

THE OBSERVER

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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

ND contributes \$173,000 to tsunami relief

Various organizations sponsor charity events

By EILEEN DUFFY
Assistant News Editor

Whether by bidding on a Sri Lankan craft, buying a cookie or dropping some money into a collection box, many Notre Dame students and faculty have responded to the tsunami relief efforts — a \$173,000 response, to be exact.

In the past two weeks, the Notre Dame community has acted on its Catholic creed of charity by donating money on behalf of those affected in the Dec. 26 disaster, especially keeping in mind the 105 cur-

rently enrolled students and numerous alumni from the affected countries, University President Father Edward Malloy said in a statement.

"Calamities such as the tsunami remind us not only of our kinship with those who suffer, but also of our vocation to see and serve Christ in them and in each other," Malloy said. "This effort is a communal attempt to remember those things."

Besides collections taken up at dorm Masses and in the Basilica, the \$173,000 figure includes donations from Notre Dame student government, Campus Ministry, the Center for Social Concerns and the

see TSUNAMI/page 3



ERIC SALES/The Observer

The Asian International Society coordinated a silent auction and fundraiser in the Coleman-Morse Center to support relief efforts for victims of the tsunami in southeast Asia.

Demand high for concert

1,231 students enter ticket lottery for New York Philharmonic

By TERESA FRALISH
Associate News Editor

Despite high demand from Notre Dame students for tickets to the Feb. 3 New York Philharmonic performance at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, organizers still have not decided exactly how many tickets they will allocate to students.

According to PAC Director of Audience Development Tom Barkes, 1,231 students entered the lottery to purchase tickets, which cost \$25 each. The performance will be held in the Leyton Concert Hall, which seats 961.

Barkes said while exact numbers would not be decided upon for a couple days, students would be allocated a "majority" of the tickets.

He said that the PAC was setting aside tickets for multiple groups including faculty, community members and others, and organizers needed time to determine exactly how many tickets each group would receive.

Barkes said he primarily worked on organization of the lottery, so PAC Executive Director John Haynes would likely decide final numbers and specific distribution methods for all groups. Haynes was not available for comment Monday.

"There's a lot of different groups out there that are rep-

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COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Members debate programming endowment



DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

SUB manager Jimmy Flaherty discusses the possible creation of a programming endowment at COR Monday.

By MARY KATE MALONE
News Writer

The Council of Representatives met Monday night to discuss the possible creation of an endowment to bring high-profile speakers and performers to campus.

Chief executive assistant Dave Baron said a fund would allow the University to attract big-name concerts and speakers.

"What we would do is create a fund of \$1 million, so that every year we're making \$50,000 to be used for concerts and speakers," Baron said.

According to Baron, an endowment fund of \$1 million would be created for better programming on campus. The \$50,000 it would generate annually would be used to help pay

for major concerts or famous speakers.

The idea stems from last year's student body president Jeremy Lao's Board of Trustees report in May. Lao requested trustee support for a \$1 million fund that would generate \$50,000 per year.

The endowment fund would begin with a \$100,000 donation from student government. The money would be taken out of the "carry-over fund," which has served as a buffer fund for student government, in the event an office exceeds its budget. Because of accumulation from previous years of leftover funds, the account now includes \$160,000.

Student body president Adam

see COR/page 4

Saint Mary's closes Haggar Center snack bar

Cyber cafe to open in new student center

By MEGAN O'NEIL
Assistant News Editor

The Haggar Snack Bar, a popular destination for hungry Saint Mary's students and staff, closed during winter break in anticipation of a cyber cafe set to open at the new student center in March.

The closure temporarily reduced the number of eateries on campus from four to three — the Noble Family Dining Hall, Dalloway's Clubhouse and the Café a la Carte in Madeleva Hall.

Dining Hall Manager Berry Bowles said he and other food service workers have made

adjustments to accommodate students' appetites and schedules.

"Dalloway's has expanded its hours to cover all the hours Haggar would have covered," said Bowles.

The new operating hours at Dalloway's are Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Friday 11 a.m. to midnight and Saturday and Sunday from noon to midnight.

Bowles also preserved the most popular item at the Haggar Snack Bar, the double-cheese burger. Students can now request the burger in the grill section of the dining hall.

While Dalloway's is located much farther from any of the residence halls than Haggar, Bowles said he has received

see CLOSING/page 4



KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

The College recently closed the Haggar snack bar. A cyber cafe will open in March at the new student center.

INSIDE COLUMN

B.A., B.S.,
M.R.S.?

What is the first thing that a Saint Mary's girl does when she wakes up in the morning? Puts her pants on and walks back to campus. What does a Saint Mary's girl have that a Notre Dame girl doesn't? A rejection letter.

Kelly Higgins

What a riot. These jokes came as quite a surprise to me. Before moving into Saint Mary's, I did not know anyone who had ever attended.

Photographer

I did, however, know a few Notre Dame alums. In all of my discussions with them, Notre Dame's distaste for Saint Mary's girls never came up.

They seemed just as proud as I was that I had chosen to attend a school like Saint Mary's. In case you haven't heard, Saint Mary's is number one in its category. This means that we have a reputation for being a great school as well.

My college search ended when I visited Saint Mary's. No, I did not apply to Notre Dame and get rejected, therefore settling for Saint Mary's. I choose this school without any consideration for Notre Dame. All of us did not settle.

I am confident that my education will prepare me in the best way possible to impact the world. Saint Mary's has a number of great programs in which many Notre Dame students take part.

Considering how wonderful Saint Mary's is on its own, I needed no extra persuasion. Therefore, Notre Dame had no bearing on my decision to come to South Bend. This means that I am not looking for a husband, and my goal in life is not to get my M.R.S. degree.

I am not spending my time scouring Notre Dame for boys — I don't want to steal them from you. It is also not my fault that we have a reputation, so please, when you hear I am from Saint Mary's, guys, keep your smirks to yourself, and girls, keep your dirty looks as well. I am just looking to get a great education from a superb women's college and have a good night every so often. I am not out to take anything from you.

Although you may not be fond of me, I have respect for Notre Dame, its students and its traditions. I am thankful that I have the opportunity to take part in all that your campus has to offer, including The Observer and I love taking pictures so that everyone can see what is happening on my little campus across the street.

I know many wonderful Notre Dame students, and I hope to know many more. So please, the next time my friends and I catch the "sluttle," oops I mean shuttle — give us a chance. We are no different than you.

Contact Kelly Higgins at khiggi01@saintmarys.edu.

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

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CAMPUS BUILDING BESIDES YOUR DORM?



Drew Cramer

junior
Alumni

"Badin — they
call me Sleazy
Drew."



Tucker Kappler

junior
Sorin

"Legends,
because I love
the sauce."



Himanshu Kothari

junior
Zahm

"Breen-Phillips,
by far."



Emilie Kretschmar

junior
Welsh Family

"ROTC, because
I like men in
uniform."



Carly Rauch

junior
Welsh Family

"The guard
shack — do
they have a
bathroom in
there?"



Elizabeth Seillie

freshman
Lewis

"LaFortune —
because it has
food, sleep and
people."



DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

Junior Julia Burke relaxes in a makeshift hammock newly installed in the industrial design studio in the basement of Riley Hall.

IN BRIEF

The Student Film Festival will run today and Wednesday at the Browning Cinema with showings at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and 10 p.m. to midnight. Sponsored by the Department of Film, Television and Theater, it features 18 short films.

The Career Center is sponsoring its annual **Winter Career and Internship Fair** in the Joyce Center from 4 to 8 p.m. today. The event is open to students from Notre Dame, Saint Mary's, Holy Cross College and other area colleges and universities. It is preceded by a diversity reception from noon to 2:30 p.m. in the Joyce Center's Monogram Room.

Anna Battigelli from the State University of New York will present a lecture entitled **"After the English Revolution: John Dryden, Roman Catholicism and the Language of providential Design"** Wednesday from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. in 119 O'Shaughnessy.

The Center for Social Concerns will sponsor an **informational meeting about Summer Service Projects** from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the LaFortune Student Center.

Campus Ministry will sponsor **"Prayer From Around the World"** from 7 to 8 p.m. Thursday in 330 Coleman-Morse Center.

AcoustiCafe, sponsored by the Student Union Board, will take place Thursday from 10 p.m. to midnight in the LaFortune basement.

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

OFFBEAT

Mold shuts down post office in Iowa

OTHO, Iowa — Rain, snow and sleet won't keep the mail from being delivered. But mold? The post office in this small northern Iowa town has been closed since Dec. 8 after a black mold fungus called *Stachybotrys* was found in the building.

Now, the town's 575 residents must travel eight miles to Fort Dodge to get their mail.

Postal officials are looking at solutions, but they say the Otho post office won't open anytime soon.

"Cleaning black mold is

near impossible," said Cathy Ellett, manager of post office operations. "Once we walk away from black mold, the chances of going back are slim."

San Francisco may charge for grocery bags

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco may become the first city in the nation to charge shoppers for grocery bags.

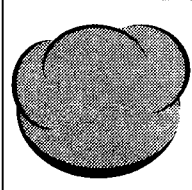
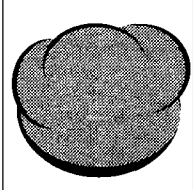
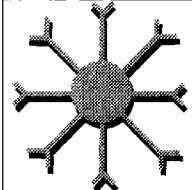
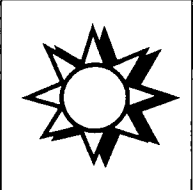
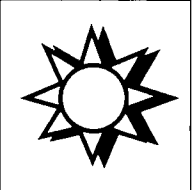
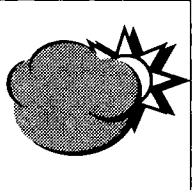
The city's Commission on the Environment is expected to ask the mayor and board of supervisors Tuesday to consider a 17-cent per bag charge on paper and plastic grocery

bags. While the goal is reducing plastic bag pollution, paper was added so as not to discriminate.

"The whole point is to encourage the elimination of waste, not to make people pay more for groceries," said Mark Murray, executive director of Californians Against Waste.

Environmentalists argue that plastic bags jam machinery, pollute waterways and often end up in trees.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 33 LOW 28	HIGH 31 LOW 28	HIGH 32 LOW 5	HIGH 18 LOW 4	HIGH 18 LOW 17	HIGH 33 LOW 26

Atlanta 74 / 62 Boston 70 / 49 Chicago 64 / 48 Denver 65 / 42 Houston 83 / 67 Los Angeles 78 / 72 Minneapolis 80 / 62 New York 70 / 49 Philadelphia 75 / 48 Phoenix 56 / 40 Seattle 61 / 48 St. Louis 71 / 58 Tampa 88 / 68 Washington 75 / 49

BOARD OF GOVERNANCE

Group discusses student petition

By KELLY BALE
News Writer

Saint Mary's Board of Governance met Monday to discuss the petition from the student presidential ticket not allowed to run.

Overall, 302 signatures were on the petition from junior Katherine Kelly and freshman Lauren McCalister, who student officials ruled could not run for office because they did not declare their ticket by the deadline. Officials had not yet determined which signatures were from students.

Elections commissioner Anna Bauer said the elections appeal committee upheld the decision of the elections committee not to permit the ticket to run, but she expressed concern with the current Student Government Association Constitution, which is new this year. "I would propose that we form another Constitution Committee to look at these issues," Bauer said. "When you get it tested, you find weakness in it."

Bauer suggested looking at the exact wording of certain issues regarding election policies.

"Things need to be a little more clear cut for us," Bauer said.

The BOG eventually decided a committee should review the constitution, and the possibility of setting up a form of education for the student body on the work involved with BOG should also be considered. Because only two months remain in the current BOG's term,



KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer
BOG members talk about a student presidential election petition and debate election procedures at Monday's meeting.

members voted 15-4 to pass this responsibility on to the next administration.

Members also continued planning for a tsunami relief fund.

"Our leadership on this campus is evident and if we can get pumped up about [donating], everyone can," Student Body President Sarah Catherine White said.

The BOG plans to hold a collection campaign for the entire month of February with the theme of "Show Your Love."

Members decided to place red collection bins in several spots on campus, including dorms, the bookstore, Dalloway's and Madeleva Hall.

BOG members also opted to collect donations door to door, following their meeting next week. Students who donate during this time will receive a red heart with their name on it to place on their

door.

The board voted to send all of the profits to one organization, the Salesian Fathers, who have institutions in several areas in India that were affected by the tsunami and focus their efforts on helping to raise and educate children.

In other BOG news:

♦ Senior Meghan Scallen, a public relations intern for the College Football Hall of Fame, spoke to the BOG about working to promote activities the Hall of Fame will sponsor.

Student Activities Board will sponsor "Write the Troops," Wednesday at 8 p.m. at Dalloways and will continue to sponsor the event every month for the rest of the academic year.

Contact Kelly Bale at
Bale01@saintmarys.edu

Tsunami

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Office of International Student Services and Activities. It also includes funds from other University charitable accounts that will be directed to this need, University spokesman Matt Storin said.

The largest campus effort was the Tsunami Relief Drive, which a variety of campus groups sponsored. The drive included collections in LaFortune, at athletic events and in the dorms. It concluded with a benefit buffet dinner of Asian food and silent auction of handcrafted goods from the Asian and African regions.

Donny Hanjaya-Putra, a Fisher Hall sophomore from Indonesia who was at Notre Dame when the tsunami hit, was a chief planner for the event.

"It's so amazing to watch and experience how many people on this campus really care — enough to come together in this event of solidarity," he said.

Hanjaya-Putra said he was motivated to help after enduring the painful experience of watching the tsunami from afar.

"At first, I thought it was a minor disaster," he said. "Then every time I

turned on the TV, the [number of victims] was climbing every minute."

Lisa Lu, a Breen-Phillips sophomore who was born in China but now lives in Hawaii, donated some silk dresses to the silent auction, which included everything from chopsticks to wind chimes to jewelry.

"It's a call for global unity in a time of disaster," Lu said. "The U.S. is supposed to be an altruistic nation — that motivated me."

Sophomore Covington Doan came to the event for symbolic reasons.

"It's a good way of showing your friends affected by the tsunami," he said, "that you and the rest of the campus care."

In addition to the large dinner, smaller events took place all over campus, including a bake sale in Lewis Hall. Sophomore Valerie Atria purchased some baked goods and offered her thoughts on the relief efforts.

"Nothing we can do can really take away what the trauma of what happened to all those people," she said. "However, it is important to do something, no matter how trivial, to help them start rebuilding their lives."

Contact Eileen Duffy at
eduffy1@nd.edu

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Tickets

continued from page 1

resented," Barkes said. "The Philharmonic wanted some seats — they did not know how many people would be coming." Freshman Francisco Castillo said organizers seriously underestimated student demand and he was not hopeful about receiving a ticket.

"I'm quite concerned. ... It's unfair. The University should try to just do more than one performance."

Barkes said students and other individuals picked in the lottery would be e-mailed about their status during the next couple days. During winter break, the PAC sent an e-mail explaining the lottery process in which each student chosen would be able to purchase a single ticket.

Students in the lottery had mixed reactions to the lottery system.

"At least we're getting a fair chance," said graduate student Belinda Byrne. "I would've preferred it if there had been two tickets [per winning lottery number]."

Because this was one of the first high-profile events of its kind at the PAC, Barkes said it was difficult to anticipate student interest exactly but organizers expected it to be high.

"I'm certainly pleased with the numbers of students that responded," he said.

This performance marks the first time the PAC has used a lottery for student tickets, Barkes said.

"With the exception of very few events, students have been able to get into everything they've wanted to get into," he said.

Although not particularly concerned about the lottery process, sophomore Margaret Auer said she intended to wait for the results and hoped to be chosen.

"It's something I personally was really interested in," she said.

Contact Teresa Fralish at tfralish@nd.edu

COR

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Istvan said the excess money in the carry-over fund would comfortably cover the cost of student government's initial investment in the endowment.

"We will never run a \$160,000 debt," Istvan said. "We could easily take out \$100,000 and still have more than enough protection."

Council members debated how to raise the remaining \$900,000 for the endowment.

Siegfried senator James Leito endorsed the idea but emphasized the need for research before further action is taken.

"The problem is that a lot of work still needs to be done before we can write a charter for this. Who will manage it?" Leito said. "What groups will be able to withdraw from it and how much will they be allowed to collect?"

Leito told representatives that he met with Father Mark Poorman, vice president for student affairs, to discuss the matter but it was not received well.

"From his perspective, we have just recently come up

with the idea," Leito said. "He doesn't think we've done enough research, and he said it will not be part of his tenure plan."

Council members also expressed concern over whether the endowment would draw speakers or musical guests to campus.

Student Union Board Manager Jimmy Flaherty noted a \$1 million endowment providing \$50,000 a year would not necessarily be adequate enough to bring large concerts to campus.

"To be honest, if we're talking about bringing in Dave Matthews, it's not enough money," Flaherty said. "To put on a show the way it should be for him would cost between \$250,000 and \$500,000."

Flaherty said choosing to allocate the fund to speakers instead of musicians would be more beneficial and practical.

"It is going to be harder to get alumni to donate money for a big U2 concert," he said.

Leito agreed, but said that if

the endowment fund could be increased, then the likelihood of bringing big-name musicians would increase.

"This is a 100-percent academic campus and speakers will serve an academic purpose. But I don't think we should completely avoid concerts," Leito said. "If we are going to get the big names, then we need to shoot for the moon."

Cavanaugh senator Jordan Bongiovanni reminded representatives of the need to pursue the interests of the students on campus, since the initial donation made by student government

is ultimately from the students themselves.

"Where the money came from is going to influence where it is going," she said. "The money is from students and for students, so they need to be considered in where it's going."

Student body vice president Karla Bell assigned various members of COR to a committee that will research the possibilities of an endowment fund

and develop a plan to begin raising money.

Leito assured representatives that steps would be taken to turn the discussion into reality.

"By the end of the academic year we will have a plan for the endowment and hopefully money going into it," Leito said.

In other COR news:

◆ Representatives also discussed the technology fund, and Leito announced to representatives that new computers are going to be purchased.

"Effective immediately, SUB and student government will each be getting a new computer," Leito said.

Leito noted that the actual number of computers to be purchased was not yet determined.

"We will get OIT to look at our computers a see which ones are salvageable," he said.

Those that can be repaired will likely be given to each class council. Members told Bell how many computers they believed their respective constituencies needed.

Contact Mary Kate Malone at mmalone3@nd.edu

Closing

continued from page 1

no complaints.

"It is a little bit farther of a walk for students and that was my biggest concern," said Bowles. "The students have just been very cooperative and very supportive."

Business at Dalloway's,

both from students and staff has increased, said Bowles.

"Traffic has been increasing steadily to the point where it is almost as good as what was at Haggar," said Bowles. "The bigger concern for me is the students. [The wait time at Dalloway's] should be getting shorter because the students over there are getting trained."

Some of the cooking appliances in Haggar will be moved and used in the new cyber café, said Bowles, but most of it will be sold and replaced with new ones.

No decision has been made on future use of the space the snack bar previously occupied.

Employees who had formerly worked in Haggar were re-assigned to other

positions on campus, said Bowles.

Some moved to Dalloway's while others now work in the dining hall or in catering services.


"The opportunity was given to students as well that if they wanted they could pick up hours at the dining hall," said Bowles.

Contact Megan O'Neil at ongi0907@saintmarys.edu

a life's calling

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Palestinian militants halt attacks

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Militant groups have agreed to temporarily halt attacks on Israel, a trial period before a formal truce agreement, to give Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas time to appeal to Israel to stop targeting militants, Palestinian officials said Monday.

The movement toward a cease-fire, coupled with efforts by Palestinian police to stop militants from firing rockets from Gaza into Israel, has raised hopes that a deal can be reached to end four years of bloody conflict between the two sides.

In the only serious incident Monday, soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian, who was in a no-go zone near the Karni crossing between Gaza and Israel apparently planning to plant a bomb, Army Radio and the military said. On Jan. 13, Palestinian attackers killed five Israelis at the crossing.

Saddam's lawyer receives threats

AMMAN, Jordan — An Iraqi lawyer on Saddam Hussein's defense team has received several death threats in the last three weeks and has gone into hiding, the chief defense attorney for the deposed Iraqi leader said Monday.

Khalil al-Duleimi, one of 25 attorneys representing Saddam, told other lawyers on the team that the threats followed his Dec. 16 meeting with the ousted Iraqi leader, according to chief defense attorney Ziad al-Khasawneh.

Saddam was arraigned in a Baghdad court in July 2004 on charges of war crimes and genocide. He is awaiting trial.

Al-Duleimi claimed that several messages were delivered to his home warning that "suicide cells had been formed specifically to liquidate him so that he would set an example to all other attorneys who have volunteered to defend

Mass suicide attempt at Gitmo

23 terror suspects tried to hang or strangle themselves during 2003 protest

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Twenty-three terror suspects tried to hang or strangle themselves during a week-long protest orchestrated in 2003 to disrupt operations and unnerve new guards at the U.S. military camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the U.S. military said Monday.

Officials hadn't previously reported the incidents, which the military called "self-injurious behavior" aimed at getting attention rather than serious suicide attempts.

The coordinated attempts were among 350 "self-harm" incidents that year, including 120 so-called "hanging gestures," at the secretive prison that opened after the Sept. 11 attacks, according to Lt. Col. Leon Sumpter, a spokesman for the detention mission.

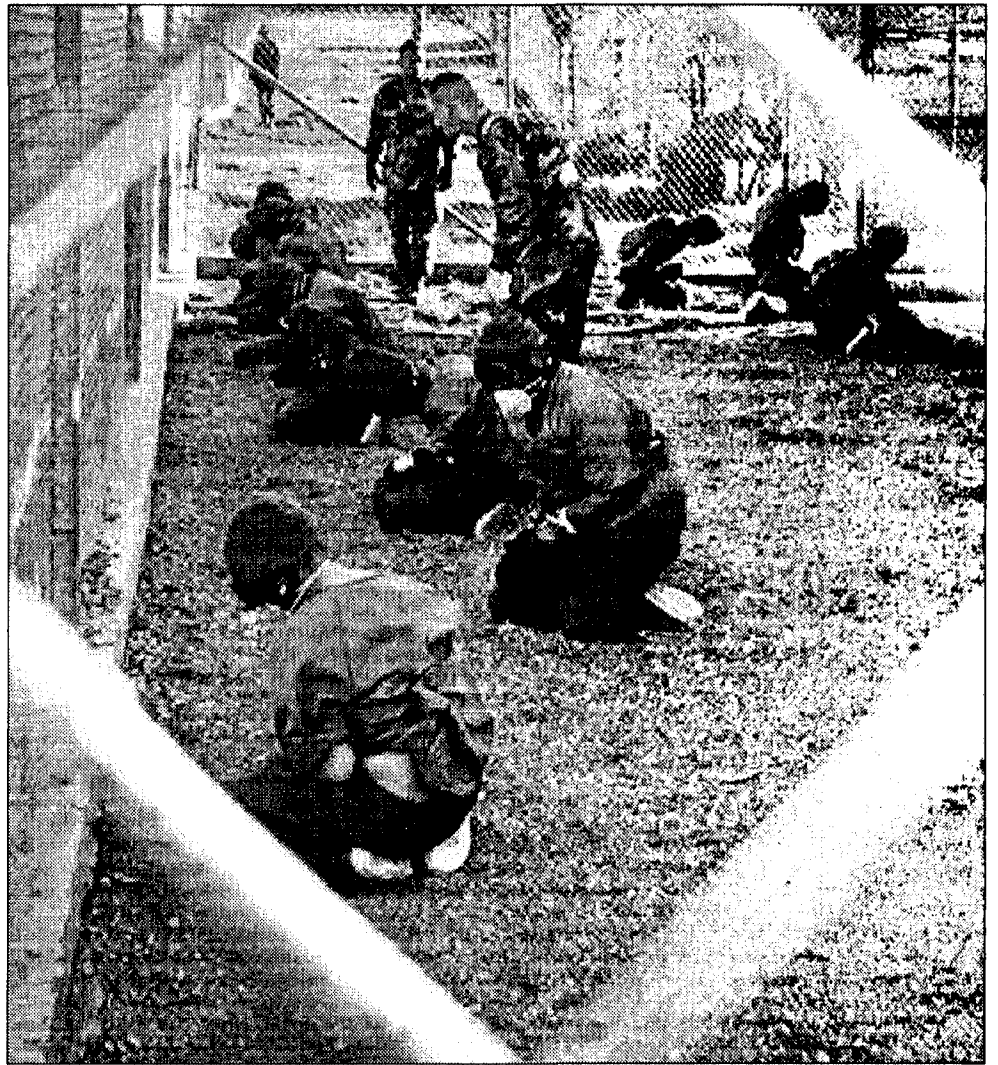
In the Aug. 18-26, 2003, protest, nearly two dozen prisoners tried to hang or strangle themselves with clothing and other items in their cells, demonstrating "self-injurious behavior," the U.S. Southern Command in Miami said in a statement. Ten detainees made a mass attempt on Aug. 22 alone.

Last year, there were 110 self-harm incidents, Sumpter said.

The 23 prisoners were in steel mesh cells and they can talk to neighbors. It would not have been possible to pass notes, and they are allowed to exercise only one at a time.

Only two of the 23 were considered suicide attempts — requiring hospitalization and psychiatric treatment. Officials said they differentiated between a suicide attempt in which a detainee could have died without intervention, and a "gesture" aimed at getting attention.

Sixteen of the 23 remain at Guantanamo; seven have been transferred to other countries.



Suspected Taliban and al-Qaida detainees sit in a holding area at Camp X-Ray at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Twenty-three prisoners attempted suicide here in 2003.

NATIONAL NEWS

March held to protest Roe v. Wade

WASHINGTON — Abortion protesters marched though chilly Washington on Monday emboldened by Republican election gains they said gave new momentum to their 32-year fight to overturn Roe v. Wade. President Bush told them by phone, "This movement will not fail."

Protest leaders said stronger Republican majorities in both houses of Congress and Bush's re-election reflect the public's support for more restrictions on abortion. Chief Justice William Rehnquist's battle with thyroid cancer injected a sense of urgency into this year's demonstrations, nearly guaranteeing one retirement on the high court during Bush's term.

Loan program needs improvement

WASHINGTON — The Education Department lacks oversight of a rapidly growing program that lets colleges lend money and turn a profit at public expense, congressional auditors say.

Without improvement, the Federal Student Aid office "may be unaware of practices that could place taxpayer dollars at risk," the Government Accountability Office said Monday.

The government has long counted schools as eligible lenders under the Federal Family Education Loan Program, giving students another place to turn for financial aid. Yet over the last decade, colleges have embraced the program as a way to make money — revenue often used to help lower costs for students, but also to fix up campuses or to recruit new students.

LOCAL NEWS

Hoosier soldier killed in Iraq

TERRE HAUTE — A soldier from Terre Haute has been killed while serving in Iraq, his family said.

Army Sgt. Kyle William Childress, 29, died on Friday. He was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division based at Fort Hood, Texas, his family said. Details of his death were not immediately released by the Defense Department.

Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division are among the 35,000 troops in a task force working in the Baghdad area on security and others missions in Iraq.

Forces capture 'lethal' al-Qaida leader

Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraqi security forces have arrested the "most lethal" top lieutenant of al-Qaida's leader in Iraq — a man allegedly behind most of the car bombings in Baghdad since the U.S.-led invasion, including the 2003 assault on U.N. headquarters that killed 22 people, the prime minister's office said Monday.

Sami Mohammed Ali Said al-Jaaf, also known as Abu Omar al-Kurdi, was arrested during a Jan. 15 raid in Baghdad, a government statement said Monday. Two other militants linked to Jordanian-born Abu

Musab al-Zarqawi's terror group also were arrested, authorities announced Monday.

Al-Jaaf was "the most lethal of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's lieutenants," the statement said.

Al-Zarqawi heads al-Qaida in Iraq, the terror network's local affiliate. The group is behind many of the car bombings, beheadings, assassinations and other attacks driving the insurgency in Iraq.

The suspect was linked to the August 2003 bombing of U.N. headquarters in Baghdad, which killed the top U.N. envoy in Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello, and 21 others. The U.N. attack was "planned and

directed by two others affiliated with Abu Omar," the statement said.

Al-Jaaf was responsible for 32 car bombing attacks that killed hundreds of Iraqis, the statement said. Al-Jaaf "confessed to building approximately 75 percent of the car bombs used in attacks in Baghdad since March 2003," said Thaer al-Naqib, spokesman for interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

"Abu Omar al-Kurdi claims responsibility for some of the most ruthless attacks on Iraqi police forces and police stations," al-Naqib said.

FCC rejects watchdog group's complaints

Members counter 36 objections of indecency filed by parents against popular TV shows

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Regulators rejected 36 complaints of indecency Monday against popular TV shows including "Friends" and "The Simpsons."

The objections had been filed with the Federal Communications Commission by the Parents Television Council, a watchdog group that frequently complains about sex and violence on television.

"In context, none of the segments were patently offensive under contemporary community standards for the broadcast medium, and thus not indecent," the agency said in a statement. The FCC also ruled "the material was not profane, in context."

Three members of the five-member FCC approved the orders: Chairman Michael Powell and Kathleen Abernathy, both Republicans; and Democrat Jonathan Adelstein. The two other commissioners, Democrat Michael Copps and Republican Kevin Martin, dissented on parts of the rulings.

Copps said in a statement that the agency should have performed a more thorough investigation. "I believe that some of these broadcasts present a much closer call," he said.

Powell announced last week he was leaving the FCC in March. Martin, who has been rumored to be among candidates to replace him as chairman, did not comment Monday but said he would issue a statement at a later date.

An FCC official said the 36 complaints were grouped together because they all dealt with the Parents Television Council, but the official did not comment about why complaints filed by the group over other shows were not included.

Lara Mahaney, a spokeswoman for the council, said her group has complaints about dozens of other shows pending.

"In what community in America are graphic terms for genitalia decent?" Mahaney said. "The commission's ruling

added no clarification and added more confusion."

The council alleged in the 36 complaints that the programs which aired between Oct. 29, 2001, and Feb. 11, 2004 contained sexually explicit segments or used indecent or profane language that violated indecency standards.

One complaint involved an episode of NBC's "Friends" that aired in May 2003. In it, a female character, her husband and the husband's ex-girlfriend talk about a fertility treatment at a medical office.

A complaint over "The Simpsons," which airs on Fox, included a scene from a November 2003 episode in which students carried picket signs with the phrases "What would Jesus glue?" and "Don't cut off my pianissimo."

Federal law bars nonsatellite radio and noncable television stations from airing references to sexual and excretory functions between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m., when children are more likely to be listening and watching.

The FCC said the segments in question "were not patently offensive" within the context of the shows.

The FCC's responses to indecency complaints have received extra scrutiny since singer Janet Jackson's "wardrobe malfunction" at last year's Super Bowl halftime show.

The FCC received more than 1 million indecency complaints in 2004, most of them involving the exposure of Jackson's breast during her performance. Fines for indecent programming exceeded \$7.7 million last year, a huge increase from the \$48,000 imposed in 2000, the year before Powell became chairman.

Powell has said the crack-down was in response to mounting complaints from consumers and Congress.

Copps criticized Monday's rulings as "rather cursory decisions" that did not address the objections of viewers nor those of skittish broadcasters worried about what may be too racy to air. He singled out concern for a movie that aired on ABC in May 2003, "The Diary of Ellen Rimbauer."

"In what community in America are graphic terms for genitalia decent?"

Lara Mahaney
Parents Television
Council spokeswoman

Supreme Court ends long battle

Justices deny appeal, refuse to keep woman alive on life support

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court refused on Monday to step in and keep a severely brain-damaged woman hooked to a feeding tube, all but ending a long-running right-to-die battle pitting her husband against her parents.

It was the second time the Supreme Court dodged the politically charged case from Florida, where Republican Gov. Jeb Bush successfully lobbied the Legislature to pass a law to keep 41-year-old Terri Schiavo on life support.

The decision was criticized as "judicial homicide" by Mrs. Schiavo's father, Robert Schindler, but applauded by her husband, Michael Schiavo, who contends his wife never wanted to be kept alive artificially.

The court's action is very narrow, affecting only Schiavo.

More broadly, sometime after returning from their winter break, the justices will consider the Bush administration's request to block the nation's only law allowing doctors to help terminally ill patients die more quickly. Oregon voters passed that law in 1998, and more states could follow if justices find that the federal government cannot punish doctors who prescribed lethal doses of federally controlled drugs.

Terri Schiavo was 26 when she suffered brain damage in 1990 after her heart tem-

porarily stopped beating because of an eating disorder.

Most of the legal wrangling in the case has involved whether she is in a persistent vegetative state with no chance of recovery and whether her husband has a conflict of interest because he lives with another woman and has two children with her.

The legal battle between Mrs. Schiavo's husband and parents began in 1993 and appeared to reach its climax in 2003 when Michael Schiavo won a court decision ordering that the feeding tube be removed. But it was reinserted six days later, after the Legislature passed "Terri's Law."

The Florida Supreme Court ruled that the law was an unconstitutional effort to override court rulings. The nation's high court refused without comment to disturb that decision.

"It's judicial homicide. They want to murder her," Schindler said.

"I have no idea what the next step will be. We're going to fight for her as much as we can fight for her. She deserves a chance."

George Felos, the attorney for Michael Schiavo, said his client will have his wife's feeding tube removed as soon as pending appeals are over and a stay is lifted.

"You've got to look at it from his perspective — he's a citizen living in Clearwater (Fla.) and up against the weight of the governor and Legislature of the state of Florida — a governor whose brother is

president of the United States. That was a very, very difficult and imposing fight. He was very relieved that the rule of law prevailed," Felos said.

Mrs. Schiavo, who has lived in nursing homes, can breathe on her own but depends on a feeding tube to stay alive because she cannot swallow on her own. She left no written directive. Her parents contend their son-in-law is trying to rush her death so he can inherit her estate and be free to marry again. The Schindlers lost an emergency Supreme Court appeal in 2001.

The case now goes back to state Judge George Greer, who already has ruled the feeding tube can be removed.

"It's judicial homicide. They want to murder her."

Robert Schindler
Terri Schiavo's father

"While there are still legal options available in Florida, the Supreme Court's refusal to take the case makes it more difficult for those legal options to prevail," said Jay Sekulow, the American Center for Law and

Justice chief counsel who represented the Schindlers at the Supreme Court.

The Schindlers were in Washington on Monday, participating in a right-to-life march organized as part of the 32nd anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision legalizing abortion.

Ken Connor, one of the lawyers who represented Bush at the high court, said: "The reality is that in Florida, convicted capital felons receive more due process protection than Terri Schiavo has received in this case."

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John, Kerry



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Stocks
Dow Jones 10,402.08 +9.09

Up: 1,417 Same: 141 Down: 1,234 Composite Volume: 1,109,404,672

AMEX 1,412.87 -1.71
NASDAQ 2,016.40 -17.87
NYSE 7,000.14 +3.58
S&P 500 1,167.64 -0.23
NIKKEI(Tokyo) 11,289.49 +51.12
FTSE 100(London) 4,812.50 +9.20

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100 TR SER I (QQQQ)	-1.24	-0.46	36.59
SIRIUS SATELLITE R (SIRI)	+4.46	+0.26	6.09
EBAY INC (EBAY)	-4.60	-3.96	82.89
CISCO SYS INC (CSCO)	-0.44	-0.08	17.93
INTEL CP (INTC)	-1.29	-0.29	22.13

Treasuries			
30-YEAR BOND	-0.78	-0.36	46.07
10-YEAR NOTE	-0.43	-0.18	41.22
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.22	+0.08	36.47
3-MONTH BILL	-0.04	-0.01	23.01

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+0.28	48.81	
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+0.20	427.10	
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-0.43	93.68	

Exchange Rates			
YEN		102.6400	
EURO		0.76 56	
POUND		0.53 16	
CANADIAN \$		1.2239	

IN BRIEF

Stock lows blamed on Iraqi election

NEW YORK — Stocks slumped in listless trading Monday amid concerns about the upcoming Iraqi election and rising oil prices. The major indexes closed at their lowest levels of the year.

Market watchers were growing increasingly concerned about January's slide in stocks, which some analysts blamed on Wall Street's strong fourth quarter performance. A car bomb attack in Baghdad, targeting the prime minister's party headquarters, did little to ease the anxiety of investors ahead of Iraq's Jan. 30 election. Oil prices declined early in the day, but settled up 28 cents at \$48.81 per barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

"In general, the market is waiting for the elections in Iraq," said Barry Berman, head trader for Robert W. Baird & Co. in Milwaukee. "And oil prices have been on the move up for the past week."

The Dow Jones industrials seesawed in and out of positive range through much of the day, closing down 24.38, or 0.23 percent, at 10,368.61.

Former airline executive to help ATA

INDIANAPOLIS — The parent company of ATA Airlines Inc. named a retired Southwest Airlines Co. executive Monday to help ATA restructure its debt as it prepares to emerge from bankruptcy.

John G. Denison will be ATA's co-chief restructuring officer, working with its management to restructure operations and prepare a bankruptcy reorganization plan.

Denison retired from Southwest Airlines in 2001 after 15 years with the Dallas-based carrier, which reached a \$117 million deal last month under which it will acquire six of ATA's 14 gates at Chicago's Midway International Airport.

He will share that task with Sean Frick, ATA's vice president of strategic planning, who was named to the co-chief post this month after the airline's chief restructuring officer, Gilbert Viets, stepped aside.

Viets, a former Arthur Andersen executive, had been named to the restructuring post in October as Indianapolis-based ATA neared bankruptcy.

Temperatures fall, oil prices rise

Supply concerns combining with Northeast winter storm lift crude-oil futures

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Crude-oil futures settled slightly higher in New York on Monday, as supply concerns mixed with freezing temperatures in the Northeast United States to lift prices. In other commodities trading, silver futures secured their highest close so far in 2005.

Uppermost in oil traders' minds were worries about a brewing oil-worker strike in Nigeria and potential terrorist attacks on Middle East oil facilities before Sunday's election in Iraq.

"Iraq, Nigeria and cold weather are still holding up prices," said Andrew Lebow, broker for Man Financial in New York. Curbing gains Monday were mounting signs that OPEC wouldn't cut oil production at its meeting this week in Vienna, traders said.

Benchmark light, sweet crude futures for March settled at \$48.81 a barrel, up 28 cents, on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

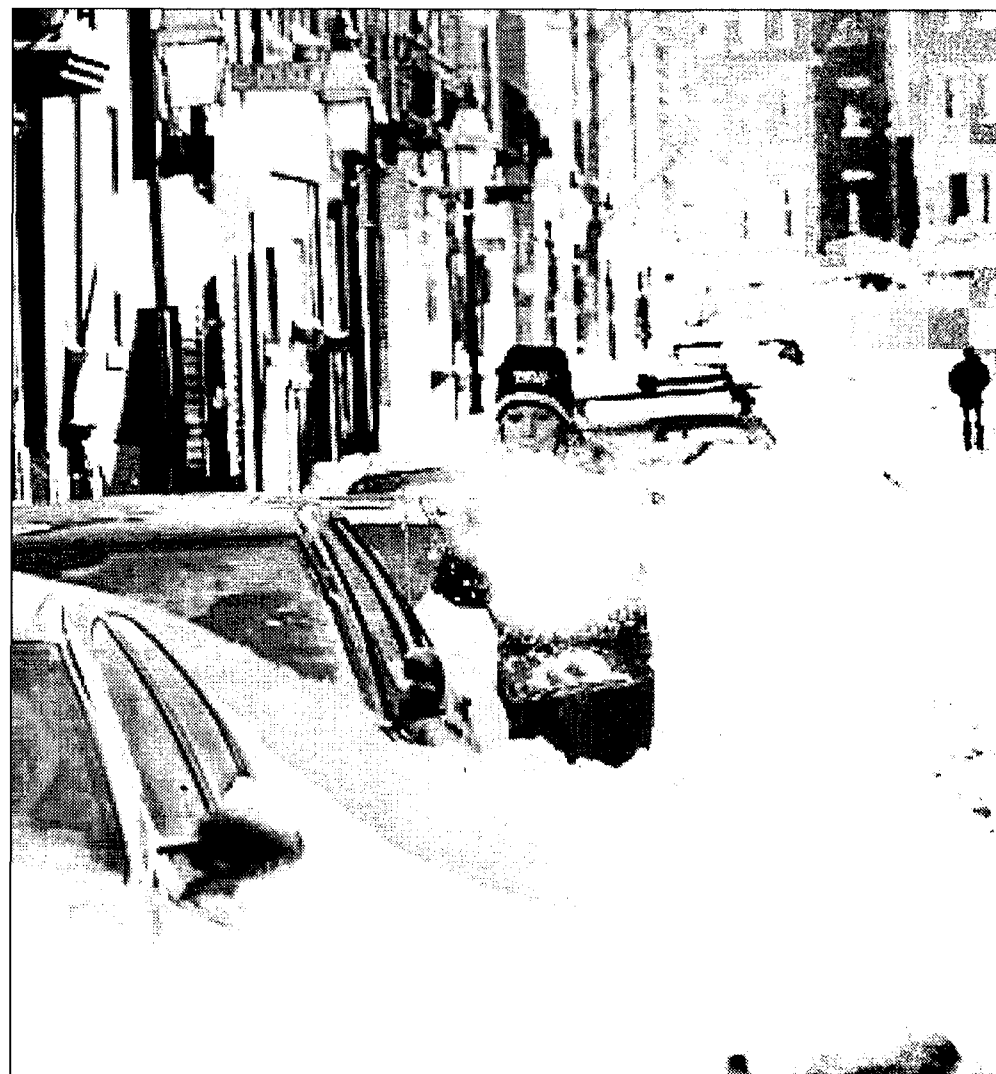
In London, Brent crude for March delivery settled at \$46.01 a barrel, up 28 cents, on the International Petroleum Exchange.

The day's muted, mostly sideways activity was in sharp relief against last Friday's broad rally to nearly \$50 a barrel, as New England braced for one of its biggest snowstorms in more than 25 years.

The storm, which piled as much as three feet of snow on some parts of New England during the weekend, mostly cleared by Monday, but some physical supply snags lingered.

Barge traffic carrying petroleum products slowed in New York Harbor during the weekend, with at least one local barge company still reporting difficulties.

The storm, which closed airports and bus terminals, likely will increase short-term demand for heating



Anne Kennedy removes snow from her car in Boston on Monday. The recent winter storm will likely increase demands for heating oil and minimize gas consumption.

oil and minimize gasoline consumption, analysts said.

Nymex heating oil futures for February settled up 1.95 cents at \$1.4032 a gallon after hitting a month high in the morning.

Nymex gasoline futures for the same month settled at \$1.2990 a gallon, down 6 cents, after approaching two-month high in early trading.

On the IPE, February gasoil futures rose \$3.25 to \$407.25 a metric ton, as traders also reported colder winter temperatures in Europe.

Oil futures could stay high if the chilly weather continues, Lebow said, but a \$3 to \$4 fear premium in

Iraq may leave the market after this Sunday's parliamentary election.

"Presumably, some of this fear premium in the market will come out, providing nothing astronomical happens," he said.

While Iraq has been plagued with many localized terrorist strikes this month, none have had global ramifications. Even so, it is too soon to tell what will happen during the next six days.

In Nigeria, oil unions pushed back Monday's plan to strike until Tuesday in order to meet with the Nigerian government's labor ministry officials. The strike, which seeks to oust two oil industry executives from the

country, could cut off more than 500,000 barrels a day of oil production.

In other trading, silver futures at the Nymex settled up after fund and dealer buyers were drawn into the market by the initially firm industrial metals arena and early weakness in the U.S. dollar against other currencies.

The most active March contract settled 4.8 cents higher at \$6.86 an ounce.

April gold was up 30 cents to \$429.30 an ounce.

Spot gold in New York finished up 10 cents at \$426.60 an ounce.

April platinum gained \$2.90 to \$872.20 an ounce, while March palladium rose 85 cents to \$192.90 an ounce.

CEO asks to bar investor testimony

Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — A jury was selected Monday for Richard Scrushy's corporate fraud trial as the fired HealthSouth CEO asked the judge to bar testimony about investor losses in an accounting scandal at the rehabilitation chain.

The jury of 12 and six alternates was chosen in a courtroom closed to the public, with news media observing on closed-circuit television. The panel's composition was not known.

U.S. District Judge Karon Bowdre told the jurors to return Tuesday for opening statements.

In a filing late Sunday, attorneys for Scrushy said he is not contesting the

existence of a scheme to inflate earnings "but, rather, that he was unaware of it and was not a knowing participant."

The Scrushy defense said that since he is not contesting that others at HealthSouth falsified financial reports, jurors do not need to hear anything about its impact on investors. Prosecutors have said earnings were inflated by \$2.6 billion from 1996 to 2002.

Scrushy, 52, has pleaded not guilty to a 58-count indictment that includes charges of fraud, conspiracy, obstruction of justice, perjury, money laundering and false corporate reporting in the first test of the 2002 Sarbanes-Oxley Act.

The judge had no comment on the latest Scrushy defense request.

The filing by Scrushy's lawyers said the government is expected to show that a huge fraud took place, including testimony from all five former chief financial officers of the company that they had "direct conversations" with Scrushy about the scheme. Since Scrushy is not challenging the existence of fraud at HealthSouth, there is no need for victims to testify about the financial harm they suffered, the defense said.

"The only real issue for the jury to decide is whether or not Richard Scrushy was a knowing participant in the scheme to defraud," the defense said.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Tuesday, January 25, 2005

THE OBSERVER

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Reflection on the Inauguration

Despite long delays and Friday's blizzard, our small group managed to make it out to Washington for last week's Inauguration. It was great to be back out in Washington to see the spectacle of thousands of Texans getting in the way of native Washingtonians on the Metro, as well as the glare of some liberals clinging to their "Kerry Edwards" buttons in some form of therapy.

From my experiences of the city in our Washington Program, I could easily pick out the D.C. natives against the throngs of tourists. Sometimes I could not help but get mad myself as large groups of various fellow red state voters clogged up the escalators and violated many parts of what I learned to be the unwritten rules of east coast etiquette. As I began to notice some trends in the behavior of the two groups, I began my own version of an informal social science study through observation.

Despite all this, the throngs of red states had some very surprising and redeeming qualities that I didn't see in their D.C. counterparts. At many random times on the Metro, some would say hello and start a conversation. They also felt very comfortable dressing in some of the tackiest souvenir sweatshirts and hats I have ever seen. All of these traits were very stereotypically American, and in our grand traditions of being the ever annoying tourists.

With the exception of a few privileged donors, the people attending this inauguration were not a group of aloof billionaires. They were the kind of friendly Midwesterners and Southerners I have learned to love in my experiences of America.

Collectively, they share in the pain of those who have unfortunately lost loved ones in Iraq. At many of the Inaugural Balls, Veterans were honored for their service and given free invitations. Debunking yet another myth of Republicans, we did not celebrate this inauguration aloof to the sacrifices that brave heroes have made.

At the Indiana Ball, the so-called "evil corporations" sponsoring this event paid for veterans and their families to attend for free. The Toyota Corporation has even started a program under which employees called to Iraq for service will keep their full pay and benefits for the duration of their tour of duty. Although expensive, these parties were not the obscure elitist playgrounds liberals wish to depict them as, but places where service and volunteerism were celebrated.

The efforts of the left to simplify our party to radical Christians and heartless slaves to corporate interests are just not true. Republicans celebrating in Washington last week all shared somehow in the service of their country. Indeed, there was some of the wealthy minority in attendance who could best help the party through generous donations. Aside from that, many of us in attendance put many volunteer hours in on campaigns, worked phone banks and walked door to door to push for an agenda we believed in.

Before I ramble on any longer, I should draw to the conclusion of my experiment in observation. What sets the red state voters apart from others? I draw the difference as optimism in America itself. This optimism thanks God we are not standing idly by waiting for the terrorists to take the first move on us. It is an optimism that does not think itself above manifesting itself

in tacky merchandise and cowboy hats to show pride in the greatest country on earth. It screams they are proud to be American and do not care about the opinions of the world community while doing what is right. It is an optimism that was foolish enough to believe over 200 years ago that 13 colonies could challenge the British Empire.

That optimism and hope for the future is what has made the United States the superpower it is today. When the rest of the world turns their back on the hard road of doing what is unpopular, the United States will be there to roll up her sleeves and do what is necessary. The war in Iraq will not get any easier, but once again we will show the world the folly of the cowardice of those who hid behind the banner of the League of Nations before World War II, and hide as well today behind the United Nations in the face of terrorism and global weapons of mass destruction proliferation.

I happened to turn on an HBO documentary after the Inauguration about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. In it, Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu explained that, "The only true test of leadership is risking failure in the pursuit of doing what you believe is right." Last week, we celebrated the fact President George W. Bush has placed his entire political career on the line to pursue something we believe will spread the banner of freedom and increase the security of the world.

Tom Rippinger is a senior political science major. He supports President Bush and is the co-President of the Notre Dame College Republicans. He can be contacted at trippin1@nd.edu.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

How many of your professors are priests, brothers or sisters?

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m. at
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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Talent alone won't make you a success. Neither will being in the right place at the right time, unless you are ready. The most important question is: 'Are you ready?'"

Johnny Carson
entertainer

U-WIRE

Late-night loses a star

Johnny Carson, the famed NBC "Tonight Show" host of almost 30 years, died Sunday. His death was the top story of news broadcasts for most, if not all, of Sunday afternoon.

Citing the date of his retirement (many of us were still in elementary school), some may argue how much his death actually affects this generation.

Staff Editorial

"More than you think," we respond.

Ball State University Daily News

It is likely that few, if any, of us knew Carson's work personally; even then, how many people in this youthful, college crowd could recall a "favorite" moment they saw on Carson's show?

Not many, we bet. Carson passed off the "Tonight Show" laugh-master duties to current host Jay Leno in the spring of 1992. To put things in perspective, at the time "Seinfeld" was nearing the end its third season, airing the now well-known episode "The Piez Dispenser." (Many fans may recall the episode, but probably because of the show's now widespread syndication.)

We might not be able to recall any personal memories of Carson's stint, but his effect on late-night can still be felt to this day. As for Carson the man: we were not alone in our oblivion.

In actuality, few people knew Carson well. He was known as a good man who led a private life. Joan Rivers, who often filled in for Carson, told CNN that, "Nobody got to know him ... He was very private."

Rivers, much like Jerry Seinfeld and others, got her career break from Carson during his run on "Tonight." Many others, including Leno, Ball State alumnus and CBS "Late Night" host David Letterman, Robin Williams and George Carlin, got their big breaks while Carson was at the helm, according to Reuters.

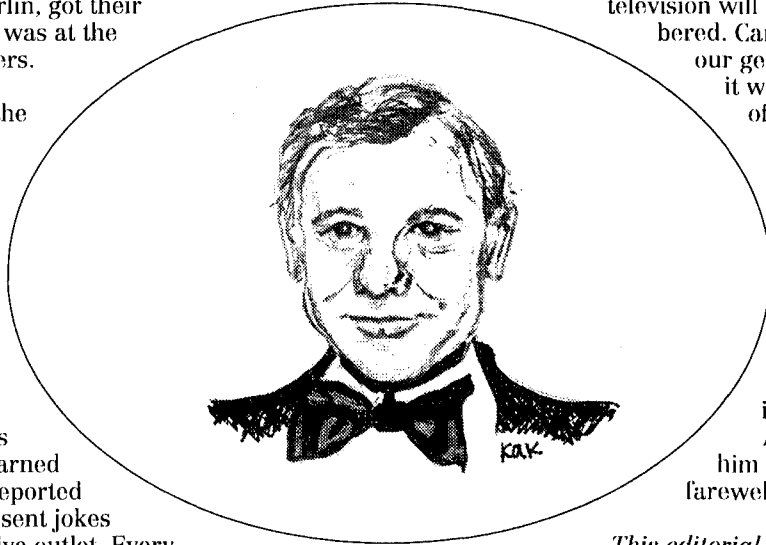
Had it not been for his treasured wave over to the guest couch, many of us may be sans a lot of laughs from these entertainers today.

Although Carson has been in mild seclusion since his retirement, making just a handful of public appearances, his jokes were still making their way to late-night viewers up until his death, we learned just last week. Reuters reported Carson still occasionally sent jokes to Letterman for a creative outlet. Every now and then, CBS' vice president Peter Lassally said, Letterman managed to weave them into his monologue.

"It is a sad day for his family and for the country,"

Letterman said in a statement to CNN on Sunday. "He was the best — a star and a gentleman."

We may not remember Johnny Carson well, but his work and subsequent effects on late-night television will forever be remembered. Carson did not affect on our generation directly; yet, if it were not for him, many of the stand-up comics and actors whom this generation has grown to love would not exist in the entity they do today. Carson has always had modern late-night television and comedy's debt and gratitude; he deserved it. And for that, we bid him a "very heartfelt farewell."



This editorial originally appeared in the Jan. 24 issue of The Daily News, the daily publication at Ball State University. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Why are students liberal?

What makes college students liberal? The liberal answer is they want to make the world better. Then again, just about everyone in politics wishes for that in one way or another. The polemical answer is most college students are young, spoiled and a bit sheltered. Whether or not that's true, it only explains character, not motif. The complete answer to why many students are liberal requires an examination of external rewards, because no one is free from her or his selfish human drives.

Anthony Harris

University of Iowa Daily Iowan

Status: Young people strive for status by associating themselves with people who have status and the values honored by those people. In college, that means intellectuals, democratic politicians and entertainers. By committing themselves to liberal values, youth seek to acquire value. This is understandable, because without status, one doesn't have any agency, and without agency, life has little meaning.

Stability: Liberalism offers the young, offended by moral shades of gray (the Iraq war, for example), a sturdy, simple framework for understanding the philosophical, social and even physical order of things.

Self-esteem: What young adult doesn't like being told "good job" by approving authority figures? When those authority figures are overwhelmingly liberal, the clearest route to positive reinforcement involves developing and expressing sensibilities that professors are flattered with, as opposed to challenged by.

Security: Being frivolously accused of everything from racism to xenophobia by activist students is no way to spend four years of college (especially when teaching assistants feel powerless about discouraging disruptive behavior). Disassociating from unpopular conservative philosophy will shelter most students from this type of degrading treatment by their peers.

Legitimacy: Many students get their first taste of the adult world of politics through college. To new converts, no matter how small of a difference they make, or even if they negatively affect America, participating in bohemian protests and echoing all the philosophies society has deemed "progressive" produces a strong feeling that one is contributing to the social good.

Undiplomatic immunity: In the past, defining grievances in liberal terms, no matter

how exaggerated they were, allowed students a forum to exercise their most destructive drives with minimal repercussions. During the late 1960s and early 1970s, groups such as the Students for Democratic Society harassed professors and other students, burned books and took over buildings, fearing nothing more than an occasional expulsion from conflict-phobic administrators (as for National Guard troops, that's another story). Liberals know this, which is why they romanticize the Vietnam War era. Even today, liberal acting out is often rewarded in the long run. Liberals know that Michael Moore is a liar and a propagandist, but they echo his arguments and buy his movies anyway.

Empathy: Liberalism offers a form of love contingent on the ability to portray one's self as a victim of a callous American culture. Because it's necessary to at least maintain the appearance of victimhood to become the focus of liberal kindness, liberalism encourages grievance-collecting or worse.

In case you haven't heard, Harvard University President Larry Summers suggested during a conference discrimination may not be keeping women from earning top positions in the sciences at upscale universities. He listed other possible reasons for underrepresentation could be innate biological differences between men and women and that perhaps women haven't been willing to sacrifice family for career as readily as men have. One alleged professional, biologist Nancy Hopkins, walked out of the conference, explaining afterward she "would have either blacked out or thrown up" had she stayed. Liberals could have let her know it's a little pathetic to claim being offended can make one black out or throw up. Instead, liberals accepted Hopkin's hyperbole and legitimized her pettiness, as well as the presumption that Summers couldn't have said the things he did in good faith.

Blatant patronization may be low, but it still feels good to be on the receiving end of it.

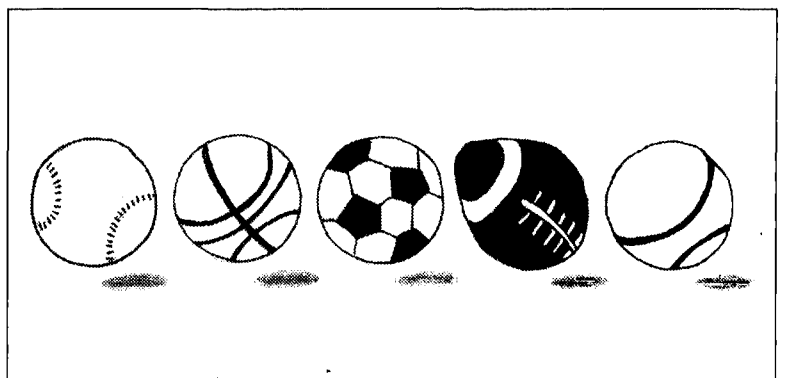
In contrast, universities only offer conservatives the distinction of not being part of the drooling mob and a lot of headaches.

No wonder students are liberal.

This column originally appeared in the Jan. 24 issue of The Daily Iowan, the daily publication at the University of Iowa.

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

P.E. needed in schools now more than ever



A weak body is a poor home for a strong mind. Schools across the country should remember this before cutting physical education programs.

In the face of tight budgets and increased demands for "results" — i.e. good test scores — some schools have cut or decreased P.E. programs in elementary and secondary schools. Illinois is the only state that requires daily physical education for students through senior year. Other states should take note.

Staff Editorial

Northern Illinois University Northern Star

In Tennessee, for example, only 18 percent of high school seniors take part in a P.E. class, according to CNN.com.

About 30 percent of young people are deemed overweight or obese, according to a Dec. 27 article in the Washington Times.

Extra pounds can lead to greater risks for a number of ailments, including diabetes, hypertension, cancer, heart disease and depression.

The Institute of Medicine of the National Academies has called for increased "opportunities for frequent, more intensive and engaging physical activity during and after school" to improve students' health.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has even declared obesity an epidemic.

With this in mind, physical education is more important than ever. Keeping students active helps head off obesity and lets them work off energy so they can better focus on homework.

P.E. also teaches students kinetic skills and builds teamwork. It can provide students with a foundation for health, upon which they can build for the rest of their lives.

Critics of physical education say classes are often poorly run, with teachers facing little accountability. While these may be legitimate complaints, addressing them directly would be more productive than reducing or cutting programs altogether.

Physical education is still just that — education.

This editorial originally appeared in the Jan. 24 issue of The Northern Star, the daily publication at Northern Illinois University.

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

MOVIE REVIEWS

'Closer' seduces with dark outlook on relationships

By MARY SQUILLACE
Scene Critic

Trust. Honesty. Forgiveness. While these traits are generally closely associated with love, they have no place in director Mike Nichols' ("The Graduate," "Angels in America") examination of relationships. In his film "Closer," love is not blind. It's naked and complicated and often wielded deviously. The film is an adaptation of Patrick Marber's hit play. Following its 1997 debut in London, the play received rave reviews and continued to garner awards when it opened in the United States.

The cast consists of only four characters and does not feature one central protagonist. Instead, the emphasis is placed on the characters' interactions with each other.

Jude Law plays Dan, an obituary writer and aspiring novelist. At the start of the film, Dan falls for Alice (Natalie Portman) who immediately charms him with her youthful spirit and subtle seductiveness. However, when Dan meets Anna (Julia Roberts), a photographer, his relationship with Alice becomes severely complicated.

The flirtation between Anna and Dan quickly evolves into a full-blown affair, and Larry (Clive Owen) and Alice, their respective lovers, turn to each other as they simultaneously combat this infidelity.

ty. The film tracks the deeply entwined and overlapping characters through as they thrive, falter and ultimately fail in love.

The story unfolds at a rapid, but steady pace. This way the film manages to address the taboo topics like sex and adultery without sensationalizing them. Additionally, to do justice to the intensity of Marber's screenplay, Nichols creates palpable tension and depth with deliberate and unique stylistic tactics.

Asserting people typically remember only the beginnings and endings of relationships, Nichols represents each relationship only with its beginning or ending. In this way, he presents just enough information to keep his viewers informed, without overwhelming them with unnecessary details.

Because the narrative hinges on the dialogue, effective and high-quality acting is essential. Additionally, each character is both virtuous and villainous, which requires elasticity in each actor's portrayal. Fortunately, all four cast members rise to the occasion, and turn-out complex, compelling performances.

For her role as Anna, Roberts sheds her toothy grin and typical charm, and instead relies on her ability to subtly convey guilt and deceit. Similarly, Law exhibits his range, as he takes on a role that is vastly different from his recent roles in "I Heart the Huckabees" and



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Larry (Clive Owen), right, and his wife, Anna (Julia Roberts), talk candidly about their indiscretions in director Mike Nichols' drama "Closer."

"Cold Mountain." Portman, a rising star in Hollywood, proves herself worthy of her recent Golden Globe with a focused and convincing performance.

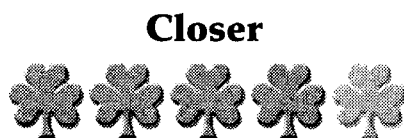
However, in spite of being the least recognizable of the cast, the film's other Golden Globe recipient, Owen (who originally played Dan in the London stage production) arguably delivers the film's best performance. At times his character teeters on the brink of self-destruction, and Owen appropriately adopts an air of raw desperation, gaining the audience's trust and sympathy.

In other scenes, he changes his approach in order to capture Larry's calculating and vindictive side. Overall,

Owen's seemingly effortless malleability effectively embodies the complexity of the character. The collective work of the cast lends itself to a powerful finished product.

With "Closer," Nichols creates a seductive starkness that tempts the viewer to fully engage him or herself, by making assumptions, evaluations and judgments. The nature of this tale is one that undoubtedly lingers long after the screening, as it presents a disconcerting but gripping commentary on relationships.

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Closer
Director: Mike Nichols
Writer: Patrick Marber
Starring: Julia Roberts, Clive Owen, Jude Law and Natalie Portman

'Noise' fails in hackneyed attempt at success

By MARK BEMENDERFER
Scene Critic

In many instances, Hollywood is a lot like a math course. For instance, Hollywood directors and writers often theorize, test and debate with their films. "White Noise" is one such example of Hollywood grasping at straws in an attempt to piece together a hit film. In "White Noise," director Geoffrey Sax and writer Niall Johnson show they have a firm grasp on hackneyed formulas.

"White Noise," under the combined might of Sax and Johnson, is another uninspired, formulaic piece of Hollywood designed to capitalize on the success of "The Ring," "The Sixth Sense" and most recently, "The Grudge." And while it succeeds on some levels, it fails miserably on others.

The plot revolves around a recent widower, Jonathan Rivers, as he tries to contact his dead wife. Michael Keaton, a capable actor who can't save the film by himself, plays Rivers. The viewer follows Rivers as he delves into taboo areas while trying to contact his recently deceased wife. He does so with the use of "amazing" EVP, electronic voice phenomena, technology. Supposedly, the deceased are able to communicate to the living through their television sets or radios.

Keaton, an actor probably most famous for his role in director Tim Burton's Batman movies, does a commendable job. Curiously absent from movies in recent years, he is one of the few saving graces within the movie. Keaton is well-suited for the part, having a knack at playing mentally-obsessed, slightly crazed individuals. He is one of the few actors in Hollywood that is almost always enjoyable to watch.

Keaton does a decent job in his role, as do most of the principal actors. However, while they are given decent roles to fill, the actual story their characters inhabit feels very lacking at times. The last half hour of the movie is especially perplexing, as events just seem to happen for little to no reason. The movie definitely ends on a poor

note, which will cause many to leave scratching their head in a bad way.

Taking a cue from the wealth of recent films with a twist at the end, "White Noise" tries to shock the audience with

an unexpected ending. And while the twist isn't quite as bad as the one in "The Village," it still seems hurried and poorly done. The ending is the most important part of the movie, as it is the last thing viewers get to see. So while the first half of the movie was actually pretty good, the second half taints the entire movie.

Some credit has to go to the writer



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Jonathan Rivers (Michael Keaton) experiments with EVP, electronic voice phenomenon, in order to contact his deceased wife in "White Noise."

though. Johnson has seen enough successful movies to attempt his own and follows their formulas pretty closely. Some of his plot points are fulfilling towards the end of the film. However, other situations that arise near the film's conclusion were not set up in the least, diminishing the ending. They feel simply tossed into the mix for shock value, which itself wasn't that great.

The ending does make sense if you think of the films "White Noise" tries to

emulate. When you look at the formulas of this film's predecessors, the ending becomes mandatory.

In the case of "White Noise," the ending runs counter to what the movie had previously spent so much time setting up. But who wants to let little details like plot get in the way of proven formulas?

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White Noise
Director: Geoffrey Sax
Writer: Niall Johnson
Starring: Michael Keaton, Chandra West, Deborah Unger and Ian McNeice

MOVIE REVIEWS

Unoriginality keeps sequel from 'Parents' greatness

By CHRIS KEPNER
Scene Critic

Ah, the sequel. Hollywood's favorite dirty little trick. Take a good film (or at least a decent one, but sometimes the standards on this vary to include some real stinkers), sign on as many of the original actors as possible, extend the original plot, add a few twists and presto barfo! You've (presumably) got yourself another blockbuster!

"Meet the Parents" was a good film. It explored a comedic situation that hadn't been overly explored in previous films of the same genre, like war epics. And though it wasn't the most original film of all time, "Meet the Parents" had a very fresh vibe to it that couldn't help but suck you in.

Now for some reason, the excitement over "Meet the Fockers" was uncommonly high given the circumstances. Here was a sequel enjoying a very rare situation where the public wanted it made even more than the studio wanted to shove it down our throats. This reviewer was no stranger to the hype.

Does "Meet the Fockers" meet expectations? Well, first you have to decide what your expectations are. If you expect a sequel with recycled jokes and a strikingly unoriginal and teeth-

gnashing predictable plot continuation, then the answer is yes. If you expect an adequately entertaining film with a healthy amount of laughs, then the answer is also yes.

So maybe it's not original. So maybe it isn't significantly funnier than "Meet the Parents." So what? In short, if you lower your expectations you will probably enjoy "Meet the Fockers."

Hoffman really is hilarious. If for no other reason, he makes this film worth seeing. He plays Mr. Focker as an outgoing, physically affectionate man that shares his wife's forwardness about all things sexual. Could you see the opposite to Robert De Niro's Jack Byrnes in any other way? Hoffman and De Niro, two brilliant actors with previous experience playing together, are a special

pair to watch in these two roles. Their chemistry, or their characters' lack thereof, is the driving force of "Meet the Fockers."

Barbra Streisand probably will surprise moviegoers with her portrayal of Mrs. Focker. For

an actor without a whole lot of experience in comedic roles, Streisand performs as if she's done nothing else in her career.

But the writing is another matter. You've got Stiller, De Niro, Hoffman, Streisand and a brilliant supporting cast. Why does the audience have to

Meet the Fockers



Director: Jay Roach

Writers: John Hamburg and James Herzfeld

Starring: Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller, Dustin Hoffman, Barbra Streisand, Blythe Danner and Owen Wilson

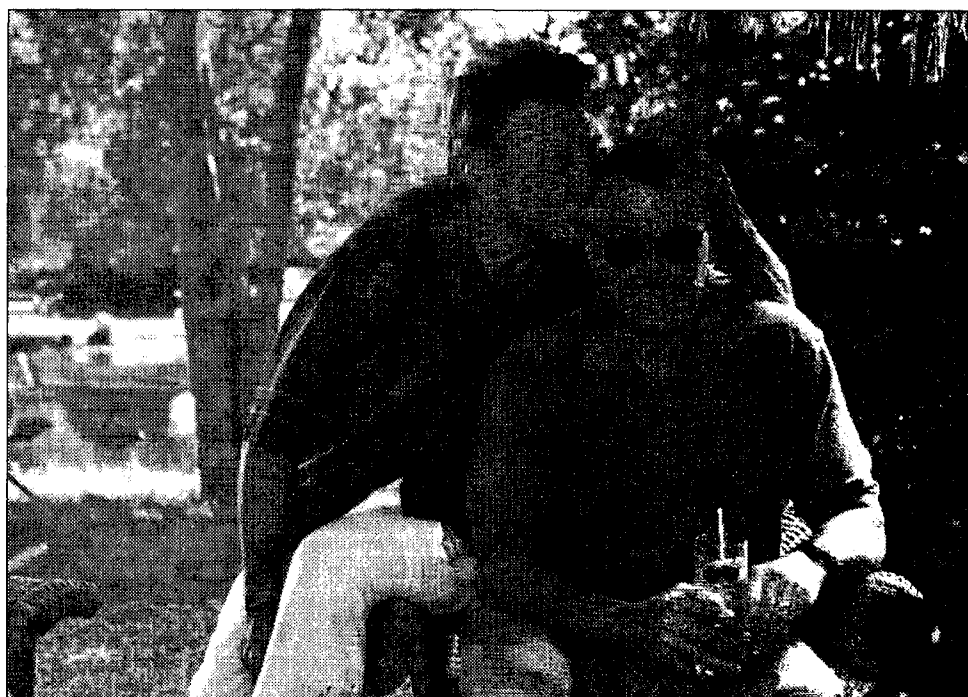


Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Bernie Focker (Dustin Hoffman), left, and Jack Byrnes (Robert De Niro) share an awkward moment in "Meet the Fockers," the sequel to "Meet the Parents."

listen to the film's unnatural, sophomoric dialogue?

And was there really an urgency you had to outdo the most over-the-top bit in "Meet the Parents?" You know, the one with the cat peeing on the ashes of Jack's mother? And if you absolutely had to do so, was dropping Greg's shriveled foreskin from the scrapbook into the fondue the best that you could come up with? It's trite, sloppy and lazy.

If the film's producers had called upon a better writer, this sequel probably would have been a much better film. It might have been able to succeed on its own merits, separate from following the highly successful "Meet the Parents."

For that reason, it's a shame "Meet the Fockers" doesn't live up to its potential.

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Quirky film anchored by Murray's performance

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Scene Critic

Alfred Hitchcock called them "macguffins" — objects being pursued in a film whose function was to set in motion the machinations of the plot. The actual macguffin itself was less important than its ability to motivate the characters and drive the story.

The title character of "The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou" spends most of the film half-heartedly hunting the Leopard Shark which ate his friend and mentor. When he finally finds it, the moment is simultaneously transcendent and deflating, a scene which seems to work, but for all the wrong reasons. Such is the stuff of director Wes Anderson's new film, which reverts back toward insular filmmaking after the critical success of "The Royal Tenenbaums."

Even more idiosyncratic than his previous work, "The Life Aquatic" is doggedly eccentric almost to the point of nonsense. Yet Anderson still has enough charm in his oddities to make a film that is still consistently entertaining and sporadically excellent, especially since he has a perfect secret weapon in star Bill Murray. Murray's charisma and screen presence overcomes the director's smirking filmic attitude and proves once again both the aging actor's comedic and dramatic met-

tle.

The plot involves aging Cousteau-esque aquatic explorer and filmmaker Steve Zissou (Bill Murray) whose nature documentaries are starting to have diminishing returns. On his last voyage out, his best friend is eaten by a new species of shark and Zissou vows revenge. He sets out on his boat, "The Belafonte," with his rag-tag crew of scientists, filmmakers and anonymous unpaid interns. Matters are complicated by the appearance of Ned (Owen Wilson), who may or may not be Zissou's son, and Jane (Cate Blanchett), a pregnant reporter trying to write a cover story on the washed-out seafarer.

The biggest problem with "The Life Aquatic" is plot, or lack thereof. The film never has an assured drive and instead touches on everything under the sun. It

crosses genres uncomfortably and with mixed results. Depending on when you walk in, the film is a revenge story, a sea-faring adventure, a complicated meditation on paternity, a romantic comedy or an action film. Instead of being sweeping and grand, the scope of

the film serves to make it seem cluttered and unfocused.

The film's performances are equally quirky, but uniformly excellent. Murray is one of the few actors who could pull off a role like Steve Zissou, proverbially winking at the audience with a completely straight face. He even manages to evoke

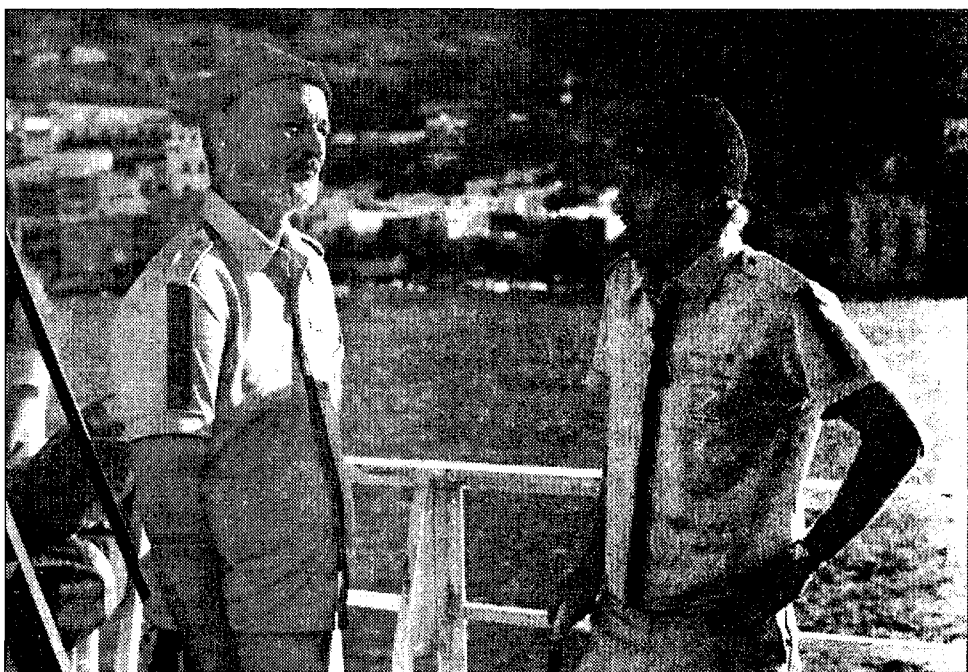


Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Steve Zissou (Bill Murray), left, is a world-famous oceanographer who discovers he might be the long-lost father of Ned Plimpton (Owen Wilson).

sympathy in what should be a mostly unsympathetic role. Wilson, who co-wrote the film, is likeable and convincing in a fully-realized character. Blanchett proves herself to be one of the most versatile contemporary actresses. One of the funniest turns comes from Willem Dafoe, who demonstrates a welcome comedic knack as a reserved German scientist.

Thankfully, neither the actors nor the director "dumb down" any of the characters for comic effect. All of the characters are intelligent and most have a surprising degree of self-awareness, which helps

keep the film from completely sinking under its own pretensions.

"The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou" is one of Anderson's more esoteric outings. It's impossible not to get the sense he is making exactly the film he wants to make, but it comes at the cost of plot and momentum. The worst part about the film is how startlingly close it comes to being a great film. There are genuine and wonderful moments throughout.

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The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou



Director: Wes Anderson

Writers: Wes Anderson and Noah Baumbach

Starring: Bill Murray, Owen Wilson, Cate Blanchett and Willem Dafoe

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Syracuse escapes Rutgers with strong finish

No. 4 Orange rally from 18-point deficit to beat Scarlet Knights

Associated Press

PISCATAWAY, N.J. — Victory No. 696 for Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim wasn't like many of the others.

The fourth-ranked Orange had to rally from an 18-point halftime deficit and then watch a final shot by Rutgers roll around and out at the buzzer before posting an 86-84 victory on Monday night.

"It was a great finish, a great comeback, one of the best I have been a part of," Boeheim said. "There is no doubt at halftime this was looking like a 25-point game the wrong way."

Terrence Roberts' three-point play with 7.2 seconds left capped the comeback, but the win wasn't secure until Quincy Douby's 3-point shot with just over a second left spun around the rim and fell off, leaving the sellout crowd in silence.

It was the 13th consecutive win for Syracuse (20-1, 7-0 Big East), which is the first Division I team to reach 20 victories this season.

"If we would have lost that game on the last play I would have been upset with myself because I don't feel I communicated the message well," Boeheim said.

The win gave him 20 victories for the 27th time in his 29 seasons at his alma mater. Boeheim moved into a tie with Texas Tech's Bob Knight for second place among coaches with 20-win seasons, three behind former North Carolina coach Dean Smith.

None of that mattered after the game that would have been Rutgers' biggest win ever. The highest-ranked team the Scarlet Knights have beaten was No. 6 West Virginia in February 1982.

"If we would have come out with that win it would have given them their second loss of the season and boosted our confidence," Douby said.

Gerry McNamara and Hakim Warrick each had 21 points for Syracuse.

Ricky Shields had 20 points and 11 rebounds for Rutgers (7-9, 1-5), which has lost six of seven.

It didn't look like Syracuse would have any chance at the 20th win when Rutgers led 54-36 after closing the first half with a 21-3 run.

"We could have been very

discouraged and very down but we weren't. We were mad," Boeheim said.

And the coach didn't get on his team. The players got on themselves.

"Great teams are going to have to accept criticism, and we all dished it out to each other. That's what it's about," McNamara said. "If you can still love each other and care about each other after you just screamed in each other's face, that's what's going to make a great team."

Warrick said the players challenged each other to play their best basketball of the season.

"I've been in comebacks but not that fast," he said. "To be down 18, turn it around and actually go up six says a lot about this team."

Syracuse went to a fullcourt press and forced turnovers on the Scarlet Knights' first three possessions to open the second half with a 9-0 run. Abandoning its vaunted matchup zone defense for man-to-man, Syracuse had the deficit to 58-53 in the first 2 1/2 minutes.

The Orange started to dominate on the offensive boards to keep chipping away, and a 3-pointer by McNamara with 10:01 to play brought them within 70-69.

Rutgers scored four straight points to get the lead back to five, but Syracuse went on an 11-0 run that was capped by McNamara's fifth 3-pointer and the Orange were ahead 80-74 with 5:56 to play.

"The press really turned the game around," Warrick said. "We forced them into things they didn't want to do and they rushed things."

But Rutgers wasn't done.

The Scarlet Knights managed to take the lead two more times, the last at 84-83 on two free throws by Dan Waterstradt with 27 seconds left. The 6-foot-11 freshman was 0-for-2 from the line for the season before then.

Josh Pace missed a shot in the lane with 10 seconds left and Roberts put in the rebound and was fouled. His free throw gave him five points for the game and made it 86-84.

"I made a good spin, went up and I was in the right place at the right time," Roberts said.

Rutgers took a timeout, and its final play was the 3 by Douby that came as close to going in as a ball can without counting.

Douby, who had 11 points,

was 3-for-10 on 3s, missing three in the final 2 minutes.

"I shot it a little quick and I thought it was still going down," Douby said. "I had my follow through, it just wasn't enough."

Waterstradt, who made the pass to Douby, had a good look at the final shot.

"It was an unlucky roll. I thought it was in," he said. "I was at halfcourt, arms up. It was one of those weird shots, it was in, rolled around and came out."

No. 13 Oklahoma 67, No. 7 Oklahoma State 57

Kevin Bookout scored 23 points and Taj Gray added 22 as No. 13 Oklahoma exploited a weakness up front with its talented tandem and beat ninth-ranked Oklahoma State.

The Sooners (16-2, 5-0 Big 12) gave back most of an early 17-point lead before taking over again in the second half and giving coach Kelvin Sampson his 250th win at Oklahoma.

Gray and Bookout scored the first 19 points for Oklahoma, and the big men were there with the game on the line, too.

After Oklahoma State (14-3, 4-2) pulled within 33-27, Bookout scored six points during a 10-0 run that put the Sooners back in control. In the middle of the spurt, Drew Lavender came down on a fast-break, bounced the ball between his legs, and Gray flew in to jam the ball in with his right hand to put Oklahoma ahead 37-27 and get the crowd jumping.

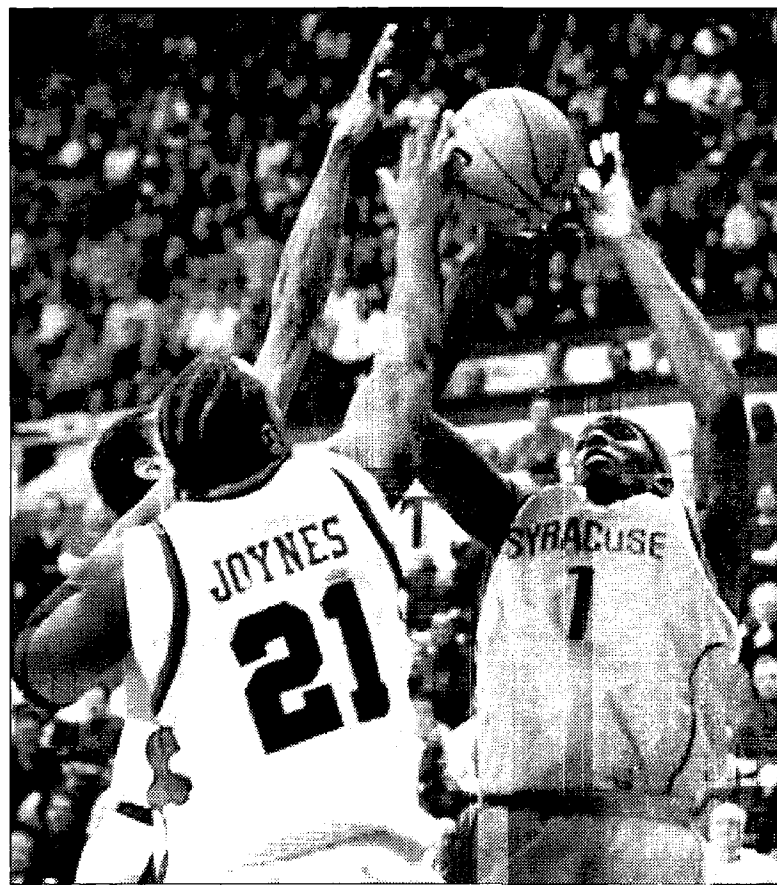
After Bookout dropped in a two-handed layup, Oklahoma's lead was 43-27. The advantage kept growing.

Gray converted a three-point play, Lavender hit a driving layup, and Jaison Williams made a 3-pointer from the left wing to extend Oklahoma's lead to 51-31.

Joey Graham scored in the lane to start a 13-4 run that gave Oklahoma State some life, but Bookout converted a three-point play, and Williams drilled another 3-pointer to put Oklahoma ahead 61-44 with less than 4 minutes to play.

Ivan McFarlin finished with 16 points to lead Oklahoma State, and Graham scored 15. John Lucas III, who had been averaging 17.8 points per game, was held to 10 on 3-for-13 shooting. He scored seven points in the final 4 1/2 minutes.

Oklahoma raced out of the gates and pounded the ball



Syracuse forward Hakim Warrick shoots over Byron Joynes of Rutgers in the Orange's 86-84 win Monday night.

inside to Gray and Bookout, who masterfully ran the high-low and mixed in transition baskets, too.

By the time Gray finished off Lavender's alley-oop with a layup to make it 19-2, he already had 11 points and a pair of two-handed jams. Gray was 5-for-5 to start the game, and Bookout couldn't miss either.

The Cowboys eventually figured out the plan and were able to keep the ball from Oklahoma's two big men. McFarlin cut the deficit to 27-18 with a fastbreak layup after Gray tried to force a pass inside to Bookout and it was stolen by a pair of Cowboys.

Oklahoma State beat Oklahoma to the glass early in the second half to cut into the Sooners' lead. Daniel Bobik's long offensive rebound led to a 3-pointer by Lucas, and McFarlin's putback brought the Cowboys within six.

But Oklahoma had an answer — and it was more Bookout and Gray. The tandem scored 11 of the next 13 points, and Oklahoma State was never within single digits again.

No. 25 Utah 63, Air Force 51

Andrew Bogut scored 25 points on 11-of-12 shooting to lift No. 25 Utah to a victory over Air Force.

Utah (17-3, 5-0 Mountain West Conference) entered the Top 25 on Monday for the first time since being ranked for two weeks in 2002-03. The Utes, playing under first-year coach Ray Giaconetti, have won 12 straight since losing at Arizona on Dec. 11. The other losses were to Washington and Utah State, both on the road.

Bryant Markson and Mark Jackson each scored 11 points, and Jackson tied a career-high with 10 assists for the Utes, who shot a school-record 80 percent from the field (24-of-30) against the nation's No. 1 defense. Utah's previous best shooting game was 73.7 percent against Air Force in 1987.

The Utes took apart Air Force with quick passes and lobs to Bogut, a 7-foot sophomore from Australia. Bogut, who leads the nation in rebounding and double-doubles, also had nine rebounds.

Nick Welch had 15 points to lead the Falcons (12-7, 3-1), who lost for just the second time in eight games.

Bogut scored seven points in a 14-2 run at the start of the second half that gave Utah a 46-32 lead after Air Force closed within 12 points. The Falcons, outrebounded 23-13, couldn't get within single digits the rest of the way.

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Meghanne is a crazy monkey. Yes that's right.

Just kidding.

Irish women, sweet.

News? Riiiiight.

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.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Williams falls in tournament's fourth round

Australian native Molik upsets Venus 7-5, 7-6(3) to move on to quarterfinals

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Venus Williams was out of step and out of time.

Facing three match points, she stumbled chasing a ball, and her off-balance forehand flopped into the net, giving Alicia Molik a 7-5, 7-6 (3) upset Monday in the fourth round of the Australian Open.

A group of women in the crowd of 14,225 unfurled a banner reading: "Venus, you've been eclipsed."

But Williams didn't see it that way, even if she hasn't been past the quarterfinals at the past six Grand Slam tournaments.

"I feel like that was one I

definitely should have won. I just was off of my rhythm," the eighth-seeded Williams said. "I definitely didn't produce my best tennis, that's for sure."

She made 28 unforced errors, two more than the 10th-seeded Molik, who faces top-ranked Lindsay Davenport in the quarterfinals. Davenport cruised past No. 13 Karolina Sprem 6-2, 6-2 and has dropped just one set in four matches.

Williams insists she's just as competitive now in big matches as she was when she won the 2001 U.S. Open final for the last of her four major titles.

"Absolutely!" she said. A string of injuries that hampered her last year couldn't be

blamed for this loss.

At times, she showed glimpses of grace — a leaping overhead winner in the fifth game of the second set was a prime example. But Williams clearly wasn't at her best. She swatted at one of Molik's looping forehands as if it were an irritating insect, missing the ball twice before it landed behind her.

"This is a huge feat; I beat Venus," said Molik, the singles bronze medalist at the Athens

Olympics. "I beat her playing my tennis, and I didn't wait for her to make mistakes, and that's something I can be pretty proud of."

Molik is the first Australian woman in the Open quarterfinals since Anne Minter in 1988.

Two other top women lost: French Open champion Anastasia Myskina and No. 6 Elena Dementieva, the runner-up at the French Open and U.S. Open. In men's action, No. 2 Andy Roddick, No. 3 Lleyton Hewitt, No. 9 David Nalbandian and No. 26 Nikolay Davydenko moved into the quarterfinals.

Myskina and Dementieva were among seven Russians to make it to the round of 16, but only Wimbledon

champion Maria Sharapova and U.S. Open titlist Svetlana Kuznetsova reached the quarterfinals. They will face each other on Tuesday, when men's No. 1 seed Roger Federer will try to keep his 25-match winning streak alive against four-time Australian Open winner

Andre Agassi.

The third-seeded Myskina had 45 unforced errors in her 6-4, 6-2 loss to No. 19 Nathalie Dechy, a 25-year-old Frenchwoman in the quarterfinals of a major for the first time in 37 appearances.

"I couldn't focus during the match. I lost a lot of easy balls," Myskina said. "I think I have to forget this match."

Dementieva led 12th-seeded Patty Schnyder by a set and two breaks before losing 6-7

(6), 7-6 (4), 6-2 in a match marred by 116 unforced errors.

Williams lost 13 games through three straight-set wins before facing Molik and thought she was in decent form.

"I would definitely say that when I'm playing well, I feel like I'm the best. And today was not my best, absolutely not my best," Williams said. "I wasn't hitting it cleanly enough. I felt like my movement wasn't as good as the previous rounds."

Asked if Molik can win the title, Williams said she'd like to think her younger sister, Serena, could get in the way.

"You know, it's out of my hands now," Williams said. "I kind of want Serena to win. So that's my horse now."

Roddick struggled with the serve of Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber but smacked 15 aces and overcame a second-set letdown to win 6-3, 7-6 (8), 6-1.

"I actually had a little trouble getting used to a serve coming from a righty, as weird as that sounds," said Roddick, who opened with matches against three straight left-handers. "Took me a little while to get on it."

He next faces Davydenko, who beat No. 12 Guillermo Canas 6-3, 6-4, 6-3.

Against the 102nd-ranked Kohlschreiber, Roddick was erratic in the second set, doubling his unforced errors to 12 and throwing his racket to the court after sending a forehand long.

"I don't think I hit the ball as clean as I did in the first three matches," he said. "I just felt like I was fighting it a little bit more. I'm not too concerned. The good thing is I don't feel like I had my best day, and we're here talking about a three-set win."

Hewitt overcame a sore right hip to beat unseeded Rafael Nadal 7-5, 3-6, 1-6, 7-6 (3), 6-2.

Hewitt said the hip, injured at a warmup tournament in Sydney, should not affect him in his next match, against Nalbandian in a rematch of the 2002 Wimbledon final. Nalbandian beat No. 6 Guillermo Coria 5-7, 7-5, 6-3, 6-0 in an all-Argentine baseline struggle that went about 3 1/2 hours and ended just after 2 a.m. local time Tuesday.

Trying to finish points quickly to limit his movement, Hewitt committed five consecutive errors in the fourth set after going ahead 0-40 while holding a 3-2 lead.

"I just was off my rhythm. I definitely didn't produce my best tennis, that's for sure."

Venus Williams
tennis player

"I actually had a little trouble getting used to a serve coming from a righty, as weird as that sounds."

Andy Roddick
tennis player

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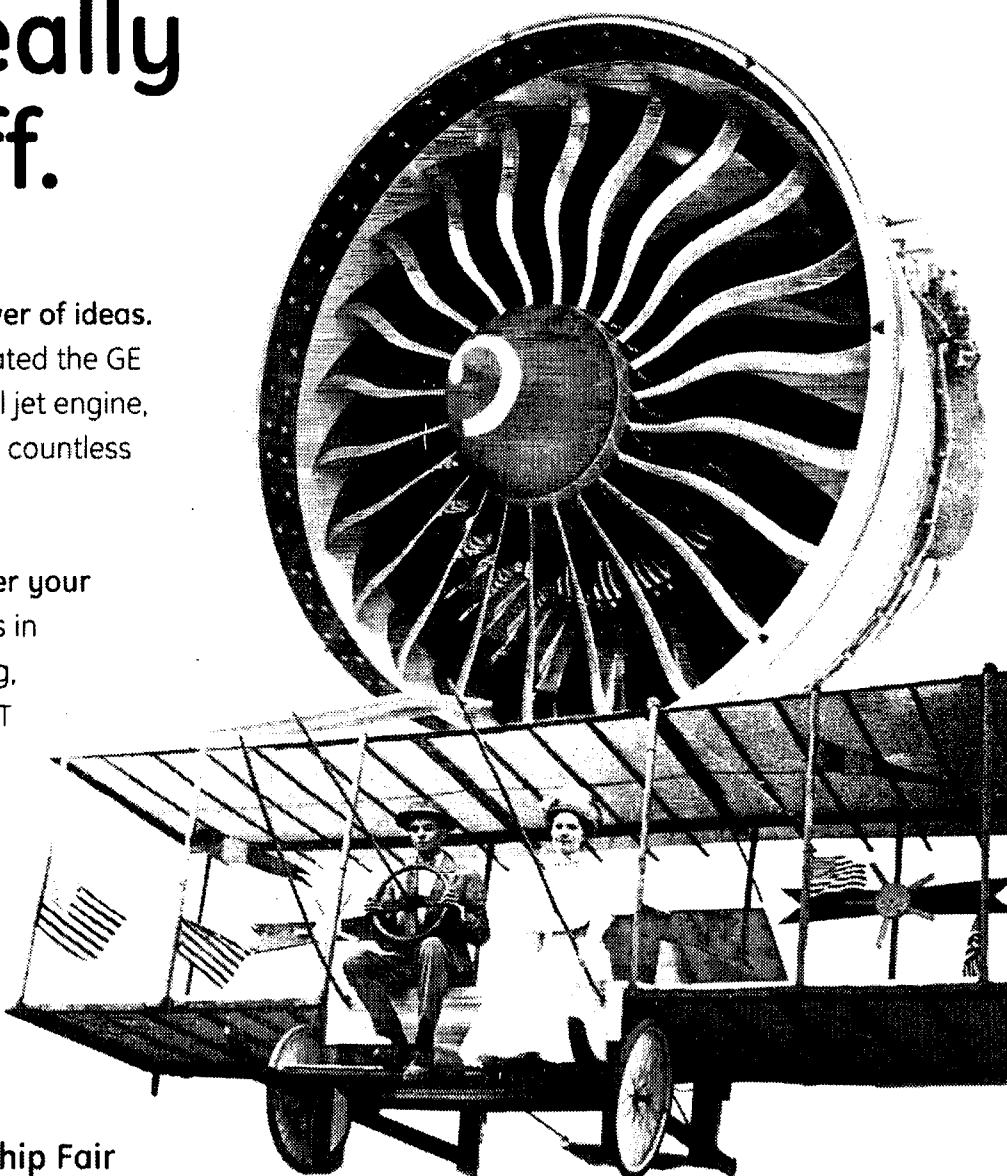
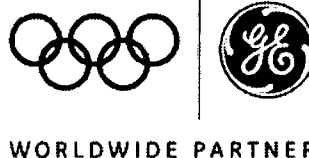
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NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

No. 12 Tar Heels upset top-ranked Blue Devils

After 12 straight losses to nemesis in ACC, UNC triumphs 56-51

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — For a change, North Carolina made Duke look rattled, and not even a spectacular individual effort by Monique Currie was enough to save the top-ranked Blue Devils.

Leah Metcalf had a pair of clutch baskets and Ivory Latta sealed it with two free throws in the final seconds, helping the 12th-ranked Tar Heels end nearly five years of misery in this Tobacco Road rivalry with a 56-51 victory Monday night.

North Carolina (15-3, 3-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) snapped a 12-game losing streak in the series by limiting Duke (18-2, 4-1)

to a season-low point total, which included only 13 in the first half. That was two more than the school record set against Maryland in the 1981 Atlantic Coast Conference tournament.

The loss ended the nation's longest winning streak at 16 games, and it was the first win for the Tar Heels in 20 tries against a top-ranked team.

"Their pressure really bothered us, their traps," Duke coach Gail Goetsenkos said. "We didn't do a good job adjusting. The tougher team won, and they played tough. They were the aggressor for the most part."

Latta led North Carolina with 13 points, and Nikita Bell and La'Tangela Atkinson added 12 apiece.

Currie, held to two points in the first half, scored 17 of her 24 in a 5 1/2-minute span down the stretch. She made two free throws with 1:42 left to cut the Tar Heels' lead to 53-51.

Later, after Metcalf missed a 3-pointer, Duke's Alison Bales clanged two free throws off the rim that would have tied it, and Latta, the smallest player on the court at 5-foot-6, came up with the rebound. She converted both shots from the line to increase the margin to four, and the Blue Devils missed their final three shots.

Atkinson added another free

throw with 10 seconds left to account for the final score.

"Beating the No. 1 team, and it's Duke?" Bell said. "It's a double victory for me. I'm real excited."

Jessica Foley had 13 points for the Blue Devils, who hadn't lost to North Carolina since Feb. 27, 2000. Freshman point guard Wanisha Smith had a miserable night, missing all seven shots and finishing with eight turnovers.

The Tar Heels took control from the start. In the first half, they held Duke to 5-for-30 shooting (17 percent) and without a basket for the final 6:52 to take a 26-13 lead. The margin still was 15 points midway through the second half

after Bell's steal and subsequent layup, but Currie was just getting started.

"We knew they were going to go to Currie down the stretch," North Carolina coach Sylvia Hatchell said. "She's a great, great player."

After a 3-point-

er by Foley cut North Carolina's lead to 10, Currie swished one of her own, added two free throws and a jumper before Metcalf's first big basket, a 3-pointer, made it 46-38. **Boston College 92, Providence 47**

Kathrin Riss scored 19 points and Brooke Queenan added 13 to lead No. 14 Boston College to a victory over Providence.

Riss made eight of 11 shots and added five rebounds for the Eagles (14-2, 5-0 Big East). They forged a 42-17 halftime advantage with a 28-0 run that began after the Friars got a 3-point basket in the opening seconds.

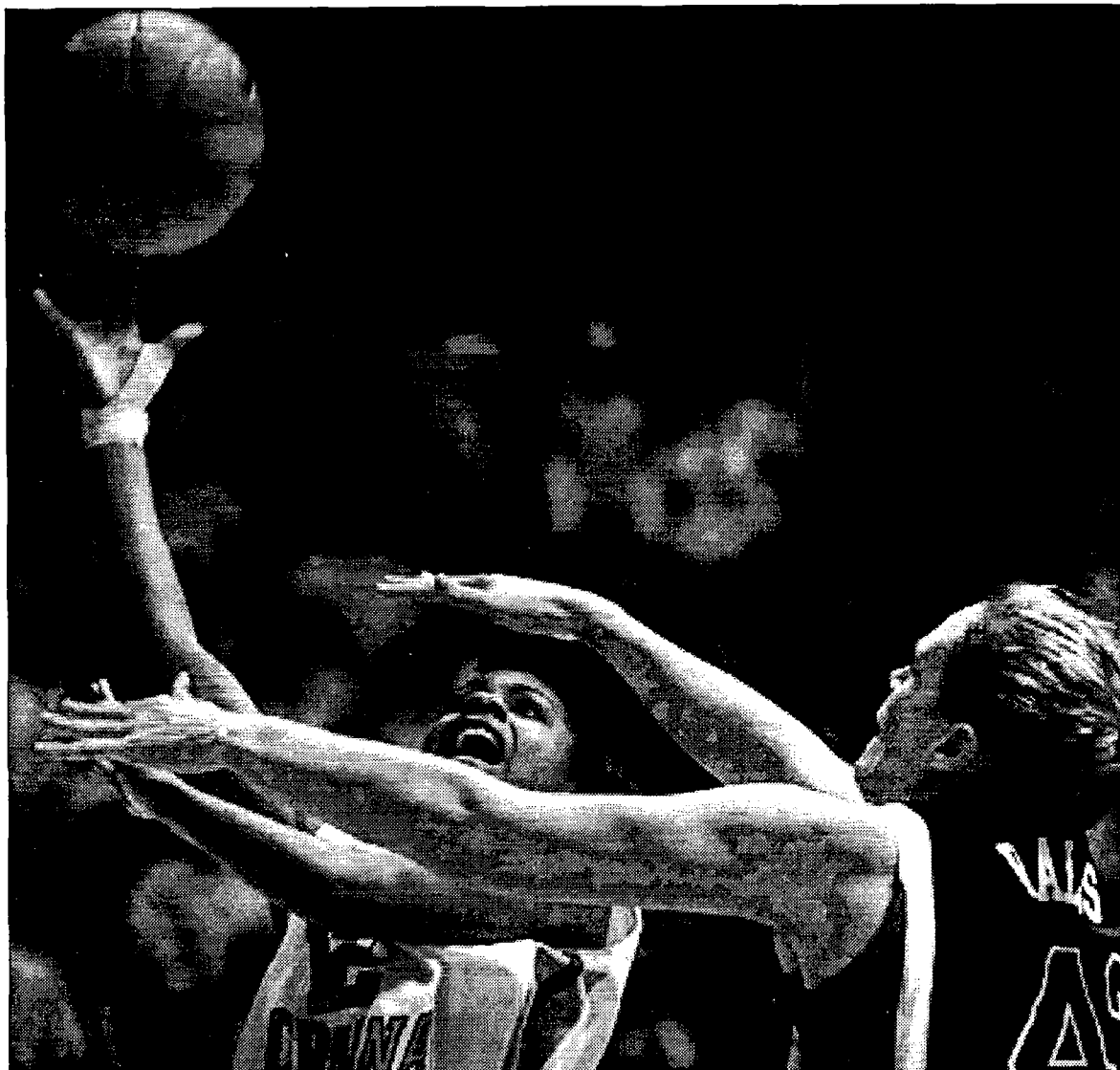
The Friars (1-16, 0-6 Big East) shot a dismal 29.2 percent in the first half, failing to score for a stretch of 12:50.

Boston College built on its lead with a 17-9 spurt to open the second half. The Eagles enjoyed their largest lead of the night at 43 points late in the game.

Shauna Snyder hit five of 10 3-point shots in pacing the Friars with 17 points. Jill Furstenburgh added 14 for the losers.

Aja Parham added 12 points in just 13 minutes for the Eagles.

Boston College's previous high output this season came on Dec. 4 in a 90-63 win over Northeastern.



Ivory Latta of North Carolina drives on Duke's Alison Bales in the second half of the 56-51 upset of the top-ranked Lady Blue Devils. The win took place at the Tar Heels' Dean Smith Center.

Providence committed 18 turnovers.

Florida State 81, Virginia Tech 78

Gladden scored 24 points and converted a threepoint play with 2:18 remaining in the second overtime, allowing No. 21 Florida State to hang on for a victory over Virginia Tech.

The Seminoles (18-2, 5-1 Atlantic Coast Conference), playing their third consecutive overtime game, forced the second extra session when LaQuinta Neely made a layup in the final second of the first to tie it at 72.

Virginia Tech (12-5, 2-3) tied it at 62 with 39 seconds left in regulation on Kerri Gardin's putback, producing the ninth tie of the back-and-forth game.

Before it was over, there were 18 ties and 14 lead changes.

Roneeka Hodges also scored 24 points for Florida State. Ganiyat Adeduntan added 11 and Neely had 10 points and nine rebounds. Gladden also grabbed nine rebounds.

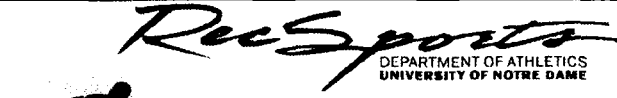
Gardin had 22 points and 16

rebounds to pace the Hokies, who never led in the second extra period. Kirby Copeland added 15 points and Dawn Chriss 14.

After Gladden's free throw gave Florida State a 79-75

lead, Chriss hit a jumper with 1:58 left and Copeland made a free throw with 1:07 to go.

Holly Johnson then sealed it for the Seminoles, making a pair of free throws with 19 seconds left.



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NFL

Eagles ready for tough game

After finally bringing home the NFC title, Philadelphia prepares for Jacksonville trip

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The celebrations hardly were muted in Philadelphia. Fans stood atop snow banks on Broad Street, waving Eagles banners and hats. Cars honked their horns late into the evening. Toasts were raised to Donovan McNabb, Brian Dawkins, Andy Reid — even to Swoop the mascot.

For the first time in 24 years, the Eagles are NFC champions. It's not nearly enough.

"There were some tears of joy, definitely," All-Pro safety Brian Dawkins said Monday, looking back at the locker room scene following Sunday's 27-10 victory over the Atlanta Falcons. After three straight title game flops, the Eagles were headed for the Super Bowl.

"It's something we worked for a long time and went through a lot of bad situations — 1-2-3 of losing — so that comes flowing out," Dawkins said. "After the tears have ceased, we're ready for the next step. This wasn't our Super Bowl. We didn't approach it like it was our Super Bowl."

And they won't approach the next two weeks as anything but business.

"We didn't do what we set out to do yet," Dawkins said. "I have a lot of confidence we'll win."

Beating the defending champion New England Patriots, winners of two of the last three NFL

crowns, will take the very best the Eagles have to offer. But they won't bring their full complement offensively. Tight end Chad Lewis, who caught two touchdown passes against Atlanta, is out with a foot injury. And star receiver Terrell Owens, their offensive spark plug, is uncertain because of an ankle injury that has kept him sidelined since Game 14.

What they will bring, the players swear, is the right attitude. No way will they fall into the trap of premature satisfaction that hurt past Super Bowl teams such as the 1998 Falcons, 1994 Chargers and 1985 Patriots. Those clubs were happy to be there, and they got routed by superior opponents.

New England might be the superior team this time — it's favored by seven points — but the Eagles promise they will give it their all. No awe at the surroundings and no worshipping at the Patriots' shrine.

"The ultimate goal is obviously the Super Bowl," McNabb said. "Then we can come back and celebrate in a parade on Broad Street."

"We're excited about this win and the city having that confident feeling back. It's a great feeling to have the opportunity to move to the Super Bowl. When it comes down to it, hey, it's one more game. Let's go win it."

The only other team with such

a long gap between Super Bowl appearances was Green Bay. The Packers won the first two Super Bowls, then didn't return until January 1997, when they beat the Patriots.

Eagles coach Andy Reid was an assistant to Mike Holmgren with those Packers. He still has his notes from that postseason, but he hadn't looked at them again until Monday.

"It's a little different sitting there as head coach, but it still is a great feeling," said Reid, hired

by the Eagles in 1999. "Part of you is excited, another part of you understands you're not through. There's another game against a great football team and you want to get yourself right in preparation for that team."

The Eagles lost 27-10 to the Raiders in their only Super Bowl trip. The Raiders broke a 19-year Super Bowl drought two seasons back, but they were routed by Tampa Bay in the big game.

McNabb was there. He's been to the last five Super Bowls, and he hasn't exactly enjoyed them.

"It's frustrating, because every conversation is: 'I expected you guys to be here,'" McNabb said. "Well I did, too."

"Now we can go down there and have all our people smiling and you're happy you're there. But playing the game is something different. It's keeping that business mind-set of going out and winning the game."

"The ultimate goal is obviously the Super Bowl. Then we can come back and celebrate in a parade on Broad Street."

Donovan McNabb
Eagles quarterback

CLUB SPORTS

Skiiers dominate Cleveland races

Irish women take seven of top nine spots; all men finish in top 15

Special to The Observer

In what was originally thought to be a rebuilding year for Notre Dame, the Ski Team traveled to Cleveland this weekend and dominated the competition in the Ohio Division.

In the Saturday Slalom, every Irish woman racer finished in the top 9, with Notre Dame taking seven of those spots. Molly Butler and Dannielle Clements finished first and second, respectively. Lindsay May and Captain Lauren Dacey accomplished even more for the team, finishing fourth and fifth.

In the men's competition, freshman surprise Steve Fuetz edged out Captain Joe Payne with a blistering second run as they finished fifth and sixth. Finishing in eighth and ninth with fast runs were Casey Dunne and Maria Destino. Senior Jason Luecht had two solid runs to finish in seventh place. The men's team had every finisher between fifth and fifteenth place. Among those finishers were Brad Jolitz, Aaron Medlock, Bill Leimkuehler, Sean Glennan, and Leif Eric Petterson.

On Sunday, in the Giant Slalom, the women's team continued to assert their superiority. Molly Butler and

Dannielle Clements again finished in first and second place. Freshman phenom Sarah Rauenhurst finished in third, leaving no ambiguity as to which team at this race was the best.

Lindsay May and Lauren Dacey again raced well, finishing in fifth and sixth place. Inspired by the women's performance, the men's team followed up with several more impressive results.

After a close first run, the top seven racers were separated by less than half a second, with Notre Dame being represented by three of them. Joe Payne led the team with a fourth place finish. Luecht and Andrew Breslin finished sixth and seventh rounding out the team scoring.

In a new development for the team this year, a small contingent of snowboarders accompanied the ski team for competition. The team started off well, with Nichole Mitchell finishing third in the women's slalom and freshman Nick Cottingham finishing second in the men's slalom.

On Sunday's Grand Slalom course all snowboarders had excellent runs, including Cat Dunne and Emily Williams for the women, and Tim Huml, Dan VanDerWerff, and James "Sunshine" Weber for the men.

Competing schools included Ohio State, John Carroll, Kent State, Akron, and Cincinnati. For the next four weeks, the team will be traveling to the mountains of Michigan to face stiffer competition from the Michigan Division.

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CM

AROUND THE NATION

page 16

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Men's College Basketball Polls

AP	Coaches
team	team
1 Illinois	Illinois 1
2 Duke	Duke 2
3 North Carolina	North Carolina 3
4 Syracuse	Syracuse 4
5 Wake Forest	Wake Forest 5
6 Kansas	Kentucky 6
7 Kentucky	Kansas 7
8 Boston College	Boston College 8
9 Oklahoma State	Oklahoma State 9
10 Washington	Washington 10
11 Arizona	Arizona 11
12 Louisville	Louisville 12
13 Oklahoma	Michigan State 13
14 Alabama	Texas 13
15 Michigan State	Oklahoma 15
16 Texas	Connecticut 16
17 Gonzaga	Alabama 17
18 Wisconsin	Pittsburgh 18
19 Connecticut	Wisconsin 19
20 Pittsburgh	Cincinnati 20
21 Cincinnati	Georgia Tech 21
22 Georgia Tech	Mississippi State 22
23 Iowa	Gonzaga 23
24 Mississippi State	Iowa 24
25 Utah	Utah 25

Women's College Basketball AP Top 25

team	record	points
1 Duke (31)	18-2	1,158
2 LSU (14)	18-1	1,093
3 Ohio State	19-2	1,026
4 Stanford	17-2	983
5 Tennessee	14-3	941
6 NOTRE DAME	16-3	834
7 Baylor	13-3	812
8 Rutgers	13-4	783
9 Connecticut	12-4	726
10 Minnesota	16-3	725
11 Michigan State	16-3	688
12 North Carolina	15-3	667
13 Texas Tech	14-3	558
14 Boston College	13-2	524
15 Texas	10-6	499
16 Kansas State	14-3	417
17 DePaul	15-3	394
18 Iowa State	15-1	393
19 Georgia	15-5	252
20 Maryland	13-4	225
21 Florida State	17-2	215
22 Penn State	12-6	186
23 Vanderbilt	13-5	147
24 Temple	15-3	85
25 North Carolina State	15-4	63

MIAA Women's Basketball Conference Standings

team	MIAA	overall
Albion	8-1	16-2
Calvin	7-1	13-2
Hope	7-1	14-2
Kalamazoo	3-5	8-9
SAINT MARY'S	3-5	8-9
Tri-State	3-5	5-11
Alma	2-6	7-7
Olivet	2-6	7-9
Adrian	2-7	5-11

around the dial

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Kentucky at Tennessee 7 p.m., ESPN

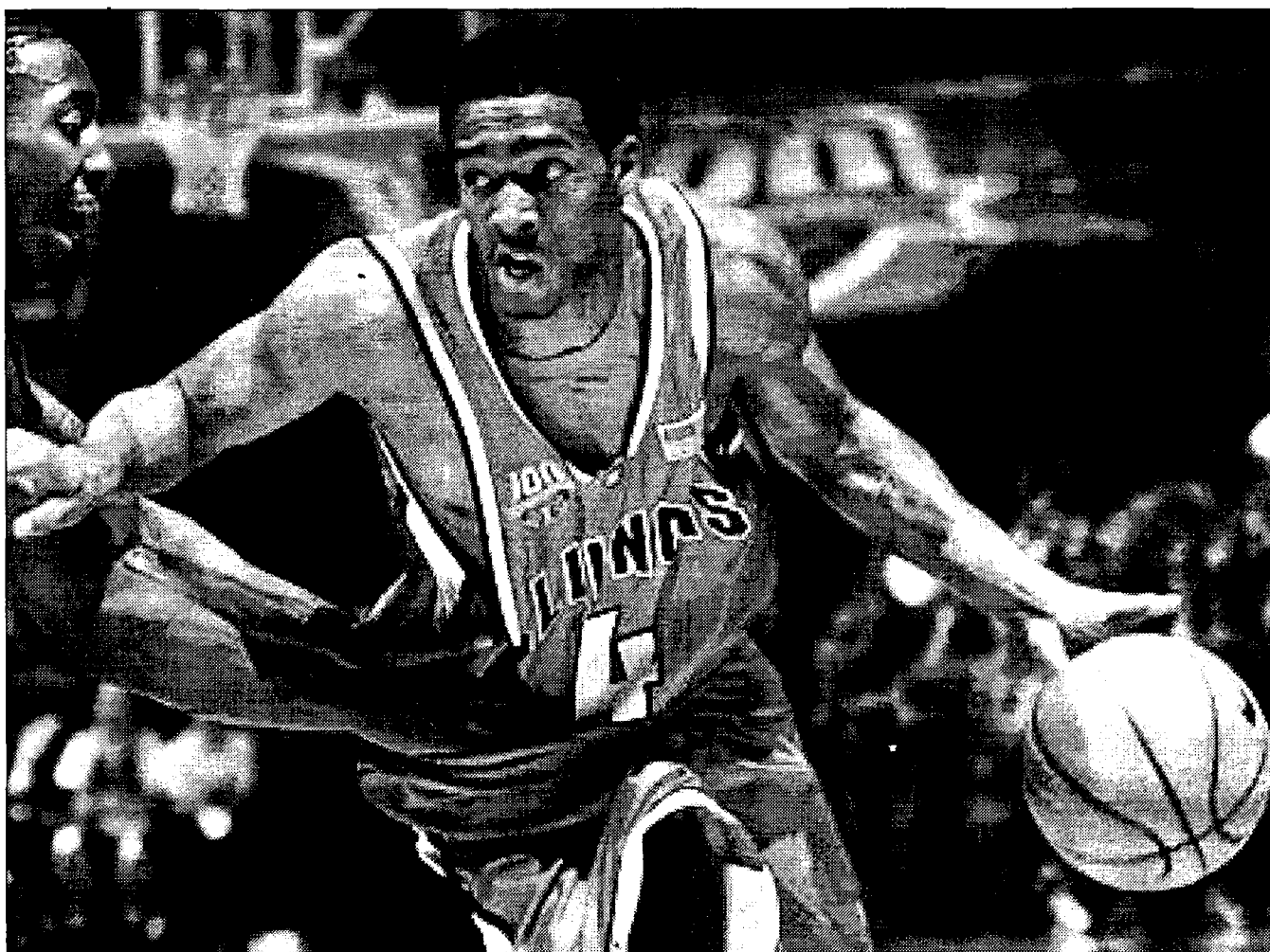
Georgia at Florida 7 p.m., ESPN2

Illinois at Wisconsin 9 p.m., ESPN

TENNIS

2005 Australian Open 2 p.m., ESPN2

COLLEGE BASKETBALL



Illinois' Luther Head drives past a Hawkeye opponent in a 73-68 overtime victory for the Illini last weekend. The team received all but one first-place vote in this week's polls.

Illinois No. 1 for eighth consecutive week

Associated Press

ILLINOIS — Illinois is No. 1 in The Associated Press college basketball poll for an eighth consecutive week, earning all but one first-place vote. That ballot was cast for the new No. 2 team: Duke.

The Blue Devils (15-0) moved up two spots to second, replacing Kansas (14-1), which dropped to sixth following its 83-62 loss at Villanova on Saturday. The Jayhawks fell below No. 2 for the first time this season.

The Illini (19-0) received all but one of the 72 first-place votes from the national media panel Monday. The last unanimous No. 1 was Duke, which did it nine times in a 10-week span in 2001-02.

The Blue Devils have reached No. 1 for seven straight seasons. Should

Duke unseat Illinois and extend that streak to eight, it would still be four behind UCLA's record that started in 1963. Duke received 1,704 points, 95 behind Illinois and 130 more than North Carolina, which jumped from sixth to third.

Utah (16-3) was the lone newcomer to the poll this week, moving in at No. 25 and replacing Marquette, which lost two games last week.

Illinois, which beat Iowa at home in overtime in its only game last week, will play at No. 18 Wisconsin on Tuesday night. The Badgers (13-3) have the nation's longest home winning streak at 38 games. That is one of six games involving two ranked teams this week.

Syracuse moved from seventh to fourth, one spot in front of Wake Forest, which fell two places following its overtime loss at Florida State.

Kansas was No. 1 in the preseason poll and the first Top 25 of the regular season, then was No. 2 for nine straight weeks.

Kentucky was seventh, while Boston College (16-0), the only other unbeaten in Division I beside Illinois and Duke, was eighth, up one place from last week.

Oklahoma State, which lost at Texas early last week, dropped four spots to No. 9. Washington was 10th for the second straight week, the Huskies' first appearances in the Top Ten since December 1984.

Arizona led the second 10 and was followed by Louisville, Oklahoma, Alabama, Michigan State, Texas, Gonzaga, Wisconsin, Connecticut and Pittsburgh.

The last five ranked teams were Cincinnati, Georgia Tech, Iowa, Mississippi State and Utah.

IN BRIEF

NHL, players' association continue lockout discussions

NEW YORK — The NHL and the players' association will resume talks this week in a bid to save the season — and they'll meet yet again without commissioner Gary Bettman or union head Bob Goodenow.

"The league contacted our office to arrange for continued small-group discussions. We agreed to this request," players' association senior director Ted Saskin said Monday.

The sides met twice last week without Bettman and Goodenow. Those meetings, over two days in Chicago and Toronto, were initiated by Vancouver Canucks center Trevor Linden, the NHLPA president.

Linden, Saskin and outside counsel John McCambridge represented the players. NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly, Calgary Flames part-owner Harley Hotchkiss, and outside counsel Bob Batterman took part for the league.

The sides had hoped to sit down in

secrecy. But word got out Monday that, just like last week, the same representatives from each side will meet in Toronto on Wednesday.

Eagles lose Lewis to injury

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia Eagles' thin receiving corps has lost another key member, and whether its star makes it back for the Super Bowl is still uncertain.

Tight end Chad Lewis, who caught two touchdown passes in Philadelphia's 27-10 victory over Atlanta in the NFC championship game Sunday, will miss the Super Bowl with a foot injury.

Meanwhile, All-Pro wide receiver Terrell Owens' status is uncertain. Owens has been sidelined with an ankle injury since Dec. 19. Eagles coach Andy Reid said Monday that Owens has made "great progress," and will try to run on the ankle this week.

Lewis, a three-time Pro Bowl selection, will have surgery on Wednesday. He was hurt on his sec-

ond TD grab, a 2-yard catch that sealed the win.

Pacers' Artest returns to practice court

INDIANAPOLIS — Ron Artest practiced with the Indiana Pacers on Monday for the first time in over two months since he was suspended for fighting with Detroit fans.

Artest did not comment as he left the practice court at Conseco Fieldhouse, but teammates and coach Rick Carlisle said his presence gave the struggling Pacers a much-needed lift.

"Having a guy like Ron in practice helps raises the level of practice in terms of intensity because he's one of the real warrior-type players we have in this league," Carlisle said.

Commissioner David Stern suspended the All-Star for the remainder of the season after he bolted into the stands at The Palace on Nov. 19 and exchanged punches with Pistons fans, who showered Artest and the rest of the Pacers with debris.

Duals

continued from page 20

Adjemian went 8-2 and freshman Greg Howard compiled a 7-2 record for the Irish epee brigade.

"I was nicely surprised by the epeeists," Bednarski said.

Sophomore sabre Matt Stearns played well for the Irish, defeating All-American Alexander Krull. The Irish held to a narrow 11-9 margin before three consecutive wins by Howard, freshman foilist Diego Quinonez and sophomore epeeist Patrick Gettings secured a victory for the squad.

After cruising to victories of 22-5 over New York University and 24-3 over Stanford, the Irish women struggled against the Lions for the same reason that the men triumphed over them—the epee. Columbia's All-American epeeist swept the Irish, and the Irish won only one bout out of nine in the epee on their

way to losing 16-11. The loss ended a 41-match win streak for the Irish, who couldn't gain back the ground lost on the epee. During the match, freshman Olympic Gold Medalist Mariel Zagunis lost her first match as a collegian, falling to Olympic teammate Emily Jacobson.

"They knew each other very well," Bednarski said of the Team USA teammates.

Bednarski was very pleased in Zagunis, who won her other 10 matches, for how she performed both with and without her sabre in hand.

"Not only greatness makes somebody useful in a team. Interaction with friends [and teammates] made her first time with the team so positive," he said. "She was able to keep group together by showing example for others despite being a freshman."

Zagunis certainly performed well in the highlight match of the duals, when the Irish faced the No. 1 Buckeyes, sweeping her

three bouts. Senior All-American foilists Alicia Krczalo and Andrea Ament had strong showings, each winning their first two bouts against Ohio State and going 11-1 and 10-2 overall, respectively.

The Irish were in a good position going into the end of the match, needing to win only one of the last three bouts to win. However, Metta Thomson beat Ament and her twin, Hanna, defeated Krczalo before Kaela Brendler beat senior epeeist Kerry Walton in the final bout.

Despite their success the rest of the day, the men were beaten quickly by Ohio State. The Buckeyes got the match-clinching 14th point while the Irish had only 3 points before cruising to the final 16-11 victory. The epeeists again were impressive, posting a 6-3 mark including a 3-bout sweep by Adjemian, but the sabres and foilists both struggled to 2-7 finishes in the match.

While the leaders of his team performed well, Bednarski was disappointed with the results of



CHUY BENITEZ/The Observer

Irish sophomore Aaron Adjemian fences last season. The men's team went 3-1 during the weekend, losing only to Ohio State.

some of the down the bench fencers.

"Our backup fencers were too nervous to control the situation," he said.

After the Duals, Bednarski sees his teams' high ranking as both a strong starting point as well as something to improve on.

"We should oscillate up rather than down," he said. "Its [a] pretty top position to be fourth, but the dream of each athlete and the dream of each coach is to be first."

Contact Eric Retter at eretter@nd.edu

LaVere

continued from page 20

for nine points on 4-for-8 shooting and pulled down five rebounds in 25 minutes. She credits her improved performances to extra time in the gym.

"I needed to get more in the rhythm," LaVere said. "I wasn't practicing that much when I was coming back for the games, but once I practiced more, I know the rhythm of the game and the flow. Once I get out there it's more natural to

me."

LaVere was also seen Sunday beating the Rutgers posts down the floor consistently. She ran well for a post, not to mention someone fresh off knee surgery.

"I feel like if I can use some of my speed to an advantage with other posts running the floor, I really don't have any problem running the floor," she said. "Really, it's more bilateral

movement that I'm still trying to get back."

Since her return, LaVere has yet to earn back her spot in the starting.

However, in her absence and during her first games back, sophomore Crystal Erwin has stepped up in the starting role. Erwin had 24 points Dec. 11 against

"Really, it's more bilateral movement that I'm still trying to get back."

Courtney LaVere
Irish forward

Washington on 9-for-9 shooting, and just Sunday, she grabbed a team-high nine rebounds in 22 minutes of action.

But LaVere said her role coming off the bench hasn't fazed her.

"It's an adjustment, but Crystal's doing a great job out there," LaVere said. "I'm working my way back into the lineup, and I'm going to do everything in practice that I can to show I'm ready."

So is LaVere 100 percent yet?

"In the 90s," LaVere said. "But I'm getting there."

And with her recent performances, the Irish are glad to have her back.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

CLUB SPORTS

Bowling, squash teams compete

Special to The Observer

Despite a winter blizzard that forced 16 teams to cancel their trip to South Bend, Beacon Bowl hosted the 8th Blue & Gold Classic this weekend. Although two top-10 teams were unable to travel, six others competed in a field of 48 men's and women's squads. In men's play, third-ranked Kansas took the title, followed by 13th ranked Nebraska, fourth-ranked Wichita State, No. 1 Saginaw Valley, and 11th ranked Lindenwood. Teams such as Arizona State, represented much of the country.

The Irish were ranked 20th after the first day of competition, but fell to 33rd on Sunday, when two Irish starters were unable to bowl. Van Koppersmith and Vance McClenton led the club, with strong showings by Jim Talamo, Marcus Radley, and Nick Mainieri. JB Bertumen

and Tom Talamo stepped in admirably on Sunday.

Kim LaVigne paced the women's squad, with Allison Klein and Mary Bocik also posting top scores for the Irish. Katie Hunt, Denise Trgovich and Danielle LaFramboise rounded out the top five for the weekend. The young squad finished last in the field, with Wichita State, Newman College, Western Illinois, McKendree, and Lindenwood claiming the top five spots.

Squash

Notre Dame's squash club competed in the CSA Big 10 championships this weekend at Illinois. The Irish won their opening round against the host Illini, 8-1. The win reversed a 9-0 loss one year ago in which the Irish didn't win a single game. James Zhang and Mike Gelinis swept to a pair of 3-0 wins at the top two spots to pace the Irish. Mike McConnell dropped his match at No. 3 in the line-up, while the rest of the squad — Phil Moss, Alfonso Bosch, Jose Palomo, Eric Sabelhaus, Randy Rainosek and Gabriel Letona — were victorious from four through nine. Moss trailed 8-0 in his opening game before rallying to tie the score. His opponent called set two, and Moss again fell behind double game point, before coming back for a 10-9 win.

In the second round, the Irish fell to 25th ranked Northwestern, 9-0. It was not without a struggle however, as best evidenced in Freshman Galinas' loss at No. 2 to the Wildcats' Peter Kamm, 9-5, 9-5, 7-9, 6-9, 10-9, in the high-light match of the tournament.

The third match of the day was a disappointing 6-3 loss to Purdue. The Boilermakers were a much fresher squad, having only played one match earlier in the day. Zhang and Gelinis again took their matches at the top of the line-up, and Letona won at nine.

The Irish will next face Kenyon this Saturday afternoon. The match is tentatively scheduled for the Rockne courts.

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Commits

continued from page 20

the place for me." McCarthy is the latest verbal commitment in the 2005 Irish recruiting class, bringing the total to 14 players. He is the lone cornerback commit so far.

At Cardinal Mooney High School, the 6-foot-1, 190-pound McCarthy played both quarterback and defensive back. He had 1800 yards of total offense his senior season, 1100 rushing and 700 passing, while leading his team to the state championship.

Timed at 4.4 seconds in the 40-yard dash, he used that speed to return two interceptions and three punts for touchdowns.

"Notre Dame is looking at [McCarthy] as a cornerback but I expect him to really make his mark on special teams," Mike Frank of irisheyes.com said. "He is a similar player to [current Irish free safety] Tom Zbikowski in that he likes to hit."

Rated 71st nationally at cornerback, McCarthy is not the high-profile recruit that Zbikowski was coming out of high school. He turned down Ohio State to come to Notre Dame with Navy, Northwestern and Toledo also making scholarship offers. He is a two-star recruit (out of a possible five) by Scout.com.

McCarthy's older brother is a current junior at Notre Dame. However, he said his commitment had nothing to do with family connections.

"Being on campus with all the tradition and the people at Notre Dame, I just felt like this was the place for me."

Kyle McCarthy
Irish commit

"It's great to have my brother there," McCarthy said. "But for me personally, Notre Dame was just the best fit."

Another factor in McCarthy's decision was Irish coach Charlie Weis.

"I talked to Coach Weis a lot during the recruitment," McCarthy said. "I am really excited to be a part of what he is doing at Notre Dame."

McCarthy intends to play baseball for his high school this spring. Then it's off to South Bend, where he might be playing for a coach who has just won his fourth Super

Bowl ring.

"Yeah, I plan on cheering for the Patriots," McCarthy said. After the firing of coach Tyrone Willingham, a handful of Irish verbal commitments decided to re-open their college searches. One of the more highly-touted prospects to do this, wide receiver David Nelson, officially broke his ties with Notre Dame as he verbally committed to Florida on Sunday.

"It's official, we're Florida Gators," Roy Nelson, David's father, said Sunday morning to Gatorcountry.com before a meeting with Florida coach Urban Meyer.

Nelson had 141 catches for 2,720 yards and 32 touchdowns in his last two years of high school. He is 6-foot-6 and 198 lbs. and played in the Army All-American Bowl earlier this month.

The loss of Nelson leaves the Irish with verbal commitments from only two wide receivers in D.J. Hord and David Grimes. Martin Frierson, a wide receiver from Columbia, S.C., had verbally committed to the Irish in mid-September. He then de-committed after the Willingham firing and is now headed to Georgia Tech.

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

Banquet

continued from page 20

Astros closer Brad Lidge at the Feb. 10 event in the Joyce Center.

"We're very fortunate to have two people of the stature of Brad Lidge and Roger Clemens come to Notre Dame and help us kickoff our season," Mainieri said.

The dinner will feature classic ballpark foods, such as hot dogs and nachos, to complement guest speakers and player introductions. This year's banquet is sold out, with over 1,700 tickets going in just two weeks. The event sold out in six weeks last year.

At the 2004 dinner, best-selling author and baseball fan John Grisham gave a speech to the audience. Former Los Angeles Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda spoke in 2002 and Chicago Cubs general manager Jim Hendry did the same a year later.

Lidge was the 1998 Big East Pitcher of the Year before being selected 17th overall by the Astros in the draft. He made his Major League debut in 2002, but only pitched in six games that season. Lidge had an impressive 2003, going 6-3 with 3.60 ERA, and he became one of the top relief pitchers in baseball midway through the 2004 season when Houston dealt then-closer Octavio Dotel to the Oakland Athletics — ultimately making Lidge the new closer. He didn't disappoint, saving 29 games and tallying a miniscule 1.90 ERA. Lidge also broke the National League record for most strikeouts in a season by a relief pitcher with 157 in 94 2/3 innings of work.

In the playoffs, Lidge completely dominated the opposition and was a major part of

Houston's ride into the National League Championship Series against the St. Louis Cardinals. In 12 1/3 innings, Lidge allowed just one run and struck out 20 while walking only three.

"I think Brad, in his own right, would have been a good enough headliner for us to get a great crowd and have a great evening. But to bring Roger Clemens in is something that's going to make the evening extra special," Mainieri said.

Clemens, who recently signed a one-year, \$18 million contract with Houston, is considered among the best pitchers ever to play the game. In his career, he has accumulated a remarkable number of awards and accolades. Clemens has 328 wins, a career ERA of just 3.18, 4,317 strikeouts and has pitched nearly 4,500 innings during his 20-year career. At the age of 42 last

season, Clemens went 18-4 with a 2.98 ERA and won his record seventh Cy Young Award, which goes to the league's best pitcher. He has pitched for the

Boston Red Sox, Toronto Blue Jays, New York Yankees and now the Astros.

Mainieri asked Lidge to return to Notre Dame, where the pitcher hadn't been since 1998 and speak at the dinner, and the pitcher quickly accepted. Then Mainieri had an idea.

"We [were] going to send a plane [to Houston] to pick up Lidge," Mainieri said. "So I started thinking wouldn't it be something if we could bring Roger Clemens up too. I knew he was a big Notre Dame football fan because I've seen him on the sidelines a couple of times during my 10 years here."

Mainieri contacted a Notre Dame graduate who lives in the Texas area and is a close friend of Clemens. Soon enough, Clemens was asked and accept-

ed the invitation.

Now the only problem for the Notre Dame baseball program is finding someone to top Clemens for next season's dinner.

"This might have to be the last time we do it," Mainieri joked.

Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu

MEN'S TRACK

ND starts off season on right foot Saturday

Numerous Irish shine in first home meet of 2005 indoor campaign

By JOHN EVERETT
Sports Writer

The men's track and field team's home opener proved to be a showcase for the many superb athletes on the Fighting Irish squad. Competing against runners from Michigan State, Western Michigan, Loyola-Chicago and Hillsdale College, the Irish showed signs of good things to come.

The meet, a non-scoring event, was highlighted by the performance of senior Selim Nurudeen, certainly no stranger to the spotlight. Nurudeen took home first-place finishes in the 60-meter dash, the 200-meter dash and the 60-meter hurdles. Nurudeen and sophomore Tommie Lee combined to be a formidable 1-2 punch, as Lee finished right behind Nurudeen in the 60 and 200-meter dashes.

Several freshmen made impressive contributions in the meet, with Brett Adams winning the 800-meters in 1 minute, 54.19 seconds, just

one-hundredth of a second in front of fellow freshman Jake Watson. Other stellar freshman performers included Robert Kueny, who won the 400-meter dash in 50.13 and Austin Wechter, winner of the 500-meter dash in 1:04.62.

Sophomore Kurt Benninger won the mile in a time of 4:11.21. Afterward he was pleased both with his performance and that of his teammates.

"It was a good first meet for the distance runners, and a good chance to see where we're at; also got to work on a few things race-wise," Benninger said.

He was also optimistic for the indoor season.

"It's shaping up pretty well," he said. "The Mayo Invitational is in two weeks. Our biggest home meet of the season before the Big East."

Complementing the performance if the Irish on the track were the noteworthy marks set by Notre Dame's field squad, which contributed four first-place finishes to the meet. Chip Roberts won the weight throw at 16.87m, and Chris Staron cleared 2.01m to take the high jump. Justin Oppel won the pole vault at a height of 4.65m, and Michael Schubert was the victor of the shot put, with a throw of 14.76m.

The Irish will compete at home Saturday in the Notre Dame Invitational.

Contact John Everett at jeverett@nd.edu



Nurudeen

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JUMBLE

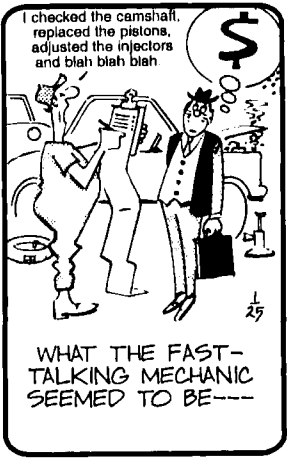
HENRI ARNOLD
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JUMBLE

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

TOORB
GHLT
POUDIM
MOOGLY

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



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

A: A " " (Answers tomorrow)

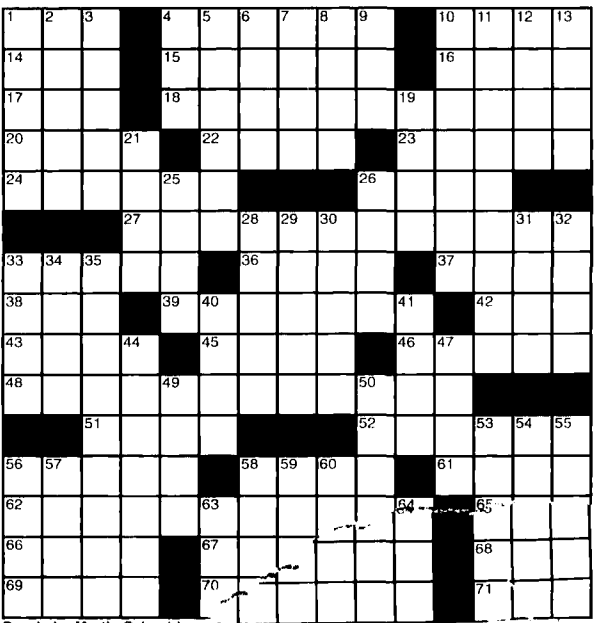
Yesterday's Jumbles: POKED INEPT LUNACY FIESTA
Answer: An indifferent student can do this in astronomy class — TAKE UP "SPACE"

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS
1 The "one" in a one-two
4 White Rabbit's words
10 Médoc or muscatel
14 — Lingus
15 From Genève, par exemple
16 Emcee Trebek
17 Actress Peeples
18 A A
20 Columnist Maureen
22 They follow April
23 The Joads, e.g., in "The Grapes of Wrath"
24 State capital since 1959
26 —-a-brac
27 BB
33 Nasal partitions
36 Punxsutawney groundhog
37 Old Roman road
38 Sharer's word
39 Uses again, as Tupperware
42 Fairway position
43 "Mila 18" author
45 58-Down digs
46 With cunning
48 E E
51 Ste. Jeanne —
52 And others
56 Accused's response
58 Defunct gridders' org.
61 Race of about 6.2 mi.
62 L L
65 Massachusetts' Cape —
66 Aweather's opposite
67 Alchemist's potion
68 Carnival city
69 Duck's place
70 "Duck Soup" performers
DOWN
1 Band-Aid co.
2 Kindergarten quintet
3 Muscleman's quality
4 Words before and after "rose"
5 10-Down dress
6 — fire (started burning something)
7 Pale as a ghost
8 General — chicken
9 Auction conclusion?
10 Hawaiian surfing mecca
11 In an unlawful way
12 Hawaii's state bird
13 Alimony senders, maybe
19 Eve's opposite
21 It may be something of great interest
25 Winged
26 Masquerader's event
28 — salts
29 Col. Potter of "M*A*S*H," to pals
30 Home of the N.B.A.'s Heat
31 Buzz's moonmate
32 — Poupon mustard
33 "Du jour" item

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



- 34 International money
35 Used a crowbar on
40 Cabinet dept. since 1979
41 Army N.C.O.
44 Ready for the post office
49 Canadian tribe
50 World traveler Bly
53 Pick up
54 Many a navel
55 "That's not news!"
56 End of filming
57 Annelic topper
58 The Bruins' sch.
59 Evening, in Paris
60 Comic Redd
63 Dream state, for short
64 High school yearbook sect.

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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mischa Barton, 19; Tatyana Ali, 26; Mary Lou Retton, 37; Neil Diamond, 64

Happy Birthday: Move in the direction of the least resistance this year and you won't find things nearly as difficult as they have been the past couple of years. The time for change is now. This is a turning point in your life, and you must allow yourself the freedom to do just that. Embrace the year ahead with optimism, but do not stray from your usually conservative nature. Excess will continue to be the enemy, so keep things on a small scale. Your numbers are 4, 13, 27, 31, 38, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't take things personally. You will excel if you are congenial and do your best to pull your own weight. Take care of your own business. Getting angry will hold you back. **
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Give it your best shot and you will accomplish more than you had hoped for. You can do no wrong today if you voice your opinion and follow through with your plan. Love is hot. ****
GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Like it or not, the focus should be on home, family and taking care of responsibilities. You should be able to solve existing problems, but don't overextend yourself in the process. ***
CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take a moment to discover how you feel about your personal life and the people in it. You may want to make some adjustments that will not go over well. However, the sooner done, the better.***
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Not everyone you are dealing with will be upfront about what they think and what their intentions are. Don't be too vocal or you will give the competition the edge. ****
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a look at where you are and think about where you would like to be. Don't wait to take the first step in a direction you know will satisfy you both personally and professionally. ****
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep an eye on the people closest to you. Someone is not giving you a fair deal. Stay on top of matters if you want to come out on top. Your ideas are good, so protect them.***
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Traveling a short or a long distance will provide you with some valuable information about someone who means a lot to you. Love can be yours if you plan something special. *****
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It will be up to you to pull things together and make everything perfect. Property or investment deals will pay off. Money is in the picture, so collect if there is any owed. ***
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There is a lot to think about today. Someone may be pushing you to make a decision that you aren't ready to make. Consider why you aren't and you'll have your answer. ***
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Dealing with officials may be unnerving, but if you are straightforward, it will be easy. Focus on what you want to do and how you plan to make more money. Take care of your health. ***
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The more you push yourself, the better you will do. Showing your dedication and loyalty will attract friends and lovers who have similar interests. Children may be on your mind. *****

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, loving and very commendable. You are passionate about your beliefs and always stand up for your rights. You are known for your valor and desire to take care of everyone around you.

Check out Eugenia's Web sites at astroadvice.com and eugenialast.com.

THE OBSERVER

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Slowly, but surely

LaVere sheds brace, finds old form in last two Big East games

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Editor

After arthroscopic knee surgery in December, Courtney LaVere is finally getting back to her old form.

"I have a lot more confidence," LaVere said after No. 6 Notre Dame's win 63-47 over Rutgers Sunday evening. "I think it affected me more than I would ever know."

LaVere had her breakout game Wednesday night in a tough Big East road contest against Syracuse. When the Irish got off to a slow start, she came fast off the bench, scoring 13 first-half points on 6-for-7

shooting.

"I thought Courtney gave us a great lift off the bench," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said after that game. "She was really ready to play."

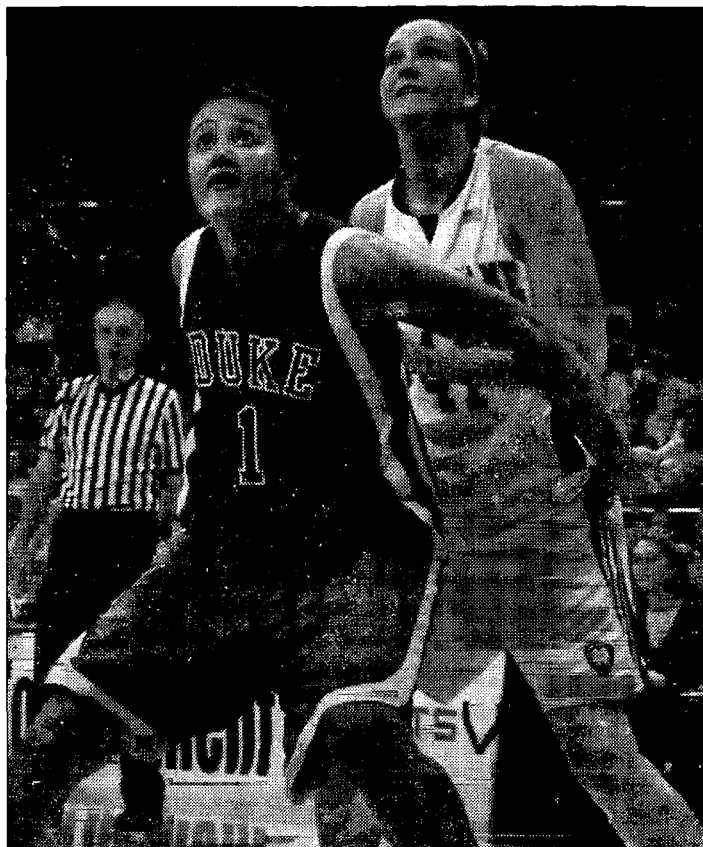
LaVere played without her brace for the first time Wednesday since her Dec. 30 return to action. She finished with her second double-double of the season, tallying 13 points and 10 rebounds. Ironically, her first double-double came in the game when she hurt her knee, Nov. 17, against Duke.

"I played well at Syracuse, that gives me a lot more energy and playing without the knee brace really helps because I feel like I'm more and more physical," LaVere said.

Sunday against Rutgers, the 6-foot-3 junior was a key contributor off the bench as well. She was good

"I think [the injury] affected me more than I would ever know."

Courtney LaVere
Irish forward



RICHARD FRIEDMAN/The Observer

Irish forward Courtney LaVere fights for a rebound against Duke's Mistie Williams Nov. 17, the game where she was hurt.

see LAVERE/page 17

FOOTBALL RECRUITING

McCarthy commits to Irish

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Writer

When he walked around campus, it looked right. When he talked to the coaches, they sounded right. So when Kyle McCarthy decided which school to attend, he felt right about Notre Dame.

"Everyone kept saying you would get a good feeling when you found the right place," McCarthy, a defensive back from Youngstown, Ohio said. "Being on campus with all the tradition and the people at Notre Dame, I just felt like this was



McCarthy

see COMMITS/page 18

FENCING

Men top Columbia, women fall to OSU

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

Only one match into the new year, the Irish may already put their toughest regular-season opponent behind them.

In a move that may pay big dividends down the road, Notre Dame wasted no time before matching up against the best in the NCAA, squaring off against a tough field that included Columbia, ranked in the top-five in both the men's and women's polls, and No. 1 Ohio State.

In this early season, the Irish, whose men's and women's teams are ranked No. 2 and No. 4 in their respective polls, have already tasted defeat. The women lost to both Columbia and Ohio State en route to a 2-2 overall performance, while the men topped all but the No. 1 Buckeyes at the event for a 3-1 record.

Despite these early losses, Irish head coach Janusz Bednarski was not disappointed in his teams' performances.

"I expected this," he said, "The

beginning of the season is always hard, and first matches will be bumpy."

While Bednarski anticipated a struggle to start the season, he did not predict everything about the way the teams would execute.

"I did not expect the men's team would do better than the women, who are stronger [as an all-around team]," Bednarski said.

The men defeated both host New York University and Stanford by respective margins of 17-10 and 19-8, but the highlight of the duals for the men was the 16-11 victory they took from Columbia. The charge was headed by the teams' epeeists, who won eight out of nine bouts against the Lions on their way to compiling a team-best 30-6 combined record during the course of the duals. Two-time All-American senior epeeist Michal Soberiaj led all Irish men with a 10-1 overall record at the event, while sophomore Aaron

see DUALS/page 17

BASEBALL

Clemens, Lidge will speak at banquet

Major leaguers highlight Opening Night event

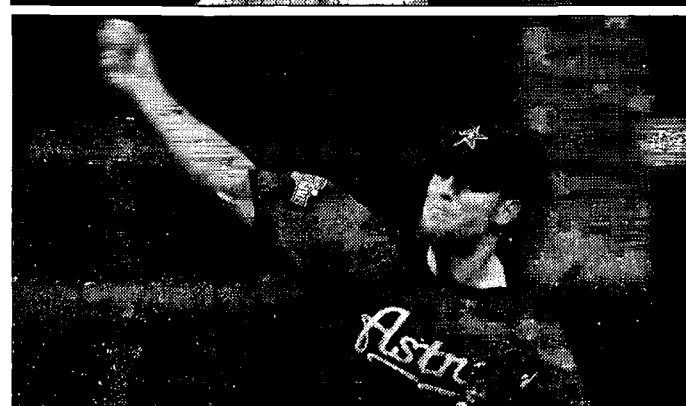
By JOE HETFLER
Sports Writer

In the middle of December, Roger Clemens and his wife were getting ready to have dinner with President Bush and wife, Laura Bush. But before the seven-time Cy Young award winner left to meet the Bush's, he made a phone call.

Needless to say, Irish baseball coach Paul Mainieri was a bit surprised when arguably the greatest pitcher of all time dialed his cell phone number.

"I said to him 'where are you Roger, in Houston?' And Roger said 'I'm in Washington D.C., my wife and I are getting ready to have dinner with the President and his wife but I wanted to call you first,'" Mainieri recalled. "I said 'Well I'm glad you have your priorities straight.'"

Clemens called to confirm his appearance at Notre Dame's fourth annual baseball Opening Night Banquet. He is scheduled to speak with former Notre Dame pitcher and current Houston



AP
Roger Clemens, top, a Cy Young Award winner, and Brad Lidge, the Astros' closer, will speak at the Notre Dame baseball banquet Feb. 10.

see BANQUET/page 18

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

MEN'S TRACK

The Irish opened their home season with strong individual performances from Selim Nurudeen and Tommie Lee.

page 18

CLUB SPORTS

The bowling and squash teams had success during the weekend in South Bend and at Illinois.

page 17

CLUB SPORTS

The Irish ski team's young squads dominated weekend competition in the Ohio Division.

page 15

NCAA WOMEN'S BBALL

No. 12 North Carolina 56, No. 1 Duke 51

The Tarheels upset the top-ranked Blue Devils after a 12-game losing streak in the series.

page 14

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Alicia Molik def. Venus Williams 7-5, 7-6 (3)

With the win, Molik moves on the quarterfinals of the Open.

page 13

NCAA BASKETBALL

No. 4 Syracuse 86, Rutgers 84

The Orange come back from an 18-point halftime deficit for a Big East win.

page 12