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Mooney: Education more important than cost

Saint Mary's President writes letter to parents of prospective students to encourage consideration of all financial options

By LIZ HARTER
Saint Mary's Editor

With the economy at the forefront of most news broadcasts and on front pages of many newspapers, the effects are beginning to reach higher education and raising questions as to whether or not families will be able to send children to expensive colleges and universities.

Saint Mary's President Carol Ann Mooney responded to this dilemma in a

Presidential Perspective posted on the College's external Web site on Monday.

"It is the natural reaction in uncertain times to tighten our belts," Mooney said in the perspective. "People are driving less, shopping less, and doing more with less — all wise reactions to an uncer-



Mooney

tain economic future."

However, quality cannot be sacrificed in some areas, Mooney said.

"Even in difficult times, for some things quality is worth the sacrifice," she said. "Some decisions are too important to be left in the hands of the lowest bidder."

She encouraged the parents of prospective students — the main target of the external Web site — to explore their financial aid options in these "uncertain times" and reminded parents that the "sticker price" of a college

may not be the final price that student will pay because of financial aid.

"Many private institutions, like Saint Mary's, offer scholarships, need based aid, loans, work study, and other solutions. Nearly one-fourth of our operating budget is devoted to making a Saint Mary's education affordable for our families," Mooney said. "... The end result is that, for some students, the cost of attending a private college or university is actually lower than that of attending a public universi-

ty."

Susan Dampeer, Mooney's executive assistant, told The Observer that the perspective posted on the Web site is not the first time Mooney has discussed the subject of the economy.

Mooney addressed the current economic situation and the College's response to it with the faculty and staff during a series of talks in early November, Dampeer said.

"The presidential perspec-

see MOONEY/page 3

NDSP gives winter driving advice

Students should increase following distance by 3 seconds, heed weather agency warnings

By ROBERT SINGER
News Writer

Captain Phil Trent, public information officer at the South Bend Police Department, gave some advice to students who plan to drive on wintry roads: "Practice makes perfect. Give yourself a lot of time and distance between you and the cars in front of you."

Driving on roads layered by ice and snow is among the adjustments students coming from warmer climates like those found in California and Florida must make in the northern Midwest.

Notre Dame Security Police Major Jeff Korros explained the difference between driving on snow and driving in clear conditions.

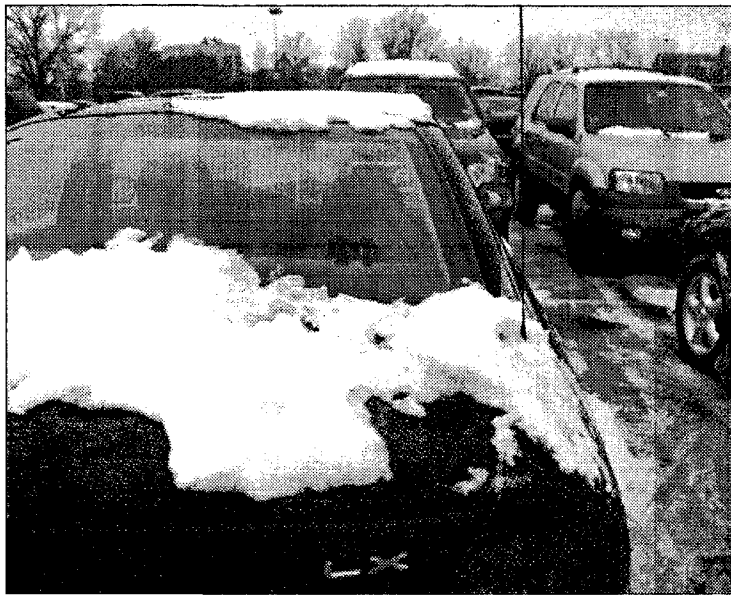
"The biggest difference is that you lose traction. The coefficient

of friction between the tires and the road surface isn't there," he said. "If you steer, you might end up going in a straight line. When you hit the brakes, you slide because there is no stopping ability."

Korros also pointed to some guidelines for returning to campus in one piece. Drivers should increase their following distance to three seconds, clear all windows beforehand, apply steady brake pressure and in the event that the car loses traction, the driver should release the gas pedal and turn the steering wheel slightly in the direction that the rear-end is drifting.

In slippery conditions, "jabbing" at the brakes will cause tires to lock and slide while "overcorrecting" and turning the

see SNOW/page 4



JESS LEE/The Observer

Snow covers cars in a Notre Dame parking lot. Students face increased dangers driving in the winter.

Groups to host green show

By ELLYN MICHALAK
News Writer

In light of the University's recent efforts to "Go Green," Notre Dame will host its first ever environmentally friendly fashion show, "Trash to Class: A Green Fashion Event" to raise money for an environmental justice solutions organization.

The fashion show is hosted by Students for Environmental Action, GreenND, the Energy Center and the Office of Sustainability and all proceeds will go to Sustainable South Bronx. Sustainable South

see FASHION/page 4

Panel discusses popular history

History Dept. Chair Thomas Noble says academic history is different

By CATHERINE MILLER
News Writer

There's popular history, and then there's unpopular history, said Thomas Noble, Chair of the Department of History and the first of three panel members to speak at Tuesday's discussion "Academic vs. Popular History," which aimed to differentiate between the two genres of history in today's society.

"One of the obvious differences between popular and academic history is that popular history makes an enormous amount of money,"

Noble said, as he began the event sponsored by the Department of History and Exploring History Beyond the Classroom, a one credit class designed to encourage intellectual discussion among history scholars.

Enhanced with colorful images and visuals, prominent publishers issue popular historic books, while academic books tend to lack visuals and are usually published by a university, Noble said.

"There is a difference in how the books are prepared," he said.

Once written, an academic book is reviewed by an author's colleagues. For a

popular book, no review process is necessary, and editors work more closely with authors. Also, success of a popular historical book is measured by the number of copies sold, instead of the quality of the review necessary for success of an academic book.

"There is one piece of bad news and two pieces of good news [about this fact]," John McGreevy, O'Shaughnessy Dean of Arts and Letters, said. There is an enormous amount of bad popular history, he said.

Portions of the History

see HISTORY/page 3

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Kirk clarifies role of Office of Residence Life

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

The Office of Residence Life (ORL) is charged with educating students, not with punishing them, according to associate vice president of Residence Life Bill Kirk, a 1984 graduate of Notre Dame who spoke at Tuesday's Council of Representatives (COR) meeting at the request of Student Body President Bob Reish.

"[ORL] is not about the minimal expectations of society, it's not about treating everyone the same," Kirk said. "It is much

more about an attempt by the University to try to help in the formation of the students in their education. Our primary role is education."

Much of ORL's role in the educational process is overshadowed by the perception that the office is only focused on discipline, but Kirk said that the office's disciplinary measures serve a greater purpose.

"Quite obviously, they deal with discipline, but it's about education, it's about formation, it's about trying to assist students in

see COR/page 3

INSIDE COLUMN

Decline a bowl game

It seems to be official. ESPN, WNDU, Irisheyes.com and, according to today's sports section of The Observer, a source close to the administration have confirmed that Charlie Weis will remain as the head football coach at our fair University.

I won't lie and say I'm not entirely sad that I'll be graduating at the end of the year and won't have to sit through another dismal season in the student section. Instead, I'll most likely be sitting elsewhere in the stadium watching a dismal season — let's face it, I'll be an Irish fan for life.

Liz Harter

Saint Mary's
Editor

That being said, I, like many fans, was disappointed in the Irish's showing against USC. Obviously, I don't like that we lost or the fact that it took us almost 45 minutes to get a first down. But what I'm most disappointed in is the lack of passion I saw from our team.

Now, I've never written a sports article, nor do I claim to have an extensive knowledge of the sport of football, but I was at USC. I don't know how much they showed on TV but before the game the players of both teams got into a fight. Then, two players, one from each team, were ejected from the game because of fighting.

After the game, Charlie Weis said that he expects the team to be going somewhere when bowl selection day rolls around.

I want to ask why? Why should we go to a bowl game?

We barely beat Navy. We lost to a team that was 2-8. What have we done that shows that we deserve to go to a bowl?

Sure, we lost to USC, but let's be honest, who didn't see that one coming? I'm not saying that we don't deserve to go to the Sun Bowl or the Poinsettia Bowl just because we lost to a team that we knew was going to be able to beat us into the ground.

I'm saying we don't deserve to go to a bowl game because the only time I saw our players get fired up on Saturday was when they were fighting USC players. Why not put the passion you showed us yelling and pushing the Trojans into the tackles you tried to make that night?

I'm saying we don't deserve to go to a bowl game because the only excitement I saw on the field during the Syracuse game was when Pat Kuntz got mad because he got hit with a snowball.

Don't get me wrong, I commend our players for being students and athletes, but really, at the past two games they looked tired. They didn't show me anything that made me want to see them play again this season. It's getting to be cruel and unusual punishment watching Notre Dame football games. Why do I want to watch any more?

I'm sorry that if Notre Dame doesn't go to a bowl game the senior football players won't play for the Irish again, but maybe it's best to just go quietly. Congratulations on four years, but please don't subject me to anymore.

I understand that money changes hands when teams are invited to bowl games, and therefore ND will obviously go wherever they are invited. But seriously, think about sparing us the pain and respectfully decline.

Personally, I know I would thank you for doing so.

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

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CORRECTIONS

Due to a reporting error, Saint Mary's senior Kristi Pelligrini was incorrectly identified as a Notre Dame student in the article "Irish fans disappointed, embarrassed by USC loss" in the Dec. 2 issue of The Observer. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PICK UP LINE?



Brent Gills

senior
off-campus

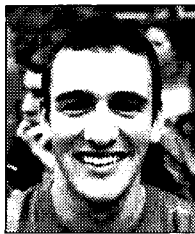
"How much
does a polar
bear weigh?
Enough to break
the ice."



Jake Wilson

senior
Fisher

"Did you just
wax your pants
because I can
totally see
myself in them."



Luke Stavole

sophomore
St. Edwards

"I'm from
Steds."



Monica Garcia-Blizzard

senior
McGlenn

"If I could
rearrange the
alphabet I
would put U
and I together."



Tony Ceravolo

senior
Duncan

"Do you work at
Subway? Cuz
you're giving
me a footlong."



Irish dancers perform during halftime at the Notre Dame men's basketball game Tuesday night.

OFFBEAT

Man accused of throwing Christmas tree at dad

PARRISH, Fla. — Authorities say a west Florida man who lives with his parents has been arrested on a felony assault charge after he used a Christmas tree as a weapon to attack his father.

According to the Manatee County sheriff's report a 37-year-old man was arrested last week after he threw a 3-foot Christmas tree at his father. The tree missed, but the man

then tried to use the steel base from the tree to strike his father.

The man was charged with felony assault. He denied trying to strike his father.

Woman accused of stealing decorations

MANCHESTER, Md. — A woman was facing misdemeanor theft charges for allegedly swiping Christmas decorations from her neighbor's lawns. The county sheriff's office said a 51-year-old woman was found Monday in her

Manchester home with decorations from at least three area homes.

Authorities said the investigation began about 4:30 a.m., after a woman reported a loud noise and discovered her 4-foot-tall Santa and snowman had been taken from her yard.

After deputies went to her home, another neighbor who was walking her dog reported that she, too, had been targeted.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Human rights activist **Winona LaDuke** will speak on "The New Energy Economy: Nonviolent strategies of change utilizing indigenous knowledge" tonight at 7 p.m. in the Hesburgh Auditorium in the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

Students for Environmental Action (SEA) and GreenD are hosting a **Green Fashion Show** tonight from 8 p.m. to 9 at the **LaFortune Ballroom**. Tickets are \$5 and proceeds go to the Majora Carter Sustainable South Bronx.

Members of Saint Mary's Women's Choir will perform at the College's 36th annual **Madrigal Dinners** this weekend. Performances are Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$40 for evening performances, \$35 for matinee performances and \$15 for children.

Circle K, Knott Hall and the Class of 2009 will make **fleece blankets** to donate to cancer patients as part of **The Aidan Project**. The project will take place Saturday from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the East Wing of South Dining Hall.

Notre Dame Women's Basketball team plays **Purdue** at 2 p.m. Sunday in the **Joyce Center**. Call 574-631-7356 for tickets or visit the Athletic Ticket Office Web page.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 35 LOW 25	HIGH 25 LOW 15	HIGH 37 LOW 25	HIGH 30 LOW 18	HIGH 33 LOW 20	HIGH 34 LOW 23

Atlanta 49 / 32 Boston 50 / 40 Chicago 34 / 21 Denver 54 / 31 Houston 72 / 45 Los Angeles 67 / 55 Minneapolis 38 / 19 New York 49 / 38 Philadelphia 48 / 37 Phoenix 78 / 50 Seattle 51 / 46 St. Louis 46 / 27 Tampa 62 / 48 Washington 49 / 36

COR

continued from page 1

coming to understand that their actions have consequences," he said.

Kirk is not personally involved in disciplinary hearings, contrary to popular perception, as he is not involved in the day-to-day procedures of the ORL, he said.

"I supervise the administration of that office."

ORL is directly supervised by Jeff Shoup, the Director of the Office of Residence Life and Housing. It is Shoup who runs disciplinary hearings, Kirk said.

Kirk said he understands that he and the ORL are not well liked by students, but he said that he hopes that his appearance at the COR meeting will help to clear up some of the misunderstandings about his role at Notre Dame.

Despite his assumed unpopularity among many students, Kirk said it is an "absolute delight to teach and be around" students.

He received a favorable reaction from most COR members, especially after he was given a chance to articulate his view of the mission of Residence Life.

"It's very clear that you have the best interests of the students and the community at heart," sophomore class president Cynthia Weber said.

Kirk said that one of the key roles in Residence Life's educational mission is instilling a sense that actions have consequences in students. Actions "really do have an impact on the rest of the community," Kirk said.

Understanding this reality is important for the idea of living in a community that the University embraces, according to Kirk.

"The sense of community is very important" at Notre Dame, he said.

One important disciplinary role filled by ORL that is often over-

looked is in regards to cases of sexual assault.

Weber said many members of the sophomore class were most interested in the University's policies in regards to sexual assault, especially in light of the University's ban on premarital sexual intercourse.

Kirk said that the University has two unrelated rules.

"One deals with sexual misconduct and the ways that you can be charged with sexual assault," while the other is concerned with premarital intercourse, he said.

"When an allegation of sexual assault is raised, the University says we're going to deal with that really important allegation," Kirk said.

The University will not punish either party for premarital intercourse if an allegation of assault is raised, even if the individuals engaged in consensual intercourse prior to the alleged incident of assault, he said.

Cases of sexual assault are incidents in which the University often believes that further education of the perpetrator is impossible.

"If someone sexually assaults someone, that's not a person we believe we can educate any more," he said.

He said it is often difficult to establish the truth in an alleged sexual assault incident, unlike in most cases that Residence Life hears, which often regard alcohol-related offenses.

"Getting to what happened [in cases of sexual assault] is going to be very difficult," Kirk said. "It's not a situation where anyone is ever going to be happy."

In cases that are not related to sexual assault, the facts of the case are generally clear-cut, he said. "There are very few circumstances where there's ever a question of what actually happened," he said. "Virtually always, there's a recognition among the students in the room that they engaged in this behav-

ior, but there's almost always disagreement as to what the appropriate response is."

"I think that reasonable people can disagree whether [Residence Life's sanctions] are effective, whether they do what we want them to do," Kirk said.

Off-campus safety was an important topic in COR's discussion with Kirk. Kirk said off-campus security is the responsibility of South Bend Police, not of the University.

Notre Dame Security Police's jurisdiction only extends on campus and "on roads that run through and around campus," Kirk said. Therefore, NDSP is unable to "go and do police and law enforcement things elsewhere in the county," he said. This jurisdiction is set by Indiana state law.

Kirk said that contrary to perception, South Bend police "are remarkably student-friendly."

"They treat students with great respect and restraint, especially when the students they're dealing with generally have some level of intoxication," Kirk said.

Also, contrary to popular belief, South Bend Police were not responsible for the Colfax Street raid on Sept. 21, according to Kirk, where 37 people were arrested. The Indiana State Excise Police and the St. Joseph County Police conducted the raid.

"South Bend almost never brings anything to the University's attention, makes arrests or issue citations [for alcohol]," Kirk said. "I can't remember the last time I learned of an underage drinking arrest or a violation of a noisy house ordinance that came from the South Bend police."

Kirk said that the primary role of the South Bend Police Department is not to prevent underage drinking. However, that is an important role of the excise police, which is charged to "enforce laws regarding the use

and abuse of alcohol," according to Kirk.

"I've seen the excise police deal with students very respectfully," Kirk said. "The excise police are doing what their mission is calling them to do."

While Kirk described the Colfax Street raid as "unfortunate," he said that he understands the actions of the police forces. "I don't like it when students have to go to jail," he said. "But I understand our local police departments' hesitation about releasing 30-some odd intoxicated people out into the night."

Kirk said that Notre Dame expects a higher standard from its students that merely obedience to the law. Therefore, the University is able to discipline students for their actions off-campus, even when they are also punished by civil authorities.

"You've chosen to be part of a pretty special group of people — Notre Dame students," Kirk said. "We have a higher standard that, generally speaking, virtually all of our students are in favor of."

"When the University finds out [about an off-campus offense,] the University has an interest in you as a person," he said. "If you're routinely becoming drunk, that's a problem — it's immoral, unethical, and wrong."

The actions of law enforcement will not help the student change his or her behavior, according to Kirk.

"A public citation isn't going to call you to examine the role of alcohol in your life," he said. But he hopes that a disciplinary hearing will have that effect.

"I'm not going to sit here and tell you that every student comes away saying 'I'm going to reflect on my drinking,'" Kirk said. "But I can tell you that there have been dozens of occasions in the past couple years where students tell me that it has."

Contact John Tierney at jtierne1@nd.edu

Mooney

continued from page 1

tive on the economy was written after those discussions as a way to reach out to the parents of prospective students," she said.

Mooney is also working on a communication to the parents of current students, which should circulate soon.

"[Mooney] will thank them for their sacrifices and affirm that the gift of a Saint Mary's education to their daughters is worth the sacrifice," she said.

Dampeer said the College is committed to remaining aware of how it is using its resources.

"Saint Mary's, like all other colleges and universities, will be vigilant in our efforts to be good stewards of our resources during difficult economic times," she said.

Contact Liz Harter at eharte01@saintmarys.edu

History

continued from page 1

Channel, sometimes referred to as the 'Nazi Channel' by professional historians because of the focus on hot-button topics and military history, and quickly written academic history fall under this category, he said.

Positively speaking, McGreevy said that academic historians are attempting to write for a broader audience and reach beyond scholars.

Tony Judt's novel 'Postwar' exemplifies the attempt because it is self-consciously aimed at a broadly intellectual audience, he said.

Professor Linda Przybyszewski, Associate Professor of History, shared her theory of popular history and its five categories, which intrigue and garner attention from the general public.

The first sub-category, 'Letters in the Attic,' represents already accounted historic events that an author tries to reinvent. Novels written on important historical figures such as George Washington fall under the category of 'Aren't We Great.' 'Train Wrecks of History' include events such as the Holocaust. The 'That's Weird' category includes events such as convicted murderers, and the 'Sex with Kings' discusses scandals in history.

Przybyszewski said the general audience is making more of an effort to bridge the gap between popular and academic history, and professional historians need to appreciate the writing style of popular novelists in order to improve academic writing, making academic history accessible for all readers.

Contact Catherine Miller at hmiller2@nd.edu

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Fashion

continued from page 1

Bronx is an organization that pursues environmental justice through innovative projects and was founded in 2001 by Majora Carter. Carter served as a panelist Notre Dame's 2008 Forum on Sustainable Energy where she discussed the impact of environmental issues on poorer areas of the United States.

"We were trying to find some kind of organization that was green. This year's forum was on sustainable energy, and we thought that Majora Carter's fund would be a good tie in because she was a panelist," event coordinator Laura Moore-Shay, a junior at the University, said. "[The Sustainable South Bronx] also includes an aspect of social justice, which many Notre Dame students are interested in."

Moore-Shay has been involved in several environmental activism groups during her two and a half years at Notre Dame. A member of GreeND, Students for Environmental Action and the Energy Center's Advisory Board, Moore-Shay came up with the idea last spring as she was recycling some clothes of her own. She then recruited junior Lindsay Sena and senior Ann Kelley, the president of SEA, to assist her in planning the event.

"I've always loved fashion and art," Moore-Shay said. "I came up with the idea for this new event last spring at an advisory board meeting while

cutting up an old Recyclin' Irish T-shirt. I thought that an environmentally friendly fashion show could be a new innovative event, so I pitched the proposal to GreeND and they liked it."

The fashion event will feature both pieces purchased from resale stores and student-designed outfits made from recyclable material. Student volunteers will model 96 environmentally friendly outfits with the accompaniment of professional hair and makeup. Origins, a hair care company that features an organic line, and Salon Nouveau, a local Salon, will do the models' hair and makeup, respectively. The secondhand pieces will comprise one part of the hour-long event.

"Since we were able to find a cute skirt or sweater and not head-to-toe cohesive outfits, the models will be wearing some of their own clothes, but it will be clear which article we are showcasing," junior Sena said. "While people mainly associate recycling with bottles and cans, clothing can also be recycled. So many pieces of clothing are produced each year, but they are also thrown away each year. So instead of always purchasing brand new clothes, we encourage people to try shopping at a second-hand store."

Another part of the event will showcase "recycled couture" outfits. These clothing articles, made out of recyclable materials and meant to have a high fashion look, were made by several design students. The Film, Television,

and Theater costume department loaned the show several costumes made out of eco-friendly material to exhibit during the event.

"These outfits are really creative. We have one dress made entirely of coffee filters and a skirt made out of magazine pages," Sena said. "[The outfits] are meant to inspire the audience; people would never think to wear these materials, but maybe after the show, they'll look at their recycled materials in a different light."

Throughout the event, a slideshow that displays pictures and offers tips about energy, conservation and the environment will play on a projection screen. Immediately following the event, there will be a small reception and silent auction to bid on the clothing pieces shown on the runway to benefit the Sustainable Bronx Fund.

"I hope that students who like fashion but maybe aren't interested in the environment, will appreciate the idea of recycling and conserving more," Moore-Shay said. "We want to get people involved who aren't normally interested. A lot of the environmental things have been academic, but this fashion show will offer a different and artsy look at being green."

"Trash to Class: A Green Fashion Event" takes place tonight at 8 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the LaFortune box office.

Contact Ellyn Michalak at emichala@nd.edu

Snow

continued from page 1

wheel too far can cause the car to fishtail out of control, Korros said.

Korros added that students planning a trip off campus should be wary of sudden drops in temperature, as roads that were previously wet can quickly turn to ice.

Korros and Trent both advised people, especially students who lack experience with icy conditions, to avoid driving when weather agencies deem conditions dangerous.

"If there's a winter weather advisory put out and the Indiana State Police say that the roads are closed, then you should heed those warnings put out by the weather agencies," Korros said.

"It's certainly a judgment call," Trent said. "I would say that if you're not used to driving in conditions like that, I would alter my plans when it's suggested by the national weather service."

Trent warned that the most dangerous roads during the winter months are the ones with the thickest traffic, usually in major retail areas.

"The most dangerous intersections are always intersections that are most heavily traveled," he said. "If you're going up by the mall, they tend to have multiple intersections. They have more than their share of accidents."

While slick roads cause accidents to rise in South Bend during the winter months, fatalities and serious injuries do not account for most of the increase, Trent said.

"Serious injury accidents don't increase that much," he said. "Fender bender accidents probably increase. 80 percent of our minor accidents occur after it snows."

While not as dangerous as losing control of your vehicle, dead batteries and frozen fuel lines can be major inconveniences during the winter.

Trent recommended that people make check that their cars pass these kinds of general maintenance tests.

"Make sure that you have a winter survival kit and a blanket and flashlight," he said. "Dead batteries and frozen gas lines tend to be the major problems."

Contact Robert Singer at rsinger@nd.edu

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page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Concern rises over detainees

BAGHDAD — The United Nations expressed concern Tuesday about overcrowding and "grave human rights violations" of detainees in Iraqi custody — in one case, 123 men crammed into a single cell.

The warning comes as the U.S. prepares to turn over control to the Iraqis of thousands of security detainees in its custody under a new security pact that would end the U.S. mission here by 2012. The pact, approved last week by Iraq's parliament, calls for American forces to transfer all detainees believed to be a major threat and to release the rest "in a safe and orderly manner."

But as overall violence declines in the country, the U.N.'s 13th report on the human rights situation in Iraq casts doubt on whether the Iraqis will be ready to take custody of more detainees properly.

Russian warships train with Chavez

VENEZUELA — Russian warships have ended training exercises with Venezuela's navy in Moscow's first such Caribbean deployment since the Cold War.

Russian television on Tuesday showed images of a Venezuelan-operated Sukhoi fighter jet swooping low over Russian warships in a simulated air attack.

The exercises that ended late Monday with a fireworks display included an air defense exercise and joint actions to spot, pursue and detain an intruding vessel, Russian navy spokesman Capt. Igor Dygalo said.

The Russian ships arrived in Venezuela last week in an operation widely seen as a show of Kremlin anger over the U.S. decision to deliver aid to Georgia aboard warships following that country's conflict with Russia.

NATIONAL NEWS

Bush touts mentoring program

GREENSBORO, N.C. — President George W. Bush, trying to emphasize the softer side of his policy record before leaving office, on Tuesday thanked volunteers who have served as mentors to children of prisoners.

"These youngsters have ambitions and goals," Bush said after a private discussion with a few children and their mentors in North Carolina. "They want to go to college. They want to make a difference. And I suspect that the mentors will be anxiously following the career of someone they've been able to help."

Bush popped into the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Greensboro — which has worked with Youth Focus Inc., a nonprofit agency — to match 220 children of prisoners with adult mentors. The program is part of a national initiative, championed by Bush, that has provided mentors to more than 110,000 children.

Chained teen shows up at gym

TRACY, Calif. — A Girl Scout leader and her husband were arrested after an emaciated, terrified and nearly naked 17-year-old showed up at a gym with a chain locked to his ankle, saying he had just fled his captors, authorities said Tuesday.

Police were also seeking the boy's aunt and had an outstanding felony warrant against her for an earlier alleged assault against the teen.

The boy, who authorities said ran away from a Sacramento foster home last year, came into the In-Shape Sports Club in Tracy on Monday wearing only boxer briefs and covered in what appeared to be soot, gym manager Chuck Ellis said. Tracy is about 70 miles south of Sacramento.

LOCAL NEWS

Indiana flunks college study

INDIANA — An independent report on American higher education flunks all but one state when it comes to affordability — an embarrassing verdict that is unlikely to improve as the economy contracts.

The report card uses a range of measurements to give states grades, from A to F, on the performance of their public and private colleges.

Besides the F for affordability, Indiana also received grades of C for preparation and participation, B-minus for completion of bachelor's degrees within six years of enrollment, D-plus for benefits and incomplete for learning.

Obama vows to aid state economies

The president-elect promises to help governors get their states back on track

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — President-elect Barack Obama promised swift action Tuesday on an economic plan "to solve this crisis and to ease the burden on our states," and he cast governors as his partners in crafting a recession-rebound strategy.

"This administration does not intend to delay in getting you the help that we need," Obama said as he met with the chief executives of most states and sought to rally bipartisan support for an economic stimulus.

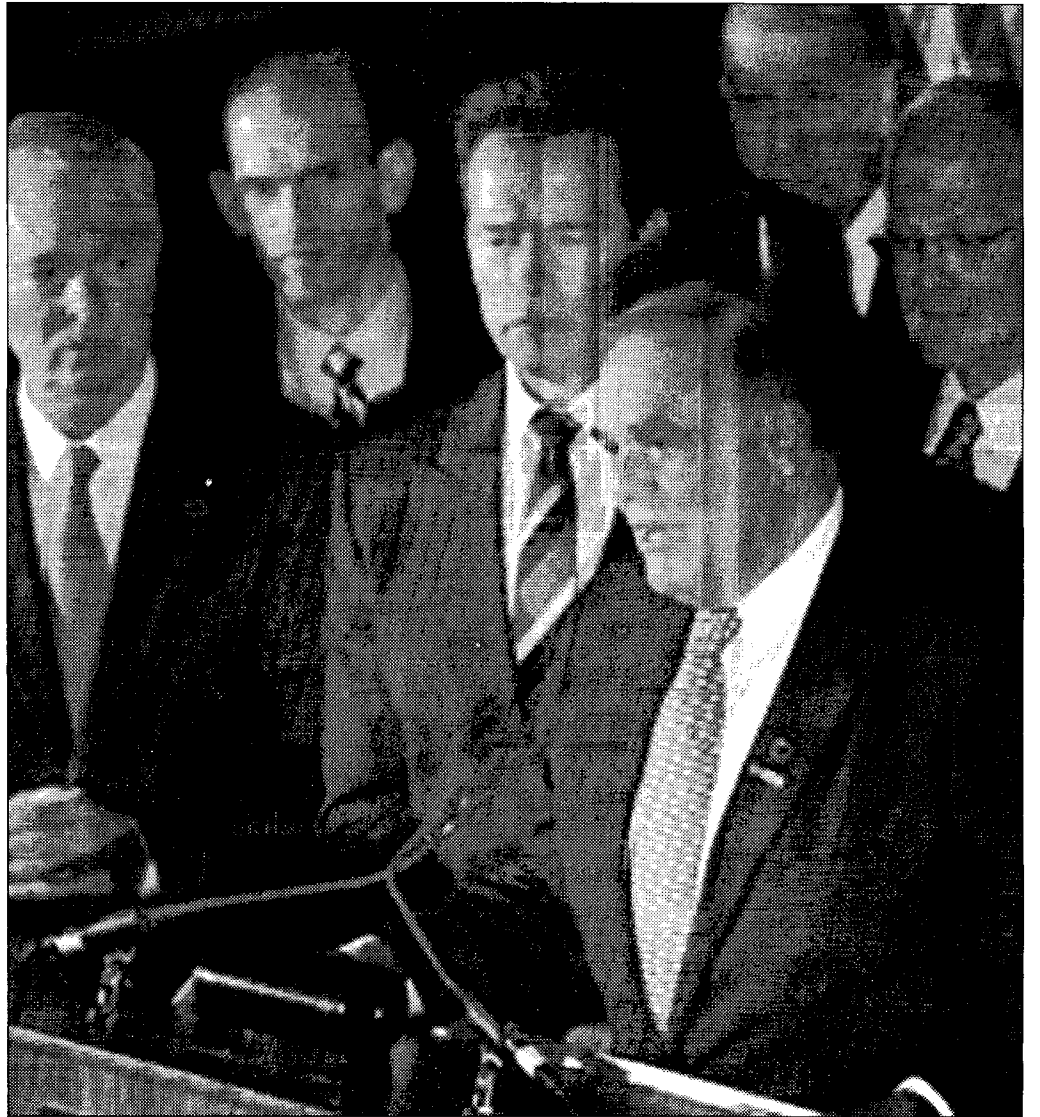
The president-elect has set a goal of saving or creating 2.5 million jobs to boost the economy, which experts say has been in recession for the past year. His aides and congressional leaders have been discussing the outlines of a measure that could exceed \$500 billion over two years. Congress wants to have it ready for his signature shortly after his Jan. 20 inauguration.

Incoming White House chief of staff Rahm Emanuel, told reporters that in a private portion of the meeting, Obama and Republican and Democratic governors agreed that the measure must focus heavily on money for infrastructure as well as bureaucratic reforms to make it easier to complete programs without having to cut through piles of red tape.

"The top priority is to invest in these areas," Emanuel said, listing roads, bridges, high-speed rail, water-treatment systems, schools, medical information technology, broadband networks, transportation systems and "green" technology.

"The governors see that as essential to their own economic recovery in their states, and we see it as essential to the economic recovery of the country," Emanuel said.

But Emanuel was noncommittal on whether the legislation would contain exactly what the governors seek — some \$136 billion more for infrastructure projects and at least \$40 billion to temporarily



Gov. of Pennsylvania, Ed Rendell, at podium, and Governors from across the country take questions from members of the media during a news conference on Tuesday.

increase the federal government's contribution to the Medicaid program for the poor and disabled.

"We're going to review all that," Emanuel said.

The measure is expected to blend money for those priorities with tax cuts, a temporary increase in food stamp payments, as well as investments in renewable energy projects and other "green jobs" initiatives.

Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden spoke to the bipartisan group of governors at historic Congress Hall.

Republican and Democratic governors, nearly all of whom are struggling with budget deficits at home because of the

recession, sat at desks in the hall, with no separation by party. They included former and possibly future political rivals, such as GOP Govs. Bobby Jindal of Louisiana and Sarah Palin of Alaska, the party's vice presidential nominee this year.

In his brief public comments, Obama called the meeting the start of a partnership, and said he will go beyond asking governors to implement the economic plan that will include tax cuts for "hard-pressed middle class families" and increased federal spending.

"I'm going to be interested in you helping to draft and shape that economic plan,"

Obama said.

Biden told the governors he hopes they will not criticize the incoming administration for raising the deficit as it tries to help them. "I know none of you would do that," he said jokingly. Most states have constitutions that prohibit deficit spending.

The governors, in turn, pledged their cooperation.

Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, a Democrat who chairs the National Governors Association, said: "We are here with the understanding that we have to be not only participants but to lead in dealing with the financial problems that are upsetting our states."

ISRAEL

Jews mourn victims of Mumbai attack

Associated Press

KFAR CHABAD — Thousands of grief-stricken Orthodox Jews prayed and wept Tuesday before the shrouded bodies of Israelis killed in Mumbai, joining the national mourning in a ceremony broadcast on TV and attended by Israeli leaders.

The six died when gunmen on a deadly three-day rampage through the Indian city struck Chabad House, the Mumbai headquarters of the Jewish Chabad-Lubavitch movement, last Wednesday. Six Israelis were among the 172 dead.

A crowd gathered at Kfar Chabad, the movement's Israel headquarters, to mourn Rabbi Gavriel Noach Holtzberg,

29, and his 28-year-old wife, Rivka. The two were outreach envoys dispatched to Mumbai as part of the movement's attempt to bring its brand of Judaism to Jews across the world, running an open house aimed mainly at Jewish travelers and merchants.

The couple left a 2-year-old son, Moshe, who was rescued by his Indian nanny. Rivka was six months pregnant when she was killed, a Chabad spokesman, Avraham Berkowitz, said Tuesday.

The crowd of thousands at their funeral included Israel's president, Shimon Peres, the country's chief rabbis and other top government officials.

"We will answer the terrorists," Moshe Kotlarsky, a Chabad rabbi from New

York, vowed, his voice shaking, naming his weapon — the teachings of God.

He pledged to rebuild the Mumbai center and name it after the Holtzbergs. Chabad operates thousands such outreach centers around the world.

The Holtzbergs' bodies — hers wrapped in a shroud, his in a prayer shawl — rested on benches on a dais nearby. Coffins are not used in Jewish funerals in Israel.

Their small son, who returned to Israel on Monday with the nanny and the bodies of his parents, was not present. At a tearful ceremony held at a Mumbai synagogue before their flight, the boy called out for his mother in a scene that was repeatedly broadcast on Israeli TV.

ZIMBABWE

Country faces water cuts, cholera crisis

Associated Press

HARARE — As children played near cesspools, their parents shook their heads at a public service announcement drifting over the radio Tuesday. It urged people to boil water before drinking it.

It sounded like a taunt in a country where water and electricity are cut off far more than they are on.

Authorities turned off the taps in Zimbabwe's capital again this week because they had run out of purifying chemicals — even as a cholera epidemic threatened the country, claiming hundreds of lives since August.

The crisis is the latest chapter in the collapse of this once-vibrant nation. President Robert Mugabe, who has ruled for 28 years, has refused to leave office following disputed elections in March. And a power-sharing deal worked out with the opposition has been deadlocked for weeks over how to divvy up Cabinet posts.

In the township of Mabvuku, where residents have dug shallow wells in open ground, people say they know not boiling the water can make them sick, but they have no choice. There is no electricity, and wood, charcoal or other fuel to build fires is scarce and so expensive it is out of reach for most people.

"We are afraid, but there is no solution. Most of the time the electricity is not available so we just use the water," one resident, Naison Chakwicha, told AP Television News.

In the western Harare suburb of Mbare, Anna Marimbe said she had traced the deaths last week of two neighbor children to the stinking open drains where they used to play.

Residents of Chitungwiza, a densely populated township 15 miles south of Harare, sued the National Water Authority last week, saying they had been without running water for 13 months, causing an outbreak of cholera and leading to deaths.

The lawsuit filed with the High Court describes "large pools of raw sewerage" in the streets of the town of 500,000, where the first cholera cases were reported in August.

Like most of Zimbabwe's main cities and towns, Chitungwiza once had functioning sewage and water delivery systems, but authorities have made no repairs for years.

Harare is the epicenter of the cholera epidemic, which has spread across the country. Controlling the disease depends on providing clean water, which means repairing broken water and sewage pipes as well as dilapidated pumping and purification equipment.

And the collapse of all services, including refuse collection, has turned the city into a playground for rats that threaten to spread other more deadly diseases.

The government has reported 473 cholera deaths since August and a total of 11,700 people infected as of Monday, according to Paul Garwood, spokesman for Health Action and Crises, the humanitarian arm of the U.N. World Health Organization.

Garwood said that according to the official toll, 4 percent of people are dying of a disease that usually claims fewer than 1 percent of those infected and is easily treated with rehydration salts or an intravenous drip.

Doctors say the death toll is nearer 1,000, or 10 percent of victims, because many of those afflicted with cholera die at home or in the countryside without medical care.

All the country's main public hospitals have closed and those that continue to operate have little or no medicine and suffer from a shortage of staff, whose monthly salaries do not cover even one day's bus fare to get to work. Costly private clinics, which accept only foreign currency, are out of reach for the vast majority of the population.

The opposition-controlled Harare City Council is burying cholera victims for free because people cannot afford to buy graves.

Zimbabwe's government, normally hostile to international aid agencies, is welcoming an initiative by several — including UNICEF, WHO and Doctors Without Borders — to provide emergency care and try to ensure safe water supplies.

Health officials, following the line of a government that has refused to declare a national emergency, insisted the cholera outbreak was under control until five days ago. The best advice Health Minister David Parirenyatwa could offer was to urge people to stop shaking hands.

"I want to stress the issue of shaking hands. Although it's part of our tradition to shake hands, it's high time people stopped shaking hands," he told state-run daily, The Herald.

Still, Zimbabweans continue to find ways to deal with the crisis.

Those who can afford it are digging wells and bore holes. Others are buying tanks and pumps to install on their roof or yards, then paying \$50 in foreign currency for a single delivery of 500 gallons of water.

Most vendors in Zimbabwe only accept U.S. dollars or South African rand since the Zimbabwe dollar, once on a par with the greenback, devalues with each passing hour.

In-law charged with murder

Suspect already in custody in Jennifer Hudson's family slayings

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Jennifer Hudson's brother-in-law was charged with murder Tuesday in the shooting deaths of three of the actress's family members, including the 7-year-old son of his estranged wife.

William Balfour had been in custody since Oct. 24, when the bodies of Hudson's mother, Darnell Hudson Donerson, and brother, Jason Hudson, were discovered in their South Side home. The body of Julian King, Balfour's stepson and Hudson's nephew, was found in a sport utility vehicle three days later.

Until Balfour's arrest in the murder case Monday, police had publicly identified him only as a "person of interest" in the investigation. Balfour, 27, who previously was held on a parole violation, is charged with three counts of first-degree murder and one count of felony home invasion.

Balfour's attorney said his client is insistent about his innocence.

"It is scary as hell, he's charged with terrible crimes that he adamantly contends he's not guilty of," attorney Joshua Kutnick said before the announcement of the charges, which he said he expected.

Still, added Kutnick, "He's exhibited to me, at least, the patience to let the process unfold."

Chicago Police Superintendent Jody Weis said at a news conference

Tuesday that although Balfour has not confessed to the crimes, he is "confident in the evidence." Investigators have not said what evidence they have linking Balfour to the killings, but said Tuesday that they are not looking for other suspects and believe Balfour acted alone.

"There is physical evidence," Deputy Superintendent Steve Peterson said, but he stopped short of saying whether that evidence linked Balfour to the crimes.

Weis praised the community for the way it "stepped up to the plate and helped police solve this case," but would not provide any details.

Police have said from the beginning that the slayings were domestic related, but they have not elaborated. They would not say, for example, if they believed the boy was part of any dispute between Balfour and his estranged wife, Hudson's older sister, Juliea Hudson.

Police said Balfour was killed inside the SUV the same day as the adults, but "the exact timing" has not been determined, Peterson said.

Police have said far less than Illinois Prison Review Board Chairman Jorge Montes, who told reporters last month that Balfour's girlfriend or ex-girlfriend told police she saw Balfour with a gun "identical" to the weapon police recovered near the SUV where the boy's body was found — which they have said was the murder weapon.

When asked about the woman Tuesday, Peterson said that she cooperated with police, but would not say what information she provided, if any. Nor would he say that detectives have linked the weapon to Balfour.

Jennifer Hudson's publicist Lisa Kasteler declined to comment after Balfour's arrest on Monday, but Peterson said the family was "relieved and happy that the Chicago Police Department would bring this case to a successful conclusion."

Jennifer Hudson was a finalist in the 2004 season of "American Idol" and won her Oscar in 2007 for her film debut, a supporting role in "Dreamgirls." She has mostly stayed out of the spotlight and close to her family since the killings.

Detectives went to Stateville Correctional Center Monday afternoon, served an arrest warrant on Balfour and brought him back to Chicago.

Balfour had been in custody since the day the adults' bodies were discovered. After 48 hours — the longest Chicago police can hold a person without charges — he was taken by the Illinois Department of Corrections on a suspected parole violation. Balfour had served seven years for a 1999 attempted murder and vehicular hijacking conviction.

Balfour is scheduled to appear in bond court Wednesday afternoon. After the hearing, Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez will talk about the case, her office said Tuesday.

Economy spurs enlistment

Recession causes soldiers to stay in military, receive steady paychecks

Associated Press

FORT RILEY, Kan. — Sgt. Ryan Nyhus spent 14 months patrolling the deadly streets of Baghdad, where five members of his platoon were shot and one died. As bad as that was, he would rather go back there than take his chances in this brutal job market.

Nyhus re-enlisted last Wednesday, and in so doing joined the growing ranks of those choosing to stay in the U.S. military because of the bleak economy.

"In the Army, you're always guaranteed a steady paycheck and a job," said the 21-year-old Nyhus. "Deploying's something that's going to happen. That's a fact of life in the Army — a fact of life in the infantry."

In 2008, as the stock market cratered and the housing market collapsed, more young members of the Army, Air Force and Navy decided to re-up. While several factors might explain the rise in re-enlistments, including a decline in violence in Iraq, Pentagon officials acknowledge that bad news for the economy is usually good news for the military.

In fact, the Pentagon just completed its strongest recruiting year in four years.

"We do benefit when things look less positive in civil society," said David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness. "What difficult economic times give us, I think, is an opening to make our case to people who we might not otherwise have."

The retention rate of early-career soldiers in the Army has risen steadily over the past four years and now stands 20 percentage points higher than it was in fiscal 2004. As for the Navy and the Air Force, early- and mid-career sailors and airmen re-enlisted at a higher rate in October than during the same period in 2007. The Marine Corps was not immediately able to provide comparative figures on re-enlistments.

Alex Stewart joined the Army two years ago, when the factory where he worked as a welder started laying off. He was sent to Afghanistan with the 82nd Airborne Division, which suffered 87 deaths last year, the highest total suffered by the 20,000-member unit since the fighting in Iraq

and Afghanistan began.

When his hitch was up in earlier this year, the 32-year-old from Grand Rapids, Mich., didn't hesitate to re-up for five more years.

"I want a stable life for my wife in a very shaky economy," Stewart said. "There were no other options."

Stewart's new assignment will take him to Germany, where he will serve as a truck driver, though it is always possible he could be sent back into combat.

"I figure if I do another five or 10 years in the Army," he said, "the economy will turn around and I can get a truck-driving job."

Army Spc. Alicia Fauls, 20, of the Woodlands, Texas, had two years to go when she re-enlisted last week at Fort Riley, home of the Army's 1st Infantry Division, which has one brigade in Iraq, one headed home and another preparing to ship out. She has not been sent into the war zone yet but knows an assignment in Iraq or Afghanistan is probably in her future.

"I did have only two years left, but I'm not sure what I would do," Fauls said. "It's harder to find jobs. If I do wait to get out, the economy should be in better shape."

Happy Birthday
Madeline!

MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones **8,419.09** +270.00

Up: 2,842 Same: 77 Down: 990 Composite Volume: 2,675,933,959

AMEX	1,270.17	+41.62
NASDAQ	1,449.80	+51.73
NYSE	5,308.95	+216.29
S&P 500	848.81	+32.60
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	7,985.01	+122.06
FTSE 100 (London)	4,122.86	+57.37

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
SPDR S&P 500 (SPY)	+3.85	+3.16	85.27
CITIGROUP INC (C)	+11.94	+0.77	7.22
GEN ELECTRIC CO (GE)	+13.61	+2.11	17.61
FORD MOTOR CO (F)	+5.88	+0.15	2.70

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	-0.96	-0.026	2.693
13-WEEK BILL	+400.00	+0.040	0.050
30-YEAR BOND	-1.05	-0.034	3.202
5-YEAR NOTE	-2.96	-0.051	1.672

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-2.32	46.96
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+6.50	783.30
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+0.03	92.25

Exchange Rates

YEN	93.0150
EURO	0.7883
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.2534
BRITISH POUND	0.6723

IN BRIEF

Car sales sink to worst level since 1982

NEW YORK — U.S. auto sales plunged 37 percent in November to their worst level in more than 26 years, dashing expectations that this dismal year for vehicle demand had found a bottom, and adding more ammunition to the Detroit automakers' case for a congressional lifeline.

"Our industry is in a much more severe situation than the rest of the economy," said Mike DiGiovanni, General Motors Corp.'s executive director of global market and industry analysis. "We cannot continue at these levels or else the entire industry is going to go down."

U.S. auto sales in November fell to 746,789, according to Autodata Corp. On a seasonally adjusted basis, automakers reported an annual sales rate of 10.2 million units, the lowest level since October 1982.

Automakers and analysts blamed the crumbling economy, less access to vehicle financing, and a wait-and-see approach among consumers more preoccupied with the value of their homes and the fate of their jobs than the lure of a new car.

"Consumers (are) not showing up at the dealerships — regardless of the deals they're being offered and regardless of how low the gas prices go," said Jesse Toprak, executive director of industry analysis for the automotive Web site Edmunds.com.

EPA eases mining waste disposal

WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency, rejecting pleas from state governors and environmental groups, signed off Tuesday on making it easier to dump mountaintop mining waste near rivers and streams.

But the EPA said it did so because it secured additional safeguards.

The governors of Kentucky and Tennessee, as well as other lawmakers from those states, had urged EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson to block the rule — which would rewrite a regulation enacted in 1983 that bars mining companies from dumping huge waste piles within 100 feet of temporary streams when it could diminish water quality and quantity.

Under a provision of the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act — promulgated largely by the Interior Department — the EPA must concur in writing to any mining regulations that could affect air and water quality.

US automakers ground jets for trip

Automaker executives drive hybrid cars to Washington instead

Associated Press

DETROIT — If the Detroit Three automakers have learned anything since their last trip to Washington, it's that the old way of doing business just won't fly.

So the decision by auto executives to travel in hybrid cars rather than corporate jets is just the start to overhauling their image as the industry pleads its case for \$25 billion in federal loans.

Automakers "should not be afraid to acknowledge their mistakes," said Adam Mendelsohn, a partner in Mercury Public Affairs and former communications director for California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. "It's not necessarily a weakness. It's actually a positive. It will send a very clear message that they intend to make changes."

The CEOs of General Motors, Ford and Chrysler are making the roughly 525-mile trek from Detroit to Washington in hopes of securing loans to help them through the recession and the worst sales downturn in 25 years. Hearings are scheduled for Thursday and Friday.

Ford CEO Alan Mulally left for the capital Tuesday afternoon in a small Ford Escape sport utility vehicle, which runs on gas and electricity. Rick Wagoner of GM departs Wednesday in a hybrid Chevrolet Malibu. Chrysler LLC said its chief executive, Robert Nardelli, would leave Tuesday night, driving a hybrid Dodge Durango or Chrysler Aspen SUV.

The move to travel more like regular Americans comes after the CEOs' last visit for hearings in November turned into a public relations disaster. Lawmakers learned that all three had flown in separate corporate jets to ask for the bailout dollars, and critics harangued the CEOs.

Democratic Rep. Gary Ackerman of New York, a member of the House Financial Services



Some in Congress have pounced on what they view as the hypocrisy of auto executives flying on corporate jets to Washington to ask for public help.

Committee, said last month that it was "a delicious irony" to see the executives arrive on private jets "with tin cups in their hands."

In response, the automakers said top executives needed to fly on corporate planes for security reasons. They also pointed out that taking commercial flights risked delays or cancellations, a chance the executives would not want to take when scheduled to testify in front of Congress.

In an effort to curb bad publicity, Ford Motor Corp. and General Motors Corp. said their CEOs would take the wheel for at least part of

the roughly nine-hour trip.

Ford also announced Tuesday that it will sell its five corporate jets, and GM said it would close its corporate jet operations on Jan. 1 and try to sell the remainder of the lease time on its seven aircraft.

Chrysler spokeswoman Lori McTavish said the company rents two corporate aircraft on an as-needed basis from an aircraft company and does not own any jets.

The image of seeking help from the taxpayers while flying corporate jets will take a long time to live down. The executives were parodied on "Saturday Night Live" and

pilloried on radio, TV and Web sites.

"The idea of a CEO flying in on a jet to ask for a loan — that's something that today's media will absolutely seize upon," Mendelsohn said.

Mulally, in an interview from the road Tuesday, acknowledged the symbolism of driving.

"We need to demonstrate that we heard their concerns and show we are willing to change," he said in an e-mail. "This is a small way of showing that."

Mulally drove part of the way and did business by telephone, but not while behind the wheel, he said.

Fed extends key credit programs

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve has extended the life of key programs aimed at busting through credit clogs and restoring stability to financial markets.

The Fed said Tuesday that the programs, originally slated to last through Jan. 30, will be extended through April 30. The Fed said it was taking the action "in light of continuing strains in financial markets."

The Fed's emergency lending facility, which investment firms can tap for a ready source of cash, is covered by the decision. This category was recently broadened to include any loans that were made to the U.S. and London-based broker-dealer subsidiaries of Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and Merrill Lynch.

A program that lets financial institutions temporarily swap risky investments, such as shunned mortgage-backed securities, for super-safe Treasury securities also is covered.

Another Fed program being extended

makes loans to money market mutual funds — via banks — to help the funds, which have been under pressure as skittish investors demand withdrawals.

Some other crucial Fed programs aimed at unlocking lending already are authorized to last through April 30, the Fed noted.

Those include a program where the Fed buys mounds of short-term debt that companies rely on for day-to-day operations, a facility where the Fed provides a financial backstop for the mutual fund industry, and credit arrangements with other central banks.

The central bank's arsenal of such programs has figured prominently in its strategy to battle the worst financial crisis since the 1930s.

The Fed's decision to extend the life of its key programs comes one day after the National Bureau of Economic Research declared that the country has been in a recession since last December.

To help ease the damage from the recession,

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke on Monday said he stood ready to lower interest rates again.

Many analysts expect the Fed to cut its key rate when it meets next on Dec. 15-16.

The Fed's key rate now stands at 1 percent — a level seen only once before in the past half-century. The Fed can slice its rate only so far — to zero — to try to stimulate economic activity. Given that, Bernanke said the central bank was exploring other ways to revive the moribund economy.

"Economic activity appears to have downshifted further" after financial conditions took a turn for the worse in September, Bernanke observed Monday.

"The likely duration of the financial turmoil is difficult to judge, and thus the uncertainty surrounding the economic outlook is unusually large," he said. "But even if the functioning of financial markets continue to improve, economic conditions will probably remain weak for a time."

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 8

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It's a Christmas miracle

It's that time of year again: the proverbial "most wonderful time of the year." I, however, disagree with this statement. I want to make it publicly known that, much like Oscar the Grouch, I hate Christmas.

I've never understood why Christmas is such a happy and cheerful holiday for people. So many of my Christmases have been fouled and disturbed by such very different events and occurrences that I have come to have no faith nor trust in this ostensible day of warmth and family love.

First Instance:
I believed in Santa Claus for a very long time. My innocence was taken from me at a much later age than you would expect based on my current cynicism and bitterness.

It was when I was eight, during a routine early December game of hide-and-seek with my sister Katie, that I stumbled upon a set of gifts that looked like it could be for me. At first I was incredulous. Why would my mom buy gifts for my cousins that she knew I would like and why would she put them in the storage space that I clearly was going to use as my hiding place? How dare she be so inconsiderate? I stormed back upstairs, ended the game, and demanded answers from my mother.

"Well, Andrew, those are not actually for your cousins."

I needed to know who they could possibly be for if not for the cousins I had assumed.

"Those are your Christmas gifts."

When on Christmas morning, I went to open the gifts labeled "From Santa" and saw that they were the very gifts that my mom had "hidden" in the storage space, I finally knew that Santa did not exist.

Christmas ruined.

Second Instance:

My sister Maureen always used to joke around with me about what she was getting me for Christmas. "This year I'm going to get you a whole sock full of rocks, Andrew." But she never got me any rocks. "This year I'm going to give you a push down the stairs, Andrew." But the push never came. "This year I'm going to give you a big box of nothing, Andrew." But on Christmas morning, as always, there was a legitimate present under the tree to me from my dear sister Maureen.

Then the next year, the motif of the "box of nothing" became a running gag in my family. Maureen, Katie and I would light-heartedly threaten on birthdays, anniversaries and any gift-giving celebration that the "box of nothing" would rear its intangible and depressing head. Maureen, more so than either Katie or I, loved talking about how one of these days she would give me the "box of nothing." Finally as school started in September the joke became tired and we all moved on with our lives.

Around Advent-time that year, I developed a cane fascination that has stuck with me to this day. I wanted a cane so badly that the only thing on my Christmas list was a gentleman's walking stick. As soon as the tree went up, Maureen put a present under it labeled from her to me. I looked at it confused but then she told me that she had bought me a collapsible cane. It didn't matter if it wasn't exactly a gentleman's walking stick — it was a cane! On Christmas morning I rushed to open this gift, tore off the wrapping paper, and there inside the box were pipe cleaners spelling out N-O-T-H-I-N-G. A literal box of nothing. I cried.

Christmas Ruined.

Third Instance:

When I was 14, I asked my parents if I could have an electric guitar for Christmas. They said no. On Christmas morning I woke up and sure enough, there was an electric guitar, but it wasn't the one I wanted.

Christmas ruined.

Now I'm not one to hold a grudge, but these three Christmases have combined with a bunch of other lousy memories that make me want to just do away with the whole event. I'm sick of people buying into such a campy, over-emotional, sap-filled crap-fest.

Honestly, Christmas is a nonsensical and delusional period of time in our lives. What makes people change their routine unhappiness and all of a sudden adopt the most carefree and joyous attitude possible? Let's all drink hot cocoa! Let's all sing carols! Let's all spread Christmas cheer!

Nuts to that. When will people wake up and realize that Christmas is miserable. In my mind there's only one day worse than Christmas and that's Christmas Eve: all the build up and fake-ness of Christmas with none of the gifts. Readers, I implore you do not buy into this holiday season. Sure it may seem tempting. But after it's over, where are you left?

With your family, in your home, trying to relive any good moments that may or may not have actually happened.

Merry Christmas.

P.S. — Some people may assume that I'm simply discussing the commercialization of Christmas. That's not what I'm on about at all. I'm talking about everything related to the Holiday we collectively celebrate on Dec. 25. Eliminating Christmas is my prescription. It's not like there aren't other days to receive presents throughout the year. Think about your birthday. And then it's just you — you don't have to share the gift-receiving spotlight with anybody else. Unless your twin. But twins are a different story, readers, and not something I'm willing to discuss in my Christmas column.

Andrew Miller is a senior English major. He can be contacted at amille15@nd.edu

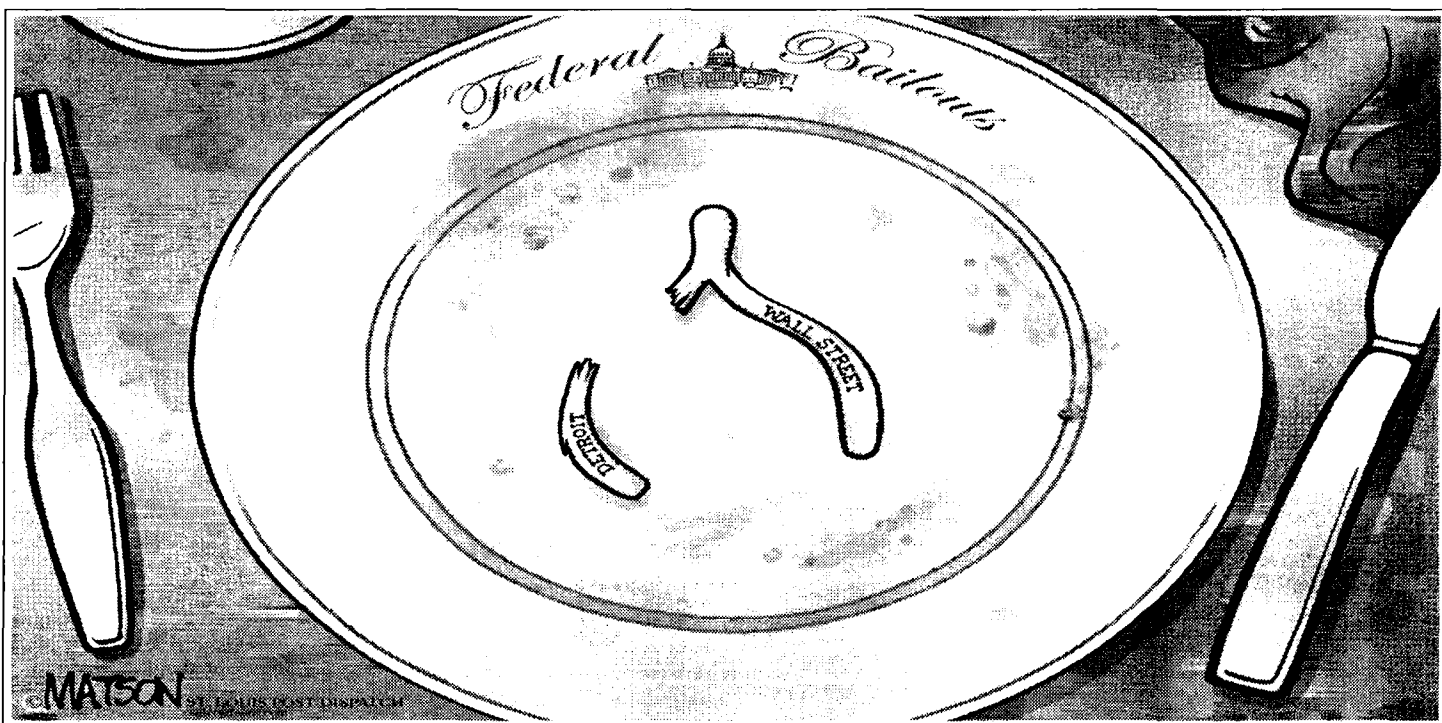
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.



Andrew Miller

The Roads Scholar

EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

Should Charlie be fired?

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m. at
www.ndsmcobserver.com

Submit a Letter
to the Editor at
www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Such is the inconsistency of real love, that it is always awake to suspicion, however unreasonable; always requiring new assurances from the object of its interest.."

Ann Radcliffe
author

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Catholic schools should support all children

It is easy to read not only the outrage, but the pain in Liz Froehke's letter on Nov. 17 (Lack of Acceptance an Issue of Ignorance). We share that pain. At the same time, please allow me to respond to Liz's challenge regarding Catholic schools as a Catholic educator as well as a lifelong advocate of all students with learning and behavioral issues.

The Nov. 17 Observer came to my office just as twenty Catholic school educators from Florida, Tennessee, Texas, Michigan, Illinois, Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Maryland and the District of Columbia were deep in conversation in the next room discussing the knowledge and skills needed by Catholic schoolteachers to ensure that "all Catholic schools are prepared to educate the children of God regardless of special needs in language acquisition, learning, behavior, or social economic status" (ACE position statement on Inclusion, 2008). Are these teachers and educators the exception? Not at all. Catholic schools across the country are accepting children with special needs. In a survey of our ACE (Alliance for Catholic Education) teachers just last month, 98 percent reported having children with learning and behavioral issues in their classrooms, including children with Down's Syndrome and Autism.

It is not enough, however, for Catholic schools to accept children that have learning differences. These schools and teachers need the resources and skills so that the special gifts of persons with disabilities can be celebrated within our classrooms. To that end, ACE has three initiatives under way. First, we are educating Catholic educators, such as those

here this week, to become trainers for Catholic dioceses across the country in the strategies needed to help Catholic schoolteachers meet the individual learning needs of the "differently abled." Many of those being trained are graduates of the ACE program who have remained teaching in Catholic schools and are committed to this vision. Secondly, through our new office of ACE Consulting, we are providing workshops to diocesan superintendents on the opportunities for accessing federal dollars to support the services for children with special needs whose parents choose to place them in our Catholic schools. Lastly, the ACE faculty, just this week, reviewed a proposal for a new ACE certification program in Mild Disabilities for Catholic schoolteachers.

We understand that at present, teachers in Catholic schools are typically unequipped to face the challenges of helping diverse learners reach their God-given potential. These initiatives, therefore, are built upon a core belief that every baptized child has a right to a Catholic education. We seek to provide within our nation's Catholic schools a more welcoming and inclusive — and indeed effective — learning environment for children with diverse educational abilities. With the help of the Holy Spirit, ACE might contribute in some same way to assist schools in accommodating the richly diverse learning needs of all God's children.

Joyce Johnstone
staff
Alliance for Catholic Education
Nov. 19

Notre Dame arrogance

The recent football spectacle created by Charlie Weis ought to be used as an opportunity for the entire University to reassess an unfortunate culture that has developed over the years at Notre Dame. And that is Notre Dame arrogance.

Arrogance is embedded in all environments at Notre Dame: the students, the alumni, the faculty, athletics, probably even the subway alums. It overwhelmed me when I walked on to campus in the fall of 1994.

For example, I had a professor that told me that he knew that the reason I left my home state and came to Notre Dame was so that I could get a real education. My senior year, our class embarrassed ourselves in the final weeks before graduation as we criticized the selection of our graduation speaker. One little girl commented that even the University of Oklahoma got Margaret Thatcher.

Now, Weis has thrust Notre Dame arrogance into the national media. What

is sad about arrogance is it is counter-productive to the goals and ideals that are Notre Dame. We should and often do boast about our commitment to academics, especially with our student athletes. What we have done by not compromising our academic integrity with our athletes, when almost every other university in today's world does, is a true accomplishment.

The arrogance of Notre Dame tarnishes, if not overshadows, this fantastic accomplishment. We have a lot to be proud of at Notre Dame. I am proud to be a Notre Dame alumni. But we would be well-served if we used this Charlie Weis spectacle as an opportunity to be introspective and reassess the culture of arrogance that has developed at Notre Dame throughout the years.

Todd Meador
alum
Nov. 30

Aiming at the wrong target

ND students should be extremely unhappy and the snowballs are indicative of their frustration. However, the misguided idiots who hurled the snowballs at cameramen are aiming at the wrong target.

Mounting frustration (not snowballs) should be directed at the administration. Home football games are something this school is supposed to hold sacred.

Many students choose to attend the school in large part because they want to be a part of the ND football experience (I did in 1988). For many students, the home games are highlights of the school year (once again, true of me).

Despite this, the administration willingly and openly prostituted the entire football experience by selling it to NBC. Football games should not last 4.5 hours. If a game is more than three hours, it lacks rhythm and flow. The constant, extended commercial interruptions greatly diminish the experience for the stu-

dents, the players and the fans across the country. Also, the team loses a big part of its home field advantage when these long breaks drain much of the emotion in the stadium. As the game is so annoyingly stretched into a marathon, it is difficult for fans to maintain their enthusiasm and for players to feed off of it.

The administration needs to protect home football games for those who love them instead of selling it to those who seek only profit. Yes, the NBC contract ensures that I can see every home game on tv; however, I will take the sanctity of football Saturday at ND over that assurance in a heartbeat. I love ND football. I will find a way to watch it when the NBC debacle ends and I will enjoy it so much more.

James Gillen
alumnus
class of '88
Nov. 26

Rules for selecting head coaches

It's been 20 years since our last national title. In the two decades between 1966 and 1988 we won four. What makes the most recent twenty years so empty?

Compare the head coaches. Ara Parseghian, Dan Devine and Lou Holtz all had 13 or more years of head coaching experience and winning percentages of .644 or greater prior to arriving at Notre Dame. Lou and Dan also won big bowl games during their successful years at Arkansas and Missouri. Ara and Lou turned around horrible Big Ten teams (Northwestern and Minnesota).

I could keep going, but the point is, all three had extremely successful and impressive head coaching resumes before being hired by ND. Bob Davie and Charlie Weis had zero head coaching experience. George O'Leary and Ty Willingham had no more than eight years of head coaching experience. Their winning percentages prior to ND were .611 and .550.

This may sound obvious, but Notre Dame should stick with what works and hire nothing less than coaches with proven records of head coaching success as we did with Ara, Dan, and Lou.

Unfortunately, this hasn't been obvious during the last 12 years. We've broken with a winning tradition and hired individuals that didn't meet our golden Notre Dame standard. We've

made the "Gerry Faust Error" four times in a row. If we're looking for the next Knute Rockne or Frank Leahy (who both had zero or very little head coaching experience) we haven't been very lucky.

Plus, college football was in its infant stages prior to 1950 and the ultra-competitive nature of today's football requires a well defined head coach selection process.

Pilots with only a few years of experience shouldn't be chosen to fly Air Force One. The President's surgeon shouldn't be the young fellow that just finished his residency.

In the same way, the individual selected to coach Notre Dame Football should not be someone that has less than 13 years of head coach experience and a winning percentage less than .644. A spectacular turnaround and bowl game wins on his resume would, of course, be preferred.

Notre Dame is not the place for new head coaches to start their careers or mediocre coaches to build their resumes. Notre Dame is the place where the best coaches in college football go to make history.

Edward Prusiecki
alum
class of '02
Nov. 30

This space here is wasted paper.

Save trees. Submit a letter.

www.ndsmcobserver.com

Christmas

Top ten Christmas movies



It's A Wonderful Life (1946)
The film was a flop in its original theatrical run, not even breaking even at the box office. Only after it began airing on television in the 1970s and 1980s did it become a cultural icon.



White Christmas (1954)
The song that lends this film its title actually won the 1942 Oscar for Best Original Song for another Bing Crosby movie, "Holiday Inn."



A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965)
Some of the child actors voicing the characters couldn't read yet, so they had to be fed their lines a few words at a time, which created the halting style of the dialogue now identified with the "Peanuts" specials.



The Santa Clause (1994)
Quentin, the elf who designs all of the gadgets for Tim Allen's Santa, is a nod to the character Q, also a technology master, from the James Bond movies.



How the Grinch Stole Christmas ('66)
Actor Boris Karloff, best known for his role in "Frankenstein," is the narrator and the voice of the Grinch.

1) It's a Wonderful Life (1946)

This classic (the American Film Institute named it the number one American inspirational film) is essentially a revamped version of "A Christmas Carol." On Christmas Eve, James Stewart's George Bailey has to see what the world would be like if he'd never been born to realize the value of his own life.

Jordan Gamble

Scene Writer

2) White Christmas (1954)

In this musical, two army buddies from World War II, now song-and-dance men, try to woo a sister act while the four of them put on a stage show to save a failing winter resort.

3) A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965)

The half-hour television special, the first with Charles Schultz's "Peanuts" characters, denounces the materialism of Christmas, with Charlie Brown getting a wilting tree instead of an aluminum one and Linus bringing it all to a crescendo when he recites the Nativity story from the Gospel of Luke.

4) The Santa Clause (1994)

Tim Allen, then at the top of his "Home Improvement" fame, stars as Scott Calvin, a guy who accidentally kills Santa Claus and because of that, must become the next one, whether he likes it or not.

5) How the Grinch Stole Christmas (1966)

The original TV special, adapted from Dr. Seuss's book, continues in the same vein of "A Charlie Brown Christmas," with the Grinch realizing that Christmas is more than "packages, boxes, or bags!"

6) Home Alone (1990)

Macaulay Culkin's character gets left behind on Christmas, and must fend off boredom, insecurity and burglars until his parents make it home. Hilarity ensues. This movie was the top grossing movie of the 90s, until "Titanic" came along.

7) A Christmas Story (1983)

It's December in 1940s northern Indiana and all Ralphie wants for Christmas is Red Ryder BB gun. "A Christmas Story" turns 25 years old this year, but the sight gags of Ralphie's friend's tongue frozen to the flag pole, the bunny suit and the leg lamp probably won't get old anytime soon.

8) Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer (1964)

Of all the stop-motion specials produced by Rankin and Bass, Rudolph has endured the longest. It's got memorable characters (a misfit reindeer, an elf who longs to be a dentist, a gold miner named Yukon Cornelius, and of course, Santa) and catchy music, from the title song to "Holly Jolly Christmas."

9) Love Actually (2003)

Intertwining at least nine different love stories, this movie is a must for anyone experiencing the holiday blues. Sure, there are some downbeat parts, but when the little girl belts out Mariah Carey's "All I Want for Christmas Is You" at the end, you'd have to be a real Scrooge to resist the Christmas cheer.

10) Elf (2003)

The 6-foot tall Buddy (Will Ferrell), clad in an elf ensemble straight out of "Rudolph," discovers he is actually a human adopted by the North Pole, and sets out to reconnect with his real father. Ferrell is both convincing and hilarious in a movie that generated such catchphrases as "Santa! I know him!"

The views expressed in Scene and Heard are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Contact Jordan Gamble at jgamble@nd.edu



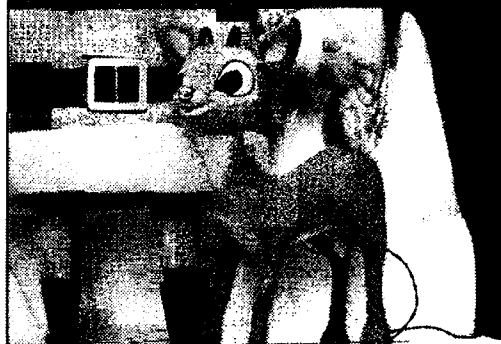
Home Alone (1990)

This movie was written by John Hughes, the director and screenwriter behind "The Breakfast Club," "Sixteen Candles" and "Ferris Bueller's Day Off."



A Christmas Story (1983)

In 2006, almost one-sixth of the American population tuned in at some point to the 24-hour marathon on TBS.



Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer ('64)
"Rudolph" has been telecast every year since 1964.



Love Actually (2003)

The auditorium used for the final concert is in Pierce Brosnan's primary school.



Elf (2003)

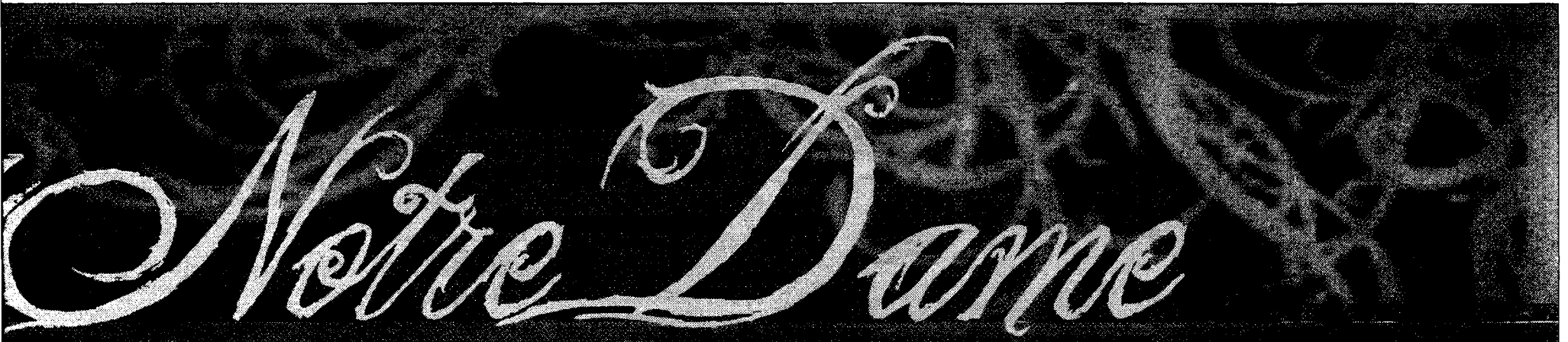
The elf Ming-Ming is played by Peter Billingsley, who also starred as Ralphie in "A Christmas Story."

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Christmas season events on and off campus

Spirit of Christmas, Spirit of Notre Dame

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Michelle
Fordice

Scene Writer

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Feast of St. Nicholas

to be filled with candy by the hall
staff members that support us all
year round. The glee club travels to
different dorms and classroom build-
ings, standing in for our neighbor-
hood Christmas carolers. These early
weeks of the season are the chance
to celebrate Christmas with the
friends that have become our family
away from home.

All of these Christmas preparations
and celebrations remind us of the
spiritual side of Notre Dame. The first
advent candle has been lit in the
Basilica and chapels across campus,
hymns like "O Come, O Come
Emmanuel" fill us with anticipation,
and the nativity scenes set up at the
grotto, the Dome and O'Shaughnessy
become a visual reminder of why we
celebrate Christmas. We start to think
about giving back as service projects
and donation drives abound, remind-
ing us to care for the people that are
not guaranteed a good Christmas.
The heart of Notre Dame is about
considering what matters most; you
can find a good education at many
universities, but Christmastime is just
one reminder that Notre Dame is
about something more.

So take time to breathe in the crisp
winter air, bask in the glow of
Christmas lights, and remember that
there are more important things than
just making it through the last few
weeks of papers and exams.
Celebrate the spirit of Christmas a lit-
tle bit each day, along with the rest of
our Notre Dame family.

*The views expressed in Scene and
Heard are those of the author and
not necessarily those of The
Observer.*

Contact Michelle Fordice at
mfordice@nd.edu

By ANALISE LIPARI
Scene Editor

Ice-skating at Howard Park

Hours can be found at:
www.sbpark.org/skate/iceskate.htm

Sure, it's fun to skate in the Joyce Center whenever the
rink's open, cruising along the ice with your friends and
dormmates. Why not give it a try off-campus? South
Bend's park system deserves a second look, especially
this time of year, when Howard Park offers an outdoor
skating rink for wintertime fun. Practice your figure
eights and smooth moves at this local park — it's less
than two miles from campus, so you've got no excuse.
Admission costs \$4 with a skate rental included. If
you've got your own pair of skates, the rink will sharpen
them for \$4.

Christmas at the Movies

This holiday season should prove like any other at the
movies, with a slew of holiday fare hitting the big
screen. "Four Christmases," starring comedy high-roller
Vince Vaughn and Reese Witherspoon, took the top spot
at the box office last weekend. Another Christmas
release, "Nothing Like the Holidays," is due in theaters
Dec. 12, and should also prove to be a welcome holiday
distraction from the joys of finals week.

"A Christmas Story" at the South Bend Civic Theater

Performances continue to December 20th.

The South Bend Civic Theater has brought this 1983
classic Christmas film to life on the stage. Join this local
theater community in celebrating one of the holiday sea-
son's more unconventional stories as 11 year-old Ralphie
Parker dreams of a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas.
Even if you'll "shoot your eye out," you can't pass up this
Christmastime production. The story, which takes place
in Indiana, was first brought to the stage in 2000.

South Bend Symphony Orchestra performs "Home for the Holidays"

Sunday Dec. 7, 3 p.m.

If you're in the mood for some holiday cheer, check out
the South Bend Symphony Orchestra this Sunday at the
Morris Performing Arts Center. In addition to the orches-
tra itself, this popular concert will feature performances
by soprano Diane Penning and the South Bend High
School Festival Choir, a group comprised of students
from Adams, Riley, Clay and Washington High Schools.
Supposedly Kris Kringle himself will make an appear-
ance at the show, so you better watch out!

"The Nutcracker" at the Morris Performing Arts Center

Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Dec. 14 at 2 p.m.

Christmas in South Bend wouldn't be the same without
the local production of this beloved holiday tradition.
Watch and wonder as young Clara experiences a night of
enchantment, drama and mystery, scored by
Tchaikovsky's beautiful music and performed by a local
dance company, the Southold Dance Theater.

Glee Club Christmas Concert at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

Dec. 13 at 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

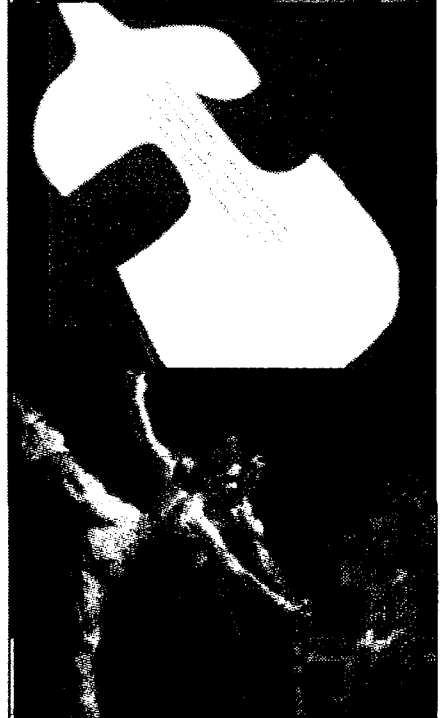
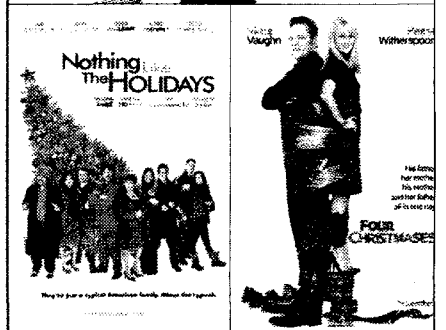
An absolute must, this annual concert is one of the
Glee Club's finest offerings each academic year. The men
of the Glee Club will perform a variety of holiday tunes,
traditional carols, contemporary selections and more.

"Kathy Mattea's Christmas" at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

Dec. 14, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

This country artist has two Grammy Awards and three
Country Music Association Awards under her belt, and
will be coming to the Leighton Concert Hall for a unique
Christmastime performance. Called "one of Nashville's
most spiritual singers" by USA Today, Mattea will per-
form Christmas standards as well as some of her own
holiday tracks, including "Mary, Did You Know?"

Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu.



NBA

Murphy's tip-in helps Pacers shock Lakers

Washington outscores New Jersey 35-12 in the third quarter cruising to first win over Eastern conference opponent

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Troy Murphy and Danny Granger spent most of Tuesday night working to keep the Pacers close to the Lakers.

They spent those final few seconds like everyone else in Conesco Fieldhouse — watching, waiting and wondering if Murphy's tantalizing tip would actually drop through the net.

It did — just as the buzzer sounded.

Murphy's game-winner completed an improbable come-back and gave the Pacers a desperately needed 118-117 victory after replay reviews confirmed the basket was good.

"That's purely unbelievable," Granger said. "Troy is a monster on the boards. He gobbles up so many rebounds, and I'm glad he got it because I couldn't get to it."

The Lakers (14-2) entered with a seven-game winning streak, the league's best record and a perfect 5-0 mark on the road. So when they closed the third quarter with a 17-0 run to take a 101-86 lead, it seemed as

if the Lakers were destined for yet another rout.

Granger and Murphy changed those plans.

Granger, who scored 32 points, and Murphy, who had 16 points and 17 rebounds, methodically led their teammates back by making big baskets and getting the ball to open teammates. The Pacers (7-10) also allowed just 16 points over the final 12 minutes.

The combination, and Murphy's ability to get his hands on a batted ball, bailed them out.

"There was some luck involved, but that's the way basketball is if you don't take care of business," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "They got some energy going to the hoop and the right thing happened for them."

It was a dramatic shift for the Pacers, who had lost five of six, including their last two home games in overtime. They play six of their next seven on the road.

The Lakers jumped ahead repeatedly against Indiana but the Pacers kept rallying.

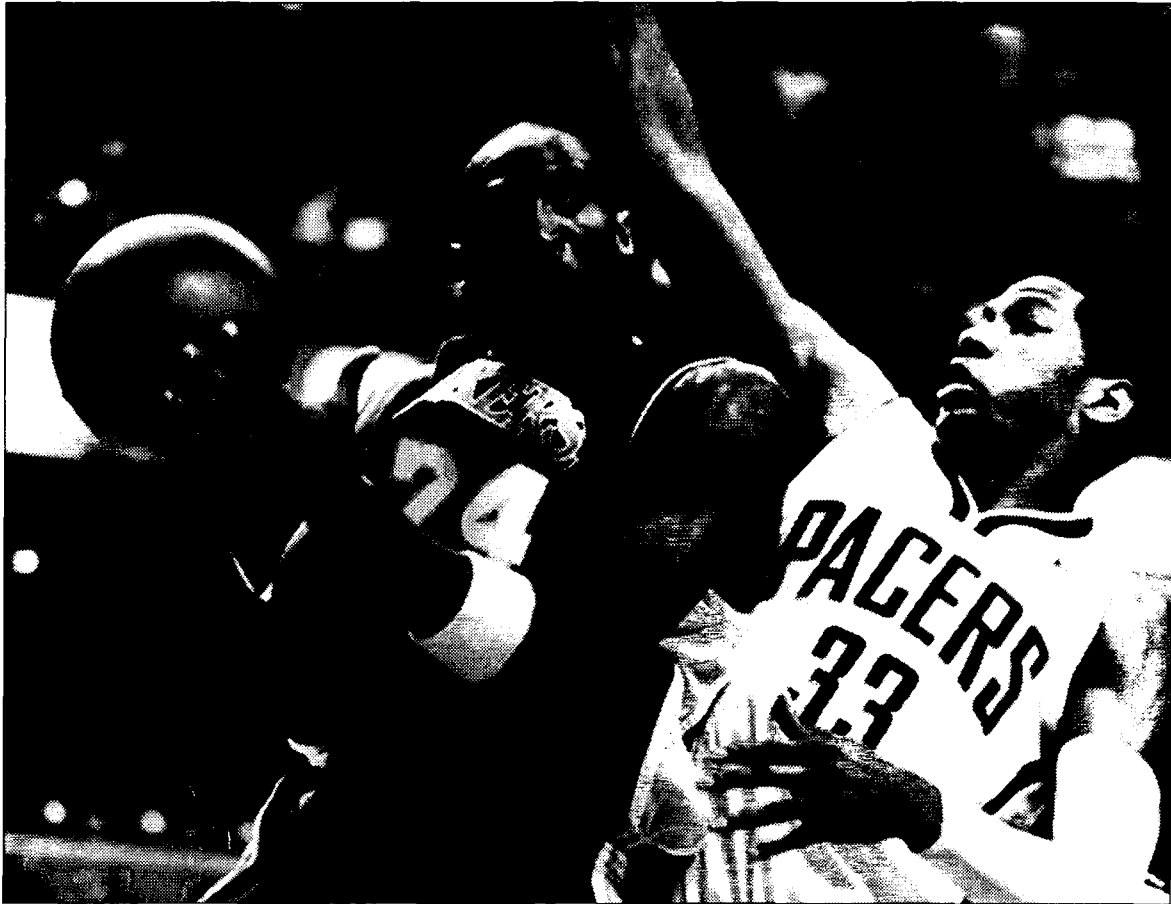
When reigning MVP Kobe Bryant scored the Lakers'

hands on a batted ball, bailed them out.

"There was some luck involved, but that's the way basketball is if you don't take care of business," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "They got some energy going

"That's purely unbelievable. Troy is a monster on the boards. He gobbles up so many rebounds, and I'm glad he got it because I couldn't get to it."

Danny Granger
Pacers forward



Los Angeles guard Kobe Bryant, left, goes up for a lay-up as Indiana forward Danny Granger attempts to block his shot. Bryant had 28 points during the Lakers 118-117 loss to Indiana Tuesday.

final nine points of the first half to give Los Angeles a 66-59 lead, Granger caught Murphy's long inbound pass, spun and hit a 17-footer at the buzzer to make it 66-61 at halftime.

When Bryant opened the second half by scoring the Lakers' first seven points, Granger did everything he could to keep it close.

And when Los Angeles put together its big run at the end of the third, Granger and Murphy returned the favor by igniting a 10-0 spurt early in the fourth to get the Pacers within seven.

Bryant finished with 28 points, becoming the second-fastest player in league history to reach 22,000 career points. Wilt Chamberlain was one day younger than Bryant when he reached that milestone.

"They did a great job on the offensive boards and our turnovers created momentum for them," Bryant said. "Their 3-point shooting kept them in the game."

Granger's fourth 3, with 1:42 left, closed the margin to 115-114 and Marquis Daniels made two free throws on Indiana's next possession to put the Pacers in front.

Bryant answered with a pull-up 21-footer before missing an 18-footer that gave Indiana a chance to call timeout and set up one last play.

Although it didn't work, Daniels broke free on the baseline, put up a short shot that bounced off the rim and got batted around before Murphy charged in and tipped it toward the basket. After bouncing off both sides of the rim and into the air, it finally dropped and sent Pacers players running toward their sideline.

"It looked like it sat on there forever," Murphy said. "But I'm happy it finally went down."

Wizards 108, Nets 88

Caron Butler had 22 points and 10 assists, and DeShawn Stevenson added

21 to lead the Washington Wizards to an easy victory over the New Jersey Nets on Tuesday night.

The victory was the first road win of the season for the Wizards (3-12) and their first win over an Eastern Conference opponent after 11 straight losses.

The loss snapped a three-game winning streak for the Nets (9-8), who won all three contests on the road. The Nets were led by Devin Harris, who had 18 points, but only three after halftime, and Vince Carter, who had 16 points. Keyon Dooling added 14 off the bench for the Nets.

After a closely contested first half, the Wizards blew the game open, outscoring New Jersey 35-12 in the third period.

The Wizards led 51-50 at halftime, then outscored the Nets 14-3 over the first 4:54 of the second half to take a commanding 65-53 lead. Butler and Antawn Jamison (22 points) each scored four points in the game-deciding run.

The Nets cut the lead to 70-60 on a three-point play by Carter. But the Wizards went on a 16-1 run over the next 3 minutes and coasted from there.



Washington forward Antawn Jamison shoots over New Jersey forward Sean Williams during the Wizards 108-88 win over the Nets Tuesday.

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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kitchen,

dining room,

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PERSONAL

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY?

Do not go it alone. If you or someone you love needs confidential support or assistance, please call Sr. Sue Dunn, OP, at (574)631-7819 or Ann Firth at 574-631-2685. For more information, visit our website at: <http://osa.nd.edu/departments/pregnant.shtml>

If you or someone you care about has been sexually assaulted, visit <http://osa.nd.edu/departments/csap/>

There

were

no

classifieds

tonight...

at all

So

for

your

reading

pleasure...

I

present

to you:

Womanizer, woman-womanizer

You're a womanizer

Oh, womanizer, oh
You're a womanizer, baby

You, you, you are

You, you, you are

Womanizer, womanizer

Womanizer

AROUND THE NATION

Wednesday, December 3, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 13

Men's Basketball AP Top 25

	team	points	record
1	North Carolina (72)	1800	7-0
2	UConn	1723	6-0
3	Pittsburgh	1592	7-0
4	Duke	1526	7-0
5	Gonzaga	1489	5-0
6	Lklahoma	1437	6-0
7	NOTRE DAME	1359	5-1
8	Texas	1231	5-1
9	Purdue	1086	5-1
10	Tennessee	1016	5-1
11	Louisville	1003	2-1
12	UCLA	966	4-1
13	Michigan State	946	4-1
14	Xavier	902	6-0
15	Wake Forest	736	6-0
16	Syracuse	668	6-0
17	Villanova	570	6-0
18	Memphis	526	4-1
19	Arizona State	401	5-1
20	Georgetown	388	4-1
21	Miami	309	4-1
22	Davidson	286	5-1
22	Florida	281	5-1
24	Baylor	272	6-1
25	Marquette	221	5-1

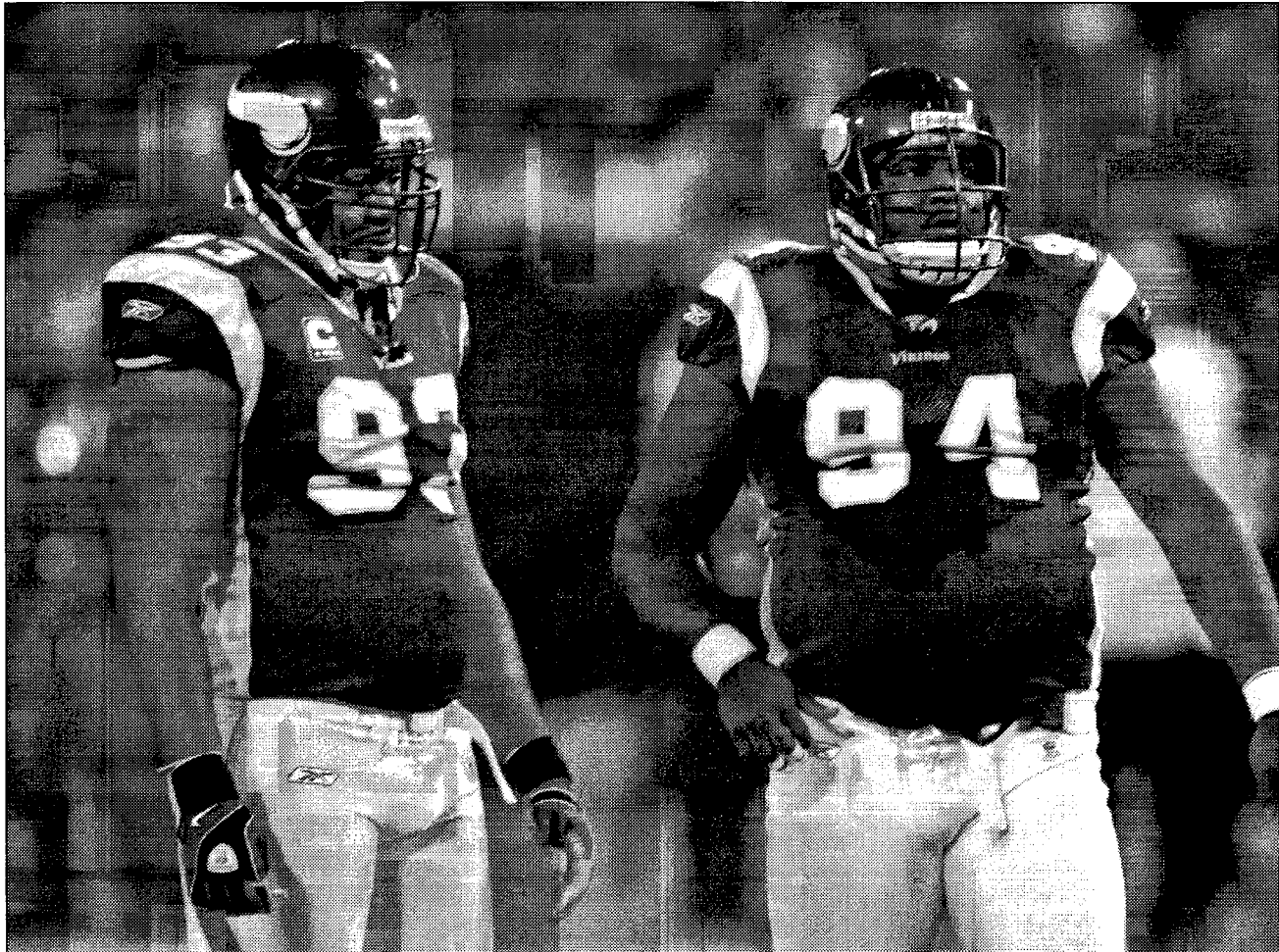
Women's Basketball AP Top 25

	team	points	prev
1	Connecticut (45)	1125	1
2	North Carolina	1073	2
3	California	1009	3
4	Stanford	973	5
5	Texas A&M	868	8
6	Oklahoma	845	4
7	Tennessee	790	9
8	Maryland	781	10
9	Texas	748	11
10	Baylor	677	6
11	NOTRE DAME	669	14
12	Duke	652	12
13	Louisville	623	7
14	Auburn	576	15
15	Rutgers	536	13
16	Vanderbilt	397	17
17	Purdue	363	19
18	Ohio State	353	20
19	Oklahoma State	351	18
20	Virginia	280	16
21	Michigan State	204	24
22	TCU	129	22
23	Xavier	128	25
24	Pittsburgh	94	NR
25	Arizona State	68	21

Big East Women's Volleyball Conference Standings

	Team	Conf Record
1	St. John's	12-2
2	Cincinnati	12-2
3	Louisville	11-3
4	Connecticut	10-4
5	NOTRE DAME	9-5
6	Syracuse	8-6
7	Pittsburgh	8-6
8	USF	7-7
9	Georgetown	7-7
10	Seton Hall	6-8

NFL



Viking Defensive Tackles Kevin Williams, left, and Pat Williams stand during a break in their Nov. 9 game against Green Bay. Both were suspended Tuesday by the NFL for doping violations.

NFL suspends six for doping

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Six players, including the heart of the Minnesota Vikings' stout defensive line, were suspended for four games without pay by the NFL on Tuesday for violating the league's anti-doping policy.

All six were punished for using a diuretic, which can serve as a masking agent for steroids.

The suspended players were running back Deuce McAllister and defensive linemen Charles Grant and Will Smith of New Orleans; defensive linemen Kevin and Pat Williams of Minnesota; and long snapper Bryan Pittman of

Houston.

A seventh player, Atlanta's Grady Jackson, was not suspended. NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said league chief counsel Jeff Pash had asked for additional information from Jackson.

The punishment is an especially harsh blow to Minnesota, which leads the NFC North and relies heavily on the two Williamses in its run defense, which ranks second in the league.

Angelo Wright, the agent for Pat and Kevin Williams, said he would file a motion in federal court Wednesday morning, presumably to put off the suspensions.

If a player's team makes

the playoffs, the player will be eligible to return to the active roster on Dec. 29.

Asked about the late scheduling of the suspensions, Adolpho Birch, the NFL's vice president of law and labor policy, said the timing was "a function of a lot of factors."

"I think if you ask most coaches, every game is important. I don't think they'd differentiate between the first and the last," Birch said in a conference call. "We do have things in place to get them done as quickly as possible. But we had to deal with the number of players involved and adjust travel schedules. We have to fit it around the players'

ability to attend."

David Cornwell, the lawyer for the three Saints, called the decisions "inconsistent with the objectives of the steroid policy."

"Deuce, Will, and Charles did not try to enhance their performance with steroids, nor did they knowingly expose themselves to the adverse health risks of a diuretic," Cornwell said in an e-mail. "They took a weight loss supplement that they had every reason to believe was safe."

In their appeals, some players said the banned substance Bumetanide was not listed as an ingredient in StarCaps, an over-the-counter weight-loss pill.

IN BRIEF

Kelly says he'll remain head coach at Cincinnati

CINCINNATI — Coach Brian Kelly tried to end speculation Tuesday that he's leaving No. 13 Cincinnati, saying that he's happy with the football program's development and he plans to stay.

He was upbeat Tuesday following a meeting with the school's president, AD and the head of its board of trustees to get an update on plans to expand the Bearcats' small football stadium and to improve their practice fields.

Kelly acknowledged that other schools had expressed an interest in him, but said he's not interested in leaving.

"All I can say is that with all the speculation and all the jobs that have been out there, sooner or later 'no' means 'no,'" Kelly said. "Again, no one can ever speak in terms of forever and ever, but what I can tell you is there's been a lot of interest in my services, and I want to be here at the University of Cincinnati because of the right reasons."

McGrady to miss three weeks with knee injury

HOUSTON — Houston guard Tracy McGrady will miss three weeks to rehabilitate his sore left knee, another blow to an injury-plagued season for the Rockets.

McGrady sat out Houston's last three games after starting the first 15. He had arthroscopic surgery on May 6, but said Tuesday that doctors have told him that the knee is not healed.

"Obviously, I came back a little bit too early," said McGrady, who was averaging 15.6 points. "I'm just not ready."

McGrady visited renowned orthopedist James Andrews on Monday. The team said Andrews confirmed the initial medical assessment by team doctor Tom Clanton that McGrady is suffering from general soreness in the knee.

Saturday will mark seven months since the surgery, and McGrady said doctors told him that his knee would require 6 to 8 months to heal. He said Andrews reassured him that he won't need more surgery.

Quinn to have season-ending finger surgery

CLEVELAND — Brady Quinn has decided to get his fractured finger fixed.

After weighing his options over the past week, Cleveland's quarterback has elected to have surgery on his right index finger, which he initially broke on Nov. 17 at Buffalo and then made worse by playing in the Browns' game a week later against Houston.

The team said that Quinn's operation will be performed on Wednesday in Birmingham, Ala., by hand specialist Dr. Thomas Hunt. The procedure, which will likely involve a pin being inserted in Quinn's finger to stabilize the bone and damaged tendon, will require up to 10 weeks of recovery time.

around the dial

NCAAB

Indiana at (17) Wake Forest
7:15 p.m., ESPN

(1) North Carolina at (12) Michigan State
9:15 p.m., ESPN

NFL

Plaxico done for year, suspended for 4 games

After Burress accidentally shoots himself in leg, Giants suspend wide receiver for conduct detrimental to the team

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Super Bowl hero Plaxico Burress is done for the year.

The New York Giants fined and suspended Burress on Tuesday for four games — the rest of the regular season — after he accidentally shot himself in the right thigh over the weekend at a Manhattan nightclub. The team also placed him on the reserve non-football injury list, which means the wide receiver couldn't come back for playoffs, either.

The team punished Burress a day after he was charged with illegal weapons possession, which carries a penalty of 3 and 1/2 to 15 years in prison if he's convicted. Burress is due back in court again on March 31, unless he reaches a plea agreement.

Burress arrived Tuesday morning at Giants Stadium, and met individually with Giants president John Mara, general manager Jerry Reese and coach Tom Coughlin. He left for a medical test and returned in the afternoon for another brief session with team officials.

Even as they suspended him for conduct detrimental to the team, Giants officials expressed concern for Burress, who caught a touchdown pass from Eli Manning that gave the Giants a 17-14 Super Bowl win over New England in February.

"As we have said since Saturday morning, our concern is for Plaxico's health and well-being," Mara said. "This is an important time for him to take care of his body and heal up and also deal with the very serious legal consequences and other issues in his life. When I

spoke with Plaxico he expressed great remorse for letting down his teammates."

Police and prosecutors still want to talk to a pair of Burress' teammates, Antonio Pierce and Ahmad Bradshaw, who were at the club when the shooting occurred but insist they did nothing wrong.

Neither Burress nor his agent, Drew Rosenhaus, was immediately available for comment.

Dr. Scott Rodeo, a team physician, examined Burress and told the Giants that the gunshot wound would have sidelined the 31-year-old player for 4-to-6 weeks anyway.

"I had two conversations with Plaxico today, and it was obvious that he understood the magnitude of this situation," Reese said Tuesday. "He knows that we are here to support him and help him get healthy."

This is the second time the Giants have suspended the troubled receiver this season. He missed the Oct. 2 game against Seattle for missing a team meeting. He also has been fined dozens of times since 2005 for violating team rules, and he was hit with a \$45,000 fine by the league this season for abusing an official and throwing a ball into the stands during a game.

"Our concern all along has been for Plaxico the person, not Plaxico the player," team chairman Steve Tisch said. "We are here to support him and his family as he recovers from his wound and deals with some serious issues."

Burress is fourth on the team with 35 catches for 454 yards and four touchdowns. He has caught 244 passes for 3,681 yards and 33 touchdowns since joining the team in 2005 as a

free agent.

"When you lose a player of Plaxico's ability, it is incumbent that everybody step up and fill the void," said Coughlin, whose team is 11-1 and a win away from clinching the NFC East. "In the last two seasons, this team has done an outstanding job of that. We made it clear to Plax today that we are here to support him in any way possible."

Fines in the NFL typically mean a player loses a paycheck for each game he misses. In Burress' case, that would mean roughly \$206,000 per regular season game. He also was due to receive \$1 million from his signing bonus on Dec. 10. It was not immediately clear whether the team still had to make the payment.

The player's latest woes began in the wee hours

Saturday morning when he shot himself in the VIP section of a club called the Latin Quarter, where he went with two teammates.

Police want to know what Pierce did moments after the shooting and whether he took part in a cover-up. They also plan to interview the people at New York - Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, who treated Burress and did not report the shooting, as required by law.

Pierce's lawyer said Tuesday he contacted prosecutors as soon as he was hired by the linebacker on Monday.

"After the events in question, Mr. Pierce did what any other reasonable person would do under the circumstances, he hired counsel," attorney Michael Bachner said. He said he hasn't been notified that Pierce will be charged.

"Mr. Pierce, given the extraordinary circumstances of that evening, acted responsibly in trying to save what could have been the life of a friend," Bachner said.

The episode has frustrated police from the start. Officers said they were promised by NFL officials Monday that Pierce would appear for questioning, but he still hasn't.

Police said Tuesday that the Giants did send two trainers and an official who deals with player issues, who provided information about the shooting. That includes Charles Way, the team's director of player development, and trainer Ronnie Barnes. But police are still waiting to speak to more informed witnesses.

Pierce declined to answer questions about the shooting on his regular Tuesday afternoon spot on Sirius NFL Radio. "It's not appropriate with the police

being involved. ... I've got to be strong," he said.

Bradshaw's attorney, Charles Stacy, said his client wasn't suspected of any wrongdoing.

Both players said they were planning to speak with the district attorney's office in the near future.

Authorities are also upset that the hospital didn't report the shooting. Hospital officials said "take this very seriously, and are conducting a thorough investigation into why this gunshot wound was not reported to the police department in a timely fashion."

Hospital spokeswoman Kathy Robinson said Tuesday an individual has been suspended in connection with the case, but would not say if the person was a doctor or hospital staff member.

A person familiar with the case said a doctor who was not a staff member came to the hospital shortly after Burress arrived there around 2 a.m. and treated him. The doctor's privileges to work out of the hospital have been suspended, according to the person. The person was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg spoke out again Tuesday, saying he talked to Mara and NFL commissioner Roger Goodell. He told them the law says "you see something, you got to call the cops. That's the thing you should do."

The Giants say they have been cooperating with authorities since they learned about the shooting.

"As we have said since Saturday morning, our concern is for Plaxico's health and well-being."

John Mara
Giants president

"I had two conversations with Plaxico today, and it was obvious that he understood the magnitude of this situation."

Jerry Reese
Giants general manager

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MARIE P. DEBARTOLO
CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Eastern

continued from page 20

Lechlitner added 15.

"Lech in the second half really took control of the game offensively," McGraw said.

Novosel's 18 points, along with her eight rebounds, were a career high. Notre Dame out-rebounded Eastern Michigan 60-44. In addition to Schrader's 10, Bruszewski had six and center Erica Williamson had five.

Notre Dame (6-0) led 50-33 with 14 minutes remaining in the second half, but Eastern Michigan (2-5) closed the gap to seven with 9:14 remaining. Four points from guard Cassie Schrock and a 3-point-er from guard Mary Lawson helped erase the deficit.

Three free throws from forward Becca Bruszewski and a Schrader jump shot helped the Irish regain a 13-point lead, and a six-point run near the end of the second half put Notre Dame ahead by 20. Eastern Michigan would not get closer than 15 for the rest of the game.

Schrock finished with 16 points and 14 rebounds, but shot only 3-for-11 from the field. She got her points from the foul line, where she made 10-of-14 free throws. Both teams went to the foul line often in the game. Notre Dame made 25 of its 40 free throws, and Eastern Michigan sank 22 of its 28.

"I thought we played okay defensively in the first half but we just fouled too much," McGraw said. "That was not a

good disciplined effort."

Mary Lawson scored 14 points and hit 4-of-12 shots from 3-point range. Aside from Lawson, however, the Irish defended the 3-point line well: the Eagles made only 5-of-20 3-point attempts.

"We're getting better at it," McGraw said. "The freshmen have to figure out how to learn how to find one person."

The advantage on the glass resulted partially from Notre Dame's size advantage. Three of Notre Dame's five starters and two of their bench players are over six feet, but the Eagles had only two starters over six feet tall.

The Irish turned the ball over 18 times, three more than the Eagles. The turnover deficit was unusual for Notre Dame, who usually leads in the turnover department.

"We were really sloppy with the ball, careless, nonchalant, we really didn't look like we had a lot of focus," McGraw said.

Notre Dame jumped out to a 9-2 lead, but free throws from Schrock and two jumpers from guard Tavelyn James brought the score to 19-13 with 6:27 left in the first half.

Lechlitner's two layups sent the Irish on a 10-4 run to take a 29-17

lead. Six Eagle foul shots pulled Eastern Michigan within 12 points at the half.

Foul shots also helped at the start of the second half, keeping Eastern Michigan within 10 points, but then the Irish started their run and put the game out of reach.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

"I thought we played OK defensively in the first half but we just fouled too much. That was not a good disciplined effort."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

"We were really sloppy with the ball, careless, nonchalant, we really didn't look like we had a lot of focus."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

NBA

Miller's 28 help end 76ers skid

Billups tallies double-double in win; Barea's three caps Dallas comeback

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Andre Miller scored nine of his season-high 28 points in overtime Tuesday night and the Philadelphia 76ers ended their four-game losing streak with a 103-95 victory over the Chicago Bulls.

Andre Iguodala added 25 points and Elton Brand had 22 points and 14 rebounds as the Sixers avenged a loss to the Bulls two days ago in Philadelphia.

Derrick Rose led Chicago with 24 points and Ben Gordon added 18. Tyrus Thomas had 14 points and 13 boards.

Thomas' thunderous followup dunk tied at 90 with 17.6 seconds left in regulation.

The Sixers had the last shot, but after holding the ball and running down the clock, Iguodala drove the lane and fed in the corner to Miller, whose shot was short.

But in overtime Miller took over. He had a three-point play and then a soft jumper to give Philadelphia a 99-92 lead.

Philly, which led by 15 Sunday before losing to the Bulls 103-92, had a 16-point cushion Tuesday and was also ahead by nine in the fourth quarter before Chicago rallied.

But this time the Sixers held on.

Brand's jump hook gave the Sixers a 79-70 lead in regulation. Iguodala's drive along the base line and thundering dunk kept the lead at seven with three minutes remaining.

Rose drove for a bank shot and Drew Gooden's two free throws after a nifty pass from Rose brought the Bulls to within two with 1:15 to play.

Thomas blocked a shot by Miller but then was called for an offensive foul at the other end with 40 seconds remaining.

But a driving Iguodala lost the ball under the basket with 23.9 seconds to go and the

Bulls had a last chance. After a timeout Rose, drove the basket and missed but Thomas followed it up with a slam to tie the game with 17.6 seconds to go.

Iguodala's three-point play and then steal and dunk in the final seconds of the third quarter highlighted a strong 12-2 finish for the 76ers as they took a 67-61 lead.

Looking flat after a seven-game road trip that ended Sunday with the victory over the Sixers in Philly, the Bulls fell behind by 10 after a listless first quarter in which they had eight turnovers and shot 33 percent.

Philadelphia went up 30-14 in the second quarter. But the Bulls chopped away and after a rally that saw them shoot 58 percent in the second period, they actually had a chance for the halftime lead before Andres Nocioni's baseline jumper was long with about half a minute left. Iguodala's banker put Philadelphia up three at the half.

Nuggets 132, Raptors 93

Thanks to Chauncey Billups, Carmelo Anthony doesn't have to shoulder the Denver Nuggets' offense while grappling with an ailing right elbow.

Billups had 24 points and 14 assists in Denver's rout of the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday night in a game that was out of reach by halftime.

After a slow start, Anthony finished with 23 points 48 hours after scoring just one bucket in 14 agonizing minutes against Houston, which snapped his NBA-best double-digit streak at 222 games.

Jermaine O'Neal returned from a sprained left ankle that had cost him three games and he scored 12 points to go with Chris Bosh's 24, but they couldn't keep the Raptors from being routed.

Nene added 19 points and 11

boards for the Nuggets, who are 12-3 since trading Allen Iverson to the Detroit Pistons for Billups, the Denver native and former University of Colorado star whose homecoming has gone better than anybody would have expected.

Thanks to Billups' play up and down the court, this game was never in doubt even with Anthony's fitful start. During Billups' 32 minutes of playing time, the Nuggets were an incredible plus-48 on the scoreboard.

Anthony's right elbow has been bothering him since training camp but has gotten progressively worse over the last couple of weeks. He received treatment on the team's off-day and skipped much of the Nuggets' shootaround Tuesday morning, then returned to the starting lineup.

He missed his first four shots and two of his first four free throws before finding a rhythm. He even passed up some shots early on that he normally takes and banked a layup off the glass for a 24-second violation before swishing a 17-foot jumper that gave Denver a 47-28 lead.

Mavericks 100, Clippers 98

Jose Barea hit the go-ahead 3-pointer in the final minute, Dirk Nowitzki scored 29 points and the Dallas Mavericks rallied from a 15-point deficit to beat the Los Angeles Clippers Tuesday night.

Barea capped Dallas' closing 18-4 run with a long-range jumper with 50.2 seconds left that gave Dallas its only lead of the game.

After the teams exchanged empty possessions, the Clippers had a chance to win.

Baron Davis missed a 3-point-er with just over a second left and Nowitzki grabbed the rebound as time expired. After the final buzzer sounded, teammates mobbed Barea under the basket.

Jason Terry scored 26 points for the Mavericks, who moved over .500 for the first time this season. Barea chipped in with a season-high 15 points, and Brandon Bass added 14.

Zach Randolph had 27 points and 10 rebounds, Al Thornton had 23 points and Davis added 22 points for the Clippers, who didn't score in final 2:55.

Steve Novak hit a jumper early in the fourth to give Los Angeles an 83-68 lead as the Clippers seemed poised to win its second game over the Mavericks this season.

The Clippers still led by 12 with seven minutes left when the Mavericks, behind a three-guard lineup of Jason Kidd, Terry and Barea, started their comeback.

Nowitzki's putback cut the Clippers' lead to 96-91. After Thornton's jumper put Los Angeles up 98-91, the Mavericks scored final nine points of the game.

Terry hit jumper and a layup that brought Dallas to 98-97 with 1:15 left.

After Eric Gordon missed a jumper, Kidd found Barea for a 3-pointer from the left wing.

The Mavericks have won seven of eight since starting the season 2-7. The Clippers have lost five in a row and 18 of 21 in Dallas.

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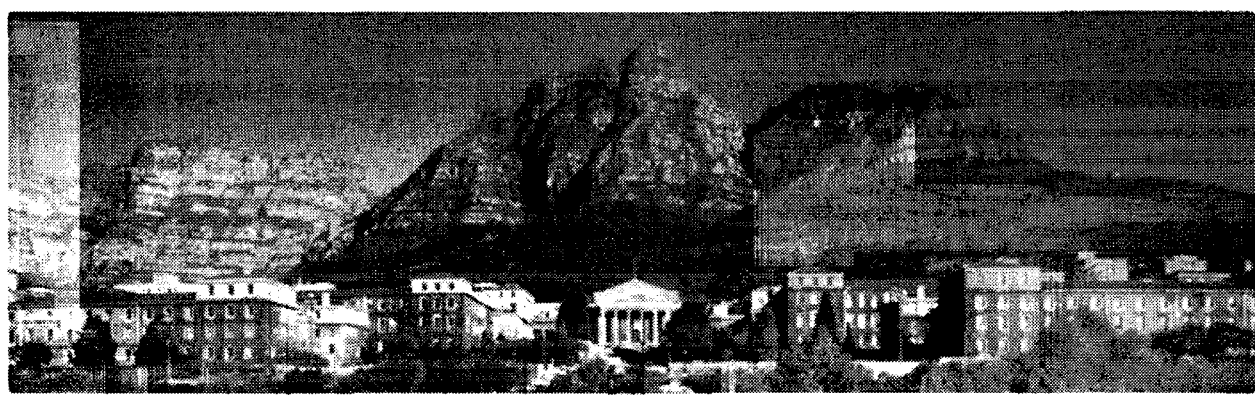
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Calle

continued from page 20

Ridderwall's overtime game-winner against Michigan in last year's national semifinal didn't grant him reprieve from his teammates' teasing, but maybe the CCHA offensive player of the week award he earned over the weekend will.

"It's awesome," Ridderwall said of the award. "It's one of those things that shows all the work you've been putting in is paying off. It's good to get awards, but a lot of it is also because of my linemates. We've been clicking these last couple games here."

Ridderwall, a native of Stockholm, Sweden, scored five points (two goals, three assists) in two games against Western Michigan over the weekend. He has now tallied 14 points over a five-game point streak that includes a pair of four-point outings.

Ridderwall's 18 points (seven goals, 11 assists) tie him for the team lead, and his five goals and 12 points on the power play are also team highs.

"Calle's been playing well for a while now, but this is the first real opportunity to show the offensive skills and the scoring skills we felt he had when we recruited him," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "I think part of it was [freshman right wing] Billy Maday coming on board and the chemistry those two have with Kevin Deeth. It's just worked out to our advantage."

After Ridderwall joined the Irish last fall with high expectations, Jackson said he gave the freshman too much responsibility by starting him on the power play and penalty kill units.

"Calle fit right in. He's a great kid, he's always got a smile on his face, and I think his teammates liked him a lot as a freshman," Jackson said. "The biggest problem was that we knew what kind of player he could be, and I gave him too much ... and he kind of struggled with it."

When he reduced Ridderwall's role, Jackson said the freshman's confidence suffered for a period of time — but once Ridderwall regained it, he showed why his future looked so bright in the first

place.

"We expected him to be a pretty exciting player for us, and it didn't happen right away," Jackson said. "Once he got back in [the lineup] near the end of [last] year, he started to show some real improvement in his understanding of the game ... Now it's not even a concern of mine. He's done a really good job of learning to play the system."

That learning experience has been vital to his success early in his sophomore season, Ridderwall said.

"I needed a longer adjustment period, having kind of a slow freshman year, so I think last year was more a learning experience for me than a productive year when it comes to hockey," Ridderwall said. "I think freshman year has definitely helped me [in terms of] confidence and getting play time ... Now, it feels awesome when you have a little bit of confidence from the coaching staff and you can play your own game, make a mistake and still play. I'd say confidence is a huge part of success."

But Ridderwall is a different player than he was a year ago from a physical standpoint as well. He stayed on campus for summer school and additional strength training and then continued that program for the rest of the off-season, putting on nearly 15 pounds of muscle.

"We always knew he had a good shot and really good puck skills," Jackson said. "The biggest thing for him coming into college hockey, I don't think he was strong enough physically ... The additional strength has helped him win a lot more of those battles for loose pucks and rebounds, and getting second opportunities at pucks helps you score goals."

As for the ribbing he receives from his teammates, Ridderwall knows it's all in good fun.

As for that hockey thing? He's got that down.

"We're a pretty close team and we're all friends," Ridderwall said. "Whenever there's something I don't really get or something I don't understand, I always have a teammate to help me out. But when you get out there on the ice, it's not that different."

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

Ayers

continued from page 20

Notre Dame's previous two games — with seven threes and 27 points. In all, the Irish hit 19 three-pointers in 37 attempts, setting a Notre Dame and Joyce Center record for three-pointers made.

"I should've bought a ticket tonight," Irish coach Mike Brey said with a laugh after the game. "All I did was sub guys."

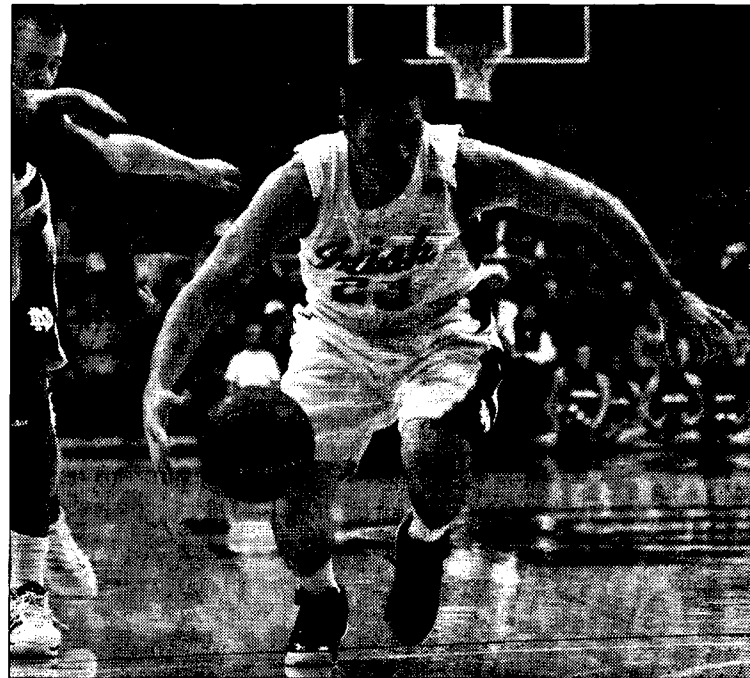
The onslaught began on Notre Dame's first possession, when forward Luke Zeller, who finished with eight points and six rebounds, spotted out outside against South Dakota's 2-3 zone and knocked down a three. Ayers followed with a corner jumper — one of the rare two-pointers that he took. Then McAlarney hit a three and Ayers hit his first from beyond the arc. The Irish led 11-0, forcing South Dakota to take a timeout — all within the first two minutes of the game.

"Usually you see teams make adjustments [defensively] as guys hit one or two [three-pointers], but that didn't really happen until Ryan hit seven," said senior forward Zach Hillesland, who finished with six points and nine rebounds.

At this point, Ayers and McAlarney were just getting warmed up.

Ayers hit another three on Notre Dame's first trip down the floor following the timeout. Zeller then downed his second and Ayers followed with a corner three to put the Irish up 20-2 with 16:34 left in the half.

"As soon as we learned about their zone we were drooling," Hillesland said. "Because what team in their right mind would want to zone such a prolific shooting team



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Senior guard Kyle McAlarney grabs a loose ball during Notre Dame's victory over South Dakota Tuesday.

as we have. You have arguably the best shooter in the country [in McAlarney] and we don't think Ryan's that far behind. You have a big guy like Luke Zeller and you bring in guys off the bench that can hit threes. Pick your poison. If you play zone, you're going to have to leave one of them open."

Ayers drained still another three following the media timeout with 15:46 left the half. McAlarney followed with three treys to put the Irish up 36-13 with 10:31 left in the half.

Ayers would spread out his next three from beyond the arc the rest of the half as Notre Dame took a 60-30 lead into the half.

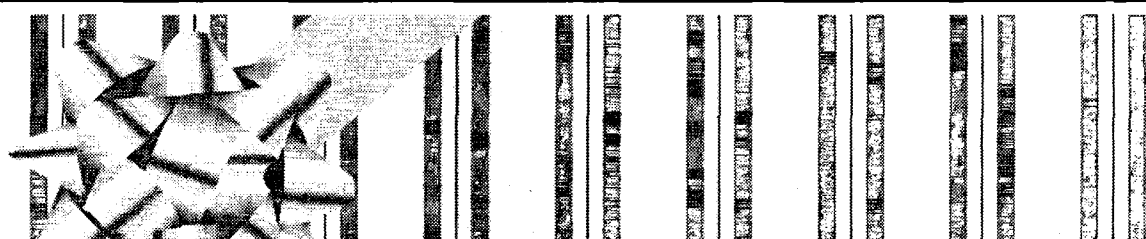
South Dakota cut the lead to 78-59 in the second half, at which point Brey but his starters back in the game. On Notre Dame's next trip down the floor, Ayers knocked down another three to stem the

Coyotes' run. Notre Dame quickly went on another run of its own, and went up 89-59 seemingly in the blink of an eye. Ayers had a chance to tie McAlarney's program record of 10 3-pointers in one game, which McAlarney set last week against North Carolina, but his attempt from the left wing missed. Then Brey took him and the other starters out of the game the rest of the way. Junior guard Tory Jackson finished with 10 assists in the three-point exhibition.

Note:

♦Brey said that he will take things "day-to-day" with junior forward Luke Harangody, who has sat out Notre Dame's last two games because of pneumonia. His status for Saturday's game against Ohio State is undetermined.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu



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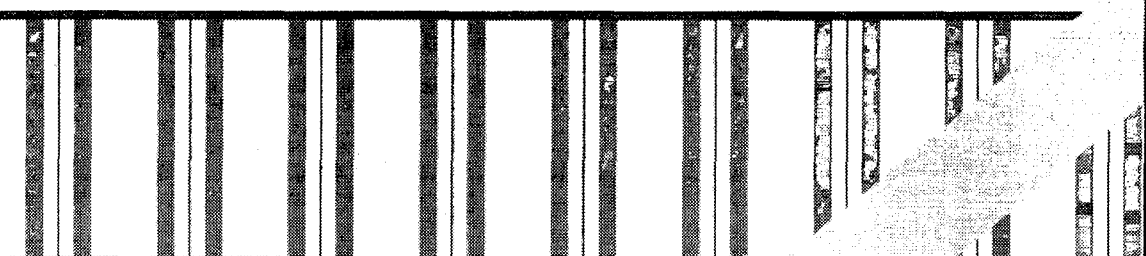
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NBA

2008-2009 Cleveland squad fit for a king

Amongst the league leaders in all major categories, Cavaliers off to best start in franchise history at 14-3

Associated Press

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio — While he teases New York's voracious media and desperate Knicks fans about his free-agent future, LeBron James and his current team have become an NBA powerhouse.

The Cleveland Cavaliers are rolling like never before.

At 14-3, they're off to the best start in franchise history. Undefeated through nine home games, the Cavs have won 13 of 14 — their best stretch since 1989 — and are blowing out teams with stunning regularity. They're ranked among the league leaders in every important statistical team category, and although it's their defense that defines them, the Cavs have offensive firepower more befitting a Western Conference squad.

And James, surrounded by the best supporting cast of his career, is playing with an intensity he has only shown in glimpses previously. He is positioned to win his first NBA title — in Cleveland.

Spike Lee, your thoughts?

The What-will-LeBron-do-in-2010 wheel will get another spin on Wednesday when the Cavaliers, riding a five-game winning streak, host the Knicks. Last week, Cleveland beat New York by 18 points during the LeBron Lovefest at Madison Square Garden. James, whose current

contract expires in 2010 when he will headline a star-studded free-agent class, knows he'll get another round of questions from New York reporters looking to discuss something other than Stephon Marbury's ugly separation from the Knicks.

His answers are prepared.

"I'm happy with the fans here," James said after practice on Monday. "I'm happy with the organization. There's nothing more for me to say."

So, why doesn't he stop?

James could easily end the flirtation he seems to enjoy by saying he's done discussing it. But he figures that would be no use.

"They (the questions) are going to come," he said. "As soon as I say I'm not going to talk about it no more, that's when they're really going to keep coming. I'm going to answer them and just move on like I've been doing."

James' willingness to engage in talk about his future prompted harsh criticism from former NBA star Charles Barkley, who said James should "shut the hell up." James countered by saying Barkley was "stupid."

James was asked if he had heard back from Sir Charles.

"For what?" he wondered. "I said what I had to say."

The needless chatter has detracted from Cleveland's impressive start.

The Cavs are on pace to shatter

the club record for wins (57) in a season, but their record has been padded by victories over some inferior teams. Of Cleveland's 14 wins, only five have come against teams with winning marks. Still, that's a positive because the Cavs of the past had a tendency to play down to their competition.

This season, they've pounded the lesser teams, winning their last eight games by an average of 11 points.

"It doesn't matter who you are playing, you have to go out there and beat them," said James, confident he and his teammates can maintain their intensity. "I think we're capable. We've been injury-free. We have everything in place right now, everything is flowing."

It has come together faster than anyone expected.

After they lost to Boston in seven games in the Eastern Conference semifinals last season, the Cavs, who were turned upside down by a six-player trade last February, had a quiet summer. General manager Danny Ferry traded for point guard Mo

Williams, who has brought Cleveland backcourt stability and taken some of the scoring burden off James.

Williams (15.7 points per game) along with Delonte West (11.4 points) and Zydrunas Ilgauskas (15.6) give coach Mike Brown another offensive option to complement James, who is attacking the rim more than ever. Cleveland's bench is not only deep but diverse as Daniel Gibson, Anderson

Varejao, Wally Szczerbiak and Sasha Pavlovic have all contributed to wins.

But Cleveland's calling card has become its defense. It took some time, but the Cavs, who are holding opponents to 42 percent shooting, have finally embraced Brown's defense-above-all philosophy.

Ben Wallace, a four-time defensive player of the year with Detroit, is patrolling the lane the way he once did with the Pistons.

"It's a matter of going out and getting it done," said Wallace, who came over in last year's mid-season blockbuster deals. "We

have what it takes to win a championship, we just have to stay healthy and have a little luck."

Ilgauskas has been with the Cavs since 1996. He been through a 17-win season — the year before James' arrival — and experienced the franchise's first trip to the NBA finals two years ago. Cleveland's start won't mean anything without a finish.

"We had a good month, but we haven't won anything," he said. "We haven't won the division. There's really nothing to be proud of, to be honest with you. For us, we have bigger goals. We want to be playing in June. Anything other than a championship for this group is a failure."

James insists his future decision will be based on where he can win multiple titles — not one, but several. He can't quiet the speculation about where he might be headed on July 1, 2010, so keep those questions coming. His teammates don't care if he continues to talk about his plans, either.

He's with them now.

In Cleveland. Not New York.

"We're not concerned," Williams said. "Believe it or not, that's a long time from now. A lot of things can happen in those two years. We have a lot of goals in those two years. We're not concerned about what's happening there."

Ben Wallace
Cavaliers forward

"It's a matter of going out and getting it done. We have what it takes to win a championship, we just have to stay healthy and have a little luck."

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On

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7:00 PM

Hesburgh Auditorium

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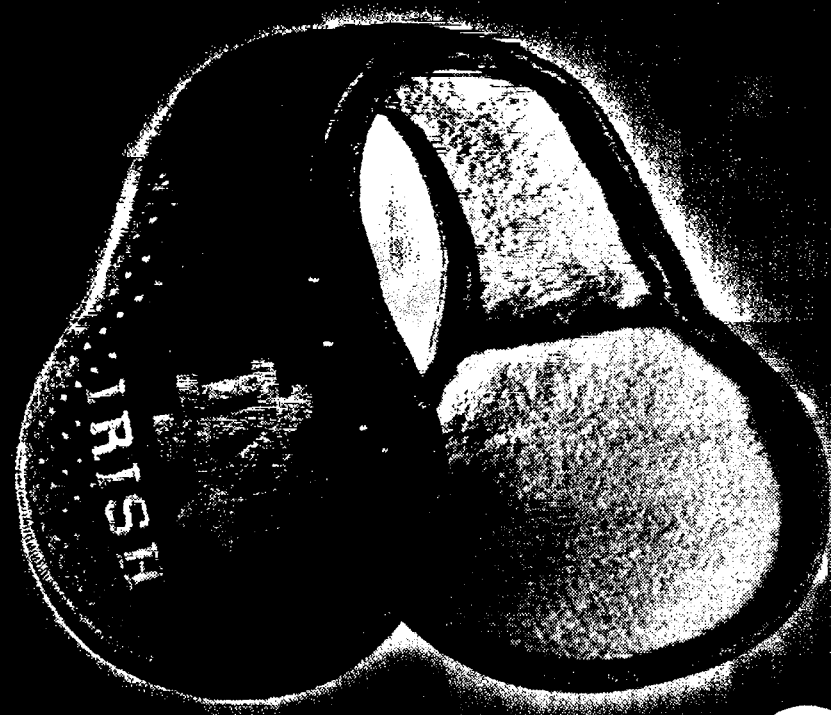
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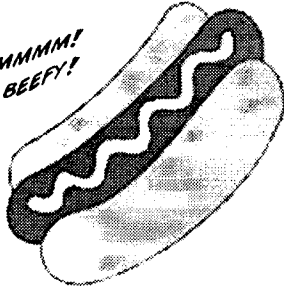
BLACK DOG

MICHAEL MIKUSKA


The Observer apologizes for the
absence of Black Dog.
It will return tomorrow.

THE DOME PIECE

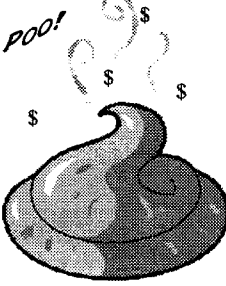
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HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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

HAYDN

NAWTY

CUDREE

PIMOCY

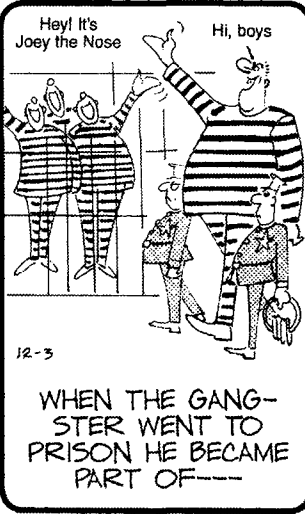
www.jumble.com

Ans: " "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: HONEY CAKED FAIRLY PIRACY
Answer: A nice welcome — "CORDIAL"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



12-3

WHEN THE GANG-STER WENT TO PRISON HE BECAME PART OF---

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

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

Across

1 Does sums

5 Pillow filler

9 Flapper hairdos

13 Scuttlebutt

14 Like a manly man

15 Escapade

16 Part of the eye that holds the iris

17 ___ and pains

18 What "thumbs up" means

19 Bandleader in the Polka Music Hall of Fame

22 Explosive initials

23 Pinocchio, famously

24 Mock

28 Dance with a wiggle

30 Lord

31 Card that's taken only by a trump

32 Mail carriers' assignments: Abbr.

34 Creamy soup

38 City where Van Gogh painted sunflowers

40 Suffix with suc- and lact-

41 Pacific republic

42 Substantial portion

45 Pile

46 Component of bronze

47 Permit

48 Washington's Capitol ___

50 Precipitates at about 32°F

52 Left hurriedly

54 New Deal program inits.

57 One who lost what's hidden in 19-, 34- and 42- Across

60 Hawaiian isle

63 More than perturbed

64 "Unfortunately ..."

65 Give a hard time

66 Nobodies

67 Small field size

68 Branch of Islam

69 Plow pullers

70 Jean who wrote "Wide Sargasso Sea"

Down

1 No longer a minor

2 Couch

3 Made a stand and would go no further

4 Polaris, e.g.

5 Bangladesh's capital, old-style

6 Color of fall leaves

7 "Thank goodness!"

8 Rhinoplasty

9 Chap

10 Tree loved by squirrels

11 Maidenform product

12 Cloud's site

14 Psycho

20 90° turn

21 Ushered

25 "Fantastic Voyage" actress

26 Honda division

27 Get ready to drive, in golf

29 ___-friendly

30 Agents under J. Edgar Hoover, informally

32 Balsa transports

33 Path

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13					14					15			
16					17					18			
19				20					21				
22				23					24		25	26	27
		28	29					30			31		
32	33				34	35	36			37			
38				39		40			41				
42				43					44		45		
46				47					48	49			
50			51				52	53			54	55	56
			57			58				59			
60	61	62			63					64			
65					66					67			
68					69					70			

Puzzle by Lynn Lempel

35 Booty

36 Tempe sch.

37 Comedian Mort

39 1972 U.S./U.S.S.R. missile pact

43 Latin American with mixed ancestry

44 Oedipus' realm

49 Wedding vow

51 Doolittle of "My Fair Lady"

52 Distress signal shot into the air

53 Divulge

55 Explorer who proved that Greenland is an island

56 Basilica recesses

58 Fearsome dino

59 Jack of early late-night TV

60 Butterworth's

61 What a doctor might ask you to say

62 Israeli gun

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nelly Furtado, 30; Monica Seles, 35; Lucy Liu, 40; Stone Phillips, 54

Happy Birthday: Let your emotions play a role in what you do this year. Not everyone will like your plans but, if you can see your way through the maze, you will come out unscathed and feeling good about who you are and what you've accomplished. Your numbers are 10, 14, 23, 29, 30, 36, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let love bring you down or cost you emotionally when you should be experiencing what life has to offer. You are in a high learning cycle and it's important to try new things. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Pick up something unique for someone you love. Emotions may be hard to hide but, in the end, others will see how sensitive and compassionate you can be. Don't make an impulsive purchase. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can present and promote a great idea and will easily drum up interest from someone who can contribute to your cause. Serious help from someone with experience will be a bonus. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Get organized at home. Do a little decorating or preparation for the festive season. A change in plans will help you out financially. Talk to someone you've been responsible for in the past and see what he or she has to offer. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let your generosity limit your financial situation. This may be a good time to pick up the perfect gift for someone you love but be prudent and stick to a budget. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your ability to think outside the box will make you a contender for advancement. Take work home where you will have the privacy and the peace and quiet to come up with some really good ideas. Love is in the stars. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Qualify your position regarding what you expect to see happen with some of the plans you have been discussing with family. It won't be clear sailing but you can work toward a compromise and, ultimately, a solution. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): This is no time to get involved in talks that can be misinterpreted. Love and romance are apparent but changing partners may or may not be what's required. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Talk to as many people as you can about your plans and ideas. Change will come about if you are willing to push for what you want. Be aggressive, persuasive and to the point about your needs and wants for the future. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let someone talk you into volunteering for something you don't believe in. Choose the cause you are going to support and you will get far more out of it in terms of the people you meet. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): This is not the time to exaggerate or to give your own spin to the way you see things. Stick to basics and you will accomplish more. Firm up a decision you've been asked to make and move forward. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): A surprise is in order and will put you in the spotlight when revealed. Getting serious about your future intentions will help to stabilize your life and give you greater vision. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are gifted with originality and innovation. You are an activist and a competitor who strives to be at the top and to lead the pack.

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THE OBSERVER

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FOOTBALL

University sources say Weis will remain head coach

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

Charlie Weis will remain the head football coach next season, a source close to the administration told the Observer Monday.

WSBT, WNDU and FOX Sports also quoted unnamed sources "close to the football team" as saying that Weis had

been informed of the decision to keep him as the coach and told to continue recruiting. Scout.com reported that Athletic Director Jack Swarbrick would make an announcement today regarding Weis' status.

Neither Swarbrick nor Weis said anything official as of last night. Swarbrick said he and Weis would likely meet next Monday, when both he

and Weis were back on campus.

Weis has a 28-21 record in four seasons as the Irish head coach. He took the team to two BCS bowls in his first two seasons, then lost a school-record 15 games in the next two. He is 4-10 against ranked opponents and his teams have lost to USC by a combined 76-3 in the past two seasons. A close call

against Navy and a final-minute loss to Syracuse at home turned many students and alumni against him.

His recruiting, however, remains impressive despite the records. Scout.com ranked the 2006 recruiting class as No. 5 in the country, 2007 as No. 11 and 2008 as No. 2. Two five-star recruits from the class of 2009, running back Cierre Wood and

offensive guard Chris Watt, have both given Notre Dame verbal commitments.

Weis is in the third year of a 10-year contract that he signed midway through his first season.

Chris Hine contributed to this report.

Contact Bill Brink at
wbrink@nd.edu

MEN'S BASKETBALL

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Lighting it up

Ayers drops 35 points in rout of South Dakota

By CHRIS HINE
Editor-in-Chief

The Irish sent a warning shot across the bow of each of their opponents with their 102-76 win over South Dakota — play a zone and Ryan Ayers or Kyle McAlarney will burn you.

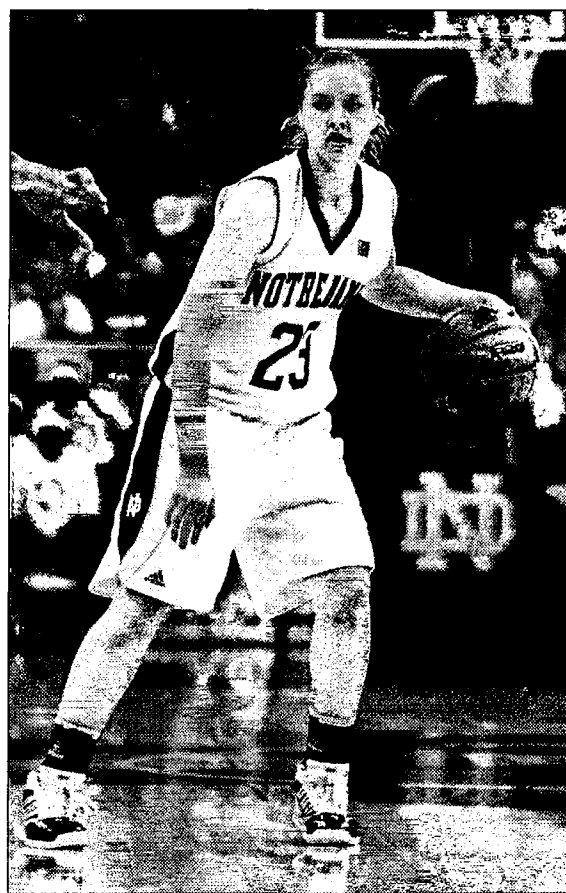
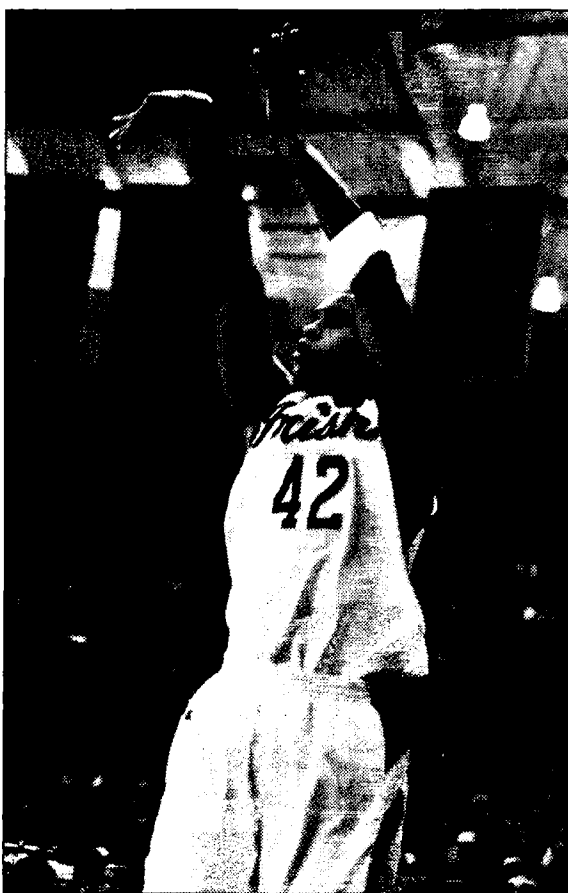
That's exactly what the two housemates did to the Coyotes in the first half Tuesday night at the Joyce Center.

Ayers hit 7-of-10 treys in the first half, 9-of-14 for the game, on his way to scoring a career-high 35 points.

"I just felt a little more relaxed more calm," Ayers said. "I just felt more relaxed, more calm. My teammates got me the ball and once I hit one shot, I just kept rolling ... I had a great feel, every time I followed through I knew it was going in."

A bearded McAlarney continued his hot shooting — he hit a combined 19 three-pointers in

see AYERS/page 16



Left: Senior Ryan Ayers releases a jumper during Notre Dame's victory over South Dakota Tuesday. Right: Junior guard Melissa Lechlitrer runs the offense during a Nov. 29 Irish win.

VANESSA GEMPIS and IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Four in double-digits as ND rolls over EMU

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

In the absence of two key players, the Irish bench filled the gap.

Freshmen Natalie Novosel and Erica Solomon scored 18 and 12 points, respectively off the bench and No. 11 Notre Dame beat Eastern Michigan 83-63 on the road Tuesday.

The Irish, who lost forward Devereaux Peters for the season and missed guard Ashley Barlow in this game because of a concussion she suffered against Michigan State, needed production off the bench and got it.

"Natalie was a huge lift off the bench for us, she really played well the whole game but gave us a great spark in the first half," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.

Guard Lindsay Schrader had 17 points and 10 rebounds and guard Melissa

see EASTERN/page 15

HOCKEY

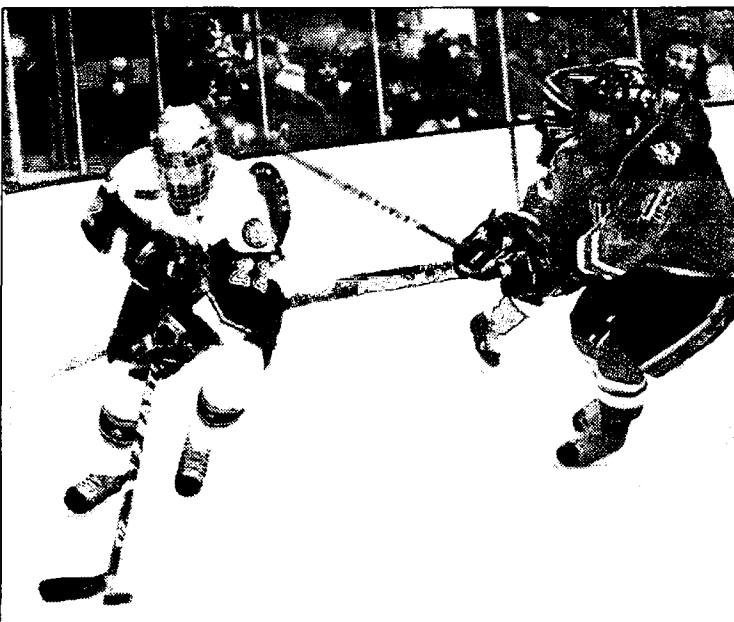
Ridderwall on a hot streak

By MATT GAMBER
Associate Sports Editor

He scored arguably the biggest goal in Irish hockey history, but sophomore left wing Calle Ridderwall's Swedish accent and fashion sense is still the butt of constant jokes from linemate Kevin Deeth.

"I always impersonate his accent — I can't talk to him without talking in his accent anymore, which is ridiculous," Deeth said with a laugh. "His haircut and his style is so 'Euro', he just takes it to the next extent. He'll wear the tightest jeans ever and these ultra-metro polos that you'd never, ever wear ... It's hilarious."

see CALLE/page 16



WU YUE/The Observer

Sophomore left wing Calle Ridderwall controls the puck during Notre Dame's 5-1 win over Bowling Green on Nov. 21.

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles welcome Trine to open conference slate

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

After a tough start to the season that pitted Saint Mary's against a number of strong non-conference opponents, the Belles will open MIAA play against Trine University Wednesday night at the Angela Athletic Center.

Saint Mary's rode its strong offensive attack to a fourth-place finish in the conference last season with an 8-8 record. The Belles will look for a fast start against the Thunder, who finished eighth last season with a 3-13 record.

The Belles got the ball rolling this season with a couple of quality wins. In the first game of the season, they had no trouble find-

ing their shot in a 70-60 victory over Ohio Wesleyan in the first round of the Anderson College Tip-off tournament. In the championship game, they took on a solid Robert Morris team and were edged out on the final possession, 65-64.

It didn't take long for the Belles to bounce back. In their next game, Saint Mary's broke a 10-game losing streak against Wheaton College by narrowly defeating the Thunder, 81-78.

The Belles dropped two contests in their annual Thanksgiving classic against Otterbein College, the eventual tournament champion, and No. 21 University of Chicago.

Contact Alex Barker at
abarker1@nd.edu