

THE OBSERVER

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Archbishop speaks on religious trends

Vatican official discusses the secularization of Europe, the Church's shifting role

By LAURA MCCRYSTAL
News Writer

The influence of the Catholic Church in Europe is declining as a result of secularization, said Archbishop Angelo Amato in a lecture Monday night.

Amato, who was appointed by Pope Benedict XVI last July to oversee the canonization of Catholic saints, delivered Notre Dame's annual Terrence M. Keeley Vatican lecture sponsored by the Nanovic Institute for European Studies.

Secularization is a trend in which people feel "emancipated from religious bonds," he said. Secularism, a worldwide problem because it does not accept religion as an important reality, is especially apparent in Central and Western Europe, he said.

With secularization, Amato

said that economics, politics, and bio-technology in Modern Europe become detached from religion and morality.

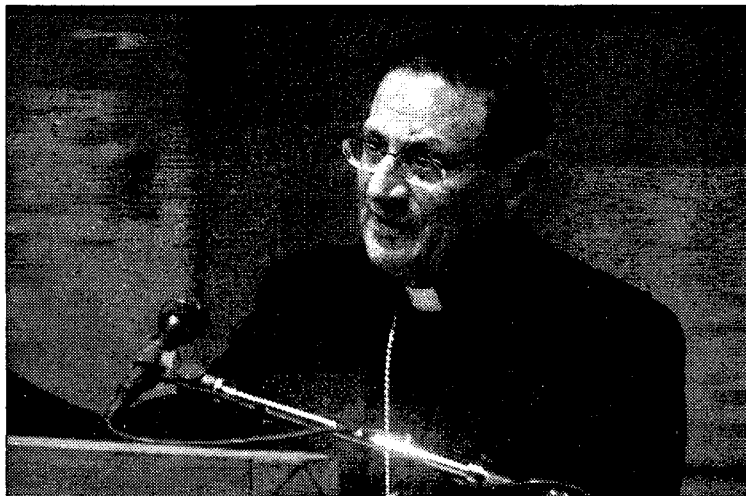
"In this panorama, the influence of Christianity on social life is greatly weakened," he said.

While some people argue that Modern Europe does not need to rely on its Christian roots, Amato disagrees. He said the Church has always contributed to European civilization.

"Europe cannot be understood without Christianity," he said. "It loses its originality and identity."

Amato said he hopes Europe will blend tradition with its modern views so that it will find a greater respect for democracy, freedom, and the dignity of the human being in the future.

Christianity is therefore not



ANDREW WEBER/The Observer

Archbishop Angelo Amato delivered Notre Dame's annual Terrence M. Keeley Vatican lecture Monday night.

only a link to Europe's roots, but it is also a solution for the future, he said.

"Christianity is the basis of modern thought and morality,"

he said. "Europe must profess itself to be Christian."

Amato said hope for the

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BOARD OF GOVERNANCE

St. Mary's to host conference

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
News Writer

Saint Mary's will be hosting this year's Indiana Residence Hall Organization Conference (IRHOC) Maura Clougherty, president of the Residence Hall Association, said at Monday night's Board of Governance (BOG) meeting.

The event, entitled "Will You Be My Leader?" will bring almost 100 students from all over the state of Indiana to campus on Feb. 6, 7, and 8. The weekend will include leadership programs, and awards will be handed out to participants.

"This IRHOC conference is one of the biggest conferences we have had in a long time, so we are very excited," Clougherty said.

This week the Student Academic Council (SAC) is holding Religious Studies week on campus, student body vice president and head of SAC Sarah Falvey said. There will be a Thomas Aquinas Symposium on Wednesday night in the Student Center Lounge at 7 p.m., she said.

University President Father John Jenkins will be speaking at the event about Aquinas' influence at Notre Dame, Falvey said.

"It's really great. Especially having just celebrated our Saint Mary's heritage, our heritage is very much shaped by Aquinas," Falvey said.

see BOG/page 4

Notre Dame awarded for sustainability efforts

By LIZ LEFEBVRE
News Writer

Notre Dame has recently received two honors that highlight the University's commitment to increasing sustainability on campus from Carbonally.com and the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC).

The University won \$10,000 from a competition held in conjunction with Syracuse University in November as part of NBC's Green Week. In addition to making the Notre Dame-Syracuse football game carbon neutral and increasing recycling on game day, the University also participated in a sustainability commitment

pledge drive to see which school could gain more pledges.

The drive, sponsored by Carbonally.com, encouraged students, faculty, staff and alumni to reduce their carbon emissions.

Notre Dame's pledge count of 1,932 beat out Syracuse's 1,446 commitments. The winning pledges have committed to reducing carbon emissions by nearly 48 tons.

Junior Connor Kobeski, who worked with GreenND to register students during Green Week, cited GreenND as a crucial part of the competition's success.

"GreenND members' dedication to getting people signed up gave us the edge over

Syracuse" he said. "A lot of people committed to Carbonally allowed us to win the competition, and in the same way, a lot of people committed to reducing their carbon footprints will help us to control climate change."

Kobeski also noted the importance of this event to increasing Notre Dame's sustainability, especially in light of the \$10,000 prize.

"Winning the NBC Carbonally Challenge will help the Office of Sustainability to make even greater environmental changes across the university," Kobeski said.

Students can take an active role in helping to make these changes, as the Office of

Sustainability will accept student proposals for ways to use the prize money that will increase Notre Dame's sustainability.

To download a proposal form, please visit www.green.nd.edu. All proposals must be submitted by February 2.

Notre Dame received a second honor when it became the first major university to be awarded a chain-of-custody certification from the MSC in order to guarantee sustainable seafood in the dining halls.

MSC is a global nonprofit organization committed to promoting the best environmental choices in seafood through its

see AWARDS/page 3

ECDC seeking student volunteers

Center needs help with program for children ages 2 to kindergarten

By CASEY KENNY
News Writer

The Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) at Notre Dame, on Bulla Road behind the library and directly across from Fisher O'Hara-Grace Graduate Student Housing, is looking for student volunteers for the Spring semester, according to Terri Kosik, the executive director of ECDC.

Kosik said the center offers a "dynamic, recreational-based

program for children from age 2 to kindergarten and utilizes a developmentally appropriate curriculum."

The 80-90 student volunteers with the program work alongside teachers and assist the children with various activities, she said.

"Students volunteer 2 hours per week and spend time with the children in various capacities [from] working on the curriculum with teachers, reading stories to children, teaching them to ride bicycles, painting with them [and] pushing them

in swings," she said.

Students work the same schedule each week and, therefore, really get to know the children they are working with, Kosik said.

"There is a wide range of children in the program from a variety of ethnic backgrounds and socio-economic groups," she said. "The volunteers can choose the age group with whom they feel most comfortable."

Kosik said that while volun-

see ECDC/page 4

SMC to test security alert system this afternoon

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

Saint Mary's students, faculty and staff will be receiving an e-mail, text message or phone call at 4 p.m. today as the College's Emergency Notification System is tested, according to an e-mail sent to the student body last week.

Students received the e-mail one week prior to the test date to inform them when the test would be occurring and to

explain what students could expect from the test.

"We try to test at least once per academic year. We do this to make sure the system works properly," vice president of student affairs Karen Johnson said.

The test works by sending a message through the service the College contracts with. The message is sent to students cell phones and their e-mails addresses.

see ALERT/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

If I were a superhero...

Like any other young college student, sometimes (okay often) I sit back and wonder what I should do with my life. I would prefer something exciting, fulfilling and useful to humanity. A subsequent romp through fantasy land obviously follows this type of life planning. And I've decided, in an ideal (insanely unrealistic) world, I would be a superhero.

Jess Shaffer

Assistant Scene Editor

Being a superhero is the best of all worlds. You get to use really cool powers, do good by kicking butt, and be useful to society while being loved and adored by all. In addition, you'd get to chill with fascinating and dynamic (and fictitious) characters, who would automatically have to be your friend just because you're a superhero too. It's kind of like dorm life at Notre Dame. Sororities and Fraternities lite; half the "clickiness," twice the fun.

Clearly, hanging out with Superman, Spiderman, Wonder Woman, X-men, the Hulk and the Fantastic Four would undoubtedly be a mind blowing experience, no explanation needed here. I'd even let in the Cullen Family and the cast of Harry Potter, who all fight evil and use some remarkable powers doing it.

Not to be exclusive, but there are some people that would be left out of the Superhero club. Batman for one. Let the huffing and puffing commence, but yes, you read correctly, I did indeed just kick Batman out of the real superheroes' club. To answer your next question yes, I did see the "Dark Knight." And no, being rich, affording an infinite amount of effective gadgetry, training for combat in Asia, sounding dumb when speaking through a voice synthesizer and having the capacity to float a slightly overrated box-office whale does not qualify you to be a superhero.

Maybe he does some pretty good things for mankind. He goes above and beyond, and therefore is a super hero, as in he is extra heroic. But clearly the etymology of superhero is a combination of supernatural and hero. So ultimately, extraordinary crime fighting does not make him a superhero because he lacks any supernatural heroic capabilities, a.k.a. powers.

After kicking Batman out of the club, the obvious next step would be, picking a power. If I could pick only one supernatural power, it would have to be flying. Preferably fast flying. Yeah, telepathy, walking through walls, shooting laser beams out of my eyes, being really strong or really fast and apparating are all pretty sweet. But flying is a classic. And I'm all about emulation; it lends a sense of history to innovation.

So there is my fantasy, superhero life in a nut shell. I'd wake up in the morning, and fly myself to France for a crepe and coffee. Then, during the day I'd assume the identity of a typical Notre Dame student, who occasionally writes Inside Columns for The Observer. After some speedy homework, I'd fly around, saving the world. In my spare time, I'd relax with my close friends, Spiderman and Wonder Woman, maybe play a game of super intense Apples to Apples. Finally you might ask, who'd my super special main squeeze be? That one's easy. The Human Torch aka Johnny Storm, obviously. He's hot.

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

Contact Jess Shaffer at jshaffe1@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

Due to a reporting error, the article titled "Villanova pulls off upset" in Monday's issue of The Observer it was incorrectly stated that Notre Dame's previous low point total was 62. The low point total was 59 against both Vanderbilt and Michigan. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: HOW ARE YOU CELEBRATING CHINESE NEW YEAR?



Bridget Meade

freshman
LeMans

"Ordering Chinese food and looking up Chinese swear words."



David Schaller

senior
Alumni

"Buy an American car."



Jeremy Way

senior
Dillion

"I'm going to burn incense to my ancestors."



Krystal Holtcamp

freshman
McCandless

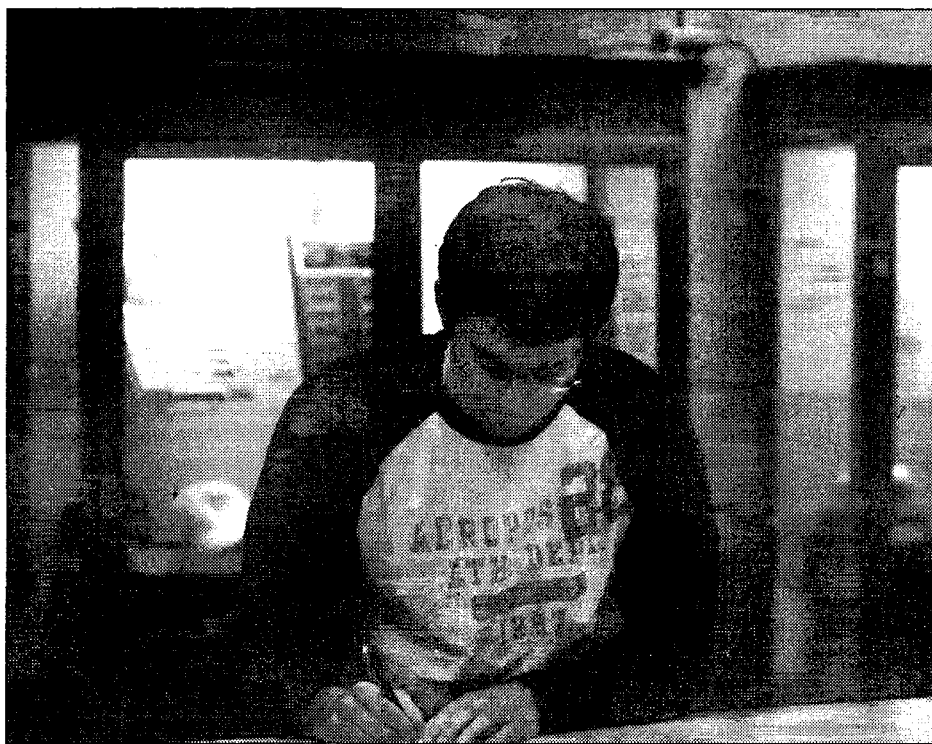
"Watch 'Mulan' and kiss a Chinese man."



Samantha Tulisak

freshman
LeMans

"I would totally dance with a dragon."



ANDREW WEBER/The Observer

A Keough resident signs postcards to his legislators as part of a national campaign against the proposed Freedom of Choice Act.

OFFBEAT

Palin fan unknowingly buys effigy with noose

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — The maker of a Sarah Palin mannequin says a would-be buyer backed out when he discovered its past — as a effigy hung by a noose in a West Hollywood home's Halloween display.

Professional window dresser Chad Michael Morrisette said the winner of the eBay auction thought he was buying a pro-Palin item until he heard a radio report about it.

Morrisette created the look-alike mannequin of

the Republican vice presidential candidate and hung it from his home's roof for Halloween. He removed it early out of safety concerns after the display prompted protests.

Epic snowball fight flakes out of history

MADISON, Wis. — When a whistle blew Saturday afternoon, two teams of University of Wisconsin-Madison students pelted each other with snowballs, but the 45-minute battle won't be going down in history.

Freshman organizer Mike Basak had hoped the

epic snowball fight would break a 2006 record set by 3,700 students at Michigan Technological University, but acknowledged Saturday that the turnout at his school was disappointing.

Basak guessed that 2,000 or more students showed up, but other observers put the total at hundreds of students, not thousands.

"It was definitely huge and it was a great event," he said.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The Winter Career and Internship Fair will be held Wednesday from 4-8 p.m. in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse. The event is free and open to students from Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross.

Student government and the Off Campus Council are hosting an information session Wednesday on alcohol, partying and the law from 8-9:15 p.m. in room 101 of DeBartolo Hall. The event is free.

University President Father John Jenkins will be the guest lecturer at Saint Mary's annual Thomas Aquinas Symposium Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Student Center Lounge. The event is sponsored by the Center for Academic Innovation.

The Pi Tau Sigma Mechanical Engineering Honorary Fraternity is sponsoring a blood drive Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in room 217 of Cushing Hall.

The film "Baghdad High" will be screened Friday at 9:30 p.m. in the Browning Cinema of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. This is a free but ticketed event. Call the Ticket Office at 574-631-2800 to reserve tickets.

RecSports and the Department of Athletics will host Late Night Olympics XXIII Saturday from 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. Sunday. Events will be held in the Joyce Center (through Gate 3) and Rolfs Aquatic Center. Money raised will go to St. Joe County Special Olympics.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 20 LOW 12	HIGH 25 LOW 18	HIGH 25 LOW 18	HIGH 30 LOW 17	HIGH 23 LOW 20	HIGH 30 LOW 22

Atlanta 64 / 48 Boston 29 / 16 Chicago 20 / 6 Denver 30 / 5 Houston 73 / 62 Los Angeles 65 / 45 Minneapolis 12 / -7 New York 29 / 20 Philadelphia 28 / 20 Phoenix 65 / 45 Seattle 42 / 29 St. Louis 20 / 15 Tampa 78 / 58 Washington 30 / 25

Awards

continued from page 1

work with fisheries, seafood companies, scientists, conservation groups and the public. By becoming chain-of-custody certified, Notre Dame can now assure that the fish present in the dining halls came from a fishery that meets MSC's environmental standards.

The University has already received 2,000 pounds of MSC-certified Alaska salmon and pollock.

"This is an area that Notre

Dame Food Services has been a leader in, and the MSC certification provides direct recognition of their efforts, as well as the opportunity to explore ways to advance in this area," Jim Mazurek, the director of the Office of Sustainability said.

For more information on Notre Dame's current environmental initiatives and to learn how to make Notre Dame a sustainable campus, please visit the Office of Sustainability's Web site at green.nd.edu.

Contact Liz Lefebvre at lefebvr@nd.edu

Vatican

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future is present in the Catholic Church and the Gospel message.

"The attitude of the Church toward contemporary Europe reflects the Gospel teaching of love," he said. "The source of hope for all of Europe is Christ."

Amato said the Church must proclaim the Gospel and make

it present in areas of society such as politics and mass media.

He said that he is also optimistic about the future due to the strong faith of European youth who embrace Christian mentality more than the preceding generation.

"The solution is that Gospel, to the Christian, be a strong identity," he said.

Contact Laura McCrystal at lmccryst@nd.edu

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

Prof. says Catholic schools in decline

Enrollment has steadily dropped from its peak 40 years ago

Special to The Observer

As national Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 25 to 31) approaches, the state of America's parochial schools is in the spotlight, and the news is somewhat discouraging.

An article this week in the New York Times refers to the proposed closing of 14 elementary schools in the Diocese of Brooklyn, N.Y., as "not the deepest but only the latest of a thousand cuts suffered ... as enrollment in the nation's Catholic schools has steadily dropped by more than half from its peak of five million 40 years ago."

The article refers to "Making God Known, Loved and Served: The Future of Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools in the United States," a major report on the future of Catholic education presented by Notre Dame in 2006 to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, saying the study is "widely credited with igniting the current self-examination" of Catholic schools.

Rev. Timothy R. Scully, C.S.C., professor of political science and director of Notre Dame's Institute for Educational Initiatives (IEI), led the task force study and says the decline in enrollment in Catholic schools is largely due to finances.

"The principle cause is financial," Father Scully said. "First of all, of course, there has been a huge transition in the faculty and staff who support the work of this wonderful apostolate. [There has been] a complete turnover in terms of the kind of leadership

and staffing that we have in Catholic schools from 90-some-percent in the 1960s religious — who by their gift to the church subsidized Catholic schools at the time — to 95 percent today lay, who also subsidize by the gift of their salaries, which are lower than the public sector, but extraordinarily higher than the religious who subsidized and made these schools possible, built those schools.

"I'm afraid to say that I think our values have changed a bit in the Catholic community. I think that despite our increasing resource base, we have other expectations for our lifestyle and we have other priorities for our incomes.

"Study after study of philanthropy demonstrates a sad reality that the Catholic community is actually quite stingy when it comes to supporting church causes, and that's not untrue when it comes to Catholic schools. I have to add an important caveat, and that is those parents who make the sacrifice are making a huge sacrifice."

Turning the tide will require a universal effort, according to Father Scully.

"The fundamental shift that has to occur in the Church in order for our Catholic schools to recover the importance that they have always held is that we as a Catholic community have to commit ourselves to the work of this apostolate," he said. "The work of Catholic education is the responsibility of all Catholics. It's not just the responsi-

bility of parents who have children. It's the future of our Church."

Father Scully directs the work of the IEI and is the founder of the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE), Notre Dame's signature program that sustains and strengthens under-resourced Catholic schools through leadership formation, research and professional service.

Founded in 1994, ACE places nearly 200 enthusiastic and faith-filled young men and women annually as full-time teachers in underserved Catholic schools throughout the country. ACE participants earn master's degrees in education from Notre Dame during the course of their two-year teaching commitment. ACE also established a principal preparation program, the ACE Leadership Program, in 2001 to form the next generation of lay Catholic school principals, and more recently, the English as New Language (ENL) program in order to train and support Catholic school teachers who work with ENL students. Both the ACE Service Through Teaching and Leadership Programs prepare more Catholic school teachers and principals respectively than any other institution in the nation.


Subsequent to the Notre Dame Task Force on Catholic Education, ACE has augmented its efforts in the areas of research and professional service to Catholic schools through its ACE Consulting and Notre Dame Magnificat Schools initiatives.

12TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON

St. Thomas Aquinas

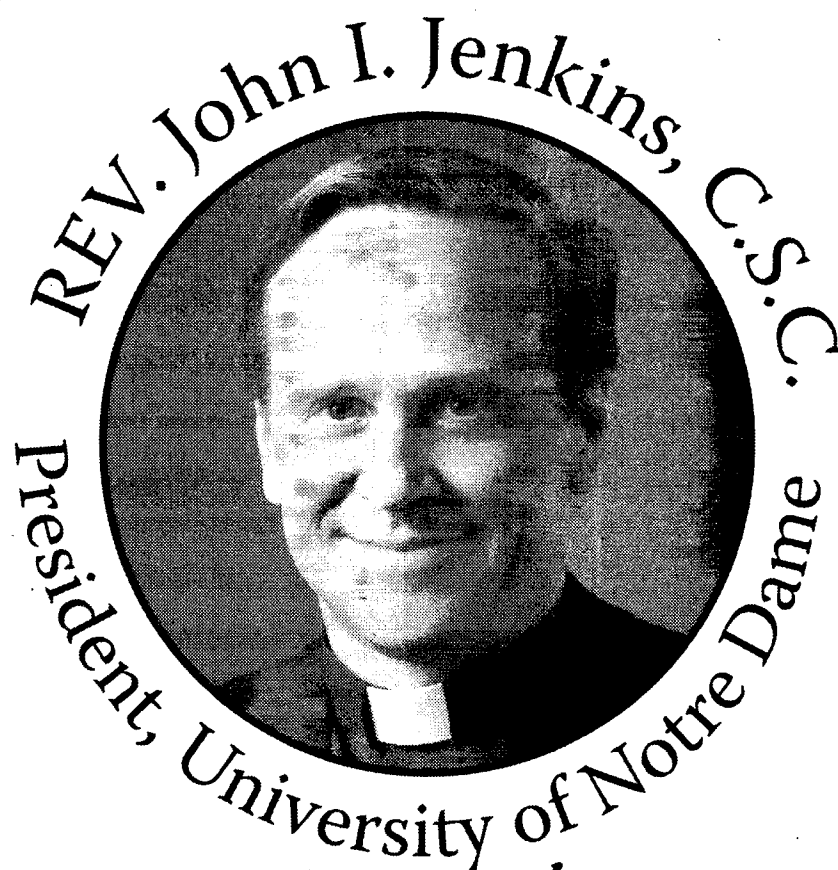
Faith, Inquiry & Community

- President and Professor of Philosophy, University of Notre Dame
- Author of *Knowledge and Faith in Thomas Aquinas*


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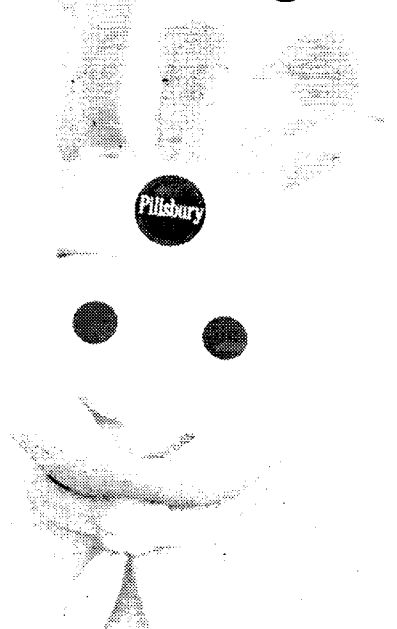
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This Symposium is sponsored by the Joyce McMahon Hank Aquinas Chair in Catholic Theology.

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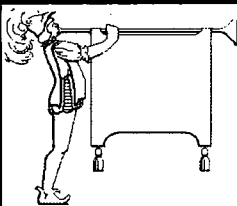
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GENERAL MILLS



Announcing the Year 2009 Annual Awards of the Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship

Thanks to a generous gift from the Albert Ravarino family, the Italian Studies Program is pleased to announce the year 2009 annual competition for travel in support of summer research and foreign study in Italy. Grants will be made in amounts not to exceed \$3,000, and will not normally cover all expenses. Notre Dame graduate and undergraduate students who are planning to pursue research or a formal program of summer study in Italy are invited to apply. Students must have completed at least one year of Italian language. The course work will normally be in Italian; will involve the study of Italian language, literature, and culture; and must be applicable to a student's degree program at the University of Notre Dame.

Recommended programs for foreign study include, but are not limited to: Loyola University in Rome, Boston University in Padua, UCLA in Pisa, Miami University in Urbino, Columbia University in Scandiano. Interested students are encouraged to consult the materials on Italian foreign study in the Department of Romance Languages, 343 O'Shaughnessy Hall.

Students are invited to submit a letter which should include:

- 1) an explanation of how the proposed research or foreign study will enhance their degree program at Notre Dame;
- 2) a personal statement indicating their background, interests, and long-term goals;
- 3) a description of the research project or the program they intend to follow;
- 4) a budget indicating the costs involved;
- 5) two letters of recommendation
- 6) a transcript showing all grades and courses completed
- 7) a list of other sources of funding (being sought or confirmed) for the same project (i.e. Office of International Studies, Nanovic Institute, etc.)

Application Deadline: Friday, March 6, 2009
Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship
Program in Italian Studies
343 O'Shaughnessy Hall
University of Notre Dame



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BOG

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In other BOG news:

◆Elections for the new student body president and vice president will be held Feb. 16-20, elections commissioner Francesca Johnson said. The following week there will be campaigning for RHA and SDB presidents and vice presidents.

◆The Center for Spirituality is hosting a Catholic Common Ground Conversation on evolution Jan. 29 in Stapleton Lounge from 4-5 p.m., mis-

sions commissioner Sarah King said.

◆The Residence Hall Association (RHA) will be hosting Little Sibs weekend Feb. 27 and 28, Clougherty said.

◆Student Activities Board (SAB) president Michele Peterson announced that SAB will be showing "Twilight" in Vander Vennet Theater in the basement of the Student Center Feb. 21. The group has scheduled five definite showings with a possible sixth viewing if necessary. Times will be announced at a later date, but the group will be distributing "pre-sale" tickets for free to help monitor atten-

dance, Peterson said.

◆The next Chicago bus trip will be Saturday, March 28, chief of staff Lauren Theiss said. The trip is free for Saint Mary's students. The date was changed from the planned trip on March 1 because it is a Sunday.

◆The SMC Monologues have finished accepting entries and are now moving into the selection process, women's issues commissioner Becki Faunce said. The event will be held Feb. 28 and Mar. 1 in Vander Vennet Theater at 4 p.m.

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn01@saintmarys.edu

ALERT

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addresses.

The system is in place to make sure that students know when emergency situations occur, Johnson said.

The College also tests the system "to make sure everyone is aware of the [it]," Johnson said. The test is run annually, and gives students a taste of what to expect should there ever be a real emergency situation.

The College has been using the system for the past two years, and Johnson said that

the kinks encountered last year have all been worked out. One such kink was when students received alerts that a tornado warning was in effect for the area surrounding the College during the Spring 2008 semester. Students began calling College security, who informed them that it was a mistake.

Along with the Emergency Notification System, the College has online resources for students to use under emergency situations. The Belle Bulletin Board, found on Saint Mary's College Web site, contains information about security alerts, as well as several Web sites and hotlines that students can contact if they are ever vic-

tims of a crime.

The College's Web site also offers insight as to what students should do if an emergency situation should occur.

It contains information regarding the College's Emergency Response Plan. It also has resources for students and parents in case of emergency. For more information about Students were asked to update their personal information with the College in order to make sure they receive the notification and Saint Mary's Security will be able to contact students in a timely manner.

Contact Alicia Smith at asmith01@saintmarys.edu

ECDC

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teering at ECDC looks great on a resume, it also a fun way to perform community service and is a great experience for those students planning to teach or majoring in fields such as psychology or pre-medical.

Students who volunteer often

find the experience so rewarding that they often return the following semester, Kosik said.

Notre Dame sophomore Bobby Powers participated in the program in the fall semester.

"It was a lot of fun and a great way to get away from the stress of college life and just be like a kid for a couple of hours," he said.

Tim Wallace, a sophomore volunteer, agreed.

"[It was] really fun and the kids were always laughing," he said. "I got to know the kids really well, as well as lots of other volunteers."

Students interested in volunteering can visit the ECDC Web site at <http://www.nd.edu/~esdcnd/>. Summer job and part-time paid positions are also available to students.

Contact Casey Kenny at ckenny@nd.edu

WHAT DOES AN ACTUARY REALLY DO?

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6:00 p.m.
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Strong math, computer, analytical, and communication skills are valuable assets for students pursuing an Actuarial Career, but what does an actuary do on an average day? All majors are welcome to attend this session to learn about the responsibilities and types of analysis involved in the Actuarial Career.

Refreshments will be served!

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WORLD & NATION

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Political troubles disrupt Iceland

REYKJAVIK — Iceland's coalition government collapsed on Monday after an unprecedented wave of public dissent, plunging the island nation into political turmoil as it seeks to rebuild an economy shattered by the global financial crisis.

Prime Minister Geir Haarde resigned and disbanded the government he's led since 2006. Haarde was unwilling to meet the demands of his coalition partner, the Social Democratic Alliance Party, which insisted on choosing a new prime minister in exchange for keeping the coalition intact.

"I really regret that we could not continue with this coalition, I believe that that would have been the best result," Haarde told reporters.

Muslims banned from yoga

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Muslims in Indonesia are banned from practicing yoga that contains Hindu rituals like chanting, the country's top Islamic body said Monday, echoing concerns by some religious groups elsewhere about its effect on their faith.

Though not legally binding, most devout Muslims will likely adhere to the ruling because ignoring a fatwa, or religious decree, is considered a sin.

The decision in the world's most populous Muslim state follows similar edicts in Malaysia and Egypt as the ancient Indian exercise gained popularity worldwide in recent years.

Cleric Ma'ruf Amin said the Ulema Council issued its ruling over the weekend after investigators visited gyms and private yoga classes across the sprawling nation. Amir said those performing yoga purely for health or sport reasons will not be affected.

NATIONAL NEWS

Father's confession baffles police

LYNN, Mass. — For months, Ernesto Gonzalez Jr. sat in jail, refusing to say anything about the weekend last summer when his 5-year-old son, Giovanni, disappeared.

Then in November, Gonzalez broke his silence, telling a newspaper reporter a gruesome story: He stabbed the boy to death, dismembered him in the bathtub, put his remains in plastic grocery bags and dumped them in trash bins around the city.

The account baffled prosecutors, police and Gonzalez's lawyer — all of whom have said there was no evidence found in his apartment to corroborate his story.

The alleged confession also stunned Gonzalez's ex-girlfriend, Daisy Colon, who had spent more than three agonizing months pleading for word of her son.

Security tightened for Super Bowl

TAMPA — At least 20 federal agencies will help local police secure Raymond James Stadium for Sunday's Super Bowl, with duties ranging from protecting airspace and the port to arresting peddlers of counterfeit souvenirs, officials said Monday.

Because of the massive security effort, the stadium "is one of the safest locations you can possibly be on Super Bowl Sunday in the United States of America," said Milton E. Ahlerich, the NFL's vice president for security.

LOCAL NEWS

Minister pleads not guilty to charges

UNCIE — A minister charged with sexually abusing three teenage boys in his Muncie congregation has pleaded not guilty.

Defense attorney Steven Bruce says the Rev. Matthew A. Kidd "categorically denies the allegations." About a dozen of Kidd's friends, relatives and church members attended the hearing Monday in Delaware Circuit Court.

Kidd, pastor of Freedom Point Apostolic Church in Muncie, made no comment to reporters after the hearing.

Blagojevich skips first day of trial

Illinois governor opts to instead make various television appearances

Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD — Gov. Rod Blagojevich's impeachment trial opened on Monday with a vacant chair reserved for the governor, who boycotted the proceedings and instead spent the day on the TV talk-show circuit in New York, complaining he is being railroaded.

"The fix is in," Blagojevich declared on ABC's "Good Morning America."

As the Illinois Senate assembled for the first impeachment trial of a U.S. governor in more than 20 years, David Ellis, the House-appointed prosecutor, told the chamber that he will show that Blagojevich "repeatedly and utterly abused the powers and privileges of his office."

In one of his first orders of business, Ellis won approval from the Senate to summon as a witness an FBI agent who oversaw the profanity-laden wiretaps that led to Blagojevich's arrest on corruption charges last month.

With Blagojevich refusing to present a defense, Illinois senators could vote within days on whether to oust the 52-year-old Democrat on a variety of charges, including allegations he tried to sell the U.S. Senate seat left vacant by President Barack Obama.

State senators maintained the trial will be fair, despite Blagojevich's attacks on the process.

"We all took an oath to do justice according to the law. I know that everyone is taking the matter seriously and that no one will stand in the way of justice," said Senate Minority Leader Christine Radogno, a Republican.

In live appearances Monday on "Good Morning America" and "The View," Blagojevich said some of



Illinois governor Rob Blagojevich is interviewed by Barbara Walters Monday on The View. Blagojevich skipped the first day of his impeachment trial.

his most inflammatory remarks from the wiretaps had been taken out of context. But when pressed, he would not elaborate, and he insisted he had done nothing illegal.

"I'm here in New York because I can't get a fair hearing in Illinois," Blagojevich said between TV appearances.

NBC's "Today" aired a taped interview with Blagojevich. He was also scheduled to appear on "Larry King Live" and ABC's "Nightline" on Monday night and on CBS' "The Early Show" on Tuesday.

The impeachment trial

opened with the presiding judge, Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas Fitzgerald, telling senators: "This is a solemn and serious business we're about to engage in."

When Fitzgerald asked whether the governor was present, there was a long silence. The seats set aside for Blagojevich and his attorney were vacant.

Fitzgerald ordered the proceedings to continue as if Blagojevich had entered a plea of not guilty.

No other Illinois governor has ever been impeached, let alone convicted in a Senate trial. It would take a two-thirds majority — or

40 of the 59 senators — to remove Blagojevich. The Senate also could bar him from ever again holding office in Illinois.

Democratic Lt. Gov. Patrick Quinn would replace him.

The outcome of his impeachment trial has no legal impact on the criminal case against Blagojevich. No trial date has been set on those charges.

Practically the entire political establishment has lined up against him. The last of two House votes on impeachment was 117-1, with his sister-in-law the only dissenter.

JAPAN

Tourists banned from licking fish

Associated Press

TOKYO — Tourists are known for acting silly, but licking the tuna?

Overwhelmed by a growing number of misbehaving tourists, Tokyo fishmongers banned all visitors from one of the city's most popular tourist destinations — the pre-dawn tuna auctions at the world's largest seafood market.

The ban, imposed during the peak New Year buying season, was front-page news before it was lifted last week. Now, the tourists are back, but the debate goes on: Can tourists be trusted around the tuna?

"We understand that the sight of

hundreds of frozen tuna looks unique and interesting for foreign tourists," said Yoshiaki Takagi, deputy director of the market. "But they have to understand the Tsukiji market is a professional place, not an amusement park."

One of the more notorious recent cases was that of a tipsy British tourist — caught on tape by a Japanese TV crew — who licked the head of a frozen tuna and patted its gill. Two others, also caught on video, rode around on a cart used by wholesalers. "Get out! Get out!" an irate market official shouted in English.

"Tuna is a very expensive fish," Takagi said. "One tuna can easily cost

more than 1 million yen (\$11,000). But some tourists touch them and even try to hug them."

Fed up, the market decided to impose the ban.

So, when on Jan. 5, a premium bluefin tuna fetched 9.63 million yen — more than \$107,000, the highest price in nearly a decade — no tourists were anywhere in sight. The restriction was lifted on Jan. 19, despite some grumbling from the fishmongers.

The sprawling market dates back to the 16th century, when the military rulers who had just moved Japan's capital to Tokyo — then called Edo — wanted to ensure they had a steady supply of fish.

Senate confirms Geithner as treasury secretary

Despite personal tax issues, Obama's pick wins confirmation by a vote of 60-34

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New York Federal Reserve Bank President Timothy Geithner won confirmation Monday as President Barack Obama's treasury secretary despite personal tax lapses that turned more than a third of the Senate against him.

"Tim's work and the work of the entire Treasury Department must begin at once. We cannot lose a day, because every day the economic picture is darkening, here and across the globe," Obama told the audience before Geithner was sworn into office by Vice President Joe Biden.

The Senate voted 60-34 to put Geithner in charge of the administration's economic team as it races to halt the worst financial slide in generations. The swearing-in followed less than an hour later, the administration seeking to emphasize that it was wasting no time in trying to address the financial crisis.

Obama said there had been a "devastating loss of trust and confidence" and that the financial system was in "serious jeopardy."

In his remarks, Geithner said the new administration would work first to stabilize the financial system and get the economy growing again and

then would move to reform the system.

"We are at a point of maximum challenge for our economy and our country," Geithner said to a standing-room only audience in Treasury Department's ornate Cash Room. On hand were Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, now director of Obama's National Economic Council.

Referring to Geithner's tax problems, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Geithner had made amends — he has paid the taxes and penalties — and possessed the talent needed to steer the nation out of the crisis.

Geithner, 47, served as undersecretary of the treasury for international affairs during the Clinton administration. As president of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, he's been a key player in the government's response to collapsing financial institutions and the housing and credit markets since last summer.

The ambivalence dogging lawmakers was reflected in the fact that a third of the chamber voted against Geithner, in large part because of his failure to pay all his taxes on income received from the International Monetary Fund in 2001 and in three subsequent years.

Ten Republicans overlooked that matter and voted for confirmation. One Republican, Sen. Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, told reporters earlier in the day that he would vote yes, only to change his mind and vote no.

Three Democrats and one independent voted against Geithner's confirmation, including Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., the longest-serving senator in history.

"Had he not been nominated for treasury secretary, it's doubtful that he would have ever paid these taxes," Byrd said in a statement.

For the prevailing majority, the real reason for Geithner's likely confirmation appears to be less a matter of bipartisan cooperation than political survival. Lawmakers of all stripes are eager to set the economy in the right direction long before voters judge their progress in the 2010 midterm elections.

"People make mistakes and commit oversights," said Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah. "Even the most intelligent and gifted — two adjectives that certainly apply to Mr. Geithner — make errors in their financial dealings."

Even so, not everyone was convinced that the need for a speedy confirmation should trump concerns about the candidate. Sen. Susan Collins, R-

Maine, didn't buy Geithner's contention that he skipped paying some taxes because he was confused by the complexities of the tax code.

"They were described by the nominee himself as 'careless mistakes,'" Collins said in prepared remarks. "It has become clear to me that this is not merely a matter of complexity leading to mistakes, but of inexcusable negligence."

Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., agreed and noted that his is one of the few voices of dissent.

"Nominees for positions that do not oversee tax reporting and collection have been forced to withdraw their nomination for more minor offenses. They have been ridden out of town on a verbal rail," Enzi told the Senate. "The fact that we're in a global economic crisis is not a reason to overlook these errors."

"The Senate," he scolded, "is not supposed to be a group of 'yes' men."

It wasn't. Democratic Sen. Tom Harkin of Iowa lined up against the nominee, asking how someone of Geithner's "financial sophistication" could innocently not pay the taxes and then head up the agency that oversees the IRS.

"How can Mr. Geithner speak with any credibility or authority?" Harkin said.

Gaza receives UN aid

Associated Press

GAZA STRIP — Crouching against piled mattresses in a room crammed with refugees, Bissan Abu al-Eish focused on her homework, blocking out the relentless shrieks of dozens of toddlers and the stench of overflowing latrines.

"I'm so happy to be studying," said the 9-year-old girl, bent over the new textbook she received this weekend when classes resumed for 200,000 Gaza children at United Nations facilities.

Beyond being schooled by the U.N., Abu al-Eish and her seven siblings eat the agency's food, wear its clothing and now live in one of its buildings after their own house was leveled during Israeli bombardments on Gaza.

Hamas may be politically in charge of the Gaza Strip, but it's to the U.N.'s relief agency that the majority of the 1.4 million Gazans turn for health care, garbage collection, food assistance and just about every other service usually provided by a state.

With much of the territory devastated by Israel's latest military offensive, the agency's job is bound to get even bigger.

Many expect the U.N.'s agency for Palestinians to take the lead in reconstruction, though its role is currently limited to the refugee camps that house more than 1 million of Gaza's population. The U.N. spearheading efforts to rebuild Gaza could open a door to international donors, many of whom don't want to give Hamas money because the group doesn't recognize Israel and is considered a terror organization by the U.S. and European Union.

It is estimated that \$2 billion is needed to repair the 21,000 homes damaged or destroyed, along with factories and government buildings, in the three-week Israeli attack to end Hamas' rocket-firing. Fundraising has hardly begun, and the question of how the money will be funneled remains unanswered.

"We're delivering the services of a state, until the state is established," John Ging, the head of Gaza operations for the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, UNRWA, told The Associated Press this weekend.

At the same time, it must exist side-by-side with Hamas' government — and take care to maintain its neutrality, which some Israelis question.

In one classroom Saturday, when UNRWA schools reopened, a Palestinian teacher was filmed asking children about their trauma during the war. The unidentified teacher then told the children that Palestinians have to "wage war against them (Israelis) until they leave their land," and asked her students, aged about 8, how they should react.

Two children in the class suggested hurling stones or rockets back at Israel. "Okay," the teacher said, apparently summing up her class' position. "We throw rockets at them, we throw stones at them," she said.

4-month delay to digital TV approved by Senate

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Monday voted unanimously to postpone the upcoming transition from analog to digital television broadcasting by four months to June 12 — setting the stage for Congress to pass the proposal as early as Tuesday.

Monday's Senate vote is a big victory for the Obama administration and Democrats in Congress, who have been pushing for a delay amid growing concerns that too many Americans won't be

ready for the currently scheduled Feb. 17 changeover.

The Nielsen Co. estimates that more than 6.5 million U.S. households that rely on analog television sets to pick up over-the-air broadcast signals could see their TV sets go dark next month if the transition is not postponed.

"Delaying the upcoming DTV switch is the right thing to do," said Senate Commerce Committee Chairman Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., author of the bill to push back the deadline. "I firmly believe

that our nation is not yet ready to make this transition at this time."

The issue now goes to the House, where Commerce Committee Chairman Henry Waxman, D-Calif., has vowed to work with House leaders to bring Rockefeller's bill up for a floor vote on Tuesday.

President Barack Obama earlier this month called for the transition date to be postponed after the Commerce Department hit a \$1.34 billion funding limit for government coupons that consumers may use to help pay for digi-

tal TV converter boxes. The boxes, which generally cost between \$40 and \$80 each and can be purchased without a coupon, translate digital signals back into analog ones for older TVs.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the arm of the Commerce Department administering the program, is now sending out new coupons only as older, unredeemed ones expire and free up more money. The NTIA had nearly 2.6 million coupon requests on a waiting list as of last Wednesday.

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2,483	80	1,312
Composite Volume:		1,825,582,368
AMEX	1,388.38	+26.46
NASDAQ	1,489.46	+12.17
NYSE	5,244.61	+49.06
S&P 500	836.57	+4.62
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	7,903.50	+221.36
FTSE 100 (London)	4,209.01	+156.54

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
SPDR S&P 500 (SPY)	+0.69	+0.57	83.68
BK OF AMERICA (BAC)	-3.85	-0.24	6.00
CITIGROUP INC (C)	-4.03	-0.14	3.33
PFIZER INC (PFE)	-1.80	-1.80	15.65

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	+0.80	+0.021	2.643
13-WEEK BILL	+11.11	+0.010	0.100
30-YEAR BOND	+1.53	+0.051	3.383
5-YEAR NOTE	+1.16	+0.019	1.651

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-0.74	45.73
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+13.00	910.70
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-0.15	80.60

Exchange Rates

YEN	89.2950
EURO	1.3139
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.2260
BRITISH POUND	1.3939

IN BRIEF

Pfizer Inc. purchases rival company

TRENTON — Pfizer Inc., the world's largest drugmaker, said Monday it is buying rival Wyeth for \$68 billion in a deal that will quickly boost Pfizer's revenue and diversification and — if it works as advertised — help the company become more nimble.

The deal came as New York-based Pfizer set out a full house of issues: a 90 percent drop in income, a hefty charge to end an investigation, a severe cut in its dividend, a shockingly low profit forecast for 2009 and 8,000 job cuts starting immediately.

That's all on top of the colossal problem triggering this deal: the expected loss of \$13 billion a year in revenue for cholesterol fighter Lipitor starting in November 2011, when it gets generic competition.

Pfizer also plans by 2011 to cut about 8,190 jobs, 10 percent of its workforce, as part of what it expects will be a staff reduction totaling 15 percent of the combined companies' workers — implying a total job loss of almost 20,000.

Geithner nomination confirmed

WASHINGTON — New York Federal Reserve Bank President Timothy Geithner won confirmation Monday as President Barack Obama's treasury secretary despite personal tax lapses that turned more than a third of the Senate against him.

The 60-34 vote put Geithner at the helm of Obama's economic team as it races to halt the worst financial slide in generations.

In swift order reflecting the urgency, Obama attended Geithner's swearing in Monday evening at the Treasury Department. White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Geithner has made amends — he has paid the taxes and penalties — and possesses the talent needed to steer the nation out of the crisis.

Geithner, 47, served as undersecretary of the treasury for international affairs during the Clinton administration. As president of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, he's been a key player in the government's response to collapsing financial institutions and the housing and credit markets since last summer.

Automakers to make greener cars

President Obama invokes regulatory process to ensure compliance by automakers

Associated Press

WASHINGTON

President Barack Obama wants automakers to make greener cars at a time when General Motors and Chrysler are hanging by the thread of a massive government loan and auto sales have plummeted to their lowest levels in more than two decades.

Obama's plans could bring smaller cars, more hybrids and advanced fuel-saving technologies to showrooms, but car shoppers will probably pay more upfront because the new rules are expected to cost the hamstrung industry billions of dollars.

"The consumer needs to understand that they will see significant increases in the cost of vehicles," said Rebecca Lindland, an auto analyst for the consulting firm IHS Global Insight. Her firm estimated the upgrades could add \$2,000 to \$10,000 to the price of a vehicle.

Obama on Monday directed the Environmental Protection Agency to review whether California and more than a dozen states should be allowed to impose tougher auto emission standards on carmakers to fight greenhouse gas emissions. The Bush administration had blocked the efforts by the states, which account for about half of the nation's auto sales.

The new president also said his administration would issue new fuel-efficiency requirements to cover 2011 model year vehicles. The rules would be the first step toward a 2007 energy law that requires the auto industry to boost efficiency by 40 percent to at least 35 miles per gallon by 2020.

Obama set in motion a new regulatory process at a time when the nation is



Monday, President Obama asked the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to review the auto emission standards in thirteen states.

coping with an economic recession and auto sales have fallen to their lowest pace since 1982. Underscoring the hardships, GM said Monday it would slash 2,000 jobs at plants in Michigan and Ohio.

In December, the Bush administration signed off on \$17.4 billion in loans to General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC to keep the companies afloat. The automakers are undertaking intense efforts to restructure this spring or face potential bankruptcy.

David Cole, chairman of the Center for Automotive

Research in Ann Arbor, Mich., said he doesn't believe the EPA will approve all the waivers asked for by the states. To do so would be economically unworkable.

"If the industry is in total shambles, you can have any regulation you want — it's not doable," he said.

Cole said the additional regulations would have to be implemented "in a way that's achievable in the industry."

Environmental organizations said Obama's approach would help the companies in the long

term, forcing them to produce fuel-efficient cars coveted by more consumers. Roland Hwang, a senior policy analyst with the Natural Resources Defense Council, estimated that a more efficient car would save its driver \$1,000 to \$2,000 in fuel costs over its lifetime, offsetting some of the upfront cost.

Even with the decline in gas prices from last summer's \$4 per gallon, Hwang said, the regulatory programs would "push them in a direction that's going to make them more competitive, not less."

Big name companies cut more jobs

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The recession is killing jobs at an alarming pace, with tens of thousands of new layoffs announced Monday by some of the biggest names in American business — Pfizer, Caterpillar and Home Depot.

More pink slips, pay freezes and other hits are expected to slam workers in the months ahead as companies desperately look for ways to survive.

"We're just seeing the tip of the iceberg — the big firms," said Rebecca Braeu, economist at John Hancock Financial Services. "There's certainly other firms beneath them that will lay off workers as quickly or even quicker."

Looking ahead, economists pre-

dicted a net loss of at least 2 million jobs — possibly more — this year even if President Barack Obama's \$825 billion package of increased government spending and tax cuts is enacted. Last year, the economy lost a net 2.6 million jobs, the most since 1945, though the labor force has grown significantly since then.

The unemployment rate, now at a 16-year high of 7.2 percent, could hit 10 percent or higher later this year or early next year, under some analysts' projections.

Obama called on Congress Monday to speedily enact his recovery plan, warning that the nation can't afford "distractions" or "delays."

With the recession expected to drag on through much of this year, more damage will be inflicted on

both companies and workers.

The mounting toll was visible Monday as roughly 40,000 more U.S. workers got the grim news.

Pharmaceutical giant Pfizer Inc., which is buying rival drugmaker Wyeth in a \$68 billion deal, and Sprint Nextel Corp., the country's third-largest wireless provider, said they each will slash 8,000 jobs.

Home Depot Inc., the biggest home improvement retailer in the U.S., will get rid of 7,000 jobs, and General Motors Corp. said it will cut 2,000 jobs at plants in Michigan and Ohio because of slow sales.

"We are seeing no improvement in labor market conditions," said Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets Economics. "This year could be as bad as last year in terms of layoffs."

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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The joys of the flesh

On the way to choosing not to make theater my main career path, I've had a number of experiences over the years with Very Serious Auditions.

Those who've been there too know that Very Serious Auditions (henceforth defined as dramatic try outs heavily influenced by the director's core thesis for the performance, such as that one for "Alice in Wonderland" in high school where we had to prove our suitability for the play by producing a paragraph of nonsense on our audition sheets) often prove, regardless of whether one is cast, to be personally enriching and beneficial. Having to act like a tormented soul in hell, for instance, turned out to be an incredible stress reliever.

Anyhow, I recently went to a Very Serious Audition that involved giving one's own take on the director's core thesis (a director's having such a thesis being of course the key trait of a Very Serious Play). The director in this case was a fellow student, and the play his reworking of a nihilistic "underground" classic. The audition monologue told the story of a sad little boy whose family, friends, and whole world had turned to plastic. The set, it was explained, was envisioned as a jungle of plastic mannequins.

When I'd finished auditioning, the director asked what I'd thought the story meant.

"Well, one person is isolated." I struggled for something more clever. "He can't connect. He's surrounded by people made of plastic, and —"

VS Student Director: "What's wrong with people being made of plastic?"

Me: "Uh...they're not alive." Struggle more. "I mean, they're cold. They don't move. They don't breathe, they don't feel, they don't love..."

I think I ended there, but given time

I could've gone on. It's actually fun to keep considering how many other things plastic people can't do. They can't act, they can't read, they can't cure cancer, they can't write self-deprecating meta-columns, they can't listen to enough music to declassify metal, they can't drink Guinness and dance on tables, and, most importantly, they can't enjoy the Magic Fountain in Barcelona.

And they can't shift gears and change direction in the middle of a column. Like this.

My brother and I visited Barcelona for three days over winter break. I found it a gorgeous, interesting, and occasionally cheap city with relatively good weather, and would recommend it to anyone who has a chance to go.

But of all the things you shouldn't miss while you're there, the Magic Fountain outside the National Gallery is pretty high on the list. By day, this is just a normal city fountain in front of a pretty eighteenth-century domed building. But for two half-hour segments each evening, with the aid of some colored lights, hidden jets, opera, and lots of coordination, it becomes so much more.

Deconstructed the "Magic" is not very impressive: just color, music, and streams of water. And yet as my brother and I, heeding some very enthusiastic reports on Trip Advisor, made our way through the subway system and up the boulevard at the appointed time, we did so amid a huge and diverse crowd bound cheerfully for the same destination.

And another huge and diverse crowd was already there when we arrived. It was chilly and pattering rain; it wasn't long after New Year's. Still, despite the reasons to go somewhere else and stay inside, there must have been hundreds of people there. And of all kinds, too.

As we passed by a wall, two high school boys standing atop it each

reached down to help up a female companion. We finally found a place to stand ourselves, next to a family that might have been speaking Polish. There were small kids there, but just as many if not more equally excited adults. As Americans, my brother and I were in the minority. Once the show began, the camera flashes from the crowd were almost as spectacular as the Fountain itself.

Nothing more than light, color, and sound. But hundreds of people were drawn together and made happy. They enjoyed the Magic Fountain. To apply Modus Tollens, because they did, and exhibited their inner and outer senses in doing so, they were not made of plastic. We were—are—not made of plastic.

So we can bring a column back around full circle and draw conclusions, too.

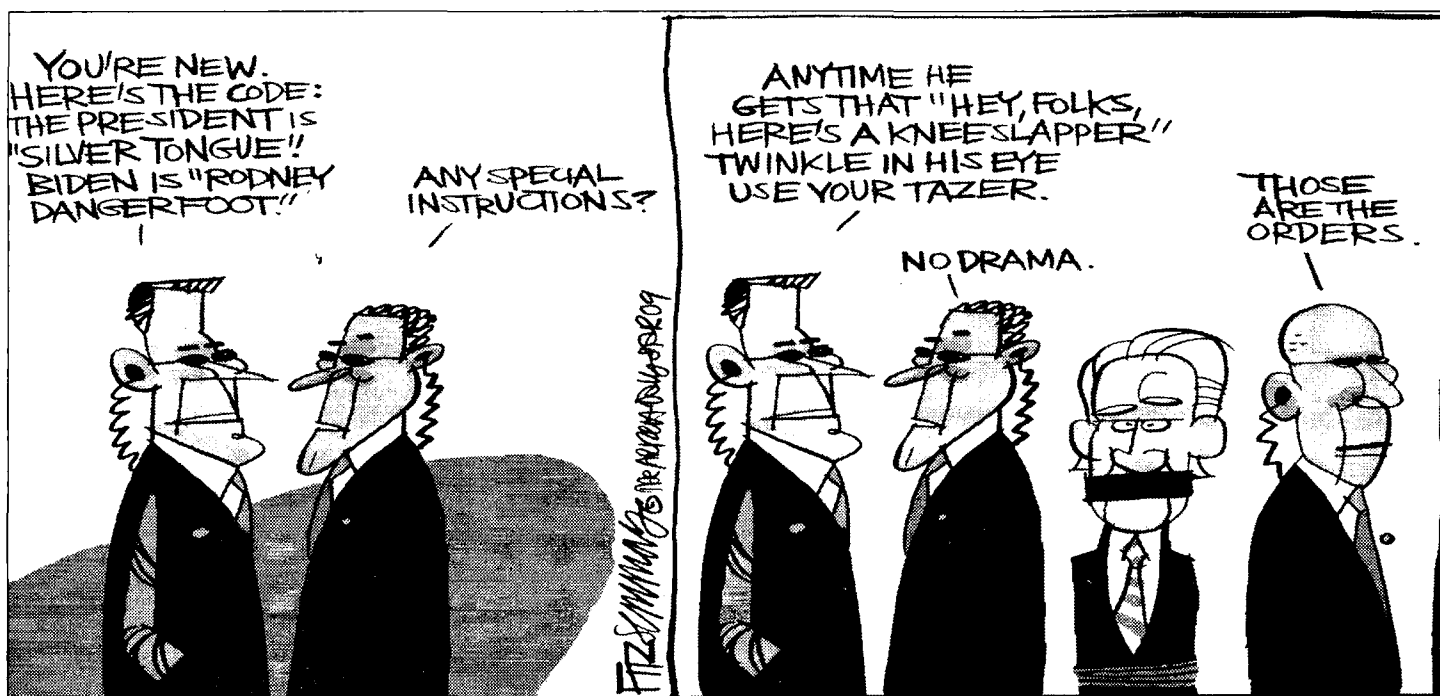
And while our having fun at the Magic Fountain may not prove conclusively that there's anything wrong with being made of plastic, it does prove that there's something very right about not being.

And this conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, loyal daughters and sons, and especially veteran and aspiring theater geeks alike, is just one of the reasons why we can never really have too many experiences with Very Serious Auditions.

Katherine Khorey is a junior studying English and Russian abroad at Trinity College, Dublin. She was in fact only signing up to be in the stage crew for Alice, and is still a little miffed that creating nonsense worthy of Lewis Carroll was a prerequisite for lugging sets (especially since Carroll's nonsense really isn't). You may contact her at kkhorey@nd.edu.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

Who do you think will win the Super Bowl?

Arizona Cardinals
Pittsburgh Steelers

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to the Editor at
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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Look not mournfully into the past. It comes not back again. Wisely improve the present. It is thine. Go forth to meet the shadowy future, without fear."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow poet

U-WIRE

More not always better

Why did you decide to go to college?

Sure, you may claim it was to expand your horizons, to make lifelong friends, to learn to live on your own and so on. But beyond these surface reasons, I think most students – and practically all parents – will agree that the main motivation is to be able to get a solid job somewhere down the line.

As much as we're all tired of hearing the phrase "in this economy," there is no denying the fact that the ideal job isn't simply going to be waiting for you on the other side of that graduation stage. But that doesn't mean that the answer necessarily lies with more education.

Let me preface this by saying that I myself am planning on enrolling in law school next year. Last semester, at a law school fair, I wandered around the Smith Center with hoards of other aspiring attorneys. How was it possible that all of us were going to get into law school, much less find jobs three years from now?

Well, it turns out that for the 2007-2008 school year, 49,082 first-year law students enrolled while 43,518 students received law degrees, according to the American Bar Association. That is a lot of lawyers.

This would all be well and good -- someone has to fuel those lawyer jokes -- if only the legal job market were immune to the current economic situation. According to CNN.com, the legal job market is shrinking for the first time in history, all while more and more potential attorneys are crowding America's 200 law schools. Anyone else see a problem here?

It's not just prospective law students that need to step back and think about their next move. With the latest wave of hiring freezes at universities throughout the country, the demand for humanities Ph.D.s is looking downright dismal. The number of job postings for Ph.D.s is down 21 percent, and many recent Ph.D. recipients have spent months sending out dozens of applications to no avail. Some are considering taking jobs where a B.A. or even a GED would have sufficed in order to start paying off their loans.

So what to do?

At that same law school fair, when I stopped by the Boston College table, I asked the school's representative what was most important to stress in my personal statement. Without even hesitating, she told me to simply explain why it is that I want to go to law school. If the answer is because I don't know what else to do, or because it just seems like the next step, I should reconsider my plans. But if I could communicate why I feel strongly about the law as a career, it would be all the admissions office needs to hear.

That thought is perhaps the one thing keeping me from going into panic mode as I write this column about my future career's bleak outlook. I have always wanted to go to law school, and I am positive that it is what I want to do with my life. I can accept that the competition will be intense and that maybe I won't make as much money as I'd like at first, but I will be doing work I enjoy.

The current job market is about as welcoming as the Metro on Inauguration Day, and I am more than happy to take refuge in law school for the next few years while we all wait for the economy to turn around. But the fact of the matter is that more education no longer guarantees a higher salary -- or even a job, for that matter. What it does guarantee is a mountain of loans, which will need to be paid back shortly after graduation, job or no job.

At least for now, graduate schools, law schools and business schools are no longer the assumed "next step." If you are sure that you want to devote yourself to a field, then get ready to put up a good fight to make it. Otherwise, chancing the current job market may just be your best bet.

This column first appeared in the Jan. 26 edition of The GW Hatchet, the daily paper of George Washington University.

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

Editorial Board

George
Washington U.

The GW
Hatchet

What have you read?

Ninety-nine percent of Americans over the age of 15 can read, but despite our widespread ability to recognize words on paper, we are at a literary crossroads. The age of print is on its deathbed, and it's not just the end for print journalism but print anything. Barring the "Harry Potter" and "Twilight" series and the books you are forced to muddle through for classes, what have you read recently that has been printed and bound?

If the answer to that question is absolutely nothing, you are in the majority. A recent report by the National Endowment for the Arts found that 53 percent of Americans surveyed hadn't read a book in the past year.

Incongruously, 100,000 more books were published in 2007 than in 2006, according to a study conducted by The New York Times. So it's not just a reluctance to read that's plaguing the industry but an oversaturation of the market. No one wants to read someone else's story, but everyone wants to tell their own. Just ask Barbara Bush's dog.

This trouble isn't just relegated to books. Newspaper subscriptions are down and continuing to fall. Media giants like Tribune Co., which filed for bankruptcy this winter, are faltering. Also, according to the Times, magazine sales fell 6.3 percent last year.

This has led to desperate attempts by print media to find demand for their supply, but the market for literature is hard to grasp. We read the fun books and award the good ones, but rarely do we endeavor to take on Mark Twain. Of the 400,000 books published in 2007, "Harry Potter" was voted most popular, and though I've read every "Potter" book and loved them all, I don't think author J.K. Rowling will ever walk the halls of Hogwarts with a Pulitzer draped around her neck.

Another cause for this literary crisis is a change in American culture. As scholar and writer Dana Gioia said, "American culture, conditioned by electronic media and a celebrity culture based on personalities, has given birth to a new kind of author: the amplified bard."

This dependence on technology affects everyone. I've always loved to read, but I'm finding it harder and harder to read something if it isn't on a screen. Even when I do sit down with a book, by the time I reach page 25, I'm considering opening a new Google tab to check my e-mail instead.

As long as these "amplified bards" keep clogging America's brainwaves with terrible blogs, movies like "Prom Night" and the comics in this paper, people will continue to look to them as the quick and easy entertainment solution.

Hopefully, people will soon realize that this never-ending flow of shallow news and ghostwritten biographies is filling their heads with garbage, not knowledge. They need to rediscover classic literature and credible news media that will broaden their minds, not dull them.

The only answer I have is both quaint and simple, but it encompasses writers everywhere: Write what you know and write it well. If you don't know anything or cannot write, please don't.

This column first appeared in the Jan. 23 edition of the Daily Texan, the daily paper of the University of Texas.

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

Editorial Board

University of
Texas

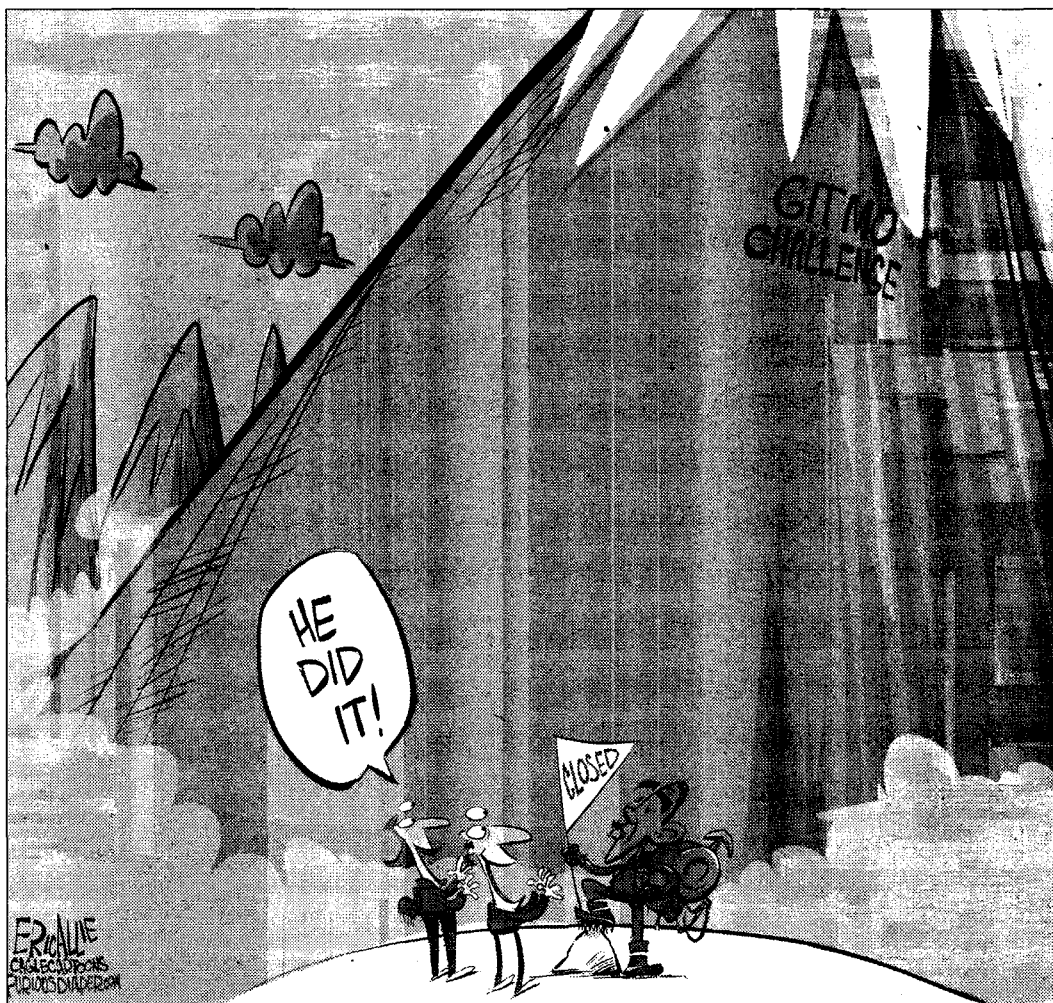
Daily Texan

Seriously?

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viewpoint.1@nd.edu

EDITORIAL CARTOON



Strong performances bring story of MILK to life

MAIJA GUSTIN

Scene Writer

"Milk," nominated for eight Academy Awards including Best Picture, is a biopic about the first openly gay elected politician, Harvey Milk.

Sean Penn, who received an Oscar nomination for his role, stars as the charismatic San Francisco city supervisor responsible for passing a revolutionary gay rights ordinance.

His co-stars, including James Franco, Victor Garber, Emile Hirsch and the Oscar-nominated Josh Brolin, round out his inspiring performance.

It is easy to heap praise solely on the cast for the brilliance of the film, but much of its depth and resonance come from director Gus Van Sant and writer Dustin Lance Black. Both received Academy Award nominations as well as nominations from their respective guilds, the Directors Guild of America and the Writers Guild of America.

Van Sant, known for films like "Elephant" and "Good Will Hunting," brings a strong eye to this film. He undoubtedly wants it to resonate, but never seems to step too far beyond reality.

It is a poignant but true portrait of a great man who has since been forgotten by the masses.

The relatively young and unknown screenwriter Lance Black gives Van Sant great material and seemingly sticks to the truth of Harvey Milk's life.

Neither has tried to avoid Milk's faults nor build up his assets, and consequently, they have created an image of a normal but hopeful man struggling with greatness.

Where "Milk" succeeds the most, aside from some incredibly strong

performances, is the atmosphere Gus Van Sant created in his film. The cinematography feels as though it could be documentary footage. Van Sant and crew successfully place the audience in the midst of an historic time, granting them a unique and wholly realistic perspective.

An excellent cast of actors who truly bring their characters to life only furthers this feel. Sean Penn deservedly won a Screen Actors Guild award for his role this past Sunday.

While Harvey Milk's life was admittedly a sad one, Penn plays his public persona as a jubilation of the man and all the messages he stood for.

He literally transcends the role of actor and becomes a mirror to this man's life. The strides Penn makes for the gay community feel like a universal triumph, and he is simply inspired.

James Franco, who plays Milk's lover Scott Smith, demonstrates serious acting chops. He has been unfortunately overshadowed by Josh Brolin's portrayal of the villainous Dan White, the man responsible for Milk's death.

The rest of the supporting cast, headed by Emile Hirsch, mostly portray Milk's friends and advisors and are perfectly understated. They neither stand in Penn's shadow nor overplay their roles.

The cast as a whole is very deserving of their award for Best Acting Ensemble at the Critics' Choice Awards.

"Milk" has been overshadowed this film season by many of its competitors. However, it is rightly deserving of its numerous nominations and, in any other year, would surely be a massive winner.

But its eight Academy Award nominations speak to its excellence. The film is a bittersweet testament to the people who fight for change and a tribute to Harvey Milk himself.

"Milk" demonstrates the harm bigotry can produce, to any group of people; and is a glimpse into the recent American past.

It should be seen, regardless of personal politics.

Contact Maija Gustin at mgustin@nd.edu

While Harvey Milk's life was admittedly a sad one, Penn plays his public persona as a jubilation of the man and all the messages he stood for.

The film is a bittersweet testament to the people who fight for change and a tribute to Harvey Milk himself.

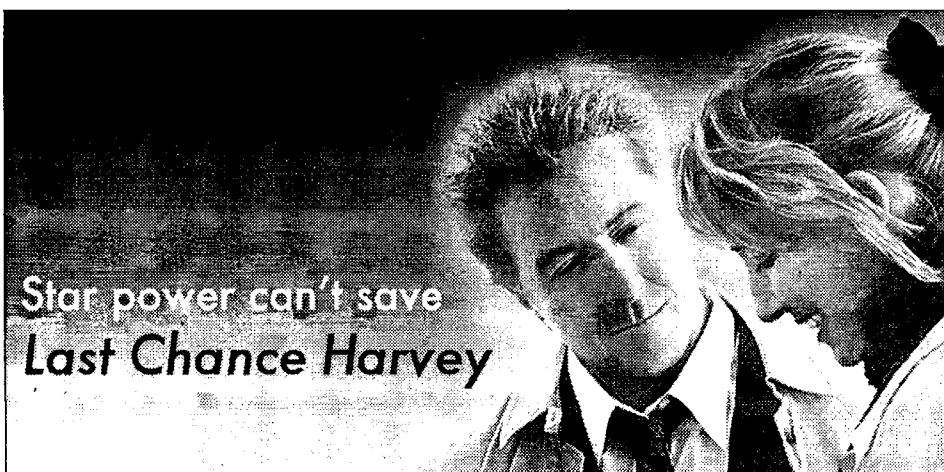
Milk

Directed by: Gus Van Sant

Written by: Lance Black

Starring : Sean Penn, James Franco, Josh Brolin and Emile Hirsch





MADELINE NIES | Observer Graphic

ANALISE LIPARI
Scene Editor

Sometimes, when two big stars come together, there's instant movie magic. The inexact science of film chemistry is hard to find but easy to recognize — it takes a duo like Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks, for example, to turn a film about AOL users into "You've Got Mail."

Hollywood legends are often born of the best star duos: Spencer Tracy and Katherine Hepburn, Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, or Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland are a few.

But sometimes, despite the star power of the two actors involved, a pair falls a little flat. Claire Forlani and Brad Pitt are both strong actors, but "Meet Joe Black" was a depressing dud. Debra Messing is a solid comedienne, but she and Dermot Mulroney ("My Best Friend's Wedding") couldn't spark a compelling romance in "The Wedding Date."

The stars of "Last Chance Harvey," Emma Thompson and Dustin Hoffman, shouldn't have this problem. Thompson is almost criminally underused in the film as Kate Walker, a lonely survey worker who spends her days at London's Heathrow Airport in a frumpy uniform, well-aged scrunchy and sad-eyed expression. Hoffman is perpetually uncomfortable as Harvey Shine, a lonely American who takes a chance on a serendipitous weekend in foggy old London with Thompson's Kate.

But despite both Hoffman and Thompson being cinematic heavyweights, the pairing never clicks. It's due to both actors' talent that the film works at all, but the result is an underwhelming 92 minutes of two people who deserve better material.

Harvey Shine is, by conventional standards, a loser. His job as a commercial music composer is hanging by a thread.

His youthful ambition to be a jazz pianist has clearly fallen to the wayside. And his daughter Susan (Liane Balaban) just asked her stepfather, Brian (James Brolin), to walk her down the aisle at her posh London wedding. When he skips Susan's reception to fly home and nail a critical business deal, he misses the plane and subsequently loses his job.

It's a tough situation for what Hoffman makes out to be a sympathetic character. Quiet but direct, sometimes smooth but painfully awkward, Harvey barely fits into the new life his daughter and ex-wife are living without him. It's interesting to watch Hoffman play with another side of American masculinity, calling to mind both his performance in "Death of a Salesman" and his iconic role in "The Graduate," as though Harvey were an older Ben Braddock with something of a Willy Loman complex.

Simultaneously, writer-director Joel Hopkins gives us Kate, a woman whose friends set her up on blind dates with younger men, and whose mother's incessant phone calls inevitably ruin whatever semblance of a dating life she has left. Thompson is a smart, funny actress, and it's odd to watch her play an uncomfortable frumpster. Still, she handles the role with her usual ease, and her presence really makes the film.

The setting of "Last Chance Harvey," ironically enough, is the character who deserves better material the most. The city of London barely appears in a film that allegedly takes place there. While the film's advertising would lead a viewer to believe that Britain's capitol plays its own part, the reality is more disappointing — even though Paddington Bear makes a cameo.

The cinematographer succeeds at capturing each day's waning light — a subtle play on the film's themes of life's passage and late opportunities.

It's fitting, then, that the film ends on an optimistic sunny morning, with Harvey and Kate walking by the River Thames.

But with a script that only occasionally reaches real heights — watch for Harvey's speech at the wedding reception — audiences are left wondering where a better film might have taken these two actors.

Contact Analise Lipari at
alipari@nd.edu

Last Chance Harvey

Written and directed by: Joel Hopkins
Starring : Dustin Hoffman, Emma Thompson and Eileen Atkins



Image courtesy of collider.com

Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson walk along the Thames in "Last Chance Harvey." The pair play lovable losers who find an unexpected romance.

Much ado about Shakespeare with AFTLS



MADELINE NIES | Observer Graphic

SARA FELSENSTEIN
Scene Writer

The Actors from the London Stage will perform Shakespeare's comedy "Much Ado About Nothing" this Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at Washington Hall. The performance will feature actors Peter Bankolé, Thusitha Jayasundera, Stephen Rashbrook, Joannah Tincey and Charlie Walker-Wise.

Actors from the London Stage, one of the oldest established touring Shakespeare groups in the world, has been around for 33 years. The company is based in England but produced on campuses nation-wide by Shakespeare at Notre Dame. There are no directors involved in their performance — instead, the group collaborates to determine the best way to portray Shakespeare's text. They tour universities twice a year and will perform at seven different campuses stretching from North Carolina to Hawaii this spring.

Not only do they bring their acting talents to students across the country, but they also spend much of their time during the week in university classrooms, conducting workshops, text readings and stage demonstrations.

The group is well known in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's communities, as they have previously performed "A Winter's Tale," "Merchant of Venice," "A Midsummer's Night Dream," "Romeo and Juliet" and "Othello," as well as other Shakespeare classics at Notre Dame.

The AFTLS approach to theater, using only five actors to portray a great number of characters, and very few props to help distinguish between them. Since these five actors compose the entire cast, quick character changes during the show are frequent. Their stage is generally bare, with the exception of one or two objects that are recycled throughout the play to represent different things.

Because there are few visual aids, the audience must be intimately engaged in the performance, hanging on every word and gesture of the actors before them.

This type of performance gives more freedom to the actors. It can especially be a thrill for Shakespeare lovers who pick up the hints of sarcasm, humor or irony the AFTLS draw from Shakespeare's words with just a slight change of intonation or

facial expression.

However, as exciting as this bare-bones type of performance can be for some, it can also be difficult to grasp for someone who has no familiarity with the plotline of the play. It is a good idea to freshen up on the background of "Much Ado About Nothing" before seeing the AFTLS performance.

"Much Ado About Nothing" takes place in Messina, Italy, where a prince by the name of Don Pedro and his deputies Claudio and Benedict have returned home from a victorious battle. Leonato, the governor of Messina, welcomes the heroes and invites them to stay for a month and attend a masquerade ball. Claudio has fallen in love with Leonato's daughter, Hero. At the masquerade ball, Don Pedro begins wooing Hero on Claudio's behalf, but Don John tells Claudio that his brother — Don Pedro — is really wooing Hero for himself. Fortunately the misunderstanding is short-lived, and soon Claudio and Hero are due to be wed.

Don John, however, still conspires to ruin Claudio and Hero's wedding. He sets up a trick to make Claudio think that Hero is already unfaithful. At the wedding, Claudio, who was once swooning in

love for Hero, refuses to marry her. He publicly shames Hero, who faints from the shock. Hero's family decides to have her fake her death, so that Claudio's grief will bring out the truth.

Claudio greatly repents his actions and agrees to marry any substitute in Hero's place. During his second wedding the supposed "cousin" he was meant to marry removes her mask, and Claudio sees the beautiful Hero before him, alive after all. The play, one of the Bard's best-loved comedies, then ends happily.

Whether you're a self-proclaimed Shakespeare fanatic or you simply want to broaden your theater horizons with this unique performance, go see "Much Ado About Nothing" at Washington Hall this week.

Performances are at 7:30 on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Tickets are on sale at the Lafortune box office for \$20, \$18 for faculty, staff and seniors, and \$12 for all students. For more information, visit performingarts.nd.edu.

Contact Sara Felsenstein at
sfelsens@nd.edu

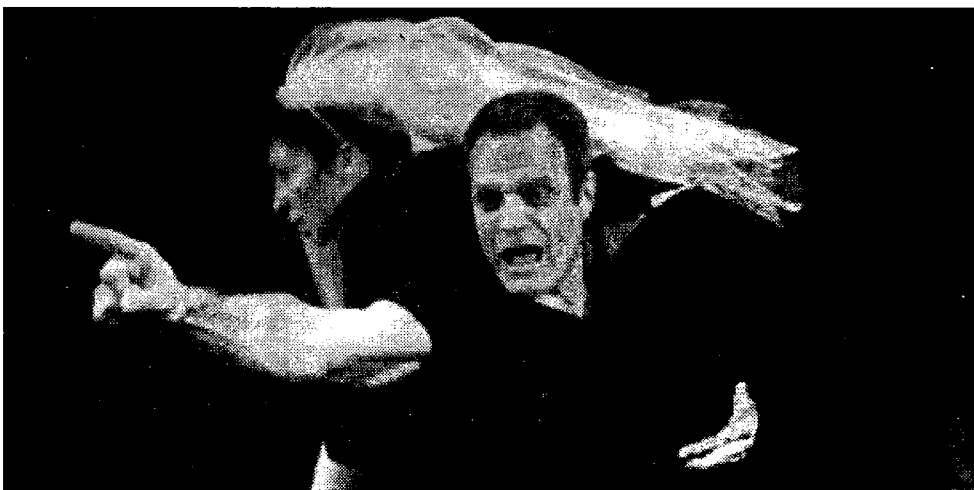


Image courtesy of uhh.hawaii.edu

The Actors from the London Stage, seen here in "The Taming of the Shrew," return to Notre Dame this weekend with "Much Ado About Nothing."

NBA

Shaq scores 29, Suns finish road trip with win

Jefferson, Timberwolves beat up on injury plagued Bucks; Knicks edge Yao-less Rockets behind Chandler's 18

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Shaquille O'Neal had no problem with back-to-back games at the end of a road trip, scoring 29 points Monday night as the Phoenix Suns wrapped up a six-game East Coast swing with a 103-87 win over the Washington Wizards.

O'Neal went 10-for-14 from the field, 9-for-10 from the free throw line and had eight rebounds in 36 minutes for the Suns, who salvaged their trip by winning the last two games to finish 3-3. O'Neal had 19 points and 11 rebounds in 39 minutes in Sunday night's 104-99 victory over Atlanta.

Of course, as coach Terry Porter put it before the game, it helped O'Neal didn't have to do "all the banging he'd have to do if it was Yao Ming." With natural power forward Andray Blatche and rookie JaVale McGee manning the paint for the woeful Wizards, there was no need to give O'Neal the night off that he's been getting at times during back-to-backs this season.

Amare Stoudemire added 22 points and 15 rebounds, Leandro Barbosa scored 23 points, and Steve Nash had 14 points and 15 assists for the Suns, whose 53-38 rebounding advantage helped overcome their 17 turnovers.

Caron Butler scored 28 points, and Antawn Jamison had 27 for the Wizards, but they didn't get much help as Washington lost for the 10th time in 12 games. The rest of the team scored 32 points on 17-for-41 shooting.

Neither team had a double-digit lead until the fourth quarter, when O'Neal's layups against double teams accounted for the first and last baskets in a 12-4 run that gave the Suns an 89-79 lead with 5 minutes to play.

O'Neal literally threw his weight around in the game's final minutes. He pushed Blatche to the court along the baseline with 4:11 to play and was called for a foul, while Blatche lay on the floor with a left knee injury and had to leave the game. With 1:53 left, O'Neal threw down a defiant one-handed dunk that gave the Suns a 12-point lead.

Blatche said his knee "buckled and came back in place" and that X-rays were negative.

"It's real sore," Blatche said. "I thought it was something serious. It should be fine. All I know is he hit me, and I went flying."

Porter said before the game that his team would have to "fight the mentality of being on the plane already trying to get home," while Wizards coach Ed Tapscott was worried about the "first game home syndrome" after Washington's just-concluded West Coast trip.

As a result, neither team had the get-up-and-go to pull away in a first half that ended tied at 51. Jamison and Butler combined for 39 of Washington's points before the break, while Nash had an uncharacteristic four turnovers in the first two periods.

O'Neal's adventures included a technical foul for hanging on the rim after a first-half dunk, and a kiss on the head for Butler after tying up the Wizards forward on a drive to the basket. Butler smiled good-naturedly — then got the final laugh as he won the subsequent jump ball.

Timberwolves 90, Bucks 83

Al Jefferson scored 23 points and had 10 rebounds and Ryan Gomes added 22 points, lifting the Minnesota Timberwolves over the short-handed Milwaukee Bucks on Monday night.

It was Milwaukee's first game since Michael Redd's season-ending knee injury.

The Timberwolves, winners of 10 of their last 12, snapped a four-game losing streak in Milwaukee by relying on Jefferson, who roamed the paint freely with Bucks center Andrew Bogut missing his seventh straight game with back spasms.

Randy Foye and rookie Kevin Love also each added 12 points for the Timberwolves.

Ramon Sessions had 18 points replacing Redd, Charlie Villanueva added 15 and Richard Jefferson 10, but it wasn't nearly enough.

Minnesota, which got 39 points from Jefferson in a 109-108 overtime win over Chicago

on Sunday night, led 78-63 with just under nine minutes to play before the Bucks went on a 13-3 run.

But Al Jefferson stopped it with a strong move to the basket after nearly committing a turnover that made it 83-76. Richard Jefferson, who finished 3-of-15 from the field, hit a jumper, but Al Jefferson wasn't finished.

He kicked out a pass to Gomes for a 3-pointer as the shot clock expired and after Luke Ridnour missed a 3-pointer for the Bucks, Jefferson was fouled and hit both free throws to push the lead back to 88-78 with 1:11 left.

Milwaukee never trailed by more than five in the first half. But in the third quarter, the Timberwolves opened a 10-point lead when Foye, who had seven assists, made a nice pass through traffic to Gomes a layup and Jefferson sank a 16-footer.

Minnesota pushed it to 14 minutes later, and the frustration kept building with Villanueva being called for a technical foul late in the third quarter as the Timberwolves took a 74-60 lead into the fourth.

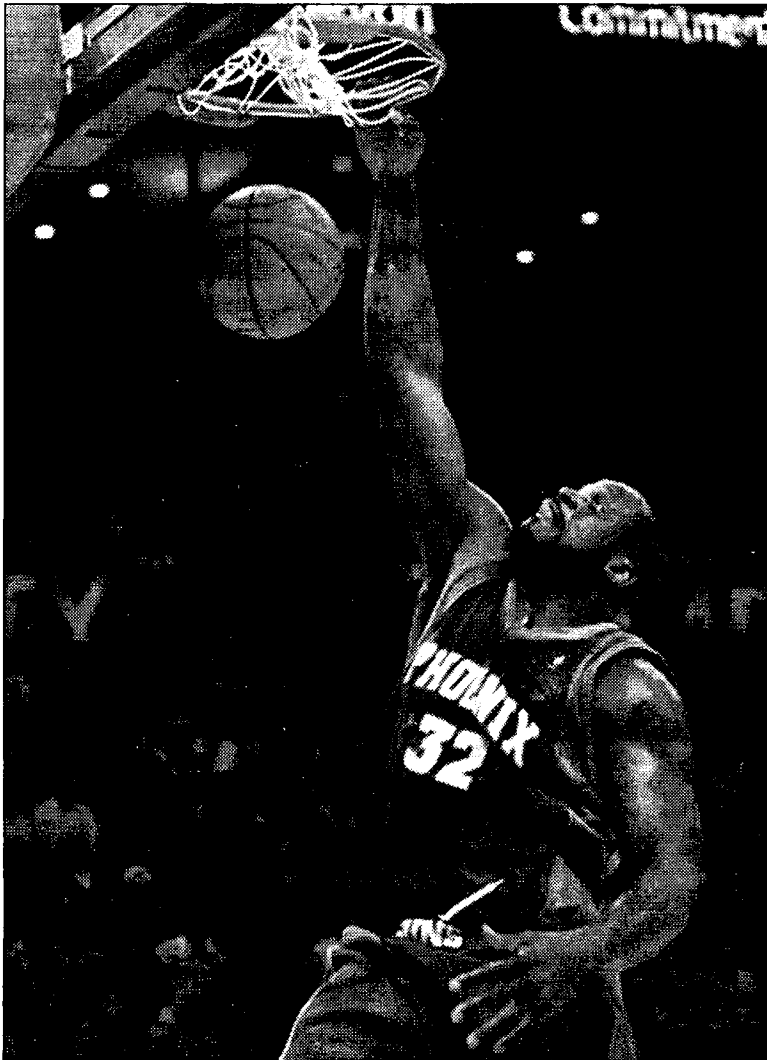
Redd, averaging a team-high 21.2 points, tore the anterior cruciate ligament and medial collateral ligament in his left knee in Saturday's win against Sacramento when he landed on Ridnour's foot. The injury puts a damper on what's been a surprisingly better Scott Skiles-led Bucks' team, which is currently in eighth place in the Eastern Conference.

While Sessions played well replacing Redd, it was the clear the Bucks were out of sorts looking for someone to consistently score on the offensive end. Nine players had points at the half, but only Sessions had reached 10.

Knicks 104, Rockets 98

Wilson Chandler responded to being taken out of the starting lineup with 18 points, and the New York Knicks beat the Houston Rockets on Monday night.

Chandler's 3-pointer with more than two minutes left gave the Knicks the lead for good at 97-96.



Phoenix Suns center Shaquille O'Neal dunks the ball during their 103-87 victory over the Washington Wizards Monday night.

Al Harrington replaced him in the starting lineup after Chandler had averaged just 3.3 points on 25 percent shooting over his previous three games. He was 6-of-10 Monday and added seven rebounds and three assists.

Tracy McGrady led Houston with 20 points in his second game back from a left knee injury.

The Rockets were playing without center Yao Ming (sore right knee) for the second straight game.

Houston led 89-80 with less than eight minutes left when the Knicks went on a 14-5 run to tie the game.

Nate Robinson scored nine points during the spurt. Chandler had the rest on free throws, including three after Chuck Hayes fouled him on a 3-

point attempt.

After Luis Scola scored inside to break the tie, Chandler's 3-pointer put the Knicks ahead to stay.

Robinson led the Knicks with 19 points. David Lee had 17 points and 13 rebounds.

Scola had 16 points and 14 rebounds for Houston.

The Knicks led by seven early in the second quarter when the Rockets went on a 12-2 run behind two 3-pointers from Aaron Brooks and three dunks. Carl Landry slammed home an offensive rebound and an alley-oop pass from Brent Barry. Von Wafer's steal and fast-break dunk gave Houston a 43-40 lead.

The Knicks won after trailing through three quarters for the first time this season. They had been 0-21.

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.

WANTED

VOLUNTEERS WANTED The Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC), located at Notre Dame, is looking for volunteers. If you would enjoy spending 2 hours per week reading to preschool children, building with blocks and playing games, please attend one of the Volunteer Sign-Up Sessions on either Thursday, 1/29 or Friday 1/30, from 3:00-5:00. Volunteering at ECDC is a wonderful opportunity to support the development of delightful children and is an excellent addition to your resume. ECDC-ND is located on the ND campus on Bulla Road, across from O'Hara Grace Residences at the corner of Leahy and Bulla. For more information please call 631-3344 or www.nd.edu/~ecdncd

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Misty sunrise in my hometown, Rows of cotton bout knee high, Mrs. Baker down the dirt road, Still got clothes out on the line, Erwin Nichols there with Judge Lee, Playin checkers at the gin, When I dream about the southland, This is where it all begins

Well I was raised up beneath the shade of a Georgia pine, And that's home you know.

Sweet tea, pecan pie and home-made wine, Where the peaches grow.

And my house it's not much to talk about, But it's filled with love that's grown in southern ground.

I'm gonna take you on a trip so far from here, I've got two tickets in my pocket, now baby, we're gonna disappear. We've waited so long, waited so long. I've got two tickets to paradise, Won't you pack your bags, we'll leave tonight, I've got two tickets to paradise, I've got two tickets to paradise.

And its funny how it's the simple things in life, that mean the most. Not where you live or what you drive or the price tag on your clothes. There's no dollar sign on a piece of mind this I've come to know, So if you agree have a drink with me and raise your glasses for a toast. To a little bit of chicken fried,

I said, wait a minute, mister, I didn't even kiss her. Don't want no trouble with you. And I know you don't owe me But I wish you'd let me Ask one favor from you. won't you give me three steps, Gimme three steps mister, Gimme three steps towards the door? Gimme three steps Gimme three steps mister, And you'll never see me no more.

AROUND THE NATION

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 13

Division I Men's Basketball AP Top 25

	team	points	record
1	Duke	1789	18-1
2	Connecticut	1694	18-1
3	Pittsburgh	1647	18-1
4	Oklahoma	1539	19-1
5	North Carolina	1529	17-2
6	Wake Forest	1509	16-1
7	Louisville	1351	15-3
8	Marquette	1209	17-2
9	Michigan State	1136	16-3
10	Xavier	1084	17-2
11	Texas	1017	14-4
12	Clemson	929	17-2
13	Butler	916	18-1
14	Arizona State	834	16-3
15	Syracuse	808	17-4
16	Purdue	724	15-4
17	UCLA	544	15-4
18	Memphis	530	16-3
19	Illinois	401	17-3
20	Gonzaga	381	14-4
21	Villanova	276	15-4
22	Saint Mary's	246	18-1
23	Washington	218	15-4
24	Kentucky	217	16-4
25	Georgetown	189	12-6

Division I Men's ESPN/USA Today Poll

	team	points	record
1	Duke	774	18-1
2	Connecticut	733	18-1
3	Pittsburgh	706	18-1
4	Oklahoma	666	19-1
5	North Carolina	663	17-2
6	Wake Forest	636	16-1
7	Louisville	547	15-3
8	Marquette	538	17-2
9	Michigan State	475	16-3
10	Xavier	458	17-2
11	Clemson	425	17-2
12	Texas	402	14-4
13	Butler	384	18-1
14	Arizona State	378	16-3
15	Syracuse	321	17-4
16	UCLA	311	15-4
17	Purdue	267	15-4
18	Saint Mary's	212	18-1
19	Memphis	193	16-3
20	Illinois	181	17-3
21	Villanova	113	15-4
22	NOTRE DAME	97	12-6
23	Georgetown	92	12-6
24	Minnesota	84	17-3
25	Gonzaga	60	14-4

MIAA Women's Basketball Standings

	team	record
1	SAINT MARY'S	10-7 (8-1)
2	Hope	14-1 (8-1)
3	Albion	10-7 (5-4)
4	Calvin	10-6 (5-4)
5	Adrian	12-5 (5-4)
6	Trine	7-10 (4-5)
7	Alma	5-11 (3-5)
8	Olivet	6-12 (2-7)
9	Kalamazoo	0-15 (0-9)

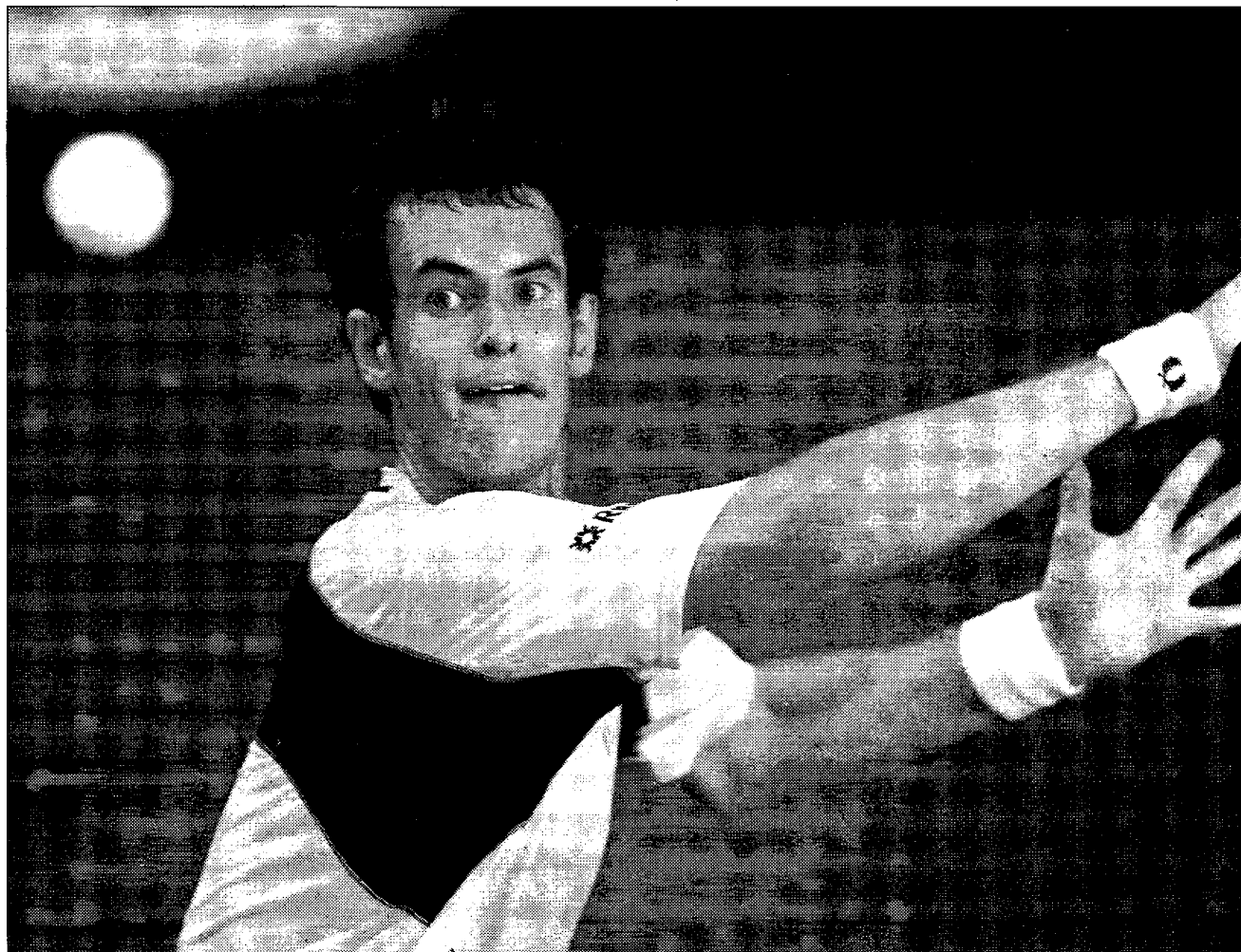
around the dial

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Kentucky at Mississippi
7:00 p.m., ESPN

Purdue at Wisconsin
9:00 p.m., ESPN

MLB



Andy Murray returns a shot against Fernando Verdasco during his 2-6, 6-1, 1-6, 6-3, 6-0 loss in the fourth round of the Australian Open Monday.

Murray bounced from Aussie Open

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Andy Murray may have to wait awhile before he's picked again to win a Grand Slam tournament.

Touted by British bookmakers as a favorite at the Australian Open, Murray lost to No. 14 Fernando Verdasco of Spain in five sets Monday in the fourth round. He twice blew a one-set lead and missed chances to break serve in the pivotal sixth game of the deciding set. He then dropped serve in the subsequent game and was beaten 2-6, 6-1, 1-6,

6-3, 6-4.

All of which was a big letdown for Murray, who defeated No. 1 Rafael Nadal and No. 2 Roger Federer in an exhibition in Abu Dhabi this month leading to the season's first major.

"I don't know if I'll be the favorite for a Slam in the next year or so after today," he said.

Murray went out in the first round last year, the initial victim of Jo-Wilfried Tsonga's surprising charge to the Australian Open final. The 21-year-old Scot's biggest aim is to end Britain's run of 73 years without a winner of a

men's major.

"I'll try and learn from it ... come back a better player," said Murray, who finished last season with five titles and made a run to the U.S. Open final. "I'm thinking that last year I had a tough loss. This year obviously is a tough loss, as well. I came back stronger last year."

Nadal had a far easier time, downing 2007 runner-up Fernando Gonzalez of Chile 6-3, 6-2, 6-4. He has yet to drop a set ahead of his quarterfinal against sixth-seeded Gilles Simon.

"I am playing well, but

you never know if it's going to be enough," said Nadal, who had 33 winners and just 11 unforced errors.

Verdasco will meet fifth-seeded Tsonga, a Frenchman who defeated No. 9 James Blake 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (3) in a night match interrupted by a fireworks display around the stadium to celebrate Australia Day.

Of the top eight seeded players, Murray will be the only one missing from the quarterfinals at Melbourne Park. Never in the Open era have all eight top seeds filled every spot in a Grand Slam quarterfinal lineup.

IN BRIEF

Steelers land in Tampa for Super Bowl XLIII

Hines Ward isn't cutting or turning yet on an injury that sometimes takes weeks and weeks to heal. He's not running pass patterns or sprinting with much speed.

Not playing in the Super Bowl? Ward can't imagine it, and neither can any of his Pittsburgh Steelers teammates.

The one question hanging over the AFC champion Steelers as their practice week begins is whether the wide receiver who owns most of the franchise's career pass-catching records will play with a sprained right knee.

To Ward, there's no question at all.

"I don't have a brace on, I'm walking around fine," Ward said Monday, not long after arriving with his teammates. "I'm not going to be 100 percent, I'm not going to trick anybody."

Duke AP No. 1 for first time since 2006

Duke returned to the top of The Associated Press' college basketball poll Monday, a place the Blue Devils have been very familiar with in recent years.

The Blue Devils (18-1) moved up one spot to No. 1, their first appearance there since the final poll of 2005-06. They were ranked on top for at least one week in every season from 1997-98 to 2003-04 and only UCLA's 134 weeks at No. 1 beats Duke's 111 in the 59-year history of the poll.

"When you have a chance to be voted No. 1 at any time it is an honor you don't take lightly," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said Monday. "It is not something you try to keep winning but you try to keep improving. I think it goes with the territory we've been in for awhile."

NASCAR champion Johnson injures hand

Three-time reigning NASCAR Sprint Cup champion Jimmie Johnson underwent surgery to repair a tendon and nerve after cutting his left middle finger with a kitchen knife Sunday, while preparing to compete in the final segment of the Rolex 24 sports car race.

A statement released by Johnson on Monday said the injury occurred above the knuckle and happened while the Hendrick Motorsports driver was attempting to cut a small hole in his firesuit in order to feed a tube from a cooling shirt through a pocket.

Johnson, whose GAINSCO/Bob Stallings Racing Pontiac Riley finished seventh in the race, flew to Charlotte, N.C., for further evaluation and outpatient treatment with a hand specialist at Carolinas Medical Center.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Gottfried out at Alabama

Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Mark Gottfried resigned as Alabama's basketball coach Monday, leaving in the middle of his 11th season amid criticism of both the team's play and the departure of a star player.

The school said Gottfried will immediately be replaced by assistant coach Philip Pearson. Alabama's next game is at Arkansas on Thursday.

Gottfried, who played at Alabama, said he quit during a meeting with athletic director Mal Moore.

"It has been a wonderful decade for me and my family, and I love the University of Alabama, but I feel that it is in the best interests of everyone involved," Gottfried said in a statement released by the university.

The Crimson Tide's record this year is 12-7, 2-3 in the Southeastern Conference.

Gottfried's teams have missed the NCAA tournament the last two years, and the coach was criticized over the recent departure of point

guard Ronald Steele, a pre-season first-team AP All-American pick two years ago, who later was hit by injuries. The school blamed Steele's departure on a recent injury, but Steele said there was more to his decision than that.

Gottfried signed a six-year contract with Alabama in 2005 that made him Alabama's first \$1 million basketball coach and gave him a larger salary than that of football coach Mike Shula. The contract ran through 2011 and included a buyout if he were fired, but any financial terms tied to his resignation were not released.

Moore said the school would begin trying to find a new coach immediately.

"Out of respect for our players and coaches, I will not comment on the progress of our search until it has concluded," Moore said in a statement.

The 45-year-old Gottfried took over at Alabama in 1998, replacing David Hobbs. He began a streak of five straight appearances in the

NCAA tournament in 2002, reaching the round of eight in 2004 in the program's deepest tournament run, including a victory over top-ranked Stanford.

Gottfried hasn't been able to beat state rival Auburn lately. The Tigers have won four of the last five meetings, including an 85-71 victory on Jan. 17.

His current team was left short-handed with the departure of Steele following Richard Hendrix's early exit to the NBA after last season.

Including three seasons at Murray State, Gottfried has a career record of 278-155 for a winning percentage of .642 in 14 seasons.

Gottfried started 98 straight games at Alabama as a player from 1985-1987. He was known for his 3-point shooting, and the Tide made the NCAA tournament round of 16 all three seasons.

Pearson, who lettered at Alabama in 1993, became an assistant coach with Gottfried at Murray State in 1997 and joined Gottfried's staff when he took over at Alabama.

MLB

Pettitte signs deal with Yankees

Andy Pettitte takes salary cut to remain with team another year

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Andy Pettitte's only thought was to stay with the New York Yankees. He had no interest in returning to his hometown Houston Astros.

Still, the 36-year-old left-hander was bothered when the Yankees wanted to cut his salary from \$16 million to \$10 million.

"Heck, the bottom line is I'm a man, and I guess it does take a shot at your pride a little bit," he said.

"But when you put all that aside; I wanted to play for the New York Yankees and, you know, that was the bottom line. I wanted to be there. I wanted to play in that new stadium."

After months of stalled negotiations, Pettitte and the Yankees agreed Monday to a \$5.5 million, one-year contract. While the guaranteed money is less than half New York's original \$10 million offer, he can make an additional \$6.5 million in bonuses: \$4.5 million based on innings and \$2 million based on days on the active roster.

"If in fact Andy does in 2009 what he's done before, he'll actually make more money, so in that case we would have no regrets," said the pitcher's agent, Randy Hendricks. "If things would go wrong, we might be in position to say maybe we should have taken the left fork in the road

instead of the right fork in the road. But that is, as Andy said, part of life and part of negotiations."

New York withdrew its first offer in December after agreeing to a \$180 million, eight-year deal with first baseman Mark Teixeira, a contract that, combined with agreements for pitchers CC Sabathia and A.J. Burnett, raised the Yankees' spending spree to \$423.5 million for three players.

Pettitte met in Texas with general manager Brian Cashman on Dec. 11 and told him he would be willing to accept performance bonuses. The sides kept on talking.

"It just got to the point where Randy called me and said, 'I think this is it, buddy,'" Pettitte said. "It didn't take me long to decide because I knew that was where I was going to play."

Pettitte might have been able to get a multi-year deal from another club.

"I could have made an awful lot more money than what I signed for," he said.

He joins a starting rotation that already includes Sabathia, Burnett, Chien-Ming Wang and Joba Chamberlain. Phil Hughes, Ian Kennedy and Phil Coke are available in the

event of injuries or if Chamberlain shifts back to the bullpen.

"He's going to be someone a lot of these guys on the block can lean on," Cashman said.

The deal raised the Yankees' projected opening-day payroll to \$196.8 million for 17 players with agreements. That doesn't include reliever Brian Bruney, who is in arbitration and will make between \$1.1 million and \$1.55 million.

Pettitte pitched for the Yankees from 1995-2003, helping them win four World Series titles, then spent three seasons with Houston. He returned to the Yankees in 2007 and was 14-14 with a 4.54 ERA last season, his highest ERA since 1999.

Pitching with a sore shoulder, he was 2-7 with a 6.23 ERA in his final 11 starts, beating Baltimore in the last game at old Yankee Stadium on Sept. 21.

Cashman doesn't anticipate any more significant moves for the Yankees during the off-season. He also doesn't think the increased spending creates more pressure on himself and manager Joe Girardi.

"I feel the heat. I've always felt the heat. I've never not felt the heat," Cashman said. "Do I think it's any hotter now than it was before? No. But do I feel it every day? Yeah, I do."

Deb Olin Unferth

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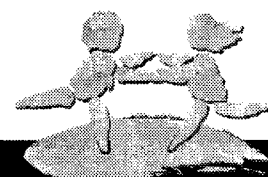
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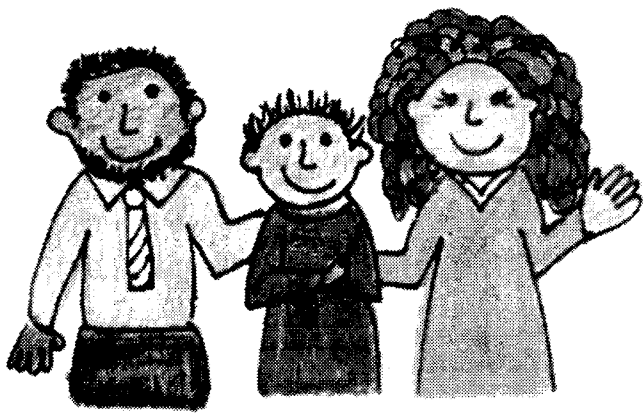
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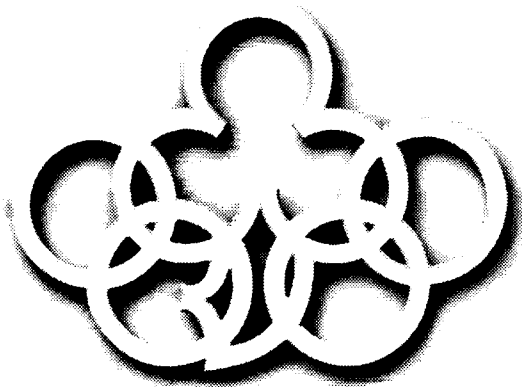
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MLB

Royals, Greinke agree to new deal

Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Kansas City Royals stood by Zack Greinke. Now, Greinke is standing by them.

Delaying a chance to make even more money as a free agent, the right-hander agreed Monday to a \$38 million, four-year contract that avoided a salary arbitration hearing.

Greinke, the No. 6 overall draft pick in 2002, was rushed to the majors because the Royals were desperate for talent. Often moody and uncommunicative, he suddenly bolted from spring training in 2006 and went home to Orlando, Fla., thinking he was probably through with baseball.

But the Royals talked him into seeking treatment for what was diagnosed as social disorder. Former general manager Allard Baird and ex-manager Buddy Bell spent countless hours with their discouraged young pitcher who, in his own words, "just hated being around people."

Greinke admits it was a struggle. But by 2007, he was back in the big leagues to stay. With a lively, biting fastball and good command of three other pitches, he went 13-10 in 32 starts last year, setting career highs in strikeouts (183) and innings (202 1-3). His 3.47 ERA was the best by a full-time Royals starter in 11 years.

"It was awesome. They could've easily pushed me aside, or helped me get back and then dump me off as soon as they could get something for me," Greinke said. "But they did everything they could, bent over backwards to help me."

The 25-year-old Greinke, just coming into his prime earning years, could have become a free agent after the 2010 season.

"He may have been the most sought-after free agent in the winter of 2010," general manager Dayton Moore said. "We went aggressive with Zack and fortunately we got the backing (from ownership) to be able to do this."

When he left spring training in 2006, Greinke wasn't even sure why he was so miserable.

"I didn't realize there was a cure for what I had, where I just hated being around people," he said. "I was going to get a job where I didn't have to be around people all the time. Mainly, just mowing grass was my goal."

Now his priorities are entirely different.

"It's just been, like seriously, three years of just thinking every day I want to get as good as I can get and help the Royals as much as I can," he said.

When Moore replaced Baird, he maintained the same hands-on care of Greinke that his predecessor had shown.

"Yeah, he had some setbacks along the way, which are self-proclaimed by him," Moore said. "A lot of people, and a lot of his teammates helped out, too. It's been a process that everyone's been involved with. But ultimately, Zack's the one who's earned this opportunity."

After earning \$1,475,000 last season, Greinke asked for \$4.4 million in arbitration when he exchanged proposed salaries with the Royals last week. The team offered \$3.4 million.

He gets \$3.75 million this year, \$7.25 million in 2010 and \$13.5 million in each of the final two seasons of the deal.

Gratitude was not the only reason he wanted to stay with the long-woeful Royals, who have improved their victory total each of the past three seasons.

"Each year we've improved and it looks like we're going to continue to," he said. "And that's pretty exciting for me because like I said, three or four years ago I didn't see it coming. It's really taken a good turn for the better."

"Three years ago I was in the minor leagues, two years ago I was in the bullpen not capable of getting hitters out as a starter. Just coming from being so low in those situations to being, after one good year, a really good deal and the chance to stay with Kansas City for four more years. ... It's just really neat to look back at it."

Kansas City has three players remaining in arbitration: outfielder-infielder Mark Teahen, first baseman Mike Jacobs and right-hander Brian Bannister.

"They could've easily pushed me aside, or helped me get back and then dump me off as soon as they could get something for me."

Zack Greinke
Royals pitcher

"He may have been the most sought-after free agent in the winter of 2010."

Dayton Moore
Royals general manager

"I didn't realize there was a cure for what I had, where I just hated being around people."

Zack Greinke
Royals pitcher

Please recycle The Observer.

WOMEN'S NCAA BASKETBALL

Huskies remain unbeaten

Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — Maya Moore had 27 points and 11 rebounds, freshman Tiffany Hayes added a career-high 23 points, and top-ranked Connecticut routed No. 6 Louisville 93-65 on Monday night to remain unbeaten.

UConn (20-0, 6-0 Big East) has opened with 20 straight wins for the second consecutive season and sixth time since 1994-95. The Huskies have run over their competition this season, winning by an average of 34 points. They beat then-No. 4 Oklahoma in November, dismantled then-No. 2 North Carolina last Monday, and now blown out Louisville.

Led by All-American Angel

McCoughtry, the Cardinals (19-2, 6-1) were supposed to give the Huskies a challenge in the Big East. She did all she could with 24 points and 13 rebounds, but it wasn't nearly enough as the Cardinals saw their 14-game winning streak come to an end. Louisville was off to its best start in school history.

Louisville tried to slow down Connecticut's offense by employing a triangle-and-two defense that focused on shutting down Moore and Renee Montgomery and during the other UConn players to beat them.

It seemed to work early on as the other Huskies were tentative to shoot, but then Hayes stepped up and hit six 3-pointers. All

Louisville coach Jeff Walz could do was smile as Hayes made shot after shot.

Candyce Bingham's layup with 4:59 left in the first half gave the Cardinals a 32-31 lead. It would be the last points they'd score before the break as UConn closed the period with a 15-0 run to take a 45-32 lead at the half.

Louisville had the first four points of the second half to cut the deficit to nine, but then UConn scored 16 straight points to take a 61-36 lead and put the game away.

Moore, who was given a ball before the game to commemorate her scoring 1,000 points faster than anyone in school history, had eight points during the burst.

The Cardinals would get no closer than 20 the rest of the way.

The win was UConn's 27th straight in the regular season and 34th consecutive victory at home.

Tina Charles added 18 points and 10 rebounds, Kalana Greene had 12 and Montgomery 11 as Connecticut put five players in double figures for the ninth time this season. The Huskies only did it seven times all last season.

Connecticut improved to 6-1 against Louisville with the lone loss coming in the opening round of the NCAA tournament in 1993. The Huskies routed the Cardinals in the regular-season meeting last year before only winning by six in the Big East tournament championship game.

WOMEN'S NCAA BASKETBALL

Clemson rally falls short in final minutes

Associated Press

CLEMSON, S.C. — Lyndra Littles scored 15 of her 22 points in the second half and No. 19 Virginia held off a late rally to win its sixth straight over Clemson, 75-67 on Monday night.

The Cavaliers (16-4, 3-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) led 53-38 after Aisha Mohammed's basket with 14:29 to play and looked ready to cruise. But the Tigers (12-9, 2-5) rallied behind the long-distance shooting of Kirstyn Wright. The sophomore, who hadn't made a 3-pointer in Clemson's previous six games, hit three in a row to make it 57-52.

That's when Virginia's two 20-point-a-game scorers — Littles and Monica Wright — took over. Littles had a pair of foul shots as did Wright, the ACC's top scorer at more than 22 points a game.

Littles added two more buckets and Wright a put-back to extend the lead to 67-58. Clemson got no closer than 6 points.

Wright finished with 19 points. Aisha Mohammed had 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Cavaliers.

Lele Hardy led Clemson with 17 points.

Virginia came in off its second loss in the past three games and hoped to get going early. And with Wright controlling the outside and Mohammed unstoppable beneath the boards, that's exactly what the Cavaliers did.

After Whitney Hood's basket put Clemson up 10-6 with 14:41 to go, Virginia went on a 24-6 run to take control.

Mohammed hit an inside bucket to start things off. Wright hit a 3-pointer moments later to put Virginia ahead 13-10. She added 6 more points in the charge, including the a basket with 4:40 remaining that gave the Cavaliers a 30-16 lead.

Wright had 13 points in the opening period. She was also active on defense with a three of Virginia's four first-half steals.

The game was the first for both teams since the death of former North Carolina State coach Kay Yow and tributes her great were everywhere at Littlejohn Coliseum.

Clemson gave out pink cancer awareness ribbons to fans, along with a pink placard with the words, "In Loving Memory of Kay Yow."



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Knights

continued from page 20

tle will determine the game. She also said freshman forward Erica Solomon, who grabbed a career-high 10 rebounds against Villanova, will need to compete in the paint.

"We're going to need her to get 10 [Tuesday] because she's someone who can go out there and compete with the Rutgers post players," McGraw said. "We really need her to have a good game."

Those Rutgers post players, McGraw said, are "bigger, faster and more athletic" than Notre Dame. Six-foot-4 center Kia Vaughn averages 6.6 rebounds per game, and Prince, despite being 5-foot-9, grabs 4.9 per game.

Junior guard Melissa Lechlitner has amplified her offensive presence this season, but especially of late. She's hitting 47 percent of her 3-point shots and averaging 11.1 points per game. Lechlitner has scored double figures in three of the last four games.

"I think she's the most improved player in the conference," McGraw said. "I think she's a little underrated in the conference. I think she's very comfortable with the ball, we're so comfortable with her against pressure handling things."

"We'd like her to shoot more — it's tough as the point guard. We're trying to get a little more out of transition so she can score more."

Notre Dame tips off against the Scarlet Knights at 8 p.m.

Contact Bill Brink at
wbrink@nd.edu

No. 1

continued from page 20

Nelip, senior foil Adrienne Nott, sophomore foil Hayley Reese and junior sabre Eileen Hassett all come off All-America seasons.

The men's team returns six All-Americans. Senior epeeist Karol Kostka, senior foil Mark Kubik, sophomore foils Steve

Kubik, Mark's younger brother, and Zach Schirtz, senior sabre Bill Thanhouer, and sophomore sabre Barron Nydam have all earned the distinction.

Newcomers Gerek Meinhardt and Hurley have already made a splash in the world of fencing. Hurley won the 2006 Cadet World Championship in Korea, while Meinhardt joined Kelley Hurley to represent the U.S. in

last summer's Olympics. Meinhardt was the youngest fencer to compete for the U.S. in Beijing.

"We have a very strong team," Bednarski said. "There are so many factors we can't control on such a young team. But anything can happen. We are ready to compete now with the best collegiate teams in the nation."

The poll was released before the weekend's duals in which

the Notre Dame men posted five wins against top-10 teams and three for the women.

This week's USFCA poll is the first of three. The final poll will be released in March, after the NCAA Regional Qualifiers. Notre Dame will return to the strip on Saturday against Northwestern in Evanston, Ill.

Contact Michael Blasco at
mblasco@nd.edu

Hockey

continued from page 20

draw those kinds of fans just to watch a practice."

The event marked the second straight year the Irish held an outdoor practice — though the circumstances surrounding the two differed greatly.

This Notre Dame team currently boasts a school-best 20-game unbeaten streak that dates back to Halloween. Last year's squad was in the midst of a four-game winless streak when Irish coach Jeff Jackson decided to hold an outdoor practice before a series with Bowling Green — which Notre Dame promptly swept, outscoring the Falcons 10-2 in a pair of blowout victories.

"Our guys loved it last year even though we were in kind of a tough spell," Jackson said. "I thought with the week off [with no games last weekend] it was a good chance to break up the monotony of a normal day."

Doing so can be crucial to a team's psyche, especially considering that the hockey season is the longest of any college sport. Notre Dame's season, for example, could last exactly six months — the Irish opened play on Oct. 11 and the national championship game is set for April 11.

"When you get to the end of January and early February, it gets to be the dog days of the season," Jackson said. "To keep the guys excited to come to the rink, to put a smile on their face and get them to practice hard, it's good to change up the routine once in a while."

Senior center Christian Hanson added: "When you get to [this time of the year], you get to the rink and by the time you leave you don't see

any sunlight. It gets to be depressing and can kind of wear on guys ... To break it up a little bit and have some fun is big."

The Irish goaltenders — senior starter Jordan Pearce and junior backup Tom O'Brien — picked teams for a casually competitive scrimmage. Pearce's gold squad topped O'Brien's blue in all three contests.

"I went for all offense and it kind of backfired," O'Brien said with a laugh. "It wasn't a good showing, but it's alright. It was a lot of fun anyway."

And not just for the players and the fans.

Associate coach Andy Slaggert, a 1989 Notre Dame graduate and two-time monogram winner for the Irish, laced up his skates and played a few shifts with the players — several of whom said the "practice on the

pond" represented a return to their hockey roots.

"Going out there is just a chance to go play hockey how we played it growing up," White said. "Just messing around, having fun, maybe trying a few things that you normally wouldn't get to do — it's a big thing, definitely, for our mental edge."

That might especially hold true heading into a huge home-and-home series with No. 7 Michigan this weekend. The Irish host the Wolverines (18-8-0, 12-6-0 CCHA) at 8 p.m. Friday before heading to Ann Arbor, Mich. Saturday for a game in the always-hostile Yost Ice Arena.

"If we would have had just two straight weeks of every day coming to the rink, preparing for Michigan, I think you would have gotten to the middle of this week and guys would have been kind of burned out," Hanson said. "I think the coaches did a great job of mixing it up."

Contact Matt Gamber at
mgamber@nd.edu



Baghdad High (2008) Directed by Ivan O'Mahoney and Laura Winter

NR, 88 minutes Arabic and Kurdish languages with English subtitles

Baghdad High views the current war in Iraq through the eyes of four Iraqi teens as they enter their senior year of high school. Filmed by the boys themselves, the documentary follows their friendships during the entire academic year and offers unique insight into ordinary adolescent Iraqi lives.

Collectively, the teens recorded more than 300 hours of tape, which were woven into the final project by the supervising producers. A mix of religious and ethnic backgrounds, the young men featured in *Baghdad High* include Hayder, who yearns to be a singer-songwriter; Anmar, who thinks he is a stud with girls and plays soccer like David Beckham; Ali, who dreams of being an architect; and his best friend, Mohammed, who doesn't yet know what he wants to be and is content being the joker of the bunch. They could be teens in any city around the world, but their lives are actually very different: Every day, they are surrounded by suicide bombings, mortar attacks, kidnappings, and citywide curfews.

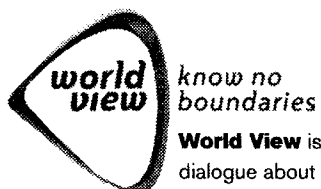


Director Laura Winter will be present to introduce the film. She will discuss the film after the first screening.

Friday, January 30, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

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Upcoming World View Events:

Where God Left His Shoes • February 19

Divided We Fall • March 19 • Directors Sharat Raju and Valerie Kaur will be present

World View is an initiative from the Office of the President to promote constructive dialogue about issues of race, class, ethnicity, religion, and gender through the arts.



McNeal

continued from page 20

to take ..." McNeal said. "And those are shots that I live and die by, and I wouldn't want anybody else taking it but me."

Notre Dame frantically tried to come back, but forced shots down the stretch and Marquette was able to pull away.

McNeal's three was symbolic of those final few minutes of the game, when Marquette scored key baskets while Notre Dame failed to convert.

"Getting over the hump, possessions at the end, and being a little more poised, I'm disappointed in that down the stretch," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "Because I love how we fought to give ourselves a chance to win both of these games, but decisions when it's a one possession game, chance to take the lead ... we had empty possessions that hurt us and against these teams you just can't have empty possessions."

For Notre Dame, the story was the same as it was in its loss Saturday to Connecticut: namely, that Harangody needs help on the offensive end.

"I think these two games, we missed some great looks that we usually make, so you can't re-invent the wheel here," Brey said. "You hope the law of averages kick in, but you've got to keep shooting them."

The junior forward provided another player of the year-type effort — 29 points on 12-for-22 shooting to go with 17 rebounds — but the rest of the Irish were 12-for-44 (27 percent).

"He can't do it by himself. It showed," said junior guard Tory Jackson, who finished with 10 points. "He needs help from everybody and we let him down today."

Notre Dame will have a hard time beating anybody as long as its go-to sharpshooters, McAlarney and Ayers, continue their cold streaks. McAlarney was 3-for-12 while Ayers was 0-for-7 against the Golden Eagles. Combined, Ayers and McAlarney are 7-for-44 (16 percent) in their last two games. Whereas McAlarney missed multiple open looks against Connecticut, Marquette's Dominic James and Maurice Acker just defended him well, he said.

"I was working so hard tonight," McAlarney said. "They did a good job tonight of staying with me the whole time. I must've gone back door hundreds of times. Acker and James, really, hats off to them. It's hard when you get a look and after working so hard, I was pretty tired there at one point. It's hard to knock them down."

Brey added: "I feel for Ryan Ayers ... He's in a tough stretch. He's got to make shots for us and has."

Notre Dame's much-maligned defense once again kept it in the game. It held Marquette to just 33 first-half points and went into the locker room down by three. For most of the second half, the defensive intensity continued to keep Marquette in check.

"Defensively, we gave ourselves a chance, these last two games," Brey said. "It's key decisions and a little more shot making quite frankly."

The offensive woes prevented the Irish from taking a sizable lead throughout the game, not just in the waning minutes.

Harangody, almost through sheer force of will, kept Notre Dame close in the first half. He had 17 points and eight rebounds while his supporting cast struggled to find its touch.

Harangody used every weapon in his arsenal to score on the Golden Eagles. He hit a 3-pointer to give the Irish an early lead. With Notre Dame down seven, he hit a fade-away jumper from the corner with the shot clock expiring to keep Marquette from getting a bigger lead.

That trend continued in the sec-

ond half, when Harangody went to the fade-away multiple times to try and bail out his teammates.

Even when Notre Dame did get a spark, in the form of two second-half 3-pointers from junior guard Jonathan Peoples, and got the crowd on its feet, the Golden Eagles responded. Notre Dame never scored more than five consecutive points the entire second half.

Contrary to Harangody, McNeal had help. James finished with 15 points (and nine rebounds), Lazar Hayward had 13 and Wesley Matthews had 16. Tory Jackson was the only other Notre Dame player in double figures (10 points).

Notre Dame is now staring a 3-6 Big East record in the face, as it travels to 6-1 Pittsburgh on Saturday.

Note:

◆ Brey shook up the starting lineup Monday, as he replaced Ayers and the struggling Zach Hillesland with Peoples and Luke Zeller. Zeller contributed eight points and eight rebounds. Hillesland played only 11 minutes, due in part to a sprained ankle, Brey said. Tyrone Nash also saw his first significant minutes in Big East play. He played eight minutes, and grabbed two rebounds.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

K-Mac

continued from page 20

man season picking up a first-team All-Big East award along the way. Imagine what Ryan Ayers and Zach Hillesland must be going through.

For Ayers, the basket must look pretty small right now. The senior sharpshooter, who's still above 40 percent for 3-point field goals on the season, has hit one of his last 17 shots. He's not missing badly. A lot of those looks are a quarter-inch too long or to the right, but they're enough to leave Ayers wondering what he has to do to make a basket.

As for Hillesland, it must seem like ages since he made something positive happen around the basket. You can't fault his aggression. Against Connecticut, he nearly brought the house down in the first half, but his put-back slam rattled out.

Coming off the bench against Marquette, one of his first touches was a strong drive where two Marquette defenders nearly clothes-lined him as he elevated. No call. And nothing to feel good about for the senior

who has scored exactly eight points during Notre Dame's four-game losing streak.

So where does that leave the Irish? Luke Harangody put it best after Monday's game.

"We're going to find out if our guys are men right now."

To translate, Notre Dame's next opponent isn't Pittsburgh. Before the Irish ever set foot in the Petersen Events Center Saturday, they're going to have to battle themselves.

McAlarney is going to have to resist putting extra pressure on himself to hit every one of his few precious open looks. Ayers must resist the temptation to return to the passive offensive role he played during his first few seasons in South Bend. Hillesland needs to believe that the next time he attacks the basket will be the time he finishes strong or at least gets that seemingly elusive whistle.

And the Irish as a team need to do a collective mental check-up. After getting punched in the mouth four consecutive games, do they still believe they're on par with the upper-echelon of Big East teams? There was a lot of bewilderment in the players' voices following Monday's game.

Yet this is one area to feel

confident about as an Irish fan.

Notre Dame isn't the biggest team. They're not the fastest. And they're certainly not the most athletic. What the Irish do have, however, is team chemistry. Every major contributor in the Irish rotation has been in South Bend for at least two-plus seasons, and they genuinely like playing with each other.

That may not seem like it counts for much in the midst of a depressing four game losing streak, but it's just what the players need right now.

It's what will help Ayers' shooting return to form. And McAlarney's. It will help Hillesland remember what he can do on the inside. And it will help Notre Dame head to Pittsburgh this Saturday with a sense of opportunity instead of dread.

The Irish don't have much of a choice. Responding to this adversity in any other way will push this season, teetering right on the brink, right over the edge.

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

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogast@nd.edu

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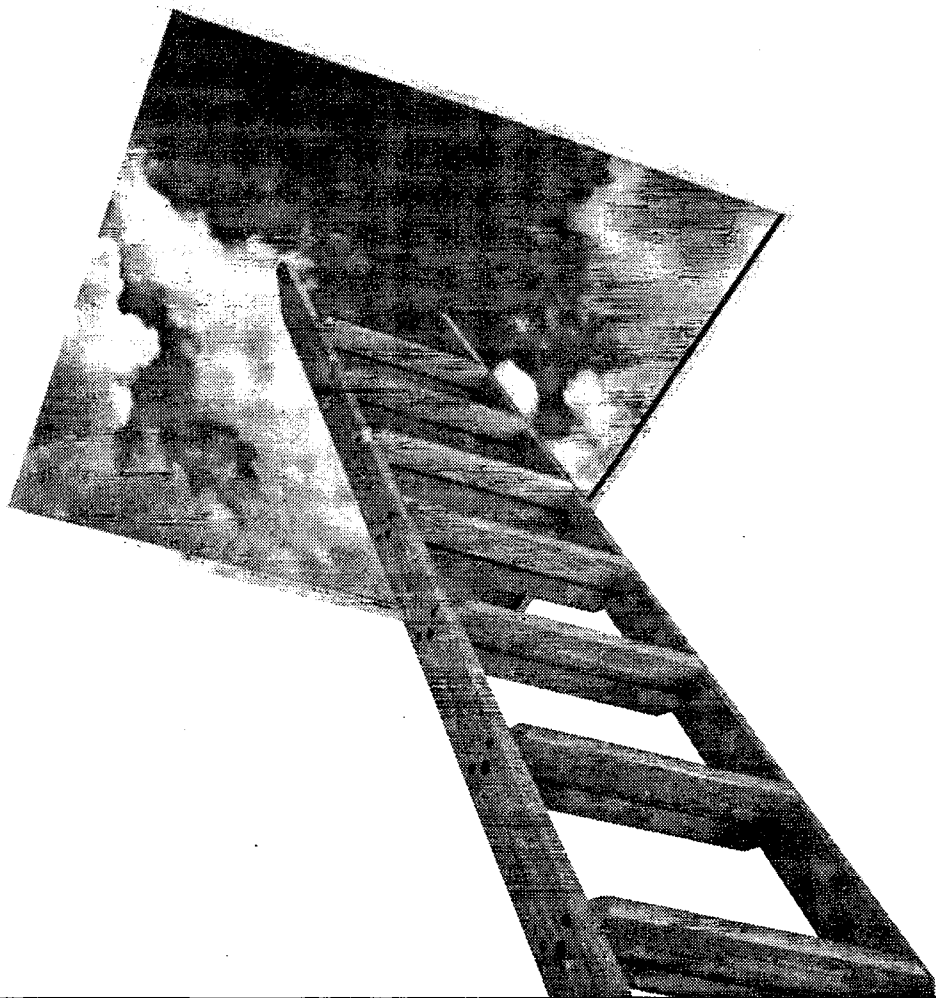
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imagination at work



CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across
- 1 A Turner

4 Plopped (down)

7 Critic, at times

12 Seine sight

13 Oklahoma city

15 "Boom" preceder, in song

16 Unit of cell phone usage: Abbr.

17 Actress Conn

18 Snare again

19 The Wizard of Menlo Park

21 Start of a Latin 101 conjugation

23 Liquid meas.

24 Staff again

25 Show utter disrespect for

28 Went smoothly

30 Three trios

34 City of 100,000+ on the lake it's on

37 Patriotic org.
- 38 Thin layer

39 Parisian possessive

40 Thanksgiving time: Abbr.

41 Rocket scientist Wernher ____ Braun

42 Firm up

43 One with absolutely no manners

45 "Awesome!"

46 Limerick land

47 Part of some joints

48 Screenwriter Ephron and others

50 Policy of many hotel shuttles

52 Title giver

56 Engine additive

59 Medical suffix

60 Main course only

61 Moses vis-à-vis the Red Sea

64 "Look what ____!"
- 66 Game with matchsticks

67 Biblical landing site

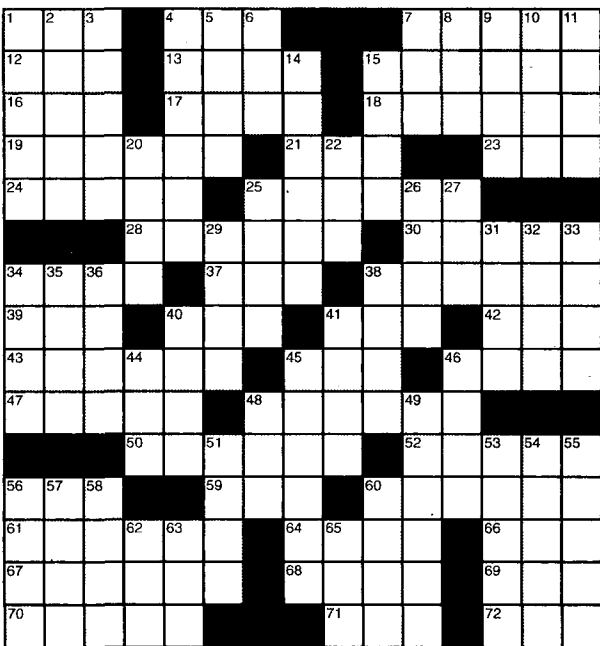
68 Eat by candlelight, say

69 Whitney after whom Whitneyville, Conn., is named

70 Pave over

71 Univ. aides

72 Badge flasher: Abbr.



- Puzzle by Joe Krozel
- 35 Descartes who thought "I think ..."

36 Hasn't left

38 City in California or New Jersey

40 iPod type

41 Actor Kilmer and others

44 "____ Dieul!"

45 Made good on, as a loan

46 Those, in Madrid

48 Unfavorable

49 Battery poles

51 Libel, e.g.

53 Dug

54 Ancient Roman magistrate

55 "Please ____" (invoice request)

56 Fight, but not all-out

57 Weight allowance

58 Backside, slangily

60 Jazz singer Simone

62 La preceder

63 Ring setting

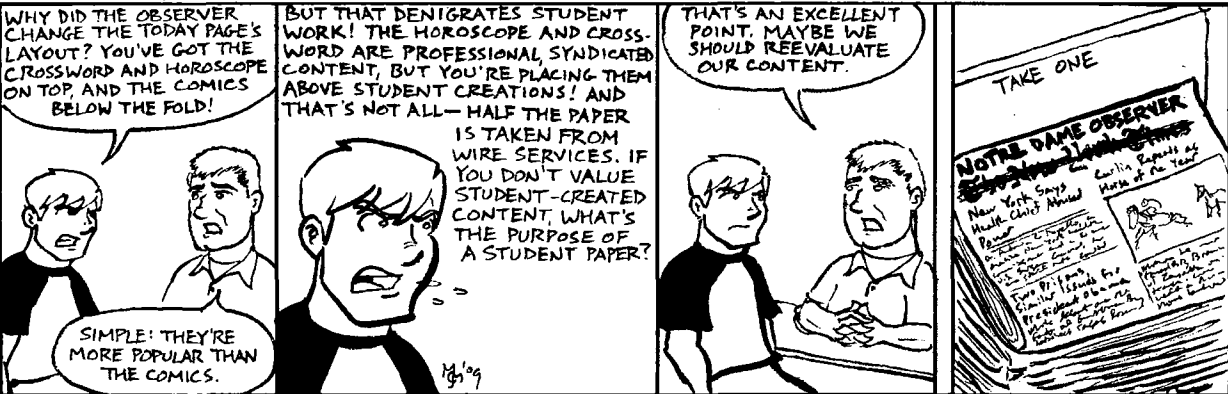
65 Dah's counterpart

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



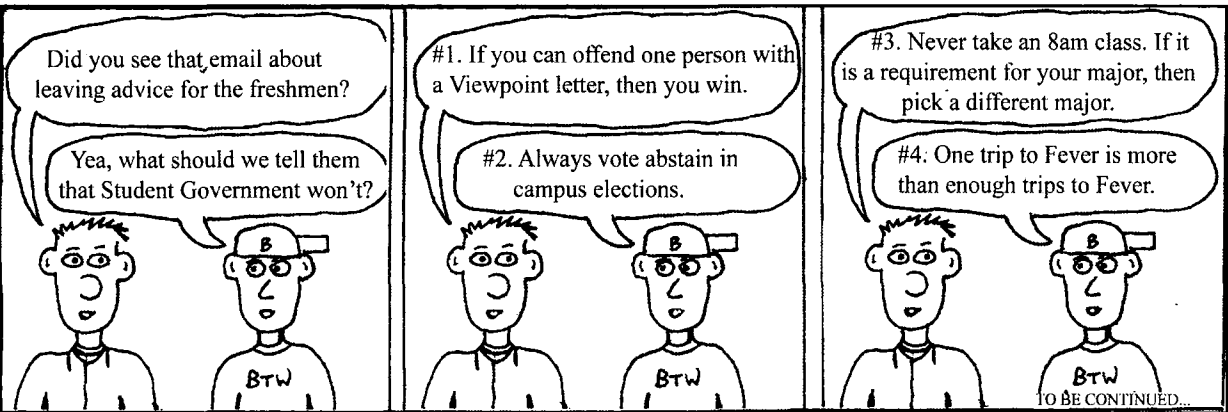
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EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kirk Franklin, 39; Wayne Gretzky, 48; Ellen DeGeneres, 51; Eddie Van Halen, 54

Happy Birthday: Be ready to take advantage of every opportunity because this year could be a turning point in your life. You will make new friends, discover new interests and expand your mind as long as you explore every avenue available to you. Don't sit idle and watch life pass you by. Your numbers are 5, 8, 11, 23, 31, 36, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Getting angry will not get you what you want. You have to set your own standards and stick to your plan of attack if you want to be successful. Too much involvement from outsiders will set you back. 4 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take a powerful approach to whatever you do but don't give away your secrets. You have to walk a fine line today if you want things to move in your favor. Someone will use emotional tactics to cause you to lose focus. 2 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't get involved with poor choices made by others. You don't want to be blamed by association. Focus on work, your position, your family and the improvements you can make in all areas. 5 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can make some interesting changes at home that will improve your life and your outlook. Be careful not to let someone talk you into spending money on things you don't really need. Keep it simple. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may be talked into doing something that is far beyond your means or that can lead to trouble within partnerships. Overreacting toward someone you work with or must interact with will set the stage for the next phase in your life. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A change in a partnership will be to your advantage, so don't fight the inevitable. Observe others' actions and follow your own path in order to achieve the most. Don't be fooled by a big talker or a tempting offer. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Not everyone is going to get what it is you are trying to do but that cannot slow you down. Arguments can wait — what's important is accomplishment. Conservative individuals should be kept in the dark until you have something concrete to share. 5 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may have to be a little aggressive in order to bypass the obstacles in your way. Too many questions will leave you in an awkward position. Keep things simple and push as hard as you can to make things happen. 2 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): There are changes to be made and options to be put into play. Be adventurous and try something new. The more inventive you are, the further you will go. If you aren't true to yourself, nothing will satisfy you in the end. 4 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Tie up any loose ends before you decide to move on. If you need to make a point, now is the time to do so. Right now, the money you make or have should be kept in a safe place for your own benefit and security. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll be a little out of control emotionally, physically and financially. Don't take on too much or promise what you cannot deliver. Keep things small and within your reach if you want to be successful. 3 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): There has been too much left unsaid to move forward with your plans. Your patience will bring you the answers and the approval you need. Once you have everything and everyone in position, you will be able to move fast. 3 stars

Birthday Baby: You are incredibly innovative and imaginative. You are engaging and express yourself well. You are eager to make reforms.

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

JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

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

KYMOS
[] [] [] [] [] []

TYLFO
[] [] [] [] [] []

MOYGOL
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

TINOOL
[] [] [] [] [] [] [] []

www.jumble.com

Answer: " [] [] [] [] [] [] [] [] IT

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: KEYED GUMMY ELICIT FINISH
Answer: What she decided when the eye doctor asked her out — TO "SEE" HIM

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

NUDIST CAMP

WHEN HE WAS TOLD ABOUT THE HOLE IN THE WALL, THE COP SAID HE'D---

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

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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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Ice cold

Poor shooting kills Irish in two straight

By CHRIS HINE
Editor-in-Chief

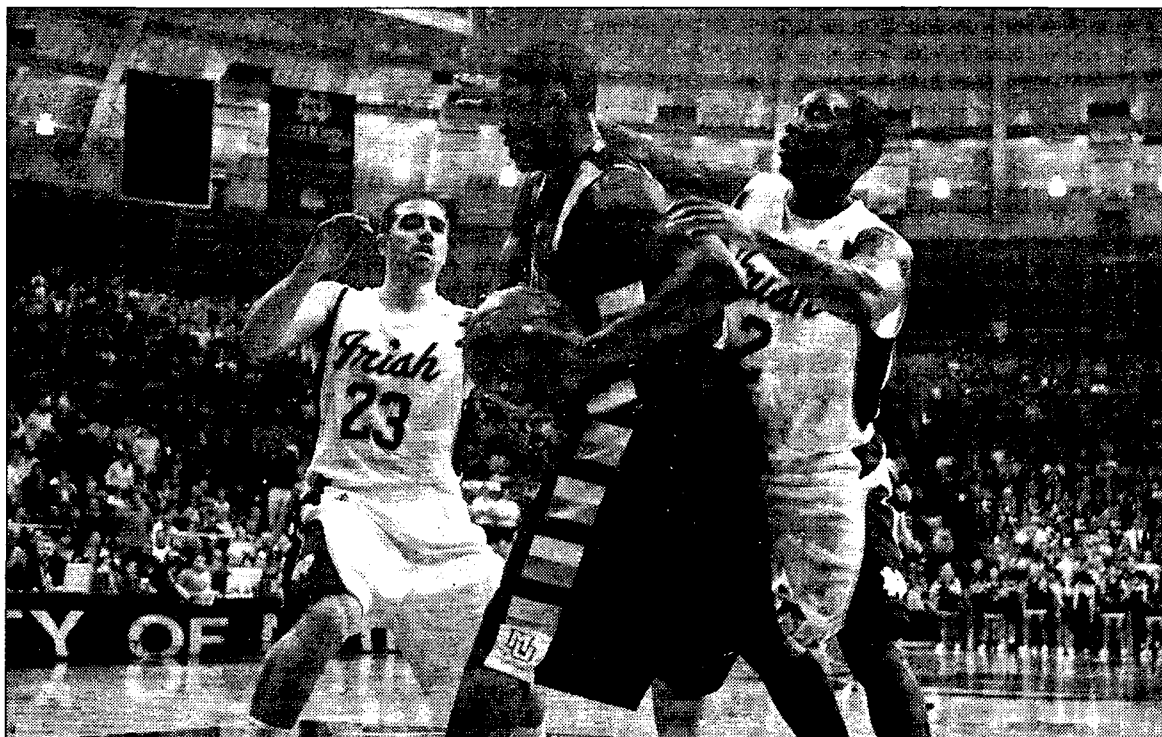
For the past few years it's been Kyle McAlarney, Ryan Ayers or Luke Harangody that has delivered the crushing blow on the way to a victory in the Joyce Center. Unfortunately for Notre Dame, it was Jerel McNeal's turn on Monday.

The Marquette guard scored 27 points, including a crucial 3-pointer to put the Golden Eagles (18-2, 7-0 Big East) up five en route to a 71-64 victory over Notre Dame (12-7, 3-5 Big East).

McNeal's 3-pointer came with 2:13 left as Harangody came out try to alter the shot. But Harangody got there too late. The shot was right on line.

"Those are shots you always want

see MCNEAL/page 18



Golden Eagles senior guard Jerel McNeal controls the ball under the basket during Marquette's 71-64 win over Notre Dame Monday. McNeal had 27 points in the game.

JESS LEE/The Observer

Team must resist pressure, believe in skills

Kyle McAlarney may be tough, but he's also human.

It doesn't matter who you are.



Greg Arbogast

Sports Writer

If you shoot 22 percent below your season average over a two-game stretch, you think about it.

"I'm doing my best to try and get open," McAlarney said. "I must have gone

backdoor hundreds of times. I gave it my all to get open, but it hurts [to miss shots] because you know it could be a while before you get another [good look]."

That's McAlarney, a guy who's started games since his fresh-

see K-MAC/page 18

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Prince and the Scarlet Knights face the Irish at the JACC

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

A loss gives Notre Dame coach Mullet McGraw the itch to play again, and soon. But Sunday, her players felt it too.

When the coaches walked into practice Sunday afternoon, McGraw said the players were already out there practicing.

"They were out there doing

drills," McGraw said. "It was really uplifting for us to see how determined they were. They were just like, let's go. Let's get out there and let's go."

The No. 17 Irish will need that practice time before they welcome Rutgers to the Joyce Center tonight, three days after losing to Villanova on the road Saturday. McGraw said she worked on offense during Sunday's practice because she focused on defense

so much previously.

"I wasn't happy with the defense, and now we're struggling to score a little it," McGraw said.

The Irish are 15-3, 4-2 in the Big East conference, and have lost two of their last three games. Rutgers just dropped out of the top 25 after losing to DePaul 60-58 Saturday, a loss that broke its three-game win streak. The Scarlet Knights are 11-6, 3-3 in

the Big East.

The Irish defense has to contend with Scarlet Knights junior guard Epiphanny Prince, who is third in the conference in scoring average at 20.4 points per game. McGraw said Prince is versatile and that she's not sure the Irish can stop the Rutgers guard. They will have to keep tabs on her because she's the focal point of Rutgers' offense, McGraw said, but they can't forget the rest of

the team.

"I don't think it's a situation where we can let her get whatever she wants because she might get 40," McGraw said. "We don't want that. And the rest of their team, even though their numbers aren't as good, they're still capable."

Despite Prince's skill, McGraw said winning the rebounding bat-

see KNIGHTS/page 18

HOCKEY

Irish icers take it outside

Team practices at nearby park to spice up practices before UM

By MATT GAMBER
Associate Sports Editor

The latest signs that the Notre Dame hockey program has arrived were literally on display last Friday, when a few hundred fans gathered to watch the No. 1 Irish practice outdoors at Merrifield Park in Mishawaka.

"Seeing people lining the rink with signs and kids coming up to you for autographs in between your shifts while you're drinking hot chocolate — it couldn't be any better," senior center Justin White said. "The support we get from the community is just unbelievable, and it feels really good that we were able to

see OUTSIDE/page 17



YUE WU/The Observer

Senior center Christian Hanson shoots on junior goalie Tom O'Brien during an outdoor practice Friday afternoon.

FENCING

A third No. 1 team in the mix: men's fencers

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

Despite graduating one of the most outstanding senior classes in the nation, the Irish fencers haven't missed a beat.

The Notre Dame men's squad opened the season ranked No. 1 and the women's squad No. 2 in the nation in the first U.S. Fencing Coaches' Association poll of the spring. The men's team joins the women's soccer and men's hockey teams as Irish teams ranked first in the nation this year.

Notre Dame head coach Janusz Bednarski, who has guided Irish teams to two national championships in his seven years with the program, said that he doesn't put much stock in polls.

"It's very hard for coaches to predict [results]," Bednarski

said. "I've been in this business for so long. There are so many factors we can't control, especially on such a young team. But anything can happen if we make it to the Bloody Four."

The Irish men are tied for first with Penn State, ahead of Ohio State, Columbia and Princeton in the men's top-five. In the women's poll, Notre Dame trails first-place Penn State; Ohio State, Columbia-Barnard and Harvard round out the women's top-five.

The Irish, who return 12 All-Americans, feature prodigious talent in both the women's and men's squad. All-Americans junior Kelley Hurley, her older sister of Courtney and sophomore Sarah Borrmann earned the mantle of NCAA Champion in epee and sabre, respectively, while sophomore epeeist Ewa

see NO. 1/page 17