

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 39 : ISSUE 74

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2004

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

ND student government candidates announced

Student Senate discusses election

By AMANDA MICHAELS
Assistant News Editor

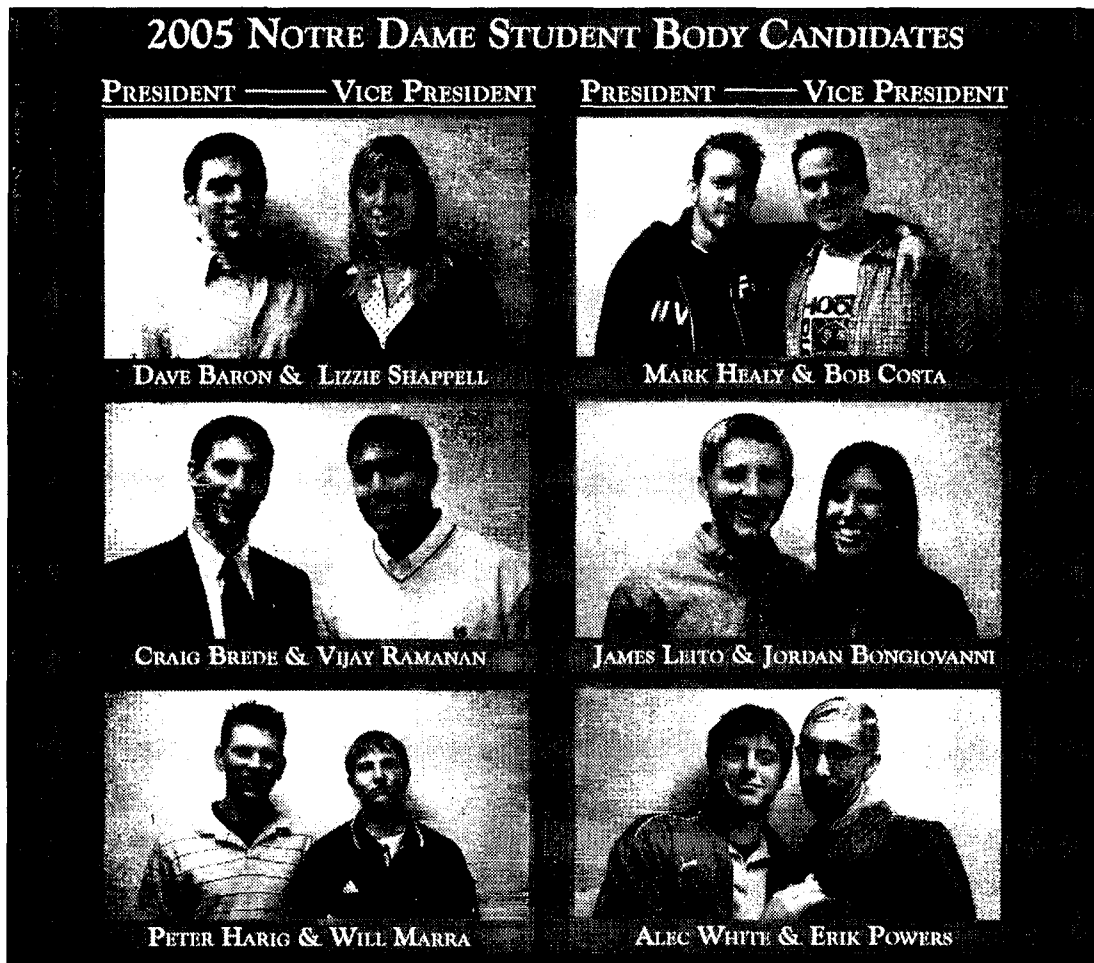
Judicial Council President Brin Anderson officially announced the tickets approved to run in the upcoming student body president election at Wednesday's Student Senate meeting.

Six tickets — up from the four that ran last year — will appear on the Feb. 7 ballot, with a wide range of ages and experience.

The presidential and vice presidential candidates include junior Dave Baron from Morrissey and sophomore Lizzie Shappell from Badin, juniors Craig Brede and Vijay Ramanan, both from Alumni, freshmen Peter Harig and Will Marra, both from Zahm, sophomore Mark Healy and freshman Bob Costa, both from Zahm, juniors James Leito from Siegfried and Jordan Bongiovanni from Cavanaugh and sophomore Alec White and junior Erik Powers, both from Sorin.

Procedural reforms required by the Senate amendment passed in

see SENATE/page 4



MIKE HARKINS/Observer Graphic

Increase in tickets reflects confidence

By MADDIE HANNA
News Writer

This year's Notre Dame student body presidential election features six tickets — an increase from last year's four that reflects greater confidence in student government, according to current members and candidates.

"This shows that people have faith in student government," student body president Adam Istvan said.

He said the current administration's accomplishments, such as ticket sales, have inspired students and demonstrated the effectiveness of student government.

"It's not lost on students that we've accomplished a lot more this year," Istvan said.

Although Istvan acknowledged that he couldn't speculate as to the student body's level of confidence in government before his years at Notre Dame, he said that the general attitude has

see TICKETS/page 4

Mitros, McIllduff win presidential election

By ANGELA SAOUD
Saint Mary's Editor

After days spent canvassing the dining hall, and nights spent traveling door-to-door, junior Kellye Mitros and sophomore Susan McIllduff were named the next president and vice president of Saint Mary's. However, with only 38 percent of the student body voting, many are wondering whether

this representation was accurate.

The pair won 59.4 percent of the vote while juniors Michelle Fitzgerald and Lauren Siegel received 33.3 percent of the vote. Seven percent of those who voted abstained from choosing a candidate.

Both Mitros and McIllduff are anxious to take on their

see RESULTS/page 6

University pleased with Seminar

Professors, students call changes to CORE program successful

By KATE ANTONACCI
Assistant News Editor

One semester after Notre Dame replaced the Core class with the new one-semester College Seminar, professors and students are calling the new program a success.

This past fall, the College Seminar replaced Core, a two semester sophomore-level course in existence for more than 25 years. Both courses have been required for Arts and Letters majors.

The University decided to make the change after complaints from professors about the course's reading material and student dissatisfaction.

Currently, the College of Arts and Letters is evaluating its success and comparing it to the old Core.

George Howard, director of the College Seminar and of the former Core program, said the Office of Institutional Research was completing a formal evaluation on the new program.

"The evaluation [they're] doing is comparing last year's Core course with this past fall's college seminar," Howard said.

However, Howard said the success of the College Seminar has already been clear.

"Core was a continual headache of faculty liking some material in the course and not liking others," Howard said. "In College Seminar, the faculty is responsible for picking."



DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

Professor Mary Wong Daniels teaches a new College Seminar, which replaced the old CORE program.

Howard said students have also helped to provide opinions about the new seminar. The Core Congress, an advisory group composed of students, has been changed to the College Seminar Congress.

"With Core, the reaction was always mixed. That kind of reaction was true for the last several years that we had Core Congress," Howard said. "We had College Seminar Congress this fall and it was overwhelmingly positive."

Students have responded positively inside the classroom as

well. "The students responded in an extraordinary way. I felt the course was the most successful one I have ever taught, for the quality of the students' work and research, their engagement with the subject, the liveliness and intensity of class discussions, and the atmosphere we generated in the classroom," said Christian Moevs, who taught a "Dante: Poetry, Arts, Politics" seminar.

Howard expects College

see SEMINAR/page 6

Saint Mary's Student Body President

ELECTION RESULTS

*7.3 percent of votes were abstained



Kellye Mitros & Susan McIllduff

59.4%



Michelle Fitzgerald & Lauren Siegel

33.3%

MIKE HARKINS/Observer Graphic

INSIDE COLUMN

Just don't say ...

Students in South Bend often complain about the virtually nonexistent dating scene. As a long-time people-watcher who has seen it all, I feel I might be able to shed some light on the situation and offer up some advice to those of you who just can't seem to meet new people. There is an old universal standby that just does not seem to work in this little corner of the world, and avoiding it might just save your social life.

Nicole Zook

Assistant News Editor

The pick-up line. Often used, often laughed at, it seems to be a staple of today's social scene. Personally, I think they're hilarious — ladies and gentlemen, do you seriously think a line like "I'm writing a telephone book; can I have your number?" will work on that gorgeous member of the opposite sex you noticed at the bar?

Let me tell you now, if you don't already know.

It won't.

Sure, they're fun, they're cheesy, but pick-up lines are very rarely useful in reality. In a real-life situation, this is how the pick-up line is received:

Guy: I couldn't help but notice I was staring at you.

Girl: Get away from me, freak.

Well, to be fair, a polite girl might just give a dirty look and walk away. But that's what she is thinking. Trust me. That girl will go home with her friends and laugh at you for using such a stupid line. Save yourself the trouble, and don't do it.

I think the problem is people see a pick-up line as an entity all its own. Too much certainty and nervous energy is placed in that one line — people think if the first line bombs, you are a failure, and if it is great you have it made. This is simply bad logic.

The initial introduction between two people should be nothing more than a good start to an interesting conversation. The pick-up line should not stand alone. If you bank all your hopes on one line and do not have anything to follow it up with, you may as well not have even attempted the approach. The initial line is the means to an end, and the desired end should be a good conversation both of you will remember the next day.

Keeping this purpose in mind, when you first walk up to that hottie this weekend, try injecting your introduction with some of your stunning personality instead of a force-fed line that he or she has already heard from ten other people. You have at least one great quality you can use to your advantage — be it your intelligence, sense of comic timing — or simply the fact that you are really ridiculously good looking. Remember that about yourself and approach your object of desire with confidence in yourself.

Just don't start with "I'm not drunk, I'm just intoxicated by you."

Contact Nicole Zook at zook8928@saintmarys.edu.

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

CORRECTIONS

An article in the Jan. 26 edition of The Observer incorrectly stated that University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh stepped down from the Notre Dame presidency in 1989 and that Peter Ueberroth delivered the principal address at that year's commencement ceremony. Hesburgh stepped down in 1987. Derek Bok, the president of Harvard University at the time, delivered the commencement address that year. The Observer regrets these errors.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR DREAM JOB?



Cory McDevitt
law student
Breen Phillips



Monica Gonzalez
freshman
Breen Phillips



Ryan Ricketts
sophomore
Stanford



Megan Spokes
sophomore
Farley



Carl Bindenagel
Senior
Knott Hall



Dan Ferretti
Senior
Knott Hall

"A trophy wife."

"A pediatrician by day."

"A fisherman."

"I've wanted to be a pediatrician since age 8, and I want to make babies too, lots of them."

"Co-emperor of North America."

"Any job — please someone hire me."



TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

A snowman cheerfully greets students, faculty and staff passing by Haggar Hall on North Quad Wednesday.

IN BRIEF

The Office of Human Resources is hosing cholesterol screenings today as part of its WorkLife Program. The screenings are available to ND faculty and staff from 7:30 a.m. to 10 in 234 Grace Hall. A 12-hour fast is required.

The Marian Anderson String Quartet will perform today at 7:30 p.m. at the Decio Mainstage Theatre. The concert is free but tickets are required. Call the Debartolo box office for information. A "meet the artists" reception will follow.

The film "I (Heart) Huckabees" will be shown Friday at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. in the Browning Family Cinema. The event is sponsored by the department of film, television and theatre.

The department of romance languages and literatures is sponsoring a showing of "Les Foubieres de Capin" tonight at 7:30 in the Philbin Studio Theatre. For tickets call the Debartolo box office.

The Bridal Expo comes to the Joyce Center Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be fashion shows at 10 a.m., noon and 3 p.m. Tickets are \$3 at the door and free from many local retailers.

The men's tennis team will face off against North Carolina Saturday at the Eck Tennis Pavilion. Matches begin at 2:00 p.m.

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

OFFBEAT

Man appeals to estranged wife with full page ad

A Florida man has tried to win back his estranged wife with a full-page, \$17,000 newspaper ad begging her to give him another chance.

Dubbed 'Lonesome Larry' by the Florida Times-Union, the man told the newspaper that his wife of 17 years had moved out, changed her mobile phone number, refused to return his calls, barred him from entering her parents's house and ignored the five dozen roses he sent.

Larry took out an ad addressed to Marianne on Tuesday.

"Please believe the words in my letter, they are true and from my heart. I can only hope you will give me the chance to prove my unending love for you. Life without you is empty and meaningless," the ad reads.

"Please, please, please call me. I love you with all my heart."

The ad has prompted calls from readers, curious to know how things turned out.

Thirsty for beer, man locks himself in with kegs

A Czech man is being taken to court after he hid in a restaurant washroom

until the employees had left and then hooked up beer kegs directly to his mouth.

Cleaning staff found him drunk and lying on the floor of the bar at the restaurant in the city of Brno, about 200 kilometres east of the capital Prague, the CTK news agency reported.

"He had broken the door of the cooling mechanism ... and detached the hoses leading from the keg, squashed them in his mouth and literally filled himself up with beer," CTK quoted a police official as saying.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 32 LOW 3	HIGH 32 LOW 3	HIGH 24 LOW 13	HIGH 34 LOW 22	HIGH 37 LOW 25	HIGH 38 LOW 23

Atlanta 52 / 27 Boston 16 / 7 Chicago 24 / 9 Denver 48 / 23 Houston 60 / 49 Los Angeles 62 / 50 Minneapolis 22 / 13 New York 18 / 10 Philadelphia 21 / 7 Phoenix 64 / 48 Seattle 50 / 42 St. Louis 38 / 18 Tampa 74 / 57 Washington 25 / 13

Late Night Olympics raises \$8,659

Funds collected at event exceed last year's total by more than \$500

By KATIE PERRY
News Writer

After tallying scores and tabulating donations, organizers for this past weekend's Late Night Olympics said the RecSports-sponsored event raised \$8,659 for the St. Joseph County Special Olympics.

Funds raised exceeded last year's total by more than \$500, said Bill Reagan, assistant director of instruction, special events and family programs for RecSports. The Welsh Family-Keough team was the overall winner.

Revenue for the event was produced through a variety of means, including a Penny War, raffle, front door donation and open skate at the Joyce Center ice rink. Most proceeds, however, came from the required cost for each participating team, and entry fees alone totaled more than \$2,700.

Each team competes in all events and points for each activity are totaled to produce an overall winner.

No single fundraising category saw an immense increase, however revenue was increased "across the board," said Reagan. Five of the six categories saw significant jumps in donations.

Reagan attributes the relative fundraising increases to the addition of the MBA team. Last

year was the first year Notre Dame graduate students were allowed to participate and since then competition has improved, said Reagan.

"I think the MBA group has set an example for dorm students as far as overall team organization," Reagan said.

One dorm student team with comparable unity and organization is Keough and Welsh Family. The West Quad halls proved their dynasty status by claiming the overall Late Night Olympics championship for the 4th straight year.

With a total points score of 2,514 the Keough-Welsh Family team edged the MBA team by less than 100 points. Keough-Welsh Family won more than a third of the 17 events.

Keough Hall athletic commissioner Pat Schaefer said that the team's past successes have spurred a widespread desire to perform well at the event.

"Both hall councils [Keough and Welsh Family] emphasize that we are somewhat of a dynasty now and we want to continue that tradition," Schaefer said. "The dorms are committed to LNO from every-

body from the top down."

However, large-scale participation was not a success enjoyed only by the event's victors. After dropping in 2004, overall LNO participation saw an increase as this year more than 1,300 students participated.

Schaefer attributes the large number of participants to their genuine desire to partake in the event.

"I think that a lot of our success comes from the people in the dorm who participate and really want to be there," Schaefer said. "This great attitude toward LNO helps us get a lot of good teams together."

Aside from a few minor injuries and scheduling mishaps, the event ran well and disciplinary measures were unnecessary, said

"I think the MBA group has set an example for dorm students as far as overall team organization."

Bill Reagan
Assistant Director
RecSports

Reagan.

"The thing I noticed is that kids were having a great time," he said. "The students were remarkably well-behaved for a Saturday night activity that lasted through the wee hours of the morning."

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kperry5@nd.edu

Students flock to Winter Career Fair

By JOHN EVERETT
News Writer

Students flocked to the Joyce Center Wednesday afternoon to talk with recruiters from about 150 businesses and organizations at the annual Winter Career and Internship Fair.

Sophomore Jim Theiss said he was especially impressed with the selection.

"To have a government agency like the CIA here is great, and ESPN, with the way they've expanded into a global company, that they'd recruit undergrads here is impressive," Theiss said.

Sophomore finance major Justen Cheers was also pleased with the presenters. He cited General Electric and Proctor and Gamble as companies he was interested in.

"It's very a good fair - lots of great companies here and it's a great chance to network," he said.

Chris Lesley, present at the fair as a representative of the State Farm Insurance Company, a company that has often recruited at Notre Dame, listed several noteworthy qualities.

"I think the caliber of students here fits well with the skill set we're looking for ... We're also not very degree-specific, so we can hit a broad group by coming to Notre Dame," he said.



TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer
Jorge Villarreal speaks with a Price Waterhouse Cooper representative.

She also added that the competition for internships would be very high, stating that her company had seven openings for the entire state of Indiana.

Anita Rees, coordinator for the event, said she was pleased with the turnout.

"The flow of students hasn't stopped since we opened the doors. The students are all dressed professionally and they look great," Rees said.

Big-name companies attracted the largest crowds, as crowds of eager students awaited the chance to talk to a representative from ESPN, Time, Inc., the CIA and Merrill-Lynch.

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Hand
HUMOR ARTISTS OF ND
10 PM.

OCEAN'S ELEVEN
MIDNIGHT.

Brew and View

THURSDAY

Banda Rika

FRIDAY
10 PM.

SALSA NIGHTCLUB.
MIDNIGHT.

THIS WEEK AT LEGENDS

SATURDAY



Matt Wertz
Howie Day? John Mayer? No, Matt Wertz.

10PM.

NIGHTCLUB
AFTER THE CONCERT.

opener
Kevin Leicht
campus favorite

ALL SHOWS FREE
ND, SMC, HCC ID REQUIRED
WWW.LEGENDSOFNOTREDAME.ORG



Senate

continued from page 1

December take effect for this election. These include the increase in signatures required for late-entry candidates, bumped from 100 to 350, and the requirement that votes cast in favor of abstention in the run-off election not be calculated in total vote percentages, so as to ensure a majority for an actual ticket.

Anderson said the Judicial Council, which oversees the election, will try to increase student participation and excitement about these elections, after less than half of the undergraduate population turned out to vote in last year's primary.

"We're working on a campaign similar to Rock the Vote for November's national presidential elections," she said. "We're really looking to boost participation and get students interested this year."

In order to accommodate the Super Bowl, the first debate will be held Feb. 3 in an as-yet unannounced location in LaFortune, tentatively at 7:30 p.m. The primary election will occur Feb. 7 with the run-off debate between the final two tickets on Feb. 8 and the run-off election on Feb. 9.

In other Senate news:

♦ Chief Executive Assistant Dave Baron told Senate that the report for the Feb. 3 Board of Trustees report would be finalized and sent to the trustees by today. The report

will focus on the general issue of diversity at Notre Dame, with sections specifically addressing racism, heterosexuality and sexism.

Baron asked that the student body wear The Shirt, or any green shirt, on Feb. 3 to show support for diversity. The date coincides with Diversity Awareness Week.

♦ Academic Affairs Committee chair Vijay Ramanan announced that the college newspaper readership pilot program will start Feb. 7 and go for four weeks while student demand is evaluated. Fourteen different locations around campus, including some dorms and classroom buildings, will receive free copies of the New York Times, Chicago Tribune and USA Today daily.

Discussions about instituting the full program will begin after results from the trial are analyzed.

♦ The Senate approved an endorsed letter to send to Bono as part of the campaign to convince U2 to come play a benefit concert during the spring semester's Africa Week.

♦ Members discussed the Committee on Oversight's exploration of changing student government's transition date from April 1 to either the end of spring semester or the end of fall semester. Most spoke in favor of making the term last into May, including student body president Adam Istvan, who said that the extra transition time would help eliminate wasted weeks.

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Tickets

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become much more positive. "That [level of confidence] hasn't appeared to have happened in the past," Istvan said.

As for the large number of tickets running, Istvan said, "It's democracy."

Karla Bell, student body vice president, noted that many of this year's candidates have extensive student government experience.

"This shows that people want to stay involved," she said.

Bell, who is "enthusiastic" about the election, said while many of the candidates have served on the same bodies of student government, the competition between them is good-natured.

According to Student Judicial Council chair Brin Anderson, a candidate must be in good academic standing and have eligibility based on their discipline record through the Office of Student Affairs and Residence Life and Housing.

Additionally, candidates must collect 700 signatures for a petition, an increase that was implemented in 2004 to prevent "joke tickets" from running. Once the signatures are in and approved by Judicial Council, the Registrar and the Office of Student Affairs, the tickets may begin campaigning, Anderson said.

"I am very happy that there are so many tickets running this year," said Anderson. "I believe that a higher number of tickets involved in the elec-

tion provides the student body with more choices and options for candidates based on their individual platforms."

Presidential candidate Jordan Bongiovanni, Cavanaugh senator, and vice presidential James Leito, Siegfried senator, said they felt encouraged by the number of candidates but admitted past disillusionment with student government.

"I'm really excited that there are a lot of people taking this seriously this year," Bongiovanni said.

Leito emphasized the pair's long-running involvement in student government and ability to enact change.

"We're trying to reach out to students," he said.

"We want to show them that [student government] does do something."

Sophomore presidential candidate Mark Healy, who also ran his freshman year, stressed his involvement as a programmer on the Student Union Board. Healy's running mate is freshman Bob Costa, who helped bring John Mayer and Eve 6 to his high school.

"Our age is one thing, but it doesn't really reflect our resumes," Healy said.

Several candidates said they viewed the high number of tickets as healthy for the campaign process.

Alumni Hall president and presidential candidate Craig Brede and his running mate

Vijay Ramanan, Senate Academic Affairs chair, said the variety of candidates contributed individual strengths to the competition and platforms.

"There's a lot of people running because there are changes to be made in student government," Brede said.

Like Brede, presidential candidate Alec White said he was "in no way intimidated" by the number of tickets.

"A little healthy competition never killed anyone — except the gladiators in Rome," White said.

In addition to Healy-Costa, several tickets bring experience in a range of student government organizations and their platforms reflect their experience. For exam-

ple, the Bongiovanni-Leito ticket and White-Powers ticket both include current senators.

Erik Powers, Sorin senator and White's running mate, said the large number of candidates would help bring fresh ideas to student government.

"Sometimes having more tickets is good, like if you're at a carnival and want to get on more rides. This is better for the merry-go-round of student government at Notre Dame," he said. "We're just asking Adam and Karla to pass the peas, and maybe the salt too," Powers said.

Contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu

"This shows that people want to stay involved."

Karla Bell
student body vice president

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Secrecy will hinder Iraq elections

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Four days before historic elections in Iraq, many candidates' names are still secret. Almost no one is out pressing the flesh. And fliers threaten death to anyone who dares vote.

The violence in Iraq and the security precautions it has prompted have put an unusual — and sometimes troubling — twist on the nature of the campaign leading up to Sunday's elections.

"How can you choose somebody to represent you without knowing even who he is?" one Iraqi woman, Ibtisam Safwan, who is living in Jordan, asked this week.

In a beauty contest, she quipped, "you know about every inch in the contestants' bodies." But on the lists of Iraqi candidates, many blanks remained as of Wednesday.

Sudan bombs Darfur villagers

CAIRO, Egypt — The Sudanese air force bombed villagers in South Darfur on Wednesday, observers from the African Union reported, and an international aid organization said casualties were inflicted.

"It is a major cease-fire violation," said the senior AU political officer for Sudan, Jean Baptiste Natama.

Darfur rebels have often accused the government of using its air force against civilians, and Khartoum has usually denied such charges. Aerial bombardments are rarely confirmed by the AU, which has about 1,400 cease-fire monitors and protection troops in the western Sudan region.

Sudanese government officials could not be reached for comment late Wednesday.

NATIONAL NEWS

Man's attempted suicide kills ten

GLENDALE, Calif. — A suicidal man parked his SUV on the railroad tracks and set off a crash of two commuter trains Wednesday that hurled passengers down the aisles and turned rail cars into smoking, twisted heaps of steel, authorities said. At least 10 people were killed and more than 180 injured.

The SUV driver got out at the last moment and survived.

The collision took place just before daybreak on the outskirts of Los Angeles. Employees at a Costco store rushed to the scene and pulled riders from the tipped-over double-deck cars before the flames reached them. Dazed passengers staggered from the wreckage, some limping. One elderly man on the train was covered in blood and soot, his legs and arms apparently broken.

Oil spill threatens drinking water

CARROLLTON, Ky. — A pipeline broke and spilled an estimated 63,000 gallons of crude oil into the Kentucky River early Wednesday, creating a 10-mile slick that crews were racing to contain to keep it from contaminating drinking water.

By afternoon the oil spill had crept within five miles of the Ohio River, which several communities in northern Kentucky rely on for their water supplies, said Environmental Protection Agency onsite coordinator Art Smith. The Kentucky River is not used for drinking water in the area.

LOCAL NEWS

Gay marriage ban to go to assembly

INDIANAPOLIS — Legislation that could lead to a state constitutional ban on gay marriage will get a chance to advance in the General Assembly.

Republican state Sen. David Long of Fort Wayne, chairman of the Senate Corrections, Criminal and Civil Matters Committee, said Wednesday his panel would consider the proposal in about two weeks. He said he expected it to pass the committee, and given its 42-7 passage in the chamber last year, win approval in the Senate this session.

IRAQ

37 troops die on deadliest day in Iraq

Helicopter crash and insurgent ambushes result in heavy casualties, injuries

Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A U.S. helicopter crashed in a desert sandstorm in the early morning darkness Wednesday, killing the 30 Marines and one Navy sailor aboard. Six other troops died in insurgent ambushes in the deadliest day for Americans since the Iraq war began nearly two years ago.

Only days before Iraq's crucial elections Sunday, militants set off at least eight car bombings that killed 13 people and injured 40 others, including 11 Americans. The guerrillas also carried out a string of attacks nationwide against schools that will serve as polling centers.

In Washington, President Bush called on Iraqis to defy terrorism and go to the polls despite relentless insurgent attacks. He said it was a "very discouraging" day when the U.S. death toll for the war rose above 1,400.

The CH-53E Super Stallion was carrying personnel from the 1st Marine Division on a security mission in support of the election when it went down about 1:20 a.m. near the town of Rutbah, about 220 miles west of Baghdad, the military said.

The crash occurred during severe weather, but its cause was still under investigation, said Army Gen. John Abizaid, chief of U.S. Central Command. An Accuweather map showed sandstorms Wednesday in the western region of Iraq near the Jordanian border where the crash took place.

A search and rescue team was at the site. The victims were 30 Marines and one sailor, said Lt. Gen. John Sattler, the top Marine commander in Iraq — the most American service members to die in a single



Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld leaves a press conference regarding the military helicopter that crashed in Iraq Wednesday killing 31 soldiers.

incident since the March 2003 invasion of Iraq.

The deadliest previous incident for U.S. troops was also a helicopter crash: a November 2004 collision of two Black Hawk helicopters that killed 17. Before Wednesday's bloodshed, the most Americans killed in one day came on the invasion's third day — March 23, 2003 — when 28 troops were killed during the U.S. military's drive to take Baghdad and topple Saddam Hussein.

The U.S. military has not seen such a high loss of life in one day in 15 years — since an explosion ripped through a gun

turret on the USS Iowa during a training exercise in the Caribbean in April 1989, killing 47 sailors.

Iraqi security forces and civilians have borne the brunt of violence in Iraq, with bombings often killing scores of people at a time. More than 180 people were killed on March 2, 2004, during a string of suicide attacks at Shiite shrines in Karbala and Baghdad.

Violence has only increased ahead of Sunday's election, which will create a 275-member National Assembly and regional legislatures. Sunni Muslim extremists have threatened to sabotage the election, and

many Sunni clerics have called for a boycott because of the presence of U.S. and other foreign troops.

The group calling itself al-Qaida in Iraq warned people to stay away from the polls, threatening attacks. "Oh people, be careful. Be careful not to be near the centers of infidelity and vice, the polling centers ... Don't blame us but blame yourselves" if harmed, a Web statement issued in the group's name said.

In addition to Wednesday's crash deaths, four Marines were killed in fighting in Iraq's Anbar province, the military said.

Rice confirmed as Secretary of State

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Condoleezza Rice won confirmation as secretary of state Wednesday despite blistering criticism from Senate Democrats who accused her of misleading statements and said she must share the blame for mistakes and war deaths in Iraq.

The tally, though one-sided at 85-13, was still the largest "no" vote against any secretary of state nominee since 1825.

Separately, a Senate committee narrowly voted to send Alberto

Gonzales' attorney general nomination to the full Senate. And Jim Nicholson and Michael Leavitt won confirmation as the new secretaries of veterans affairs and health and human services respectively as President Bush's second-term Cabinet began to fill out.

Rice, Bush's national security adviser for four years and perhaps his closest adviser on the war and terrorism issues that dominated his first term, becomes the first black woman to be America's top diplomat. She succeeds Colin Powell, a former Army general who clashed privately with

some of the strongest hawks in Bush's inner circle.

Although Rice's nomination was never in doubt, Democrats mounted a lengthy and biting protest that showed she will not immediately match Powell's collegial relationship with Capitol Hill.

Democratic senators denounced Rice's job performance and truthfulness. Most criticism focused on Rice's role planning for war and explaining the threat posed by Saddam Hussein. Some accused her of avoiding accountability for the absence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

Seminar

continued from page 1

Seminar the structure of the new program to add to its success.

"With Core, we [the Core Department] determined 80 percent of the content of Core course," Howard said. "In [the College Seminar], faculty members can determine 100 percent of the content."

Many professors agreed that College Seminar ran similarly to Core, but was structured differently and gave them more freedom to design their own class.

Other professors viewed College Seminar as a greater challenge, particularly because of the oral intensive nature of the course.

"College Seminar was an experiment for me — it made me consider designing a course based on oral performance," said Moevs. "I decided to take the challenge, and made my seminar 100 percent based on oral work."

There are, however, certain requirements that each College Seminar professor must meet.

"It has to represent the three main domains of Arts and Letters — humanities, social sciences, fine and performing arts," said Howard.

Though these three areas need to be intertwined into the class by each professor, the College Seminar focuses more on answering the bigger questions.

"[The College Seminar] reflects the continual drift toward specialization and away from a general education and skills for citizenship and global identity in an increasingly shrinking world," said Andy Weigert, who teaches a Society and Environment seminar.

There are currently 23 College Seminar courses offered and there were 31 full sections in the fall. College Seminar focuses on answering big questions, with topics including folk tales, the point of Arts and Letters, spiritual education and blacks in Russia.

The variety of topics and the elimination of the yearlong program has sparked further interest in the program.

College Seminars are capped at 17 students, with a few exceptions, and focus on oral participation.

Because of the oral-intensive nature of the class, many professors graded students based on class participation, oral presentations and oral exams.

"We did oral exams, which I felt worked better and were fairer and more accurate, than written exams," said Moevs. "One aim was to help students become more articulate and polished in speaking and thinking on their feet — ND students don't get much training in this in their normal academic work."

Howard added that professors have been eager to teach College Seminar.

"We've had no problem whatsoever getting people to teach them and this is in stark contrast to Core where we would beg and plead to get people to teach them," Howard said.

Though the full-year course did have advantages, the College Seminar Department is confident that shift from Core will have a positive effect.

"One key pedagogical gain in Core was that second semester is when major student empowerment occurs," said Weigert. "Thus, the [College Seminar] is not a replacement for a yearlong

Contact Kate Antonacci at kantonac@nd.edu

Results

continued from page 1

new roles in student government.

"Susan and I feel extremely proud and honored to be chosen as the next student body president and vice president of Saint Mary's College," Mitros said. "We are humbled that our peers have entrusted us with these roles and look forward with great anticipation to serving the amazing women of the College."

McIlduff said while many students are already applying

for the health and wellness commissioner spot her administration plans to create, they intend to begin planning slowly.

"I would like to thank all the students who kindly welcomed us into their residence rooms, smiled at us when we were exhausted and opened their hearts to tell us why they love our College," McIlduff said. "Talking to my colleagues about their vision for the school was an experience like none other."

Fitzgerald and Siegel said they are upset with the loss, but believe the College will prevail.

Fitzgerald said she and

Siegel are ready to move on to bigger and better things, but was disappointed with poor student turnout.

"With only 38 percent of the student body voting, we don't really know if the whole student body was represented," Fitzgerald said. "However, we ran a good race, and wish Kellye and Susan the best."

The buzz on campus is one of anticipation for what is to come at the College.

Senior Meredith Gramann said she feels the future of Saint Mary's is in good hands.

"I think these women will be a breath of fresh," she

said. "They seem interested in the student body and I think she'll do a great job as president and vice president."

For now, Mitros and McIlduff are focusing on the future and preparing to take office.

"I hope we are able to continue in the spirit of open dialogue throughout the coming years," Mitros said. "We look forward to assuming our new roles and we want to thank the women of Saint Mary's for giving us this tremendous opportunity."

Contact Angela Saoud at saou0303@saintmarys.edu

MEXICO

Ambassador concerned over drug violence

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Tony Garza told Mexican leaders Wednesday he is concerned that growing drug-related violence and kidnappings on the border between the two countries will have a "chilling" effect on trade and tourism.

Garza's comments in a letter directed to Mexican Foreign Relations Secretary Luis Ernesto Derbez and federal Attorney Rafael Macedo de la Concha explained the motives behind a public announcement from the U.S. State Department to citizens thinking of traveling to the region.

The department on Wednesday alerted Americans visiting Mexico that violent crime, including murder and kidnaping, has increased in its northern border region.

The alert attributed the increased crime to a war between criminal organizations struggling for control of the lucrative narcotics trade. It said the leaders of several major criminal organizations have been arrested, creating a power vacuum.

"U.S. citizens should be

aware of the risk posed by the deteriorating security situation," the department warned. It added that the great majority of victims are Mexican citizens.

The U.S. Embassy in Mexico distributed Garza's letter to news agencies after issuing the alert.

A Mexican Foreign Relations Department spokesman, Allan Nahum, said officials "have received the notification and we are going to pass it along to the appropriate authorities so that they may respond" as they see fit.

The advisory came just days after the Mexican government sent federal police officers to patrol the streets of the border city of Nuevo Laredo, across from Laredo, Texas, at the request of local authorities who said the crime and violence had become too great for them to handle.

It also comes as officials crack down on top-security

federal prisons housing reputed drug traffickers who allegedly have continued to operate their businesses from behind bars with the help of corrupt prison employees.

In the latest move against prisons, federal agents and soldiers seized the top-security Matamoros prison, in the border city of the same name across from Brownsville, Texas, after six prison employees were slain and their bodies dumped outside the prison gates last Thursday.

In the latest move against prisons, federal agents and soldiers seized the top-security Matamoros prison, in the border city of Matamoros, across from Brownsville, Texas, after six prison employees were slain and their bodies dumped outside the prison gates last Thursday.

Investigators say the Matamoros prison employees were apparently killed by drug traffickers settling turf

disputes and prison vendettas.

Garza noted that while the great majority of border violence victims are Mexican citizens, "the elevated level of violence generally has resulted in greater risks to the thousands of American citizens visiting and passing through the border region every day. Increased numbers of murdered and kidnapped Americans in recent months bear this out."

Garza went on to say that he worried "the inability of local law enforcement to come to grips with rising drug warfare, kidnappings and random street violence will have a chilling effect on the cross-border exchange, tourism and commerce so vital to the region's prosperity ... We certainly do not want at this time to advise Americans to refrain from traveling to Mexico by land or to avoid the border areas, but it is our responsibility to alert them to the enhanced risks," Garza said.

He added that he applauded President Vicente Fox's efforts to combat crime and drug trafficking and said he hoped "that commitment will make a difference at the state and local levels."

"U.S. citizens should be aware of the risk posed by the deteriorating security situation."

**Tony Garza
U.S. ambassador to
Mexico**

Irish Athletics "Be There" Weekend

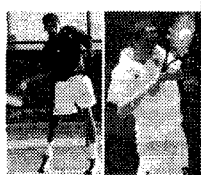
Saturday, January 29th
Men's Hockey
vs. Bowling Green
7:05 p.m.
Joyce Center Fieldhouse

•First 500 fans receive Trading Cards of the Irish Juniors sponsored by Chevy!



•Stick around after the game to get autographs from the Irish Juniors!

Saturday, January 29th
Men's Tennis
vs. North Carolina
2 p.m.
Eck Tennis Pavilion



Saturday, January 29th
#2/#4 Fencing
Notre Dame Duals
11:00 a.m.
Joyce Center Fieldhouse



Saturday, January 29th
#10 Track and Field
Notre Dame Invitational
Noon
Loftus Center



Sunday, January 30th
Men's Basketball vs. #13 UCONN

3:45 p.m. Joyce Center
•This game sponsored by Papa John's and one lucky fan will win pizza for a year!



•One lucky fan will win a free cell phone and a year of service from Centennial Wireless!

•Project Playground performing at halftime!



All three of these events are Gold Games!
The first 100 fans to each event will receive a Gold Games t-shirt sponsored by South Bend Orthopaedics!

MARKET RECAP

Stocks		
Dow Jones	10,498.59	+37.03
▲ Up: 2,359	Same: 159	▼ Down: 829
Composite Volume:		1,681,464,576

AMEX	1,407.96	-8.22
NASDAQ	2,046.09	+26.14
NYSE	7,046.40	+47.76
S&P 500	1,174.07	+5.66
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	11,376.57	0.00
FTSE 100(London)	4,847.10	+3.90

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
SIRIUS SATELLITE R (SIRI)	-0.96	-0.06	6.18
NASDAQ 100TR SER 1 (QQQQ)	+1.20	+0.44	37.15
ORACLE CORP (ORCL)	+0.22	+0.03	13.62
CISCO SYS INC (CSCO)	+1.03	+0.18	17.69
INTEL CP (INTC)	+0.72	+0.16	22.42

Treasuries			
30-YEAR BOND	-0.26	-0.12	46.63
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.07	+0.03	41.92
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.43	+0.16	37.19
3-MONTH BILL	+0.17	+0.04	23.65

Commodities		
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-0.86	48.78
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+4.80	426.90
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+0.38	94.15

Exchange Rates		
YEN		103.1100
EURO		0.7649
POUND		0.5314
CANADIAN \$		1.2331

IN BRIEF

HealthSouth CFO testifies against boss

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Fired HealthSouth CEO Richard Scrushy told his staff to “fix the numbers” to conceal a potential earnings shortfall in mid 1996 when a massive accounting scandal was just beginning, the company’s first chief financial officer testified Wednesday.

Aaron Beam, one of 15 former HealthSouth executives who reached plea deals and are expected to testify for the government in Scrushy’s corporate fraud trial, described Scrushy as being at the heart of the fraud for which he is on trial.

While prosecutors and the defense agree there was a massive scheme to overstate earnings, Scrushy contends Beam was part of a group of overly ambitious, greedy subordinates who hid it from him through years of lies.

But Beam — who helped Scrushy start HealthSouth in 1984 — said Scrushy was in on the conspiracy from its beginning.

With HealthSouth’s financial results from the second quarter of 1996 inadequate to meet Wall Street earnings forecasts, Beam said he and another finance executive who pleaded guilty, Bill Owens, went to Scrushy to discuss a problem that began on a smaller scale as early as 1991.

AEP to pay \$81 million to end suit

COLUMBUS, Ohio — American Electric Power said Wednesday it will pay \$81 million to end a lawsuit and avoid criminal prosecution by federal investigators who accused the utility’s traders of manipulating prices in the natural gas market.

The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission sued the company in 2003, alleging the traders sent thousands of false or misleading reports to industry publications from 2000-2002.

AEP fired five traders in 2002 who said they reported false information to several energy industry trade publications whose price indices are sometimes used as a benchmark to set prices in natural gas contracts. The Columbus-based company then reported the traders’ conduct to regulators and publicly announced the matter.

Wall Street silent on Social Security

Bush’s new privatized proposal has investors, big firms unsure of how to act

Associated Press

NEW YORK — There’s been a curious silence on Wall Street since President Bush proposed that Social Security be privatized.

It might seem that securities firms would be in for a windfall under the plan — the billions of dollars that would pour into private investment accounts would generate millions of dollars in new fees and commissions. But the big Wall Street firms haven’t been publicly supportive of the idea, probably because they’re not sure how profitable those accounts will be.

“The industry as a whole is going to be very quiet about this,” said Greg Valliere, chief strategist at the Stanford Washington Research Group, the policy analysis arm of Stanford Group Financial Services. “People might look at this and see some kind of sweetheart deal, and that’s not the case at all. The industry itself is split, and nobody wants the attention.”

The ambivalent camp includes some of Wall Street’s biggest names — Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch & Co., and JP Morgan Chase & Co., for example. Publicly, these and other Wall Street icons have little to say, other than to reiterate their desire for a Social Security system that pays benefits and remains fiscally responsible.

Private Social Security accounts are expected to look a lot like 401(k) retirement plans or 529 college savings plans — they will be small holdings, built with minimal deposits every month, offering low fees for the companies that run them. And that, for the largest Wall Street firms, is the problem.

Sources at the big com-



Demonstrators protest privatizing Social Security outside the offices of Charles Schwab in San Francisco, Wednesday. Mixed reaction to Bush’s proposal has caused reluctance amongst the big Wall Street firms.

panies, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that getting in on personal investment accounts just isn’t in their business plan. They invest on a much larger scale, handling individual accounts that at minimum have balances in the tens of thousands of dollars.

“Small money” accounts like the proposed Social Security accounts require big investments in infrastructure and personnel, since investors must be able to rebalance their investments at any given time — although the vast majority of individual investors never do.

“I don’t see this standing out on anybody’s

income statement,” said Lincoln Anderson, chief investment officer at LPL Financial Services and an economic adviser in the Reagan Administration. “It doesn’t seem to jump out as a high profit margin business. People put their money in and leave it in, so there’s not a lot of big activity that goes along with these accounts. And that means little or no fees.”

The firms most interested in privatization, then, will be those who already specialize in managing small money, such as Fidelity Investments, State Street Global Advisors or The Vanguard Group — the top three

401(k) companies in terms of assets under management. They already made the investment in the infrastructure and have experience in managing small individual accounts.

Even then, however, profits are likely to remain small.

“Is anyone going to make a lot of money on this per se? The answer is probably no,” Valliere said. “These accounts would be expensive to manage, and the back office charges would be considerable. And if this actually happened, Congress would make sure nobody made a nickel.”

Hip hop label’s founder arrested

Associated Press

NEW YORK — In an industry built on tough talk, the hip-hop label Murder Inc. made hundreds of millions of dollars as it blurred the line between the studio and the street.

Founder Irv “Gotti” Lorenzo named his company after a crime syndicate. He borrowed his nickname from a Mafia don. And the impresario behind platinum-selling superstars Ja Rule and Ashanti made no secret of his friendship with one of New York’s most notorious drug lords.

Prosecutors charged Wednesday that the criminal image was all too real. Gotti was led from the FBI’s Manhattan office in handcuffs as he

was charged with laundering more than \$1 million in drug profits from Kenneth “Supreme” McGriff’s multi-state crack and heroin operation.

“They don’t call it gangster rap for nothing,” said Frederick Snellings, special agent-in-charge of the FBI’s New York criminal division. “It’s pretty clear that the image isn’t accidental.”

McGriff, already in prison on a gun violation, was charged with drug dealing, racketeering and three murders.

Federal prosecutors said Gotti, his brother and business partner, Chris Lorenzo, and their associates accepted frequent deliveries of McGriff’s drug cash at their Manhattan offices. In exchange, Gotti cut McGriff more than \$280,000 in business and personal

checks and paid for tens of thousands of dollars worth of his travel and hotel costs, prosecutors charge.

Recording in a studio dubbed “The Crackhouse,” Murder Inc. has sold about 20 million records behind Ja Rule and Ashanti, who were not charged in the indictment. Ja Rule’s current album, “R.U.L.E.,” peaked at No. 7 on the Billboard chart. Ashanti is appearing in the movie “Coach Carter,” which debuted atop the box office list two weeks ago.

The company, owned partly by Def Jam, a subsidiary of Universal Music, has made about \$200 million since it was founded in 1997, according to a source familiar with its operations who insisted upon anonymity.

POLAND

Cheney supports Ukraine

Associated Press

KRAKOW — Vice President Dick Cheney voiced his support Wednesday for Ukraine's new president, and his bright orange tie — symbolic of Viktor Yushchenko's "Orange Revolution" — drove home the message.

"The world has been inspired by the remarkable images emanating from Ukraine in recent months," Cheney said at a cultural center in Krakow, Poland, where the two met during a heavy snowstorm. "We have watched as Ukrainians, by the hundreds of thousands, converged on Kiev's Independent Square to preserve their freedom and safeguard their right to determine the destiny of their nation."

He said the Ukrainian people have shown the world the "unstoppable power of the popular will."

Yushchenko, who survived a nearly fatal poisoning to emerge victorious in a bitterly disputed election, faces a delicate juggling act, pushing for democratic reforms and aligning Ukraine with Europe while keeping fruitful relations with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

On Monday, Yushchenko smoothed relations with Putin in Moscow. On Wednesday, he stood side-by-side with Cheney at dual podiums to publicly express mutual support.

Yushchenko mentioned Russia along with the United States, the European Union and Poland as strategic partners, but he and Cheney refrained from saying anything that might have provoked Putin, who will meet with President Bush during his trip to Europe next month.

"We want to pursue the processes of liberalization and democratization in all aspects of life that are so badly needed in Ukraine and other Eastern European nations, shoulder-to-shoulder with our partners," said Yushchenko, his chalky complexion scarred by the near-lethal dose of dioxin he ingested during the campaign.

"After the Orange Revolution, the country and the nation have changed," Yushchenko said. "Not only do we have an independent country, we have a free country — a country capable of pursuing new, independent and responsible policy."

Initially, the two leaders were scheduled to have a brief meeting and then eat dinner. But their meeting lasted more than an hour — more than twice as long as scheduled — and they skipped dinner.

ISRAEL

Israelis, Palestinians resume contact

The two countries diplomatically converged after a two-week freeze

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel and the Palestinian Authority resumed diplomatic contacts Wednesday after a two-week freeze, and Israel agreed to suspend targeted killings of Palestinian militants — two more steps toward a cease-fire and a resumption of peace talks.

Also Wednesday, Israeli and Palestinian security chiefs held their second meeting in several hours on completing plans for the deployment of 1,500 Palestinian officers at flashpoints in central and southern Gaza. Commanders met at a key junction in southern Gaza, ahead of Thursday's deployment.

About 100 Jewish settlers came to the junction to protest the security coordination. Settlers flattened tires of Palestinian police vehicles, one of the Palestinian commanders said.

The relative calm of the past week was marred by a brief burst of violence in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday, including Palestinian rocket fire and the killing of a Palestinian girl, apparently by Israeli army fire. Doctors initially said the girl was 3, but later said she might be a little older.

It appeared unlikely the violence would slow the momentum toward a truce.

Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat and a top aide to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Dov Weisglass, met Wednesday to discuss the emerging cease-fire deal and prepare for a meeting between Sharon and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas. The two have been in touch by phone for several days.

Sharon had cut off ties with the Palestinian Authority two weeks ago, after militants killed six Israeli civilians at a Gaza cargo crossing. However, the freeze was short-lived, with Israeli and

Palestinian security officials resuming contacts several days later.

Erekat said his meeting with Weisglass did not produce a summit date, but that it was held in a very good atmosphere.

Two senior Palestinian security commanders said Wednesday that Israel has agreed to hand security control of four West Bank cities — Ramallah, Tulkarem, Qalqiliya and Jericho — to the Palestinians within 10 days. However, a senior Israeli official said the issue has not yet been discussed, noting that Israeli Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz is abroad.

A senior U.S. envoy, meanwhile, was arriving later Wednesday for talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders on the terms of a cease-fire. Earlier this week, Palestinian militant groups had agreed to suspend attacks on Israel, provided the Israeli military halts operations, including arrest raids and targeted killings.

Israeli security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said late Tuesday that the military has agreed to halt the targeted attacks, mainly missiles fired from helicopters, in which dozens of fugitives and scores of bystanders have been killed since the outbreak of fighting in 2000. The most prominent Palestinians killed in the targeted attacks were Hamas founder Sheik Ahmed Yassin, and his successor, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, hit in missile strikes last year.

The security officials said Israel would not act on its current target list of militants, but they warned that if Palestinians resume hostile

activity, they will target those responsible.

Israel informed the Palestinians of the decision, the security officials said.

On Tuesday, Hamas' top leader told The Associated Press that his group is ready to suspend attacks on Israel if it stops targeting militant leaders and releases Palestinian prisoners.

"This is a moment of test," Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal, who is based in Damascus, Syria, said by cellular phone. "It puts the responsibility on the international community and the United States to force Israel to recognize the Palestinian rights."

Israeli Vice Premier Ehud Olmert stopped short of confirming Israel's decision Wednesday, but indicated a change in policy, saying Israel needs to respond to Palestinian efforts to prevent attacks on Israel.

"If there is a real change (in Palestinian efforts) ... this is something we need to relate to," he told Israel Army Radio.

However, the Israeli military has not halted arrest raids, particularly in the West Bank.

Abbas was to leave Friday for visits to Egypt, Jordan, Russia and Turkey.

If he obtains U.S. — and Egyptian-backed guarantees that Israel will halt military operations, he is expected to return to the Gaza Strip for a formal cease-fire declaration, Palestinian officials said.

Israeli and Palestinian generals decided at a two-hour meeting late Tuesday on a plan for the deployment of Palestinian police in central and southern Gaza.

"It puts the responsibility on the international community and the United States to force Israel to recognize the Palestinian rights."

**Khaled Mashaal
Hamas leader**

LEBANON

Bush to Iran: stay out of Iraq

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Iran should stay out of Iraq's elections, President Bush said Wednesday on pan-Arab television.

"Iranians should not be trying to unduly influence the elections," Bush said of Sunday's polls in an interview with the Dubai-based satellite channel Al-Arabiya, according to a White House transcript.

U.S. and Iraqi officials have expressed fears that Iran, a Shiite Muslim-majority state on Iraq's eastern border, is trying to expand its influence through the elections, in which Iraqi Shiites are expected to win the largest number of seats in a transitional national assembly.

Iran has rejected accusations it was trying to influence the elections, saying that Iraqis have made it clear they won't take orders from abroad.

Bush said he does not think the elections will produce a pro-Iranian government in Baghdad.

"The future of Iraq depends upon Iraqi nationalism and the Iraq character — the character of Iraq and Iraqi people emerging. You know, there's been longtime problems between Iran and Iraq, and I'm confident that Iraqi nationalism and Iraqi pride and the history of Iraq and traditions of Iraq will be the main focus of the new government, and reflect the new government," he said.

Bush also paid tribute to Iraqis and urged them to vote this weekend.

"I know thousands and thousands of Iraqis want to vote. I know they cherish the idea of being able to vote, and I hope as many Iraqis vote as possible," he said.

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Bush asks for Americans' patience

The President pleads for Iraqis to defy terrorism, vote in election

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush pleaded for Americans' patience Wednesday on what he conceded was "a very discouraging day" of death and violence for U.S. troops in Iraq. He urged Iraqis to defy terrorist threats and vote in Sunday's elections.

Bush held a White House news conference hours after more than 30 American troops perished in a helicopter crash in western Iraq and insurgents killed five others in the deadliest day yet for U.S. forces. The deaths pushed the American toll above 1,400.

Unwavering in the course he has set, Bush pledged: "We'll have the troop levels necessary to complete the mission. And that mission is to enable Iraq to defend herself from terrorists — homegrown or terrorists that come in from outside of the country." He made clear that Iraq is nowhere near ready to handle its own security, and he talked about U.S. involvement over the next year.

Four days before Iraq's elections and a week before his own State of the Union address, the president grappled with pointed questions about the war's heavy price and growing doubts that a stable, democratic Iraq will ever emerge. In money alone, Iraq is costing taxpayers more than \$1 billion a week.

Democrats registered their unhappiness with Bush's handling of Iraq in the Senate's 85-13 vote to confirm Condoleezza Rice as secretary of state. It was the strongest negative vote

against a secretary of state at least since World War II.

Bush said Americans are not alone in their qualms. Iraqis are "losing a lot of people" in bombings and assassinations, he said, and "some are feeling intimidated" about threats against voters. Moreover, Bush said: "The Iraqi people are wondering whether or not this nation has the will necessary to stand with them as a democracy evolves."

"The enemy would like nothing more than the United States to precipitously pull out and withdraw before the Iraqis are prepared to defend themselves."

It was the 18th full-blown news conference of Bush's presidency and the first of his second term, covering issues ranging from Social Security to questions raised by his inaugural address. Bush made these points:

◆ He recognizes that some people are worried about the political risks and financial costs of overhauling Social Security by creating private investment accounts — a step that could cost \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion in transition costs. "What you're hearing a little bit is whether or not it is worth the political price. I think it is," he said. He pledged to lead a battle in Congress and travel across the country to convince Americans the system is in trouble.

◆ His inaugural address promising to spread freedom and end tyranny around the world was not intended as a statement of new policy but rather a reflection of the strategy he

pursued in his first term. Even some of his supporters have been nervous that it signaled plans for global U.S. intervention. Bush said he has raised human rights concerns with China and will be direct with Russia's Vladimir Putin when they meet next month in Slovakia. "I will remind him that if he intends to continue to look West, we in the West believe in Western values," Bush said.

◆ The Education Department was wrong to pay conservative commentator Armstrong Williams \$240,000 to plug its policies. "I expect my Cabinet secretaries to make sure that that practice doesn't go forward," the president said.

The bloodshed in Iraq and Sunday's elections framed much of the questions of Bush's news conference.

He said he lacked details about the helicopter crash in Iraq's western desert. "The story today is going to be very discouraging to the American people," Bush said. "I understand that. ... But it is the long-term objective that is vital, and that is to spread freedom."

Sunday's elections in Iraq represent a major test for Bush, who has staked his reputation on spreading democracy across the Middle East. "I anticipate a grand moment in Iraqi history," he said.

"We anticipate a lot of Iraqis will vote," the president said. "Clearly there are some who are intimidated."

Asked what would be a credible turnout, Bush pronounced the elections a success even before they happen.

Prosecutor's recent findings favor Cosby

In two weeks authorities will know charges

Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — A prosecutor investigating a fondling allegation against Bill Cosby said Wednesday that the accuser's yearlong delay in coming forward, and their contact in the past year, weighed in the comedian's favor.

Authorities interviewed Cosby on Wednesday and expect to know in two weeks whether they will bring charges in response to the allegation that he fondled the woman in his suburban Philadelphia home, Bruce L. Castor Jr., the Montgomery County district attorney, said at a news conference.

"I think that factors such as failure to disclose in a timely manner and contacts with the alleged perpetrator after the event are factors that weigh toward Mr. Cosby," Castor said.

The woman went to Canadian authorities Jan. 13, contending that Cosby had given her some medication and later fondled her in his Cheltenham Township mansion a year earlier, after they and others met for dinner.

The woman's attorney, Dolores M. Troiani, issued a strongly worded statement Wednesday defending the reporting delay and saying: "Our client is the victim of a sexual assault."

Troiani said the trauma her client experienced, especially since she considered Cosby a friend and mentor, and Cosby's celebrity made it difficult for her to come forward, and that delays are common in such cases.

"Look at what happened to Kobe Bryant's accuser," Troiani told The Associated Press. "We're still blaming the victim."

Troiani said Cosby had given the woman a pill that rendered her semiconscious, and that her client and Cosby were alone at the house, except for any staff

that might have been there.

Castor said the woman's allegation, if true, would constitute a misdemeanor or low-level felony.

He said the decision to file charges would come down to whether there was criminal intent.

"In Pennsylvania, we charge people for criminal conduct. We don't charge people with making a mistake or doing something foolish," Castor said.

The district attorney added that Cosby and his attorney, Walter M. Phillips Jr., "have been fully cooperative without delay or hesitation."

Phillips said he and Cosby met with Pennsylvania investigators for about 90 minutes. The meeting took place outside the state, but he declined to say where.

"I feel hopeful even optimistic that no criminal charges will be filed."

Walter M. Phillips Jr.
attorney

"I feel hopeful, even optimistic, that no criminal charges will be filed," Phillips said.

The woman, a former basketball standout at the University of Arizona, worked at Temple University in Philadelphia for

several years before returning to her native Canada to attend massage school.

Cosby, 67, is a Temple alumnus and booster who frequently attends campus events.

The woman told The Philadelphia Inquirer for a story Wednesday that she came forward because she wanted to do the right thing.

"What would you do? I did what I thought was right," she was quoted as saying from her home in Ontario.

Troiani said she thought Cosby and the woman had seen each other once or twice in the intervening year, and that Cosby had met her parents in Canada before the alleged incident.

Troiani declined to have her client speak to the AP. It is the AP's policy not to publish names of alleged sexual assault victims without their consent.

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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Thursday, January 27, 2005

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THE
OBSERVER ONLINE
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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Matt Lozar.

POST OFFICE INFORMATION

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

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

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

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If you go chasing 'archies'

Oh, it was a fine, fine day on South Quad. A day perfect for leisurely strolling or making daisy-chains. But alas, there were papers to turn in. What to do, what to do?

The DeBartolo cluster was packed to the gills. The building manager of O'Shag still stood silently stupefied, wondering where his computer lounge had gone. Yes, for young Bob, the world had turned upside down. He felt further and further and further away from WebFile by the minute.

Dear reader, this is all very true and all very, very remarkable, as you'll soon see. While pondering how to print my semester-ending research paper last month, I stood outside of Bond Hall and watched as an "archie" ran by. With his sleep-deprived eyes twitching and North Face jacket twirling, I heard the archie say to himself "the blueprints are late! The blueprints are late!"

Thinking he was on to something, I, the good English major, followed him down the architecture hole. (I was to find out, of course, that this "hole" was actually the side door to Bond.)

"Kind archie, please, could you direct me to a computer lab?" I politely implored. But no sooner did I speak the words, than did the archie disappear.

To be more precise, it was rather more of a decreasing than a disappearing. To my astonishment, I had grown 10 times as tall as I had been on South Quad. As I gazed around the increasingly smaller room, I happened upon a peculiar bottle. It was a Mountain Dew Code Red with a note reading "Drink Me" attached. I quickly imbibed this favorite drink of the architecture student and returned to a normal height.

Suddenly, coming into focus before me was a door. Being the perfect height now to enter, I snuck in. As I walked out

into the next curious world, I saw two men standing with their arms around each other's neck. I read the name tags on their Adidas warm-up jackets to discover that they were brothers, Tweedle-Ty and Tweedle-Davie. What in the world were they doing here?

"South quad isn't any fun," said Tweedle-Davie. "All people want to talk about are Bowl games."

"Supposedly," added Tweedle-Ty. "Please don't tell anyone we're here. If you keep our secret, we'll turn your paper in for you."

I couldn't bear to stay with them. Just then, out of the corner of my eye, I saw a most remarkable apparition. It was a big, body-less smile and I paused to hear it laugh. As I listened, its body came into focus. It was the Chesire Accountant.

"Find a job yet, artsy?" The Chesire Accountant asked. "I've been offered a consultant position with a leading investment firm. And you?"

I certainly didn't feel the need to chat with this ever-so annoying creature. Luckily for me, it faded away as quickly as it had appeared, but not before suggesting I continue my adventure in architecture land by visiting the Mad Dissertater.

Taking a break from footnoting his dissertation, I found the Mad Dissertater drinking tea with the Hookah Smoking Graduate Student. Noticing me noticing them, the pair spoke at once.

"You, boy, quickly. Compare Plato with Heidegger."

"I can't," I answered.

"No, not Kant!" The Graduate Student bellowed, the hookah falling from his shocked mouth. The Mad Dissertater

didn't move his eyes from his research. He merely offered a snooty chuckle and went back to the Penguin Classic Edition he was highlighting. I saw their attention turn. The tiny radio on their tea service was tuned to NPR and a brand new "Talk of the Nation" was about to air. I took the opportunity to scurry away but not before I began to lose all hope of ever printing out my paper.

It got curiouser and curiouser from there. I chanced to come upon my best printing hope, the Bond Hall cluster. But, as my luck would have it, the ResLife Queen had converted it into a human chess board.

I heard cruel cries of "off with his head! Twenty hours of service!" I made it to the print release station but pawns and rooks quickly surrounded me, their accusing

looks discovering I was not an architecture student. I was a stranger in a strange, strange land.

But wait. What was that I had in my pocket? Yes, it was everyone's favorite dining hall treat, a spicy sea nugget. I took a nibble and I grew even larger than before.

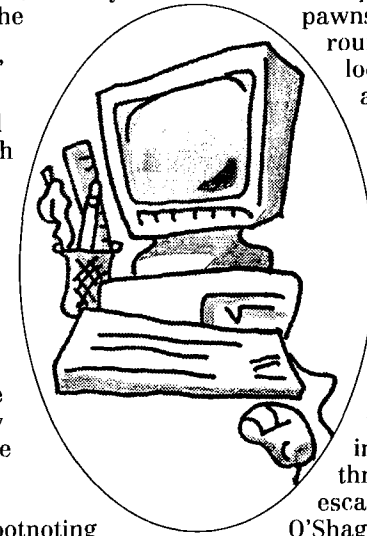
With my tiny paper pouring off the printer and into my hands, I burst through the ceiling and escaped to the safety of

O'Shag, far, far away from architecture land.

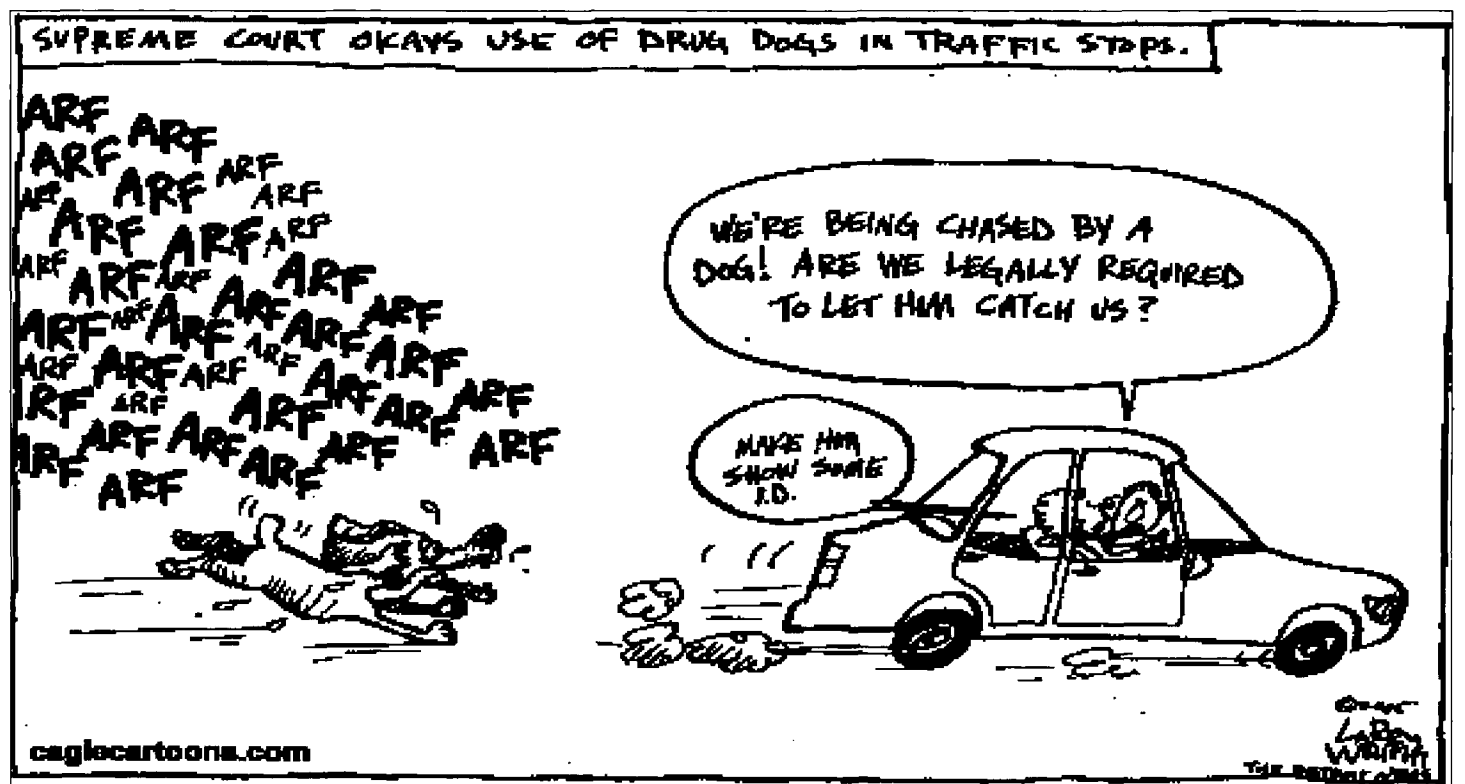
Before I left, I glanced back into that strange world. There was Tweedle-Ty. He was booking a flight to Seattle. Curious indeed.

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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?

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I like thinking big. If you're going to be thinking anyway, you might as well think big."

Donald Trump
real estate developer

Reclaiming the debate

It's almost February, month of that venerable Notre Dame tradition, the annual debate over The Vagina Monologues. For the benefit of the freshmen here's how it works: On Feb. 14 if most of the letters published on the Viewpoint page denounce the Monologues then there will be six more weeks of winter, whereas if the majority of letters defend the play then there will still be six more weeks of winter because, well, that's just how things are in Northern Indiana.

Peter Wicks

*Englishman
Abroad*

According to protocol, the first barrage of letters will alternate between splenetic cries that the play is offensive to men, demeaning to women, and a direct attack on Notre Dame's Catholic heritage on the one hand, and a series of high-minded claims that it is a celebration of women's voices on the other. The latter are often accompanied by the unmistakable suggestion that anyone who doubts this is probably repressed, with hang-ups about women's bodies, and possibly women's suffrage.

Next someone will write in to point out that Mary had a vagina. At this point the reader should drink a shot.

Finally the case for the defense will settle into two lines of argument; the Experience Alibi and the Dialogue Gambit.

The Experience Alibi is the suggestion that since the play is based upon interviews with real women, criticism of the play is tantamount to an attack on those women. As a previous director of the play wrote in these pages, "To condemn this collection of stories is to condemn these women and the truth of their lives."

Let's bring the rhetoric back down to Earth. Eve Ensler's play is based on interviews with real women, but it hardly follows that the audience is getting direct access to their experience. Firstly, people have a way of picking up their signals about what their interviewer wants to hear — or are we to believe that before Ensler began her project there was a

woman walking around just desperate to tell someone, anyone, that if her vagina got dressed it would wear a pink boa?

Secondly, Ensler is a playwright and not a stenographer, and she has allowed herself far more freedom with the interview material than the "real women's stories" argument allows. In the published version of the script there are author's notes sandwiched between each of the monologues. In one such note Ensler writes "After I finished this piece I read it to the woman on whose interview I'd based it. She didn't really feel it had anything to do with her."

Finally, there is the obvious fact that Ensler has been selective in which of her hundreds of interviews she developed into monologues. Anyone with an ear for spoken English can tell that these are not verbatim records of stories told to her, but even if they were that would not preclude the presence of an ideological agenda imposed through editorial choices.

None of these points are meant as criticisms. It is Ensler's play and there is no reason why she shouldn't have taken artistic license with her source material or chosen stories which suit her message. But by the same token, it is Ensler's play, and to try to deflect criticisms of the play by treating them as personal attacks on her anonymous interviewees is either dishonest or illiterate.

The other argument which recurs with liturgical regularity is the Dialogue Gambit. Each year, after the first few volleys have been fired, the director of the play will write to The Observer and courteously thank by name the authors of some of the angry letters for (as Lindsey Horvath put it two years ago) "continuing a dialogue that increases

awareness in order to stop the violence." By euphemistically calling a series of barbed exchanges a "dialogue", the V-Day organizers can claim even the most hostile criticism as a sign of victory.

Perhaps it's my cynical nature, but I always feel that the self-styled "vagina warriors" want dialogue in the way that an evangelist wants dialogue - they want to hear what doubters have to say only in so far as it might reveal whatever psychological obstacles are preventing them from seeing the light.

The reaction of women to the play has, unsurprisingly, been varied. Some report that they found its sexual frankness funny, touching, and liberating, while others have found the play vulgar, its central conceit silly, and its view of women demeaning. What this shows is that women's experience is varied and at times contradictory, but there is no hint in the play, the published script, or any of the voluminous outpourings from the V-Day movement that any woman could find the project anything other than empowering.

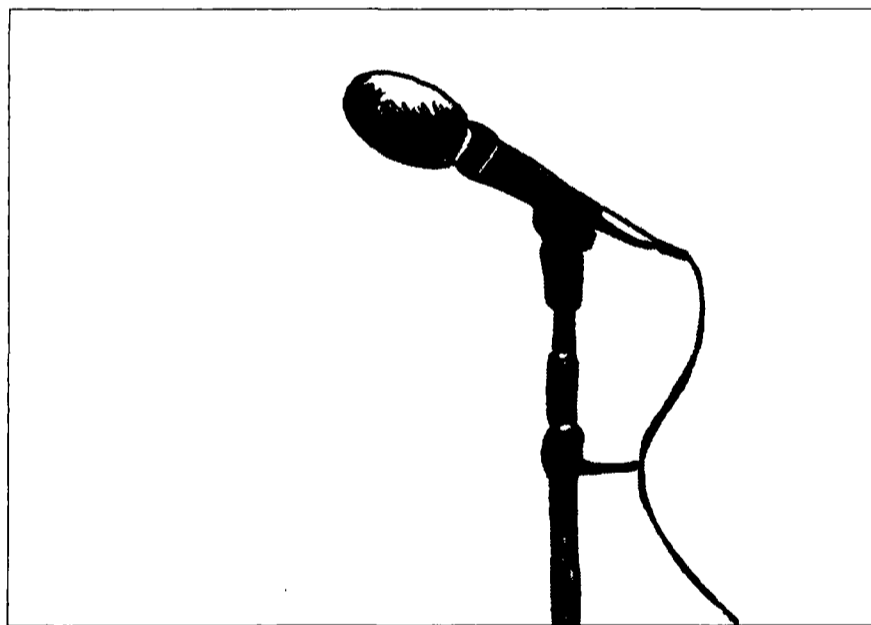
If Ensler was a better artist she would have had the honesty to admit that the fact that many women would prefer to keep their private parts private cannot just be written off as a sign of sexual repression. If she was a better artist she would have chosen a format for her play that allowed her to acknowledge dissenting voices. If Ensler was really interested in promoting dialogue, she could have started by putting some in her play.

Peter Wicks is a graduate student in the Philosophy Department. Peter can be contacted at pwicks@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Celebrate the V-Day mission



Last year we went to the show just like everyone else. We laughed, we cried and then we decided that next year we definitely wanted to be a part of it. But the "it" we wanted was to be a part of the production — to get up on stage and talk about how our vaginas would wear jewels or to get a chance to wear that super short skirt that we bought from Meijer for an unsightly price.

So, we tried out and found out that the Vagina Monologues is so much more than a show about vaginas. It's a show about women — all sorts of women — old, young, Catholic, Jewish, liberal, conservative, blond or brunette. So if you've got a vagina or know someone that does, you can relate to and love the show.

The Vagina Monologues is not a sex show or a degradation of the female population. Actually, it is the exact opposite. Eve Ensler's play celebrates the unique beauty and intelligence that every woman possesses. The mission of V-Day is straightforward — Until the Violence Stops.

By becoming a part of this fervor, we learned about the V-Day dreams — that one day, the women in Africa will be free from the horrors of female genital mutilation, that the women of Pakistan can show their acid-burned faces to the world, that the women of South Bend can be cherished instead of brutally beaten and that the women of Notre Dame will use the blessings that God gave us and speak out with and for the women of the world.

So come and see what it's all about.

Karla Bell
 Molly Savage
 seniors
 off-campus
 Jan. 26

U-WIRE

Iraq elections important for Americans too

The moment has arrived. Nearly two years after the end of "major combat" and seven months since the "transfer of power," Iraq will hold elections Sunday for a 275-person National Assembly. This collection of Iraqis will draft a constitution, the first one seen by this country in 50 years.

Zach Van Hart

*University of
Cincinnati
The News
Record*

It's a moment — regardless of the exercised method, the threat of insurgents or the likely boycott of Sunni Muslim voters — that must occur.

And not to discard the immense implications this election potentially holds for Iraq, the main reason the election must proceed is an American sentiment.

It's difficult to think of Americans first and not Iraqis when examining this issue. Then again, it's not. The majority of us only understand the emotions and thoughts of any Iraqi via the media. When it comes to American opinions and eyewitness accounts, many of us turn to a soldier we know who has served time during this war.

We talk to soldiers who peered into the eyes of Iraqis, some civilians and, undoubtedly, some insurgents. These are soldiers who risked their lives for moments like Sunday. And these are the people, at least the Americans for whom this election must proceed.

No act can ever make up for allowing 1,372 (and counting) American deaths because of a war spurred by no acts of aggression against America. No cued-up speeches by President George W. Bush, no lettered supposedly autographed by Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, no medals of honor can make a shred of difference to the family and friends of our lost soldiers.

The only act worse than allowing these soldiers to die for a seemingly unjust cause, is allowing these soldiers to die for a cause we did not see through to the end.

Elections must proceed and this attempt of democracy in Iraq must continue. Sunday

marks no guarantee of success in Iraq. The insurgents continue to wreak havoc. The Sunni boycott creates a serious threat of civil war and the overthrowing of the approaching constitution. Hatred for America for our actions remains throughout the world.

But for the American soldiers that died for this cause, we must proceed.

We must for Kirk J. Bosselmann, 21, of Napa, Calif., who died from enemy fire Nov. 27, 2004.

We must for George Mitchell, 35, of Rawlings, Md., who died from a missile attack April 7, 2003.

We must for Ramon Torres, Arron Clark and many, many others. If we postpone the elections, if we concede to the terror bombardment by insurgents, we tarnish the legacy of every American soldier.

What would that say to the other thousands of soldiers in Iraq now? How could we explain the billions upon billions of dollars spent on this war?

Many proclaim the impossibilities to these questions now, yet there is still time to miraculously pull the rabbit out of the hat. No matter our gashed reasoning, and drastic miscalculations of this war, Bush can still pull out if he can turn Iraq into a full-fledged democracy.

But we cannot quit now.

Of course the Iraqis deserve this election? So do American soldiers, alive and deceased. It's impossible to look into the parents' eyes of any of those 1,372 lost soldiers and say, "Your child died to protect America's freedom."

But there's still hope to say, "Your child died to bring freedom to another country."

For this hope to remain, Sunday's elections must proceed.

This column originally appeared on Jan. 26 in The News Record, the daily publication at the University of Cincinnati.

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

ALBUM REVIEWS

Dylan's 'Tracks' is a timeless classic

By JULIE BENDER
Scene Music Critic

Every once in a while an album comes along that can withstand the test of time. Lyrics that echo the truth of every human heart, melodies that ring from the soul and a spiritual essence that never collects dust are vital if an album is to be ageless.

"Blood on the Tracks" is one of these albums. Even 30 years after its release, "Tracks" remains an essential component of Bob Dylan's repertoire and of the history of popular music.

From the opening strums of the guitar to the harmonica to that unforgettable voice, "Blood on the Tracks" hits like you like a train and leaves you bleeding long after. Written in the throes of a tumultuous divorce from his wife and after a dry spell from his success in the sixties, "Blood on the Tracks" is a cathartic enterprise for Dylan.

Folk strumming, and later electric guitars, had characterized his earlier albums of abstract social commentary. Dylan had become an icon to the sixties generation, describing "their" world with his words. Through this, he had managed to keep his own world intensely private, maintaining a barrier between himself and the public.

When "Blood on the Tracks" hit the shelves in January of 1975, this barrier began to cave — if only for a moment. Each song contained a story and created immortal characters that amble in memory long after musical strains die out. Who can forget "the old man with broken teeth stranded without love" or the "Jack of Hearts"?

The most unforgettable character, however, is Dylan himself. Unlike his earlier albums, when Dylan sings "I" on "Blood on the Tracks," there is the sense that he truly is singing about himself. There is an irresistible vulnerability in songs like "Simple Twist of Fate," "If You See



Photo courtesy of mtv.com

"Blood on the Tracks" is often considered one of Dylan's best, along side "Bringing It All Back Home," "Highway 61 Revisited" and "Blonde on Blonde."

Her Say Hello" and "Buckets of Rain." It is a vulnerability that endears us and never lets go.

The emotional range of the album is exemplified in songs like "Idiot Wind." The fourth track on the album, "Idiot Wind" is an eight-minute journey into the depths of the human psyche, struggling with love, hate, hurt, anger, revenge and existence. Dylan vacillates between bitterness and nostalgia for his former naiveté, only to come to the helpless conclusion that "We're idiots, babe. It's a wonder we can even feed ourselves."

"Shelter from the Storm" is a lyrical masterpiece, providing Biblical wisdom in nearly every line. Dylan sings about his own life, but his struggles unmistakably mirror the universal effort to cope with existence: "the one-eyed undertaker, he blows a futile horn. 'Come in,' she

said, 'I'll give you shelter from the storm.'"

From the wandering tale of break up, "Tangled Up in Blue," to the pleading "You're a Big Girl Now," Dylan covers it all. He touches on the sweetness of new love in "You're Gonna Make Me Lonesome When You Go," and meets with the blues in "Meet Me in the Morning."

Leaving no emotion unchecked, "Blood on the Tracks" is both personal and universal. It remains, in the opinion of many, Dylan's masterpiece, along side "Bringing It All Back Home," "Highway 61 Revisited" and "Blonde on Blonde."

The only way to do the album justice is to put it on and let the songs speak for themselves, even 30 years after they were written.

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Blood on the Tracks

Bob Dylan

Columbia



Dears turn studio prowess into stage brilliance

By MATTHEW SOLARSKI
Scene Music Critic

Fresh off a whirlwind year of sold out shows, high praise press and accolades right and left, Montreal's The Dears return to capitalize with this, a live record. "Thank You Good Night Sold Out" seeks to encapsulate The Dears' oft-gushed-about live show, currently approaching legendary status in its native Canada, on one tiny piece of iridescent plastic. And shine it does!

On this fabulous record, listeners are treated to classic and soon-to-be-classic Dears songs, eight in all, comprising nearly 70 continuous minutes of music and melodrama. This is hardly your substandard, affected "All My Children" melodrama, however — it is Eugene O'Neill at his dramaturgical best: epic, sprawling, tortuous and tortured. Massive guitars courtesy of Martin Pelland and Patrick Krief clash and conspire with keyboard and synthesizer strings, provided by the sextet's literal feminine side, Valerie Jodoin-Keaton and Natalia Yanchak. Drummer George Donoso III keeps superb pace with the many moods of The Dears, lending a practiced sense of rhythm to the

brooding build-ups to the apocalyptic crash-downs that characterize the typical Dears track.

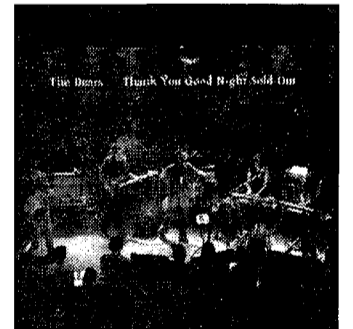
Frontman and principal songwriter Murray Lightburn rises above all the drama, chaos and occasional bombast of gnarled guitars and cinematic synth strings with his unmistakable, effervescent croon. As a self-professed acolyte of Morrissey, the influence of the former Smiths singer on Lightburn comes as no surprise. For his part, however, Lightburn adds his own twists and idiosyncrasies to Morrissey's expressive vocal approach, including a willingness to wring every last dollop of emotion out of certain notes. This proves a sublime compliment to The Dears' theatrical sound.

After releasing its second record, the stellar "No Cities Left" in late 2003, The Dears began to win the hearts and affections of several music media heavyweights. Rolling Stone recently named the band one of ten acts to watch, while British weekly NME awarded it the much coveted "single of the week" last August for the chilling "We Can Have It." Said track is, in fact, conspicuously absent from "Thank You." The tracks that do make the cut, however, more than make up for this oversight.

Thank You Good Night Sold Out

The Dears

Maple Music



"Thank You" opens slowly, with the tense, almost foreboding instrumental introduction of "Autonomy." Murray's vocals do not rise to the fore until nearly four minutes into the track, which broods and boils until unleashing what the opening chords portend: a relentless guitar-driven assault, punctuating Lightburn's exalted lamentations. Following this ten-minute epic (and after some loony in the crowd vocalizes his profound love for The Dears) is the significantly sunnier "C'était Pour la Passion," a track from the first Dears record whose jangling guitars and prancing keyboard recall 80's British act, Felt.

Lightburn and company tear through five more choice cuts, including the explosive "Lost in the Plot," before arriving at the only appropriate conclusion: a maelstrom rendition of "Pinned Together, Falling Apart" that clocks in at 22 minutes.

The Dears still have a few kinks to work out before they can achieve widespread success and seduce the ever-skittish hoi polloi; for now, "Thank You" stands as a perfect testament to an act that may someday prove legendary. Even beyond

Contact Matthew Solarski at
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TV executives fear wrath of the FCC

Associated Press

There's no more potent symbol for Hollywood TV executives these days than Peter Griffin's pixilated buttocks.

That was the image on Fox a few weeks back. The network's executives ordered a 5-year-old "Family Guy" scene blurred because it was nervous about what the Federal Communications Commission might think of Griffin's naked rear end — a cartoon character's naked rear — on television.

In a separate episode, Fox similarly covered the baby behind of Stewie, Peter's son. Both were shown with no reaction when "Family Guy" ran initially a half-decade ago.

TV executives are extremely jittery about the FCC these days, concerned that the taste standards they had become used to have become as blurred as Peter's butt.

And Friday's resignation of FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell will likely add to their uncertainty. Powell backed a record \$7.7 million in indecency fines leveled by the FCC last year, up from \$48,000 the year before he became chairman.

"We can't have a clear view of the FCC guidelines because the FCC guidelines are not clear," said Gail Berman, Fox entertainment president. "We have to be checking and second-guessing ourselves now, and that's really difficult. We have to protect our affiliates."

Each of Fox's 169 stations was fined \$7,000 by the FCC in October for airing an episode of "Married By America" that showed people licking whipped cream from strippers' bodies and a man in his underwear being spanked

by strippers.

The jitters extend well beyond Hollywood, as witnessed by the dozens of ABC affiliates that would not air the Academy Award-winning drama "Saving Private Ryan" last November because of concerns about violence and profanity.

Their critics have little sympathy. "They're lucky they got away with as much as they did," said Laura Mahaney, spokeswoman for the conservative watchdogs Parents Television Council. "It reminds me of a person who has been speeding as much as they wanted and now they're getting tickets."

Fox may have blurred some rear ends, but Mahaney said a recent "Family Guy" episode left intact a father-son chat about penis size.

'In this post-Janet Jackson world'

Janet Jackson's nipple exposure led to the FCC assessing massive fines.

The butt-blurring "seems a little extreme," but "Family Guy" creator Seth MacFarlane said he recognizes the tightrope networks are walking.

"All networks are under enormous pressure from the FCC and we deal with that every day," he said. "I mean, the phrase 'in this post-Janet Jackson world' is kind of bandied about like they're talking about September 11th."

CBS, which aired the brief glimpse of Jackson's breast that started everything a year ago at the Super Bowl, had its own buttocks self-censorship a few weeks ago. An episode of "Without a Trace" showed a naked man running down a street, filmed from behind.

The network ordered the scene cut out, reasoning that "we don't need that," said CBS Chairman Leslie

Moonves.

CBS is refusing to pay the FCC's \$550,000 fine imposed last fall for Jackson's famed wardrobe malfunction.

"What we're saying to our producers is, 'Guys, let's not be stupid about this,'" Moonves said. "Clearly, there's a change in how the FCC is looking at us. We're not changing our content. But by the same token, we have to be aware of what the world is out there."

A PBS executive said last weekend the network is altering a scene in the upcoming movie "Dirty War," which is being shown on the Public Broadcasting Service next month after a run on HBO, that shows a naked woman being scrubbed down after a fictional chemical attack. An outtake will be used that shows the woman at a more discreet angle.

"We don't want to be irresponsible and it is difficult," Fox's Berman said. "We are attempting to do our best to find our way on this very complicated issue and very complicated landscape and we ask the FCC for better guidelines."

But as a regulatory body, the FCC responds to complaints and individual circumstances, said Gene Kimmelman, director of public policy for Consumers Union and a close monitor of the federal agency.

'The FCC can't bail them out'

Asking the FCC for guidelines is like asking a court, before a crime is committed, whether it would be murder or manslaughter, he said.

"The FCC can't bail them out," he said. "They're not going to give them a wink and a nod as to what programming is acceptable."

Berman doesn't see her request as unreasonable. "They're the ones who are fining people," she said.

The FCC doesn't fine feature filmmakers for nudity or violence in movies because people make conscious decisions whether or not to buy a ticket and see them, he said. The same logic holds for cable networks like HBO or Showtime that a viewer must pay for. For the most part, if you have a TV, you'll get the broadcast networks -- no choice is involved.

The broadcasters can eliminate the problem by making themselves available "a la carte," or giving customers the chance to pick or choose which networks to accept when buying a cable or satellite service instead of having to accept a basic package where they are already included, he said.

A network willing to voluntarily risk cutting its distribution in that manner is about as likely as a blizzard on the Fourth of July.

"The uncertainties and concern about the First Amendment have been very much driven by the business decisions of Hollywood to force consumers to purchase more channels than they really want to get," Kimmelman said.

There are other avenues, said the PTC's Mahaney, mentioning ABC's "Lost" as a solid, popular series free of taste issues.

"You can make compelling entertainment programming and it doesn't have to be full of sex and violence," she said.

Meanwhile, MacFarlane is looking forward to a day when he doesn't have to worry about how much skin his animators are drawing.

"We hope that it will pass and that the good folks in Washington will come

'Catwoman' leads Razzie film 'dishonors'

Associated Press

The fur is still flying over Halle Berry's action flop "Catwoman."

The Razzies, which mock the worst in film, gave "Catwoman" a leading seven nominations Monday, among them worst picture, worst actress for Berry and worst supporting players for Sharon Stone and Lambert Wilson. "Catwoman" also was nominated for worst screen couple for Berry with either Stone or co-star Benjamin Bratt.

"Catwoman" is the cinematic equivalent of a clump in the cat-litter box," Razzies founder John Wilson said. "Kind of a sad little thing laying there stinking up the place."

The historical bomb "Alexander" was second with six Razzie nominations, including worst picture, worst actor (Colin Farrell), worst actress (Angelina Jolie) and worst director (Oliver Stone).

The other worst-picture contenders were the family action comedy "Superbabies: Baby Geniuses 2," the holiday debacle "Surviving Christmas" and the cross-dressing comedy "White Chicks."

President Bush and some of his advisers received worst-acting nominations for their appearances in news and archival footage in Michael Moore's "Fahrenheit 9/11," which assails Bush for his actions surrounding the September 11 attacks.

Bush was nominated for worst actor, while Secretary of State-designate Condoleezza Rice got a nomination for worst supporting actress and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld for worst supporting actor.

Wilson said that while "Fahrenheit 9/11" was a piece of anti-Bush propaganda, the president and his associates earned their Razzie nominations on their own.

"It wasn't Mr. Moore's editing," Wilson said. "It's the raw footage of these people just making fools of themselves."

Just a few seconds of screen time in "Fahrenheit 9/11" brought a nomination as worst supporting actress for Britney Spears, who sits for a moment blank-faced and chewing gum in the film before saying she thinks people should support the president in all decisions he makes.

Along with Bush and Farrell, worst-actor nominees were Ben Affleck for "Jersey Girl" and "Surviving Christmas"; Vin Diesel for "The Chronicles of Riddick"; and Ben Stiller for "Along Came Polly," "Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy," "Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story," "Envy" and "Starsky & Hutch."

Joining Berry and Jolie as worst-actress contenders were Hilary Duff for "A Cinderella Story" and "Raise Your Voice," and two pairs of siblings: Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen for "New York Minute" and Shawn and Marlon



"Catwoman" led all films with six Razzie nominations, including worst picture and worst actress for Halle Berry.

Wayans, who play federal agents in drag in "White Chicks."

The Olsen twins and the Wayans brothers also had nominations as worst screen couples.

Arnold Schwarzenegger received a nomination for worst supporting actor for "Around the World in 80 Days," for which he did a cameo before becoming California's governor. Besides him, Rumsfeld and Wilson, the other supporting nominees were Val Kilmer for "Alexander" and Jon Voight for

"Superbabies."

Besides Rice, Spears and Stone, Carmen Elektra of "Starsky & Hutch" and Jennifer Lopez of "Jersey Girl" also were nominated for worst supporting actress.

Selected by about 500 members of the Golden Raspberry Foundation, Razzie nominations were released a day before the Academy Awards nominations come out. Razzie winners will be announced February 26, a day before the Oscars.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Maryland pulls off upset at No. 2 Duke, 75-66

Louisville crushes Marquette; Boston College edges Providence; Northwestern upends Iowa with buzzer beater

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.C. — Maryland coach Gary Williams brought in a few experts before facing second-ranked Duke.

Former stars Steve Blake, Juan Dixon and Laron Profit visited practice this week, giving the current Terrapins a few lessons. They talked about having fun, about believing in themselves and about giving a full effort against the undefeated Blue Devils.

"That was huge," forward Nik Caner-Medley said. "That was the hardest we practiced all year."

Caner-Medley and his teammates carried that message to the game, giving Maryland an improbable upset.

The junior had 25 points before leaving with an ankle injury, and Travis Garrison and Ekene Ibekwe finished off the Blue Devils at the free-throw line in a 75-66 victory Wednesday night.

The Terrapins (12-5, 3-3 Atlantic Coast Conference) lost three of their previous five games, all by at least 15 points. But they hung with Duke (15-1, 5-1) throughout and allowed only two points in the final 3 1/2 minutes.

"I just thought they played a little bit harder than we did," Blue Devils coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "We didn't have the attitude that we've had the entire year. This team has to have an edge all the time."

Ibekwe gave Maryland the lead for good with a tough layup in traffic off an inbounds play, set up during a timeout by Williams. That made it 66-64 with 1:23 left, and the Blue Devils had no answer.

No. 12 Louisville 99, Marquette 52

Larry O'Bannon fought off a grin as he left the floor late in Louisville's victory over Marquette.

The senior guard hit six 3-pointers and scored 30 points, both career highs, and punctuated the best game of his career with a steal and breakaway dunk.

Coach Rick Pitino took him out seconds later, prompting chants of "Lar-ree! Lar-ree!" from the capacity crowd.

"You can't beat that — 20,000 people yelling for you. You can't even dream of that," O'Bannon said. "I didn't want to crack a smile, but I was sunshine on the inside."

The soft-spoken O'Bannon

also had five rebounds and seven assists for the Cardinals (17-3, 5-1 Conference USA), who handed Marquette its most lopsided loss ever.

"Larry had a special night," Pitino said. "I'm really pleased for him. It's wonderful to see a person like him have a game like this. He exemplifies everything we're trying to build with our program."

Francisco Garcia added 14 points for the Cardinals, who snapped a three-game home losing streak to Marquette and won for the 11th time in 12 games. Since a 60-58 loss to Kentucky on Dec. 18, the Cardinals have won 11 home games by an average of 28 points.

Pitino, who coached Kentucky from 1989-97, jokingly asked reporters to not give the Cardinals too much publicity.

"We'd rather you write about Kentucky and leave us alone," Pitino said. "Let us stay second fiddle because we're not good when we think we're good."

Todd Townsend had 17 points, and Marcus Jackson grabbed 12 rebounds for the Golden Eagles (14-5, 2-4), whose previous worst defeat was a 57-12 loss to Creighton in 1940.

No. 8 Boston College 78, Providence 75

The Boston College Eagles believe something special is happening this season, and it's not luck, either.

Jared Dudley scored 21 points and hit a 3-pointer with 1:20 left to give Boston College the lead, and the No. 8 Eagles remained undefeated with a victory over Providence.

Boston College (17-0, 6-0 Big East) is off to its best start in school history in the regular season and conference play.

"It's just something about us," said Craig Smith, who also scored 21 points. "We just have a feeling we can't lose right now. We always go into each game feeling we should win."

Boston College and No. 1 Illinois are the only undefeated teams left in Division I. No. 2 Duke lost for the first time Wednesday night, falling 75-66 to Maryland.

Donnie McGrath led Providence (9-9, 0-5) with 17 points, matching his season high, and made 5 3-pointers. Leading scorer Ryan Gomes was held to 13 points on 5-for-14 shooting. Providence has lost five straight.

A 3-pointer by McGrath gave the Friars a 75-71 lead with

3:19 left in the game. BC's Jermaine Watson then hit a floater from the baseline to draw the Eagles within two. The teams traded turnovers before Dudley hit his 3-pointer from the left wing to put BC in front.

"He's exploded this year," Smith said of Dudley, who also led the Eagles with 12 rebounds and added six assists. "He should be a name people should be talking about. That shot shows how much poise he has, and he's willing to take big shots."

Providence's Dwight Brewington missed a 3-pointer with less than a minute left, but Gomes grabbed the rebound. He whirled in the lane, but got caught in the air with two defenders on him and turned the ball over.

Watson made one free throw to give BC a 77-75 lead, but missed the second to give Providence a chance with 31 seconds left. DeSean White missed a jumper with 10 seconds remaining, and Dudley hit a free throw 2 seconds later to give Boston College a three-point lead.

White said he was looking for Gomes from the moment he touched the ball.

"By the time I looked down [in the lane], there was a double [team] on him, and I had to do something," said White, who finished with eight points. "So, I shot. I make that nine out of ten times."

After Dudley's free throw, Boston College used a foul to take some time off the clock, and McGrath's 3-pointer was off the mark as time expired.

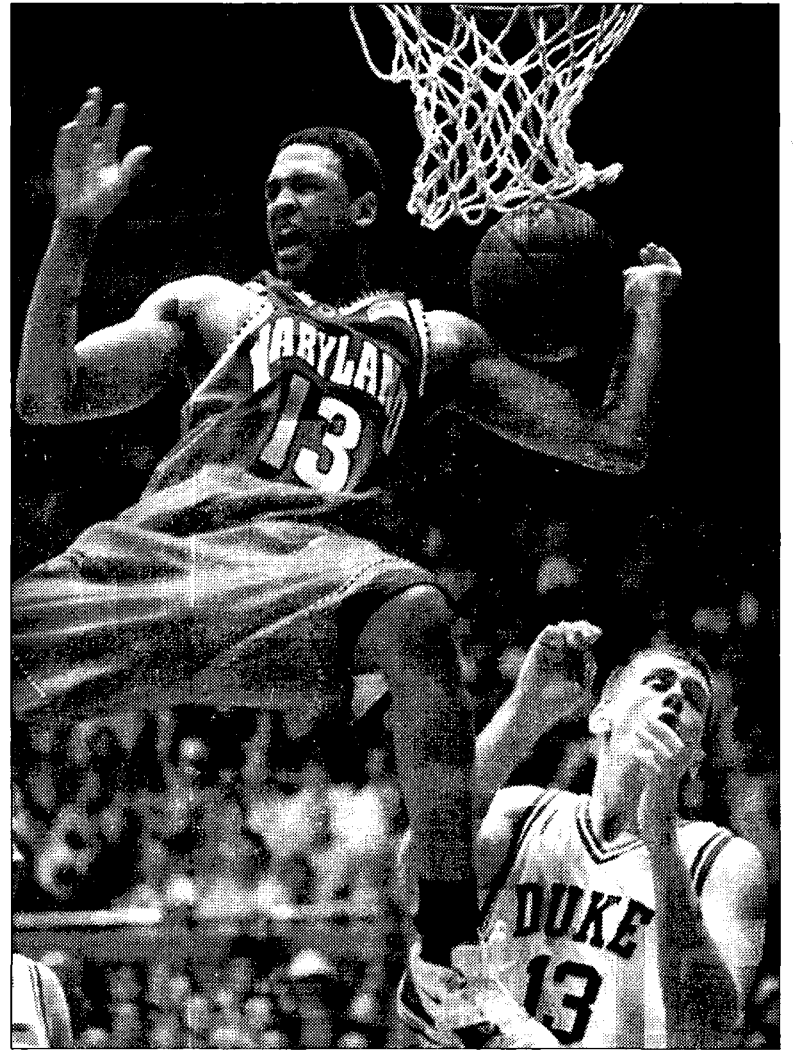
"Our kids fought hard, but I thought BC did a better job in the last couple of minutes, taking better shots while our kids took some questionable shots," Providence coach Tim Welsh said.

Northwestern 75, No. 23 Iowa 74, OT

Walk-on Michael Jenkins found himself wide open in the corner, took the pass and let fly with a high-arching shot.

Then, like everyone else in Welsh-Ryan Arena, he watched as the ball bounced on the rim twice and fell through just before the buzzer, giving Northwestern a stunning 75-74 overtime victory over No. 23 Iowa on Wednesday night.

"I saw it him the rim and I figured I'd get a shooter's roll from the beginning," Jenkins said. "The point is, it went in."



Maryland's Chris McCray dunks over Duke's Lee Melchioni in the second half of a 75-66 Maryland upset Wednesday night.

Northwestern players and fans raced to the floor to mob Jenkins following the dramatic victory that saw the Wildcats rally from 12 down with 3:27 to go in regulation.

Vedran Vukusic, who was doubtful to start because of a sore shoulder, scored a career-high 32 points for Northwestern, including 13 in the final 2 minutes of regulation to help the Wildcats snap a four-game losing streak.

"The last one we wanted to get two, but it worked out well," Northwestern coach Bill Carmody said. "You have to be lucky. That shot doesn't have to go down and some of their good free throw shooters missed. We were fortunate."

Greg Punner had a career-high 28 points for Iowa (14-5, 2-4) in the Hawkeyes' second crushing defeat in three games. Six days ago, they lost in overtime to top-ranked Illinois.

And on Wednesday night, they missed 11 of 26 free throws in the second half and overtime.

Jeff Horner's 3-pointer put Iowa up 71-68 in overtime and

Pierre Pierce's jumper gave the Hawkeyes a five-point cushion before Vukusic had two free throws and a layup to make it 73-72.

No. 14 Alabama 60, Auburn 55

Alabama's point guard was in foul trouble, its lead was dwindling and Auburn had converted two quick turnovers into dunks.

Then, the 14th-ranked Crimson Tide managed to break out of an offensive funk in time to escape with a 60-55 victory Wednesday night.

"If anything wakes us up, that would do it," said Earnest Shelton, who led Alabama with 22 points. "We had to find a way to get it done. We needed baskets, we needed stops."

The Crimson Tide (16-3, 5-1 Southeastern Conference) got just enough of both after watching a 15-point lead dwindle to one with some sloppy play. But Chuck Davis hit two free throws and drove for a basket to help secure Alabama's fourth straight win over its archrival.

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NBA

Jackson rejoins team after 30-game suspension

Associated Press

BOSTON — Stephen Jackson is still trying to control his emotions.

Only this time, the emotion is joy.

"Today is a great day for me," the Indiana Pacers forward said Wednesday night before returning from a 30-game suspension to play the Boston Celtics. "This is up there with my championship."

Jackson, who won an NBA title with San Antonio in 2003, has not played since a Nov. 19 brawl in Auburn Hills, Mich., that was one of the most violent fights ever between players and U.S. sports fans. Jackson went to the aid of teammate Ron Artest, who went into the stands to fight with Detroit fans after getting hit in the face with a cup.

But instead of pulling Artest out of the melee, Jackson went in swinging wildly.

Commissioner David Stern suspended Artest for the rest of the season, Jackson for 30 games and Jermaine O'Neal for

25, a penalty that was reduced by an arbitrator to 15.

"I think we've learned from it, and I think guys from both teams and everyone else have learned from it," Pacers guard Michael Curry said. "Hopefully, that never occurs again. But we've put closure on it, and now it's a matter of getting guys back on the court and finding a rhythm to our game."

Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said before Wednesday night's game that he would monitor Jackson early on to make sure he wasn't winded. Jackson was in the starting lineup against the Celtics.

"It has been a long time for him. I'm excited for him to have the opportunity to rejoin us," Carlisle said. "On the other hand, I know it's going to be kind of emotional for him. I know that when you go a long period of time without playing, there can be an adjustment period."

Jackson said he's learned his lesson.

"I have to show people there's more to Stephen Jackson than

what they see on TV," he said. "It just feels like a lot of pressure off my shoulders."

Jackson said he couldn't sleep Tuesday night because he was thinking about returning to the court. He stayed up late watching sports highlights on television, like he usually does.

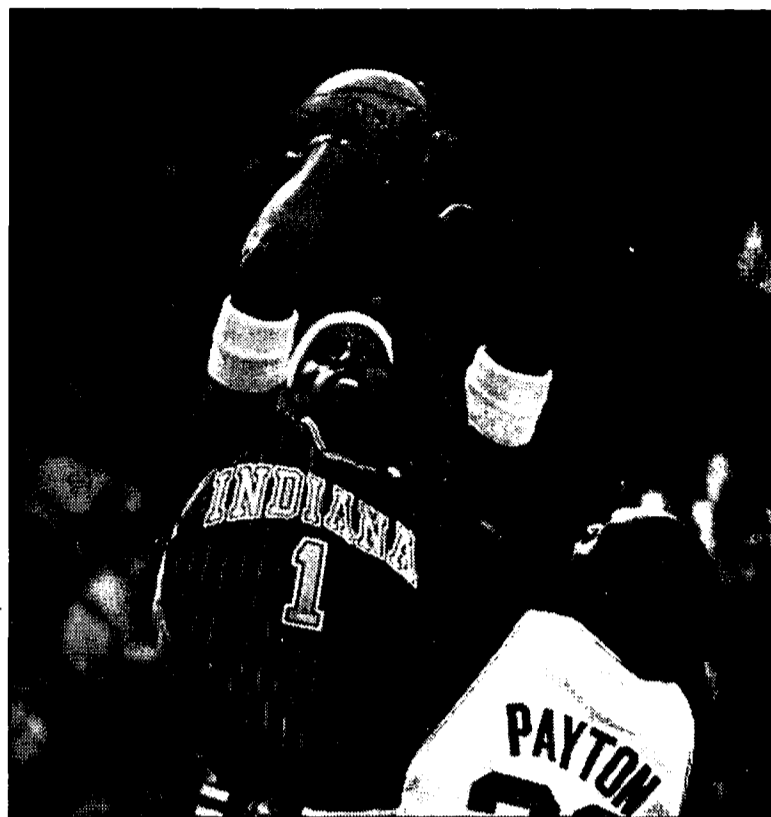
"But now I'm watching, knowing I'm going to the game," he said.

The Pacers remain one game above .500, but they have lost four of their last 10 games and are 13-17 since the fight.

"We've hung on, but we've blown some opportunities," Carlisle said. "We've done OK, but we could have done better."

Indiana plays Detroit on Thursday night in Indianapolis, and getting Jackson back doesn't end the problems.

Jonathan Bender, who already made one trip to the injured list with a sore right knee, was to miss his second consecutive game and was doubtful for the Pistons game. Jamaal Tinsley is out with "a pretty significant case of sinus flu."



Pacers forward Stephen Jackson shoots over Gary Payton in his return against the Boston Celtics after serving his suspension.

James leaves game, returns to lift Cavaliers to victory

Suns sneak by Bucks with help from Nash

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — None of his spinning shots, no-look passes or windmill dunks could top what LeBron James did by limping back onto the court.

With a dramatic return for the final 4:53 after spraining his left ankle, James inspired and sparked his teammates down the stretch as the Cleveland Cavaliers held on for a 114-111 win Wednesday night over the

Memphis Grizzlies.

"I had to lead my team," James said. "My 80 percent can help us win. I can't be scared. I've got to be a soldier out there."

James scored 27 points with a career-high 15 assists and nine rebounds, ignoring the pain while making several big plays in the game's crucial moments.

When James came down on the foot of Dahntay Jones and rolled his ankle with 9:33 left, Cavaliers coach Paul Silas feared the worst.

"What did I see?" Silas said. "I saw a whole bunch of losses

coming up."

Instead, a determined James, who had to be helped off the floor by teammates, came back and made sure the first-place Cavaliers didn't blow a lead while improving to an Eastern Conference-best 15-4 at home and 25-16 overall.

"It gets you pumped as a player," Cavs guard Jeff McInnis said of James' return. "I knew he was coming back. He was mad."

Phoenix 121, Milwaukee 115 Steve Nash dishes out the compliments just as eloquently as he does the basketball.

"A lot of guys played well tonight," Nash said after scoring 21 points and amassing 17 assists in leading the Phoenix Suns to a 121-115 win over Milwaukee on Wednesday night. Led by Nash, the Suns had 29 assists on 43 baskets.

"Oh, my teammates are perfect players. They can finish,

shoot," Nash said with a shrug.

Of course, it all starts with Nash, who has had just as big an impact on his new team as Shaquille O'Neal has had in Miami.

Behind Nash, the Suns (34-10) are on pace to become just the 10th team in NBA history to go from 50-plus losses one year to 50-plus wins the next.

"Right now, I'd say he's the MVP of the NBA," Bucks coach Terry Porter said. "The way he's changed that team around? I don't know if you could bring another point guard in the league and put him on that team and assume they'd have the same type of success they've had. I think it would be very difficult."

Utah 109, Seattle 100

The Utah Jazz may have found a point guard they'll stick with.

The job that has bounced

between three players all season came back to Raul Lopez, who did everything he could Wednesday night to make sure he hangs onto it in a win over the Seattle SuperSonics.

Lopez had a career-high 11 assists and matched his best scoring total with 20 points.

"We don't have to think about who scored more points. We won the game and that's what matters," said Lopez, who was making his sixth start of the season. "We have a lot of games where people scored a lot of points and we lost."

Lopez and Howard Eisley are Utah's only two active point guards, less than a week after having four on the roster. Carlos Arroyo, the starter last season, was traded to Detroit last week and Keith McLeod was placed on the injured list Wednesday because of a strained hamstring. **Wizards 117, Sixers 107**

Gilbert Arenas came to the arena hoping for another memorable duel with Allen Iverson. When Iverson didn't suit up, Arenas needed most of the game to recover from the let-down.

Iverson's replacement, Willie Green, scored a career-high 32 points and kept the game close for 3 1/2 quarters Wednesday night before Arenas and the Washington Wizards closed strong to take a victory over the Philadelphia 76ers.

"I'm kind of like, 'Aw, Al's not here.' As a professional you know you've got to get over that," Arenas said. "I was still hyped, but Willie Green? OK, he doesn't really do anything."

"But he took over Al's spot, and in the second half it was like, 'OK, Al is out there.'"

Arenas finished with 33 points, six rebounds and a season-high nine assists for the Wizards, who won their fourth straight and — exactly halfway through the season — remain on pace for their best record in 26 years. Washington has won eight in a row at home and 11 of 13 overall since New Year's Day.



Cleveland Cavaliers guard LeBron James drives to the basket against the Memphis Grizzlies in a 114-111 Cavaliers' win.

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SUPER BOWL XXXIX

Eagles and Patriots present tight matchups

Key position battles exist between Super Bowl opponents

Associated Press

How the New England Patriots (16-2) and the Philadelphia Eagles (15-3) match up in the Super Bowl:

When the Patriots have the ball:

Unlike in their previous two Super Bowl wins this decade, the Patriots have a stud running back, Corey Dillon. Although the Eagles easily handled Atlanta's top-ranked rushing attack in the NFC title game, they'll be hard-pressed to hold Dillon in check because of what quarterback Tom Brady can do as a comple-

ment. Not that Brady, the MVP of the last two Super Bowls and 8-0 in the postseason, can be considered anything but a star. But New England will seek to minimize Philadelphia's superb secondary by regularly shoving Dillon at the defense. If Dillon forces All-Pro safety Brian Dawkins and the other defensive backs to crowd the line, then Brady will turn to the deepest receiving corps in the league: Troy Brown, Deion Branch, David Givens, David Patten and speedster Bethel Johnson.

As they proved against Pittsburgh for the AFC championship, the Pats can dismantle even the best defenses. Philadelphia needs the kind of brilliant performance from mid-

dle linebacker Jeremiah Trotter that it got the last two weeks, plus a steady pass rush. Jevon Kearse has been dominant in spurts and must be more consistent. Hollis Thomas, Derrick Burgess and Corey Simon all have taken turns being the main guy up front.

Philly had 47 sacks in the regular season, but the Patriots yielded only 26. If there is no pressure on Brady, thanks to that unheralded offensive line, New England should score plenty of points.

When the Eagles have the ball:

Unless All-Pro wide receiver Terrell Owens makes a miraculous recovery from his ankle and leg injuries, his role in the game will be mostly cheerleading. That hasn't put a crimp in Philadelphia's offense so far in the playoffs — but they haven't played the Patriots yet.

Donovan McNabb has matured into one of the league's best quarterbacks and leaders. He hurt the Eagles with some bad decisions in big games in the past, but not this season. McNabb has been dynamic in every facet.

Now, though, he faces the mysteries of the New England defense, where anyone can pop up anywhere at any time. Just ask Peyton Manning and Ben Roethlisberger.

While All-Pro defensive tackle Richard Seymour might not be a factor, he's hardly been missed. Linebackers Tedy Bruschi, Ted Johnson, Mike Vrabel and Roosevelt Colvin, linemen Willie McGinest and Ty Warren, and

safeties Rodney Harrison and Eugene Wilson lead the big-play defense that has more looks than even a veteran like McNabb can imagine.

Unlike against NFC opponents, running back Brian Westbrook will not be a matchup problem as a receiver. He should, however, find some running room behind offensive tackle Tra Thomas and center Hank Fraley.

Philadelphia's ordinary group of supporting receivers for T.O. has played well in the postseason, particularly Freddie Mitchell and the emerging Greg Lewis, a deep threat. The loss of TE Chad Lewis will hurt, meaning second-year player L.J. Smith must step in.

Special teams:

The biggest edge is at place-kicker, but only because Adam Vinatieri has made so many pressure-packed kicks, including two to win Super Bowls. His range is not much longer than David Akers for Philadelphia, but All-Pro Vinatieri simply doesn't miss important kicks.

New England's Josh Miller and Philly's Dirk Johnson (8) are middle-of-the-road punters.

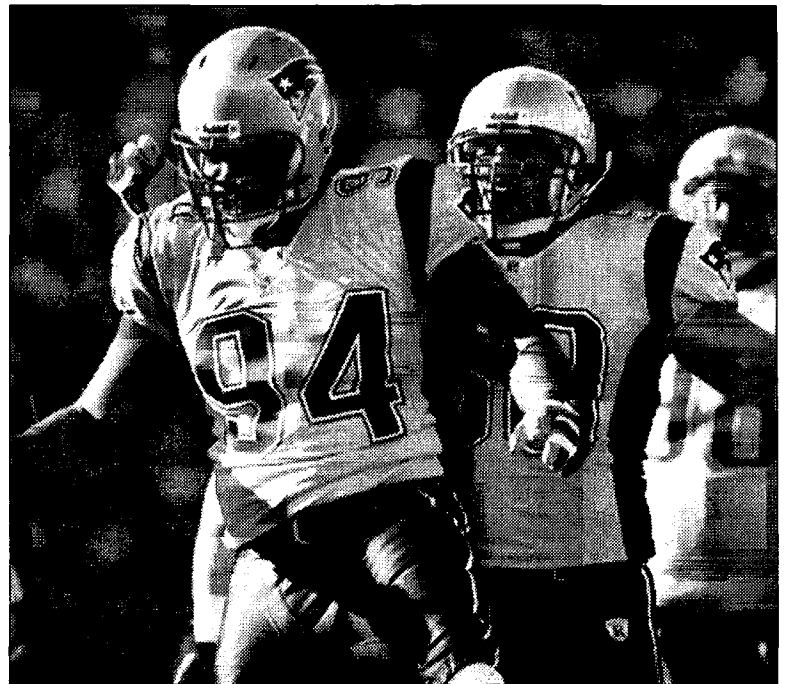
The Eagles did not score on a punt runback, nor did they allow a punt return TD.

Their coverage teams are excellent and held Atlanta's dangerous Allen Rossum in check in the conference championship game. New England has had some problems with punt coverage.

Bethel Johnson had the Patriots' only kickoff return for a score; the Eagles had none.

Intangibles:

Philadelphia has been trying oh so hard to get here. Now that



New England Patriots' Ty Warren, left, and Mike Vrabel react during a regular season game against the Cincinnati Bengals.

the Eagles are in the Super Bowl, will they be satisfied with the trip, or will they be loose and confident and play their best football?

Andy Reid has turned around this franchise and the Eagles have been the NFC's best in this decade — until late January, or course. They are over that hump because Reid never panicked, never wavered from his approach. Players appreciate and respond to that.

An Eagles victory would be their first in a Super Bowl and Philly's first NFL title since 1960. New England has a slightly different resume.

The Patriots seek their third Super Bowl championship in four years, something only

Dallas of the early 1990s managed. Such a feat would measure up with the greatest in sports because of the difficulty of keeping a roster together in the current NFL.

Bill Belichick is a mastermind, and even with a string of injuries to his defense, he's never backed off. The subs simply come in and play well, as he expects.

Belichick is losing offensive coordinator Charlie Weis to Notre Dame and probably will see defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel get the head coaching job in Cleveland, where Belichick himself once was head man. Will the Patriots give them a championship send-off?



Philadelphia Eagles linebacker Jeremiah Trotter celebrates a stop during a playoff victory over the Minnesota Vikings.

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NFL

Owens wants to return despite doctor's orders

Eagles trainer says receiver plans to play in Super Bowl

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Terrell Owens is treating his doctor's orders the way he deals with pesky cornerbacks: shrugging them off and forging ahead.

Philadelphia Eagles head trainer Rick Burkholder said Wednesday that Owens started jogging and plans to continue rehabbing his injured ankle in an attempt to play in the Super Bowl.

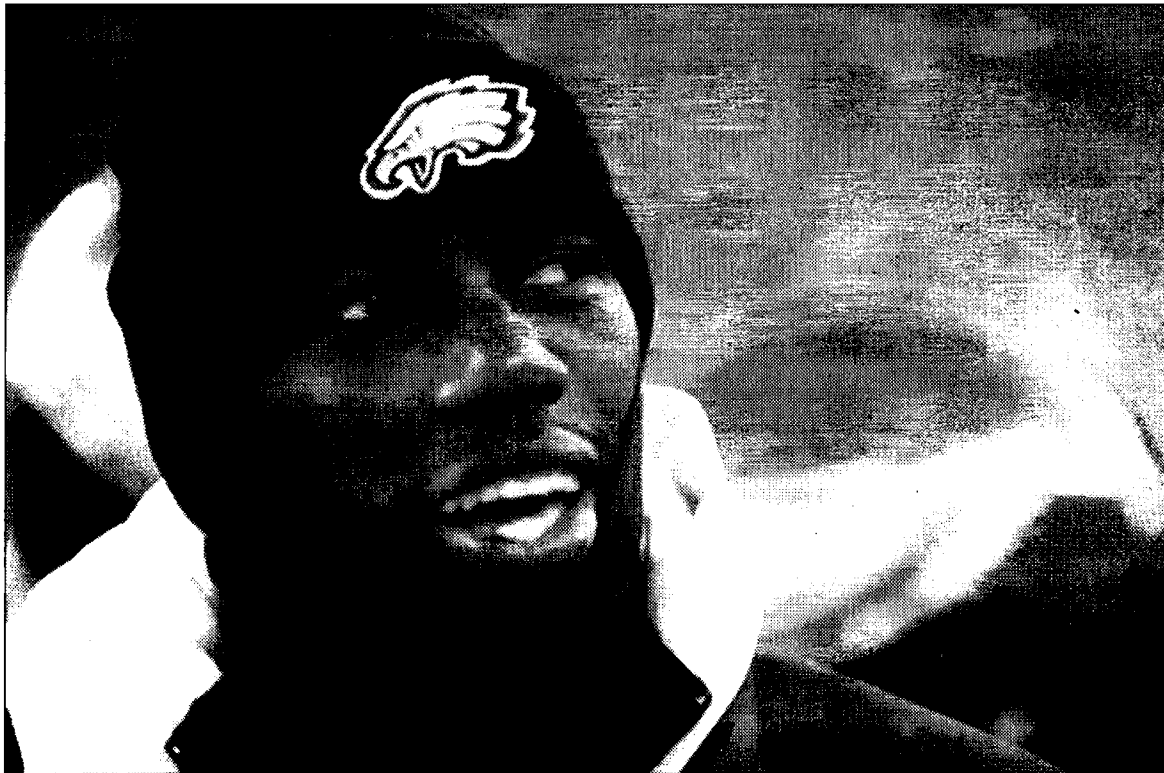
Dr. Mark Myerson, the surgeon who operated on the All-Pro receiver in December, said Tuesday he would not clear Owens to suit up against the New England Patriots on Feb. 6.

"We understand Dr. Myerson's point of view. It's just that our risk-reward is different than his risk-reward," Burkholder said. "He has great risk in clearing Terrell to play and no reward. We think there's some risk and we think there's great reward, so right now we're going to progress with his rehab."

The final decision on Owens' status will come down to the player, coach Andy Reid and the team's medical staff.

"We're never going to put Terrell at risk," Reid said.

Owens was at the Eagles' prac-



Eagles wide receiver Terrell Owens said he is trying to return to the field in time to play in Super Bowl XXXIX against the New England Patriots.

tice facility for rehab work Wednesday, but the team said he wouldn't be made available to reporters until next week's mandatory media day at the Super Bowl.

On Monday, before hearing Myerson's bad news, Owens said: "Spiritually I've been healed and I believe that I'll be out there on

that field Sunday, regardless of what anybody says."

Myerson inserted two screws in Owens' right ankle and a plate on the outside of the ankle three days after he was injured against Dallas on Dec. 19. By not clearing Owens to play, Myerson should be absolved of any blame if Owens goes against his wishes and

winds up re-injuring the ankle.

Owens was told after surgery that he had only an outside chance of returning for the Super Bowl, which was 6 1/2 weeks away at the time. But he rehabbed vigorously, hoping to help Philadelphia win its first NFL championship since 1960.

After a checkup Tuesday in

Baltimore, Myerson said that while he's pleased with Owens' recuperation, the operation requires a recovery period of eight to 10 weeks. Myerson added that any attempt to accelerate the rehabilitation process poses the same risk for injury.

Burkholder said Owens worked out on a treadmill when he returned to Philadelphia on Tuesday.

"We will continue to see whether he can jog and see how he does day in and day out, see if he can change direction," Burkholder said.

"If he passes all those tests, then we'll start talking about practice time. Right now, the game isn't even in our vision right now. If he has any setbacks in his rehab, then the whole idea of playing in the Super Bowl is probably off."

In his first season with the Eagles after eight years in San Francisco, Owens led Philadelphia with 77 catches for 1,200 yards and 14 TDs.

Quarterback Donovan McNabb and other Eagles have said they don't need Owens to beat the defending champion Patriots, who are 7-point favorites.

"If T.O. plays, it's an added bonus," McNabb said. "If he doesn't, it's not going to stop anything we're doing. You have to have it in the back of your mind about your future, so that's a tough call. That's something as a player you have to think about."

Global Geopolitics

A View from the Top (and the Inside)

Geo-strategic issues and events in Europe, Russia and the Middle East

John Mroz
President and Founder
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Mr. Mroz has served as an advisor to more than twenty governments including the US, Germany, Poland and Russia, as well as the Commission of the European Union, NATO, the Council of Europe and the G-8. He writes regularly in the international press on global change and international security as well as European, Russian, Eurasian and Middle Eastern affairs.

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Douglas helps Eagles defense and chemistry

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Hugh Douglas was holding a dance party in the Philadelphia Eagles' training room, noticed Jeffrey Lurie standing by and invited the team owner to bust a move.

Even the man who signs the players' checks isn't immune from Douglas' shenanigans.

Douglas returned to Philadelphia last summer to bolster the pass rush and provide depth on the defensive line. His biggest contribution for the NFC champions has been keeping everyone loose in the locker room with his playful personality.

"He's a big factor in there," Eagles coach Andy Reid said of the team's top prankster and comedian. "Everybody respects the heck out of him, just for the great player he is and has been. He's got that personality that is contagious and it kind of touches everybody in that locker room and if there's any anxiety, he loosens it up right away. He eases the storm."

A few hours after Lurie proved he has no rhythm, Douglas walked off the field with tears of joy streaming down his face. The Eagles had defeated the Atlanta Falcons 27-10 to win the NFC title, and Douglas was going back to Jacksonville to play against the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl.

A three-time Pro Bowl defensive end with the Eagles from 2000-02, Douglas returned to Philadelphia after he was released by the Jaguars following a difficult season in 2003. His role is different now — he plays

fewer downs and spends more time leading cheers on the sidelines.

"I knew coming back would be a sacrifice, not playing as much," said Douglas, who had three sacks and 10 hurries this season. "I always felt when I came back that this was a special team. If this is what I had to sacrifice in order to get to the ultimate goal, sometimes you have to make sacrifices."

"To come in knowing that you're still capable of starting and sit down, that was pretty big. I just said if that's what it takes for me to get to where I want to be, then that's what I have to do."

While the addition of Douglas helped team chemistry, the acquisitions of defensive end Jevon Kearse and middle linebacker Jeremiah Trotter significantly improved Philadelphia's defense.

The Eagles gave up the fewest points (260) in the NFC, and tied with New England for the second-fewest allowed in the NFL. Before the reserves gave up 38 points in a meaningless regular-season finale against Cincinnati, Philadelphia had the stingiest defense in the league.

In the playoffs, Kearse, Trotter and Co. shut down Daunte Culpepper, Randy Moss and the rest of the Minnesota Vikings, limiting the NFC's second-highest scoring offense to just 13 points in a second-round win.

They were even better against Michael Vick and the Atlanta Falcons, holding the league's best rushing attack to 99 yards on the ground and 202 total yards on offense.

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MLB

Mientkiewicz traded from Red Sox to Mets

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Doug Mientkiewicz is bringing his good glove to the New York Mets. The ball is another story.

The Mets acquired the former Gold Glove first baseman from the Boston Red Sox on Wednesday for minor league first baseman Ian Bladergroen.

New York obtained Mientkiewicz one day after Carlos Delgado accepted the Florida Marlins' \$52 million, four-year offer, spurning a similar proposal from New York.

The 30-year-old Mientkiewicz won the 2001 AL Gold Glove with Minnesota and caught the final out of Boston's World Series sweep of St. Louis last October, the first Series title for the Red Sox since 1918. He kept the ball, which the Red Sox want back.

"The ball issue was never a factor in this trade or in this negotiating process. We had a baseball decision to make," Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein said. "I know that others in the organization were talking to Doug and either have reached a satisfactory resolution or are

very, very close to doing so."

Mets general manager Omar Minaya didn't take a position on the issue.

"When I talk to him, we maybe have to negotiate the ball part, too," Minaya said, jokingly.

With the Red Sox, Mientkiewicz was used in the postseason as late-inning replacement for Kevin Millar, the extroverted first baseman whom Epstein called "an integral part of our clubhouse chemistry."

"Both guys are everyday, winning first basemen in my mind," Epstein said. "I wish you could combine them. But in the end, I think to be fair to both guys it was the right thing to do to put them in a position where they could get a chance to play every day."

New York thinks Mientkiewicz will help its young infield, which includes third baseman David Wright, shortstop Jose Reyes and second baseman Kaz Matsui.

"It just makes our defense that much better," Minaya said.

Mientkiewicz came up to the major leagues with Minnesota in 1998 and was dealt to the Red Sox last July 31. A career .272

hitter, he slumped to a combined .238 with six homers and 35 RBIs last year for the Twins and Red Sox.

"He really didn't play every day, and that's a possibility why he didn't produce," Minaya said.

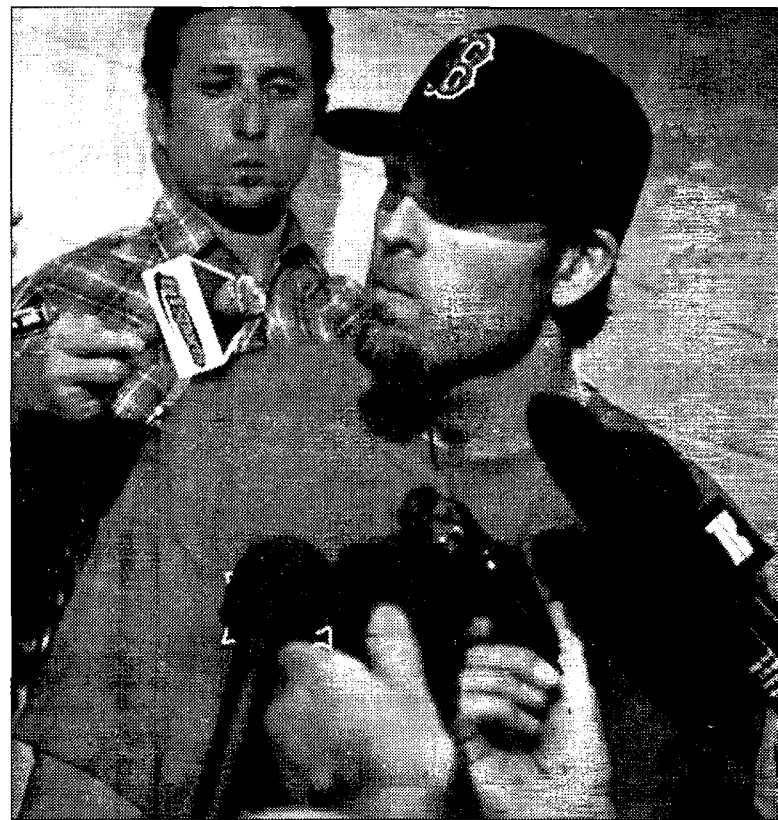
Mientkiewicz, who probably will be backed up by Andres Galarraga, agreed last February to a \$7 million, two-year contract that calls for a \$3.75 million salary this year. The deal includes a \$4 million team option for 2006 with a \$450,000 buy-out.

As part of the trade, the Red Sox agreed to pay the buyout if the Mets decline the option.

With Delgado headed to Florida, Minaya sounded uncertain how hard to push to sign free-agent outfielder Magglio Ordonez, coming off two knee operations.

"We have talked about him. There's no doubt he's a great hitter," Minaya said. "Will we explore that? We'll probably just explore it."

New York's projected starting outfield has Carlos Beltrán in center, flanked by Cliff Floyd on left and Mike Cameron in right.



The Boston Red Sox traded first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz to the New York Mets Wednesday. Mientkiewicz was traded from the Minnesota Twins to the Red Sox on July 31, 2004.

NHL

Labor talks conclude with promise of another meeting

Few details revealed concerning success of league discussions

Associated Press

There is no secret that time is running out to save the hockey season. How the NHL and the players' association are working to prevent that has become a very big mystery.

Representatives from both sides met for about 5 1/2 hours in small groups for the third time in a week on Wednesday. All that is known about the meeting is that it took place somewhere in Toronto. The location was kept secret, and neither side would reveal what was discussed or if any progress was made.

The only news that came out was that more talks will be held soon.

"We will meet again this week," NHL chief legal officer Bill Daly said. "We have no further comment at this time."

No time or place for the next meeting was set up by Wednesday night, but the sides were leaning to a New York session on either Thursday or Friday.

Daly told The Associated Press on Tuesday that discussions were at a critical stage and that only days remained to reach a deal that would save the season. The fact that more talks have been set up provided at least a glimmer of hope that the NHL won't become the first North American sports league to lose an entire season to a labor dispute.

The lockout reached its 133rd day Wednesday and has wiped out 713 of the 1,230 regular-season games, plus the 2005 All-Star game.

The small-group format began last week with the hope that the sides could find common ground that would lead to a new collective bargaining agreement. All

three sessions were held without commissioner Gary Bettman and union chief Bob Goodenow.

During a two-day meeting last week in Chicago and Toronto, the sides tried to get together in secrecy but were unsuccessful. Both parties believe they will have a better chance of getting something accomplished if they can talk out of the public eye.

"After meeting today, we have agreed to continue discussions and will not be making any further comment at this time," players' association senior director Ted Saskin said.

Although no details were immediately available, neither side planned to make a new proposal on Wednesday because the participants wanted to generate ideas through an open dialogue instead of working on a formal proposal.

"I think the setup of these meetings is what's important in terms of the small-group dynamic, the open discussion and dialogue," Daly told the AP on Tuesday night. "It's less formal or structured than the meetings we've had in the past, and I think that's helpful to the process."

But time is running short to make a deal and save the season.

"We're in a critical stage, and that means we're down to days," Daly said. "We'll try to move the process forward and try to get a resolution."

It was Vancouver center Trevor Linden who came up with the idea last week to talk with just six people in the room. Linden, the NHLPA president, invited Harley Hotchkiss — the chairman of the board of governors.

The structure was successful in producing discussion, but it did nothing to close the gap in the philosophical differences.

The NHL still wants cost certainty, a link between player costs and team revenues. The players' association wants a

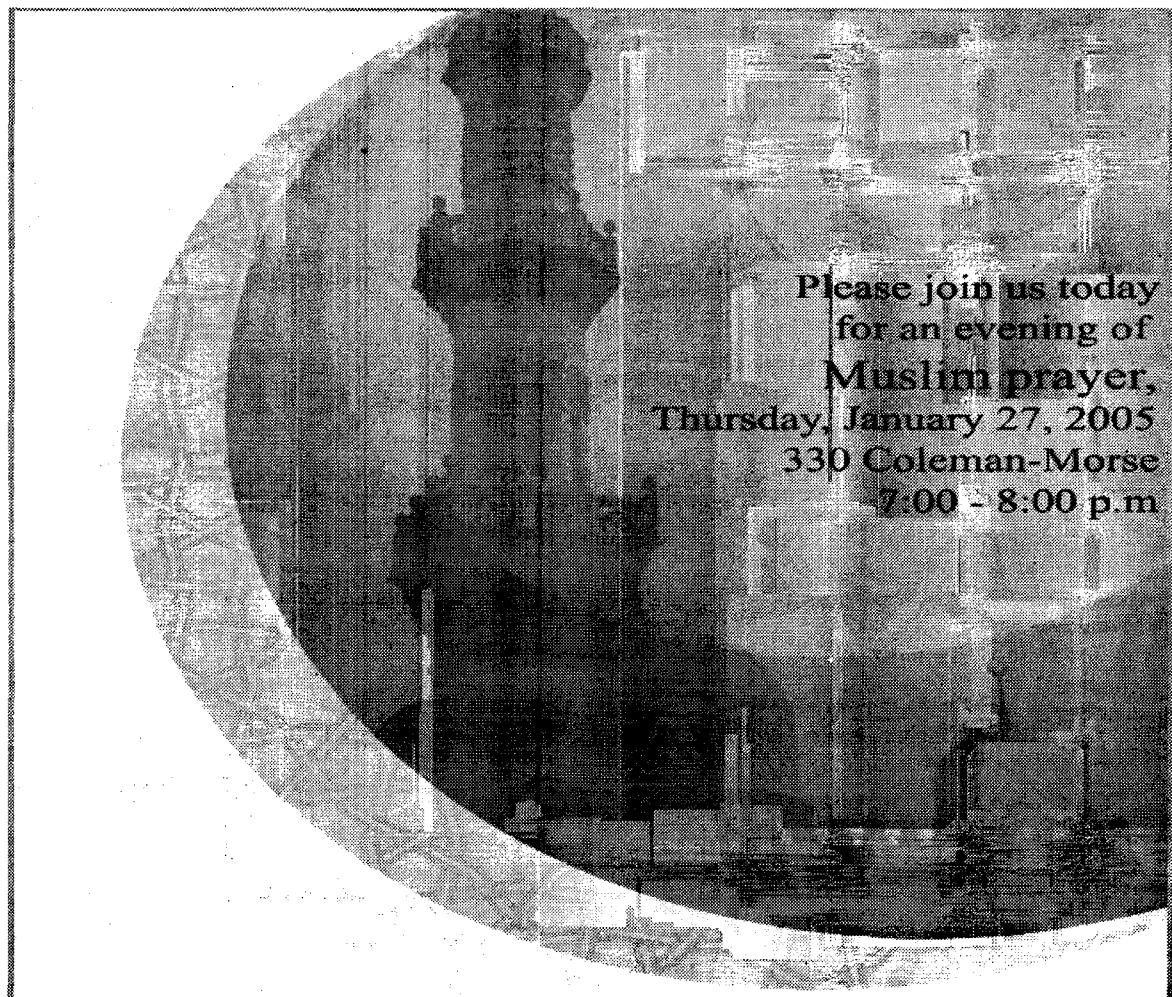
free-market system.

The same group that met last week gathered again: Linden, Saskin and outside counsel John McCambridge as well as Daly, Hotchkiss — a part-owner of the Calgary Flames — and outside counsel Bob Batterman.

The only change was the addition of New Jersey Devils general manager Lou Lamoriello, a member of the NHL board of governors, who joined the league side for the meeting.

No proposals have been made since early December, when the

players offered a 24 percent rollback on existing contracts as part of a luxury-tax and revenue-sharing system. The NHL turned that down and made a counterproposal five days later that was rejected in a matter of hours.



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AROUND THE NATION

Thursday, January 27, 2005

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Page 19

Women's Swimming & Diving

CSCAA Top 25

	team	points
1	Georgia	175
2	Auburn	168
3	Florida	159
4	Arizona	156
5	Texas	146
6	SMU	141
7	California	133
8	Stanford	124
9	Wisconsin	118
10	Texas A&M	115
11	UCLA	104
12	Maryland	96
13	Michigan	89
14	Penn State	83
15	North Carolina	74
15	Virginia	74
17	Arizona State	64
18	Southern Cal	56
19	Purdue	46
20	Hawaii	45
21	NOTRE DAME	28
21	Florida State	28
23	Northwestern	20
24	Washington	8
24	Indiana	8

Men's Swimming & Diving

CSCAA Top 25

	team	votes
1	Stanford	200
2	Florida	190
3	Auburn	184
4	California	170
5	Arizona	164
6	Southern Cal	163
7	Minnesota	156
8	Michigan	149
9	Texas	136
10	Virginia	127
11	Kentucky	118
12	Georgia	108
13	Indiana	105
14	Northwestern	96
15	Tennessee	90
16	Purdue	78
17	Wisconsin	67
18	Texas A&M	60
19	North Carolina	53
20	BYU	48
21	NOTRE DAME	36
22	Hawaii	34
23	Florida State	25
24	Ohio State	11
24	Alabama	11

MIAA Women's Basketball Standings

team	MIAA	overall
Albion	9-1	17-2
Hope	9-1	16-2
Calvin	8-2	14-3
Kalamazoo	4-5	9-9
SAINT MARY'S	4-6	9-10
Tri-State	4-6	6-12
Alma	2-7	7-8
Adrian	2-8	5-12
Olivet	2-8	7-11

around the dial

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Michigan at Michigan State, 7 p.m., ESPN
Cincinnati at South Florida, 7 p.m., ESPN2

NBA

Pistons at Pacers, 7 p.m., TNT
Kings at Spurs, 9:30 p.m., TNT

TENNIS

Australian Open, 2 p.m., ESPN2

NFL



Ed Garland, right, counsel to Baltimore Ravens running back Jamal Lewis, announces to the press his client's sentence Wednesday. Lewis was sentenced to four months in prison for a drug conspiracy charge from more than four years ago.

Ravens Lewis sentenced to four months

Associated Press

ATLANTA — Baltimore Ravens running back Jamal Lewis was sentenced to four months in prison Wednesday for using a cell phone to try to set up a cocaine deal about 4 1/2 years ago.

The penalty, worked out with prosecutors in October, should allow Lewis to return to the Ravens well before the start of the 2005 season. At most, he could miss the opening of training camp.

He also will spend two months in a halfway house and perform 500 hours of community service follow-

ing his prison term.

Lewis pleaded guilty to trying to set up the drug deal a few months after the Ravens chose him No. 5 overall in the 2000 NFL draft. No drugs ever exchanged hands.

Prosecutors agreed to drop more serious drug conspiracy and attempted cocaine possession charges.

"I'm truly sorry for what I did," Lewis said to U.S. District Judge Orinda Evans.

Explaining the short sentence, the judge said the government didn't have a strong case and noted the only witness against Lewis

was an informant with a lengthy criminal record.

Evans said she was also giving Lewis "credit for stepping up to the bar" and admitting his guilt.

The football player has until Feb. 4 to surrender to allow him time to have a cast removed from his right ankle, the judge said. Lewis recently had surgery on the foot.

Evans said she will recommend that Lewis serve his time at a federal prison camp at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Ala. The community confinement will be served at a halfway house in Atlanta.

If Lewis reports at the

latest possible date and does not get time off for good behavior, the earliest he would be released from the halfway house would be Aug. 4. The Ravens' training camp usually opens sometime in late July, and the NFL season starts in early to mid-September.

The Ravens said the team would not be commenting on Lewis's sentence.

Defense lawyer Ed Garland said the sentence was fair and allows for Lewis to return to the Ravens next season. "Jamal Lewis has his life and his career back."

IN BRIEF

Cassell returns after missing 10 games with injury

MINNEAPOLIS — Sam Cassell returned to the Minnesota Timberwolves on Wednesday night after missing 10 games due to a strained right hamstring.

Cassell, injured in a victory over Philadelphia on Jan. 7, entered the Wolves' game against Atlanta to a standing ovation with 8:47 left in the second quarter. He quickly hit a 12-footer before forcing a turnover on the Hawks' ensuing possession. Cassell had five assists in his first eight minutes on the floor.

The Wolves are 5-5 without Cassell in the lineup.

Coach Flip Saunders missed Cassell's return because he was home with the flu. Saunders, in his 10th season with the Wolves, had never missed a game due to illness while posting a 408-319 record.

Assistant coach Randy Wittman, who compiled a 62-102 record coaching the Cleveland Cavaliers

from 1999-2001, took Saunders' place.

Former high school coach testifies he took payoffs

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — A former high school coach told a federal jury Wednesday that he got offers of money, a job and free law school for his wife before he accepted a \$150,000 payoff to steer his best player to sign with Alabama.

Lynn Lang, the former head coach at Trezevant High School, testified for the second day at the trial of Logan Young, a Memphis millionaire who is on trial on federal bribery and money laundering charges.

Lang is awaiting sentencing on a guilty plea to racketeering conspiracy. He said he took the money to convince defensive lineman Albert Means to sign with the Crimson Tide in 2000.

In testimony Tuesday in U.S. District Court, Lang said that coaches at two other Southeastern Conference schools, Kentucky and Georgia, gave

him money. He also testified that Tennessee, Mississippi, Michigan State and Arkansas offered money for Means but never paid.

Waldorf, four others lead Bob Hope Classic

LA QUINTA, Calif. -- Duffy Waldorf rolled in eight birdie putts, didn't make a bogey and still had lots of company atop the leaderboard.

Waldorf's 8-under 64 in Wednesday's opening round of the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic was only good enough to put him in a five-way tie for the lead.

Fred Funk, Robert Damron, Ted Purdy and Joe Ogilvie also opened the five-day tournament with 64s.

Fred Couples, the 1998 champion, had a 65 and was in another group of five in the desert tournament where scores traditionally go extremely low.

Defending champion Phil Mickelson, who also won the event in 2002, shot a 66 and was tied with six others.

Nova

continued from page 24

final minute because the Wildcats were almost as cold from the field as the Irish.

The Wildcats had a 59-54 lead when Chris Thomas drove to the hoop and was fouled to bring the Irish within two after converting the three-point play. That was Notre Dame's first field goal in 5:10.

After a wide-open layup miss by Will Sheridan and one free throw from Randy Foye, Thomas almost made a great play to bring the Irish within one.

But his shot off the glass went halfway down and rimmed out. The Wildcats made enough free throws down the stretch to close out their second straight win and their first over the Irish since Jan. 6, 2002.

Foye led all scorers with 22 points on 7-of-20 shooting. Villanova guard Allan Ray scored 21.

Torin Francis — who looked as comfortable as he has all season in the post — paced the Irish with 17 points. Chris Quinn scored 13 points, 10 coming in the first half.

Thomas finished with 12 points, eight rebounds and six assists.

The Irish couldn't find their rhythm early in the first half, falling behind 23-13. Brey called a timeout and the Irish eventually clawed themselves back into the game. After a

Mike Nardi layup put the Wildcats ahead 27-24, the Irish 10-0 run to build a seven-point lead they would carry into the locker room.

The Irish return to the court Sunday when they host Connecticut in a national television contest.

**NOTRE DAME 65,
Villanova 60
at the WACHOVIA CENTER**

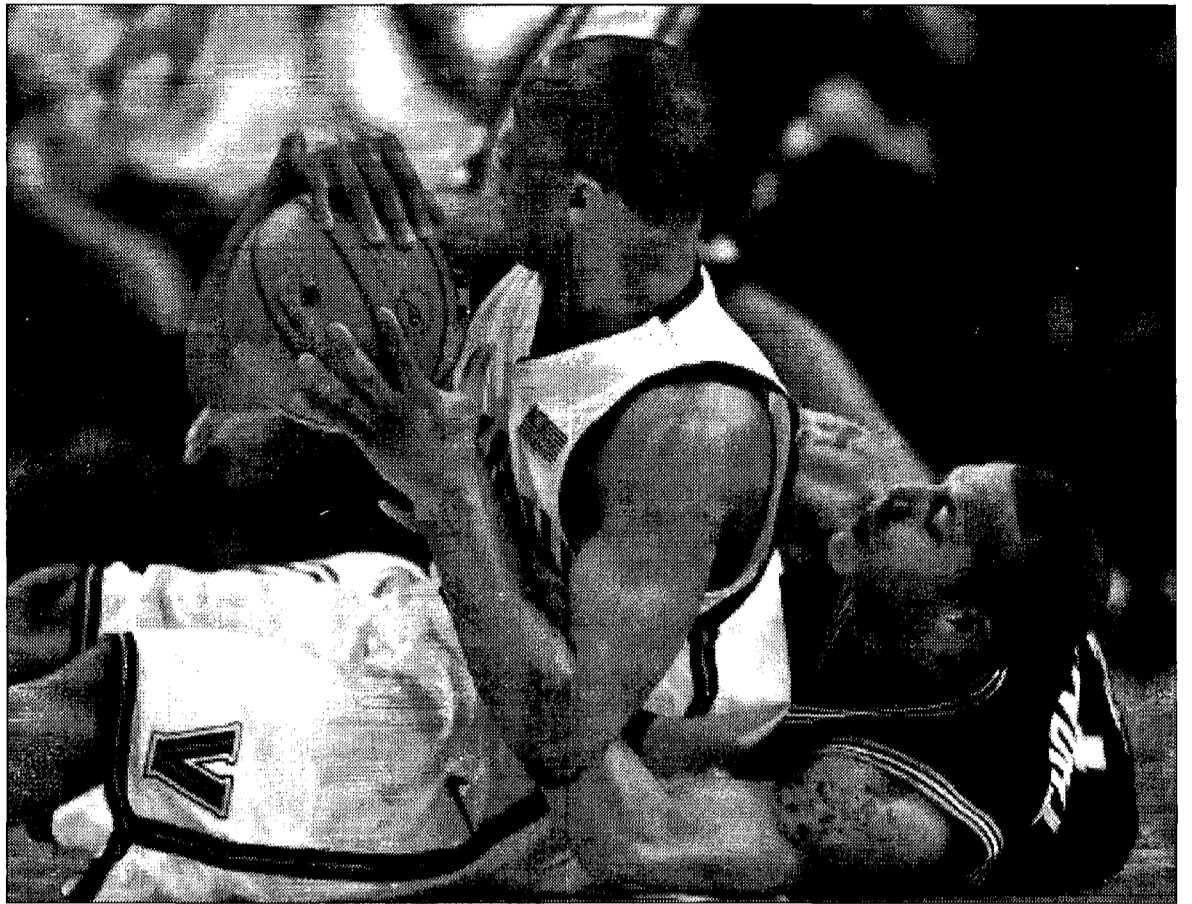
NOTRE DAME (12-5, 4-3)
Thomas 4-14 3-3 12, Cornette 2-8 0-0 4, Francis 7-11 5-8 19, Quinn 4-9 2-3 13, Falls 1-5 1-4 3, Latimore 1-5 0-0 2, Cornett 2-3 0-2 4, Carter 1-1 0-0 3

Villanova (11-4, 3-3)
Foye 7-20 6-8 22, Ray 8-16 1-2 21, Sumpter 4-11 2-4 11, Nardi 2-10 2-2 6, Sheridan 1-3 3-4 5, Charles 0-0 0-0 0, Austin 0-0 0-0 0

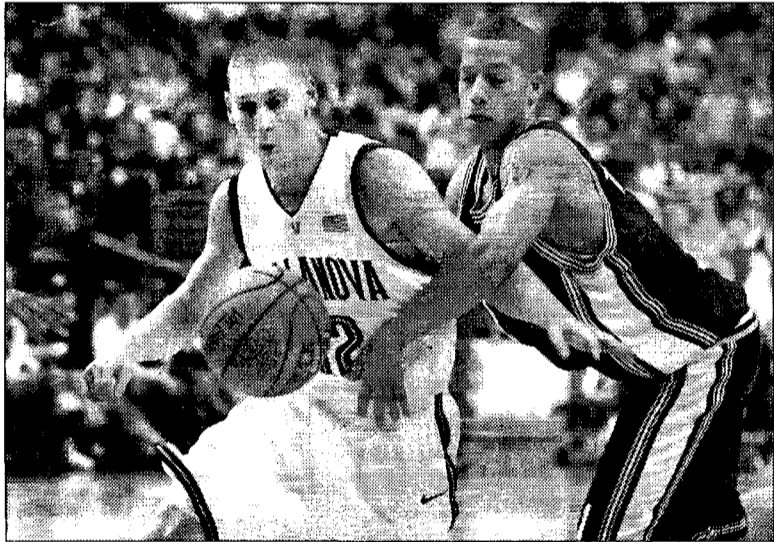
	1st	2nd	Total
NOTRE DAME	37	23	60
Villanova	30	35	65

3-point goals: Notre Dame 6-19 (Quinn 3-6, Carter 1-1, Thomas 1-3, Falls 1-4, Cornette 0-5), Villanova 7-15 (Ray 4-6, Foye 2-3, Sumpter 1-2, Nardi 0-5). Fouled out: Falls (ND). Rebounds: Notre Dame 43 (Francis 13), Villanova 39 (Sheridan 12). Assists: Notre Dame 13 (Thomas 6), Villanova 9 (Nardi 5). Total fouls: Notre Dame 17, Villanova 14.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

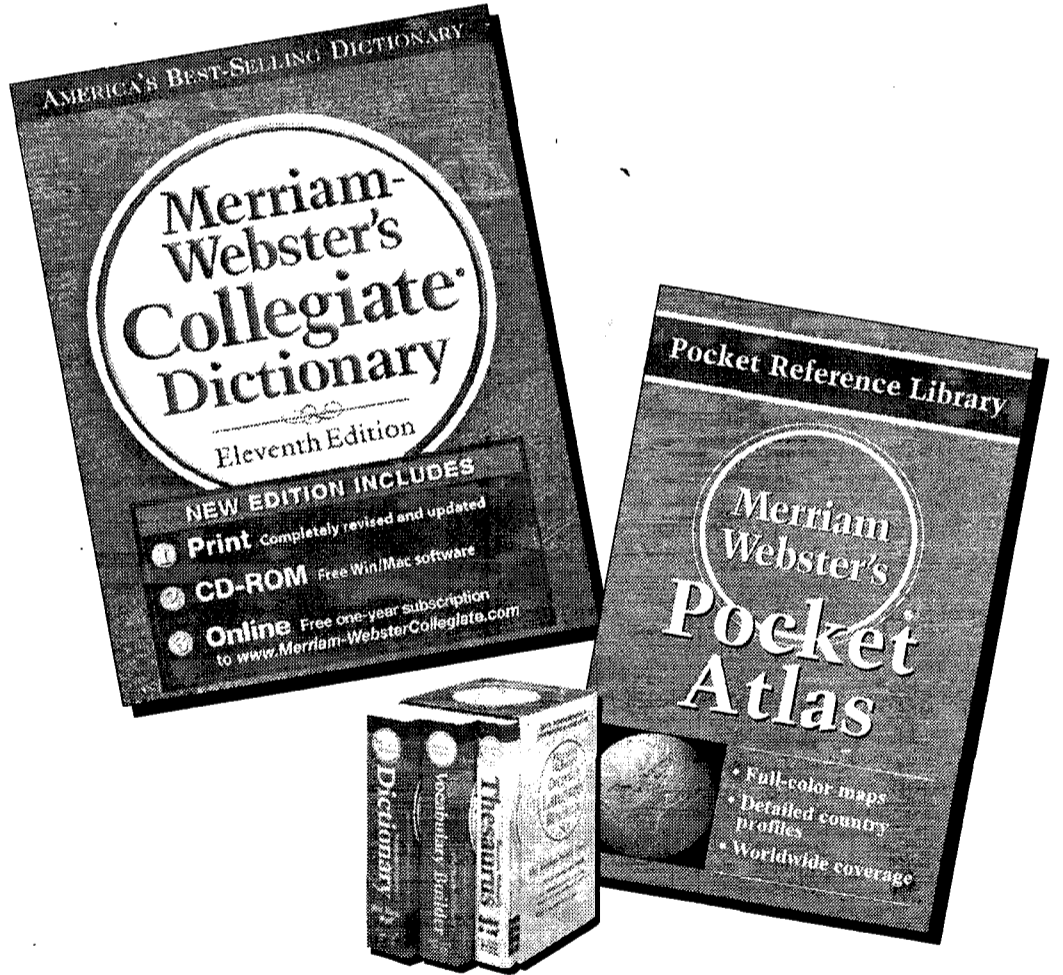


Villanova's Randy Foye, left, tries to keep the ball away from Chris Thomas in the first half. Notre Dame lost the game, 65-60, to end a three game road trip.



Villanova's Mike Nardi and Notre Dame's Chris Thomas fight for a loose ball at the Wachovia Center.

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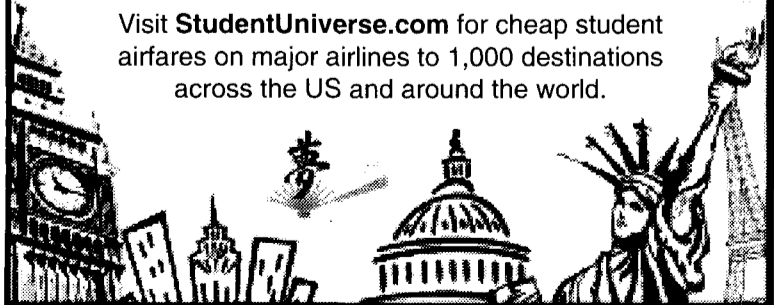
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St. John's

continued from page 24

trailed 35-31 at halftime. But the Irish began the second half with a 23-8 run to take a 54-43 lead with 11:33 remaining in the game and outscored St. John's 41-30 in the final 20 minutes. The Irish led by as many as 15 in the second half.

Crystal Erwin paced the Irish with 14 points and 10 rebounds, Jacqueline Batteast added 10 points and 10 rebounds and Megan Duffy had 14 points and 10 assists as Notre Dame improved to 17-3 and 5-2 in the Big East.

It was the first time since December of 1995 that three Notre Dame players tallied double-doubles.

St. John's, who was led by Kia Wright's 23 points, dropped to 14-4 and 3-4 in conference play.

The Irish were down as many as eight in the first half as Wright scorched Notre Dame for 18 first-half points on 6-of-12 shooting. Erwin led the Irish with 10 points at the break.

"We came out and we weren't really intense and they were very intense," Batteast said. "They were ready to play so we're playing catch-up for the rest of the half. They just took a lot out of us. We weren't

ready to play from the beginning."

Notre Dame finally took the lead for good at the 16:21 mark when Erwin missed a layup, then grabbed the rebound and dished off an assist to Teresa Borton to put Notre Dame in front 40-39.

The Irish extended their lead to as many as 15 with 2:40 remaining before the Red Storm fought back with two 3-pointers in the closing minutes.

"I was really disappointed in our defense," McGraw said. "Overall, we just didn't play a really smart game. I think we definitely didn't play the kind of defense we played in the last game and that was discouraging to me."

Despite outrebounding a smaller St. John's team 49-42, the Irish felt they continued to struggle on the boards, especially on the offensive end where the Red Storm had a 21-20 advantage.

"I would say if you checked the stats that would be the 19th straight game we've given up a lot of offensive rebounds," McGraw said. "We've struggled in that category all year. We have not been a good rebounding team all year long. It's going to hurt us down the stretch. We're going to be finding ourselves heading back home in March because we can't rebound."

The Irish leave Saturday morning for Hartford and face

Connecticut for a 7 p.m. matchup Sunday evening.

The Huskies beat the Irish 67-50 at the Joyce Center on Jan. 12.

Notes

♦ Erwin had a career-high 10 rebounds and Duffy had her seventh straight game with at least six assists.

NOTRE DAME 72, St. John's 65 at the JOYCE CENTER

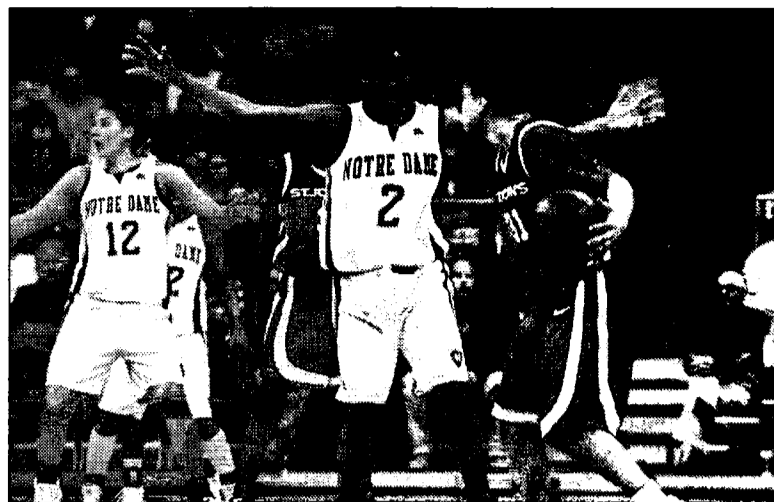
NOTRE DAME (17-3, 5-2)
Batteast 5-8 0-0 10, Erwin 6-10 2-9 14, Borton 5-7 2-2 12, Duffy 3-14 6-7 14, Gray 3-7 2-2 8, Gaines 0-1 0-0 0, Allen 3-8 2-3 8, D'Amico 0-1 0-0 0, LaVere 3-7 0-0 6

ST. JOHN'S (14-4, 3-4)
Clark 1-7 2-2 4, Kurtosi 0-2 1-2 1, Wright 8-22 4-6 23, Walker 6-15 3-3 16, Barlow 5-15 0-0 12, Jones 0-1, 0-0 0, Dukes 2-4 1-1 5, Thompson 0-1 0-0 0, Chambers 2-5 0-0 4

	1st	2nd	Total
NOTRE DAME	31	41	72
St. John's	35	30	65

3-point goals: Notre Dame 2-6 (Duffy 2-6), St. John's 7-19 (Wright 3-7, Barlow 2-7, Walker 1-4, Dukes 1-1). **Fouled out:** None. **Rebounds:** Notre Dame 49-20 (Batteast, Erwin 10), Opponent 42-21 (Wright 10). **Assists:** Notre Dame 21 (Duffy 10), St. John's (Wright, Barlow 4). **Total fouls:** Notre Dame 10, St. John's 19.

Contact Joe Hettler jhettler@nd.edu



Irish guard Charel Allen plays defense during Notre Dame's 72-65 victory over St. John's.

RICHARD FRIEDMAN/The Observer

Belles

continued from page 24

One bright spot for the Belles was the continued improvement of Maureen Bush. Bush, who scored a career-high 31 points against Tri-State, led all scorers with 15 points.

ALBION 72, ST. MARY'S 59 at the ANGELA ATHLETIC CENTER

ST. MARY'S (9-10, 4-6)
Lipke 0-4 1-2 1, Kessler 1-4 3-4 4, Mullen 1-4 1-2 3, Boyce 6-15, 0-0 14, Bush 6-13 3-4 13, Creachbaum 6-16, 2-2, 14, Malone 0-1 1-2 1, Mangan 1-3 4-4 6, Baum 0-0 0-0 0

ALBION (4-1, 0-0)
Fornett 3-5 1-2 8, Matthew 0-0 2-2 2, Glynn 2-5 1-3 5,

Marcuz 3-4 4-7 10, Guimond 0-0 0-0 0, Thompson 1-4 2-3 4, Babcock 4-5 0-1 10, Caskey 4-14 4-4 13, Meyer 2-3 1-2 5, Sventicus 2-3, 0-0 4, Garvery 0-0 0-0 0, Till 2-6, 0-0 5, Jenema, 0-2 0-0 0, Elder 2-3 2-2 6

	1st	2nd	Total
ALBION	35	37	72
ST. MARY'S	29	30	59

3-point goals: St. Mary's 2-7 (Creachbaum 0-1, Malone 0-1, Boyce 2-5), Albion 6-12 (Fornetti 1-1, Caskey 1-4 Glynn 1-3, Babcock 2-3, Till 1-1). **Fouled out:** None. **Rebounds:** St. Mary's 37 (Creachbaum 7, Boyce 7, Bush 7), Albion 37 (Marcuz 10). **Assists:** St. Mary's 15 (Lipke 5).

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

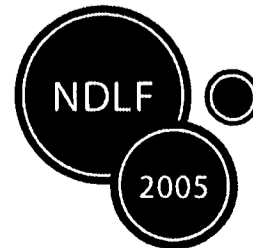
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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Erwin's intensity must become contagious

After three straight wins, two of which were over top-20 teams, Notre Dame was a prime candidate for a letdown, and St. John's appeared to be the worthy opponent.

For a while, that was the case.

The Irish played poor defense, struggled on offense and showed little energy or emotion despite coming away with a 72-65 win over St. John's.

The closest margin of victory ever for Notre Dame over St. John's could have been worse for Notre Dame. Behind 18 first-half points from Kia Wright, the Red Storm led 35-31 at the intermission.



Heather Van Hoegarden

Sports Editor

"I think we came out flat today," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "I don't know why."

That's right, Notre Dame came out flat against St. John's. A team Notre Dame has never lost to in women's basketball. A team who has played the likes of Fordham, Binghamton and Fairleigh Dickinson. A team who scored just 32 points against Connecticut. That's right, St. John's was leading at halftime.

Notre Dame played so poorly on defense in the first half that McGraw pulled the plug on the 2-3 zone that gave up 16 points Sunday in the second half against No. 6 Rutgers. So then they tried man-to-man with no success. Box-and-one? No success. The Irish couldn't rebound consistently either.

All-American Jacqueline Batteast couldn't get shots in the first half. She took just three, making one. She rebounded well, especially defensively, but Notre Dame simply couldn't get her the ball.

Megan Duffy shot just 3-for-14 from the field, including 1-for-8 in the first half. The Irish were struggling against someone they shouldn't have been.

But amidst the chaos for Notre Dame was sophomore forward Crystal Erwin. Erwin was all over the place from the get-go.

She hustled, rebounded, got her fair share of shoves in the paint. When a shot went up, Erwin was around the ball. The sophomore has played well since entering the starting line-

up in December, and Wednesday night was no different.

When she wasn't in the game, Notre Dame struggled to rebound. When she was, they didn't.

She finished with a career-high 10 rebounds to go along with 14 points on 6-for-10 shooting. Erwin was the difference in the game. She knew that Notre Dame needed to rebound to win, and she took it to heart.

"We focus as a team to rebound," Erwin said. "That was my main focus going into the game was to rebound. I know that's what we need to do in order to win, and I just try to do what we need to do that."

The 6-foot-1 forward played just 25 minutes, but her presence was seemingly felt for much longer. Seven of her 10 rebounds were on the offensive end, accounting for almost half of Notre Dame's 20 offensive

rebounds.

"I thought Crystal did a great job on the offensive boards," McGraw said. "She really did a nice job staying after the ball and being aggressive."

But with Erwin, it's not just the numbers. It's the way she goes about it.

She is the player Notre Dame didn't have last year. Erwin plays with an attitude — the good kind. The kind this team was missing in the first half.

Erwin has become the player that Notre Dame can count on every game for the little things. On Wednesday night, they were the most important things.

And so, the all-time record stands — Notre Dame 15, St. John's 0.

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

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

"I think we came out flat today."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

Doubles

continued from page 24

Irish coach Jay Lauderback agreed.

"She played really well and it was exciting to see her win and be off the court so quickly," Lauderback said.

The second singles point for the Irish came from Lauran

Connelly at No. 4 in a quick 6-3, 6-3 match over Rutherford.

But it was the victory by Stastny at No. 5 that secured the victory for the Irish. Stastny defeated Yaftali 7-5, 6-0 after trailing 3-0 in the first set and five set points.

At No. 3, Christian Thompson rallied back from 5-2 in the first set against Delicata to win the match 7-5, 6-2.

"She had a great comeback,"

Lauderback said. "She's done it [comeback] in the past, and she did a great job of coming to the net."

The sixth point came from No. 69 nationally ranked Catrina Thompson at No. 1 after she defeated No. 44 nationally ranked DaCosta 6-2, 6-3.

"She [Thompson] likes to play quick games, but this kid [DaCosta] make her take her time [by forcing a slower paced

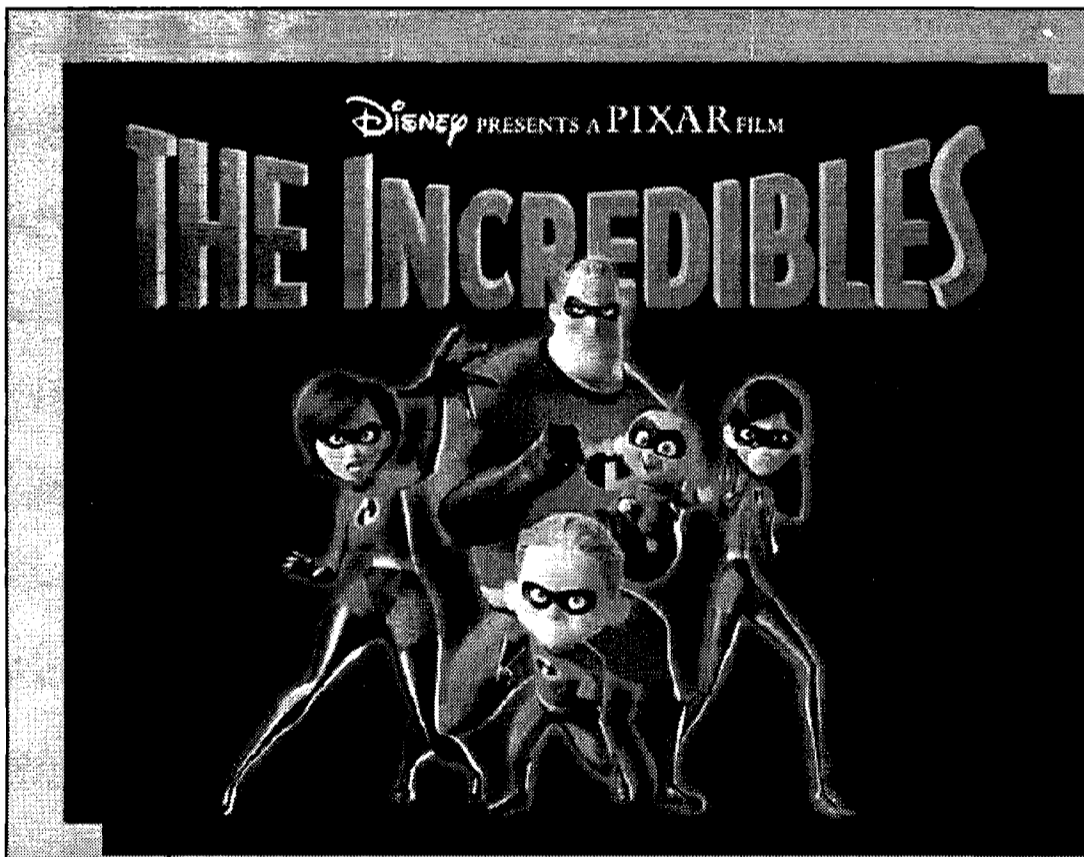
game]," Lauderback said. "So this was a good match for her."

The seventh and final point for Notre Dame came from No. 85 Buck over Michigan's No. 95 Exon 6-4, 7-6 (7-2).

The next opponent for the Irish will be against No. 30 Wake Forest this Sunday at the Eck Tennis Pavilion at 10 a.m.

Contact Dan Tapetillo at jtapetil@nd.edu

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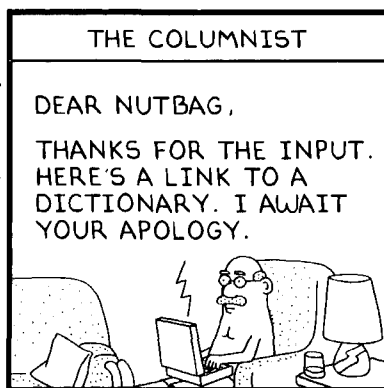
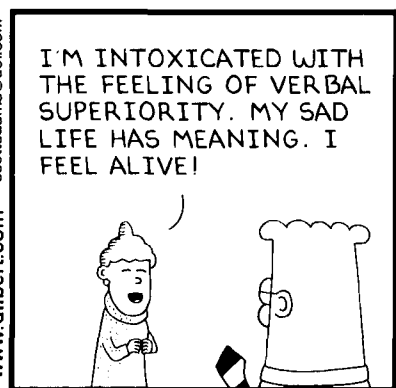
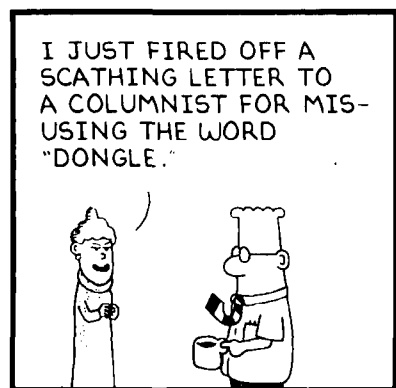
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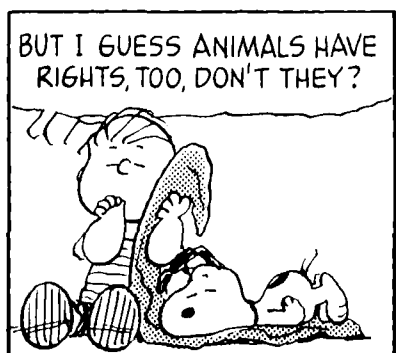
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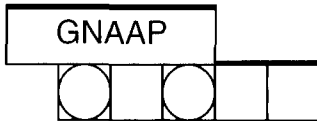
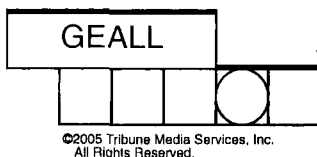


JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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



THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



THE BALDHEADED FRIENDS HAD A DIFFICULT TIME DOING THIS.

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

Print answer here:



(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: LINGO TEPID EMERGE CURFEW Answer: Why he didn't join the glacier expedition — HE GOT "COLD" FEET

CROSSWORD

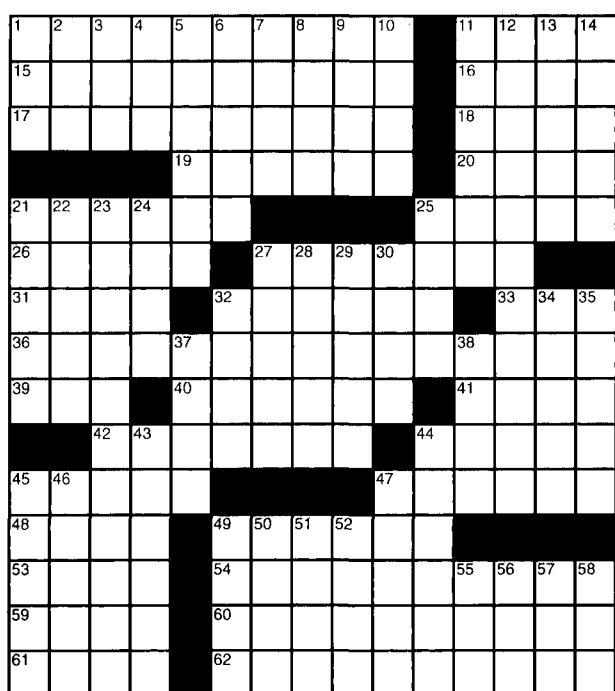
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- ACROSS 1 Makes cry, in a way 11 Way off 15 Swelling rush 16 Chute opener? 17 City next to Newark 18 Lead-up to a coup 19 Failed at a shootout 20 Additionally 21 Informal conversation opener 25 Confronts 26 Water colors 27 Shot that's completely off the mark 31 Water pit 32 Comparatively close 33 Some radio listings: Abbr. 36 1969 #3 hit ... and a hint to this puzzle's theme 39 Sault ___ Marie 40 Old TV part 41 This, in Toledo 42 Comebacks 44 Progress little by little 45 100-eyed giant of myth 47 Uncredited authors 48 Big pig 49 The Cat in the Hat had one 53 It's loaded 54 Bogey 59 Percolate 60 Home of Rollins College 61 Gardener's need 62 Starts, as an agreement

- DOWN 1 Literary inits. 2 Org. that conducts many studies 3 MGM motto starter 4 Becoming gradually slower, in music 5 Garden decorations 6 Smiling 7 Points on a line: Abbr. 8 Faults 9 Upper hand 10 Tournament favorite 11 Fund-raising letter 12 First semester offerings 13 Stopped lying 14 Taxi posting 21 Holds up 22 Cry of surrender 23 Quadrennial event 24 Cash register part 25 It's figured according to the 14-Down 27 Moving 28 ___ water 29 Orchestra section 30 Kind of coat 32 Retro hairdo



Puzzle by Mike Torch

- 34 Sacred song 35 Goes postal 37 Baseball's Mel and others 38 Planelike 43 Where the holm oak is native 44 It's said when lifting the arm 45 Disconcert 46 Mercutio's friend 47 One who tithes 49 Boxer Riddick 50 "Come ___!" 51 Hit the road 52 Lug 55 Coll. in Troy, N.Y. 56 Give a thumbs down 57 Obsolete form of "to be" 58 MGM rival, once

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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ND BASKETBALL

Big East ups and downs

Irish start slow, finish strong to defeat St. John's

Team drops second straight conference game on road

By **JOE HETTLER**
Sports Writer

This is not the way Muffet McGraw and the Irish prefer to win basketball games.

For the second straight game, Notre Dame played a sloppy first half only to bounce back with a much-improved second half en route to another victory — this time 72-65 over visiting St. John's.

See Also
"Erwin's intensity must become contagious" *page 21*

"We're trying to play great every night," McGraw said. "We didn't do that tonight."

On Sunday, the Irish trailed Rutgers by 11 at halftime but outscored the Scarlet Knights 43-16 in the second half on their way to a convincing victory. On Wednesday against St. John's, Notre Dame couldn't find its rhythm early and



RICHARD FRIEDMAN/The Observer
Crystal Erwin defends a St. John's player in Notre Dame's 72-65 win on Wednesday.

see ST. JOHN'S/page 21

By **MATT LOZAR**
Sports Writer

Call it an ugly end to a disappointing road trip.

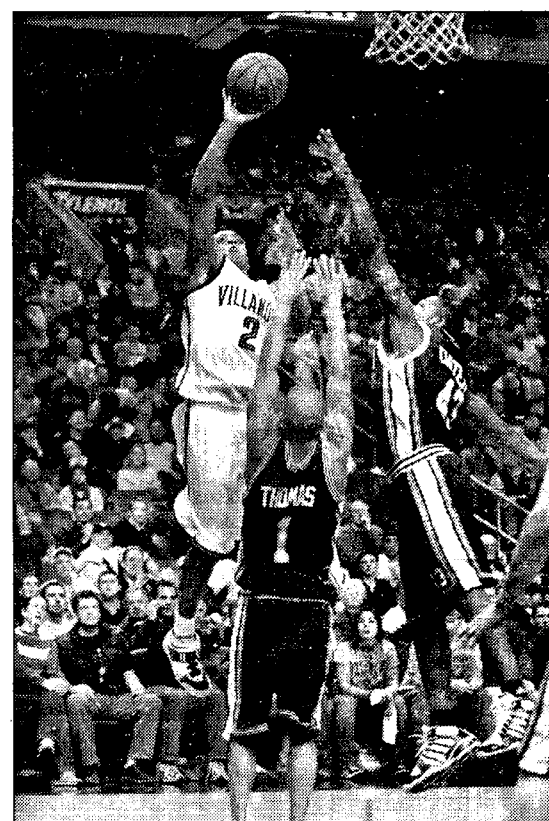
Scoring six points in the last 8 minutes, 24 seconds, the Irish (12-5, 4-3 Big East) lost 65-60 to Villanova (11-4, 3-3) Wednesday night at the Wachovia Center.

The Irish finished their three game road trip 1-2.

The Wildcats closely guarded Notre Dame's long-distance threats — the Irish only made 6-of-19 3-pointers, and the Irish were forced to drive to the basket and pound the ball inside to stay with Villanova.

That adjustment worked, as Notre Dame held a 52-46 lead midway through the second half. From that point, the Irish only made three field goals.

The Wildcats used three straight 3-pointers to turn that six-point deficit into a 55-52 lead. They were never able to close the game out until the



AP
Randy Foye takes a floating jump shot over Chris Thomas at the Wachovia Center.

see NOVA/page 20

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish dismantles No. 20 Michigan

Doubles teams set tone early in victory

By **DAN TAPETILLO**
Sports Writer

The No. 20 Wolverines had no answers for the No. 21 Irish during Wednesday's match.

Notre Dame (2-1) claimed a 7-0 victory against Michigan (1-2) as the Irish swept all of the doubles and singles matches by Notre Dame (2-1).

Sophomore twins Catrina and Christian Thompson, playing at No. 1 in doubles for the Irish, are the No. 2 nationally-ranked team. The Thompson's defeated the No. 15-ranked team of Michelle DaCosta and Kara Delicata 8-5, improving the twins overall record in doubles to 11-2 with their fifth victory against a top-15 opponent this season.

Junior Lauren Connelly and freshman Brook Buck played at

No. 2 for Notre Dame, topping Leanne Rutherford and Debra Streifler, 8-2.

At No. 3, senior Sarah Jane Connelly and junior Kristina Stasny bested Elizabeth Exon and Nina Yaftali 8-5.

Once the talent-laden Irish secured the vital doubles point, it was only a matter of remaining calm as they headed into the singles matches.

"Every time you win the doubles point, you only need three more points so everybody is a little more relaxed," junior Liz Donohue said.

In singles, Donohue was first off the court in an impressive 6-1, 6-2 victory against Streifler at No. 6. This win came after two close losses in her previous two matches.

"After two tough matches, I just had the mentality to just get out there and start of strong," Donohue said. "I just got on a roll early on."

see DOUBLES/page 22

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles fall below .500 with loss

By **CHRIS KHOREY**
Sports Writer

Bridget Lipke was not going down without a fight.

The Saint Mary's sophomore point guard dove on the floor for a loose ball, charged down the court, scrambled for her own rebound and drew a foul all in about a 10 second span of the second half of Wednesday night's contest against the Albion Britons at the Angela Athletic Center.

In the end, Lipke's hustle went unrewarded, as the Belles fought gallantly but were overpowered by the bigger, faster, and fresher Britons, 72-59.

Saint Mary's (9-10, 4-6 in the MIAA) had only one day to rest after a 93-87 win over Tri-State on Monday, a fact that Albion coach Doreen Balkowski was well aware of when designing the Briton's game plan.

"[They] knew we played Tri-State on Monday, a team that likes to run, so [they] ran us," Belles coach Suzanne Bellina said. "Usually they walk the ball up, but they were running it up every time."



KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer
Freshman guard Alison Kessler makes a move to the basket against Tri-State earlier in the season.

The Belles will get a much needed rest this weekend before playing Calvin in Grand Rapids next week.

"I think we were exhausted [against Albion]," Bellina said. "We have a bye this weekend, which we really need."

The Britons also effectively used their bench. Eleven different players put tallies in the scoring ledger.

Albion played a zone defense for most of the game, making use of their size advantage and holding Lipke and fellow guard Alison Kessler to only five points combined.

"A lot of Albion's players are bigger than us, so it's hard to get a shot over them," Bellina said.

see BELLES/page 21

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

MLB Mientkiewicz goes to Mets

The Boston Red Sox traded the Gold Glove first baseman to New York.

page 18

SUPER BOWL XXXIX T.O. says he plans on playing

Eagles wide receiver Terrell Owens plans on returning for the big game.

page 17

Key match-ups define game

The Eagles and Patriots must win individual position battles.

page 16

NBA Jackson returns to Pacers

Stephen Jackson returned after serving a 30-game suspension.

page 15

Cavaliers 114 Grizzlies 111

LeBron James had 27 points, 15 assists and nine rebounds in the win.

page 15

NCAA BASKETBALL

Maryland 75 Duke 66

Louisville 99 Marquette 52

page 14