THE OBSERVER

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McGurn: Abortion not a political issue

Center for Ethics and Culture sponsors lecture by former Bush speechwriter in spirit of discussion

By JOHN TIERNEY
Assistant News Editor

Abortion is an "intrinsic evil" and not a "political difference," said William McGurn, the former chief speechwriter for President George W. Bush in a lecture entitled "Notre Dame: A Witness for Life" Thursday.

"Abortion as a legal right is less a single issue than an entire ethic that serves as the foundation stone for the culture of death," McGurn, a 1980 graduate of the University and former staff writer for The Observer, said.

While many people view abortion as a divisive issue, McGurn argued that it is an issue on which people should be able to agree.

"This is where people can come together, without compromising their other differences," McGurn said.

He said he proposed that Notre Dame hold a "summit of pro-life Democrats ... to come here to make the Notre Dame statement for life."

"There are a lot of Democrats I disagree with, but our country's richer when we're standing together on life," McGurn said.

Abortion is not, according

see ABORTION/page 6

PAT COVENEY/The Observer

William McGurn, former speechwriter for George W. Bush discusses the right to life movement at Notre Dame Thursday.

Explosion on campus injures grad student

Observer Staff Report

An explosion in Fitzpatrick Hall of Engineering left a student injured Thursday afternoon, according to a University spokesperson.

Associate director of News and Information Julie Flory told The Observer a female graduate student suffered "moderately serious burns" after an experiment she was conducting in the basement of the building resulted in a small explosion.

"I would say the injuries were serious, but certainly not life-threatening," Flory said. "She had burns, but not something they're concerned about in the long-term."

The student was taken to a local hospital in an ambulance after the Notre Dame Fire Department responded.

Flory said the student had been mixing a non-toxic chemical combination before the explosion occurred.

The explosion, which occured around 1 p.m., caused a small fire, but Fitzpatrick Hall did not sustain any damages.

Flory said students were evacuated, but the building returned to normal operation shortly after.

Students seek spoon train world record

145 participants lie on South Quad, break Guinness record of 93 spooners to benefit charity

VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Students attempt to create the world's longest spoon train on South Quad Thursday.

By LIZ O'DONNELL
News Writer

Lying side by side along South Quad, 145 students gathered Thursday afternoon to attempt to break the world record for the longest human spoon train.

"We did this last year just for fun," junior Charlie Mahoney, a co-captain of the event, said. "This year we wanted to break the world record."

The 145 spooners participating in this year's "Spooning for Solutions" spoon train will be entered into the Guinness Book of World Records after shattering the old record of 93.

While the record was technically broken last year with a train of 127 spooners, the organizers of the event did not fill out the required paperwork to submit the attempt to the Guinness Book of World Records.

Co-captain Deirdre Murdy said members of the ski team came up with the idea last year to encourage other members on campus to par-

see SPOONERS/page 8

Ebadi examines human rights

Nobel Peace Prize recipient says Islam is compatible with democracy

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Editor

In Iran, 65 percent of students attending universities are women, but the law states a man's life is worth twice that of a woman's, said Shirin Ebadi, recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2003.

"Gender discrimination exists," Ebadi said through a translator. "The testimony of two women in court equals the testimony of one man."

Ebadi, a lawyer and human rights activist known for defending women's rights in Iran, discussed human rights in the Islamic world for the 15th annual "Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C. Lecture in Ethics and Public Policy" Thursday.

Ebadi

Along with gender inequality, she said religious discrimination is a pressing issue in Islamic countries.

"A number of Baha'is live in Iran, but are deprived of social and civil rights," Ebadi said.

Legally, if a Muslim commits a crime, they can be punished with 100 lashes, but if a non-Muslim commits a crime, they can be punished with execution.

Some Western theorists and radical Islamic governments contend that the Islamic religion is incompatible with human rights and democracy, but Ebadi said she rejects that idea.

Many moderate Islamic intellectuals believe human rights are compatible with Islam, she said. They main-

see EBADI/page 6

VPI to hold final event of the year

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Writer

The Gender Relations Center (GRC) will host its first annual "Now is the Time: Festival on the Quad" today to celebrate the commitment to overcoming sexual violence on campus, GRC director Heather Rakoczy Russell said.

The festival, which is a part of the GRC's Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI), is the program's biggest event of the year, will take place on South Quad today from 3 to 8 p.m.

The festival will be VPI's final event of the semester, Rakoczy Russell said.

She said VPI — a program launched earlier this year — has accomplished some of its goals, but still has "room to grow."

"Where we have succeeded this year so far is raising awareness about violence in the local community and healing of survivors," Rakoczy Russell said. "And the fact that we are doing some charity

see VPI/page 8

INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER *Fisher regatta to set sail Saturday* page 3 ◆ *Men's Lacrosse to play OSU this weekend* page 28 ◆ *Viewpoint* page 11

INSIDE

You didn't know?

Jay Fitzpatrick

Senior Staff Writer

In all of my time at Notre Dame, I have never been champion of anything. Until now.

Last night, my bookstore team, the Miner Street Shooters, challenged the recently coronated Bookstore Basketball champions and we prevailed. We ran an effective fast break, had great dribble penetration, and (if I may indulge my own ego) had a block party in the defensive paint.

That's right. We took down Four Girls and a Guy 21-3, making me and my friends the new Women's Bookstore Basketball Champions.

My team and I had to draw up a gameplan for the matchup, and it was pretty simple.

Step one: Find their shooter. Girls teams are generally role players with one great girl (equivalent to your average male player). We quickly learned that person was junior Sierra Smith, the recently named Women's MVP.

Step two: Defend outside shots. The first thing I learned from covering Notre Dame women's basketball for three years was that most girls can easily shoot from distance. Throw in a heavy dose of height and that was their only option. Fortunately for us, the girl who we thought would be able to make it rain (I'm looking at you point guard Molly McCarthy) built a house with all her bricks

Step three: Be dudes. That's right, I said it. Between incredible speed out of guards Tony, Tommy and Stephen and a double-double in blocks and boards from yours truly, our natural masculinity helped us cruise to the title.

Once we put that plan in place, it was all uphill from there.

To be fair, the game was pretty competitive for a while. They made some shots; we made a lot more. But in the end, brains and brawn triumphed simultaneously and the title was ours.

They tried to pass. We intercepted it every time. They tried to shoot. We blocked it almost every time. They tried to play defense. We made it rain.

They got tired.

We got hungry.

I didn't think it would this easy. I thought playing them would be like playing an average (at best) men's team. Quite frankly, we aren't even good. We had one win and (surprise!) it was against girls.

I'll be honest with you, O dear reader: It feels good to be a champion. It feels good to know that we can take on any challenger and prevail.

It just feels good to be alive.

And now I throw down the gauntlet. Any girls team that thinks they can take us on, bring it. We accept all challengers, no holds barred. (Of course, we don't want to play Skylar Diggins. I mean, wow. She's just that good).

In the end, I think we can all take a life lesson away from this.

Boys rule. Girls drool.

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

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: *BIG SPOON OR LITTLE SPOON?*

Erin Bryne

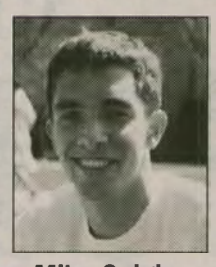
freshman
Welsh Family

"Either. I don't discriminate based on size."

Katie Doellman

freshman
Welsh Family

"Middle spoon. I like to be in the middle."



Mike Quigley

freshman
Sorin

"Both because then I can spoon with both of my friends' girlfriends."

Natalie Badasare

freshman
Welsh Family

"All spoons are created equal."

Alex Hath

freshman
Sorin

"Little spoon because Sam is a big spoon."

Sam Shanley

freshman
Sorin

"Big spoon because Alex is a little spoon."

Have an idea for Question of the Day? E-mail observer.questions@gmail.com

MEG SMITH/The Observer

Kelly Fallon (right) smiles as a South Quad carnival worker shows off her newly painted Frisbee while Breanna Sammons (center) continues to work on her own. The event was part of this year's week-long AnTostal.

OFFBEAT

Crew retrieves bloated carcas of bull from River

RUMFORD, Maine — A public works crew retrieved the bloated carcass of a bull that had floated down the Androscoggin River and over a waterfall before landing on some boulders weeks ago. Crewman Dan Peare told the Sun Journal of Lewiston that he convinced his bosses that he and fellow crewmen could and should remove the animal before warm weather arrived for the weekend.

On Wednesday, Peare climbed down the river bank and attached a rope to the bull's legs. They then pulled the 800- to 900-pound Hereford up the bank with a bucket loader, lifted it into a dump truck and buried it behind the town garage.

The animal was first spotted in early April when it went over the falls and landed in a seemingly unreachable position atop a rock pile about 100 feet below the top of the river bank.

Officails capture three-legged alligator from beach

SEACREST BEACH, Fla. — It sounds more like something out of a freak show: a one-eyed, 3-legged alligator. The gator was captured Thursday morning in Seacrest Beach by Walton County officials. The animal was less than five feet long and had somehow found its way to the beach.

A family visiting from Chicago called it the perfect day at the beach. They learned how to tell apart an alligator from a crocodile.

The rare gator was taken to a safe location and returned without harm to the wild.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

A panel discussion entitled **"The History and Future and Gender Studies"** will be held at **10:00 a.m.** in the **Hesburgh Center Auditorium** on **Friday**. A reception will be held before the event at **9:00 a.m.** in the **Great Hall** in the **Hesburgh Center.**

The **"BFA/MFA Candidates' Theses"** will be held in the **O'Shaughnessy Galleries** in the **Snite Museum of Art** on **Friday.** The exhibit will be held at **10:00 a.m.** Admission is **free**.

A **Chicken Dinner Fundraiser** will be held for **Relay for Life** in the **Stephan Center**. A half of a chicken is **$6.** The dinner will be held on **Friday.**

Notre Dame Bike Fest will be held on **South Quad.** Students will have the opportunity to register bikes, get a free tune up, learn safety skills, participate in a bike ride or join a bike club. The festival will begin at **7:30 p.m.** on **Friday.**

Tree Planting Day will begin at **1:00 p.m.** on **Friday**. Forty trees will be planted to offset carbon emission.

The **End of the Year Extravaganza** will be presented by the Psychology Club **Friday**. The festival will be held on **North Quad** and will begin at **2:00 p.m.**

The **Farley Hall Players** will present **"Assassins"** on **Saturday** at **7:30 p.m.** Admisson costs **$6.** Tickets can be purchased at the door, or at the LaFortune Box Office. The musical will be in **Washington Hall.**

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

LOCAL WEATHER

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH	81	72	82	77	64	57
LOW	59	59	58	56	43	41

Atlanta 86 / 59 **Boston** 68 / 49 **Chicago** 81 / 61 **Denver** 75 / 45 **Houston** 80 / 68 **Los Angeles** 63 / 49 **Minneapolis** 72 / 45
New York 68 / 52 **Philadelphia** 72 / 52 **Phoenix** 89 / 65 **Seattle** 59 / 41 **St. Louis** 85 / 65 **Tampa** 89 / 65 **Washington** 75 / 58

Students set to sail across lake in Fisher Regatta

Teams will attempt to stay afloat in a variety of make-shift boats in competition for Phoenix-based charity Saturday

By IRENA ZAJICKOVA
News Writer

Tomorrow, 35 boats will set sail in hopes of claiming the glory of victory in the Fisher Regatta.

Some teams will proudly row all the way across St. Mary's lake while others will sink seconds after the race begins, but only two teams will emerge victorious — one each from the men's and women's brackets.

Pat Hogan, the event's commissioner, said this year marks the 23rd year of the Regatta, and the number of entrants has gone up from last year's race, which will begin at 1 p.m.

Hogan said planning the Regatta was slightly more difficult this year because of the economic downturn.

"Getting a sponsorship was challenging because so many companies have cutbacks, and the first thing to go is charitable donations," he said. "So getting responses from people was hard."

But he was successful in securing sponsorships from some campus favorites — Papa John's Pizza, Coca-Cola and Krispy Kreme doughnuts.

Hogan said another challenge was setting a date for the Regatta, given that the weather could be anything from sunny skies to a blizzard.

"There is always the prevalent challenge of whether the weather will comply," he said. "The glorious weather of South Bend doesn't always comply with the wishes of the Regatta."

The event costs $40 to enter and the proceeds will go the Phoenix-based charity Andre House, which serves the poor and the homeless in the area.

Hogan said the winning teams will receive a handful of exciting prizes.

"There are trophies for the winners, free pizza coupons from Papa John's and the ultimate pride of winning the Fisher Regatta," he said. "It's something to tell your grandkids about."

The Regatta attracts many spectators each year because of the large number of unusual boats in which students proudly attempt to stay afloat.

"Last year, there was a 10-by-12 foot piece of plywood with Fisher-Price basketball hoops and they played five-on-five basketball," Hogan said. "They didn't make it very far, but you've got to give them respect."

Even though the event's boat-building rules operate on the honor system, Hogan said there are always teams that try to find loopholes.

"I don't want to name names," Hogan said. "But there's a dorm that always cheats."

Hogan, a junior, has been involved in planning the Regatta since his freshman year.

"You apply for [the committee] freshman year and then you're on it every year," he explained. "The freshmen are Regatta apprentices and your responsibilities increase every year. Junior year, you can be the Regatta commissioner."

When asked what the best strategy for winning was, Hogan advised that teams should try their best, and hope that their effort ends up being better than everyone else's.

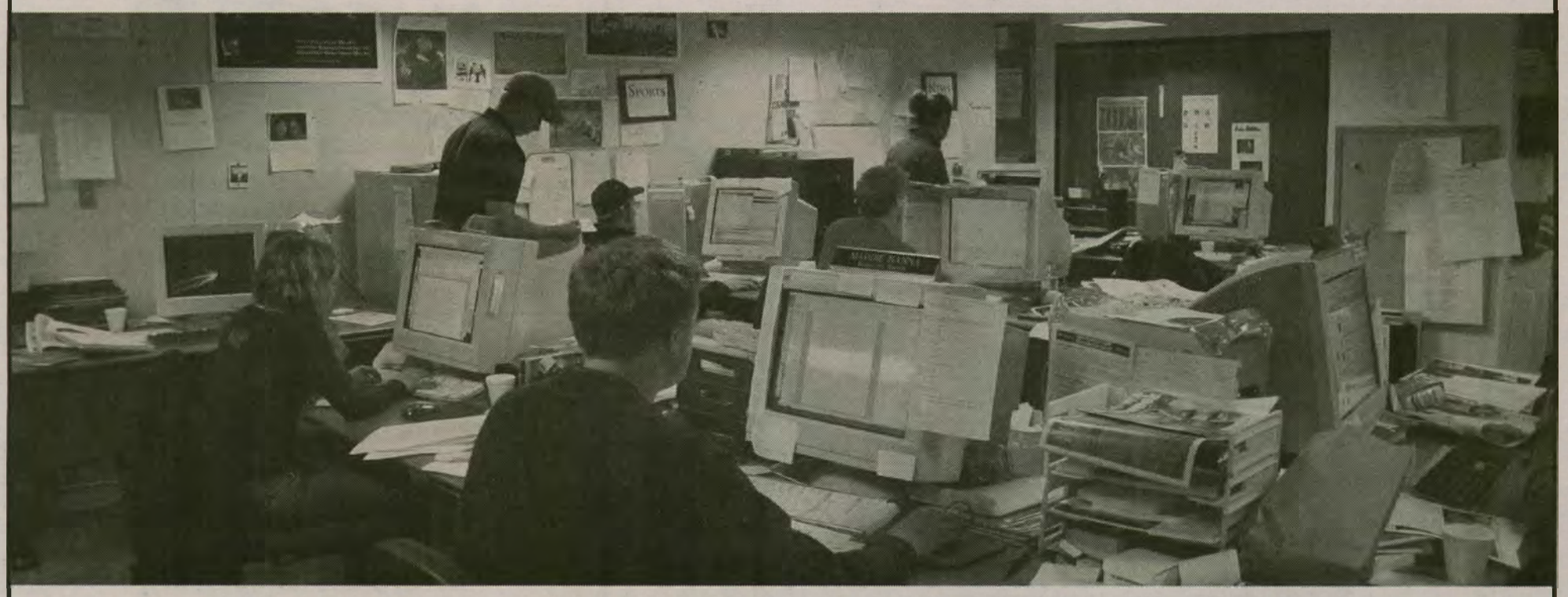
"I know the exact best strategy. It's not only about getting yours, it's about preventing the other guy from getting theirs," he said. "My old basketball coach told me that."

Contact Irena Zajickova at izajicko@nd.edu

Observer file photo

Students race during the Fisher Regatta in 2007. This year's race, featuring 35 teams, will begin at 1 p.m. tomorrow and benefit Andre House, a Phoenix-based charity that serves the homeless.

THE OBSERVER



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Please recycle The Observer.

Fifth graders visit campus

Education classes host pen pals for 'glimpse of college life'

By IRENA ZAJICKOVA
News Writer

Younger kids are a rare site on campus, but two education classes hosted fifth graders from a local public school Thursday to give them a glimpse of college life.

The classes, "Education, Schooling and Society" and "Coloring Outside the Lines," both taught by Professor Joyce Long, have been exchanging letters with students from Brown Intermediate Center all semester.

The two classes visited their pen pals at Brown earlier in the semester, but Thursday was the first time the fifth graders came to Notre Dame.

Long said the visit benefited both groups of students. The elementary school students got a taste of what college life is like, something that many of them had never experienced before.

"We know from their letters that the only thing they know about Notre Dame is football. Coming onto campus, they're actually going to see what Notre Dame is like," Long said. "One of the things we hope they'll get out of it is that this could be the end product of them engaging themselves in their studies."

Another key purpose of this visit was to show the pen pals that attending college is possible for anyone, Long said.

"Mainly, [the visit was] for motivational purposes and a glimpse of what is possible," Long said.

"Mainly, [the visit was] for motivational purposes and a glimpse of what is possible."

Joyce Long
professor

During their visit, the students went to the digital movie theater in Jordan Hall for an interactive science lesson. They also spent time with their individual pen pals and ate a meal at South Dining Hall.

"I think [the project]' emphasizes the need to reach out to these kids in the community. We live so close to them and they live so close to this great University, so we need to take advantage of that."

Melissa Cowell
sophomore

Melissa Cowell, a sophomore who plans to pursue a career in education, said she enjoyed spending time with her pen pal Ariel.

"It was a lot of fun," Cowell said. "It was cool to see the kids' reactions to the campus."

During her visit with Ariel, Cowell took her on a campus tour.

Cowell said the fifth graders gained a sense of what college will entail from what they saw today.

"I think a lot of them, even though they live so close to Notre Dame, they don't have a concept of what the school is like or what it's like to be in college," she said. "So we're showing them what it's like to be here."

Cowell said a key part of the pen pal project was making an impact in the community, which is sometimes difficult to do while living in the "Notre Dame bubble."

"I think [the project] emphasizes the need to reach out to these kids in our community," she said. "We live so close to them and they live so close to this great University, so we need to take advantage of that."

Long said the education classes hope that the fifth graders will remember the visit and emerge from the experience with a more comprehensive picture of what college entails.

"For many of them, they have no idea what college means," Long said. "When they get back to their own school, they can compare what they saw and have a more enlarged view of what campus is like."

Contact Irena Zajickova at izajicko@nd.edu

SMC welcomes vice president for Mission

By MEGAN LONEY
News Writer

Saint Mary's President Carol Ann Mooney and Sr. Joy O'Grady, president of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, jointly appointed Sr. Mary Louise Gude to join the Saint Mary's community as the new vice president for Mission.

The position for vice president to lead the Division for Mission became available after Sr. Rose Anne Schultz, the first vice president of the Division for Mission, announced her retirement this spring, according to a press release.

Gude was encouraged to apply for the position based on her experience with both the Saint Mary's and Notre Dame communities.

"Among other things, I spent eight months in Le Mans, [France] preparing to celebrate the beatification of Basil Moreau and help organize the summer C.S.C. history session in Le Mans," Gude said.

Gude said she is positive about her new position.

"My position is one of service to the college community. Saint Mary's has a rich heritage, and one facet of my job will be to nurture that heritage," Gude said. "This happens in many and varied ways, and I look forward to the challenge."

Gude said her responsibilities fall into three categories: to make the history and the mission of the Sisters of the Holy Cross known to the College community and to interpret its relevance today, to supervise those college departments explicitly charged with implementing that mission and to act as a liaison between the College's various constituencies in order to ensure mission effectiveness.

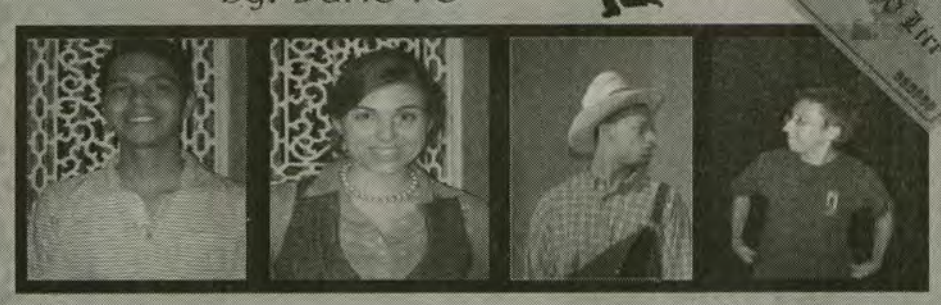
Gude graduated from Saint Mary's College in 1963. After earning a licentiate from the University of Montreal and a Ph.D. in French literature from the University of Pennsylvania, Gude returned to South Bend. She has served as an assistant vice president for Student Affairs and taught in the Department of Romance Languages at Notre Dame.

Gude has also served at Saint Mary's as an assistant professor of French and department chair.

Contact Megan Loney at mloney01@saintmarys.edu

Italian Theater Presents

La Marcolfa
by: Dario Fo



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Tally has 87,215 Iraqis dead

BAGHDAD — Iraq's government has recorded 87,215 of its citizens killed since 2005 in violence ranging from catastrophic bombings to execution-style slayings, according to government statistics obtained by The Associated Press that break open one of the most closely guarded secrets of the war.

Combined with tallies based on hospital sources and media reports since the beginning of the war and an in-depth review of available evidence by The Associated Press, the figures show that more than 110,600 Iraqis have died in violence since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.

Militants burn NATO fuel tankers

ISLAMABAD — Dozens of militants armed with guns and gasoline bombs attacked a truck terminal in northwestern Pakistan on Thursday and burned five tanker trucks carrying fuel to NATO troops in Afghanistan, police said.

NATO and U.S. commanders are seeking alternative transport routes into landlocked Afghanistan amid mounting assaults on the critical main supply line through Pakistan.

Militants attacked the truck depot near the city of Peshawar before dawn, hurling gasoline bombs which set fire to the five tankers, said Abdul Khan, a local police official.

Security guards fled and the assailants made their escape before police arrived, Khan said. Several truckers drove their vehicles out of the terminal to save them from the flames, which were later doused by firefighters, he said.

NATO and the U.S. military insist that their losses on the transport route remain minimal and have had no impact on their expanding operations in Afghanistan. Most of the fuel for U.S. troops in Afghanistan comes from Central Asia.

NATIONAL NEWS

Six years in prison for airing Hezbollah

NEW YORK — A Pakistani immigrant whom a prosecutor called "Hezbollah's man in New York City" has been sentenced to nearly six years in prison for airing the Lebanese militant group's television station.

Javed Iqbal was ordered by a federal judge in Manhattan on Thursday to serve five years and nine months for putting the broadcasts of Al Manar among stations he sent to customers in New York.

Prosecutor Eric Snyder says Iqbal helped the TV station get out Hezbollah's message. He says the organization had killed more Americans than any other terrorist group before Sept. 11, 2001.

Iqbal lawyer Josh Dratel says his client didn't intend to aid Hezbollah as he tried to build his television station distribution company.

Kans. gov. vetoes abortion bill

TOPEKA — Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has vetoed a bill that would rewrite a state law restricting late-term abortions.

The measure vetoed Thursday would have required doctors performing late-term abortions to report additional information on those procedures to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

The bill also would have allowed women or girls who later believed their abortions were illegal to sue the doctors. Their husbands or, in the case of minors, a parent or guardian, also could sue.

LOCAL NEWS

Ind. to crack down on puppy mills

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana lawmakers appeared to move a bit closer to a compromise on a contentious bill to regulate large-scale dog breeding operations on Thursday — the same day a group of pet lovers brought their dogs to the Statehouse to demand a crackdown on so-called puppy mills.

Both the House and Senate have approved versions of the bill to regulate dog breeders. The Senate plan would require breeders to comply with U.S. Department of Agriculture regulations if they have more than 20 adult female dogs able to be bred.

S.C. wildfire forces thousands to flee

Blaze is state's biggest in three decades, damages hundreds of homes

Associated Press

MYRTLE BEACH — South Carolina's biggest wildfire in more than three decades — a blaze four miles wide — destroyed dozens of homes Thursday and threatened some of the area's world-famous golf courses at the height of the spring tourist season.

The flames, fed by tinder-dry scrubland, forced hundreds of people to flee, and some took shelter in the House of Blues honkytonk.

The fire got within 1 1/2 miles of Route 17, the main coastal road that links beachfront towns and is lined with fast-food restaurants, beachwear stores and trinket shops. By Thursday evening, the flames were about 3 miles west of the highway.

The blaze scorched about 23 square miles over the past two days and then veered north, heading away from the high-rise hotels that line Myrtle Beach. There were no reports of injuries, and authorities said they had not determined what sparked the flames.

Fueled by dry underbrush and highly combustible swamp peat, the blaze leveled about 70 homes and damaged 100 others early Thursday as the fire jumped a four-lane highway. The flames also forced authorities to evacuate 2,500 people.

Much of the damage was concentrated at Barefoot Landing, a sprawling complex of houses, condominiums and golf courses separated from the main route through Myrtle Beach by the Intracoastal Waterway.

"The house is completely gone," said Rachel Plaga, a 38-year-old nurse, who later began sobbing. "It was like Armageddon back there. There was nothing. Everything was gone. My whole life. My kid's whole life. It was horrific."

Another woman who broke down in tears had to be helped to a seat by a Red Cross worker.

Garry Alderman, Horry County's fire chief, described some homes as left with only "skeletal remains."

The fire appeared to hopscotch through the neighborhood, which was draped in a thick haze, and some of the rubble still smoldered hours later.

One home was burned to its slab, while the brick house next door appeared undamaged, an American flag still flying.

At another home, the car in the driveway was charred, but the only damage to the house was melted vinyl siding. At one address, everything burned except the garage door, which remained standing.

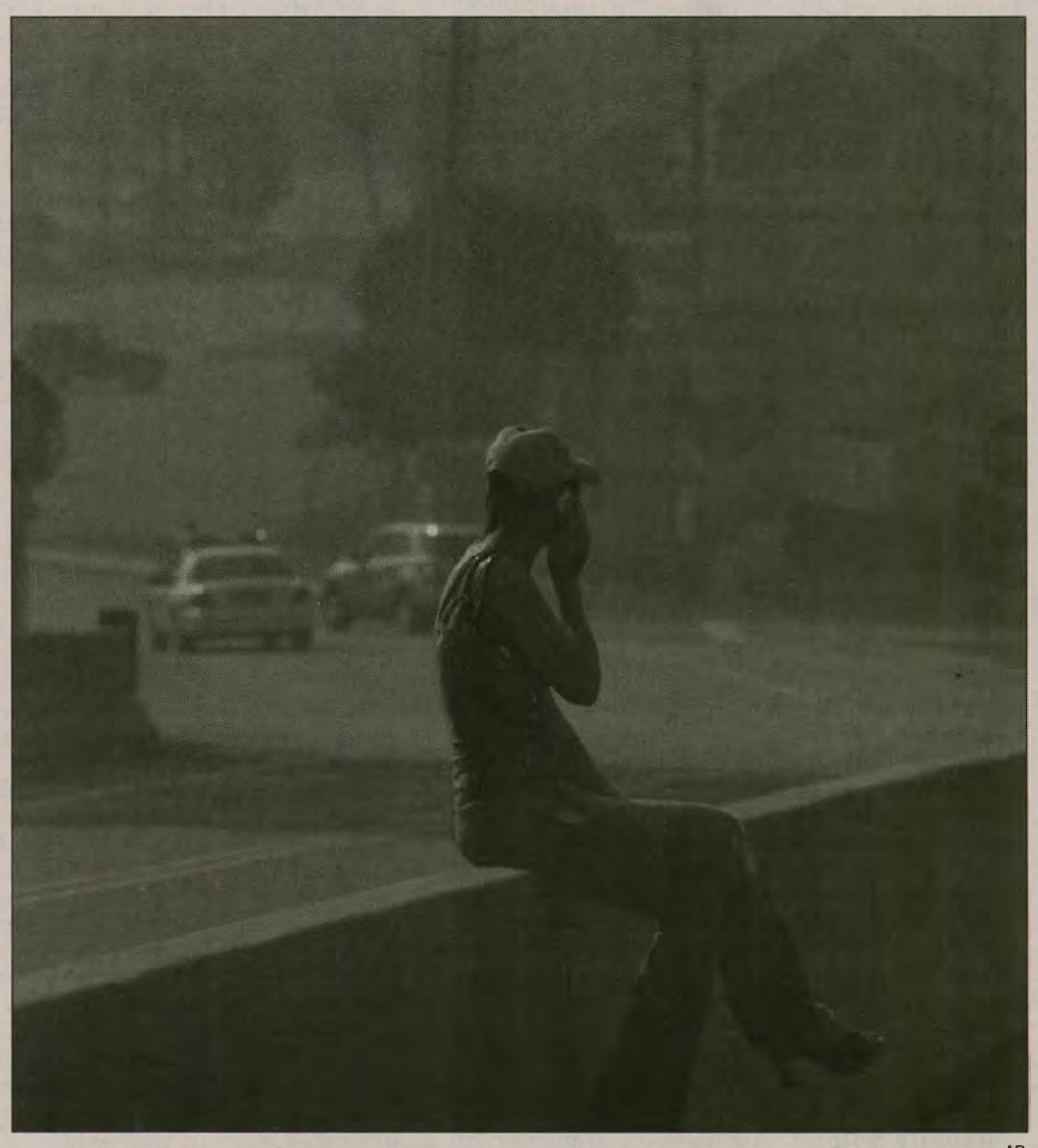
After they were evacuated, some 200 residents spent the rest of the day in and around the nearby House of Blues, where officials gave them updates. Hours later, they were ushered inside to watch a video of the fire damage because they were not yet allowed to return to their homes.

Officials said the blaze appeared to die out at Barefoot Landing by midmorning, only to move parallel to the waterway. Authorities worried it could jump the channel, a canal as wide as a football field that separates the city's main drag from the homes of retirees and people who help run the area's golf courses, hotels and other businesses.

Just a few miles south along the coast, people were unaffected. Golfers kept their tee times and tourists spread out on the beaches. Hotel managers, who offered vouchers to the evacuees, said they could not even smell the smoke.

As ash fell, the governor issued a state of emergency, and schools closed early. But North Myrtle Beach Mayor Marilyn Hatley managed to promote the area while announcing the number of homes destroyed.

"Certainly come on to the Grand Strand area and enjoy yourself," Hatley said.



AP

An evacuee talks on the phone while she waits to return to her home Thursday in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Wildfires have forced the evacuation of an estimated 2,500 people.

IRAQ

Suicide bombers kill 78 in Baghdad

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Suicide bomb blasts tore through crowds waiting for food aid in central Baghdad and inside a roadside restaurant filled with Iranian pilgrims Thursday, killing at least 78 people in Iraq's deadliest day in more than a year.

The toll — at least 31 dead in Baghdad and 47 to the north in Diyala province — follows a series of high-profile attacks this month blamed on Sunni insurgents. The violence highlights potential security gaps as Iraqi forces increasingly take the lead role from U.S. forces in protecting Baghdad and key areas around the capital.

The insurgent push is still nowhere near the scale of violence in past years, but it has undermined confidence that Iraq's security gains were on solid footing at a time when the U.S. military is shifting its focus and resources to Afghanistan.

Thursday's attacks happened as American soldiers who specialize in clearing bombs from roads boarded a plane from Iraq to the Taliban heartland in southern Afghanistan, part of the largest movement of personnel and equipment between the two war fronts.

Iraqi authorities, meanwhile, say they have struck back at the heart of the insurgency: claiming they arrested one of the most wanted leaders of a militant network linked to al-Qaida.

The reported capture of Abu Omar al-Baghdadi, the head of the Islamic State of Iraq, could mark a setback to insurgents as they try to intensify attacks after a relative lull.

In the past, however, Iraqi officials have reported al-Baghdadi's arrest or killing, only to acknowledge later that they were wrong. The U.S. military has even said al-Baghdadi could be a fictitious character used to give an Iraqi face to an organization dominated by foreign al-Qaida fighters.

A U.S. military could not confirm the arrest, said a spokesman, 1st Lt. John A. Brimley.

Abortion

continued from page 1

to McGurn, "one issue on a political scorecard."

Notre Dame should stand united on the proposition that "the unborn belong to no political party; no human right is safe when the right to life is denied; and we will accept no calculus of justice that seeks to trade that right to life for any other," McGurn said.

He agreed that other human rights, including war and capital punishment, "deserve serious treatment."

"I don't think we need to share our politics to share our principles."

William McGurn former speechwriter for President George W. Bush

But he argued that "all pleas for other important human rights are 'false and illusory' if we do not defend with 'maximum determination' the fundamental right to life upon which all other rights rest."

These other rights are contingent on the protection of the right to life, according to McGurn.

"The unborn child's right to life represents the defining civil rights issue of our day," McGurn said.

As a civil rights issue, abortion is an issue of morality, not of politics, he said.

"I don't think we have to share our politics to share our principles," he said.

Catholics are called to be "witnesses to life," McGurn said.

"To be a witness, an institution must order itself so that all who look upon it see a consonance between its most profound truths and its most public actions," he said.

This witness to life is the essence of the Catholic character of the University, according to McGurn.

"This witness is the only real reason for a University of Notre Dame," he said.

The witness is derived from the belief that "self-evident truths about the dignity of each human life" truly exist, McGurn said.

Legalized abortions threaten these truths and the dignity of the human existence.

"A civilization which sanctions abortion as a human right is in some essential way writing its death warrant," McGurn said.

Notre Dame holds an important role in the debate over abortion, McGurn said. The University "remains one of the few institutions capable of providing a witness for life in the fullness of its beauty and intellectual integrity," he said. "America is waiting to hear her voice."

Notre Dame should work to "engage" its guests who do not agree with Catholic teaching, such as President Barack Obama, who will deliver the University's Commencement address next month, according to McGurn.

This engagement should be "cordial" and "gracious" and the University should be open to debate, he said.

However, to bring a guest who rejects the right to life to the University "on the idea that all that divided us was one political issue" would be a betrayal of the witness, McGurn said.

Despite the University's decision to invite Obama for the Commencement address, McGurn argues that "the witness for life is alive at Notre Dame." He cites the Notre Dame Fund to Protect Human Life, the work of teacher and the students who attended the March for Life in January as examples of the strength of this witness.

McGurn said that he is not worried about what Obama will say at Commencement.

"I worry about the symbol," he said.

He also encouraged those who disagree with the invitation to allow the seniors to have their graduation.

"I don't think people should have their graduation disrupted," McGurn said. "I think you can have a protest, but I don't think you should be rude."

He expressed his disappointment with the "unwise" decision to invite Obama.

"I am very disappointed with [University President] Fr. John Jenkins right now," McGurn said.

However, he did not call for Jenkins' resignation.

"Even if he resigned, my issue [that Notre Dame be a witness to life] would still be here," McGurn said.

"I would just like Notre Dame to be as consistent in advancing her positions as President Obama is with his," he said.

McGurn's lecture was sponsored by the Center for Ethics and Culture, "in the spirit of Fr. Jenkins's call to dialogue," Center for Ethics and Culture director David Solomon said.

Contact John Tierney at jtierne1@nd.edu

Ebadi

continued from page 1

tain that it is actually the Islamic governments' interpretation of Islamic law that is incompatible.

"Non-democratic Islamic governments get power from religion and not votes from people, and they believe they have to guard Islam" she said. "If the government relies on its own interpretation of Islam, any political criticism of the government is deemed a criticism of Islam."

Ebadi said this interpretation of Islamic law is a means of retaining power.

"If Islam is interpreted this way, the government loses ground and the people will be able to take over," she said.

Ebadi said Western theorists who write about a "clash of civilizations" between Islamic and Western societies also contribute to the idea that Islam is not compatible with democracy

"Some who believe Islam is not compatible with human rights believe democracy and human rights are just Western philosophies and they are not compatible with Islam," she said. "I do not accept this theory."

She said there are inconsistencies in the idea of a culture clash between Western and Eastern civilizations.

"If there is a clash, how do you justify the relationship between Saudi Arabia and the United States?" she asked.

There are human rights violations in Iran, Ebadi said. But Iranian citizens should have the job of implementing human rights — not foreign soldiers.

"We not only oppose an attack on Iran, but we also oppose a threat of attack on Iran because the government will oppress people based on national security," she said.

Ebadi criticized United States military presence in Iraq, expressing the hope that the new administration "shows better practice of foreign policy."

"America attacked Iraq on the excuse that Saddam Hussein is a dictator with weapons of mass destruction," she said. "However, when American soldiers didn't find weapons, they said bringing democracy was the goal. Was Saddam Hussein the only dictator in the world? The difference was there's a lot of oil in Iraq that doesn't exist in other countries."

Ebadi said the theory of human rights is an idea not confined to a specific culture, religion or country.

"These are international principles," she said. "It has nothing to do with East or West."

In order to resolve the problem of human rights violations in the world, Ebadi stressed cooperation.

"Let's plant the tree of cooperation like the earth," she said. "Let's be kind to each other. Kind."

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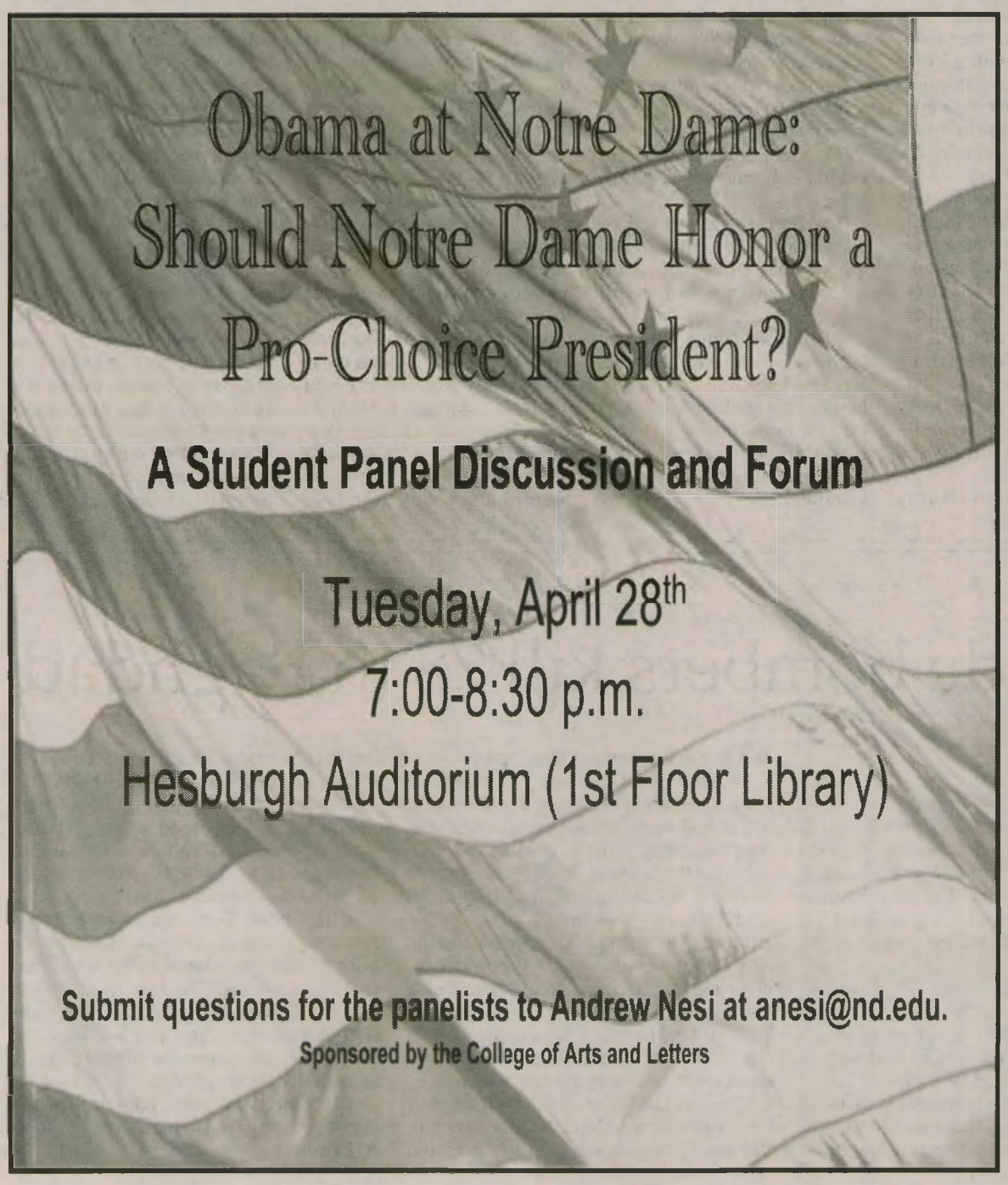

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Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:
2,221	92	1,478	3,486,277,876

AMEX	1,396.48	+34.88
NASDAQ	1,652.21	+6.09
NYSE	5,372.10	+81.49
S&P 500	851.92	+8.37
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	8,847.01	0.00
FTSE 100 (London)	4,018.23	-12.43

COMPANY	%CHANGE	$GAIN	PRICE
BK OF AMERICA (BAC)	+6.78	+0.56	8.82
CITIGROUP INC (C)	-1.54	-0.05	3.20
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	+0.98	+0.83	85.37
FINANCIAL BULL 3X (FAS)	+10.44	+0.74	7.85
Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	-1.25	-0.037	2.93
13-WEEK BILL	-29.63	-0.040	0.09
30-YEAR BOND	-0.97	-0.037	3.80
5-YEAR NOTE	-1.20	-0.023	1.89
Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE ($/bbl.)	0.00		48.85
GOLD ($/Troy oz.)	+14.10		906.60
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-0.35		82.25
Exchange Rates			
YEN			97.8550
EURO			1.3124
CANADIAN DOLLAR			1.2254
BRITISH POUND			1.4672

IN BRIEF

Microsoft sales drop for first time

SEATTLE — Microsoft Corp. said Thursday its quarterly revenue fell from the previous year for the first time in its 23-year history as a public company, while its profit dived 32 percent.

The shortfall illustrated the toll the recession has taken on the world's largest software maker, even though Microsoft remains one of the richest and most profitable companies. In January, Microsoft said it needed to resort to its first mass layoffs, cutting 5,000 jobs, and on Thursday it announced it would do away with merit pay increases for employees in the next fiscal year.

Microsoft did not issue earnings guidance for the rest of the year, and it offered no hope for a rebound in the current quarter.

"I didn't see any improvement at the end of the quarter that gives me encouragement that we're at the bottom and coming out of it," said Chris Liddell, Microsoft's chief financial officer.

Wisc. to require cochlear implants

MADISON — Wisconsin could become the first state requiring private insurance companies to cover cochlear implants for children with severe hearing problems.

The state Legislature passed a bill Thursday requiring private health insurance plans to cover cochlear implants, hearing aids and related treatment for those under the age of 18. Gov. Jim Doyle has promised to sign it into law.

While hearing aids help some children with hearing loss, those with more severe problems may be candidates for cochlear implants. The devices turn sound into electrical impulses that activate the hearing nerve, allowing the deaf to hear.

Supporters say some families with deaf children cannot afford to pay for implants that cost $50,000 or more when excluded by insurance policies. They say getting the devices early is critical to help children develop their language skills.

"This bill is going to allow children to keep their hearing, to become members of society, to go to school and keep a job," said state Rep. David Cullen, D-Milwaukee.

Several states already require insurance companies to cover some hearing aid costs, but advocates said Wisconsin would be the first to extend the mandate to cochlear implants.

GM to temporarily shut 13 plants

Assembly plants closed for up to two months; thousands of employees lose jobs

Associated Press

DETROIT — General Motors Corp. said Thursday it will temporarily close 13 assembly plants in the U.S. and Mexico — some for more than two months — laying off more than 26,000 workers to pare back a bloated inventory.

The closures, which will start in May, vary by factory from as short as three weeks to a long as 11, including the normal two-week July shutdown to change from one model year to the next.

GM said the shutdowns will help control high dealer inventories and bring manufacturing in line with sales. The company plans to cut production by 190,000 vehicles and reduce inventory from the current 767,000 to 525,000 by the end of July.

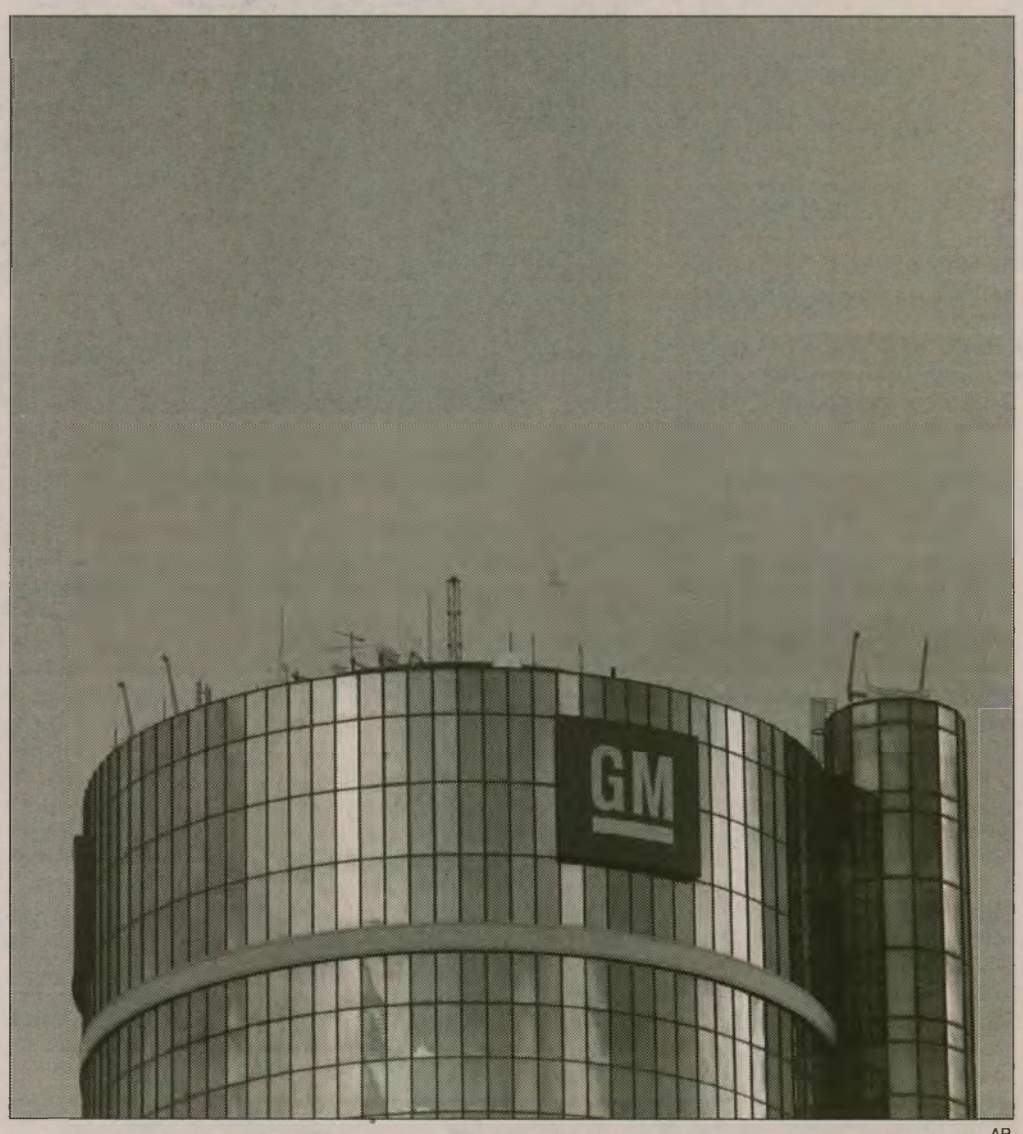
More than 26,000 hourly and salaried employees will be laid off at the affected assembly plants, but there will be thousands more layoffs and temporary factory closures when GM works out its schedules for engine, transmission and parts stamping factories.

The troubled automaker has 22 assembly plants in North America as well as dozens of other parts and powertrain factories.

Laid-off hourly workers will get unemployment benefits and supplemental pay from the company that amounts to most of their base wages. Salaried workers also will get some income, GM North America President Troy Clarke said.

In a conference call with reporters, Clarke said the shutdowns are not a sign that GM is headed into bankruptcy protection.

Clarke would not say exactly how many workers would be laid off, nor would he say if any of the factories would be closed for good. GM has told the government it plans to close five more factories as part of its restructuring plan, and its CEO said additional closures are possible.



AP

In this April 21 photo, General Motors world headquarters is shown in Detroit. GM recently reported that it will close most of its U.S. factories for up to nine weeks.

He also said the company isn't making the cuts because it sees sales worsening beyond current projections.

"Instead of spending the whole year to get the inventory in line, we really needed to get it in line much quicker," he said.

GM normally shuts down its assembly plants for two weeks each summer to prepare for the new model year, but assembly plants that will see additional down weeks are in Arlington, Texas; Bowling Green, Ky.; Detroit-Hamtramck, Mich.; Flint, Mich.; Fort Wayne, Ind.; Lansing, Mich.; Lordstown, Ohio; Pontiac, Mich.; Shreveport, La.; Spring Hill, Tenn.; Wilmington, Del.; Wentzville, Mo.; and Silao, Mexico.

The longest shutdown is 11 weeks at Fort Wayne, which makes the Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra pickup trucks.

The Associated Press first reported Wednesday that GM planned to temporarily close most of its factories.

Clarke said he can't remember the company ever having as many layoffs and plant shutdowns. He said President Barack Obama's auto task force was aware of the shutdowns, but the decisions were made by GM management.

Obama said through a spokeswoman that GM will have to make difficult decisions during its restructuring. "He is committed to standing behind GM during this process to achieve a strong, viable auto industry in the long-term," the spokeswoman said.

IMF, World Bank want more action

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The heads of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank pledged new resources Thursday to fight the worst global downturn since the Great Depression, while warning that the crisis is far from over.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said U.S. and European leaders need to fulfill pledges they made during a summit in London earlier this month to clean up their banking systems by removing distressed assets from banks' balance sheets. With the right policies, the world economy could recover in the first half of 2010, he said.

"We still have long months of economic distress in front of us," Strauss-Kahn said.

Strauss-Kahn said there "may be need for more" stimulus spending by individual countries in 2010. The IMF's board agreed to double the borrowing limits for 78 of the poorest countries in an effort to meet the needs of developing nations harmed by the downturn.

Also Thursday, World Bank president Robert Zoellick said it will provide $45 billion over the next three years to support road building and other infrastructure projects in poor nations.

The comments came as finance officials from around the world were gathering in Washington for three days of discussions beginning Friday that seek to resolve differences over the best approach to take to combat the current downturn.

The discussions are set to begin Friday with meetings of finance ministers from the Group of Seven wealthy nations — the U.S., Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada. Those will be followed by talks over dinner that night among the Group of 20 nations, which adds major emerging powers such as China, Russia, India and Brazil to the mix.

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner will emphasize that repairing the U.S. banking system is a "top priority," a senior Treasury official said Thursday. An "important component" of that effort are the "stress tests" that regulators are currently conducting on 19 of the nation's largest banks, the official said.

The tests measure how the banks will fare under a severe recession and are intended to determine which institutions need more capital. The additional money, if needed, could come from the private sector or the government. The Treasury Department is expected to release the framework for the stress tests Friday.

Spooners

continued from page 1

ticipate in one of the ski team's favorite pastimes.

"We spoon at the top of the course for warmth," Murdy said. "We decided to do it again because it's really a great time."

New this year to the event was the added incentive to raise awareness for the Alpine Children's Charity, a charity founded by sophomore Nick DeTrempe, also a member of the ski team.

"The goal of this year's event was twofold," Mahoney said. "We want everyone to have a great time and also raise awareness for a great cause."

DeTrempe said he and his cousins founded the charity five years ago, and it has since raised over $800,000. The main fundraisers for the charity are ski-a-thons.

"We raise money for juvenile diabetes, HIV and AIDS and other illnesses," he said. "They wanted to associate the world record with the charity and our charity was the one they chose."

In order for the event to qualify for the Guinness Book of World Records, the spoon train organizers had to meet several requirements and deadlines.

"We had to sign up online and e-mail them the plan," Murdy said. "Then, we also had to e-mail them forms which were signed."

She also said Guinness had strict guidelines that had to be adhered to in order for the attempt to count.

MEG SMITH/The Observer

Students participate in a spoon train Thursday to raise money for Alpine Children's Charity.

"We had to have two witnesses to count and testify the record was actually broken," Murdy said. "We also have to submit photos, a video and any press the event received."

Although the actual spooning portion only lasted about five minutes, Mahoney said planning for this year's attempt began in January.

"Last year we were a little late with our registration for the Guinness Book of World Records, so this year we made sure to register way in advance," he said.

The organizers of the event enlisted the help of Breyan Tornifolio, rector of Pasquerilla West Hall, and Gary Chamberland, a visiting instructor in the Theology Department, to serve as the official witnesses of the event.

Although the group will have successfully broken the record pending approval from the people at Guinness, Mahoney said he hopes the event will continue.

"I really hope this will carry on," he said. "I'll be around for another year so I hope to try and break this year's record next year."

Contact Liz O'Donnell at eodonnel@nd.edu

VPI

continued from page 1

fundraising."

She said VPI could improve by raising awareness about violence on a global scale and by becoming a "flagship" for other Catholic schools doing similar work.

Rakoczy Russell said VPI needs more experience before it can fully accomplish its goals.

"I'm not surprised that I don't feel like we're fully hashed on the flagship piece but I feel pretty confident that we're heading in the right direction," Rakoczy Russell said.

But she said VPI has been successful enough to continue next year, and will host three major events per semester. The festival will be one of those events and will take place again next spring, she said.

The festival will begin with a film that "explores how music videos and the media influences our perception of sex and power," Rakoczy Russell said.

There will also be a corn hole tournament with a $5 entry fee to raise money for SOS of Madison Center, the Rape Crisis Center for St. Joseph County, she said.

Rakoczy Russell said she hopes corn hole will be an attraction for people who would not have otherwise attended a GRC event and hopes that these people will have the opportunity to hear the festival's message.

"We're hoping with a festival like this that someone might come just because they like to play corn hole," she said.

The festival will also feature a speech from Donald McPherson, who is a member of the College Football Hall of Fame and a veteran of the NFL. His speech is entitled "You Throw Like a Girl" and will take place at 6 p.m. on South Quad.

He will focus on social power and also speak about the explicit and implicit forms of violence, Rakoczy Russell said.

"So everything from the way we talk to the jokes we tell or our silence on to overt things we do that endanger ourselves and others, like excessive drinking," she said.

The event will conclude with a Notre Dame student speak-out, in which student pieces of writing regarding sexual violence will be read out loud. Either the author will read it, or in the case of anonymity, someone will read it for them, Rakoczy Russell said.

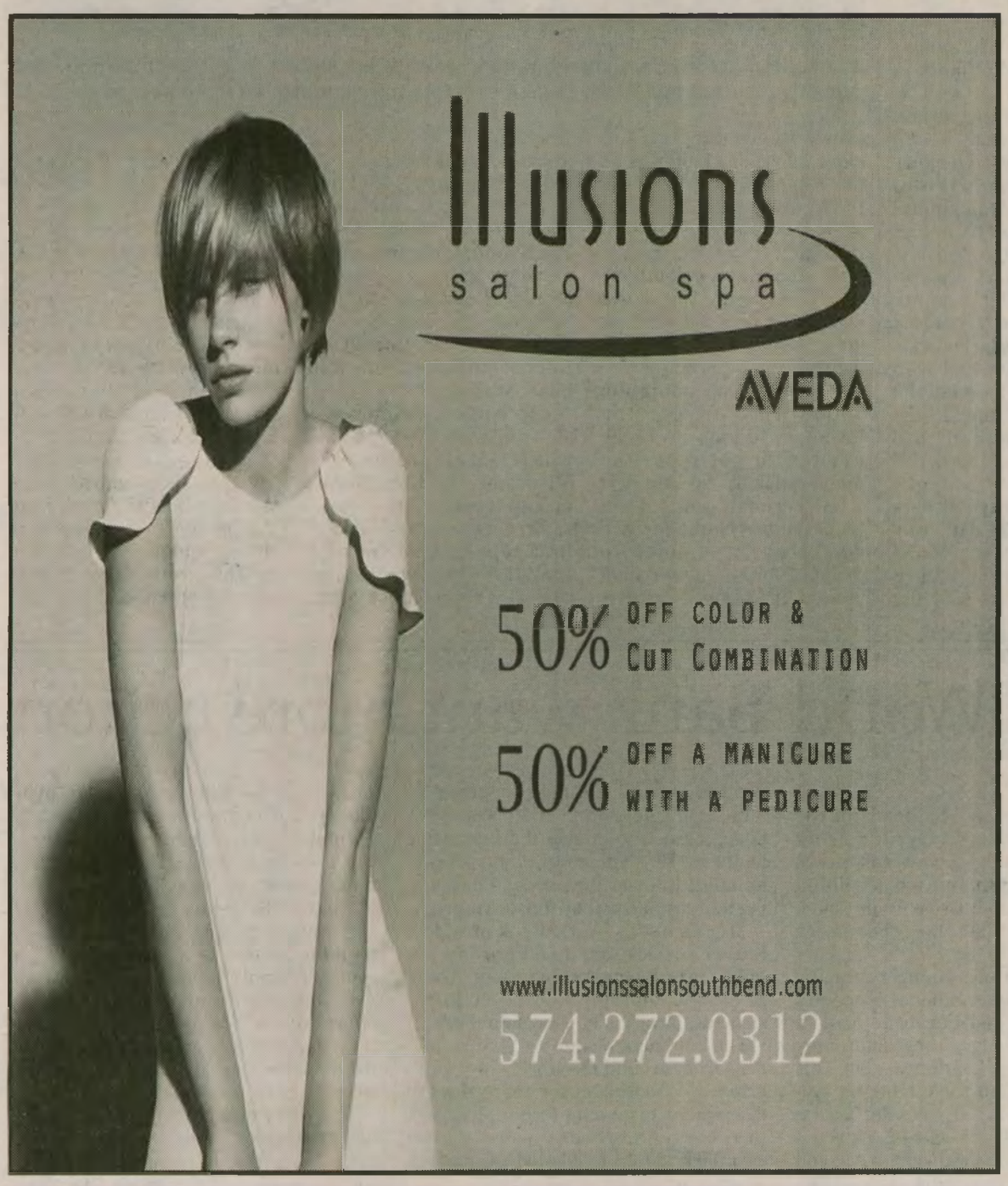
A dance about sexual assault and violence will conclude the speak-out.

"Sometimes the art is a way to express those things that language doesn't really capture," she said.

Rakoczy Russell said there will be brats, burgers and sno-cones at the festival. T-shirts will also be sold, she said.

"The one thing that I think is distinctive about the festival is that ... it's the kind of thing we hope will be accessible to someone who wouldn't normally come to [a GRC] event," Rakoczy Russell said.

Contact Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu



Write News. E-mail obsnews.nd@gmail.com

Eucharistic procession to be held on campus

Special to The Observer

A Eucharistic Procession will be held on the University of Notre Dame campus Sunday following the 11:45 a.m. Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

The procession, led by Fr. Kevin Russeau, director of Notre Dame's Old College undergraduate seminary, will move through Notre Dame's South Quad, stopping at altars placed before the statues of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Our Lady of the University and Notre Dame's founder, Fr. Edward Sorin, and the steps of the Main Building.

During the procession public prayers will be offered for a deepened respect and protection of all human life from conception to natural death, an increase in vocations to the religious life and blessings on the students of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's and Holy Cross Colleges.

Once a yearly event at the University, Eucharistic processions through campus fell out of practice in the years following the Second Vatican Council, but the custom was revived five years ago, reflecting a renewed interest in classical devotions to the Sacrament of the Eucharist among Notre Dame students.

By extolling the consecrated host, these public devotions celebrate the belief that Christ is truly present in the Eucharist. Eucharistic processions, or "Corpus Christi" processions as they are often called, using the Latin words for "Body of Christ," are a tradition dating back at least to the 13th century. The tradition was widely suppressed by the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century in much of northern Europe. In response, Catholic communities redoubled their zeal for the practice and towns often competed in sponsoring elaborate and well-attended processions on the holy day of Corpus Christi. The processions remain especially popular throughout Latin America and southern Europe.

"During the procession, in a very real way, we take our Lord outside of our church walls and into the modern world," Russeau said. "Taking our faith into the world is not a new call to us Christians, but for various reasons we can sometimes compartmentalize our faith. We worship on Sundays and other occasions but fail to recognize that what we do at worship should have effect on our relationships, actions and words in the world. I've noticed in the past several years that people who encounter the procession have mixed reactions, wondering if they should kneel or at least stop what they are doing as a sign of reverence, or if they should continue as if we were not processing by."

Police put ad on Craigslist

Investigators hope to find other women victimized by Markoff

Associated Press

BOSTON — Boston police placed an ad on Craigslist Thursday in an attempt to find other women who may have been victimized by Philip Markoff.

Suffolk County District Attorney's Office spokesman Jake Wark said that Boston investigators hope the ad, posted in the "erotic services" section of the Web site, will persuade other possible victims to come forth.

"Were you attacked or robbed at a Boston-area hotel after placing an ad on Craigslist?" the ad asked. "If so, you may have information that could aid the investigation into the April 10 armed robbery of a woman at the Westin Copley Place Hotel and the April 14 murder of a woman at the Marriott Copley Place Hotel. Both victims were attacked by a prospective client who had contacted them through ads placed on Craigslist."

The posting does not mention Markoff by name, and Wark says investigators aren't sure there are other victims.

Markoff, a Boston University medical student, is charged in the April 14 killing of Julissa Brisman, a 25-year-old masseuse he met through Craigslist. He is also charged in a robbery of another masseuse that police say he met through Craigslist.

Also Thursday, a law enforcement official, speaking to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the case, said Markoff had been placed on suicide watch at the Boston jail where he is being held. ABC News and The Boston Globe, citing unidentified law enforcement sources, reported that what appeared to be shoelace marks were found on his neck.

Defense attorney John Salsberg told reporters he was concerned about Markoff's well-being but otherwise declined to comment on the reports.

Jail officials declined to comment to The Associated Press, citing privacy rules.

Investigators were not certain the Craigslist ad would produce new leads.

"There may not be any other victims out there, but if there are and they have not seen or are not comfortable responding to our requests in the mainstream media, this may be a way to make contact with them," Wark said.

Markoff has pleaded not guilty to charges of murder, armed robbery and kidnapping.

Meanwhile, supporters of Markoff have launched a new Facebook group to rally around him.

The new Facebook group called "Phil Markoff is Innocent Until Proven Guilty" describes itself as a forum to rally against the media and a culture "that has forgotten that people like Phil are suspects, not killers."

Markoff was arrested Monday in Walpole, less than 20 miles southwest of Boston, as he drove with his fiancee, Megan McAllister, to Foxwoods Resort Casino in Connecticut.

McAllister, who earlier this week said Markoff would not hurt anyone, is standing behind him, her father, James McAllister, told reporters Thursday.

"She's still confident in Phil. Other than that, we're saying a lot of prayers," he said outside his home in Little Silver, N.J.

Investigators build case for death of 9-year-old

Associated Press

FLINT, Mich. — A prosecutor said Thursday that investigators would be "working all night" to develop a criminal case in the death of a 9-year-old quadriplegic girl whose body was found in a storage unit after her adoptive mother repeatedly insisted she was out of state.

Charges could range from felony murder to lesser charges such as misdemeanor moving a corpse. The woman was arrested Wednesday after police found Shylea Myza Thomas' body in a black trash bag, stuffed into a plastic bin with mothballs and locked in a storage unit near Flint.

Shylea had been taken out of school in January, and relatives told state officials they had not seen her in six weeks. At least one neighbor said she hadn't even been aware the little girl lived there.

"This is a very sad and tragic case that hurts all of us involved in the ongoing investigation," Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton said in a statement. "It appears that Shylea had a rough go in life."

A court document filed in the family division of the Genesee County Circuit Court to seize custody of seven other children who were living in the home identified the woman as 39-year-old Lorrie Thomas of Flint. Leyton said he did not know whether Thomas had a lawyer.

Officials said the woman was a blood relative of Shylea's who adopted her through the state. Authorities were reviewing evidence and results from an autopsy before deciding on charges, Leyton said at a late-afternoon news conference.

"I've asked the investigators to do more witness interviews. ... We're going to draft a couple more search warrants. The police are going to be working all night," he said.

"Before I charge somebody with a crime of this magnitude, I want to be sure. There's more information I would like to have to help me make a decision," by Friday, the prosecutor said.

The case unfolded this week when other relatives of the girl told the state Department of Human Services about possible neglect and said they hadn't seen the child in six weeks.

A case worker, Aaron Clum, visited the home Monday and was unable to confirm Shylea's whereabouts. Clum said in the court document that Thomas told him the family was moving to Virginia and the girl was on her way with a friend.

On Tuesday, the department asked Flint police to investigate. Thomas again insisted Shylea was bound for Virginia, Clum wrote, but that could not be confirmed.

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3:00-6:00 Campus Cornhole Fundraiser: $5 minimum donation for teams of two people All proceeds will go to SOS of Madison Center, the Rape Crisis Center of St. Joseph County

6:00-7:30 Donald McPherson, College Football Hall of Famer, Activist, Educator and Feminist Keynote Talk: *You Throw Like a Girl*

7:30-8:00 Notre Dame Student Speak Out

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Operatives not to be prosecuted yet

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Eric Holder left open the possibility Thursday to prosecuting former Bush administration officials but ruled out filing charges merely over disagreements about policy.

"I will not permit the criminalization of policy differences," Holder testified before a House Appropriations subcommittee.

"However, it is my responsibility as attorney general to enforce the law. It is my duty to enforce the law. If I see evidence of wrongdoing I will pursue it to the full extent of the law," he said.

Holder has made similar statements in the past, but he and other senior Obama administration officials are being scrutinized on the matter since the government released four legal memos detailing harsh treatment of terror suspects authorized during the Bush administration.

Obama said last week that CIA operatives who followed the memos' instructions would not face prosecution. The president did not rule out charges against those who authorized and approved the methods — nor did Holder in his testimony.

Rep. David Obey, D-Wis., who chairs the Appropriations Committee, criticized what he called the lies of the Bush administration, yet he urged Holder to be careful in whatever course he took.

"It seems to me the important question isn't whether or not there is widespread prosecution of people," Obey said. "The important question is whether or not we're going to strike the right balance between pursuing personal wrongdoing and making sure the country has the correct narrative about what did happen."

Congressional Democrats have expressed a strong desire to conduct their own investigation of those officials.

Officials are still awaiting the results of an internal Justice Department investigation into the actions of the memo-writers.

Besides the question of prosecutions, the release of the four memos has also sparked debate over how many more classified details of the interrogation program should be released.

"It is certainly the intention of this administration not to play hide and seek, or not to release certain things," said Holder. "It is not our intention to try to advance a political agenda or to try to hide things from the American people."

Republicans — including former Vice President Dick Cheney — have urged the Obama administration to release other, still-secret documents detailing what intelligence was gained from the controversial interrogation techniques.

"I think you have an obligation to release the rest of the memos," said Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va.

Holder said he wasn't sure exactly which memos Cheney is referring to, because he hasn't seen them. The attorney general suggested such classified documents may exist at other agencies.

"I'm the attorney general and I don't control many of the memos you might be talking about," said Holder.

Suit filed against fertilizer company

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — A company whose factory in northwest Missouri gave farmers fertilizer that critics say contained a cancer-causing chemical disputed the claims Thursday and defended its environmental record.

Prime Tanning Corp., of Hartland, Maine, issued a statement in response to a lawsuit filed Wednesday accusing it of knowingly distributing sludge containing hexavalent chromium as free fertilizer to farmers in four counties. The metal, also known as chromium 6, is a known carcinogen.

The company's St. Joseph plant was purchased this year by National Beef Leathers, a subsidiary of Kansas City-based National Beef Packing Co. that also was named in the lawsuit. On Thursday, National Beef Leathers said it would stop distributing the sludge while it conducts its own investigation.

Environmental activist Erin Brockovich told a crowd in Cameron on Wednesday night that hexavalent chromium may be linked to what some area residents believe is a high number of brain tumors in the region.

State and federal agencies have tested several areas in and around Cameron in the last year in response to concerns about brain tumors, but not for chromium 6. The lawsuit and Brockovich's meeting were the first time hexavalent chromium in fertilizer had been publicly identified as a possible cause.

"Based on our preliminary investigation, we believe there is no basis for the claims made in the litigation," said Grover Elliott, vice president and chief financial officer of Prime Tanning Co. "We look forward to cooperating fully with state and federal agencies in their review and investigation."

The lawsuit, filed by two northwest Missouri residents, accuses Prime Tanning of not telling the state that the sludge left over from tanning processes at the plant contained hexavalent chromium.

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

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor-in-Chief Jenn Metz.

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Student response upholds University character

THE OBSERVER **Editorial**

It has now been five weeks since President Barack Obama was announced as Notre Dame's May 17 Commencement speaker, and the controversy that this decision has generated has now unquestionably touched every member of the Notre Dame community, and so many others around the nation and the world.

Many of those contributing to the controversy exist completely outside of the Notre Dame bubble, and they continue to fuel the fire that the president's Commencement invitation has started. Yet the University's students should be proud for avoiding being engulfed by the proverbial flames.

Our campus has been placed under a microscope in the past few weeks, but they — the outside protest groups and national media who have over-politicized a non-political issue — ultimately aren't here for us.

The outside groups with militant attitudes who see the Golden Dome as little more than a "golden opportunity" for their causes aren't here because they love the University or hope to defend its Catholic tradition. The Notre Dame name is a high-profile one that attracts significant media attention; it's the reason why so many have flocked to South Bend to use our campus as a platform for their political agendas.

Yet under this microscope, our students have thrived. As alumni groups tally up the donations they're withholding and pro-life radicals attempt to bombard our campus with graphic language and images, students on this campus have carried themselves with a level of class and maturity that seems to have eluded many others.

There are students on both sides of this issue, but we haven't let that rip us apart.

Groups like ND Response and the Progressive Leadership Council, who have organized dignified responses and encouraged healthy discussion, have helped uphold the true nature of Notre Dame at a time when outsiders threaten to tear it down. A large number of students on both sides of the issue have inundated our Viewpoint section with letters, which is indicative of the passion and care with which we approach this issue.

The Notre Dame family is built on a sense of community unlike that found at any other university, and the young men and women who walk this campus on a daily basis have refused to forget that.

Like any family, disagreements are inevitable, and serious arguments between those among us are to be expected from time to time.

But like any family, we need to come together more than ever in times like these. Students have not, and must continue to never succumb to those who take adversarial, aggressive stances against our family.

Rather than denouncing the University and distancing themselves from it, as some in this community have done, the University's students have remained strong in their commitment to the Notre Dame family.

We should all be proud of that. Proud that none — neither those opposed to nor those in favor of Obama's invitation — have shied away from the intelligent, mature discussion of this important issue.

And, most of all, we should be proud that to those who have pledged to "make this a circus," our reply has been loud and clear:

We won't let you.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Torture and Catholicism

Some might applaud the recent release of the torture memos by the Obama administration as heralding a new era of accountability, and hopefully leading to an end of the heinous, dehumanizing practice of torture. However, Christie Pesavento ("Torture is in the eye of the beholder," April 21) recently decried the release of the torture memos, because torture is awesome, and we shouldn't question the things our wise (as long as it's conservative) government does.

Her article was, essentially, a long list of typical right-wing arguments in favor of torture and government secrecy, but it was also a slap in the face to official Catholic doctrine. According to the Catholic Catechism, "Torture which uses physical or moral violence to extract confessions, punish the guilty, frighten opponents or satisfy hatred is contrary to respect for the person and for human dignity." It continues, "In recent times it has become evident that these cruel practices were neither necessary for public order, nor in conformity with the legitimate rights of the human person."

It's quite obvious that the Catholic Church is unequivocally against torture (at least it has been since it did it all the time) but I haven't seen the outcry against torture as I have seen against, say, abortion, on this campus. Why is that? President Obama may have only indirect power over America's abortion rates — the past eight years have seen relatively little change in abortion, in spite of Bush being president and pro-life yet it is only Obama's stance on abortion that seems to matter to many on this campus.

Michele Sagala ("The real issue," April 23) argues that the President contradicts "some of our most fundamental beliefs on life as Catholics." Some? Over the past few months, I've counted a single one — abortion. Now, I haven't been a Catholic for a long time, but I remember there being a couple of other values that were important to your average Catholic. In fact, entire Sundays would pass without a single mention of abortion!

Considering that such evils as torture are being, or at least have been, practiced by America's leaders, I ask that Catholics on this campus wake up, and realize that there is more to Catholicism than an aversion to abortion.

James Spitalere
senior
off campus
April 23

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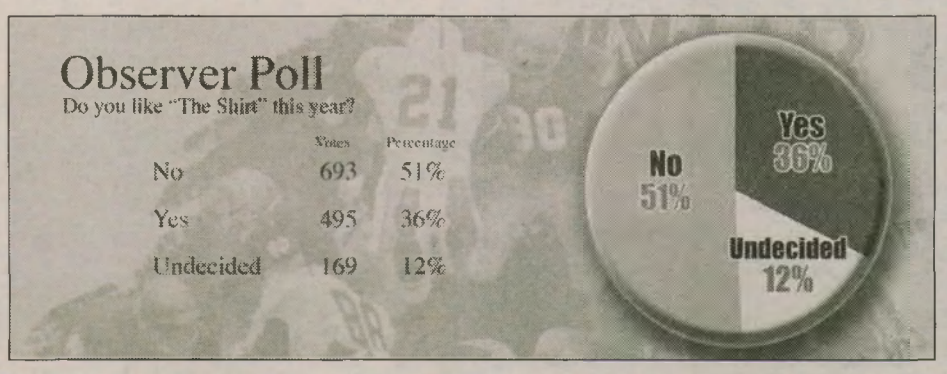

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"A college degree is not a sign that one is a finished product but an indication a person is prepared for life."

Fr. Edward "Monk" Malloy
University president emeritus

THE OBSERVER
VIEWPOINT

Hooking up with the senior class

Gary Caruso

Capitol Comments

What a year to be a senior. With less than a month remaining before the conclusion of their beloved undergraduate education, chaos still looms on the Commencement horizon. One thing is certain, this senior class will be remembered more for rabid political reaction rather than for the honor of hosting the President of the United States.

It has been said that some places are made sacred by the people and events that graced them. Nearly two decades ago, Catholic Democratic New York Governor Mario Cuomo laid out his pro-choice position at Notre Dame. Both the governor's scholarly courage and the University's scholarly opposition made sacred Our Lady's campus at that time. Unfortunately, many frustrated and some racist protesters are bent on a messy public repudiation of the president rather than civilized discourse that would grace our campus.

On campus, this year began with another disappointing football season replete with snowballs and security surveillance. The second semester kicked off a collapse of the men's basketball program. Both can be squarely blamed on the coaching staffs. Yet, during the seniors' tenure on campus, deserving teams like the men's hockey and women's soccer have fallen to the fickleness of sporting gods whose mission it is to thrill as well as disappoint. So seniors have learned that life is full of fickle disappointments. But how we react is the measure of our character.

Nationally, our senior class helped elect a most historic candidate to the presidency. As a former political student activist at Notre Dame, this writer has endured decades of disappointment because President Obama is the first to build a successful majority coalition of students, progressives and liberals. While I attended Notre Dame, our nation elected Richard Nixon — arguably the worst president of modern day until George W. Bush with his ideological zealots who disregarded the rule of law at every turn.

Forty years ago, I too was a senior, albeit in high school. My four decades since have breezed by with a sprinkling of slow-motioned, memorable moments that I still savor today. Yet, those decades slipped through my fingers as quickly as the last four years have for the senior class. Take it from one who knows, remember to clasp onto every minute possible, for the best of time will sustain you like a hearty breakfast.

Some day, your parents, friends, pets and lovers will pass at the most unexpected moment. Their images glaring back at you through your iPod will barely allow you the comfort you feel with them today. Simon and Garfunkel best describe that moment with the lyrics, "Long ago it must be, I have a photograph./ Preserve your memories, they're all that's left you."

Most importantly, never lose your dignity, humor or tolerance of others, especially those farthest from your comfort level. This column's recent tongue-in-cheek counter to the Cardinal Newman Society is the classic example of how destructive certainty in religion can become. A group acts irresponsibly — and especially Catholics who should be held to a higher standard — when they publicly chastise and condemn without dignity, humor and tolerance during a debate.

Speaking of debate, early in this school year the debate over the definition of "hooking up" seemed to be a defining moment for the year, especially after "The Vagina Monologues" went on hiatus. In my day on campus, a hook-up was a sexual home run, period. The meaning was clearly a black and white meaning — either you hooked up or you did not. Forget first, second or third base. It was a home run or strikeout. We had no friends with benefits or BFF or BMF designations. The 1970s was a slow-motion time well remembered.

But now in the Twittering era, everything takes on nuances which make this year's senior class one of great hope and ability. By and large, most seniors are not closed-minded zealots. In fact, they are the future face of our society. Seniors are beyond frowning upon interracial dating, gay persons and funny looking religious apparel. Those are the scars of older generations.

Seniors are at their best when they give a dollar to the drunk who uncomfortably begs while standing close to the car window at the traffic light. They are best when they smile at the stranger standing in line with them waiting to board a plane or when they crack a humorous observation to lighten both their own and other travelers' anxieties. Seniors are always at their absolute best when they treat a pet with love rather than as a master.

Despite a sluggish economy, similar to when I graduated, the future is bright for this year's seniors. Those dudes will undoubtedly hook up with fate to make places sacred by gracing them. Let's hook up sometime soon too.

Gary Caruso, Notre Dame '73, is a communications strategist who served as a legislative and public affairs director in President Clinton's administration. His column appears every other Friday. He can be contacted at GaryJCaruso@alumni.nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The ideal speaker

Dear Fr. Jenkins,

Like the overwhelming majority of my fellow graduating seniors I am absolutely outraged that President Barack Obama is our Commencement speaker. To force us to listen to such a heathen is despicable. However, instead of complaining I would like to offer a solution.

I have taken the liberty of doing some research and found a man who I believe is an ideal candidate to address the graduates of Our Lady's University. Bruce Edwards Ivins was born in the Midwest and after a strong family upbringing converted to Roman Catholicism. Ivins 1, Obama 0.

Ivins is also an extremely intelligent man. He is a microbioligist, a vaccinologist and a researcher for the U.S. Army. A Catholic and a patriot, score another one for Ivins. Too boring you say? Ivins also plays the keyboard in a Celtic rock band and is the founder of the Frederick Jugglers club. I doubt that Obama will be doing the jig while tossing flaming bowling pins in the air.

But, most importantly he is a staunch pro-life advocate. Ivins and his wife have stood up against abortions for years. In 2001, he sent a letter to pro-choice Catholic Senators Tom Daschle and Patrick Leahy asking them to reconsider their position.

Yes, those letters may have also contained a few anthrax spores. A few numbskulls down at the FBI did claim that he was "solely responsible for the deaths of five persons and the injury of dozens of others." Maybe his acts did inspire several others to send similar envelopes to abortion clinics across the U.S. But this is a man who has stong beliefs — strong Catholic beliefs — and has done something about them. He's not standing around with pictures of dead babies. He is out there seeking vengeance and I feel he should be honored for his bravery.

The only problem is that Ivins was found dead last summer when he overdosed on Tylenol PM. Wait, this guy is pro-life but he killed himself?

Never mind stick with Obama.

Dan Murphy
senior
off campus
April 22

The writer of the above letter was the Sports Editor of The Observer for the 2008-2009 term.

Start a Viewpoint war
on a bi-weekly basis.

Be a columnist.
E-mail Kara at kking5@nd.edu for
more information.

Remember Kevin

Men and women of Notre Dame,

We are saddened to say that our University is close to losing one of its most loyal sons.

In December 2006, Kevin Healey, a high school senior, was diagnosed with osteosarcoma. This rare and especially dangerous cancer, initially discovered in his right tibia, would spread throughout his body over the next few years. Since his diagnosis, Kevin has fought an inspiring battle and lived life to its fullness in the face of profound adversity. He enrolled at Notre Dame with the class of 2011 and made the Dean's List in his first semester here, despite missing a third of his classes because he had to travel home to Cleveland for chemotherapy.

Two and a half years and countless visits to the doctor after his diagnosis, Kevin's time is running short. He is bedridden, exhausted and "rarely coherent." His time is measured in days and hours.

We, who attended St. Ignatius High School with Kevin, ask that you keep him and his family in your prayers. This University holds a special place in Kevin's heart. We are confident that your prayers can help ease his pain and bring comfort to his family, who feel all of it, too.

"Seek the Lord and his strength" (1 Chronicles 16:11). Seek strength for a fellow student who has not allowed himself to stop fighting. Seek strength for a mother, father and sister in great need.

For updates, visit kevinhealey.com

A.M.D.G.,

Matt Fanous
Pat George
Jimmy Michael
Nick Ward
Jeff Wolanin
Class of 2009
Chris Cugliari
Tom Dybicz
John Gallagher
Jared Jedick
Andrew Kovach
Barry Masin
Corey McNeilly
Justin Morrow
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John Ryan
Adam Sims
Phil Yuhas
Class of 2010
Pierce Coticchia
Peter Hlabse
Luke Stavole
Mark Tupa
Class of 2011
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Kevin Eller
Michael Fedynsky
Ray Flores
Andrew Mironovich
Sean Stefancin
Class of 2012
April 23

Divinity in day drinking

Bob Kessler

House of Stix

This year the Notre Dame community has witnessed many things.

There have been the joyful: the Hawaii Bowl, the feeling after I finished my final final exam of all time, grass on West Quad and racism ending in America.

There have been the hilarious: Melissa Buddie's letter, the idea that Randall Terry takes himself seriously, the Keenan Hall rector, the new Recker's menu and police on horses at tailgates.

There have been the depressing: the Syracuse game, the Pittsburgh game, the idea that Randall Terry takes himself seriously and the UNC game.

And the disheartening: the end of the Gay Film Festival, the color of The Shirt, the idea that Randall Terry takes himself seriously and the end of the Fisher Zoo.

Through all of this, Notre Dame Students have lost sight of the important things in life, and have not realized that we have been witness to the finest form of divine intervention this side of Moses and the Red Sea. For those of us that have been paying careful attention; this year God showed us that he wants us to day drink.

It's not that this is surprising. Don't college students have the God-given right to drink their hearts and minds (and hopefully not livers) out? Didn't the Lord show us how much of a rager he was when he turned water into wine for a wedding party?

Many have said that Notre Dame football is God's team; maybe we are God's student body. Before you crucify me for making sacrilegious remarks or voting for Barack Obama, listen to the evidence:

Evidence No. 1: Sept. 13, 2008

On the morning of the Notre Dame-Michigan football game, it was pouring. Torrential downpours were everywhere, and Notre Dame students were wondering if they were going to be able to tailgate.

Fear not, oh fearless day drinkers. We had barely cracked open our first Keystone Lights when the rains subsided and the clouds parted (OK, not quite) for the most glorious five hours of day drinking since Carter Buckley left Newport Living. It doesn't matter if it poured during the game, or for the following five days, the rain-soaked game was made even more fun because of the tailgate.

Evidence No. 2: March 17, 2009

On March 12, it snowed. Five days later, God treated Notre Dame students to the warmest and most beautiful March day of all the March days (seriously, look it up, the high that day was five degrees warmer than any other that month). It's as if the man upstairs knew that the residents of Lafayette Apartments were going to throw the best party since incredibly lame people moved into Turtle Creek (actually, being omniscient, I guess he did know that).

Regardless, St. Paddy's Day gave us the hint that divine forces were at work in South Bend.

Evidence No. 3: April 18, 2009

Last weekend, Notre Dame students were witness to another miraculous turn of events as a month's worth of 40 and 50 degree rainy days paved the way for the glorious three day stretch of sun that pinnacled with an immaculate high of 72 on PigTostal Saturday.

The Kirk, Jenkins and Swarbrick triumvirate might have (or might not have) done everything in their power to cancel this great event, but it is clear that the student body had the big guy on our side as PigTostal not only happened, but it happened on another beautiful day.

What does all of this prove? Is it a coincidence that the only days of 2009 that have brought South Bend temperatures above the 70 degree mark featured the two best day drinking parties of the year?

Or are there greater forces at work?

Being a sometimes practicing Catholic, I have to believe in God, the Almighty; and as a Notre Dame student, I must also believe in Our Mother. I believe that things happen for a reason and that these miraculous meteorological mysteries can only have one explanation: God wants us to party.

So in the name of God; party I will.

Bob Kessler is a senior majoring in political science and economics. Read more of his work at www.thingsnotredamestudentslike.com You can contact him at rkessler@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In support of Fr. Jenkins

Dear Notre Dame students, faculty, staff and family members,

We are writing you all in regards to the growing criticisms over the selection to welcome President Barack Obama for this year's Commencement. We stand in support of Fr. John Jenkins and our University administration's decision to host President Obama.

As Notre Dame students concerned with the many dimensions of social justice, we look to the words of our University's Mission Statement, which reads:

"The University seeks to cultivate in its students not only an appreciation for the great achievements of human beings, but also a disciplined sensibility to the poverty, injustice, and oppression that burden the lives of so many. The aim is to create a sense of human solidarity and concern for the common good that will bear fruit as learning becomes service to justice."

This ever-urgent call to work for the common good inspires us as it has inspired generations of Notre Dame students before us.

As we continue to address the issues of social justice and the dignity of all people on our own campus, in our country and around the world, we are encouraged by the passion of debate that surround President Obama's visit to our University. We recognize that all issues of life are important matters that people of good conscience are called to take seriously. This point must not be downplayed and we think it is important to have an honest and open conversation.

As Notre Dame students, we strive to be a concerned community that recognizes the complexity of the many issues that face our nation and our world. We respect diverse viewpoints on issues and we also believe in concerned and genuine dialogue. We think, however, that the debate is being neglected by those who would rather divide than work together for common ground and for the common good. We are concerned that in narrowing the focus to one aspect of life that has often proven polarizing and divisive many have lost the ability to recognize the other aspects of President Obama's work that continues to uphold the principles of justice and solidarity.

Furthermore we welcome a president to our University that has in many ways helped redefine the history of our nation. We profoundly admire the work of those in the civil rights movement that made it possible for President Obama to come to our campus as our country's first African-American president. Once a dream held by so many in our nation, we rightly celebrate at our University this momentous occasion for the legacy of social justice and civil rights.

We are proud to welcome President Obama to speak at Commencement just as we have welcomed six sitting presidents before him. We thank our University's administration for this opportunity. As Notre Dame students concerned with the issues of social justice, we look forward to hosting our President and continuing our University's Mission to "create a sense of human solidarity and concern for the common good that will bear fruit as learning becomes service to justice."

In peace,

Henry Vasquez
Progressive Leadership Council
April 22

Other recipients unworthy

I was alerted yesterday to the news that Notre Dame is to award honorary degrees to seven 'distinguished' people in addition to President Barack Obama. I was shocked to see the name Myles Brand in this group. This man is the current president of the NCAA and has been for about six years. I implore everyone — those for Barack and those against — to protest this man receiving an honorary degree.

Why you ask? Well, let's be serious here. This man had the chance to change the scheme of college football as we know it and create what we all know is the right system for the post-season — a well-thought out playoff system. When taking over the job, he said he would "listen and learn" and "work it out." He's done neither, done nothing for NCAA Football and we are stuck with bowls determining our National Championship team still.

While I wish Mr. Brand the best with his current health problems, I implore you to protest this man being given an honorary degree. He is obviously at odds with one of the most important things here: football.

Kevin Kimberly
sophomore
O'Neill Hall
April 22

About the graduates

I would like to thank Jeff Immelt ("A few thoughts on a special day," April 22) for taking the time to offer his thoughtful perspective on the controversy surrounding this year's graduation.

As an engineering student who spent two summers interning with GE Aviation, I feel that GE is one of the finest companies in the world.

As a senior who has grown weary of reading all of the emotionally-charged letters surrounding President Obama's invitation, I found it refreshing to have someone like Mr. Immelt recognize that one speech won't change what Notre Dame stands for and that graduation should be about the graduates.

Joe Jeray
senior
Sorin College
April 22

Core values root of problem

In his recent guest column in The Observer ("A few thoughts on a special day," April 22), GE Chairman Jeff Immelt proclaims that "we must adhere to core values — core values that ground each institution at all times."

Exactly correct, Mr.Immelt, and therein lies the rub. By honoring the person who represents the complete antithesis of Notre Dame's core values (until now), Fr. Jenkins has done a grave disservice to the Catholic Church and to all have labored these 167 years to uphold the mission of the University. It's not surprising, however, that this sort of commentary would come from the company that owns NBC, the most biased and least objective of all TV networks.

Peter Connelly
alumnus
Class of 1955
April 22

Chill Out, Amp Up, Welcome to Exams

by Jess Shaffer

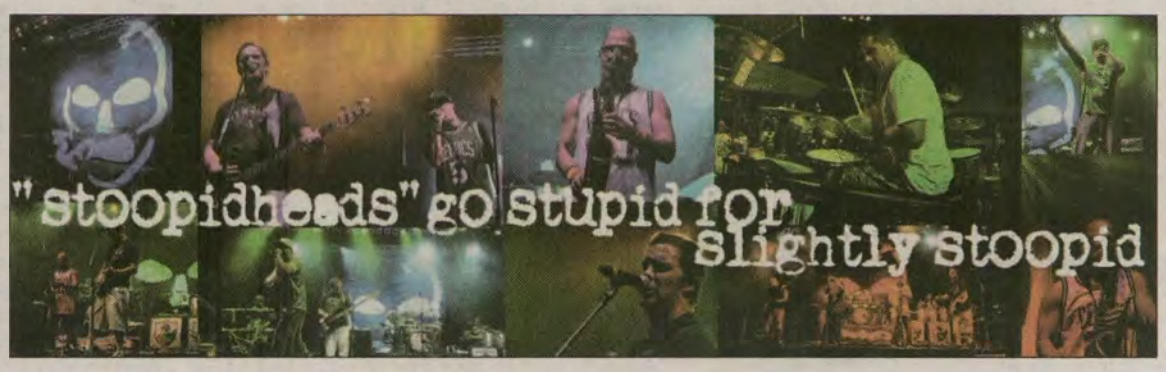
1. Someday – Slightly Stoopid
2. Perfect Day – Hoku
3. Boyz – MIA
4. Birds and Bees – Ben Lee and Mandy Moore
5. Spotlight – Mutemath
6. Bottle it Up – Sara Bareilles
7. I'm Like a Bird – Nelly Furtado
8. My Name is Jonas – Weezer
9. Boyz in the Hood – Dynamite Hack
10. I Love College – Asher Roth
11. Crazy Rap – Afroman
12. Hardcore Days & Softcore Nights – Aqueduct
13. Hey Girl – Dashboard Confessional
14. 1, 2, 3, 4 – Plain White T's
15. Time to Pretend – MGMT
16. Sound of Settling – Death Cab for Cutie

While spring is a time that ushers in a terrain of sunshine, flowers, bounding furry friends (i.e. squirrels) and awesome campus activities like AnTostal, it is also that time of year when the Library starts calling your name.

This is my playlist to embody the wide variety of emotions that compose the final days of the year: the depression, the frenzy, the stress and the blissful joy of spring.

Please enjoy this varied, albeit random, compilation of music.

MARY JESSE | Observer Graphic



"Stoopidheads" go stupid for Slightly Stoopid

By SARA FELSENSTEIN
Scene Writer

This Friday night, Legends will be hosting the popular reggae/punk band Slightly Stoopid.

Slightly Stoopid is based in San Diego. They describe their music as "a fusion of acoustic rock and blues with reggae, hip-hop and punk," and were originally inspired by well-known artists like the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Sublime.

Co-frontmen Miles Doughty and Kyle McDonald are lifelong friends and have been playing together since they were in their teens. Like many artists, the pair had humble beginnings at backyard parties and local clubs. Their chance of a lifetime came when they were in high school in the mid-90s and met the leader of Sublime, the late Brad Nowell, at a club in San Diego.

It was Doughty's mother who persuaded Nowell to come back to the house to hear what the two boys had to offer. Surprisingly, Nowell went along with the offer. It was not long before Nowell signed the duo to his Skunk Records label and they released their first full-length album, "Slightly $toopid," in 1996.

The work of Slightly Stoopid is as much about the music as it is about a lifestyle. They bring a little bit of California surfer life everywhere they tour.

Currently the band is composed of Doughty, guitar, bass and vocals; McDonald, guitar, bass and vocals; Ryan Moran, drums; Oguer Ocon, congas, percussion, harp and vocals; DeLa, saxophone; and C-money, trumpet and keyboard.

Slightly Stoopid released one more album with Skunk Records in 1999 — "The Longest Barrel Ride." They continued performing gigs and released a few more albums, but it was not until 2002 that the band achieved a headlining status, selling out shows from California to Colorado. In 2005 they released "Closer to the Sun," which includes some of their most popular songs, "Closer to the Sun," "This Joint" and "Open Road." Their most recent album, "Slightly Not Stoned Enough to Eat Breakfast," was released in August of 2008. The band calls this album "a collection of odds and ends."

Most people fall into one of two categories regarding Stoopid — they either know them and love them or shrug and say, "Never heard of 'em." Although it is difficult to categorize, Slightly Stoopid's sound has been compared to that of Dispatch, Long Beach Dub All Stars, Pepper and 311.

A few words to describe the band would be: California, go-with-the-flow, feel-good, laid-back, acoustic and eclectic. There are hints of classic rock, reggae, hip-hop and punk throughout but the music is not overwhelmed by one genre in particular. Their sound is "a little bit of rhythm and a little of soul," to quote from the lyrics of their song "Mind On Your Music."

The work of Slightly Stoopid is as much about the music as it is about a lifestyle. They bring a little bit of the California surfer life everywhere they tour.

Slightly Stoopid is not concerned with the whole world loving their music, but they are very concerned with being true to themselves and their roots — a philosophy that naturally comes out in their songs. Clearly, this philosophy has been successful and over the past 10 years has gained them a wide and diverse fan base of "Stoopidheads," as the band affectionately calls them.

Slightly Stoopid consciously protects its unique identity and averts becoming too mainstream by not signing with a major record label. They want to maintain creative control over what they produce. That being said, Slightly Stoopid has supported big-name music acts like Sublime, Blink-182, LB-Dub, G. Love & Special Sauce and Pennywise.

Self-proclaimed "road dogs," Slightly Stoopid is almost constantly on tour, and performs nearly 200 concerts a year. They greatly emphasize improvisation and interaction with the audience during their shows. They will kick off their "Blazed and Confused" summer tour on July 10 with Snoop Dogg and Stephen Marley.

Slightly Stoopid will be making a stop in South Bend at Notre Dame's very own Legends this tonight at 10 p.m. So when "the clock says it's time to roll ya" be sure to head over to Legends and check out this unique band live at no cost. Although you may not be "partying all night," or "putting up your peace sign and your index down" like you did with last weekend's Gym Class Heroes, Slightly Stoopid is sure to be a great concert with plenty of audience interaction.

And if you have no intentions of going to this concert and think of this band as some lame Legends act, at least take one thing away from this article — it's "stoopid" not "stupid," stupid.

Contact Sara Felsenstein at sfelsen@nd.edu

Photo courtesy of http://www.showclix.com

The California band Slightly Stoopid takes the stage in Houston. They will play at Legends tonight at 10 p.m.

By NICHOLAS ANDERSON
Scene Writer

Social security is hemorrhaging money. Over the past couple of years, it has become clear that solid financial planning is necessary for an easy retirement. Sob stories about retirees going back to work evoke sympathy from even the coldest of hearts. Fortunately, one of these stories has turned into an enormous gain.

Twelve years ago, Leonard Cohen was doing well: Moderate mainstream fame, a legion of religiously devoted fans and the most impressive catalogue of songs this side of Bob Dylan. Cohen, best known for writing the ubiquitous "Hallelujah," decided it was about time to take a break. For him, this meant spending a decade living as a Buddhist Monk. Emerging in late 2007, Cohen found that a former manager had embezzled his lifetime of earnings. His new retirement fund became his first tour in over 15 years.

At 74 years old and years out of practice, a live show was far from a sure thing. As early shows gathered raving reviews, plans to film a concert in London formed. The resulting DVD proves that it is impossible for Cohen to be in it for the money; he's there to share his passion, his pride and his life.

For a man who's primarily known for his songwriting, Cohen displays the abilities of an excellent performer. Dressed in a double-breasted suit and fedora, Cohen looks like a member of the Rat Pack, about 50 years too late. From the moment Cohen runs on the stage, he commands it with a presence that is both powerful and understated. Cohen takes the packed 20,000-seat arena and makes it feel like a 300-person club. The show runs an impressive three hours but moves at an incredible rate.

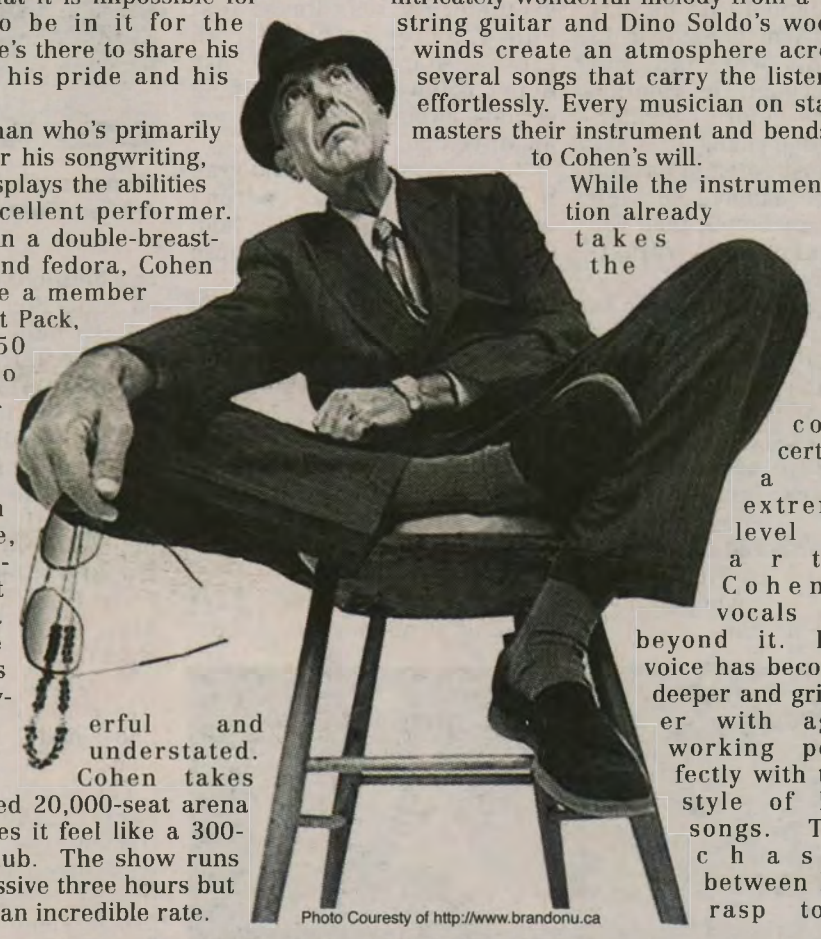


Photo Couresty of http://www.brandonu.ca

Cohen packs the stage with performers who perfectly compliment his style. While Cohen is the center of attention, each member of the group provides a deep and appropriate solo spread throughout the concert. Javier Mas opens and carries "Who by Fire" with an intricately wonderful melody from a 12-string guitar and Dino Soldo's woodwinds create an atmosphere across several songs that carry the listener effortlessly. Every musician on stage masters their instrument and bends it to Cohen's will.

While the instrumentation already takes the concert to an extreme level of art, Cohen's vocals go beyond it. His voice has become deeper and grittier with age, working perfectly with the style of his songs. The chasm between his rasp tone and the feminine voices of Sharon Robinson, Charley Webb and Hattie Webb illustrates the divide between heaven and earth and the interplay is just as beautiful.

Throughout his life, Cohen struggled with bouts of depression. These dark moments are reflected in his songs. At their initial recordings, many of his songs are best described as haunting, heavy and enchanting. With age, Cohen has mellowed without having the same effect on his music. In fact, the years have only increased the authenticity of his songs. He's a man who's been to the depths his lyrics explore but has also been healed. He owes a debt to his songs and this concert is his best attempt at payment.

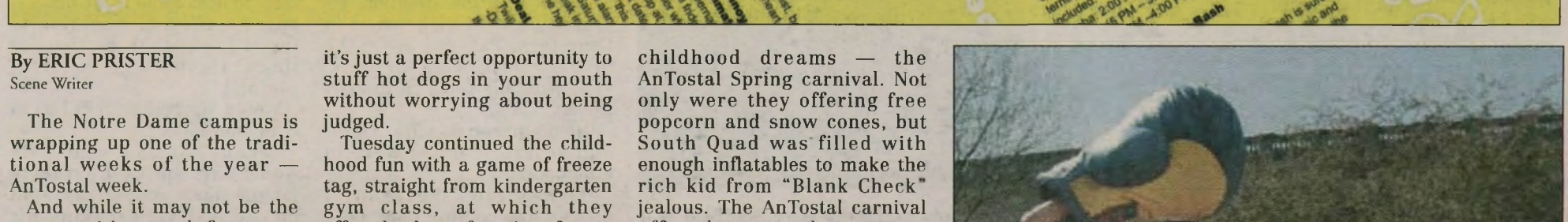
In such a large crowd of people, Cohen achieves something rare: a moment of silence. With the crowd still cheering from the previous song, the opening notes of "Hallelujah" are heard. After an upturn in crowd noise in anticipation, the stadium goes quiet for most of the remaining song. The souls of those onstage are offered to the song. Cohen hits every note with a power fueled by a mixture of pain and joy, which can clearly be seen on his face.

Leonard Cohen truly is a rare artist giving a rare performance. A five-decade career is delivered over 26 songs. "Live in London" serves as both a great introduction and end piece to his work. Cohen has surpassed the goal of finding music that is enjoyable and found music that matters.

Contact Nicholas Anderson at nanders5@nd.edu

Live in London: Leonard Cohen
Leonard Cohen

Label: Sony Music
Recommended Tracks:
"Hallelujah," "First We Take Manhattan," Everybody Knows"



By ERIC PRISTER
Scene Writer

The Notre Dame campus is wrapping up one of the traditional weeks of the year — AnTostal week.

And while it may not be the most exciting week for some, there is one thing that everyone should love about the week, and the fact that it brings out the kid in each person on campus.

The week started on Monday with T-shirt tie dying, something that definitely throws everyone back to his or her childhood. When else could someone wear a shirt that incorporated so many colors and get away with it? Outside O'Shag, the AnTostal folk were giving away snap bracelets, which I'm pretty sure can only be purchased using tickets won at Chuck E. Cheese. Finally, that night was the quarter dog eating contest. No worrying about being proper or about being overweight, as many have to do once they get older, it's just a perfect opportunity to stuff hot dogs in your mouth without worrying about being judged.

Tuesday continued the childhood fun with a game of freeze tag, straight from kindergarten gym class, at which they offered a huge favorite of most 10 year-olds — freeze pops. The eating contest got even better as people competed by consuming large amounts of Twinkies, and "Heavyweights" was shown on North Quad. Freeze tag with freeze pops, lots of Twinkies and "Heavyweights" is like heaven for a fourth grader.

Wednesday was a bit slow with the children's activities, but a large group of people Hula-Hooping on North Quad definitely made up for that. The Hula Hoops, along with the Irish Quarterback contest and the Knott Wiffle Ball tournament created a nearly perfect recess-like atmosphere.

With Thursday came the king of all childhood events — and the fulfillment of everyone's childhood dreams — the AnTostal Spring carnival. Not only were they offering free popcorn and snow cones, but South Quad was filled with enough inflatables to make the rich kid from "Blank Check" jealous. The AnTostal carnival offered a moon bounce, an inflatable figure-8 race, an inflatable boxing ring and other games, which could keep a college student, not to mention a pre-teen, occupied for hours.

AnTostal offers something rare for college students, or anyone over the age of twelve for that matter. It allows everyone to stop worrying about school, stop worrying about relationship problems, stop worrying about finding a job and to just be a kid again. That is about the greatest gift that could be given to the overworked, sleep deprived and stressed Notre Dame community.

Contact Eric Prister at eprister@nd.edu

Photo courtesy of http://www.news.wisc.edu

Kids box against each other on a giant inflatable ring. Notre Dame students let loose on South Quad Thursday afternoon.

MLB

Cardinals sweep Mets for seventh straight at home

Bush takes no-hitter into the seventh inning as Brewers beat Phillies in a rematch of the 2008 NLDS

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Albert Pujols stroked line drives to all three fields. It was a bad omen for the New York Mets.

Pujols homered twice and Kyle Lohse lasted just long enough for another win after jamming his right knee as the St. Louis Cardinals completed a three-game sweep with a 12-8 victory over the Mets on Thursday.

"If my swing is good, I'm going to hit the ball hard everywhere," Pujols said. "My job is to try to see a pitch I can hit and drive it."

Rick Ankiel homered and doubled twice and Skip Schumaker hit a pair of RBI doubles as the Cardinals punished Livan Hernandez and won their seventh in a row at home. The Mets lost their fourth straight overall.

"I think we might have caught them on a little bit of a down slide, but that's the way it goes," Ankiel said. "Good for us."

St. Louis led 11-3 after six innings en route to sweeping the Mets in a three-game series at home for the first time since Aug. 6-8, 2004.

Carlos Beltran had three hits, including a three-run homer, after moving up two spots in the Mets' batting order to the third slot. Ryan Church hit a two-run homer and David Wright, who switched places with Beltran in the lineup, had two hits.

Mets starters allowed 16 earned in 14 2/3 innings in the series, a 9.82 ERA, and only retired one batter past the fifth inning. Hernandez (1-1) gave up all three homers and allowed seven runs and nine hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Before the Mets start a six-game homestand on Friday with the first of three against the Nationals, manager Jerry Manuel anticipated a front-office meeting about the pitching woes. Manuel said he may add another arm, going with 13 pitchers this weekend, but would go through the rotation another time before considering any starting changes.

"They're just going to have to pitch better," Manuel said. "If it doesn't get any better, then you have to make some adjustments. It's that simple."

Pujols hit a solo homer to right in the first inning, lined an infield hit off Wright's glove at third in the fourth and hit a two-run shot to center in the fifth. He has six homers this year and 25th career multi-homer games, including two this season.

Pujols also scored four times. He increased his NL-leading RBI total to 21, leaving him two shy of 1,000 lifetime.

"Perfect player, in my opinion," manager Tony La Russa said. "We're lucky to have him, believe me."

Ankiel hit his first homer later in the fifth, making it 7-2 and chasing Hernandez.

Lohse (3-0) is 11-2 in 21 starts at home the last two seasons although he barely qualified for this win. He escaped a bases-loaded, one-out jam in the fifth on Gary Sheffield's double-play ball and left with a 4-2 lead. Five relievers finished for the Cardinals.

Lohse was hurt when he reached back to try to corral a grounder by Jose Reyes that Pujols booted at first for an error to start the fifth. Lohse didn't believe it was anything serious, although he underwent an MRI exam.

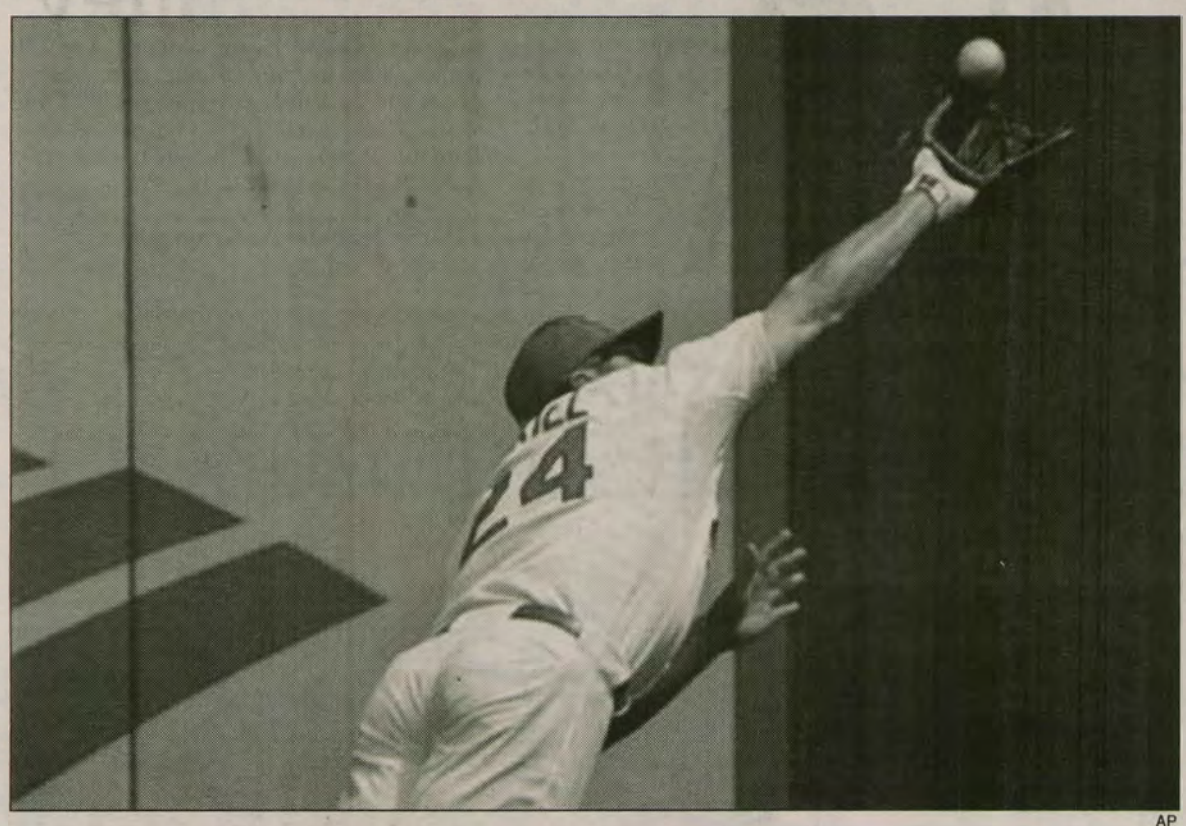
"I was trying to stop and grab the ball and the brakes weren't working very well," Lohse said. "They worked too good because I stopped too quick."

Beltran singled and double in his first two at-bats and is 20-for-37 (.541) against Lohse lifetime with four homers and 12 RBIs.

Lohse's first balk since July 29, 2006, and only the fourth of his career, allowed a run in the first.

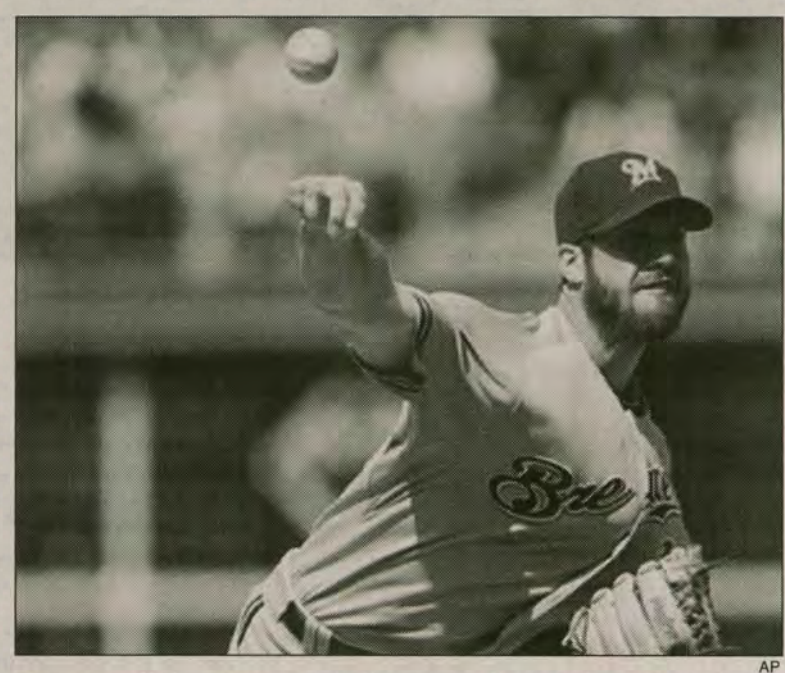
Brewers 6, Phillies 1

After spending a few days relaxing at his parents' suburban house, Dave Bush dominated at the Phillies' home.



AP

Cardinals outfielder Rick Ankiel makes a diving catch to rob Mets outfielder Gary Sheffield of a hit during St. Louis' 12-8 win over New York on Thursday. St Louis has won seven straight at home.



AP

Brewers pitcher Dave Bush throws a pitch during Milwaukee's 6-1 over Philadelphia on Thursday. Bush won his first game of the year

Bush held Philadelphia hitless for 7 1/3 innings before pinch-hitter Matt Stairs homered off the foul pole, and the Milwaukee Brewers cruised to a 6-1 win Thursday.

One batter after third baseman Bill Hall made a tremendous play to preserve Bush's try, Stairs batted for reliever Chad Durbin and launched a high fly that hit the pole in right field.

"I figured it was going to be way fair at first, then I saw the ball bending a little bit," Bush said.

The big story on the mound early in the game was Cole Hamels. The World Series MVP was forced to leave after getting hit in the left shoulder by Prince Fielder's line drive. The team said Hamels had a bruise.

"I have a temporary tattoo of a baseball that will be going away," Hamels said. "I'll be fine. I've been hit in much worse spots, spots where you really don't come back as fast. I'll be able to go out there and pitch in five days."

Long after he was gone, Bush (1-0) drew all the attention. He graduated from high school in Conestoga, Pa., and spent the first few days of the Brewers' visit with his folks in nearby Devon.

Bush's parents, wife, sister and several friends were in attendance.

"It was fun," he said. "I always like coming back here and pitching in my hometown. It was fun to have them all here, and good to get a win."

Bush became the sixth pitcher to lose a no-hit bid in the late innings this season. Bush and Boston's Tim Wakefield each had no-bids this year that went 7 1/3 innings. Randy Johnson, Ted Lilly, A.J. Burnett and Trevor Cahill had their tries broken up in the seventh.

This was the third time Bush took a no-hitter into the eighth inning. He did it in 2004 for Toronto in his third major league start, going 7 1/3 innings against Oakland, and lost another bid last June 19 when Toronto's Lyle Overbay hit a leadoff triple in the eighth.

Bush gave up two hits in 7 2/3 innings and drew a standing ovation when he left after Shane Victorino's single. The right-hander walked three, struck out four and hit two batters, including Jimmy Rollins leading off the first.

Bush left after 113 pitches, a high amount for this early in the season.

"You're trying to watch guys' pitch counts and the guy is pitching a no-hitter," Brewers manager Ken Macha said. "He had good command of his off-speed stuff and was able to throw his fastball by them at times. He did a great job of pitching."

Would Macha have left him in with a no-hitter?

"Yeah," Macha said. "He would have sprinted out there for the ninth. As the day went on, he just kept making his pitches."

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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PERSONAL

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Learn about available assistance at:
http://pregnancysupport.nd.edu

AROUND THE NATION

NCAA Baseball
ESPN.com/USA Top 25

	team	points	record
1	Georgia	718	31-8
2	Arizona State	708	28-8
3	North Carolina	703	31-10
4	Texas	638	29-8
5	Rice	633	27-10
6	UC Irvine	622	26-10
7	Georgia Tech	600	26-8-1
8	LSU	580	28-12
9	Arkansas	456	26-11
10	Cal St. Fullerton	441	24-11
11	Miami (Fla.)	403	26-13
12	Baylor	402	25-12
13	Oklahoma	373	29-11
14	Virginia	372	30-8-1
15	Mississippi	369	28-11
16	Florida State	286	25-12
17	Texas A&M	221	25-14
18	Cal Poly	215	27-9
19	Coastal Carolina	184	30-9
20	Clemson	181	26-14
20	Oregon State	181	23-9
22	TCU	151	23-11
23	Florida	98	26-14
24	East Carolina	96	28-12
25	Ohio State	72	29-8

NCAA Men's Lacrosse
Division I Top 20

	team	points	record
1	Virginia	158	13-1
2	Cornell	145	9-2
3	Syracuse	143	10-2
4	NOTRE DAME	139	12-0
5	Princeton	139	10-2
6	Duke	124	10-3
7	Johns Hopkins	110	6-4
8	North Carolina	102	10-4
9	Hofstra	101	9-2
10	UMBC	84	9-3
11	Navy	76	9-4
12	Maryland	76	8-5
13	Brown	64	11-2
14	Loyola (Md.)	58	8-4
15	Bucknell	42	8-6
16	Massachusetts	30	7-4
17	Colgate	24	9-4
18	Georgetown	24	6-6
19	Harvard	23	6-5
20	Albany (N.Y)	14	7-4

ITA Women's Tennis Division I
Top 15

	team	points
1	Northwestern	84
2	Duke	75
3	Georgia	74
4	NOTRE DAME	69
5	Baylor	68
6	Miami (Fla.)	67
7	Southern California	63
8	California	62
9	Georgia Tech	61
10	Tennessee	52
11	UCLA	51
12	Clemson	50
13	Stanford	49
14	Arkansas	47
15	Florida	43

around the dial

NBA Playoffs

Cleveland at Detroit (CLE leads 2-0)
7 p.m., ESPN

Orlando at Philadelphia (series tied 1-1)
8 p.m., ESPN2

NFL

AP

Don Welsh, left, CEO of Indianapolis Convention & Visitors Association, speaks at the Statehouse in Indianapolis on April 2. The committee was proposing a bill to help fund the agency that operates major Indianapolis sports stadiums.

City asks Colts, Pacers for money

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indianapolis Colts believe they've already done their part to help the city's cash-strapped stadium agency.

And they're taking their argument outside the legislative halls and straight to the fans.

On Thursday, the team e-mailed a letter to season ticket holders defending its position that the $100 million contribution owner Jim Irsay made to building Lucas Oil Stadium should suffice.

But the Indianapolis Capital Improvement Board, which is expected to have a $43 million deficit because of operating costs at the Colts' new stadium and Conseco Fieldhouse, home of the Indiana Pacers, needs more money and city and state leaders are asking Indianapolis' two major sports franchises to chip in.

The letter went out one day before a panel of lawmakers was set to meet to try to reach a compromise on a bill to fund the board before the Legislature adjourns Wednesday.

"The Colts made a 30-year commitment to the community," the letter reads. "Those written agreements, signed nearly four years ago, committed the team to this community for the next 30 years with no option to renegotiate, regardless of any financial downturns that might arise."

Colts officials contend some of the statements made during the continuing debate have been misleading or simply untrue, though the letter did not cite any specific remarks.

A team spokesman said the Colts would not elaborate on anything contained in the letter.

"I'm glad to see them get out and start explaining their situation. When I met with Jim Irsay and (Colts president) Bill Polian, I told them they were getting blistered and I told them they needed to get their story out," said Sen. Luke Kenley, R-Noblesville, the Senate Appropriations Committee chairman.

He said it was important for the Colts to be involved in the solution to the CIB's troubles.

The Associated Press also left a message with an assistant to Rep. William Crawford, D-Indianapolis, the House Ways and Means Committee chairman.

IN BRIEF

Obama hosts Florida Gators at White House

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama has welcomed the Florida Gators to the White House and congratulated them on a second national championship in football in three years.

Obama on Thursday welcomed the Gators to the East Room and says their excellence on and off the football field is worthy of praise. Obama says being a champion doesn't end when the clock runs out and noted that the team volunteers 400 hours each year.

Obama says it's strong leadership that the team played hard together and works in their communities.

In a moment of levity, Obama says he still supports a national playoff system instead of the current bowl system. But the president also says he's confident the Gators could've defeated any team out there.

Colts restructure Wayne's contract to save money

INDIANAPOLIS — Pro Bowl receiver Reggie Wayne has agreed to a restructured contract, which will give the Colts more room under this year's salary cap.

Wayne's agent, Joby Branion, confirmed the deal was completed but did not provide details about how much Indianapolis would save.

Players frequently restructure contracts by accepting bonuses after agreeing to lower their annual salaries. The bonuses are then prorated over the remaining length of the deal, in Wayne's case three years, to lower the team's salary cap number in the first year.

Wayne has been the Colts' primary receiver the past two seasons and is expected to play a more prominent role this year after Marvin Harrison, the franchise's career receiving leader, was released in February.

Purdue will stay strong at quarterback position

INDIANAPOLIS — Purdue coach Danny Hope says Purdue will be strong as usual at quarterback, despite losing Curtis Painter to eligibility and Justin Siller to a suspension.

The first-year coach said the spread offense is in good hands with fifth-year senior Joey Elliott and redshirt freshman Caleb TerBush.

Both have earned respect. Elliott, the No. 1 quarterback, has been voted a captain by his teammates. TerBush, the backup, was given the offense's Newcomer Award, which is given to the player who shows the most progress during spring practice.

"I think we're in better shape at the quarterback spot than a lot of people thought we would be," Hope said after Purdue's spring game.

Whichever quarterback takes over will face high expectations. Painter passed for 11,763 yards and 67 touchdowns in four years as a starter.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Curry declares for NBA draft, plans to hire agent

Associated Press

DAVIDSON, N.C. — The big schools didn't want Stephen Curry, then were helpless in stopping his sweet-shooting stroke as he put tiny Davidson into the national spotlight.

Now after three seasons and plenty of records, Curry is taking his game to the NBA, presenting more intrigue in how the skinny, baby-faced guard with the great genes will fare at the next level.

The nation's leading scorer announced at an on-campus news conference Thursday that he's skipping his senior season to enter the NBA draft. His father, former NBA sharpshooter Dell Curry, attended the announcement, along with his mother, Sonya, and Davidson coach Bob McKillop.

Curry said he will hire an agent, ending any chance that he'll return to campus and perhaps break Pete Maravich's NCAA Division I career scoring record.

"I think I'm mentally and physically ready to make that jump," said Curry, who believes he'll be selected somewhere between seventh and 20th overall. "This is a dream of mine since I was a little kid."

The lightly recruited Curry burst onto the national scene a year ago in helping Davidson of the unheralded Southern Conference get within a missed a 3-pointer of the Final Four.

The 6-foot-3 Curry moved to point guard this season and averaged 28.6 points. He had 15 games of 30 or more points and three of 40 or more as teams couldn't find a way to stop him.

Still, the decision tore at Curry's stomach much more than he expected. Two days after scoring 26 points in Davidson's loss to Saint Mary's in the NIT, Curry said he'd quickly make up his mind after speaking with his parents.

Dell Curry told his son he'd likely be a lottery pick and probably wouldn't improve his draft status by waiting a year.

But the younger Curry wavered because of his desire to get his college degree. Davidson does not have a summer school program, and he unsuccessfully tried to get school officials to bend a policy that requires seniors to take the majority of their classes on campus.

"During the whole process, some days I would say, 'I think I'm going to stay,' " Curry said. "Then some doubts would come in and I'd say, 'I'm going to leave.' Then more doubts would come in and I would keep going back and forth."

Curry told school officials Wednesday afternoon he would announce his decision on Thursday, but didn't tell McKillop or his father what he'd do.

The uncertainty captivated the region, with four Charlotte-area television stations broadcasting the news conference live. Curry said he finally made up his mind 90 minutes earlier while "eating an omelet" in the school cafeteria.

"It took me that long to figure it out," Curry said. "I decided to sleep on it last night. I was at peace this morning and that's what I was looking for."

Despite a weaker supporting cast than a season ago, Curry shot 45 percent from the field in 2008-09, including 39 percent from 3-point range. He was voted a first-team Associated Press All-American.

He finished his college career with a school record 2,635 points, which ranks 25th in NCAA Division I history, and 414 3-pointers, fourth on the all-time list.

If Curry had returned for his senior season, he would have had an outside shot at breaking Maravich's four decade-old record of 3,667 points.

"He's become the face of college basketball. He's become the face of Davidson basketball," McKillop said, tears in his eyes. "As special as he has been to us, he will be equally special in the NBA. I've been incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to coach him these three years."

While Curry was perhaps the best shooter in college basketball, there are questions about how successful he'll be in the NBA. Curry will have to beef up his slight frame to withstand the rigors of an 82-game schedule. He's also still adjusting to the move to point guard, a position he'll likely have to play be a starter in the NBA.

Curry struggled at times when facing taller defenders with long arms, a likely nightly occurrence at the next level. But his lightning-quick release, surprising quickness, high basketball IQ and late growth spurt will make lottery teams take notice.

"He's shown that he can play and he's ready," Dell Curry said.

Curry has plenty of high-profile fans, too. Cleveland Cavaliers star LeBron James attended a Davidson NCAA tournament game last year and sat courtside in December when Curry scored 44 points in a win over North Carolina State.

"He's like a [Richard] Hamilton in our league. He never stops moving," James said after that game. "He's the type of player that's hard to guard no matter how big you are. Guys in the NBA don't want to continue to chase guys like that."

The major schools ignored Curry in high school because he was just 5-foot-9 in his junior year. He reached 6-feet as a freshman at Davidson and grew three more inches. After getting an MRI exam on an injured ankle in February, Curry said a doctor told him his growth plates showed he could sprout another two inches.

His father had a similar late growth spurt at Virginia Tech. Dell Curry then spent 16 years in the NBA, mostly with the Charlotte Hornets. He works in the Charlotte Bobcats' front office.

Stephen Curry said he'll finish classes this semester, then begin a rigorous workout program. He'll attend the NBA pre-draft event in Chicago next month, then work out for a handful of teams based on the results of the draft lottery.

"If you look at my body compared to some point guards and [shooting] guards, I have a lot of work to do," Curry said. "But if you saw me my freshman year, people were saying, 'Who's this kid in sixth grade walking around in college?' "

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ROWING

Irish set to defend title streak

By BRENDAN CORSONES
Sports Writer

The Irish will try for a sixth straight Big East title Saturday in New Jersey.

Irish coach Martin Stone said he does not want to be surprised this year and pointed to several teams such as Georgetown, No. 19 Louisville and Syracuse that could upset the Irish this weekend.

"All of the Big East has been showing speed," he said. "I would not count anybody out."

Stone demands excellence in practice, which may be why the Irish have been constantly improving all season.

Louisville enters the tournament with the No. 1 varsity eight seed, while Notre Dame is seeded second.

Notre Dame last competed April 11 at Ohio State. There it won two races and improved its times in five of six.

Now it looks to a bigger stage.

"[The Big East championship] has been our goal all year, and our success would be a manifestation of everything we've worked hard for all year," senior captain Lauren Buck said.

"All of the Big East has been showing speed. I would not count anybody out."

Martin Stone
Irish coach

Though the Irish are no strangers to the Big East championship, many new members will be experiencing it for the first time.

This year's team has "lots of new faces, but an outstanding attitude," Buck said. "We're ready for any new challenges."

Coach Stone said he has confidence that this year's team had the stuff it takes to add another trophy to the mantle.

"I think we should win this," he said, "but it will take a great performance from everyone."

The first preliminary races begin at 7:00 a.m. Saturday at Cooper River Park in Pennsauken, N.J. The day's first grand final will begin at 9:40 a.m.

Contact Brendan Corsones at bcorsone@nd.edu

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observersportsblog.wordpress.com

NBA

Kings fire coach Natt after dismal season

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The Sacramento Kings fired interim coach Kenny Natt and his four assistants Thursday, a week after the club finished with the NBA's worst record.

The Kings, once a model of stability during eight consecutive winning seasons and playoff appearances under coach Rick Adelman, will be looking for their fourth coach since Adelman was fired in 2006 by owners Joe and Gavin Maloof.

Natt, a longtime NBA assistant for Jerry Sloan and Mike Brown, was promoted after Sacramento fired Reggie Theus on Dec. 15. Natt went 11-47 in charge of the Kings, who finished 17-65.

Natt wasn't thought to be in the Kings' long-term plans, which was confirmed when the club formally announced it wouldn't pick up his contract option for next year.

Sacramento also fired assistant coaches Rex Kalamian, Jason Hamm, Randy Brown and Bubba Burrage. The Kings didn't disclose the status of Shareef Abdur-Rahim, the former Kings forward who became an assistant on a one-year contract this season.

The Kings' next coach will inherit a stripped-down roster after several salary-shedding moves by president of basketball operations Geoff Petrie during the season. Sacramento also has the best shot at the No. 1 pick in the upcoming draft in the lottery next month.

Sacramento is close to rock-bottom after its unimpressive roster stumbled through the season in front of quiet crowds at half-empty Arco Arena, where the franchise had sold out 354 consecutive games before the 2007 season opener. The Kings had the lowest average attendance in the league this season leading up to the final week, and the club doesn't appear to be making much progress on its effort to build a new arena.

The Kings' coaching chaos has been a prime factor in their downfall. Eric Musselman, the former Golden State coach chosen by the Maloofs to replace Adelman, made it through just one contentious 33-49 season before being fired with two years left on his contract.

The Kings waited two months between firing Musselman and hiring Theus, the former Sacramento guard with scant head coaching experience. He was fired after a 6-18 start to his second season.

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A KEYNOTE BY
DONALD MCPHERSON

For more than 20 years, Donald McPherson has used the power and appeal of sports to address complex social issues. He has created innovative programs, supported community service providers and has facilitated educational seminars and lectures throughout North America. He is a national leader and advocate for the prevention of sexual and domestic violence.

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- Featured in *O Magazine* and appeared on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*
- Recipient of awards in honor of his activism and education
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  - Champions for Change - Lifetime Television
  - Creative Vision for Women's Justice - Pace University Women's Justice Center
  - Leadership Award - National Center for Victims of Crime

Undergraduate Male Athlete of the Year:

1. **Carl Andersen**
   - Senior Carl Andersen, one of the top basketball players on campus, led Morrissey Manor to their second straight Interhall Basketball title and undefeated season with 17 points in the championship game. Carl's athleticism and ability to shoot it from anywhere make him a tough opponent and an impressive player to watch. In addition to playing basketball, broomball and volleyball, Carl also plays Interhall and CoRec football where he is one of the league leading wide receivers for both his Interhall and CoRec football teams.
2. **Alex Klupchak**
   - Alex Klupchak, a senior from O'Neill Hall, can be found most afternoons playing several hours of pick-up basketball at Rolfs. Alex has a confidence and intensity that can be matched by few other players and his quickness and ability to both drive the lane and shoot it from deep make him a constant threat. As captain and leading scorer of his CoRec and Interhall basketball teams, he led them both to appearances in the championship games, putting up 23 points in the Interhall Final. When not on the hardwood, Alex plays wide receiver on O'Neill's Interhall Football team and referees countless basketball and football games.
3. **Casey McGushin**
   - Casey "Pistol" McGushin is the captain and leading scorer for Sorin's Interhall Basketball team where his driving ability and accuracy from deep behind the arc make him the Otter's number one threat. In addition, Pistol plays quarterback on the Otters' Interhall Football team and is the captain of the Little Giants flag football team who had an undefeated regular season, beating opponents by an average of 52 points.

Undergraduate Female Athlete of the Year:

1. **Kathleen Stanley**
   a. Kathleen Stanley helped McGlinn Hall capture the Interhall Women's Basketball & Flag Football championships. McGlinn upset the top seeded Purple Weasels of PW in a 41-33 victory to win the Interhall Women's Basketball title. In addition, Stanley plays in multiple soccer leagues, Interhall Lacrosse, and was a member of DVD Late Night who made an appearance in the CoRec basketball final.
2. **Mary Forr**
   a. Mary Forr was a major component of Pasquerilla West's Flag Football team as their top wide receiver. She also led the Purple Weasels to the number one seed in the Women's Interhall Basketball tournament where they fell to McGlinn in the championship game. In addition, Mary was a key contributor on several CoRec teams including Flag Football, Basketball, and Broomball.
3. **Jenni Gargula**
   a. Jenni Gargula plays quarterback for Welsh Family's Interhall Flag Football team that lost the championship game in the final minutes. Over the past three years, she has a perfect record in the regular season as the Whirlwind's quarterback. Jenni also brings an unmatched intensity to the point guard position on the Whirlwinds' Interhall Basketball team.

Graduate Male Athlete of the Year:

1. **Matt Hamel**
   a. After losing on penalty kicks in the GFS Soccer championship game, Matt Hamel helped the Insurance Waivers capture the CoRec Basketball title en route to an undefeated season. Hamel brings an unmatched intensity and determination to all sports as the leading scorer of the GFS basketball team, Flannel, and a strong defender on his CoRec Soccer team. In addition to playing basketball, soccer, broomball and volleyball, Hamel is one of the top officials for both soccer and basketball.
2. **Braden Turner**
   a. Braden Turner represents MSA in a variety of sports including basketball, flag football, and volleyball. He was captain of the MSA flag football team and a member of the MSA soccer team that lost in the finals on penalty kicks.
3. **David Standa**
   a. As captain of his self-titled team, Dave Standa led his team to the GFS baseball title with a victory over CEGEOS. Dave played GFS basketball on Team Flannel who made it to the semifinals before losing to the eventual champions. He is also a key contributor to his league leading Floor Hockey team, Threat Level Midnight, who has beaten their opponents by an average of 10 goals.

Graduate Female Athlete of the Year:

1. **Susan Pinnick**
   a. Susan Pinnick represented the MSA program well, playing as many sports as she could. She was a member of MSA soccer team that lost the championship game on penalty kicks and a key component of her undefeated CoRec soccer team. In addition, Susan played basketball, flag football, and volleyball.
2. **Chrissy Vaughn**
   a. Chrissy Vaughn was the captain of the Mighty Mendoza GFS soccer team that won their league. She always brought enthusiasm and leadership to her team as a key contributor to their successful season.
3. **Brittany Baron**
   a. Brittany Baron is the leader of MSA athletics as the captain of both their soccer and basketball teams. She was a member of the CoRec championship basketball team, Insurance Waivers, and the GFS soccer runner-up as well as flag football and volleyball.

Team of the Year:

1. **Interhall Men's Basketball Champions: Morrissey Manor Basketball**
   a. By averaging 65 points a game, Morrissey Manor completed an undefeated season and claimed the number one seed in the Men's Interhall Basketball Championship. Led by senior Captain Carl Andersen's 17 points, they were able to defend their Interhall basketball title with a 69-62 victory over O'Neill Hall.
2. **CoRec Flag Football Champions: Weapons of Mass Destruction**
   a. Weapons of Mass Destruction struggled in the regular season, but a 2-2 record was just enough to get them into the playoffs where their season took off. They upset both the number one and number two seeds en route to the CoRec Flag Football Championship.
3. **CoRec Basketball Champions: Insurance Waivers**
   a. Joe Marnell, Matt Hamel, & Joe DeMott led the Insurance Waivers to an undefeated season. Averaging 71 points a game to their opponents' 38, they captured the CoRec Basketball Championship over DVD Late Night with a 71-30 victory.

Game of the Year:

1. **Men's Interhall Hockey Championship: Siegfried vs. Stanford**
   a. The #4 seed Siegfried met the #1 seeded Stanford Griffins in the Interhall Men's Hockey championship after both teams had to go into OT to win their semifinal games. The Siegfried Ramblers pulled off the 3-1 upset over the heavily favored Stanford Griffins to take home the championship trophy.
2. **Men's Interhall Football Championship: Siegfried vs. Keenan**
   a. The top-seeded Siegfried Ramblers defeated the seventh-seeded Knights of Keenan Hall 14-13 to capture the Men's Interhall Football Championship trophy and complete an undefeated season. Despite the inspired play of the Knight's wide receiver, James Zenker, Siegfried was able to seal the victory when they stopped Keenan's attempt at a two-point conversion with just over two minutes to play.
3. **GFS Soccer Championship: Team MSA vs. Pick Up United**
   a. Forty minutes wasn't enough to settle the GFS Soccer Championship as the game went into overtime tied 2-2. Top seeded Pick Up United pulled out the victory over third seeded Team MSA in Penalty Kicks 5-3.

Fans of the Year:

1. **Zahm Hockey**
   a. Defending Interhall Hockey Champion, Zahm House, could always be found with a large contingent of fans including fans in costumes of all sorts. Even as the team started to struggle, their fan base stayed strong during the early morning hours at the JACC Ice Rink.
2. **Welsh Flag Football**
   a. Welsh Fam was never short of fans, especially for Flag Football. Even Father Greg never missed a game. It's hard not to play well when you have the fan support that the Whirlwinds do, cheering them on to an undefeated regular season and an appearance in the Interhall Championship game.
3. **Purple Rain**
   a. GFS Flag Football team, Purple Rain, always had a ton of support from their fans, even bringing a mascot. The fans for Purple Rain stayed strong even as the weather turned cold and rainy for the playoffs where the team lost in a hard fought semifinal game to Palin's Spawn.

Voting is open until midnight, Sunday, April 26th

Check out

http://web.recsports.nd.edu/recspy/index.php

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Shoe

continued from page 28

The "Showdown" is played immediately before the Ohio State spring football game, the Scarlet and Gray Game. The Horseshoe's maximum capacity is 102,000, and typically the spring football game fetches nearly half of that.

"We'll start with less than that, but by the end be close to that," Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said. "It will be quite the environment. I'm excited, and our guys are excited."

"We had over 7,000 for a couple different games, but nothing truly comparable to this."

Kevin Corrigan
Irish coach

Such an atmosphere will be a brand new experience to the Irish.

"We had over 7,000 for a couple different games, but nothing truly comparable to this," Corrigan said. "We did play at Invesco Field out at Denver, so we have played in a venue of this nature, but nothing of this magnitude."

Even the NCAA tournament will not compare to Saturday's atmosphere as the Irish bid for a perfect regular season.

Having opened the season with 12 wins, the Irish could feel pressure to keep the streak alive. Rather, the team does not even think of the streak.

"You can only win the game that you are playing," Corrigan said. "We are not discounting [the streak], but it is just not something we can focus on because it does not contribute to us winning the game this weekend."

Indeed, this weekend the Irish face a formidable foe in the Buckeyes. Last year Ohio State scored 12 goals against Notre Dame's defense.

"They are extremely good in transition opportunities," Corrigan said. "That is something we know we have to make sure to watch."

The last line of defense against such transition opportunities will be senior goalie Scott Rodgers, recently nominated for the national player of the year award, the Tewaarton Trophy.

"That is a wonderful honor for Scott," Corrigan said. "I hope he gets it, and it will happen if we are successful."

Rodgers and Notre Dame face Ohio State at 11 a.m. Saturday.

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu

Adrian

continued from page 28

weeks, so relying on practices to make the differences they need is not effective enough to make the crucial changes.

"We have had very little practice time as of late between our matches," Campbell said. "We have to learn from our last match and make the adjustments immediately on the court."

Though there is little time for running team practices Coach Campbell knows what the team needs to change for the best chances for winning this Saturday.

"We have to see where we can improve our play and play with confidence," Campbell said. "We simply have to focus on one point at a time."

Contact Molly Sammon at msammon@nd.edu

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Orange

continued from page 28

Big East.

Junior attack Gina Scioscia, the conference's third highest goal-scorer, was named to the second team.

"The league's really competitive, with three teams in the top ten nationally and this is a pretty competitive week, so any recognition that the players receive is awesome," Coyne said.

Overall, the Irish offense has averaged 15.81 points per game to put them at the top for the Big East and fifth in the nation.

On the defensive end, this year's team has one the of the best all-around defenders Notre Dame has seen in Burke and Notre Dame's all-time winningest goalkeeper in senior Erin Goodman. Burke leads the team with 45 ground balls and 28 caused turnovers and is fifth with 26 draw controls. Goodman has started in 52 consecutive games for the Irish with a .673 winning percentage off her record of 35-17.

"Everyone here [at the tournament] wants to win, and is playing to win," Coyne said. "We're confident in our game plan."

Hoping to put their leading talents to use tonight, the Irish start their tournament run for their first Big East title tonight against the Orange at 5:30 p.m. in Georgetown's Multi-Sport Facility.

Contact Meaghan Veselik at **mvesel01@saintmarys.edu**

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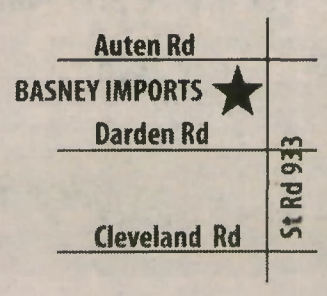

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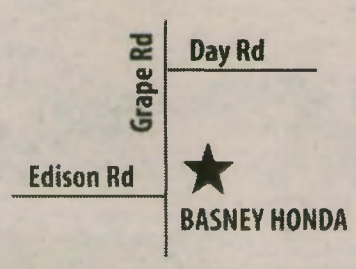

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Relays

continued from page 28

the 4x1,600 and finished second in the 4x800 relays."

The Irish have won the 4x1,600 relay the last three years and in five of the last seven years.

Both teams will be facing steep competition, including No. 11 Minnesota.

Piane said he wants his team to stay focused.

"Our focus right now if for the Big East Championship," Piane said. "After that we can worry about the NCAAs."

> *"We're just looking to be really competitive."*
>
> **Joe Piane**
> **Irish coach**

However, the Irish have a significant number of athletes already qualified for the NCAA Regionals on May 29.

"I don't have the numbers in front of me, but I think there are around a dozen who have already qualified on the men's team," Piane said. "And on the women's team I think we have eight who have already qualified."

Several members of the team are posting times that are among the best in the nation. In the men's 10,000-meter race, senior Patrick Smyth has recorded the second best time in the country. Smyth also holds the fourth-best time in the country in the 5,000-meter race.

On the women's team, junior Lindsey Ferguson posted the nation's 11th best time in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, and senior Mary Saxer holds the nation's fourth-best mark in the pole vault.

Piane said he doesn't want his runners and throwers to be worried about their numbers in the individual meets right now.

"Right now, we're not necessarily looking for great numbers," Piane said. "But rather we're just looking to be really competitive."

The Drake Relays begin Friday morning in Des Moines and the Hillsdale Relays, in Hillesdale, Mich., begin Friday as well.

Contact Alex West at awest@hcc-nd.edu

SMC Softball

Playoff hopes gone, Belles to play spoiler

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will be playing in unfamiliar territory on Saturday when they travel to Trine University to close out the 2009 MIAA regular season. Under fourth-year head coach Erin Sullivan, the Belles have never played a season finale free of playoff implications.

Saint Mary's (22-10, 6-6 MIAA) went on a tear to start the regular season, sweeping its first two opponents in back-to-back doubleheaders and winning 6 of its first 8 games. But after a lackluster week that saw the Belles drop four straight against perennial powerhouses Hope and Adrian, they were virtually eliminated from playoff contention.

> *"We need to take responsibility for our inconsistencies lately."*
>
> **Erin Sullivan**
> **Belles coach**

"We've never known when our last game was, so this is a bit of an odd year for us," Sullivan said. "But we've adjusted well and we know that we can be spoiler on Saturday. They always play well against Trine."

Although the playoff-exiled Belles cannot knock top-ranked Trine (26-8, 10-2) out of postseason play, they can still drop the Thunder's No. 1 seed to as low as No. 3. Trine is coming off a doubleheader split against Adrian on Thursday, dropping the first game by a score of 2-0 and holding on to a 7-5 victory in the second.

Freshman standouts Monica Palicki and Angela Gillis are slated to start on the bump for the Belles, as they look to complete their sensational collegiate debuts on a high note. Palicki will bring a 2.98 ERA and an opponent's batting average of .259 into the first game, while Gillis seeks to add to her team-leading 12 wins, 29 strikeouts and 2.08 ERA.

"We have a really good rivalry going on with them for the last couple of years and I know they're really excited," Sullivan said. "The seniors want to end on a good note, and the freshmen haven't seen Trine yet, so they want to see what's so great about them and come out strong."

The Belles will need strong performances at the plate up and down the lineup to upset the MIAA's best team on paper. Junior All-American Ashley Peterson looks to improve upon her .480 batting average, .810 slugging percentage and five home runs, each of which is good enough for second overall in the league.

But Saint Mary's will have to contend with a stingy Thunder pitching staff that has slashed its opponent's batting average to .253 against right-handers and its ERA to 2.56. Nevertheless, Sullivan said she is confident in her squad's ability to adjust from one at bat to the next.

"We're not going to change anything specific," Sullivan said. "We know their pitchers. They move the ball a lot, throw a lot of dropped balls. We'll move up in the box, catch it early, and hit the ball before it breaks."

Saint Mary's will take the field for the last time this year Saturday at 1 p.m. at Trine University Softball Field.

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

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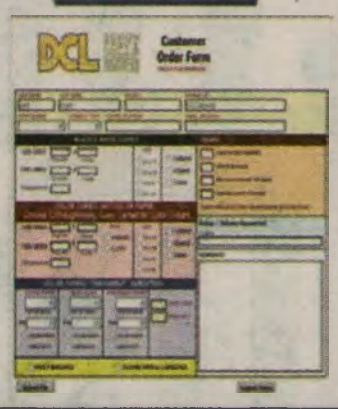

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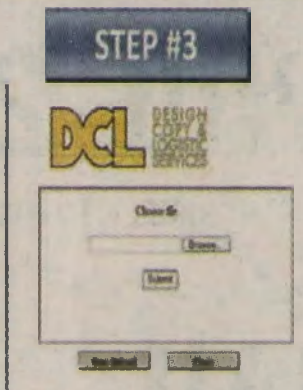

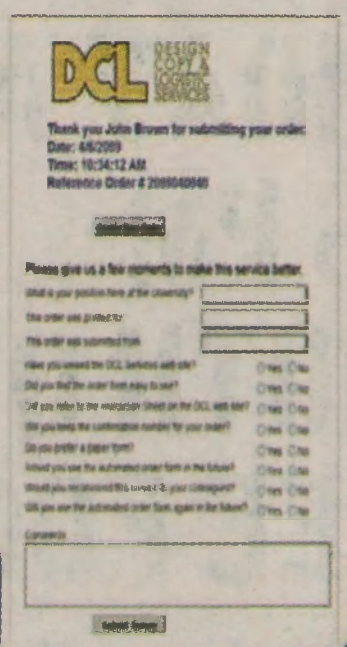

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Recycle The Observer.

Big East

continued from page 28

to produce runs, stranding a total of 12 runners, eight in scoring position, through four innings of game two Wednesday. In the fifth inning, the Irish finally broke through after senior Jeremy Barnes' single with the bases loaded drove in two runs. Before that, the Irish were two for their last 13 at-bats with the bases loaded.

Pitching has not been an issue as of late. Senior Sam Elam went six innings in game one against the Wolverines, allowing just two earned runs and recording nine strikeouts, but couldn't get enough offense behind him to avoid the loss. In game two, junior Ryan Richter was able to stymie the Michigan offense again, allowing just three earned runs in five innings to get the win.

The Irish are going to need to pull it all together if they are to have any chance of taking down Louisville in hostile territory.

The Cardinals are nearly unbeatable at home, having lost there just four times all season, each of which came by one run. They have also won eight of their last nine games against Big East opponents.

Schrage knows that with such a difficult task at hand, his team is going to need to dig deep this weekend to come out with the victory.

"[Louisville] hits up and down the lineup," he said. "They have really good pitching and plenty of depth. We're going to have to be at the top of our game to beat them."

Game one of this weekend's Big East matchup is slated to begin today at 6:30 p.m.

Contact Alex Barker at abarker1@nd.edu

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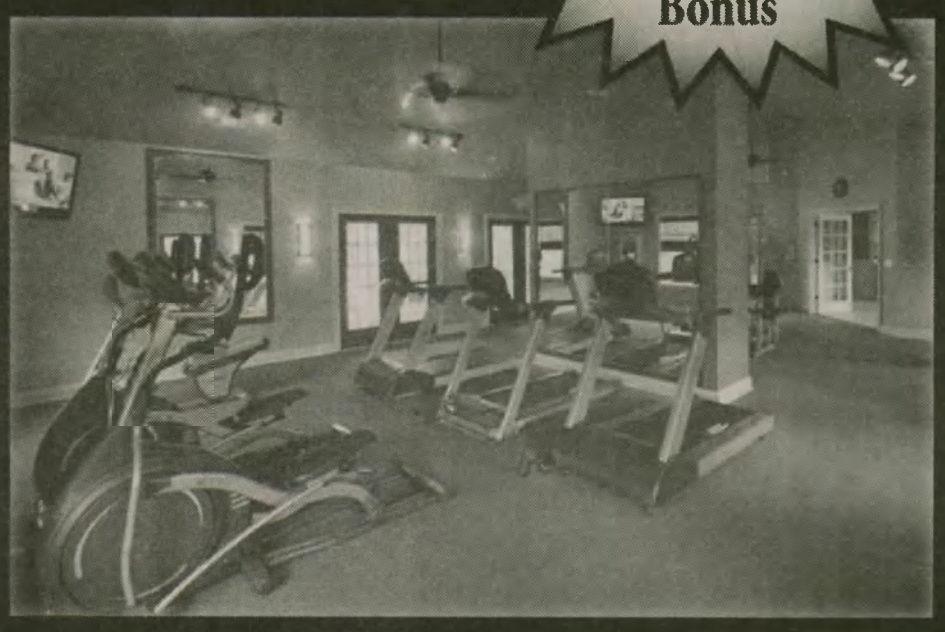

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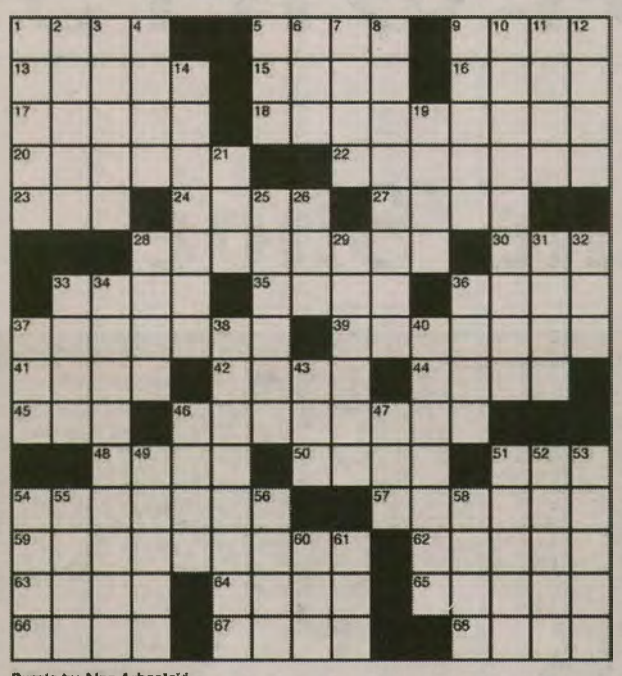
Across

1 Factory seconds: Abbr.
5 Sights
9 Support
13 "Cool!"
15 Starting fare, often
16 Shield border
17 "Scram!"
18 Practice area, of a sort
20 Get out of a bind?
22 Way to the top
23 ___ Snider, frontman for rock's Twisted Sister
24 Once-in-a-lifetime traveler
27 Figure usu. in hundreds or thousands of feet
28 "Black rat" as opposed to "Rattus rattus"
30 Org. established by Nixon
33 Sorry sort
35 Loudness unit
36 Biblical patriarch whose name means "he will laugh"
37 "What a ___!"
39 Catch
41 Radical Hoffman
42 Low-grade?: Abbr.
44 Hipsters
45 Abridged, for short: Abbr.
46 Northeast, on a map
48 Ditto
50 Delhi wrap
51 Here, in Toledo
54 Silk fabric for scarves
57 Onetime Missouri natives
59 Directories
62 Bygone women's magazine
63 Sharp
64 Humdinger
65 Parade honoree, familiarly
66 Himmel und ___ (traditional German potato dish)
67 Lawless role
68 Sun. deliveries

Down

1 About to bloom
2 Catch up with old classmates
3 Half of a showy display?
4 Covered walkway
5 Symbol of power, to the pharaohs
6 Cash substitute
7 Kennel club rejects
8 Railroad track workers
9 Overwhelm
10 Reaches
11 Lee Van ___ (spaghetti western actor)
12 Cigarette brand that sponsored "The Dick Van Dyke Show"
14 Like some oil rigs
19 Egyptian lifeline
21 Eponym of a classic Minnesota-brewed beer
25 Bump
26 ___ time
28 Grammy winner Winans
29 Shortage of punch
31 TV's Jack and kin
32 Point of no return?
33 Robot in "Forbidden Planet"
34 Without protection
36 ___ the finish
37 Job for Hercule Poirot
38 Spice holder
40 Splits
43 Misses the mark
46 Amherst campus, briefly
47 Miracle-___
49 Coeur d'___
51 Visibly stunned
52 Last place
53 Seconds: Abbr.
54 Impostor
55 Less conventional
56 Blackmore heroine
58 Stops on a sales rep's rte.
60 Knowledge
61 Mme., across the Pyrenees



Puzzle by Alan Arbesfeld

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	T	M		P	R	O	M	O	S		T	A	C	T
B	O	A		C	O	G	E	N	T		A	V	O	W
C	A	R	S	T	A	R	T	E	R		P	E	L	E
			E	S	M	E		R	A	E		R	O	E
P	O	E	T				M	U	D	G	U	A	R	D
R	I	P	S		S	W	A	N	S	O	N	G		
I	N	C	A		H	O	D				D	E	A	D
A	G	O	G		H	E	D	D	A		E	M	M	Y
M	O	T	O				E	O	N		R	A	I	L
		C	A	S	H	E	S	I	N		O	R	C	A
S	P	E	L	L	O	U	T				A	K	I	N
A	R	N		A	N	C		A	S	S	T			
L	E	T	S		C	L	A	M	P	S	H	A	P	E
A	G	E	E		H	I	R	E	O	N		D	E	N
D	O	R	A		O	D	I	S	T	S		D	A	D

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HOROSCOPES

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Melina Kanakaredes, 42; Valerie Bertinelli, 49; Craig Sheffer, 49; Joyce DeWitt, 60

Happy Birthday: You will learn plenty from the experiences you encounter this year. A move professionally will also entail geographical relocation or more travel time in order to fulfill your obligations. Your charm and adaptability will result in prosperity. Your numbers are 3, 12, 15, 23, 26, 30, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Refrain from letting your emotions take over, causing you to do something you may live to regret. Patience isn't one of your strong features but it will be a must if you don't want to end up apologizing. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You have to push if you want things to happen. Stubbornness will only hold you back. Make your plans known and strive for perfection so that no one can criticize your choices or the outcome. Work at what finishing what will benefit you. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Broaden your outlook by trying new things and taking part in activities that will introduce you to interesting people. You can live your life waiting for others to catch up to you. A favor will be granted if you ask. ★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't put up with coercion. Emotions will be hard to control, especially where work-related problems come into play. If someone hands out false information, be the first to correct the mistake especially if it affects your reputation. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You've got a lot on your mind that has to be dealt with promptly. Take a positive outlook. It's your attitude that will help you win out in the end. Your ability to get things done coupled with a positive approach will win out in the end.★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take the edge off things by speaking up about how you feel and what you would like to see happen. You can make a difference. Changes at home will be to your benefit and the work required will be easily accomplished. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A relationship can be brought to new heights if you are open and honest with one another. You should plan to spend quality time together. Self-improvement projects will raise your self-esteem and confidence. ★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may upset your home or personal life if you make drastic changes to the way you do things. A relationship will take a passionate turn if you nurture it properly. Someone you are doing business with will not tell you everything you need to know in order to get the job done. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Give-and-take will be necessary, especially when doing things with friends, family or children. Give thought to what you want to learn or where you want to live in order to increase your income. Someone you have known a long time will surprise you. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Give credit to someone trying to impress you. He or she is asking for your approval, nothing more. A chance to bring everyone you love closer will happen if you plan a gathering at your place. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Remember your past and you will be motivated to move on. It's time to bring on new experiences that will make you feel good about future prospects. Apply yourself and trust in your beliefs. ★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't plan too far ahead. You will end up having to make difficult, last-minute changes. Someone with authority may lead you on a wild goose chase. Make your moves according to what you know will work. This is no time to play guessing games. ★★★

Birthday Baby: You speak from the heart and stand behind your beliefs. You are a strong advocate of justice and are creative in the way you approach situations you face.

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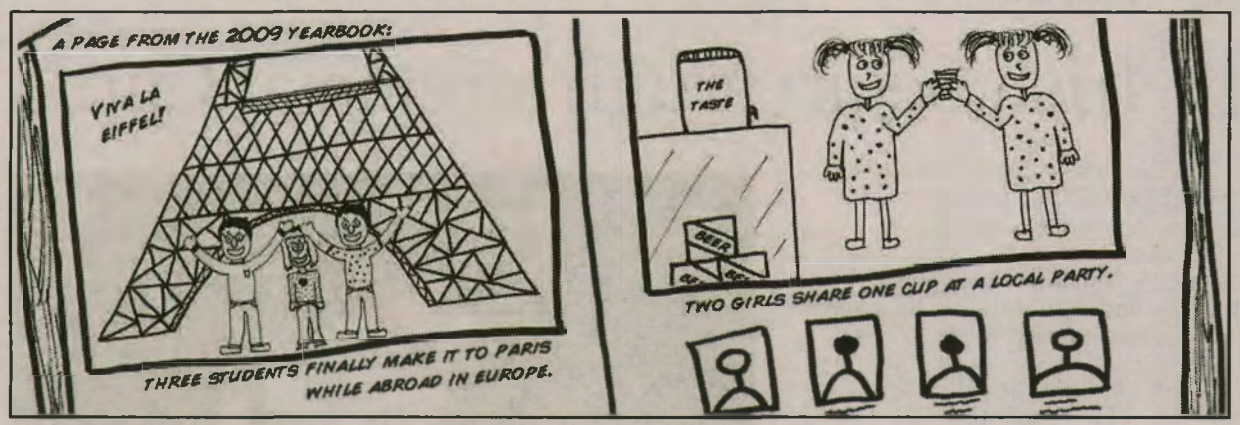
DAVID CAVADINI



JUMBLE

JEFF KNUREK
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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

TAROA

FIMOT

PATUCE

FITHES

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NEW JUMBLE NINTENDO www.jumble.com/ds

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

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

Ans: THE " ○○○○ " ○○○○○

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GLOVE CURVE UNEASY HAWKER
Answer: The conductor negotiated a lucrative contract because he — KNEW THE "SCORE"

THE OBSERVER

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MEN'S LACROSSE

Filling the 'Shoe'

Laxers to face Bucks at 'Horseshoe' with 30,000 in attendance

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Writer

A typical college lacrosse game played in front of a large crowd would have one to two thousand fans. Saturday at Ohio State, Notre Dame will play in front of upwards of 30,000 fans at Ohio Stadium.

No. 3 Notre Dame (12-0, 4-0 GWLL) faces Ohio State (7-6, 3-1) at Saturday at "The Horseshoe," the Buckeyes' football stadium, in the "Showdown in the Shoe." Ohio State hosted Denver in the inaugural "Showdown," in 2008, and close to 30,000 fans were in attendance.

see SHOE/page 21

TOM LA/The Observer

Irish senior goalie Scott Rodgers defends the goal during Notre Dame's 19-7 win over Dartmouth on Feb. 28. Rodgers has been named as a nominee for the Tewaarton Trophy.

ND TRACK & FIELD

Teams turn attention to relay races

By ALEX WEST
Sports Writer

With several individuals already qualified on both the men's and women's teams for the NCAA Regionals in late May, the Irish focus this weekend is on the Drake and Hillsdale Relays.

Although the men's and women's 4x800-meter and 4x1,600 relay teams cannot qualify for the NCAAs this weekend, Irish coach Joe Piane said he is confident that the relay teams will repeat past recent success in the events.

"I'd like to think both teams will be competitive," Piane said. "Last year the men's team won

see RELAYS/page 24

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Talented group hopes to nab school's first Big East title

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

They may have some of the most successful players Notre Dame has ever seen, but the No. 11 Irish have yet to make it past the first round of the Big East tournament, a record they will try to amend tonight as they take on No. 8 Syracuse.

"Syracuse is a very potent team, but defensively we know their tendencies," Irish coach Tracy Coyne said. "We're confident we can be in the game from the beginning, if we play relaxed and get through the first few minutes."

This weekend marks Notre Dame's third consecutive appearance in the Big East tournament since its inception in 2007, when the team lost 12-10 to the Hoyas after trailing 11-6 with 14 minutes to play. Last season's tournament, held in Notre Dame Stadium, saw history repeat itself as the Hoyas defeated the Irish in sudden death 15-14 after three overtimes.

Not only is Notre Dame looking to improve its tournament record, but also its record against Syracuse. The Irish (12-4, 5-2 Big East) last faced the Orange (12-3, 6-1) April 11 at the Carrier Dome, where they lost 14-13. Overall, they are 3-9 versus the Orange, losing their last three contests against them.

If they advance to the second round, Notre Dame will take on the winner of the second semifinal contest between Georgetown and Louisville on Sunday at 1 p.m.

What the Irish do have going into this tournament are some of the top players in the conference and in Notre Dame history for both offense and defense, including several who were recognized at Thursday's Big East awards banquet, which precedes the tournament.

Senior attack Jillian Byers is the all-time Big East goal leader and a Tewaarton Trophy nominee. She was named All-Big East co-attack of the year, along with Syracuse's Katie Roan.

Byers, senior defender Shannon Burke and sophomore midfielder Shaylyn Blaney were all named to the first-team All-

see ORANGE/page 22

SMC TENNIS

Belles hope to add to MIAA resume

By MOLLY SAMMON
Sports Writer

As the season comes to a close, Saint Mary's is searching for a win against Adrian College on Saturday to keep its hopes high before the quickly approaching MIAA Conference tournament.

"We never overlook an opponent, but [Adrian College] has had a tough season in the conference," Belles coach Dale Campbell said.

In terms of competition, the Bulldogs (2-11, 0-4 MIAA) are not one of the strongest teams on the Belles' schedule. They have been shut out by three of the four MIAA Conference teams they have faced so far this season.

The Belles (7-9, 2-4) hope to improve their record with one more win after this match.

"I expect all of them to do well," Campbell said. "Now is a time to get prepared for the conference tournament."

The Belles are coming off of a harsh loss from Hope College, where junior team captain Camille Gebert was the only member of the team able to pull out a win, but sophomores Jessica Kosinski and Franca Peluso came close.

"We had a tough match against Hope," Campbell said. "The biggest challenge is to not let down after a tough loss."

The Belles' schedule has been intensely packed with matches in the past few

see ADRIAN/page 21

BASEBALL

Irish begin tough stretch at Cards

By ALEX BARKER
Assistant Sports Editor

Notre Dame begins the second half of its Big East schedule today as it travels to Louisville to face the Cardinals in a three-game set.

The Irish (23-15, 8-7 Big East) are entering a significant stretch of the schedule where all four conference opponents they will face are currently ahead of them in the standings. After the Cardinals (28-11, 11-4), they host two home series against Connecticut and South Florida before ending the season at St. John's.

Irish coach Dave Schrage said he feels that each of the upcoming conference series will pose tough tests for his team.

"Our last four [series] are all important," he said. "We have 12 tough games ahead of us as every team we play is ahead of us in the standings. We are really going to have to play well to do well."

VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Irish senior shortstop Jeremy Barnes fields a grounder during Notre Dame's 19-3 loss against West Virginia on April 17.

In order to take down the Cardinals, Notre Dame will need to get much more consistent hitting out of its lineup in combination with continued strong performances off the mound.

In a series split against Michigan, the Irish struggled

see BIG EAST/page 25