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Five student interns to teach for ACE

Seniors committed to program after graduation express passion for Catholic education

By NORA KENNEY
News Writer

This year, the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program is working with five student interns who have all committed to teach for ACE after graduation. Each of the students expressed a love for the work they are doing with ACE, and seemed excited to extend their internship into teaching jobs in new locations next year.

Senior Laura Wilczek, a resident advisor from Howard Hall is one such student. She is majoring in

English with a minor in Education, Schooling and Society and hopes to teach English in Seoul after she finishes her work with ACE.

Wilczek hadn't attended a Catholic school until high school. When she started attending a Catholic school though, she said she began to feel passionate about her faith.

She said she thinks her teachers at her Catholic high school taught from a different perspective than those she had encountered in public schools because they viewed their students as children of God rather than

numbers.

"Essentially, what I am trying to convey is my own positive experience at a Catholic school, and the belief I have in the Catholic school system is really why I want to dedicate my future to teaching at a Catholic school," Wilczek said.

Not only will Wilczek be using the education she received at Notre Dame to serve a cause she believes in, but she also thinks her work will bolster her education in ways that would not have been possible just through learning in a college classroom.

"I know that working in the ACE program I will not only be the teacher but the student as well sometimes," she said.

Kevin Veselik is a former resident of Zahm who now lives off-campus. Like Wilczek, he is passionate about Catholic education.

"Catholic schools are so important to our Church and our world, and ACE offers an opportunity to bring some energy and life to schools that might need it," he said.

Veselik is a member of

see ACE/page 3

NDSP says thefts rise with finals

Stress contributes to student property loss

By KARA COYLE
News Writer

Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) said there is an increase in thefts before students go on break.

Students' stress levels generally increase at this time and they are less prone to pay attention to their belongings, Keri Kei Shibata, an NDSP officer said.

"The bad guys in town know that students at this time are distracted," she said. "Keep an eye on your property and make sure you are keeping it with you."

Shibata discussed the different safety measures that students should be aware of during Christmas vacation at a Winter Break Safety Forum sponsored by Student Government on Tuesday.

The University is offering a property storage facility for off-campus students in Hammes-Mowbray Hall, a winter vehicle storage unit and a bike storage unit.

"These are simple things that anyone can do that won't take a lot of time," she said. "Be prepared. Do the little things."

Shibata also advised students to register their property. This enables police officers to recover student's property and return it with greater ease.

Her main concern, however, is for student's personal safety.

see NDSP/page 3

Kristol speaks on new era of American politics

By JOSEPH McMAHON
Assistant News Editor

Founding editor of the conservative periodical "The Weekly Standard" William Kristol said President-elect Barack Obama's leadership, if deemed successful by the American people, could lead to a new era in American politics in a lecture Tuesday at the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

Kristol's speech entitled "American Politics: A New Era?" assessed the current political situation and predicted where Obama's leadership would take the country in the future.

Kristol, who is also a regular contributor to Fox News and the editorial page of the "New York Times," said the November election results were "not so surprising" due to a war in Iraq "judged by a majority of Americans as a mistake" and the current economic crisis.

"In some sense, you could argue it was no big surprise," he said.

Kristol said the results, however, did not demonstrate an ideological shift for the country.

"Americans remain more moderate than anything else and more conservative than

see KRISTOL/page 4



QUENTIN STENGER/The Observer

William Kristol, founding editor of "The Weekly Standard," speaks to students about Barack Obama's future leadership Tuesday.

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Off-campus discounts proposed

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

The Council of Representatives (COR) discussed the ordering and distribution discount booklets for off-campus eateries for students at their meeting Tuesday. The booklets are expected to be available in early January.

An off-campus company will produce the cards and sell them to student government. Student government will then resell the books to students for \$10.

The booklets will contain popular restaurants including Buffalo Wild Wings, Domino's, Papa John's, Chik-fil-A, Studebagels, Nick's Patio, Krispy Kreme, Taco Bell, Star of India and Tippecanoe Place.

see COR/page 3



TOM LA/The Observer

Student body president Bob Reish, left, and student body vice-president, right, discuss off-campus discounts at the COR meeting Tuesday.

T-shirts raise awareness for gender problems

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Writer

In an effort to raise awareness about sexual assault, Student Government's Gender Issues Committee handed out T-shirts to be worn today by 1,000 Notre Dame students.

Gender Issues paired the distribution of T-shirts with their attempt to pass a resolution to review the University's sexual assault and rape policy, Gender Issues co-chairman and junior Patrick Tighe said.

The T-shirts, which are teal for the color of sexual assault awareness month, list the fact that one in four women are survivors of attempted sexual assault or rape, Tighe said.

The committee found the one in four statistic in multiple

sources including duLac and the U.S. Department of Justice, he said.

"That's why we are getting a thousand T-shirts — because there are roughly 4,000 undergraduate women here at Notre Dame," said Gender Issues co-chairman Lauren Cummings.

"Just take the number of girls that you know and divide that by four," she said. "It's really an alarming number."

The T-shirts are free to students who signed up to wear one, and were paid for by the Gender Issues committee. Each dorm had a sign-up sheet for the T-shirts and the committee targeted specific interest groups to wear them, Cummings said.

Both men and women have

see GENDER/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

Non-sequiturs
for finals

I am currently sitting in the library, "working on" the second of four papers I have due this week. Thus, the chance that I will put together a cohesive 400 words for you people is equivalent to the chance that anyone will be running through Stonehenge after the Hawaii Bowl.

Tricked you — that wasn't a prediction that we'll lose, but a fact because no one will be on campus! Of course, we probably are going to lose. A college football team can't win without emotion, and we don't have any. (Bulletin board?)

Anyway, I have spent long hours in the 'Burgh, as I fondly refer to this lovely building, and have had some meandering thoughts that I've decided to share with you.

◆ My roommate officially got together with her boyfriend over Thanksgiving. (They are now "in a relationship" on Facebook — what's more official than that?) That's great for her and all, but if she had waited a month that would be one less Christmas present she has to buy.

◆ I hate movies in which a character says "There's a storm coming," and then it starts raining and something bad happens, like someone dying or someone getting attacked by Voldemort. I mean, seriously, did the writer pop out his "Symbolism 101" book and throw that in there? Did he also add some blue so it would be sad and some red to show anger?

◆ Every time I fear that I'll never get married, I head to North Dining Hall. I firmly believe that no one who makes an omelette as well as I do will stay single forever. I think that's sexist.

◆ My bottle of apple juice says it contains apple juice concentrate from eight different countries on four different continents. I guess Australian apples just aren't good enough for Minute Maid.

◆ My best friend bought her dad an iPod Nano for Christmas, and a pair of running shoes from Dick's. I bought my dad a Notre Dame napkin holder from a craft show for \$10. I think I should feel bad about that. Of course, I work at the Observer for roughly \$12 a week while pursuing my Arts and Letters degree, and my friend works full time as a waitress while studying to become a chemical engineer.

◆ Shoot, my dad's probably going to read this.

◆ My eyes are three different colors at all times. It makes me wonder what I'm going to pass on to my children. Is there a freak-of-nature gene? Is it dominant?

◆ Apparently, bananas lose their nutritional value when refrigerated. However, they do not regain nutrients if allowed to return to room temperature.

◆ Wiccans → Witchcraft → Feminism → The United States → George W. Bush. Five steps! Beat that!

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

Contact Laura Myers at lmyers2@nd.edu

Laura Myers
Sports Writer

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT DO YOU WANT MOST FOR CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR?



Bridget Cullen
senior
Lyons

"Rachel Wiehoff."



Carli Fernandez
freshman
Badin

"Notre Dame Men's Basketball to have a better season than football."



Maureen Bauer
junior
McGlinn

"Warm weather."



Mychal Stanley
junior
Alumni

"Syrupy flapjacks with a side of roast beef."



Rachel Wiehoff
senior
Welsh Fam

"A spaceship to go with my astronaut costume."



As part of the Christmas decorations which have been appeared around campus in the past weeks a Nativity Scene is on display in O'Shaughnessey Hall.

IN BRIEF

The 6th annual Christmas at the CoMo featuring the ND Celebration Choir and Instrumentalists will be held on tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the Coleman-Morse Center. The event will feature reflections on Christmas traditions by ND international students. A freewill offering will support the Holy Cross Missions in Haiti.

SIBC will host a Cambodian dinner Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the Dooley Room of LaFortune Student Center. The club will sell food to benefit Cambodian dinner. The donation is \$5 and all are welcome to attend.

The special lecture "What and When was the Christmas Star? An astrophysics perspective" will be given by Grant Mathews, professor of physics, in the Jordan Hall of Science Digital Visualization Theater. The event, held on Friday from 7 to 8:30 p.m. is sponsored by Department of Physics.

Glee Club will perform its annual Christmas Concert Saturday at 6 p.m. at the Leighton Concert Hall of DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$3 for students and proceeds will benefit the South Bend Center for the Homeless.

Saint Mary's will host the annual Finals Week Late Night Breakfast Monday from 10 to 11 p.m. in the Noble Family Dining Hall. All Saint Mary's College students are invited. No meal plan is needed to attend and guests are welcome.

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

OFFBEAT

Officials find monkey carcasses in suitcase

CHANTILLY, Va. — U.S. Customs officials at Dulles International Airport discovered the charred carcasses of three monkeys in the luggage of a traveler arriving from Central Africa. The monkeys have been confiscated and are being examined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Customs spokesman Steve Sapp said a trained dog alerted authorities to the man's bag on Friday. The luggage also contained deer meat and dried beef, which has

been destroyed.

Sapp said it's not unusual for foreign visitors to bring exotic foods to the U.S., but he says the discoveries were "a first." After the confiscations, the man was allowed to enter the U.S.

Man stopped for stealing own van

BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP, Mich. — A Detroit motorist was stopped and handcuffed by police on suspicion of stealing what turned out to be his own van. Bloomfield Township Police Chief Kirt Bowden said he witnessed the traf-

fic stop Monday from his office window and worried something was amiss when he noticed the van wasn't new and the driver appeared to be in his 70s.

WJBK-TV in Detroit reported the motorist recently had spotted the van he reported stolen and was told by Detroit police he could take it back.

A Detroit police spokesman said the department is looking into the incident.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

CORRECTIONS

Due to a technological error, the picture on page 5 of the Dec. 9 edition of The Observer was incorrect.

Also, due to an editing error,

Associate Dean Stuart Greene's name was misspelled.

The headline of Greene's viewpoint also contained a grammatical error.

The Observer regrets these errors.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 28 LOW 21	HIGH 31 LOW 23	HIGH 26 LOW 18	HIGH 39 LOW 33	HIGH 45 LOW 37	HIGH 40 LOW 20

Atlanta 59 / 53 Boston 45 / 42 Chicago 38 / 20 Denver 32 / 23 Houston 73 / 39 Los Angeles 71 / 46 Minneapolis 19 / 2 New York 49 / 46 Philadelphia 50 / 47 Phoenix 67 / 44 Seattle 49 / 43 St. Louis 50 / 26 Tampa 81 / 64 Washington 53 / 48

ACE

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Notre Dame's cross country and track teams.

He said he hopes to make a difference in the lives of the students he teaches.

"I'm hoping to meet great people, learn about and live in a new part of country, and grow in my faith through ACE," he said.

Since he plans to teach high school Theology after ACE, he thinks ACE will allow him to confirm that this profession is right for him.

Jessica Stouffer, a chemical engineering major from Howard, also hopes to gain discernment from her experience in the ACE program.

She said she has "no idea what I want to do long-term, so this gives me a little more time to discern and plan."

"I don't want to pretend that I can predict the ways in which ACE will help and/or change me," she said. "I think I just need to do it, and assess my experience afterwards, to see what I have gained."

For Geoffrey Mooney, a

resident of Alumni with a dual degree in mathematics and theology, his experience as an ACE intern thus far has been very enjoyable.

He said his favorite part of his current work "has definitely been talking up the program and simply being a 'face for ACE' at recruitment events."

"There is a wonderful feeling that comes along with describing the mission and opportunities of ACE both with those who have never heard of the program and those who have wanted to be a part of it for several

years," Mooney said. "Whether I'm speaking to a class, at extracurricular group events, or during a career fair, I get to share a piece of what I love and have a passion for with others."

Mooney said he thinks he will be teaching math next year, but is open to teaching other subjects as well because he hopes to challenge himself.

He said he is not sure what city he will be teaching in but that he has "total confidence that the Holy Spirit will help make that

decision next semester."

Like many of the other interns, Julie Garcia, a former resident of Lewis who now lives off-campus, has been involved with tutoring programs and service projects on campus and around South Bend throughout her career at Notre Dame. She is majoring in African Studies with a minor in gender studies. She expressed an excitement for her work that started when she dropped engineering as a freshman and came to the realization that she had always wanted to teach. She says she has "seen how great an impact one good mentor can make on a child's life, and I'd love to be able to do that for a living," and she also appreciates the communal lifestyle fostered by the ACE program.

Garcia's advice for students interested in the ACE program is to stop by the ACE office and express interest.

"They are so friendly and love getting to know who you are, even if you don't have any specific questions," she said. "Ask previous ACers for advice, too. They can really tell you what it will be like. It's never too early to get a foot in the door."

Contact Nora Kenney at hkenney@nd.edu

COR

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They will also contain discounts to local restaurants that are not as often frequented by students.

"We want to integrate students in a lot of restaurants they already know, as well as restaurants that they maybe aren't familiar with," student body vice president Grant Schmidt said.

The discount booklet idea originated as a campaign promise Schmidt and student body president Bob Reish made last spring.

Reish said he thinks student interest in the booklets will be high.

"We did our own personal survey on our campaign site when we were running," he said.

When Reish presented the discount idea at Tuesday's COR meeting, he initially proposed buying 300 booklets. However, COR members said that student government should order more booklets because reordering would not be feasible.

Schmidt, however, said he was concerned that the booklets would go unused.

"We didn't want to way over-purchase them and have them sitting there and then expire," he said.

Student government will sell the booklets for \$10. The price will allow student government to make a \$5 profit on the books. They will only need to sell half of the books that they order and still break even.

COR members were also concerned about the distribution of the booklets. Off-campus president Billy Lyman was con-

cerned about off-campus students' ability to buy booklets if they were sold on-campus. Off-campus students would have an especially difficult time securing a booklet if they were only sold through the dorms.

"You don't have to make it preferred for off-campus, just give them a fair chance," Lyman said.

Junior class president Kim Kyrourac stressed the importance of advertising the booklets.

"As long as it's advertised enough and off-campus students know enough, they're going to have an equal chance," she said. "As long as the only way you're spreading the news isn't

through the dorms, then you're OK."

In other COR news:

Reish took time at the end of the meeting to congratulate Lyman for completing the off-campus listserv project. He said that the listserv has already sent two emails.

Reish also delivered COR members a memo that asked for suggested topics for next semester's agenda. Members were told to offer the suggestions in writing before the beginning of next semester.

Schmidt also reminded COR members that the dining halls will be available as study space during exam week. He asked them to make sure that students are aware of this new program.

Reish announced that will send a copy of last week's COR minutes to Student Senate and to Bill Kirk, who spoke at the meeting.

Contact John Tierney at jtierne1@nd.edu

NDSP

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"The most important thing I can say is to always be alert of your surroundings," she said.

Patrick Hechliniski, a crime prevention specialist for the South Bend Police Department, also spoke about what precautions off-campus students can do to stay alert.

Hechliniski advised students to always report a crime, even if it's minor.

"If you are a victim of a crime, be sure to report it," he said. Doing so enables the police department to be more aware of areas where extra security is needed.

Hechliniski also recommended

that students be aware of automobile and advised that anything of value, such as iPods and phone chargers be removed from cars.

"Put yourself in the shoes of the bad guys," he said. If the object is of value and visible in a car, there is a higher rate of larceny.

Hechliniski also stressed the importance of being alert and proactive about safety.

"Very importantly, even if you are at home, keep your doors locked," he said.

He said students should be alert even when putting trash in outdoor trashcans. Putting a television box in a visible waste container indicates that there are items of value within the house, he said.

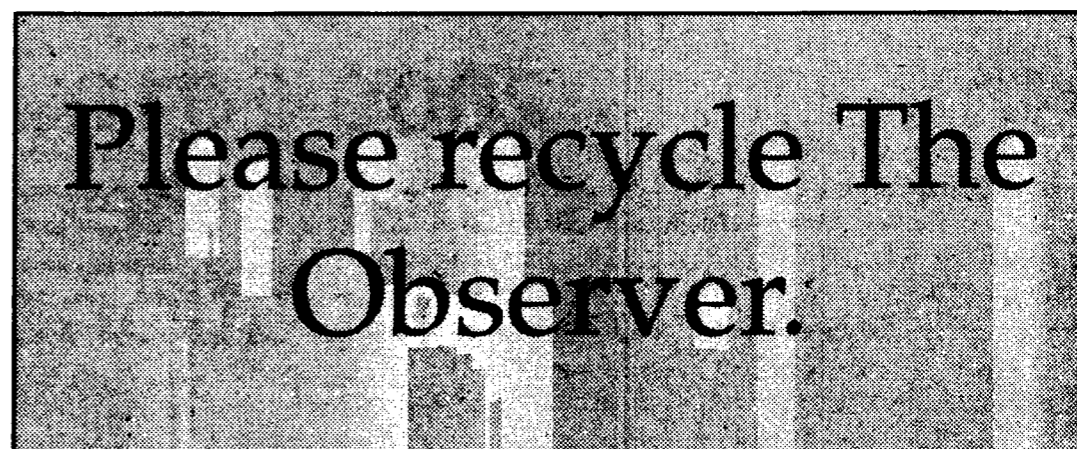
The South Bend Police Department also offers two free programs to increase safety,

Hechliniski said. The Student Watch Program is an alert system made exclusively for Notre Dame students. Through it, students are alerted via e-mail about any crime that can affect them within the area. The South Bend Police Department also offers free home security surveys where security recommendations are made for off campus homes.

Dominic Zultanski, a representative from Gargoyle Preferred Investigative Services, discussed crime on the Northeast side of the city specifically.

He advised that students place everything of value in a room with closed blinds so that it is out of sight while the house is empty over Christmas break.

Contact Kara Coyle at kcoyle@nd.edu



Write news.
Call Jenn at 631-5323.

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Study Break Lunch at the CoMo

Lunch & Conversation for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Questioning Students at Notre Dame

Friday, December 12

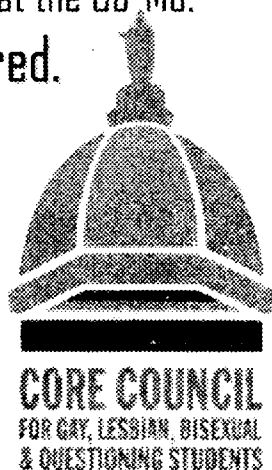
Noon to 1:30 p.m.

316 Coleman Morse

The Core Council invites gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning members of the Notre Dame family, along with their friends and allies, to an informal luncheon at the Co-Mo.

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submitted by February 13, 2009**

Please recycle The Observer.

Gender

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signed up to wear the T-shirts, and both Tighe and Cummings said there was a significant response from the male dorms to wear them.

"I think it's going to say a lot to women that men are taking a stand and we're saying that we don't want to let this happen," said Tighe, who added that men commit 90 to 95 percent of all rapes. "We're the ones that are perpetrating it and we're not going to let it happen again."

Tighe said men don't intend to be rapists, and emphasized that not all men are rapists, but that it is important to be aware of what defines rape and sexual assault, and to be aware of what it takes to avoid committing it.

In order to avoid it, men need to change their habits, "espe-

cially our drinking habits, the way we party, the way we view women. We really have to start changing our habits," he said.

Tighe sees the men who choose to wear the shirt as "a sign of solidarity and a sign of accountability."

"[A man wearing the shirt is saying,] 'I'm wearing this shirt and you can hold me accountable and I will hold other men accountable,'" Tighe said.

The resolution that Gender Issues committee hopes to pass tonight will revise rape and sexual assault policies in order to strengthen the effectiveness of the policies and strengthen resources for victims. The resolution cites that of more than 3,000 students surveyed, 61 percent listed sexual assault/rape as one of their top three issues and 18 percent list it as their top issue.

Contact Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu

Kristol

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liberal," he said.

Kristol said arguments could be made "that [the Republican Party] really stepped back not a great deal, or you could say this was the end of an era."

Kristol called Obama "the first liberal Democrat to be elected in modern times," and cited the fact that the president-elect is the first Democrat since 1964 to receive more than 51 percent of the popular vote.

He also said Republicans would have to face being the minority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate after backlash against the Bush administration both in 2006 and 2008 resulted in a Democratically-controlled Congress.

"This is two elections in a row where a comfortable majority has voted Democrat," he said. "It could be the beginning of a new era."

Kristol said furthermore it is highly unlikely that the Republican Party would be able to retake Congress in 2010.

"Obama has at least four years with a Democratic Congress," he said.

However, Kristol said the future would mostly depend on "how Obama governs." He cited the example of Franklin Roosevelt beating Herbert Hoover in the midst of the Great Depression, comparing it to how Obama is taking over for President George W. Bush in the midst of the current recession.

Any Democrat would have beaten Hoover, Kristol said, but Roosevelt was able to govern successfully and thus changed American politics.

"Obama has to change American politics if he gov-

erns successfully," he said.

Kristol said Obama is lucky to take over in the middle of a recession, because strategically he cannot receive any blame for having caused the crisis.

"Objectively, honestly, he has a very good hand to play," Kristol said.

Instead, many Americans will blame Bush and the Republican leadership in Congress, which Kristol said would damage the public perception that Republicans know how to run the economy.

"Voters right now think this is a problem that happened ... due to Republican negligence," he said.

Kristol said after Bush's victory over Sen. John Kerry in 2004, the Republican Party reached its "high water mark."

Bush's failure to deliver on his campaign promises of Social Security privatization and immigration reform, as well as the unpopularity of the Iraq War and the gross mismanagement of the Hurricane Katrina disaster, led to Democratic victories in the past two elections, Kristol said.

"The voters punished Bush and the Republican Congress in 2006," he said. "At the end of the day, this happened during the Bush administration."

Kristol said Obama's biggest challenges lie in foreign policy, particularly when it comes to controlling nuclear proliferation in Iran and ending the Iraq War.

Kristol cautioned it is often hard to predict what will happen in the future, and any failure by Obama could result in the Republicans regaining control.

"It's amazing how quickly things can reverse," he said.

Contact Joseph McMahon at jmcmah06@nd.edu

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WORLD & NATION

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Greeks still rioting over shooting

ATHENS — Masked youths and looters marauded through Greek cities for a fourth night Tuesday, in an explosion of rage triggered by the police shooting of a teenager that has unleashed the most violent riots in a quarter century.

The nightly scenes of burning street barricades, looted stores and overturned cars have threatened to topple the country's increasingly unpopular conservative government, which faces mounting calls for Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis to resign.

Police fired tear gas at protesters following the funeral of 15-year-old Alexandros Grigoropoulos, who was laid to rest in an Athens burial attended by about 6,000 people.

Reactions to Mugabe worsen

JOHANNESBURG — Renewed criticism against Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe amid a cholera outbreak shows growing international outrage at the suffering there, but action to oust his regime will be harder to come by.

U.S. President George W. Bush, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and French President Nicolas Sarkozy have called in the last week for Zimbabwe's 84-year-old leader to go.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter told National Public Radio that humanitarian conditions are "horrible" in the southern African country, and that "the Mugabe government is so corrupt" only material goods — not cash — should be sent to help the country's people, according to an interview posted Tuesday on NPR's Web site.

NATIONAL NEWS

School attack plot thwarted

PHILADELPHIA — A 15-year-old boy stole his father's guns to use in a suicidal attack against enemies at his suburban Philadelphia high school but was thwarted when a friend threw the weapons in a river, authorities said.

The alleged plot was uncovered after the father reported the three weapons missing, prompting a police investigation that led to an attempted murder charge filed Tuesday against his son.

The Pottstown High School freshman was being held in a secure facility, Montgomery County District Attorney Risa Vetri Ferman told The Associated Press. He does not yet have a lawyer, and no court dates are scheduled, she said.

Palin's office receives white powder

JUNEAU — A spokeswoman for Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin says a letter containing a suspicious white powder was intercepted in the state capital of Juneau.

Palin spokeswoman Sharon Leighow says the letter was addressed to Palin's predecessor, Gov. Frank Murkowski.

Similar suspicious mailings were addressed to seven other governors this week.

Leighow says the letter received in Juneau had a Texas postmark, but couldn't say whether it came from Dallas, as the other letters did.

An FBI spokesman in Alaska says the powder is being tested.

Letters containing white powder have also been sent this week to governors' offices in Alabama, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana and Rhode Island.

In those seven cases, tests showed the powder wasn't dangerous.

LOCAL NEWS

Norovirus outbreak affects Butler

INDIANAPOLIS — An outbreak of norovirus has sickened more than 200 students, faculty and staff at Butler University, health officials say.

The norovirus, one of a family of viruses that are spread person-to-person and cause flu-like symptoms, was first reported Nov. 22, said Marion County Health Department spokesman John T. Althardt.

"It started before the Thanksgiving holiday, then people came back and it just took off," he said.

Tests confirmed that patients had the norovirus, whose symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and fever. Similar outbreaks have occurred on campuses in Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Oregon, Althardt said.

Obama faces Blagojevich scandal

President-elect claims he had no contact with Illinois governor concerning open senate seat

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Though Barack Obama isn't accused of anything, the charges against his home-state governor — concerning Obama's own Senate seat no less — are an unwelcome distraction. And the ultimate fallout is unclear.

As Obama works to set up his new administration and deal with a national economic crisis, suddenly he also is spending time and attention trying to distance himself from Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich and charges that the governor was trying to sell the now-vacant Senate post.

The president-elect was blunt and brief in addressing the case on Tuesday: "I had no contact with the governor or his office, and so I was not aware of what was happening" concerning any possible dealing about Blagojevich's appointment of a successor.

It's Obama's first big headache since his election last month, and Republicans were anything but eager to let it go away.

Said Rep. Eric Cantor of Virginia, the new GOP House whip: "The serious nature of the crimes listed by federal prosecutors raises questions about the interaction with Gov. Blagojevich, President-elect Obama and other high ranking officials who will be working for the future president."

Added Robert M. "Mike" Duncan, chairman of the Republican National Committee: "Americans expect strong leadership, but President-elect Barack Obama's comments on the matter are insufficient at best."

In Chicago, U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald said prosecutors were making "no allegations" that Obama was aware of any scheming.

And Blagojevich himself, in taped conversations cited by prosecutors, suggested that Obama wouldn't be



Gov. Blagojevich, left, speaks as Sen. Obama listens during a news conference in St. Louis on June 20, 2005. Blagojevich was arrested Dec. 9, 2008 on conspiracy charges.

helpful to him. Even if the governor was to appoint a candidate favored by the Obama team, Blagojevich said, "they're not willing to give me anything except appreciation."

The two Illinois politicians have never been especially close and have largely operated in different Democratic Party camps in the state. Blagojevich's disdain for Obama was clear in court documents; he is quoted as calling the president-elect a vulgar term in one phone conversation recorded by the FBI.

Still, at the very least, the episode amounts to a distraction for Obama at an inopportune time just six weeks before he's sworn into office. It also raises the specter of notorious

Chicago politics, an image Obama has tried to distance himself from during his career.

There were signs the continuing investigation could still involve him.

His statement that he didn't have contact with Blagojevich about the Senate seat seems to conflict with that of top adviser David Axelrod, who told Fox News Chicago on Nov. 23: "I know he's talked to the governor, and there are a whole range of names, many of which have surfaced, and I think he has a fondness for a lot of them."

On Tuesday, Axelrod issued a statement saying: "I was mistaken. ... They did not listen or at any time discuss the subject."

It also appears that

Obama friend Valerie Jarrett, an incoming senior White House adviser, is the person referred to repeatedly in court documents as "Candidate 1." That individual is described as a female who is "an adviser to the president-elect" and as the person Obama wanted appointed to the Senate seat. Court papers say that "Candidate 1" eventually removed "herself" from consideration for the Senate seat.

In a Nov. 11 phone conversation with an aide, Blagojevich talked at length about "Candidate 1" and said he knew that Obama wanted her for the open seat but "they're not willing to give me anything except appreciation. (Expletive) them."

CONGO

Red Cross reunites families in East Congo

Associated Press

GOMA — The Red Cross said Tuesday it has begun reuniting children and parents separated in eastern Congo as more than a quarter of a million people fled their homes during clashes between rebels and government troops.

Some 134 youngsters without guardians have been registered since the end of October, but the Red Cross said the real number could be much higher.

"There was panic when the guns started to fire," said Prosper Sebuire, the Goma-based manager of the new campaign. "People fled in every direction. In the confusion, many people lost sight of their children."

Messages are being broadcast on four radio stations in violence-struck areas and the Red Cross will begin posting photographs of lost children in areas where displaced people are gathered.

Fifteen families have been reunited over the past week, the Red Cross said in a statement.

Rebels supporting breakaway Gen. Laurent Nkunda launched an offensive in eastern Congo on Aug. 28. The fighting is the latest round in years of conflict that began when Rwanda's genocidal Hutu fighters fled over the border and into the Congolese forest after killing over 500,000 Tutsis in 1994.

Nkunda says he is fighting to protect Congo's minorities, especially ethnic Tutsis. But critics say Nkunda is more

interested in raw power and Congo's mineral wealth.

Both government and rebel fighters have been accused of raping, mutilating and killing civilians.

The current force of 17,000 U.N. peacekeepers — the largest U.N. peacekeeping force in the world — is expected to be reinforced with an additional 3,000 soldiers, but they may take several months to deploy.

U.N.-backed peace talks are under way in Nairobi, Kenya, led by special U.N. envoy Olusegun Obasanjo, who hopes the talks can establish a lasting cease-fire and allow aid deliveries into the troubled region. But neither Nkunda nor Congolese president Joseph Kabila is attending.

Blagojevich conversations shock officials

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The words on the recording sound as if they were uttered by a mob boss. Instead, the feds say, it is the governor of Illinois speaking.

"I've got this thing and it's [expletive] golden, and I'm just not giving it up for [expletive] nothing. I'm not gonna do it," Democratic Gov. Rod Blagojevich says in a conversation intercepted by the FBI.

Federal prosecutors Tuesday accused the 51-year-old Blagojevich of scheming to enrich himself by selling Barack Obama's vacant Senate seat for cash or a lucrative job for himself. In excerpts released by prosecutors, Blagojevich snarls profanities, makes threats and demands and allegedly concocts a rich variety of schemes for profiting from his appointment of a new senator.

"I want to make money," he declares, according to court papers. Blagojevich allegedly had a salary in mind: \$250,000 to \$300,000 a year. (He earns \$177,412 a year.)

Even in this city inured to political chicanery — three other governors have been convicted in the past 35 years and numerous officeholders from Chicago have gone to prison for graft — the latest charges were stunning. And not just for the vulgarity, but for the naked greed, the recklessness and the self-delusion they suggest.

What is mystifying is why Blagojevich spoke so openly and so brazenly. He knew the feds were looking into his administration for the past three years for alleged hiring fraud; one of his top fundraisers has been convicted, another is awaiting trial. He even warned some associates not to use the phone because "everybody's listening ... You hear me?"

Blagojevich also is no neophyte. He was baptized in the nitty gritty of Chicago Machine politics and confirmed in back-room bargaining and big money deals. He spent years climbing the ladder, first as a state representative, then a congressman and finally governor. He was boosted to power by his father-in-law, Alderman Dick Mell, a veteran Democratic ward boss

and longtime stalwart of the once mighty Machine.

And yet, in conversations recorded from late October to last week, Blagojevich seemed almost oblivious as he vented his frustrations about being "stuck" as governor, complained of "struggling" financially, and allegedly talked of using the Senate appointment to land a lucrative job in the private sector, or even an ambassadorship or a Cabinet post.

"It's about greed," said Don Rose, a longtime political strategist in Chicago. "He's got to be completely off his rocker to be talking like that at a time when he knows the feds are looking at him. ... He's out there like he's talking to his wife in bed."

He added: "I think this is beyond ordinary sanity. We're talking about something clinical here. This is beyond logic. It's beyond greed as we know it."

He also scoffed at the notion that Blagojevich had any chance of obtaining a post in Obama's Cabinet.

"I consider myself a student of corruption, but I've never heard of this kind of thing going on," Rose said. "The way he's talking about it is lunacy. ... 'Maybe they'll make me secretary of health and human services.' Who's going to hire this guy?"

Paul Green, a political scientist at Roosevelt University, said: "If you're under so much scrutiny by an unbelievably dedicated U.S. attorney's office, why would you risk it all? This is a case less about politics and more about social psychology. ... A hard-nosed Illinois politician wouldn't even dream of doing this, considering the situation."

One of the most intriguing aspects of the story was that Blagojevich was elected as Mr. Clean, promising to clean up state government. His predecessor, Republican Gov. George Ryan, is behind bars for graft.

Blagojevich "had everything going for him," Green said. "He could have been the Serbian Obama. He was young, handsome, articulate."

In court papers, prosecutors said Blagojevich also tried to strong-arm political contributions in exchange for jobs and contracts, and tried to use his authority to get editorial writers

from the Chicago Tribune who criticized him fired.

He also discussed getting his wife, Patti, who has been in the real estate business, on corporate boards where she could earn up to \$150,000 a year.

Some of the most shocking conversations came in the days before and after Obama's victory, when Blagojevich seemed intent on capitalizing on his role in choosing the president-elect's successor in the Senate.

According to court papers, on Nov. 3, the day before the election, Blagojevich talked with

someone identified only as Deputy Governor A about the Senate seat, and said: "If ... they're not going to offer anything of any value, then I might just take it" — that is, make himself senator.

That same day, he talked tough, and said he intended to "drive a hard bargain."

Later, he noted the seat is a "[expletive] valuable thing, you just don't give it away for nothing."

On Election Day, as crowds were gathering in Grant Park to celebrate Obama's victory,

Blagojevich spoke with John Harris, his chief of staff, who also has been charged in the case. The governor likened himself to a sports agent shopping a free agent to teams, and said, "How much are you offering, [president-elect]?"

Days later, according to the documents, Blagojevich said he was willing to "trade" that Senate seat for the position of the secretary of health and human Services in Obama's Cabinet. There is no indication that Obama ever considered him.

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[FICTION, OF COURSE,—OR, IS IT??@\$\$@\$\$@\$\$@]

This Message Approved By the Newly-Elected New York Senator Patrick Darling—or, is it??@\$\$@\$\$@\$\$@\$\$@\$\$@\$\$@\$\$@\$\$@\$\$@\$\$@\$\$@\$\$@

Write news. Call Jenn at 631-5323.

THE OBSERVER BUSINESS

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks				
Dow Jones	8,691.33	-242.85		
Up:	1,266	Same:	76	Down:
Composite Volume:	2,581	2,198,722,679		
AMEX	1,309.40	+9.73		
NASDAQ	1,547.34	-24.40		
NYSE	5,522.46	-117.22		
S&P 500	888.67	-21.03		
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	8,452.89	+57.02		
FTSE 100 (London)	4,381.26	+81.20		

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
SPDR S&P 500 (SPY)	-1.65	-1.50	89.50
CITIGROUP INC (C)	+0.83	+0.07	8.54
FIN SELECT SPDR (XLF)	-4.02	-0.55	13.12
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	-0.23	-0.07	30.01

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	-2.38	-0.065	2.669
13-WEEK BILL	+100.00	+0.005	0.010
30-YEAR BOND	-2.44	-0.077	3.075
5-YEAR NOTE	-6.42	-0.111	1.619

Commodities		
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-1.64	42.07
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+4.90	774.20
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-1.95	87.50

Exchange Rates	
YEN	92.5400
EURO	0.7741
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.2601
BRITISH POUND	0.6779

IN BRIEF

Car Czar is possible figure in bailout

WASHINGTON (AP) — Detroit's automakers may soon be answering to a powerful "car czar," who would dole out short-term emergency loans like a kid's allowance, put them on a restructuring diet and hold veto power over any transaction of more than \$100 million.

An overseer for the auto industry was a central part of an agreement in principle reached late Tuesday to provide \$15 billion in government loans to the companies. Congressional aides and a senior administration official said the car czar would be named by President George W. Bush and tasked with overhauling the auto industry.

Negotiators reached a compromise to require the czar to revoke the loans and deny any further federal aid to automakers that failed to wring concessions from labor unions, creditors and others to ensure their survival by next spring — essentially pushing them into bankruptcy.

"If they don't meet the conditions of restructuring, there is not going to be an endless flow of money to this industry," warned House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., before the conceptual agreement was reached.

North Korea and nuclear envoys meet

BEIJING — Envoys to talks on North Korea's nuclear program began a third day of meetings Wednesday to hammer out details of a proposal on verifying the country's accounting of its past atomic activities, a major step in the disarmament process.

Host China distributed a draft-agreement to teams from the five other countries involved in the talks — Japan, North Korea, South Korea, the United States and Russia — and delegates were to go over the details in meetings, U.S. envoy Christopher Hill said.

"If we can get through this, this would be an important milestone on that road but with the understanding that we have a long way to go," Hill told reporters.

Verification is the focus of the latest round of nuclear talks, which opened Monday in Beijing with North Korea refusing to let outside inspectors take samples — a key method of ensuring that the communist regime is being truthful — from its main nuclear complex at Yongbyon.

Sony to cut 4% of work force

Japanese company takes steps to brace itself in the face of recessing world economy

Associated Press

TOKYO — Sony Corp. is slashing 4 percent of its worldwide work force, reining in spending and shutting plants as it tries to ride out a looming worldwide recession that is battering Japan's export-reliant manufacturers.

Tokyo-based Sony, which is cutting 8,000 of its 185,000 jobs, said Tuesday it will shut five or six plants — about 10 percent of its 57 factories. Sony also plans to reduce its electronics investments by about one-third by the end of March 2010, although it did not give specific numbers.

The job cuts are the most drastic here since the U.S. credit crunch hit over the summer. They are a bad twist for Sony, which has been recovering from internal problems in recent years under cost-cutting reforms led by Chief Executive Howard Stringer.

"This may mean that Sony is now back at square one," said Kazuharu Miura, electronics analyst at Daiwa Institute of Research in Tokyo. "Japanese companies are all in trouble because of this unexpected worldwide slowdown."

Miura also warned that Sony's measures might not be enough to offset its sliding profits.

Sony's U.S. shares were up 87 cents, 4.3 percent, at \$20.91 in afternoon trading.

Sony said a plant in Dax, France, which makes tapes and other recording media will be among the plants to close, but it declined to list the others. The moves will deliver more than 100 billion yen



In this Dec. 11, 2007 file photo, Sony Corp. Chief Executive Howard Stringer gives a speech during a press conference at Sony's headquarters in Tokyo.

(\$1.1 billion) in savings a year by March 2010, the company said.

"Now we are all facing a recession together," said Senior Vice President Naofumi Hara. "It is impossible to predict how much longer the situation will last."

Sony's announcement comes amid similar news from other Japanese manufacturers, which face plunging demand at home and abroad, as well as falling gadget prices and unfavorable currency fluctuations.

Sony has adjusted production and lowered

inventories, but tough times demand more drastic efforts, it contends. The cost-cutting plan includes postponing an investment to boost production of liquid crystal display TVs in Slovakia because of a plunge in European demand for flat-panel TVs.

Sony will also trim spending in semiconductors, and will outsource a portion of the production it had planned for image sensors for mobile phones. Apart from the 8,000 electronics job losses, Hara said Sony would cut

nerable to the strong yen since about 80 percent of its sales come from overseas. The dollar has dropped to about 93 yen from 117 yen last year, eroding with it Sony's foreign income.

Hara said the ways the job cuts will be carried out will vary by country, but he did not provide a breakdown. Sony's electronics business employs about 160,000 workers. The company also has movie, video game and financial businesses.

Sony has adjusted production and lowered

Former housing chiefs questioned

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Four very rich former housing chiefs lined up before a House panel Thursday for a fresh spanking over the nation's economic crisis, but one — former Fannie Mae chief executive Daniel Mudd — captured the attention of Rep. Bruce Braley.

"You are one of those rare people who can say, 'My name is Mud' with a straight face."

It was one of the low points during a five-hour session of lame duck oversight, a special kind of hearing in which members of an expiring Congress lob questions and vent with little blowback.

There's no more crucial matter before this Congress or the next than the nation's worsening recession and the role that the giant mortgage lenders may have played in it. But in the waning weeks of the 110th Congress, Thursday's session of the watchdog House Oversight

Committee was as much about the politicians on the panel as it was about the meltdown affecting millions of Americans.

Signs of political transition were everywhere. After months of putting off Republican demands for the hearing, Chairman Henry Waxman chose to hold it this week as his own swan song before he departs to head the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Waxman bade farewell by releasing 400,000 documents showing that the CEOs arrayed before the panel ignored warnings that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were taking on too many dicey mortgages years before they collapsed and the government took them over.

Waxman did not bother to stay for the whole hearing. And his counterpart, ranking Republican Tom Davis of Virginia, was absent; he already has retired from Congress.

The man likely to replace Davis, Rep. Darrell Issa of California, made

his first foray as ranking Republican with a public flogging of the CEOs.

"You're not accepting any blame for this at all," he said. "You're either standing behind the mandate of the Congress or the mandate of your stockholders, perhaps, the mandate of your bonus packages. And you're telling us that, in fact, everyone was doing it."

It didn't seem to matter what Mudd and his colleagues had to say in their own defense. From the Democratic end of the dais to the Republican side, lawmakers asked impossible-to-answer questions or just plain ranted against the CEOs' willingness to lower lending standards to match those of Wall Street banks backing the subprime lending industry.

For good measure, Rep. Lynn Westmoreland, R-Ga., asked the assembled former CEOs to state, out loud, their annual salaries and pensions collected while overseeing the doomed mortgage companies.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Wednesday, December 10, 2008

THE OBSERVER

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THE
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And fall '08 went...where?

It's become more and more noticeable recently, and it continues to be a little frightening that, for me at least, and likely for many of you, a year is just not as long as it used to be.

Events that used to entail a hugely long period of waiting now race up and slip by before we can so much as touch them. Once one's birthday was a day whose imminence was worth dancing over and whose passing was the source of momentous disappointment. Now it's, "What? Seriously, I'm no longer a teenager? When did this happen?"

Christmas, too, or its season celebratory parallel, came around only once in a very great while. The one (or eight, or 12) day celebration itself seemed almost an impossibility, and the other 364, an eternity. Now, it's "Wow. Is it really a whole year that I've had my iPod? Since Uncle Moe was 'cleaning' Grandpa's liquor cabinet and found that unopened bottle of mint gin from Nixon's first term? Since sister Maevie broke down sobbing at the end of Mass during 'O Holy Night', and said she believed it, she really did, and she could only hope she'd be half that happy when the baby came in summer? And is baby Zooks really six months old already?"

Of course, the answer is "yes," though it may not feel that way. Because almost a year has gone by since last Christmas.

And likewise, almost a semester has gone by since, er, the beginning of last semester. Which is, in its own way, pretty huge.

Focusing on the passage of a semester could very well involve the harmful sustaining of the ageist, classist,

intellectualist "college" mindset. Still, there's no denying that while one is involved with any kind of educational program, on the giving or receiving end, the semester is a significant unit of time.

So here we are (again, only quicker) at the end of one. For some of you at Notre Dame, this may signify the beginning of the end, or, for you early (or late) graduates, the end (more accurately: an end). For others, it's the time to leave the new place they've only just managed to adjust to, and for those abroad in the spring, it'll soon be time to start adjusting (those of us in year-long programs will have our own adjustment issues come next fall).

Freshman, on the other hand, whether you've had the kind of semester about which an outraged, aging journalist could write the Very Long Novel, or whether your most shocking escapade was stumbling upon the taxidermy display in Galvin (hint: second floor, next to the service elevator), you've still reached a major milestone in your life, and it's definitely something to be proud of. Even if you wind up transferring, or even if your life plans change drastically and you wind up, as did my friend Penelope, taking a year off to teach orphans in Uganda, you will never again live through a first semester of college. Congratulations.

And I, too, have now finished a first semester of my own. I hope I've learned enough from the first half of my time at Trinity to make the most of the second.

It's not necessarily easy, though, to know which direction to turn once our semester driven life comes to an abrupt pause and what the rest of the world knows as "real" life starts up for us again. So, once the semester's

truly ended — once exams are over, once you've consumed your last 2 a.m. breakfast of a grande iced Americano and fully condimented quarter dog, once the Irish Studies major down the hall has stopped screaming "There's no more painkiller, only turnips! Today will be a happy day!" at random intervals, and once you can safely declare that you need never think about math, French, English, or philosophy ever again — be sure that you're mind doesn't shut down completely.

The Christmas season is after all a time for birth and rebirth, or at least a time to reboot. Much of the world will be taking a day off "normal" life, but it's never a bad thing to be ready for normal life when it gets back on course. Especially as, once it is on course, it'll only start racing faster.

Enjoy your break, and use it well. Because before you know it, it'll be Christmas again, little Zooks will be walking, Uncle Moe will be pouring you a legal shot of mint gin this time, you'll think of Nyquil, and, believe you me, you'll find yourself a whole lot older than you were.

Good luck. I'll see you in 2009.

And let me be the first to ask: how was your break?

Katherine Khorey is a junior English major and Russian minor about to finish her first term at Trinity College, Dublin. Before signing off for the month, she'd like to first state that she believes there is some value in "intellectualism", and then to advise that those who have had first semesters worthy of Charlotte Simmons should seek counsel far from the vitriol of Viewpoint.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The thing to remember is that that the future comes one day at a time".

Dean Acheson,
Former Secretary of State

Submit a Letter
to the Editor at

www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Strive for excellence, not perfection".

H. Jackson Brown Jr.
U.S. author

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The best women's soccer

When your team loses a tight game, it can be a tough pill to swallow. But when you are the best team and you lose the one game you thought mattered, it can be almost impossible to believe.

This weekend, Notre Dame's women's soccer team lost a game that could have easily gone their way with one more break or one more call. Even though they lost, I cannot express how great of a team they are and how proud they make me to be a Domer. When Hockey won its first CCHA Championship, when Football went to two straight BCS Bowls, even when Women's Soccer appeared in the Finals two years ago — none of these compare to what this team has done.

This is a team that trailed less than five minutes the whole season featuring a starting lineup balanced between freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. When North Carolina scored the winning goal, these players did not give up. They worked hard until the last seconds — even apparently draw-

ing a free kick that was never called. On the sidelines after the game as a couple of the players periodically returned to the benches you could see on their faces how much they had wanted that game, but they did not hang their heads. Nor should they.

The 2008 women's soccer team is easily the greatest team in any sport that I have seen in my four years at Notre Dame and they are a legend for this university. They have represented us well this year, not only by their play, but by their character and class. The best team does not always win and that was the case on Sunday. Even so, this team was just as great in defeat as they have been in victory.

Congratulations to Kerri, Brittany, Carrie, Elise, Rebecca, and Kerry for leading the 2008 Fighting Irish to a truly great season!

Justin Queen
senior
Keenan Hall
Dec. 8

A new student government

I ran for student senate my sophomore year. My platform in a nutshell was this: "the only reason to run for senate is to pad your resumé, and I need that the most."

While I was disappointed in not winning, I felt better after reading story after story about the Senate in The Observer: It seemed like all they could do was pass resolutions suggesting the University to do one thing or another. My favorite story is one that a would-be colleague told me: Apparently, the senate once spent a good chunk of time discussing the different options the University could take on a particular issue, despite the fact that the University had already decided and acted on it. I think it's time we call the senate what it really is: a democratically elected suggestion box.

So before we let yet another fresh group of people claim they had leader-

ship positions in their job interviews because they managed to get 15 people to vote for them in their dorm, I suggest that we restructure student government by simply eliminating the middleman and create an online campus-wide suggestion box. Just abolish the senate, and set up a Web site similar to the Facebook causes page where students can create an join groups that support the issues they care about. To increase awareness, The Observer can publish a list of the topics that generate most support on the Web site, and get the remainder of the Student Government to create issue-based committees to do any student-side work if there needs to be.

Jose Duarte
senior
Knott Hall
Dec. 9

What are we fighting for?

What are we fighting for ... To be hated again? I have read with interest the various articles, blogs, viewpoints over the past several weeks with great fervor. Articles about snowballs, coaches and bowl games have captivated my attention even as an alum many miles from the university. I, like many, have had my moments of angst and frustration with the recent events surrounding the football program. Why so passionate, why so interested? Whether we like it or not, the football program gives America a glimpse of what Notre Dame is all about.

Football does not define the University to those of us who know it and love it. But for good or bad, college football is a passion that brings us together and challenges us on how we examine many aspects of our university. The national media also love to hate Notre Dame which only fuels our passion too.

Notre Dame football is a window to the world, on what Notre Dame stands for. Right now, with these recent events, the media coverage and our own negativity filling the airwaves, I think ND should take a step back to see what we are fighting for. Is it really all about wins and losses or being in contention for the BCS?

Snowballs, humiliating losses, bowl game choices and the reaction of the Notre Dame community all make me wonder where humility and wisdom have gone among us who love Notre Dame. Maybe we should take this opportunity to learn from those who dislike this program so much, the Notre Dame haters.

Notre Dame football has many haters. Notre Dame is hated and often perceived as arrogant because, in the past the football program won despite having high academic standards, turned down bowl games because they interfered with finals or Christmas, never failed to recognize those who came before and understood that The Lady on the Dome is what they "were fighting for." This was humility and not arrogance. Humility would put away our 5 star status, our super bowl

rings, our snowballs, and our own interests and helped us realize that only together can Notre Dame achieve something bigger than ourselves.

So where is ND football today, how do we regain the humility? ND haters are upset by Notre Dame's wisdom. The wisdom that allowed Notre Dame to not compromise on high academic standards, accept bowl bids with a mediocre record, or compromise Christmas. ND had the wisdom to see the impact of our decisions before we made them. Wisdom that comes from experience and cannot be expected from college students sitting on a pile of snow or players asked to plan a bowl destination.

I do not totally fault the students for throwing snow which should have been shoveled or football players choosing a bowl destination based on sunshine, "beautiful women", or their desire to return so to get ready for NFL scouts in senior bowl games.

However, wisdom should come from there coach and administrators. The wisdom to see the difficulty of leaving behind their classmates (especially the band) and their own families who will not be able to attend; to not consider the past history of not playing on Christmas Eve or Christmas; the need to practice during final exams; picking a later bowl game that would allow more practice which was the reason for accepting a bowl bid at 6-6; playing on another team's home field when there is a huge need for a win for this program which hasn't won a bowl game since many of the players were in kindergarten. Where is the wisdom in this bowl decision?

BCS consideration is important but not nearly important as Notre Dame seeking the humility and wisdom which has separated us from every other football program in the country. What are we fighting for? To be hated again.

Mick Connors
alumnus
Dec. 8

Question of the day

Our campus is in the midst of a crisis. The crisis I speak of is worse than the steady replacement of pants by leggings. Worse than the disappearance of cheese fries from Reckers. And yes, even worse than Dave Cavadini's offensive and vulgar excuse for a comic. Notre Dame is in the grip of a monster. And this monster's name is discrimination.

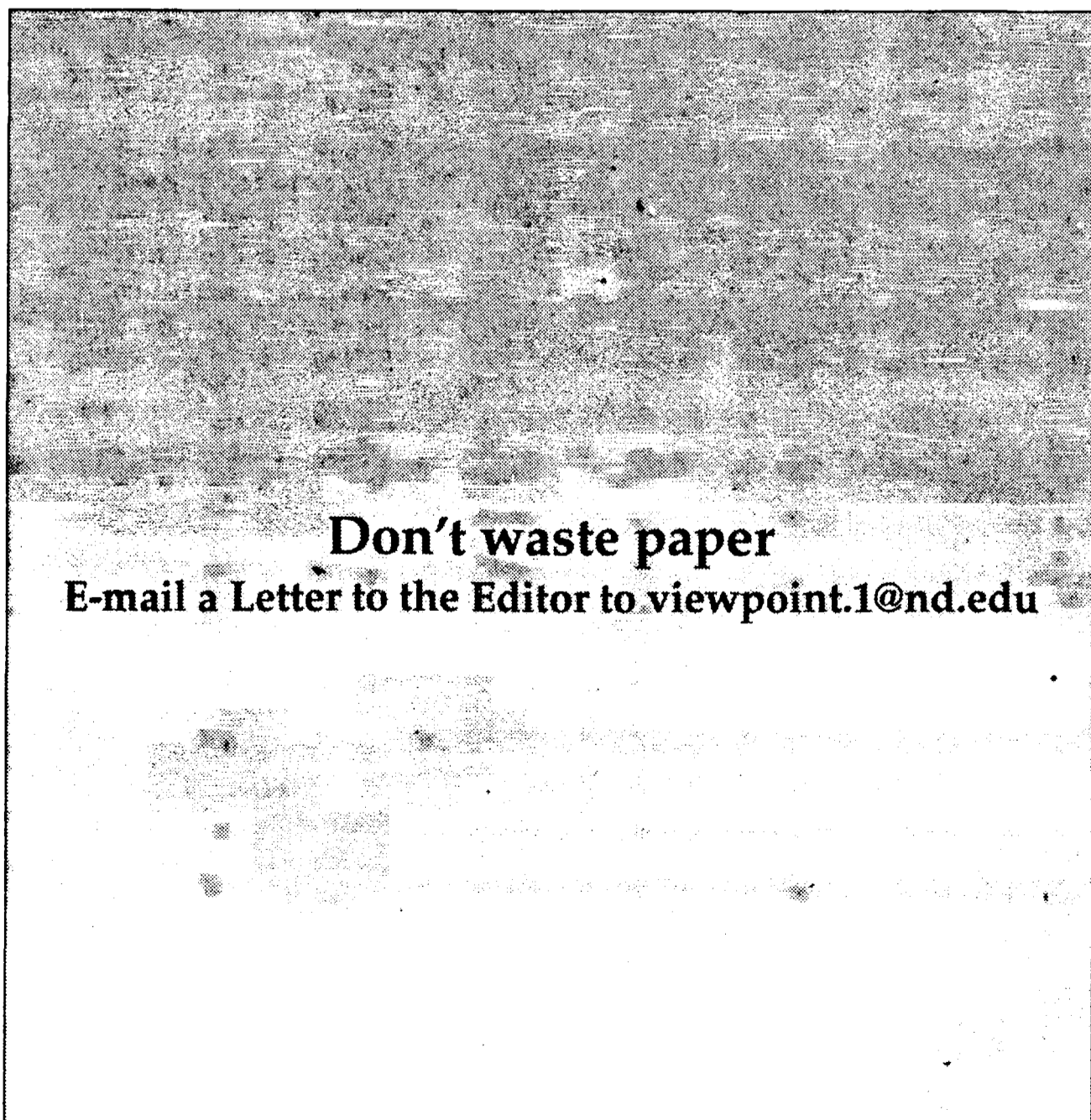
Allow me to explain. I love the question of the day. In fact, unless somebody has recently insulted a SMC chick or the Vagina Monologues are coming up (meaning a bitter and pointless viewpoint war is raging) the question of the day is pretty much the only thing I read. Each morning, I eagerly grab my copy of The Observer, throw out the middle section, ignore the front page and turn to see which lucky students were selected to rise to the throne of campus fame and glory. Who knew Notre Dame students could be so clever? Question: "What do you think of the snow?" Answer: "It's cold!" These two small words are a simple truth sprinkled with a hint of sarcastic genius.

After reading such intriguing answers, I stroll to my classes, hoping to be approached by the miracle worker responsible for the question of the day. And yet after 4 years of such aimless wandering, I still have not been featured in the hallowed boxes

on top of page 2. I paid my \$160,000 dues to the University. Each semester my \$6 Observer fee is collected just like everyone else's. (Check your student account bill ... it's there.) Still, nothing! I can think of no possible reason behind this depressing occurrence except that "the Man" behind the question of the day is a discriminator. He discriminates on the basis of attractiveness.

I am not what one would call photogenic. ("Not photogenic" being a euphemism for ugly). My own mother makes me stay in the back of family photos. Behind my 6-foot brother. She also makes me sit down. I inspire a sentiment similar to Buzz's girlfriend in Home Alone. Woof. Reader, have you ever been featured in the question of the day? If the answer is no, take a look in the mirror. There's a 99.9% chance that you too have a face only a mother could love. This discrimination must end. Those of us with asymmetric features, buckteeth, unibrows, and moles the size of Texas must band together. We must demand equal question of the day opportunity. We must fight. We must win.

Annie Porter
Senior
off-campus
Dec. 8



Don't waste paper

E-mail a Letter to the Editor to viewpoint.1@nd.edu

Christmas

Have yourself a recessionista Christmas

It's the most wonderful time of the year, right? Yet, a lot of us are finding ourselves backed into a corner this season with too many people to send gifts to and not enough money to live up to retailers' standards. This perspective makes for a dismal outlook on what is supposed to be a season of endless cheeriness and love that will soothe the soul like a nice cup of hot chocolate, so Scene has come up with a way to keep that happiness at an all-time high by eliminating the monetary pressures giving the gifts usually come with. There's no need to stress this season, here are gift ideas that will fit into a minimal budget.

Adriana Pratt

Scene Writer

For the easy-going significant other: A mixed CD

This gift costs virtually nothing but at the same time can be truly touching. Load a CD with songs that remind you of your significant other and your blossoming relationship, and you'll be sure to get a loving thank-you in response. Also be comforted by the fact that every time your boyfriend or girlfriend hears one of those songs on the radio, they'll forever be reminded of you.

For the green gal: Organic aloe vera peace soaps

If your girl is hippie-chic, she'll love this gift. Made with organic aloe vera juice, these soaps will emanate a soothing fresh mint and herbal scent and come in a cute lime green shape with the word "Peace" printed on one side and a peace sign on the other and cost only \$8. Visit midnightfarm.net for details.

For the Budding Fashionista: A Magazine Subscription

Sometimes it's easy to lose touch with the fashion world as a Notre Dame student, especially when so much time is devoted to schoolwork and virtually the only place to get a magazine is the Bookstore. Make life easy for your fashion frenzied friends by buying them a subscription to a fashion magazine. InStyle has a going rate of two subscriptions for the low price of \$29.95.

For the smartypants: "100 Words to Make You Sound Smart"

This book, costing only \$5.95 and provided by Urban Outfitters, promises to enrich people's vocabulary by providing them with words that will fill those awkward gaps, entertain avid listeners, and impress that pinchy boss. Useful words of just one syllable (ex: glib), popular catch phrases from modern-day culture (Catch-22), classical terms (stoic), and words derived from the names of influential people (Machiavellian) are all defined and showed in context in this golden piece.

For the TV-Junkie: TV Show T-Shirts

Falling around the \$17.95 price range, the T-shirts provided by TVstoreonline.com capture funny quotes, memorable images, and famous phrases of the best shows around that will ensure "fan status" to anyone who wears them. Buy one of these shirts for the Dwight-lover or Serena-wannabe in your life and gain a fan of your gift-giving skills for life.

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

Contact Adriana Pratt at apratt@nd.edu

The top new albums, D Albums



"Circus" — Britney Spears

In Britney's second comeback album the pop princess returns with an attitude. No doubt titled after her antics, which portrayed endlessly in the media, the album seems to be her latest breakthrough hit. The single "Womanizer" has reached No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 and the second single "Circus" will no doubt share much of the success of its predecessor. For the tweens on your Christmas list, and perhaps some older fans, it seems she has done it again.

DVDs



"The Dark Knight"

Claimed to be the greatest film of the decade, "The Dark Knight" is definitely not a disappointment. Any film buff, film appreciator or critic will be hard pressed to find problems in this sequel to the popular "Batman Begins." With a disarming story and brilliant performances, the film is an epic, memorable, must-have addition to your collection. Very few would not appreciate such an obvious DVD gift.

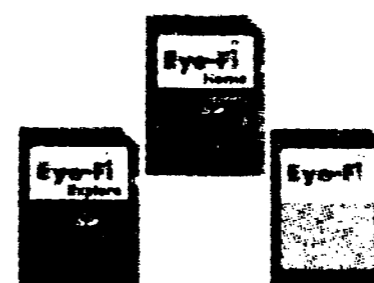
Toys



Spike the Ultra Dinosaur

Spike the Ultra Dinosaur is worth a trip to Target or Wal-Mart to check out his display. He walks, stands on his hind legs, grunts, growls, and even eats a rock. Spike is one of those kid's toys you're dying to play with yourself. \$129.99

Gadgets



Eye-Fi

Eye-Fi is an SD memory card that makes your camera wireless, removing the need to ever plug it into your computer. The card also locates nearby Wi-Fi spots while you take pictures and records your location, recording the data and tagging it to your pictures. \$79.99-\$99.99

Gift Guide

VIDs, toys and gadgets

"808s and Heartbreak" — Kanye West

Kanye returns in his fourth album, titled after the Roland TR-808 drum machine he uses in various tracks and the heartbreak he experienced after the death of his mother and his break up with his fiancée. Trying for a more pop oriented sound, the album concentrates on West's emotions and lyrics using simplistic beats and Auto-Tune. Though it might not thrill the hip-hop lovers on your list, it will no doubt appeal to many others.



"Chinese Democracy" — Guns N' Roses

For those who enjoyed Guns N' Roses' most recent album 15 years ago, you will be glad to hear that this latest attempt will probably not be their last. For a work surrounded by controversies, several lawsuits, and an inflated budget, the final product has been received relatively favorably. Though Guns N' Roses fans are less prominent these days, there are likely some hard rock fans in your family that will make this an excellent investment.



"Day and Age" — The Killers

The third album by the Las Vegas band, "Day and Age" is the Killer's entry into the pop-rock realm of music. Filled with songs that taste like a mouthful of candy, the fans will no doubt be thrilled by the catchy hooks on the album. Though few songs stand out and remain memorable, there are plenty of die hard fans who will take whatever they can get from the captivating Brandon Flowers.

"Kung Fu Panda"

A cute animated film by DreamWorks animation studios, "Kung Fu Panda" presents the story of, well, a panda that learns Kung Fu. Many other valuable lessons are learned in the course of the film, which features great voice acting, including Jack Black. With enough slapstick and gags to keep a three-year-old's attention and enough humor for everyone else, "Kung Fu Panda" is a great buy for any age.



"Tropic Thunder"

One of the most publicized comedies of recent memory, "Tropic Thunder" made many laugh and offended a great many more. Finely acted by actors on the upswing (and a few on the down), including Ben Stiller, Jack Black and Robert Downey, Jr., the movie quickly finds its chemistry and simply works. The cameos are fantastic and a treat for Stiller's fans. A great buy for the viewpoint writer in your family.



"Wanted"

The film with bullets inscribed with sassy sayings, looms of fate, and Morgan Freeman turned into one of the big action surprises of the year. Based on a comic book series, "Wanted" stars Angelina Jolie as a female assassin and James McAvoy as an average Joe who is a bit too buff to actually be average. Together they keep the audience enthralled throughout. Bullets curve, bloody violence reigns and action fans leave entertained.

20Q

Initially an experiment in artificial intelligence, the 20Q games play 20 questions with the player until it guesses what the player is thinking, guessing correctly 80 percent of the time (98 percent of the time if it is given 25 questions). The 20Q line continues to grow as it releases games that specialize in certain topics. This year's releases include a Harry Potter Edition (shaped like the Golden Snitch, including removable wings) and a Simpson's edition (shaped like a donut). Best yet, at www.20q.net, you can help train the next line of 20Q by playing for free. \$24.99



Alfred Hitchcock's

"The Birds" Barbie Doll

Introduced to Mattel's Barbie Collector Black Label line for 2008, this Barbie features, yes, the iconic scene from Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds" when the heroine is attacked by vicious birds. It is a great gift for anyone on your list with a quirky sense of humor. \$40

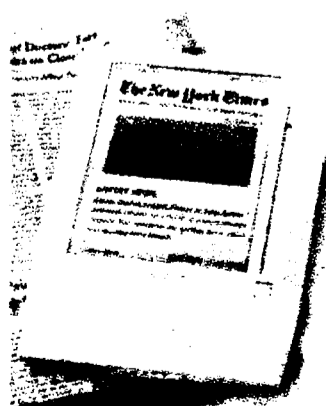


Wii Fit Board

The Wii Fit concept is great in itself, turning the fun of the Wii's mobility into a way to exercise, but the board will soon be reincorporated straight back into the gaming side. Rayman, Donkey Kong, Barbie, Tetris and many more figures are appearing in games built for the board (or will be in the coming months). \$128.99 (without console)

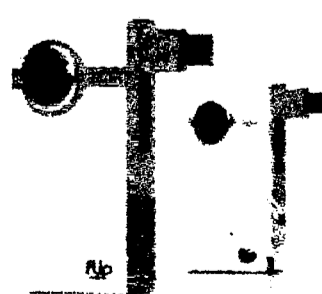
Garmin 405

Nike+ has gotten more attention in recent memory, but serious runners know where to turn for the best in running watches: Garmin. Garmin's ForeRunner series offers speed-and-distance trackers with increasingly sensitive GPS systems that are exceptionally accurate. Furthermore, Garmin doesn't force you to replace your running shoes with a new pair of running shoes with a special slot for their device, like Nike. Better yet, the 405 is Garmin's sleekest model yet. Garmin 405 \$299.99



Amazon Kindle

The Amazon Kindle is an e-book reader that can hold about 200 non-illustrated titles. Users can download books from nearly anywhere with its high-speed EVDO antenna that does not even require a Wi-Fi hotspot. Because it does not need a backlight it only draws power when the reader loads a new page, allowing it to last for hours, and its display technology, called electronic paper, is very crisp for reading. The device includes a limited web-browser, the ability to play MP3s, and a dictionary. \$359.99



Flip Mino

Pure Digital Technology's iPod for the world of camcorders, Flip Video features the smallest camcorders that can record in HD. Flip Video's family of camcorders use USB connectors, instead of videotapes and memory cards, to relay their data directly to the computer; charge through the computer, removing the need for batteries; can be uniquely designed; and are simple to use. Flip Mino HD \$229.99, Flip Mino \$179.99

NBA

Butler's 33 leads struggling Wizards over Pistons

Timberwolves lose McHale's debut with poor free-throw shooting; Cavs continue to roll with blowout of Raptors

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Surely there was no way this was happening again. The Washington Wizards, mired at the bottom of the Eastern Conference, were down 17 in the second quarter at home and showing no life whatsoever.

It was enough to make a coach start pacing the bench.

"I just walked down and said 'We're better than we're playing,'" coach Ed Tapscott said. "And, 'We need to bring more energy to everything we're doing.' You can't expect to walk between possessions, walk during timeouts, and then all of a sudden 'fire up.' We've just got to get ourselves moving."

So Tapscott turned to his subs, and they responded. Caron Butler's 33 points were supplemented by a season-high 16 from Juan Dixon and 15 from Darius Songaila as the Wizards rallied for a 107-94 victory Tuesday night over the redesigned lineup of the Detroit Pistons.

Songaila, Dixon (seven assists), Dominic McGuire (3-for-3, six points), Andray Blatche (eight points, five rebounds), and Nick Young (nine points) all provided inspired play off the bench, a necessity given that the Washington starters not named Butler combined to score only 15 points.

"Sometimes the five guys who come out and start can't do it by themselves," said Songaila, whose biggest play might have been a momentum-swinging backdoor layup when the Pistons were trying to make a late run. "And I think today was a perfect example of guys coming off the bench, bringing some energy, knocking down shots, making hustle plays. It was an opportunity for us and we took it."

The Wizards improved to 3-5 under interim coach Tapscott, while the Pistons have lost four of five and dropped to 7-9 since the trade for Allen Iverson. Iverson started at shooting guard Tuesday night but he wasn't much of a factor, scoring 13 points.

"It doesn't have anything to do with one player. It has to do with all of the players," Iverson said. "I don't think one player has to do with having a 17-point lead, and then it dissolves like that."

Richard Hamilton scored a season-high 29 points, Rasheed Wallace added 19, and new starting point guard Rodney Stuckey had 10 points and 11 assists for the Pistons. Hamilton and Wallace each were called for technicals for fussing at the refs.

"Right now, we're a team when things are not going good, we

give in to it," coach Michael Curry said. "We unravel a little bit. We lose our composure. We can't be a team like that. We have to be mentally tough."

Curry's new lineup features Stuckey at the point, with Iverson moved to No. 2 guard, Hamilton moved to small forward, Tayshaun Prince moved to power forward and Wallace moved to center. Center Kwame Brown was demoted to the bench and didn't even play.

The moves were designed to jump-start a Pistons attack that had fallen to 22nd in the NBA in scoring. They appeared to pay immediate dividends, with Detroit racing to leads of 9-0 and 27-12. Wallace scored nine of the Pistons' first 11 points, followed by 14 of 16 from Hamilton, and the arena became as dormant as the Wizards' defense.

Washington trailed by 36-19 in the second quarter, but Butler and Songaila led a 15-3 run that cut the deficit to 46-43 at the half. Tapscott rewarded Songaila and Dixon by starting them in the second half in place of JaVale McGee and Dee Brown.

Jazz 99, Timberwolves 96

Kevin McHale instilled some much-needed energy and heart into his down-and-out Timberwolves in his first game as coach.

Next on his agenda should be teaching them how to shoot free throws.

Mehmet Okur hit the go-ahead shot with 1.7 seconds to play and the Utah Jazz capitalized on 16 missed free throws by Minnesota to rally for a victory on Tuesday night.

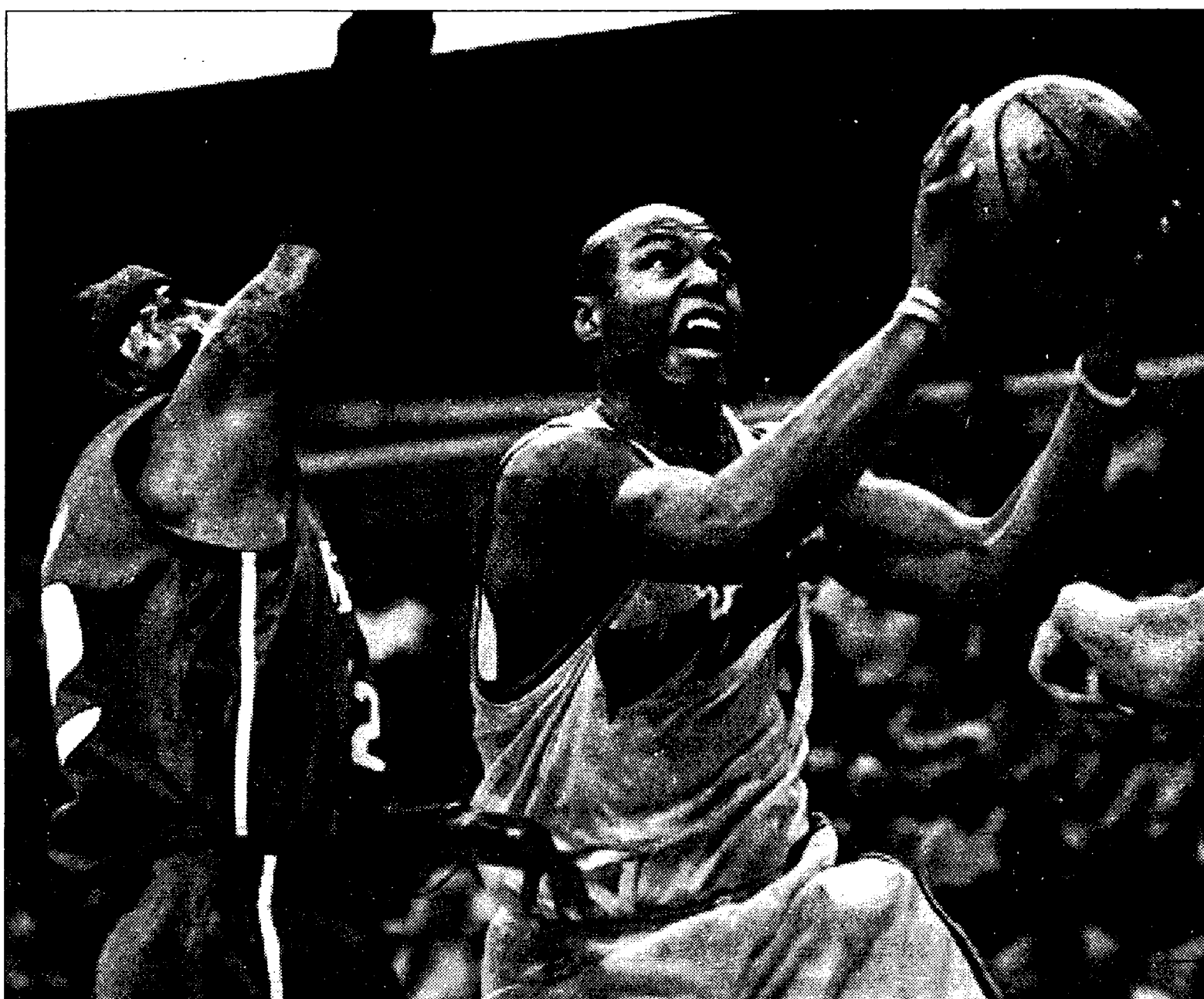
Al Jefferson led Minnesota with 21 points. The Timberwolves led by seven with 2:45 to play, but rookie Kevin Love missed four straight free throws to allow the Jazz to hang around.

Kyle Korver buried a 3-pointer from the elbow to give Utah a 95-94 lead with 54 seconds to go. After two free throws from Randy Foye gave the Wolves the lead again with 7.8 seconds left, Okur swished a fallaway jumper from 11 feet to put the Jazz on top for good.

Ronnie Brewer scored 25 points for the Jazz on the 20th anniversary of Jerry Sloan's promotion to the team's head coach.

After watching his team, which was expected to show some improvement after a 22-60 season, get off to a 4-15 start and lose to the dysfunctional Clippers by 23 points at home on Saturday night, owner Glen Taylor had seen enough.

He fired Randy Wittman, relieved McHale of his vice presi-



Wizards forward Caron Butler gets by Pistons forward Rip Hamilton during Washington's 107-94 home victory Tuesday night.

dent of basketball operations duties and installed the Hall of Famer as coach.

It was the 223rd coaching change in the NBA since Sloan became coach of the Jazz on Dec. 9, 1988. Since that time, Sloan has enjoyed an unprecedented level of job security in a league where the last four winners of the coach of the year award have been either fired or pushed out the door.

The matchup provided quite the organizational juxtaposition for McHale's first game as coach against a franchise that is the very definition of stability.

Sloan celebrated the unprecedented achievement the way he celebrates most of his accomplishments, with a humble shrug and a dismissive wave.

"Anybody could be in this position," Sloan said before the game. "I've had good players."

McHale has actually been the coach of the Timberwolves twice now during Sloan's tenure in Utah. He took over for the fired Flip Saunders in 2005 and led the Wolves to a 19-12 finish.

He spent most of his time encouraging and prodding a young team that he said looked "beaten down" with a "black cloud hanging over it" after losing by a combined 52 points in the

previous two games.

Love finished with eight points and 15 rebounds, but went 2-for-9 from the free throw line.

Cavaliers 114, Raptors 94

The NBA has never seen anything like these Cleveland Cavaliers.

On a night when their top two players set franchise records, the Cavs broke a league mark with a romp over the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday.

LeBron James scored 31 points and became Cleveland's career steals leader and Zydrunas Ilgauskas moved atop the Cavaliers' rebounding chart as Cleveland improved to 12-0 at home with its latest rout.

In winning their ninth straight by at least 12 points, the Cavaliers, now 17-1 since Nov. 3, are the first team in league history to win nine consecutive games in a single season so handily. Cleveland came in tied with Portland (1990-91), Chicago (1996-97), Detroit (2003-04) and Houston (2007-08).

Nine wins. Nine routs.

"That's unbelievable," James said. "Knowing the history of some of the great teams, the Chicago Bulls team that went 72-10, the Celtics teams, the Lakers teams and the Pistons teams, it's

unbelievable for our franchise to accomplish something like that."

And the way they're playing, it doesn't look like the Cavs have any intention of slowing down. They've won the nine games in their streak by an average of 21.5 points.

"We treat everybody the same," Ilgauskas said. "We respect everybody, but we fear nobody."

James hit a 3-pointer at the halftime horn as the Cavs, who were assessed three technicals in the second quarter, went to the locker room leading only 59-51.

It was still a game — then it wasn't.

Cleveland opened the third quarter with a 23-2 run, highlighted by two breakaway dunks from James, who threw one down left-handed in the first half and added some style points by posing with his left hand behind on his neck on another right-handed smash in the third quarter.

In opening minute, James passed Mark Price (734) for the club's steals mark. He added five rebounds, four assists and three steals in just 30 minutes. The superstar sat out the fourth quarter for the sixth time in seven games, rest that will only help him later this season and into the postseason.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR RENT

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Historic gem 5 mins. to ND. 2-3 bdrms. Totally furnished. \$790/mo. 269-782-9921.

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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/>

THURSDAY, DEC. 11, IS THE LAST ISSUE OF THE OBSERVER FOR THE SEMESTER. HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON. MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Thanks to the men of the Twyck for letting The Observer use their house this weekend. You will most likely regret it.

See page 18: "I thought they were long and athletic, and they got their hands on a lot of balls." That's what she (could have) said about Boobie — who, even though he already has a date to New Year's, has a buyout clause in the contract he signed with his date. It involves several golf tees, a toaster oven, and four pounds of ice cubes. For details, call (847)924-3832.

Pool party baby, it was a cool party, cool pool party, la la la la ... HOLY GUACAMOLE! We've got chips.

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.

AROUND THE NATION

Final NCAA Women's Soccer Rankings

	team	previous	record
1	North Carolina (31)	4	25-1-2
2	NOTRE DAME	1	26-1-0
3	UCLA	2	22-1-2
4	Stanford	5	23-2-1
5	Portland	3	20-2-0
6	Florida State	6	17-4-2
7	Texas A&M	14	17-5-1
8	USC	8	17-5-1
9	Duke	18	15-6-3
10	Florida	9	19-4-1
11	Boston College	10	15-6-2
12	Virginia	11	15-6-2
13	Oklahoma State	7	18-3-2
14	West Virginia	12	14-4-5
15	Minnesota	22	22-4-0
16	San Diego	17	14-6-1
17	Missouri	13	17-6-0
18	Texas	19	12-5-4
19	JMU	NR	14-7-2
20	BYU	21	18-6-0
21	Rutgers	NR	15-7-1
22	Colorado	15	15-5-3
23	Illinois	NR	13-10
24	UW-Milwaukee	16	18-3-2
25	Wake Forest	23	13-8-0

NCAA Men's Hockey USA Today Top 20

	team	points
1	NOTRE DAME (33)	508
2	Minnesota (1)	447
3	Boston College	420
4	Miami (Ohio)	380
5	Boston University	342
6	Colorado College	318
7	Denver	306
8	Northeastern	298
9	Princeton	256
10	Air Force	209
11	Minnesota State	188
12	Vermont	181
13	Cornell	105
14	Michigan	72
15	New Hampshire	16
16	Mass Lowell	10
17	Alaska-Anchorage	9
18	Nebraska Omaha	6
19	Dartmouth	6
20	St. Cloud	4

CCHA Hockey Conference Standings

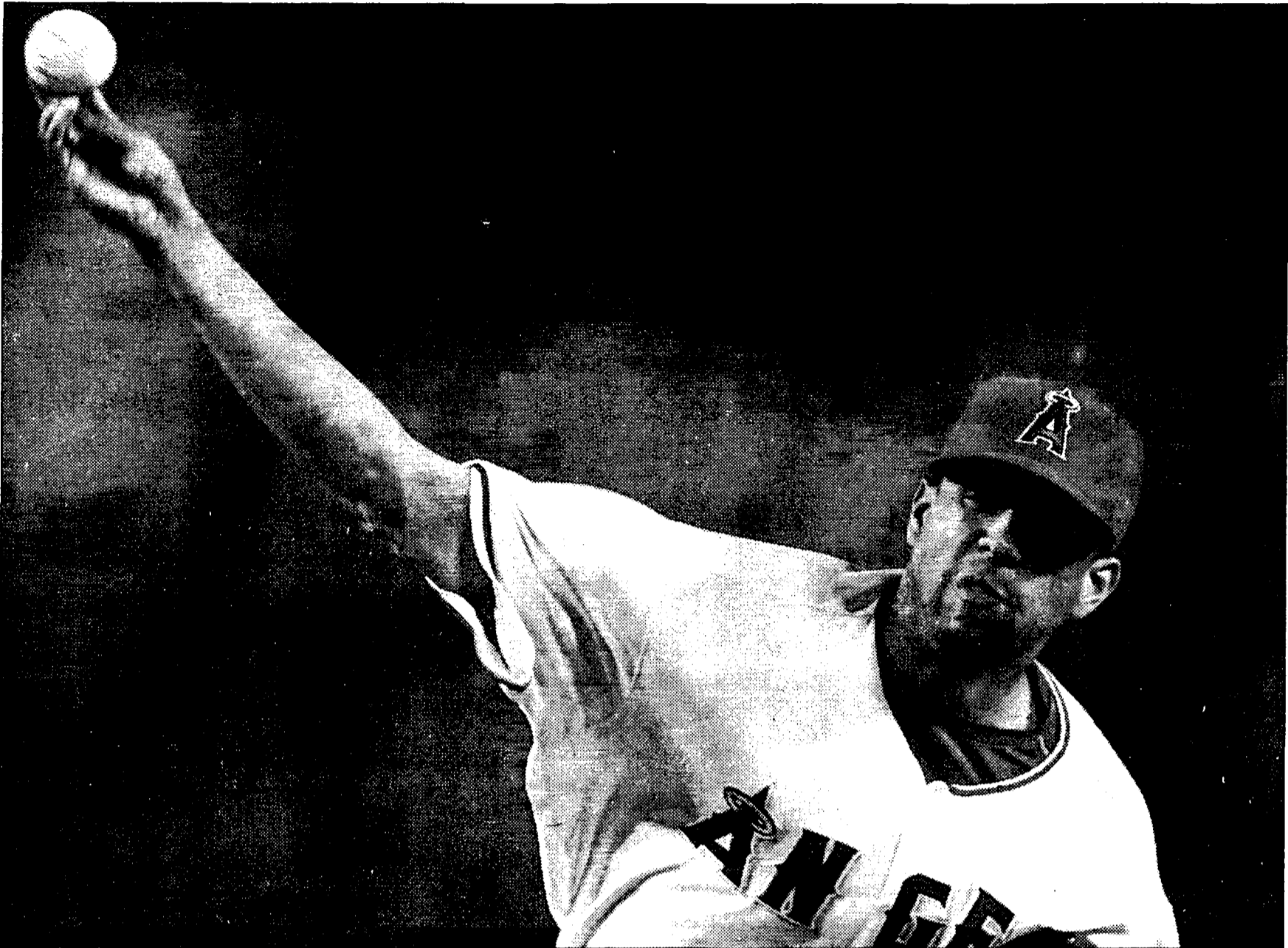
	team	record	points
1	Miami	10-2-2	23
2	NOTRE DAME	8-2-2	20
3	Alaska	6-3-3	17
4	Nebraska-Omaha	5-4-3	15
5	Michigan	7-5-0	14
6	Ohio State	6-5-1	14
7	Ferris State	6-6-2	14
8	Lake Superior	3-4-5	12
9	Bowling Green	4-5-1	9
10	N. Michigan	2-9-3	9
11	Michigan State	2-8-2	8
12	W. Michigan	1-7-4	7

around the dial

NBA

Phoenix at LA Lakers
10:30 p.m., ESPN

MLB



Francisco Rodriguez throws a pitch during last season's playoffs. Last season, Rodriguez saved 62 games for the Angels, a Major League Baseball record. He signed a \$37 million contract with the New York Mets Tuesday.

Mets sign K-Rod to three-year deal

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Record-setting closer Francisco Rodriguez and the New York Mets reached a preliminary agreement Tuesday on a \$37 million, three-year contract.

The sides still have to work out a written agreement and the pitcher must pass a physical, two people familiar with the negotiations said Tuesday. They spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the contract had not yet been completed.

K-Rod recorded 62 saves for the Los Angeles Angels this year, five more than the

previous big league mark set by Bobby Thigpen of the Chicago White Sox in 1990, and then filed for free agency. His agent, Paul Kinzer, had hoped to get a five-year contract, possibly equaling the \$15 million average salary Mariano Rivera is earning from the New York Yankees.

But with baseball executives worried about the national recession, Kinzer accepted a more modest deal.

With the agreement, the Mets are ceasing negotiations with Brian Fuentes and career saves leader Trevor Hoffman, two other free-agent closers, one of the people said. Rodriguez's

contract will contain an option for 2012 that could become guaranteed based on his performance, the person said.

A three-time All-Star who turns 27 next month, Rodriguez was regarded as the top closer on the market. While some teams were worried about his violent pitching motion and drop in velocity last season, he developed an outstanding curveball to go along with his other pitches.

Rodriguez and Kinzer arrived in Las Vegas last weekend and dined Sunday night with general manager Omar Minaya, chief operating officer Jeff Wilpon and other team officials at a

steakhouse.

In a slow free-agent market, Rodriguez was the first of the top-tier free agents to reach an agreement. Pitchers CC Sabathia and A.J. Burnett, first baseman Mark Teixeira and outfielder Manny Ramirez are among the high-profile players still searching for deals.

The Mets were seeking a closer to replace Billy Wagner, who is likely will miss all of next season following elbow ligament-replacement surgery. Rodriguez's market value was depressed because several closers were free agents and most big-market teams were set with the back end of their bullpens.

IN BRIEF

NFL cuts 150 league jobs due to economic struggles

NEW YORK — The NFL pays its players billions of dollars a year and fans pack its stadiums every week. But even the deep-pocketed league is shedding jobs.

Commissioner Roger Goodell said Tuesday that the league is cutting more than 10 percent of its staff in response to the downturn in the nation's economy that could put a dent in ticket sales for next season.

Goodell announced the cuts in a memo to league employees. The NFL is eliminating about 150 of its staff of 1,100 in New York, NFL Films in New Jersey and television and Internet production facilities in Los Angeles.

"These are difficult and painful steps," he wrote in the memo. "But they are necessary in the current economic environment. I would like to be able to report that we are immune to the troubles around us, but we are not. Properly managed, I am confident the NFL will emerge stronger, more efficient and poised to pursue long-term growth opportunities."

NFLPA files grievance on behalf of Burress

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The NFL Players Association filed a grievance on Tuesday challenging the suspension and fine given to Plaxico Burress by the New York Giants after the receiver accidentally shot himself in a nightclub more than a week ago.

The union said that the team violated the collective bargaining agreement last week when it placed Burress on the reserve-non football injury list, suspended him for the final four games of the regular season and fined him an additional week's salary for conduct detrimental to the team.

Placing Burress on the non-football injury list also will keep him out of the playoffs. The Giants (11-2) won the NFC East title on Sunday.

Union spokesman Carl Francis said the grievance will be heard by an arbitrator after the season ends.

O.J. Simpson affiliates receive reduced sentences

LAS VEGAS — Four men who pleaded guilty to reduced charges in exchange for testifying against O.J. Simpson at his robbery-kidnapping trial were sentenced Tuesday to probation, drawing a loud protest from a sports memorabilia dealer they held at gunpoint in a Las Vegas hotel room.

"You've got to be kidding me!" Bruce Fromong exclaimed after Clark County District Court Judge Jackie Glass sentenced Michael McClinton to eight years' probation. McClinton, 50, testified that he supplied two guns and brandished one during the Sept. 13, 2007, confrontation.

"Get him out of the building," Glass said of Fromong. She did not let Fromong address the court before sentencing.

Glass lectured the four defendants but accepted a state recommendation that they serve no prison time. She handed probation terms of six years to Charles Ehrlich, four years to Walter Alexander and three years to Charles Cashmore.

SMC SWIMMING

Underclassmen helping lead the way for Belles

By ERIC PRISTER
Sports Writer

Underclassmen have shined so far this year for Saint Mary's, and freshmen Audrey Dalrymple and Eva Cavadini have led that movement.

The two have combined for 13 first-place finishes through six meets and have recorded impressive times throughout the year. But according to Belles coach Ran Dombkowski, neither swimmer has reached her full potential, which gives hope to the Belles for both this season and the next three years.

"Both of these two first year swimmers come in with times that would be at or near some NCAA qualifying standards," Dombkowski said. "[They] have been getting used to the balance of college academics and athletics, but we are starting to figure out that balance a little."

Dombkowski attributes Cavadini's success to her excellent work ethic.

"Eva is probably one of the hardest workers on the team from the start until the finish of practice," Dombkowski said. "She hasn't been quite as fast as I think both she and I would like, but...once she settles into a little more comfort level with balancing her schedule...we'll see some impressive time drops next semester."

Times drops would be impressive for Cavadini, who has recorded seven first-place times so far this semester, in a combination of freestyle individual and relay events, along with two first-place finishes in the 200-yd butterfly.

Dalrymple has also put on a strong showing so far this season, with six first-place finishes, including two firsts in the 200-yd medley relay and two firsts in the 100-yd breaststroke.

Because of the timing of the Thanksgiving holiday, Dombkowski says, he hasn't had a chance to rest his swimmers as much as he would like. Dalrymple's strong performances, especially at the end of this semester, give the Belles coach hope of great things to come.

"Audrey's performances [at the Thanksgiving/Carthage/TYR invitation] in the 100 and 200 breaststroke were both less than a second off our school records and just a couple of seconds from NCAA consideration," Dombkowski said. "To be at those times at an unrested invite only halfway through the season is very encouraging. I look for big things from Audrey next semester."

Dalrymple herself agrees with Dombkowski, believing that more success is still to come.

"Individually I am pleased where I am at so far this season, but I have set my goals high and will continue to work toward them," she said.

The Belles will take a winter training trip to Florida over break, and will restart competition on Jan. 10. When that time comes, look for both Eva Cavadini and Audrey Dalrymple to be at the top of their game and ready to succeed.

Contact Eric Prister at
eprister@nd.edu

"Individually, I am pleased where I am at so far this season, but I have set my goals high and will continue to work toward them."

Audrey Dalrymple
Belles freshman

STUDY TIME



DeBartolo Hall

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December 12, 13, 14: 7am to 3:00am Midnight Snacks!

Exam Dates: December 15-18: Rooms available except when scheduled by the Registrar's office.

December 19: DeBartolo Hall closes at 5:30pm.

See Building Support Personnel if you have specific needs: Room 103 or 104.



Coleman-Morse: December 12-18:

Finals Week: Rooms available except when scheduled by the Registrar's office.

December 19: Coleman - Morse closes at 5:30 pm

1st Floor: 7:00am-4:00am

2nd floor: 7:00am-3:00am

3rd Floor: 7:00am-12am

See Building Support Person Room 101 if you have a specific need.

O'Shaughnessy: December 12, 13, 14: 7am to 3:00am

***Finals Week: December 15-18: 7am to 3:00am**

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Head Football Coach Charlie Weis

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Recycle The Observer.

PGA

Ballesteros released after surgery on tumor

Associated Press

MADRID, Spain — Seve Ballesteros thanked doctors and staff for giving him the chance to play the “mulligan of my life” on Tuesday when he was released from the hospital more than two months after brain surgery to remove a malignant tumor.

The 51-year-old Spanish golfing great will continue to be treated as an outpatient, Madrid’s La Paz hospital said in a statement. Ballesteros thanked not only the neurosurgeons who performed the operations, but also the staff and well-wishers who showed support since he was hospitalized 66 days ago.

“Thanks to them I will be able to play the mulligan of my life, which I expect to enjoy at my best,” Ballesteros said in a statement posted on

his Web site. “There is a long recovery time ahead and I shall keep fighting with patience and determination against the brain tumor that was detected at the beginning of October.”

Ballesteros, one of Spain’s best known sports personalities, was admitted Oct. 6 after fainting at Madrid’s international airport before boarding a flight to Germany. Since then, he has undergone four separate operations, including a 6½-hour procedure Oct. 24 to remove the brain tumor and reduce swelling around the brain. That was his third operation in eight days.

Ballesteros was released from intensive care last Wednesday — the first time he had been out of danger since his initial operation Oct. 15.

“Occasionally I was a rebel patient and therefore I ask them to forgive me and thank everyone for all the cares received,” Ballesteros said.

A five-time major champion, Ballesteros is known for spectacular shots and fearless play, but still called his current ordeal the “hardest challenge of my life.”

“When you fight with faith and persistency you can overcome whichever drawback you

come across. Our mind is stronger than we imagine,” Ballesteros said. “Just as I always did in my professional life, visualizing success helps achieve ones targets however impossible they seem.”

Ballesteros did not say whether he would continue his recuperation at a residence in Madrid, but said he was confident he could recover — both mentally and physically.

“I am a believer and will continue thinking positively to defeat the illness I suffer and encourage those who are going through something similar to do it with the same determination as myself,” Ballesteros said.

Ballesteros won three British Opens and two Masters titles. He also recorded 50 career victories on the European Tour and is widely recognized as having trans-

formed European golf.

Perhaps his most memorable shot came from a parking lot next to the 16th fairway at Royal Lytham & St. Annes in the 1979 British Open. Leading by two shots in the final round, he drove into the car park, had a car removed to get his free drop, then fired his second shot into 15 feet and made birdie on his way to his first major.

After lobbying to have the Ryder Cup expanded to include continental Europe in 1979, Ballesteros helped beat the United States in 1985 to begin two decades of dominance. He also captained Europe to victory in 1997 at Valderrama, Spain.

Ballesteros retired in 2007 because of a long history of back pain and has since concentrated on golf course design.

“Thanks to them I will be able to play the mulligan of my life.”

Seve Ballesteros
PGA Golfer

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NOTRE DAME VS. UMD OR UMASS-LOWELL

(7:05 P.M. CT)



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NCAA BASKETBALL

Red-hot Curry leads Davidson past West Virginia

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stephen Curry kept missing. His teammates kept telling him to shoot.

Not a bad idea.

Curry, the nation's leading scorer and one of the most popular college basketball players of this generation, fought off a terrible shooting start and took over the final 5 minutes to lead No. 23 Davidson to a 68-65 victory over West Virginia on Tuesday night in the Jimmy V Classic.

"I was frustrated but my teammates kept telling me to keep shooting," said Curry, who missed 12 of his first 13 3-point attempts before making the last three and scoring 13 of the Wildcats' last 15 points of the game. "I was trying to get some motion, but their defense with their long arms took that away."

That didn't matter to Andrew Lovedale, whose 15 points were second to Curry's 27.

"We knew he had a dry period where he couldn't make any shots," Lovedale said, "but I walked up to him at a timeout and said 'Keep shooting. We'll get you the ball.'"

Curry got his teammates the ball as well, finishing with 10 assists, although he did have eight turnovers. He was 9-of-27 from the field, including 4-of-16 from 3-point range, but finished 4.3 points below his average. Curry entered the game shooting 50.4 percent from

the field and 40.9 percent from behind the arc.

"It doesn't happen a lot," Curry said, when asked about the tough shooting night. "I got a little down on myself early in the second half because I had a fresh start and continued to go bad."

"We all had our heads hanging a little bit because we couldn't get defensive rebounds, but as a whole, we energized and pulled together down the stretch, which is what we have learned to do over the last two years."

The last of Curry's late 3s gave the Wildcats (7-1) the lead for good at 64-62 with 39 seconds to play.

"He made two incredibly hard shots at the end," West Virginia coach Bob Huggins said. "The first one was a really, really hard shot where he was fading and got his feet down and we guarded that well. I hoped our length would bother him and we kept running guys at him so he couldn't get settled with one guy on him."

The crowd at Madison Square Garden was oohing on every shot Curry let go, many of them from behind the NBA 3-point line, which is 2 feet, 3 inches deeper than college basketball's line.

"It's cool to have that, but I don't really notice during the game," Curry said, "but it is special in a place of this magnitude. It's something I'll remember."

John Flowers spent the most time covering Curry, but most of the Mountaineers

(6-2) got a chance — especially because West Virginia did an excellent job of switching when Curry tried to use a teammate as a screen, forcing him farther away from the basket.

When Curry connected with just under 5 minutes to play, he turned his back at mid-court and let his shoulders slump. The crowd was back on his side and he didn't let them down.

"He is never flustered or frustrated by any adversity that faces him," Davidson coach Bob McKillop said. "I don't know how he does it, but that prevents him from having many shooting nights like he did tonight."

Da'Sean Butler had a career-high 24 points and grabbed 14 rebounds for West Virginia, while freshman Devin Ebanks had 13 points and 17 rebounds.

The Mountaineers finished with a 58-32 rebound advantage, 29-12 on the offensive end.

West Virginia didn't have second-leading scorer Alex Ruoff, who injured his shoulder in its win over Cleveland State last week, and Joe Mazzulla, the other starting guard, reinjured his shoulder early against Davidson and played only six minutes.

"Take any team and take away its two starting guards and see how they do against Davidson, and we had a chance to win the game," Huggins said. "If we get something that goes the other way, I don't know. We had a hard time scoring at

the end of the game."

Davidson played without senior guard Max Paulhus Gosselin, the team's best defender, who was suspended for one game by the Southern Conference after he was charged with a flagrant foul in a weekend victory over North Carolina State.

That meant Curry had to play all 40 minutes.

"We missed Max because with him in the rotation I

usually don't play 40 minutes," Curry said. "This was a special situation, but I worked on my endurance over the summer."

Curry had 44 points in that win over the Wolfpack, which followed his scoreless game against the junk defense of Loyola (Md).

This was Davidson's first appearance in Madison Square Garden since the 1972 NIT.

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NOTRE DAME

Boxers

continued from page 20

we had a lot of young guys, myself included. A lot of our blue-liners were freshmen and sophomores. I think this year guys have a lot more confidence and experience."

Jackson agreed that the biggest change in Pearce's game since taking over the starting duties at the start of last season has been his confidence. He spent his first two years at Notre Dame backing up the program's statistical leader in almost every category, Dave Brown.

"I think the ability has always been there," Jackson said. "I think once he knew Brown was leaving... mentally he said, 'This is my chance' and I think he took a hold of it. I give him a lot of credit for that because some kids would have packed it in."

Pearce said watching Brown play for two years taught him he had to be more consistent with his game. He also said that he has improved a lot from

his work with Jackson, who played in net for Michigan State during his college days.

Jackson and the team's three goaltenders have at least one session a week where they show up early and work on very specific technical weaknesses for each goalie. The group also watches film every week to see where they need work.

"[Jackson] knows a lot about goaltending. You might not expect that from him being such a great head coach. He is really good at pointing out a lot of subtle details and working on those things," Pearce said.

That extra work has Pearce climbing in the Irish record books. Saturday night's shutout was the sixth of his career, tying him with Morgan Cey for the second most in program history.

His first chance to move ahead of Cey comes Friday night at Bowling Green. Pearce said he still hasn't decided which undies he will be packing.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

Belles

continued from page 20

the Belles freshmen. Also in the game at least nine different Belles all totaled at least five points.

"We are a completely different team this season,"

Newsom said. "Especially with the addition of a large freshman class. I don't even think the two seasons are comparable. We definitely miss having her, but we have learned other ways to be a successful team."

Henley also noted that Manchester will be a tough team for the Belles. The

Belles will need to come out with a lot of intensity and their game faces on the road in hopes of keeping their winning streak alive.

The Belles will head to Olivet Saturday for their third MIAA contest.

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgrabar01@saintmarys.edu

Recruits

continued from page 20

expect because there will be plenty of negative recruiting from now until February."

To combat these negative pitches aimed at the Irish program, Weis and his staff have focused on giving recruits personal attention with in-home visits.

"Coach Weis has never been a guy to stand on the sidelines when it comes to recruiting," Frank said. "He works extremely hard. He's probably the hardest working coach I've ever seen at Notre Dame. When

it comes to recruiting, I think his motto is 'Hey, I wouldn't ask anybody to do something that I wasn't willing to do,' and I think that it really speaks volumes about him. The fact that he has this bum knee and he packs his things up and flies across the country to see just one guy."

Although the 2008 Notre Dame season certainly won't be labeled as anything near elite status, there is one thing the Irish can do to make at least a small stride on the recruiting trail — a bowl win.

"I think it's really important," Frank said. "For the 2009 kids to see Notre Dame bounce back from a rough stretch and get

things back in order. I don't think it will make or break anything but for the 2010 kids, they were off to a tremendous start with the 2010 kids. They're in really good position with some of the elite guys and I'm not sure what kind of damage a 6-6 season can do. I know one thing — a win will certainly help. What they can't have is to see 'Notre Dame keeps its bowl losing streak alive' all over ESPN and that's the kind of thing you need to avoid, so it's very important for the future of the program to win this game."

Contact Lorenzo Reyes at lreyes@nd.edu

Michigan

continued from page 20

three days later 50-42.

"They're record is a little deceiving because they've played a really tough schedule.... I think they're a much-improved team over last year," McGraw said.

If the Irish are going to break Michigan's defense, McGraw said, they will have to be patient.

"If we can be patient with our shot selection, work the ball a little bit, see if we can score in the post, find out who's going to be hot for the game and try to get them the ball a little bit more. I think we have to be smart and just see

how the game's going and use our heads a little bit more in terms of our shot selection," McGraw said.

Notre Dame will also need to keep rebounding like it has most of this season. After being outrebounded in the opener against Evansville, McGraw made hitting the boards the No. 1 priority for her team. McGraw reemphasized that priority after Michigan State beat her team on the boards.

"[Rebounding is] something we're really emphasizing at practice. We've been watching it real closely in the games," McGraw said.

Against the Boilermakers, the Irish did win on the glass, grabbing 47 rebounds to Purdue's 35.

"When I watched the film I saw a concerted effort to box out a lot better. It was a just a team effort to keep them off the boards. And then I thought our post players did an outstanding job getting the ball," McGraw added.

Another offensive problem McGraw said she hopes her team can correct against the Wolverines is the

turnover-to-assist ratio. Currently, the Irish have only 10 more helpers than giveaways (122 to 112), including a 14 assist, 18 turnover game against Purdue. McGraw said the Boilermaker defense deserves credit for that number.

"I thought they were long and athletic, and they got their hands on a lot of balls," McGraw said.

McGraw said that her team is continuing to improve its ball control, mentioning guard Brittany

Mallory in particular as doing a good job taking care of the ball. Mallory has 17 assists and seven turnovers this season.

Defensively, the Irish will continue their quest to

defend the 3-point line this season. The Irish have given up only a 23.2 shooting percentage this season, a vast improvement from a 35.5 percentage last season from 3-point land.

"Look at their 3-point attempts, they've shot 203, and we've only shot 88. They're shooting an awful lot of 3s," McGraw said. "[Guard Carly] Benson in particular has a quick release; she's big. So she's going to create a lot of matchup problems. But when you look at their stats, they all shoot 3s."

Notes:

♦ Ashley Barlow, who suffered a concussion against Michigan State on No. 29, is currently day-to-day. Barlow had a meeting with the trainer on Tuesday to see if she is ready for the Michigan game, but McGraw was still unsure of her availability.

♦ The game will appear on the Big Ten Network, which is channel 74 on Notre Dame and South Bend area Comcast, at 7 p.m.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

Defense

continued from page 20

As a team, Notre Dame shot 37-percent from behind the arc and 38-percent overall from the field — well below the team's season averages of 42- and 46-percent, respectively. The team's 62 points were also well short of the team's season average of 84 points-per-game.

"We weren't ourselves," McAlarney said. "I was talking to some of the guys, and we were saying it just didn't feel right."

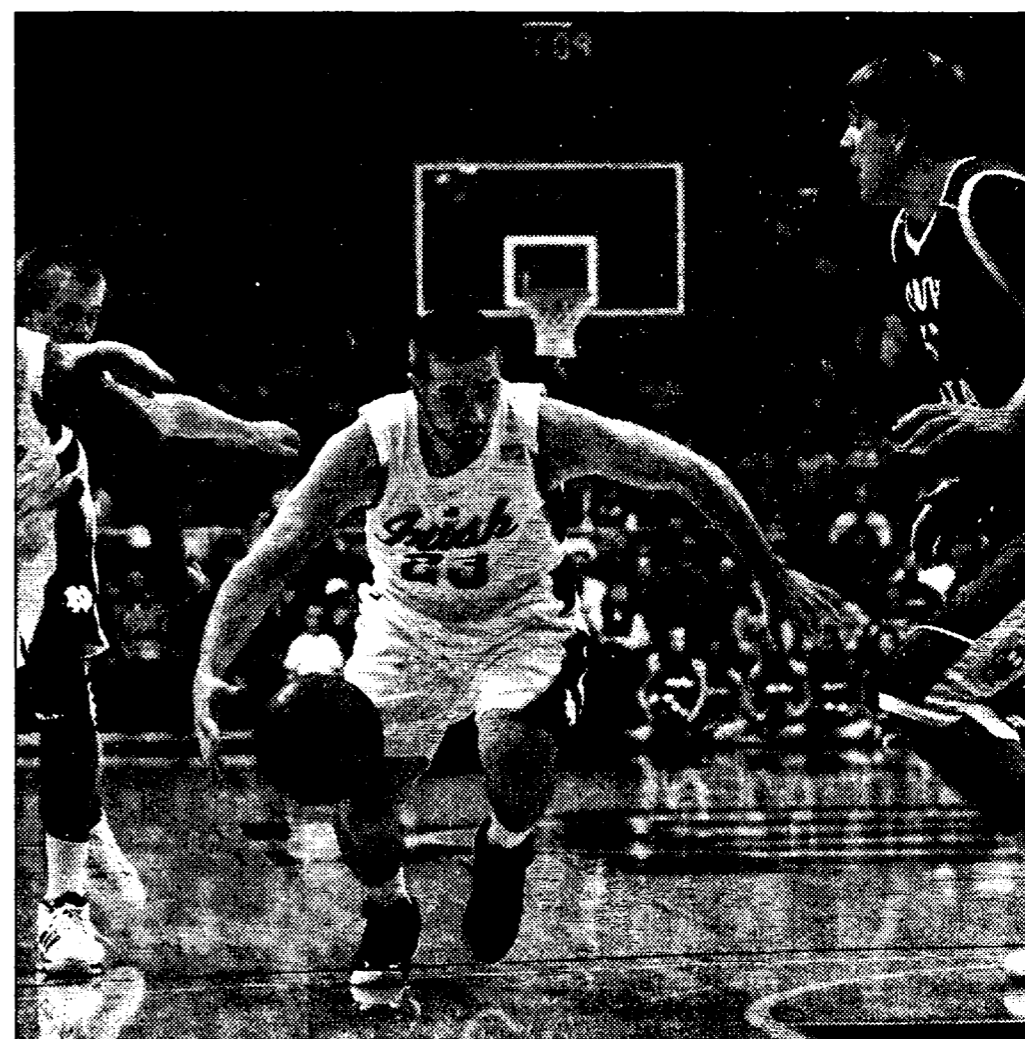
On Saturday, Ohio State combined a three-quarter-court press with a 1-2-2 half-court zone. That approach slowed Notre Dame's tempo down forcing the Irish into a half-court game where the Buckeyes expanded their defense towards the three-point line paying razor-sharp attention to the Irish's shooters, especially McAlarney.

"They were talking really well," McAlarney said. "If I ran the baseline, they were [saying] here comes the shooter. Their big guys extended really well out with their length, and it was tough for a short guy like me to get a shot off."

It didn't help that Notre Dame lost the rebounding battle to Ohio State 43-36. Failing to get defensive rebounds prevented the Irish from running in transition forcing the team to bring the ball up against the Buckeyes' press. That full-court pressure also gave the Irish trouble as they committed several turnovers including two crucial ones midway through the first half.

"We had a couple of spurts where they really got to us," Brey said. "After that stretch where we turned it over a few times in the first half, we never attacked the rest of the game whether it was the press or their zone in the half-court."

"It was a little bit of apprehension overall after the turnovers. We have the two turnovers in a row, and the whole atmosphere changed. Your will was broken a little bit, and I was a little disap-



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Senior guard Kyle McAlarney drives the lane during Notre Dame's 102-76 win over South Dakota on Dec. 2.

pointed in that because we need to be more mentally tough."

Given Ohio State's success in slowing down the Notre Dame offense, a lingering question is if other teams will emulate the Buckeyes' supposed blue-print for defensive success against the Irish. Brey said that it wasn't lost on him that other teams may now try to zone-press Notre Dame more than they have in the past.

Still, would other teams have the personnel to successfully play such a defense against Notre Dame? It's not every team that has Dallas Lauderdale — a forward with a 7-5 wingspan capable of defending out on the three-point line.

Yet the Big East will surely have teams with similar length and athletic ability on the defensive end. Louisville and Georgetown are both currently ranked top-10 nationally in defensive field goal percentage — both ahead of the Buckeyes, who are 11th in the nation.

"I'm sure other teams will be capable because in the Big East other teams will have similar bodies as Ohio State,"

forward Ryan Ayers said. "It will be a challenge for us if other teams go to that zone."

Whether or not future Irish opponents are capable of playing the same caliber of defense as Ohio State, Notre Dame feels they will be prepared for it. Several players emphasized the blame for Saturday's disappointing offensive performance laid more with the Irish than the Buckeyes' defense.

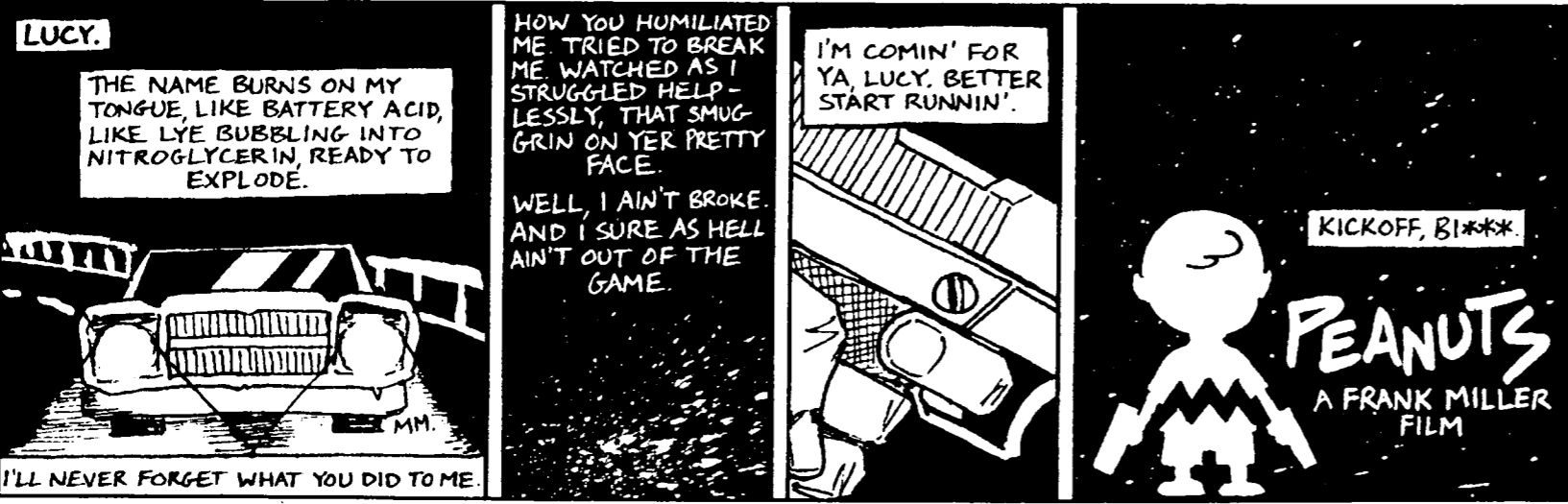
McAlarney talked about how the Irish would approach the same style of defense should they see it again, and his remarks echoed Brey's comments about how his team was taken out of their attacking mindset Saturday.

"Our mentality will be different. No [change in] strategy really. We know how to play so well that we'll figure out how to get to open areas. It was a matter of that night it was really us," he said. "Our energy level wasn't there, and I think we learned from that game that we have to bring it every night. When we didn't bring it, we're a normal team."

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogast@nd.edu

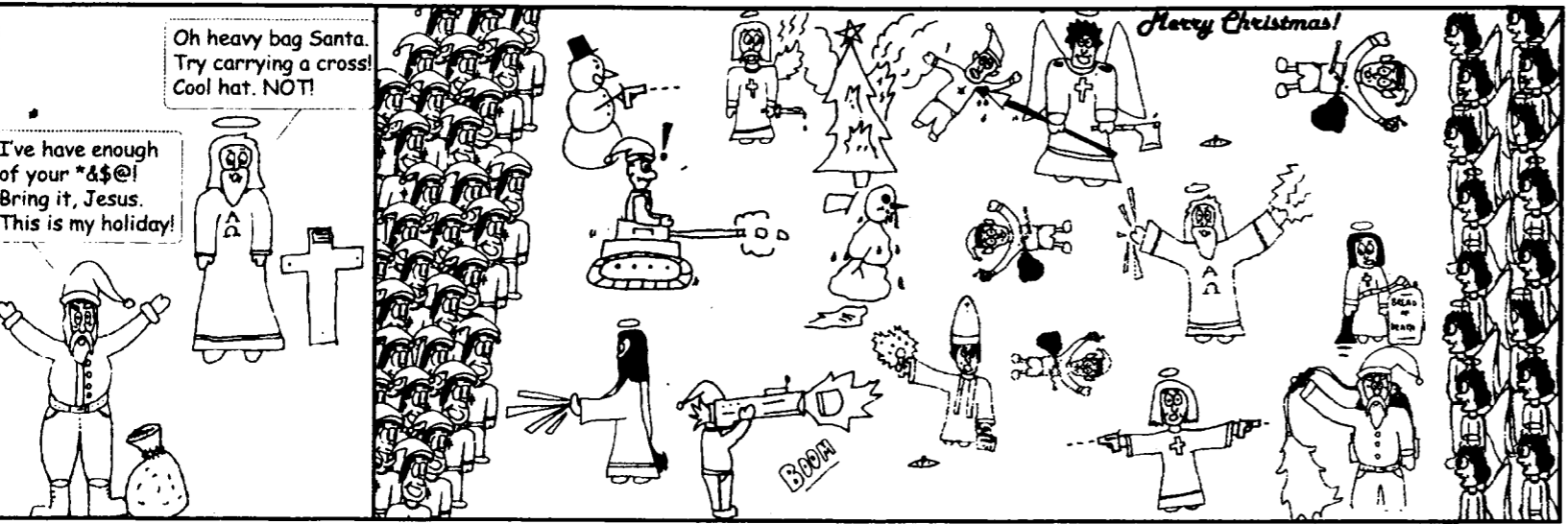
BLACK DOG

MICHAEL MIKUSKA



THE DOME PIECE

DAVID CAVADINI



JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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

ABOUT

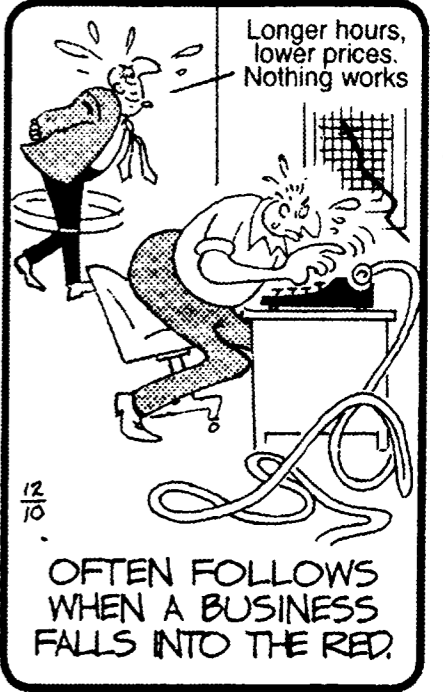
BELAF

PYSEDE

KOOPHU

Answer here:

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



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

Saturday's Jumbles: MAGIC BASIC DECENT SEXTON
Answer: What the single women did when they took a cruise — "MISSED" THE BOAT

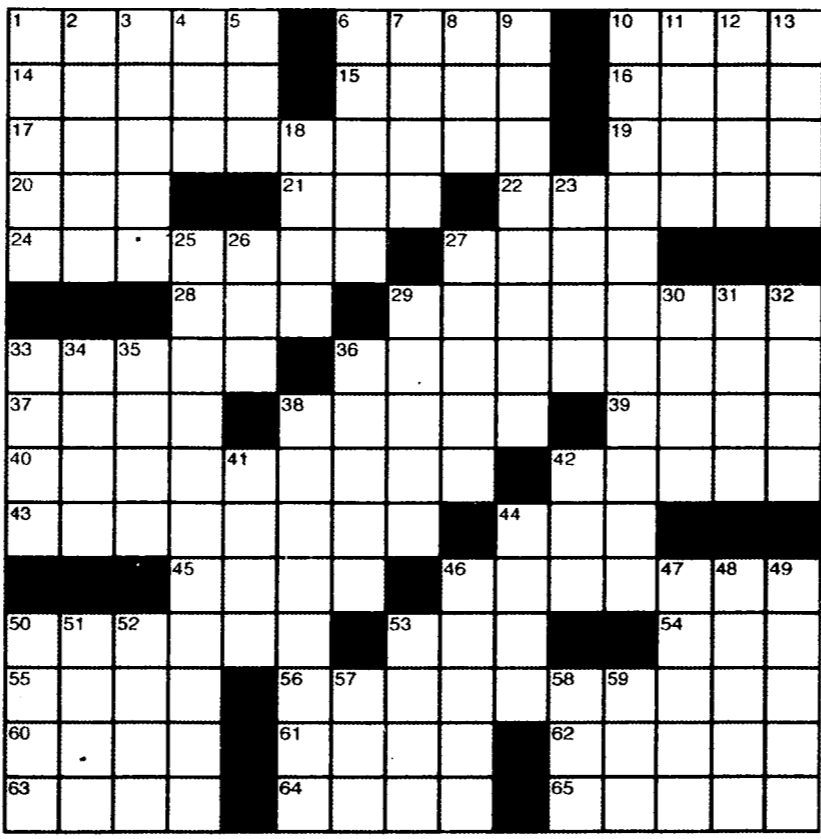
CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across
- 1 Started a cigarette
- 6 Sail supporter
- 10 Rooters
- 14 Left one's seat
- 15 Gumbo vegetable
- 16 Track shape
- 17 Allotment of heredity units?
- 19 Parks who pioneered in civil rights
- 20 Our language: Abbr.
- 21 Took the blue ribbon
- 22 Room to maneuver
- 24 Nuclear power apparatus
- 27 Top 10 tunes
- 28 Hole-punching tool
- 29 Slender cigar
- 33 Prefix with -hedron
- 36 Is false to the world
- 37 Get from _____ (progress slightly)
- 38 Battle of the _____ (men vs. women)
- 39 Stadium section
- 40 Studied primarily, at college
- 42 Holder of 88 keys
- 43 Caveman's era
- 44 Vintage automotive inits.
- 45 Tennis great Arthur
- 46 Mediums' meetings
- 50 Stewed to the gills
- 53 King Kong, e.g.
- 54 Lacto-_____ vegetarian
- 55 Sitarist Shankar
- Down
- 1 Hearty brew
- 2 Jim Carrey comedy "Me, Myself & _____"
- 3 Kingdom east of Fiji
- 4 Milk for all it's worth
- 5 Pay-_____view
- 6 Travel by car
- 7 Closely related (to)
- 8 Sign at a sellout
- 9 Bikini wearers' markings
- 10 TV channel for golfers?
- 11 State frankly
- 12 Shuttle-launching org.
- 13 Murder
- 18 Delinquent G.I.
- 23 Greek H's
- 25 Pasta-and-potato-loving country?
- 26 Former rival of Pan Am
- 27 Safe place
- 29 Mischievous sprite
- 30 Director Kazan
- 31 Claim on property

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

MARKCUBAN ELFIN
ATANYTIME ROLLS
CAMERABAG ROLLS
AREA NEV SPAN
WINDS DAVES FTC
HAI HAILE
READINGRAILROAD
EXQUISITECORPSE
COUNTONESLOSSES
TAKEN OEN
CIV SIGEP SALEM
ACED AOL SUMO
PILES DONTIKNOW
RSVPD ORIENTATE
AMATI TOMATORIED



- Puzzle by Fred Piscop
- 32 Prefix with dynamic
- 33 Scots' caps
- 34 Coup d' _____
- 35 Japanese P.M. during W.W. II
- 36 Mantel
- 38 Equine-looking fish
- 41 Take a siesta
- 42 Split _____ soup
- 44 Fishing line winder
- 46 Paid out
- 47 Nickels and dimes
- 48 Call to mind
- 49 Sunken ship finder
- 50 Furrowed part of the head
- 51 Dr. Zhivago's love
- 52 1964 Dave Clark Five song "Glad All _____"
- 53 Hertz rival
- 57 Mileage rating org.
- 58 Cleopatra's biter
- 59 Eastern "way"

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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jakob Dylan, 39; Allison Smith, 39; John Malkovich, 55; Beau Bridges, 67

Happy Birthday: Move forward in areas of your life that really matter to you. Taking on something altogether out of the ordinary will be inspiring and refreshing and will give you back your zest for life. Look forward with optimism and the belief that dreams can come true. Your numbers are 1, 3, 10, 23, 27, 32, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Jump at any chance to take a trip or to learn something new. Don't hesitate to pick up a new hobby or get involved in a group you believe in. There is so much to gain by interacting with others. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If you let your personal life or someone you work with get to you, nothing will be gained. Put your heart and soul into your work and push your talents to the limit. Now is the time to position yourself for the future. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Love will take a front seat but don't let your jealousy or insecurity cause trouble for you. Upfront, honest interaction will be the key to happiness and longevity. Think before you act and you will avoid grief. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't overspend on someone who may or may not be in your life in the new year. Be practical in your dealings with people. Be open to proposals. You can't let fear lead you to pass by a chance to get ahead. 4 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let your emotions lead the way or you will find you are traveling down the wrong path. There are plenty of opportunities available through friends and colleagues. Network all you can and you will get results. 2 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The more you get to see people from your past, the more you will discover about yourself and where you are heading. Stressed out family members may push you. Do not give in to emotional blackmail or ultimatums. 5 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make your plans now for any off-time you get during the holiday season. Travel should be taken care of in advance, so do so now. Connecting with someone you haven't seen in a while will be difficult emotionally but will bring some surprisingly good results. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't believe everything you hear. Someone will send you on a wild goose chase that will waste your time and possibly cost you a chance to advance. Hook up with people who are unique, different and inspiring. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't tell your secrets to anyone who may use them against you. You can expect the worst to come out in people when competition arises. Be powerful in your actions and you will deter anyone from messing with you now or in the future. 3 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make adjustments at home that will suit your holiday needs. If you plan on having guests or visiting someone else, be sure to be prepared. A property or financial deal can set you up for future benefits. 5 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't let your emotions get in the way of an important decision. Be clear about what you want and how things have to be for you to make a move. Do not deviate from the rules, even if someone is persuasive. 4 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll be walking a fine line between your position and your standing in the community. Don't ask for too much if you really want to work with someone. It's always tempting to take advantage but it rarely turns out favorably. 4 stars

Birthday Baby: You are unique, outgoing and have your own set of rules. You are care-free and energetic and adapt, adjust and outmaneuver most.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, mspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

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FOOTBALL RECRUITING

Recruits happy to learn that Weis will continue to coach ND

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

Among the chaos and confusion that a potential coaching change brings, one thing was made certain about Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis during perhaps his moment of greatest adversity in his four-year career — despite his struggles on the field, Weis can recruit.

After the disappointing Irish loss at the hands of Southern

California, Weis and the rest of the coaching staff hit the recruiting trail to attempt and convince potential commits that the program was in sure hands.

With the uncertainty surrounding the head coaching position, most of the high-school prospects currently committed to Notre Dame were hearing recruiting pitches from rival programs. Mike Frank, who covers Notre Dame football for Scout.com, knows that Irish commits were bombarded with these sorts of comments.

"I think, originally, they were hearing a bunch of things," Frank said. "Stuff like, 'Coach Weis is not going to be back, he's not going to be coaching them,' and I think the big thing was when Notre Dame finally came out and said something, it made a lot of people more comfortable with their situation."

Frank said he feels that this is the nature of high school recruiting — especially when a season doesn't quite live up to expectations.

"Well kids are going to be

hearing things from other schools whether you have a 6-6 record or a 9-3 record or even a 11-0 record," Frank said. "That's the nature of the beast. I can't remember too many recruiting classes that have gone by where Notre Dame didn't lose one of their committed players at one point, but they usually gain some guy that nobody knows about as well."

Despite all the other programs attempts to get in the committed players' ears, the Irish coaching staff can restore

the
"The big thing is, I think you have to battle it from the word 'go' and say, 'look, here's what people are going to be saying about us and what's happening here and here's why what they're saying is not true,' so I think you have to battle it head on and let people know what is coming," Frank said. "The big thing is staying on top of recruits that they have committed and let them know what to

see RECRUITS/page 18

HOCKEY

Lucky charms

Senior netminder earns CCHA honors in wins over Ferris St.

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Editor

When Notre Dame arrived at Ferris State for a pair of games last weekend goaltender Jordan Pearce realized that he forgot a key piece of equipment — his lucky boxers.

"I forgot the boxers this weekend so I was like, 'Oh, darn,' but I didn't really let it bother me," Pearce said.

Apparently it didn't. Pearce stopped 55 of the Bulldogs' 56 shots to pick up two more wins and his second shutout of the season on Saturday night — so much for the luck of the Irish.

"If I was really superstitious I would have been so worried about that I might not have gotten ready the same way," he said.

Pearce was named the CCHA

Goaltender of the Week for his performance at Ferris State. According to Irish coach Jeff Jackson, the award is a good recognition of how well the senior netminder has been playing all year. Pearce is currently second in the CCHA in both goals against average (1.66) and save percentage (.937). Only Alaska's Chad Johnson has slightly better numbers.

"Right now he's playing really well," Jackson said. "I just don't want him to get distracted by the awards or attention, but he's a pretty humble kid."

The Alaska native had a red hot month of November. His 1.36 goals against average helped the No. 1 Irish a 12-game win streak, which is currently the longest in the country. The streak includes two shootout victories featuring game-saving stops from Pearce. For his efforts, he was named the RBC Financial Group's CCHA player of the month.

"You get confidence the more you play," Pearce said. "Last year

see BOXERS/page 18



WU YUE/The Observer

Senior goalie Jordan Pearce makes a save during Notre Dame's Oct. 25 game against Miami (Ohio).

BASKETBALL

Ohio State tough vs. Irish attack

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

With under 10 seconds to play Saturday against Ohio State and Notre Dame needing a three-pointer to tie the game, Kyle McAlarney fired away from at least six feet behind the 3-point line.

It was probably the best shot he was going to get.

The Buckeyes stifled Notre Dame's high-powered offense, especially McAlarney and the Irish's 3-point shooting, like no other Irish opponent this season. McAlarney, who entered Saturday's game having hit 10, nine and seven treys in his previous three games, missed all six of his 3-point attempts on Saturday.

see DEFENSE/page 18

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Team hopes to regain scoring touch vs. UM

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will look to find its jumpshot after shooting only 34.4 percent its last time out in Ann Arbor, Mich., when they take on Michigan tonight.

After the offensive struggles against the Boilermakers on Sunday, the Irish face another tough test immediately in the Wolverines. Michigan has given up only 58.1 points per game on a 38.3 shooting percentage this season.

"They're a really good defensive team. If you look at what they're doing defensive-

ly, holding teams down, they kind of pack it in and kind of force you to shoot jumpers," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said.

Michigan has surrendered more than 66 points only once this season — an 81-53 loss at USC on Dec. 2.

The points per game is even more impressive considering Michigan's schedule so far this season. Notre Dame will be the fourth top-15 team the Wolverines have played, and they have gone 1-2 in those games. Michigan lost to then-No. 12 Texas A&M 59-56 and beat then-No. 13 Vanderbilt

see MICHIGAN/page 18

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles set to face Manchester

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

Coming off a pair of home wins, the Belles travel to Manchester tonight a 7 p.m. looking for a non-conference victory.

"I think we are making progress as a team," Belles coach Jen Henley said. "We need to continue to focus on the defensive end of the game and develop overall consistency."

The Belles are turning to some veteran leadership this season, including senior Erin Newsom.

Newsom, a South Bend native, is the co-athlete of the week at Saint Mary's this week, after racking up

39 points last week.

The Belles' victory over Calvin last week was the first time they had beaten Calvin in 29 attempts.

"I think that we see all the conference teams as rivals," Newsom said. "Some schools are seen as tougher to beat like Hope and Calvin, but we try to go into every game with the attitude that we need to play our best in order to win, regardless of the team we're put up against."

Along with Newsom, the Belles will turn to seniors Nicole Beier, Meghan Conaty and Katie Rashid to help improve on their fourth place finish in the conference from last year.

The Belles took a big step in the right direction with their two MIAA wins last week.

The Belles freshmen are also getting plenty of playing time early this season to help replace the loss of Alison Kessler to graduation.

"I think our freshmen class is adjusting well," Henley said. "Our returning players have done an outstanding job in welcoming them to our team and making sure they don't get lost along the way."

Freshman Patsy Mahoney was able to rack up 10 points in the win over Calvin on Saturday leading

see BELLES/page 18