at home with a 97-93 win over the Orlando Magic on Tuesday night.

With Cleveland trailing 93-92 in a game soaked in playoff intensity, James, wearing green and white Nikes to celebrate St. Patrick's Day, pulled up in front of Orlando's bench and coldly knocked down his 3. Magic center Dwight Howard was called for a 3-second violation on Orlando's next trip, giving the ball back to Cleveland.

James was then fouled while shooting and made his two free throws as the crowd serenaded him with chants of "MVP."

Rashard Lewis missed a 3-pointer with 2.5 seconds left for the Magic, who came in with the Eastern Conference's best road record, but couldn't send the Cavs to their second home loss.

James added 12 rebounds and eight assists. Mo Williams added 21 points for Cleveland, which held the Magic to 18 points in the fourth quarter.

Howard had 13 points, 15 rebounds and six blocks for the Magic. But Orlando's big man attempted just eight shots, none in the fourth quarter as the Magic chose to attack from outside.

Orlando took its last lead when Courtney Lee drove for a layup with 1:24 remaining. On Cleveland's next possession, Delonte West missed a 3-pointer, but Cavs forward Anderson Varejao got the rebound, giving the Cavs another chance.

James made the most of it. Dribbling a few feet from Magic coach Stan Van Gundy, James surveyed his options before shooting his big 3-pointer — a shot that sent the Quicken Loans Crowd into a frenzy. After Howard was called for 3 seconds, James faked Lee into the air and drew a questionable foul on the rookie.

James then stepped to the line, where he has had problems in the past, and made both attempts.

Cleveland's defense made it impossible for the Magic to get a clean look on its last trip, and

when Lewis missed, the Cavs had survived one of their toughest tests at home.

The temperature outside felt like June and the heat inside the building matched playoff levels. Both teams wanted this one, not just for postseason seeding, but for a psychological edge in case they meet in play-offs.

The Magic had won three straight in Cleveland and had beaten the Cavs in seven of their past nine meetings. Orlando also came in with road wins over Boston, the Los Angeles Lakers, San Antonio, Portland, Dallas and Utah.

Orlando carried a three-point lead into the fourth period and had a chance to open a four-point lead late in the quarter. But Rafer Alston missed a jumper and Williams made Orlando pay by drilling a 3-pointer from the right wing with 1:59 left to put the Cavaliers up 92-91.

Before the game, James was asked about Orlando's chances in the postseason. Although the Magic aren't mentioned as often as the Cavaliers and Celtics, James knows better than to overlook them.

"You can't look past any team in the playoffs, period," James said. "It doesn't matter if they're the eighth seed or the No. 1. You've got to win 16 games to win it all."

Spurs 93, Timberwolves 86

Tony Parker scored 24 points to once again carry San Antonio against Minnesota, and the Spurs survived without Tim Duncan in a victory Tuesday night.

Giving their All-Star forward the night off, the Spurs pushed their lead over Houston to two games for the No. 2 seed in the West. They did so behind Parker, who averaged 33 points in four wins over the Timberwolves this season.

One night after losing at Oklahoma City to one lottery-bound team, the Spurs rested Duncan against another. Duncan wanted to play, but coach Gregg Popovich said he wanted Duncan healthy for the playoffs more.

Sebastian Telfair and Kevin Love had 17 points apiece for Minnesota.

Roger Mason had 15 points



Cavaliers' forward LeBron James shoots over the Magic's Courtney Lee in Cleveland's 97-93 victory Tuesday. James scored 43 points in the victory.

for the Spurs, who now await a bigger test Friday at home against the Boston Celtics. Mike Miller scored 15 for the Wolves, who lost for the 14th time in 15 games against San Antonio.

Duncan sat for precautionary reasons. But skipping another game or two down the road during back-to-backs to lessen the wear on his occasionally troubled knees may not be far-fetched.

Popovich didn't say he would bench Duncan again during the three remaining back-to-backs, but acknowledged doing so helps keep his star healthy. Duncan missed three games at the end of February with a right quad injury.

Popovich said Duncan's occasional knee trouble is something he's had to deal with "more than people would know." Duncan's official diagnosis last month was right quad tendonitis.

"He doesn't love [sitting out], but it's important for him to be fresh and healthy at the end of the season," Popovich said.

Duncan, 32, hasn't quite been himself since returning from the injury. His 20.7 scoring average led the Spurs before his sore knee first forced him out Feb. 24 against Dallas, and he's averaged 15.1 points since coming back March 1.

Hawks 119, Kings 97

For just a few seconds, it appeared as if Al Horford might be seriously injured when he went down after a hard foul. Instead, he got up and made his free throws.

The Atlanta Hawks weren't going to let anything keep them down, either.

Horford had 23 points and 12 rebounds, and Josh Smith finished with 21 points and 10 rebounds in the Atlanta's sixth straight victory, over the

Sacramento Kings on Tuesday night.

"We didn't want to lose to a team like Sacramento," Smith said. "No offense to them, but [after] beating New Orleans and Utah, teams who are on top of the Western Conference, we didn't want to let ourselves down by losing this game. We're just trying to separate ourselves from the pack. Miami's right on our heels still."

Improving to 26-7 at home, the Hawks are 40-28 overall, their highest win total since 1997-98. They moved three games ahead of fifth-place Miami in the Eastern Conference.

Kevin Martin scored 31 for Sacramento, which fell to 0-27 against teams from the East and extended its losing streak to four. The Kings have dropped four straight and 13 of 14 away from California, where they are 4-30 this season.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Tommy used to work on the docks
Unions been on strike
Hes down on his luck... its tough, so
tough
Gina works the diner all day
Working for her man, she brings
home her pay
For love - for love

Oh, the weather outside is weather.

Kramer: The bus is outta control.
So I grab him by the collar, I take
him out of the seat, I get behind the
wheel, and now I'm driving the bus.

Jerry: Wow.

George: You're Batman.

Kramer: Yeah, yeah, I am Batman.
Then the mugger, he comes to and
he starts choking me. So I'm fight-
ing him off with one hand and I kept
driving the bus with the other, ya
know. Then I managed to open up
the door and I kicked him out the
door, ya know, with my foot, ya
know, at the next stop.

Jerry: You kept making all the
stops?

Kramer: Well, people kept ringing
the bell!

Could you whisper in my ear
The things you wanna feel
I'll give you anything
To feel it comin'
Do you wake up on your own
And wonder where you are
You live with all your faults
And I'll do anything you ever
Dreamed to be complete
Little pieces of the nothing that fall
May put your arms around me
What you feel is what you are
And what you are is beautiful
May do you wanna get married
Or run away

Cause it's you and me and all of the
people with nothing to do
Nothing to lose
And it's you and me and all of the
people
And I don't know why, I can't keep
my eyes off of you

AROUND THE NATION

Wednesday, March 18, 2009

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

NCAA Men's Baseball USA TODAY/ESPN Top 25

	team	record	points
1	North Carolina (18)	14-2	755
2	Texas (5)	14-2	726
3	Georgia (3)	15-2	649
4	Arizona State (1)	14-2	638
5	LSU (1)	13-4	629
6	CS Fullerton (2)	13-3	618
7	Miami FL (1)	14-3	608
8	Texas A&M	13-4	566
9	Georgia Tech	12-1	556
10	Costal Carolina	15-1	428
11	Oklahoma State	13-4	423
12	Rice	10-5	410
13	UC Irvine	10-5	317
14	Virginia	15-0	279
15	Arkansas	12-3	278
16	Oklahoma	17-4	261
17	Baylor	10-4	243
18	TCU	10-4	218
19	Clemson	11-4	186
20	Ole Miss	11-4	171
21	Pepperdine	11-5	163
22	UC Riverside	14-3	107
23	Cal Poly	11-4	95
24	Florida State	9-6	89
25	Florida	9-7	62

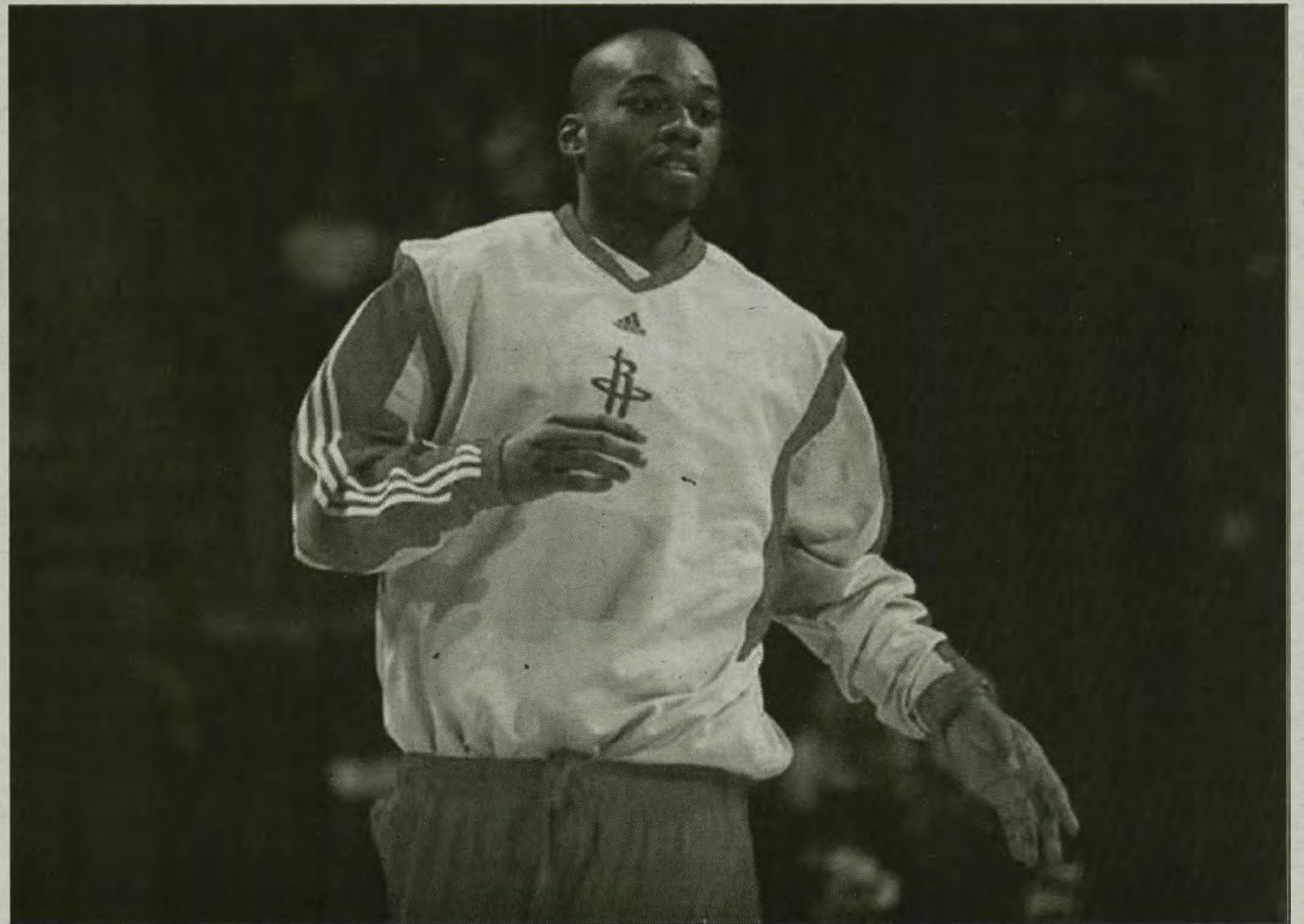
NCAA ESPN.com/USA Softball Collegiate Top 25

	team	record	points
1	Florida (19)	27-2	497
2	Alabama	23-2	472
3	Washington (1)	24-3	461
4	Stanford	24-1	436
5	UCLA	24-3	432
6	Tennessee	23-3	392
7	California	21-4	355
8	Michigan	20-7	350
9	Georgia	16-4	326
10	Oklahoma	23-8	319
11	Arizona State	25-5	310
12	Northwestern	13-7	285
13	Missouri	22-3	256
14	Ohio State	20-3	234
15	Arizona State	26-7	228
16	Louisville	22-3	191
17	Massachusetts	11-6	154
18	North Carolina	21-7	140
19	UL Lafayette	15-5	105
20	LSU	15-6	92
21	DePaul	11-7	84
22	Florida State	20-8	80
23	Texas A&M	21-10	64
24	South Illinois	17-4	62
25	Fresno State	14-12	46

NCAA Men's Lacrosse Nike/Inside Lacrosse Poll

	team	record
1	Virginia (13)	9-0
2	Syracuse	4-1
3	NOTRE DAME	5-0
4	Cornell	3-1
5	Princeton	4-1
6	UMBC	4-2
7	Johns Hopkins	3-2
8	Duke	6-2
9	Hofstra	3-1
10	Maryland	5-2
11	North Carolina	7-2
12	Brown	4-1

NBA



Houston Rockets forward Carl Landry, above, was shot in the leg early Tuesday morning. The former Purdue star is expected to miss one to three weeks with minor injuries stemming from the incident. AP

Rockets forward Landry shot in leg

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Houston Rockets forward Carl Landry is expected to miss one to three weeks after he was shot in the left leg early Tuesday while driving near his home.

The injury was minor, and the team said the former Purdue star was treated at a hospital and released. Landry, who also dislocated a finger on his left hand, also was examined by team doctor Tom Clanton.

The shooting occurred about 2:30 a.m., a few hours after the Rockets returned from a game at New Orleans. Landry drove home after the team arrived about 12:30 a.m.

Houston police said Landry was driving his sport utility vehicle southbound on a city street, when a northbound car swerved into his path and collided with his vehicle. Landry and the driver of the other vehicle made U-turns and the vehicles collided again and Landry's SUV hit a utility pole.

Smith said Landry got out of his SUV to inspect the damage, and was shot by one of the two occupants of the car. The suspects then fled the scene, while Landry ran to get help, police said.

Smith originally said the incident occurred about 4 a.m., but said later that was the time authorities were

notified. Smith did not know if Landry was the person who called police.

Landry had a female passenger in his SUV, and she was not injured, police said.

General manager Daryl Morey visited Landry at the hospital and said he sustained a surface wound that was no worse than a calf strain.

"We're just happy Carl is OK," Morey said. "By what we can understand, he was very lucky — obviously unlucky to have this situation happen to him, but very lucky that he came out without anything major."

The 6-foot-9 Landry has become a valuable player off the bench for the

Rockets, averaging 9.3 points and five rebounds in his second NBA season. He had 12 points and six rebounds in Monday's 95-84 win that kept Houston in third place in the Western Conference standings.

Houston coach Rick Adelman said he had not talked to Landry since the shooting, but several players had checked in with their teammate.

"He just sounded happy, blessed," said point guard Aaron Brooks. "It was a situation that pretty much anybody could've been in. He's just blessed to be OK, blessed that he's alive and that he'll be back and be Carl again."

IN BRIEF

Obama chooses Steelers owner as U.S. ambassador

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Tuesday selected Pittsburgh Steelers owner Dan Rooney to be U.S. ambassador to Ireland, turning to a lifelong Republican who provided the Democrat critical campaign support during the White House race.

The 76-year-old Rooney endorsed Obama over Hillary Rodham Clinton during Pennsylvania's contentious Democratic primary; Clinton won the contest last April. Rooney later campaigned for him in Steelers country in western Pennsylvania, and Obama went on to win the state last November.

The grandson of an Irish immigrant, Rooney in the 1970s helped found the American Ireland Fund, an organization that has raised millions for advocacy of peace and education in Ireland. His legacy is reflected in a Steelers-themed bar in a disused linen mill in one of the roughest parts of northwest Belfast.

Clemens lawyers question defamation suit rejection

HOUSTON — Lawyers for Roger Clemens asked a federal judge to reconsider his decision dismissing most of a defamation suit the pitcher filed against his former personal trainer over allegations of performance-enhancing drug use.

U.S. District Judge Keith P. Ellison dropped most of Clemens' lawsuit against Brian McNamee on Feb. 12, saying statements McNamee made to baseball investigator George Mitchell were protected.

McNamee told federal agents, Mitchell and a House of Representatives committee that he injected Clemens more than a dozen times with steroids and human growth hormone from 1998-2001.

In a filing Monday, Clemens' lawyers asked Ellison to examine whether he was wrong in holding McNamee's statements to Mitchell.

Mid-majors upset over major conference bias

INDIANAPOLIS — College basketball's big boys still rule Selection Sunday.

And there's nothing the non-power conference schools seem to be able to do about it.

The six BCS conferences took 30 of 34 at-large bids in Sunday's NCAA tournament draw, their highest total this decade.

Davidson, last year's tourney darling with Stephen Curry, is out. St. Mary's, San Diego State and Niagara, all with RPIs in the top 50, are out. Creighton, the regular-season co-champion in the Missouri Valley Conference, is out, too.

But the committee did take Arizona from the Pac-10, with an RPI of 62, and three Big Ten teams — Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota — that were hardly locks to make the 65-team field.

To the smaller-name schools, it's a message they don't want to hear.

around the dial

NBA

Miami at Boston
7 p.m., ESPN

Detroit at Houston
9 p.m., ESPN

NBA

Nowitzki scores 30 in Mavericks' win over Pistons

Miller, Curry lead Bulls over Celtics despite 37 from Pierce; Rivers criticises referee after being ejected

Associated Press

DALLAS — For three quarters, the Dallas Mavericks showed they'd finally learned how to handle an injury-depleted team.

Then, they nearly blew it. Although Dirk Nowitzki and the Mavs led the Detroit Pistons from start to finish Tuesday night, the finish got pretty close before Dallas pulled out a 103-101 victory.

"Hey, stuff happens in this league," said Nowitzki, who scored 30 points. "We'll take the wins as we can get them."

Richard Hamilton was a late scratch for Detroit because of an aggravated groin problem. With Rasheed Wallace (calf) and Allen Iverson (back) also out, the Pistons were missing a combined average of 48.5 points per game, and were out of whack from the start.

Dallas made its first six shots, while Detroit missed six of its first seven. The Pistons never even tied the game while falling behind by eight after one quarter and 13 before halftime.

Down 14 going into the fourth quarter, Tayshaun Prince showed that Detroit was going to keep fighting by flying past Dallas center Erick Dampier for a thunderous dunk. With Will Bynum getting on a roll, and the Pistons scooping up rebound after rebound and converting them into points, they wound up scoring on their first nine possessions of the quarter and were within 90-85.

Dampier put Dallas back up by 10 with 2:10 left, but Detroit never went away. In the final 18 seconds, the Pistons got within 98-95, 100-97 and 101-99. They scored again as time expired to make the final score look as close as the last few minutes played out.

"I was very pleased with our effort," Detroit coach Michael Curry said. "We stuck with it, continued to fight and did a lot of good things. ... If we put in the same effort with [Hamilton] tomorrow, we'll be good. If he can go, he will."

Prince scored 28 points and Bynum set a career high with 19. Rodney Stuckey added 17, Arron Afflalo had 16 and Antonio McDyess 10 as the Pistons lost their second straight and fourth in six games to slip back to .500 (33-33).

The victory against a short-handed team was quite a switch for the Mavs. In the last month, they were drubbed by San Antonio when the Spurs were without Tim Duncan and Manu Ginobili, and lost to Oklahoma City when it was without its top two scorers; the loss to the Thunder prompted Dallas owner Mark Cuban to publicly question his team's effort.

Antoine Wright joked that Dallas took care of its problem against wounded teams, but the problem protecting late leads "still lingers."

"We're still a team in progress," he said. "But we're getting better."

Dallas was outrebounded 43-33 and gave up 27 second-chance points, while scoring only five. Coach Rick Carlisle said that's mostly a sign of effort, but also noted that he's using a lot of smaller lineups.

"Five guys are going to have to get in there and dig it out," he

said. "In those situations where we don't have the length in there, we're going to have to do it with grit. Simple as that."

Jason Terry continued to be Nowitzki's scoring wingman, putting up 18. Dampier tied high season high with 16 points and added 13 rebounds.

The Mavs won their eighth straight at home, although this was their lone game in Dallas during a 17-day, seven-game stretch. They were coming off a 2-2 trip West and are headed East for games in Atlanta and Indiana.

Josh Howard won't be part of the trip. This was the sixth straight game the swingman has missed because of a problem with his left ankle, and Carlisle isn't expecting him back before late next week. Howard is getting a cortisone shot and will need arthroscopic surgery at some point, although possibly not until the offseason.

Bulls 127, Celtics 121

The latest loss was as painful and frustrating as any for the Boston Celtics, so it was no shocker when coach Doc Rivers vented afterward.

But he didn't aim his anger at his players. His target was a referee.

John Salmons tied a career high with 38 points, and the Chicago Bulls rallied for another surprising victory, beating the Celtics on Tuesday night despite 37 points from Paul Pierce.

Rivers, meanwhile, was irate after he got whistled for his second technical foul with 29.8 seconds left. That led to an automatic ejection and a rant against referee Bill Kennedy.

Rivers claimed he was goaded and called it "the most unprofessional tech I've ever had."

It was a fitting end to a frustrating night for the Celtics, who were trying to clinch at least a share of the Atlantic Division title. Instead of a celebration, there was more frustration.

Coming off an 86-77 loss at Milwaukee on Sunday in which they set a season low for points scored, the Celtics set one for points allowed in another disappointing loss for a team that's trying to lock down home-court advantage in the playoffs.

Boston led by 13 in the third quarter, only to give it away, and Chicago surprised another playoff-bound team after beating New Orleans 97-79 on Saturday.

Leading the late charge were Brad Miller, Derrick Rose and Salmons.

The Bulls, who are leading the race for the eighth playoff spot in the East by a half game over Milwaukee, shot 70 percent in the fourth quarter, with Miller scoring 13 of his 21 points and Rose and Salmons adding nine apiece.

"We just wanted to attack them and take control," Rose said.

Pierce, Rajon Rondo (26 points) and Ray Allen (17 points) did what they could for the Celtics, who have dropped four of five and have struggled lately through injuries — the most notable being Kevin Garnett's sprained right knee. The might be without Allen, too, when they play Miami on Wednesday, after he hyperextended his right elbow.

"It's all predicated on how I feel tomorrow," he said.

The Celtics are just in a painful stretch, period.

The Bulls scored six in a row to grab a 117-111 lead and were ahead 122-117 after Salmons drove across the lane for a three-point play with just over a minute remain, the ball bouncing off the back of the rim before falling through the net.

Salmons came up with another big basket after Miller rebounded Rose's miss and handed off to him, making it 124-119 with 29.8 seconds left. The Celtics called a timeout, and Rivers got tossed, leading to a free throw for Ben Gordon. Salmons then hit two more foul shots after a layup by Rondo, making it 127-121, and the Bulls escaped with their seventh straight home win.

"It really was a fun game," Salmons said.

Not for Rivers.

"[Kennedy] stood there and goaded me and goaded me and goaded me and stared at me," Rivers said. "Look at the film. I actually walked away. He asked me, 'Where do you want the ball?' And I said, 'Ask them,' talking about our players. That's my right to say that, and I walked away. He stood there and stared me down and stared me down and goaded me until I turned around and said, 'What?' That's when I got thrown out of the game."

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NHL

Theodore blanks Capitals in win

Drury scores final goal in shootout to give Rangers the victory over Canadiens

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — Jose Theodore shut out Florida through two periods, and then his Washington Capitals teammates took care of the Panthers all by themselves in the third.

Theodore made 19 saves Tuesday night, in earning his second shutout of the season, and lifted the Capitals to a win over the slumping Panthers, who didn't manage a shot in the third period.

"No shots in the third period," Theodore said, "that's a first for me."

Brooks Laich and Viktor Kozlov scored for Washington, which earned its fourth win in five games. Mike Green added an empty-net goal with 1:27 left, and John Erskine had two assists.

"I thought the defense as a whole played as good as I've seen them play all year," Washington coach Bruce Boudreau said. "To hold them to zero shots in the third period and 19 in their building in a game that they had to win was quite a testament."

Florida dropped a fourth straight game for the first time since late December. The Panthers hadn't lost two consecutive home games since January.

"Tonight was the first night I've been really disappointed with how we've played," Florida coach Pete DeBoer said. "There's been very few nights this year where I've questioned our effort level. They haven't always been pretty and we haven't always won but usually we've brought a good desperation level, and the effort's always been there. Tonight, it was questionable."

Washington remained in third place in the Eastern Conference behind New Jersey, which beat Chicago 3-2. The Capitals had an opportunity to move into second place on Monday, but lost 5-1 to the Atlanta Thrashers in Washington's most lopsided defeat since a 6-2 loss to Florida on March 1.

Tomas Vokoun stopped 22 shots for Florida, which is in the midst of a five-game homestand.

Vokoun had lost two previous starts against Washington this season and is 1-6 in his last seven games against the Capitals.

"They played their third game in four nights. We didn't take advantage of that," Vokoun said. "It's tough. We need to get our power play going and get some kind of spark and it's crucial this time of year."

The Panthers went 8-5 in February but the team, coming off a 4-3 shootout loss to Tampa Bay on Saturday, has been struggling of late. Florida, which has not been to the playoffs since 2000, entered Tuesday's game in ninth place in the East. The Panthers are one point behind eighth-place Carolina.

"If you can't look at the standings and create that desperation now, I don't know how you

create it," DeBoer said. "We know where we're sitting and the fight we're in. That should be self-manufactured this time of year. You're not going to create that if they can't create it themselves."

Kozlov's goal made it 2-0 at 2:36 of the third period, beating Vokoun with a wrist shot from the top of the left circle. The Capitals took a 1-0 lead with Laich's short-handed goal at 5:46 in the second period. Laich's wrist shot from a sharp angle found the back of the net for his 18th goal.

"I threw the puck at the net," Laich said. "I watched the replay and he was a little outside the crease, maybe he played the angle a little bit too much. It's a lucky goal, but you throw the puck at the net, you never know what happens."

Alex Ovechkin, held without a point for the first time in 11 games on Monday, had an assist on Green's goal, but it was the first time in a month that he has had back-to-back games without netting a goal.

Rangers 4, Canadiens 3

MONTREAL — Chris Drury put the New York Rangers ahead for good with their final shot, and the Montreal Canadiens ultimately ran out of comebacks.

Drury scored the deciding goal in the shootout to give New York a win over Montreal on Tuesday night.

Markus Naslund and Nik Antropov beat Carey Price on the Rangers' first two attempts before Drury scored to seal the win for New York, which blew three one-goal leads in regulation.

Henrik Lundqvist, who made his 60th start of the season, stopped Andrei Kostitsyn on the Canadiens' first attempt after making 26 traditional saves. He was beaten by Alexei Kovalev and Andrei Markov as the Canadiens drew even twice in the shootout by converting each of their next two attempts.

"I was very disappointed to let in two out of three, but they're pretty skilled. You have to give them that," Lundqvist said. "When I came in here I thanked Drury right away. It was a big goal. We didn't have to come back for another round, and that's a huge point for us."

New York moved one point ahead of Montreal into sole possession of sixth place in a tightly contested Eastern Conference playoff race.

"We found a way," Rangers coach John Tortorella said. "Both teams I thought played hard and it could have gone either way, but we found a way to win it."

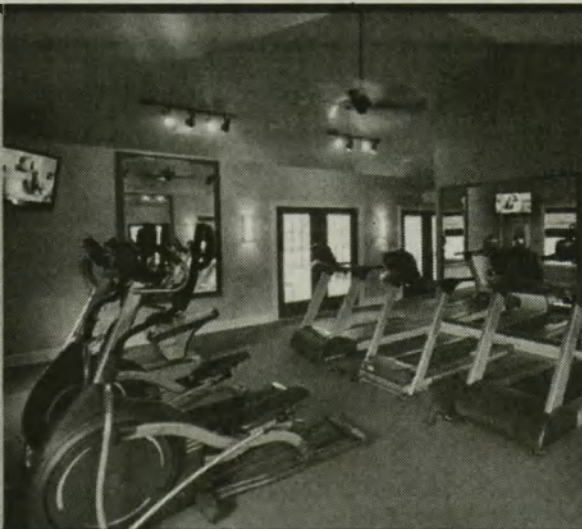
Antropov, Nikolai Zherdev and Ryan Callahan all scored to stake the Rangers to leads.

"We just played 65 minutes of playoff hockey," Antropov said. "It was up and down, it was a great feeling. The fans were the same as we played when I was in Toronto because these are both Original Six teams, so it's always a rivalry and a nice atmosphere."

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United States stays alive with 9th-inning win

America overcomes a two-run deficit in the 9th to defeat Puerto Rico in the second round of the World Baseball Classic

Associated Press

MIAMI — Hobbled and humbled in the World Baseball Classic, Team USA is still swinging.

David Wright sliced a two-run single that capped a three-run rally in the bottom of the ninth inning Tuesday night, and the injury-plagued Americans qualified for this weekend's semifinals with a 6-5 win over Puerto Rico.

Wright's hit with one out eliminated Puerto Rico from the tournament.

"That situation is what you dream about when you're a kid," he said.

The Americans advanced to the next round at Dodger Stadium. It was an especially sweet victory after Saturday's embarrassment against Puerto Rico that triggered the mercy rule when the Americans fell 10 runs behind, ending the game in the seventh inning.

"Getting a crack at a team that embarrassed us a few days earlier, to have the resiliency to bounce back in the ninth and steal one from them was pretty big," Wright said.

This time the teams played a full nine, and the Americans saved their best for last in the 3-hour, 54-minute marathon.

"They kept on the heat, and they didn't give up," Puerto Rican manager Jose Oquendo said.

Trailing 5-3, Team USA began its rally when Shane Victorino and Brian Roberts singled to the start the ninth against J.C. Romero (1-1). Derek Jeter flied out, Roberts stole second and Jimmy Rollins walked on a 3-2 pitch.

"We just had to string them together, and we were able to do that," Rollins said.

Fernando Cabrera came on to pitch, and he walked Kevin Youkilis to force in a run.

Wright then lined a 2-1 pitch

just inside the right-field line, raising his fist when the ball dropped in. The New York Mets star called the hit the biggest of his career.

"You're talking about representing the United States of America," he said. "You've got that across the front of your chest. To be able to get that hit, that's got to be right up there at the top of the list."

Wright was mobbed by teammates near second base after two runs scored.

"You're celebrating a game," Youkilis said. "You're celebrating a nation."

The rally came after the Americans stranded seven runners in scoring position in the first eight innings.

The WBC has some marketing to do, as Tuesday's modest crowd of 13,224 showed, and the tournament's version of the Yankees provided a boost by making the final four for the first time.

"We're taking this very seriously," Wright said. "This isn't an exhibition to us."

Team USA will play Venezuela in Miami's final game of round two Wednesday night to determine seedings for the semifinals.

The Americans will advance despite a recent wave of injuries that has sidelined infielders Dustin Pedroia and Chipper Jones and reliever Matt Lindstrom for the rest of the tournament. Left fielder Ryan Braun was also unavailable Tuesday with a sore right side, but he hopes to return this weekend.

Alex Rios homered and then singled home the go-ahead run in the sixth for the Puerto Ricans. They totaled only five hits, but three walks led to runs, and U.S. starter Ted Lilly gave up three runs on two homers.

Carlos Delgado hit a two-run homer for the Puerto Ricans, and they broke a 3-all tie in the sixth.

Ivan Rodriguez led off with his third walk, took second on a surprise sacrifice by Carlos Beltran and scored on Rios' single.

Ramon Vazquez singled home the Puerto Ricans' final run in the ninth. Youkilis homered for Team USA.

Lilly gave up only two hits, but both were homers, and he departed after 3 1/3 innings with the score 3-all. Jonathan Broxton (1-0) earned the win despite allowing a run in the ninth, his lone inning.

Puerto Rican starter Jonathan Sanchez lasted only 2 2/3 innings. He allowed five hits and three runs.

Nifty baserunning by Wright put Team USA on the scoreboard in the second. He singled, stole second and took third on a single by Mark DeRosa. When Brian McCann flied out to left field, Wright tagged up and scored by eluding the catcher's tag with a headfirst slide.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Eagles victorious is play-in game

Morehead State to face Louisville in opening round of NCAA tournament

Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — As a New Jersey guy, center Kenneth Faried had never heard of Morehead State the first time the school came calling.

No wonder. The Eagles won only four games as recently as 2005-06, hadn't been to the NCAA tournament since 1984, and were pretty much an afterthought in a state where basketball comes in shades of Kentucky blue and Louisville red.

Now, there's a little more room to brag in the Bluegrass.

Faried got the better of his bigger and more syllabic counterpart Tuesday night, and the Eagles never trailed during a 58-43 victory over Alabama State that opened the NCAA tournament and ended a quarter-century of futility for Morehead State.

"For every fan out there, this is for you," said Faried, who had 14 points and 21 rebounds. "Even for those in the last 25 years when we haven't made it, this one is for them."

Morehead (20-15) played its way into a first-round rematch on Friday with top-seeded Louisville, another Kentucky team that it knows well -- maybe a little too well for a good night's sleep the next few days.

The Eagles hadn't made the tournament since 1984, when quarterback Phil Simms' alma mater became a footnote to NCAA basketball history. The Eagles beat North Carolina A&T in an opening game that featured the first television replay used to settle a tournament dispute. They lost their next game to Louisville by 13 points.

Twenty-five years later, they're on a parallel course. Up next: a Louisville team

that beat them by 38 last November.

"I think we'll do a lot better," said Maze Stallworth, who added 11 points. "That game is a big blur to us. A lot of us don't remember that game -- or don't want to remember that game. It's great to play them one more time on a neutral court."

Alabama State (22-10) hoped to set the tone defensively behind shot blocker Grlennys Chief Kickingstallionsims Jr., a 7-foot-1 center whose reach is as long as his name. He swatted away three shots, but wasn't much help where he was needed most -- on the boards.

The Hornets could have used a few more Chiefs.

Faried, the Ohio Valley Conference's defensive player of the year, led a team that relies on balance and rebounding to get it done. Morehead State dominated the boards 50-27.

The senior center chose to go to Morehead even though he thought someone was playing a joke on him the first time he heard the school wanted to recruit him.

"I'm from northern New Jersey, and to hear about Morehead -- that was amazing," Faried said. "I thought it was a pretty funny name, that they were playing around with me. I didn't know who they were."

Andrew Hayles scored 14 points for Alabama State, which shot only 31 percent in addition to getting outrebounded.

"They crashed the boards hard," guard Brandon Brooks said. "We just didn't play our game tonight. We came out timid. We should have come out like we wanted to win this game, and we didn't. The better team

won."

Both teams shot so poorly that fans at the crowd of 11,346 at University of Dayton Arena -- the largest for an NCAA opening-round game -- resorted to doing the wave in the second half. Morehead couldn't bring the fans to their feet, but did enough to move along to another game in Dayton.

Alabama State's distinction? The Hornets had the biggest name in the tournament -- counting vowels and consonants, that is.

Kickingstallionsims (it stumbles off announcers' tongues as KIK'-een-stal'-yun-sy-ems) was the SWAC's defensive player of the year. He showed off his reach by swatting away the game's first shot, but made little impact the rest of the way. He had only two rebounds and was 0-for-2 from the field.

Instead, with Faried (pronounced fuh-REED) leading the way, Morehead State did what it does best, gobbling up the rebounds and controlling the game. The Eagles had a 29-13 edge on the boards in the first half, when it opened a 13-point lead that was never seriously threatened.

With no clear-cut rooting interest, the crowd wore green for the occasion -- St. Patrick's Day -- and settled in to see which team would grab its imagination. For most of the game, it was neither.

Alabama State went nearly seven minutes without scoring in the first half, missing six shots and throwing the ball away three times. That provided an opening for Morehead State to pull ahead 25-12 even though the Eagles shot only 36 percent from the field in the first half.

NHL

Brodeur passes Roy on all-time win list

Long-time New Jersey goalie earns record-breaking win in victory over Blackhawks

Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — Martin Brodeur stands alone among NHL goaltenders.

Brodeur posted his 552nd win and passed childhood idol and Hall of Famer Patrick Roy for the most career victories in league history. He made 30 saves in the New Jersey Devils' 3-2 victory over the Chicago Blackhawks on Tuesday night.

The victory came in Brodeur's 987th game in a 15-year career played entirely with the Devils.

During that tenure, the likable Brodeur has led the Devils to three Stanley Cups and won four Vezina Trophies as the league's top goaltender.

Now he holds the wins record, and others could soon fall. He is within four shutouts of passing Terry Sawchuk (103) for the league record, and at 36 he has a chance to push his win total well beyond 600.

"If this continues being fun, I'll stick around for a long time," Brodeur said during an on-ice interview after the game.

Brodeur tied the mark in an emotional setting, his hometown of Montreal on Saturday night with Roy in attendance.

With family in the crowd in Newark, Brodeur took the ice in front of a full house that cheered him from the warmup to the final buzzer, mostly with the echoing chant of "Mart-tee! Mart-tee! Mart-tee!"

Those cheers turned to "Thank you, Marty" as the clock ticked down. Brodeur preserved the win with one last save in the closing seconds.

"Martin Brodeur is the gold standard of goaltending -- the model of character, consistency

and commitment to the craft," NHL commissioner Gary Bettman said in a prepared statement. "A champion. A winner above all."

"It is difficult to imagine any player who is more universally, and deservedly, respected," Bettman added. "The National Hockey League is extremely proud of Martin, his historic achievement and his enduring contribution to our game."

Brodeur wasn't the only record-setter on the night for New Jersey. Patrik Elias became the Devils' career leading scorer when he recorded his 702nd point with a perfect pass to set up a short-handed goal by Brian Gionta late in the second period for a 3-0 lead.

The Devils took the pressure off Brodeur early with two goals against Nikolai Khabibulin in the opening 6:01 in extending their record for home wins to 10. Zach Parise set up both, finding Jamie Langenbrunner in the slot 38 seconds after the opening face-off and then threading a pass through the crease to Travis Zajac at 6:01.

After that it was up to Brodeur to protect the lead and he looked extraordinarily focused in winning for the eighth time in nine games since returning from elbow surgery late in February.

Blackhawks defenseman Cam Barker got the first Chicago goal, firing a point shot past a totally screened Brodeur on a power play late in the second period. Dustin Byfuglien made it 3-2 with 2:03 left in the game.

It could not prevent the Blackhawks from losing a season-high third straight game, and fifth in sixth.

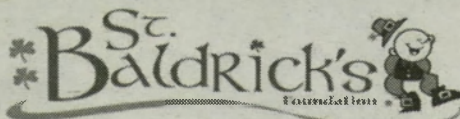


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NHL

Detroit rallies in final minutes to beat Philly

Penguins' Malkin reaches 100 points in win

Associated Press

DETROIT — The Detroit Red Wings' patience and hard work paid off.

Johan Franzen and Henrik Zetterberg scored 1:32 apart in the third period to wipe out a one-goal deficit and rally Detroit to a 3-2 win over the Philadelphia Flyers on Tuesday night.

Pavel Datsyuk had a goal and an assist, and Franzen also had an assist for Detroit, which hasn't lost to Philadelphia at home since Nov. 4, 1988 (14-0-2). Chris Osgood made 24 saves.

"In the end, we found a way," Zetterberg said. "We made their defense tired because we stayed in their end a long time. Eventually with patience and shooting the puck, the puck went in."

Scott Hartnell had a goal and an assist, and Joffrey Lupul also scored for Philadelphia. Martin Biron stopped 45 shots.

"We've got some work to do to catch up with them," Flyers coach John Stevens said.

The Red Wings are the defending Stanley Cup champions and have the most points in the NHL this season. Philadelphia is tied for second in the Atlantic Division.

Franzen made it 2-2 at 9:47 of the third period with his 29th goal. It was set up by Datsyuk, who got to a puck along the left wing boards and avoided defenseman Ryan Parent at the same time. Datsyuk then sent a cross-ice pass to Franzen, who put a shot over the sprawling Biron.

"It was Pav all over the ice," Osgood said. "Making great plays, backchecking, stealing pucks."

Zetterberg broke the tie with 8:41 left when he scored from the left circle, his 29th goal.

"This game's fair. If you do things right and do them right longer, you tend to win more often," Detroit coach Mike Babcock said. "We made a mistake a couple times and they scored on their chances, but I thought it was fair. The team that stuck with it the longest got a win tonight."

Philadelphia held a 2-1 lead after two periods.

Lupul's 21st goal gave the Flyers a 2-0 lead 4:28 into the second period. He beat Osgood from the right circle with a snap shot.

Datsyuk put the Red Wings on the board with 2:33 left in the second with his 28th goal, beating Biron high on the short side with a wrist shot from the outside edge of the left circle.

"It was just a great shot," Biron said. "I didn't give him much, I didn't think I gave him much. It was just a great shot."

"It's a different game if it's 2-0 after two."

Philadelphia led 1-0 after the first period despite being out-shot 19-8.

Hartnell opened the scoring with 3:26 left when he took a long pass from Braydon Coburn for a partial break-away and, while holding off Marian Hossa, beat Osgood. It

was Hartnell's 26th goal.

The Flyers had trailed after the first period in their previous 11 games.

Pittsburgh 6, Atlanta 2

Evgeni Malkin was held scoreless in three of his previous five games, and he missed practice Monday because he was ill.

It seemed the Penguins' star was losing his grip on the NHL scoring title. One stellar performance was all Malkin needed to regain control.

The Russian All-Star tied a career-high with five points to surpass 100 for the second consecutive season and the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Atlanta Thrashers Tuesday night.

"He played great tonight, and it's fun to see that," captain Sidney Crosby said. "When he's playing well, everything he touches, he makes something happen. That's a good feeling, and that's a good sign for us when he's going like that."

Malkin had two goals and three assists to give him 102 points this season. He extended his lead in the scoring race over Crosby to 10 points.

"I'm happy because we won," Malkin said. "We played great, the team played great. I did not feel great on the day off, but I was better today."

Sergei Gonchar had a goal and three assists and Kris Letang and Crosby had two assists each for Pittsburgh in a game matching the two hottest teams in the Eastern Conference.

Atlanta entered with a franchise-record six-game winning streak, and the Penguins improved to 11-1-3 under interim coach Dan Bylsma.

Bryan Little and Eric Boulton scored for Atlanta, which was playing without star wing Ilya Kovalchuk for the third straight game due to an unspecified upper body injury.

The Thrashers were miffed that rookie Zach Bogosian was knocked out of the game on a hit by Matt Cooke. Cooke was given a two-minute penalty for tripping on the play, but Atlanta wanted at least a major for kneeing.

"It was definitely knee-on-knee," Thrashers coach John Anderson said. "The referee said if (Bogosian) was injured, (Cooke) would have gotten five minutes. He was injured—he just didn't lay on the ice."

That second-period incident stewed and likely led to a melee with 4:16 to play in which 44 penalty minutes were assessed and Boris Valabik sustained an unspecified injury in a fight with Eric Godard.

"To me (Bogosian) is an 18 year-old future superstar, and if people are going to protect superstars in this league then that was a knee in my book and in anyone's book," Valabik said. "I think you can't hurt anybody with a trip, and that (hit) you could hurt somebody with."

Chris Kunitz, Jordan Staal and Mark Eaton also scored for the Penguins, who are on a 9-0-2 run and are 9-1-1 in their past 11 at home.

NBA

Jazz end three-game losing streak with win

76ers triumph with Iguodala's 3 at buzzer

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Deron Williams admitted that the Utah Jazz put an underwhelming end to a three-game losing streak.

The Jazz played well enough to beat the Washington Wizards 103-88 on Tuesday night, but knew they got away with mistakes that would have cost them against better teams.

"I don't think it was our best effort, but we did what we had to do," said Williams, who had 12 points and eight assists.

After winning 12 straight, the Jazz had lost the final three games of a five-game road trip and couldn't afford to slip up against the hapless Wizards, who have the second-worst record in the NBA.

"It was just important for us to get this one—just for our confidence," Williams said. "We had three tough losses on the road and we were struggling."

Ronnie Brewer scored 13 despite playing only the second and fourth quarters as punishment for oversleeping and missing Tuesday morning's shootaround. Kyle Korver added 15 points on his 28th birthday as seven Utah players scored in double figures.

Nick Young and Juan Dixon had 14 points each to lead Washington.

Antawn Jamison added 13 points and 10 rebounds and Andray Blatche pulled down 13 boards for the Wizards, who hung with the Jazz for the first half but couldn't keep up in the third quarter.

"I thought in the first half our defense was actually pretty solid. In the second half they wore us down and that ends up being the story of the game," Washington coach Ed Tapscott said. "It's hard to come back against this team. A lesson learned."

Mehmet Okur scored 13 points and grabbed six rebounds and Andrei Kirilenko and Paul Millsap scored 10 points each for Utah, which finished 41-of-81. Korver went 6-for-9 from the floor and Brewer finished 6-for-10 and had five assists for the Jazz, who won their 12th straight home game.

"I didn't think we played particularly well tonight," Korver said. "We finally got some stops and we were able to get out and run a little bit."

The losing streak knocked Utah to No. 7 in the Western Conference playoff race and out of the Northwest Division lead. With 14 regular-season games remaining, the Jazz can put themselves anywhere from No. 2 in the West to out of the playoffs completely.

"That's one of the things you always have to be concerned about is are the playoffs important enough for you to go after it?" Utah coach Jerry Sloan said. "We can talk about it all we want, but sometimes our effort doesn't look like that."

Utah was playing at home for the first time since March 6 and was sluggish through the first half while taking a 46-36 lead. Utah had a little more life in the third quarter as Williams sparked the offense and the Jazz went 12-for-21 from the

floor.

"It wasn't the prettiest game. It was a little ugly," Boozer said. "For us, we'll take a win after a three-game slide."

Utah used a 7-0 run to pull away early, then really got going after a brief confrontation between Williams and Dixon in front of the Utah bench.

Dixon caught Williams up high with a foul during a drive toward the basket with 8:07 left in the period. Williams had a few words for Dixon as he was pulled away by teammates, including Boozer, who charged in and cleared out some room for his star point guard.

Williams made both free throws to give Utah a 55-41 lead, then a few minutes later bounced a backward pass between his legs to Okur, who drove for a layup to put Utah up 62-43. The pass was pretty, but Williams topped it on his next assist when he threw an alley-oop before he was even at the midcourt line for a reverse dunk by C.J. Miles that put the Jazz up 64-43 with 5:51 left.

"I just looked up and was kind of surprised to see him that open," Williams said, sneaking in a jab at his teammate. "That means he wasn't rebounding."

Philadelphia 94, Los Angeles 93

Andre Iguodala scored 25 points, including a buzzer-beating 3-pointer, and the Philadelphia 76ers overcame a 14-point fourth-quarter deficit to stun the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday night.

The Sixers were trailing 78-67 when interim coach Tony DiLeo put little-used forward Donyell Marshall into the game for the first time, hoping he could the same spark he did in Sunday's 85-77 win over Miami when he scored 10 fourth-quarter points—his first since Feb. 17.

The 14-year veteran drained a 3-pointer 19 seconds later, igniting a 20-2 blitz that turned Philadelphia's 12-point deficit into an 86-80 lead with 5:24 to play. Marshall capped the rally with another 3-pointer, then hit his third 3 of the game to put the Sixers back in front 91-89 with 2:22 left.

Pau Gasol hit two free throws for the Lakers with 1:39 to go, and Kobe Bryant—who scored 11 points during a foul-plagued 33 minutes—hit a 3-pointer for a 93-91 lead after missing his previous five shots.

Then Andre Miller inbounded to Iguodala, who was covered loosely by Trevor Ariza before connecting from the top of the key.

The Lakers were ahead 59-58 when Bryant tried to set a screen for Ariza and was called for an offensive foul with 6:52 left in the third quarter. That was Bryant's fourth of the game, and the reigning MVP didn't report back in until the start of the fourth period.

In the meantime, the Lakers outscored Philadelphia 10-0 over the final 3:03 of the quarter to pull ahead 73-62, and Jordan Farmar's 3-pointer gave Los Angeles its biggest lead, 76-62, 16 seconds into the final period.

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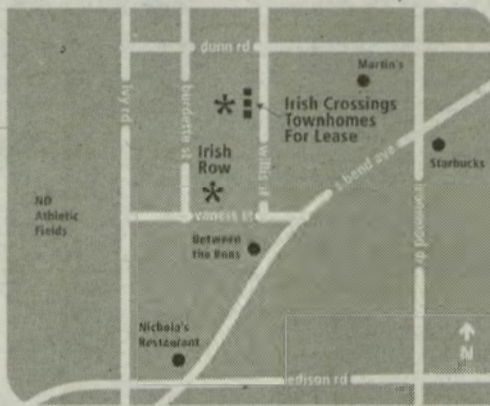
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Please recycle The Observer.

Rockets

continued from page 24

played since the March 10-11 Buzz Classic because their planned five-game series in Virginia over the weekend was canceled due to rain and snow.

On March 10, Toledo won its first game of the season, a 7-4 decision over Georgetown.

Gumpf said she does not consider a team's record when preparing the team.

"Let me tell you, anyone can beat you," she said. "We try to practice for every single team we play exactly the same. We just need to focus on what we do right, not what our opponent does right or wrong."

Senior pitcher Brittany Bargar (6-5) and sophomore pitcher Jody Valdivia (2-5) will each start a game for the Irish. Bargar holds a 1.47 ERA in 76 innings pitched, and Valdivia has a 4.12 ERA in 37 1-3 innings.

Sophomore Sadie Pitzenberger leads the Irish

offensively with a .322 batting average. Juniors Heather Johnson and Christine Lux share the team lead with 10 runs batted in apiece.

Lux, the team's first baseman, also leads the team on the defensive end. She has 92 put-outs and has yet to commit an error.

Gumpf said she would not be making any big changes to her lineup or field.

"I think every time we're out there we're making little adjustments to get a little bit better," she said.

Rockets pitcher Brooke Gates was named Mid-American Conference player of the week on March 11. At the Buzz Classic, she batted .357 and had a 3.00 ERA with six strikeouts on the mound.

This will be Notre Dame's last game before it begins Big East play Sunday against St. John's.

The first game of the doubleheader will begin today at 3:30 p.m. and the second will follow at 5:30 p.m.

Contact Laura Myers at lmeyers2@nd.edu

Shutout

continued from page 24

of the season.

Peterson and Fusaro were stars in game one as well, hitting back-to-back doubles in the fourth inning to break a scoreless tie.

Peterson is currently riding a 12-game hitting streak.

The Belles will remain at home to face Manchester

today.

"Manchester is our first inter-region game," Sullivan said. "We are 29-5 at home in the last three years and we will be looking to continue that streak. Also, this year's freshman class is undefeated at home and they also want to maintain that dominance."

The team will look to continue tuning up their games before opening conference play on March 30 against

Calvin.

"One of the major team goals is to win the conference tournament," senior Katie Rashid said. "We also want to advance to the Regional tournament for the first time in school history."

Saint Mary's will host Manchester in a doubleheader today beginning at 3:30 p.m.

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgrabara01@saintmarys.edu

Luck

continued from page 24

the game."

Senior shortstop Jeremy Barnes' single jump-started an eighth inning that would allow the Irish to take the lead for good.

Junior second baseman Ryné Intlekofer singled, but an error allowed both him and Barnes to advance, giving the Irish runners on second and third with one

out. McConnell then beat out a throw to get an infield single, and Barnes scored the winning run on the play.

Freshman Will Hudgins (1-0) got the win for Notre Dame. Hudgins pitched 2 1-3 innings of no-hit ball after replacing freshman starter Dustin Ispas, who gave up four runs on six hits in 5 2-3 innings. Junior Steven Mazur got the save, striking out two in the top of the ninth.

"Will was the key today pitching-wise," Schrage said. "They scored four runs and he just shut them down."

Junior reliever Scott Brothers Jr. took the loss for the Cardinals.

The Irish have now won four straight and seven of

their last eight after a successful spring break trip to Texas.

"We're starting to settle in on a lineup and get some consistency," sophomore third baseman Greg Sherry said. "We're starting to get hot. We did the same thing last year. We've just got to make sure we continue throughout the year."

"We're starting to settle in on a lineup and get some consistency."

Greg Sherry
Irish third basemen

Sophomore left fielder Golden Tate got the Irish on the board in the third inning when he led off with a triple.

Senior first baseman Evan Sharpley's groundout scored Tate and the Irish took a 1-0 lead.

Tate went 2-for-2 with a walk and two runs to improve his average to .389.

"St. Patrick's day, wearing green, weather's awesome, I felt like it was time," Tate said. "I struggled a little bit on spring break, and now I'm just kind of relaxing, not thinking so much."

The Cardinals tied the game in the top of the fourth when sophomore starter Kolbrin Vitek doubled. Freshman first baseman Ian Nielsen blooped a single to center that drove in Vitek.

Notre Dame took advantage of an error in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Sherry singled, and Tate laid down a sacrifice bunt to move him to second. Junior right fielder David Mills grounded to second, but Cardinals senior second baseman Nate Fields bobbled the ball while trying to backhand it. Sherry scored instead of stopping at third, and the Irish led 2-1.

"They were throwing me fastballs in so I just took the approach I usually do, just try to hit the ball hard," said Sherry, who went 2-for-4 with two runs. His average, .388, is second on the team behind Tate's.

The Cardinals got to Ispas in the sixth inning. After Ispas walked Fields and junior catcher Zach Dygert singled, junior left fielder Kory Benbow hit the first pitch he saw over the left-centerfield fence for a three-run home run. Ball State led 4-2 in the middle of the sixth.

Notre Dame tied the score at four in the bottom of the seventh. Sherry singled and Tate walked, and a throwing error on Dygert allowed the runners to advance to second and third. Mills grounded out to second, driving in Sherry, and junior center fielder A.J. Pollock grounded out to short to score Tate.

The Irish will host Valparaiso today at 5:05 p.m. at Eck Field.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Obama releases NCAA bracket

Associated Press

NEW YORK — President Barack Obama is picking Louisville, North Carolina, Memphis and Pittsburgh for the Final Four in the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

The First Hoops Fan indulged in one of the week's most popular pastimes, filling out his NCAA bracket Tuesday for ESPN. The network, which is posting Obama's bracket online Wednesday and showing Andy Katz's report on "Sportscenter" at noon EDT, will reveal the president's pick for NCAA champion then.

The president stuck primarily with No. 1 seeds. The

sole exception was Memphis, seeded No. 2 behind Connecticut in the West regional.

"It was an educated bracket," Katz said. "He knew what he was doing. It wasn't some random kind of pick. There were no political favors or anything like that."

A private campaign promise earned ESPN the hoops scoop.

Katz interviewed Obama during the presidential campaign last October for a story about the president's brother-in-law, Oregon State head basketball coach Craig Robinson. After the interview, Obama invited Katz to play in a pickup basketball game on Election Day in Chicago, and he did.

Katz extracted a promise from Obama that if elected, the new president would reveal his NCAA picks to ESPN when the pairings were announced in March.

"They stayed true to their word and didn't hesitate to get it done," he said.

Even with a lot on his mind, Obama seemed up on the latest news, such as which teams had won conference tournaments and what players were injured, he said.

They even had some good-natured arguing. Katz is picking Wake Forest and Connecticut in his Final Four, along with North Carolina and Pittsburgh. The two men also disagreed on the eventual national champion.



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Please recycle the Observer.

UAB

continued from page 24

Notre Dame advances to play New Mexico Thursday, also at home, at 7 p.m. The game will be broadcast on ESPN2.

The crowd may have been small — no doubt many students were busy spending most of their day celebrating in anticipation of Notre Dame's win — but Irish coach Mike Brey said those in attendance were a big help.

"Our sixth man tonight, our students were great, and the people that were there gave us energy," Brey said. "I thought there was good energy, we had a home-court advantage tonight."

Junior forward Luke Harangody, who led the Irish with 22 points and 10 rebounds, added: "We knew there wasn't going to be a huge crowd out there ... so

we were expecting that, but as the game went on, it felt more and more like a Big East game."

On the court, it resembled some of Notre Dame's Big East games as well. In wins over Rutgers and South Florida, Notre Dame needed to clamp down defensively to compensate for a struggling offense. The story was the same against UAB.

Notre Dame was down 46-41 with 14:49 remaining and had hit just one of its first 10 shots to start the half.

"You lose, you're done," senior guard Kyle McAlarney said. "And that thought definitely crosses my mind right there, but our huddles were very strong and we did it on the defensive end."

Following a timeout, Notre Dame toughened up defen-

sively, holding UAB to just four points over the next 10:02. During that span, Notre Dame's offense was hardly spectacular, but was serviceable enough to build a 60-50 lead, thanks in part to sophomore forward Tyrone Nash. Nash had six points and nine rebounds as he saw extended minutes in place of

senior forward Zach Hillesland, who sat out most of the second half because of a knee injury.

"[Nash] continues to give us a big lift with the rebounding and the stuff

around the basket," Brey said.

The Blazers didn't help their own cause either, shooting just 5-for-13 from the free-throw line, with most of those misses coming in the

second half.

But they didn't go quietly. Consecutive 3-pointers from guard Robert Vaden, who finished with a game-high 24 points, pulled the Blazers back within four. A 3-point play from Harangody made the score 63-57 with 1:20 left. And free throws from Harangody and junior guard Tory Jackson sealed the win in a game that could have been a let-down for the Irish after they failed to make the NCAA Tournament.

"I would've been shocked if we weren't ready to go," Brey said. "This group has always been ready to compete and get back on the horse and try it again."

Notre Dame had led 39-30 late in the first half, but Vaden scored five points in the final seconds to pull UAB within four at the half.

Notre Dame was clicking offensively in the first half, which looked more like a pickup game, as opposed to the ugly second half.

It came complete with authoritative dunks, monster blocked shots by both teams, and an ESPN-worthy alley-oop from UAB forward Lawrence Kinnard to guard Paul Delaney III.

The Blazers stayed close for most of the half, and 16 points from Vaden helped. Notre Dame looked like it was ready to distance itself from UAB for good, thanks to an 8-0 run late in the half. Harangody found Nash inside for a layup and senior forward Ryan Ayers hit two 3-pointers to put Notre Dame ahead 39-30.

However, Vaden scored the last five points in the remaining minutes, capping off the half with a deep 3-pointer over Ayers and bringing his team back with four at 39-35.

"He looked like Kobe [Bryant] for a second," Jackson said.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

NIT

Curry scores 34 as Davidson defeats South Carolina

Battle scores eight in overtime to help Penn State escape George Mason

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Stephen Curry scored 32 points as Davidson started its latest post-season run with a 70-63 victory over South Carolina on Tuesday night in the NIT.

The stage may not have been as large as the Wildcats' NCAA tournament upsets a year ago, but Curry was just as spectacular.

The game was tied 51-all after Devan Downey's driving basket with 9:15 to go. Then Curry scored 13 of his team's last 17 points over the next 8 minutes as Davidson (27-7) took control.

Andrew Lovedale had 17 points and nine rebounds for the Wildcats.

The Wildcats will play either St. Mary's or Washington State in the second round.

Downey had 18 points to lead South Carolina (21-10).

Curry pretty much picked up where he left off in the NCAA's a year ago when he averaged 34 points over four games in leading Davidson into the round of eight before falling to champion Kansas.

This time, Curry opened the game with 25-foot 3-pointer. He scored 12 of team's first 23 points as the Wildcats opened an 11-point lead.

But Curry picked up his second foul soon after and spent much of the rest of the period on the bench.

The Gamecocks tried several defenders on Davidson's star junior. Downey, tied for third nationally with three steals a game, started. Zam Fredrick, Evaldas Baniulis and Branden

Conrad all took their turns shadowing the NCAA's top scorer.

South Carolina didn't help itself with awful shooting. At one point the Gamecocks were 4 of 19 overall while Davidson was 4-for-6 on 3-pointers.

South Carolina took advantage of Curry's bench time, closing the half with a 14-3 run. Downey, an all-Southeastern Conference performer, looked out of control most of the half as he began 0-of-3 with three turnovers.

However, his spinning, twisting drive with 2 seconds left moved the Gamecocks within 28-26.

Curry got going quickly in the second with Davidson's first four points. He only managed a 3-pointer the next 10 minutes as South Carolina rallied at home, where it had lost only twice before this season.

Things began to change in Davidson's favor when Gamecock coach Darrin Horn was called for a technical foul. Curry made both foul shots to make it 55-51.

Curry continued his hot stretch the rest of the way.

During a stoppage in the last minute, Curry pointed to a group of Davidson fans celebrating the Southern Conference champions' latest win over a team from a power conference.

Penn State 77, George Mason 73 (OT)

Talor Battle scored eight of his game-high 24 points in overtime and tied the game with a 3-pointer at the end of regulation as Penn State defeated George Mason on

Tuesday night in the first round of the NIT.

Dre Smith hit two foul shots with 5 seconds left in regulation to give George Mason a 65-62 lead before Battle hurried down the court for his buzzer-beating 3 for Penn State (23-11). It was Battle's first bucket of the second half after missing his first seven shots.

Battle hit two more 3s in overtime, scoring all but four of Penn State's 12 points in the extra frame.

John Vaughn's deep 3 with 7.7 seconds in OT drew Mason (22-11) within 75-73, but Stanley Pringle hit two foul shots with 7.0 seconds left to finally seal the win.

Penn State moves on to face Rhode Island at the Jordan Center on Thursday night. The Rams defeated Niagara, 68-62 earlier Tuesday.

Spurned by the NCAA tournament, the Nittany Lions were able to smile again after getting their first postseason victory since upsetting North Carolina to advance to the NCAA regional semifinals in 2001.

Penn State needed more late-game dramatics Tuesday night after George Mason erased a nine-point deficit in the first half and traded leads with the Nittany Lions down the stretch.

Darryl Monroe scored two key buckets in the final three minutes of regulation, including a layup with 1:01 left that gave Mason a 63-62 lead.

Battle couldn't convert on two chances to take the lead in the final minute of regulation, missing a runner in the lane as the shot clock expired and slipping on another drive to turn the ball over with 6 seconds left.

Pringle then fouled Smith, who hit his two late foul shots before Battle's buzzer-beater.



Davidson guard Stephen Curry shoots during the second half of the Wildcats' 70-63 victory over South Carolina Tuesday.

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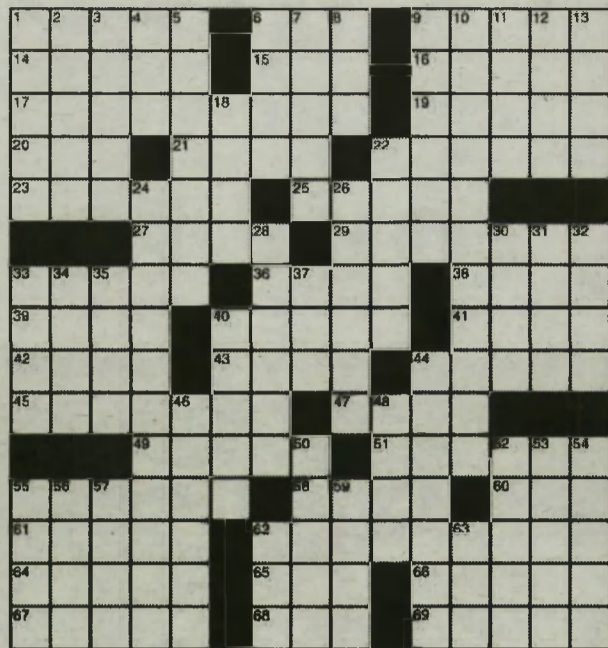
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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across
1 ___ the Hutt of "Star Wars"
6 "Me, me, me" attitude
9 Parties where dresses are rarely seen
14 Key location
15 Works on the wall?
16 ^
17 Comment at the reptile exhibition?
19 Dog with an upturned tail
20 Online chuckle
21 Kisser
22 Underhanded
23 Joining alloy
25 Spread out
27 Where the Nobel Peace Prize is awarded
29 Daring actions
33 Put into effect
36 Terrier type
38 ___ fruit
39 New Mexico athlete
40 O. Henry specialty
41 Mop the floor with
42 From
43 Find awful
44 Wild time
45 Not taking sides
47 Prefix with meter
49 Crew
51 Depot purchase
55 Halve
58 Grow dim
60 English cathedral city
61 Hacienda brick
62 Bruin, Golden Bear or Wildcat?
64 Till now
65 Rumble in the Jungle victor
66 Orange box
67 Does in
68 Marked off
69 Conger catcher

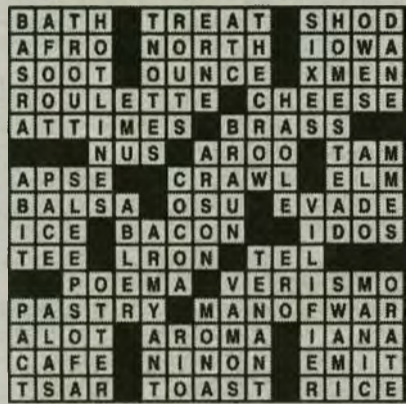


Puzzle by Richard Silvestri

- Down
1 Bloodhounds have big ones
2 Sound before a blessing?
3 Ultimate aim
4 Baseball club
5 Bit of a limerick
6 Bloodhounds have big ones
7 Dozen dozen
8 Like some stocks, for short
9 Non-vector
10 Command to a pholog?
11 "Celeste Aida," e.g.
12 Stan on the sax
13 Hotel visit
18 Weightlifter's maneuver
22 Weather caution for motorists
24 Horse vet?
26 Gym class
28 Ruby's victim
30 Prince of opera
31 What a private eye may eye
32 Something to build on
33 Spirited style
34 Plane part
50 Low-lying wetland
52 ___ Atatürk, founder of modern Turkey
53 Please no end
54 Polk's predecessor
55 Stereo knob
56 Tiger Beat cover subject
57 Soft seat
59 Timothy Leary dropped it
62 Irene's counterpart in Roman myth
63 Pique condition?

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: David Gallagher, 24; Mena Suvari, 30; Zhang Ziyi, 30; Joe Pesci, 66

Happy Birthday: Look back before you move forward. Consider the patterns of your past and correct for the future anything that didn't pan out. Make this a new beginning. To stand still and wait will lead to more of the same. Instead, set your goal and work diligently toward it. Your numbers are 4, 9, 17, 20, 25, 32, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stand behind your beliefs and don't let anyone push you around. Uncertainty regarding work and future direction can lead to all sorts of variations that will help you build a stronger base. Don't rely on others to drum up business. 5 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't give in to pressure or let stubbornness be your downfall. Taking on too much or being too indulgent or melodramatic can lead to challenges that will cost you time and money. Get as much done on your own as possible. 2 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Doors are opening and the time to talk about your plans is now. Your Gemini charm will entice others to do things for you and will attract romantic interaction. A playful approach to everything you do will seal the deal personally and professionally. 4 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let an incident cause you to miss out on an opportunity for monetary help. Being pushy or clingy will hold you back. You need a change of scenery to rethink where you feel you should be heading. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You have plenty to contribute to any group. A partnership is apparent and can change your world professionally, personally or both. Don't back away when all you have to do is take what you want. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Change is on the horizon but you have to push a little harder to get things to fall into place. Don't let your emotions hold you back when you have so much to gain by taking a strong position and sticking to your schedule. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Spread the word regarding what you want and how you see things unfolding. You cannot let a negative influence in your life stifle your plans or make you feel unsure. Take advantage of the opportunity you have. 4 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't give in to bullying or to someone trying to get you to do too much. Underhandedness is apparent, so do not fall for the false information being given. Ask questions and go to the source if you want a true assessment. 2 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Love is all around you and a lot can be accomplished with the people you are closest to. A few alterations regarding your vocation are looking positive. The information or skill you acquire should lead to more personal freedom. 5 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You may end up saddled with a problem someone brings with him or her. A contract will be riddled with problems that must be adjusted before you can agree to sign. Loss is apparent if you let your emotions rule. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotions are high and the ability to change your personal life is looking very positive. Speak up about your plans for the future and the interest someone has in you will grow. Now is a great time to make changes. 3 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let someone take over or do your work for you. If you aren't in the loop, you will lose out. You cannot trust anyone to do what's best for you. Uncertainty within a relationship must be handled carefully. 3 stars

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, entertaining, intelligent and inventive. You are powerful and charismatic, with an inner light that makes others gravitate toward you.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugeniast.com for confidential consultations, nyspace.com/eugeniast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

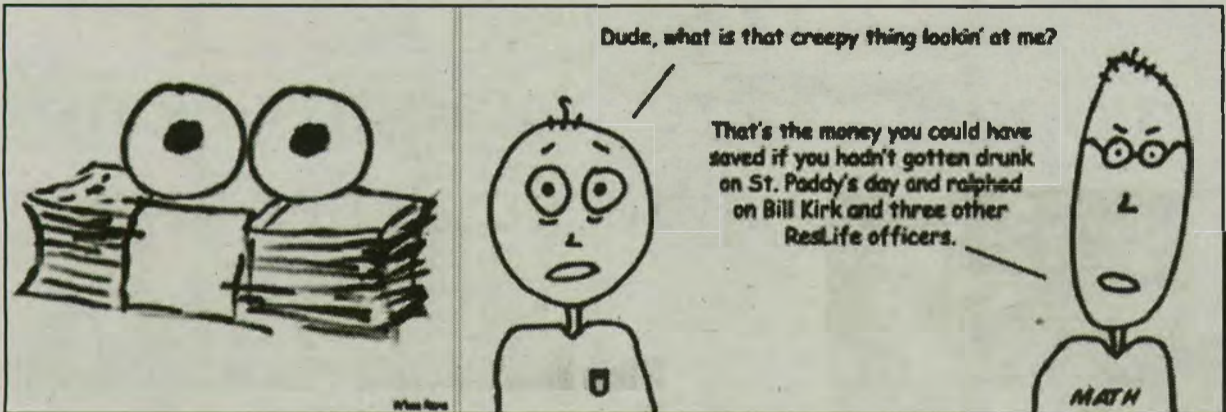
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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Mike Argirion and Jeff Kneure

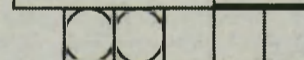
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RAWLD

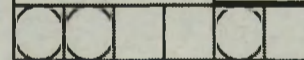


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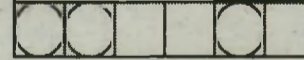
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LAWHER



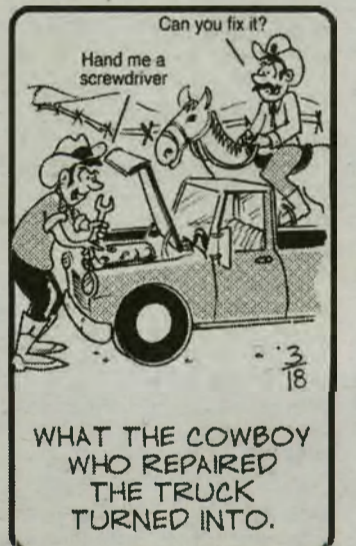
GINANA



Ans: A " [] [] [] [] [] " [] [] [] [] []

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BROIL PAYEE CLOUDY AMOEB Answer: When the smoke detector went off in the wee hours, they were — "ALARMED"



WHAT THE COWBOY WHO REPAIRED THE TRUCK TURNED INTO.

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

THE OBSERVER

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

One down, four to go

Irish beat Birmingham in first round of NIT

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

Just because it was St. Patrick's Day Tuesday didn't mean the good Irish karma on campus would make things easy for Notre Dame. After all, Notre Dame was founded by a French priest and has a French name, and it was Alabama-Birmingham (UAB) who came dressed for the occasion in its road-green uniforms.

Nevertheless, No. 2-seed Notre Dame (19-14) was able to gut out a 70-64 win over the No. 7-seed Blazers (22-12) in the opening round of the National Invitational Tournament in front of an official crowd of 2,039 at the Joyce Center.

see UAB/page 22



ZHIBIN DAI/The Observer

Senior guard Kyle McAlarney dribbles around a UAB defender during Notre Dame's 70-64 win over the Blazers Tuesday. The Irish advanced to the second round of the NIT Tournament.

ND SOFTBALL

Squad set to kick off home play

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

The weather got better at just the right time for the Irish.

Notre Dame (8-10) will host a doubleheader against Toledo (1-10) today at Melissa Cook Stadium.

The games mark the home opener for the team, which spent the first part of the season playing in warmer locales.

Irish coach Deanna Gumpf said being at home should help her team.

"I think our advantage is that it's our first home game and that we're a good ball club," she said. "We're prepared to play."

The Rockets have not

see ROCKETS/page 21

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Laxers beat Rutgers in first Big East game of season

By MEGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

No. 11 Notre Dame celebrated St. Patrick's Day with an 18-9 victory over Rutgers to start Big East play. The Irish (7-1, 1-0) increased their winning streak to six games.

Leading Notre Dame were senior attack Jillian Byers and junior attack Gina Sciosia. Byers

owns the Irish points record with 259, including 34 this season after scoring four goals on seven shots. Sciosia brought her point total to 38 with two goals and six assists.

Following Byers and Sciosia were sophomores Ansley Stewart and Kaitlin Keena. Stewart scored three goals on her three shots while Keena netted two of her five shots on goal and made an assist. Also scoring

for the Irish were sophomores Kailene Abt, Shaylyn Blaney and Jackie Doherty and senior Beth Koloup. Freshmen Megan Sullivan and Maggie Tamasitis both came off the bench to make their first appearances in a game, Sullivan scoring twice and Tamasitis once.

In goal, senior goalie Erin Goodman played 47 minutes and made seven saves. She was relieved with 12:23 left to play

by junior Amy Winik, who closed out the game.

Leading the Rutgers scoring were senior midfielder Michelle Poole with three goals and junior midfielder Mary Cryan with two.

The game was the 10th meeting of the two teams and the seventh win in the series for the Irish, including going 4-1 at home against the Scarlet Knights. This is the second con-

secutive win in the series for the Irish, after defeating the Scarlet Knights 20-9 at Rutgers last season.

Next up for the Irish is a third consecutive home game. They will take on California (4-5) in a nonconference game Sunday at 1:00 p.m. at the Loftus Sports Center.

Contact Meghan Veselik at mvesel01@saintmarys.edu

BASEBALL

Irish slip by Cards in opener

Freshman pitcher Hudgins records first career victory

By BILL BRINK

A close game came down to an infield single, but the ball rolled Notre Dame's way.

Sophomore catcher Cameron McConnell's dribbler gave Notre Dame a 5-4 win over Ball State Tuesday at Eck Stadium.

Plenty of fans came out for Notre Dame's (11-5) home opener and enjoyed the 71-degree weather.

"We played on St. Patrick's Day and the luck of the Irish came through," Irish coach Dave Schrage said. "We couldn't get a sacrifice bunt down so we got a swinging bunt down and it ended up winning



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Left fielder Golden Tate runs after hitting a triple in the third inning of Notre Dame's 5-4 win over Ball State.

see LUCK/page 21

SMC SOFTBALL

Freshman tosses no-hitter in Belles sweep

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

Freshman Angela Gillis became an instant star when she threw a no-hitter to help the Belles sweep a doubleheader against Goshen Tuesday at Saint Mary's.

The Belles shut out Goshen in both contests, winning the first game 4-0 and the second 11-0.

"[Gillis] was fantastic," Belles coach Erin Sullivan said. "She hit all of her spots and stayed very composed out there on the mound. Ashley Fusaro also called a great game for us behind the plate, and our defense made some great plays behind her."

Gillis (6-0) struck out seven of the 18 batters she faced in the game.

The Belles' bats were behind Gillis throughout the game, and

the team jumped out to an early 5-0 lead after the first inning.

"Chemistry is definitely a strength for our team at this point," Sullivan said. "We don't know which portion of our team is going to shine for us on a day-to-day basis, which makes us tough to scout. Today it was our bats, but other days our pitching has really stepped up and helped us win some close games."

Junior Ashley Peterson and senior Cathy Kurczak added to the lead for the Belles with home runs in the second and third innings, respectively.

Freshman Kristen Nelson also drove in a run in the third inning of the game to give the Belles an 8-0 lead.

In the first game, freshman Monica Palicki threw a three-hit shutout to earn her fifth win

see SHUTOUT/page 21