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Hesburgh speaks on Civil Rights, MLK

Panel examined current race relations in the United States, reflected on King's contribution to the movement

By ROBERT SINGER
News Writer

As University President Emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh prepared to tell an audience about his role in the Civil Rights movement Thursday night, he shared a revealing thought about the movement's prominent leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"I often wish that Martin had lived not just to bring his message to people but to see that his message has finally gotten through," Hesburgh said, asserting the successes of the movement King led.

Hesburgh spoke in a panel discussion called "Witness to a

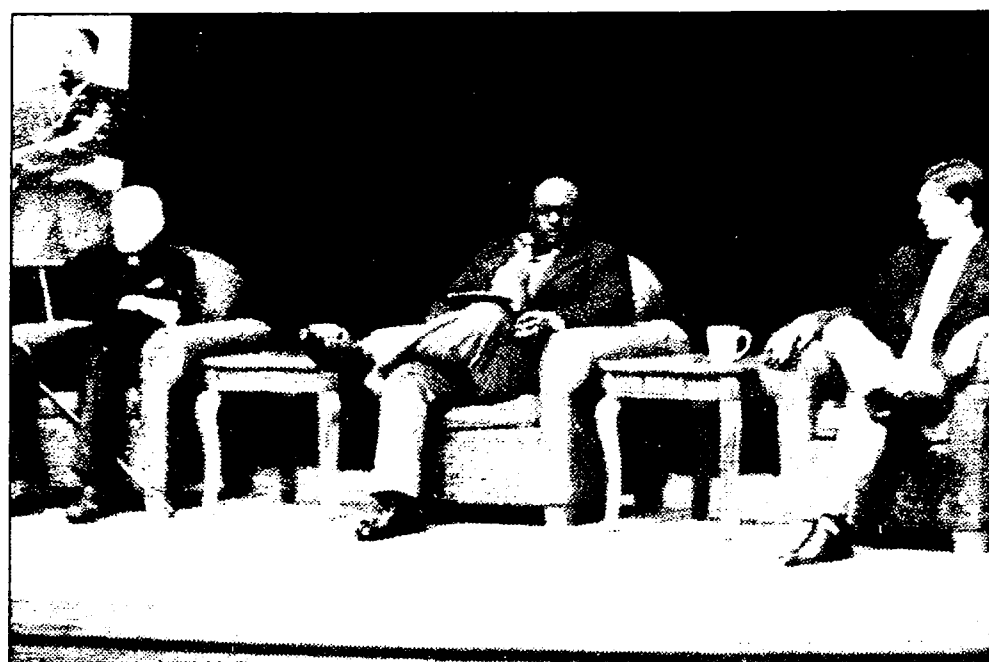
Movement" in the Annenberg Auditorium, at the Snite Museum of Art. The panel also included Dr. Richard Pierce, associate professor of history, sophomore Franco Zamara, law student Jessica Kim and Dina Harris, Indiana University-South Bend director of Foundation Relations.

Hesburgh commented on the present state of race relations while also recounting the role he took in the movement that eventually brought him side-by-side with King. A famous photograph of the duo during a rally at Soldier Field in Chicago in 1964 is now part of the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery.

Hesburgh's experiences with the Civil Rights movement date back to 1957, when he was appointed to the Civil Rights Commission to help recommend legislative solutions to racial problems.

According to Hesburgh, the Commission, which included two black members, often met resistance when traveling through the South, as many businesses turned them away.

However, he noted that the legislation recommended by the Commission, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, was successful due to Lyndon Johnson's determination to



ZHIBIN DAI/The Observer

University president emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, left, discusses race relations and the Civil Rights era Thursday.

see HESBURGH/page 4

Students return to campus after studying abroad

Over 400 ND sophomores and juniors studied in 6 continents last semester

By IRENA ZAJICKOVA
News Writer

Over 400 Notre Dame students are spending their first week on campus readjusting not only to harsh South Bend weather, but life back in the United States.

Kathleen Opel, the director of the Office of International Studies, said a total of 427 students studied abroad last semester in 31

unique programs that spanned six of the seven continents.

These students who participated shared an experience different from their lives at Notre Dame. They were introduced to a new culture, one that greatly contrasted with the one they left behind in the United States.

For junior Christina Karam, who spent the

see ABROAD/page 6

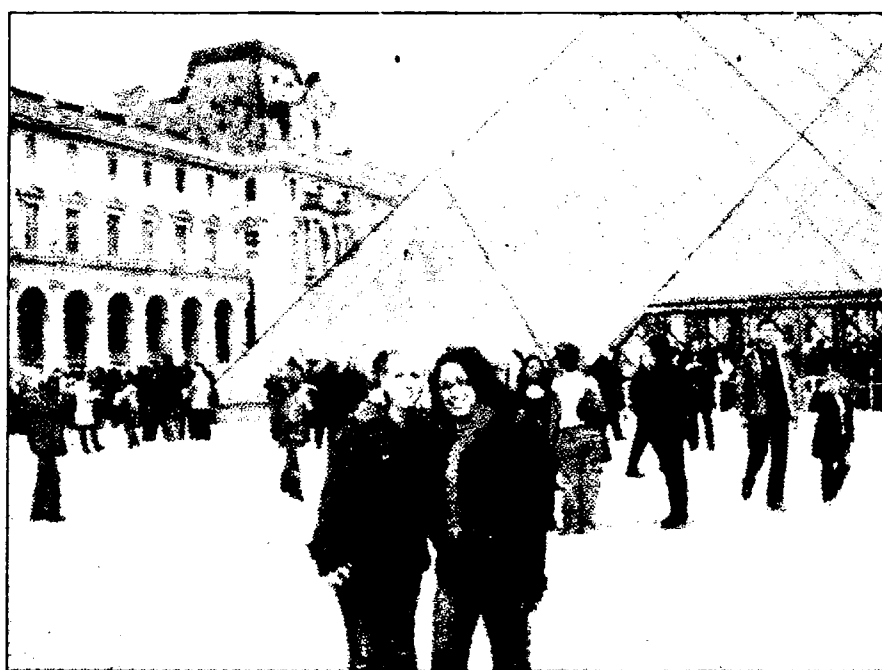


Photo courtesy of Christina Karam

Juniors Erin Robey, left, and Christina Karam, right, pose in front of the Louvre during a semester abroad in France.

Students note cultural differences, adjust to life back at the College

By MEGAN LONEY
News Writer

Saint Mary's students are settling into a routine after a three-week break; however, some of these students are making a bigger adjustment than others after spending a semester — or two — in Ireland, Spain or Italy.

Students said they are noticing several

major cultural differences, one of which is the difference in lifestyle pace.

Julie Laemmle enjoyed the laid-back atmosphere she experienced in Ireland.

"Americans are always in a race with the clock, going from one thing to the next, and trying to squeeze more into their days than possible," said

see SMC/page 6

Lilly renews Saint Mary's grant

Program allots \$359,000 for internships, learning opportunities

By MANDI STIRONE
Assistant News Editor

Lilly Endowment, Inc. has given Saint Mary's College a five-year sustaining grant, according to a Saint Mary's press release. The grant — the second the Endowment has given to Saint Mary's — is in the amount of \$359,000, also according to the press release.

According to the Lilly Endowment Inc.'s Web site, the endowment encourages colleges and universities in Indiana to "retain in state more of their graduates."

The original endowment, in the amount of \$750,000, helped Saint Mary's to devel-

op the Indiana Careers at Saint Mary's College (INC@SMC). The program supports "experiential learning opportunities, collaborative partnerships, networking grants, and structural changes," the Saint Mary's press release said.

"I feel as though the original grant provided many opportunities for the College's students, faculty and staff to collaborate on developing, building and sustaining partnerships for internship and job opportunities within the state of Indiana," said Stacie Jeffers, Saint Mary's Director of Career Opportunities.

"We have seen an entire shift at Saint Mary's towards

how internships are incorporated more readily into the academic and career goals of our students," she said.

The biggest thing they do is offer stipends for students working in internships without pay, she said. This past summer, the program helped 22 students doing internships in Indiana, Jeffers said.

They now plan to continue to work on these and other goals with the new sustaining grant, she said.

"With the new sustaining grant ... we plan to continue to combat the 'brain drain' efforts of Indiana through preparing our students at earlier stages in their col-

see LILLY/page 4

Library launches revamped Web site

By BECKY HOGAN
News Writer

The Hesburgh Libraries Web site has been reformatted to allow for more user-friendly access, according to digital access librarian Thomas Lehman, with a less-cluttered interface and improved search capabilities.

"We were charged with doing user-centered design because the Web site is there to provide access to services and resources to support teaching and research that go on at the University," he said.

The Web site renovation project began with the formation of the Web Presence Improvement Team in 2005.

The latest renovation to the Web site took approximately two years to complete since the Web site's first renovation in 2003.

"The library had redesigned its Web site back in 2003, and that was the second generation [of the site] ... We had started to accumulate a few electronic resources just as a basic list," he said. "It met our needs for a while but as we

see LIBRARY/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

Townie's Lament

I spent most of my life in South Bend hating it.

I was born in Prague, and I've lived in two other states besides Indiana. Every time we moved, it seemed like a huge downgrade over the place we lived in before. South Bend, however, was the absolute worst.

We moved here in March, which falls under the huge part of the calendar that is considered South Bend's "cold season."

Irena Zajickova
News Wire Editor

Also, we were supposed to move to Galveston, Texas, instead. After actually arriving in South Bend and experiencing the cold, I must have thought my parents were the dumbest people alive, even at the tender age of six.

No matter how good of a job Notre Dame was giving my dad, how could they possibly have picked this place over Texas? Texas was warm.

As I grew older, my complaints about the city multiplied. There was nothing to do, the mall in Chicago was better, the people weren't as nice as the people in other places, and so on.

I developed an immediate dislike of anything that had to do with Indiana — sports teams, cities we traveled to — basically, nothing in the state was safe from my scorn.

I didn't want to go to college here, either. I had many other places in mind, but my parents finally laid down the law ("You're going here. It's free."). And to be honest, by the time senior year rolled around, I had pretty much made my peace with South Bend.

I had liked Notre Dame football for a while (it's pretty hard to live in South Bend and not get caught up in all of it), and the campus was pretty nice too.

The city itself wasn't bad either. I decided that even though South Bend wasn't the most action-packed place, it could always have been worse.

However, this isn't an admission that South Bend is a remotely exciting place to live. If I had to compile a list of potential places to move to when (if) I graduate and get a job, South Bend wouldn't even crack the top 10.

But it has grown on me enough that I get somewhat offended when my college friends make fun of it.

An anonymous Notre Dame athlete once told me, "Any bowl game we go to would be better than the South Bend bowl."

People complain about the weather, the lack of things to do (although I hear Fever is pretty fun), the residents, and pretty much every other aspect of life here.

Just like I did when I was younger. I usually just roll my eyes and laugh it off, but I have to admit that I kind of get annoyed.

I mean, no one forced them to come here.

So the next time you want to complain about whatever in South Bend is annoying you today, think about this: at least you get to leave during breaks.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.
Contact Irena Zajickova at izajicko@nd.edu.

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times.

We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes.

If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: HOW MANY LAYERS ARE YOU WEARING?



Andy Huffman

senior
Stanford

"If chest hair counts as a layer, than one."



Erin Wash

senior
off campus

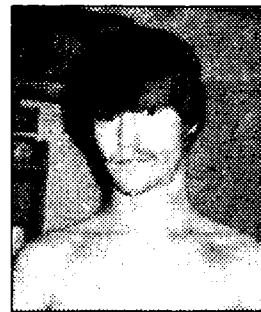
"Way too many to count..."



Kelly Collins

senior
off campus

"I'm not sure but I know they're all cute."



James Welle

senior
Stanford

"If chest hair counts as a layer, than none."



Ryan Cleary

senior
Stanford

"I would count but I can't feel my fingers."



ZHIBIN DAI/The Observer

Students braced the cold weather to get to Rolfs Sports and Recreation Center to work out. Temperatures dipped below zero degrees Fahrenheit Thursday.

OFFBEAT

'Small sign' excuse gets man out of paying ticket

ELKO, Nev. — A Spring Creek man who beat a \$62 ticket has created a legal speed trap that could cost Elko County and his neighbors much more. James Killian, a civil engineer with the Nevada Department of Transportation, argued the ticket he received in April for going 39 mph in a 25 mph zone was unenforceable because the speed limit sign was too small and didn't comply with uniform traffic codes adopted by the state in 2003.

Elko Justice of the Peace Al Kacin agreed, and dismissed the citation.

Now county and Spring Creek Association employees are taking inventory of traffic signs, trying to determine how many may need to be replaced if the local jurisdictions are required to comply with the updated standards.

Boy's tongue stuck on pole after friend's dare

HAMMOND, Ind. — In a scene straight out of the movie "A Christmas Story," a 10-year-old boy

got his tongue stuck to a metal light pole. Police said the unidentified fourth-grader was able to tell them that a friend dared him to lick the pole Wednesday night. Temperatures in Hammond were around 10 degrees at the time.

By the time an ambulance arrived, the boy was able to yank his tongue off the frozen pole.

Police said ambulance personnel explained to the boy's mother how to care for his bleeding tongue.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

This week's SUB Movie, "Body of Lies," will be shown tonight 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" today 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 tonight from 9 p.m. to 11 at the Joyce Center Fieldhouse. The event is free to Notre Dame students with an ID. Munchies will be served

"Brian Brushwood: Bizarre Magic" show, which will take place Saturday from 9 p.m. to 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.

University President Fr. John Jenkins will hold a prayer service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on Monday from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Main Building Rotunda. The event is open to University students, faculty and staff.

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

LOCAL WEATHER	TODAY		TONIGHT		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
	ICON	TEMP	ICON	TEMP	ICON	TEMP	ICON	TEMP	ICON	TEMP	ICON	TEMP
		HIGH 5 LOW -2		HIGH -4 LOW -15		HIGH 23 LOW 17		HIGH 22 LOW 13		HIGH 19 LOW 17		HIGH 28 LOW 21

Atlanta 32 / 14 Boston 15 / 1 Chicago 6 / -2 Denver 56 / 32 Houston 50 / 38 Los Angeles 79 / 52 Minneapolis 9 / -12 New York 18 / 3 Philadelphia 14 / 3 Phoenix 77 / 45 Seattle 53 / 39 St. Louis 23 / 8 Tampa 61 / 36 Washington 20 / 8

Prof. explores science of generosity

Christian Smith received a \$5 million dollar grant to fund the research

Special to The Observer

Notre Dame has launched the Science of Generosity, a project funded by a \$5 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation to William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of Sociology and director of the University's Center for the Study of Religion and Society.

"The goal of the project is to mobilize top-quality research across various disciplines on the various expressions and effects of generosity," noting that the project defines generosity as the spirit and practice of giving good things to others freely and abundantly. "This includes time, aid, attention, encouragement, emotional investment and more. In countless ways, the world wants for significant growth in the virtue of giving."

The grant is the largest ever received by a faculty member in Notre Dame's College of Arts and Letters. Notre Dame is supporting the project with additional funding of approximately \$200,000.

"Research projects such as this that investigate broad moral questions and the common good are integral to Notre Dame's academic mission," said John McGreevy, Dean of the College of Arts and Letters. "Just as important, Professor Smith's work will bring scholars across the country and from many disciplines into conversation on a topic of fundamental

importance."

In addition to funding academic research at the University, the Science of Generosity initiative will host a competition among international scholars in fields such as sociology, economics, psychology, behavioral economics, education, law and religious studies. The first phase of the competition will award \$250,000 to \$500,000 to four to eight of the most promising research proposals. The second phase will fund a number of smaller awards, totaling another \$1.2 million.

Current academic studies on generosity are a scattered constellation of research projects operating under different terms such as philanthropy, giving, charity and altruism, Smith said, but he anticipates a more unified field will develop around the Notre Dame initiative. To that end, he has assembled a board of advisers from experts in related fields, including William Damon, professor of education at Stanford; Glen Elder, research professor of sociology and psychology at the University of North Carolina; William Galston, Ezra Zilkha Chair in Governance Studies at the Brookings Institution; and Jonathan Haidt, associate professor of psychology at the University of Virginia.

Smith began exploring the topic of generosity in his 2008 book, "Passing the Plate: Why American Christians Don't Give Away More Money," written with

Michael Emerson and Patricia Snell. With funding from the Science of Generosity, Smith will continue his research on generosity through a sociological investigation of what causes generous and ungenerous behavior.

A primary goal of the project is to communicate research findings and information to other scholars, religious organizations, nonprofit organizations and the general public. Findings will be made available as the project develops on the project Web site: <http://generosityresearch.nd.edu>.

The project also is motivated by broader goals. In step with the mission of the foundation that bears his name, John M. Templeton Jr., son of the late Sir John Templeton, shared his dream of a worldwide "epidemic of generosity" in his book, "Thrift and Generosity." Smith said his ultimate ambition for the project is to increase generosity in the world.

Established in 1987, the John Templeton Foundation serves as a philanthropic catalyst for discovery in areas engaging life's biggest questions, ranging from explorations into the laws of nature and the universe to inquiries into the nature of love, gratitude, forgiveness and creativity. The foundation's mission is derived from founder Templeton's commitment to rigorous scientific research and related scholarship. More information is available at www.templeton.org.

Lilly

continued from page 1

lege careers," she said.

"We plan to incorporate academic and career advising, implementing and ePortfolio system, providing career assessments, Indiana internship stipends, collegiate speaker series, and much more," Jeffirs said.

INC@SMC isn't the only program at Saint Mary's assisted by the Lilly Endowment."

Stacie Jeffirs
Director of Career Opportunities

"The INC@SMC program is just a part of the larger sustaining grant that the College has recently received for the next five years," she said. "Although the INC@SMC program will continue to offer

internship stipends for students who participate in unpaid internships within Indiana, the sustaining grant as a whole will be looking to implement programs and initiatives that are far more reaching at the College.

"We are certain that with this new sustaining grant, the College will be able to move initiatives forward that will allow our students to have an enriching and fulfilling experience here at Saint Mary's while exploring who they are, how they are, how a difference, and discovering their passion and calling in life while exploring possibilities within Indiana," she said.

Contact Mandi Stirone at astiro01@saintmarys.edu

Library

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got more electronic resources and format, [the Web site] eventually became cluttered."

Lehman said that responses to the site's new format have been positive.

"We put a feedback link on the site, and the vast majority of the comments have been very positive. People were enthusiastic," Lehman said.

Lehman said that the committee conducted tests to see whether the old version of the Web site was meeting research needs. The committee asked faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students who participated in the tests to find various resources located throughout the Web site.

"We found that experienced researchers were typically able to find what we asked them to during the tests, but less experienced researchers such as undergrads had some real difficulties," he said. "We decided that a redesign was needed."

According to Lehman, the committee redesigned the Web site so that it would be less cluttered and would emphasize search capabilities.

He said the committee found that more people who use the resources located on the library's Web site are "search dominant" users meaning that they would

rather type key phrases into a search box than browse through lists of material to find information.

"We decided we really needed to emphasize 'search,' so we have a search box right in the middle of the page which allows you to search for different resources," he said.

He also said that the committee worked to ensure that the information contained on the Web site was organized more clearly.

"We know that people find information in different ways ... We tried to do the best job we could so that links and resources are organized in the most logical way possible," Lehman said.

The Web Presence Improvement Team gave the Notre Dame Web Group specifications on what improvements should be made to the site.

"They came up with several designs and we chose one of them, and then we spent a lot of time converting information," he said. "There was a lot of information on the Web site so the conversion took longer than we expected."

Lehman also said that the committee used information gathered from student surveys to help them understand what improvements the Web site's users wanted.

Contact Becky Hogan at rhogan2@nd.edu

Hesburgh

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make a name for himself in history.

"The fact is that Lyndon Johnson single-handedly got that bill through and it was the toughest, roughest bill that our commission could write," he said.

Hesburgh described what he viewed as the enormous improvement that has taken place in race relations since then, saying that he had long viewed the election of a black president as a barometer to measure racial progress.

"By some miracle, today we are preparing to inaugurate our first black president next Tuesday," he said.

Hesburgh said that the legislative and political battle for racial equality is all but over and pointed out that current law has the capacity to prevent discrimination.

"Now is the time to take all of the instrumentalities that we have and use them intelligently and forcefully," he said. "The laws are very strict and very clear and

there are enough people around who want to apply them."

Hesburgh also shared some of Notre Dame's own racial struggles.

"Even when I came to Notre Dame in 1934, there wasn't a single black student on campus," he said. "When I came back with a doctorate's degree to teach, there was one black student."

The sole black student was there by accident. According

to Hesburgh, the Navy's ROTC program had misplaced him.

While Hesburgh said he was proud of the racial progress made at Notre Dame, he is still determined to improve the situation.

"I still say that I won't rest until we have the same percentage of black students at this University that we have in the general population," he said. "I don't want to rest until the institution that I love best has done its part to

make blacks noble citizens of this great land."

Equal representation is a difficult challenge facing the entire country, according to Hesburgh.

"It's an uphill battle not just at [Notre Dame], but everywhere in the country, in companies and schools all over the place," he said. "Per capita, we probably spend three times as much money attracting the top black students as we spend attracting the top white students."

Contact Robert Singer at rsinger@nd.edu

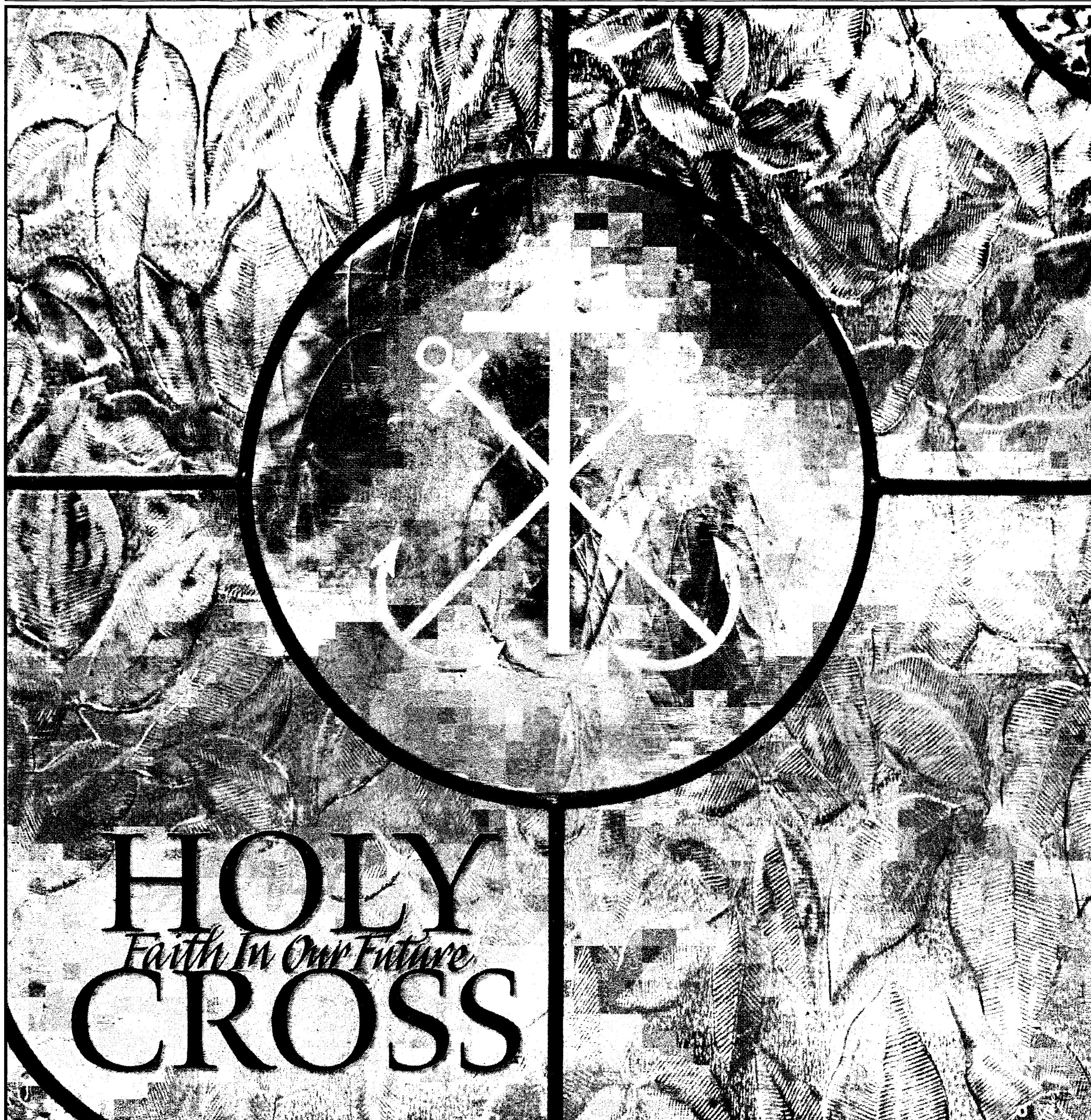
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Fr. Theodore Hesburgh
University President Emeritus

"Even when I came to Notre Dame in 1934, there wasn't a single black student on campus."

Fr. Theodore Hesburgh
University President Emeritus

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



HOLY

Faith In Our Future

CROSS

The Notre Dame family and the Congregation of Holy Cross join in an annual celebration of the feast day for Holy Cross founder Blessed Basil Moreau, C.S.C., and his legacy, including joy in community, faith and hope in the Cross of Christ, and excellence in education of both the mind and the heart.

MONDAY, JANUARY 19



Vigil Prayer Service
Gather to pray through the intercession of Blessed Basil Moreau, C.S.C., on the eve of his feast. Our prayers include his canonization as a saint of the Church and vocations to the

Congregation of Holy Cross.
President: Rev. Jim King, C.S.C.
Sorin Hall
8:00 p.m.
Lady Chapel,
Basilica of the Sacred Heart

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20



Mass for the Feast of Blessed Basil Moreau, C.S.C.
The Holy Cross community joins hands with the Notre Dame family in observing this feast.

President: Rev. David Tyson, C.S.C.
Provincial Superior, Indiana Province
5:15 p.m.
Basilica of the Sacred Heart

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20



Men in Black: Inspirations and Reflections
A panel of Holy Cross priests offers casual recollections and conversation about their life and work—a chance to get to know Holy Cross better.

Rev. John Jenkins, C.S.C.
Rev. Robert Dowd, C.S.C.
Rev. Bill Lies, C.S.C.
Rev. Peter McCormick, C.S.C.
7:30 p.m.
Washington Hall

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22



The Blessed Basil Moreau Lecture: Prof. John Cavadini
The chair of Notre Dame's Department of Theology offers insights on daily life and Holy Cross spirituality in a lecture, "The Cross Our Only Hope: Two Views of Suffering in the Christian Tradition."

Prof. Mary Ellen O'Connell of the Notre Dame Law School, an expert on Christian values in international affairs, will offer comments for discussion.
7:30 p.m.
Jordan Auditorium,
Mendoza College of Business

ALL EVENTS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND FREE OF CHARGE.



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Venezuela seeks help with oil industry

CABIMAS, Venezuela — Squeezed by slumping crude prices, Venezuela is reaching out to the multinational oil companies it once demonized as imperialist profiteers.

Venezuela is soliciting bids from the world's major oil companies to extract heavy crude from vast deposits in its Orinoco River region. Despite President Hugo Chavez's criticism of U.S.-style capitalism, it has become clear that state-owned Petroleos de Venezuela SA needs both the cash and expertise of Big Oil.

These international oil companies have made windfall profits in recent years, but analysts doubt many will want to invest again given Chavez's history of seizing foreign stakes in Venezuela's oil.

Division growing in Russian politics

MOSCOW — Russia's President Dmitry Medvedev has twice rebuked the government led by his predecessor Vladimir Putin in the past couple of weeks, raising questions of whether a rift is developing between the powerful former Kremlin leader and the man he chose to replace him.

On both occasions, Medvedev criticized the government for not doing enough to help industry and business cope with the global financial crisis, which has hit Russia hard.

"The planned measures are being fulfilled slower than we counted on and, most important, slower than the current situation demands," Medvedev said during a visit Sunday to an engine plant outside Moscow with government ministers.

Two weeks earlier, Medvedev characterized the government's anti-crisis program as "well-balanced but not ideal."

NATIONAL NEWS

Blagojevich's fundraising documented

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Gov. Rod Blagojevich took a taxpayer-funded flight to southern Illinois where he attended an unscheduled meeting and raised \$42,000 from contributors that included the family of a man he had recently appointed to a university board, records show.

After making an appearance at a public event in Mount Vernon on Nov. 20, Blagojevich attended an economic development briefing at a bank office run by a family that had contributed large sums to his campaign fund. He came away with 14 checks ranging from \$500 to \$20,000, according to interviews and records reviewed by The Associated Press.

Police officer charged with murder

OAKLAND, Calif. — A former transit police officer has been charged with murder for the fatal shooting of an unarmed and allegedly restrained black man in a racially charged case that has outraged residents and community leaders and set off violent protests.

Newly released court documents allege that Johannes Mehserle, who was charged Tuesday, shot 22-year-old Oscar Grant while Grant had his hands behind his back and another officer was kneeling on his neck.

Alameda County District Attorney Tom Orloff made the rare decision to file a murder charge against a police officer for an on-duty incident.

LOCAL NEWS

Two dead, two injured in crash

Two people from Illinois were killed and two others were injured when their car struck the rear of a stopped semi-trailer truck on Interstate 70 in eastern Indiana on Thursday.

Timeka Felton, 31, and Justin Boxley, 12, both of Kankakee, Ill., were pronounced dead at the scene; Nicholas Felton, 38, also of Kankakee, was taken to Henry County Memorial Hospital in New Castle, and Mya Jackson, 6, was taken by helicopter to a hospital in Indianapolis. Their conditions weren't immediately known.

Plane crashes into the Hudson River

All passengers, crew members on flight survive with few serious injuries

Associated Press

NEW YORK — With both engines out, a cool-headed pilot maneuvered his crowded jetliner over New York City and ditched it in the frigid Hudson River on Thursday, and all 155 on board were pulled to safety as the plane slowly sank. It was, the governor said, "a miracle on the Hudson."

One victim suffered two broken legs, a paramedic said, but there were no other reports of serious injuries.

The US Airways Airbus A320 bound for Charlotte, N.C., struck a flock of birds during takeoff minutes earlier at LaGuardia Airport, apparently disabling the engines.

The pilot, identified as Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger III of Danville, Calif., "was phenomenal," passenger Joe Hart said. "He landed it — I tell you what — the impact wasn't a whole lot more than a rear-end (collision). It threw you into the seat ahead of you."

"Both engines cut out and he actually floated it into the river," he added.

In a city still wounded from the aerial attack on the World Trade Center, authorities were quick to assure the public that terrorism wasn't involved.

The plane was submerged up to its windows in the river by the time rescuers arrived in Coast Guard vessels and ferries. Some passengers waded in water up to their knees, standing on the wing of the plane and waiting for help.

Police divers had to rescue some of the passengers from underwater, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said. Among those on board was one infant who appeared to be fine, the mayor said.

Helen Rodriguez, a



Passengers from U.S. Airways flight A320 wait to be rescued after their plane crashed into the Hudson River shortly after taking off on Thursday afternoon. AP

paramedic who was among the first to arrive at the scene, said she saw one woman with two broken legs. Fire officials said others were evaluated for hypothermia, bruises and other minor injuries.

"We had a miracle on 34th Street. I believe now we have had a miracle on the Hudson," Gov. David Paterson said.

The crash took place on a 20-degree day, one of the coldest of the season in New York. The water temperature was 36 degrees, Coast Guard Lt. Commander Moore said. He estimates that hypothermia can hit within five to eight minutes at that temperature.

"The captain said, 'Brace for impact because

we're going down,'" passenger Jeff Kolodjay said. He said passengers put their heads in their laps and started praying. He said the plane hit the water pretty hard, but he was fine.

"It was intense. It was intense. You've got to give it to the pilot. He made a hell of a landing," Kolodjay said.

Another passenger, Fred Berretta, who was on his way home to Charlotte from a business trip, told CNN doors were opened on both sides of the plane "as soon as we hit the water."

Witnesses said the plane's pilot appeared to guide the plane down. Barbara Sambriski, a researcher at The Associated Press,

watched the water landing from the news organization's high-rise office. "I just thought, 'Why is it so low?' And, splash, it hit the water," she said.

Paramedics treated at least 78 patients, fire officials said. Coast Guard boats rescued 35 people who were immersed in the frigid water and ferried them to shore. Some of the rescued were shivering and wrapped in white blankets, their feet and legs soaked.

One commuter ferry, the Thomas Jefferson of the company NY Waterway, arrived within minutes of the crash, and some of its own riders grabbed life vests and lines of rope and tossed them to plane passengers in the water.

U.N. Headquarters hit by Israeli fire

Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Israeli artillery shells struck the U.N. headquarters in the Gaza Strip on Thursday, setting a food warehouse ablaze and drawing a sharp rebuke from the visiting U.N. chief who called it an "outrage." Another Israeli bombardment killed Hamas' head of security.

The attack added to a day of deadly chaos pitting Israeli troops against Islamic militants. Terrified residents huddled in shelters and stairwells, or scooped up toddlers and fled on foot.

After nightfall, shells landed near Gaza City's Quds Hospital, where

many families had sought refuge, and the building caught fire, forcing staff to evacuate hundreds of people. According to a hospital medic, some patients were pushed down the street on gurneys; a few held white flags.

The destruction added to what aid groups say is a humanitarian crisis in Gaza and ratcheted up tensions between Israel and the international community even as diplomats indicated progress in cease-fire talks.

Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni was departing Thursday night for Washington to discuss a Gaza cease-fire with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. The United States and Egypt have been working to

forge an agreement to end 20 days of bitter fighting.

The U.N. compound, made up of workshops and warehouses as well as offices, was struck about a half-dozen times over a roughly two-hour period while more than 700 civilians were sheltering there, said John Ging, head of Gaza operations for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency.

The civilians were huddling in the compound's vocational training center when it was struck by a tank round or an artillery shell, causing the three injuries, Ging said. Throughout this time, he said, U.N. officials were frantically contacting Israeli officials to urge an end to the firing on the U.N. compound.

Abroad

continued from page 1

semester in Angers, France, the biggest change was the slower pace of French life.

"Whereas life in the United States is very fast-paced, French people like to relax," Karam said. "Very long dinners are common, sometimes three to four hours with several courses."

Despite the many differences from life in America, students said they enjoyed the changes. Kristine Yuen, a junior who spent the fall semester in Shanghai, China, said experiencing the distinct culture was the best part of the trip.

"My favorite part was definitely experiencing the culture, meeting new people, and dealing with the locals," Yuen said.

Students also said the challenges of adapting to life in a new place were made easier by their fellow students.

"Life in a non-English speaking country was an entirely new challenge and opportunity," said junior Jason Miller, who spent the semester in Toledo, Spain. "But I couldn't have had such a great time without the amazing group of people I went with."

An important facet of studying abroad was the additional travel that many students participated in, ranging from traditional tourist destinations to more

exotic locales.

"I went to Inner Mongolia with three friends during our week-long break," Yuen said. "It was definitely the craziest thing I have done in my life so far."

Like most students, Karam enjoyed the relaxed workload she had while abroad and she's confident that she will be able to get back into her normal academic routine now that she has returned to Notre Dame.

"Most classes were easier than those at Notre Dame," Karam said. "I had one that was pretty challenging, though, so it shouldn't be too difficult to adjust back to the ND workload."

Miller is also certain he can readjust to Notre Dame's coursework. He said he is happy to be back, although he does miss life in Toledo.

"Honestly, I wouldn't mind being in Spain right now. Not even a little," Miller said. "However, it is fantastic to see friends and familiar faces that I've missed for the past six months."

Yuen echoed Miller's sentiments, and said life back in the United States will take a little getting used to.

"It is a very bittersweet moment to be back. I missed all of my friends back here at ND, but I definitely miss China," Yuen said. "The weather, food, culture, and people are all so different; it will take a little while to adjust back."

Contact Irena Zajickova at izajicko@nd.edu

SMC

continued from page 1

Laemmle. "The Irish are so relaxed about everything and life was very enjoyable."

The pace was not the only disparity in lifestyle that affected Laemmle, who found it difficult to fit back into her structured life back in the United States.

"It was really hard to readjust when I first got home," said Laemmle.

"I'd been living in an apartment with four Irish students while abroad."

"We were totally on our own in the apartments, so you could come and go as you pleased or make as much noise as you wanted and no one minded. I feel like my independence has been taken away since moving back to America because I do have to follow so many rules now," she said.

Junior Afton Caterina may be having the hardest time with the adjustment. She recently returned from two semesters abroad, one in Italy and one in Spain. Although she is glad to be back, Caterina, a double major in Italian and Spanish, is going through withdrawal from being overseas for so long.

"I was really looking forward to being back at Saint Mary's because I had been abroad for a whole year and was beginning to really miss normal life on campus, but now I really miss both Spain and Rome," she said. "I already miss being able to discover something

absolutely new every single day, being surrounded by history, and the excitement of not knowing what I'm going to see that day or who I'm going to talk to."

Not all of those who studied abroad are having as much difficulty re-adjusting. For sophomore Kayleigh Young, everything is falling right into order.

"As of yet, I have not experienced any sort of culture shock," Young said. "I love being home and at Saint Mary's. I missed the campus and all of my friends."

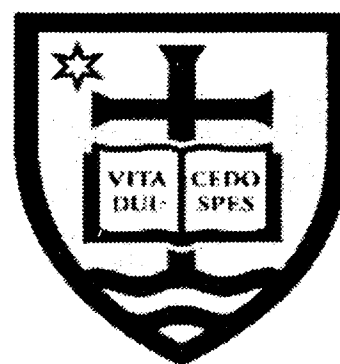
Though not all of them have had the same return experience, all of the girls agreed on one thing — studying abroad changed their lives.

"It opens up your eyes to so many new things and allows you to see and experience the world at such a young and influential age," Caterina said. "There are so many great opportunities to travel once you are abroad and you are given the chance to see so much. You also learn how to be independent and manage things without your parents around."

For those students who are planning on studying abroad through one of the many opportunities provided by Saint Mary's or Notre Dame, Young has one piece of advice.

"Keep an open mind and remember that you are lucky to have this opportunity so do not be afraid to try new things," she said.

Contact Megan Loney at mloney01@saintmarys.edu



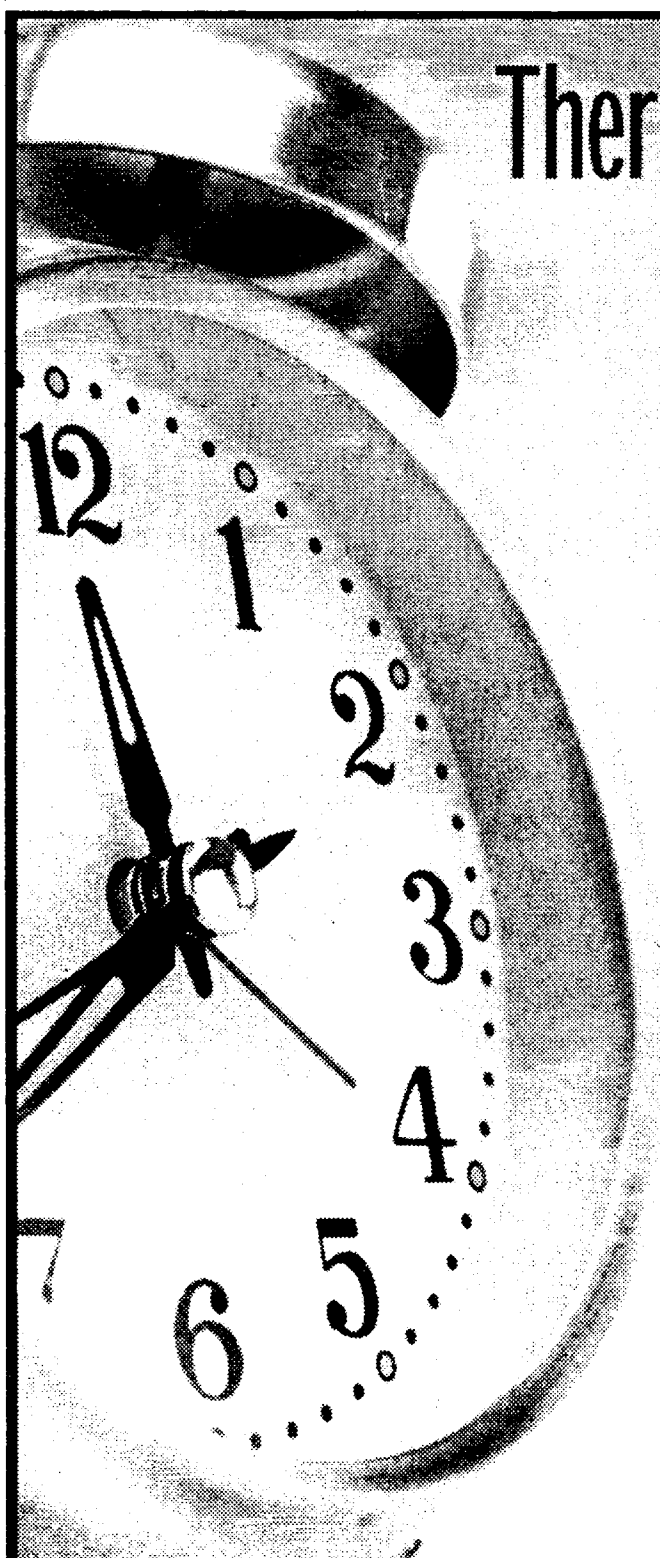
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NASDAQ 1,511.84 +22.20
NYSE 5,347.75 +26.63
S&P 500 843.74 +1.12
NIKKEI (Tokyo) 8,138.57 +115.26
FTSE 100 (London) 4,121.11 -59.53

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
CITIGROUP (C)	-15.45	-0.70	3.83
BK OF AMERICA CP (BAC)	-18.43	-1.88	8.32
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	+0.04	+0.03	84.40
FINANCIAL SEL SPDR (XLF)	-4.59	-0.48	9.98

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	-0.54	-0.012	2.201
13-WEEK BILL	-9.09	-0.010	0.100
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IN BRIEF

Job layoffs grow as economy slumps

WASHINGTON — The number of newly laid off workers seeking unemployment benefits rose more than expected last week, the latest sign the economy is shrinking and unlikely to rebound anytime soon.

The figures came a day after the government said retail sales dropped sharply in December and the Federal Reserve issued a gloomy economic assessment.

Economists said the reports illustrate that the economy remains stuck in a downward cycle: Consumers initially cut back spending in response to the housing and credit crises, slowing the economy and leading companies to lay off workers, which spurs even more caution among consumers.

President-elect Barack Obama's administration hopes a massive stimulus package will jolt the economy back to life. House leaders on Thursday proposed legislation with \$825 billion of federal spending and tax cuts.

Government to supply funding to bank

WASHINGTON — Bank of America and the Treasury Department are near an agreement that will provide \$15 billion to \$20 billion in new government support to the banking giant, a source close to the discussions said Thursday.

This source said that the injection of fresh capital will come from the government's \$700 billion rescue fund and will be similar to assistance provided last November to Citigroup. The source spoke on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not been completely finalized. An announcement was expected later Thursday.

Bank of America will use the money from the rescue fund to help it absorb losses at Merrill Lynch. The two sides were also discussing providing government guarantees against losses, with that money coming from a mix of government sources.

The Treasury Department already has pledged the first half of the \$700 billion bailout fund which Congress approved on Oct. 3 to deal with the biggest financial crisis to hit the country since the Great Depression.

House unveils economic recovery bill

Unprecedented \$825 billion legislation predicted to affect 95% of workers

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Democrats unveiled an \$825 billion economic recovery bill Thursday, unprecedented in its scale and reach, that would provide an enormous infusion of public spending in hopes of kick-starting the sagging economy.

The legislation — two-thirds spending and one-third tax cuts — would provide help for the poor and unemployed and hand out huge grants for local schools and state governments, among its many provisions.

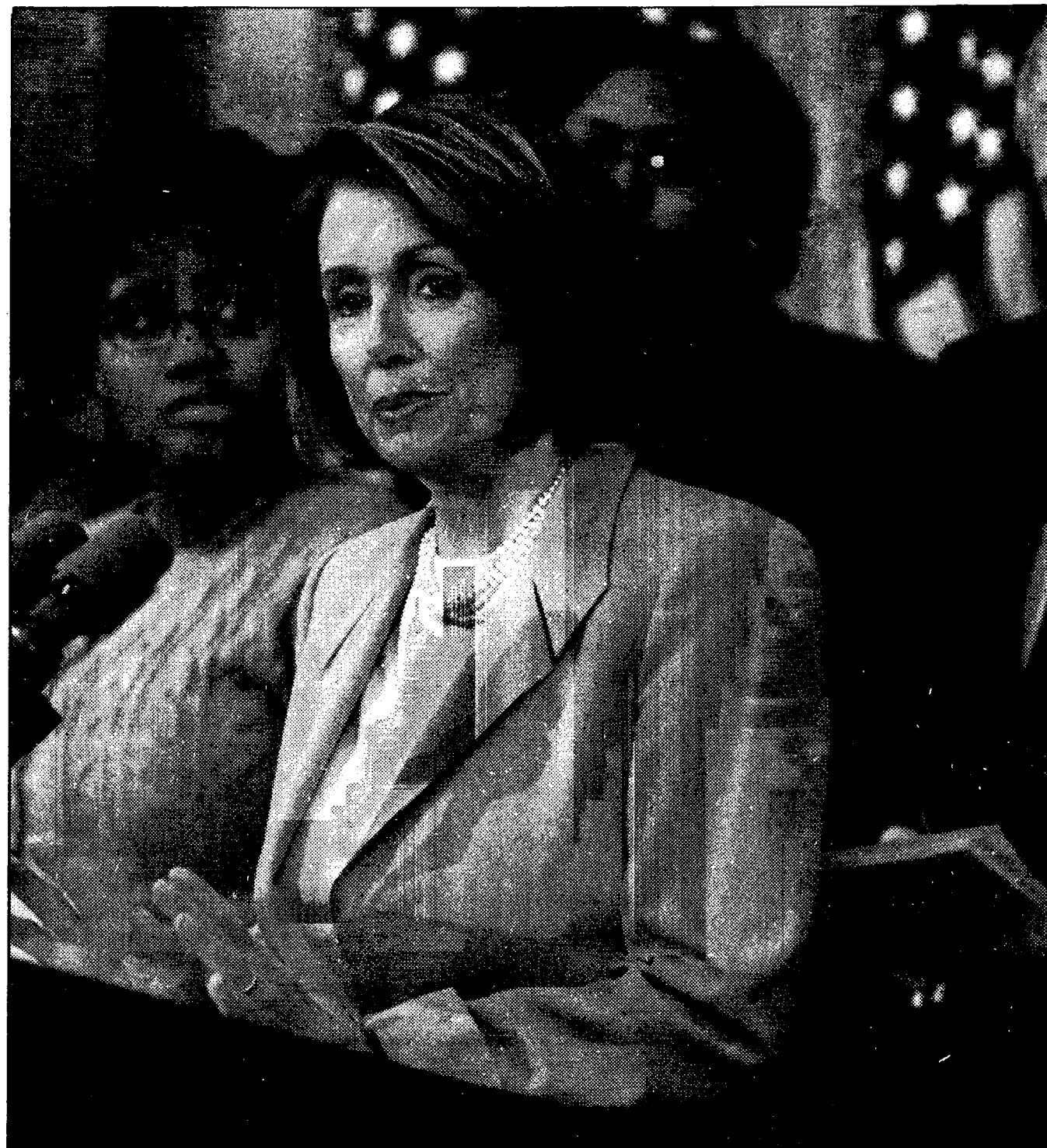
President-elect Barack Obama said it would fulfill his promise of creating or preserving more than 3 million jobs. But Republicans calculated that would equal as much as \$275,000 per job.

Virtually every living in the United States would be affected by the plan. A \$500 tax cut would reach 95 percent of workers and \$1,000 for working couples. First-time home buyers purchasing homes between Jan. 1 and June 30 would get a \$7,500 tax credit, and local school districts would be spared severe cuts as state and local governments' budgets collapse — to the tune of \$120 billion over the next two years. States would get \$87 billion worth of help with their Medicaid budgets over the next two years.

But there's also money for fresh sod for the National Mall and millions of \$40 coupons to help people adapt their old televisions for digital signals, raising questions about how efficient the legislation would be in creating jobs. Even bill drafters such as Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey, D-Wis., admits that much of the money won't flow into the economy immediately.

And Obey says more may be required.

"This product may in fact



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and House Democrats introduced an \$825 billion recovery bill aimed at stimulating the dismal economy.

undershoot the mark," Obey told reporters.

Whatever doubts there may be about how effective the plan would be, it's on a fast track through Congress in hopes of reaching Obama's desk within a month.

"It is about job creation," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said. "It is about clean, efficient energy in America to transform our economy through investments in science and technology. ... It is about modernizing our roads, bridges; education for the 21st century; tax cuts that make work pay and create

jobs."

At the same time, the measure helps the poor, unemployed and people who have lost their health insurance. Food stamp allotments would increase 13 percent, or about \$20 a month, while the unemployed would see their benefits extended and increased by \$25 a week.

People who lost their jobs after Sept. 1, 2008, could have the government pay almost two-thirds of their health insurance premiums under the COBRA law. Poorer people who have been fired recently could get health coverage

through the Medicaid program.

The measure also contains about \$90 billion for traditional infrastructure projects such as road and bridge repair and construction, modernizing federal buildings, clean water and flood control projects, and rail and mass transit construction.

That failed to impress Terence O'Sullivan, general president of the Laborers International Union of North America, who said it "falls far short."

And AARP complained that the measure doesn't do much for senior citizens.

Wall Street rebounds after poor start

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street pulled off a big turnaround Thursday, rebounding from a steep early drop to finish modestly higher. Investors who began the day worrying about a revival of the banking crisis grew optimistic during the session that the government will again help the financial industry.

The selloff, which followed news that Bank of America Corp. needed another government cash infusion, had the Dow Jones industrials heading for a seventh straight loss. But investors awaiting a Senate vote authorizing the second \$350 billion from the government's financial bailout fund became more upbeat as the day wore on. They were hoping additional money

from Washington will help stabilize banks; lawmakers approved the money after the market closed.

Late Thursday, Bank of America and the Treasury Department were near an agreement that would provide \$15 billion to \$20 billion in new government support to the banking giant, a source close to the discussions said.

The market's zigzag Thursday was reminiscent of the enormous volatility seen in September and October, when worries about mounting troubles at banks and the collapse of brokerage Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. pummeled Wall Street. Swings of hundreds of points in the Dow industrials were at times terrifying but began to feel almost commonplace. Wall Street has shown relative tranquility since late November but still

remains in a bear market, which can produce sharp turns.

Some analysts attributed the comeback to the market's own dynamics.

Joe Saluzzi, co-head of equity trading at Themis Trading LLC, said the recovery in stocks was overdue given a 10 percent slide in the market in about a week, and he said traders were looking for any reason to rally. Saluzzi said investors might ultimately be disappointed by the government's efforts to boost the economy but that headlines about broad spending were enough to prod the market.

"That's the spark on top of the timber. That gets it going," he said, referring to Washington's plans. "I think, bottom line, it's an oversold bounce. We'll see if it lasts."

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Friday, January 16, 2009

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Bowling for Obama

Last week college football fans were treated to a BCS Championship game that unequivocally named the Florida Gators the champions off the 2008 college football season. Or did it?

Before the game even started teams from Salt Lake City, Austin, and Compton were claiming that they were deserving of being named champions, and many writers agreed with them. Despite the fact that I fell asleep during the second quarter of a game that was almost as boring as Benjamin Button [key word: almost] I believe the Gators deserve the National Championship that has been presented to them, and that the other teams should just stop their whining.

But not everybody agrees with me. Most notably, our President-elect has been outspoken in his requests for a college football playoff to determine the national champion. This is most interesting because we have no evidence that Barack Obama is a college football fan. He talks about being a White Sox fan, he appeared on a Bears Monday Night Football game in 2006, and he talks often about his love of basketball, but how could a person who went to Occidental, Columbia, and Harvard possibly know what the biggest college football fans actually want?

Does his plea for a playoff come from his belief that a playoff would be the best thing for the sport? Or is it simply to appeal to the media hounds that love to talk about a playoff. OR is this logic just coming from his Hollywood connections who are all disappointed about a certain team going to the Rose Bowl again? The fact of the matter is that there are several downsides to a college football playoff that the non-college fan could not possibly understand.

The most common argument against

a playoff is that it devalues the regular season. This year, games that were incredibly exciting because of their BCS implications included Texas - Texas Tech, Alabama - Florida, USC - Oregon State, and Penn State - Iowa. If there was a playoff, these games would have only been important for seeds, but the BCS eliminated the losers of all of these games making the stakes higher than most every regular season NFL game.

More interestingly, however, is the fact that a playoff system would also devalue the other bowl games that currently exist. Already we have seen bowls such as the Cotton Bowl and the bowl formerly known as the Citrus Bowl become less important because they landed on the outside of the BCS. If a playoff was instituted, all the non-playoff bowl games would become a sideshow much like the NFL's Pro Bowl or the UEFA Cup. While somebody who is not a fan of college football (or more importantly, a specific team) might see no purpose to these other bowl games, us college football fans know that they are the heart and soul of our sport.

This year's other bowls gave Ole Miss the chance to prove that its win over Florida was no fluke. They gave TCU the opportunity to prove that they are a top 10 team. They gave Utah the mere opportunity to enter into the National Championship conversation, and they gave Vanderbilt fans something many haven't seen in their lifetime (a bowl victory). Most importantly, however, this year's lesser bowls gave us Notre Dame fans something to cheer about after two of our most painful seasons.

Five weeks ago I wrote in this paper about how disappointing the past four years of Notre Dame Football had been. Things had gotten so bad that even most Notre Dame Fans did not think that our team could beat lowly Hawaii. This game gave us something to look forward to for the future, as well as something to be happy about in the present. If it wasn't for the lesser bowls, I would have never been able to

proudly wear my Kyle Rudolph/Ethan Johnson [sorry Zibby] jersey to midnight mass on Christmas Eve.

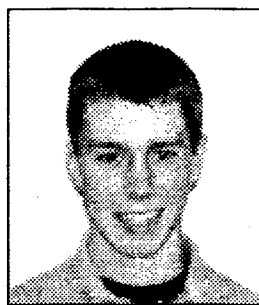
Bowl games give half the country something awesome to cheer about and make lasting memories for the fans of the schools that come out victorious. Barack Obama says that a playoff system would be best for the sport because he is seemingly not a fan of the sport and has probably never even attended a bowl game. He wasn't the Ole Miss Senior that cheered victoriously as the Cotton Bowl trophy was hoisted feet away from him. He wasn't the Utah Senior who celebrated New Year's Eve on Bourbon Street, undoubtedly being taunted and outnumbered by Alabama fans, only to experience the sheer ecstasy of the Ute's victory. He wasn't the Notre Dame Senior that wore a football jersey to midnight mass on Christmas Eve in celebration of the bowl victory he's been waiting far too long to see.

I have been telling anybody who will listen about the football jersey I wore to midnight mass, and I will probably continue to tell people the story for a long time. In fact, I will probably tell my great - nephews the story years from now when I am telling them memories of my Notre Dame years. The bowl system made a memory for me over this year even though I never considered travelling out to Hawaii.

Barack Obama has none of these memories because he never attended a school with a Div. I football program, and because of this he should stop thinking he knows what is best for a sport he can't possibly understand. As he brings change to this country starting next week, I just hope that he focuses on more important issues that he more fully understands and does not waste his time trying to change my bowl system.

Bob Kessler is a senior majoring in political science and economics. You can contact him at rkessler@nd.edu

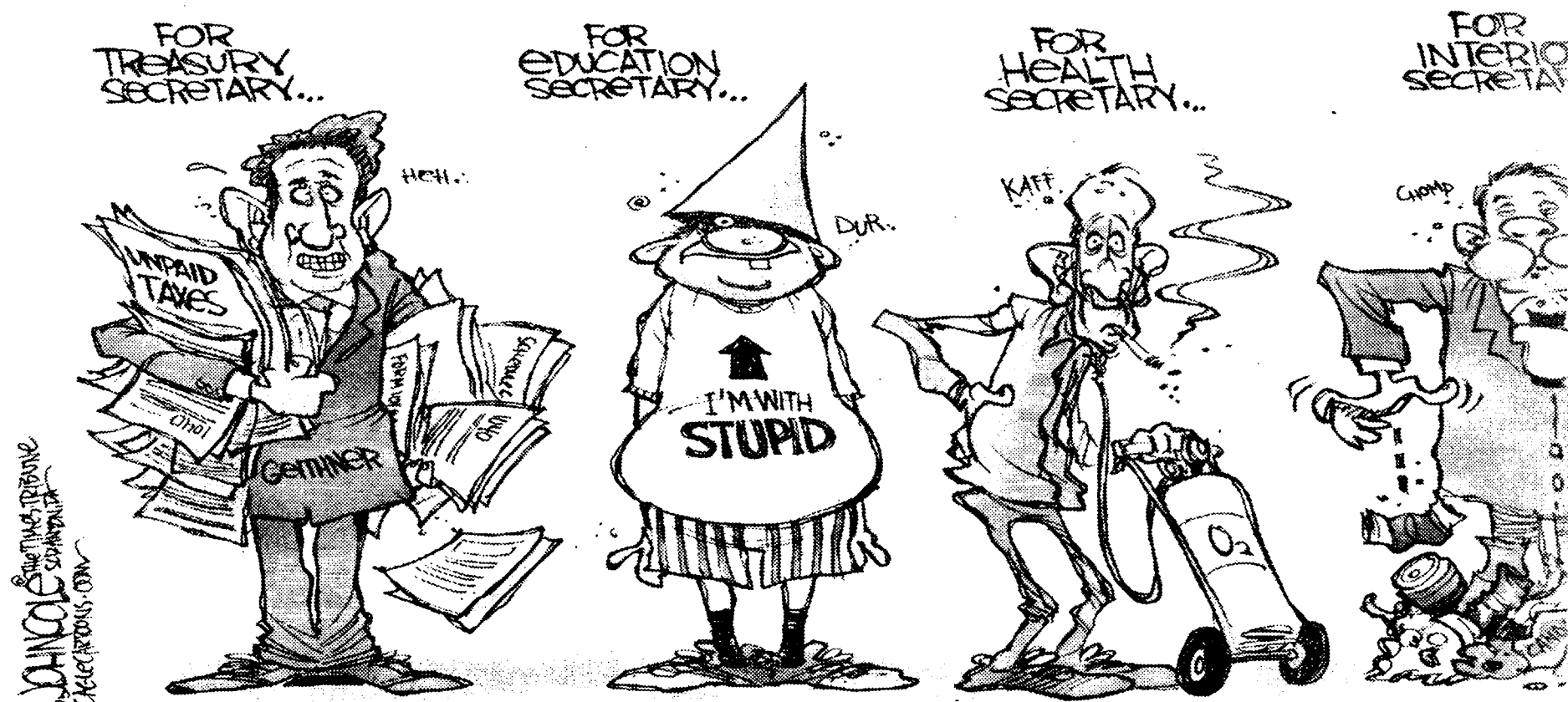
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Bob Kessler

House of Stix

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Our great democracies still tend to think that a stupid man is more likely to be honest than a clever man."

Bertrand Russell
British author

Submit a Letter
to the Editor at

www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Don't hit at all if it is honorably possible to avoid hitting; but never hit soft!"

Theodore Roosevelt
26th U.S. President

Holding on to Christmas

Christmas, 2004. I had just been ordained a priest, and was heading home. My family was excited I was going to say Christmas Mass at my home. My younger brother pointed out that, after six years in the seminary, he was finally starting to reap some benefits from my vocation. (When I had told him I was becoming a priest, his first words were, "Does this mean I don't have to get out of my pajamas on Christmas morning to go to Mass?")

Fr. Lou DelFra, CSC

Faith Point

As a new priest, I confess that I was pretty stoked about saying Christmas mass in the living room in which I grew up, my parents and brother and nieces and nephews all around. I was intent on leading my family into a deeper appreciation of the spiritual side of Christmas.

We would gather for mass two days in a row, as Christmas was on a Saturday, and the Feast of the Holy Family was the next day. So, newly ordained saint that I was, during my Christmas homily I suggested to my nieces and nephews that when they returned for Mass the next day, they should bring one toy they had received from Santa to donate to the poor. As my chest swelled at how holy I was making my family, I heard these words from the back of the living room, spat out by my 14-year old nephew — "This sucks!" (Gotta love the East Coast — I only reluctantly gave him communion.)

Having had four years to get over this, I now realize that there's a couple ways to think about my darling nephew's Christmas zeal. On the one hand, there's the righteous side of me that says, "You know what, kid, suck it up. You've got more than 99 percent of the kids in the world. Now turn over the GameBoy, and we'll all learn an important lesson about sharing and social justice!" And there's clearly something to that.

But, at the risk of allowing my Christianity to be tainted by nepotism, I suspect my nephew makes an important claim, spiritually.

Growing up, Christmas is the most exciting time of the year — with nothing even a close second. Because, as we get closer to Dec. 25, kids start to think about all the things

they really, really want, more than anything in the world.

True, kids are always thinking about what they really, really want, more than anything in the world. But at Christmas it's different — because at Christmas, adults actually listen to them and take them seriously. A few days later, Santa comes, while they're asleep, and gives them at least some of what they really, really want more than anything in the world. As a kid, it just doesn't get any better than that! All you have to do is fall asleep. And then in the morning, oh yeah! There it is!

This moment, of walking into your living room as a child on Christmas morning, and seeing a tree, lit up and surrounded by all these things that you've been hoping for — given to you free, while you slept — that weren't there the night before — is a very spiritually significant moment; really, a sacramental moment.

Because at that moment, Christianity's claim about our existence becomes visibly, emotionally, and concretely present to us — it's all a gift. Everything. Our whole life. One day, we were loved into being, and given our lives.

And the things that are our hearts most deeply desire — when we were little, it was toys; now, it is to be loved, to be whole, to be healed, to be one with our God — all these things are given to us, while we sleep in darkness.

What kids experience when they turn the corner of the living room and see their gifts, that's how we are called to experience our lives, and all that fills them: with wonder and gratitude — "I can't believe this has happened!"

So, what if some mean uncle came up to you, and said that now you had to give this gift away. What would you say to that.

As we begin a new semester, hold on to Christmas. This semester, and all it holds — it's all a gift. Try to step into it with wonder, expectation, and deep thanks.

This week's column is written by Fr. Lou DelFra, CSC, director of Bible Studies and chaplain to ACE. He can be reached at delfra.2@nd.edu.

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

U-WIRE

Opining on Opinion-making

Biologists work in biology. Physicists study physics. Meteorologists work in meteorology. Columnists ... study columns?

One of these is definitely not like the others.

The first three study for years to become experts in their respective fields.

There is a measured science behind their successes. Columnists may spend years writing columns, but that only makes them experts in writing columns (the occasional pundit notwithstanding). Still, readers presume columnists' opinions are valid.

And therein lies an intriguing dichotomy: Columnists do not write about writing columns. They cover a variety of topic from politics and the economy to medicine and the arts. In other words, they get to play dress-up. One day they're armchair political commentators, the next, Web MD-educated physicians.

But all they do is just jot down their strongly worded opinions and buttress them with statistics, anecdotes and quotes from experts. If columns were a Simpsons character, they'd be Lisa — "Springfield's answer to the question nobody asked."

At face value, it seems strange that the columnist can occupy such an important and influential role in today's media and society.

Mary Ann Weston, a professor of journalism at Northwestern University, explained that the press in the early years of America was strongly affiliated with political parties and were even subsidized by them in many ways. Popular editors derived fame from the editorials they wrote, and even regular news stories had a clear bent.

It wasn't until after the Civil War that the advertising model emerged for newspapers. That required appeal to a mass audience, and thus subjectivity was traded for objectivity. The modern columnist was created as a way for the newspaper to remain objective while still publishing strong personal opinion.

Prominent early columnists like Walter Lippmann and Scotty Reston served a crucial purpose in distilling and analyzing complex issues, in addition to offering their opinions. Lippmann especially saw the columnist as responsible for interpreting the news, something he saw the public to be incapable of doing.

Brandon Moyse

University of Pennsylvania Daily Pennsylvanian

Today's columnist, though, (say, of the Maureen Dowd variety) has to compete with the 24/7 reporting and analysis on the internet and television, whose news sources no longer seem to strive for objectivity. The advantage of opinion as distinct from reporting has been lost, and the definition of a columnist broadened.

Witness the birth of the "down-to-earth" columnist (or should I say "Dowd-to-earth"?), whose primary function, according to Takashi Mogi of Kyorin University in Japan, seems to be connecting mundane events like hiring a babysitter to hot-button issues like abortion.

Moreover, the sarcasm and sneering that permeate so many of today's op-ed pieces could make them equally well-suited to Conan O'Brien's opening monologue. (To clear up any possible confusion, Maureen Dowd has one Pulitzer Prize; I have zero.)

"Columnists have changed from clergymen to clowns," Mogi concluded.

That's not entirely fair. For all their faults, modern columnists, through their means of expression, are part of a collective consciousness. The public can relate to them in a way it never could have to Walter Lippmann. Rather than speak to the readers, they speak for them — or at least manage to give that impression — and convincing the reader to side with you instead of that other guy is incredibly powerful. It's difficult for the expert — the biologist, the political scientist, the sociologist — to connect with and convince an audience on that level because of the prejudice of ivory-towerism. This continuing gap preserves the necessity of the opinion columnist.

When I started gathering ideas, the first thought I had was: "Why would anybody want to hear what I have to say?" And 603 words later, I think I know: because we like to question. When someone sticks out his neck and offers an opinion, sometimes the results make you nod, and sometimes they make you cringe. But it starts a dialogue in ways that straight news can't since it's more fun when you know with whom you're arguing.

Of course, what do I know? I'm just a columnist.

This column first appeared in the Jan. 15 edition of The Daily Pennsylvanian the daily paper of the University of Pennsylvania.

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

Give me something to talk about.

Submit a Letter to the Editor.

obsviewpoint@gmail.com

EDITORIAL CARTOON





Kate and Leo Titanic to Revolution

By ANALISE LIPARI
Scene Editor

More than a decade after their first onscreen pairing, Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio recently reunited on film in their adaptation of the 1961 novel "Revolutionary Road." As a suburban couple stifled by society and their own disillusioned malaise, the pair has garnered much critical acclaim. But how did these two actors get from where they were in 1997, when they were first paired onscreen, to where they are now in 2009?

In 1996, director James Cameron decided to cast two up-and-coming actors as the male and female leads in his latest big-budget blockbuster, "Titanic." The film, a special effects-laden retelling of the sinking of a fated 1912 ocean liner, plucked these two leads from pseudo-obscure. The male lead was an alum of sitcoms ("Growing Pains") and a few critical successes ("What's Eating Gilbert Grape," "This Boy's Life"). The female lead, a British actress, had even fewer high-profile credentials under her belt (Peter Jackson's "Heavenly Creatures").

In 1997, "Titanic," was an astronomical success. A critical and box office smash, it went on to win 11 Academy Awards while grossing more than \$1.8 billion dollars worldwide.

And those two little-known actors? Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet, nominated for a Best Actress Academy Award for "Titanic," went on to become two of contemporary Hollywood's highest-profile actors.

The paths of their careers have wound and twisted in surprising ways. DiCaprio has emerged from his post-"Titanic" teen idol status to play with Hollywood's big players: Russell Crowe, Tom Hanks, and Martin Scorsese, a working relationship often likened to that between Scorsese and Robert De Niro two decades prior. Winslet, called the "best English-speaking film actress of her generation" by David Edelstein of "The New Yorker," is a five-time Academy Award nominee who won herself two Golden Globe awards Sunday.

While several of his other roles, particularly that of the young male lead in "This Boy's Life," may have led DiCaprio to critical success at the beginning of his career, it was his portrayal of Jack Dawson in "Titanic" that gave birth to the Leo-Mania phenomenon.

Yet DiCaprio didn't see himself gracing the cover of "Tiger Beat" for life; he told Time magazine in 2000 that "I have no connection with me during that whole Titanic Phenomenon and what my face became

around the world. I'll never reach that state of popularity again ... It's not something I'm going to try to achieve either."

His films that followed, such as "The Man in the Iron Mask" (1998), may have benefited from his heartthrob status. But it was his later projects that would cement DiCaprio as one of the top American actors of his generation.

In 2002, he starred in the Scorsese-directed film "Gangs of New York" alongside Cameron Diaz and Daniel Day-Lewis, as well as the Steven Spielberg-helmed "Catch Me If You Can." The chain of films that followed reads like a laundry list of the new millennium's most critically acclaimed releases: 2004's

"The Aviator," 2006's "The Departed," which went on to win the Oscar for Best Picture, and 2006's "Blood Diamond." "Revolutionary Road" is only the latest building block of his career; upcoming projects of DiCaprio's include Scorsese's "Ashecliffe," and his future role as Atari and Chuck E. Cheese's founder Nolan Bushnell in a yet-untitled project.

Winslet has rarely backed down from challenging projects in the years since her first collaboration with DiCaprio, taking on quirkier or more difficult projects than most actresses of her age. In 2001, she starred in the biopic

"Irish" as Irish novelist Irish Murdoch. Three years later, she played Clementine Kruczynski in "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," portraying a woman who chooses to have all memories of her former lover (Jim Carrey) erased.

Winslet would tackle suburban complexity first in 2006 as Sarah Pierce in "Little Children," a role for which she was awarded another Academy Award nomination. Several of her other projects have included her role as Sylvia Llewelyn Davies in "Finding Neverland" (2004), the lovelorn Irish Simpkins in the 2006 rom-com "The Holiday," and her recent portrayal of former Nazi guard Hanna Schmitz in "The Reader." Both "The Reader" and "Revolutionary Road" won Winslet Golden Globe awards this year, and her path towards winning an Oscar seems a sure one.

DiCaprio and Winslet have come a long way since they were first matched as the ill-fated Rose and Jack in Cameron's "Titanic." With the production of "Revolutionary Road" now behind them and awards season ahead, audiences and fans wait in anticipation of what might come next.

Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu

James Cameron decided to cast two up-and-coming actors as the male and female leads in his latest big-budget blockbuster, "Titanic."





from ary Road

By SHANE STEINBERG
Scene Writer

Eleven years and eight Oscar nominations after becoming household names for their roles in "Titanic," Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio are sharing the same screen once again, in the film "Revolutionary Road".

Cast arguably the best actor and terrific director in Sam Mendes ("American Beauty") and you've got an equation that screams Oscars. And a winning equation it most certainly turns out to be.

Frank and April Wheeler are a young married couple who have recently settled down, started a family and made a home for themselves in a seemingly perfect, innocent suburban town in Connecticut.

They are living the picturesque 1950s life, falling into every sense of normalcy that comes with the lifestyle. Under the surface, however, lies a different story.

Right off the bat we are privy to the fact that the Wheelers have a rocky marriage, always arguing, but about what? There

Frank wants to find his calling, but like so many of us, isn't willing to take the risk, while April is searching for something not even she can understand — and therein lies the tragedy.

in lies the substance of the film.

Look closer and you'll find that although this is a film about social issues and gender stereotypes facing Americans in the 1950s, about a marriage on the brink of collapse because of these issues, it is just as much, if not more, about the struggle to retain an identity amidst the delusion that when one settles down, life automatically resigns itself and is replaced by a numb existence.

Look even closer and you'll find that although this film is built around couples, it is actually about individuals — individuals who choose to live the delusion and either convince themselves that life inevitably becomes anesthetized and there's nothing that can be done about it, or simply don't realize their frozenness at all. Individuals like Frank, and especially April, who so boldly choose to refuse the delusion, try to grab a hold of life again.

Look a little more deeper and you will see that even among those who desire change, there is a weakness too powerful and too restricting — reality.

The reality is that Frank and April are together in their quest to live again for different reasons: Frank wants to find his calling, but like so many of us, isn't willing to take the risk, while April is searching for something not even she can understand — and therein lies the tragedy.

Their search for the life that eludes them both is a blind search, one conjured up by dreamers fated to wake up and realize that reality isn't so kind.

It doesn't take much to see that Winslet and DiCaprio are nothing short of brilliant, or that Sam Mendes is in top form in his return to showcasing the rather dark side of suburban life, but it does take a connection with the characters to really take in just how remarkable "Revolutionary Road" is.

Many will watch it from the outside-looking-in and find it a gloomy, perhaps even dull film, but for those who can look through the window and into April Wheeler's eyes and see the emptiness of fake existence, this is one of the real gems of the year.

Contact Shane Steinberg at ssteinb2@nd.edu

Revolutionary Road

Directed by: Sam Mendes
Written by: Justin Haythe & Richard Yates
Starring: Kate Winslet & Leonardo DiCaprio



ANDREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic



By SARA FELSENSTEIN
Scene Writer

Despite the sub-zero weather and the snow blanketing campus, Legends will be heating things up this Friday night with the Chicago-based Latin group Banda Rika and on Saturday night with DJ Kidscratch.

Banda Rika, composed of a 10-person orchestra

Banda Rika ... combines the styles of Merengue, Cumbia, Boleros, and Bachata to create a distinctive Latin flavor.

DJ Kidscratch shared the stage with names like DMX, Kanye West, Do or Die, 8ball & Mjg, Twista, and Common.

Banda Rika is fast, energetic, and exciting. With the intensity and authenticity of their music and dance moves, the band is fun to watch.

Banda Rika first came to Notre Dame in the winter of 2005 and is one of Chicago's premier Latin bands. They will perform at 10 p.m. on Friday.

Saturday night, Legends will feature DJ Kidscratch

Chicago's WPWX Power 92 Radio for possibly the biggest Hip Hop Nightclub to date.

Born in East Chicago, the half-Puerto Rican, half-Mexican Kidscratch has been DJ-ing and creating

mixtapes for 14 years, making him a favorite of the Chicago club and party scene. In 2003, Chicago's WGCI radio station featured him on a weekend mix show. Only a year after winning WGCI's contest to become the new mixer, Kidscratch was offered a spot at

WPWX, rising to fame at a much faster pace than most other DJs. Throughout his career he has created over 400 mixtapes, and he can be heard on the radio at least 10 times

per week. Kidscratch has also significantly influenced the Chicago music scene by bringing the style of reggaeton to the forefront. Kidscratch was nominated for the Midwest DJ of the Year and Rookie DJ of the Year at the Mixshow Power Summit 2005.

His name is known throughout the country, and he has even shared the stage with names like DMX, Kanye West, Do or Die, 8ball & Mjg, Twista and Common.

Contact Sara Felsenstein at sfelsens@nd.edu

NCAA FOOTBALL

USC quarterback Sanchez declares for draft

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Mark Sanchez made his own call.

Coming off a record-setting Rose Bowl, the Southern California quarterback will skip his senior season to enter the NFL draft — going against the advice of coach Pete Carroll.

Sanchez, a fourth-year junior, announced his plans at a campus news conference Thursday, the deadline for undergrads to declare for the draft.

The past three stars who played quarterback at USC under Carroll stayed for their senior seasons, and the former NFL coach thought Sanchez should do the same.

Carroll tried to convince Sanchez that another year of college experience would help him in the pro game, but Sanchez said he had carefully weighed all the considerations before deciding to leave.

"It has been my dream since I was just a little kid to play in the NFL and thanks to this great academic institution and football program, I have the opportunity to realize that dream," said Sanchez, dapperly dressed in a business suit.

"It was with a heavy heart that I say goodbye to this university. But I can't tell you how excited I am for this dream to come true."

Heisman Trophy winners Carson Palmer and Matt Leinart, along with John David Booty, all returned for their final year of eligibility with the Trojans. Palmer was the first overall pick in the 2002 NFL draft and Leinart was selected 10th in 2005.

Carroll, who said he considers Sanchez as talented as any of those three, discussed the pros and cons with him.

"We've talked at great depth and great length. We've covered this from A to Z ... going until late last night," Carroll said. "We don't see this decision the same. (But) I'm thrilled for Mark. For any of our kids to live the dream and do what they want to do with their football career, this is a great place to do this."

Because 2008 Heisman winner Sam Bradford of Oklahoma, 2007 Heisman winner Tim Tebow of Florida and Texas star Colt McCoy all plan to return to school next season, Sanchez and Georgia's Matthew Stafford — another junior coming out early — likely will be the top quarterback prospects in the draft.

Mitch Mustain, who transferred from Arkansas after going 8-0 in games he started as a Razorbacks freshman in 2006, is expected to compete with Aaron Corp. Gartett Green and incoming freshman Matt Barkley for the Trojans'

starting job.

Carroll, a former head coach with the New York Jets and New England Patriots, thinks another year of college experience would have greatly benefited Sanchez, who started at USC for only one full season.

"Mark is going against the grain on this decision and he knows that. He knows that coming out early is a tremendous challenge for a quarterback and the statistics don't back up that it's easy to be successful in the way that he's going about it," Carroll said.

"We've seen successes and we've seen guys come up short on this deal. We hope this works out beautifully for Mark and his family."

Carroll isn't selling Sanchez short.

"He's a competitive guy, a guy that's willing to take on this challenge in a way that he's going to make it happen," the coach said. "Mark clearly has the potential to be as good as any of those guys we've had. We saw it early on."

"All it is is an experience issue."

Sanchez ended his college career with his finest game. The 6-foot-3, 225-pounder went 28-for-35 against Penn State, setting a Rose Bowl record by completing 80 percent of his passes. He threw for 413 yards and four touchdowns, and also ran for a score



Quarterback Mark Sanchez of Southern California declares at a press conference that he will enter the 2009 NFL draft.

in the Trojans' 38-24 victory.

Sanchez led the Trojans to a 12-1 record and No. 3 national ranking last season after going 2-1 the previous year while Booty was hurt.

A high school star in nearby Mission Viejo who redshirted at USC in 2005, Sanchez finished last season with 3,207 yards passing, 34 touchdowns and 10 interceptions. He threw for 695 yards and seven touchdowns with five interceptions in 2007.

Sanchez said he came to USC to get an education, to compete

at the highest college level and earn a chance to play in the NFL.

"I'm proud to say that this spring, I'll have the opportunity to do both," said Sanchez, on track to receive his degree in communications.

His father, Nick, said he had mixed emotions about his son's decision to enter the draft.

"As a parent, I'd like for him to stay in school for another 10 years," he said. "But it's great to see a young man trying to live his dream."

MLB

Hafner confident about upcoming season with Tribe

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Never fashion conscious, Travis Hafner prefers to wear ratty T-shirts. One of his favorites says: "I'm not smart, but I can lift heavy things."

He can soon take it out of the bottom drawer.

The man known as Pronk is ready to help carry the Indians.

Hafner, Cleveland's hard-swinging designated hitter who spent most of last season on the disabled list with a weakened right shoulder, has recovered from offseason surgery to the point where he will begin a hitting program next week in Arizona — his first real cuts since late September.

"I'm chomping at the bit," he said Thursday.

By all accounts, Hafner has put a disappointing 2008 season behind him. He spent 106 days on the DL and was limited to just 57 games. The 31-year-

old was batting .217 through 46 games and hitting like a skinny shortstop when team physicians told him to shut it down. They were convinced he would get stronger with rest and rehabilitation.

But Hafner's shoulder never improved and he underwent a surgical "clean out" on Oct. 14, an arthroscopic procedure performed by famed orthopedist Dr. James Andrews.

"They cleaned a bunch of stuff out of where it had been causing pain in the shoulder," Hafner said. "It had caused the shoulder to shut down because it didn't want to do anything because it was being aggravated. They said it wouldn't have gotten better without the surgery. It just wasn't able to function properly."

"Now that everything has been cleaned out, it should be back to being a normal shoulder."

If it is, the Indians should be

back to normal, too.

They desperately missed Hafner. Without him, Cleveland's offense struggled to score and his absence had a lot to do with the Indians' slide from AL Central champions to third-place finishers.

He understands how much he was missed.

"I'm the guy expected to hit in the middle of the order, drive in 100 runs and be kind of a leader on offense," he said, "and if you miss that, then all of a sudden you're asking other people to do it and putting them in situations they aren't necessarily comfortable with or you're calling up young kids who are unproven."

"I know I'm a big part of the team and if I'm playing well it makes us a better ballclub."

Hafner is happy with the progress in his shoulder. He has been working out up to 5 hours per day at Progressive Field, lifting weights and run-

ning on a treadmill. He has dropped 10 pounds since the end of the season, and credited his slimmer physique — he weighs about 250 — to an improved diet.

"The biggest thing is not eating at restaurants as much," he said. "We've been eating at home a lot and trying to do the low-fat stuff."

Hafner then paused.

"And maybe a couple beers here and there," he said, smiling.

Hafner never could have imagined being out of the lineup as long as he was last season. But when he was unable to catch up to pitches he would have crushed in years past, he feared something was wrong. When he returned from the DL in September, Hafner estimated he was at about 75 percent but his shoulder weakened as the season waned.

"You know something wasn't right," he said.

The Indians are counting on him being "right" now.

After Hafner batted .308 with 42 homers and 117 RBIs in 2006, the club signed him to a four-year, \$57 million extension through 2012. His numbers dipped in '07 — .267, 24 and 100 — and although he was hurt last season, his drop-off has Cleveland fans wondering if he'll ever be the same.

Hafner isn't concerned.

"I don't see any reason why I can't be productive," he said. "I think I can have better years than I've had in the past."

He'll begin his hitting program at the Indians' new training complex in Goodyear, Ariz., with some dry (no contact) swings before hitting off a tee. Next will be some soft toss before regular batting practice. Hafner will progress at his own pace and hopes to be far enough along to play in spring training games by the end of next month.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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In case I freeze to death on the way home from the Observer later tonight, I now present my last will and testament.
Regina and Alicia:
You may split the Milka chocolate bar currently in the fridge. Also my applesauce, apple juice, peanut butter, and granola bars.

There is a receipt on my desk for all the books I was forced to buy at the bookstore this semester. Return them and do what you wish with the ridiculous amount of money they stole from me.
I also bequeath you the \$1.42 in my checking account and the \$17.05 left on my Starbucks gift card.
Regina:
I leave you all of my flex points, because I can only imagine you're out of your own by now.

I also leave you my 16 extra notebooks and the 75 or so pencils currently in my desk.
Alicia:
You can have my cell phone so that you might actually get reception every once in a while.
I have two packages of mini gel pens. Use them well.
Katie S.:
I leave you my car, if you're willing to dig it out of D2.

I leave all 10 seasons of Friends to you, so that you can finally find out what happens between Ross and Rachel.
I have several thousand play dollars on PokerStars if you'd like to start your own legacy.
I guess you can have your Obama t-shirt back as well.
Katie P.:
I leave you my hair straightener. It's the same as Katie's.

You can take over my facebook account in order to stalk people.
I leave the first four seasons of Scrubs to you, because eventually you'll learn to love it.
Please bury me in comfy sweatpants with the three books on my shelf — The Alchemist, Of Mice and Men, and A Little Princess — as well as the latest Sports Illustrated so that I'm not bored.
P.S. I made the stockings.

AROUND THE NATION

Friday, January 16, 2009

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 13

Men's Hockey USCHO Top 25

team	points	record
1 NOTRE DAME (46)	993	18-3-2
2 Boston Univ. (2)	943	14-4-1
3 Northeastern	868	14-4-2
4 Denver	827	15-6-2
5 Cornell (2)	790	11-1-3
6 Michigan	692	15-7-0
7 Minnesota	674	10-5-5
8 Vermont	669	12-4-3
9 Miami (Ohio)	525	12-7-3
10 Princeton	510	13-5-0
11 Colorado Coll.	483	12-7-5
12 Boston College	474	9-6-3
13 New Hampshire	420	10-6-4
14 Ohio State	380	15-6-1
15 Air Force	295	15-4-1
16 Wisconsin	235	12-9-3
17 North Dakota	173	13-10-1
18 Dartmouth	161	10-6-0
19 Yale	114	11-4-0
20 Neb.-Omaha	108	13-7-3
21 St. Cloud State	48	13-9-1
22 Minnesota State	30	10-10-3
23 Quinnipiac	24	11-7-2
24 Alaska	22	10-8-4
25 Maine	15	10-8-2

Men's Hockey CCHA Standings

team	record	points
1 NOTRE DAME	12-2-2	28
2 Miami	10-4-2	23
3 Nebraska-Omaha	8-5-3	21
4 Alaska	8-7-3	21
5 Michigan	9-5-0	18
6 Ohio State	8-5-1	18
7 Ferris State	7-7-2	16
8 Lake Superior	3-6-5	12
9 Northern Michigan	3-10-3	11
10 Western Michigan	3-9-4	11
11 Michigan State	3-9-2	10
12 Bowling Green	4-9-1	9

Big East Conference Men's Basketball Standings

team	conference record
1 Pittsburgh	4-0
2 Marquette	4-0
3 Louisville	3-0
4 Syracuse	4-1
5 Connecticut	3-1
6 Providence	3-1
7 Georgetown	3-2
8 NOTRE DAME	3-2
9 Villanova	1-2
10 West Virginia	1-2
11 St. John's	1-2
12 Cincinnati	1-3
13 USF	1-3
14 Seton Hall	0-4
15 DePaul	0-4
16 Rutgers	0-5

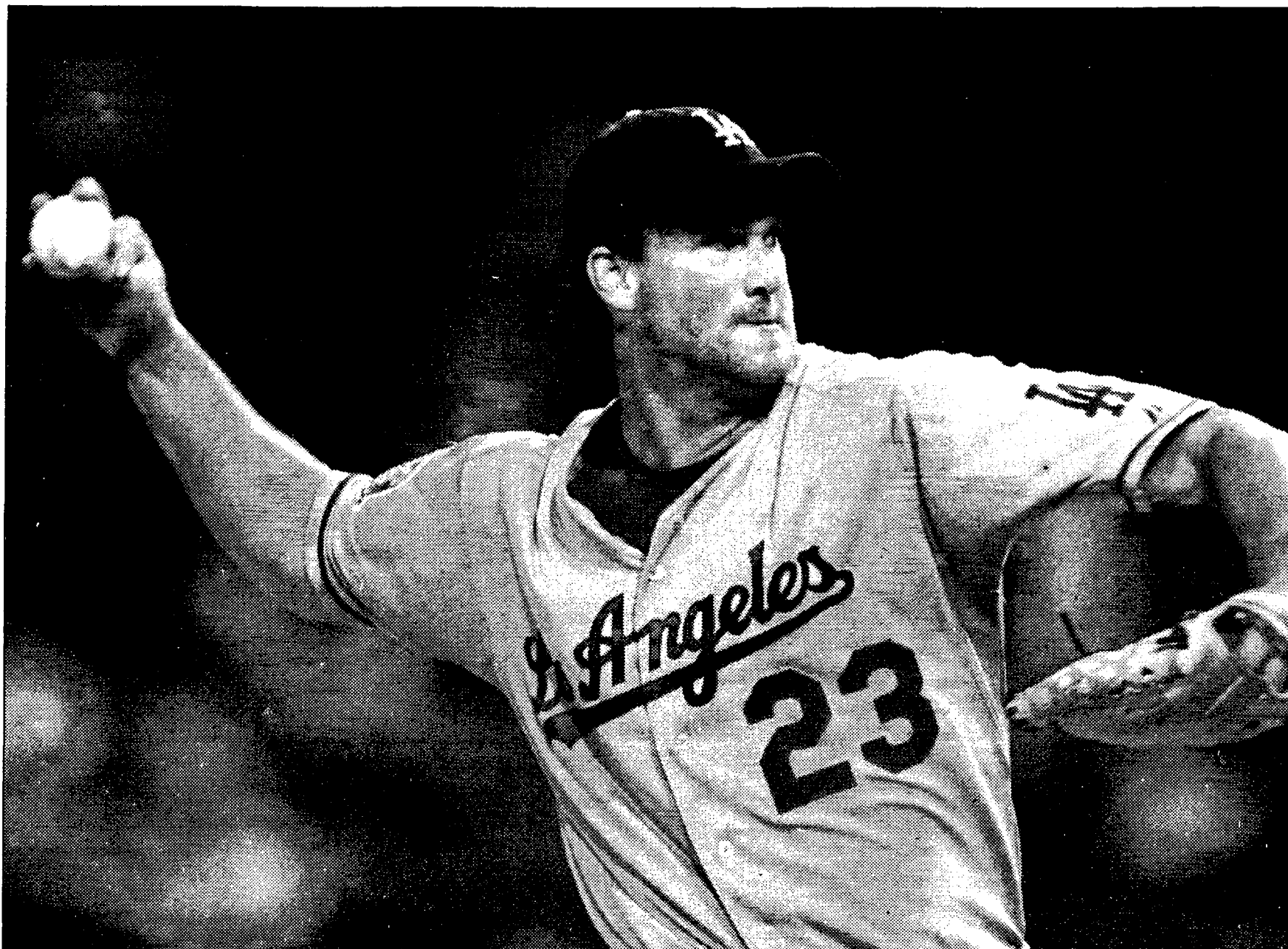
around the dial

NBA

Hornets at Cavaliers
8:00 p.m., ESPN

Magic at Lakers
10:30 p.m., ESPN

MLB



Derek Lowe throws a pitch last season while with the L.A. Dodgers. Lowe officially signed with the Atlanta Braves on Thursday for \$60 million over four years and will likely be the team's No. 1 pitcher.

Braves sign Lowe for \$60 million

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Braves finalized their \$60 million, four-year contract with Derek Lowe on Thursday after the right-hander passed a physical.

Lowe went 14-11 with a 3.24 for the Los Angeles Dodgers last season. He likely will become the top starter in Atlanta's restructured rotation, joined by fellow newcomers Javier Vazquez and Kenshin Kawakami.

The 35-year-old Lowe will be introduced at Turner Field on Friday, capping a comeback week for the Braves after long-time starter John Smoltz

signed with the Boston Red Sox, stirring up bitter complaints by fans and even star third baseman Chipper Jones about the direction of the team.

"This has been a very slow-developing offseason. I think the economy probably has a lot to do with that," general manager Frank White said. "I can understand people getting a little impatient. We were getting impatient. We were wanting to get things done and have an idea what our club was going to look like."

They have a much better idea now.

On Tuesday, the Braves announced the signing of

Kawakami, a Japanese league all-star, and Lowe fills out a rotation that was devastated by injuries a year ago. Smoltz, Tom Glavine and Tim Hudson all underwent season-ending surgeries.

Lowe will receive \$15 million a year in a contract that runs through 2012. Most enticing for the Braves, he's never been on the disabled list, making him one of only three current players (along with Livan Hernandez and Brad Ausmus) to play at least 12 years without ever going down with an injury.

The 42-year-old Glavine

had hoped to start throwing off a mound this week, but had to push back those plans as he continues his slow recovery from elbow surgery. The Braves have said they'll hold off on offering him a contract until they know more about his health, and the 300-game winner has said he'll retire if he's not pitching in Atlanta.

Hudson, who underwent ligament replacement surgery on his elbow, isn't expected back until August, sending the Braves into the offseason with only one healthy starter under contract who had at least 10 wins in 2008.

IN BRIEF

Lions hire Titans assistant Schwartz as head coach

DETROIT — Jim Schwartz insisted he loves challenges.

Well, he's got one.

The Detroit Lions, the NFL's first 0-16 team, agreed Thursday on a four-year deal with Schwartz to make him their next coach.

The former Tennessee Titans defensive coordinator will be introduced at a Friday news conference at Ford Field, where Detroit lost its home games last year by an average of 21.4 points to break another dubious league record.

The 42-year-old Schwartz just finished his eighth season as the Titans' defensive coordinator and his 10th on their staff. He interviewed for a second time with the Lions on Monday.

"After an extensive search that included several highly qualified coaches, we are thrilled that Jim Schwartz will become our team's head coach," team president Tom Lewand said in a statement.

Harvin takes speed to the NFL draft one year early

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Florida star Percy Harvin is taking his speed, elusiveness and durability concerns to the NFL.

The junior playmaker said Thursday he is leaving school early to turn pro, but Gators linebacker Brandon Spikes will return for his senior season.

Both players announced their intentions hours before the deadline for underclassmen to declare for the NFL draft.

Even without Harvin, the Gators likely will be the preseason favorite to win a third national championship in four years. But there's little doubt Florida will miss its do-it-all receiver.

A 5-foot-11, 195-pound dynamo from Virginia Beach, Va., Harvin led the team in receiving and was second in rushing. He caught 40 passes for 644 yards and seven touchdowns, and ran for 660 yards and 10 scores.

He missed five games in three years because of injury and was limited in several more, an issue that could keep him from being a top 10 pick in April.

Colon rejoins White Sox pitching staff for one year

CHICAGO — The Chicago White Sox hope Bartolo Colon can stay healthy long enough to help their rotation, perhaps as the No. 4 starter.

Colon returned to the White Sox for a second stint Thursday when he agreed to a \$1 million, one-year contract. The 2005 AL Cy Young Award winner could earn an additional \$2 million in performance bonuses based on innings.

"I think everyone knows what Bartolo can do when he's healthy," Chicago general manager Ken Williams said during a conference call.

Williams said after gathering information from Dr. James Andrews and the team's medical staff, the White Sox are convinced Colon "was on the other side of the issues that have derailed him in his career the last few years."

A two-time All-Star and 20-game winner, the 35-year-old Colon has made only 36 appearances in the last three seasons, mainly because of injuries.

NHL

Leafs blow lead, top 'Canes anyway

Wild dominate from onset in win over Oilers

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — The Toronto Maple Leafs spent the first two periods building a huge lead only to watch the Carolina Hurricanes erase it in minutes.

Fortunately, the Maple Leafs found a way to avoid a humbling loss.

Tomas Kaberle scored on a power play late in the third period, and Jason Blake had a five-point night to help the Leafs shake off a blown four-goal lead and beat the Hurricanes 6-4 on Thursday night.

Blake had three goals and two assists for Toronto, which ended a four-game losing streak. Ian White and Niklas Hagman also scored, and Vesa Toskala made 28 saves.

After leading 4-0 late in the second period, the Leafs watched Carolina score four goals in 10 minutes to tie it midway through the third. But Kaberle came through with a one-timer that bounced off Cam Ward's glove and into the net with 5:25 left to retake the lead, and Blake added an empty-net score in the final seconds to seal it.

"We didn't put our heads down," Kaberle said. "It doesn't mean that (when) it's 4-4, you're going to lose the game. It was a good attitude on the bench and it's a learning process."

Not exactly a textbook way to win, but Toronto could have used any bit of good fortune considering its struggles this month.

"I don't know if there is any bitterness for us," coach Ron Wilson said, "but yeah, we found a way to win. We never should have put ourselves in that position, but we did."

The Hurricanes could have said the same thing — at least, about falling behind 4-0 with that woe-filled first 40 minutes. Matt Cullen, Tuomo Ruutu, Eric Staal and Scott Walker scored in Carolina's desperate rally only to see it come up short.

Carolina, which had won four straight games earlier this month, has now lost four straight.

"We need to win. We need to stay in the hunt," Staal said. "It was a good third period, but in the end it doesn't matter because we didn't get the win."

It was the first game for Carolina coach Paul Maurice against his former team since returning to the Hurricanes bench in early December. Maurice won 76 games in two seasons with the Maple Leafs before being fired after last season.

For the first two periods, the Maple Leafs — who had won just once in 2009 and lost eight of 10 — were the only ones playing like they had something crucial on the line.

After White's goal gave Toronto the 1-0 lead after the first, Blake pushed the lead to 2-0 when he pushed past Joni Pitkanen as he skated in on Ward and scored a wraparound goal less than 2 minutes into the period.

The Leafs kept the pressure on, with Hagman scoring on a short putaway and a diving Blake beating Ward to a pass from Dominic Moore to make it 4-0 at 15:07 of the second.

Cullen scored a goal in the final 90 seconds of the period to give Carolina hope for a comeback, and the Hurricanes spent the rest of the game making it reality. Ruutu scored at 1:21 of the third, then Staal buried his own shot from the right side on a 5-on-3 power play to pull Carolina to further charge a home crowd that had offered scattered boos only a half-hour earlier.

Finally, Walker completed the comeback by setting up at the top of the crease and putting a rebound past Toskala to make it 4-4 at 8:40 of the third.

"We got lazy and we took some penalties," Blake said. "They've got a lot of offensive skill over there and they took advantage of it. We just obviously wanted ... to put the foot on the pedal and keep doing what we were doing."

When asked what he told his team between the second and third period that led to the comeback, Maurice responded, "Nothing that you can print."

"I was pleased with the way they responded," he said, "but not very pleased that we had to respond to that matter (of being down 4-0)."

Wild 5, Oilers 1

Journeyman Krys Kolanos and scrapper Cal Clutterbuck gave the Minnesota Wild an early lead with first-period goals, and Niklas Backstrom stayed perfect in goal against the Edmonton Oilers with a victory Thursday night.

Pierre-Marc Bouchard and Brent Burns scored in the third against former teammate Dwayne Roloson to stretch the lead. Mikko Koivu sliced through two Oilers defenders to set up Burns with 4:41 left, and Eric Belanger scored with 45.7 seconds remaining.

Backstrom has never lost to Edmonton, lifting his career record to 10-0 in 12 appearances with 20 saves. The Oilers have lost eight straight games at Xcel Energy Center; they've been outscored 29-9 in those contests.

Only one went to overtime, and the last victory was two years ago.

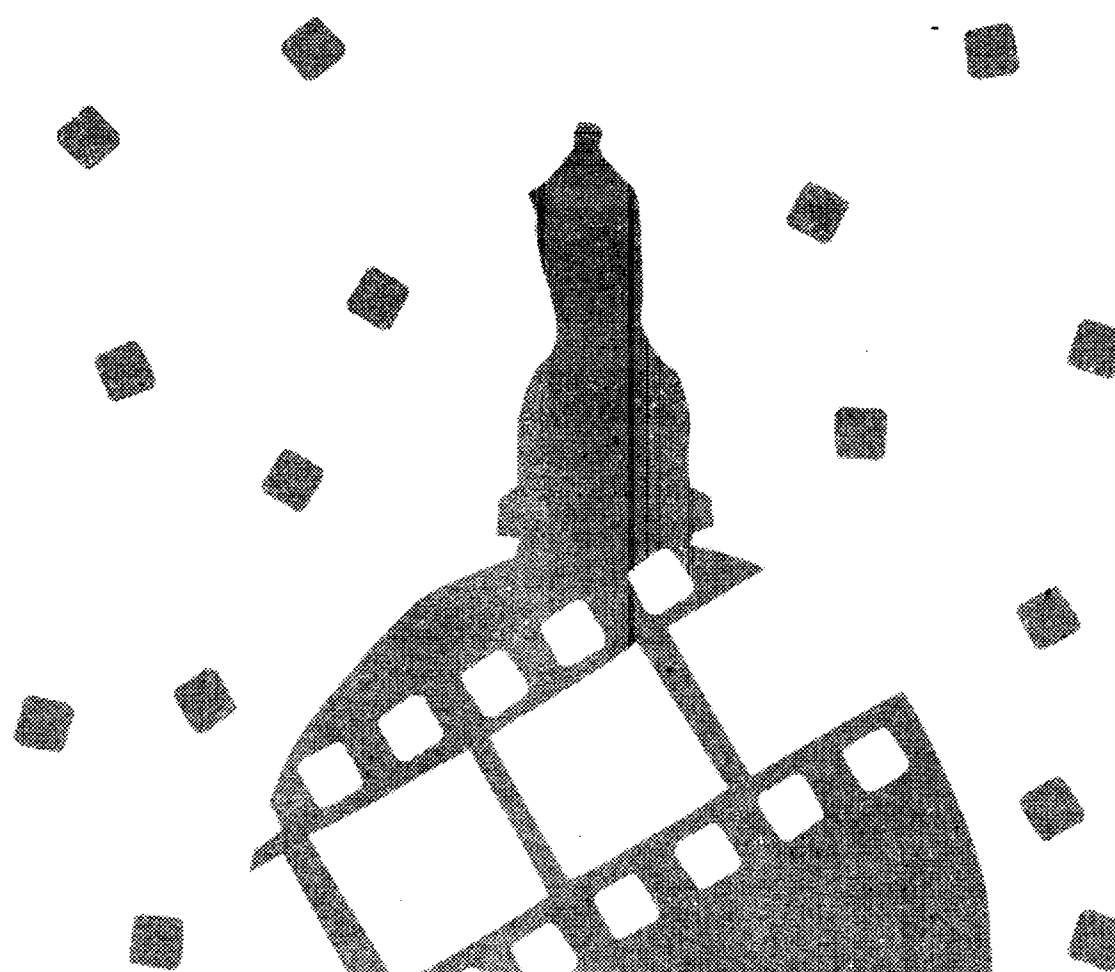
Liam Reddix scored Edmonton's only goal.

Given the tight state of the Western Conference in today's lose-in-overtime-but-still-pick-up-a-standings-point NHL, it's not a stretch to suggest the winner of the Oilers-Wild season series will have a clear edge over the other in the competition for one of the final playoff spots. Edmonton coach Craig MacTavish essentially said as much before the game. This was their first of six meetings.

These teams entered the game in a three-way tie with fellow Northwest Division foe Colorado for ninth place, just four points out of fifth slightly past the season's midpoint. The Wild started their second half with a flourish, beating Phoenix 6-3 with a badly needed breakthrough offensive game for their slumping top two lines.

The grinders picked up the slack in this one, giving Minnesota a couple more five-on-five scores to move out of last place in the league in that category.

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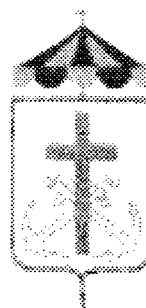
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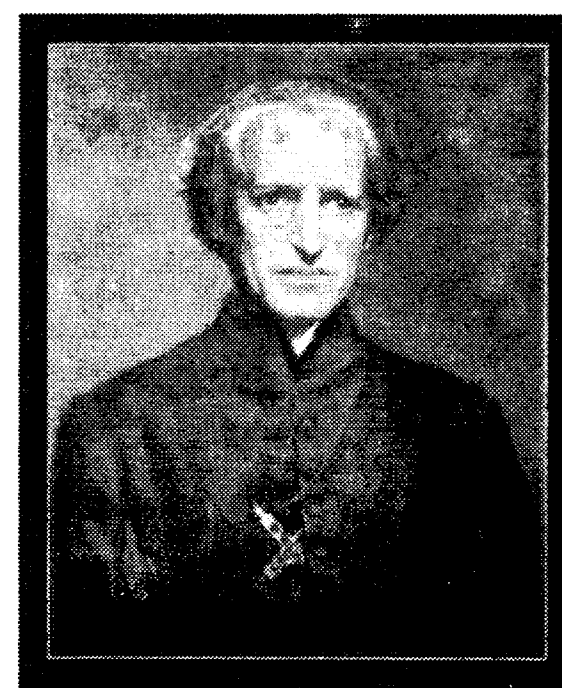
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MEN'S TENNIS

Irish face former champs in opener

By KATELYN GRABAREK
Sports Writer

No. 30 Notre Dame opens its season today by hosting 2006 NCAA Champion No. 14 Pepperdine indoors at the Eck Center — a fact that shouldn't be overlooked.

"Pepperdine is certainly a difficult challenge for us, particularly as an opener," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "Our biggest advantage is playing here and inside. Malibu has lots going for it, but indoor tennis is not one of its perks."

Like the Irish, Pepperdine is led by a star at No. 1 singles in junior Bassam Beidas.

"Bassam Beidas can beat anyone in the country," Bayliss said. "[Irish senior Brett Helgeson] will have his hands full. Last year they had both finalist teams in the Pacific Coast Doubles. We will have to be at our best to be competitive."

The Irish are young this year, with many brand new players in the lineup or playing different

positions from last year, Bayliss noted.

With a relatively young and inexperienced squad, Bayliss said his team's two-a-day practices from Jan. 5-11 were crucial to determining the opening day lineup.

"The biggest surprise [from pre-season workouts] has been Sam Keeton," Bayliss said of the freshman. "He missed the entire fall semester with a broken right wrist but has quickly made up for lost time."

As a whole, Bayliss said the freshman class is talented but untested. Casey Watt and Niall Fitzgerald showed their talent throughout the fall season, he said.

Helgeson will maintain his No. 1 singles spot that he held much of last season and is currently ranked No. 20 by the ITA. After that, though, the lineup is subject to change.

"At this point it looks like No. 2 by committee," Bayliss said. "In particular, Stephen Havens, Dan Stahl and Casey Watt all seem like they are playing at a level where each will have a chance to post wins there. Each has unique talents that make him special."

Havens played No. 4 singles for the Irish for much of last season, but with the graduation of Sheeva Parbhu and Andrew Roth, there are some holes to fill in the lineup.

Bayliss also said that his No. 2 through No. 10 slots in the lineup will likely be made up of freshmen and sophomores.

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SMC SWIMMING

Belles to swim twice in 24 hours

Squad will host Wabash then swim against Albion at Rolf's

By ERIC PRISTER
Sports Writer

After a week off, the Belles will dive right back into action with two meets in less than 24 hours this weekend, traveling to Indianapolis Friday before returning home.

The University of Indianapolis will host Saint Mary's and Wabash at 6 p.m. today, and the Belles will take on Albion at Notre Dame's Rolfs Aquatic Center at 1 p.m. Saturday.

The Belles enter the weekend with a 3-3 record in head-

to-head meets, including a loss in last weekend's meet against No. 8 Hope College, and two fourth-place finishes and a fifth-place finish in invitational.

The Belles have been led all season by the stellar performances of their young swimmers, especially sophomore Maggie Williams and freshmen Audrey Dalrymple and Eva Cavadini.

Belles coach Ryan Dombkowski said before the New Year that he expects even better performances out of his young swimmers, particularly Cavadini and Dalrymple.

"Once... (Cavadini) settles into a comfort level... we'll see some impressive time drops," Dombkowski said. "And I look for big things from Audrey [this] semester."

Cavadini and Dalrymple each have nine first-place finishes this season to tie for the team high. Both have three victories in the Belles' last two meets.

Williams, who had seven victories before the winter break, has yet to finish first this semester.

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FENCING

ND students compete in Hungary

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

As the rest of the student body was enjoying a relaxing winter break, members of the Irish squad crossed swords in a Junior World Cup event held in Budapest, Hungary.

Fencers Ewa Nelip, Barron Nydam and Avery Zuck added to their point totals after a successful tournament from Jan. 3-5.

Despite being loaded with talent, the team enters the 2009 season full of questions regarding the experience and depth of its young cast. But after a successful performance in Budapest, the

answers are becoming clearer.

"We have a very strong team," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said. "There are so many factors we can't control on such a young team. But anything can happen."

Nelip, who competed in the women's epee division, earned a bronze medal in Budapest and added 20 points to her FIE ranking, the international fencers' ranking system. Initially seeded No. 14 in the 64-person tournament, the sophomore out-touched the competition to reach the semifinals but had to settle for third place after a loss to silver medalist Erika Kirpu of Estonia.

The No. 22-ranked Nydam also flourished in the tournament, finishing in second and recording 26 points toward his FIE ranking. Competing in the men's sabre division, Nydam cruised past the competition to the finals where he settled for his second silver medal of the season after dropping the final to Hungary native Aron Szilagyi.

Zuck added four points to his ranking after finishing in 17th, supplementing his top-five finish in the Junior World Cup in

Germany.

Nelip, Nydam and Zuck are just three of a talented core of freshman and sophomores eager to begin Big East play on Jan. 24,

when the Irish travel to Queens, N.Y., for a dual meet with St. John's.

Freshman Courtney Hurley will play a key role for the women's epee class, while her older sister Kelley brings experi-

ence as the reigning NCAA champion.

Bednarski said the Olympic experience of Kelley Hurley and freshman Gereck Meinhardt will bring poise and calmness to a maturing team.

Meinhardt, the youngest male U.S. Olympian in Beijing, still believes he has more to learn from his teammates and coaches.

"It's a mutual relationship," Meinhardt said. "We both gain a lot from practicing with each other."

Several Notre Dame team members will travel to Louisville, Ky., for the North American Cup D this weekend, a four-day event.

Contact Chris Masoud at
cmasoud@nd.edu

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ND TRACK & FIELD

Squad ready for Indoor Opener

By ALEX BARKER and CHRIS MICHALSKI
Sports Writers

Notre Dame will try to bring its home success into the new year today when it hosts the Indoor Opener, its first home meet of 2009.

Both the men's and women's teams have brought home strong results in their first two meets.

The team has qualified over 50 athletes for Indoor March's Big East Championships after just two competitions. In their first meet of the season, Notre Dame's Blue and Gold Invitational, the women brought home several event titles, top-five finishes in every event and one NCAA Championship meet qualifier.

On the men's side, freshman Jordan Rincon is off to an especially hot start this

year, winning an event in both the meets.

The Irish have been dominant in the pole vault as well, taking the first five spots at the Blue-Gold meet. Junior Matt Schipper won that event, and also finished tied for third in last year's Indoor Opener. Freshman Kevin Schipper finished second, followed by senior Tray Morgan, sophomore Justin Schneider, and sophomore Andrew Kolbeck.

Several of Notre Dame's returners have showed marked improvement, accounting for much of the team's early success. Junior Eric Quick has made strides in the long jump, finishing second at the Indiana Opener after a sixth-place showing in last year's Indoor Opener.

For the women at the Blue and Gold Invitational, senior pole-vaulter Mary Saxer recorded a four-meter mark

to solidify an automatic bid into the NCAA National Championships later this spring.

Freshman Maddie Buttinger and junior Jaime Minor took first in the high jump and triple jump, respectively.

In the throwing events, senior thrower Anna Weber dominated the shot put and weight throw competitions coasting to victories in each.

In the 60-meter hurdles, the Irish claimed the top three spots led by Freshman Sasha Blanchard who finished with a time of 9.14 seconds.

The Irish look to continue improving their results as they head into their second home meet of the season, which begins at 5:30 p.m. in the Loftus Sports Center.

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NCAA BASKETBALL

No. 4 Connecticut defeats St. John's

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Freshman guard Kemba Walker scored 21 points and senior forward Jeff Adrien added 17 points and 11 rebounds to lead No. 4 Connecticut to a workmanlike 67-55 victory over St. John's on Thursday night.

The win was the fourth straight for the Huskies (15-1, 4-1 Big East) since they lost their conference opener at home to Georgetown.

This was the last of a three-game trip for Connecticut, the ninth time the Huskies have had that long a stretch under coach Jim Calhoun and this was the first time they won all three.

Sophomore guard Paris Horne had a career-high 24 points for the Red Storm (10-6, 1-3), who lost for the fifth time in six

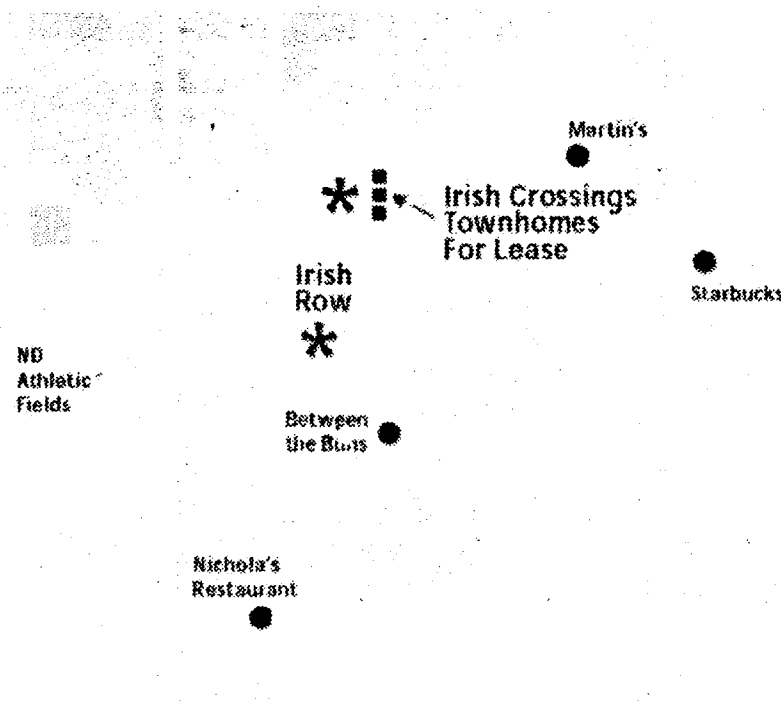
games with the lone win over then-No. 7 Notre Dame. This was St. John's third game against a top 10 team in the last 13 days as it fell 90-67 at No. 1 Pittsburgh on Sunday.

Horne's jumper with 16:08 to play had St. John's within 37-36 but the Red Storm struggled against Connecticut's zone defense and the Huskies were able to pull away at Madison Square Garden.

Walker, a native of New York City, scored the last six points of a 7-0 run that gave Connecticut a 51-38 lead with 9:33 to go. He hit his only 3-pointer of the game — a bank shot — to cap the run. Walker finished 8-of-12 from the field, many of his field goals coming on layups and driving shots as he used his speed to get ahead of the play after a St. John's missed shot.

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NOW LEASING FOR FALL 2009

Orange

continued from page 20

sters currently say they are. None of the Orange's 16 wins have come against teams currently ranked in the top 25 of the Coaches' Poll, and Syracuse's four Big East wins have come against teams with a combined conference record of 1-16 as of Thursday.

And in their one game against a top 25 opponent Wednesday, the Orange were handily defeated by 14 points at Georgetown.

Whether or not Syracuse is fully deserving of its current top-10 status, the Irish know walking out of the Carrier Dome with a win will be difficult.

"I don't put much stock in the fact [they have no wins against] the top 25," Notre Dame coach Mike Brey said. "I look at how they're playing."

"They can pass and catch and shoot. They know who their weapons are, and they know how to play together. They're definitely a NCAA Tournament team the way they're playing."

A big factor that will likely determine whether or not Notre Dame gets back in the win column will be rebounding. Currently ranked 10th in the Big East in rebounding margin, Notre Dame's struggles on the glass have arguably cost the team several games thus far in the season.

Irish forward Luke Harangody said athletic, longer harangody are the ones that give Notre Dame the most trouble on the boards, and he said

Syracuse partly falls into that category.

"They're another athletic Big East team," Harangody said. "You can put them in the athletic mode with [forward Paul] Harris, but they can also beat you up on the inside."

Harangody was likely referring to a pair of 6-foot-9 forwards — Arinze Onuaku and Rick Jackson — who provide a one-two punch in the paint that could be difficult for the Irish to handle. Brey is concerned about the two big men as well as Harris crashing from the outside. Onuaku has 19 points in last year's matchup, Harris had 22 while both grabbed 12 rebounds.

"Those three guys are terrors on the offensive boards," Brey said referring to Onuaku, Jackson and Harris. "This team can really beat us up on the boards if we're not battling in the paint."

On the other side of the ball, Notre Dame will likely see a steady dose of Syracuse's patented 2-3 zone. The Irish successfully ran their offense against that defense last year in their 94-87 win over Syracuse.

If either Notre Dame or Syracuse finds its shooting stroke Saturday, the game could turn into a shootout.

Much like Notre Dame, the Orange have an offense capable of running teams out of the gym. They are currently third in the Big East, averaging 80.9 points per game, and five players average double figures in scoring.

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogast@nd.edu

Training

continued from page 20

them to 3-4 on the season. The Irish lost to the Cardinals after their 14 days on the road in Puerto Rico. Now that the team is rested, Welsh expects his squad to perform well in both meets to begin its preparation for the conference championships.

"We want to be faster this weekend," Welsh said. "The team will absolutely be up for both meets. It's good preparation for our conference championships and it's good preparation for what's coming up. We're not expecting anything but good performances in both meets."

The Irish begin their weekend against Northwestern today at 5 p.m. at the Rolfs Aquatics Center. Last season, the Irish lost the Wildcats 189-111 despite two junior John Lytle in the 50 and 100 freestyle.

This season, both Notre Dame and Northwestern enter the meet looking to earn a big win as they both are floating around .500 entering the heart of their conference schedules.

"It will be a very tough meet," Welsh said. "They lost their Olympic medalist, but they still have a couple of superstars. They will be well coached and well prepared, but we're excited for this kind of challenge and want this kind of challenge from start to finish."



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Freshman Marshall Sherman swims the 100-yard breaststroke during a home meet against Pittsburgh on Oct. 31.

After facing the Wildcats, Notre Dame will hit the road to travel to Oakland University to face off against the Grizzlies on Saturday afternoon. The Irish and Grizzlies swam against each other at Notre Dame's Dennis Stark Relays in October. In that meet, Notre finished first with 255 points and Oakland came in second with 204 points.

Oakland also defeated Notre 174-126 in January 2008, but the Irish aren't taking the Grizzlies lightly.

"Oakland has improved since last year," coach Welsh said. "They swam very well here earlier this fall, and they tend to swim faster in their home pool."

Contact Mike Gotimer at mgotimer@nd.edu

NBA

Bayless, Blazers edge Nets

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Jerry Rutherford got a chance to play with point guard Steve Blake sidelined with a separated shoulder and the Portland Blazers' rookie took advantage against the New Jersey Nets.

Bayless scored a career-high 23 points and seemingly took the life out of the Nets with a monster dunk that he converted in a late three-point play in Portland's 105-99 victory on Thursday night.

"I think tonight was kind of my night," said the rookie from Arizona, who had scored 53 points in his previous 18 games this season. "I helped the team out. I found my comfort level."

It was unexpected help. Bayless had never scored more than eight points in a game, but he also was never a part of coach Nate McMillan's rotation.

With Blake expected to be out a week to 10 days, Bayless played 25 minutes.

Bayless was 6-for-9 from the field, with most coming on tough drives down the lane. He also was perfect on 11 free throws.

"I finally let the game come to me," Bayless said. "Now I can play and be free. It's just kind of a mental thing. Now I am out of the stranglehold."

The play most people will see on the highlight film will be his two-handed dunk with 3:20 to go that put Portland ahead 95-89.

"It was crazy," said Brandon

Roy, who led Portland with 29 points. "That's what we have been expecting from him. He does it in practice and he finally got one down in the game. He put it on his head. He was so excited I don't think he knew he got fouled."

Roy, who also added eight rebounds and five assists, said Bayless is going to make the Trail Blazers better.

"I have been telling him to stay patient, that the minutes would come," Roy said. "He is the first guy in the gym and the last one out. It paid off tonight. Once he gets comfortable, we are going to be dangerous. He is tough going to the basket and he opens up the floor. As he gets more confidence, we're going to be really tough."

LaMarcus Aldridge added 20 points and Travis Outlaw scored all 13 of his points in the second half, when the Trail Blazers rallied from an 11-point deficit.

Devin Harris had 23 points and eight assists to lead New Jersey, who surrendered 37 fourth-quarter points as Portland hit 13 of 19 shots. Rookie Brook Lopez added 17 points, Bobby Simmons 14 and Vince Carter 13 while playing with a slightly sprained ankle.

"It's frustrating," Harris said. "This is one we could have won and we let ourselves down in the end. It's tough defensively when we don't get stops and they get a high percentage of their shots to go in."

The game pitted two teams a day after coming off their

most-lopsided losses of the season. Portland lost by 21 points to Philadelphia in a game it lost Blake. The Celtics blew out the Nets by 32 points in Boston.

Roy, Bayless, Aldridge and Outlaw took over in the fourth quarter, scoring the Trail Blazers' final 34 points with each hitting clutch baskets down the stretch.

Outlaw hit consecutive 3-pointers early in the quarter to help Portland open an 87-82 lead and Aldridge hit an off-balance jumper after collecting a loose ball after New Jersey got within 90-89 on a fast break by Harris.

Bayless then drove the baseline for his resounding three-point play.

The Nets got within four points two other times but Roy drove the lane for a basket with 2:49 to go and Aldridge hit a jumper with 2:06 to play on an assist by Roy, who also had eight rebounds.

Down 69-59 after Harris converted the free throw following a technical foul to McMillan, the Trail Blazers got back in the game with a 9-2 spurt that was capped by a 3-pointer by Outlaw and a rebound follow by Joel Przybilla, who had 11 rebounds.

That got the Trail Blazers within 71-68 after three quarters. A 3-pointer by Rudy Fernandez tied the game early in the fourth quarter and Portland took the lead for good at 77-76 when Outlaw converted 1 of 2 free throws with 9:03 to play.

Defense

continued from page 20

— and that was disappointing."

McGraw said she is confident that those problems have been fixed after a solid practice on Wednesday.

"We worked hard on it [Wednesday] and I think we will get our commitment and our fight back," she said.

Despite the lacking defensive effort in the Marquette game, McGraw said her team's effort in Wednesday's practice showed her that they were moving on and learning from the loss.

"I was really, really happy when I left practice [Wednesday] because I always feel like I can tell what my team's going to be like the practice after a loss," McGraw said. "That's a really important practice to see how they come out. Are they feeling sorry for themselves, what's their frame of mind, what's their attitude. And we really got after it defensively."

She said her team had "a fighter's mentality" in that practice, which she said she expects to carry over into the game.

The defense will get an immediate test from the Red Storm's top two shooters — senior guards Monique McLean and Kelly McManis — who are shooting 46.5 and 39.4 percent overall and 47.1 and 41.4 percent from distance, respectively.

"McLean's one of the best in the country. She was at one

point third in the NCAA," McGraw said. "Those two are huge concerns because we have to get better defensively in a lot of ways."

McGraw said she wants her team to be able to play more zone defenses when they get in foul trouble, but that the 3-point threat that St. John's could make that difficult.

Last year's Achilles heal, defending from beyond the arc, has been a strength of this season's Irish squad. The team is allowing only a 25.8 shooting percentage from 3-point land, compared to 39.1 percent a season ago.

McGraw said she was thrilled with her team's 3-point defense, which ranks near the top of the NCAA.

"We're in the top 10 in the nation ... We were God awful last year, so this is a huge improvement."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

a concern, but this group looks at it as a challenge," she said.

One thing that has not been a disappointment through the first half of the Irish season has been the play of freshman guard Natalie Novosel, who is shooting 53.9 percent overall, but upped that to 70.8 percent in the team's four Big East matchups so far.

"Natalie drives the ball really well, and she's getting a lot of layups, which is why she's shooting the ball really well," McGraw said. "We're thrilled with the way she's playing, she's given us great minutes off

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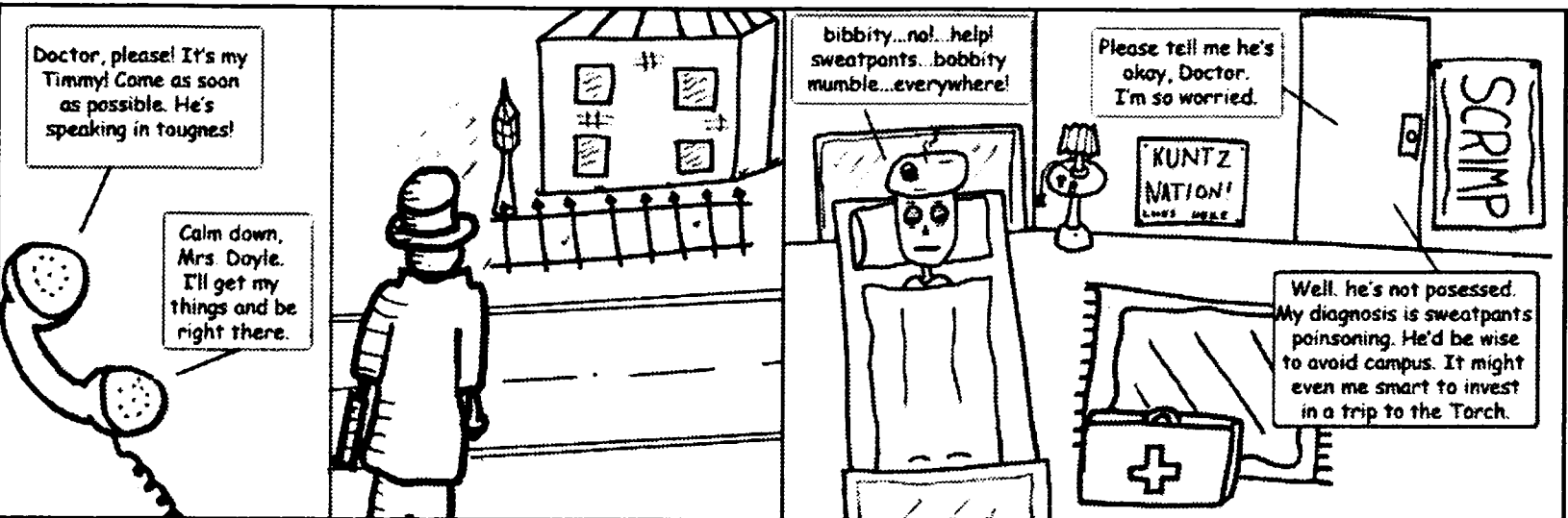
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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**

1 Mandrake the Magician's sidekick

7 Sheepskin leather for bookbinding

11 Unwavering

14 Get quite hot

15 Billy Graham's "___ the Hills"

16 Org. with an annual televised awards ceremony

17 Thing on a string

18 Call after which someone fills a box

20 Unit in a physics textbook

21 Be way off

23 Sch. staff

24 Its employees get a lot of perks

25 Unchanged
- 27 Flawlessly

28 Where le nez is

29 Where rushing strategies are often discussed

31 Like three-legged race contestants

33 Capital of Shaanxi province

34 Course that has its limits, briefly

35 One may be in a stew

38 26-Down's schedule

41 About three-fourths of la Tierra

42 Release

43 Well-executed

45 Fictional manager of a "psychiatric help" booth
- 49 Stink

50 Setting of Main Duck Island

51 It may come in vin

52 Noble thing

53 God commonly depicted with four arms

55 Pitching asset?

56 Home of the ancient Olympics

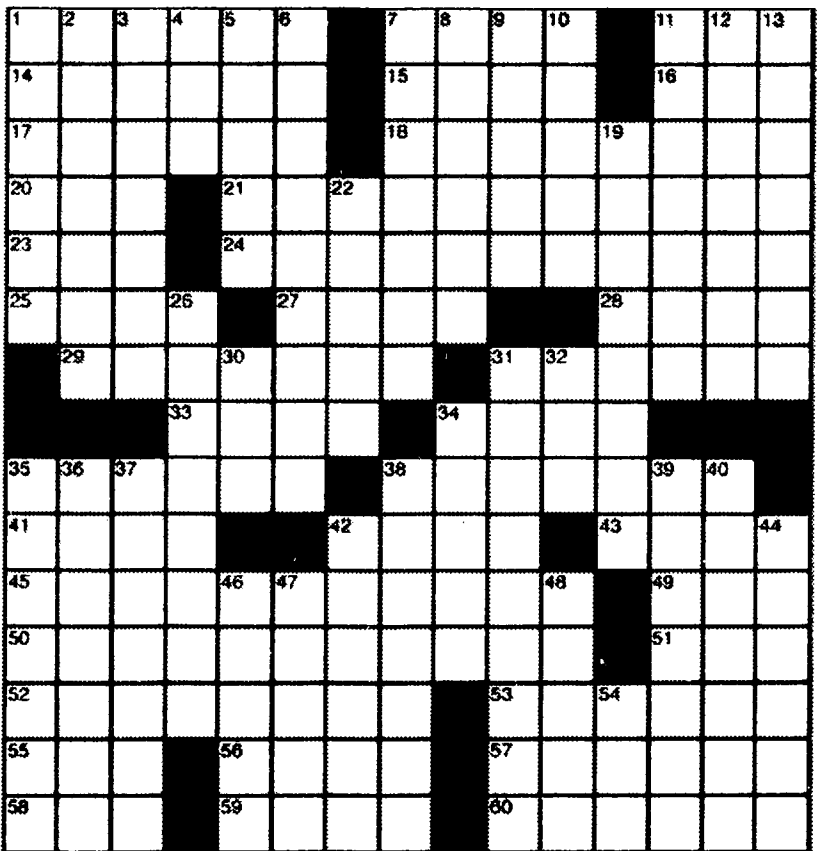
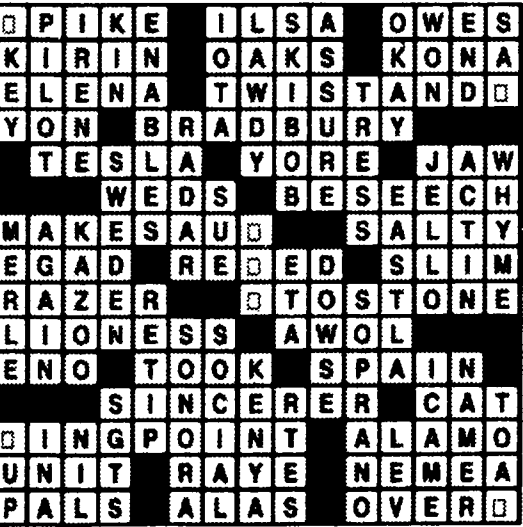
57 Half-sister of King Arthur

58 Org. in which one's number may be up

59 Drop

60 Held to be

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



- Puzzle by Mike Nothnagel
- 19 Face sideways?

22 Piece of silver

26 38-Across completer

30 Yoke

31 Pre-reincarnation periods

32 1980s sitcom title role
- 34 Quaint news source

35 Lollygags

36 Desert denizens

37 Irregular folds

38 You can't escape from it

39 Try to get something from a grab bag, say
- 40 One who's often with child?

42 Call for

44 Kitchen headgear

46 Picked a ticket

47 Point of view

48 Cotton variety

54 Reply facilitator: Abbr.

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. AT&T users: Text NYTX to 386 to download puzzles, or visit nytimes.com/mobilexword for more information. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/wordplay. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

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

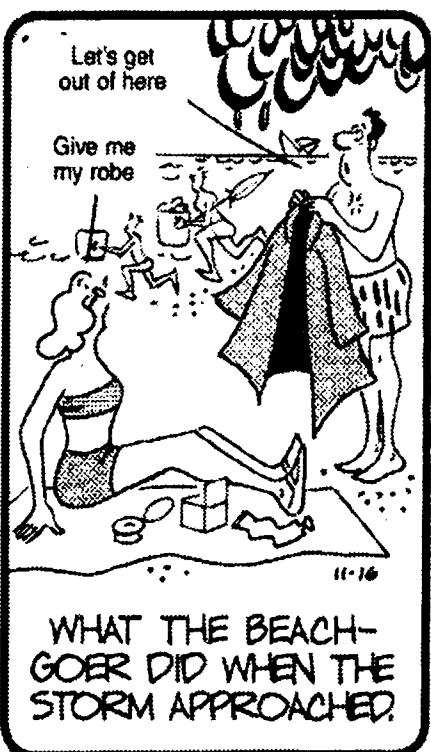
VORAB
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
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ROODE
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

NECKAR
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □
www.jumble.com

APITOE
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Answer: □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □



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

Answer: □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GAUDY COCOA SQUIRM BOLERO
Answer: Although the mailer was oblong, the content was — "CIRCULAR"

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chad Lowe, 40; Mario Van Peebles, 51; Andrea Martin, 61; Margaret O'Brien, 71

Happy Birthday: You will accomplish far more this year if you just quietly move forward with your plans. Trust your own judgment and put your knowledge and expertise to use. Your numbers are 11, 19, 21, 25, 33, 39

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will be a little anxious and idle time will be what leads to mistakes. Look at the big picture and, if you aren't happy with what you see, change it. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Stick to what has to be finished and don't let anyone take your mind off your task at hand. If you fall short of your expectations, someone will be sure to point out your shortcoming. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): There will be no time to mull over things. Action will be the key to your success. Your intuition will be on the mark, so trust in your own judgment, not someone else's. 4 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you feel you are too close to a situation to make a good decision, don't move forward. Look around you and see what everyone else is doing. It should give you an indication where you fit in and how you can proceed. Honesty will win favors. 2 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): This is a perfect meet-and-greet day, especially where inspirational people are concerned. A love connection can be made or you can get closer to your current partner by discussing your future plans. 5 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If you complain or criticize others, you aren't likely to get anywhere. However, if you focus on implementing a couple of changes that will ease your stress, much can be accomplished. Start doing for yourself. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep busy doing things that will eventually help you get ahead. Courses, hobbies, picking up information or spending time with someone experienced in a field you want to pursue will all work to your advantage. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may have to take an alternate route to get to where you belong. Keep on top of what everyone else is doing so you can outsmart any competition you face. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You should be spending time looking for love or doing something special with your current partner. Travel may entice you but you can accomplish just as much sticking close to home. 5 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Listen and assess your situation. Someone will give you a bird's eye view of what you need to do to accomplish your goals. Be smart and play your cards close to your chest. 2 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Consider your options and you will be able to fit far more into your schedule. Planning your next vacation will encourage you to be more productive. 4 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll find it difficult to stick to one thing. Your mind will be wandering and you may need to question your motives. 3 stars

Birthday Baby: You investigate, determine what to do and react quickly and precisely. You are charming, sensitive, emotional and able to find solutions when any problems occur.

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

THE OBSERVER

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

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HOCKEY

Record unbeaten streak alive as Irish head north

By MATT GAMBER
Associate Sports Editor

The top-ranked Irish will put their school-record 18-game unbeaten run to the test this weekend at Lake Superior State — the team that two months ago threatened to end the streak at four.

The Lakers (6-9-7, 3-6-5-1 CCHA) played host Notre Dame (18-3-2, 12-2-2-2 CCHA) to a 3-3 draw on Nov. 14 before the Irish won their first-ever shootout. Notre Dame handled the Lakers 5-2 the next night, and the Irish have won 11 of 12 since.

"We've played fairly consistently ever since the third week of the season," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said. "We've had different types of games — some more defensive-minded, like last week against Alaska, some with more goals being scored, like against Bowling Green. Our team's adjusted pretty well ... and we've reached a certain level of consistency defensively and with our goaltending and special teams."

The Lakers use a similar recipe for success, Jackson said, and are led by sophomore goaltender Brian Mahoney-Wilson, who boasts a .927 save percentage.

"We'll have to play smart,"

Jackson said. "They've got good goaltending and they play a system where it's tough to generate much offense against them ... We're going to need to generate chances off transition and on the power play. My belief is that we need to try to generate one [power-play goal] a night to be successful."

The Irish went 2-for-12 on the power play against Lake Superior State in their two games earlier this season, but Notre Dame is just 1-for-14 with the man-advantage over its last three games.

Despite their sub-.500 conference record, the Lakers have remained in eighth place in the

CCHA standings because they have gained at least one point in eight of their 14 conference games.

"They're going to be a home ice team in the [CCHA] playoffs," Jackson said. "They get fairly balanced scoring from their top three lines and they're real solid defensively."

Tonight begins a tough stretch that will see the Irish play five of their next six conference games on the road with several streaks on the line.

Notre Dame's eight-game road win streak is the best in program history, and the Irish have not lost away from home since its season-

opener, Oct. 11 at No. 5 Denver. Senior goaltender Jordan Pearce hasn't allowed a goal since Jan. 3 against Minnesota-Duluth, covering a span of 161:30.

Protecting those streaks, however, is a secondary priority as the Irish continue to try and distance themselves from the rest of the CCHA pack.

"It will be a challenging second half for us," Jackson said. "We have eight conference games left on the road ... We've got to develop that 'road warrior' mentality a little bit."

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

ND MEN'S BASKETBALL

Rugged road

ND looks to rebound at Syracuse as Big East challenges continue

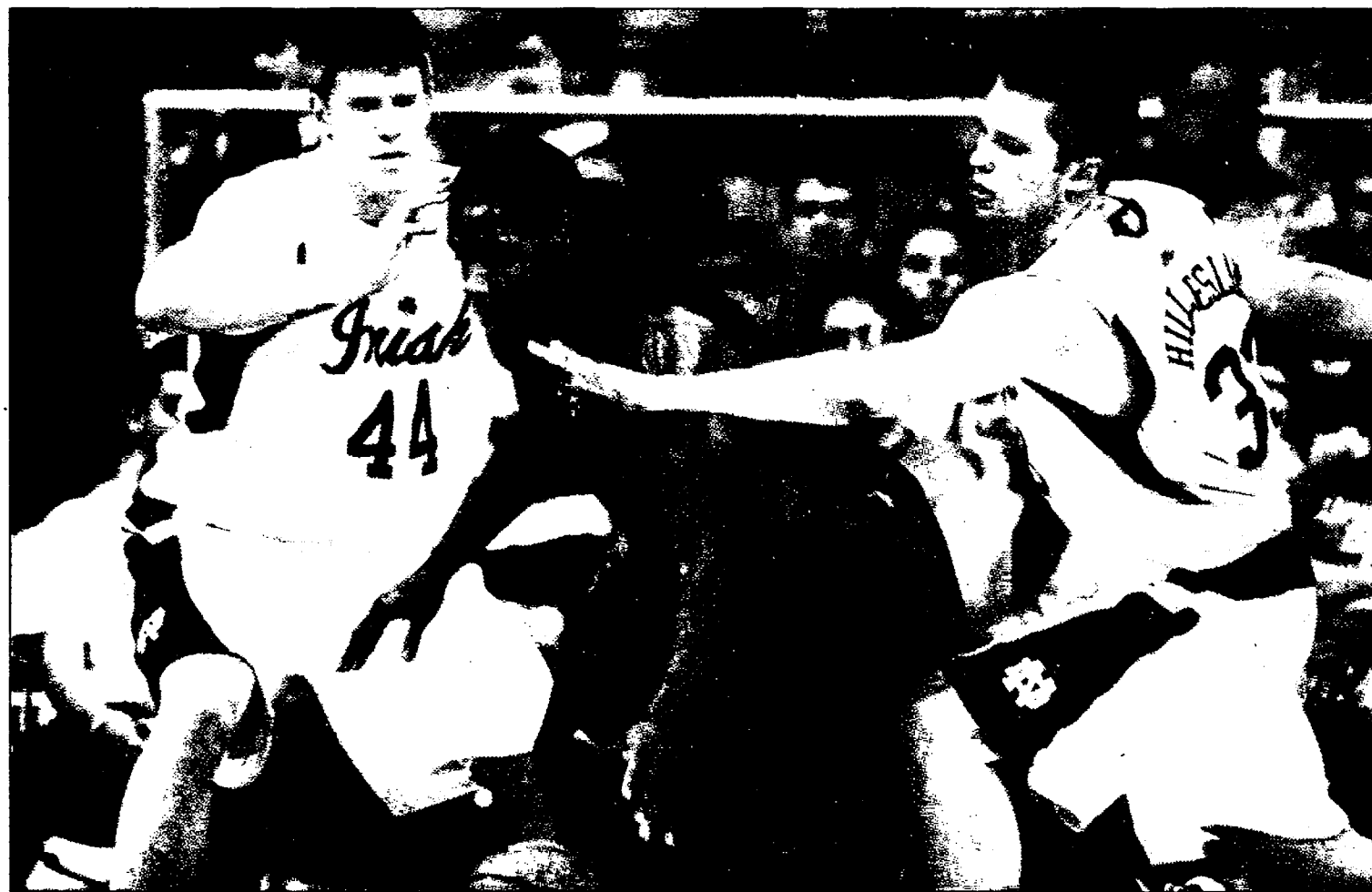
By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

It's not often that playing at the No. 8 team in the country could be considered the least difficult game of a three-game stretch, but such is life in the 2009 Big East.

Sandwiched between a road game against pre-season No. 3 Louisville and a home game against current No. 4 Connecticut, No. 12 Notre Dame travels to No. 8 Syracuse for a noon game Saturday.

The Orange owe their high ranking largely to a 16-1 record entering the week, but it's unclear whether or not Syracuse is as good as the poll-

see ORANGE/page 18



Irish forwards Luke Harangody, left, and Zach Hillesland defend Delaware State guard Donald Johnson during Notre Dame's 88-50 home victory on Dec. 20.

IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

MEN'S SWIMMING

Two meets to provide tough tests

By MIKE GOTIMER
Sports Writer

Fresh off a training trip to Puerto Rico, Notre Dame will host Northwestern tonight before traveling to Rochester, Mich., to take on Oakland.

Irish coach Tim Welsh said the trip was a positive experience for the team.

"We trained hard and trained well, and we're eager to race and prepare for the conference championships," Welsh said. "We have lots of energy."

The Irish will try to capitalize on their week of rest after a tough loss to Louisville last Saturday, which dropped

see TRAINING/page 18

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Another ranked foe awaits young squad

By NATHANIEL LEE
Sports Writer

After a commanding victory over Toledo and a close loss to No. 21 Northwestern, the Irish will travel to No. 20 Louisville Saturday for a Big East meet.

"This is a team that we match very closely with," Irish coach Brian Barnes said. "While the long-term goal is setting times that will be competitive at the national championships, we are always competing to win."

The Irish have never lost to Louisville in the teams' four all-time meetings, but the Cardinals present a threat to

Notre Dame's 3-1 season record.

Sophomores Samantha Maxwell, Amywren Miller and Lauren Sylvester, and juniors Megan Farrell and Maggie Behrens will be the main cogs for a young but deep Irish squad that has gotten off to a fast start.

"Team depth is going to be the difference in this match," Barnes said. "When you can only race four events per person, it's about winning what you can, but more importantly getting those second, third, fourth and fifth places consistently."

Contact Nathaniel Lee at nlee5@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

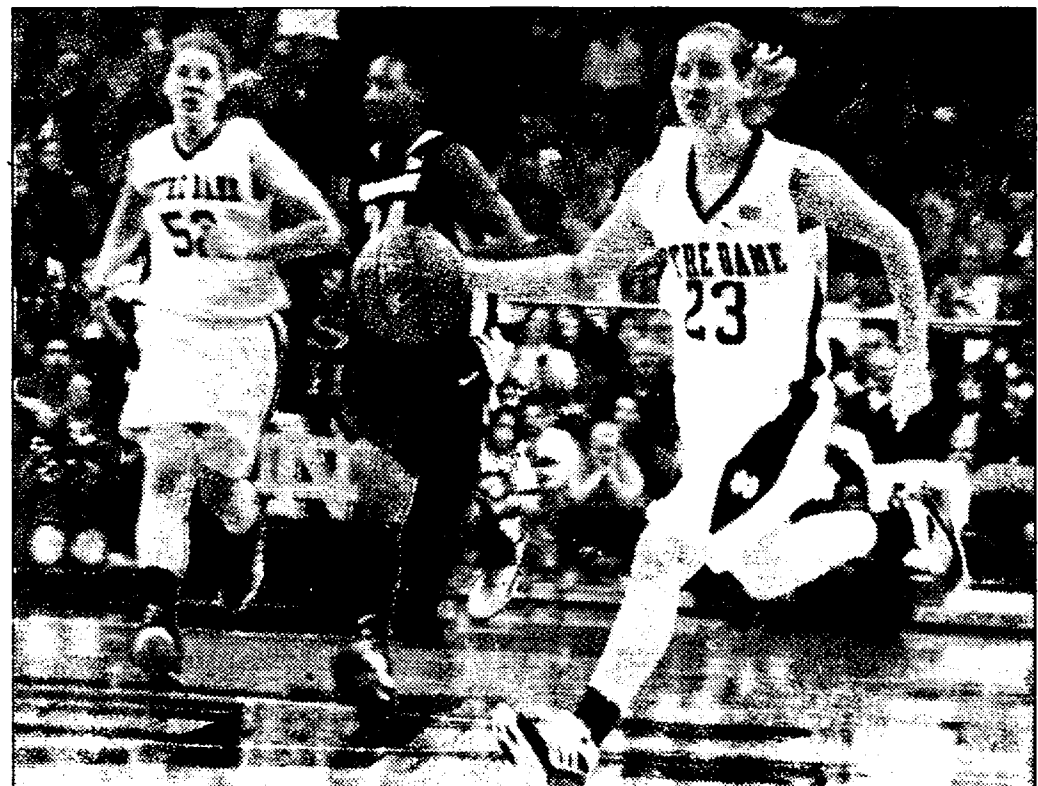
Team refocusing on defense

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame's main focus will be reestablishing its defensive intensity when it takes on St. John's Saturday, Irish coach Muffet McGraw said Thursday.

This emphasis is a direct result of Notre Dame's second loss of the season, a 75-65 defeat at Marquette on Tuesday, which McGraw attributed to a lack of commitment on the defensive side of the court.

"We did not play our normal game defensively [against Marquette]," McGraw said. "They got a lot of shots — a lot of easy shots



Irish junior guard Melissa Lechlitner dribbles up the court during Notre Dame's 62-51 home victory over Purdue on Dec. 7.

TOM LA/The Observer

see DEFENSE/page 18