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SMC, HCC not represented at CCAC

Kirsits says colleges were notified; officials there say they never received invitations

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

When the Community Campus Action Coalition (CCAC) met for the first time last Wednesday, both Saint Mary's College and Holy Cross College did not join the University of Notre Dame, Indiana University South Bend (IUSB) and the City of South Bend in attendance.

Both colleges insist that they did not receive invitations to or notifications about the meeting. CCAC Chairman and Councilman-at-large Al "Buddy" Kirsits said that

invitations were sent to both institutions.

"They did not respond to our letters," Kirsits said.

Tina Holland, the Holy Cross College senior vice president of student life, disagreed with Kirsits, saying the letters weren't sent to Holy Cross.

"Nobody at the College received an invitation for the CCAC," she said. "I received a message from my contact at Saint Mary's, and she said that she did not receive one either."

Furthermore, Holland said that

see CCAC/page 4



DUSTIN MANNELLA/The Observer
Notre Dame's Liz Brown talks to Mark Kramer at the CCAC meeting last week. SMC and HCC were not represented.

STUDENT SENATE

New minor suggested for Univ.

Non-discrimination clause also discussed

By CLAIRE REISING
News Writer

The Student Senate passed resolutions supporting the creation of a Native American Studies minor and encouraging student input in the renovation of campus study spaces at its meeting Wednesday night.

The Senate also voted to amend a resolution encouraging the addition of sexual orientation to Notre Dame's non-discrimination clause.

Senators Erdina Francillon and Ezinee Ndukwe of the Multicultural Affairs Committee (MAC) presented information about the minor's relevance to the University, as well as results from a survey about student interest in the topic. Francillon explained the connection between Notre Dame's legacy and Native American tribe — such as through Father Stephen Theodore Badin, the priest who gave a farm to Notre Dame founder Father Edward Sorin. Badin stayed with the Potawatomi tribe near the St. Joseph River.

"MAC truly believes [Native American history] is an integral part to learning about American history," Francillon said. "There is a correlation between Notre Dame's history and Native

see HISTORY/page 4

Perfection a problem for GRC

Rakoczy speaks about lifestyle problems

By BRIAN MCKENZIE
News Writer

Heather Rakoczy, the director of the Gender Relations Center, led a discussion Wednesday on how competitiveness and perfectionism affect men and women on campus as part of the "Notre Dating" series about relationships at Notre Dame.

"Students sometimes think that parietais and single-sex halls are the biggest factors affecting gender relations here, or that if we got rid of the Catholic character of Notre Dame then it would be more like other schools," she said. "But I think the factor is perfectionism and competitiveness. Those create obstacles to friendly relations with the other sex."

One obstacle caused by competitiveness was "compartmentalization, a work-hard-play-hard lifestyle where students pull all-nighters from Monday to Thursday and then drink and hookup on the weekends," Rakoczy said.

Compartmentalization is dangerous because "it creates unrealistic expectations," she said.

"Even if you could sustain that for four years, you can't for the rest of your life. And I don't know if you would want to," Rakoczy said.

Senior Sarah Waller said that high-pressure, compart-

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Students welcome break

Week offers short vacation, service opportunities, respite from work

By KATIE PERALTA
News Writer

Whether it's a week-long respite from the Indiana tundra in the tropical climates of Florida and Mexico or participating in one of the Center for Social Concerns (CSC) service seminars or Campus Ministry retreats, many Notre Dame students will leave campus during the spring break, which begins Saturday.

The CSC offers diverse service opportunities for students during spring break. From community-based learning in several Southeastern states as part of the CSC's Appalachia seminar locations to exploring American health care problems in Washington, D.C., students are able to move out of the classroom and into the real world.

Jessie Jenkins, a Lewis sophomore, plans to attend an Appalachia Seminar in Harlan County, Va., during the week off from school. While she admits that it is tempting to relax on a beach, she says she looks forward to the service opportunity.

"This is a good opportunity to get involved with the CSC," Jenkins said. "I think this will be a new experience that will broaden my outlook on life."

The CSC is also sponsoring an Ignatian Spirituality Silent Retreat from March 2-7 in Donaldson, Ind.

Other students are looking forward to unwinding at home.

McGlenn sophomore Sarah Rodts plans to return home to Oak Park, Ill., where she looks forward to catching up on sleep, shopping in Chicago and even doing some lagging schoolwork.

"I am looking forward to

my best friend being home also," Rodts said.

Other students will take to the (hopefully) sunny beaches.

Brian Price, a sophomore from Zahm, plans on escaping the cold weather of Indiana with a trip to Cancun with his friends over break.

"I'm looking forward to the nice weather, the sunshine and the mamacitas," Price said, referencing a slang word that harkens on the Spanish term for women.

Some students, however, choose to stay on campus during the break.

Although many buildings will close early during break, students remaining at Notre Dame still have a few options for keeping busy during the break.

RecSports' facilities will open at 6 a.m. and close at 7

see BREAK/page 6

Theology on Fire lecture focuses on friends



KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer
Richard Egan speaks about friendship at the Theology on Fire lecture in the Saint Mary's Student Center on Wednesday.

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
News Writer

Richard Egan, the president of the North America Carmelite Institute in Washington, D.C. quoted classic Beatles song "With a Little Help From My Friends" as he spoke on the importance of friendship during Wednesday's Theology on Fire lecture in the Saint Mary's Student Center.

With biblical allusions and references to ancient philosophers and theologians, Egan stressed the importance of friendship in students' lives. Friendship is a sacrament because Christ is a partner in the friendships we form, he

said.

He said our friends not only help us through hard times, but also teach us goodness and morality.

"When we are good friends we are learning about goodness and what God is like and prepares us for our relationship with God," Egan said. "All of life and all of love are a gift."

Egan said that it is important to give of oneself as a gift to friends.

"Mutual presence is essential to the quality of life because mutual presence is the only thing that brings about commitment," Egan said.

If we cannot commit to each

see FRIENDS/page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

Headlines & deadlines

Early this morning — after the past-deadline stories trickled in, after an editor checked the headlines one last time, even as the presses ran — my term as news editor ended.

So long as no unexpected spring break events consume my meager savings, my time at The Observer is through.



Karen Langley
News Editor

I joined the paper freshman year, eager to find my place on a campus that still intimidated me. Two friends from my classes and dorm had begun writing news stories, and it seemed to be working for them.

(It continued to work for them. Maddie Hanna and Mary Kate Malone just completed their terms as Editor-in-Chief and Assistant Managing Editor and are headed off to internships at top papers.)

Somewhere between writing my first story about campus MLK Day celebrations and covering the University's response to Hurricane Katrina, I fell for journalism.

I fell for the unexpected confidences, the newsroom chemistry and the rush of the catalytic deadline.

Between covering Father Jenkins' verdict on the Vagina Monologues and reporting on the Common Council's attempts to make students register parties, I learned there was a lot more to the craft than finding that perfect lede and that defining quote.

The adrenaline rush may have drawn me to this craft, but it was in the tension of applying the loftiest ideals of reporting to messy reality that I became committed.

As my colleagues in the sports department often remind me, many of the news stories we cover can seem a bit trivial. But that's OK. The Observer may have a tiny coverage area, but the world of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's is fascinating and — to many people — immensely important.

After graduation, I'm going to try and give real-world, big-city reporting a chance. Or, given the journalism job market, I should say it's going to give me a chance.

For now, my biggest concern is how I'll fill 40 free hours each week. But with only 10 more weeks to live by my best friends, I don't think filling time will be hard. Without the weekly 6 a.m. editing nights, my body may finally return to its natural sleep cycle, and my friends can finally stop wondering whether their throwaway remarks about campus life will be turned into stories for the next week's papers.

Forward your press releases and news tips to Bill Brink, my replacement. If you see me at breakfast, it will be because I got up early, not because I haven't slept.

News is unpredictable, and the next few weeks could hold a story so big I'll be back in the South Dining Hall newsroom, begging Brink to put me on it. But if this is the last thing I ever write for The Observer, I can live with that.

I'll leave knowing I've found more than a pastime.

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

Contact Karen Langley at klangle1@nd.edu

NOTICE

This is The Observer's final issue before Spring Break. The Observer will next publish on Tuesday, March 11, 2008. We hope all students enjoy the week free of classes.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT ARE YOUR SPRING BREAK PLANS?



Adjoa Andoh

sophomore Pasquerilla East

"Sleeping on my couch at home."



Angela Sutton

sophomore Pasquerilla East

"Going to Houston, Texas, with Lauren and Angie!"



Gabby Ymalay

junior Keenan

"Spending quality time in Club Hesburgh."



Dana Gates

junior Pasquerilla East

"Going to a chalet, if you know what I mean..."



Jackie Collins

senior Pasquerilla East

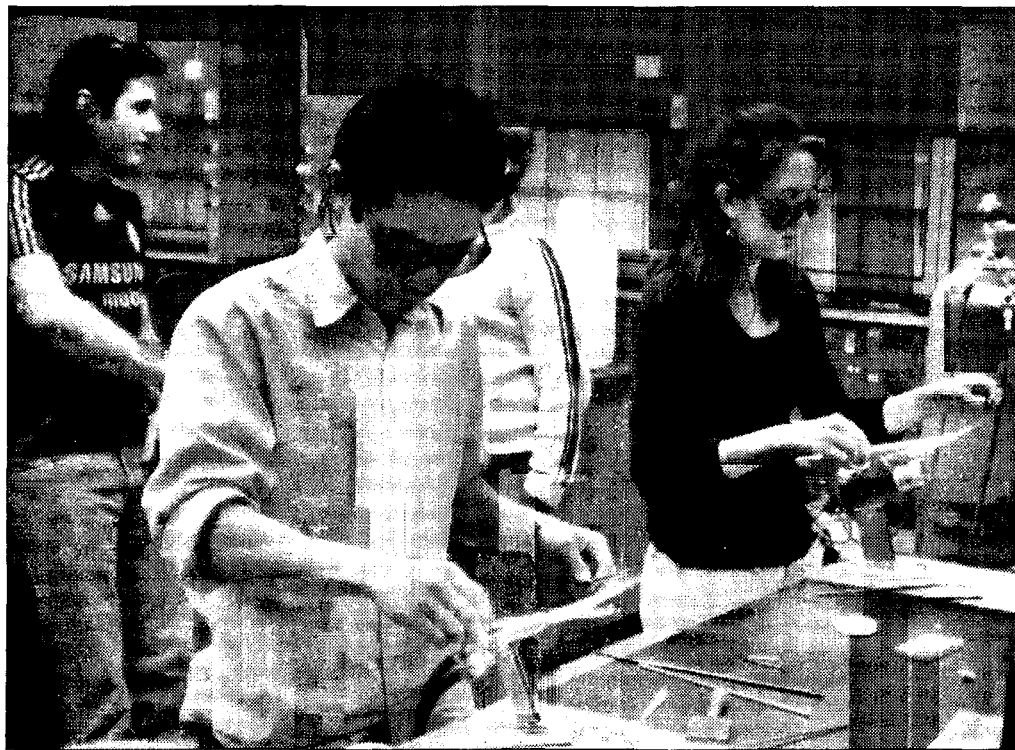
"Going to Glenmary Farms for Appalachia."



Nicole Gill

sophomore Pasquerilla East

"Going to Florida to get tanned. But not toasted."



Bryce Chung and Leigh Hickman, members of the Notre Dame Glass Club, make glass beads at their meeting on Wednesday.

DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

OFFBEAT

Python eats Australian family dog

BRISBANE, Australia — A 16-foot python stalked a family dog for days before swallowing the pet whole in front of horrified children in the Australian tropics, animal experts said Wednesday.

The boy and girl, ages 5 and 7, watched as the scrub python devoured their silky terrier-Chihuahua cross-breed Monday at their home near Kuranda in Queensland state.

Stuart Douglas, owner of the Australian Venom Zoo in Kuranda, said scrub

pythons typically eat wild animals such as wallabies, a smaller relative of the kangaroo, but sometimes turn to pets in urban areas.

"It actively stalked the dog for a number of days," Douglas said.

NYC man pays hundreds for squirrel homes

NEW YORK — What may be the cheapest rooms in Manhattan are made especially for squirrels. A self-appointed protector of squirrels has paid to have soft-pine boxes made for the critters and had them placed in trees at City Hall Park.

Mark Garvin said he paid a "couple hundred dollars" to have each of the boxes made. The Parks Department installed three at the park.

Garvin, a biologist, said he and his wife appointed themselves caretakers of about 60 or so squirrels at the park after 9/11.

"That whole park was coated in white dust," he said. "The animals were dying over there, so that's when we really got determined."

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The Bengal Bouts quarterfinals will be held tonight at 6:30 at the Joyce Center Fieldhouse. Tickets are available at the Ticket Office.

The film "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" will be shown at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center on tonight at 7.

University President Father John Jenkins will appear on "Office Hours," hosted by senior Bob Costa, tonight at 9:30 on NDtv, channel 53 on campus cable. The episode will also be available online at www.ndtv.net shortly after it airs.

"Basquiat" a film detailing the life and struggles of graffiti artist, Jean Michel Basquiat will be shown tonight at 10 in Browning Cinema in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

There will be Stations of the Cross on Friday at 7:15 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Stations will be held each Friday during Lent.

The film "I'm Not There," which tells the story of legendary singer Bob Dylan at different stages of his life and with different actors in the lead role, will be shown at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center on Friday at 7 p.m.

Students will perform "1,001 Black Inventors" a play in which a family lives without the inventions of Africans and African-Americans on Friday at 7 p.m. in Carey Auditorium in the Hesburgh Library

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

| | TODAY | TONIGHT | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| LOCAL WEATHER | | | | | | |
| | HIGH 26 LOW 22 | HIGH 16 LOW 12 | HIGH 34 LOW 22 | HIGH 29 LOW 26 | HIGH 41 LOW 34 | HIGH 35 LOW 21 |

Groody looks at globalization

Theology professor co-edits a collection of essays concerning migration

Special to The Observer

Father Daniel Groody, assistant professor of theology at Notre Dame, is co-editor of "A Promised Land, A Perilous Journey: Theological Perspectives on Migration," released this month by Notre Dame Press.

A collection of essays by scholars, pastors and lay people involved in immigration aid work, the book presents an interdisciplinary treatment of the subject of migration, focusing on the theology of migration and the ethics of migration policy.

The authors recognize that one characteristic of globalization is the movement, not only of goods and ideas, but also of people. The crossing of geographical borders confronts Christians, as well as all citi-

zens, with choices: between national security and human insecurity; sovereign national rights and human rights; citizenship and discipleship. The essays focus on the particular problems of immigration across the U.S.-Mexico border.

Father Groody, director of the Center for Latino Spirituality and Culture in Notre Dame's Institute for Latino Studies, also is the author of "Globalization, Spirituality and Justice: Navigating the Path to Peace" and "Border of Death, Valley of Life: An Immigrant Journey of Heart and Spirit" and editor of "The Option for the Poor in Christian Theology," which won the 2007 Pax Christi USA Book Award.

Father Groody has been studying Mexican immigration for some 20 years and has pro-

duced two film documentaries, "Dying to Live: A Migrant's Journey," which aired on PBS, and "Strangers No Longer," which was created for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and their Justice for Immigrants Campaign. Both seek to present the "human face" of the immigrant, and Catholic social teaching on migration.

A forthcoming film titled "One Border, One Body: Immigration and the Eucharist" highlights a Mass held at the U.S.-Mexico border with half the community in the U.S., the other half in Mexico, and the altar joined at the fence.

Currently, Father Groody is conducting research on theology and immigration at the Refugee Centre at Oxford University.

Alumni Association acquires new executive

'84 grad appointed associate executive director

Special to The Observer

Elizabeth "Dolly" Duffy, president of Atchison Products and a 1984 graduate of the Notre Dame, has been appointed assistant vice president for university relations and associate executive director of the Notre Dame Alumni Association.

"I am excited to have a person of Dolly's experience and integrity joining our team," said Charles F. Lennon, associate vice president for university relations and executive director of the Alumni Association. "She possesses a strong work ethic, a wide range of skills and a deep sense of commitment to Notre Dame. I look forward to working with her in fulfilling the Alumni Association's mission of facilitating active involvement of alumni, nurturing the lifelong learning and spiritual development of our graduates, and fostering connections among alumni."

Duffy will oversee the day-to-day operations of the Alumni Association, including communications, marketing, finance, technology, alumni affinity groups, and professional, academic, spiritual and service programs.

"Dolly's role in the Alumni Association is very important to Notre Dame and our worldwide alumni base," University president Father John Jenkins said. "Her business background and exceptional leadership ability will be invaluable to the Alumni Association, and we are blessed to have her returning to Notre Dame." Duffy earned a bachelor's degree in history from

Notre Dame. She and her husband, Dan Fangman, who earned his master of business administration degree from Notre Dame in 1984, purchased Atchison Products in 1990 and grew it substantially over 17 years. The company posted \$15 million in sales in 2006 and last year was acquired by BIC Graphic USA.

Prior to purchasing Atchison Products, Duffy spent five years as an account executive for public relations firms in St. Louis and Kansas City. She began her career as the press secretary for a U.S. congressman and currently serves on the board of

directors for the Promotional Product Association International.

Also active within Notre Dame's alumni community, Duffy has served on the board of directors for Notre Dame clubs in Washington, D.C., St. Louis and Kansas City. In addition, she is a member of Notre Dame's Advisory Council for University Libraries.

"It will be such a joy to return to Notre Dame as a place to work, worship and raise our family," Duffy said.

Duffy and Fangman will be relocating to the South Bend area with their five children. Duffy will assume her role at the Alumni Association in August.

Founded in 1868, the Notre Dame Alumni Association serves more

than 122,000 alumni and helps coordinate the activities of 267 Notre Dame clubs around the world. It also oversees the University's Eck Visitors' Center on campus.

"I am excited to have a person of Dolly's experience and integrity joining our team."

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executive director
Alumni Association

"Dolly's role in the Alumni Association is very important to Notre Dame and our worldwide alumni base. Her business background and exceptional leadership ability will be invaluable to the Alumni Association, and we are blessed to have her returning to Notre Dame."

Father John Jenkins
University president

Cassel: Musharraf should resign

Special to The Observer

With Pakistan's recent parliamentary elections swept by opposition candidates, President Pervez Musharraf should resign, according to Douglass Cassel, director of the Notre Dame Law School's Center for Civil and Human Rights.

Sen. Joseph Biden, who recently traveled to Afghanistan and Pakistan, said that he thought Musharraf would quit his job peacefully and "go gently into that good night," but Rashid Qureshi, a spokesman

for Musharraf, yesterday dismissed Biden's remarks, adding, "It's very clear that the president has been elected for a period of five years by the representative assemblies who had been elected by the Pakistani people and not by any senator from the United States."

"The defeat of President Musharraf's party in the parliamentary elections is an important first step," Cassel said. "It means that the prime minister and the government will now come from the opposition. We must hope that Mr. Musharraf will now take the next responsi-

ble step—to resign from the presidency, which he unlawfully usurped after firing most of the Supreme Court."

Cassel, a specialist in international human rights and international criminal law, has been a consultant to the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the U.S. State Department, and the Ford Foundation. From 1992 to 1993, he served as legal advisor to the U.N. Commission on the Truth for El Salvador, supervising its investigations, and acting as principle editor of its report.

Call for Presentations

The 1st Annual University of Notre Dame

Undergraduate Scholars Conference
Friday, May 2, 2008

To accommodate students conducting research during spring break, the submission deadline has been extended to **MONDAY, MARCH 17**

Students from **ALL COLLEGES** are invited to submit abstracts of proposed presentation of their **Research, Critical Analysis, and Creative Endeavors**

Students wishing to participate in the College of Science 2nd Joint Annual Meeting should submit their abstracts to the Undergraduate Scholars Conference

Guidelines and application are available on-line at:
www.nd.edu/~urnd

Please recycle
The Observer.

CCAC

continued from page 1

Holy Cross was never notified that a meeting was being planned. "We knew nothing about the meeting," Holland said.

She learned of the meeting through The Observer's coverage of the event last Thursday, she said. "It's pretty disturbing to have found out about it in the paper and be accused of not having answered messages," she said.

Saint Mary's College President Carol Ann Mooney said via an e-mail that her institution was not notified either.

"Saint Mary's did not receive an invitation to attend. Consequently, Saint Mary's did not send a representative," she said.

Even so, Father Mark Poorman, Notre Dame's vice president for student affairs, said that Saint Mary's and Holy Cross are included in the overall plan for the CCAC.

"There are spaces provided for Notre Dame, IUSB, Holy Cross College and Saint Mary's College," he said. "The CCAC was constituted with Notre Dame, IUSB, Holy Cross and Saint Mary's. There are 21 people on the CCAC and there were always positions set aside for those schools, too."

Kirsits confirmed Poorman's statement that positions are reserved on the CCAC for Saint Mary's and Holy Cross, saying that each of the four institutions can have one student and one administrator representative on the committee.

Kirsits did not personally send or deliver the invitations for the Feb. 20 meeting to Holy Cross and Saint Mary's, but he said Wednesday he is positive that they were mailed.

"The City Clerk's Office handles sending letters and making phone calls," he said. "They're pretty capable of notifying all kinds of developers [about zoning hearings] and the businesses always get those. I would trust our Clerk's Office did a good job with that. Somebody [at Saint Mary's or Holy Cross] just probably looked at it and flipped it aside or something like that," he said.

Holland said there is no way the invitation would get misplaced at Holy Cross.

"We're a pretty small place," she said. "If somebody calls, you're going to know. You're not going to get lost in any bureaucracy here."

Poorman said he offered to pro-

vide contact information for Saint Mary's and Holy Cross to the CCAC last week.

"They had a hard time getting hold of them, so I said I'd be happy to provide contact information, so at least they'd have a place to start," he said.

Both Saint Mary's and Holy Cross intend to send representatives to the next meeting, following a formal invitation.

"Holy Cross College has always stepped up to work with council members," Holland said. "We are very interested in our relationships with folks in town, and certainly have no reason to ignore any opportunities to get involved in something as important as this."

Mooney also said that Saint Mary's plans to participate in the group if an invitation is received.

"Our decision about participation will not be influenced by our not having been present for the initial meeting," she said. "We are looking forward to the next meeting."

Kirsits said the colleges will be invited again to the second meeting.

"We have indications that [their absence] is going to change.

There's been communication that they will participate," he said.

Despite the controversy regarding the invitations to the first meeting, all parties said the CCAC could play an important role.

"It is very important for all the colleges and universities in South Bend to be in contact and work with the city," Mooney said. "Our students attend activities, shop and live in South Bend and are part of the community."

Poorman agreed that every institution needs to be represented at the group.

"All four schools have a stake in the discussion. These are common concerns of the various schools and the local community," Poorman said.

Kirsits also stressed the importance of the CCAC to make the city more comfortable for everybody.

"We need to iron out problems with parties and make sure students are respectful of neighbors and make the neighborhood safer for students," Kirsits said. "We're looking for ideas and communication."

Contact John Tierney at tierney.16@nd.edu

History

continued from page 1

American history."

Out of 429 students who participated in the survey, 22.4 percent were "very interested," 57.5 percent were "somewhat interested" and 20.0 percent reported they were "not interested at all" in having this area studies available on campus, Francillon said.

Biology professor Gary Belovsky said that Native American studies still has relevance today and is not a "dead way of life or dead culture."

The University will work with tribes from Montana, Michigan and northern Wisconsin to build the program, he said.

"It's not just how people used to live in the past. It's what we can learn from the traditions and the cultures of these people and how it can shape our future attitudes towards things like the environment," Belovsky said. "That's what we're trying to do — not just relive the past."

The Senate also presented a resolution on including sexual orientation in Notre Dame's non-discrimination clause.

Currently, the clause prohibits discrimination on the basis of "race/ethnicity, color, national origin, sex, disability, veteran status or age," according to the Office of Institutional Equity's Web site.

The resolution cites the Catechism of the Catholic Church's teachings to accept homosexual persons, as well as examples of other American Catholic colleges that include sexual orientation in their non-discrimination clauses. The Faculty and Student Senates passed similar resolutions in 1998, but they did not achieve the desired results, O'Neil senator Matt Molloy said.

Senator Denise Baron, who drafted the resolution with Molloy, said she wants this year's resolution to encourage dialogue among students.

"There has been sort of a letdown and a halt in com-

munication with the dialogue necessary to really approach this issue," she said.

Another resolution on Wednesday's agenda promoted greater student-administrator communication about campus study areas.

There is no "structured way of getting student information," and some students have shown discontent over recent renovations, Academic Affairs chair Carol Hendrickson said.

"I know a lot of people were kind of upset with the first floor library renovations, in terms of getting rid of the second floor computer cluster, establishing [fewer] computers in the first floor area," she said. "Almost always, the computers are at full capacity there."

In other Senate News:

♦ Student body vice president Maris Braun said the second annual Community Summit will take place on March 28. City officials, business leaders and students will gather to discuss community relations issues.

♦ Karen Koski, the chair of the Social Concerns Committee, discussed a "student service or social action fund." Such a fund would allow students to apply for grants after service projects, so they can continue to contribute to the community they served.

Contact Theresa Civantos at tcivantos@nd.edu

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Al "Buddy" Kirsits
CCAC chairman

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student affairs

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Gary Belovsky
biology professor

Class of 2008 Senior Class Gift
will go to the
ECO FUND

holla back

Alumni made Notre Dame possible for us.
Now it's our turn.
Give back.

Thanksgiving in February
Write a thank you note. Grab some pizza.
February 28. Noon-7. LaFortune.



Notre Dame
ANNUAL FUND
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Write News. Call 631-5323.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Beijing suffers low water levels

BEIJING — When 16,000 athletes and officials show up this summer, they will be able to turn the taps and get drinkable water — something few Beijing residents ever have enjoyed.

But to keep those taps flowing for the Olympics, the city is draining surrounding regions, depriving poor farmers of water.

Though the Chinese capital's filthy air makes headlines, water may be its most desperate environmental challenge. Explosive growth combined with a persistent drought mean the city of 17 million people is fast running out of water.

Meanwhile, rainfall has been below average since 1999. The result: Water resources per person are 1/30th of the world average, lower even than Israel.

Columbian rebels free four hostages

CARACAS, Venezuela — Colombian rebels freed four lawmakers Wednesday after six years of captivity, the guerrillas' second hostage release this year as they seek to persuade the international community to strike them from lists of terrorist groups.

The four former Colombian politicians were reunited with relatives amid tears, hugs and grasped flowers at Caracas' international airport.

"You've given me the opportunity to live again," freed hostage Gloria Polanco said when she was freed in a Colombian jungle clearing, thanking Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez for making the release possi-

NATIONAL NEWS

Conservative editor and author dead

NEW YORK — William F. Buckley Jr. died at work, in his study Wednesday. The Cold War had ended long before. A Republican was in the White House. The word "liberal" had been shunned like an ill-mannered guest.

At the end of his 82 years, much of it spent stoking and riding a right-wing wave as an erudite commentator and conservative herald, all of Buckley's dreams seemingly had come true.

"He founded a magazine, wrote over 50 books, influenced the course of political history, had a son, had two grandchildren and sailed across the Atlantic Ocean three times," said his son, novelist Christopher Buckley. "He really didn't leave any stone unturned."

Tennessee man kills four people

BRISTOL, Tenn. — A man killed his ex-girlfriend's current boyfriend, her mother and two other people, then killed himself after police caught up with him in a rural area, authorities said.

Rusty L. Rumley came to the family's apartment in a public housing complex Wednesday morning under the ruse of needing help moving furniture, Bristol police Chief Blaine Wade said.

Rumley, 26, took Francis Watson — his ex-girlfriend's 43-year-old mother — and her neighbor Roy Malone to a breezeway outside the 10-story Edgemont Towers where he shot them, police said.

Then he returned to the family's eighth-floor apartment and asked his former girlfriend for a drink. As she got it, he fatally shot her boyfriend, Brandon Michael Roskos and another friend, 3-year-old Danny Wayne Murray, Wade said.

LOCAL NEWS

Execution date set for murderer

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Supreme Court has set an execution date for a man convicted of killing a Franklin College student.

Michael Dean Overstreet, 42, is slated to receive the death penalty on May 30.

He was convicted in 2000 of abducting, raping and murdering 18-year-old Kelly Eckart of Boggs town in 1997.

The Supreme Court set the date for Overstreet's execution on Monday after denying a second appeal of the sentence.

"We're very pleased that the appeal was denied," said Johnson County Prosecutor Lance Hamner.

GAZA STRIP

Israel, Hamas exchange rocket fire

Bloodshed intensifies between rival forces following deadly attacks on college offices

Associated Press

GAZA CITY — Israeli aircraft blasted Hamas government offices and metal shops late Wednesday, killing a baby and wounding more than 30 people in a retaliatory strike after a militant rocket killed an Israeli college student.

The bloodshed fed worries about a new outbreak of heavy fighting between the Israeli army and militants in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas claimed responsibility for the deadly rocket attack on the college in the southern Israeli town of Sderot, which came a few hours after two Israeli airstrikes killed seven people in Gaza, including two senior commanders in the Hamas rocket operation.

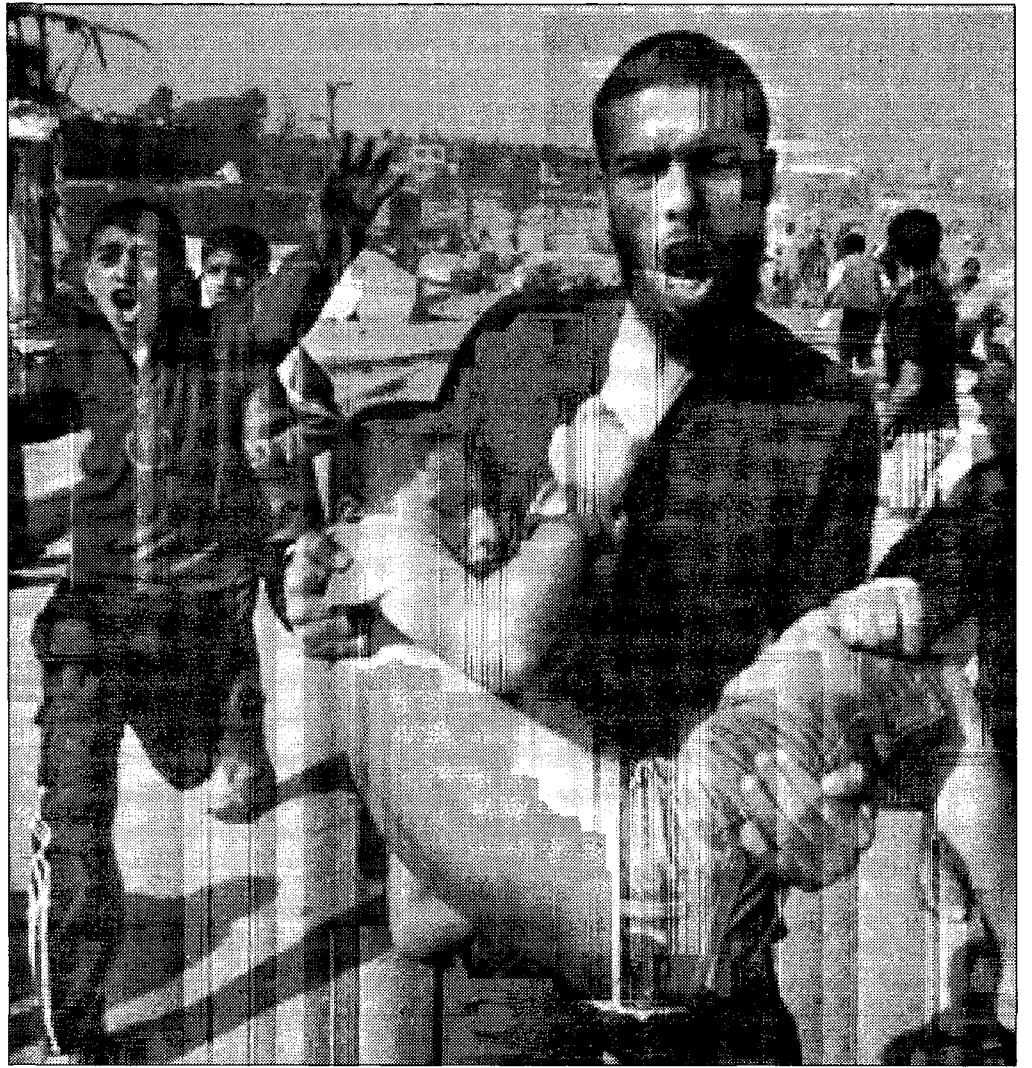
After nightfall, a third Israeli strike aimed at a rocket squad in northern Gaza killed two youngsters leaving a mosque, Palestinians said. The Israeli military said it carried out the airstrike but had no knowledge of civilians being hit.

Then Israeli planes attacked the office of Hamas Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh and the nearby Interior Ministry, both of which were empty. Haniyeh and other Hamas leaders have been in hiding, fearing Israeli assassination attempts.

Palestinian health officials said a 6-month-old baby was killed by shrapnel in the late-night airstrike in Gaza City and about 30 residents of nearby buildings suffered wounds. A few minutes later, Israeli aircraft hit two metal workshops.

The Israeli military said the targets were command posts at the government building and sites where weapons are made and stored. The military blamed Hamas for setting up such operations in populated areas, and said injuries to Palestinian civilians were unintentional.

In all, militants fired at



A Palestinian man runs with an injured boy after an Israeli missile strike Wednesday. Israel's policy of "targeted killings" has reshaped the battlefield in Gaza.

least 40 rockets at Israel on Wednesday, the military said, many more than the average of daily barrages that have disrupted life in the region. Associated Press pictures showed rockets streaking into the sky from a densely populated area of northern Gaza.

One rocket exploded in a parking lot at Sapir College. Israeli officials said a student, a 47-year-old father of four, was killed by shrapnel that struck his heart. Israeli TV stations showed a second man being carried on a stretcher with wounds to his legs.

The student was the first Israeli killed by a rocket since May, when two people died in separate attacks.

At nightfall, four rockets exploded in the Israeli coastal city of Ashkelon, including one near the city's main hospital, police said. No one was hurt. Ashkelon is 6 miles north of the Gaza Strip.

The fatal attack on Sderot intensified calls in Israel for a large-scale ground offensive in Gaza aimed at clearing the border area of rocket squads, though previous incursions have halted such attacks only briefly.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who is visiting Japan, has ruled out such an invasion for now.

But during a visit to Sderot late Wednesday, Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak vowed to "get

those responsible" for the rocket attack. In a statement to Associated Press Television News, he dismissed arguments that Israel "cannot or will not (carry out) a wide-ranging operation in Gaza."

Battered residents were both angry and resigned. "We knew this was coming. It's a shame that it happened. This is a difficult day," Sderot's mayor, Eli Moyal, told Army Radio.

David Barnan, head of the college's students association, said he was shocked by what he saw. "I can't put it into words," he told Army Radio.

Barnan demanded that the government carry out its pledges to reinforce buildings at the college.

Clinton loses key endorsement to Obama

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Civil rights leader John Lewis dropped his support for Hillary Rodham Clinton's presidential bid Wednesday in favor of Barack Obama.

Lewis, a Democratic congressman from Atlanta, is the most prominent black leader to defect from Clinton's campaign in the face of near-unanimous black support for Obama in recent voting. He also is a superdelegate who gets a vote at this summer's national convention in Denver.

In a written statement, Lewis said Obama's campaign "represents the beginning of a new movement in American political history" and that he

wants "to be on the side of the people."

"After taking some time for serious reflection on this issue, I have decided that when I cast my vote as a superdelegate at the Democratic convention, it is my duty ... to express the will of the people," the statement said.

Lewis' endorsement had been a coveted prize among the Democratic candidates thanks to his standing as one of the most prominent civil rights leaders of the 1960s.

"John Lewis is an American hero and a giant of the civil rights movement, and I am deeply honored to have his support," Obama said in a statement.

Clinton, questioned about Lewis during a satellite interview with Houston television station KTRK, said: "I understand

he's been under tremendous pressure. He's been my friend. He will always be my friend. At the end of the day it's not about who is supporting us, it's about what we're presenting, what our positions are, what our experiences and qualifications are and I think that voters are going to decide."

Lewis first announced his Clinton endorsement in October and has appeared on her behalf on television and at events across the country, at one point accusing Obama supporters of trying to fan the flames of race against her. Clinton has frequently cited his support in trying to establish her credentials among minority voters, saying she saw her campaign as a continuation of his work.

Friends

continued from page 1

other, then we are not fulfilling our duty as a friend, he said.

"[Friends] also constitute a basis for creating a moral life," Egan said.

God plays a significant role in our friendships, Egan said, but we often view these bonds as secular. Instead, he argued, just as love is a gift from God, so is friendship.

"God gives us himself

through the seven sacraments," Egan said. "They are gifts of God's self, and God manifests himself in our friendship."

God lives in each person, so we learn about God's love from our friends, he said.

"We love the other for some good of our self, but love is genuinely love when I effectively do

about the good of the other," Egan said.

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn01@saintmarys.edu

"[Friends] also constitute a basis for creating a moral life."

Richard Egan
North American
Carmelite Institute

Dating

continued from page 1

mentalized relationships encourage a "hook-up culture" on campus.

"Hook-ups are a way to avoid a spectacle where everyone knows that you're trying to get married," she said.

Patrick Tighe, the co-chair of the Gender Issues Committee of the Student Senate, said that hook-ups are sometimes expected, particularly of male students.

"There's just this expectation that you'll have a hot girl with you to impress your friends," he said. "That's the goal for a lot of guys."

Sophomore Patrick Bears said that goal-driven relationships turn lovers into commodities.

"You don't think of them as another human being, someone you really care about being with, but something that can get you where you're going," Bears said.

Tighe said that it was logistically difficult to have meaningful friendships with women in the dorms.

"It's a little hard, a bit weird to just hang out with a girl in the dorm," he said. "All your guy friends will wonder what's going on. But I don't have a car to go off-campus. What are you going to do?"

Senior Gina Torres said that relationships at Notre Dame are complicated by the potential for misperception.

"People generally think that there's something sexually charged when people go to dinner together," she said. "It's just dinner."

Senior Katie Smith said that the potential for misperception worries her.

"How does a question like, 'Would you like to have dinner tonight,' translate?

I'm not trying to trap him into marriage. Eating at the dining hall should be normal," she said. "It's not much more loaded to say more forward things at a bar."

Contact Brian McKenzie at bmckenzi@nd.edu

"There's just this expectation that you'll have a hot girl with you to impress your friends. That's the goal for a lot of guys."

Patrick Tighe
sophomore

Break

continued from page 1

p.m. during the weekdays of break. Health Services, while still open during the break, will also have shortened hours.

Those hoping to catch up on work while staying campus can rest easy, knowing that the Hesburgh Library will maintain its usual hours during the weeklong vacation.

Both North and South Dining Halls will be closed, but students staying on campus can use the Huddle Mart and the restaurants in LaForunte Hall.

Students looking for some entertainment can take advantage of the shows and performances at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center (DPAC). Showing in DPAC's Browning Cinema Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights will be the Bob

Dylan biopic "I'm Not There." Two other movies playing at DPAC will be the documentary "Sharkwater" and the 1949 classic "Third Man."

Other performances at the DPAC will include a French program by the South Bend Symphony Orchestra and a performance by the Hubbard Street Dance Company of Chicago.

All DPAC performance and show tickets are available for purchase online.

Briana Bower, a sophomore from Lyons who plans to stay on campus over the break, looks forward to relaxing in her dorm with her roommate over break.

"I cannot wait for catching

up on sleep and not doing homework," Bower said.

"I will be staying here doing a lot of nothing."

Danny Nolan
senior

She said that she and her roommate, aware of the dining halls' closing, have been stocking up on food for their room.

"We also plan on venturing out to LaFun and Reckers," Bower said.

Another student staying on campus is Sorin senior Danny Nolan, who looks forward to not being busy for once.

"I will be staying here doing a lot of nothing," Nolan said. "And I plan on eating a lot of Subway."

Contact Katie Peralta at kprealta@nd.edu

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones 12,694.28 +9.36

Up: 2,331 Same: 81 Down: 997 Composite Volume: 4,102,204,169

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------|---------|
| AMEX | 2,354.66 | +6.85 |
| NASDAQ | 2,353.78 | +8.79 |
| NYSE | 9,292.89 | -9.91 |
| S&P 500 | 1,380.02 | -1.27 |
| NIKKEI (Tokyo) | 13,816.51 | -214.79 |
| FTSE 100 (London) | 6,076.50 | -10.90 |

| COMPANY | %CHANGE | \$GAIN | PRICE |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|--------|
| S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY) | -0.10 | -0.14 | 138.22 |
| POWERSHARES (QQQQ) | +0.50 | +0.22 | 44.29 |
| FANNIE MAE (FNM) | +1.11 | +0.30 | 27.27 |
| FINANCIAL SEL SPDR (XLF) | +0.44 | +0.12 | 27.56 |

Treasuries

| | | | |
|--------------|-------|--------|-------|
| 10-YEAR NOTE | -0.26 | -0.010 | 3.850 |
| 13-WEEK BILL | -6.99 | -0.145 | 1.930 |
| 30-YEAR BOND | -0.13 | -0.006 | 4.651 |
| 5-YEAR NOTE | -0.45 | -0.013 | 2.875 |

Commodities

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|
| LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.) | -1.24 | 99.64 |
| GOLD (\$/Troy oz.) | +12.10 | 961.00 |
| PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.) | -1.80 | 92.50 |

Exchange Rates

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| YEN | 106.3650 |
| EURO | 0.6618 |
| CANADIAN DOLLAR | 0.9813 |
| BRITISH POUND | 0.5044 |

IN BRIEF

New House bill targets oil companies

WASHINGTON — The House approved \$18 billion in new taxes on the largest oil companies Wednesday as Democrats cited record oil prices and rising gasoline costs in a time of economic troubles.

The money collected over 10 years would provide tax breaks for wind, solar and other alternative energy sources and for energy conservation. The legislation, approved 236-182, would cost the five largest oil companies an average of \$1.8 billion a year over that period, according to an analysis by the House Ways and Means Committee. Those companies earned \$123 billion last year.

Senate Democratic leaders said they would put the bill on a fast track and try to avoid a Republican filibuster. The White House said the bill unfairly takes aim at the oil industry. President Bush is expected to veto the legislation if it passes Congress.

Sales of new homes hit 13-year low

WASHINGTON — In more bad news for the beleaguered housing industry, sales of new homes fell in January for a third straight month, pushing activity down to the slowest pace in nearly 13 years. The median price of a new home dropped to the lowest level in more than three years.

The Commerce Department reported Wednesday that new home sales fell by 2.8 percent last month to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 588,000 units, the slowest pace since February 1995.

The median price of a new home dropped to \$216,000 in January, down 4.3 percent from the December median sales price, the point where half the homes sold for more and half for less. That was the lowest median price since September 2004 and underscored that the steep slide in housing is still under way.

Analysts believe that housing activity has further to fall as a tidal wave of mortgage foreclosures is dumping more unsold homes on an already glutted market. For January, the inventory of unsold homes dropped but since the pace of sales activity slowed as well, the number of months it would take to exhaust the current inventory rose to 9.9 months, the longest period in more than 26 years.

Markets finish mixed on seesaw day

Bernanke says central bank will remain vigilant against weak economy

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street finished mixed in another seesaw session Wednesday after regulators allowed Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to buy more mortgages and Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said the central bank will remain vigilant about the weakened economy.

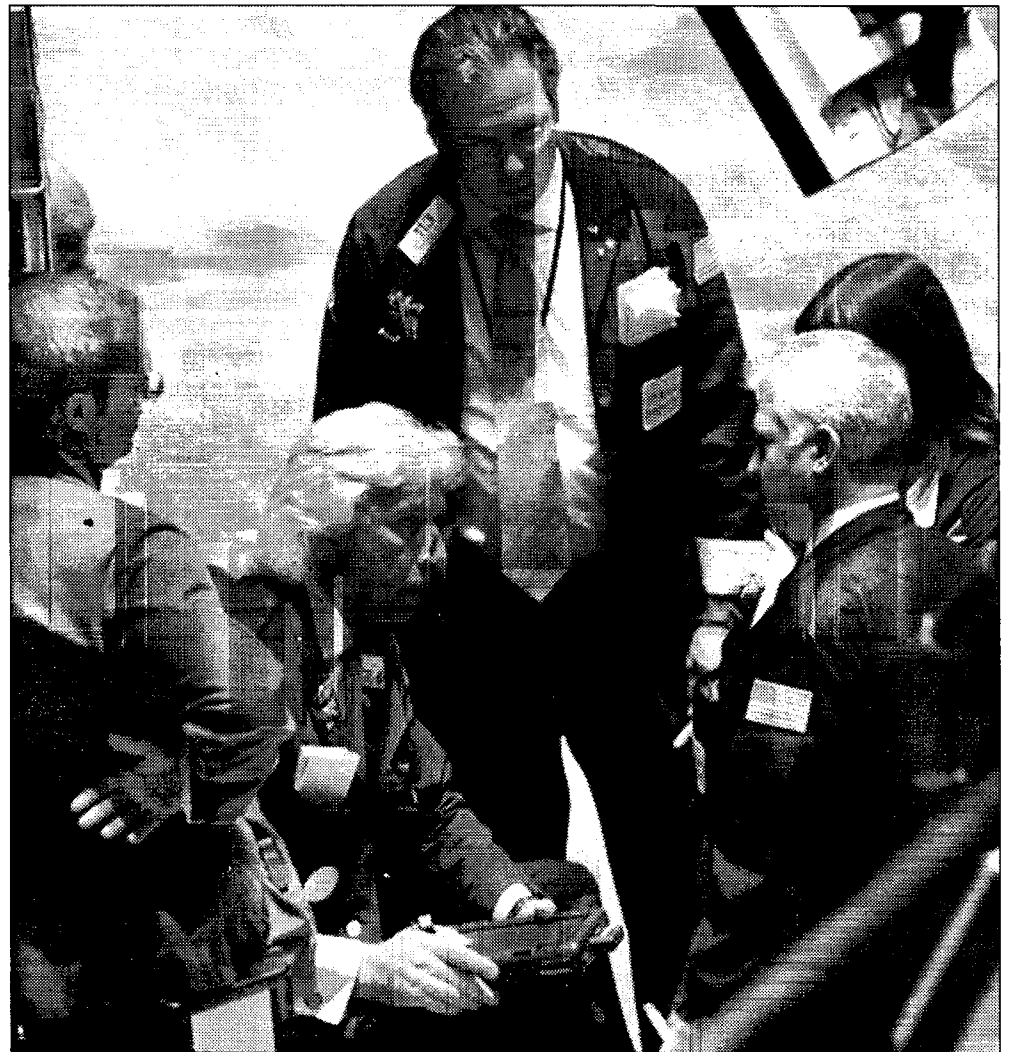
Investors pared the market's gains after both developments had initially boosted confidence amid increasing signs of a slowing economy. Wall Street has in recent months grappled with concerns about rising prices, a weaker dollar and continued turmoil in the credit markets.

Bernanke indicated the Fed is more concerned about the sagging economy than the immediate risks of inflation. In testimony on Capitol Hill, he told lawmakers the Fed will "act in a timely manner as needed to support growth and to provide adequate insurance against downside risks."

The remarks came as the dollar plunged to a record low against the 15-nation euro. That sent already inflated oil and gold prices further into record high territory, and raised the prospect of accelerating inflation.

Meanwhile, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac — the biggest sources of financing for U.S. home loans — helped give the market some ballast after the government removed restrictions on the size of their portfolios. That offered a chance for an easing of the extremely tight mortgage market that has been battered by the sub-prime loan crisis.

"The government is trying to do their part," said Todd Leone, managing director of equity trading at Cowen & Co. "Together, this helps put a little more faith in the



Traders gather on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Wednesday. Wall Street finished mixed after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke's comments on the economy.

economy." Major indexes initially moved higher before investors cashed in profits, following a pattern set in recent weeks. The Dow Jones industrial average — now up four straight sessions — rose 9.36, or 0.07 percent, to 12,694.28.

Broader indexes were narrowly mixed. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 1.27, or 0.09 percent, to 1,380.02, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 8.79, or 0.37 percent, to 2,353.78.

Stocks were somewhat under pressure after the euro climbed to a record

high of \$1.5057 as sentiment increased that the Fed would continue its rate cut campaign. The U.S. currency was mixed against other major currencies.

The dollar's continued slide drove more money into commodities — especially into oil and gold.

Oil prices broke through a new intraday high of \$102 a barrel in overnight trading, then fell \$1.24 to settle at \$99.64 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Meanwhile, gold futures set a new high of \$961.30 an ounce.

Bond prices rose slightly.

The yield on the benchmark 10-year note, which moves opposite its price, fell to 3.85 percent from 3.86 percent late Tuesday. It then rose back up to 3.86 percent in after-hours trading.

The moves followed a government report showing business investment in durable goods weakened more than forecast at the start of the year, playing into the nervousness about economic slowing. The Commerce Department reported durable goods orders dropped 5.3 percent in January, exceeding forecasts.

Court may reduce Exxon Valdez damages

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Nearly 33,000 Alaskan victims of the Exxon Valdez disaster could see their court-ordered payments cut by more than half — to about \$30,000 each — if the Supreme Court hands Exxon Mobil Corp. a partial victory in a long legal fight over punitive damages.

The justices reached no firm conclusions in court Wednesday, but they appeared to agree with Exxon that the \$2.5 billion — or \$75,000 a person — ordered by a federal court is excessive punishment for the massive 1989 oil spill.

Two justices, who could hold the balance of power in this case, suggested a payout of about \$1 billion might be appropriate.

There was little talk in court of the plight of Alaskans who depend on the area environment for their paychecks or of Exxon's run of record profits.

Neither has much to do with the legal principles that underlie the case.

The award represents less than three weeks' worth of Exxon profit, which was \$11.7 billion in the last three months of 2007.

Still, Exxon has vigorously fought to knock down or erase the punitive damages verdict by a jury in Alaska in 1994 for the accident that dumped 11 million gallons of oil into Prince William Sound. The environmental disaster fouled 1,200 miles of Alaskan coastline and led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of seabirds and marine animals.

The verdict has been cut in half once by a federal appeals court.

The problem for the people, businesses and governments who waged the lengthy legal fight against Exxon is that the Supreme Court in recent years has become more receptive to limiting punitive damages awards. The Exxon Valdez case differs from the others in that it involves issues pecu-

liar to laws governing accidents on the water.

But several justices said that limits could be appropriate in this context too.

Justice Stephen Breyer, who has voted to overturn damages awards, said he worried how the court's decision in this case would play in other maritime accidents.

"This is a very dramatic accident. It involves oil spills, and they cause an enormous amount of trouble," he said. "But there are accidents every day, and ships are filled with accidents like automobiles in other places. And there are all kinds of things that go wrong.... What principles do you have to suggest, if any, for creating a fair system that isn't just arbitrary?"

Justices Anthony Kennedy and David Souter suggested that perhaps a reasonable number would be twice the amount of money the company has paid to compensate victims for economic losses, about \$500 million.

Navy official testifies against former sailor

Classified info may have leaked to terrorists

Associated Press

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — The Navy would have immediately changed plans had it known that details of ship movements had been leaked to suspected terrorism supporters, a former top Navy official testified Wednesday at the trial of a former sailor on terrorism charges.

Hassan Abu-Jihaad, 32, of Phoenix, has pleaded not guilty to federal charges alleging he provided material support to terrorists and disclosed classified national defense information.

If convicted, he faces as many as 25 years in prison.

Abu-Jihaad, an American-born Muslim convert formerly known as Paul R. Hall, is accused of leaking information that could have doomed his own ship. He was a Navy signalman and received an honorable discharge in 2002.

He is accused of leaking details that included the makeup of his Navy battle group, its planned movements and a drawing of the group's formation when it was to pass through the Straits of Hormuz on April 29, 2001.

Files found on a computer disk recovered by authorities from a suspected terrorism supporter's home also included the number and type of personnel on each ship and the ships' capabilities and ended with instructions to destroy the message, according to testimony.

Retired Rear Adm. David Hart Jr., who was involved in planning the deployment of the battle group and was the commander, testified Wednesday that he would have immediately alerted his supervisor in 2001 had he known that a battle group document was in the hands of suspected terrorism supporters. He said he would have sought an opportunity to change the time and nature of the operation.

"It was a very vulnerable period of time for us," Hart said. He noted earlier that naval officials had taken steps to protect sailors after 17 of them were killed in the 2000 terrorist attack on the USS Cole in Yemen.

Hart also said that sailors were typically in a heightened state of readiness through Strait of Hormuz, a busy, narrow Persian Gulf waterway where they are frequently challenged by Iranian officials.

Hart confirmed that the information Abu-Jihaad is accused of leaking was sensitive and classi-

fied.

But on cross-examination, Abu-Jihaad's attorney, Dan Labelle, said the Navy wasn't shy about letting the world know when it was deploying ships to the Persian Gulf because it wanted to project strength and deter a crisis.

"I think that's fair to say," Hart responded.

Hart testified that some other information in the leaked documents was incorrect, including a claim related to the vulnerability to a small craft attack. But he said he was still concerned because even if the allegedly leaked details were not precisely accurate, they would have given away the key tactical element of surprise.

Defense attorneys introduced a ship log indicating that the battle group passed through the Strait of Hormuz on May 2, 2001, not April 29. But Hart testified that the plan did call for passing on April 29 into an area sometimes confused with the Strait of Hormuz.

The documents indicated that ships would pass through the strait in a dual formation, which did not happen, Hart said. He also called a diagram that showed a submarine on each side of the ships "tactically unfeasible."

Prosecutors noted that a title on the document appeared on only one column of the ships, suggesting a single formation.

Prosecutors also acknowledge that they don't have direct proof that Abu-Jihaad leaked details of ship movements. But they introduced e-mails he exchanged with a Web site operated by suspected terrorism supporters.

Prosecutors also introduced a document showing Abu-Jihaad had a secret security clearance, saying that could have given him access to the ship movements.

"It's a very vulnerable period of time for us."

David Hart Jr.
Retired Rear Admiral

Fla. power outages a mystery

Associated Press

MIAMI — Power executives were still in the dark Wednesday about how a glitch at a substation triggered a blackout that cut power to millions across south Florida. The outage darkened traffic signals, forced hospitals to scramble for generators and cut off air conditioners in the afternoon heat. Sporadic outages Tuesday spanned 300 miles of the peninsula but appeared to be concentrated in the southeast portion of the state.

Communities along the southwest coast, in the Florida Keys and as far north as Daytona Beach reported interruptions.

Florida Power & Light spokeswoman Amy Brunjes said Wednesday the utility can't say whether it will be days or weeks before the explanation for the blackout is found.

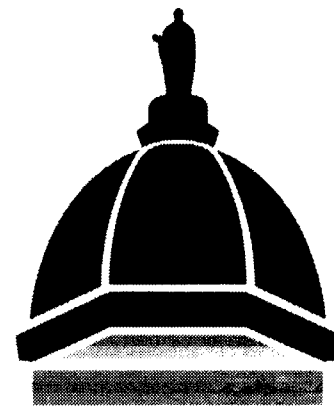
"As long as it takes to get to the cause," Brunjes said. "We're conducting an extensive investigation."

While the outage cut power to 2 million to 3 million people at its peak, power was quickly

restored to most parts of the state and authorities said no injuries were reported. Only about 20,000 people lacked electricity during the evening commute home.

Bob Wild, a sports marketing consultant who lives in Miami's southern Kendall neighborhood, said he didn't even notice the blackout, thanks to his home's generator.

"Our daughter called us from Washington and said she'd seen the blackouts on TV. That's when we found out," he said.



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(Information, education, and resources)

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Contact: Fr. Joe Carey, CSC, at 1-7800

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(Individual counseling)

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Barracks open for Katrina homeless

New Orleans still sees huge amounts of people living in camps

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Since Hurricane Katrina flooded his home 30 months ago, Donald Collins says, he has fled to an evacuation center, huddled in an abandoned house and lived in a tent outside City Hall. Eventually the former sanitation worker migrated to a downtown underpass where crack sales and clothing donations seem equally common.

Mayor Ray Nagin has another stop in mind for Collins and about 200 other people who have been squatting there for months: a military-style barrack that critics say is short on long-term solutions to a homeless epidemic.

"I'm not going," Collins, 52, said as he gulped a beer at 10:30 a.m. on a Monday, describing himself as a Katrina-inspired alcoholic on a waiting list for subsidized housing. "Something else will turn up."

Nagin vowed to use health and safety codes to move the men and women living underneath the stretch of Interstate 10 known as the Claiborne Avenue bridge to the tarp-covered facility that was awaiting fire inspections. Aware of the camp's proximity to the French Quarter and other tourist destinations, the mayor wants the move done by the end of the week.

The barrack, 120-feet long and 30-feet wide, is air-conditioned, filled with double-decker bunk beds and stands on the grounds of a mission in the city's Central Business District that has worked with the homeless for 20 years.

But even its administrator said he is unsure the facility that offers only meals and overnight stays to about 120 people can really help a homeless population that has doubled to 12,000 since Katrina struck in August 2005.

"We'll do what we can," said Lou Banfalvi, project director at the New Orleans Mission. "We can offer them shelter. We cannot offer them a place to build a house."

Nagin spokeswoman Ceeon Quiett said state and federal governments continue to wrap their housing assistance in red tape, while the mayor has been unfairly cast as an advocate of get-tough measures against the homeless.

The city's public advocacy unit, unarmed officers with the New Orleans Police Department Homeless Assistance Collaborative, city housing department workers, and mission staff will usher people into the barrack as early as Thursday, Quiett said. Those who do not go elsewhere will face citations, and arrests could take place if drugs are found, city officials said.

The encampment attracted former Sen. John Edwards, who stopped there the day he ended his presidential bid and pledged to "never forget" the downtrodden. Visiting pro athletes have handed out food there on the way to the New Orleans Arena and Louisiana Superdome a few blocks away.

Countless tourists also have passed the spectacle of curbside panhandlers, frayed camping tents, scattered

sleeping bags, discarded home furnishings that stretches for about five city blocks not a half-mile from the French Quarter.

Steve Wheeler, 52, was part of a group called Homeless Pride that formed in the City Hall plaza, where 250 people lived until the pending demolition of an adjacent building prompted city officials and homeless advocates to clear the plaza.

Wheeler accused Nagin of trying "to force people back into abandoned houses, back into the business district and back into the Quarter."

On a local morning news show last month, Nagin said his frustration with the squatters is first-person.

"I mean I pass underneath the bridge all the time, the Claiborne Avenue. Yesterday I passed there, some guy was drinking beer and just flipping the bird to citizens," the mayor said.

The camp has grown increasingly fetid and dangerous, just like its predecessor in front of City Hall.

On Monday, a man apparently seeking to smoke crack shuffled by asking anyone who would listen, "You got a pipe? You got a pipe?" Another stormed through the grounds and pounded his hand against the tent of a rival he believed slept with his girlfriend the night before. The other man showed up later, and Collins warned him to stay away.

"I'm going to get it together and get back in a nice house," said Collins, still working on the beer. "I won't be on the street long."

Exchange student returns underfed

Associated Press

HALLOWELL, Maine — Jonathan McCullum was in perfect health at 155 pounds when he left last summer to spend the school year as an exchange student in Egypt.

But when he returned home to Maine just four months later, the 5-foot-9 teenager weighed a mere 97 pounds and was so weak that he struggled to carry his baggage or climb a flight of stairs. Doctors said he was at risk for a heart attack.

McCullum says he was denied sufficient food while staying with a family of Coptic Christians, who fast for more than 200 days a year, a regimen unmatched by other Christians.

But he does not view the experience as a culture clash. Rather, he said, it reflected mean and stingy treatment by his host family, whose broken English made it difficult to communicate.

"The weight loss concerned me, but I wanted to stick out the whole year," he said in an interview at his family's home outside Augusta.

Friends and teachers at his English-speaking school in Egypt urged him to change his host family, but he stayed put after being told the other home was in a dangerous neighborhood of Alexandria.

After returning to the U.S., he was hospitalized for nearly two weeks. The 17-year-old has regained about 20 pounds, but his parents say he's not the same boy he was when he left under the auspices of AFS Intercultural Programs.

"He was outgoing, a straight-A student, very athletic. Now, he's less spontaneous and more subdued," said his mother, Elizabeth

McCullum, who was shocked when she met her son at the airport on Jan. 9 and saw he had lost one-third his weight.

Jonathan McCullum's parents said the exchange program should have warned them that students placed with Coptic families would be subject to dietary restrictions.

Marlene Baker, communications director at AFS headquarters in New York, declined to discuss McCullum's experience. She referred calls to the program's lawyer in Portland, Patricia Peard, who said she could not comment on McCullum's case because of the potential for a lawsuit.

McCullum said his host family gave him only meager amounts of food, and his condition worsened during the last seven weeks, when the family observed a fast limiting the amount of animal protein he was given.

The host family was a couple with two younger boys and a daughter who was in the U.S. on an AFS exchange. McCullum said the parents gave him the smallest food portions, hid treats in their bedroom and complained that the cost of his upkeep was more than they spent for their daughter when she was home.

The host father, Shaker Hanna, rejected McCullum's story as "a lie," suggesting that he made it up because his parents were hoping to recover some of the money they paid for his stay as compensation.

"The truth is, the boy we hosted for nearly six months was eating for an hour and a half at every meal. The amount of food he ate at each meal was equal to six people," Hanna said. He added that the boy was active, constantly exercising and playing sports.

Man pleads guilty to selling dead body parts

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A man accused of plundering dead bodies and selling their parts to tissue companies for transplants will plead guilty after a judge rebuked prosecutors Wednesday and refused to let them renege on a deal they reached with him weeks ago.

The judge's order means Michael Mastromarino, 44, will go to prison for a minimum of 18 years and up to 54 years for his ghoulish crimes — possibly putting him behind bars for the rest of his life.

"Mr. Mastromarino may never see the light of day," said Brooklyn Judge Albert Tomei, whose words brought Mastromarino's mother to tears.

Prosecutor Monique Ferrell said there had been a "change in circumstance" and a trial was needed to reveal the full "scope of harm he caused." She said it was only in the last year that prosecutors had become fully aware of his activities.

The Brooklyn district attorney's office said in a statement e-mailed after the hearing, "With the abundance of evidence and the number of victims that were violated, and with their families expressing their preference for a trial, we

thought justice and the public would be better served if we went to trial."

Mastromarino's lawyer, Mario Galluci, called the prosecution's arguments for withdrawing the plea agreement "ridiculous."

The judge called the prosecution's reasons "specious" and said they had "no substance."

"I'm not here to have show trials," Tomei said.

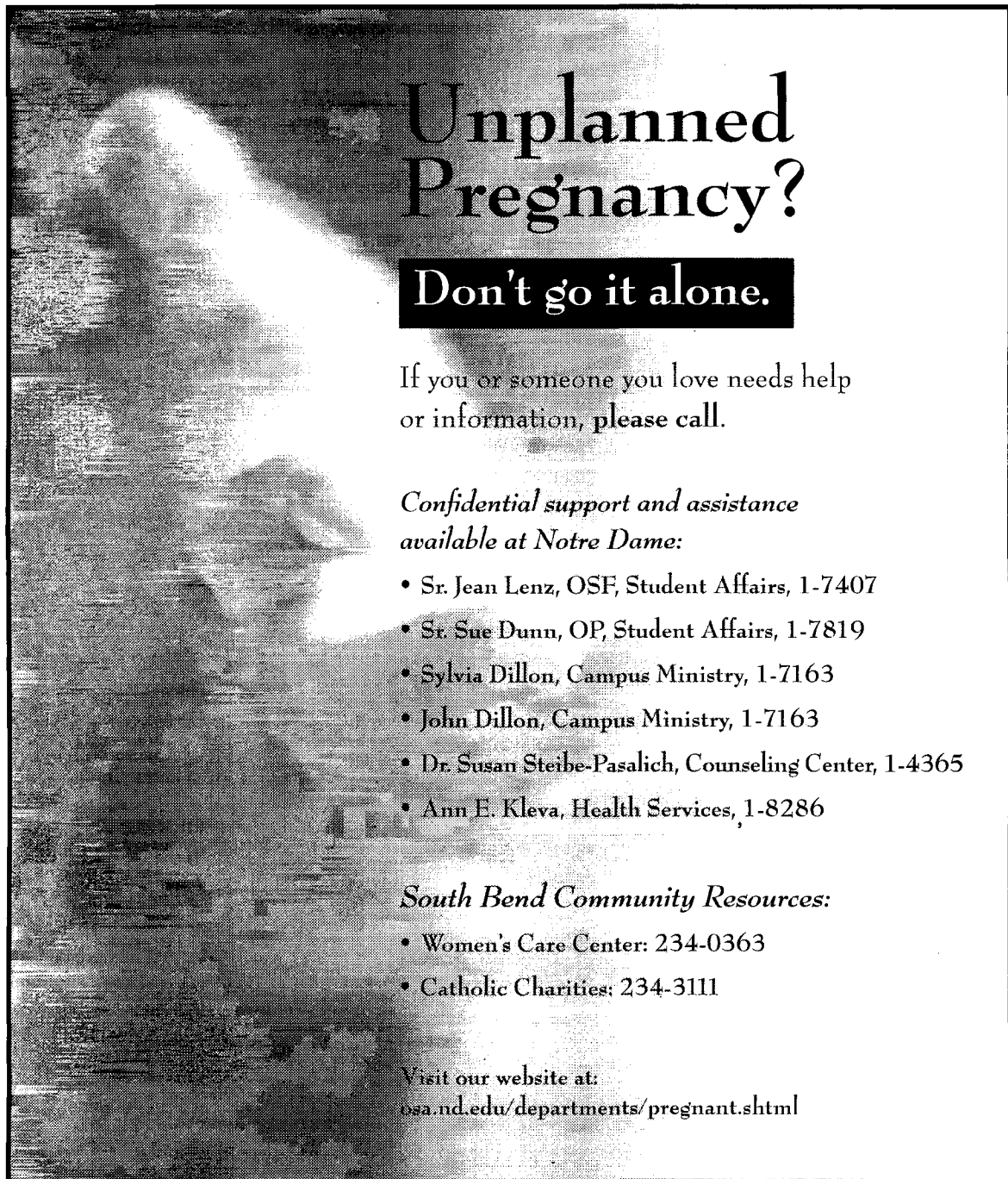
There will be at least one trial for prosecutors. Chris Aldorasi, who was implicated in cutting up the bodies but has denied wrongdoing, has refused to plead guilty and take any offer that includes time behind bars.

Aldorasi will face trial beginning Monday, when Mastromarino is to enter his plea.

Mastromarino and Aldorasi, both in court Wednesday, face charges of enterprise corruption, body stealing, opening graves, unlawful dissection and forgery.

Also charged in the scheme, which Mastromarino is accused of masterminding, were a Brooklyn mortician named Joseph Nicelli and another cutter, Lee Cruceta.

Cruceta has pleaded guilty and will testify against Aldorasi. Mastromarino will not testify against Aldorasi, his lawyer said.



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Panel says kids need flu vaccines

Associated Press

ATLANTA — All children — not just those under 5 — should get vaccinated against the flu, a federal advisory panel said Wednesday.

The panel voted to expand annual flu shots to virtually all children except infants younger than 6 months and those with serious egg allergies.

That means about 30 million more children could be getting vaccinated. If heeded, it would be one of the largest expansions in flu vaccination coverage in U.S. history. The flu vaccine has been available since the 1940s.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices said all children should start getting vaccinated as soon as possible, acknowledging that many doctors have already ordered their vaccine for the 2008-2009 season and may not be able to give the shots until 2009-2010. The flu season generally starts in the fall and continues through spring.

The panel's advice is routinely adopted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which issues vaccination guidelines to doctors and hospitals.

Flu shots were already recommended for those considered to be at highest risk of death or serious illness from the flu, including children ages 6 months to 5 years, adults 50 and older, and people with weakened immune systems.

The panel said that should be expanded to include children up to age 18.

Children ages 5 to 18 get flu at higher rates than other age groups, but they don't tend to get as sick. Of the 36,000 estimated annual deaths attributed to the flu, only 25 to 50 occur in children in that age bracket, CDC officials said.

But children who stay home sick from school cause parents to stay home, so reducing the illness in this group should cut down days of lost work, some experts said.

Experts believe giving flu shots to more children may also prevent the illness from spreading to adults and the elderly, although studies haven't clearly established that will happen.

Shots are not the only option. A nasal spray vaccine, FluMist, is approved for healthy people ages 2 to 49.

Panel members waffled a bit on whether to make the recommendations kick in immediately. Some public health professionals pushed them to make the clearest endorsement possible of the flu vaccine, concerned that the public is losing faith in flu shots because this year's vaccine was not well matched to circulating viruses.

Indeed, a few argued that the committee should recommend flu shots for every healthy person, rather than adding another set of children now and maybe young adults in a few years.

Candidates debate Iraq war policy

McCain, Obama argue long-distance over al-Qaida, Bin Ladin and pulling out troops

Associated Press

TYLER, Texas — Republican presidential hopeful John McCain mocked Barack Obama's view of al-Qaida in Iraq, and the Democratic contender responded that GOP policies brought the terrorist group there.

The rapid-fire, long-distance exchange Wednesday underscored that the two consider each other likely general election rivals, even though the Democratic contest remains unresolved.

McCain criticized Obama for saying in Tuesday night's Democratic debate that, after U.S. troops were withdrawn, as president he would act "if al-Qaida is forming a base in Iraq."

"I have some news. Al-Qaida is in Iraq. It's called 'al-Qaida in Iraq,'" McCain told a crowd in Tyler, Texas, drawing laughter at Obama's expense. He said Obama's statement was "pretty

remarkable."

Obama quickly answered back while campaigning in Ohio. "I do know that al-Qaida is in Iraq and that's why I have said we should continue to strike al-Qaida targets," he told a rally at Ohio State University in Columbus.

"But I have some news for John McCain," Obama added. "There was no such thing as al-Qaida in Iraq until George Bush and John McCain decided to invade Iraq. ... They took their eye off the people who were responsible for 9/11 and that would be al-Qaida in Afghanistan, that is stronger now than at any time since 2001."

Obama said he intended to withdraw U.S. forces from Iraq "so we actually start going after al-Qaida in Afghanistan and in the hills of Pakistan like we should have been doing in the first place."

While he praised McCain as a war hero and saluted his service

to the country, Obama said the Arizona Republican was "tied to the politics of the past. We are about policies of the future."

Noting that McCain likes to tell audiences that he'd follow Osama bin Laden to the "gates of hell" to catch him, Obama taunted: "All he (McCain) has done is to follow George Bush into a misguided war in Iraq."

McCain said he had not watched Tuesday night's Democratic presidential debate but was told of Obama's response when asked if as president he would reserve the right to send U.S. troops back into Iraq to quell an insurrection or civil war.

Obama did not say whether he'd send troops but responded: "As commander in chief, I will always reserve the right to make sure that we are looking out for American interests. And if al-Qaida is forming a base in Iraq, then we will have to act in a way that secures the American homeland and our

interests abroad."

On Wednesday, Obama expanded slightly that he "would always reserve the right to go in and strike al-Qaida if they were in Iraq" without detailing what kind of strike that might be — air, ground or both.

McCain said later in San Antonio: "So I guess that means that he would surrender and then go back."

Throughout the primary season, McCain has repeatedly attacked Obama and Clinton for saying they would withdraw troops from Iraq.

"And my friends, if we left, they (al-Qaida) wouldn't be establishing a base," McCain said Wednesday. "They'd be taking a country, and I'm not going to allow that to happen, my friends. I will not surrender. I will not surrender to al-Qaida."

He said that withdrawing troops would be "waving the white flag."

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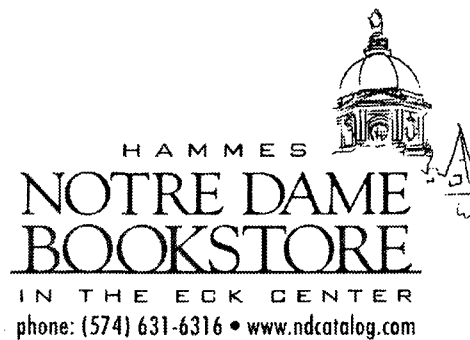
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Ex-cop sentenced to 57 years

Ohio resident murdered pregnant wife, disposed of body in rug in park

Associated Press

CANTON, Ohio — A former police officer was sentenced Wednesday to life in prison with a chance of parole after 57 years for killing his pregnant lover and their unborn child.

Jurors spared Bobby Cutts Jr. the death penalty on the most serious charge, an aggravated murder count in the death of the fetus.

Cutts, 30, had sobbed on the witness stand when he claimed the death of 26-year-old Jessie Davis from an elbow to the throat last June was an accident during an argument. He said he dumped her body in a park in a panic. He returned to the stand after his conviction to ask jurors to spare his life.

Prosecutors argued that Cutts killed Davis and the nearly full-term baby at her home in northeast Ohio to avoid making child support payments.

The couple's son, Blake, then 2, was found home alone and gave

investigators their first clues to his mother's disappearance when he said, "Mommy's crying. Mommy broke the table. Mommy's in the rug," and later, "Daddy's mad."

For more than a week, Cutts denied knowledge of her whereabouts as thousands searched in the area amid blanket national cable TV coverage. He finally led authorities to the body, wrapped in a comforter.

The victim's mother, Patty Porter, wept as she told the judge she was risking her family's disapproval in asking for Cutts to be freed at some point to share life with his son, now 3.

"I hope and pray I can raise him to forgive you," she told Cutts. "He knows what you did. You would not believe the stories he's told us."

"I do forgive you," she said, drawing tears from members of

his family.

Outside the courthouse, Davis' father, Ned Davis, said he hadn't forgiven Cutts.

"He violently murdered my daughter and granddaughter.

What would you do?" Davis said. "Mr. and Mrs. Cutts did not raise him to do this, of that I'm sure. Everybody lost today."

For the aggravated murder charge in the death of the unborn baby,

the judge accepted the jury's recommendation of life in prison with parole eligibility after 30 years.

The additional years without parole that were tacked on to Cutts' sentence were for charges of murder in Davis' death, abuse of a corpse, burglary and child endangering for leaving Blake Davis alone.

"He violently murdered my daughter and granddaughter. What would you do?"

**Ned Davis
victim's father**

Firemen unprepared for alternative fuel fires

Rescuers not trained to use foam on flames

Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — The nation's drive to use more alternative fuel carries a danger many communities have been slow to recognize: Ethanol fires are harder to put out than gasoline ones and require a special type of firefighting foam.

Many fire departments around the country don't have the foam, don't have enough of it, or are not well-trained in how to apply it, firefighting experts say. It is also more expensive than conventional foam.

"It is not unusual to find a fire department that is still just prepared to deal with traditional flammable liquids," said Ed Plaughter, director of national programs for the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

The problem is that water doesn't put out ethanol fires, and the foam that has been used since the 1960s to smother ordinary gasoline blazes doesn't work well against the grain-alcohol fuel.

Wrecks involving ordinary cars and trucks are not the major concern. They carry modest amounts of fuel, and it is typically a low-concentration, 10 percent blend of ethanol and gasoline. A large amount of conventional foam can usually extinguish such fires.

Instead, the real danger involves the many tanker trucks and railcars that are rolling out of the Corn Belt with huge quantities of 85 or 95 percent ethanol and carrying it to parts of the country unaccustomed to dealing with it.

"Now, the most common hazardous material has a new twist to it," said Mike Schultz, a firefighter who manned a foam gun during a recent blaze in Missouri.

The risk is more than theoretical. Over the past several years, ethanol accidents on highways, along railroads and in storehouses and refineries have triggered evacuations and fires from Texas to Minnesota, injuring several people and killing at least one person.

Water is not used against gasoline fires, because it can spread the blaze and cause the flames to run down into drains and sewers. Instead, foam is used to form a blanket on top of the burning gasoline and snuff out of the flames. But ethanol — a type of grain alcohol often distilled from corn — eats through that foam and continues to burn.

Such fires require a special alcohol-resistant foam that relies on long-chain molecules known as polymers to smother the flames. Industry officials say the special foam costs about 30 percent more than the standard product, at around \$90 to \$115 for a five-gallon container.

Fighting ethanol fires also requires a change in tactics. Brent Gaspard, marketing director for Williams Fire & Hazard Control Inc., an industrial firefighting company in Texas, said firefighters cannot just charge ahead and attack an ethanol fire with foam.

"If you just plunge the foam into the fuel, it's going to be less effective. You have to let the foam gently run across the surface so you create a shield," he said.

Industry officials said fire departments in just the past few months are becoming more knowledgeable about ethanol blazes and the special firefighting foam.

At the ethanol industry's annual conference in Orlando, Fla., a member of a leading ethanol trade group is leading a session this week on safety for ethanol employees, emergency workers and communities. Fire officials in Iowa and Missouri also want to offer firefighters there ethanol training.

Attention Seniors!

Notre Dame's Office of Undergraduate Admissions anticipates hiring Admissions Counselors this spring!

As part of the Undergraduate Admissions staff, the counselor is expected to make an important contribution to the recruitment and selection of the first-year class by managing relations with the prospective applicants, their parents, high school personnel and alumni in an assigned geographic area.

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Please Note: Interviews will be scheduled after April 1.

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**Please forward your resume to the
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Attention: Alisa M. Fisher, Senior Associate Director

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

THE OBSERVER

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Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Maddie Hanna.

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How to judge people effectively

Despite being routinely complimented on all facets of my personality, there is still one characteristic of mine that I never tire of hearing lauded. People often tell me that I am one of the best judges of character they have ever known.

John Everett

I mention the praise of others not because I needed it to recognize my own worth, but because I can see why some among my scant readership might harbor doubt. Doesn't everyone think they are good judges of character?

Kids These Days

However, when I say that I am great at judging character, I do not merely mean, like the majority of claimants, that I can tell whether a person is good or bad, trustworthy or dishonest.

No, I can do far more than simply put people into one of two categories. You see folks, humanity is not binary; there is variation. What is necessary is a level of comparative judgment. Yes, we can all recognize that the platitude repeater in the first row of our philosophy class is not someone with whom we would like to associate, but say an evil billionaire said you had to either be stuck on an island with him or your shrewish ex-girlfriend. Which scenario would be worse?

I've decided to help out should this nightmare scenario ever come to fruition. My own breakthrough on this came when I realized that the best way to judge people on this Earth, since we can never really know what secret motives they might possess or what lurking terrors roam their consciences, is to evaluate them based solely on how much you enjoy their company.

Using religious, moral or ethical standards, or any standard which does not come from within, is insincere. We

all like some fairly awful people, and there are saints who try our patience.

I have determined that there are nine basic circles of how much I appreciate someone. The model sounds very much like Dante, and I will admit to some influence from that great source, though a crucial difference is that there are positive as well as negative circles contained within this nine.

The first four circles are all enjoyable people, however, the levels serve as an indicator of degree. Circle 1 is the select collection of people whose presence would always be enjoyable to you. This is a distinction indeed. Placing a person here means that it would not upset you to have them knock at the door on your wedding night. I mean, who wants that oh-so-special Scrabble game interrupted?

Circle 2 is where most friends will end up, as nearly everyone can be grating occasionally. Circle 3 is handy you like, but not that much. It is people to think of this level in terms of favors. These are people you wouldn't want to pick up at the airport.

Circle 4 is reserved for bad people whom you still enjoy. Basically, these people are funny, or brilliant, while possessing debilitating flaws. Perhaps you might say about someone in Circle 4, "I wish Grover would cut down on the drinking, but he makes me laugh."

Circle 5 is the waiting station. This is the collection of people on whom there is insufficient information on which to judge. In my case this boils down to people I have never seen. If you've been in my line of sight for longer than 5 seconds, chances are you are not in Circle 5.

Circle 6 is the reverse of Circle 4, the home for the saints we can not stand. Maybe they're too squeaky-clean, or

oddly nice, or any of 100 things that sound crazy when you try to explain them in print. I'm going to guess you get what I mean and move on.

The last three levels are where it starts to become difficult, as this is where everyone you seriously dislike is going to wind up. Now, most people I dislike I dislike nearly equally, however, it is important again to remember that we are not looking at this through any socially constructed code, so you are not judging these people as worse than one another.

What you must ask is whether there is any part of your dislike that might be considered unreasonable. It is possible that all of these people deserve to burn in Circle 9 (after all, if you dislike them, they must be unsavory characters, no?) but if there is any doubt in your mind, then you must allow them to rise to Circles 7 or 8, depending on the magnitude of your doubt.

Don't fret too much though, once you get more evidence on how bad someone is, you can slide them down without reservation. Imaginary vengeance is always more enjoyable when backed by certitude.

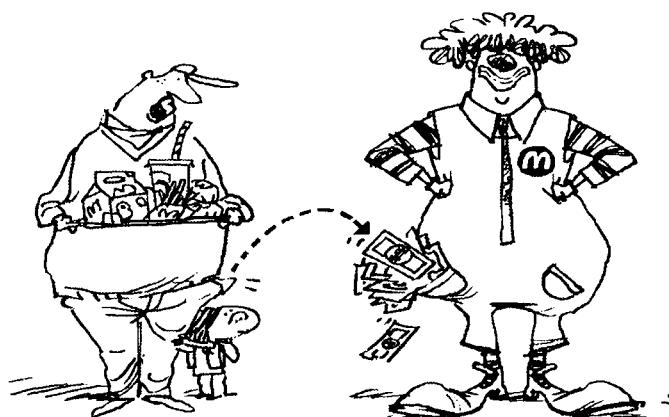
So there you have it, a handy guide to ranking the people you encounter everyday, be they friends, classmates or unwitting archenemies. Now you'll be ready when that island-owning billionaire comes to call.

John Everett is a senior English major. He is thought to be somewhere between 21 and 45 years of age. He is armed only with a sharp wit and is considered cantankerous. If you have any information regarding his whereabouts, please contact jeverett@ndedu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON

McDONALD'S TO USE "FENG SHUI"—THE ANCIENT ART OF TAKING THINGS FROM ONE PLACE AND PUTTING THEM IN ANOTHER...

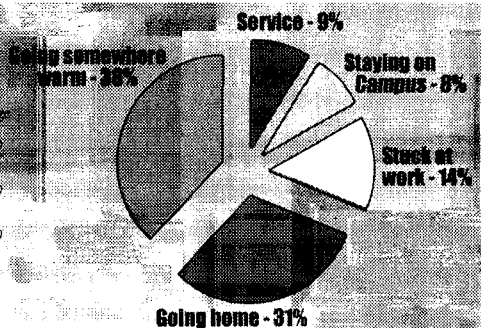


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Observer Poll

What are you doing over spring break?

| | Votes | Percentage |
|----------------------|-------|------------|
| Going somewhere warm | 119 | 38% |
| Going home | 96 | 31% |
| Stuck at work | 44 | 14% |
| Service | 29 | 9% |
| Staying on campus | 24 | 8% |



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You haven't won the race, if in winning the race you have lost the respect of your competitors."

Paul Elvström
yachtsman

Bandwagon fan's guide to Irish basketball

While most think of February as the shortest month of the year, in the world of sports, it can sometimes seem like the longest. The endless chasm between the Super Bowl and Selection Sunday can be difficult to get through in most years. Despite this, February has been a great month for this university, and I'm not talking about the proliferation of waffle fries in the SDH.

Bob Kessler

House of Stix

February has been lit up under the dome at the Joyce Center with the Irish basketball team continuing a home win streak that has lasted since 2005. It's pretty amazing looking back: two years ago (when we last lost at the JACC, to Marquette) nobody would have expected that we would witness our football team lose more games than our basketball team over the next two years. Even for people who have been to every game (home and away) of both teams since Chris Quinn went pro, Brey's team only has one more loss than Weis's.

Our miserable year on the gridiron can almost be forgotten because of our surprising success on the hardwood. Noise levels in the JACC during recent games have approached levels that Notre Dame Stadium hasn't heard since Oct. 15th, 2005, and with much more favorable results. As the streak continues, students are arriving to

games earlier and earlier and the bandwagon is growing bigger and bigger. For the benefit of all those new to Irish basketball, or who don't see the games from a student's perspective within what Pat Forde deemed the second-best student section in the country, the following is a brief guide to Notre Dame basketball.

Our team this year is built on senior leadership and youthful excitement. I could never say enough about Rob Kurz. He's gone through thick and thin in years gone by and now he's getting the payoff. Since most of the students won't be here for Senior Day next week, I'd like to thank him for his outstanding play over the last four years.

Then we have the superstar. Luke Harangody might be the best player in the Big East, but his enthusiasm and excitement during games are what get the crowd going and keep them going. Some tried to call him Bam-Bam last year (because of his resemblance to "The Flintstones" character) while Digger calls him "Gody," but the fans in the JACC just prefer to call him "LUUUUUUUUUKE."

Next, there are the point guards, or as some like to call them: The Three-Headed Monster. "The Three-Headed Monster" is a rarely seen creature which comes out of hiding when Coach Brey puts Kyle McAlarney, Tory Jackson, and Jonathan Peoples in the game at the same time. This is proba-

bly our most exciting lineup because a three point guard lineup has the potential to do amazing things. While The Three-Headed Monster only makes brief appearances, each of these three players is awesome in his own right. Tory Jackson gets rebounds like it's his job, K-Mac drains threes from ridiculous range, and Peoples has the biggest calves this side of Robert Hughes.

Before I get into the coaches and fans, let's not forget about Ryan Ayers, Zach Hillesland and Luke Zeller. While each of these guys has his own unique skill-set, they all share the ability to throw down at any given moment in a game. Their recent dunks have brought the JACC up several decibels and kept the local fans on their feet.

The fans at the JACC just seem to keep the team going. While the Legion is referred to as the 6th Man for the Irish, everybody knows the real 6th man is Janice McAlarney (J-Mac, mother of K-Mac). J-Mac is really big on the team this year and is seen on TV in nearly every game behind the bench sporting her trendy black jersey. She's the teams No. 1 fan and should be an honorary member of the Legion.

No matter how bad the shirts look, we can't forget the Legion. Students sit behind the basket wearing black this year, a nice color choice, with designs that remind us of something

out of Hello Kitty. Really, there couldn't possibly be a less intimidating font choice for the shirts this year. At least they aren't as bad as "The Shirt," which is made to fit Charlie Weis and Scott Malpass; even those ones that are sized small.

Finally there is our coach, Mike Brey. His tieless wardrobe and trademark fist pumps keep the team excited and keep the fans on their feet. He built this team with high character guys, he has kept this team together when times were tough, and his communication with the students is unrivaled. Few games go by where Brey doesn't send an e-mail to the students to pump them up, and he will never refuse to say a few words to students and fans. Coach Brey loves the students and fans almost as much as Bruce Pearl loves Erin Andrews. We really appreciate it, Coach.

Hopefully this was helpful to new fans on the bandwagon as we get set for the stretch run and the madness to begin.

Go Irish, Beat Cardinals.

Bob Kessler is a junior majoring in political science and economics. He'll be in Europe next week, but you can always read more of his work at saltystix.com. Complain about this column at rkessler@nd.edu.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Strong bodies fight ...

I am a junior and a third year boxer in the Notre Dame Boxing Club, otherwise known as the Bengal Bouts. Exactly a week before Monday's preliminary fights, my nose was broken by a friend and fellow boxer in a sparring match. I knew immediately that because of the injury, I would not be allowed to participate in this year's Bouts, and doctors eventually confirmed my speculation. I was frustrated and sorely disappointed when I found I would not fight in the tournament, but I quickly accepted my situation, knowing that freak occurrences like this just happen—such is boxing, such is life.

As friends and colleagues who know me as a boxer came to discover I would not be participating in the Bengal Bouts Tournament this year, their majority reaction had been, "That's such a shame, and after all that training." Whenever I heard this, it sounded as if all my preparation for a tournament I would not fight in was just a waste of time, that I would have concentrated my efforts in other endeavors had I known that I would not be in this year's Bouts. This cannot be further from the truth. I am a boxer for many reasons, but one of them is not just so I can be a Bengal Bouts champion.

For one thing, if I had not started boxing my freshman year, I would be a pudgy little lump sitting in front of my computer all day. Another thing is that I don't fight just for a shot to win. That sort of selfish pride is for freshmen and novices who learn to drop after their first year. I am a member of the Notre Dame Boxing Club because of the friends I have made and the things I can accomplish that extend outside of the ring, outside of Notre Dame.

What most people do not understand about the Bengal Bouts is that it is as much of a team sport that boxing can ever be — we train as a team, we learn as a team. If you really want to excel in Bengal Bouts, you cannot do it alone. You cannot just jump rope in a corner or hit a punching bag for hour and assume you are set. What is most important is communication. You need others to tell you what you are doing wrong, what you're doing right, and to help you apply what you learn.

That's precisely why we work together — to help each other. We suffer and grow as a team. This is why you see boxers hug each other after a grueling match, why they can smile and laugh with their opponent even if each fighter is bloody and broken. It is why some boxers cringe at their weight bracket, because they see they might have to fight a friend they have been training with for two or three hours a day for a whole semester.

It is why I can still enjoy watching this tournament despite not being able to fight in it, because I can cheer on these fighters whether I know them or not, and shake their hands backstage, telling them they had a helluva match no matter how they did.

Most important of all, the members of the Notre Dame Boxing Club fight for something far beyond themselves. As many know, all of our proceeds help the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh, money that helps create schools, provide healthcare, build shelters, and other such necessities of life that most of us take for granted. Many people cringe at the idea of being in a fight. They are afraid of being hit, of the pain. But if you ask any boxer, they will tell you that a punch in the face is nothing. It is inevitable, so you learn to take it and move on. And even after all the years of punches to the face and to the body that we take, it is nothing compared to the pain that those in poverty we raise money for feel every day of their lives. For every broken nose and black eye, we know it will be gone soon enough; for those in Bangladesh, their pain does not go away.

When our practices are over and we feel exhausted and bruised and famished, we know that we will soon take a shower and go to the dining hall; for those suffering in poverty, they do not have that comfort. I am not disappointed that I cannot fight this year because I can still contribute to Bengal Bouts' true purpose by selling tickets, asking for donations and getting the word out.

When you watch the quarterfinals on Thursday night, as well as the later fights, please keep all of this in mind. If you have decided not to see the fights this year, please buy a ticket anyway. If you have already bought a ticket, feel free to pitch in a few extra dollars. This tournament is not a contest for a trophy or pride or glory. It is a fight for survival, a fight for those who cannot fight for themselves. We have a motto in Bengal Bouts that has driven the program for decades and summarizes exactly what we are doing and why. It is a motto that I and hopefully every other boxer will remember for the rest of our lives: Strong bodies fight, that weak bodies may be nourished. I hope everyone on campus and elsewhere take this saying to heart as I have.

Ryan Simmons
 junior
 Keough Hall
 Feb. 27

Comic shocks sensibilities

I recently read Liz Froehlke's Viewpoint letter regarding yet another comic strip poking fun at poor Saint Mary's College. I was also appalled when I read Monday's comic strip poking fun at our sister school. This instigated several of my friends to make SMC jokes, like referring to the trolley that runs from main circle to SMC as the 'sluttle.' I reminded them that SMC is full of very respectable women that certainly do not live up to the stereotypes of being sexually promiscuous or complaining about every SMC joke in The Observer.

I am sure that Ms. Froehlke was enraged as well, seeing as though she took the time to write a response to a comic mocking SMC midterms in the beginning of SMC midterms week. It is very prestigious to attend a school that is ranked first in its category (the top Roman Catholic, all-women, liberal arts college located in Notre Dame, Indiana according to US News and World Report).

Froehlke labels ND students as "arrogant bullies," and I reluctantly agree that I am surrounded by 8,000 of the rudest people on the planet. Notre Dame has such disrespect for SMC, with the exception of allowing them to attend our football games, join some of our clubs, come at here on the weekends, participate in ND/SMC co-op programs, and write in our newspaper.

Every student at SMC needs to write to The Observer demanding the removal of the comic strip and the expulsion of its authors. This will ultimately prove that the Belles are not all uptight and unable to see the irony in their own arguments. This is a national crisis. After all, everyone knows that student-run newspapers set the moral standards for the rest of the country.

Kevin Kray
 freshman
 Carroll Hall
 Feb. 27

NY Mets: World Series-bound in 2008



SCENE AND HEARD

By TAE ANDREWS
Scene Editor

Hope springs eternal every February and March, and for the New York Mets, it couldn't come soon enough this year after the disastrous end to last year's season. In the wake of last season's September debacle, in which the Metropolitan imploded like a dying dwarf star, the future once again looks bright for the star-studded team.

The names of the boys in orange and blue go something like this: Pedro Martinez, John Maine, Carlos Delgado, Carlos Beltran, Jose Reyes, David Wright and Moises Alou.

And, after a Feb. 1 trade-and-sign with the Minnesota Twins, we got Santana. As in, Johan Santana, the Venezuelan southpaw and strikeout machine good for over 200 plus strikeouts per season.

As a friend of mine likes to say, the team is stacked like blueberry pancakes.

After the trade, my Facebook wall filled with comments about the deal, including one from a grieving Twins fan saying, "Have fun with Santana." I feel for your loss, my friend (competitive balance in MLB is a joke), but I will.

Santana turns 29 on March 13. He's still entering his prime. Pairing Santana with Martinez at the top of the rotation is like landing pocket rockets. Let's just hope the team doesn't flop like last season, when they blew a seven-game lead with a mere 17 games left, a collapse of epic proportions. Looking at the roster, the Mets are at least paper champions: with Santana, Martinez and Maine holding down the top spots, the rotation looks to be strong, with the aging and somewhat injury-prone Martinez the sole spot of concern, although he looks fully recovered from the torn rotator cuff injury which sidelined him for most of the 2007 campaign.

And with our vaunted slate of sluggers (Beltran, Delgado, Alou), there's no excuse for anything less than a trip to the World Series. We've also got young talent such as David "Mr." Wright, who has stolen the hearts of females everywhere throughout the tri-city

What makes the Santana acquisition even sweeter is that we (and I say "we" because I am actually a part of the team, not just a mere fan) managed to pick up our ace by beating the Yankees at their own game.

area with his boyish good looks and Jose Reyes, who has stolen bases galore (78 swipes last season) and the hearts of fantasy baseball team owners across the nation. He's also good for about a million goofy Soulja Boy-esque celebration dances in and around the dugout steps.

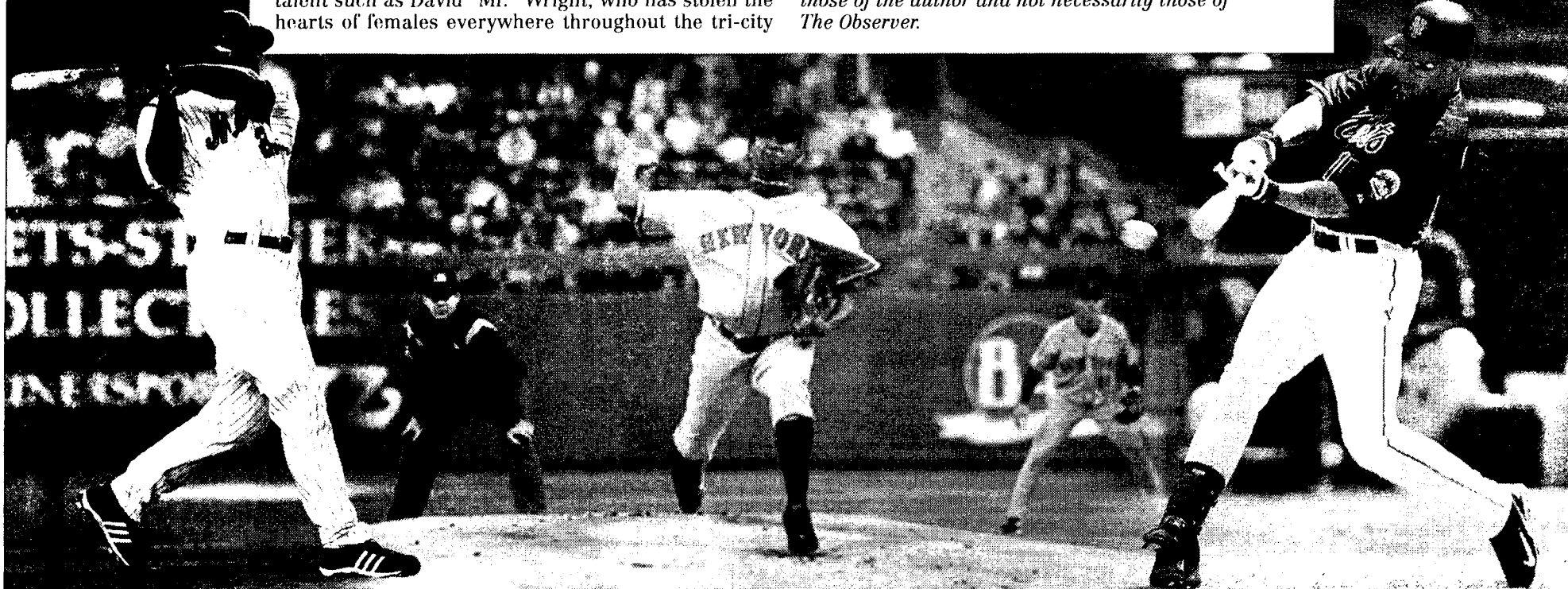
What makes the Santana acquisition even sweeter is that we (and I say "we" because I am actually a part of the team, not just a mere fan) managed to pick up our ace by beating the Yankees at their own game. In off-seasons past, our cross-town and pinstriped rivals often stole the show by making splashy signings during the winter months, including sluggers Jason Giambi and Alex Rodriguez. Contestants in this past off-season's Santana sweepstakes included both the New York Yankees and the Boston Red Sox, two other high-spending teams.

Mets owner Fred Wilpon has put his money where his mouth is, opening up the coffers so that general manager Omar Minaya could put together a championship-caliber ball club.

Barring injury (that terrible force of darkness which snatches seasons away like thieves in the night) there are no more excuses for anything less than greatness. Beyond just the Santana deal and our loaded lineup, Mets fans had the pleasure of watching that dirty cheating scoundrel Roger Clemens publicly embarrass himself with his far-fetched tales of suspicious syringes and wayward injections of B12.

Now that Congress has launched a federal investigation of Roger Clemens for perjury (serves him right for tossing beanballs and broken bats at Mets hero and the greatest hitting catcher of all time, Mike Piazza), life is good for Mets fans right now. Let's hope that doesn't change after the March 30 spring opener at the Florida Marlins, which incidentally happens to be the club that KO'd the swooning Mets to put them out of their misery and finish their historic meltdown last season. Can you say, "revenge series?"

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrew1@nd.edu
The views expressed in Scene and Heard are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.



MATT HUDSON | Observer Graphic



Fall fashion weeks inspire new trends around the globe

OBSERVER GRAPHIC | Matt Hudson

By KELLY O'SULLIVAN
Scene Writer

Fashionistas all over the world look forward to the twice-yearly shows that make up fashion weeks across the globe. The weeklong festivities are composed of showcases of the newest designs from both up-and-coming and well-established designers.

The shows in the fall of 2008 brought more color and excitement into the lives of fashion followers everywhere, during what would otherwise be a dreary February.

The shows in the fall of 2008 brought more color and excitement into the lives of fashion followers everywhere, during what would otherwise be a dreary February.

Designers in New York sent their newest creations down the runways Feb. 1-8 during Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week. Highlights included Marc Jacobs' Paul Revere-inspired collection, which focused on the blouson and showcased a quiet and muted Revolutionary War-esque style against a louder background.

Models walked down the runway in front of a Sonic Youth rock concert and images in a video installation by Tony Oursler that included crashing waves and one blinking eye.

Finalists for the fourth season of Bravo's "Project Runway" presented their collections at Bryant Park, the results of which will be broadcast on March 5, naming a winner and providing them with the means to start his or her own fashion line. Other designers who presented in New York this year included icons

Highlights included Marc Jacobs' Paul Revere-inspired collection, which focused on the blouson and showcased a quiet and muted Revolutionary War-esque style against a louder background.

Anna Sui, Badgley Mischka, Zac Posen, Ralph Lauren and Bill Blass.

London held its Fall 2008 shows Feb. 10-15, showing off the edgy and individualistic British style. Pollock & Walsh showed a collection that featured the color blocking of chocolate and jewel tones. Emilio de la Morena ended the double feature at London's Science Museum with innovative tweed looks.

In Milan, the "Fashion Capital" of Italy, shows concluded even more recently. The end of the week's festivities included a strong show created by Donatella Versace for the Gianni Versace line. The silhouettes of the collec-

tion were a far cry from flashier looks of past seasons for the designer.

Characterized by clean, architectural lines, Versace presented the look of a strong, independent woman. The industrial elements of individual pieces included the concealment of buttons along seams to avoid a cluttered look. The geometric feel was further shown in angular dress straps, pencil-thin pants and metal pin heels on shoes.

Iconic Italian fashion brand Emilio Pucci showed a palette of icy pastels and trademark graphic designs to inspire the feel of an Alps vacation.

In contrast to the highly-structured construction elements of the garments, many pieces featured

prints that were echoed in the venue's decor as models walked down the rounded runway. Compiled from historic Versace images, Berlin-based Dutch artist Timothy Roeloffs inter-

preted iconic elements of the brand using bold colors and graphic designs.

The Missoni show also presented some unique creations. Angela Missoni used fur in a playful and innovative way, while keeping the traditionally more mature material looking young by pairing it with floral prints and silk blouses and dresses.

Iconic Italian fashion brand Emilio Pucci showed a palette of icy pastels and trademark graphic designs to inspire the feel of an Alps vacation. From fur-lined parkas to skinny leggings meant to be tucked into ski boots, the designs looked ready to be worn either out on the slopes or by the fire in the lodge.

Burberry's show, set to soulful music by Billy Bragg, showed off clothes in rich and delightful fall colors.

Of particular significance were the collection's coats. Whether they were wool or leather, olive or plum, double-breasted or cocoon, there was a coat for everyone paraded down the runway in Milan.

Of other interest, Roberto Cavalli's new collection was reminiscent of Machu Picchu, Peru. The pieces included an alpaca vest, a woven straw hat and many pieces with rose embellishments, bringing attention to the details featured on dress skirts and bodices alike.

With reports in from New York, London and Milan, and Paris's shows wrapping up at the end of this week, the fall 2008 collections are presenting many interesting new styles and ideas for the looks that will hit the streets at the end of the summer.

Contact Kelly O'Sullivan at kosulli2@nd.edu



Photo courtesy of style.com

Marc Jacobs' collection featured Paul Revere-inspired pieces.

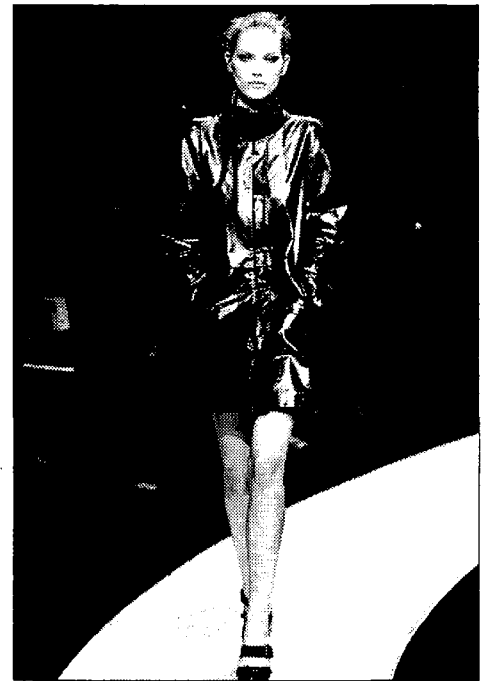


Photo courtesy of style.com

Donatella Versace drew from industrial inspirations.

Passion for Fashion: Designs from New York, London and Milan hit the runway



Photo courtesy of style.com

Ralph Lauren had a strong showing at New York's Fashion Week.

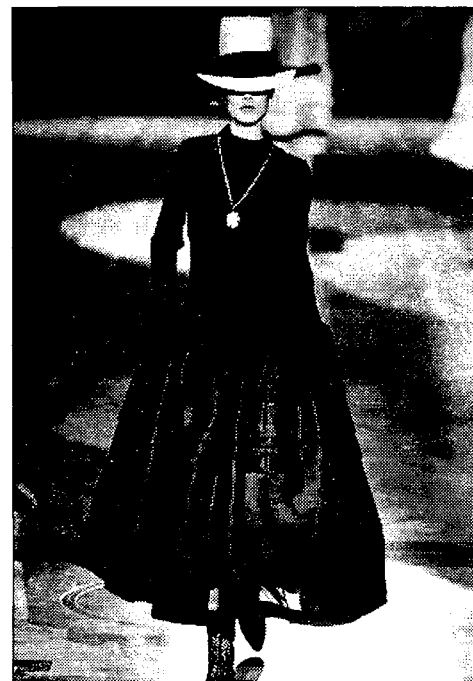


Photo courtesy of style.com

This high, woven straw hat was inspired by Machu Picchu.



Photo courtesy of style.com

Burberry had a coat for everyone at Milan's Fashion Week.



Photo courtesy of style.com

Emilio Pucci created a straight-from-the-Alps look.

NBA

New Bulls spark team to first win since big trade

Sixers' Miller, Green combine for 52 to drop Magic; Raptors trump Timberwolves for eighth straight time

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Larry Hughes and Drew Gooden seem to be adapting to their new team just fine.

Hughes had 29 points and Gooden added 10 points and 15 rebounds, helping the Chicago Bulls beat the Indiana Pacers 113-107 on Wednesday night. It was their first victory since the duo was acquired from Cleveland on Feb. 21 as part of a three-team trade.

The Bulls lost their first two games — at Houston and Dallas — following the trade.

"Our chemistry is starting to come together a little bit," Chicago coach Jim Boylan said. "There's a lot of things that go into changing a team ... but at the end of the day, it's basketball and they do what they do out there."

Hughes, who scored 10 points in the third quarter to keep the Bulls close, believes the trade will help further his career.

"I'm happy with it," he said. "We did a lot of winning in Cleveland and I gained a lot of good experience, but I was definitely ready for a change. I like the position I'm in now."

Gooden is starting to warm up to his new team, also.

"Larry was excited, but for me, I didn't know what to expect," he said. "I'm getting along with these guys — they're a great group of guys — and I know we have a chance to make a good run at the playoffs."

With the score tied at 82, the Bulls scored the first seven points of the fourth quarter, including five by Andres Nocioni, to open a seven-point lead.

Indiana cut the deficit to 97-94 following seven straight points by Dunleavy with 6 minutes left. The Bulls answered with the next six points, capped by Hughes' 3-pointer, to regain a 103-94 edge.

The Pacers got within 110-105 with 57 seconds left, but

Gooden's free throw and Hughes' layup sealed the victory.

"Tonight was a good win for us," Boylan said. "We missed 15 free throws and we're still able to win. That shows a lot of grit."

Pacers guard Travis Diener wasn't surprised by Hughes' big night.

76er 101, Magic 89

This is how the Philadelphia 76ers wanted to enter their West Coast road trip.

Andre Miller scored 22 of his 26 points in the first half and Willie Green had a season-high 26 to lead the Sixers to a victory over the Orlando Magic on Wednesday.

The Sixers have won seven straight at home with their last loss at the Wachovia Center coming to Orlando on Feb. 1 — and eight of 10 overall. Their next three games are at Golden State, Phoenix and Los Angeles to face the Clippers.

"This is a good confidence booster," Green said. "Especially going into the games on the West Coast have coming up. Tonight we played the way we wanted to play we ran, we got up and down, and we got a win. It was big for us."

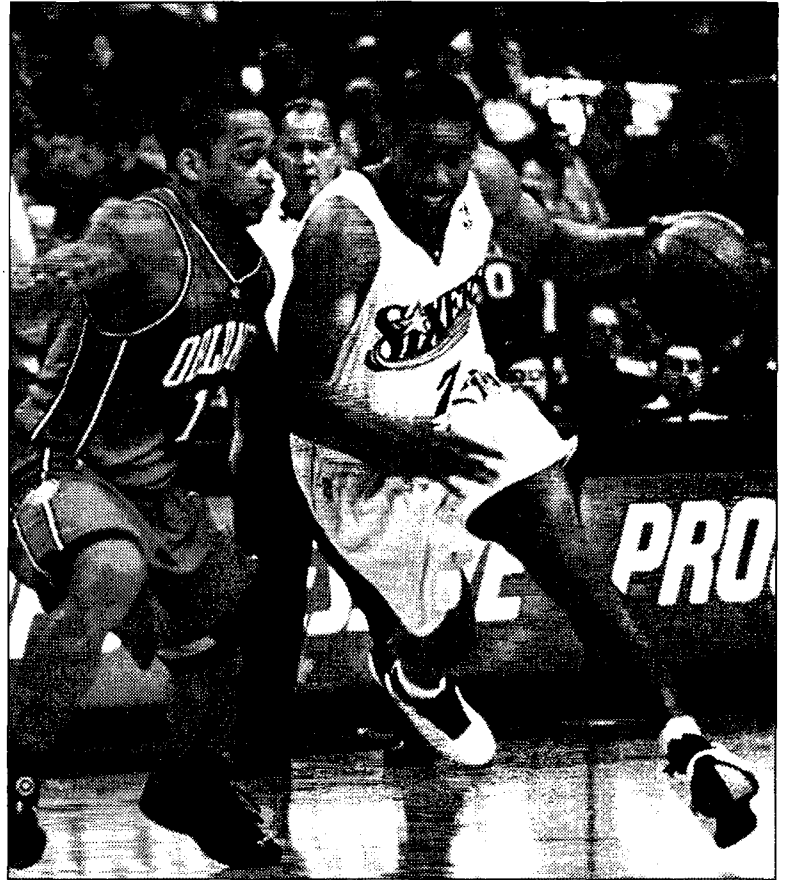
Miller and Green, the Sixers' starting backcourt, outscored Orlando starting guards, Jameer Nelson and Maurice Evans, 52-2. Miller was 11-for-16 from the floor and added nine assists and six rebounds. Evans played 10 minutes in the first half and did not return.

The Sixers had lost their first two meetings to Orlando earlier this month, four straight overall and six of the last seven to the Magic. Orlando also had won the last four meetings in Philadelphia.

Andre Iguodala added 24 points, and the Sixers held Orlando to 40.5 percent shooting, forced 20 turnovers and had 12 steals. Despite hitting 11 of 26 from 3-point range, the Magic failed to reach 100 points for the first time in 10 games.

"I thought a lot of it was due to our pick-and-roll defense," Sixers coach Maurice Cheeks said. "We trapped the pick-and-roll, got out to the 3-point shooters and made them put the ball on the floor."

Before the game, Magic coach Stan Van Gundy called the Sixers "the best running



AP
Magic guard Jameer Nelson defends 76ers guard Andre Miller, who drives into the lane during Philadelphia's 101-89 win Wednesday.

team in the league." The Sixers outscored Orlando on the break, 21-9.

"Twenty-plus fast-break points is the way we're trying to play," Cheeks said.

The Sixers also constantly harassed Orlando All-Star Dwight Howard, who managed 14 points on 6-for-13 shooting and 16 rebounds. He also went just 2-for-7 from the free-throw line.

Raptors 107 Timberwolves 85

After another frustrating loss, Minnesota Timberwolves coach Randy Wittman warned his players — or start looking for work elsewhere.

Chris Bosh scored 28 points, T.J. Ford had 16 and the Toronto Raptors beat the Timberwolves for the eighth straight time on Wednesday night.

Still buzzing from a 111-100 home win over Utah the night before, Minnesota looked good early, taking a 10-point lead midway through the first quarter. Six minutes later, the lead was all but gone and the Timberwolves were headed for another dispiriting defeat.

Wittman scolded his team for failing to match the effort it showed against Utah.

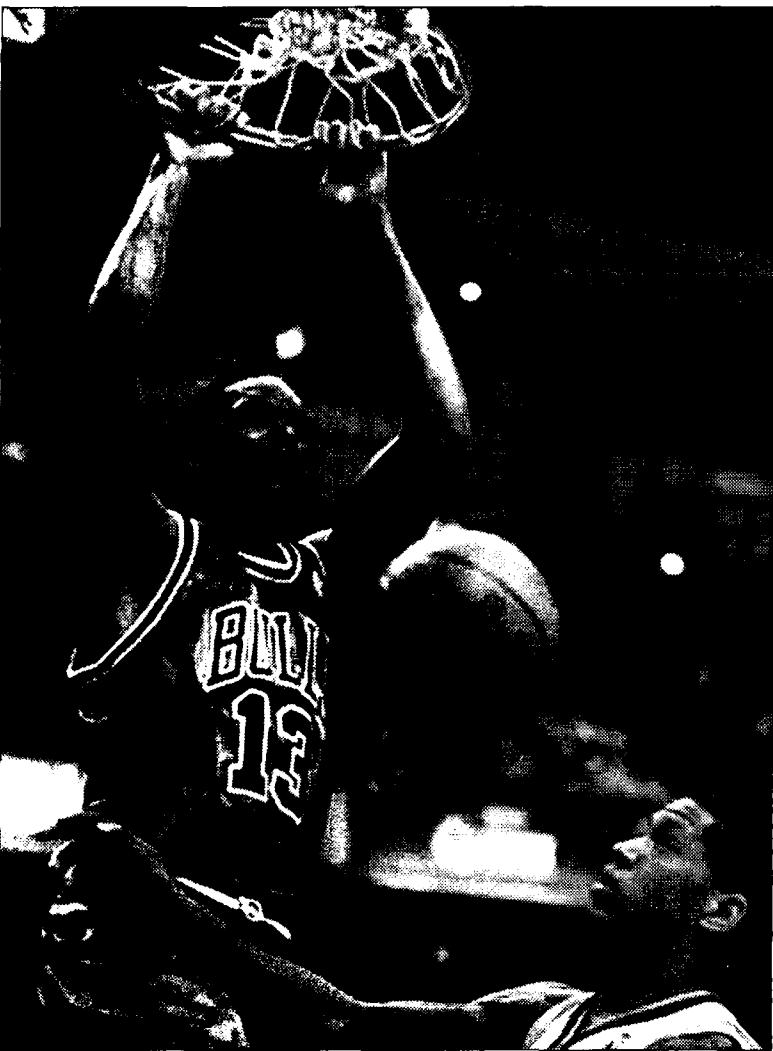
"If you want to get to the position of being a playoff team, a win like that you have to back up with an effort the next night," Wittman said. "That's going to be the difference on whether you're going to make it in the league or not. That's what we're trying to find out here, who are we moving forward with while we're rebuilding this? If you can't understand that for 82 games, we'll find someone who can."

Al Jefferson scored 23 points and Rashad McCants had 19 for the Timberwolves, who have lost eight of their past 10.

Randy Foye added 18 points as Minnesota dropped to 2-24 on the road and 1-11 in the second game of back-to-backs.

"We've only won 12 games," Foye said. "You can't be satisfied with one night. You've got to keep trying to win every night."

Andrea Bargnani had 12 and Jamarion Moon added 11 for Toronto, which has won five of six overall and four straight at home. The Raptors have won their past eight by an average margin of 22.3 points.



AP
Bulls center Joakim Noah dunks in front of Pacers forward Danny Granger during Chicago's 113-107 win Wednesday.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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THIS IS THE LAST ISSUE OF THE
OBSERVER UNTIL TUESDAY,
MARCH 11. HAVE A SAFE AND
FUN BREAK.

AROUND THE NATION

Thursday, February 28, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

NHL

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

| team | record | pts. | GF | GA |
|--------------|---------|------|-----|-----|
| New Jersey | 37-21-6 | 80 | 171 | 150 |
| Pittsburgh | 36-21-7 | 79 | 190 | 173 |
| NY Rangers | 32-24-8 | 72 | 166 | 158 |
| Philadelphia | 31-25-7 | 69 | 192 | 182 |
| NY Islanders | 30-27-7 | 67 | 158 | 184 |

Eastern Conference, Northeast Division

| team | record | pts. | GF | GA |
|----------|---------|------|-----|-----|
| Ottawa | 36-22-6 | 78 | 210 | 192 |
| Montreal | 34-21-9 | 77 | 201 | 181 |
| Boston | 33-23-6 | 72 | 169 | 167 |
| Buffalo | 30-24-9 | 69 | 188 | 178 |
| Toronto | 27-28-9 | 63 | 177 | 200 |

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

| team | record | pts. | GF | GA |
|------------|---------|------|-----|-----|
| Carolina | 33-28-5 | 71 | 196 | 208 |
| Washington | 29-27-8 | 66 | 181 | 197 |
| Florida | 28-30-7 | 63 | 175 | 189 |
| Atlanta | 29-31-4 | 62 | 170 | 208 |
| Tampa Bay | 25-30-7 | 57 | 177 | 203 |

Western Conference, Central Division

| team | record | pts. | GF | GA |
|-----------|----------|------|-----|-----|
| Detroit | 42-17-6 | 90 | 203 | 145 |
| Nashville | 32-24-8 | 72 | 186 | 181 |
| Columbus | 29-26-9 | 67 | 156 | 166 |
| St. Louis | 28-25-10 | 66 | 160 | 176 |
| Chicago | 29-27-6 | 64 | 178 | 180 |

Western Conference, Northwest Division

| team | record | pts. | GF | GA |
|-----------|---------|------|-----|-----|
| Calgary | 33-22-9 | 75 | 182 | 181 |
| Minnesota | 34-24-5 | 73 | 171 | 172 |
| Vancouver | 32-22-8 | 72 | 167 | 157 |
| Colorado | 32-26-6 | 70 | 175 | 176 |
| Edmonton | 29-30-5 | 63 | 173 | 193 |

Western Conference, Pacific Division

| team | record | pts. | GF | GA |
|-------------|---------|------|-----|-----|
| Dallas | 40-22-5 | 85 | 199 | 164 |
| Anaheim | 36-23-7 | 79 | 167 | 163 |
| San Jose | 33-21-8 | 74 | 161 | 151 |
| Phoenix | 32-26-5 | 69 | 173 | 171 |
| Los Angeles | 26-34-4 | 56 | 186 | 212 |

NCAA Men's Hockey USCHO Poll

| rank | team | record | previous |
|------|------------------|---------|----------|
| 1 | Michigan | 26-4-4 | 1 |
| 2 | North Dakota | 21-8-2 | 2 |
| 3 | New Hampshire | 21-7-2 | 3 |
| 4 | Colorado College | 23-8-1 | 4 |
| 5 | Miami | 27-6-1 | 5 |
| 6 | Michigan State | 21-9-5 | 6 |
| 7 | Denver | 21-10-1 | 8 |
| 8 | Boston College | 16-9-7 | 7 |
| 9 | Minnesota State | 16-11-4 | 11 |
| 10 | Clarkson | 18-10-4 | 12 |
| 11 | NOTRE DAME | 21-11-4 | 9 |
| 12 | St. Cloud State | 16-13-3 | 16 |
| 13 | Wisconsin | 14-13-7 | 10 |
| 14 | Princeton | 17-10-0 | 17 |
| 15 | Minnesota-Duluth | 12-12-6 | 13 |

around the dial

NCAA BASKETBALL

Notre Dame at Louisville
7 p.m., ESPN

Michigan State at Wisconsin
9 p.m., ESPN2

MLB



Red Sox designated hitter David Ortiz poses with President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney during Boston's visit to the White House Wednesday in honor of their 2007 World Series win.

White House honors champion Red Sox

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — They have guys nicknamed Big Papi and Dice-K and Bones. They have a star pitcher who famously danced in his underwear and a left fielder who is such a sublime hitter that he gets away with being loopy.

So when the Boston Red Sox, World Series champions, showed up at the White House on Wednesday, President Bush had a blast.

"I love the fact that you've got some of the game's biggest stars," Bush said, honoring the team on a chilly day on the

South Lawn. "I mean, Big Papi. The guy lights up the screen."

That would be David Ortiz, the lumbering left-handed slugger and team leader who proudly held the World Series trophy.

Then, in a line that even surprised the players, Bush sent a zinger toward absent left fielder Manny Ramirez.

"I guess his grandmother died again," Bush said to prolonged laughter. "Just kidding."

Ramirez says his various antics are just a matter of "Manny being Manny." He also missed the Red Sox 2005 World Series ceremony at the White House.

Visiting a sick grandmother, he said.

Bush said he did not mean to poke fun at Ramirez, then did so again.

"I do want to quote him," Bush said. "He said, 'When you don't feel good, and you still get hits, that's when you know you're a bad man.' I don't know what that means. But if bad man means good hitter, he's a really bad man, because he was clutch in the World Series."

With their second World Series title in four years, the Red Sox looked comfortable as returning guests on the South Lawn. Boston had not won the

title for 86 years until the 2004 squad swept the St. Louis Cardinals.

Bush noted the pitching of Japanese player Daisuke Matsuzaka, known as Dice-K. His presence drew a huge number of Japanese reporters.

"His press corps is bigger than mine," Bush said. "And we both have trouble answering questions in English."

Then there was Jonathan Papelbon, the relief pitcher who danced in the Fenway Park infield in his underwear when the Red Sox won the pennant.

"Thanks for wearing pants," Bush told him.

IN BRIEF

Judge refuses request to postpone Simpson trial

LAS VEGAS — The judge in O.J. Simpson's armed robbery case on Wednesday refused defense lawyers' requests to postpone his trial.

"I'm here to tell you all that the April 7 trial date is going to be preserved," Clark County District Court Judge Jackie Glass told defense lawyers and prosecutors, noting that lawyers agreed on the date in November.

"There have been months to be able to prepare for this case," the judge said. "This is, despite what you've told me, not a complicated case."

Simpson and co-defendants Clarence "C.J." Stewart of North Las Vegas and Charles Ehrlich of Miami weren't required to be in court for the brief hearing. They are accused of robbing two sports collectibles dealers peddling Simpson memorabilia at a Las Vegas casino hotel in September.

Major League coaches don helmets after 2007 tragedy

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — Glenn Hubbard trotted on the field Wednesday wearing a helmet — and feeling downright ridiculous.

"You know what it feels like?" he asked before a spring training game. "Look at that kid over there."

Hubbard pointed toward a young batboy standing at the edge of the Atlanta Braves dugout, his head dutifully covered by a helmet.

"That's what I feel like," Hubbard said, not bothering to hide the disgust in his voice. "A batboy."

Actually, Hubbard is the first base coach of the Braves, a job he's always done with nothing more than a cap on his head. But last year's tragic death of minor league coach Mike Coolbaugh — the victim of a line drive to the neck — prompted the major leagues to take action.

Jewish team may be forced to forfeit game on Sabbath

DENVER — State senators have taken up the cause of a Jewish boys basketball team whose playoff run may be halted because its players can't play on the Jewish Sabbath.

The Herzl/Rocky Mountain Hebrew Academy team could be headed for a regional championship on Saturday, March 8, if it wins one more game. But the Denver team's religious beliefs prohibit students from playing on the Jewish Sabbath between sundown Friday and sundown Saturday.

If the school makes it to the championship round but refuses to play the Saturday game, it would lose by forfeit.

Earlier this month, the Colorado High School Activities Association, which governs sports and other high school activities, rejected the team's request for a schedule change.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Arthur leads No. 7 KU to victory over Iowa State

Kemp key as Memphis runs over Tulsa; Georgetown tops St. John's to take over first place in Big East

Associated Press

AMES, Iowa — Kansas hadn't played like itself the past few weeks. The Jayhawks knew the problem stemmed from a lack of energy, and they finally found that extra bounce against Iowa State.

Darrell Arthur had 18 points and 10 rebounds, Mario Chalmers and Brandon Rush each added 15 points and Kansas (No. 7 ESPN/USA Today, No. 6 AP) beat the Cyclones 75-64 on Wednesday night to snap a two-game road losing streak.

The Jayhawks (25-3, 10-3 Big 12) played with added intensity from the opening tip, jumping ahead by 15 early and leading by as much as 22 midway through the second half. But Kansas had to hold off the pesky Cyclones (14-14, 4-9) down the stretch. The Jayhawks let a 57-35 lead dwindle to 64-55 with 4:04 to go thanks to a 20-7 run by Iowa State.

The hole was too deep for the Cyclones, though. Chalmers hit a 3 that effectively killed Iowa State's momentum, and Arthur added a layup to make it 69-57 with 2:08 left.

The win helped the Jayhawks erase the sting of a 61-60 loss at Oklahoma State last Saturday. Their previous road defeat came at No. 5 Texas back on Feb. 11.

"When you're 24-3, you shouldn't be able to say the ship needs righting. But our players all know that it did," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "We were a better team tonight than we were the last two to three weeks. Our guys had more energy and they seemed to be more focused and played with more of a purpose."

Wesley Johnson had 20 points and Jiri Hubalek added 14 for Iowa State, which has lost eight of its last 10 and appears headed for its second straight losing season.

The Jayhawks also shot better from the outside than they had in recent games. Chalmers and Rush each went 3-of-4 from 3-point range for Kansas, which shot 63.6 percent from beyond the arc.

"When they're shooting the ball like tonight — they took 11 3s and made seven of them — they're going to be tough for anybody to beat because they can score off the block, they can score off of the dribble," Iowa State coach Greg McDermott said.

Iowa State got as close as six early in the second half, but the Jayhawks responded with a 21-5 run to go up 57-35.

The Cyclones ran off seven quick points after the break, cutting Kansas's lead to 36-30. Arthur then hit a long jumper, and Darnell Jackson's layup pushed the Jayhawks back ahead by 10. Sherron Collins and Russell Robinson added free throws, and Sasha Kaun hit a layup that gave Kansas a 46-30 lead.

Memphis 82, Tulsa 67

The Memphis Tigers went to work early to get rid of the bitter taste from the end of their perfect season.

Willie Kemp scored 14 points and keyed a first-half rally, leading the Tigers (No. 3 ESPN/USA Today, No. 2 AP) to an 82-67 victory over Tulsa on Wednesday

night in their first game since their only loss of the season.

It was a successful rebound from losing its No. 1 ranking to Tennessee 66-62 on Saturday night. And the Tigers made sure they jumped out early against the Golden Hurricane.

"I feel like we are a good team, a championship team," said reserve Shawn Taggart, who had 12 points. "Every championship team, when they take a loss, they want to come out and prove a point and play hard. I feel like our bench showed we can score and we can produce on defense."

The victory assured Memphis (27-1, 13-0 Conference USA) at least a share of the conference regular-season title with three games to play. It marks the third straight year the Tigers have held at least a share of the C-USA crown.

Kemp was 5-of-10 from the

field, including 4-for-7 outside the 3-point arc, as five Tigers scored in double figures.

"It helps our inside game a lot," Kemp said of his outside production. "If I'm making that shot, our big men are going to have a good game."

Doneal Mack matched Taggart's 12 points, while Robert Dozier added 11 points and eight rebounds. Antonio Anderson finished with 10 points, all in the first half as Memphis built a 43-19 lead at intermission.

Georgetown 64, St. John's 52

The dunks weren't falling for DaJuan Summers, but the 3-pointers were.

Summers was 5-of-8 on 3-pointers and scored 21 points in Georgetown's (No. 10 ESPN/USA Today, No. 11 AP) 64-52 win against St. John's.

Yet all the questions after the

game were about two close shots he missed. Specifically, first-half dunks.

Less than eight minutes into the game, Summers was on a fast break and tried to throw down a dunk. Instead, the ball bounced off the back of the rim into the court-side seats. A few minutes later, Summers had the ball on the baseline and went up for a dunk that again missed the mark.

"It happens sometimes. You can't dwell on it," Summers said. "If I was worried about the dunks, I probably would have taken myself out of the game completely."

Summers had trouble with the slams, but his 3-point shooting helped Georgetown to a win in a game that was closer than expected until late in the second half.

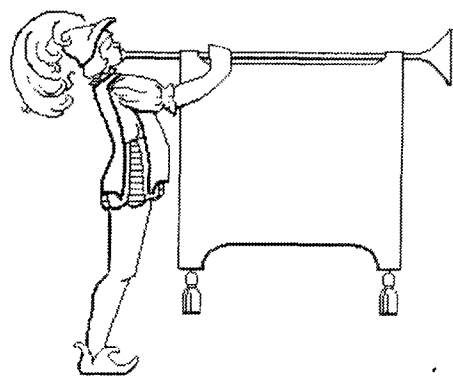
"The first half was one of those halves, we missed a bunch

of easy chippies," Georgetown coach John Thompson III said. "If those shots go in you feel a lot better at halftime. And it happens sometimes when you get frustrated on offense, you're not as attentive on defense."

With the win, Georgetown (23-4, 13-3 Big East) moved a half-game ahead of Louisville for sole possession of first place in the Big East. The lead may be short-lived: Louisville plays third-place Notre Dame on Thursday night.

The Hoyas improved to 15-0 at home this season with their fifth-straight win against St. John's (10-17, 4-11).

When these two teams met in New York on Jan. 30, Georgetown led by 27 points at halftime and ended up with a 74-42 win. This time, Georgetown held a narrow 27-23 lead at halftime, and the lead evaporated early in the second half.



Announcing the Year 2008 Annual Awards of the Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship

Thanks to a generous gift from the Albert Ravarino family, the Italian Studies Program is pleased to announce the year 2008 annual competition for travel in support of summer research and foreign study in Italy. Grants will be made in amounts not to exceed \$3,000, and will not normally cover all expenses. Notre Dame graduate and undergraduate students who are planning to pursue research or a formal program of summer study in Italy are invited to apply. Students must have completed at least one year of Italian language. The course work will normally be in Italian; will involve the study of Italian language, literature, and culture; and must be applicable to a student's degree program at the University of Notre Dame.

Recommended programs for foreign study include, but are not limited to: Loyola University in Rome, Boston University in Padua, UCLA in Pisa, Miami University in Urbino, Columbia University in Scandiano. Interested students are encouraged to consult the materials on Italian foreign study in the Department of Romance Languages, 343 O'Shaughnessy Hall.

Students are invited to submit a letter which should include:

- 1) an explanation of how the proposed research or foreign study will enhance their degree program at Notre Dame;
- 2) a personal statement indicating their background, interests, and long-term goals;
- 3) a description of the research project or the program they intend to follow;
- 4) a budget indicating the costs involved;
- 5) two letters of recommendation
- 6) a transcript showing all grades and courses completed
- 7) a list of other sources of funding (being sought or confirmed) for the same project (i.e. Office of International Studies, Nanovic Institute, etc.)

Application Deadline: Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship

**Program in Italian Studies
343 O'Shaughnessy Hall
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NHL

Sharks ride three-goal second period past Jackets

Sabres goalie Miller stops 24 shots despite midgame nose injury, leads team to victory over Nashville

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Brian Campbell couldn't let go of everything from his past.

A day after he was traded by Buffalo to San Jose, Campbell had an assist in the Sharks' 4-2 win over the Columbus Blue Jackets on Wednesday night. Then he packed away his equipment — in his old Sabres bag.

"I had fun out there tonight. It was nice. I'm always looking for the puck. I thought we worked it pretty good," Campbell said. "I'm just kind of sitting back a little and reading plays and seeing what I can and can't do in the system here."

Campbell had his first point in a Sharks sweater, Jonathan Cheechoo ran his goal streak to four games, Joe Pavelski had a goal and an assist and Torrey

Mitchell and Jeremy Roenick also scored for the Sharks, who won their third in a row and improved to 20-8-3 on the road. Joe Thornton added two assists, and Evgeni Nabokov had 17 saves.

Sharks coach Ron Wilson liked what he saw from Campbell, who put in 16 solid minutes and was on the ice for Cheechoo's power-play goal and assisted on Pavelski's.

"He showed that he's a player, that he wants to be on the ice all the time. He's generally always in attack mode," Wilson said. "You can see he's a sneaky hitter, too. He moves pucks really well. You can see his speed. I think he will really help our power play, obviously."

Campbell was playing his first game for San Jose, which solidified its hold on fifth in the Western Conference. He was

picked up along with a seventh-round draft pick on Tuesday from Buffalo for forward Steve Bernier and a first-round pick this summer.

Columbus took the ice for the first time since trading captain Adam Foote and center Sergei Fedorov. They were dealt before Tuesday's NHL trade deadline for two draft picks and a college player.

David Vyborny ended a 24-game goal drought by scoring twice for Columbus, which started the night in 11th place in the West.

"As the game went on, we were devoid of emotion," Blue Jackets coach Ken Hitchcock said. "We're not going to win games playing the way we did tonight."

The teams traded first-period goals. The Sharks scored with a man advantage, Cheechoo redirecting Pavelski's one-

timer from the left circle before Vyborny backhanded a rebound past Nabokov.

Vyborny then scored his fifth of the season with an almost identical shot in the second period, backhanding another rebound high and hard past Campbell as he dived to block it.

Sabres 8, Predators 4

Steve Bernier can stop worrying. The pressure is off now that he made his Sabres debut memorable.

Bernier scored goals on his first two shots and added an assist in sparking a win over the Nashville Predators on Wednesday night, a day after being acquired in a deal that sent All-Star defenseman Brian Campbell to San Jose.

"When your confidence is not where you want it to be and the first shot you make you

score, it helps," said Bernier, labeled an underachiever during three seasons with the Sharks. "I'm glad everything went the way I wanted everything to go. ... Yeah, it's a good start, but nothing is done yet."

Bernier snapped a 12-game goal drought, the longest of his NHL career, and enjoyed his fifth multigoal game.

Toni Lydman had a career high four assists, Ales Kotalik had a goal and two assists, and Derek Roy, Daniel Paille, Jason Pominville, Tim Connolly and Andrew Peters also scored as Buffalo snapped an 0-1-1 skid. Buffalo jumped into eighth place in the Eastern Conference, two points ahead of idle Philadelphia.

It was an important statement by a Sabres team that had the potential of unraveling after losing Campbell, a key player and team leader.

"To have a player step in and have as good night first night, it's almost a dream come true," Sabres coach Lindy Ruff said of Bernier.

Jason Arnett scored twice for the Predators, 0-2-1 in their past three games, including a 6-3 loss to Dallas on Saturday. David Legwand and Jan Hlavac, making his debut after being acquired Tuesday in a trade with Tampa Bay, also scored for the Predators.

Nashville, which kicked off a season-high, six-game road swing, entered the game in eighth place in the West, but lost ground when San Jose and Minnesota — both ahead of the Predators — won.

"It's quite frustrating because the urgency has got to be there," Predators coach Barry Trotz said. "We blew a chance to get points. By the time we get home, we might be out of the playoffs. We might be ninth."

The Sabres broke the game open late in the second period when Pominville and Roy scored three minutes apart to put Buffalo up 6-3.

As blowouts go, it certainly proved entertaining, with Bernier's performance one of numerous highlights in a game between teams in different conferences.

It was a game in which all four goaltenders played; featured a seven-goal second period; had the Sabres nearly squander a three-goal lead for the second straight game; featured a chippy third period with numerous fights; and had a penalty shot. Nashville's Scott Nichol missed his second consecutive attempt this season.

The scariest moment came three minutes into the second period when Sabres goalie Ryan Miller was knocked woozy and had his nose bloodied after being struck in the mask by Marek Zidlicky's shot. The force of the drive knocked loose the main metal bar that runs from Miller's forehead to chin, and pushed it back on his nose.

With the tip of his nose swollen but not broken, Miller returned after missing about 8 minutes. He made 24 saves to preserve the victory.

"It was entertaining, no doubt," said Miller, who wasn't aware that Hlavac had converted the rebound.

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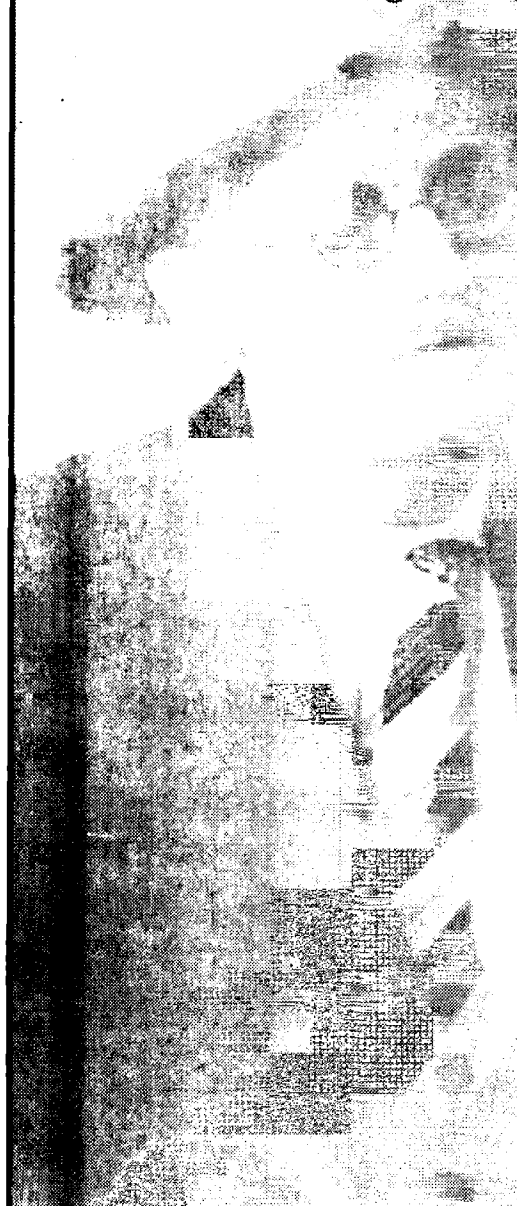
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SMC SOFTBALL

Belles begin 2008 season over break

Team will travel to Florida with four new freshman

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

Several fresh faces will dot the lineup as Saint Mary's begins its 2008 season next week.

The Belles, who will travel to Florida over spring break, have four freshmen and three sophomores among their ranks.

"The young players have come here to play hard every game," coach Erin Sullivan said, who is in her third year as head coach of the program. "The leadership they have received from our five upper-classmen has been invaluable."

The team does have some experience including returning junior ace pitcher Kristin Amram, who has already given this year's freshmen something to strive for. In her freshman year, she struck out 201 batters on her way to becoming MVP of the MIAA conference.

Sullivan points to the team attitude as a reason for the team's achievements in recent years.

"We don't have any 'stars,'" she said.

"Each player brings something different to our success."

Saint Mary's played well in 2007, setting a 28-13 mark that put them third overall in the MIAA. The top four teams in the conference make it to the postseason tournament. The Belles have qualified for the tournament in both of the past two years.

After returning from Florida, the Belles will begin their non-conference schedule. The first MIAA game is against Calvin on March 29.

Saint Mary's brings a strong offensive attack along with its excellent pitching. Sullivan said practice time has been devoted to making the offense even more explosive in order to start out strong.

The Belles' biggest goal is to make it back to the postseason tournament. Sullivan is confident about her team's abilities.

"We have been a successful team in the past," she said. "We have a great idea of what we need to do to get there and succeed."

Contact Laura Myers at lm Myers2@nd.edu

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MEN'S GOLF

Team opens spring season

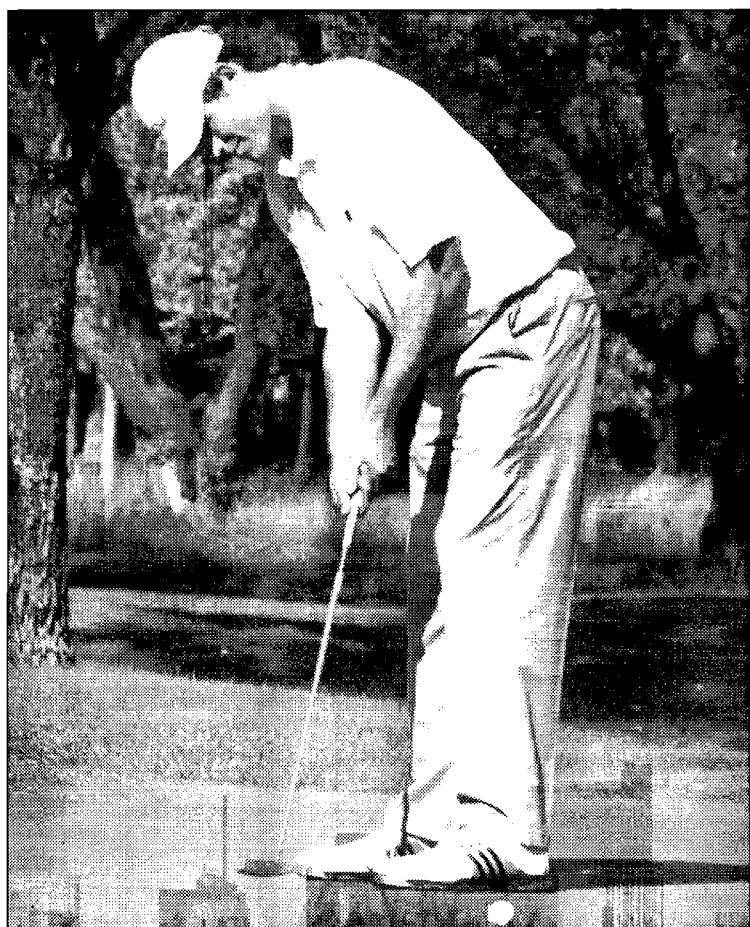
By PAT STYNES
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will travel to California during spring break to participate in the USC Collegiate Invitational, hosted by the North Ranch Country Club in Westlake Village, Calif.

The Irish will look to improve upon their 15th-place finish at the John Hayt Collegiate Invitational and hope to gain some momentum going into the second half of the spring season. The relatively young team — eight out of 12 players are underclassmen — will gain valuable experience in California. When they return, only three tournaments will remain before the Big East Championship.

The underclassmen combo of sophomore Doug Fortner and freshman standout Tyler Hock will need to step up on Monday if the Irish hope to compete with the tough teams of USC and Oregon State. Fortner and Hock currently lead the team with the lowest scoring averages (72.77 and 73.20, respectively) and will look to continue their recent streak of strong play.

The most important factor this week, however, will be the play of junior Josh Sandman. Sandman had a strong showing at the Hayt Invitational, finishing at a tie for 29th, and will look to continue his steady play in hopes to garner a second All-Big East award this spring.



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Senior Eddie Peckels putts during the Fighting Irish Gridiron Golf Classic on Sept. 30, 2007 at the Warren Golf Course.

"If he plays with poise and confidence and stays in the present, handling the emotions that all players must deal with, Josh will do great things," Irish coach Jim Kubinski said. "I'm looking forward to seeing how Josh will take the reins of our No. 1 spot and anchoring our lineup. He has the talent to mix it up with the top play-

ers." The USC Collegiate Invitational will last all day on March 3 and 4, after which the team will take a 10-day break and resume play March 14 at the Schenkel E-Z-GO Invitational in Statesboro, Ga.

Contact Pat Stynes at pstynes@nd.edu

ND SOFTBALL

Irish look to rebound, travel to California

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame (4-5) looks to rebound from a tough showing last week and start hitting the ball hard during a long west coast road trip over of spring break.

The first leg, The Worth Invitational in Fullerton, Calif., consists of three games, two on Saturday and one on Sunday, against Pacific (5-9), UC Davis (9-7) and Cal State Fullerton (5-6-1).

Irish coach Deanna Gumpf said she would like to see a marked improvement in her squad over the break, as she believes their trouble hitting is keeping them from living up to their potential.

"I am absolutely not satisfied with our record," Gumpf said. "We are a much better team than the way we are playing right now."

Gumpf said her team needs to be more aggressive.

"We have been a very reactionary team thus far, and I would like to see us become much more aggressive," Gumpf said.

The Irish pitching staff, highlighted by junior Brittney Bargar and freshman Jody Valdivia, has two shutouts in the young season.

"The pitchers look really good," Gumpf said. "I would like to see them have some runs to work with."

The hitting, however, has been a much different story. The Irish have averaged 2.67 runs per game.

"We need to jump on good pitchers early," Gumpf said. "If we take an aggressive approach we will be very good."

With great pitching, defense, and team speed, the Irish have the potential to be exceptional this year if the bats start to heat up, Gumpf said.

"I think our team speed has been cancelled out by not getting hits," Gumpf said. "If we can get some base-runners, we will score a lot."

Especially important to the Irish bats' success will be senior outfielder Sarah Smith.

"Sarah needs to put the ball in play," Gumpf said. "When she hits the ball, she is very hard to get out, and that could give us a spark."

The Irish will face three teams from the Big West Conference, and the Irish expect to face a strong lineup and a solid pitching staff.

"The Big West is known for its hitting," Gumpf said. "But we also expect to see some decent pitching. So we need to hit the ball well one through nine to compete."

After the Worth Invitational, the Irish will take a day off before traveling to Riverside, Calif., to take on UC Riverside (4-9), another Big West team.

The Irish will then take a short one-day break before getting right back on the horse and competing in the five-game Long Beach State Invitational from March 7-9.

The Irish will take on UCLA (14-2), Long Beach State (8-6), Virginia Tech (9-4), Cal State Fullerton and Cal State Northridge (5-10).

The Bruins have won their last eight games and will provide the most difficult test for the Irish during the trip

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MEN'S TENNIS

ND faces major road test against No. 9 Illini

Last season's national runner-up, Illinois is just 5-4 this season

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

Despite No. 12 Notre Dame's recent victories, it will be tested again this weekend on the road by No. 9 Illinois.

The Irish are coming off a 7-0 win over Purdue last weekend at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

"We played very solid matches top to bottom [against Purdue]," coach Bobby Bayliss said. "I had my apprehensions about some matches, but we met the challenge."

The Illini have a lofty ranking, but they are only 5-4 this season. They lost badly to No. 12 Florida last weekend, 6-1.

"They are the NCAA runner-up and also in the top-10," Bayliss said. "They went to Florida and played a great match. They lost many three-setters."

Four of the Illini's singles matches went three sets, with the Illini dropping all but one of them.

Illinois has two strong players at the top of their lineup, similar to the Irish.

The Illini are led at No. 1 singles by national No. 13 senior Ryan Rowe. Rowe beat Irish junior Brett Helgeson in a close match last year, besting him 7-5 in the third set.

At No. 2 singles, Illini has another dominating player in national No. 77 Ruben

Gonzales. Bayliss said Irish senior Sheeva Parbhu has never faced Gonzales or Rowe.

In the Purdue match, Bayliss switched his No. 2 and No. 3 doubles teams around.

"At the National Team Indoors I felt like we hit a wall with the doubles teams," Bayliss said. "We looked at a lot of options. Freshmen David Anderson and Daniel Stahl are a good team."

The change paid off for the Irish, who won the doubles point against the Boilermakers.

To accompany the doubles change, Bayliss has continued to rely on the duo of Parbhu and Helgeson to bear the brunt of the load at one doubles.

"They have done a great job all year," Bayliss said. "It is important for Brett [Helgeson] to establish himself at

the net. He is looking for the ball more up there. Sheeva [Parbhu] is also serving better."

After facing Illinois, the Irish will return home for a few days and then head west to La Jolla, Calif., for the Pacific Coast doubles tournament, where they will get accustomed to outdoor play.

"We will work on our transition to the outdoors," Bayliss said. "We will use those outdoor practice days to get more adopted and relearn how to develop points."

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgraba01@saintmarys.edu

"[Illinois] went to Florida and played a great match. They lost many three-setters."

Bobby Bayliss
Irish coach

FENCING

23 fencers head to Regional

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame qualified 23 of a maximum 24 fencers for the crucial March 2 NCAA Midwest Regional in Detroit.

The Irish are expected to be tied with rival Ohio State for the largest number of competitors at the event.

"It's a tough competition, and I think we were successful to qualify that many fencers," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said.

In fact, 24 Irish fencers accumulated enough points during the season to make the field, but an NCAA rule limiting teams to a maximum of four fencers per event will force sophomore foilist Teddy Hodges to travel to the event as an alternate. He will compete only if one of his four men's foil teammates withdraws before the competition.

The Regional in Detroit will largely determine what Irish fencers will compete at the NCAA Championships from March 13-16 in Columbus, Ohio. Results from the Regional will account for 60 percent of each fencer's rating, and the remaining 40 percent will come from results from the regular season.

After officials calculate post-Regional rankings, the top-five fencers from the Midwest in five of the six weapons will automatically qualify for the national competition. Only four men's foilists from the Midwest Regional will earn spots at the national competition.

Irish at the Midwest Regional

Women's Foil

Adi Nott
Emilie Prot
Hayley Reese
Rachel Cota

Women's Epee

Ewa Nelip
Kelly Hurley
Kim Montoya
Vanessa Rosa

Women's Sabre

Sarah Borrmann
Eileen Hassett
Ashley Serrette

Men's Foil

Mark Kubik
Steve Kubik
Zach Shirtz
Jakub Jedrkowiak

Men's Epee

Greg Howard
Karol Kostka
Greg Schoolcraft
Andrew Seroff

Men's Sabre

Bill Thanhouser
Barron Nydam
Avery Zuck
Tom Horton

Fencers who do not qualify after the results from the Midwest Regional are calculated have one chance to earn a spot at the NCAA Championships. Two non-qualifying fencers in each weapon will earn at-large berths to the national event.

But schools are limited at the NCAA Championships to a maximum of two fencers per event and 12 overall. Last season, 11 Notre Dame fencers qualified for nationals, which was held at Drew

University in Madison, N.J. "We will try to qualify as many as we can to be on the medal position [at nationals]," Bednarski said. "Below 10, it's hard to get the medal position."

Bednarski is optimistic about Notre Dame's chances.

"If they confirm what they did during the whole season," Bednarski said, "... then we will have done good."

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

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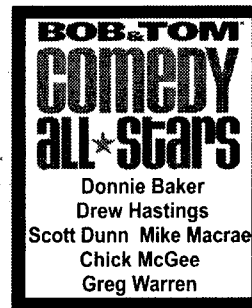
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MEN'S LACROSSE

No. 10 Irish face Albany

By GRIFFIN DASSATTI
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will hope to rekindle some of last week's first-quarter magic when it takes on No. 13 Albany at home Saturday at 1 p.m.

In their first home game of the season, the Irish leapt out to a 6-0 lead in the first quarter against Penn State before settling down to a comfortable 15-9 win over the Nittany Lions. Notre Dame coach Kevin Corrigan said he was happy with his team's performance in the first home game of the season. He only hopes they can repeat their early dominance in the coming games.

"We'd like to bottle that and see if we could do it every week," Corrigan said. "We were handling the ball really well and we won a lot of face-offs. I think we were up 3-0 before they had the ball at the offensive end of the field ... and when you're playing make it take it it's a whole lot easier."

Now the Irish, ranked No. 10 in the Nike/Inside Lacrosse rankings, will take on Albany — a team that Corrigan thinks will present a unique challenge for his team, especially coming off a win against the annual foe Penn State.

"[Albany is] a different team," he said. "They have a very unique style. The challenge isn't just in the level of their talent but also in the style of their play. You don't play a lot of people who play that way."



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Irish attack Brian Hubschmann chases a ground ball in Notre Dame's 14-6 win over Denver on April 15, 2007.

Corrigan said the Irish will look to defend against Albany's aggressiveness on both the offensive and defensive ends of the field. They will also have to watch out for Great Danes senior goalkeeper Brett Queener, a preseason honorable-mention All-America by Inside Lacrosse, who Corrigan said is prone to a unique style.

"[He's] all over the field," Corrigan said of Queener. "He carries the ball up the field to create transitions and will even come out and double-team people."

Still, Corrigan said, the one of the biggest challenges the Irish will face

against the Great Danes is not having to be prepared to counter Albany's game plan, but rather being able to implement their own.

"The trick is to [prepare] while not losing your own identity," he said. "It's not just trying to go up against somebody else, it's remembering what you do and dictating what you want to do. If we're doing things right in preparing for people we're trying to understand [them] and what they're good at and we're learning to execute our stuff."

Contact Griffin Dassatti at gdsatt@nd.edu

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

ND hits West Coast for three big contests

Squad will take on Stanford, Oregon, Cal during break

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Writer

No. 11 Notre Dame won't get much of a break while classes aren't in session next week, but don't feel too sorry for them — the Irish get to take a trip to California.

The Irish (3-0) will play at Stanford in Palo Alto, Calif., on Sunday before flying to San Diego to take on Oregon as a part of the annual East-West Challenge. Notre Dame's spring break action will conclude with a game against California in Pasadena, Calif.

The West-Coast trip will give the Irish exposure not only to the California sun, but also to a wider audience. The Stanford game will be broadcast on CSTV.com, while Notre Dame's match-up with California will be played in the historic Rose Bowl.

"It's a really important road swing because we're playing three Pac-10 teams, and I think playing three games in a week is going to be challenging for us," Irish coach Tracy Coyne said. "Plus playing Thursday night and Saturday too, it's going to be a good test to see where we are."

Notre Dame began its road schedule with a 14-11 victory Sunday over Ohio State. The Irish saw a healthy advantage quickly dissolve late in the second half, and while they were able to hold off the Buckeyes, Coyne hasn't forgotten what she saw.

"There were definitely things in that game exposed some of our weaknesses, and we've been addressing those in practice," Coyne said. "We've been putting some extra pressure on our defenders to bring the ball out of the defensive unit, but I think in preparing for Stanford, because they have one of the best goalies in the country, we're going to have to focus on doing some things differently on the offensive side as well."

The Irish have gotten the production they expected from a pair of preseason All-Big East picks in senior captain Caitlin McKinney, whose 42-game point streak is a school record, and junior attack Jillian Byers, who leads the team with 15 goals through three games.

But what has given Notre Dame the opportunity to achieve its early season success, Coyne said, are the contributions of some of the team's younger players — including those by freshmen Shaylyn

Bailey (10 goals, three assists) and Kaitlin Keena (four goals, four assists).

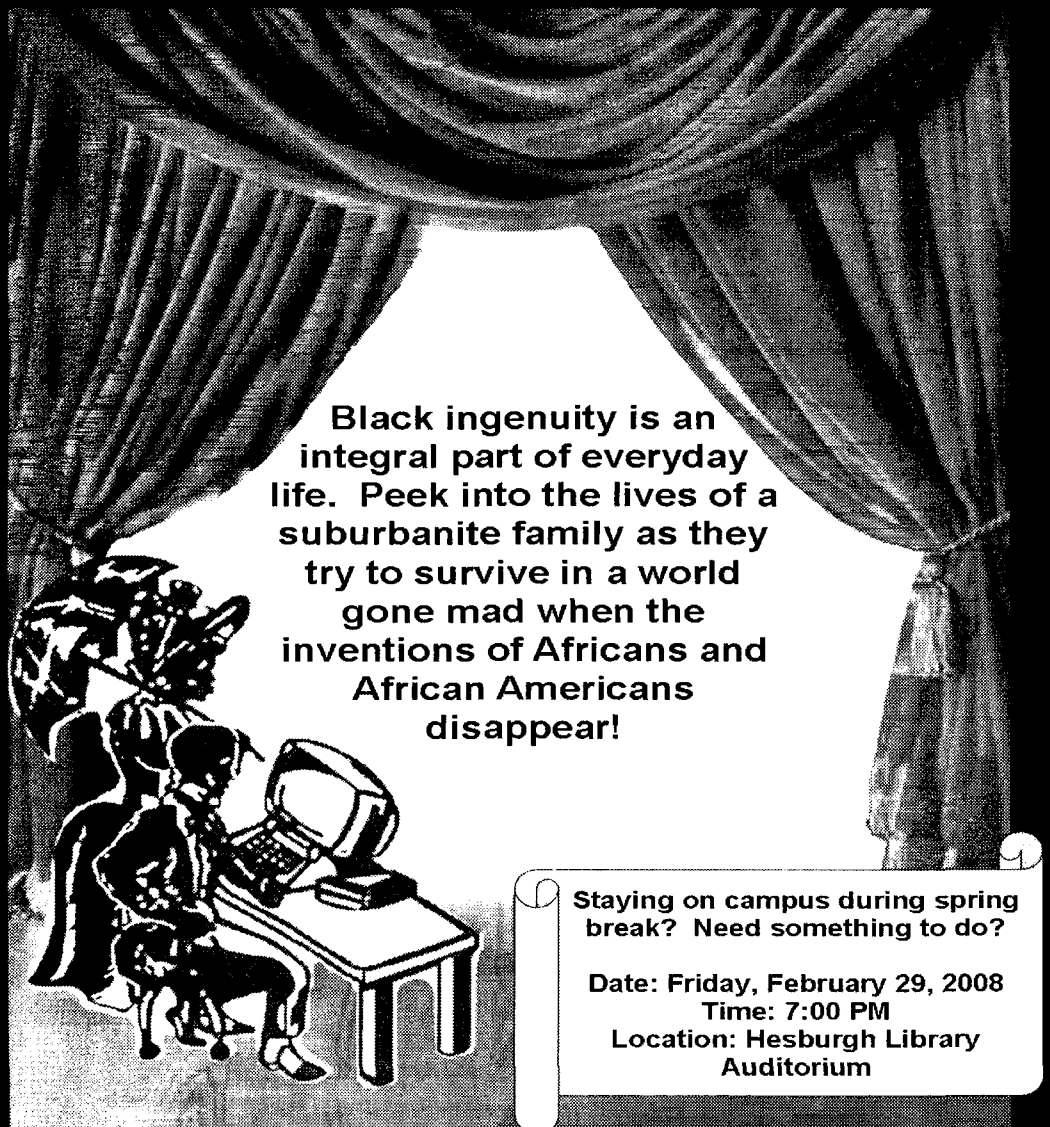
"The freshmen have obviously been great, and I think it's our sophomores, too, because we have three in Gina Scioscia, Rachel Guerrero and Maggie Zentgraf who are getting a lot of minutes," Coyne said. "The leadership of the juniors and seniors with a combination of the youth movement is giving us some good looks and some different things we can do. Tactically, even in the Ohio State game, we were trying some different things, so it's exciting."

Tracy Coyne
Irish coach

"It's a really important road swing because we're playing three Pac-10 games, and I think playing three games in a week is going to be a challenge for us."

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

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SMC GOLF

Saint Mary's opens season in No. Carolina

Observer Staff Report

After taking second in two fall tournaments, Saint Mary's will open its spring campaign March 3-4 at the Saint Andrew's Invitational in Pinehurst, N.C.

The tournament, which is hosted by Saint Andrew's Presbyterian College, will be held at Woodlake Resort and Golf Club.

In the fall season, Saint Mary's participated in six events, taking 13th and 15th in non-conference

tournaments at Ferris State and Illinois Wesleyan.

The Belles finished in 2nd in the first two MIAA Jamborees, at Kalamazoo and Tri-State, then finished fourth at the final fall Jamboree, hosted by Alma.

In the MIAA Championship tournament, Saint Mary's took third.

After the Saint Andrew's event, the Belles will be off until March 29, when they will compete in the Northern Kentucky Invitational.

SMC TENNIS

Belles begin 10th year with spring break trip

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's opens its 10th season this spring break as it travels to Orlando, Fla., for seven non-conference matches.

The Belles, who went 13-13, 5-3 MIAA last spring, finished out their season tied for fourth in the conference with rival Calvin, their best final standing since placing first in 2004.

New to the squad this season is head coach Chuck Rubino and eight freshman members, who join the two returning team members, sophomores Camille Gebert and Lisa Rubino.

"We're going to have a relatively young team, starting four freshmen and two sophomores," Rubino said. "We have a lot of potential

that's untested, and spring break will be a good time to get our feet wet and get in some good competition."

The Belles will play all non-conference teams over break and are looking forward to the matches as a chance to prepare for this season's MIAA competition.

"Spring break is going to give the coaches a real chance to see the girls play under fire," Rubino said. "They are tired of playing each other and are ready to take it out on other players. The coaches especially want to see how the girls compete under pressure."

Having only two returning members does put Saint

Mary's in a different position than other MIAA competitors, but Gebert sees it as an advantage.

"I think that it is such a positive thing, plus an advantage, having eight new freshman, and only two returners leading the team this year," Gebert said. "It will put us ahead of other teams, because we have so much talent this year, and even more depth."

Along with new members, a new coach and a new season come new goals for this young team.

"One of the goals is to improve on our dual meet record and compete for the MIAA championship," Rubino

said. "We'd like to improve on fourth place from last year, and I think we have the potential to do that. We want to improve team comradery and the chemistry of the team; we have a lot of new players. Our doubles haven't played with one another, and to improve as a team overall is a goal we strive for daily."

The Belles start competing on March 2 in Orlando, where they will play seven times — against Methodist, Martin Methodist, Grand Valley State, Kings, Ursuline, Saint Scholastica and Wayne State — throughout the week, and they will begin conference play on March 18 at Albion.

"We're all anxious to go down south and start competing," Rubino said. "All the girls and the coaching staff want to see where this potential will go."

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish take on No. 2 Jackets

Ramblin' Wreck took down Notre Dame 2 times last season

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

Come this Saturday, No. 16 Notre Dame will know exactly where it stands among the best in the nation.

That's because the Irish will host No. 2 Georgia Tech at the Eck Tennis Pavilion. The Yellow Jackets defeated the Irish twice last year, both times by the score of 4-2.

The first loss to the Yellow Jackets came last February in the ITA National Women's Indoor championship game, and the second also ended hopes for some hardware, occurring last May in the NCAA quarterfinals.

Despite the previous losses to the Yellow Jackets, Irish coach Jay Louderback doesn't feel as though there are any hard feelings between the teams — he simply wants his team to play well and come out with a win.

"I don't think there is any bad blood," Louderback said. "They won the NCAAs last year, so they were a very good team. They have great depth all around so we are going to have to be playing our best. They have one player who is the sixth-best in the nation. They're very good."

One aspect that the Irish will need to execute in is their doubles play. After winning six straight doubles points in as many matches,

Notre Dame dropped the crucial point against North Carolina. Coach Louderback is looking to regain the doubles momentum, and stressed this in practice all week.

"Doubles play is going to be very big against them," he said. "If we can't get the point, winning four singles matches against [Georgia Tech] is going to be really tough. We've been playing really well in doubles. Against North Carolina we were just playing tired. We had a couple of tough matches before that so we were a little fatigued, but I'm happy where we're at with our doubles."

The No. 3 doubles tandem in the nation of junior Kelcy Tefft and senior Brook Buck has been on a hot streak. With a Tefft-Buck win early on in the match, the Irish could build some momentum and begin a possible upset.

When Louderback thinks of the pair, he is reminded of another storied Notre Dame duo before them. Katrina and Christian Thompson both graduated in 2007, and twice in their careers held the No. 1 ranking in the nation as a doubles team.

"They're excellent for us," Louderback said. "They just understand each other very well. They actually remind me of when we had the

Thompson's. When we had them we felt like they could go out and get us a point any time and Kelcy and Brook are the same. They have stepped it up every time we go out, and the other girls really look to them to get things started."

Tefft has also been impressive in singles play, amassing an 11-2 overall record in the dual match season thus far. Coupled with the notable play of sophomore Kali Krisik, who has 12 dual match wins to lead the Irish, the Yellow Jackets could face some stiff competition this weekend.

After the Georgia Tech match, Notre Dame must shift its focus to Hawaii. The Irish have a long trip ahead of them to face the Rainbow Warriors at the University of Hawaii Tennis

Complex on March 6.

The complex is outdoors and will mark the first time the Irish will play outside all season. "[Hawaii is] good at the top but they don't have the best depth," Louderback said. "We haven't seen them play at all, just their scores. The one thing they do have going for them is that they play outdoors. Since it's our first outdoor match, we're flying in early and getting in five days of outdoor practice."

Contact Lorenzo Reyes at lreyes@nd.edu

"Doubles play is going to be really big against them."

Jay Louderback
Irish coach

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Bulls

continued from page 28

Dame (22-6, 10-4 Big East) got its final stretch of three games before the Big East Tournament — and its race for a first-round bye — off to a great start.

"I think our team is starting to peak, and I think it's the perfect time with the Big East Tournament coming around, and the NCAA Tournament," Schrader said. "We've gotta play two more games really, really hard, and we'll see where we go from there."

Schrader had 17 points and 13 rebounds in her second double-double of the season. Senior guard Charel Allen had 14 points, and three other Irish players had double figures. Allen

also shut down the Bulls' offense from her position as the leader of the Irish full-court press.

"She gives us a bigger person at the top, and she really used her length today very well," Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said of Allen. ... She's smart, she can play the passing lanes really well, and I think that disrupted them initially."

Senior center Melissa D'Amico, who hasn't play often this season before freshman forwards Devereaux Peters and Becca Bruszewski suffered injuries, had 10 points on four-of-seven shooting off the bench.

"I've been waiting for my opportunity; I've been working for it," D'Amico said. "With Becca and Devereaux out, we weren't going to get down on ourselves."

D'Amico made an immediate impact, blocking a shot seconds after she entered the game.

Schrader and Allen controlled the Irish offense in the first five

minutes. Schrader had eight points in that span, and Allen, who twice rebounded under the basket and made the put-back, had six.

The Irish led 23-6 until Bulls junior guard Shantia Grace hit a 3-pointer with 9:46 remaining. Notre Dame led by 20 soon after, and when the Irish were up 24 with 3:30 remaining, McGraw emptied her bench.

Notre Dame's fortunes in the game were displayed as time expired in the first half. Allen's shot teetered on the rim as the buzzer sounded before dropping in to give Notre Dame a 46-15 lead at the half.

The Bulls were hard-pressed to inbound the ball at times; the Irish grabbed three inbounds passes and deflected another in the first half alone.

"We did a really good job of that today," she said. "We got some steals off the press as well."

The Bulls found some semblance of a shot early in the second half, it didn't make much of a difference.

With less than 14 minutes left, senior guard Tulyah Gaines passed to sophomore guard Melissa Lechlitner, who artfully one-timed the ball to Allen under the basket. After a deft spin, Allen sank the turnaround jumper to make the score 58-25.

Sophomore guard Ashley Barlow had been quiet throughout the game. She was scoreless and had three fouls until she made one of two free throws with 12:05 left in the second half. Visibly frustrated after splitting another pair two minutes later, Barlow forced a steal on the press and drove to the hoop herself for her first field goal of the game. On the next possession, she did the same thing.

After hitting her career-high

fourth 3-pointer with 7:53 remaining, freshman guard Brittany Mallory fell to the floor, grasping her left ankle after landing on a defender's foot. She was helped off the court, but she said her ankle would be fine for Saturday's game against Seton Hall. Mallory finished with 14 points.

McGraw said there was still work to be done. She had focused on getting Mallory, Allen and Schrader to rebound better in practice — which seems to have worked; Allen had eight, Mallory had seven and Schrader led the team with 13. McGraw also said she wanted to work with what she called a "big guy" lineup, when both D'Amico and sophomore center Erica Williamson were both in the game. Overall, however, McGraw was optimistic about her team's future.

"We're playing for a lot of things," she said. "We're playing for a seed in the NCAA tournament, how high can we get? We've had a great year, we want to keep it going to the Big East tournament."

Notes:

♦ Allen moved into ninth on Notre Dame's all-time scoring list with 1,437 points. She passed current Irish assistant coach Niele Ivey, who had 1,430. She is also three steals away from becoming the first Notre Dame women's basketball player with 1,000 points, 500 rebounds, 200 assists and 200 steals.

"I'm so glad that she's going to leave her mark on the program because she's done so many great things for us all four years," McGraw said.

♦ South Florida's 15 points in the first half were its fewest all season.

"I think we should be proud of that," Schrader said. "We should be capable of doing that every game."

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Broncos

continued from page 28

fall. The junior netminder has allowed more than two goals in one game just twice during that stretch, and he holds an impressive 1.53 goals-against average in his last 15 starts — yet has just five wins to show for his efforts.

"It's a little straining on you knowing going into games that I probably have to stop all [the opponent's shots] or keep it down to one [goal], and I feel like it is a lot of added pressure," said Pearce, who has increased both his mental and physical preparations to elevate his game. "In the beginning of the year when we were scoring, I felt really confident in the team in front of me that if I let a goal or two in early that I'd be fine and could relax because we'd end up putting four in."

"I'm sure our offense will figure it out and start scoring some goals, though. I'm not too panicky or freaking out, but it is nice when you have offensive support."

Notre Dame's scoring woes certainly don't stem from a lack of chances. In their last four games alone, the Irish have attempted 132 shots (33 per game) but have managed only six goals — including scoring just once on 41 tries in a Feb. 16 tie at Alaska.

"We're trying to pick our corners too specifically right now," said senior right wing Evan Rankin, who scored Notre Dame's lone goal in Friday's 3-1 loss to Ohio State. "We just

need to get our pucks to the net and bear down in front. We've got to knock in a few dirty goals because you know what? Ninety percent of goals in hockey are going to come from that."

"We could talk about bounces all you want, but we need to start making our own breaks, doing it for ourselves and not just relying on the bounces to win or lose games for us."

By no means is the season lost, as the Irish have already clinched a first-round bye in the conference tournament by way of finishing fourth in the CCHA standings.

But if Notre Dame hopes to regain the form it showcased en route to a 16-4-0 record through December — which it must do not only to advance in the NCAA Tournament, but also to guarantee a berth at all — this weekend represents the last chance to do so.

"We had a good discussion about what we need to do to turn things a bit, and this is a team that's only going to be as good as the intensity they play with," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "I've been talking to specific guys about their physical intensity, and the big thing is that I can hold them accountable by taking them out of the lineup, but they need to hold each other accountable to play at that level of intensity."

"These guys know what they have to do to get going again in a positive direction — its about our offensive intensity and grittiness to make improvements."

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

Pizza

continued from page 28

season at this point," Schrage said. "But we obviously want to win every weekend."

Despite playing their first games outdoors on grass in several months, the Irish made only two errors in three games.

The Irish begin play in West

Palm Beach on Saturday against Mount St. Mary's, and then play a doubleheader Sunday against St. Bonaventure and Boston College. After a day off Monday, the team concludes the tournament Tuesday and Wednesday with games against Maine and Lehigh.

"This weekend is an excellent opportunity for the team to string together a winning streak and build momentum," sophomore pitcher Eric Maust said. "We have so much talent this year — it's ridiculous."

After a day off for travel, the Irish will resume play March 7 in Corpus Christi, Texas., in the Whataburger Classic. Notre Dame opens against Texas A&M Corpus Christi, and then will play South Alabama and Arizona.

Schrage also saw the tournaments as opportunities for the team to gain some confidence and recognition early in the season.

"I'd like to start a winning streak and get our guys some momentum," Schrage said. "We want to let people know in the Big East that we have a good squad and will have a good season."

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

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Cards

continued from page 28

right there in the hunt for the Big East title."

The Irish are on a three-game winning streak after beating Rutgers on the road and notching home wins over Pittsburgh and Syracuse. But Irish coach Mike Brey said he expects the crowd at Louisville to most closely resemble what Notre Dame saw in its last loss, an 84-78 defeat at Connecticut on Feb. 13.

"We're going into a similar atmosphere as Storrs," Brey said. "And we played really well [there]. Let's see if we can be a little smarter down the stretch and a little more poised down the stretch because that's an area where we can improve from Storrs to Freedom Hall."

In the loss to the Huskies, Notre Dame led most of the game before missing its last seven field-goal attempts.

In their 94-87 win over

Syracuse on Sunday, the Irish were out-rebounded 51-33. Notre Dame still leads the Big East with a plus-7.5 average rebounding margin and will look to regain its form on the glass tonight. Louisville is fifth in the conference with a plus-3.4 rebounding margin.

"We've outrebounded teams that are more or as athletic as us."

Luke Harangody
Irish forward

as good or [Syracuse]."

Harangody said the Irish should not have trouble bouncing back after the poor showing under the basket Sunday.

"We've outrebounded teams that are more or as athletic as us," Harangody said. "We just have to think about getting a body on somebody."

Irish guard Kyle McAlarney was named the Big East player of the week after scoring

30 points and knocking down a school-record nine 3-pointers against Syracuse, who began the game in a 2-3 zone.

McAlarney joined Harangody as the only two-time winners of the award in the entire conference this season. Brey said the team is trying not to look too far ahead, but it does understand that it is among the elite squads in the conference.

"I framed it this way with them the other day. I said, 'Hey [get] position for one of the byes, and we know that's good for us because we did it last year ... and maybe more,'" Brey said. "And that's how I ended it. They know what I'm talking about because this is going to be an interesting stretch, and we can dream big dreams and keep working for that."

The Irish are 1-6 all-time against Louisville in Freedom Hall. The game will be televised at 7 p.m. on ESPN.

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

"Our backboard will be tested big time [tonight]."

Mike Brey
Irish coach

Hope

continued from page 28

Saint Mary's coach Jenn Henley said. "They have a lot of experience in this tournament."

Hope has won the MIAA tournament five of the last seven years and are this season's MIAA regular season champions with a record of 16-0.

Neither the Belles nor Henley have much experience in the MIAA tournament, but they have been in this position once before. Last season, in Henley's first year as Saint Mary's coach, she led her team to one of the best seasons in school history, as well as the farthest the Belles have ever gone in the MIAA tournament.

Saint Mary's may have lost to Hope twice already this season, but this time they are looking to avenge their earlier losses and prove themselves a stronger team than their last meeting. Saint Mary's has improved on problem areas such as defense and rebounding, outrebounding Adrian 50-38 in their Feb. 20 win and Olivet 38-33 on Tuesday.

"We have to find ways to slow down their transition game, control the boards and play great team defense," Henley said.

Strong defense will be crucial for the Belles if they want to stop the Flying Dutch's season-long 25 game winning streak.

Saint Mary's does have two key advantages over Hope, however — senior guard Alison Kessler and junior forward Erin Newsom.

Averaging 20.8 points per game, Kessler is a powerhouse scorer. She leads the MIAA in points this season and is ranked 10th in all of Division III for average points per game. Kessler holds numerous school records, including most career points with 1604 to date, as well as the MIAA record for most free throws made in a game with 22.

Newsom leads the Belles' rebounding effort and is the top MIAA rebounder. Averaging 8.8 rebounds per game, with 221 this season, Newsom has been Saint Mary's go-to player under the basket.

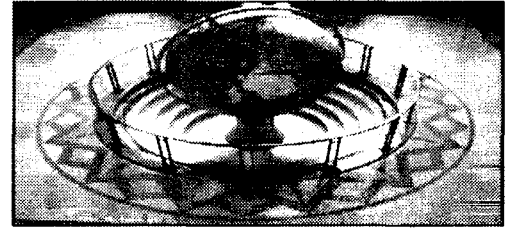
Her contributions from the floor have helped the Belles winning effort as well. She is second on the team in scoring with 286 points, placing her tenth in the MIAA, as well as leading the MIAA in free-throw percentage with 92.9 percent.

The game will tip off tonight at 7:30 in Holland, Mich.

"I think our team has played very well down the stretch. To get into the semifinals is a great accomplishment and doing so two years in a row says a lot about our players," Henley said.

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@saintmarys.edu

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Fracas at Freedom Hall

Contest at Louisville has major implications for conference title race

By FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writer

No. 17 Notre Dame has lurked in second or third place for most of the Big East season, but the Irish can take a major step toward finishing in the top spot tonight when they take on No. 13 Louisville at the Cardinals' Freedom Hall.

Louisville (22-6, 12-3 Big East) is half a game behind Georgetown for first place in the conference, but the Irish (21-5, 11-3) are nipping at the leaders' heels and can leapfrog the Cardinals with a win tonight.

"It's gonna be [a] tough atmosphere down there in Freedom Hall," Notre Dame forward Luke Harangody said. "It should be crazy with them

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PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Irish forward Zach Hillesland drives to the basket in No. 17 Notre Dame's 94-87 win over Syracuse Sunday at the Joyce Center. The Irish travel to No. 13 Louisville tonight.

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles face unbeaten, No. 1 Hope

SMC will take on Flying Dutch in MIAA quarterfinals

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

After a 71-62 victory over Olivet on Tuesday night, Saint Mary's takes on national No. 1 Hope tonight in the semifinals of the MIAA tournament for the second year in a row.

The Belles (13-12, 8-8 MIAA) were knocked out of the MIAA tournament last season by the Flying Dutch (25-0, 16-0 MIAA).

Saint Mary's last faced Hope on Jan. 26, losing 82-73. The Belles are 5-3 since that contest and are coming off a four-game winning streak, including beating Olivet twice in one week.

"Hope is a very solid team,"

see HOPE/page 26

HOCKEY

Irish to finish regular season against Broncos

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Writer

Coming off another disappointing weekend conference series, time is running out for No. 11 Notre Dame (21-11-4, 14-8-4 CCHA).

The schedule couldn't have worked out much better for the Irish, though, who are 5-7-4 in the months of January and

February but catch a break by closing out the regular season with a home-and-home against conference basement-dweller Western Michigan (7-24-3, 3-21-2 CCHA).

That's no guarantee of success, however, as Notre Dame has managed only one win in its last six games — all against unranked conference foes.

"It just feels like we're running on a treadmill," junior

goalie Jordan Pearce said. "We're working hard, working hard, and we're just not getting any goals. I think everyone knows they'll come, so we just need to keep our heads up and remain confident even though we've been struggling as of late."

Notre Dame will honor its five seniors following Saturday night's 7:05 p.m. game, a day after Friday night's 7:35 p.m.

contest at Western Michigan's Lawson Arena, recognized as one of college hockey's loudest.

"One of our focuses is to come out and have a strong first period, a strong first 10 minutes, just to weather the storm [of the Broncos' student section]," Pearce said. "Especially it being their senior night, we just need to let the game settle down and allow ourselves to take over from

there."

For that to happen, an offense that hasn't scored more than twice in a game since a 5-3 loss to Ferris State on Feb. 8 needs to pick itself up.

Pearce leads the CCHA with a 1.82 goals-against average in conference games, and he has performed admirably throughout the team's two-month free-

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BASEBALL

Team hopes to recover from last week's losses

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will spend spring break in the warmth of Florida and Texas — but there will be little time for rest and relaxation.

Notre Dame will play eight games in nine days as it participates in the Papa John's Challenge and the Whataburger Classic the next two weekends.

The Irish (1-2) return to the state of Florida for the Papa John's Classic hoping for better results than their last visit there. Notre Dame dropped two of three games in the Clearwater Invitational last weekend, beating Iowa but falling to Liberty and Albany.

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

ND massacres Bulls, 92-49

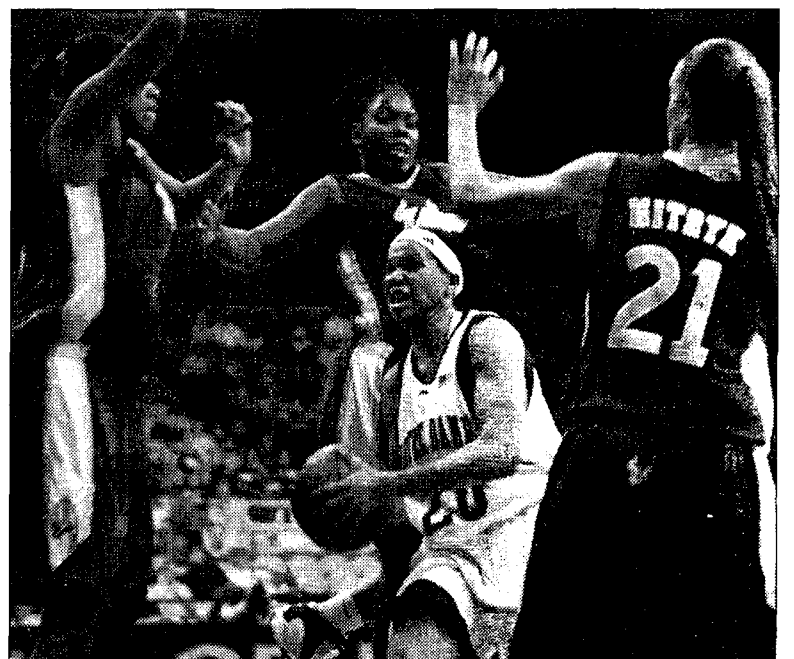
McGraw's players call blowout Big East victory 'fun'

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

On a night when its offense dominated and its defense smothered, Notre Dame was all smiles.

"Basketball is fun. It should be fun, right?" junior guard Lindsay Schrader said after the game. "Why would you play if it isn't fun?"

It would be hard for the Irish not to enjoy themselves when they're winning in convincing fashion, like they did Wednesday in a 92-49 victory over South Florida. Notre



WU YUE/The Observer

Irish guard Ashley Barlow drives between defenders in Notre Dame's 92-49 win over South Florida Wednesday at the Joyce Center.

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