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ND admits 1,733 early

Admissions office reports second-highest number of applicants in history

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

The University was unsure if the struggling economy would cause a decline in the number of applicants for the Class of 2013, but the Office of Undergraduate Admissions was pleased to receive the second-highest number of applications in history, said Dan Saracino, assistant provost for Undergraduate Admissions.

However, while the University received about 14,000 applications after the regular action deadline passed about two weeks ago, exceeding last year's number, the economy could be a factor in the decrease in applications from two years ago, Saracino said.

"Very few schools are reporting record numbers," he said.

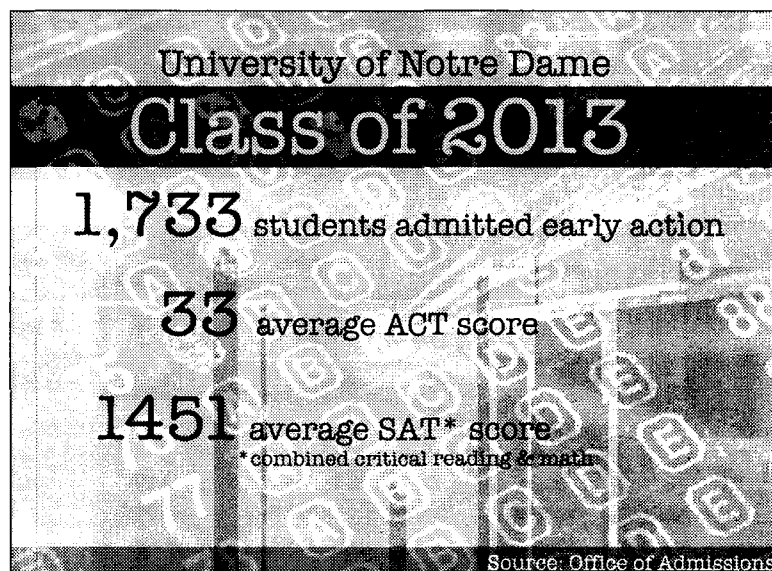
Saracino said he attributes part of the increase in applications from last year to the decision to use the Common Application,

which allows students to fill out a general application that will go to several colleges and universities.

The Admissions Office will be reviewing the regular action applications through March, but they have admitted 1,733 students early action, 200 more students than were admitted under early action last year, Saracino said.

"We are using the same standards we used last year, and we

see ADMISSION/page 4



Students pack JACC to cheer on Irish men

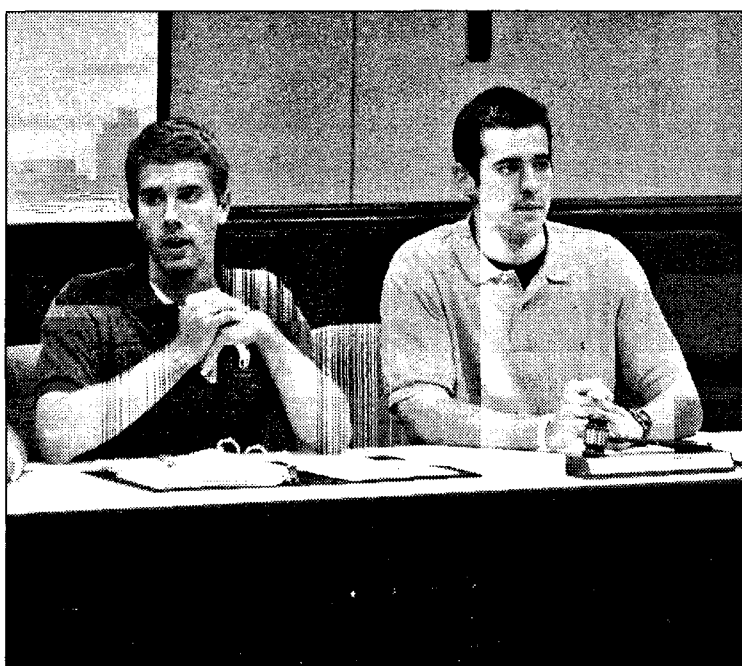
By LIZ O'DONNELL
News Writer

With football season now over and the winter sports season in full force, even more students have shifted their support of Irish athletics from the field to the court.

Led by last year's Big East Player of the Year, Luke Harangody, the Fighting Irish men's basketball team has started the 2008-2009 season with an impressive 12-4 record.

see BASKETBALL/page 4

Reish, Schmidt plan for end of term



QUENTIN STENGER/The Observer
Student body president Bob Reish, left, and vice president Grant Schmidt, have a few more initiatives to launch before the end of their term in April.

Student gov't bodies prepare topics to cover during Spring semester over Winter Break

By JENN METZ
News Editor

Student body president Bob Reish and student body vice president Grant Schmidt have quite the agenda to complete before their term ends April 1.

Over Winter Break, the two were at work, making lists of what they hope to accomplish in their remaining months in office, including more resolutions passed in the three student government bodies: Campus Life Council (CLC), Council of Representatives (COR) and Student Senate.

"If we get a good majority of those done we'll consider ourselves successful," Reish

said.

Reish told The Observer COR members also compiled ideas for what their group will tackle this semester. He said most of the suggestions were not part of the duo's initial campaign.

Potential topics of discussion in COR in the upcoming weeks include a possible increase in the student activities fee to provide funding for a spring concert of lecture series and a reevaluation of the football ticket lottery policies, specifically home game ticket exchange.

Reish said the student body can expect progress updates from the numerous student

see REISH/page 6

Fitness classes free for week

Sample period ends Sunday; RecSports online registration starts today



JESSICA LEE/The Observer
Judy Conway leads a 'Flex-n-tone' class in the Rolfs Sports Recreational Center Tuesday.

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Associate News Editor

Pedaling up hills and down, over straightaways and through to the finish, 20 students completed the Tour de Rock Wednesday.

Though snow covered the ground outside and temperatures stayed in the single digits, in the basement of Rockne Memorial Gym, there was more spandex than sweaters.

Angela Gallagher, a pediatric speech therapist at St. Joseph Medical Center in South Bend by day, teaches three cycling classes at Notre Dame, including the "Cycle N

see RECSPTS/page 4

Activists share stories to begin MLK celebration

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

Saint Mary's College Multicultural Services and Student Programs hosted a discussion panel Wednesday in order to begin the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

The panelists' discussion focused on the importance of nonviolent protest and community organizations.

The panelists included Paula Crisostomo, who is portrayed in the movie "The Walkout," opening in March 2009, Joanne Bland, co-founder and former director of the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute in Selma, Ala., Lynn Coleman, Assistant to the Mayor of South Bend, and Gladys

Muhammad, Associate Director of the South Bend Heritage Foundation.

Monica Tetzlaff, facilitator and director of the Civil Rights Heritage Center at Indiana University South Bend (IUSB), led the discussion by asking the panelists questions.

Saint Mary's Assistant Professor of History, Amanda Littauer, gave a brief presentation about the struggles of African American women who fought for civil rights at the start of the program.

Part of the presentation included a showing of the trailer for the film "The Walkout," based on Crisostomo's story. In 1986, she led a walkout involving Mexican-American students in five East Los Angeles high schools protesting their substandard education.

see MLK/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

Secret life of an ND teen

Look for me Mondays at 8 p.m. and you'll find me plopped on my futon partaking in my embarrassing, but completely necessary guilty pleasure: watching "The Secret Life of the American Teenager."

Here's a recap for those of you who aren't as unhealthily obsessed as I am (That number is probably smaller than you think).

Sarah Mervosh
News Wire Editor

The show revolves around Amy, a painfully naïve high school freshman who gets knocked up one time at band camp. Ben, an equally naïve and doubly annoying freshman, is Amy's boyfriend turned husband, but not the father of Amy's baby. Ricky, the school player, is the father of Amy's baby. He is currently sleeping with the school slut, Adrian while dating Grace, the ultra-Christian, sworn virgin-until-marriage cheerleader. Oh, the drama.

"The Secret Life" is complete with horrendous acting and hard to believe story lines. It is ABC Family's car accident that I just can't peel my eyes away from. With the start of the second season (How did it make it to season two?), I have made a list of the top five most ridiculous moments:

5. When Grace's mentally handicapped brother calls a prostitute (Stifler's mom) and he pays her \$200 to be his date for the night. Nothing happens, don't worry... This is only somewhat ridiculous because one of the only scenes with decent acting.

4. When Ben confesses his love for Amy after about two weeks of dating... Oh, and he also pictures her in the hallways at school after she drops out hoping it will make her come back... How she doesn't find this freaking creepy is beyond me.

3. When Ben and his best friend, Henry are on the phone with Henry's girlfriend trying to guess who she fantasizes about when she flies solo. (They think it's Shia Labeouf. Turns out, it's really Henry.) Meanwhile, she's in the car with her mom while she is having this conversation... This was at least amusing, but still a ridiculous conversation to be having with your best friend, your girlfriend and her mom.

2. When every single one of the high school characters goes to get fake IDs, which are being produced out of an empty classroom in the high school by a 16-year-old boy with a lisp. Each kid gets his or her picture taken through a hole in a large cardboard cutout of the same Nevada driver's license. It actually passes as an ID so that Amy and Ben can legally get married... Sorry, just doesn't happen, or all of us underclassmen would be buying our own beer for this weekend.

1. When Grace and Ricky are baking cookies together and Ricky seductively licks the dough off of Grace's finger. She then nervously asks (on ABC Family mind you), "Does this count as oral sex?"... Seriously?

Sadly, she was, and so is this show. But if you can look past the absolute absurdity of it, I'll bet that you'll soon be joining me in my pathetic addiction.

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

Contact Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

There are three errors in the Jan. 14 edition of The Observer. Due to an editing error, the headline "Meeks drops 54 in Kansas rout" is incorrect. Meeks plays for Kentucky. Due to a reporting error, in the article titled "Two for the show," Christine Sinclair was said to play for Portland State. She played for The University of Portland. Due to an editing error in the article titled "Incomplete Irish squad impresses," Coach Joe Piane's name was misspelled. The Observer regrets these errors.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT WAS THE BEST THING YOU RECEIVED FOR CHRISTMAS?



Deepali Doddi

Second-year law off-campus

"A guitar."



Eric Fahrenbach

freshman Knott

"Notre Dame sunglasses."



Michael Chieffo

freshman Siegfried

"70-degree weather."



Richard Roggeveen

senior St. Ed's

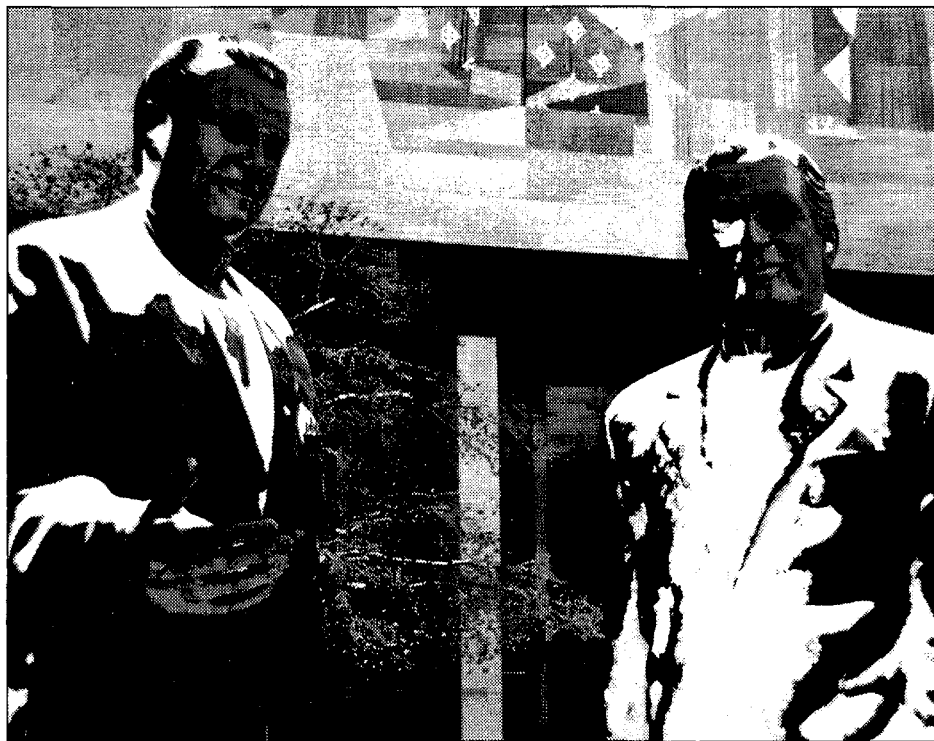
"An iPod Touch."



Tim Ryan

freshman Keenan

"Trans-Siberian Orchestra tickets."



The statues of the late Fr. Ned Joyce and University President Emeritus Fr. Theodore M. Hesburgh weren't spared from this week's near constant snowfall.

OFFBEAT

Police say NJ man posed as female veterinarian

VINELAND, N.J. — Police say a New Jersey man posed as a female animal doctor, ran an illegal veterinary practice and set up a phony rescue agency that may have duped pet lovers out of thousands of dollars. Vineland police arrested 26-year-old Daniel C. Tyce on Friday and charged him with practicing medicine without a license. He is being held on \$10,000 bail.

Police say he ran a business called South Jersey Small Animal Rescue,

falsely identifying himself as Dr. Danielle Smith, a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania veterinary school.

Police say he inoculated pets and offered small animals for adoption for a fee. He also solicited donations, claiming the agency was a nonprofit. Authorities say it was not.

Gun goes off in Utah restroom, shatters toilet

CENTERVILLE, Utah — The man escaped with a few cuts to his arm, but the toilet made out much worse.

Police say a man's gun

fell out of its holster while he pulled up his pants after using the bathroom at a Carl's Jr. restaurant Tuesday. The gun fired when it hit the floor and shattered the commode.

A few shards of porcelain cut the man's arm, and a woman in an adjacent restroom who was frightened by the noise reported she was having chest pain. Both people were checked at the scene and released.

No charges are being filed.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

University President Emeritus Fr. Theodore M. Hesburgh will speak about his friendship with Dr. Martin Luther King and his own experiences in the civil rights movement today at 7 p.m. in the Annenberg Auditorium of the Snite Museum of Art.

This week's SUB Movie, "Body of Lies," will be shown tonight at 10 p.m. and Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. in 101 DeBartolo Hall.

Josh Dorfman, the founder and CEO of Vivavi will deliver a lecture titled "Peering into the Green Future: The Trends and Innovations Forging an Abundant Society in Balance with Nature" Friday from 10:40 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. in the Jordan Auditorium of the Mendoza College of Business.

The Student Activities Office will host Late Night Ice Skating Friday from 9 p.m. — 11 at the Joyce Center Fieldhouse. The event is free to Notre Dame students with an ID.

"Brian Brushwood: Bizarre Magic" show, which will take place Saturday from 9 p.m. — 11 in Washington Hall, is free and open to students from Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross.

RecSports is offering a promotion called "Try it, you'll like it." Fitness classes are free until Sunday.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 4 LOW -6	HIGH -4 LOW -20	HIGH 2 LOW 2	HIGH 20 LOW 13	HIGH 21 LOW 15	HIGH 21 LOW 13

Atlanta 37 / 14 Boston 15 / 1 Chicago -1 / -12 Denver 43 / 28 Houston 57 / 33 Los Angeles 81 / 49 Minneapolis -3 / -19 New York 20 / 5 Philadelphia 23 / 9 Phoenix 75 / 47 Seattle 55 / 39 St. Louis 13 / 0 Tampa 65 / 38 Washington 29 / 12

Rum Runner's changes name

Popular bar leaves the franchise, becomes J & S Pot-of-Gold Bar and Grill

By LIZ HARTER
Saint Mary's Editor

Students who tried to head out for 75-cent well drinks at Rum Runner's last night may have been surprised to find a plastic sign reading J & S Pot-of-Gold Bar and Grill covering the usual tropical-themed sign.

The Bar and Grill, owned by Shirley and John Witmer of Niles, Mich., which became a Rum Runner's franchise in 2002, is no longer associated with the Raleigh, N.C. based company.

Shortly after the new year, the Witmer's dropped the brand name, in favor of their legal business name, according to a recent article in the South Bend Tribune.

J & S Pot-of-Gold Bar and Grill manager Casey Constant was quot-

ed by the Tribune saying the Rum Runner's franchise "required three to four nights a week of [the dueling pianos] to maintain the franchise name.

However, at the 236 S. Michigan St. location, the dueling pianos show only took place on weekends while there was occasionally other local entertainment scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday nights.

"In a major metropolitan area you could do that every night. But we see a lot of regulars who go out the same night every week so you need to change it up," he told the Tribune.

The restaurant is still going to host a live piano bar show on Saturday and Sunday, with the entertainment starting at 8 p.m. and the doors opening at 5 p.m., according to the voice mail message received when calling the location.

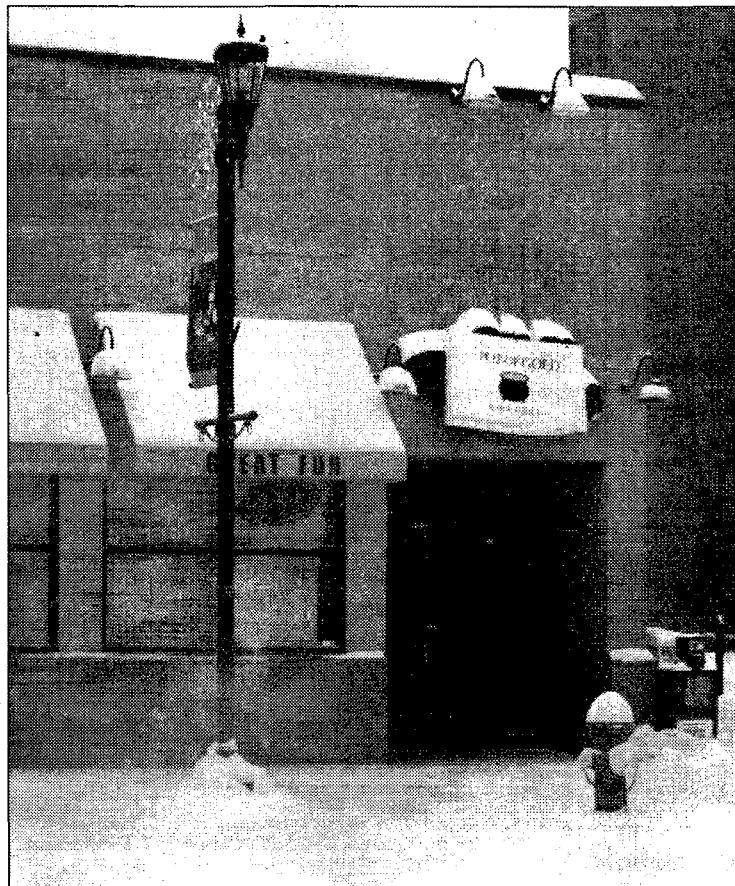
It will also continue to offer 75-cent well drinks on Wednesday and Thursday will be \$2.50 You-Call-It with no cover charge. There will also be karaoke on both nights.

The location's hours will remain the same: opening at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and 6 p.m. on Saturday with a closing time of 2 a.m. The restaurant is closed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday night.

A new Web site is under construction according to the voice message, but anyone interested in the entertainment schedule can call the location at (574) 288-5977.

If you're a diehard Rum Runner's patron and want to genuine franchise entertainment, the nearest location is in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Contact Liz Harter at charte01@saintmarys.edu



LIZ HARTER/The Observer
Pot-of-Gold Bar and Grill, formerly part of the Rum Runner's franchise, will remain in the same location.

Write news. E-mail Jenn at jmetz@nd.edu

In Honor of
MLK
Witness
to a
Movement:
The story
behind the
Smithsonian
photo of
MLK
and
Father Hesburgh



Witness an intimate conversation between President Emeritus Theodore Hesburgh, CSC and a panel of ND and IUSB faculty and students as he reflects on his experience with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement.

Thursday, January 15, 2009

7:00 PM

Snite Museum of Art
Annenberg Auditorium

For more information, please call Micky Magnuson at (574) 631-6841



Multicultural Student Programs & Services (MSPS)

"Promoting Equity Through Intellectual Exploration and Cultural Celebration."

Prof. backs Bush on Iran-Israel

Special to The Observer

The reported decision of President Bush to deny Israel's request for assistance in bombing Iranian nuclear facilities was helpful not only to the stability of the Middle Eastern region, but also to the maintenance of international law, according to Mary Ellen O'Connell, Robert and Marion Short Professor of Law in the Notre Dame Law School.

The New York Times reported on Jan. 10 that President Bush had denied a secret request by Israel last year for specialized bombs to be used for an attack on Iran's main nuclear complex.

"The reports say the president acted out of concern that bombing would further destabilize the Middle East," O'Connell said. "It is important to note that such bombing would also violate international law. The U.S. issue with Iran is over violating the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

"We have been telling Iran it has serious obligations under international law. But there is no obligation more serious than the prohibition on the use of force. Supporting that obligation is the surest way to a more stable Middle East. The president acted wisely," she concluded.

O'Connell, author of "The Power and Purpose of International Law," has written and lectured on international legal regulation of the use of force and conflict and dispute resolution, especially peaceful resolution of disputes prior to an escalation to armed conflict. Particularly interested in the possibility of a classical revival in international law, she has been active in the American Society of International Law, the International Institute for Humanitarian Law, the International Law Association, and the Council on Foreign Relations.

Admission

continued from page 1

found that there were 200 more students that we wanted to admit," he said. "We are pleased with the early action applicants."

The average ACT score was 33 and the average SAT score, composed of the combined critical reading and math scores, was 1451, Saracino said. These averages are basically the same as the averages for early action last year.

The students accepted under early action also represent a wide range of ethnic, geographic and socioeconomic backgrounds, he said.

Saracino estimated that the average SAT score for the accepted regular action students will be about 20 points lower.

"With early action we are more selective, more cautious," he said. "Unless a student is clearly admissible, we don't admit them, we defer them, meaning we will look at them again with the regular action pool."

However, Saracino said these averages give only a small glimpse to the profiles of accepted students. The most important factor in admission to the University, more important than test scores, is academic rigor, he said.

"We look to see if the student has sought out the most demanding course load that their high school offers," he said. "The average number of AP courses taken by admitted students is five."

Saracino said the uncertain economy could also adversely affect the number of accepted stu-

dents who elect to attend Notre Dame.

"We are wondering how the economy is going to impact the yield, or the percentage of admitted students who say yes to you," he said. "Our yield has always been one of the highest in the country."

The desirable size for the incoming freshman class is 1,985 students, and the Admissions Office will not accept more students than in past years in anticipation of a lower yield rate, Saracino said.

"We don't want to admit too many students and then find out May 1 that we have too many students confirmed," he said.

The safer course is to put more students on the waiting list and then admit them later if the yield is low, Saracino said.

Despite the economy though, the Office of Financial Aid still guarantees that they will meet the demonstrated need of every student, so the Admissions Office can assure admitted students that their need will be met, which will hopefully keep the yield rate up, Saracino said.

Saracino said many colleges and universities throughout the country are accepting more students as a way to increase the college's revenue, but Notre Dame has no plans to increase the student body, despite the construction of new dormitories on campus.

"My understanding is that the additional housing spaces will be used to create more comfortable situations in other residence halls," he said.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

RecSports

continued from page 1

Sculpt" class offered Wednesday afternoon.

"It's the most effective workout that I've ever done," Gallagher said after the hour-long class had finished. She taught the cycling class last semester for the first time, but has taught other fitness classes at Notre Dame for the past eight years.

The class, one of over 50 fitness classes offered by RecSports, took the group of 20, mostly women, up three "mountains" in a former racquetball court that has been renovated with fans, a sound system and pictures of bikers and nature scenes on the walls.

RecSports has invited Notre Dame students to sample all the courses it offers for free through Sunday. Students can sign up to take a class for the semester starting today at 7:30 a.m.

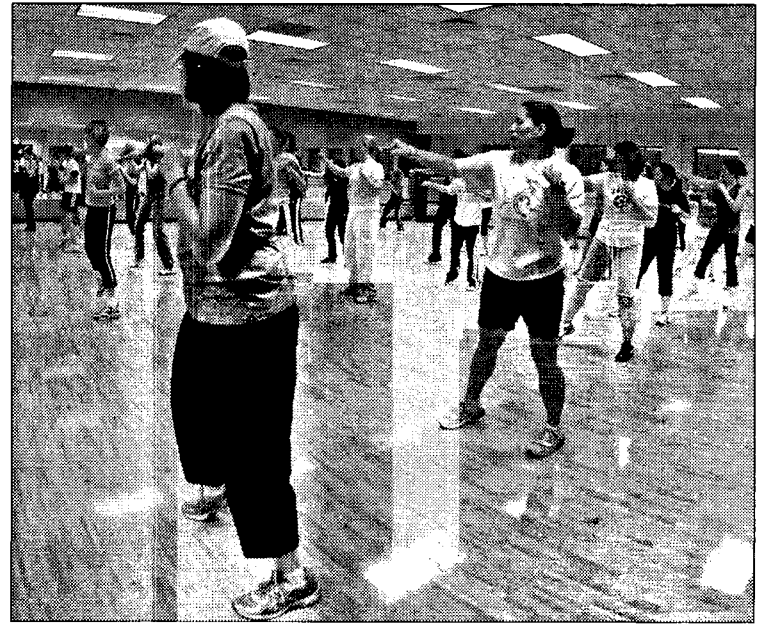
Jennie Phillips, the assistant director for Fitness and Fitness Facilities in the Office of Recreational Sports, said the University has offered students fitness classes since the mid-1980s.

Between May 2007 and April 2008, about 3,000 people participated in fitness classes, she said.

People come to the classes for the quality facilities, the enthusiastic instructors and a positive environment.

"People will come if they are seeing that the classes are effective and they are having fun," Phillips said.

The weeklong free trial period gives people a chance



JESSICA LEE/The Observer

RecSports fitness classes, like Cardio Boxing shown above, are free for students to sample through Sunday.

to experiment with classes like "Zumba," "Triple Threat," "Yoga" and "Cardio Funk," Phillips said.

This semester RecSports added an "Aqua Drills" class, which consists of exercises in the deep end of the pool at Rockne Memorial.

The popularity of fitness classes tends to increase in the spring, Phillips said.

"Usually second semester we see a great number of participants because people have New Year's resolutions, they are getting ready for spring break and you can't really go outside. The big interhall sports like football are over," she said.

The most popular classes last year were toning classes, like "Body Sculpt" or "Flex N Tone." Yoga was also a popular class, Phillips said.

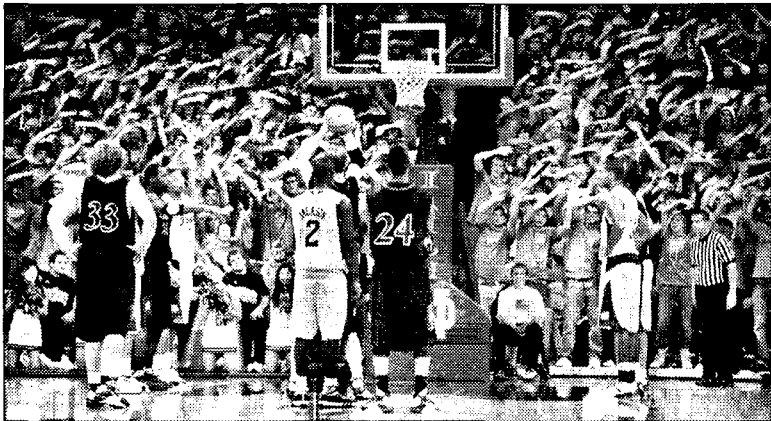
Classes like "Cycle N Sculpt" help students manage

stress and keep up their overall health, including managing weight, Gallagher said. Most students at Notre Dame spend long hours sitting and studying, she said, and taking time off to work out helps the brain function better.

The regular fitness schedule begins Monday and most classes will end April 29. For the past five years, RecSports has offered a variety of free fitness classes during study days and final exam week at the end of the semester, Phillips said.

Online registration begins today at 7:30 a.m. through recsports.nd.edu. Visa and Mastercard are accepted, and cash and checks are accepted at the Rolfs Sports Recreational Center front desk.

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu



MOLLY MCGOWAN/The Observer

Hundreds of students clad in Leprechaun Legion McGreen cheer at the men's basketball game against SC Upstate on Nov. 13.

Irish

continued from page 1

For the rest of the regular season, the Irish are set to face a challenging schedule of opponents including many from the Big East, one of the nation's premiere college basketball conferences.

With the team's ranking staying consistently in the top 15, the campus atmosphere is hyped with excitement from the team's success.

"Our team is amazing," freshman Nathan Feldpausch said. "All students should attend the games because it is especially enjoyable to watch a good team play."

The student section has been packed during each home game, with the eager fans cramming in to the Joyce Center from court-side to the upper bleachers.

"It's really exciting to go to the games," Winny Hu said. "The team is doing so well."

Along with the normal cheers that students chant during football games, an array of other cheer tactics are also involved at basketball games.

"You get a cheer sheet that has information on players on the other team," Feldpausch said. "It's usually pretty funny."

Along with the success of this year's team, the Irish currently hold the longest home winning streak in men's college basketball (44 games), a fact that contributes to high attendance at the games.

"It feels like more and more students and fans show up each game, maybe to be a part of history," freshman Garrett Campbell said.

Currently there are three Big East teams in the top 10 of the AP Top 25 poll. While the Irish will face two of these three teams on the road, including first-ranked Pittsburgh, the Irish have quality opponents who will make the trek to the Joyce Center.

These teams include fifth-ranked Connecticut, who comes to town on the Jan. 24.

ESPN will broadcast the UConn game on College Gameday from the Joyce Center beginning at 11 a.m.

With seven remaining home games, it appears that the attendance at the games will only increase.

"The fans are intense and filled with energy," said Campbell, "The student body is there for the team and everyone's prepared to let them know it."

Contact Liz O'Donnell at eodonne1@nd.edu

⇨ Reminder ⇩

2009-2010 Resident Assistant Applications

MUST BE SUBMITTED BY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:

ORLH.ND.EDU



OFFICE OF RESIDENCE LIFE AND HOUSING
305 Main Building | Notre Dame, Indiana 46556
Phone: 574.631.5878 | FAX 574.631.3954 | E-Mail: orlh@nd.edu

Please recycle The Observer.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Vatican secret confessional opens up

ROME — One of the Vatican's most secrecy shrouded tribunals, which handles confessions of sins so grave only the pope can grant absolution, is giving the faithful a peek into its workings for the first time in its 830-year history.

The Vatican has long lamented that fewer and fewer Catholics are going to confession, the sacrament in which the faithful can receive forgiveness if they sincerely confess their sins to a priest.

To combat the decline, the so-called "tribunal of conscience" invited the public into the frescoed halls of its imposing 16th-century palazzo for a two-day conference that ended Wednesday.

Venezuela severs ties with Israel

CARACAS, Venezuela — Venezuela broke off diplomatic relations with Israel on Wednesday to protest its military offensive in Gaza, the foreign ministry announced.

The decision by President Hugo Chavez's socialist government comes about a week after it expelled the Israeli ambassador in Caracas and seven embassy staff members to protest the Jewish state's actions in Gaza.

Venezuela "has decided to break off diplomatic relations with the state of Israel given the inhumane persecution of the Palestinian people," the foreign ministry said in a statement Wednesday.

Israel launched the offensive on Dec. 27, seeking to force the ruling Hamas militant group to stop rocket attacks into southern Israel. Palestinian authorities say strikes have killed more than 1,000 of their people. Thirteen Israelis have been killed, four by rocket fire from Gaza.

NATIONAL NEWS

Obama's stimulus now \$850 billion

WASHINGTON — Barack Obama's economic recovery bill has grown to \$850 billion after negotiations with his Democratic allies in Congress, who have rewritten some of the president-elect's tax proposals and may drive the price tag even higher.

For starters, Capitol Hill Democrats are trying to use the economic recovery bill to extend a tax cut for middle- to upper-income taxpayers despite concerns from Obama's transition team that it won't boost the economy.

Apple CEO takes medical leave

SEATTLE — Apple Inc. co-founder and Chief Executive Steve Jobs said Wednesday he is taking a medical leave until June, even though just a week ago the cancer survivor tried to assure investors and employees his recent weight loss was caused by an easily treatable hormone deficiency.

Apple's stock dropped 7 percent.

Jobs, 53, said in a letter last week that he would remain at Apple's helm despite the hormone problem, and that he had already begun a "relatively simple and straightforward" treatment. But in an e-mail to employees Wednesday, Jobs backtracked.

"During the past week I have learned that my health-related issues are more complex than I originally thought," he wrote.

LOCAL NEWS

Man must serve for decapitation

INDIANAPOLIS — A former racing mechanic convicted of strangling his estranged wife and decapitating her to make her body hard to identify must serve the 60 years to which he was sentenced, the Indiana Court of Appeals ruled Wednesday.

Michael G. Albrecht had appealed after a Marion Superior Court judge refused to reduce his sentence or grant him a new trial in the 1992 murder of 31-year-old Cynthia L. Albrecht. Both Albrechts had been employed by different owners in the now-defunct Championship Auto Racing Teams.

EGYPT

Ceasefire negotiations intensify

Death toll exceeds 1,000 as Egypt, Hamas work towards a 10-day ceasefire deal

Associated Press

CAIRO — Egypt and Hamas are close to a deal for a 10-day cease-fire between Israel and the Palestinian militant group in Gaza, where the death toll from the Israeli offensive exceeded 1,000, officials said Wednesday.

Egyptian and Hamas officials expressed optimism that an agreement for a temporary halt in fighting could be sealed soon and presented to Israel. But even if all sides sign on, further talks will be needed to resolve contentious disputes over policing Gaza's borders and ensure a longer-term truce.

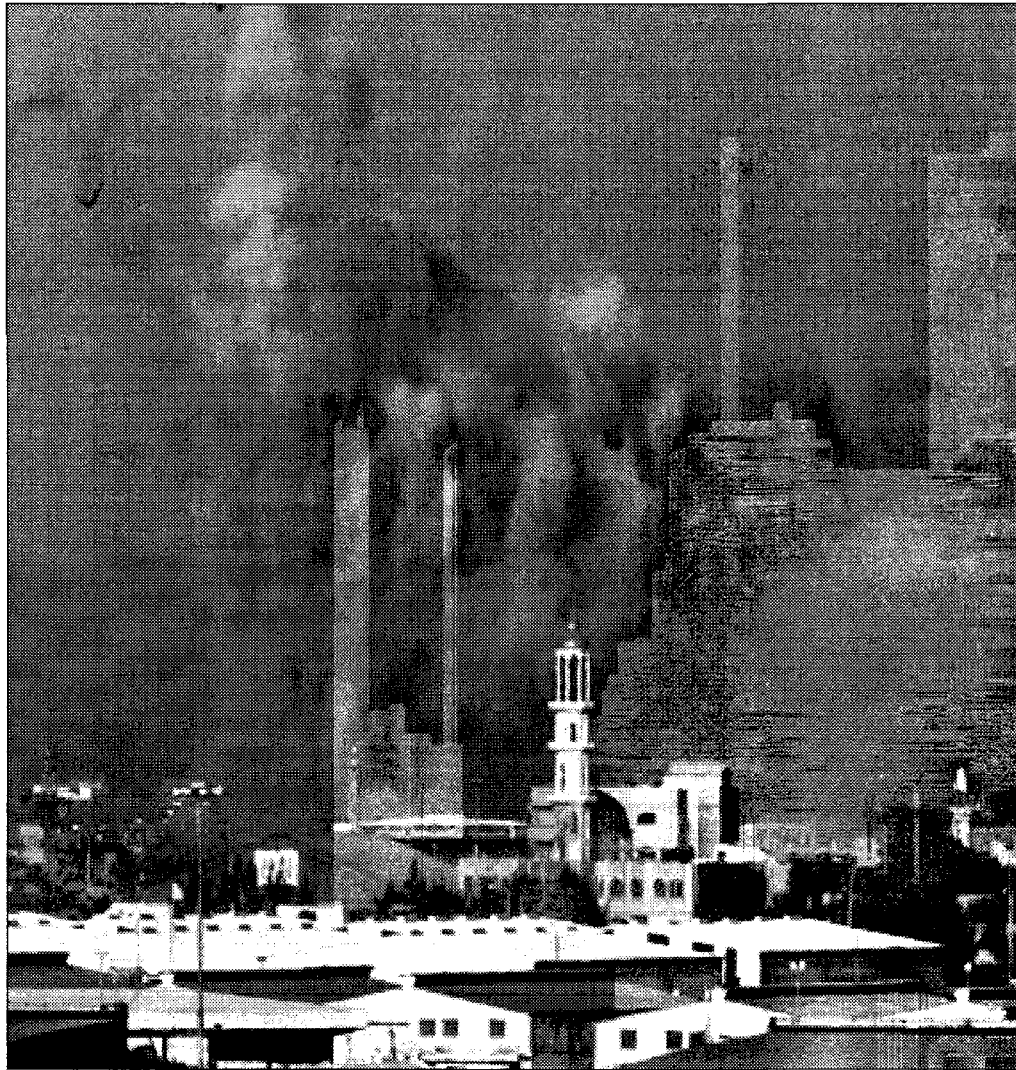
"We're working with Hamas and we're working with the Israeli side. We hope to reach an outcome soon," Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hossam Zaki told the British Broadcasting Corp.

Nine Israeli human rights groups accused the army of endangering Gazan civilians and called for a war crimes investigation. The groups wrote to Israeli leaders that the Gaza campaign has left civilians with nowhere to flee. Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor said Israel supports freedom of expression, even if an opinion "is not based on any solid evidence and even if it is tainted with political bias."

Guerrillas in Lebanon sent rockets crashing into northern Israel on Wednesday for the second time in a week, drawing an Israeli artillery barrage and threatening to drag the Jewish state into a second front.

Egyptian and Hamas officials held intensive talks in Cairo. Late Wednesday, Salah al-Bardawil, a Gaza-based Hamas official, stopped short of saying Hamas had accepted the Egyptian proposal. He told reporters that "we submitted our points of view" on the proposed deal, adding, "We hope that this Egyptian effort will succeed."

Ghazi Hamad, another Gaza-based Hamas official,



An explosion from an Israeli airstrike is seen on the outskirts of Gaza City on Wednesday. Israel showed no signs of letting up, striking some 60 targets.

told the BBC, "I am optimistic now because I think there is no other choice for us. ... This kind of agreement can be done now, and I think now there is good progress in Egypt. We hope that now Egypt will contact Israel and talk about all issues."

But there were signs Hamas' leadership-in-exile had reservations. Osama Hamdan, a leading Hamas official in Beirut, said there were still points Hamas had not agreed to. "We do not agree with the initiative as it stands now," he told Al-Jazeera TV.

The contradictory comments were the latest sign of cracks between Hamas leaders under fire in Gaza and

the leadership-in-exile, which is largely based in Syria and is seen as more hard-line. Hamas officials, however, insist that the movement is unified, and it was not clear if Hamdan's tougher tone was a negotiating tactic or a sign of division.

Israel launched its offensive Dec. 27 to halt years of Palestinian rocket attacks. It has said it will press forward until Hamas halts the rocket fire and receives guarantees that Hamas will stop smuggling weapons into Gaza through the porous Egyptian border.

The offensive has killed at least 1,018 Palestinians, about half of them civilians,

including 300 children and teenagers, said Dr. Moaiya Hassanain of the Gaza Health Ministry. The toll included 68 Palestinians who were killed or died of wounds Wednesday. More than 4,500 Palestinians have been wounded, medical officials said. Thirteen Israelis have also been killed, four by rocket fire from Gaza.

Jakob Kellenberger, head of the international Red Cross, welcomed the three-hour daily lulls in the fighting set by Israelis to let groups send in aid and assist the wounded in Gaza, but he said more time was needed.

"You must have access at any time to people who are wounded," he said.

Bin Laden message not seen as threat

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House said Wednesday that the recent audiotape believed to carry a message from Osama bin Laden reflects the "isolation" of the al-Qaida leader whose influence over the terrorist network has waned.

"Wherever he is, he's in a deep hole," Vice President Dick Cheney said in an interview Wednesday with PBS' "The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer." "He does not have much impact on the organization as best we can tell."

In a new message aimed at harnessing anger in the Mideast over the Gaza offensive, bin Laden urges Muslims to

launch a jihad, or holy war, against Israel and condemned Arab governments as allies of the Jewish state.

The audiotape, posted on Islamic militant Web sites, was bin Laden's first since May and came nearly three weeks after Israel started its campaign against Gaza's militant Hamas rulers.

"It appears this tape demonstrates his isolation and continued attempts to remain relevant at a time when al-Qaida's ideology, mission and agenda are being questioned and challenged throughout the world," said Gordon Johndroe, a spokesman for the National Security Council at the White House.

"This also looks to be an effort to

raise money as part of their ongoing propaganda campaign. The United States promotes an alternative, hopeful ideology while continuing to partner with over 90 countries to pursue terrorists wherever they are," Johndroe said.

The al-Qaida leader also vowed that the terror network would open "new fronts" against the United States and its allies beyond Iraq and Afghanistan. He said President-elect Barack Obama has received a "heavy inheritance" from President George W. Bush — two wars and "the collapse of the economy," which bin Laden said will render the United States unable to sustain a long fight against the mujahedeen, or holy warriors.

Panel

continued from page 1

Another film clip, "Bridge to Freedom," described the voting rights and segregation in Selma, Ala. in the 1960s. African Americans did not have the right to vote in 1965 in Selma, and faced discrimination.

After the clips, the panelists responded to a series of questions, describing how they became involved in nonviolent protests and community organizations.

"As a child, you've got to do what your parents do," Bland said. "[My] grandmother joined an organization called the Dallas County Voters League."

Crisostomo followed in the footsteps of her parents. Her mother was a community activist.

"She started taking me with her to her club meetings and her P.T.A. meetings, and then she started introducing me to people who were also active. Pretty soon I was part of a youth group, and in the beginning we just wanted to do something to better our community," she explained.

Coleman grew up in South Bend. Unlike Crisostomo and Bland, his parents were never involved in activism, but he felt drawn to the career path.

"Oftentimes, you don't get a chance to choose your career. Your career chooses you," he said.

Muhammad also grew up in South Bend, but saw the violence against the Civil Rights movement on television growing up.

"My father, he brought us to

South Bend because he didn't want us to grow up under the Jim Crow Laws," she said. "I remember during the '60s when they were marching with Dr. Martin Luther King [...] when they were putting the water hoses on people. I got so angry [...] I wanted to knock the television set on to the floor"

Her father taught Muhammad that violence was not the answer.

"My father began to tell me, 'You can't beat them like that. You've got to turn the other cheek.' I learned the non-violent social change."

Bland told the audience the activists were fighting for a different kind of freedom.

"Abraham Lincoln had signed a paper that said we were free, and we were not on the plantation anymore. There were other things that we still didn't have, that that paper that he signed didn't bring. I had that understanding as early as I can remember," she said.

Panelists challenged students to graduate and promote nonviolent protests. Crisostomo also encouraged students to talk to everyone around them.

"We were talking to everyone. We were taking our demands and on a road show. We were everywhere talking to people."

The panelists agreed that their actions have had an impact on the world today.

"Obama," Bland said. "He and Hilary [Clinton] are poster children for the history that I live. I'm very, very proud that one of them was elected. I'm even more proud that it was him."

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu

Reish

continued from page 1

government committees, as well as updates from the ad-hoc committee created by University President Fr. John Jenkins earlier in the year. Reish is the student representative on that committee.

Issues that will be raised in upcoming CLC meetings include the possible implementation of a Good Samaritan Policy at the University.

"We've gotten advice from other university presidents on the policy," Reish said.

The CLC will also work to establish clearer rules and guidelines for students living off campus, Reish said.

Discount booklets for businesses in the South Bend area, one of the pair's campaign platforms, have been ordered and should arrive this week, Schmidt said.

Student government ordered 800 discount booklets, but has yet to decide how to sell or distribute them to students, Schmidt said.

"A lot of students are often misinformed about the legalities about off-campus parties and off-campus living."

Bob Reish
student body president

Reish said two more installments of the popular "Last Lecture" series are in the works, with one tentatively planned for February. The dates and speakers will be announced later in the semester.

Over Spring Break, student government plans to issue a second student census after

the success of their survey sent out to students over Fall Break, Reish said. This time, however, questions will be more extensive, and the results will be left to the next administrators of student government.

An issue many students have expressed

concern over, Reish said, is that of off-campus safety. A student government ad-hoc committee will address the topic in the coming semester, with hopes to clarify the legalities pertaining to off-campus living.

"A lot of students are often misinformed about the legalities about off-campus parties and off-campus living," Reish said.

Schmidt told The Observer their main goal is raising awareness about the laws of the state of Indiana and the City of South Bend, as well

as University regulations outlined in "duLac: A Guide to Student Life."

Plans for the realization of one of Reish's projects — a colloquium with other college and university student governments — are in the works for a late March or early April event.

He said many other student governments have expressed interest in coming to Notre Dame to "forge a relationship" but Reish said he is still working with the specifics of the conference.

Some Reish-Schmidt campaign promises, like a complete online syllabus database, were too ambitious to complete in only one term.

"We hope to leave April 1 with a firm outline of the online syllabus database. We realized it would take much longer time than just one year to develop a sustainable, online database," Reish said.

Another initiative that will be left to their successors is plans for an International Showcase, that will most likely be put together next fall. The Showcase would offer student clubs the opportunity to perform together in one venue.

Schmidt told The Observer a number of groups have already committed to participating in the event.

Contact Jenn Metz at jmetz@nd.edu

Damage in Gaza totals \$1.4 billion after Israel attacks

Associated Press

WEST BANK — Israel's fierce assault on Gaza's Hamas rulers has destroyed at least \$1.4 billion worth of buildings, roads, pipes, power lines and other infrastructure in already impoverished territory, Palestinian surveyors estimate.

Arab and Western countries will be called on to foot much of the bill to rebuild — which Palestinian economists say could take five years or more.

The Israeli military says it has bombed over 2,500 Hamas-linked targets since Dec. 27, including 250 tunnels the militant group used to smuggle in arms as well as large amounts of weapon stockpiles and rocket launcher squads.

Even with the Israeli offensive going full throttle, the international community is starting to tackle the formidable postwar challenge. Europe's top four fundraisers for the Palestinians — the foreign ministers of France and Norway, the European Union external relations commissioner and the international Mideast envoy — are meeting in Paris on Thursday to discuss Gaza's reconstruction and the possibility of holding a new donors' conference.

The last one, held in December 2007 at a time of renewed Mideast peace hopes, secured promises of \$7.7 billion in aid through 2010. However, donors may have a tougher time contributing large sums in the current global financial crisis.

Another concern is whether a cease-fire deal will lift the blockade Israel and Egypt imposed on Gaza after Hamas

seized the coastal strip in June 2007 and ousted the forces of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who now controls only the West Bank.

"You cannot rebuild Gaza without open borders," said Tor Wennesland, the top Norwegian diplomat in the Palestinian territories.

Yet ending Gaza's lockdown will require compromises that seemed impossible before the Israeli offensive.

Hamas will have to relinquish some control by allowing a buffer force to deploy on the crossings, most likely international monitors, Abbas' troops or both.

Gatekeepers Egypt and Israel say there's no way they'll agree to give Hamas, viewed as a violent Iranian proxy, a final say over who and what enters and leaves Gaza. But if they accept a new border regime with monitors, that would inevitably strengthen the Islamic militants' rule over Gaza.

In any arrangement, rivals Abbas and Hamas will have to find a way to work jointly, not just to run the crossings but to oversee reconstruction projects. The two have been unable to come up with a power-sharing formula since Hamas defeated Abbas' Fatah movement in 2006 parliament elections.

Working out such understandings will take time, something Gaza's 1.4 million people may not have.

Israel says Hamas is using civilians as human shields and hiding its weapons in civilian areas. But the humanitarian crisis is becoming more pressing every day, according to the U.N. and human rights groups.



Palestinians sit on the rubble of a destroyed building Wednesday. Violence in Gaza has led to billions of dollars in damage to buildings, water pipes, roads and other structures.

Tens of thousands have been displaced and the vast majority of Gazans depend on food handouts. Power cuts are widespread and at least 250,000 Gazans have been without electricity since Israel launched its offensive, aimed at halting Hamas rocket fire at southern Israel.

Sewage levels are rising precariously in rickety reservoirs. With nearly 4,000 wounded, along with about 1,000 killed, hospitals are increasingly overwhelmed and the health system is close to collapse, aid groups warn. Thirteen Israelis also have been killed.

Israel has allowed in con-

voys of supply trucks most days during the offensive, but aid workers say that's not enough to alleviate the crisis.

Even before the fighting, the blockade was pushing Gaza close to the edge.

Unemployment had risen to nearly 50 percent, with an Israeli export ban forcing virtually all of Gaza's 3,900 manufacturers to shut down, the U.N. said in December. Cash was scarce because of restrictions on bringing in bank notes, 80 percent of drinking water was substandard, electricity intermittent and tens of millions of gallons of sewage were discharged into the sea every day

because of insufficient treatment facilities.

"It was bad before, it's worse now, and it's not getting any better," said Maxwell Gaylard, the U.N. humanitarian affairs coordinator for the Palestinian territories. "Civilians are bearing the brunt of this destruction of homes and infrastructure."

Gaylard said that once the shooting stops, U.N. crews in Gaza could quickly fix pressing problems, such as distributing more food and repairing some power and water lines. However, larger projects would be harder to accomplish if access to Gaza is restricted, he said.

MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones 8,200.14 -248.42

Up: 486 Same: 58 Down: 3,330 Composite Volume: 1,899,048,110

AMEX	1,338.76	-66.24
NASDAQ	1,489.64	-59.82
NYSE	5,328.68	-210.16
S&P 500	842.62	-29.17
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	8,073.48	364.97
FTSE 100 (London)	4,180.64	-218.51

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
CITIGROUP (C)	-23.22	-1.37	4.53
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	-3.15	-2.74	84.37
BK OF AMERICA CP (BAC)	-4.23	-0.45	10.20
FINANCIAL SEL SPDR (XLF)	-5.77	-0.64	10.46

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	-3.66	-0.084	2.213
13-WEEK BILL	+4.76	+0.010	0.110
30-YEAR BOND	-4.04	-0.120	2.890
5-YEAR NOTE	-4.69	-0.067	1.361

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-0.05	37.23
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-11.90	808.80
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+0.10	85.10

Exchange Rates

YEN	89.1950
EURO	1.3191
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.2445
BRITISH POUND	1.4611

IN BRIEF

Dismal holiday sales continue into '09

WASHINGTON — After the worst holiday season in 40 years, retailers face more sales declines in the months ahead as the recession deepens, job losses mount and consumers retrench further.

Retail sales plunged 2.7 percent in December, a record sixth straight monthly fall, and the first annual drop on government records dating to 1992, the Commerce Department said Wednesday. Last month's weakness — more than double what economists had expected — has extended into the new year with bankruptcy filings, store closings and more layoffs.

"Consumers are in deep hibernation, and there is no sign that they will wake up this spring or that the retail outlook will pick up anytime soon," said C. Britt Beemer, chairman of America's Research Group, a consumer research firm in Charleston, S.C.

Oil prices rise to \$39 a barrel in Asia

SINGAPORE — Oil prices rose to near \$39 a barrel Wednesday in Asia after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said a stimulus package could help revitalize the ailing U.S. economy.

Light, sweet crude for February delivery was up 94 cents to \$38.72 a barrel by midday in Singapore in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose overnight 19 cents to settle at \$37.78.

Bernanke said Tuesday that a \$700 billion financial rescue program being discussed by Congress was needed to combat the worst financial crisis to hit the U.S. and the global economy since the 1930s. The stimulus package "could provide a significant boost to economic activity," he said.

Traders said low volumes in early Asian trading also helped spur volatility.

"You're seeing a reaction to Bernanke's comments and an illiquid market retrace toward \$40," said Jonathan Kornafel, Asia director for market maker Hudson Capital Energy in Singapore. "We've also come off about \$12 without a bounce, so it's a combination of those three factors."

Madoff continues to avoid jailtime

Plea negotiations loom while police must take measures to protect investor's life

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bernard Madoff returned to court in a bulletproof vest Wednesday and won another round in his fight to stay out of jail. But a larger issue loomed over the court: negotiations for a potential plea deal.

Bail fights such as this usually carry motivations that are never stated on the court record, and the securities fraud case against Madoff appears laden with them.

Experts say prosecutors may want him in jail to increase pressure on him to cooperate or to reach a plea deal more quickly. Or they might want to punish him for not cooperating enough, while yielding to public pressure to make an example out of Madoff during the nation's economic troubles.

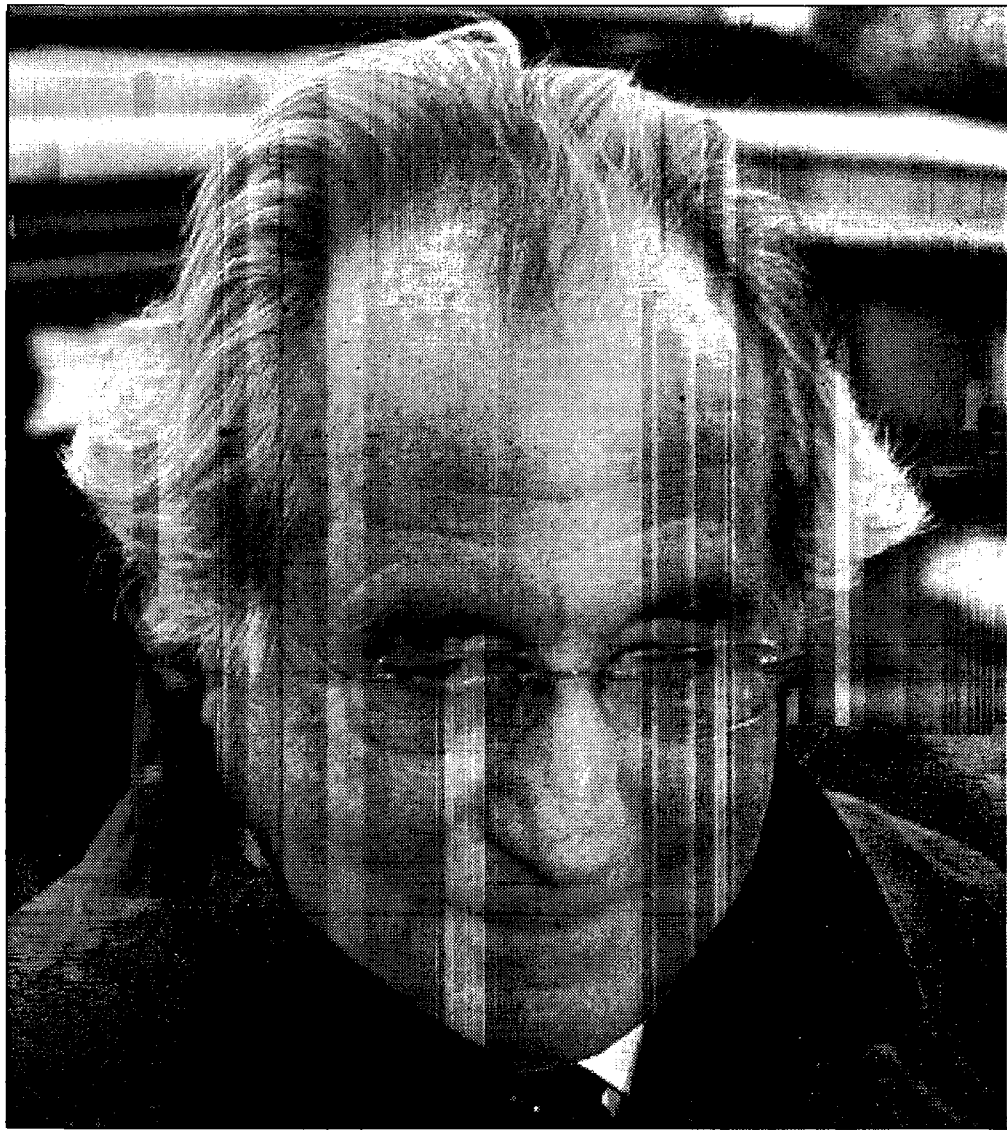
"Like any defendant, a person who is already in (prison) has much greater incentive to resolve it than someone on release who is looking at a significant term if convicted," said Michael Garcia, the U.S. Attorney in Manhattan until days before Madoff's arrest.

Madoff has become one of the most vilified men in America since he confessed to stealing \$50 billion last month in what may be the largest Ponzi scheme ever. The scandal has touched every corner of the world, wiping out life fortunes, decimating charities and apparently pushing one investor to commit suicide.

Investors are furious that he has been allowed to remain on free on bail while being accused of such a sweeping fraud.

So angry that authorities have taken measures to protect Madoff's life. He arrived in court wearing the bulletproof vest and his apartment is also equipped with a panic button that allows him to notify security guards of anything suspicious.

He is also under the con-



AP
Bernard Madoff, who confessed to stealing \$50 billion last month, arrives at Federal Court in New York, Wednesday.

stant watch of armed guards and video surveillance in case he tries to flee.

Madoff did not speak or show much emotion during the hearing, although he privately conferred with his lawyers. He left the courthouse and returned to house arrest in his \$7 million Upper East Side penthouse after a judge upheld an earlier ruling that Madoff can remain on bail.

Judge Lawrence M. McKenna did take Madoff lawyer Ira Sorkin up on his offer to provide an inventory of any valuables in the homes of Madoff and his wife in Montauk, N.Y., Palm

Beach, Fla., and France. It must be finished within a week.

Prosecutors have been making a strong push to have Madoff jailed for mailing more than \$1 million in jewelry to relatives and two close friends over the holidays. Assistant U.S. Attorney Marc Litt said Wednesday the gifts are further proof that Madoff "cannot be trusted under any set of conditions short of detention."

Litt noted there were no restrictions on Madoff's visitors, cell phone use, computer use, e-mails and texting.

"The means of communicating in the modern world are endless and there's no restrictions on any of it," Litt said.

But defense lawyer Ira Sorkin accused the government of engaging in "inflammatory rhetoric and hyperbole," saying he is already under such extreme restrictions that it would be impossible for him to flee or send more valuables.

The defense and prosecution have been waging an increasingly bitter battle over the bail package — partially a result of Madoff's perceived lack of cooperation.

Economy off to weak start in '09

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. economy started the new year on weaker footing as recession-shocked Americans retrenched further, forcing retailers to ring up fewer sales and factories to cut back production.

The Federal Reserve's new snapshot of business conditions nationwide, released Wednesday, suggested the country's economic picture has darkened over the last two months. The outlook appears equally dim.

"Overall economic activity continued to weaken across almost all of the Federal Reserve's districts," the report concluded.

To help brace the economy, Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke and his colleagues have signaled that they will leave a key interest rate at record-low levels for some time.

In an unprecedented move last month, the Fed ratcheted down its rate to hover between zero and 0.25 percent. The Fed will keep rates in that range at its next meeting on Jan. 27-28 and probably for much — if not all — of this year, economists predict. The Fed also has pledged to use other unconventional tools to revive the economy.

The recession, which just entered its second year, already is the longest in a quarter-century and appears likely to be the longest downturn since World War II.

Most retailers reported "generally negative" holiday sales and are cautious about sales prospects in the months ahead, according to the Fed report based on information collected between late November and Jan. 5.

"Many retailers in the

Philadelphia, Atlanta, Kansas City and Dallas districts expected continued weakness or sluggish sales," the report said. "Expectations were mixed in the Cleveland district, and retailers in the Boston district were watchful."

This week alone, regional department store chain Gottschalks Inc. put itself up for sale and said it had filed to reorganize in a Chapter 11 bankruptcy, discount clothing chain Goody's Family Clothing also filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, and luxury department store retailer Neiman Marcus Group Inc. said it was cutting about 375 jobs.

"Many retailers became convinced the Grinch did indeed steal Christmas," Charles Plosser, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, said in a speech Wednesday.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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THE OBSERVER

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Perfecting a playoff

Sometimes the simplest solution is difficult to embrace or understand, especially when crowning a college football national champion. For more than half a century, an elite group of college football coaches and journalists "selected" the champions through the AP, UPI or Coaches polls. Yet frequently they could not agree at season's end. Rarely did the top two ranked teams play each other on New Year's Day. The system was



Gary Caruso

Capitol
Comments

replete with regional prejudices, closed-minded traditions and excuses.

Most egregiously though, deserving teams were willfully slighted. Such were the 1968, 1969 and 1973 undefeated Penn State teams. Only after years and enough sports writers lavishing imperviousness onto Penn State, did undefeated Joe Paterno teams finally translate into championships. Ironically, in December 1973, the top six ranked teams were unbeaten although half of them had a tie on their records. Sports writers then, like their counterparts today, incessantly explained away their prejudices with the subjective excuse — lower ranked teams like undefeated Penn State played a weaker schedule.

Notre Dame has fallen on both sides of those media excuses. In strict adherence to tradition in 1966, the Irish won the championship over an equally talented Michigan State whom they played to a tie in head-to-head competition. More than two decades later, Notre Dame suffered twice on the inconsistent application of the same standard. In 1989, voters used the head-to-head loss to Miami to logicially name the Hurricanes national champions. Yet, under the Bowl Competition system in 1993, both

major polls listed a one-loss Notre Dame team behind a team they had beaten, a one-loss Florida State team. Voters wanted to give Coach Bobby Bowden his first national championship using ridiculous excuses like "FSU only lost by a touchdown and on Notre Dame's field."

Eventually that outdated and closed thinking gave way to more equitable efforts within the current Bowl Championship Series. A new selection process could only be better if fewer voters and more computations selected the king of football. It kept the bowl system in tact, but still does not always determine the champion through play on the field. Now is the time for the BCS to morph into the BCP — Bowl Championship Playoff.

Some propose continuing the bowl series but adding a "plus one" final game. Others suggest a straight playoff system like with the 24-team Division II system, won this year by the Minnesota Duluth Bulldogs. The plus one approach alone is a lacking solution while the Division II schedule is overbearing. The solution is a playoff hybrid that elevates three bowls on a rotating basis and pits the top four teams against each other with the plus one championship game played a week after New Year's Day.

This year, imagine the Rose and Sugar Bowls host a semifinal round that produces two teams vying for the championship a week later in the Orange Bowl. Bowl participation would be upgraded and expanded. Four teams would now play head-to-head to determine a champion. This season, half of the top eight ranked teams with one or less losses could participate. The goal to employ is to expand participation before championship play in the least disruptive manner. The BCP accomplishes that objective.

The new BCP could also correct current deficiencies. First, undefeated teams like Boise State or Utah with a so-called "lesser" schedule might play the fourth ranked team in December to

determine the fourth place seed in the playoff. No undefeated team should suffer the indignity of being perceived as less than worthy, especially when they win every game of their season.

Secondly, the BCP should require that a conference present only one eligible team for the top four rankings at season's end. That way, four separate conferences and/or independent teams could participate in the two-week playoff. Who can contradict the assertion that given this year's bowl results, the PAC 10 may have had the strongest conference and best team with USC by New Year's Day? Imagine the excitement and caliber of a Florida-USC spectacle.

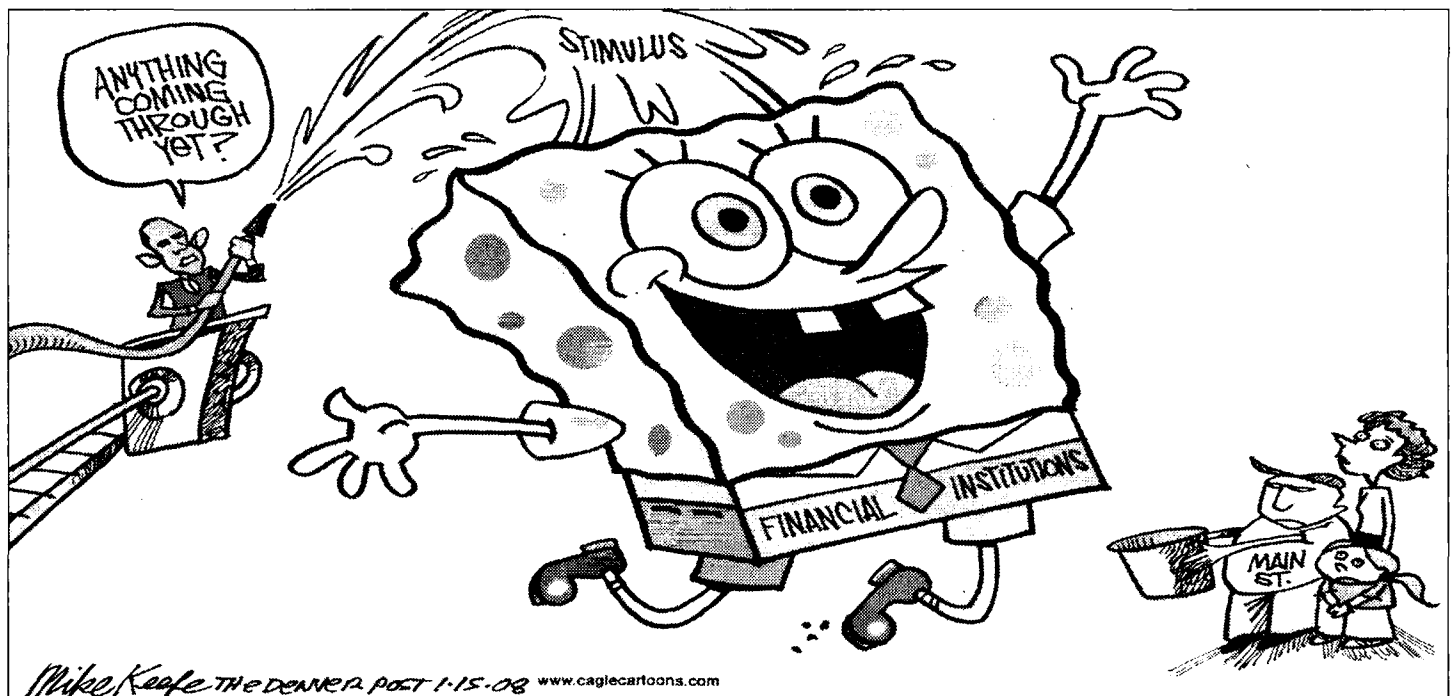
Nothing in this new BCP proposal lessens the existing system except that two fewer teams would play in a bowl since the final two slots would be determined in other bowls a week before the championship game. It is more likely that a team such as Notre Dame with a 6-6 record this year would not be invited to a bowl unless another bowl was established. That is hardly a consideration when determining who plays in a championship playoff.

Now, the university presidents and bowl sponsors need to weigh the benefits of a BCP. Sending the top four teams into a playoff is fair and lucrative with more bowls participating in the championship, more teams vying to play for the championship and a more definitive way of crowning the champion. The BCP is so simple, even an academic can understand its benefits.

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

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me."

Noel Coward
English actor

Submit a Letter
to the Editor at

www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Dignity consists not in possessing honors, but in the consciousness that we deserve them."

Aristotle
Greek philosopher

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Diversity needed in metal

Dear Mr. Miller,

Your article in Wednesday's Observer ("A simple plea," Jan. 14) piqued my interest. You see, like your friend Paul, I, too, am an avid listener of heavy metal. And while I agree that there is a cancer growing on the music industry, your characterization of it is wholly inaccurate.

You claim that the music industry has manufactured genres in order to sell terrible music to easily malleable music fans. While this may be true, one of the primary laws of economics is that of supply and demand. Listeners would not be buying this "garbage," as you so subtly referred to it, if there were not a demand for it. Hawthorne Heights would not write songs like Ohio Is For Lovers (arguably the worst musical abortion ever foisted upon innocent radio listeners) were it not for the fact that there are thousands of black-wearing, MySpace-utilizing, poetry-reading Tim Burton-imitating emo fans.

My second point is this: you say that "genre-fication" is artificial. It may be in some mainstream music, but certainly not in metal. The reason there are so many metal genres is because of the style's rich history and divergent musical paths. A well-versed jazz listener can tell you the difference between early, middle and late-period John Coltrane records, and can discuss the particulars of the subtle musical arrangements on Miles Davis' "Kind of Blue."

Likewise, an educated metalhead can discourse at length on the variations in style

between Cannibal Corpse's early "Tomb of the Mutilated" and the more recent (and succinctly titled) "Kill." The worst examples of industry-based "genre-fication" in metal are insignificant compared to the revolting qualities of American Idol and any given song on pop radio stations.

At the very worst, you'll hear people at concerts discussing whether a band is deathcore or death metal, or perhaps you'll find a sticker on a CD that demands you purchase it if you like "Slayer, Lamb of God and Mastodon!" Compare this to the last 20 years of pop radio, which have largely been based upon bands saying, "Hey, remember that Nirvana song with the four chords? Let's do that for 12 tracks!"

In conclusion, dear sir, if you want an example of "genre-fication," avert your eyes from metal and stare into the deep, dark recesses of the pop and rap music industries. Oh, and as for metal being the "most annoying form of music out there," I submit to you every Akon song ever written, which you can frequently hear being blared at 4 a.m. out of the dorm room next to mine.

Now I'll go back to listening to The Dillinger Escape Plan (mathcore — yes, it's a genre), Opeth (progressive death metal) and Decapitated (technical death metal).

Patrick Hernandez
 freshman
 Dillon Hall
 Jan. 14

ND a good employer?

In Dec., Notre Dame received the 2008 Business of the Year Award from the Michiana Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM). Those in the administrative offices, the Office of Human Resources, Bob McQuade and members of the Notre Dame family around the world had reason to celebrate.

Celebration ... we celebrate the victory for our University as a good business, and "among other things, its staff development and education programs, health care benefits." For this, Notre Dame has reason to be proud and to celebrate.

However, for just one moment, we must remember, according to Pope Pius XI, "in the first place, the worker must be paid a wage sufficient to support him [her] and his [her] family." Beyond health care, beyond staff development, Pius XI tells us, first, the worker must be able to support himself/herself and his/her family. Hence, when workers work mopping floors in office buildings downtown by day and at some building on our campus by night just to eat, they are not earning enough from their work at our University alone to support a family. When mothers barely spend a waking moment with their children because they work the night shift in our academic buildings and spend the day standing in lines with food stamps and sleeping when they can, we are not paying attention to the worker as a

person.

Pope John Paul II demands (making this not an optional choice), "We must pay more attention to the one who works that to what the worker does. The self-realization of the human person is the measure of what is right and wrong." The question remains then — does health care (while necessary and important) make up for the lack of a wage sufficient for living a dignified life — does staff development fill in the gaps where food stamps and poor living conditions cannot quite reach?

Hence, Congratulations Notre Dame, for being the Business of the Year of 2008, we are quite proud of you. It is our prayer and hope to the God of the powerful and of those who have not yet realized the power within themselves that in the coming year you might see what those workers you employ actually live through and experience on a daily basis outside of your grand buildings, floors perfectly carpeted and walls freshly painted before accepting such an honor.

We are ND, and are called to a higher standard than this. We may not settle for less than our best when the quality and dignity of human lives are at stake.

Alicia Quiros
 junior
 off campus
 Jan. 14

U-WIRE

File sharing helps more than it hurts

The thousands of students who illegally download music off the Internet should be feeling a little more secure. That's because last month, the Recording Industries Association of America — a trade group representing the major recording labels in the music industry — announced an end to its relentless campaign of filing expensive lawsuits against college students who engage in online file-sharing. Since 2003, the RIAA has specifically targeted college students because we are unlikely to fight the charges in court and will instead settle out of court for \$3,000 per case.

After dozens of lawsuits brought the RIAA bad press, including cases where the organization was found to be suing minors, the deceased, and even people without computers, the RIAA has finally changed its tune and is now asking individual Internet service providers to do the policing themselves. But just because the RIAA is done ripping off college students doesn't mean we should forget that file-sharing is still illegal. It's still possible to get in trouble with Internet service providers because they have the power to slow or stop Internet access for those who are downloading.

And that's a problem because file-sharing shouldn't be illegal, anyway. It's an easy philosophical argument. Stealing music over the Internet just isn't really stealing. Music is only information, and information can't be stolen in such a way that the original information is no longer available. If you take the disc — the physical disc that the information is on — then you've stolen because the owner no longer has access to that specific disk.

But just downloading a song online isn't technically stealing because you haven't prevented anyone else from accessing that information. What you did was essentially produce a copy — a copy that is the same as the original in every single way, but is still available to everyone else.

In response to this line of thinking comes a deluge of criticism that all boil down to this fear: the artists aren't getting credit for their music and they won't be able to make a living anymore, resulting in the demise of the industry. But this fear is unfounded. Despite what the RIAA claims, record sales are not diminishing substantially because of illegal downloads. The RIAA contends that every illegally downloaded song is lost revenue, but just because you downloaded a song doesn't mean you would have purchased it. A 2004 study conducted by economists entitled "The Effect of File Sharing on Record Sales" concluded that "downloads have an effect on sales which is statistically indistinguishable from zero."

It may even be true that file-sharing is good for the music industry. The online community is a great place for new artists to gain exposure. You may not be willing to buy a CD by a band you've never heard of, but you'd be more likely to download it and listen to it — and then maybe you'll recommend this band to a friend who will buy the CD or go to the band's concert. You might even buy a T-shirt.

Aside from the possible benefits of file-sharing, another good indication that downloading shouldn't be illegal is that so many people are doing it and very few people think it's wrong. The vast majority of American society does not break laws, and if many people are breaking them it probably means the laws are flawed, not the people. A study conducted by the Solutions Research Group in 2006 found that only 38 percent considered downloading a copyrighted song to be a "very serious offense." Are the people who responded to the survey just immoral thieves? Not really. In the same study, 78 percent of people surveyed said that taking a CD from a store without paying was a very serious offense. Fifty-nine percent considered parking in a fire lane to be very serious. So it's not that people are lawbreakers, it's just that laws against file-sharing are mostly pointless.

With the RIAA backing off college students, it may be tempting to forget about the legal status of file-sharing. Though fewer lawsuits is a welcome change, there's no reason that anyone should be punished for downloading, even with a punishment as trivial as a slowed Internet connection.

Punishing illegal downloading just isn't necessary at all, because far from stealing, file-sharers are actually giving musicians some positive press — and that's more than can be said for the RIAA.

This column first appeared in the Jan. 13 edition of The Michigan Daily, the daily paper of the University of Michigan.

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

Robert Soave

University of
 Michigan
 Michigan
 Daily

Help wanted.

Submit a Letter to the Editor.

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Turbulent 'underground' to light up Decio mainstage

MARY JESSE | Observer Graphic

By ANALISE LIPARI
Scene Editor

January's offerings at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center are off to a strong start tonight at 7 when the David Dorfman Dance opens a three-night run of its latest program, "underground." First performed at the 2006 American Dance Festival, "underground" takes its cues from the turbulence of 1960s politics.

Black, white and shades of gray in American activism inspired the company to take to the stage with "underground," which is now touring nationally. The program explores the context and activities of the Weather Underground with an energetic, rock-heavy score and exuberant choreography. "Underground," through the medium of dance, seeks to ask questions about where the lines blur between activism and terrorism. Does an idealized political end justify violent means? The New York Times has called the program "a brave, ambitious departure from the norm," and it is sure to excite and intrigue audiences in the Decio Mainstage Theatre tonight.

"Underground" will engage a variety of media throughout the performance. With

a score by Jonathan Bepler, a video design by Jacob Pinholster (whose credits include "Wicked" and "Spamalot"), and frequent use of integrated text, dialogue and protest footage, "underground" reflects the company's love of cross-disciplinary, collaborative performance art.

Surprisingly, these diverging elements work together to form a cohesive whole. "[They] don't feel like artsy indulgences,"

Joy Goodwin wrote in the New York Sun after the November 2006 premiere of "underground" at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. "They feel like building blocks of a lean, highly visceral theatrical experience."

In a statement on the company's Web site, Dorfman recalls being a young teenager during the Weather Underground's high profile series of riots, the "Days of Rage" in Chicago.

"Although I was only 13," he says, "too young to be protesting in the Chicago streets, I remember being awed by the audacity of the Weathermen."

It is in the legacy of the group, however — in its "principles, and also in its foibles and its regrets" — that Dorfman finds the inspiration for "underground." "[The program] will explore the inside world of political activism, asking the questions: when can activism become terrorism ... and is condoned or endorsed

killing/destruction ever justified?"

The show's run at the Decio Mainstage will also feature a "talk back" session with David Dorfman after each performance. Audiences members will have the chance to speak to Dorfman himself about the substance and style of "underground" in what will likely be a question-and-answer format.

David Dorfman Dance will no doubt challenge, engage, and

Founded in 1969, the Weather Underground was an activist-turned-terrorist offshoot of the Students for a Democratic Society. The Weathermen, who took their name from a line in the Bob Dylan song "Subterranean Homesick Blues," are best known for a series of bombings and riots that lasted until the mid 1970s.

The group resurfaced in the media recently after a connection between then-presidential candidate Barack Obama and William Ayers, a founding member, garnered media attention.

The Browning Cinema also recently aired two films related to the

Weathermen: the 2002 documentary "The Weather Underground," and the 2008 film "Chicago 10." Audiences looking for more background on the movement can watch either film to prepare for the David Dorfman Dance performance.

David Dorfman Dance is a New York-based dance company which has performed throughout Europe and the Americas. In the company's twenty-four year history, it has produced both artistic productions, including 2004's "Impending Joy," and community-based dance projects both in New York City and nationwide.

Performances begin tonight at 7 p.m. in the Decio Mainstage Theatre. There are also shows on Friday at 7 p.m., and Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$40 for general admission, \$32 for faculty and staff, \$30 for seniors and \$15 for all students. Contact the box office at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center at performingarts.nd.edu for more information.

Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu

David Dorfman
Dance
"underground"
Tonight
7 p.m.
Decio Mainstage
Theatre



Awards Season Right Around the Corner

MARY JESSE | Observer Graphic

By STEPHANIE DePREZ
Assistant Scene Editor

It is an honorable thing to celebrate baseball season. My roommate avidly celebrates hockey season. We all gleefully (if not nervously) await football season. But this, my friends, is the greatest season of all. Basketball season? Oh, no! It's awards season! This fabulous time of year comes around every January — the glorious reprieve from the winter doldrums of post-Christmas time. While others are taking down holly and packing up lights, Hollywood is rolling out the red carpet and shopping for diamonds. Competition to win everything from an Oscar to Best Dressed is in the air, and it is the grandest of spectator sports.

Awards season begins with the Golden Globes, kicking off the festivities in early January. They usually do a pretty good job of predicting the heavy hitters of the Hollywood Super Bowl held the last Sunday in February, the Academy Awards. In between we have the SAGs, the awards given by the Screen Actors Guild. Here's a breakdown of each awards ceremonies.

The Golden Globes are awards given out by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, or HFPA. Hence all the winners thanking the "Hollywood Foreign Press." But who are these mad men (and women)? They are a group of about 90 journalists who are based out of southern California and write about — you guessed it — movies and television. They attend all the usual press conferences and screenings surrounding the promotion of a picture. At the end of the year they get together and vote on the best of the best from television and motion pictures and host the Golden Globe Awards, which is basically just a big televised charity dinner. The HFPA is mostly funded by the Golden Globes, and they donate the money from the ceremony to various entertainment related charities. The lesson here? If a bunch of people with the power to control the critical reception of your film tell you they want to host their own awards show, you go with it.

The Screen Actors Guild is the union for Actors who, well, do screen work (as opposed to stage), which ranges from movies to video games. They are the actor's counterpoint to the lovely association of writers who halted Hollywood last year with a strike and left us

lacking a Golden Globes ceremony. Like the Writer's Guild of America (WGA), SAG has been threatening to go on strike for pretty much the same reasons as WGA did last year, with internet rights and compensation for new electronic and alternative forms of distribution of their films. So far there has been no strike, but SAG is not yet content, and with good reason. Keep your eyes on these guys and let's pray it gets resolved nicely so we won't have another bleak season of never-ending reruns.

The SAG awards are voted on by over 100,000 members. This is, for all intents and purpose, the most democratic awards ceremony. It is for actors by actors. It includes funky little categories like Best Stunt Ensemble. It also has my personally favorite categories: Best Comedy Series Ensemble, Best Drama Series Ensemble and Best Motion Picture Cast. These air Sunday, January 25th.

Then comes the Big One, the Mother Load of Cinema Awards: the Oscars! Hosted by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, these awards are historically the most significant and the ones people dream of winning. This is the only ceremony with its own broadcast of the nominee announcements, which

will be Jan. 22 at 8:30a.m. The Academy Awards will be held February 22.

The Academy was founded in 1927 by a bunch of Hollywood big wigs, and has about 6,000 members of producers, directors, actors, art directors and cinematographers. These guys are the cream of the crop in the cinema world and have a legacy longer than the HFPA or SAG, and therefore command the most respect when they decide to dole out awards. Their awards are strictly motion picture oriented, so sorry, Tina, you can't pick up anything here. Unless of course they invent a category called We Thought Tina Fey Needed Another Award, which is always possible. But the real question is, why are they called the Oscars? Well, legend has it Margaret Herrick, Executive Secretary of the Academy back in the day, saw one of the first statuettes and said it reminded her of her Uncle Oscar.

So there you have it, awards season enthusiasts. Go forth, now, and watch knowledgeably, root fiercely and bask delightedly in all the glitz and glamour of the next two months.

Contact Stephanie DePrez at sdeprez@nd.edu

Weekend Events Calendar

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

Let the Right One in (2008), 6:30 p.m., Browning Cinema

If you are a fan of "Twilight," this movie might just be the thing to satisfy your craving for another vampire-human love story. Edward Cullen. In this film, 12-year-old Oskar is the victim of incessant bullying from his intimidating and condescending peers, but that all changes once he befriends fellow 12-year-old Eli who has been stuck as a pre-teen for many more years than normal. With the arrival of Eli also comes the arrival of suspicious disappearances and gruesome murders, an indicator of what might come when she eventually steps up to defend Oskar. Be prepared to find yourself on an emotional rollercoaster as you contemplate the complex friendship these two children have formed and the decisions they make as they figure out life's difficulties and their own blossoming love. Tickets are \$6, \$5 faculty/staff and \$3 for all students.

Body of Lies, 8:00 and 10:30 p.m., 101 Debartolo

Looking for a fast pace thriller with twists and turns? Check out the latest film by award winning director Ridley Scott (Gladiator, American Gangster, Black Hawk Down), "Body of Lies." The film pits CIA operative Roger Ferris (Leonardo DiCaprio) against his handler Ed Hoffman (Russell Crowe) when Hoffman goes behind Ferris' back on a counter-terrorist operation in Jordan nearly getting Ferris killed and straining the operative's relationship with the head of the Jordanian General Intelligence Department, Hani Salaam (Mark Strong). Things get tense when Ferris falls in love with a Jordanian hospital nurse, Aisha (Golshifteh Farahani), and she is kidnapped. Tickets are \$3.

Synecdoche, New York (2008), 6:30 p.m., Browning Cinema

Philip Seymour Hoffman, a chameleon of sorts whose recent roles have ranged from a blunt case officer and division chief for the CIA in "Charlie Wilson's War" to a possibly homosexual priest in "Doubt," steals the show as a theater director in "Synecdoche, New York." The movie's title plays with words by rhyming with the location of the movie, Schenectady, New York. Director, Caden Cotard (Hoffman) runs into a midlife crisis when his wife leaves him, his relationship with a new interest falls apart and his health deteriorates. To move past these negative barriers he changes location and pours his soul into the production of his theater masterpiece. Audiences will want to both laugh and cry in this tragicomedy that tails the life of a man dealing with the everyday battles of life. Tickets are \$6, \$5 faculty/staff and \$3 for all students.

Sherlock Holmes the Final Adventure, 3:00 p.m., Elkhart Civic Theatre

A performance full of danger, humor and a good dose of surprise that will keep audiences intrigued as they follow the story of the famous fictional detective Sherlock Holmes's final adventure. When the King of Bohemia is about to be blackmailed by the famous opera singer Irene Adler, Holmes and his trusty sidekick Doctor Watson jump into the mix solving crimes and simultaneously trying to win hearts as they get mixed up in this mess of a case. Explore, discover and laugh with these two well-loved characters at the Elkhart Civic Theatre this weekend in an adaptation that promises nothing less than a good dose of quality entertainment. Tickets are \$13 for adults and \$11 for students and seniors.

Contact Adriana Pratt at apratt@nd.edu

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

Dining Hall Dish

By **MICHELLE FORDICE**
Assistant Scene Editor

Welcome back! Yes, it's time to put our noses to the grindstone again and carry on with the rest of the year. Soon the work is going to be piling up like the snow outside, so make sure you use your meals to take a real break from the day.

School can be stressful; it is important to take an hour for dinner, enjoy time with your friends, and take advantage of the chance to eat something tasty. Endeavor to make sure your meals aren't just another task in the day but something you can enjoy. And as always, Dining Hall Dish is here to help. This week's recipes:

Double Decker Taco

This is an easy way to diversify your trip to the Mexican bar. Popularized by the ever present Taco Bell chain, double-decker tacos are a fairly successful attempt to jazz up the tried and true entrée. Thanks to Charlie Vogelheim for submitting this idea.

1. Head to the Mexican bar and select a taco shell and one of the small flour tortillas.
2. Fill it up with your favorite ingredients: beef or chicken, cheese, lettuce, tomato, salsa and beans. If you want to make it a bit healthier, try using beans from the salad bar rather than the refried beans (though they are pretty delicious).
3. Spread a thin layer of refried beans onto the tortilla.
4. Wrap the tortilla around the taco shell. For another twist, add cheddar cheese on top of the

refried beans and tortilla. Melt it in the microwave before wrapping it around the shell.

Southwestern Chicken Salad

Some sort of southwestern salad is featured on a lot of menus in restaurants. Here's one you can pull off in the dining hall.

Thanks to Charlie Vogelheim for inspiring this recipe and creating the dressing.

1. Fill a bowl with romaine lettuce, chicken (either use the diced chicken from the Mexican bar or shred your own from some of the grilled chicken breasts), corn, diced tomatoes, black beans, cheddar cheese and bell peppers (you may have to dice these.)
2. Select a few apple slices, dice them up, and add them to the salad.

3. For the dressing: mix one part ranch dressing with the chipotle sauce found by the Mexican bar and then drizzle in a little bit of barbeque sauce.

4. Top with either a crushed taco shell, or grill a flour tortilla in the Panini maker until it is brown and crispy and shred over the top (or serve on the side).

Quick Tip

Crave those chicken poppers but made a New Year's resolution to eat a little healthier? Use them as a topping to a salad. You'll get to enjoy them while getting your vegetables, plus you won't need as many or the sauces.

Have your own dining hall recipe? We would love to feature it! E-mail Michelle Fordice at mfordice@nd.edu.

NCAA BASKETBALL

After delay, Pitt holds on to No. 1 at home

Spartans survive scare from upset-minded Nittany Lions; Duke overcomes poor shooting to beat Georgia Tech

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The game started late — and, for the second time in four days, so did top-ranked Pittsburgh.

Tyrell Biggs was Pitt's leading scorer the first time in his career with 16 points, and the Panthers struggled early for the second time in as many games since reaching No. 1 before pulling away to beat South Florida 75-62 on Wednesday night.

"Teams are going to play us tough," said point guard Levance Fields, who had 11 points and 13 assists. "Everybody expects us to win by 20 or 30 points, but the (Big East) conference just isn't like that."

Sam Young scored 14 points and DeJuan Blair had 13 points and 18 rebounds to help Pittsburgh (16-0, 4-0) achieve the third-best start in school history. The 1927-28 team went 21-0 and coach Jamie Dixon's 2003-04 team was 18-0 during his first season.

The start was delayed 20 minutes by a rush-hour snowstorm that clogged city streets and caused South Florida's bus and the game officials to arrive late. Dixon got within two blocks of the Petersen Events Center, sat for 30 minutes and finally parked because of the standstill traffic.

"We looked a little laid back — no more of them (late starts)," Blair said, smiling. "You've got to get here on time or something. They came out shooting good and our defense was sluggish."

The Panthers did much the same thing against St. John's on Sunday, leading 41-36 at halftime before going on to win 90-67.

With Blair constantly helping them get second-chance points, the Panthers shot 29-of-59 (49.2 percent) — 10-of-18 (55.6 percent) from 3-point range after they came in shooting 34.1 percent. Blair, the nation's leading offensive rebound-

er, has 50 rebounds in his last three games — an average of more than 16 per game.

"I've been waiting for us to get that going, the 3-point shooting," Dixon said. "We're not going to lead the nation in it, but we're getting better."

Dominique Jones and Augustus Gilchrist scored 22 points each and Chris Howard had 13 for South Florida (6-10, 1-3), which repeatedly had trouble getting more than one shot on any possession while being outrebounded 37-23.

The Bulls, playing a No. 1 team for the third time in school history, might have gotten a burst of confidence from an 80-58 win at DePaul on Saturday — only their second Big East road win. But they couldn't sustain several comebacks and finally fell behind by as many as 17.

"They taught a lesson in how to rebound," coach Stan Heath said. "We would get a defensive stop, you'd think we were in good shape, but Blair would go get it."

South Florida's other games against No. 1 teams were a 75-39 loss to North Carolina on Dec. 12, 1981, and an 89-72 loss to Cincinnati on Jan. 29, 2000. The Bulls have lost 24 consecutive road games against ranked teams.

Pitt plays its next five games against teams that are or recently were nationally ranked, starting Saturday at No. 20 Louisville. The Panthers didn't figure to have much trouble against South Florida, which is 8-46 in Big East play, 2-25 on the road.

But the Bulls hit a succession of off-balance and tough-angle shots to rally from deficits of 7-0, 16-7 and 30-22 to keep the game close, and trailed only 41-39 early in the second half — causing a few nervous fans in the late-arriving crowd of 12,508 to wonder when the real Panthers would show up.

That happened when Pitt went on a 15-4 run to stretch a 47-44 lead into a more comfortable 62-48

advantage with 8:51 remaining. Fields hit a 3-pointer with 15:18 remaining to make it 50-44 and Biggs scored ahead of Brad Wanamaker's 3-pointer that gave Pitt its first double-digit lead at 55-44. Young's 3 pushed it to 60-47.

Biggs' career high was 19 points last season, but he wasn't the leading scorer in that game.

"Is that right?" Biggs, a 6-foot-8 senior, said of his first team-leading performance. "Well, that's good."

Among those finally reaching the arena was Steelers wide receiver Santonio Holmes, a former Ohio State player who sat in the student section and wore an "Oakland Zoo" T-shirt, like the 1,500 students who ring the courtside section for each game.

Michigan State 78, Penn State 73

Two of the Big Ten's best young point guards duelled down the stretch of a tight game.

In the end, Michigan State's Kalin Lucas stepped up at the free throw line to stave off a furious comeback by Penn State and counterpart Talor Battle.

Lucas went 6-of-8 from the line in the final 2 minutes and Raymar Morgan scored 17 points as the seventh-ranked Spartans nearly gave up a 17-point lead before holding on for a victory Wednesday night.

"We had our hands full," Michigan State coach Tom Izzo said. "We were lucky to win."

Goran Suton added 13 points and 14 rebounds for the Spartans (14-2, 4-0 Big Ten), who won their 10th straight and are off to their best conference start since 1977-78.

Down by 17 points with 13:39 left, Penn State (13-5, 2-3) mounted a furious comeback, getting within 71-70 with 1:30 left after an off-balance 3 from Battle.

He fell to the court as the shot went through the hoop, whipping the crowd into a frenzied chorus of "Let's go State!"

"That run may not have been as possible without those guys cheering us on, giving us that little extra boost," said Battle, who credited the more athletic Spartans for tiring Penn State out early.

"We had them right there on the ropes," Battle said.

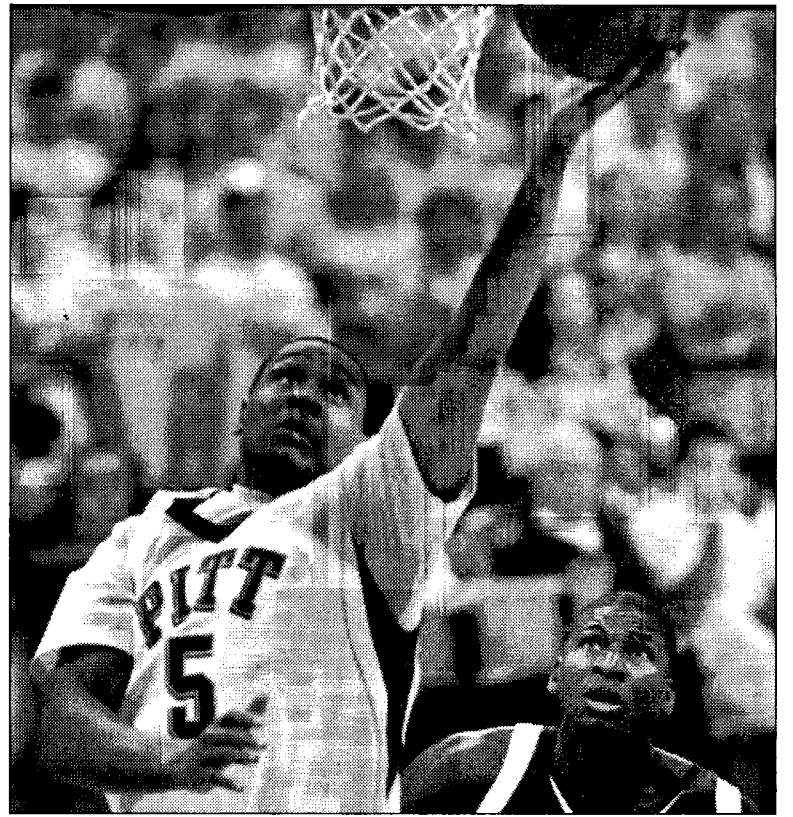
But the Nittany Lions couldn't break through as Lucas, who finished with 15 points, hit four free throws after Battle's 3.

Both Battle and Lucas are lightning-quick sophomore guards who can blow by defenders and create open shots for teammates. They're two of the top scoring guards in the Big Ten.

Jamelle Cornley led the Nittany Lions with a career-high 26 points, while Battle finished with 20.

But Lucas had a little more help, with four Spartans scoring in double figures.

In typical Michigan State fashion,



Pittsburgh's Tyrell Biggs goes up for a layup in front of South Florida's Mobolaji Ajayi in the first half of the Panthers' 75-63 win Wednesday

the Spartans also outrebounded Penn State 41-24. They controlled the lane, especially during a 26-8 run over the last 11:10 of the first half, which included a 7-minute field goal drought for Penn State.

The Spartans seemingly couldn't miss, getting easy drives and hitting open jumpers in taking a 42-29 halftime lead. The lead climbed to 55-38 after Durrell Summers' free throw with 13:39 left in the game.

"We stopped defending, I guess," Battle said. "Coach (Ed DeChellis) was livid at us at halftime."

DeChellis was a little more subdued after the game.

"I don't know what word we used, but I just wasn't happy with our defense in the first half," he said. "I thought we were playing against them instead of them playing against us."

Penn State played dreadful spurts of interior defense midway through the game before clamping down in the second half, setting up the tense closing minutes between Lucas and Battle.

Battle hit a jumper to close the deficit to four with 3:33 left.

Then he darted into the lane before hitting Cornley for an open layup to get within 69-67 with about 2:30 left.

Izzo said his team suffered from offensive lulls, and got frustrated by Battle down the stretch.

"Yeah, I'm disappointed we're still not finishing," Izzo said. "We have to do a better job of finishing."

The loss snapped Penn State's seven-game winning streak at home against Big Ten opponents.

Duke 70, Georgia Tech 56

Duke picked the right opponent to have a miserable night shooting.

Gerald Henderson and Kyle Singler scored 19 points each and the third-ranked Blue Devils overcame their worst shooting game of the season in their seventh straight victory, pulling away for a win over sloppy Georgia Tech on Wednesday night.

Duke (15-1, 3-0 Atlantic Coast Conference) was just 23-of-59 from the field, a 39-percent performance that would have been enough to get them beat on many nights. Not this one.

Georgia Tech (9-7, 0-3) turned it over 18 times, went only 7-of-19 from the free throw line and started with three straight ACC losses for the second straight season.

Lewis Clinch hit a 3-pointer that pulled the Yellow Jackets within 46-41 with just over 8 minutes remaining. But Jon Scheyer hit twice from beyond the arc and Henderson also swished a 3, stretching the margin far beyond comeback range for a team of Georgia Tech's limited offensive skills.

Zachery Peacock, with 13 points, was the only player in double figures for the Yellow Jackets, who were a little more accurate from the field (41 percent) than they were from the line (37 percent).

Duke's previous worst shooting effort was a 41 percent against Virginia Tech on Jan. 4. But the Blue Devils, who also started dismally at the line, hit enough free throws down the stretch to bury the Yellow Jackets.

Georgia Tech surprisingly led through most of the first half, building its largest lead when Peacock laid it in off a nifty pass from Lewis Clinch to make it 23-15 about 12 minutes into the game.



Duke's David McClure and Georgia Tech's Nick Foreman battle for a rebound during the second half of Duke's 70-56 win Wednesday.

CLASSIFIEDS

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We were both young when I first saw you

I close my eyes
And the flashback starts

I'm standing there

On a balcony of summer air

See the lights, See the party, the ball gowns

I see you make your way through the crowd

You say hello

Little did I know

That you were Romeo you were throwing pebbles

And my daddy said stay away from Juliet

And I was crying on the staircase
Begging you please don't go

Romeo take me somewhere we can be alone

I'll be waiting all there's left to do is run

You'll be the prince and I'll be the princess

It's a love story baby just say yes

AROUND THE NATION

Thursday, January 15, 2009

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 13

Men's Basketball

USA Today/ESPN Top 25

team	points	previous
1 Pittsburgh	773	1
2 Duke	729	2
3 Wake Forest	725	4
4 Connecticut	660	5
5 Oklahoma	617	6
6 North Carolina	611	3
7 UCLA	576	7
8 Syracuse	560	9
9 Clemson	528	11
10 Michigan State	503	12
11 Texas	421	7
12 Georgetown	365	10
13 NOTRE DAME	363	13
14 Marquette	353	15
15 Arizona State	328	16
16 Xavier	279	18
17 Minnesota	262	19
18 Butler	256	20
19 Purdue	182	14
20 Louisville	173	21
21 Baylor	159	23
22 Villanova	110	17
23 California	109	NR
24 Michigan	78	NR
25 St. Mary's (CA)	62	NR

Women's Basketball

USA Today/ESPN Top 25

team	points	previous
1 Connecticut	775	1
2 North Carolina	744	2
3 Oklahoma	701	3
4 NOTRE DAME	656	4
5 Baylor	638	5
6 Texas A&M	600	6
7 Stanford	580	7
8 Auburn	559	8
9 California	517	9
10 Duke	516	10
11 Louisville	498	12
12 Virginia	415	14
13 Ohio State	378	17
14 Kansas State	340	18
15 Tennessee	333	11
16 Maryland	326	15
17 Texas	292	12
18 Vanderbilt	229	24
19 Florida	203	19
20 Iowa State	180	25
21 South Dakota State	133	23
22 Oklahoma State	95	21
23 Rutgers	75	16
24 Xavier	54	NR
25 Georgia Tech	46	22

MIAA Basketball Conference Standings

team	conference record
1 SAINT MARY'S	6-0
2 Hope	4-1
3 Adrian	3-2
4 Alma	3-2
5 Calvin	2-3
6 Albion	2-3
7 Olivet	2-3
8 Trine	2-4
9 Kalamazoo	0-6

NCAA FOOTBALL



Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford drops back to pass during the first quarter of the Sooners' win over Missouri in the Big 12 Championship game. The Heisman trophy winner announced that he will return for his junior year.

Bradford staying at Oklahoma

Associated Press

NORMAN, Okla. — Heisman Trophy winner Sam Bradford wasn't ready to give up the life of a college quarterback — not without a national championship.

The third-year sophomore quarterback will return to Oklahoma next season, passing on a chance to be a high NFL draft pick.

"I've dreamed about playing at Oklahoma since I was little, and my three years here have been probably three of the best years of my life, and I really feel that there's no need to cut this experience short,"

Bradford said Wednesday at a news conference.

"I'm really looking forward to coming back and competing for a fourth straight Big 12 championship and another opportunity at a national championship."

His return also means another shot at a Heisman Trophy. Archie Griffin of Ohio State is the only player to win two Heismans. Florida quarterback Tim Tebow, the 2007 winner, finished third behind Bradford in the Heisman voting this season.

For the first time, the top-three vote-getters for the Heisman Trophy will return to college football.

Tebow announced his intentions Sunday and Texas quarterback Colt McCoy said he'd be back for his senior season long before the Longhorns won the Fiesta Bowl.

Bradford led the nation with 50 touchdown passes and a quarterback rating of 180.8. He likely would have been one of the first quarterbacks taken in April's draft.

Instead, Bradford will take another run at a national championship with Oklahoma. The record-breaking quarterback led the Sooners to the BCS championship game this season, but they lost 24-14 to Florida.

"Obviously it's frustrating to end with a loss and I want to come back and finish my career the right way: on a win," Bradford said. "I would say it had a little bit of an influence on my decision, but I really tried to keep that out of my mind because that could have limited myself to making the best decision for me."

Bradford also let it slip that tight end Jermaine Gresham and offensive lineman Trent Williams also decided not to enter the draft early. Defensive tackle Gerald McCoy has also said he'll be back for another season with the Sooners.

IN BRIEF

Jury sides with Burress on damage to borrowed car

LEBANON, Pa. — A Pennsylvania jury has sided with Plaxico Burress in a dispute over how much the New York Giants star should pay in damages for a car he borrowed that ended up getting impounded by New York City police.

A jury in Lebanon County civil court decided Wednesday that Burress owes \$1,700 in damages, far less than the \$19,000 sought by the dealer who loaned the car to Burress.

Burress declined to comment afterward and was followed by a small crowd of fans seeking autographs.

Burress testified that his agent arranged for the Chevrolet Avalanche in 2005. Burress disputed that he had agreed to make personal appearances for the dealership.

New York police later impounded the truck after it was connected to a shooting incident.

Mets' Santana unsure if he'll pitch in WBC

NEW YORK — Johan Santana is unsure whether he'll be able to pitch in the World Baseball Classic following offseason knee surgery.

The two-time Cy Young Award winner said Wednesday he'd love to play for his native Venezuela in March, but the New York Mets will determine whether to clear him for the WBC.

After a brilliant first season with the Mets, Santana had arthroscopic surgery Oct. 1 on torn cartilage in his left knee. He said he feels good and he might report about a week early to New York's spring training camp in Port St. Lucie, Fla., next month.

Several Mets stars are expected to take part in the WBC, including David Wright, Jose Reyes, Carlos Beltran, Carlos Delgado, Francisco Rodriguez and reliever Pedro Feliciano.

Venezuela's first game in the WBC is March 7 against Italy in Toronto.

Irvin calmly chats with gunman about Cowboys

DALLAS — Hall of Fame receiver Michael Irvin says he calmly chatted with a gunman in another vehicle after the armed passenger turned out to be a Dallas Cowboys fan.

Irvin, who was not harmed, says he was "very afraid."

A Dallas police report says Irvin was stopped at a red light Monday night when two men in a truck pulled up next to him.

The driver rolled down his window, so Irvin did the same, thinking the two men recognized the radio talk show host and television commentator.

The passenger flashed a gun. Then the retired NFL star heard one of them call out his name and mentioned being a "huge Cowboy fan."

Irvin says he began talking with the men about the team's disappointing 9-7 season and Dallas not making it to the Super Bowl.

The pair eventually drove off.

around the dial

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Suns at Nuggets
10:30 p.m., TNT

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NFL

Pats' Pioli hired as Chiefs GM

Architect of New England dynasty hopes to resurrect 2-14 team

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Scott Pioli, who helped build and lead a dynasty in New England, is now in charge of a Kansas City franchise which hasn't won a playoff game in 14 years.

The 43-year-old Pioli will be introduced on Wednesday as Chiefs general manager, replacing Carl Peterson.

"He will have complete charge of football operations," Ryan Petkoff, a spokesman for Chiefs chairman Clark Hunt, told The Associated Press. "He will report only to Clark."

The fate of coach Herm Edwards and his staff was not immediately known.

Pioli, who became vice president of player personnel for the Patriots in 2002 and spent nine years working with head coach Bill Belichick, also interviewed for the general manager vacancy in Cleveland.

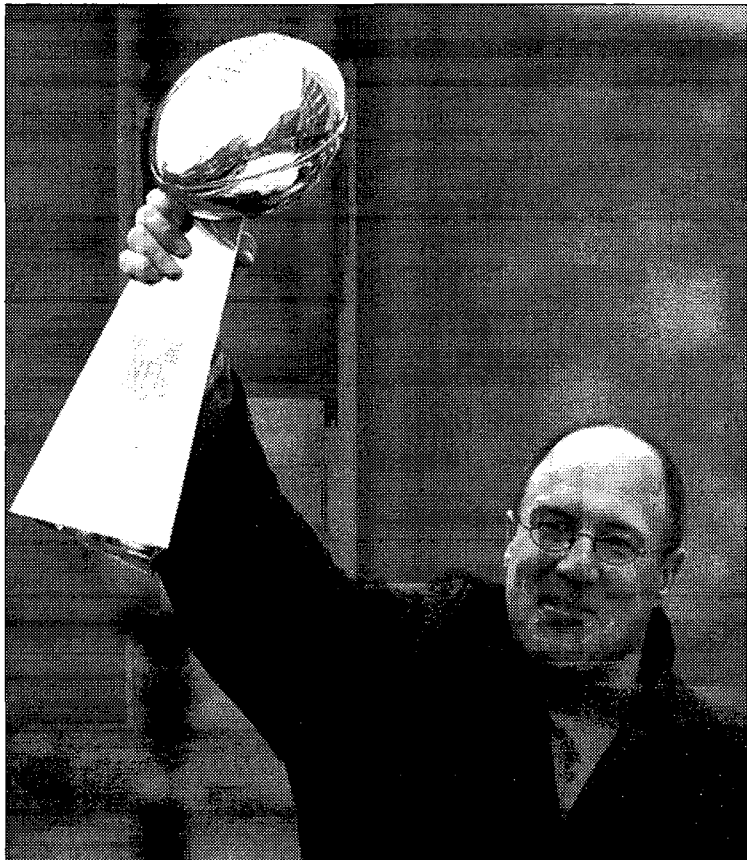
He inherits a young team coming off a 2-14 season, but is stepping into a situation that seems ripe for a quick turnaround.

The fan base is loyal, though restive, and the team will be playing next year in a virtually new stadium. Arrowhead, which opened in 1972 and is notorious for being loud and rough on visiting teams, is undergoing a \$325 million renovation, which includes new luxury boxes, wider concourses and enhanced amenities in addition to new practice facilities, an enlarged indoor field and a brand new state-of-the-art headquarters building.

In addition, the Chiefs are about \$32 million under the salary cap, extra money that will come in handy because KC owns the overall No. 3 pick in the draft. Besides that, there are a number of promising young players who Edwards was counting on as the foundation of his rebuilding project.

Pioli, the son-in-law of Miami Dolphins boss Bill Parcells, has been honored many times for his contributions to the Patriots' three Super Bowl championships. With Pioli working with Belichick, the Patriots used an effective mix-and-match of trades, free agent signings and draft selections to dominate the league. In 2007, six players drafted by Pioli and Belichick made the Pro Bowl.

"We are very excited to welcome Scott to the Chiefs," Hunt said in a statement. "With his proven track record of success, Scott is the finest player



Patriots vice president of player personnel Scott Pioli holds the Vince Lombardi trophy during New England's 2005 Super Bowl parade.

personnel executive in the NFL, and we look forward to his leadership in building a championship organization."

Patriots owner Robert Kraft praised Pioli as an "integral part of the many championships the New England Patriots have celebrated this decade."

"Scott is a great evaluator of talent," Kraft said. "He is thorough in his evaluations, extremely organized and has done a tremendous job mining all possible resources to help coach Belichick and his staff field the players needed to win consistently. He has played an important role in building a championship tradition with players that I am proud to call Patriots."

"Scott is a great evaluator of talent ... He has played an important role in building a championship tradition with players that I am proud to call Patriots."

Robert Kraft
Patriots owner

Pioli's NFL career started when Belichick hired him as a pro personnel assistant for the Browns in 1992. Belichick then brought him to New England shortly after he became head coach of the Patriots.

From 2000-08, the Patriots were an NFL-best 102-42 in the regular season and rang up 14 playoff wins.

"To sum up in words everything Scott Pioli has meant to this organization and to me personally would be difficult, if not impossible," said Belichick. "From the day I met him, he has demonstrated a passion for football and respect for the game that is second to none."

A club spokesman confirmed there had been no determination made on

Edwards' status. That may have been a point of discussion between Pioli and Hunt when they negotiated their deal. Hunt signed off on the rebuilding project that Edwards launched this year and said in training camp he knew it would be a painful process early on.

And it certainly was. Beset by injury, including season-ending mishaps to the top two quarterbacks, the Chiefs beat only Oakland and Denver and set a number of team records for defensive futility. Their 10 sacks were an NFL-low since the stat was kept beginning in 1981.

Yet, when he announced the resignation on Dec. 15 of president, CEO and general manager Peterson, Hunt said he thought Edwards was the best man for the Chiefs program going forward. But he also said the new general manager would have "significant input" into the final decision.

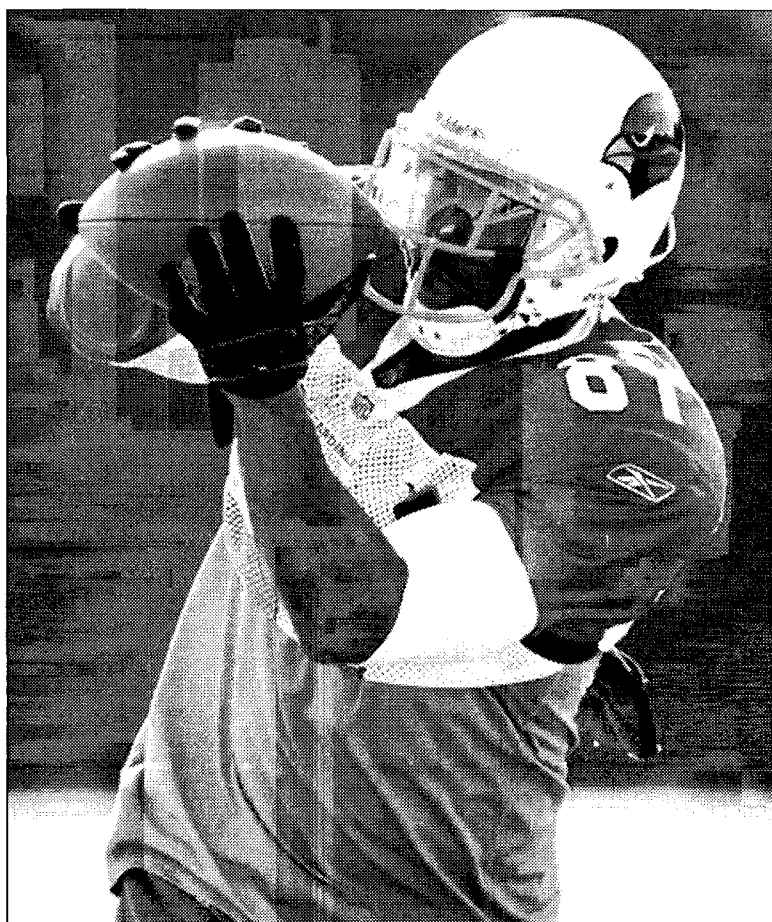
Edwards' first season in Kansas City was a hit. The Chiefs went 9-7 in 2006 and captured the last wild-card playoff spot. They were routed by Indianapolis, but Edwards was just the fifth man to take two different teams to the postseason in his first year; he also did it in 2001 with the Jets.

He wanted to begin dismantling an aging team and start rebuilding that next season, but ran into opposition from a front office that felt there was enough left for another playoff run. But after an encouraging 4-3 start, age and ineffectiveness at several key positions began creating problems. The Chiefs ended 2007 on a nine-game losing streak. Then Hunt agreed it was time to tear it down and rebuild.

Now Pioli takes charge of those efforts.

NFL

Boldin practices, may play Saturday



Cardinals receiver Anquan Boldin catches passes during practice Wednesday. Boldin may play in Saturday's NFC Championship.

Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Arizona receiver Anquan Boldin practiced Wednesday, and says he will play in Sunday's NFC championship game against the Philadelphia Eagles.

Boldin, who with Larry Fitzgerald forms arguably the best receiving tandem in football, said a trip to a Dallas chiropractor has greatly improved his strained left hamstring. The injury kept Boldin out of the Cardinals' 33-13 victory at Carolina in Saturday's divisional playoff game.

"I'll be out there Sunday," he said after practice.

Boldin said he was able to participate in all phases of practice, but in shorter spurts than normal.

He said he expected to be "real effective" in what would be the biggest game of his career.

"I don't see there being any problems, no hindrances or anything like that," Boldin said. "I'll just be myself and resume my regular role."

Coach Ken Whisenhunt held out final judgment on Boldin's status until he sees how the receiver does as the week progresses, but the coach was optimistic.

"If he continues to progress like we think he is, I have no doubts he would play," Whisenhunt said.

Boldin injured his hamstring on a 71-yard touchdown pass from Kurt Warner in the second quarter of Arizona's 30-24 wild card playoff victory over Atlanta. He tested the hamstring before the Carolina game and said he would have played if the team's medical staff had let him.

"Would it have been the smartest thing in the world? No," Boldin said, "but that's just me wanting to be on the field."

Boldin said the hamstring problem turned out to be related to a hip injury that sidelined him for three games last season.

"I thought it was just a hamstring but the way that my body responded told me that it was something different," Boldin said.

He flew to Dallas on Monday for treatment from chiropractor Robert Parker, whose patients include Boldin's former teammate Emmitt Smith. As Boldin explained, the earlier injury affected the muscles around the hip and eventually led to the hamstring problem.

"Muscles shut off, muscles around it worked extra hard," Boldin said. "...Correcting that and getting everything flowing the way it's supposed to helped out a lot. He told me once he set it straight it would be fine."

Boldin said he would do "as much as they allow me to" in practice this week.

"We're just playing it by ear right now," he said. "We're going to be smart about it because the ultimate goal is to play on Sunday."

He scoffed at any suggested that his participation would be limited.

"If I'm out there," Boldin said, "I'm out there."

Boldin caught 89 passes for 1,038 yards and 11 touchdowns in the regular season, despite missing four games with injuries.

His facial bones were fractured on a brutal hit from the New York Jets' Eric Smith on Sept. 28. Smith was fined \$50,000 and suspended a game because of the hit, although Boldin that it was "just football."

Boldin had seven plates and more than 40 screws inserted to repair the damage. Still, he missed only two games.

Such experiences make him grateful to be back.

"I'm thankful for every day I step out on the field," he said. "I've had a number of injuries that probably could have been career ending, but I've been given a second chance. Every time I step out I think of that."

He also cherishes another shot at the Eagles, because he felt he didn't play well in Philadelphia's 48-20 Thanksgiving night rout of Arizona.

"It's rare you get a second chance at anything," Boldin said, "so I'll make the most of it Sunday."

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

No sophomore slump for Maxwell

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Swimming against the top competition in the country is nothing new for sophomore Samantha Maxwell, who has picked up right where she left off at the end of her stellar freshman season.

A season after setting the Big East record in the 200-yard breaststroke and swimming in five events at the Big East Championship, Maxwell has led the Irish with her times in the 100 and 200-yard breaststroke, and has become a central factor on the 200 and 400-medley relays.

Nationally ranked while swimming for her high school's swim team in Chandler, Ariz., Maxwell was a four-time regional champion as well as a Junior National record holder in the 50-yard breaststroke, and earned All-American honors in each of her four high school seasons.

In her freshman season at Notre Dame, Maxwell's talent quickly became evident to her coaches and teammates, swimming in the 100 and 200-breaststroke, the 200 and 400-medley relays, as well as the 200-meter individual medley (IM).

"First off, [being on the team] has provided me with a group of quality teammates that I can not only train with, but be close friends with outside of the athletic scene," Maxwell said. "It has also put a lot of structure and support into my routine that I would not otherwise have."

Last season, Maxwell earned the chance to swim all five of her events in the Big East Championships, where she won the 200-breaststroke while setting a league and school record of 2:12.76. Her 100-yard breaststroke won second place with a 1:01.68, earning her a second school record, and helped her team place second in the 200 medley relay with a time of 1:48.84, breaking a third Irish record. Her reign over the pool continued as she received an invite to the NCAA championships, where she placed 30th overall in the 100-breast with a time of 1:02.36.

Maxwell has also made an impact outside of the Notre Dame sports community, as she swam the 100 and 200-breaststroke in the U.S. Olympic Trials.

"Swimming in these large meets has been really fun," Maxwell said. "Obviously, these meets bring the best competition available, but

they also bring great opportunities for swimmers to represent their programs. When you go to meets like NCAAs and Olympic Trials, people take notice of where you are from and its awesome to be able to represent Notre Dame in larger scale meets."

"Sam is just like any other successful athlete," Irish coach Brian Barnes said. "She is a very hard worker."

Maxwell's love of swimming started at a young age, and grew as she did.

"My parents put me in swimming because I was awful at every other sport I tried," Maxwell said. "When I started swimming I hated it, and my parents had to bribe me just to finish one lap without stopping. As I grew older and better little by little the sport just sort of stuck. I enjoyed the challenge of trying to move up to the next big meet or get another qualifying time."

Maxwell's parents weren't the only ones to encourage her to pursue her abilities in the pool. She recalls a coach from home, Dave Tait, as being the most influential person in her swimming career, and who fulfilled the role as her mentor as well as coach.

"When I was younger, Dave really stepped up and became an awesome coach," Maxwell said. "Through the years we worked very closely together as I learned how to be a better swimmer and he learned how to foster a growing team and help its swimmers crop their talent and be successful. The things he taught me never stopped in the pool, and he helped me learn life lessons as well along the way. This kept me wanting to swim and wanting to be better outside of the pool as well."

Swimming may not have been Maxwell's favorite sport at first, but now the thought of life without it is strange for her to think about.

"Life without swimming would be weird," Maxwell said. "The sport takes a lot of commitment and if I wasn't swimming, I would have all of a sudden have a lot of extra time. I'm not sure what I would do with it except maybe sleep."

At least for now, Maxwell plans on sticking with her sport. Not only does she love the sport itself, but also says her coach and teammates are what make getting in the pool every day worth it.

"Brian Barnes has stepped into this program and brought a lot of expertise and commitment that this team is really grateful for. It hasn't even been an entire

season, but it is apparent that he is dedicated to helping the girls on our team reach their goals and swim fast," she said. "What is awesome about Brian and his relationship with the girls on our team is that he knows what it takes to get the best out of each person individually and truly cares about their success. The girls on the team also make swimming for Notre Dame great. They are so supportive and work hard to not only push themselves but push their teammates to be better."

In her sophomore season, Maxwell has shown no signs of slowing down. In the Ohio State Invitational in December, she broke her own school records in the 100 and 200-breaststroke, posting times of 1:01.57 and 2:12.46, respectively.

Maxwell has proved that she is a force that competitors should look out for this season, and in future seasons on the Irish team. She has swum against the best, and only hopes to improve. Her goals for the season reflect her commitment to her sport, and to her team.

"My goals for this season are to go to the NCAA championships and really try to make an impact there. Last year I competed but didn't make it back for any second swims. This year I would like to be more competitive at that meet and make it back to the finals heats at night."

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NCAA FOOTBALL

Pitt's McCoy will enter '09 NFL draft

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Record-setting Pittsburgh running back LeSean McCoy is passing up his final two seasons of eligibility to enter the NFL draft.

McCoy broke several of Tony Dorsett's schools records while leading the Panthers to a 9-4 record and into the Sun Bowl.

McCoy told coach Dave Wannstedt of his decision in a phone call Wednesday. The two met last Friday, but a teary-eyed McCoy couldn't make up his mind. He delayed the decision again Monday.

"I have frequently played both choices in my mind. I have considered my alternatives and I have prayed," McCoy said in a statement issued by the school. "I have made my final decision and will forego my junior season."

NFL scouts project the 5-foot-11, 210-pound McCoy as a late first-round to early second-round pick.

Losing McCoy is a major setback to Pitt, which played in its first bowl game and had its first winning record in four seasons largely because of his running and a strong defense.

"When you have exceptionally gifted players, you realize the NFL can be a reality sooner rather than later," said Wannstedt, the former Bears and Dolphins coach. "Certainly that is the case with LeSean and we worked to make sure he had all the information needed to make the best decision about his pro prospects."

McCoy rushed for 1,488 yards

and 21 touchdowns this season, and 2,816 yards and 35 TDs in two seasons, or more yardage and touchdowns than former Heisman Trophy winner Dorsett had in his first two Pitt seasons.

This season, McCoy's top games included 183 yards against West Virginia, 169 against Notre Dame, 156 against Navy and 149 against Syracuse.

McCoy had 331 yards in two games against the Mountaineers, including 148 in Pitt's 13-9 upset win in 2007 that kept West Virginia out of the BCS title game.

"One of my goals in coming here was to help my teammates and coaches bring Pitt back to its rightful place among the prominent teams in college football," McCoy said.

In late November, McCoy said he would return to Pitt because he felt he needed more time to mature and had more to accomplish in college.

McCoy changed his mind following a 3-0 bowl game loss to Oregon State on Dec. 31, apparently after talking to former Pitt receiver Larry Fitzgerald of the Arizona Cardinals, among others. Fitzgerald, a former Heisman Trophy runner-up, also left Pitt after two seasons.

Pitt's staff believes McCoy began leaning toward leaving when he got away from his teammates and coaches and returned to his home in Harrisburg, Pa. The team's poor performance — the lowest-scoring bowl in 50 years — apparently did not influence his decision. He ran for 85 yards in the loss.

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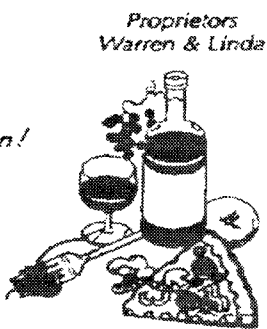
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NBA

Pacers, Knicks, Heat top 100 points in victories

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Danny Granger scored 24 points and made the tying shot late in regulation in the Indiana Pacers' 110-106 overtime victory over the Detroit Pistons on Wednesday night.

T.J. Ford scored 23 points, and Troy Murphy added 18 points and 13 rebounds to help the Pacers snap a three-game losing streak.

Rodney Stuckey led Detroit with 30 points, Allen Iverson had 23 points, and Rasheed Wallace added 17 points and 15 rebounds. The Pistons have lost three in a row.

It was Indiana's first overtime win in five tries this season.

Murphy's second 3-pointer of the extra period put the Pacers up 103-98 with just under 2 minutes to play.

Detroit's Antonio McDyess made a layup to cut it 103-100, but Ford came back with a jumper that bounced several times before going in with 38.5 seconds left to make it 105-100. The Pacers made five of seven free throws in the final 30 seconds.

The Pacers led 78-77 in the fourth quarter before Detroit's Arron Afflalo made a 3-pointer, then a layup to give Detroit an 82-78 lead.

Detroit led 92-87 before Indiana's Jarrett Jack made back-to-back mid-range jumpers to cut Detroit's lead to one at 92-91 with just over 2 minutes left in regulation.

With Detroit leading 93-91, Jack drove to the basket and missed a layup. He thought he was fouled, and was issued a technical foul for arguing the

no-call. Detroit's Tayshaun Prince missed the technical free throw, but Detroit retained possession because of the technical. Iverson missed a long jumper, but Prince rebounded. Prince missed a jumper, and Indiana's Jeff Foster rebounded with 11 seconds left to give Indiana a chance to tie or win.

Granger hit the tying jumper from near the free-throw line, over Prince with 3.9 seconds left. Detroit's Richard Hamilton missed an open jumper from the left baseline, but the ball went out of bounds off an Indiana player, and Detroit set up for a final chance with 0.7 seconds left. Wallace threw up an awkward shot that missed everything, and the game went to overtime.

Knicks 128, Wizards 122

NEW YORK — David Lee had 30 points and 10 rebounds, reserve Al Harrington scored 27 points, and the New York Knicks handed the Washington Wizards their sixth straight loss with a victory Wednesday night.

Quentin Richardson added 26 points for the Knicks, who have piled up the points in the first three meetings with the Wizards this season and can complete a season sweep by grabbing the back end of a home-and-home series Friday in Washington.

Chris Duhon finished with 17 points and nine assists for the Knicks, who averaged 118 points in their two earlier victories over Washington and were even better Wednesday. But they could never shake the Wizards until the final min-

utes. New York led by only three before Lee got a layup off an inbounds pass and Richardson followed with a 3-pointer to make it 119-111 with 1:25 remaining.

Lee, among the league leaders in rebounding and field goal percentage, added six assists. He was coming off a 24-point performance in the Knicks' surprising victory at New Orleans on Monday.

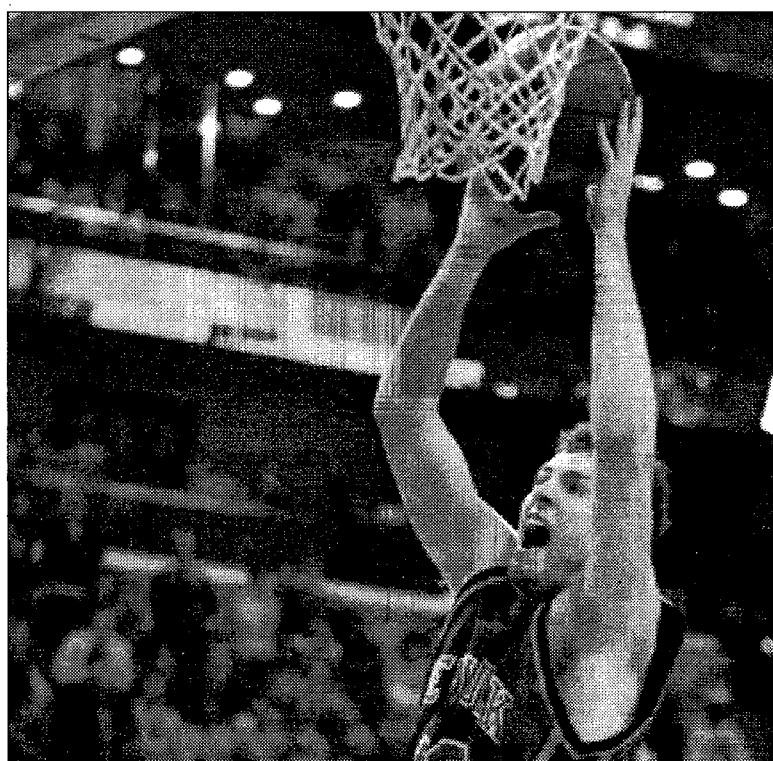
Washington's Nick Young scored 33 points, establishing a career high for the third time in four games, and Caron Butler added 25. Mike James had 20 points, but the Wizards stumbled when he had to leave with five fouls.

The injury-plagued Wizards have been without Gilbert Arenas and Brendan Hayward all season and then recently lost DeShawn Stevenson (back) and Etan Thomas (torn ligament in his left knee). But that's meant more time for Young, who was 13-of-17.

The Knicks were opening a stretch where 10 of 13 games are at home, but they'd better get the wins early. The last three games, all the first week of next month at Madison Square Garden, are against the Lakers, Cleveland and Boston.

Both teams had improved defensively lately, but were back to their old bad habits in this one. The Wizards shot 61 percent and the Knicks 59.5 percent in the first half, which ended with New York leading 67-66 behind 21 points from Harrington.

Washington made eight of its first 12 shots, New York started 8-of-13, and the Wizards were ahead 20-18 with the



Knicks forward David Lee goes up for a dunk during New York's 128-122 win over Washington Wednesday.

first quarter not even half over. The Knicks led 36-30 after Harrington banked in a 3-pointer as time expired.

Heat 102, Bucks 99

MILWAUKEE — Reserve Daequan Cook hit six 3-pointers en route to a career-high 24 points, and Dwyane Wade overcame a 5-for-20 shooting night with 17 points and 13 assists in the Miami Heat's win over the Milwaukee Bucks on Wednesday night.

The Heat improved to 3-2 on a seven-game trip even as Wade struggled, starting 0-for-6 from the field, but contributing by distributing the ball.

It looked to be easy even without the NBA's leading scorer adding his 29.1 average when the Heat took an 84-74 lead with 10:57 to play. But the Bucks came back thanks to 25 points by Luke Ridnour and 16 by Michael Redd.

Ridnour's basket cut it to 97-93 with 2:09 to play and Wade missed his final four shots with Redd, a fellow Olympian, hounding him.

Redd added a putback basket to make it 97-95, but the

Bucks squandered several opportunities to tie, first when Richard Jefferson, who had 15 points, threw a pass away then was blocked on the ensuing possession by Shawn Marion.

Cook, meanwhile, went 4-for-4 from the free-throw line in the final 21 seconds to give the Heat a 102-99 lead with 6.9 seconds left.

Bucks rookie Joe Alexander, who had hit a layup moments earlier to finish with 13 points, shot an air ball a 3-point attempt and the Heat ran off the final fraction of a second for the victory.

Marion finished with 14 points and 10 rebounds. Miami also got 21 points from rookie Michael Beasley and 18 points from Udonis Haslem. Andrew Bogut scored 12 points and had 11 rebounds for the Bucks.

Wade, revered in this town because of his role in taking Marquette to the NCAA Final Four in 2003, could have gotten plenty of gear from the Bucks' pro shops, which stocked No. 3 Heat jerseys, socks and other memorabilia.



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Upcoming Shows

<p>Saturday, Feb. 14 South Bend Symphony Orchestra Pops! Concert "Valentines from Hollywood & Broadway"</p> <p>Friday, Feb. 27 Bonnie Raitt Concert With Paul Cebar Tomorrow Sound</p>	<p>Saturday, Feb. 28 South Bend Symphony Orchestra Concert "Tales of the Classical Guitar"</p> <p>Thursday, Mar. 12 Gordon Lightfoot Concert</p> <p>Friday-Saturday March 13-14 The Putnam County 25th Annual Spelling Bee Broadway Musical</p>
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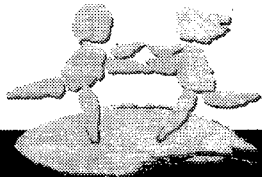
at the Early Childhood Development Center at Notre Dame

Come See Our Program and Meet Our Early Childhood Teachers

ECDC-ND Open House Dates:
Sunday, 2/1/09 . . . 1:30 - 3:00
Sunday, 3/1/09 . . . 1:30 - 3:00
Friday, 3/13/09 . . . 9:30 - 11:00

Kindergarten Information Meeting:
Thursday, 1/22/09 . . . 4:00 - 5:15

Early Childhood Development Center, Inc.
at Notre Dame



For information please call:
574-631-3344 or online at: www.nd.edu/~eccdnd

Rincon

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run together in practice, along with two other upperclassmen.

"Our group is really competitive," Rincon said. "We all practice together and push each other."

The four met during Rincon's visit to campus last spring, and he said they made the transition to college easier for him.

Rincon said the 400-meter race is one of the most grueling events in track.

"You can't pace yourself like you do for the 800, and you can't burn off the first 200," he said. "It really takes strength and speed and endurance and everything, so it's pretty tough."

Just like when he runs the event, Rincon is determined not to fade too early in the season.

"I want to win the Big East in the 400," he said. "It's lofty, and it will be tough, but that's what I've been set on since I got here."

Rincon did not begin running until his freshman year of high school, but it soon became

clear that he would be able to run at the college level.

"My coaches in high school really prepared me, starting junior year, to go to the next level," he said. "That's all we really talked about."

Although he went to high school in Las Vegas, Rincon grew up in a southwest suburb of Chicago and his family lives in LaPorte, Ind. Because of that, he has been a Notre Dame fan his entire life.

"I grew up watching the games," he said. "My family has had season tickets since like the '40s. I've gone to games since I was five."

It was easy, then, to agree to come run for the Irish, and Rincon said he's glad he did.

"I've always wanted to come to Notre Dame," he said. "I love it. My dorm's a lot of fun, we all have a good time. I just like the community here at Notre Dame. It's really high on school spirit, and I really like that. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else."

Except, of course, at the finish line of the Big East Championships.

Contact Laura Myers at lm Myers2@nd.edu

Boards

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rebouncing team. We've been competent and we haven't been beaten up there too much."

Then came Louisville, who put up 19 second-chance points and out-rebounded the Irish 48-43 in an 87-73 Cardinals overtime win Monday.

"I think we held our own there," Brey said. "We didn't out-rebound them, but it was kind of a draw. But it didn't beat us. The offensive board beat us at St. John's and Ohio State. There's two losses where that was really the culprit of it all."

Louisville grabbed 16 offensive boards, but some of those came as a result of long rebounds from missed jump shots. Twice in the second half, Notre Dame was trying to build on a small lead, but long rebounds helped set up three-pointers from Andre McGee and Jerry Smith that cut into the Irish advantage.

"Sometimes you do the job to be in position to rebound the basketball and you don't get a good bounce," Brey said. "And then you've got to scramble out and match up and do the best you can. We've made a living off of offensive rebound threes. When it happens to us, I can relate. Hopefully, it doesn't happen too much."

Harangody said there's still no excuse for allowing these types of boards to get away.

"It's not bad luck. We still need to grab loose balls because that's going to be the difference because a couple of those loose balls they grabbed and then hit some threes," Harangody said.

Hillesland added: "You've got to focus on every play and it can be tough because sometimes you're natural instinct on the perimeter is when a guy puts up a shot instead of blocking him out you want to go in where you think the action's going to be, which is inside. But a lot of times a ball will come out and those can be backbreaking plays on the road when a team can get an offensive rebound and knock down a three."

One constant on the boards this year for the Irish has been Harangody, whether he's grabbing long or short rebounds,

offensive or defensive.

"The rebounding numbers that he has are staggering given that he's playing against NBA bodies," Brey said. "Our league has NBA bodies. Other leagues don't so I think it's impressive what he's doing on the backboard against that kind of length and athletic ability."

Coming up Saturday, Notre Dame will likely need another strong effort from Harangody and the rest of the Irish, as they take on a Syracuse team that's third in the conference in rebounding margin thanks to Paul Harris (8.3 rebounds per game) and Arinze Onuaku (7.8). That duo gave Notre Dame a handful at the Joyce Center last season, out-rebounding Notre Dame 51-33.

"Here we go again Saturday with a big front line. Can we do it?" Brey said. "We've got to rebound out of zone, we've got to rebound out of man. Our guards have to help us. When we do that, we always have a chance to win."

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

Verducci

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earning his degree from Seton Hall in 1980. The new coach was not available for comment, but is expected to speak with the media along with other new Irish coaches once all vacancies are filled.

Notre Dame is currently in

the process of interviewing for a defensive line coach and an offensive coordinator. Former coordinator Mike Haywood announced the day before the Hawai'i Bowl that he would be leaving to take over as head coach at Miami (Ohio).

Haywood coached the Irish for five seasons and also played for the blue-and-gold during the mid-1980s.

"I tell guys all the time what

a great opportunity it is to be a 'Double Domer,'" he said. "Not many guys have the opportunity to walk through the tunnel for nine years at Notre Dame."

Jappy Oliver spent four years as a coach in South Bend and announced last week that he would be leaving to pursue other coaching opportunities.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

NBA

Celtics abuse Nets in 118-86 win

Associated Press

BOSTON — Paul Pierce brought the Boston Celtics to the midpoint of the season with their third straight win and with hope that they've regained the rhythm that produced a 27-2 start.

Pierce shook off a cold first half and scored 18 points in the third quarter by going 5-for-5 on 3-pointers to lead the Celtics a 118-86 win over the New Jersey Nets on Wednesday night.

The current streak follows a 2-7 slump and improved the Celtics' record to 32-9, two fewer wins than they had midway through last season when they finished 66-16 and won the NBA championship.

"I thought we had a really big bump in the road these last couple of weeks with consistency," Pierce said. "Something we didn't have a year ago. Maybe it's something we needed to give us a gut check."

"When you go through something like that, you really find out what kind of team you are."

On Wednesday, the Celtics were the kind of team that got off to the best 29-game start in NBA history as they posted their third most lopsided win of the season.

"They kicked us real good," Nets coach Lawrence Frank said. "When talent works hard like that, you get embarrassed."

Pierce led Boston with 22 points two nights after getting a season-high 39 in an overtime win over Toronto. The Nets also won in overtime that

night, beating Oklahoma City.

But the only tie Wednesday was 0-0. And New Jersey's only lead was 13-11 on a 3-pointer by Bobby Simmons. Ray Allen then gave Boston the lead for good with a 3-pointer that made it 14-13 with 5:56 left in the first quarter.

"Even when you're winning, if you're not playing well, or right, for a coach it's not that enjoyable," Boston coach Doc Rivers said. "If you keep doing that, when you need to play well, you won't. But I do think we're turning in the right direction."

The Celtics led 51-41 at halftime and opened their biggest margin, 112-79, on a basket by Patrick O'Bryant with 3:21 remaining.

Kevin Garnett scored 20 points for the Celtics.

The Nets were led by Devin Harris with 17 points, while Keyon Dooling and rookies Ryan Anderson and Brook Lopez had 13 each. Anderson made his second consecutive start in place of injured Yi Jianlian after sitting out the previous four games.

"We really let them control the momentum in the third quarter," Anderson said. "They are a great defensive team (and) definitely altered our shots."

Pierce went just 2-for-9 and had four points in the first half. But New Jersey's Vince Carter was even worse — 1-for-9 with four points in the half. Carter limped off the court with a sprained right ankle with 7:09 left in the first quarter but returned 5 min-

utes later. He finished with four points on 1-of-10 shooting.

The Celtics quickly stretched their 10-point halftime lead by scoring the first seven points of the third quarter and 13 of the first 15.

With the score 58-41, Pierce made his first 3-pointer of the quarter, Rajon Rondo hit a basket and Pierce sank a free throw. His other 3-pointers put Boston ahead 69-49, 74-53, 81-58 and 84-58.

"I don't get discouraged by misses," Pierce said of his first-half problems. "When we swung the ball (in the third quarter) I was wide open and stayed aggressive. I thought I was a little tentative in the first half."

Boston led 88-60 after the third period and Pierce rested throughout the fourth.

Both teams were missing big men. Yi is expected to miss four to six weeks with a broken finger and Boston center Kendrick Perkins sat out his third straight game with a sore left shoulder but is expected to return next week.

The Nets stayed close throughout the first quarter then lost their shooting touch by missing their first 10 shots of the second. That helped Boston stretch a 30-23 lead after one quarter to 41-25 before Harris hit a layup with 5:40 left in the period.

The teams meet again on Saturday night at New Jersey.

"We didn't have too much fight," Harris said. "We've still got a lot of work to do and I look forward to the next game."

The Office of
Multicultural Student Programs & Services
would like to applaud the following
Multicultural Hall Commissioners for their
outstanding work in promoting diversity
efforts within the ND residence halls during
the first half of the 2008-2009 school year!

Brandi Allen – Badin Hall
Chelsea Carey – Badin Hall
Danielle Hoehn – Lyons Hall
Minyoung Kim – Badin Hall

Tej Mudigonda – St Edwards Hall
Lexie Perreras – Badin Hall
Joseph Scolaro – Morrissey Manor
Marissa Villano – Lyons Hall

Thank you for valuing diversity! Your energy and enthusiasm for diversity and multiculturalism is greatly appreciated by your peers, your rector, and the MSPS staff. Keep up the great work!



Multicultural Student Programs & Services (MSPS)

"Promoting Equity Through Intellectual Exploration and Cultural Celebration"

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FOOTBALL

Team signs Frank Verducci as new offensive line coach

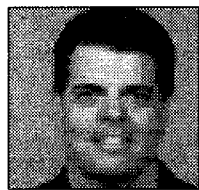
By DAN MURPHY
Sports Editor

Notre Dame announced yesterday that veteran Frank Verducci will be taking over as the new offensive line coach for the Irish.

Verducci, who has coached for several colleges and NFL teams in the past 27 years, will replace former line coach John Latina who resigned after four years with the Irish.

Verducci comes to South Bend from the Cleveland Browns where

he served as an assistant offensive coach for two years under Romeo Crennel. Crennel and Irish coach Charlie Weis know each other well from their days as coordinators with the New England Patriots.



Verducci

"Frank provides an excellent background on both the offensive line and run game in general from

two perspectives, having coached several years in professional football and at the Div. I level," Weis said.

Verducci has been in the NFL for the past decade with the Cincinnati Bengals, Dallas Cowboys and the Buffalo Bills before joining the Browns. During that time he worked primarily with offensive linemen and tight ends.

He has also coached at many major college programs, most notably the ten years he spent at Iowa before leaving for the NFL. In that time, the Iowa offense aver-

aged 170 rush yards per game, including three seasons during which the Hawkeyes rushed for over 200 yards per game.

Notre Dame is hopeful that Verducci can rejuvenate an Irish run game that has been dormant in the past few years. This season, the team averaged only 109 yards per game. In 2007, that number dipped down to 75 yards per game, which was 115th out of 119 FBS schools.

Along with help in the trenches, Verducci is also expected to help on the recruiting trail. He was a

recruiting coordinator during part of his career with the Hawkeyes and is known for roping in big talented players.

"In addition, the name Verducci in New Jersey high school football is legendary as both his father and uncle were coaching icons," Weis said. "This should aid our recruiting efforts in New Jersey and in the Northeast."

Verducci grew up in New Jersey and played fullback at U.S. Merchant Marine Academy before

see VERDUCCI/page 18

MEN'S BASKETBALL

On the rebound

Irish work to improve under the boards against league foes

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

When Rob Kurz graduated last spring, he took his 7.3 rebounds per game with him. Kurz, along with forward Luke Harangody, helped the Irish attain the fourth-best rebounding margin in conference play.

Last season, the Irish out-rebounded Big East opponents by just over three boards per game. This season, Notre Dame is tenth in the league.

Since Kurz's departure, the Irish have tried to replace his presence on the glass at both ends of the floor, but at times, they have struggled despite having the league's leading rebounder in Harangody (14.0 per Big East game).

The Irish lost two games this season that could have been avoided with better rebounding performances — a 71-65 loss to

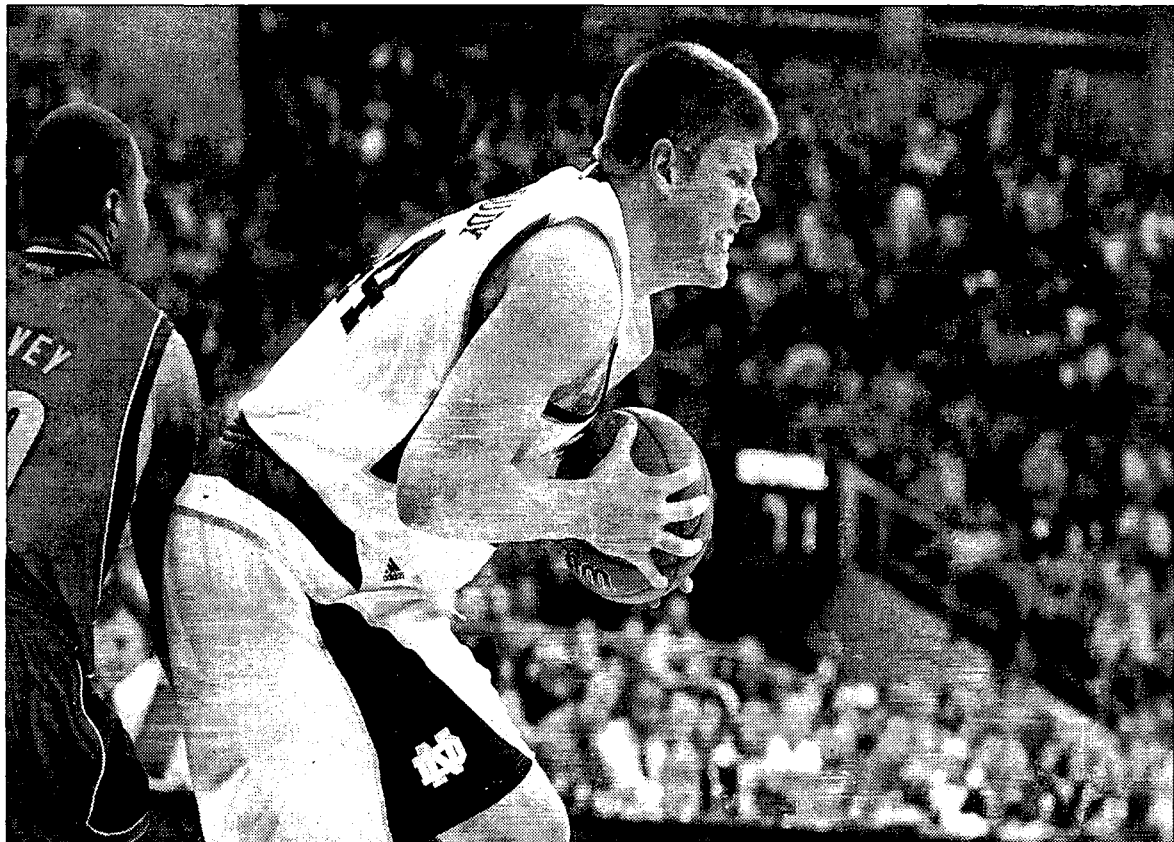
St. John's and a 67-62 loss to Ohio State. In each game, the Irish were out-rebounded, and dug themselves into a hole by allowing crucial offensive boards at pivotal moments in the second half.

"[The loss to] St. John's was just not paying attention to details," senior Zach Hillesland said. "The rebounding was the big thing there. They got to the offensive boards a lot and they got a lot of confidence because of that."

After the St. John's loss, Notre Dame recommitted itself to rebounding and saw some improvement. The Irish went toe-to-toe on the glass with Georgetown in a win at the Joyce Center and demolished Seton Hall on the boards in another victory.

"I mean, we're never going to be a team where you go, 'We're plus-10 in a Big East game.' We just can't make it be something that shreds us," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "For the most part since I've been here, we've just not been this crushing

see BOARDS/page 18



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Irish junior forward Luke Harangody pulls down a rebound in Notre Dame's 88-79 win over Seton Hall Saturday. The Irish are tenth in the Big East in rebounding margin.

MEN'S TRACK

Rincon excels in first season at Notre Dame

Middle-distance runner has two wins

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

Jordan Rincon is off to a fast start — and finish, and finish.

The Irish freshman middle-distance runner has won an event at both of the team's meets so far, outrunning several of his upperclassman teammates.

"I'm happy with the early success," Rincon said. "I didn't really expect it, but I'm really competitive and I'm a sore loser. I don't like to lose. I push

myself at practice all the time. I mean, I knew I could come here and compete, which is all I wanted to do."

At the Blue and Gold Meet on Dec. 5, Rincon easily won the men's 400-meter race with a time of 48.34, a full second-and-a-half better than the mark needed to qualify for the Big East Championships.

Rincon followed that with a close win in the 600-meter contest Saturday at the Indiana Opener. He defeated Irish senior Billy Buzaid by .4 seconds to take the top spot. Buzaid finished second.

Rincon said he and Buzaid

see RINCON/page 18

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles fall to Albion, 77-72

Squad suffers first MIAA loss at the hands of the rival Brits

Observer Staff Report

Saint Mary's dropped a league contest for the first time Wednesday night as the host Belles fell 77-72 to Albion.

Saint Mary's went on an 11-1 run midway through the second half to take a 48-47 lead. But the Belles could not maintain the advantage. Albion took the lead on its next possession and did not trail for the remainder of the game.

With the loss, the Belles fell to 8-7 overall, including a 6-1 mark in MIAA action. The Brits, meanwhile, improved to 8-6 overall and

3-3 against conference opponents.

Albion built a nine-point lead late in the first half after going on a 14-4 run. But the Belles answered shortly before halftime.

Seniors Meghan Conaty and Erin Newsom both converted layups before intermission to cut the Albion lead to six.

But the Brits came out firing after halftime and took a commanding 46-37 advantage.

Newsom led the Belles with 18 points and eight rebounds. Freshman guard Patsy Mahoney added 16 points on 6-of-9 field goal

shooting but it was not enough.

Albion had a big advantage from the foul line as they made 20 free throws to the Belles' 12. The Brits made 83.3 percent of their attempts from the line while Saint Mary's converted just 60 percent.

Along with Newsom and Mahoney, senior Nicole Beier and freshman Kelley Murphy scored in double figures for Saint Mary's.

The Belles remain a half-game ahead of Hope for first place in the MIAA standings, and will look to rebound next Wednesday when they travel to take on Kalamazoo.