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Dorm holds successful marrow registry

Howard Hall collects 375 donors, donations provide transplants for cancer patients



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer
Students fill out the paperwork necessary to register for the National Marrow Donor Program in the Dooley Room of LaFortune.

By KATIE PERALTA
Assistant News Editor

Howard Hall exceeded its goal of collecting 300 donors in its signature Bone Marrow Registry Thursday in the Dooley Room of LaFortune Student Center.

Scheduled to last from noon until 8 p.m., event organizers were encouraged during the first 40 minutes of the event as they registered 60 donors.

When the event was finished, the event had registered 375 people, topping the initial expectation, according to sophomore Emily Stewart, event co-chair.

"You really underestimate how willing people are to donate," said sophomore Eleanor Trousdale, another one of the event's co-chairs.

The event entered volunteers into the National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), which keeps records of and contacts its registrants when a cancer patient with matched DNA needs a transplant, according to NMDP's website.

The registration process consisted of students first filling out paperwork with their contact information and then swabbing the inside of their cheeks to obtain a DNA sample.

In the case of a DNA match, the donor would be contacted to donate marrow.

"If you're called, you could save a life," Stewart said.

The last 75 students to register only filled out the paperwork, since other supplies had run out.

"We will have the swab kits

see HOWARD/page 3

SMC plans to rebuild homes

Project to restore houses in South Bend

By KATLYN SMITH
News Writer

In an annual effort to rehabilitate homes of low-income residents, Saint Mary's students will volunteer in the annual Rebuilding Together project Saturday.

Over 100 Saint Mary's students will participate in this year's event, said Carrie Call, Director of the Office for Civic and Social Engagement.

Each April, students volunteer in the restoration of homes of the elderly, poor and disabled in the South Bend community. Saint Mary's is sponsoring two homes owned by single elderly women on O'Brien Street this year, Call said.

Students will be divided into teams to work on outdoor and interior painting, yard work, roof repairs and cleaning.

The Rebuilding Together Program, a partnership of volunteers from local government, businesses and other organizations, has rehabilitated close to 700 homes in the South Bend area since 1989, according to the Office for Civil and Social Engagement's Web site.

Because of the significant student turnout the past three

see REBUILD/page 3

Shack City to raise funds for homeless

Participants will spend the night on South Quad to raise awareness for the less fortunate

By EMMA DRISCOLL
News Writer

In an attempt to emulate the real-life situation of homelessness, students will forgo the comfort of their dorm rooms or off-campus residences Friday night, rain or shine.

Through Habitat for Humanity's Shack City event, the Notre Dame community plans to raise awareness and funds to combat homelessness.

Participants will construct homes out of cardboard boxes and spend the night on South Quad.

Habitat for Humanity education and outreach board member Jaime Amrhein said the event has a twofold purpose.

The first, Amrhein said, is to raise awareness of the conditions in which many homeless people are forced to live, and the second is to raise funds for the organization.

Funds raised from the event

will help "to combat the homelessness that we are trying to raise awareness about," Amrhein said.

Proceeds from Shack City will help Habitat for Humanity to finish building the house that the organization has been working on in South Bend since October — the 14th house that the organization has built in South Bend, Amrhein said.

Steve Camilleri, executive director of the Center for the Homeless in South Bend, will

speak at the event, Amrhein said.

DJs from WVFI and three performers from Acoustic Café will be playing music on the quad.

In past Shack City events, Amrhein said there was a "community atmosphere," with many people playing football and Frisbee on the quad.

Shack City's South Quad location enables Habitat for

see UGANDA/page 4

Midwest film conference to be held at Notre Dame

By THERESA CIVANTOS
News Writer

This weekend, Notre Dame will welcome students from across the Midwest in its second annual Midwest Undergraduate Film Conference.

The program will run from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Friday and from 9 a.m. until 5:15 p.m. on Saturday.

Thirty participants from 12 different Midwestern universities will present papers on different film genres. Papers range from topics with titles such as "Dangerous Women" to "Tales of the Uncanny" to "Heroes and Anti-Heroes."

"We're probably the only undergraduate film conference in the nation," said Film, Television and Theater (FTT) professor Christine Becker, co-

organizer of the event.

Becker said this conference is unique for its emphasis on undergraduate research.

"Almost all conferences are geared to professors and grad students, but Notre Dame is a place that really inspires undergraduate research," she said.

Although the conference is only in its second year, Becker said, it gradually has become well known.

"It was started last year by Pamela Wojcik," said Becker. "It was such a success we decided to try it again."

Becker also said the conference has since gained increasing recognition in academic circles as well.

"There are more submissions this year than there were last year, and we even got sub-

see FILM/page 4

Students to bike 7,657 miles

ND-8 and Building Together charity organize fundraiser for Uganda

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

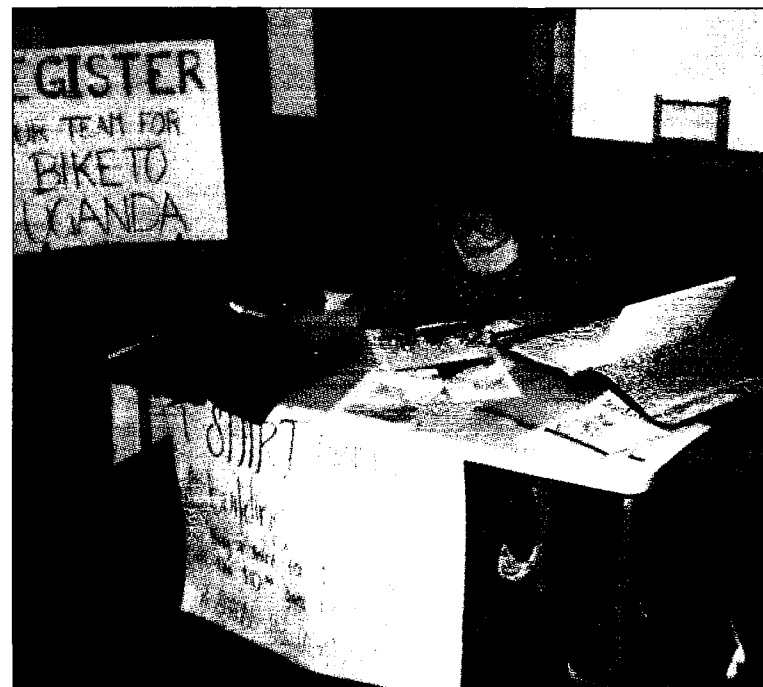
Students will collectively attempt to pedal the 7,657 miles between South Bend and Uganda today in order to raise money to build a Ugandan elementary school.

A joint effort of the ND-8 organization and Building Together charity, Bike to Uganda is the final fundraising event that will contribute to the construction of the school.

In the past, the group held a brick sale, a T-shirt sale and a Christmas tree ornament sale.

"Our goal is to raise \$35,000," said Erin Jelm, ND-8 officer and Bike to Uganda organizer. "We are about \$7,500 short, and we

see SHACK/page 3



DUSTIN MANELLA/The Observer
A Notre Dame student registers students for the Bike to Uganda fundraiser last week. The event will take place today.

INSIDE COLUMN

The time is now

Strictly speaking, that's true all of the time. But what's true about this time is that it's time to reject the vicious lies of crack-addicted presidential rivals by voting my good looks, boyish charm and unearthly modesty into the White House.

Senator Clinton has claimed that I am unfit for the presidency because my spiritual mentor has claimed that he is the reincarnation of Britney Spears and that the CIA sells crack cocaine, AIDS and Tamagotchis to inner-city babies.

Brian McKenzie
News Wire Editor

My rationalization — err, explanation — of these incendiary remarks has been clear and unchanging.

1) My priest hasn't said anything particularly controversial.

2) These comments have been taken out of context. You couldn't possibly understand what he meant by his alleged remarks on Britney Spears unless you had been there.

3) I can no more disown my priest than you can disown your horribly racist grandmother. But I may be able to forgive you for her vile views if you vote for me.

Senator Obama has claimed that the stories I told at a few press conferences about my two heroic tours of Navy SEAL duty in Iraq were fabricated. "As fake as the Clinton marriage," he says. At the time of these alleged press conferences, I was badly tired. I may have misspoken. Repeatedly. Over several years. Obviously, this does not count as a serial fabrication, any more than Sinbad counts as a comedian. What I said was in essence true. I had claimed that my plane was landing into a total war zone in the face of heavy anti-air fire. In fact, CBS has since released tape of a child greeting me with local poetry, which sounded remarkably like anti-air fire. It's a mistake that could happen to anyone.

Finally, all of my rivals have criticized me for recently joking that "I don't really understand economics, or anything else that would qualify me for a job more important than dog-catcher." Clearly, my rivals were missing when God was passing out senses of humor. (What were they doing, beating up puppies? They haven't denied it).

My rivals have also criticized me for joking that anyone who lives as dangerously as I do may not survive four years in office. But I owe it to the American people to be honest. As President, I will have a limousine that controls every traffic light within 10 miles and my own motorcade. I'd be lying if I said that I weren't going to fully exercise my executive authority.

Unsurprisingly, people are paying attention to my vice-presidential selection process. Deciding who should be one flaming Limo One wreck away from the Presidency is one of my gravest responsibilities and I intend to exercise it responsibly. Senator Obama has offered strong advice when he suggested that the best vice-presidential pick is "somebody who knows about a bunch of stuff that [the president is] not as expert on." But how do you balance someone who already knows a bunch of stuff about everything? The solution is simple: I will select my VP by picking one of my rival's names out of a hat.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Brian McKenzie at bmckenzi@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHEN YOU ARE AN RA, WHICH DuLAC RULE WILL YOU ENFORCE?



Dan Krcmaric

junior
Dillon

"What's
DuLac?"



Kate Crecelius

junior
McGlinn

"No carnivorous
fish in the dorms."



Marie Bader

junior
Lewis

"No picking of
the campus
tulips."



Tom Gruffi

junior
Dillon

"Three feet on
the floor in 24-
hour spaces."



Melissa Reidy

junior
Welsh Family

"No scaling of
campus
buildings."



Janeva Waked

junior
Howard

"Stay off
the grass
on God
Quad."



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Students perform "The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus Thursday night. The play will continue this weekend at the Decio Mainstage Theater at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

OFFBEAT

Indonesian masseuses told to lock their pants

JAKARTA — Massage parlors in an Indonesian town are asking their female masseuses to padlock their skirts and pants to make it clear that sex is not on offer. But the move has been protested by the women's affairs minister of Indonesia, where massage parlors are often a front for prostitution.

"It is not the right way to prevent promiscuity," Meutia Swasono was quoted as saying in Thursday's Jakarta Post. "It insults women ... as if they are the ones in the wrong."

At least one parlor in the tourist town of Batu on Java island has required its masseuses to padlock their skirts or trousers to make it clear that the establishment does not tolerate prostitution.

Artist to photograph 2,008 naked Europeans

VIENNA, Austria — It might be a good time to make strategic use of a yellow card. New York contemporary artist Spencer Tunick has gained notoriety worldwide for photographing thousands of people in the nude. Now he's planning to pack a Vienna soccer stadium with

2,008 naked fans in the run-up to the Euro 2008 tournament.

Austria's national railway said Thursday it will offer free travel to the first 2,008 men and women who sign up to bare it all for the May 11 spectacle.

Tunick wants to pose them on the field inside Ernst Happel Stadium, where the tournament final will be played. Austria and Switzerland are co-hosting the event, which runs from June 7-29.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The play "The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus", a Christopher Marlowe play about a professor who sells his soul to the devil, will be performed April 10-13, 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m. in the Decio Mainstage Theater at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

The Vietnamese Student Association of ND is hosting the 6th annual "Vietnamese Interacting As One" conference April 11-13. The theme this year is "Golden Dreams-Redefining Success for our Generation." Visit www.via1.org for conference information.

The Notre Dame Women's Tennis Team will play DePaul today at 3 p.m. at the Eck Center Tennis Pavilion. Admission is free.

Acapella group Halftime will perform a Spring Concert tonight at 7:30 in Washington Hall. Tickets are \$3 and available at the LaFortune Box Office and at the door.

Flipside will host John Rush, "The Human iPod" tonight at 10 in LaFortune basement. Admission is free.

RecSports will sponsor its annual Spring Run with a 5K, 10K and 1-mile fun walk Saturday at 11 a.m. Advance registration through RecSports is \$10, and race day registration, which begins at 10 a.m., is \$15. Proceeds will benefit Rebuilding Together of Saint Joseph County.

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

LOCAL WEATHER	TODAY		TONIGHT		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
	67	51		51		43		42		50		57
				35		28		25		30		40

Atlanta 77 / 61 Boston 56 / 39 Chicago 57 / 49 Denver 43 / 27 Houston 81 / 67 Los Angeles 82 / 54 Minneapolis 56 / 37 New York 60 / 49 Philadelphia 67 / 49 Phoenix 84 / 54 Seattle 62 / 38 St. Louis 67 / 52 Tampa 85 / 67 Washington 77 / 55

Shack

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Humanity to spread its message to a large number of people on campus.

"The reason we hold it on South Quad is because it is probably the most visible place on campus," Amrhein said.

She said students passing by the quad often stop to ask about the event, and such a "visible image" is way to generate awareness about the problem of homelessness.

"That's how we try to reach out to those who aren't participating," Amrhein said.

In keeping with Shack City's mission to raise awareness about the situation of the homeless, the event will take place under any weather circumstances.

"We'll be having Shack City no matter what the weather is. Homeless people don't get to choose where they live, neither do we for this night," Amrhein said.

Interested students can register for Shack City online at www.nd.edu/~habitat or can register at the event beginning tonight at 7:00. Participants who make or exceed the \$15 suggested donation receive a t-shirt, Amrhein said.

Contact Emma Driscoll at edriscoll@nd.edu

Howard

continued from page 1

mailed to them," Stewart said.

According to Stewart, about 30 or 40 Howard residents volunteered to help with the event.

"We also had assistant rectors and our [hall] president help," Stewart said.

The event welcomed donors with music, a free T-shirt and free soda and food.

"[Notre Dame Vice President of Student Affairs] Father [Mark] Poorman gave us a generous grant," Stewart said. "We were really grateful for his support."

Event organizers initially were apprehensive about expectations for the registry.

"We were a little concerned because there was also another bone marrow donation registry last week," Trousdale said, referring to the registry held by the Minority Pre-Med Society last Friday.

The event, Stewart said, began as Howard's signature event a few years ago when one resident's father needed a bone marrow transplant. The event now is held every other year.

The first year, Stewart said, the registry did not see the success it did this year. Two years ago, only 45 students registered, Stewart said.

"We are just thrilled [with the success]," Stewart said.

Contact Katie Peralta at kperalta@nd.edu

SMC to hold Junior Mom's Weekend

Annual event brings family to campus, auction will be held

By LIZ HARTER
Saint Mary's Editor

The Saint Mary's Class of 2009 is bringing tradition to life this weekend as the mothers of the class arrive in South Bend for the College's annual Junior Mom's Weekend.

"[This weekend] is a chance for mothers to visit their daughters at school and see what their lives are like away from home," said Katie Putz, secretary of the Class of 2009.

Activities begin Friday with a wine and cheese reception and a silent auction. The class board asked students and their mothers to donate a basket or gift for the auction.

Proceeds of the auction will go to fund the Class of 2009's senior dance and senior week next year, Putz said.

"Professors from every department have been invited [to the event as well]," she said. "This gives the mothers and their

daughters a chance to mingle with their peers as well as casually talk to their daughters' professors."

The class board will also host a Mass and formal dinner on Saturday evening.

The board sent out a list of various activities in which the mothers and daughters can participate on both Saint Mary's and

Notre Dame's campus and in the South Bend area along with the invitations so that they can pick and choose what they want to do, Putz said.

"There are no scheduled events on Saturday because we want to allow mothers and daughters a chance to

spend time doing what they like to do," she said. "The free time is meant to allow mothers and daughters time to do what they like to do without the pressure of participating in planned events."

Class of 2009 president Jenny Antonelli echoed Putz's sentiment.

"On Saturday, we offer a few options so everyone is

not limited on what is available for them to do," Antonelli said. "These options include spa packages at local salons for manicures and pedicures, and tours of the Heritage Room."

Junior Emily Croft's mother will be traveling to South Bend from Bloomington, Ill., to participate in the event with her daughter.

"We're going to go to the wine and cheese event and then we'll probably watch a movie or something," Croft said. "My mom really wants to meet my friends and their mothers so we're going to try to hang out with them a bit too."

Croft said she will also allow her mother to spend time with her sister who is a sophomore at the College as well. The three will go out to lunch on Saturday before Croft and her mother attend the Mass and dinner.

Croft said she has been looking forward to this weekend since she found out that the juniors' mothers would be invited to campus at the beginning of this year.

"It's going to be a really fun weekend to show my mom what my life is like here at school," Croft said.

Contact Liz Harter at charte01@saintmarys.edu

"[This weekend] is a chance for mothers to visit their daughters at school and see what their lives are like away from home."

Katie Putz
Class of 2009 secretary

SUPER BOWL

of Pop Culture

3 person teams compete in the Superbowl of Pop Culture to win fabulous prizes: ipod shuffles, Best of Notre Dame Football DVD boxset, \$25 gift certificate to itunes, bragging rights.

Preliminary written test, Monday, 14 April at 7pm. Sign up at wvfi.nd.edu and receive more information.

Top teams compete in final round, Friday, 18 April at 9pm in the Carey Auditorium in the Library. Free food and door prizes to the audience.

WVFI, Voice of the Fighting Irish
wvfi.nd.edu



Kimya Dawson

with
Angelo Spencer &
L'Orchidee D'Hawai

Saturday, April 12th
Legends
Doors Open at 8:30
Show at 9
Free Admission with Valid
ND, SMC, or HCC ID

Game of skill for Juno DVDs and
WVFI merchandise

Would you like to be the voice of Fighting Irish Football? WVFI broadcasts all football games. If any student is interested in becoming a WVFI Sports Announcer, please email Rok Kopp at rkopp@nd.edu by April 17, 2008.

WVFI, Voice of the Fighting Irish wvfi.nd.edu

Film

continued from page 1

were last year, and we even got submissions from schools we didn't necessarily solicit. Also, two participants who did it last year are doing it again this year, so they must have liked it," Becker said. "Awareness and recognition of the conference is definitely growing."

Notre Dame professors will moderate the student presentations.

"The moderators are exclusively FTT faculty,"

said Becker.

Becker said Wojcik was inspired to start the conference while teaching an FTT Honors seminar last year.

"This is more advanced academic work that's beyond the usual," Becker said.

The conference, Becker said, gives undergraduate students the unique opportunity to share their research

with their peers.

"One purpose of the conference was to get our undergraduate scholars to see each other's work," Becker said. "It's incredibly gratifying to not only show your work but also collaborate and learn from other people's. It makes the academics

very rewarding for the stu-

"Awareness and recognition of the conference is definitely growing."

Christine Becker
FTT professor

Contact Theresa Civantos at tcivanto@nd.edu

Rebuild

continued from page 1

years, the organization assigned Saint Mary's two homes this year, Call said.

In addition to providing the work force, Saint Mary's will donate new televisions, stoves, and other necessities. Financial sponsorship of the event comes from faculty and staff donations.

Currently, Saint Mary's has raised over \$1,000, Call said. The College will also provide construction tools.

Call said the project is a unique form of service.

"It's a very direct way to give back to the local community," she said.

Students enjoy seeing their efforts immediately benefiting someone, Call said.

Senior Sarah Patten has been involved with the project for two years. She has witnessed many positive reactions from homeowners.

"The homeowners have been overwhelmed in the past. They are really getting a more livable environment

they could not have done by themselves," Patten said.

A South Bend native herself, Patten said the project enables students to get involved in the city community.

Call also said the project has special significance for the Catholic college.

"It directly reflects Catholic social teaching," Call said.

Last year, Saint Mary's had a unique connection with the project. The owner of the sponsored home was the

mother of a current staff member on campus.

As a result, on a personal level, the project has been highly successful in the past for the college, Call said.

Over 600 Notre Dame students will also rehabilitate twenty-one homes in South

Bend, although the University will not be sponsoring a specific home, Call said.

According to Call, President Carol Ann Mooney's husband, George Efta, a member of Rebuilding Together's Board of Directors, first suggested the project to Call.

The Rebuilding Together program receives applications from low-income homeowners in a target neighborhood. Each home is evaluated for the essential repairs. Call said she personally reviewed each

home to determine what other appliances and furniture the homeowners needed.

The event will last from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday.

Contact Katlyn Smith at ksmith01@saintmarys.edu

"The homeowners have been overwhelmed in the past. They are really getting a more livable environment they could not have done by themselves."

Sarah Patten
Saint Mary's senior

Uganda

continued from page 1

hope to raise that from the bikers," she said.

The fundraising event will take place on Fieldhouse Mall from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. today.

"Rolf's lent five stationary bikes to the cause, and we have been recruiting teams of 3-5 people from dorms and different clubs and departments," Jelms said.

The fundraising project began with the organization Building Tomorrow, headquartered in Indianapolis, but currently located on several U.S. college campuses in an effort to encourage University students to raise money for Ugandan schools.

"In the area of Uganda alone, there are 330,000 children with little access to education," Jelms said.

ND-8, a student group focused on working for the eight goals outlined by the U.N. Millennium project, joined forces with Building Tomorrow to enable 350 Ugandan children to receive an education, she said.

"We have been working on Building Tomorrow all year. It is our number one effort," Jelms said.

"[Building the school] is a sustainable project. We are close to our goal, but we need people to help us push that last \$7,500 so that these kids will be in school when we are in the fall," Jelms said. "75 percent of the funds will come from us, and the remaining 25 percent will come from the [Ugandan] community."

After the school is completed, the Ugandan government promises to sustain the school by paying the teachers and providing a daily meal for the students, she said.

"The kids need a meal every day because many of the families are strapped and can't afford food" Jelms said.

The teams, who have been fundraising ahead of time, asking friends and family for donations, "will challenge each other to race and bike more miles," she said.

Each team member will bike for 15 minutes and record the mileage. The miles will then be multiplied by 10, meaning one mile biked actually equals 10 miles for the team, and then the total mileage will be added up. Additionally, for

every one dollar the team donates, they receive 15 miles. The team with the most miles at the end of the day wins.

All of the miles are then added up with the goal that Notre Dame completes 7,657 "miles."

"Hopefully we will reach Uganda," Jelms said. "About a dozen teams are registered, but people can just show up at the event, donate \$5 and bike for 10 minutes," she said.

Jelms said almost all of the money raised during the event will go towards the building the school.

"The Africana Studies club donated power bars and water for the bikers, and since Rolf's is loaning the bikes, we have put out very little money," she said.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

"The possibilities for a lasting relationship with the school are endless."

Erin Jelms
ND-8 officer

Please recycle
The Observer

Happy 21st Bob!

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- Not guaranteed by the credit union
- Not NCUSIF insured
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- Investments may go down in value

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Ugandan rebel declines peace deal

RI-KWANGBA, Sudan — Officials gave conflicting reports about why Uganda's fugitive rebel leader did not sign a peace accord Thursday to end one of Africa's longest wars, raising doubts about the agreement's fate.

Rebels and negotiators had gathered in a jungle clearing waiting for Joseph Kony, leader of the vicious Lord's Resistance Army, to emerge from hiding and sign a deal to end the two decade-long insurgency.

A comprehensive deal will be a major breakthrough in pacifying the volatile region comprising northern Uganda, eastern Congo and southern Sudan.

But Kony, who has not been seen in public since 2006, wants clarification on how the government will address atrocities charges against him and other rebels, said Riek Machar, the southern Sudanese vice president mediating the peace talks.

Kony "still wants these issues explained to him — that is why we have delayed," Machar told journalists.

Egypt accuses democrat of incitement

CAIRO — Prosecutors charged a key leader of Egypt's main pro-democracy group on Thursday with inciting unrest and violence, officials said, four days after thousands stayed home from work and school as part of a nationwide strike.

George Ishaq, co-founder of the opposition group Kifaya, was arrested Wednesday night in a raid on his home in downtown Cairo.

NATIONAL NEWS

Another driver dies in Calif. shooting

LOS ANGELES — A teenage driver was killed in a car-to-car shooting at a freeway off-ramp early Thursday in the latest in several recent fatal roadway attacks in California.

Samantha Padilla, 19, of Los Angeles, was shot in the upper torso around 12:30 a.m., authorities said.

She apparently was attacked while stopped at a traffic light at the end of an off-ramp from the 110 Freeway in South Los Angeles, police Detective Tommy Thompson said. A car pulled up alongside and someone fired about five rounds from a medium-caliber gun, he said.

It appeared Padilla was heading home from Los Angeles International Airport, where she worked, officials said.

"We don't know if this was a personal thing or if it was road rage," Detective Kelle Baitx said.

Death prompts debate on homeless aid

MADISON, Wis. — The slaying of a college student in a downtown neighborhood frequented by beggars has forced this liberal city to ask a difficult question: Has Madison been too nice to the homeless?

A debate over the city's friendly treatment of its transient population had been under way for months, but last week's killing of University of Wisconsin student Brittany Zimmermann started something of a backlash against the homeless.

LOCAL NEWS

Ind. primary reaches frenetic pace

INDIANAPOLIS — Chelsea just left. Barack and Bill are back. And look, here comes Hillary.

With less than a month until Indiana's May 6 primary, the Democratic presidential candidates and their surrogates are putting on a full-court press, wooing voters in more than a dozen cities over four days at a pace that's likely to get even more frenetic as the election countdown continues.

"If they would show up again even next week, I think the enthusiasm would still be there," said Allie Craycraft, vice chairman of the Delaware County Democratic Party. "It's been so long in Indiana since we've seen this type of excitement and the opportunity to have a pretty good voice in who it's going to be."

This week's trips include a six-city bus tour by Barack Obama, who started in South Bend late Wednesday and will wrap up Saturday in Muncie, and a southwestern Indiana swing by former President Bill Clinton.

Va. Tech families settle with state

Government offers \$11 million to avoid court battle against school, local authorities

Associated Press

ROANOKE, Va. — Most families of victims of the mass shootings at Virginia Tech have agreed to an \$11 million state settlement that will compensate families who lost loved ones, pay survivors' medical costs and avoid a court battle over whether anyone besides the gunman was to blame.

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine said a "substantial majority" of families of victims of the Virginia Tech shootings agreed to the settlement.

Peter Grenier and Douglas Fierberg, who represent 21 families, said the settlement was worth more than \$11 million, but neither they nor the governor would discuss its terms until final papers are drawn in a few days.

Grenier and Fierberg said seriously injured victims "will be well compensated and have their health care needs taken care of forever," and that families who lost loved ones would be "similarly compensated and cared for."

Seung-Hui Cho, a mentally disturbed student, killed 32 victims and wounded two dozen others at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007 before committing suicide. Twenty-two families had previously filed notice with the state that they may sue.

Cho killed two people in a dormitory, then killed 30 more than two hours later in a classroom building before taking his own life. University officials have been criticized for waiting about two hours before informing students and employees about the first shootings, which police initially thought were an act of domestic violence.

The gunman had been ruled a danger to himself



Virginia Tech president Charles Steger walks past Norris Hall on Tuesday. A majority of the victim's families agreed to terms of an \$11 million settlement. AP

during a court commitment hearing in 2005 and was ordered to receive outpatient mental health care, but never received treatment.

Attorney General Bob McDonnell's office had no comment on the settlement, spokesman Tucker Martin said.

It was not immediately clear whether the settlement was significantly different from an earlier state proposal, the details of which were obtained last month by The Associated Press. That proposed deal totaled roughly \$8.5 million plus the cost of reimbursing and paying for medical and psychological treat-

ment for victims' families and survivors.

That proposal called for representatives of each of those killed to receive \$100,000. A pool of \$800,000 was set aside for the injured in the plan, with individuals eligible to receive up to \$100,000 apiece. Families of those killed could seek additional money from a \$1.75 million hardship fund, and other money was to be set aside for attorneys' fees and a fund for charities.

The settlement also would give the injured and victims' families a chance to meet with the governor and university officials several times to

discuss the mass shootings and changes on campus since then.

Grenier and Fierberg said the settlement "will also result in the release of previously undisclosed facts and information turned up by our firm's investigation that will enable the public to better understand the events which caused this senseless tragedy."

By accepting the proposal, family members gave up the right to sue the state government, the school, the local governments serving Virginia Tech and the community services board that provides mental-health services in the area.

CHINA

Olympic committee head: "It is a crisis"

Associated Press

BEIJING — Crisis. Disarray. Sadness.

Four months before the opening of what was supposed to be the grandest Olympics in history, the head of the International Olympic Committee is using words that convey anything but a sense of joyous enthusiasm.

The protest-marred Olympic torch relay and international criticism of China's policies on Tibet, Darfur and human rights have turned the Beijing Games into one of the most politically charged in recent history and presented the IOC with one of its toughest tests since the boycott era of the 1970s and '80s.

"It is a crisis, there is no doubt

about that," IOC President Jacques Rogge said Thursday. "But the IOC has weathered many bigger storms."

At the same time, Rogge called on China to respect its "moral engagement" to improve human rights and to fulfill promises of greater media freedom. He also reaffirmed the right of free speech for athletes at the Beijing Games.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman responded that IOC officials support adhering to the Olympic Charter and "not bringing any irrelevant political factors into the Beijing Olympics."

"I hope the IOC officials will continue to adhere to the principles set by the Olympic charter," Jiang Yu said.

Rogge spoke in Beijing just hours

after the completion of the torch relay in San Francisco, where the route was shortened and the flame diverted to prevent disruptions by massive crowds of anti-China protesters.

Rogge's use of the word "crisis" to describe the torch relay and the Beijing buildup came as a surprise. The Belgian orthopedic surgeon's comments usually are measured and low-key.

He cited previous crises — the attack on Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics and the boycotts of the 1976, 1980 and 1984 Games.

"The history of the Olympic Games is fraught by a lot of challenges," Rogge said. "This is a challenge but you cannot compare to what we had in the past."

American presence to remain strong in Iraq

Bush gives Petraeus freedom to evaluate number of troops in violence-ridden country for remaining 285 days of presidency

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Thursday he sees no chance that the number of U.S. troops in Iraq will drop to 100,000 by the end of the year, guaranteeing a heavy American military presence as the war grinds into its sixth year to the end of the Bush presidency.

President Bush said Gen. David Petraeus, his top commander in Iraq, can take "all the time he needs" to consider further withdrawals after the latest round of cutbacks is completed in July. In the meantime, Petraeus will continue what, until Thursday, had been secret visits to Middle Eastern countries to try to curb the influx of foreign fighters into Iraq.

With 285 days remaining in his presidency, Bush set the course of the war in a speech following two days of testimony before a skeptical Congress by Petraeus and the U.S. ambassador to Iraq, Ryan Crocker.

Bush said that after the troop withdrawals, which already have been announced, end in July, he would give Petraeus 45 days to evaluate the effects of the drawdown. That would be followed by an indefinite period to reassess U.S. troop strength in Iraq, where new flare-ups of extremist violence are threatening to undercut security gains.

Bush argued that last year's troop buildup had succeeded in reducing violence, tamping down al-Qaida in Iraq and allowing normal daily activities to resume in many areas. Because of that progress, Bush said, an already planned reduction in troops can be completed in July.

"Serious and complex challenges remain in Iraq, from the presence of al-Qaida to the destructive influence of Iran, to hard compromises needed for further political progress," Bush said in a White House address. "Yet with the surge, a major strategic shift has occurred. ... This war is difficult, it is not endless."

Petraeus on Thursday revealed for the first time that he had quietly visited several Mideast countries in an effort to slow the flow of foreign fighters into Iraq. The Associated Press learned that the trips, all taken since September, were to Jordan, Kuwait, Bahrain, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

Gates appeared before the Senate Armed Services Committee on Thursday and backtracked from testimony he gave last fall when he said

he hoped that drawdowns could continue throughout the year, which would have left about 10 brigades — or roughly 100,000 troops — in Iraq at year's end. When the committee's Democratic chairman, Sen. Carl Levin, asked Gates whether he still thought that was possible,

Gates said: "No, sir."

In his White House speech, Bush also said he was ordering that Army combat tours be trimmed by three months.

It was a response to

heavy pressure from military commanders who say long, multiple deployments have strained the Army to its limits. Army units heading to Iraq after Aug. 1 will serve 12 months instead of 15 months.

Critics of the president's war policy quickly noted that the order would not affect U.S. forces already deployed on the front lines.

"The president still doesn't understand that America's limited resources cannot support his limitless war," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said. "Let me be clear: This is not a so-called troop pause. With today's announcement, the president has signaled to the American people that he has no intention of bringing home any more troops."

"Instead he is leaving all the tough decisions to the next administration. President Bush has an

exit strategy for only one man, himself, on January 20, 2009."

Bush smiled briefly when he walked out of the Blue Room and strode across a red carpet in the Cross Hall of the White House to a standing ovation from Vice President Dick Cheney, his top military and diplomatic advisers and members of veteran service organizations. His face turned solemn as he began his 18-minute progress report on the war — one of the last of his presidency.

Bush acknowledged that the stress on U.S. forces was "real," but said top military brass had assured him that the all-volunteer force was strong and resilient enough to win the war on terror. "The surest way to depress morale and weaken the force would be to lose in Iraq," he said.

Democrats who want Bush's job weren't fazed.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., said the American people have run out of time and patience on Iraq. She said the military buildup has failed to yield political progress in Iraq, and that if elected president, she will end the war responsibly. "It's

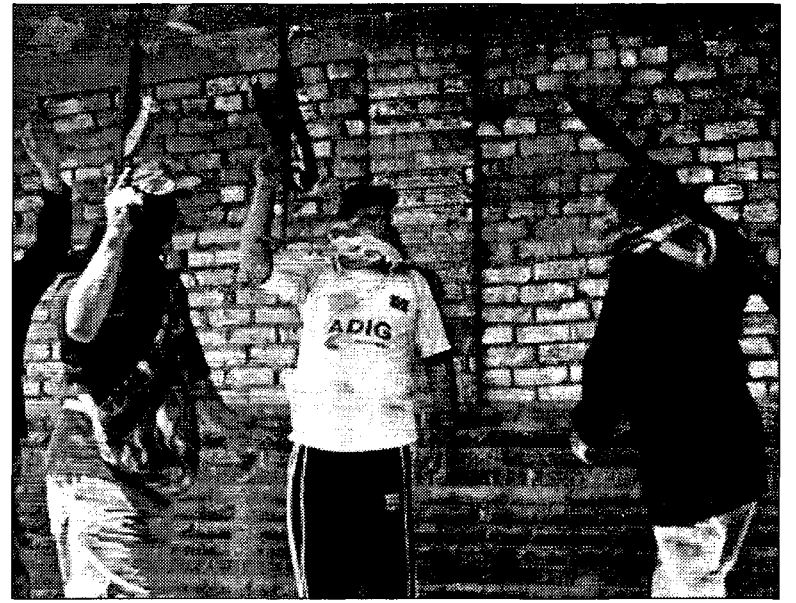
time for the president to answer the question being asked of him: In the wake of the failed surge, what is the endgame in Iraq?"

Her opponent in the presidential campaign, Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., said Bush had to reduce rotations because the Army told him they couldn't sustain the current rotation schedule. "People are not being trained properly, they are exhausted. ... I don't know how many families I meet where the spouse, the father, may not even know a 2-year-old baby or a 3-year-old child because they've just been deployed overseas so much," Obama said.

Bush stayed steadfast on his war policy even though his approval rating hit a new low of 28 percent in an AP-Ipsos polling issued Thursday.

The president said the price of failure in Iraq was foreboding: Al-Qaida would claim a propaganda victory of "colossal proportions." Terrorists would use Iraq as a launch pad for attacks on the U.S. and its allies. Iran would fill the political vacuum. The hardline Taliban regime, which previously ran Afghanistan, and al-Qaida in Pakistan would be emboldened. Massive humanitarian casualties would follow. The threat of another Sept. 11 would rise.

Bush challenged Iran anew. He said the regime in Tehran could live in peace with its neighbor, or keep funding and training militant groups that terrorize Iraqi people and destabilize the nation —



Insurgents raise weapons in Baghdad Wednesday. Violence continued a day after Gen. Petraeus called for a suspension in troop withdrawal.

charges the Iranian government denies.

"If Iran makes the right choice, America will encourage a peaceful relationship between Iran and Iraq," Bush said. If it makes the wrong choice, Bush said "America will act to protect our interests, and our troops, and our Iraqi partners." He did not elaborate.

Bush also pushed Arab nations to heighten their diplomatic presence in Baghdad as a sign of support for its fledgling government. That also would serve to counter Iran's rising influence in the Middle East and its support of terrorists and extremists in Iraq.

He dispatched Petraeus and Crocker to stop in Saudi

Arabia on their way back to Iraq, and directed senior diplomats to meet and urge leaders in Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait and Egypt to reopen their embassies in Baghdad and increase their support for Iraq this year.

Bush also called on Congress to send him a spending bill for Iraq that does not include any timetables for troop withdrawals or exceed the \$108 billion he has requested. Democrats want to add money to stimulate the economy with road-building funds, additional unemployment benefits, a summer jobs program and additional food stamp benefits. Bush said he would veto the bill under those conditions.

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S&P 500	1,360.55	+6.06
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	12,945.30	0.00
FTSE 100 (London)	5,965.10	-18.80

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	+0.14	+0.19	136.02
MILLENNIUM PHARM (MLNM)	+48.87	+7.99	24.34
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FINANCIAL SEL SPDR (XLF)	-0.62	-0.16	25.62

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IN BRIEF

Microsoft bid may help rival Google

SAN FRANCISCO — Microsoft Corp.'s attempt to take over Yahoo Inc. has become so tortured it may help Internet search and advertising leader Google Inc. grow stronger, undermining Microsoft's main reason for pursuing the deal in the first place.

"We find this to be a very advantageous situation for Google," Cantor Fitzgerald analyst Derek Brown said Thursday. "The longer this gets dragged out, the better for Google."

Yahoo signaled it is bracing for a protracted battle late Wednesday when an announcement and a media leak provided a glimpse at its labyrinthine search for alternatives to Microsoft's bid of more than \$40 billion.

The options include an experimental advertising alliance with Google that could lead to a broader partnership and, according to published reports, a combination with the online operations of Time Warner Inc.'s AOL. Google also owns a 5 percent stake in AOL.

As part of the AOL deal, Time Warner would get a roughly 20 percent stake in the merged entity in return for a substantial sum of cash that would help Yahoo buy back some of its stock at a price well above Microsoft's offer, which was initially valued at \$31 per share.

"This is the first time that we have seen real feasible alternatives that could derail the Microsoft deal," said analyst Jeffrey Lindsay of Sanford C. Bernstein & Co.

Bernanke says action cannot wait

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said Thursday that regulators must move ahead on ways to prevent a future financial crisis from occurring even as they battle one that threatens to plunge the country into recession.

"We do not have the luxury of waiting for markets to stabilize before we think about the future," Bernanke said in a speech in Richmond.

Last month Bernanke, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and other top economic policymakers called for stricter regulation of mortgage lenders as part of a broad effort to prevent a repeat of the credit and financial problems that have damaged the economy.

US trade gap grows unexpectedly

Monthly deficit rises again in February to \$62 billion, the highest since November

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. trade deficit unexpectedly increased for a second straight month in February, raising concerns that the economy's one standout performer could be starting to flag.

The Commerce Department reported Thursday that the deficit between what the U.S. imports and what it sells abroad rose 5.7 percent to \$62.3 billion in February, the highest level since November.

Imports of goods and services shot up 3.1 percent to an all-time high of \$213.7 billion, reflecting a big surge in imports of foreign cars. Exports also set a record, rising by 2 percent to \$151.4 billion, reflecting strong gains in the sale of American-made heavy machinery, computers and farm goods.

Critics claimed that the sharp rise in the trade deficit showed the continued failure of President Bush's policies emphasizing negotiating free trade agreements as a way to promote U.S. jobs by boosting exports.

With businesses cutting 80,000 jobs last month, the most in five years, and the country likely in a recession, the debate over trade is expected to intensify in this election year. Republicans contend Bush's policies reflect the reality of the new global economy, while Democrats argue that the president has contributed to the loss of more than 3 million manufacturing jobs since he took office.

"Wages are falling and the middle class is shrinking because of trade deficits," James



Imported cars are parked in storage as they await distribution to other parts of the United States from Tacoma, Wash. on Feb. 13.

Hoffa, president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, said Thursday at the end of a three-day convoy across Pennsylvania aimed at highlighting the failings of Bush's trade policies.

Trade is shaping up as a key issue in the presidential campaign and in the fight for control of Congress. In an early showdown, the Democratic-led House voted 224-195 on Thursday to reject Bush's effort to force Congress

to vote within the next 90 legislative days on a free trade agreement with Colombia.

The administration charged that Democrats were forsaking a key South American ally while Democrats said Colombia needed to do more to halt the violence against union organizers before they would consider the trade pact. The vote also calls into question pending free trade deals with South Korea and Panama.

In other economic

news, the number of newly laid off workers filing claims for unemployment benefits fell sharply last week after having hit the highest level in more than two years in the previous week. The Labor Department said applications for jobless benefits totaled 357,000 last week, down by 53,000 from the previous week. Economists said the wide swings reflected in part the trouble the government is having in seasonally adjusting the figures.

American Airline flight cuts continue

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — The cancellation of thousands of flights this week will cost American Airlines tens of millions of dollars, the company's chief executive said Thursday, but he said the nation's largest carrier can withstand the losses.

American said it canceled another 570 flights Friday and disruptions will continue through Saturday as it continues to check electrical wiring in all 300 of its MD-80 aircraft.

CEO Gerard Arpey said he took full responsibility for the airline's failure to comply with a federal safety rule designed to prevent electrical fires in the planes.

American scratched more than 900 flights Thursday, the third straight day of major cancellations, while its mechanics worked overtime to check the aircraft and

comply with the rule. The company said all its MD-80s would be back in service by Saturday night.

Arpey said neither the airline's mechanics nor the Federal Aviation Administration were to blame for the more than 3,000 canceled flights so far this week.

The airline canceled more than 400 flights for the same reason two weeks ago. But the repairs done then didn't meet FAA standards, resulting in this week's debacle.

On Wednesday, Arpey's top lieutenant suggested that American had fallen victim to a suddenly more aggressive FAA. The agency has been under fire since disclosures last month of its lax enforcement of safety rules at Southwest Airlines Co.

In measured tones, Arpey said Thursday that the FAA "obviously is under their own set of scrutiny and pressure right now," but was

only doing its job of "holding airlines to exacting standards."

Arpey said it was too early for the airline to estimate the cost of the cancellations. AMR is running a tab for meals, hotel rooms and \$500 travel vouchers for stranded passenger and it lost revenue when it booked people on other airlines. On the other hand, it has saved what it would have spent for fuel on those 2,500 flights.

"I think it will be in the tens of millions of dollars," Arpey said of the final cost. But he said the airline had built up enough cash and paid down debt to deal with the loss. He said the carrier has business-interruption insurance, but he doubted that it would cover the cancellation-related losses.

American got some good news on Wall Street. Shares of parent AMR Corp., which fell 11 percent the day before, rose 70 cents, or 7.6 percent, to \$9.87 Thursday.

Professor appointed to United Nations forum

Special to The Observer

Carter Snead, professor of law at the Notre Dame Law School, has been appointed to a four-year term as one of 36 independent experts on the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The committee is the only forum in the United Nations system devoted to reflection on bioethics and public policy.

"It is an honor to be appointed to this body," Snead said. "It is charged explicitly to reflect on the most interesting and controversial questions at the nexus of law, science and ethics. I look forward to working with the other distinguished members of the body, and more broadly, with the delegations of all of UNESCO's 191 member states and permanent observers."

The committee, which meets annually, is charged with reflecting on the ethical and legal issues raised by research in the life sciences and their applications and with encouraging the exchange of ideas through education. It also cooperates with the international governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with the issues raised in the field of bioethics as well as with the national and regional bioethics committees and simi-

lar bodies.

The most recent example of the IBC's work in bioethics was the 2005 adoption of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, meant to provide ethical guidance to member states and individuals working in medicine and the life sciences. Snead served as the chief negotiator and head of the U.S. delegation to UNESCO for the development of this declaration.

Snead's scholarship explores the possibility, mechanisms and wisdom of the governance of science, medicine and biotechnology according to ethical principles.

In 2002 Snead accepted the position of general counsel for the President's Council on Bioethics. In that capacity, he advised the chairman and council members on the legal and public policy dimensions of numerous ethical questions arising from advances in biomedical science and biotechnology.

He was the principal drafter of the council's 2004 report, "Reproduction and Responsibility: The Regulation of New Biotechnologies," a comprehensive critical assessment of the governance (both public and private) of the activities at the intersection of assisted reproduction, human embryo research and genetics. Snead continues to serve the council as an expert consultant.

NEPAL

Election held in Nepal

Millions vote in country's historic election, return to democracy

Associated Press

KATMANDU — Nepalis embraced the country's return to democracy Thursday with millions voting in an election meant to secure lasting peace in a land riven by communist insurgents and an autocratic king.

Undeterred by shootings and clashes that killed two people, many voters lined up before sunrise outside polling stations across this Himalayan land. Some even broke into applause when voting began.

With the rebels out of the bush and contesting the vote and the monarch — the world's last Hindu king — likely to soon lose his throne, millions saw the country's first election in nine years as a moment too historic to miss.

"This is our chance to stop the bleeding," said Arpana Shrestha, a 47-year-old woman waiting to vote in Katmandu. "Always there was blood in Nepal. Not anymore."

An estimated 60 percent of the 17.6 million voters cast ballots at 20,000 polling stations.

But the violence — including the slaying of an independent candidate — shows how hard it will be to forge true peace in this often ill-governed and violent country.

The election of a 601-seat Constituent Assembly to write a new constitution has been

touted as the cornerstone of a 2006 peace deal with former rebels, known as the Maoists, following weeks of unrest that forced Nepal's king to cede power, which he had seized the year before.

In the two years since, Nepal has seen an armed uprising by ethnic minority groups — unrest that twice delayed the vote.

The election campaign was marked by clashes between supporters of rival parties and small bombings. In the two days before the vote, eight people were killed.

Thursday's death toll was lower than most had feared, but still marred a day that held great symbolic value for many in the impoverished nation, where 60 percent of the 27 million people are under age 35.

"We are getting our rights and these people have to kill. It's not good," said Gopal Acharya, a 22-year-old student and first-time voter.

In southeastern Nepal, assailants fatally shot an independent candidate outside a polling station. Elsewhere, motorcycle-riding gunmen unsuccessfully tried to kill another contender.

Also in southern Nepal, a supporter of the Nepali Congress died from wounds sustained in a clash with supporters of a minority ethnic

group, the Madeshis.

Authorities were forced to postpone balloting until a later date at 33 polling places, said Chief Election Commissioner Bhoj Raj Pokhrel. They included a few stations in the eastern Ramechhap district where Maoists blocked representatives of other parties from observing the vote, said Home Ministry spokesman Ekmani Nepal.

Maoists also torched one polling station. Police said they arrested 15 men, seizing three grenades and a knife.

Maoist officials in Katmandu said they were trying to verify the reports.

Their leader, who goes by the nom de guerre Prachanda, hailed the election, saying in a statement: "We believe this will take Nepal to a new era."

But before Nepal can get there, significant challenges remain.

The violence could easily provide a pretext for any of the major parties — from the Maoists to centrist democrats to royalists — to reject the election's outcome.

Then there is the complexity of the vote itself, a mix of direct elections and a nationwide proportional representation system with quotas for women and myriad ethnic and caste groups. International experts say it will be hard to sort out the results.

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Dalai Lama visits United States

Spiritual leader makes first visit since Tibetan uprising

Associated Press

SEATTLE — The Dalai Lama arrived in the United States on Thursday for the first time since the recent turmoil in Tibet, serenaded by fellow Tibetans as he prepared to anchor an ambitious conference on compassion.

The exiled Tibetan spiritual leader came here a day after demonstrators disrupted the Olympic torch run in San Francisco in a protest of China's treatment of his people. The Dalai Lama will be attending a five-day conference that begins Friday.

With the Dalai Lama in town, some community leaders said they expected counter-demonstrations from pro-China groups.

But all was peaceful when he arrived at a downtown hotel Thursday, telling local Tibetans who sang to him that he supports nonviolent demonstrations but was saddened by the protests in San Francisco.

In Tibet, the recent protests against five decades of Chinese rule have been the largest and most sustained in almost two decades. China has accused the Dalai Lama of being involved in the uprising. The Tibetan leader has said that he wants greater autonomy for the remote mountain region but is not seeking

independence.

Earlier Thursday, during a stopover in Japan, the Dalai Lama said he has always supported China's hosting of the Olympic Games this summer, but said Beijing cannot suppress protests in Tibet with violence or tell those calling for more freedom in his homeland "to shut up."

He strongly denied Chinese allegations he and his followers have used the run-up to the Olympics to foment unrest.

"Right from the beginning, we supported the Olympic Games," he told reporters near the airport outside Tokyo. "I really feel very sad the government demonizes me. I am just a human; I am not a demon."

Organizers of the five-day Seeds of Compassion conference in Seattle say the Dalai Lama's visit is expected to draw more than 150,000 people.

The Chinese community in Seattle has been split by the Tibetan situation, said Assunta Ng, publisher of the Northwest Asian Weekly, a local Asian-American community newspaper. Ng said she wouldn't be surprised if pro-China demonstrators show up at some of the events, and added that some Chinese students plan to protest the politicization of the Olympics.

The conference will feature dozens of workshops on various subjects, beginning with a panel discussion Friday with the Dalai Lama on "The Scientific Basis for Compassion: What We Know Now."

Tickets for events involving the Dalai Lama have already sold out, according to the conference Web site.

Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels will present the key to the city to the Tibetan leader and the University of Washington will present him an honorary degree.

The Dalai Lama fled to India after a failed uprising in 1959 in Tibet, but remains the religious and cultural leader of many Tibetans. He was awarded the Nobel Peace prize in 1989.

He was determined to attend the Seattle conference because of his commitment to global peace, organizers said.

"He wants compassion for both sides, for the Tibetans, for the Chinese brothers," said Lama Tenzin Dhonden, a Tibetan monk who spearheaded the development of the conference.

After Seattle, the Dalai Lama is scheduled to speak at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor on April 19 and 20, then at Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y., on April 22.

Severe weather causes flooding in the Midwest

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — A line of severe thunderstorms, possible tornadoes and even snow pounded the nation's heartland on Thursday, flooding nearly 200 roads in Missouri, closing schools in Arkansas and ripping the roofs of dozens of houses in Texas.

The band of storms stretched from Colorado and Nebraska, which was expected to get up to 10 inches of snow, to Texas, where high winds and driving rain at one point quarter of a million people were left without power.

In Missouri, 3-4 inches of rain fell in just a few hours, unleashing flash floods that swamped parts of 180 roads across the state.

Rescuers using ropes and life jackets pulled nine people from the offices of the Monett Times newspaper after the Kelly Creek burst its banks and surrounded the building. Police said the creek also threatened other businesses in downtown Monett and forced the evacuation of a nearby trailer park with about 10 to 12 homes.

Times publisher Lisa Craft said the afternoon newspaper's presses were high enough not to be threatened. But she said it was unclear when staff could get back in the building.

National Weather Service hydrologist Mark Fuchs said the

Meramec, the eastern Missouri river that flooded in March and forced the evacuation of hundreds of residents, could reach what the service considers "major" flood stage in Arnold, about 20 miles south of St. Louis.

In Texas, at least 100 homes and buildings were damaged in West Texas and the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Straight-line winds carved out a destructive path across the city of Hurst, just east of Fort Worth. Downed trees littered residential neighborhoods, blocking streets, snapping utility poles and snagging power lines. Some large tree trucks had snapped just a foot or two above ground level.

Evelyn Wooten, 69, said she spent early Thursday morning sitting alone in a front-hall closet wearing a motorcycle helmet and waiting out the storm in the sturdiest room in her house.

"I wasn't going to be hit in the head by a two-by-four," Wooten said, supervising the cleanup of her Hurst home, which was punctured by a falling tree. "I just made me a cozy little den in there."

At one point, Oncor had about 250,000 customers without power in North Texas. Some could remain without power until Saturday.

In Arkansas, dozens of roads flooded across the state and schools in Norfolk, Marshall and Viola closed due to high water.

Explore the issues that challenge today's world...

Evangelium Vitae: Chapter III

You Shall Not Kill

Notre Dame Right to Life's 3rd Annual Collegiate Conference

Friday, April 11

Saturday, April 12



Bobby Schindler

*Remembering Terri Schiavo:
My Family's Battle to Save my Sister's Life*
3:45 p.m. — 102 DeBartolo Hall



Phyllis Schlafly, JD

Activist Judges versus American Culture
7:00 p.m. — Gold Room, North Dining Hall



Dolores Meehan

Men and Abortion: The Impact on Our Culture
10:15 a.m. — 102 DeBartolo Hall



Dr. Eugene Diamond

Doctors Should Not Kill
11:45 a.m. — 102 DeBartolo Hall



Rebecca Kiessling

Conceived in Rape; A Story of Hope
2:15 p.m. — 102 DeBartolo Hall



Dr. Alice Von Hildebrand

Mother of the Living
3:30 p.m. — 102 DeBartolo Hall

For full conference schedule & speaker bios, visit:

www.nd.edu/~prolife/conference

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Austin Culver
Ford Culver
Megan Don
Patrick Dunn
Tim Durso
Caitlin Furey
Zoe Hesp
Mariel Heupler
Claire Hunt
Tom Hutchinson
Kyle Kinnary
Nora Kovar
Christine Kreitingner
Paul Lambert
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Teri Relation
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Samantha Sirignano
Mike Smigelski
Patrick Spence
Dan Stevens
Kaleb Sutherland
Lena Sweeney
Tyler Thiret
Amanda Turk
Katie Veenstra
Kyla Wargel
Erin Watson
Zach Wehrmann
Josh Wise
Leon Zhou

Wanted Marine flees to Mexico, is arrested

Man accused of rape and murder of pregnant colleague, found across the border after manhunt of several months

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — A Marine wanted in the brutal slaying of a pregnant colleague who had accused him of rape was arrested Thursday night in Mexico after a three-month international manhunt, authorities said.

FBI agents and Mexican authorities arrested Marine Cpl. Cesar Laurean around 7 p.m. EDT. He is charged with first-degree murder in the death of Marine Lance Cpl. Maria Lauterbach, whose burned remains were found in January in the backyard of his home near Camp Lejeune.

"You know my name. You know who I am," Laurean told The Associated Press while being held at the Michoacan

state Attorney General's Office in Morelia, the state capital.

Asked if he wanted to say anything, Laurean simply said, "Proof," but wouldn't explain.

Laurean appeared slightly disoriented. Asked what he would do next, he replied: "Do I have a choice? ... I don't know."

Magdalena Guzman, a spokeswoman for the Michoacan, Mexico, state prosecutors office, said police carrying out an anti-kidnaping operation stopped Laurean as he wandered on a street in the rural township of Tacambaro, Michoacan, because they thought he looked suspicious.

When they realized he didn't speak Spanish well, they became even more suspicious. After running his name through a computer, they realized Laurean was wanted in the United States to face

charges in Lauterbach's death.

Guzman said Laurean told the arresting officers he had only 10 pesos (about US\$1) in his pocket, and that he had been surviving by eating avocados and other fruit he found in the fields of the farming community where he was found.

The FBI said Laurean, 21, is awaiting extradition to the U.S., although local prosecutors in North Carolina cautioned the process could take a year or more.

"Laurean's swift arrest in Mexico was due to the diligence and dedication of the Mexican government and our law enforcement partners," Nathan Gray, the special agent in charge of the FBI's Charlotte office, said in a statement.

"This was truly an international effort, and we will do all we can to ensure Laurean is brought back to Onslow County (N.C.) as quickly as possible to answer the charges against him."

Authorities believe Laurean killed the 20-year-old Lauterbach, an Ohio native who was eight months pregnant when she died, in mid-December. Detectives have said he left behind a note for his wife in which he denied killing Lauterbach but admitted to burying her remains.

In the note, Laurean said Lauterbach committed suicide by cutting her own throat.

Authorities rejected the assertion, saying evidence indicates Lauterbach died of blunt force trauma to the head.

Tipped by the note, and not long after authorities went public in their search for the Lauterbach, detectives discovered the charred remains

of the missing Marine and her fetus in a shallow grave in Laurean's backyard. Under North Carolina law, Laurean could not be charged in the death of the fetus.

Onslow County District Attorney Dewey Hudson told The Associated Press that investigators recently seized a computer belonging to Christina Laurean's sister, which Christina Laurean was using to communicate with her husband. He said he didn't know if evidence from the computer led directly to Laurean's arrest. He declined to discuss the contents of the communications, but authorities previously said Christina Laurean was cooperating with detectives.

"Just communicating with her husband is not against the law," Hudson said. "To be an accessory after the fact you have to show someone provided assistance like information or money, and we don't have any evidence of that."

Lauterbach and Laurean were both personnel clerks in the same logistics unit at Camp Lejeune, an expansive coastal base about 130 miles southeast of Raleigh that is home to roughly 50,000 Marines. Detectives believe Laurean killed Lauterbach on Dec. 14, after forcing her to remove money from her bank account.

Lauterbach accused Laurean of rape last spring, a charge he denied and one that Naval investigators were unable to corroborate. Even though Lauterbach later told investigators she did not feel Laurean posed a danger or threat to her, the pair was separated on base. The Marines have said their regi-

mental commander was intent on taking the case to a hearing that could have led to a trial.

Laurean, of Las Vegas, had told members of his unit he would flee to Mexico if it appeared he would be found guilty. Authorities believe he entered Mexico on a bus on

Jan. 14, two days after fleeing from Jacksonville. He was born in Guadalajara, but family members there have said he moved to the U.S. more than 10 years ago.

Lauterbach's family has criticized the Marine Corps for what it feels was a lack of urgency in investigating the rape allegations. In a letter sent this week to U.S. Rep. Michael Turner, R-Ohio, who has rallied to the family's cause, the Marines said no effort was made to question Laurean about Lauterbach's disappearance because the two were no longer working together.

The Corps added the pair were no longer associated as far as their commanders knew and there was no evidence to indicate Laurean had anything to do with her unauthorized absence.

Phone messages seeking comment left by The Associated Press at Lauterbach's parents' home in Vandalia, Ohio, on her uncle Pete Steiner's cell phone and with family attorney Chris Conard were not immediately returned late Thursday.

Another family attorney, Merle Wilberding, said

"To be an accessory after the fact you have to show someone provided assistance, like information or money..."

Dewey Hudson
attorney

"This is a case that certainly is deserving to be tried as a capital case."

Dewey Hudson
attorney

Lauterbach's mother, Mary, received a call from the FBI informing her of the arrest.

"Her initial reaction ... was just one of shock and surprise," Wilberding told WDTN-TV in Dayton, Ohio. "She's been living with Cpl. Laurean being on the run ... and living without an expectation that he was going to be captured any time soon, so when the word came it really caught her by surprise, and she's still trying to let it all sink in."

A woman who answered the phone at the home of Laurean's father-in-law, Bruce Shifflet, near Prospect, Ohio, hung up without commenting when told of the arrest.

Mexico hesitated to extradite foreigners for much of the 1980s and 1990s, but U.S. officials have praised the county's increased cooperation in recent years. State Department officials said Mexico extradited 73 suspects to the U.S. in 2007, most to face drug or murder charges.


Sometimes Mexico will forego the traditional extradition and deport a suspected criminal for entering the country illegally, a much quicker process. More than 150 U.S. citizens were deported from Mexico last year.

Hudson said "it could be a year or two" before authorities are able to bring Laurean back to North Carolina if he decides to fight the extradition process.

"The extradition process is one where you have a right to appeal," Hudson said. "I have no idea whether he would waive extradition."

Should Laurean be returned to North Carolina to stand trial, he won't face the death penalty. Hudson agreed not to seek an execution in order to win the cooperation of Mexico authorities, who refuse to send anyone back to the U.S. unless provided assurance they won't face a death sentence.

"We had intel that he had gone back to America to visit his family in Las Vegas and I was hoping they would arrest him in America," Hudson said. "But they didn't. This is a case that certainly is deserving to be tried as a capital case."



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Immigration policy sound

The University of Notre Dame accepts qualified students regardless of immigration status, but all undocumented immigrants must finance their education.

This solution is more than fair. Notre Dame should not punish those applicants for circumstances beyond their control — and it doesn't. An undocumented immigrant's admission is based on his or her merits just as with any other student.

But gaining admission and affording an education here are two separate issues.

Guaranteed aid is a relatively recent phenomenon for the University. A large portion of aid is Federal, aimed to increase the ability of all U.S. citizens to afford a higher education. Undocumented immigrants, by definition, fail to meet this requirement and thus should not be considered for Federal aid. And, though the Notre Dame endowment was approximately the 14th largest in the country as of September, it does not compare to those of Harvard or Princeton — two schools currently granting aid to undocumented immigrants.

Undocumented immigrants are not alone in their denial of guaranteed financial aid — any international student must be able to pay for his or her four years here. The University's commitment to meet demonstrated need

applies only to U.S. citizens; undocumented immigrants are not being singled out in their denial. If financial aid were to be offered to undocumented immigrants who apply, international students must also be granted the same possibility. If undocumented immigrants received this aid and international students didn't, it would be unfair to international students since both groups are not officially U.S. citizens.

Moreover, the Notre Dame financial aid service is not the only way to gain funds for education. Countless independent scholarships exist for which potential students are free to apply.

Students who chose to enroll here made the dream a reality on their own initiative. Notre Dame does what it can; setting reasonable limitations to maximize what aid is available. The University plays its part in offering acceptance.

The University's immigrant admission and aid policy is sound as it is. It gives undocumented immigrants a chance to receive a high-quality education without jeopardizing the ability of citizens to get one as well. Any revision to the policy may hinder citizens' chances to attend Notre Dame or receive necessary financial aid. This issue requires a delicate balance between both sides, and the University's policy strikes it well.

THE OBSERVER Editorial

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Hate crimes must be addressed

I know that the Notre Dame bubble prevents a lot of world news from entering our radar here on campus. So I would like to let everyone know about a lesser known school shooting which occurred in February of this year. Lawrence King, age 15, was shot in the head by his 14-year-old classmate Brandon in a California middle school classroom full of students.

This boy, an 8th grader, was the victim of a premeditated hate crime. His friends and classmates said he had recently proclaimed himself gay and begun to wear makeup and jewelry to school. A few days before his murder, Larry asked Brandon to be his Valentine. Brandon responded by putting a bullet through his brain.

In a similar tragic incident, Simmie Williams Jr., 17, was shot and killed on Feb. 22 in Florida while dressed in women's clothing. Williams has been described both as gay and transgendered (a person who identifies as or expresses a different gender than the one they were assigned at birth). Simmie was also African-American. Regardless of the specific motivations of the killer, his murder was clearly motivated by hate.

Some of you may have heard of Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old who in 1998 was robbed, pistol-whipped, tortured, tied to a fence and left to die by two young men. His murder led to the creation of the Matthew Shepard Act (officially, the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007). This proposed bill would include sexual orientation, gender identity and disability in federal hate crime legislation. It has yet to be passed.

Ten years after Matthew Shepard's murder, we are still hating and still killing. What's worse, we're still teaching young people to hate and kill — and the murderers and victims are getting younger. Progress in this issue is long overdue. We need to act now.

StAND Against Hate Week here at Notre Dame is April 14-18. I urge everyone to participate in this campus-wide series of events to help raise awareness of and put an end to hate and discrimination based on sexual orientation. Participate to show support for your Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (GLBTQ) friends, relatives and classmates. If nothing else, participate to honor the memory of Lawrence King, Simmie Williams Jr. and Matthew Shepard.

This issue is real and it will not go away. It's time for all of us to stand up and say that we will not tolerate hate.

Melanie LeMay
sophomore
Pasquerilla West Hall
April 7

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Momma
proud.

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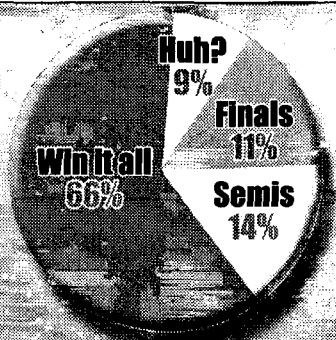
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Observer Poll

How far will Men's Hockey go into the Frozen Four?

	Votes	Percentage
Win it all	573	66%
Lose in the semis	124	14%
Lose in the finals	91	11%
I didn't know Notre Dame made the Frozen Four	78	9%



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Always do sober what you said you'd do drunk. That will teach you to keep your mouth shut."

Ernest Hemingway
U.S. author

Approaching the moment to 'ice' Weis

When the inter-squad game kicks off next weekend, Notre Dame alumni and fans will start the clock ticking on the fate of football coach Charlie Weis. Nobody can dispute that Weis was a dismal failure last year. In fact, going into his fourth season, Weis is still learning his way as a head coach of a major university football program. He claims that he will try a new role this year and abandon solely running the offense to divide his time with the defense.



Gary Caruso

Capitol
Comments

That change leaves little solace for fans since Weis is coming off arguably the worst performance in Notre Dame's storied football history — the most losses ever (nine) in a single season that included two of the program's 10 worst losses of all time (a pair of 38-0 losses to Michigan and USC), first ever six-game home losing streak, losses to Navy and Air Force that marked the first time Notre Dame has lost to two military academies in the same season since the height of World War II, when most players were on active duty, and the first time in the precious Bowl Championship Series (BCS) era that

Notre Dame has gone winless against mid-majors. Such a performance everyone soon wants to forget.

The question for next season is whether Weis can overcome the challenge of molding a team replete of young and somewhat inexperienced players into a cohesive or successful squad. His players tend to transfer when they are demoted, but his schedule is easier than in 2007. Yet, his critics doubt that despite another outstanding recruiting class, any kumbaya experience alone will not dramatically reverse the team's fortunes. It has become painfully clear that Charlie Weis cannot walk on water, despite Notre Dame Athletic Director Kevin White's assertion when he stuck the university with a decade-long contract midway through Weis' first season. One would think that White could count on an alumnus to value loyalty to his alma mater by negotiating incentive clauses rather than contract length.

In fairness to Weis, he should not be solely criticized for slowly adjusting to the quirks of the college ranks when his experience was with more mature professionals in the NFL ranks whom he never recruited. His problem though, is one that derives from a relatively closed system or society that exists among athletic administrators. Academicians placed into athletic roles throughout higher education in general, and specifically at Notre Dame along with an occa-

sional meddling trustee, operate in an isolated, backslapping, self-absorbing "ole jock" power culture that at times is better suited for an episode of the Twilight Zone. No, Weis is a victim of White's dubious tenure at Notre Dame.

White personally embraces a shameless self-promotion both on the web site and in publications that make one think the athletic department was his alone to magnanimously share with the public. For example, White is overly featured in athletic publications, most recently for two, long pages in the men's hockey program as opposed to the university president and the chair of the trustees each with a mere three paragraphs while packed on a single page with several other officials. Moreover, despite an exhaustive search of other major university athletic web site directories, White is so enamored with his role that he is the only athletic director found who categorizes his office under "senior" administration.

At best, White's business acumen is dubious (other than his biographical litany of graduation rate figures and competitive accomplishments resulting more from the athletic department's coaches and staff). He oversaw the hiring of football coach George O'Leary who was fired a week later after falsifying his resume. White extended two football coaching contracts during his tenure, both preceded the school's only 0-3 starts. He then presided over the

dismissals of Bob Davie (whose contract was extended after his 41-9 bowl loss) and Tyrone Willingham, who if held to the Weis standard would have been given a 10-year contract in 2002 after beating 7th ranked Michigan and 11th ranked Florida State. Conversely, if White was consistent, Weis would be elsewhere now if held to the Willingham standard.

In an effort to overcompensate for missteps of the past, White ignored lessons learned. On-the-job training is necessary for NFL, high school, and even in-house assistant coaches to become successful head coaches within a major university football program. Coaches like Parseghian, Devine, Holtz and, yes, even Willingham who was not given the courtesy of a full contract, prove that point. So while the fan's clock ticks against Weis, White's deeds will keep the football coach on campus for another generation of students. White has set the stage so that only Weis can decide when to leave — and on his own terms.

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Alcohol in the 'Real World'

On April 10 Ryan Slaney wrote "alcohol is a deterrent toward the academic and moral development of students here at Notre Dame." ("Alcohol: Enemy of academic and moral development," April 10). Ryan, are you sure about that? Guess what, drinking alcohol does not stop once you leave college. To a certain extent it becomes more a part of people's lives as age and money are no longer issues, as they were in college. Part of your "academic development" is to learn how to deal with alcohol, whether it is your usage or existing with other people's usage. Alcohol is not going anywhere anytime soon in the "real world."

To ban it on campus and limit everyone's "alcohol experiences" would only put Notre Dame students at a disadvantage once they join the

workforce. I have yet to be at a firm function after work hours that did not involve alcohol. In addition, promotion days and events such as golf outings always involve alcohol. Would you truly want to be dealing with these types of social environments for the first time at your first job? Lastly, in my mind alcohol is the furthest thing from an "enemy" as you stated. Alcohol was present at some of the best times of my life. In fact, I invited "Alcohol" to my tailgates, my Notre Dame graduation party, my promotion parties and she even showed up for the best day of my life, my wedding.

Bill Nolan
alumnus
Class of 2001
April 10

Beer is proof God loves us

Here is a little bit of history on the benefits of drinking for all of the kids out there whining about how alcohol makes you racist:

A bunch of old dudes were sitting around, getting hammered and playing Kings.

"OK Ben Franklin, you're up: Truth or Dare?"

"Uh, dare."

"You have to tie a key to this kite and run around outside. Naked."

Next thing you know, boo ya — electricity. Without electricity, how would Al Gore be able to drive his hybrid car?

Think of all the great discoveries and

inventions out there that were probably thought up while drunk: unicycles, deep fried Snickers, hub caps that keep spinnin' every time I stop, beer bong, hot air balloons, etc. The list goes on and on. So the next time you are thinking about complaining that some drunk kid threw up on the sidewalk, take a minute and think about the fact this same drunk kid might have just discovered something truly awesome.

Tom Martin
senior
off campus
April 10

Alcohol a necessary evil

I used to open the viewpoint section every day to see what the feminists were saying about the Vagina Monologues, but now I find more and more articles written by students concerned for the greater good of the Notre Dame student body. After reading Ryan Slaney's article, "Alcohol: Enemy of academic and moral development," (April 10) I felt compelled to respond. I am not here to argue for or against prohibition of alcohol on campus; that being said, we are in college. It is an undeniable fact that college students drink; for proof, just go to Sbarro at 3 a.m. on a Saturday night/Sunday morning.

If the university decided to prohibit alcohol on campus, there would be an increase in students partying off campus. The question is, where? You said yourself, Ryan, that alcohol consumption leads to poor decisions, and I agree. Students with cars could potentially drive back to campus after a few brews, cosmos, car bombs, etc., risking much more than their academic development. Allowing alcohol on campus is a safe decision, as long as those drinking do it responsibly.

As for alcohol affecting students' academic and moral development, I have a number of friends who drink a fair amount and have higher grades than me. You cannot say that prohibition of alcohol on-campus will cause an increase in academic and moral development ... studying and going to dorm mass does that. The prohibition of alcohol could create unsteady relations between many angry members of the student body and the administration. It could also affect the brain a lot longer than a few days if something were to happen to someone behind the wheel of a car.

Super Smash Bros. has some pretty damaging effects on academic development too, so should we prohibit the use of it? I appreciate your concern for the academic well being of your peers, but changing the rules about alcohol consumption on-campus is not the solution. Maybe go play some Super Smash Bros.

Mike Mahoney
sophomore
Keough Hall
April 10

Worried about writing the next viewpoint?

Try paying attention.

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www.indianobserver.com



MARY JESSE | Observer Graphic

By CASSIE BELEK
Assistant Scene Editor

Her music became essential to "Juno," and it helped give the indie film its heart and soul. However, Kimya Dawson is more than the "Juno" soundtrack and she'll be at Legends tomorrow night to give students a taste of what else she has to offer.

A member of The Moldy Peaches, Dawson has been a solo act since the band took a break in 2004. Both the band and her own music is featured on the "Juno" soundtrack, and composer Mateo Messina used Dawson's music as the basis of the film's score.

Since going solo, Dawson has released five albums, the latest being 2006's "Remember That I Love You." "Juno" borrowed four songs from the album, including "Tire Swing" and "Loose Lips." Her sound is unique and often sounds cheery, but her words pack a punch. Chad Lavimonière, who is in charge of WVFI's PR and events and has been a fan of Dawson for two years, compares the artist's music to the protest music of the 1960s.

"I mean, she definitely inherits something from protest folk à la Pete Seeger and Bob Dylan to a certain extent," Lavimonière said.

But he also said that she has drawn comparisons to Mirah and even Lisa Loeb. He calls her music "opinionated folk."

In The Moldy Peaches, Dawson played a part in influencing the anti-folk movement. While anti-folk, a subgenre of folk, is difficult to describe, it takes the core of folk music and gives it a new, experimental sound.

"It's not anti-folk as in they don't like the way folk music sounds," Lavimonière said.

Instead, he said, the movement takes the same traits of folk music but puts a new spin on the genre.

"A lot of folk is sort of soothing," he said, "but this is a folk that shakes up."

As for her heavy inclusion in the "Juno" soundtrack, Dawson can thank the film's

star Ellen Page for that. When director Jason Reitman asked Page what music the character Juno would listen to, the actress immediately said The Moldy Peaches, which led to Kimya Dawson.

In a November 2007 interview with Pitchfork, Page talked about why Juno would listen to The Moldy Peaches and Dawson.

"Well the Moldy Peaches' music is very humorous. I mean, it has a hint of novelty, but it is full of so much heart and so much simplicity and it's so genuine. It's really unique and it's quirky and all of those things, but it has heart to balance that," she said.

Dawson is working on a new album, but in the meantime she will release a children's album in August entitled "Alphabutt." Lavimonière said the album was most likely inspired by Dawson's daughter, Panda Delilah. In fact, Dawson tours with both Panda and her husband, Angelo Spencer. Spencer and L'Orchidée D'Hawaii will open for Dawson's concert.

Lavimonière waited to bring Dawson to campus because she wasn't a well-known artist to a wide audience before "Juno."

"I got really excited when she did the soundtrack to 'Juno' because that was really great exposure," Lavimonière said.

Lavimonière encouraged everyone to come to Dawson's concert, even if they aren't familiar with her work on the soundtrack.

"Even if people aren't really interested in the message of the music, it's a nice thing to listen to," he said, adding that Dawson is still on her way up in the music scene. "We're not catching her at her peak."

The show starts tonight at 9 at Legends and doors open at 8:30. Admission is free for all Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross students. For more information on the concert visit WVFI's website, <http://www.nd.edu/~wvfi/promo.html>.

Contact Cassie Belek at cbelek@nd.edu

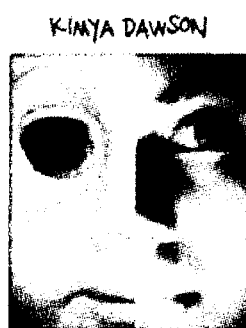


Kimya Dawson sings at a concert in at the Talbot Hotel in Stoke-on-Trent, England on July 23, 2003. Her music has drawn comparisons to the likes of Bob Dylan.

Photo courtesy of kimyadawson.com



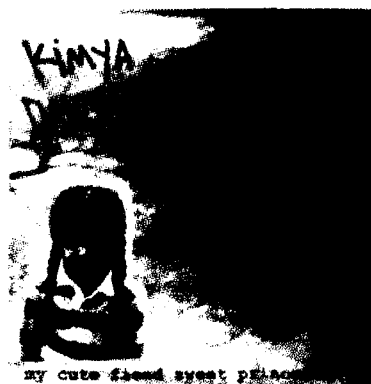
Remember that
I Love You
2006



Hidden Vaganda
2004



Knock Knock Who?
2004



My Cute Friend
Sweet Princess
2004



I'm Sorry That
Sometimes I'm Mean
2002



Novak Set to Round Out 'The Office' Comedy Series

By CASSIE BELEK
Assistant Scene Editor

Fans are happy enough that "The Office" returned last night after a long, writers' strike-induced hiatus, but students can continue their big, long sigh of relief with B.J. Novak's appearance tomorrow night at Washington Hall.

Novak, who portrays former temp-turned-corporate-sleaze Ryan Howard and is a writer on the show, is the third "Office" cast member to visit campus as part of SUB's "The Office" Comedy Series. Both Mindy Kaling (Kelly) and Craig Robinson (Darryl) appeared at Washington Hall on March 29.

Novak, who in 2003 was named one of Variety's "10 Comedians to Watch," will perform stand-up and will be accompanied by an opener who is not affiliated with "The Office."

SUB's special events programmers Pat Gartland and Matt McKenna first had the idea to bring Novak to campus during the writers' strike, but then decided to expand the appearance into a series.

"We knew that some of the other cast members had backgrounds in stand-up and decided that we could do a stand-up series instead of just presentations and Q&A, as we did with the 'SNL' speaker series last spring," Gartland said.

*"The Office"
Comedy Series
with
B.J. Novak
Washington Hall
Saturday, 9 p.m.
Tickets free with a
student ID*

In her stand-up routine opening for Robinson, Kaling joked about everything from Observer headlines to Scarlett Johansson's deep voice and she even made a phone call to Novak so that he could announce that he was coming. Robinson used his keyboard to integrate music and sing-a-longs into his comedy. Both actors came back onstage after their performances to answer questions from the audience before posing for pictures and signing autographs.

Gartland said that earlier in the day, he took Robinson, who had first visited family in Chicago, for a tour around campus and to the bookstore while Kaling slept since shooting on "The Office" had not ended until 3 a.m. in Los Angeles. But despite Robinson's "Office" fame, he was not recognized by everyone on campus.

"Craig and I actually did get stopped by the campus guards at the gated entrance," Gartland said. "The guard would not let us on campus without a pass or a reason."

Robinson alluded to the incident in his stand-up routine, which drew big laughs from everyone familiar with the strict guidelines of the guards at the entrance gates.

Coordinating the actors' appearances proved to be somewhat challenging since "The Office" is shot and written every day of the week. Gartland said that Kaling, Robinson and Novak were only available on Saturdays, and even

then Gartland and McKenna had to make sure that Washington Hall was available for those appearances.

Eventually, everything came together and "The Office" Comedy Series was created. Gartland said that SUB specifically looked for "Office" cast members with a background in stand-up and that it got its first three choices. While Novak's appearance marks the last one by an "Office" cast member this semester, Gartland isn't ruling out more "Office" appearances in the future.

"That will be up to the new programmers as they plan for next year's events over the summer," he said.

In the meantime, Gartland is just grateful to be able to bring people like Kaling, Robinson and Novak to campus.

"It is a great feeling to be able to program events that students are interested in attending," he said. "I think one of the best things

about SUB is that we can put on events or shows that students truly want to experience."

For the most part, Kaling and Robinson appeared to enjoy their time here as much as the audience.

"Mindy's first reaction to landing at the airport was texting Matt that 'South Bend is so pretty!'" Gartland said. "We could not tell if she was being sarcastic."

Contact Cassie Belek at
cbelek@nd.edu

Episodes of 'The Office' written by Novak

"Diversity Day"

March 29, 2005

"Initiation"

October 19, 2006

"Sexual Harassment"

September 27, 2005

"Safety Training"

April 12, 2007

"The Fire"

October 11, 2005

"Local Ad"

October 25, 2007

"Boys and Girls"

February 2, 2006

"The Chair Model"

April 17, 2008



MLB

Cubs capitalize on five-run fifth to beat Pirates

Boston defeats Detroit in front of record-breaking home crowd; Yankees avoid sweep with win over Kansas City

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — After needing the equivalent of three games merely to win twice in Pittsburgh, what a relief this regulation game was to the Chicago Cubs. Almost as big as the relief Jon Lieber gave them.

Geovany Soto and Mike Fontenot hit two-run homers in Chicago's five-run sixth inning and the Cubs finished off a three-game sweep of Pittsburgh, winning 7-3 Thursday night to run their winning streak to five games.

Soto had three extra-base hits, including two doubles, among his second career four-hit game, and Derrek Lee also drove in two runs despite not getting a hit as the Cubs won their sixth in a row over the Pirates dating to last season.

Lieber (2-1) got the decision by pitching 4 1-3 scoreless relief innings after starter Rich Hill needed 72 pitches to get through three innings, allowing three runs and three hits and walking four. Lieber pitched 7 1-3 scoreless relief innings in the series, three of them during a 10-8, 12-inning win Monday in the Pirates' home opener.

"Without Lieber, we really would have had problems," manager Lou Piniella said. "We were looking for innings. ... (Hill) was all

over the place. There was no use keeping him in there. It wasn't going to get any better."

The Cubs certainly didn't need to look for innings earlier in the series.

After going 12 and 15 innings to win the first two games — the first time in 81 years they've needed that many innings to win consecutive road games — the Cubs won this with one big inning against the pitching-tin Pirates, who dropped their fifth in six games.

"I'm glad it didn't go (extra innings)," said Soto, who went 8-of-17 while catching all 36 innings in the series — apparently with no effect on his offense.

The Cubs withstood two Pirates homer-driven comebacks to win 6-4 in 15 innings on Wednesday night.

"I think any situation like that, if anybody can go in there and do that, it's definitely huge," Lieber, a converted starter, said of propping up the bullpen. "You want to give those guys a break down there, especially after last night's ballgame."

Soto had a chance to hit for the cycle, but he didn't think of trying to stretch a double into a triple in the seventh. He grounded out in the ninth.

"I already hit my one (triple) for the year. I'll take them if they come, but I



Red Sox DH David Ortiz, right, is congratulated by Kevin Youkilis after scoring on a Manny Ramirez double in the seventh inning of Boston's 12-6 defeat of Detroit Thursday.

don't want to get greedy," Soto said. "I'm not a triple-type guy."

Boston 12, Detroit 6

J.D. Drew went 3-for-3 with two runs and two RBIs, and Tim Wakefield fluttered his knuckleball for five innings to lead the Boston Red Sox to a victory over Detroit on Thursday and send the Tigers to their eighth loss in nine games.

Manny Ramirez had a two-run double, and he also scored a run by ignoring a two-handed stop sign put up by third base coach DeMarlo Hale. Sean Casey drove in three runs on a pair of hits, including a two-run single in the four-run seventh when Boston made it 8-3.

Five straight Detroit batters reached base in the eighth off Julian Tavarez, who came in when Hideki Okajima was pulled after warming up to start the inning. Tavarez got Gary Sheffield to hit into a run-scoring double play that cut the deficit to 8-6, before Jonathan Papelbon got Magglio Ordonez on a popup to center to end the eighth.

The Red Sox added four in the eighth on a two-run double by Kevin Youkilis, Drew's sacrifice fly and an RBI single by Coco Crisp. Papelbon pitched a scoreless ninth for his third save in three tries.

The Tigers stranded six baserunners in the first three innings despite failing to get a hit off Wakefield (1-0). He walked five and hit two batters by the time he was done, allowing three hits and one earned run while striking out five to improve to 10-1 in his last 12 starts at Fenway.

Nate Robertson (0-1) allowed eight hits and two walks while striking out six in 5 1-3 innings, giving up all of his four runs in the fourth inning. Five Detroit pitchers combined to throw 212 pitches, allowing 13 hits and nine walks.

Detroit's Ivan Rodriguez reached base all five times he came to the plate, with three singles, a walk and a hit-by-pitch.

The crowd of 37,612, boosted by the offseason addition of nearly 1,000 seats, was the most at Fenway since World War II.

New York 6, Kansas City 1

Once again, Andy Pettitte came up big when the New York Yankees needed a win.

Pettitte picked up his first victory and Alex Rodriguez and Melky Cabrera each homered and drove in two runs, helping the New York Yankees defeat the Kansas City Royals Thursday night and avoid a series sweep.

"Andy knows how to win big games," Yankees manag-

er Joe Girardi said. "I don't know if I would call this a big game, but you don't want to be swept at the start of an eight-game road trip."

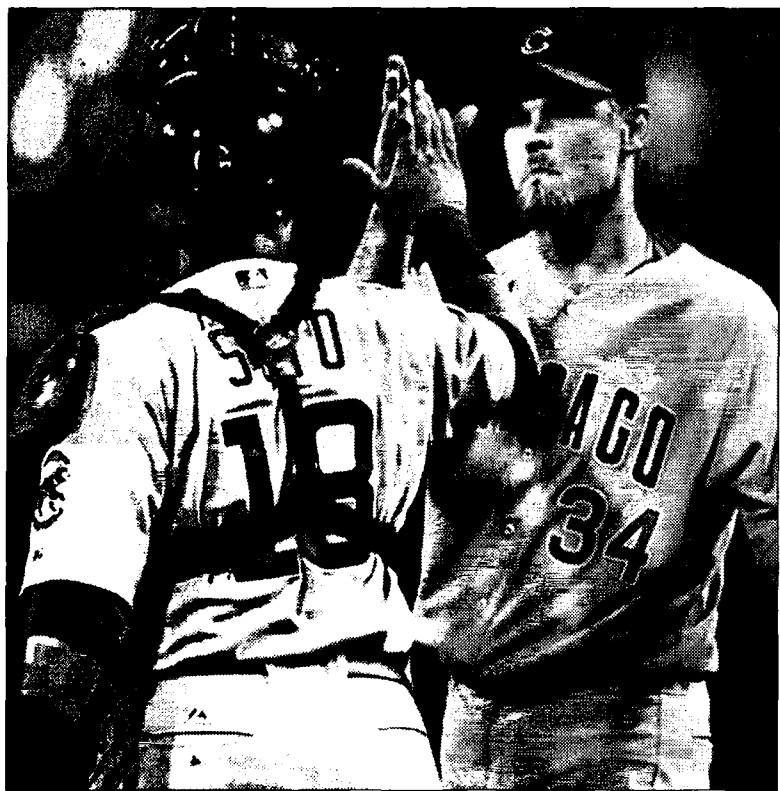
Pettitte (1-1) held the Royals to one run and five hits in 6 2-3 innings, and is 7-0 in his past nine starts against them. He has a career record of 12-4 with a 3.06 ERA against Kansas City, which is his best earned run average against any American League club.

After throwing 31 pitches in the first inning, when the Royals managed their only run off him, Pettitte needed just 61 pitches through the next 5 2-3 innings.

"I didn't have much at all the first couple of innings," Pettitte said. "I was extremely fortunate to get through that, thank goodness. ... My command was extremely bad early on and I was just very fortunate to get away with some balls I left over the plate."

"I really just started feeling good midway through the third inning and felt like I got into a really good rhythm. ... That was good to see, hopefully I can carry this one into my next one."

Cabrera tied the game at 1 with a solo homer in the third, driving a 1-2 pitch to left off John Bale, the first left-hander the Yankees have faced this year.



Cubs closer Kerry Wood, right, celebrates with catcher Geovany Soto after the Cubs' 7-3 victory over Pittsburgh Thursday.

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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Sometimes you do four hours of work and then you have to start over.

Weekends don't count unless you spend them doing something completely pointless - Calvin and Hobbes

It's Tribe Time Now.

NBA Standings

Eastern Conference

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Boston	62-1	.795	7-3	-
Detroit	55-2	.705	6-4	7
Orlando	49-2	.628	5-5	13
Cleveland	43-3	.551	5-5	19
Washington	41-37	.526	6-4	21
Philadelphia	40-3	.513	6-4	22
Toronto	39-39	.500	4-6	23
Atlanta	36-42	.462	7-3	26
Indiana	34-44	.436	7-3	28
New Jersey	32-46	.410	3-7	30
Chicago	30-48	.385	3-7	32
Charlotte	30-49	.380	5-5	32.5
Milwaukee	26-52	.333	2-8	36
New York	23-56	.291	4-6	39.5
Miami	14-64	.179	2-8	48

Western Conference

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
New Orleans	55-23	.705	8-2	-
San Antonio	53-25	.679	8-2	2
LA Lakers	53-25	.679	6-4	2
Utah	52-26	.667	8-2	3
Houston	53-25	.679	7-3	2
Phoenix	53-26	.671	6-4	2.5
Dallas	49-29	.628	5-5	6
Denver	47-31	.603	7-3	8
Golden State	47-31	.603	5-5	8
Portland	39-39	.500	4-6	16
Sacramento	36-42	.462	5-5	19
LA Clippers	23-55	.295	2-8	32
Memphis	21-57	.269	4-6	34
Minnesota	19-59	.244	2-8	36
Seattle	18-61	.228	2-8	37.5

NCAA Men's Baseball
USA Today/ESPN Top 25

rank	team	overall
1	Miami	26-2
2	Florida State	28-3
3	Arizona State	28-3
4	North Carolina	25-6
5	Wichita State	24-4
6	Nebraska	24-4-1
7	UC Irvine	20-5
8	California	21-7-1
9	Rice	23-10
10	Texas	21-10
11	Texas A&M	26-6
12	Missouri	22-8
13	Kentucky	25-5
14	South Carolina	20-10
15	Stanford	15-9
16	Long Beach State	18-11
17	Vanderbilt	19-10
18	Mississippi	20-11
19	Georgia Tech	25-7
20	Cal State Fullerton	18-10
21	Florida	21-10
22	Coastal Carolina	24-7
23	Georgia	20-10
24	Virginia	24-8
25	Oklahoma State	20-9

around the dial

NHL

Flyers at Capitals
7:00 p.m., Versus

Avalanche at Minnesota
9:00 p.m., Versus

NBA

Cavaliers at Bulls
7:00 p.m., ESPN 2

MLB



Indians pitcher Fausto Carmona throws during an April 2nd 7-2 victory over the Chicago White Sox. He was signed by Cleveland to a new deal on Thursday worth 15 million dollars over the next four years.

Indians sign Carmona to new deal

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — The Indians tucked away one of their aces.

Fausto Carmona, a surprising 19-game winner who wasn't bugged by swarming insects in his first postseason start last October, agreed Thursday to a \$15 million, four-year contract with the Indians, a deal that potentially can earn him \$48 million.

There was no rush to sign the 24-year-old, but the Indians are convinced Carmona's best days are ahead and rewarded him with the highest guarantee to a pre-arbitration eligible starter.

"This is a guy who has shown he wants to be great," Indians general manager Mark Shapiro said. "He has exceptional toughness, exceptional talent and intelligence. Those things combined with his work ethic made this a very easy decision."

Carmona's signing also gives the Indians protection in case they can't keep reigning AL Cy Young Award winner C.C. Sabathia, who is eligible for free agency following this season. Sabathia rejected a preliminary offer from the club, and during spring training he suspended negotiations until after the season.

There's no guarantee Sabathia will be back, and if he's not, Carmona will ascend into the No. 1 role.

Assistant GM Chris Antonetti said Carmona's signing will allow the club to better plan for the future, but it has no bearing on its ability to re-sign Sabathia.

"They are not interrelated," Antonetti said, "and it certainly wouldn't hurt to have two 19-game winners in the rotation. We would like to have five of them."

Carmona doesn't want to consider the possibility of replacing Sabathia.

"I want C.C. to stay here," he said through

first-base coach Luis Rivera. "I want C.C. to be the No. 1 for a long time. I don't care if I'm No. 2 for a long time."

With a wicked sinker, Carmona went 19-8 with a 3.06 ERA in 32 starts and emerged as one of the AL's top pitchers in 2007, one season after he went 1-10 and had a disastrous try-out as Cleveland's closer. But it was how Carmona bounced back from adversity that impressed the Indians, who signed him in 2000 as a 17-year-old.

In just over a week's span in 2006, Carmona blew three saves, losing twice on game-ending homers.

IN BRIEF

Coach Bill Self to remain at Kansas

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Bill Self has reached an agreement on a new contract with Kansas, just days after leading the Jayhawks to their first NCAA basketball title in 20 years.

Self met with athletic director Lew Perkins on Wednesday and Thursday, and they emerged at an afternoon news conference to say they had reached general agreement on a deal that is still being finalized.

The deal would replace the contract extension Self signed last year that pays him \$1.375 million annually.

"I don't know what the big deal is, to be honest," Self said, referring to the speculation over his future. "These last three weeks, four weeks, have been an absolute whirlwind."

"I don't know if a guy deserves to have as much fun as I've had," he said.

Olympic torch arrives in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Argentina is billing Friday's Olympic torch run as an easygoing street fiesta, set to a tango beat.

But officials are worried enough about anti-China protests to mobilize thousands of police officers after torch runs in other cities caused chaos, and protesters warned of a Buenos Aires "surprise."

The Olympic flame arrived Thursday under heavy security from San Francisco, where police cut the torch's route in half and sent the flame far away from demonstrators, disappointing many who had gathered to see it.

Argentine authorities are deploying 1,300 federal police, 1,500 naval police and some 3,000 traffic police and volunteers — enough to ensure security "without going to the extreme that nobody will be able to see the torch," said government sports official Francisc Irarrazabal.

Changes in baseball drug testing are eminent

NEW YORK — Baseball players and owners plan to turn most of the authority over testing for performance-enhancing drugs to the program's independent administrator while keeping oversight over drugs of abuse with a joint union-management body.

The sides established a third-party administrator when they amended their drug plan for the second time in November 2005, and they split authority between the administrator and baseball's Health Policy Advisory Committee, which has two members from each side.

Negotiators are close to an agreement that would amend the drug plan for a third time, and the independence of the administrator would be strengthened by establishing a fixed term and allowing his termination only for specified reasons, several people familiar with the talks said.

SMC TENNIS

Belles to take on Tri-State

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's suffered another tough conference loss Wednesday at Hope, but will look to come back Saturday as they take on Tri-State (3-7, 0-4 MIAA) at home. The Belles (5-9, 1-3 MIAA) were defeated Wednesday 8-1 by the Flying Dutch.

"Tri-State hasn't done real well in the conference," Belles coach Chuck Rubino said. "We expect them to be competitive, but we're pretty confident we should be able to beat them."

Saint Mary's freshman Jillian Hurley was the only player victorious for the Belles at Hope Wednesday, winning the No. 2 singles 6-0, 6-0 over Hope's Christine Garcia. Her victory brings her singles record to 12-2. Hurley's success at singles was not echoed in doubles play as she and partner Camille Gebert lost 8-2.

The Belles were swept in doubles, with the No. 2 duo of sophomore co-captain Lisa Rubino and freshman Betsy Reed falling 8-6 to Hope's Christine Garcia and Danielle Werley, putting their record at 5-7 as a pair. The No. 3 doubles team of freshmen Jessica Kosinski and Franca Peluso were defeated 8-5 by Flying Dutch Katherine Garcia and Nicole Spanguolo.

"We just have to get more consistent," Rubino said. "We made too many errors, especially unforced errors at Hope. Two of our doubles played really well, and Jillian [Hurley] dominated at No. 2 singles, but we had errors everywhere else."

Consistency from match to match has been one of Saint Mary's biggest issues this season, but with a team of two sophomores and eight freshmen, Rubino has been able to put it into perspective.

"We make errors at crucial points," Rubino said. "We have to get over the hump, and it is part of the growing process."

Fortunately for the Belles, the tough competition they've had to face has paid off in some matches, like their 9-0 sweep of Olivet April 1. Tri-State has not had fared as well, and will hopefully prove to be easy competition for Saint Mary's.

"They have only six players, so not a lot of depth," Rubino said. "It will be a good match for us to tune up for Bethel [on April 15]."

Saint Mary's takes on Tri-State at 1:00 p.m. Saturday at home.

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@saintmarys.edu

ND WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Northwestern routs Irish on road

Notre Dame falls to top-ranked Wildcats, looks on to new challenge against Georgetown

By ANDY ZICCARELLI
Sports Writer

Notre Dame's quest for a perfect five-game road trip hit a major roadblock Wednesday night, as the Irish fell to No. 1 Northwestern 16-2.

No. 8 Notre Dame was previously 3-0 on the trip and was coming off of a win at No. 7 Duke, the program's first ever win in Durham, N.C.

Irish coach Tracy Coyne was upfront about the team's play on Wednesday.

"We didn't show up. They came to play," Coyne said of the Wildcats.

"There was an article in their

student newspaper about what a rivalry they consider the game to be and they came out and played like it."

It was a game in which the Irish trailed from the start, falling behind 11-0 at half-time. The Wildcats would eventually score the first 15 goals of the game before Notre Dame found the back of the net.

The Irish, however, cannot afford to dwell on Wednesday's outcome, as they face another strong opponent on Saturday in the Georgetown. The Hoyas come into the game ranked No. 6 in the country and tied for second place in the Big East conference with Notre Dame.

"We didn't show up. They came to play."

Tracy Coyne
Irish coach

"They have very talented lacrosse players," Coyne said. "They get a lot of the top athletes in that hotbed [the DC/Baltimore area], so I think that's what makes them the good team that they are."

The Irish will be up against historical odds. The program is 2-8 all-time against the Hoyas, including an 0-4 record in Washington, D.C. However, this Irish team pulled off their first ever road win over Duke just over one week ago, and will look to try and make history again.

"We are going to be prepared when the time comes to

play that game," Coyne said. "If we play Irish lacrosse the way we know we can, I think that we are going to win."

As for what effect the loss in Evanston will have on the team, Coyne didn't see it as a factor.

"The game was an anomaly. It's not indicative of how we are going to play moving forward," Coyne said. "It showed our flaws, let's be honest, but you don't beat a team like Duke and not be a good team."

The Irish and Hoyas face off Saturday at 1 p.m.

Contact Andy Zicarelli at azicare@nd.edu

NBA

Dallas clinches playoff spot with win

Nowitzki hits game-winning three-pointer with .9 seconds remaining on the clock

Associated Press

DALLAS — A playoff spot, 50 wins and a second straight tight victory over an elite team.

Just a few weeks ago, the Dallas Mavericks didn't seem capable of pulling off any of those. Now, they're doing it all.

Dirk Nowitzki immediately answered a banked-in, game-tying 3-pointer from Deron Williams by running down the court and swishing a 3 of his own with 0.9 seconds left, giving Dallas a 97-94 victory over the Utah Jazz and two nice bonuses — a clinched playoff berth and win No. 50.

"How do you leave the MVP wide open? It's unbelievable," teammate Jason Terry said.

"I heard people say we wouldn't even make the playoffs, but now we're in," Terry added. "Tonight, we took another step in the right direction. We have to treat all these games like playoff games. We have a long way to go but winning games like these is big for us."

Nowitzki scored 32 points and Terry had 21, all coming in the second half. The duo scored 25 of Dallas' 30 points in the fourth quarter. They had to step up because Josh Howard left in the third with a bruised right knee. He hurt it on Sunday running into Shaquille O'Neal, then aggravated it in the first half. He

tried coming back at the start and end of the third quarters, "but couldn't do much," he said.

"I'm going to get some rest and be ready to get back out there," Howard said. Dallas plays Saturday in Portland and Sunday in Seattle, then returns home for the season finale Wednesday against New Orleans.

The Mavs don't have to do much scoreboard-watching between now and then. This win, coupled with a loss by Golden State, locks up a playoff spot. Dallas has a two-game edge on Denver for the No. 7 seed.

Getting to 50 wins is significant, too. The Mavs have done that and made the playoffs for eight straight seasons. San Antonio is the only other team that can make the same claim, though the Spurs have nine in a row.

San Antonio also has four titles in that span, while Dallas is seeking its first. That's why the club made the bold move of trading for Jason Kidd in February. The deal was starting to look like a mistake when the Mavs were skidding into late March, especially when Nowitzki went out with ankle and knee injuries.

But Kidd started asserting himself and Dallas has taken off, winning six of the last seven, with victories over Phoenix and Golden State in



Dallas forward Dirk Nowitzki celebrates after his three-pointer at the buzzer lifted the Mavericks over the Jazz 97-74 Thursday.. that span.

"We're coming together more and more, especially on the defensive end, and on the offensive end we're playing well and making a lot of shots," Nowitzki said. "We're starting to build our confidence. If we keep going like this, we're going to be a dangerous team in the playoffs."

Mehmet Okur had 19 points and 14 rebounds for Utah, while Williams had 18 points and 12 assists. He was 7-of-16 after going 6-of-24 in his previous two games. Andrei Kirilenko had 15 points and Carlos Boozer only 10 points and five rebounds.

The Jazz clinched the divi-

sion in their previous game, so they're only playing for seeding, knowing they can finish no worse than fourth. Still, they'd won four in a row and seven of eight.

After trailing by 14 early, Utah made things interesting. Over the last 16 minutes, there were 14 lead changes and eight ties, with neither team leading by more than five points.

Williams hit a leaning 3-pointer with the shot clock running out to put the Jazz up 89-88 with 2:32 left. Dallas went back in front when Kirilenko was called for goaltending on a layup by Terry.

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ND BASEBALL

Irish tied for first in Big East

Squad takes five-game win streak on the road against Villanova

By FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame has climbed into a tie with St. John's for first place in the Big East, but the Irish know that means every opponent will be gunning for them for the remainder of the season.

"Every series now from here on out — since we're at the top — is going to be a big series," Irish coach Dave Schrage said.

Notre Dame (18-9-1 overall, 7-2 Big East) will play a three-game series at Villanova (15-15, 4-5) this

weekend in a matchup of red-hot squads. The Irish have won five straight games while the Wildcats have come out on top in their last seven contests.

"Villanova's the hottest team in the Big East right now.... They've won [seven] in a row, all at home," Schrage said.

Notre Dame swept conference foe Rutgers at home last weekend but will now hit the road for the next two weekends. The Irish take on the Wildcats before busing to West Virginia next weekend.

Schrage thinks his squad is well-prepared for the grueling stretch.

"Any time you go on the road — I don't care where you're playing — it's going to be a challenge," Schrage said. "But right now I like how our lineup sets up. I like how we're swinging the bats and I like how we're playing defense."

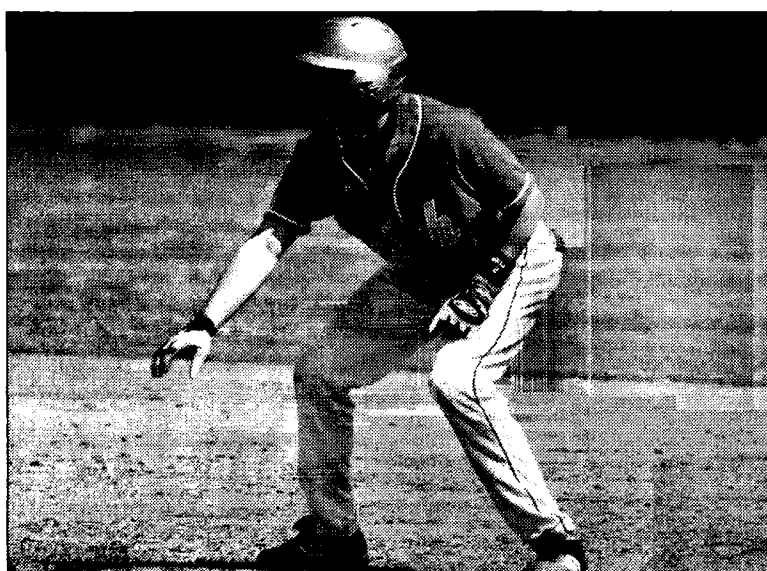
A.J. Pollock has led a recent offensive tear for the Irish, garnering Big East player of the week honors last week before continuing his hot streak in Notre Dame's mid-week games. Pollock went 6-for-7 with a home run, a triple and a double in games against Valparaiso and Manchester Tuesday and Wednesday. He raised his average to .409 by going 3-for-3 against Manchester.

Irish junior right-hander David Phelps will be on the mound Friday against the Wildcats. Senior Wade Korpi and sophomore Eric Maust will round out the weekend rotation for Notre Dame. The three Irish starters boast respective ERAs of 3.94, 3.70 and 2.70.

Schrage said the Irish will be focused on the three-game sets with Villanova and West Virginia but will also keep their eye on a series with St. John's the following weekend.

"We've got six big games in a row before we get St. John's at home," Schrage said. "We've [told] the team we've got to win [the next two] series and hopefully get the showdown with St. John's."

Contact Fran Tolan at
ftolan@nd.edu.



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Sophomore outfielder A.J. Pollock leads off at first during Notre Dame's 11-2 win over Rutgers Sunday.

PGA

Woods four shots behind at Masters

Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — The Masters had a familiar feel Thursday, from the warmth of a spring garden to the pockets of cheers that celebrated spectacular shots, even to some of the names on the leaderboard.

Justin Rose was at the top after 18 holes, the third straight time he's managed that.

Tiger Woods couldn't break 70 on the first day for the 12th straight year.

The four-time Masters champion failed to make a birdie at Augusta National for the first time since the opening round in 2003, although there was no reason to panic. He chipped in for eagle from 25 feet behind the 15th green to salvage an even-par 72, leaving him four shots behind Rose and co-leader Trevor Immelman.

Woods didn't sound terribly worried.

"I played a lot better than what my score indicates," he said. "I kept myself in the tournament. I'm right there."

So is Rose, and that's becoming a tradition like no other at the Masters — at least on Thursday.

The 27-year-old Englishman overcame a sluggish start with four straight birdies that carried him to a 68. The trick now

is to figure out how to stay there over the next three days.

Rose led through 36 holes in 2004 until stumbling to an 81 in the third round. He was tied for the lead after 18 holes last year and stayed in the hunt all week until a late collapse on Sunday.

"Eventually you've got to say, 'OK, it's time to step up,'" Rose said. "But I'm not putting too much pressure on myself."

Pressure might come from the course.

Unlike last year, when Augusta was brisk and brittle and the scores were among the highest in history, a warm afternoon of sunshine and only a light breeze brought back some of the scoring — and sounds of cheering — on the fabled course.

"I think the golf course is right where they want it," Rose said. "They can take it whichever direction they would like. If they want to create some birdies, they can do that. And if they want to make par a good score, that could be done. It's probably perfect right now."

Immelman played that way, keeping bogeys off his card in his best start at the Masters. Perhaps it was only a coincidence that Rose, Immelman and Ian Poulter made a weekend getaway to Augusta last month for practice.



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OLYMPICS

Jones' teammates must give up gold medals

International Olympic Committee rules that relay members cannot keep medals after teammate admitted steroid use

Associated Press

BEIJING — Marion Jones gave up her Olympic medals. Her relay teammates aren't quite as willing.

Jones' former relay teammates paid for her doping offenses Thursday, losing their medals from the 2000 Sydney Olympics as the International Olympic Committee stripped them from athletes who won gold with Jones in the 1,600-meter relay and bronze in the 400 relay.

"The decision was based on the fact that they were part of a team, that Marion Jones was disqualified from the Sydney Games due to her own admission that she was doping during those games," said IOC spokeswoman Giselle Davies, who announced the decision. "She was part of a team and she competed with them in the finals."

Jones' teammates on the 1,600 squad were Jearl-Miles Clark, Monique Hennagan, LaTasha Colander-Richardson and Andrea Anderson. The 400-relay squad also had Chryste Gaines, Torri Edwards, Nanceen Perry and Passion Richardson.

The runners have previously refused to give up their medals, saying it would be wrong to

punish them for Jones' violations. They have hired a U.S. lawyer to defend their case, which could wind up in the Swiss-based Court of Arbitration for Sport.

The IOC ruling follows the admission by Jones last year that she was doping at the time of the Sydney Games.

She returned her five medals last year and the IOC formally stripped her of the results in December. Jones won gold in the 100 meters, 200 and 1,600 relay, and bronze in the long jump and 400 relay.

"The (IOC) decision ... illustrates just how far-reaching the consequences of doping can be," USOC chief executive officer Jim Scherr said in a statement. "When an athlete makes the choice to cheat, others end up paying the price, including teammates, competitors and fans."

"We respect the decision of the IOC executive board, as well as the right for the athletes who are impacted by this decision to file an appeal with the Court of Arbitration of Sport, should they so choose."

The IOC put off any decision Thursday on reallocating the medals, pending more information from the ongoing BALCO steroid investigation in the United States.

A reshuffling of the medals could affect more than three dozen other athletes. The IOC wants to know whether any other Sydney athletes are implicated in the BALCO files.

Davies said the Jones' relay case differed from that of U.S. 400-meter runner Jerome Young, who was stripped of his gold medal in the 1,600-meter relay from Sydney because of a doping violation dating to 1999. He ran only in the preliminary of the relay.

The IOC had sought to strip the entire American men's team but the Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled in 2005 that there were no rules in place at the time of the Sydney Games for a whole relay team to be disqualified for an offense by one member.

"Marion Jones ran in the finals and she was of her own admission doped during the Olympic Games," Davies said. "Jerome Young was found to be doped before the Olympic Games and should never have competed in the first place."

The next IOC board meeting takes place in Athens, Greece, in June, followed by another meeting in Beijing on the eve of the Aug. 8-24 Olympics.

Davies said there was no timetable for a decision on redistributing medals, but



The U.S. Women's 1600m relay team celebrates after their win in Sydney on September 8, 2000. The women must now give up their medals after Marion Jones admitted to steroid use.

noted there was an eight-year statute of limitations. The Sydney Games finished on Oct. 1, 2000.

After denying she had ever used performance-enhancing drugs, Jones admitted in federal court in October that she used the designer steroid "the clear" from September 2000 to July 2001. She began serving a six-month prison sentence last month for lying to investigators about doping and her role in a check fraud scam.

On other doping matters, the IOC board adopted its anti-doping rules for the Beijing Games,

covering the period from the opening of the Olympic village on July 27 to the closing ceremony on Aug. 24.

Among new provisions, athletes will be considered guilty of a doping violation if they are found in possession of any prohibited substance, including marijuana. Missing two doping tests during the games or one during that period and two in the previous 18 months will constitute a violation. And athletes can be subjected to no-advance notice drug tests "at any time or place" during the games.

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SMC SOFTBALL

Belles seek fast start at Albion

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will focus on finally getting a first game win in Saturday afternoon's doubleheader at Albion College. The Belles have lost the opener of their last three doubleheaders, as well as in a single game 10-1 loss Monday against Bethel.

Belles coach Erin Sullivan has described this as a lack of preparedness for each team's style. This problem has remedied itself in the second game of the doubleheader, which the Belles have won in each contest.

The Belles (15-6 overall, 4-2 MIAA) have a chance to redeem themselves Saturday against the Britons (11-8, 3-

5). Albion, which finished seventh out of eight teams in the MIAA last year, has made improvements this year.

Sullivan said she feels her team is up to the task.

"We are a better team than we have shown recently," said Sullivan. "We are looking to come out strong against Albion and show what we can do."

"We just need to trust all of the hard work and effort we have put in over the year."

Erin Sullivan
Belles coach

Albion is coming off a sweep of MIAA opponent Kalamazoo. In game one, pitcher Amber Hummel allowed only one hit in her third shutout of the season.

The Belles have had a solid season despite the recent losses, and Sullivan does not feel that they have lost any confidence.

"We just need to trust all of

the hard work and effort we have put in over the year and go out and play hard," she said.

Junior Calli Davison (7-6) will start the first game, and senior McKenna Corrigan (8-0) will start the second. Along with pitching, Corrigan is one of the team's top offensive players, leading the team with three home runs and second in RBI with 23.

Junior Ashley Fusaro and sophomore Ashley Peterson, two-time reigning MIAA player of the week, respectively, lead the offense for Saint Mary's. Peterson leads the team in every major offensive category.

The Belles rank fourth in the MIAA heading into tomorrow's contest. The top four teams at the end of the season are invited to the postseason MIAA tournament.

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Team suffers close loss to Northwestern

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

When the nation's top-ranked team has continuously dominated its opponents and heads into town, at first, a 4-3 loss seems disheartening. For No. 16 Notre Dame, this was exactly the case after a close loss against No. 1 Northwestern.

Although the loss was frustrating, Irish head coach Jay Louderback realizes that his squad can compete with any team the country has to offer.

"Well they weren't happy," Louderback said of his team after the defeat. "And they shouldn't be. But after a loss like that, you know you're right there. Northwestern has been dominating teams throughout the season. Besides their one loss, they've

completely dominated. It was their first 4-3 win all season, so we know we're right there."

With that being said, the Irish are looking to close out their season this weekend with a pair of Big East opponents in DePaul on Friday and Marquette Sunday at the Courtney Tennis Center.

Part of the reason as to why the Irish were competitive against the Wildcats is because they went into the contest knowing that they could compete with the nation's best team.

"We for sure thought that we could go in there and win," Louderback said. "I thought we needed to win one of our four, five and six matches to win the match, but that just didn't happen. We had great wins at two and three, and losing all the singles matches that we did as close as they were hurt. Overall, we played okay, but not well enough to pull out the win."

Needless to say, the squad was frustrated and disappointed with themselves.

"They were pretty disappointed that they had the chance to win, but couldn't get it," Louderback said. "When you have the chance to win against the No. 1 team in the nation and it doesn't come through, you're going to be frustrated. We've moved on though and we know that we can go into Big East play and compete with anyone."

As it has been throughout the nine-game streak, the doubles play set the tone for the match against the Wildcats. The nation's top pair of senior Brook Buck and junior Kelcy Tefft took care of their opponents 8-2. Coupled with an 8-5 victory from sophomores Cosmina Ciobanu and Colleen Rielley, Notre Dame was able to secured the first point of the match heading into singles play.

The Irish suffered a setback in the No. 1 singles when Tefft fell in straight sets, putting the score at 1-1.

The No. 2 and 3 singles stepped up to the spotlight and came up with huge victories as Buck and Ciobanu both handled their opponents.

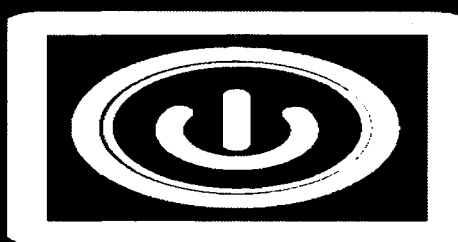
The lower half of the singles group is where the Wildcats made up the difference of the match and overcame a 3-1 deficit to pull out the victory.

Now that the nine-game winning streak Notre Dame had compiled is over, the squad cannot afford a let-down this weekend, and needs to keep winning as they head into Big East play.

"We had a great practice today," Louderback said of Thursday's session. "They came out fired up after Northwestern. DePaul is a very athletic team. They have a bunch of talent all around. It's also the first time they've been healthy in a long time so we know what they can do."

"We played well against Northwestern, and lost, so now we can't afford a let-down."

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TENNIS

Sharapova wins at Bausch & Lomb tourney

Associated Press

AMELIA ISLAND, Fla. — Maria Sharapova got the clay-court test she was looking for, but she almost got more than she bargained for. Sharapova outlasted clay-court veteran Anabel Medina Garrigues in three sets over 3 hours at the Bausch & Lomb Championships on Thursday.

The top seed rallied from 3-0 down in the third set and survived 7-6 (3), 5-7, 7-6 (1)

to move into the quarterfinals.

"There were a lot of ups and downs in the match," said Sharapova, who is making her clay season debut at Amelia Island Plantation for the first time. "I think I should have won the match in two sets, to be honest. But I stopped hitting the ball, and I kind of let her back in the match."

Three-time Bausch & Lomb champion Lindsay Davenport beat Karolina Sprem 6-4, 3-

6, 6-4 in the first night match.

Medina Garrigues controlled the momentum early in the third before Sharapova began the first of two bursts to escape.

Down 3-0, Sharapova won the next five games and saved several of her opponents' game points in the process to breathe easy at 5-3.

"It's the game of tennis, it can change really fast," Sharapova said.

It changed again as Sharapova, seemingly in control, served for the match at 5-4. Medina Garrigues won the first two points and converted her sixth break of serve to even it at 5-all.

But the tiebreak went Sharapova's way from the get-go.

The Russian won the first three and the last four points as Medina Garrigues wilted under the setting Florida sun.

This type of win a marathon with long baseline rallies against a strong clay player was just what Sharapova needed in order to prepare for the French Open.

"I still feel like I can improve," Sharapova said. "Hopefully all these matches that I play here, as many as I can, will help me toward this year's French or future clay-

court matches." Sharapova entered as the tournament's top seed, ranked No. 5 in the world with a 2008 record of 19-1.

Medina Garrigues came in ranked No. 29 with no quarterfinal appearances since September but with a staunch clay reputation.

They may as well have been equals Thursday.

"This is her specialty, this is where she does best," Sharapova said. "She grew up on this stuff, and she's very familiar with it."

Amelie Mauresmo had to work hard to earn her 500th career win in the third round.

Mauresmo, the 2001 Bausch & Lomb winner, came back to beat seventh-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (6) in a match that took more than 2½ hours.

Against Radwanska, Mauresmo was up 5-2 in the third before dropping two match points and then three straight games to force a tiebreaker.

"Even though I had some opportunities to finish it off before the third-set tiebreak, I couldn't make it," Mauresmo said. "I was glad that I was coming in and trying to go for it in that tiebreak. That's what made the difference, I thought, in the end."



Maria Sharapova watches a serve to Anabel Medina Garrigues during their match at the Bausch & Lomb Championships Thursday.

SMC GOLF

Belles in second at Vasser

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

Fresh off one of its best performances of the season in the first round of the MIAA qualifying tournament, Saint Mary's looks to maintain their solid play at the Vasser Invitational in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., this weekend.

Saint Mary's is currently second in the qualifier tournament after day one, just 18 strokes behind Olivet, the MIAA's fall season champions.

The Belles have developed some depth on the team that was not present during the fall season when they finished in third place. Freshmen Rosie O'Connor and Emily Gore have stepped up this spring and given senior Katie O'Brien some much needed support.

O'Connor has led the team in the past three tournaments, including the MIAA qualifier where she shot an 80. Gore has also played very well this spring and shot an 84 in the qualifier.

After the Vasser Invitational, the Belles will play in the Illinois Wesleyan Spring Fling the following weekend before they compete in the final two days of the MIAA qualifier tournament April 25-26 in Marshall, Mich.

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MEN'S TENNIS

Struggling Irish visit Wolverines

Team travels to No. 14 Michigan after losing five of past six matches

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

After dropping a 4-3 match Sunday to No. 63 William and Mary, the No. 34 Irish will look to regain some confidence this Saturday when they travel to No. 14 Michigan.

Notre Dame's loss on Sunday was only its third home loss this season after the team started off strong early in the season with many close wins.

"We won five 4-3 matches early, and rose to No. 9," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "It was an inflated ranking, based on a small body of work."

Since beating North Carolina 4-3 at the Blue Gray Tennis Classic, the Irish are 1-5 with their only win coming over Ball State on Friday.

Part of the reason for the Irish's troubles is the tough competition the team has faced.

"We have played perhaps the most difficult schedule," Bayliss said. "We have and will play six of the top 10 teams."

Bayliss also noted that when the Irish beat Duke on

Feb. 3, the Blue Devils were No. 10 and the win propelled the Irish to No. 9 in the rankings. The Blue Devils are now ranked No. 43.

While the Irish are looking to bounce back, Michigan is looking to do the same. The Wolverines had their 10-match winning streak halted by No. 17 Illinois on Sunday.

"Michigan had a rough weekend," Bayliss said. "They also played a close match outdoors with Purdue. They have more Big Ten championships than any other team. They are clearly the favorite on paper."

The Irish haven't fallen to the Wolverines since 2002 when the Irish were ranked No. 4 and the Wolverines were No. 43.

"This team will be remembered for how we handle the stretch run," Bayliss said. "It will definitely be challenging. Winning and losing are equally contagious. Each is self-replicating."

Freshman Dan Stahl had a hard fought win against

William and Mary on Sunday. Senior Sheeva Parbhu also had a big win for the Irish over the Tribe on Sunday.

Parbhu rebounded from a loss in doubles with junior Brett Helgeson to jump out to a five game lead in a singles match over Marwan Ramadan. Parbhu clinched the first set easily and raced to a 4-1 lead in the second, winning the match 6-1, 6-1.

On Sunday the Irish will return home to take on Louisville at the Eck Tennis Pavilion at 1:00 p.m.

"Louisville is a very different team," Bayliss said. "They have a lot of new players and have had a pretty good season."

The Irish have also been plagued by South Bend's oft-changing weather. Bayliss noted that the team's play had been affected by the inability to practice consistently outdoors.

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"Winning and losing are equally contagious. Each is self-replicating."

Bobby Bayliss
Irish coach

NBA

Nuggets win, edge closer to playoffs

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Allen Iverson squared up, hit a 3-pointer and raised his arms to the air, having thwarted Golden State's final charge. There was no downplaying the importance of this win that put the Denver Nuggets in control of the race for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference.

Iverson scored 33 points, J.R. Smith added 24 off the bench and the Nuggets overcame a 16-point deficit in the first quarter to win their playoff showdown with the Warriors 114-105 Thursday night.

"Everybody knew what was at stake," Iverson said. "It's easy for players to say it's just another game. But everybody knows it wasn't just another game. It was a game that both teams felt they had to have."

The win moved Denver (48-31) a full game ahead of the Warriors in the race for eighth place in the West with only three games remaining. The Nuggets also control the tiebreaker, meaning they can clinch their fifth straight playoff berth by winning two of their final three games.

Golden State (47-32) probably will need to win its final three

games and hope Denver loses twice.

"They're in the catbird seat right now," Warriors coach Don Nelson said. "We've got a big problem as far as making the playoffs at this particular time. We're going to need a lot of luck and probably have to win out."

The Nuggets erased the early deficit by scoring 19 straight points in the second quarter and built the lead up from there, putting the back-to-back losses to Sacramento and Seattle from last weekend behind them.

"It was a must win for us. We came up with that attitude," said Anthony, who had 25 points, including a 3-pointer that made it 104-90 with 7:52 to go. "It was 'win or go home' in our minds."

The lead grew to 17 before the Warriors mounted one last run, scoring nine straight points to cut it to 107-99 on Kelenna Azubuike's 3-pointer with just over 4 minutes remaining.

Golden State had two chances to cut into the lead more before Iverson's jumper got the lead back to 10. Iverson then hit the 3-pointer that made it 112-101 with 2:06 to go, icing the most important game of the season.

"Al likes to take that 3, that dagger 3," coach George Karl said. "We were kind of caught in the quandary of should we try to score or run clock. That 3 ended the quandary. It got us over that hump where we didn't have to be scared to death of them making that 3."

Both teams talked about how this game had a playoff feel to it. The yellow "We Believe" placards that were prevalent during the Warriors' playoff run a year ago were taped to each seat. But the Warriors have not been playing with the same energy down the stretch this season as they did during their memorable playoff run a year ago.

They have lost nine of the past 16 games in a lackluster finish to their best season in 14 years. Golden State committed an uncharacteristically high 18 turnovers, missed nine of 24 free throws and got poor shooting nights from Stephen Jackson and Baron Davis.

Davis had a triple-double with 20 points, 11 assists and 10 rebounds, but shot only 9-for-25. Jackson had 18 points on 5-for-17 shooting. Monta Ellis led the way with 29 points and Al Harrington added 20.

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ND TRACK & FIELD

Split squad travels to Mississippi, Michigan

By EUGENIA ALFONZO &
ALEX BARKER
Sports Writers

Notre Dame will split-up their squad for the second consecutive weekend when they send athletes to both the Mississippi Open in Oxford, Miss., and the Spartan Invitational in Lansing, Mich. this weekend.

Coming off strong performances in both the Stanford and Purdue Invitionals last weekend, Irish athletes will look to set more NCAA Regional qualifying marks by taking advantage of the warm weather down south.

"There will be primarily sprinters, throwers and a few middle distance runners and jumpers competing at Mississippi," Irish distance coach Tim Connelly said. "Hopefully [Mississippi] will be warm and conducive for some good performances in the shorter races and field events."

The SEC will provide plenty of competition for the Irish in Oxford due to its history of top performances, including placing six teams out of the top-10 at the NCAA Championship last year.

The Irish hope facing tough

competition will prepare them to perform well at the Big East Outdoor Championship meet at the beginning of May.

Those athletes who will compete at Michigan State in the Spartan Invitational will not have the same good fortune of weather. "The conditions at Michigan State could be pretty difficult — cold and rainy — but that is just the reality of spring time in the Midwest," Connelly said.

At the Spartan Invite, Notre Dame will face many familiar rivals and opponents, including Michigan, Purdue and Michigan State.

The Big East conference meet is rapidly approaching and each weekend's meet is becoming more and more important.

"There are only a limited number of opportunities to compete before the conference meet," Connelly said. "We need to take advantage of them."

Senior distance runner Jake Watson agreed.

"These meets are for people looking to run the Big East standards," Watson said.

Contact Eugenia Alfonzo at calfonzo@nd.edu, Alex Barker at abarker1@nd.edu

ND SOFTBALL

Irish open up new home field

Team breaks in Cook Stadium against Big East foes Rutgers, Villanova

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

Riding an eight-game winning streak, the Irish will look to open up newly constructed Melissa Cook Stadium in style with back-to-back double-headers against Big East foes Rutgers and Villanova this weekend.

The center of attention isn't on any kinds of streaks or statistics for the Irish (24-10, 5-1 Big East), but instead on just playing well in their next game.

"We are not focused on the winning streak," Irish coach Deanna Gumpf said. "All we are concerned about is beating these next two teams."

A point of motivation to win this weekend's series will be playing in brand-new Melissa Cook Stadium. The well-drained field has a fully-equipped locker room and a team room boasting televisions and couches that will allow the teams to unwind before and after games.

"The girls got to see it for the first time [Thursday], and they just loved it," Gumpf said.

Throwing out the first pitch

will be Brian Boulac, the founder of the Irish softball program. Boulac was the first softball coach at Notre Dame and coached the stadium's namesake, Melissa Cook, in the program's formative years said Gumpf.

Rutgers (16-21, 2-6 Big East) is coming off an impressive three-game winning streak to take on the Irish Saturday for the opening double-header.

The first pitch in action at Melissa Cook Stadium will be hurled at noon by junior Brittney Bargar with the second game beginning at 2 p.m. and started by freshman Jody Valdivia.

The Scarlet Knights have recently shown some pop on offense, with junior shortstop Kate Valiente going 3-for-7 at the plate in a double-header against Princeton in which she hit a grand-slam and drove in seven RBI's.

"Rutgers has very, very good hitters," Gumpf said. "They do a great job and are very tough to get out."

Villanova (14-14-1, 3-5 Big

East) is also enjoying some hot hitting as of late, with a victory and a 9-9 tie that was called due to darkness in a double-header with Lehigh.

"If we want to be successful against Villanova we are going to have to limit our swings only to good pitches"

Deanna Gumpf
Irish coach

"If we want to be successful against Villanova we are going to have to limit our swings only to good pitches," Gumpf

said. If their recent play is any guide, the Irish should have no trouble mustering up some offense.

Senior second baseman Katie Laing has been on fire as of late, earning Big East Player of the Week honors last week.

Also hot in the batter's box is sophomore utility player Christine Lux, who had a phenomenal double-header against Eastern Michigan on Wednesday.

Lux tied the team record for RBI in a single game held by former player Meagan Ruthrauff with seven in the opener. The impressive production included a three-run homer in the fourth inning.

Irish softball's new home, Melissa Cook Stadium, will hold opening ceremonies at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday before the doubleheader against Rutgers.

Contact Jared Jedick at jjedick@nd.edu

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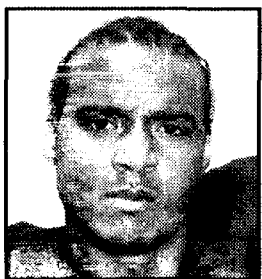
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Recycle The Observer.

Wideouts

continued from page 28

instead of just thinking about what he has to do he's out there reacting and being a ball player," Grimes said. "He's throwing the ball pretty well, he's looking good."

And the overall team chemistry is improving as well. More time spent together

brings a better understanding of each other, both on and off the field.

"[We're] learning each others' tendencies, throwing more passes and catching more balls with each other, just spending more time with each other on and off the field," Grimes said. "With time, things improve."

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu



Notre Dame players listen to the national anthem before Thursday's Frozen Four matchup against Michigan in Denver.

Defense

continued from page 28

playing with an intensity that seemed to be lacking in the first period. More players were getting more touches, and increased pressure was being put on Irish goalie Jordan Pearce.

"We came out [after the first period,] and I thought we played well the rest of the game," Porter said.

The duo of Porter and Kolarik combined for 116 points on the season, and tallied three more Thursday, with Kolarik netting two goals, and Porter earning an assist on one of them. Despite Porter and Kolarik being two of the most offensively creative players in the game, Jackson said the team didn't tailor its gameplan to try and stop the pair.

"We don't shadow people, we just play," Jackson said. "It's a

collective team effort defensively. Everybody plays defensively and everybody buys into playing that way."

After Michigan evened the game in the third, it must have felt like déjà vu for the Jackson's squad. In the teams' first meeting this season, a Jan. 18 matchup in Ann Arbor, Notre Dame also sprinted out to a first period lead, only to have it vanish and eventually lose on a heartbreaker with 20.3 seconds left.

"We did it then, but we didn't get the job done this time," Kolarik said.

Even though they couldn't do it in January, the Irish demonstrated Thursday night that to beat a team with goal-scoring capabilities like Michigan, they just had to weather the storm, and that's just what Notre Dame did when it mattered.

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

Department of Irish Language & Literature

Fall 2008 Course Offerings

	Literature Courses	
IRLL 30107	<i>The Hidden Ireland</i>	Prof. Peter McQuillan (TR 12:30-1:45)
IRLL 30108	<i>20th Century Irish Literature</i>	Prof. Sarah McKibben (MW 11:45-1:00)
IRLL 30307	<i>The Irish Tradition I</i>	Prof. Hugh Fogarty (TR 3:30-4:45)
IRLL 40304	<i>Poetry and Politics in Ireland</i>	Prof. Breandán Ó Buachalla (TR 2:00-3:15)
IRLL 60203	<i>Scottish Gaelic</i>	Prof. Peter McQuillan (TR 2:00-3:15)
IRLL 60305	<i>Clasaici na Gaeilge</i>	Prof. Breandán Ó Buachalla (W 6:00-9:00)
	Language Courses	
IRLL 10101:01	<i>Beginning Irish I</i>	Staff/TBA
IRLL 10101:02	<i>Beginning Irish I</i>	Prof. Tara MacLeod
IRLL 10101:03	<i>Beginning Irish I</i>	Staff/TBA
IRLL 10101:04	<i>Beginning Irish I</i>	Prof. Muireann Ní Bheuglaíoch
IRLL 10102:01	<i>Beginning Irish II</i>	Prof. Ciara Connolly
IRLL 10102:02	<i>Beginning Irish II</i>	Prof. Tara MacLeod
IRLL 20103:01	<i>Intermediate Irish</i>	Prof. Brian Ó Conchubhair
IRLL 20103:02	<i>Intermediate Irish</i>	Prof. Sarah MacKibben
IRLL 20203:01	<i>Advanced Readings in Irish Culture</i>	Prof. Brian Ó Conchubhair
IRLL 60101:01	<i>Beginning Irish I</i>	Staff/TBA
IRLL 60101:02	<i>Beginning Irish I</i>	Prof. Tara MacLeod
IRLL 60102:01	<i>Beginning Irish Language II</i>	Prof. Ciara Connolly
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IRLL 60103:02	<i>Intermediate Irish</i>	Prof. Sarah MacKibben
IRLL 60203:01	<i>Advanced Readings in Irish Culture</i>	Prof. Brian Ó Conchubhair



Irish sophomore defenseman Brett Blatchford battles for a loose puck with a Michigan defender.

Final

continued from page 28

with the Irish, Ridderwall ignited Notre Dame's offense five minutes into the first period. The Stockholm, Sweden native scored the game's first goal off an assist from senior center Justin White and began a 3-0 Irish run.

A second goal followed 42 seconds later thanks to sophomore left wing Ryan Thang's pass to senior right wing Mark Van Guilder, marking the senior captain's 13th goal of the season and second of the NCAA Tournament. Thang scored the final goal of the period with 34.9 seconds remaining, flipping a backhanded shot over Michigan goaltender Billy Sauer's blocker. The goal came near the end of an Irish penalty kill. Notre Dame owns the second best penalty killing unit in the country.

But despite the large early deficit, the Wolverines refused to stay down.

Just minutes into the second period, after replacing starting goalie Billy Sauer in favor of Hogan, senior wingman Chad Kolarik sparked the Wolverines offense with 11:12 remaining, scoring over the left shoulder of Notre Dame goaltender Jordan Pearce off a pass from senior center Kevin Porter.

Just 15 seconds later, freshman right wing Aaron Palushaj passed the puck to freshman center Matt Rust from the left corner of the ice, resulting in another Michigan goal and bringing the score to 3-2.

Both teams offense's remained silent until just over two minutes into the third period when Michigan tied the game 3-3 from a second Kolarik goal off a pass from freshman wingman Max Paciorelly.

The Irish took the lead again with 8:30 remaining when sophomore center Kevin Deeth chipped a shot inside the goalpost past Hogan off a pass from sophomore wingman Dan Kissel. Michigan answered Deeth's goal with 5:21 remaining — Rust earned his second goal of the evening and tied the game 4-4.

Ridderwall then added the

winner in overtime.

Pearce saved 29 shots and improved his record to 23-14-4 on the season.

Notre Dame entered the game 0-2 in the series against the Wolverines for the season. The Irish narrowly fell 3-2 to Michigan with 20 seconds remaining during the season's first match up, while the Wolverines dominated the second game, winning 5-1.

The Irish are set to play Boston College at 7 p.m. Saturday in the Championship game. The Eagles offensively dominated North Dakota earlier in the day nearly shutting them out.

"[Boston College has] a great offensive team. They turn that game around in a 3-minutes time span," Jackson said. "They're going to be similar to Michigan in some ways. They have good depth, offensively. They're going to be dangerous."

The only Fighting Sioux goal came late in the third period, allowing Boston College to prevail, 6-1.

The Irish and the Wolverines competed in front of 18,544 fans, marking the sixth best attendance for a semifinal game of all time.

"We're really happy. We'll regroup tonight," Deeth said. "We're excited to be here, but we're not done yet. We still have business to finish."

Contact Ellyn Michalak at emichala@nd.edu

Michigan

continued from page 28

right wing Mark Van Guilder beat Michigan goalie Billy Sauer with goals separated by 42 seconds. Then, shorthanded and with under a minute left in the period, left wing Ryan Thang spooled the puck around Wolverines defenseman Steve Kampfer and backhanded it over Sauer's shoulder while cutting in along the left goal line.

"We came out with the intensity we thought we needed, then they got that first goal by 22, or whatever the heck his name is, he played a good game," Wolverines right wing Chad Kolarik said about the first period and Ridderwall.

Against the vaunted Wolverines, the No. 1 team in the country, the Irish rampaged to a 3-0 lead at the first buzzer and knocked Sauer out of the game. Months ago, against competition ranked in the top 10, the Irish romped to a 16-4 record by Christmas break, ending with a 9-0 run.

In both cases, the momentum would soon die — and fast.

Like the malaise that blanketed the Irish from January to March, the second period hit and it was all Notre Dame could do to hold onto the tail of a maize jersey flying past.

Wolverines forwards Kolarik and Matt Rust pounded back-to-back goals only 15 seconds apart to cut the lead to 3-2 and momentum fell away from the Irish. It seemed the Irish mid-winter funk had reincarnated mid-game.

The Irish couldn't get chances on freshman goalie Bryan Hogan, who was put in only the sixth game of his career after Sauer was yanked. The shots that found the net were of poor caliber.

"[Hogan] played well, I give him credit. We just tried to get shots from anywhere on him," Van Guilder said.

Then Kolarik struck again with a power-play goal two minutes into the third period to tie the game 3-3. It seemed the Irish were doomed to repeat the mistakes of the second half of the season, where they slid into the NCAA Tournament scoring only 43 goals in their



Freshman center Ben Ryan skates past a Wolverine defender in Notre Dame's 5-4 upset victory over Michigan on Thursday.

last 24 games.

The forecheck had disappeared, and the cycle was nonexistent, and goals were a first-period memory.

"We knew [the Irish] were going to come out the way they did," Michigan center Kevin Porter said. "We needed to regroup after the second, and that's what we did. I thought we played well the rest of the game."

But by the middle of the third period, the Irish found their mojo again, peppering Hogan with his first serious threats of the game and eventually one from Kevin Deeth went in for the 4-3 lead. A fortunate carom for Michigan with five minutes left in the third period tied the game at 4-4 to send it to overtime, but Notre Dame was back.

Just like when they bounced back from a terrible second half of the season to power their way through the West regional

two weeks ago, the Irish started to hammer Michigan like they did in the first period.

Forwards crashed their rebounds in overtime and the forecheck frustrated and prevented the Wolverines from breaking the puck out of their zone.

It only took five minutes for Ridderwall to pick his spot off a Dan VeNard rebound, and a few more seconds for the Irish to pile on top of Ridderwall at center ice.

"It didn't faze [the Irish]," Jackson said. "You always wait for momentum to change in situations like tonight's game, and our guys handled it with calm and cool and that at least allowed us to continue to play on."

And now Notre Dame is playing on to the national championship.

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu

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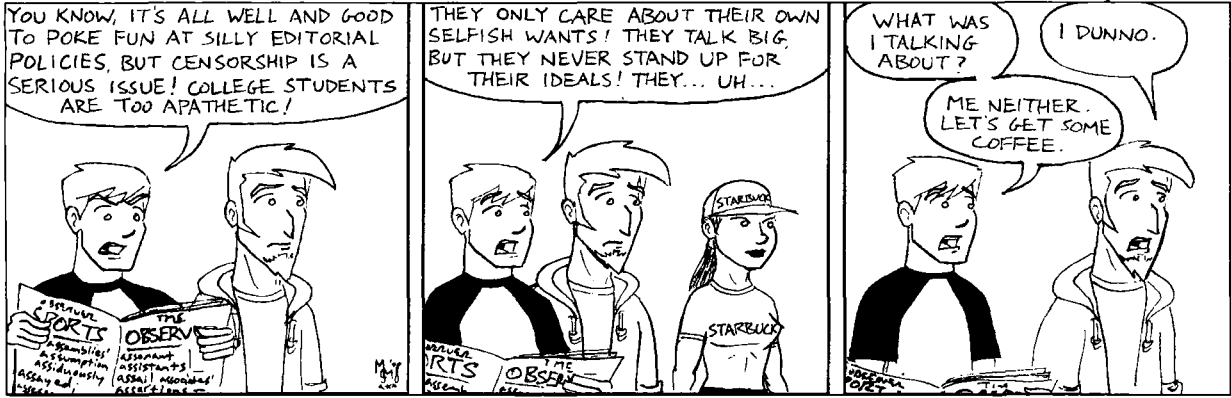
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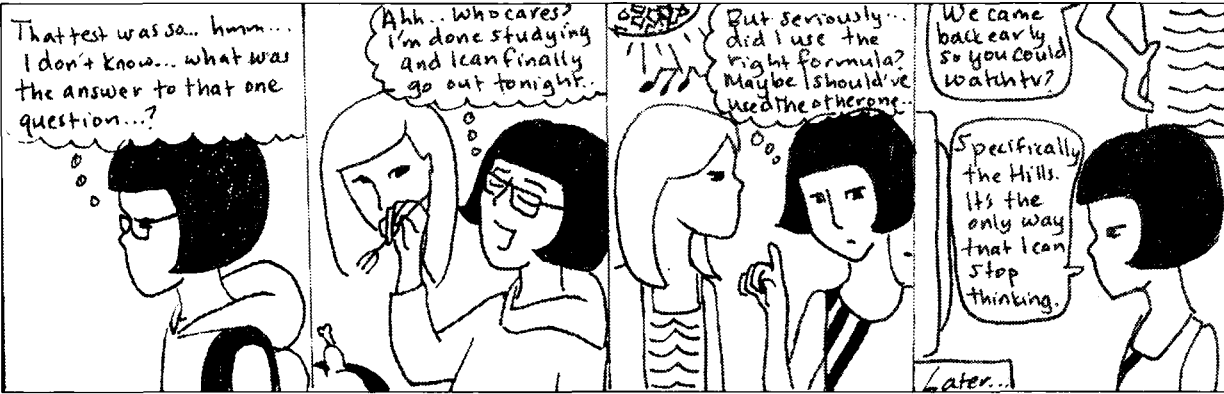
DIDIER LEWIS

Top 10 reasons to loathe 'The Backer'

1) Longevity: the place is falling apart. 2) The Music: Yeah, 'Ghostbusters' is exactly what I want to hear on a Saturday night. 3) Potent Long Islands: that you have to wait 45 minutes for. 4) Location: if you don't live on campus or TC, you're screwed. 5) Freebies: Paying \$5 to drink in a walk-in closet and getting a drink ticket and stale popcorn isn't a freebie.	6) The Backer Pole: The only thing holding the building up. 7) Merchandise: They should sell a "I stood in a room full of B.O. and farts and all I got was this lousy t-shirt" shirts. 8) Website: Are you serious? 9) Special Events: Have you ever been to 'Let's all sweat and pour beer on each other night'? No? Well you should do that after you get married.	10) Old Alumni - even they think 'The Backer' sucks. And 50 years from now when I come back for a football game, I can only hope and pray that I will end up at Club Fever dancing in the cage with 20-year olds. Or The Torch Lounge.
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THE SINGLE LIFE

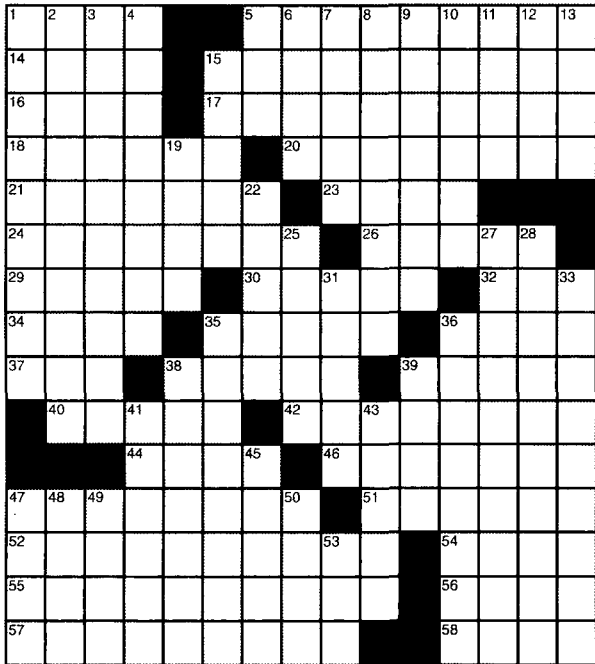
LINA PAEK



CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| Across | 26 Sound of a dropped scoop of ice cream | 47 Soft spread |
| 1 Product once advertised with the catchphrase "There's no step 3!" | 29 Certain chess piece, informally | 51 Hang it up |
| 5 Barely mention, as something one doesn't want to discuss | 30 Edward who created the Gashlycrumb Tinies | 52 1990 #1 rap hit that starts "Yo, V.I.P., let's kick it" |
| 14 Putting regular gas in a diesel engine, e.g. | 32 Coca-Cola creation | 54 Mystical indicator |
| 15 One abandoned at the altar? | 34 "Caribbean Blue" singer | 55 Bernard Malamud's debut novel |
| 16 Presently | 35 Candle holders | 56 Ball boy? |
| 17 In-house debugging | 36 Ford or Lincoln | 57 One who refuses to shake hands, maybe |
| 18 Person at the wheel? | 37 "Notorious" setting | 58 Poses |
| 20 Most useless | 38 Dispel a curse? | |
| 21 "Rich gifts wax poor when givers prove unkind" speaker | 39 Man | Down |
| 23 Snazzy | 40 Unit of radioactivity | 1 Agitated |
| 24 Region bordering Mount Olympus | 42 It protects car buyers | 2 Like most 1950s recordings |
| | 44 In the distance | 3 Final Gene Wilder/Richard Pryor comedy |
| | 46 #1 Beatles hit with the only known vocal contribution by Linda McCartney | 4 Neapolitan noblewoman |
| | | 5 ___ volatile |
| | | 6 Goes to bed, in Britspeak |
| | | 7 Having a single purpose |
| | | 8 Flowers named for their scent |
| | | 9 Tendency toward chaos |
| | | 10 "The Great God Brown" playwright |
| | | 11 Classical art medium |
| | | 12 Lifesavers, for short |
| | | 13 Others |
| | | 15 "___ Full of Grace" (2004 film) |
| | | 19 Other |

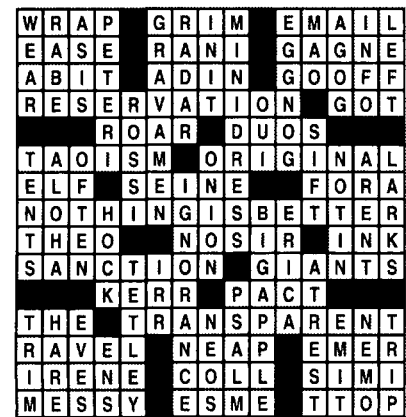


Puzzle by Patrick Berry

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 22 Pool owner's nuisance | 36 Home for the Ojibwa and Cree | 45 Picture writing, of a sort |
| 25 Clodhopper | 38 Split right before your eyes? | 47 Atoms |
| 27 Continuously | 39 Go for a party, say | 48 Comeback |
| 28 Stop working | 41 Wisconsin city that's home to S. C. Johnson & Son | 49 Pullers of the chariot of Artemis |
| 31 Push off | | 50 Practically unheard-of |
| 33 "Don't spread this around, but..." | 43 Actress Streep | 53 Rule out |
| 35 Tightly embrace | | |

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles: nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/puzzleforum. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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

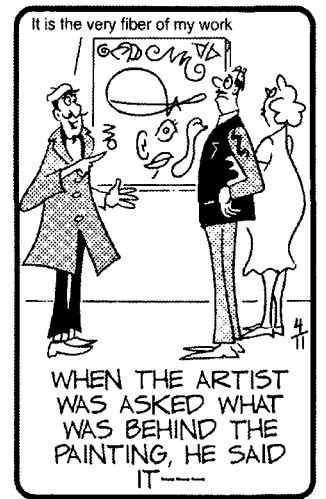
ORVAS
HIWSS
LENGAC
LAMAMM

Answer: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: VAGUE TYPED URCHIN MARVEL
Answer: What the surgeon turned into at the annual party — A REAL CUT UP

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek



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

(Answers tomorrow)

HOROSCOPE

FRIDAYS WITH FRAN

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Stay clean, stay focused. Frankenstein, have fun with your friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your husband will be a lucky man on your wedding day. Well, at least as long as you have the veil over your face.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Bulge the ol' onion bag.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Be careful not to rear end another car today. Haha, it says rear end in the newspaper.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) See if you can fit the hot dog in the hamburger bun.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Which ooze more for you? Boils or pustules? Text your response to (773)909-9349.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) You bought what? That's just gross... Yea, we know your secret.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Clyde "The Astroglide" Drexler will be on campus this weekend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You're just plain whacky. Just plain.

CARPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Charlton Heston died and we all know who did it. Damn you all to hell, you damn dirty apes.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) When he was born, was there even a 1 in 1,000,000,000 chance that the Undertaker wasn't going to become a professional wrestler? And there would have been more zeros in that question if there wasn't a limit on the horoscope space.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Try and eat some Bath and Body Works-type stuff this weekend...at night.

THE OBSERVER

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HOCKEY

Mile high miracle

Victory puts Irish in first ever NCAA final

By ELLYN MICHALAK
Sports Writer

DENVER — With effective first period offense and a final overtime goal by freshman left wing Calle Ridderwall, the underdog Irish defeated Michigan 5-4, earning their first ever entry into the NCAA National Championship.

"I have a rich tradition in playing the underdog role," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "The underdog thing is overblown. When you get to this level, the teams in college hockey are so close where anything can happen."

Five minutes into overtime, Michigan goalie Bryan Hogan stopped senior center Dan Vanard's shot on goal. Ridderwall scored off the rebound, earning his fifth career goal, and lifting the Irish to a 5-4 win in sudden death.

Entering the game with only three goals in his first season

see FINAL/page 26



Freshman forward Calle Ridderwall and senior defenseman Dan VeNard celebrate after Ridderwall's goal in overtime gave Notre Dame a 5-4 win over top-ranked Michigan in the Frozen Four semifinals.

WU YUE/The Observer

Semifinal win sums up Notre Dame season

DENVER — Hot, then cold. Productive, then fallow.

And then explosive.

It's the story of the 2007-08 Notre Dame hockey team and in fitting fashion, it was the story of the national semifinal, capped by freshman

Kyle Cassily

Senior Staff
Writer

Calle Ridderwall's patient, peek-a-boo shot that found twine to give the Irish the 5-4 upset win in overtime over Michigan.

Notre Dame replicated the storyline of its season in one game, surging at the start before bottoming out in the middle, followed by a renaissance at the end.

"It was kind of a crazy game," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "There was no time I felt comfortable in that game."

The Irish poured three first-period goals on the Wolverines in imitation of its explosive first

see MICHIGAN/page 26

Team survives high powered Michigan offense when it counts

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

DENVER — All season, Michigan's offense has been known to score quicker than you can say "Go Blue," and Notre Dame experienced that explosiveness firsthand Thursday night.

Taking a 3-0 lead into the first intermission, and dominating basically all facets of the game, Notre Dame looked to be cruising towards a national championship berth, or they would have, if this were any team but the Wolverines.

"It's always great to get up on Michigan, because we know

they're so talented offensively," Notre Dame sophomore forward Ryan Thang said. "[But] when you get a lead like that, it really doesn't mean a lot against a team like Michigan because they're so powerful."

Even with the lead, a Wolverine comeback was inevitable, and Notre Dame coach Jeff Jackson knew it.

"They're just too explosive of a team to feel comfortable," Jackson said.

In the second period, Michigan's vaunted offense came to life, scoring two goals in 15 seconds, bringing the score back to 3-2, and completely reversing the momentum inside the Pepsi Center. A third goal two minutes into the third evened up the score, and Notre Dame's early three-goal cushion had evaporated.

"Obviously it wasn't the start that we wanted, but I liked the

way our team regrouped in the second period," Wolverine coach Red Berenson said. "Our kids bounced back hard."

Notre Dame had made a crucial mistake — it gave the Wolverines space to create. In the first period, the Irish forechecked aggressively and no Michigan player could touch the puck without being pinned against the boards by a blue Notre Dame jersey. In the second, though, the Irish allowed Michigan to set up its offense and effectively cycle the puck, and on a team with players like Chad Kolarik and Kevin Porter, the Irish were asking for trouble.

"They possessed the puck quite a bit more than we did in the second period," Irish senior captain Mark Van Guilder said.

Michigan did its part too, taking advantage of the given space and

see DEFENSE/page 25



WU YUE/The Observer

Junior goaltender Jordan Pearce makes one of his 29 saves in Thursday's Frozen Four win over Michigan.

FOOTBALL

Experienced receiving corps bring flexibility to offense

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

A tandem of young of wide receivers brought a glimmer of hope to the end of last season. True freshmen Duval Kamara and Golden Tate finally showed their potential in Notre Dame's 21-14 win over Stanford in November.

Quarterback Jimmy Clausen connected with Kamara six times to combine for a team-high of 93 yards. Kamara had 357 yards on the season, behind only senior tight end John Carlson and sophomore Robby Parris.

From the looks of spring camp, things are likely to con-

tinue in that direction. Offensive coordinator Michael Haywood noted that the Irish are already ahead of their gameplan at this point in the spring season, a feat he attributes to the coaching staff and their attention to detail.

"We keep track of everything," Haywood said. "We keep track of every play that's made, every catch that is made by a wide receiver, every ball that is deflected, every ball that is dropped, every ball that is unaccepted, and every ball that is incomplete, for whatever reason."

In addition to spotting problems early enough to fix them, the Irish now boast a little bit

more experience in the receiving lanes.

Rising senior David Grimes has the most experience at the position and has used what he's learned to guide younger players like Kamara and Tate.

"He's an outstanding leader," Haywood said of Grimes. "He leads by example he leads by the way he carries himself on campus. He acts like a champion at all times."

But finding leaders in upperclassmen is just part of Notre Dame's dynamic.

"I just see it as one big family we go out and help each other," Kamara said. "Grimes helps me a lot, that's one of the guys I look up to. Just

going out and being a family, being one, and we just compete to do our best."

Beyond being a leader, Grimes was fourth on the Irish squad with 224 yards in 2007. Rising junior Robby Parris was second with 361 yards.

With three of the four top receivers returning, the offensive staff is free to move players around to find the best combinations of two or three men.

"Each individual is adjusting to their position because we're moving wide receivers around," Haywood said. "Maybe by formation, maybe by motions, and we're moving a lot of guys around and guys

are learning conceptually — three-man concepts, two-man concepts — and as they learn this, they do a lot better job because they understand where they have to get as opposed to where the other receiver is at this time."

The ability to try players in different positions is also an attribute to Clausen's experience. With a year of play under his belt, his confidence with himself and chemistry with his receivers is growing. It doesn't hurt that all three of the top receivers have already had a season to learn Clausen's style.

"He's a lot more confident,

see WIDEOUTS/page 25