

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

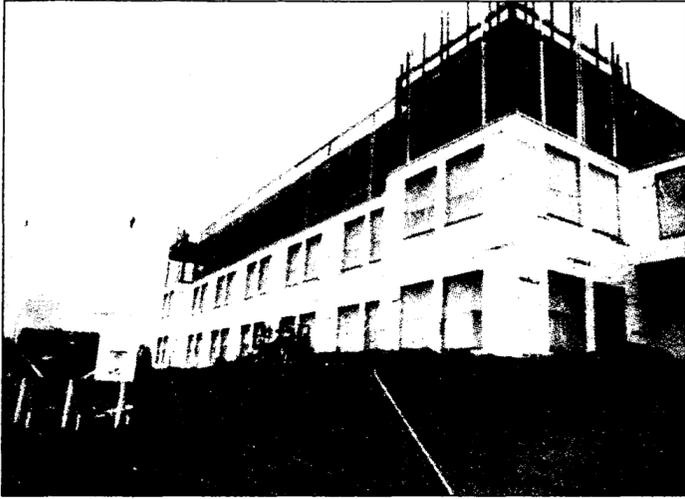
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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Mayor says community benefits from projects

City hopes development of northeast neighborhood will yield long and short term economic stimulus in region



Construction progresses on Innovation Park, a technology park meant to advance research into the marketplace.

JESS LEE/The Observer

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

Editor's note: This is the third and final installment of a three-part series examining the development projects occurring near Notre Dame's campus.

Notre Dame's collaboration with South Bend in development projects south of campus has raised questions about neighborhood gentrification, but South Bend Mayor Steve Luecke said these projects have greatly benefited the community.

The University helped jumpstart three projects — the Northeast Neighborhood Revitalization Act, the Eddy Street Commons and Innovation

Park — in the hopes that a revitalized community around campus would improve life for students and faculty.

However, Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves said although the University has invested resources, these projects are not extensions of campus.

Luecke said the northeast neighborhood of South Bend saw a decline in the past decade, which inspired the formation of the Northeast Neighborhood Revitalization Organization (NNRO), a community group that is working with the city to improve the neighborhood.

"After several years, we were able to develop a concept for the neighborhood that included general ideas for Eddy Street

Commons," Luecke said. "The University controlled most of that property, so they were an important factor."

The University sold the land to Kite Realty, who is developing the Eddy Street Commons, but the administration still has a say over the project guidelines. Notre Dame has also played a role in the revitalization of the neighborhood by developing decrepit lots with the goal of creating quality housing to sell to faculty and staff.

Marguerite Taylor, a lifelong resident of the northeast neighborhood, works with the NNRO. She said the one of the main objectives of the group is to protect the neighborhood from gen-

see PROJECTS/page 11

Professor explains return of indulgences

By ROBERT SINGER
News Writer

Notre Dame is no stranger to Catholic tradition, but the renewed focus on the age-old practice of indulgences has eluded or confused many on campus.

A recent article in The New York Times said dioceses around the world are bringing back the tradition of offering indulgences, which lessen the time one spends in purgatory before entering heaven, according to Church doctrine.

Theology professor Richard McBrien said was practiced at its peak from the Middle Ages to just before the Second Vatican Council.

"An indulgence is the partial or full remission of spiritual penalties, or punishments, which still apply to sins that have already been forgiven," he said.

Even though these sins have been forgiven, they still stand to be punished in the afterlife and acquiring an indulgence would provide some level of pardon from the consequences, according to McBrien.

"A partial indulgence would remit some of those penalties; a plenary indulgence would remit all of those penalties — at least until the person on earth committed another sin before death," he said. "Then

see PROFESSOR/page 10

Juniors welcome parents for JPW

By EMMA DRISCOLL
News Writer

The annual Junior Parents Weekend (JPW) kicks off today as parents flock to campus to experience a slice of Notre Dame life.

About 4,000 people are expected to participate in JPW this weekend, 1,200 of which are students, according to Erin Hendricks, JPW 2009 chairperson.

The first event for juniors and parents is the opening gala taking place at 9 p.m. tonight, JPW 2009 chairperson Erin Hendricks said. The gala will be held in the Joyce Center and will offer hors d'oeuvres, dancing, a cash bar and pho-

see JPW/page 10



Photo courtesy of www.jpw.nd.edu

Students enjoy brunch in the Joyce Athletic Center with parents during a past Junior Parents Weekend.

Andy Steves creates travel site

Son of guidebook writer hopes to inform students studying abroad

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Associate News Editor

Rick Steves has earned the following of Europe-bound budget travelers with his series of guidebooks, audio guides and television shows. His son, Andy, hopes to capture another market — the college student studying abroad and traveling in Europe.

Andy Steves, a senior at Notre Dame, launched the Web site www.andysteves.com last fall. The site showcases pictures and blog posts from Steves' travels, as well as travel tips from Steves, who has been to Europe 23 times.

Visitors to the site can down-

see STEVES/page 10



Photo courtesy of Andy Steves

Pictured left to right: Andy Steves, Joe Piarulli, Conor Douglass and Pat Carey ski in Switzerland last year.

Observer chooses top editors

Observer Staff Report

Bill Brink, Aaron Steiner and Kara King have been chosen to help oversee The Observer in 2009-10, incoming Editor-in-Chief Jenn Metz announced Thursday.

Brink will assume the position of managing editor, the No. 2 spot at the paper, while Steiner and King will serve as assistant managing editors.

A junior majoring in history with a minor in journalism, ethics and democracy, Brink will assist Metz in managing all departments of The Observer.

Brink, a native of Edgewater, Md., lives in Fisher Hall and currently serves as co-sports editor. He covered football, women's basketball, track and field, women's soccer, Saint Mary's basketball, swimming and golf and previously served as Interhall football editor.

Brink held the position of News Editor for part of the Spring Semester in 2008 and said he is looking forward to assuming his new role.

"Working here has allowed me to do some pretty cool things and meet some great people, and to have a chance to help lead the paper is something I'm proud of," he said.

Steiner, also a resident of Fisher Hall, is a junior majoring in management and German. A native of West Bend, Wis., Steiner currently serves as an assistant news editor.

He has covered a variety of topics since joining The

see EDITORS/page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

Support the Stache

You may have noticed recently an influx of facial hair among some of your more outstanding classmates.

And by outstanding, I mean the wonderful men of Dillon Hall, because next weekend marks the one of a kind Stache Bash.

For those of you who don't know, the Stache Bash serves two purposes, the first of which is to show off the diverse and plentiful types of facial hair. So for those ladies lucky enough to be invited to this dance to end all dances, I present the Moustaches of the World.

Jay Fitzpatrick
Managing Editor

♦ **The Walrus (goo-goo-ga-joob):** Most well-known as the stache of Josef Stalin choice of former Notre Dame offensive line coach John Latina, the Walrus is most distinguishable by its sheer, unabashed bushiness. Providing a thick layer of fur to the upper lip, this stache demonstrates pure strength.

♦ **The Fu Man Chu:** This stache is the most popular in the Far East, and is commonly seen on modern depictions of the Chinese philosopher Confucius. It takes great skill and concentration (not to mention amazing connectors) to pull off this look, as the purest state of this stache hangs a good inch off of your face.

♦ **The Chester Alan Arthur:** An American variation of the Fu Manchu, this stache is best worn on bikers and Hulk Hogan. Promising onlookers doom for messing with the wearer of this stache, the Handlebar announces its presence with authority at even the slightest glance.

♦ **The Chester Alan Arthur:** Named for the 21st President, the CAA combines two great facial hair traditions, the Walrus and the Mutton Chop. With seamless chin-connections between the sideburn and the upper lip, this should only be attempted by the most brazen of men.

♦ **The Common Crustache:** Likely the most common type of facial hair on campus, this is the stache of choice for those who forgot to stop shaving weeks ago or freshmen who can't grow moustaches yet (Maybe one day, Tony). Either way it's the thought that counts, and there's no such thing as a bad stache.

But the second — and most important — purpose of the Stache Bash is to support the Center for the Homeless here in South Bend. The incredibly cold winter has sapped the operating budget of the Center, and in fact it is over \$45,000 over budget for this year.

Each man of this year has a pledge sheet for their moustache, and we are asking for donations to support the Center. Dillon has already collected \$900 on our own and we are asking for your help.

Donations can be either in a lump sum or a certain amount per day (like a fun run, but more fun because it is with facial hair).

And if you don't give, in the fight against homelessness, you are on the side of homelessness.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu.

CORRECTIONS

An article titled "ND contributes to development off campus" in the Feb. 18 edition of The Observer incorrectly stated that the University develops houses to rent to faculty and staff. The developed houses are actually sold to faculty. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: HOW DO YOU THINK PRESIDENT OBAMA HAS DONE THUS FAR?



Michael Galano
freshman
Siegfried

"Don't judge a surfer by his blue."



Kelly Fallon
freshman
Welsh

"It is too early to tell because he has not been in office long enough for me to judge fairly."



Kristen Nelson
freshman
Saint Mary's

"I don't think he has done anything that has made an enormous change yet."



Sam Tullsiak
freshman
Saint Mary's

"Stanley, you will not die! Barack is president!"



Brianne Carroll
freshman
Saint Mary's

"I think it's too early to tell. The first several weeks of his inauguration cannot determine whether he is doing a good job or not."



GRACE KENESY/The Observer

Students in Saint Mary's Beaties Club listen to the song "Eight Days a Week" on Thursday. The famous tune was released in 1964 on the British group's album "Beatles for Sale."

IN BRIEF

David Walker, the president and CEO of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, will speak today from 10:40 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. in Jordan Auditorium in the Mendoza College of Business. The event is part of the Ten Years Hence lecture series. It is free and open to the public.

"Peace and Reconciliation in Uganda," featuring Archbishop John Baptist Odama who has played a prominent role in resolving the conflict in Uganda, will be held today at 4 p.m. in the Hesburgh Center Auditorium.

The Department of Classics is presenting readings of Classical literature in Latin, Greek, Arabic and English throughout the day between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the Great Hall of O'Shaughnessy Hall. The event is titled "The Sound of Classics."

The Black Cultural Arts Council will host "Black Coffeehouse," a performance of African dance, song and poetry recitation. Tickets are \$5 for students, and \$7 general admission. Tickets are available at the LaFortune Box Office and the event takes place in the LaFortune Ballroom.

An exhibition held by the Institute for Latino Studies, "Arteologist: Archeology of Memory," will be open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. today in McKenna Hall and is open to the public. The exhibit features work by Diógenes Ballester, a visual artist using various types of media.

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

OFFBEAT

Woman OK after bullet ends up in her hair weave

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Other than having a bit of a headache, a Kansas City woman was uninjured after a bullet fired in her ended up tangled in her hair weave. Police said the 20-year-old woman was in a convenience store parking lot late Wednesday when a man flagged her down and told her that her ex-boyfriend still loved her.

She replied, "Well I don't love him," then heard gunshots. She said she looked behind the vehicle and saw her ex-boyfriend firing a handgun at her. She

stomped her accelerator and fled, then turned into another parking lot and called police.

She told officers she recently had ended an eight-month relationship with the suspect.

Masked children spark major police alert in Berlin

BERLIN — Two masked children pretending to be members of Germany's elite military force triggered a major police operation in the German city of Aachen, police said on Monday.

Neighbors alerted the police after they spotted two "dodgy-looking figures" clad

in black balaclavas on a factory site and the police promptly dispatched eight police cars, complete with dogs, to seal off the area.

After surrounding the site, the policemen carefully moved in and ordered the masked suspects to stand still as they were crawling underneath some shrubs and heading toward a fence.

The two boys stopped in their tracks, raised their arms and took off their masks to reveal their identities as one 12-year-old and one 13-year-old boy.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 27 LOW 12	HIGH 18 LOW 10	HIGH 25 LOW 13	HIGH 28 LOW 3	HIGH 27 LOW 15	HIGH 35 LOW 23

Atlanta 68 / 46 Boston 42 / 24 Chicago 22 / 14 Denver 49 / 30 Houston 70 / 69 Los Angeles 66 / 46 Minneapolis 19 / 4 New York 37 / 25 Philadelphia 37 / 24 Phoenix 76 / 46 Seattle 54 / 37 St. Louis 34 / 20 Tampa 71 / 39 Washington 49 / 37

Tickets vie for student class council positions

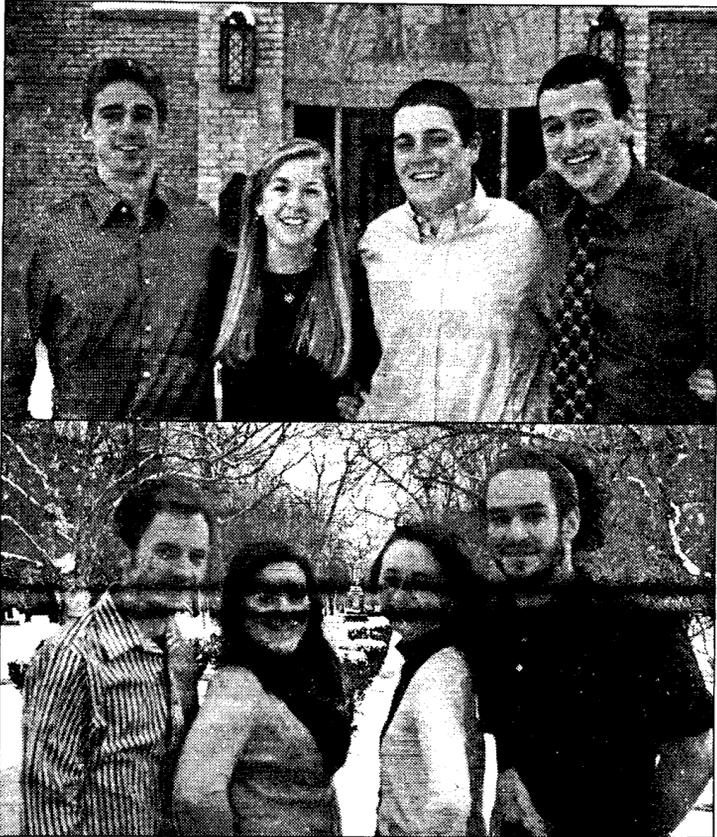
Several tickets of candidates for sophomore, junior and senior class councils campaign as elections approach Monday

The Judicial Council approved eight tickets to run for sophomore, junior and senior class council.

Three tickets are competing for both sophomore class council and senior class council while two tickets are campaigning to lead the junior class.

The Observer interviewed all eight tickets to hear about their campaign and platform ideas. Students will vote Monday online.

Pulte, Kimberly compete for top spots in Class of 2011



Top, from left, Tim Castellini, Caitlin Pulte, Luke Stavole and Henry Shine. Bottom, from left, Kevin Kimberly, Alexa Doyle, Rachel Roseberry and Dylan Fernandez.

By MADELINE BUCKLEY and LIZ O'DONNELL
News Writers

Council (SIBC) consultant, and Stavole and Castellini are members of the Sophomore Class Council.

Kimberly-Doyle-Fernandez-Roseberry

Junior class council presidential candidate Kevin Kimberly said he and his running mates decided to run to make class council more interactive.

Their campaign is focused around four large initiatives, including a Community Service Database — which would allow service to be done in South Bend on a regular basis — and a Study Abroad Transition Program.

The transition program would offer a series of send-offs and re-orientations to help students acclimate to their surroundings abroad.

Other ideas include a class retreat and a class bracket to predict March Madness winners in the NCAA basketball tournament.

Kimberly said the team also hopes to start Class Masses at the Grotto as well as “The Environmental Initiative” which would provide for the Class of 2011 to become more involved with campus efforts to go green.

“We are very excited to have this opportunity to run to make next year’s class council truly one that serves our class and not ourselves,” Kimberly said.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu and Liz O’Donnell at codonne01@nd.edu

Currently, Pulte is the sophomore class social chair. Shine is a Student International Business

Three tickets look to lead sophomore class

By SARAH MERVOSH and LIZ O'DONNELL
News Writers

Soler-Kenney-German-Crotty

Jay Kenney, vice presidential candidate for sophomore class council (SCC), said the ticket, comprised of four members of the current freshman class council, is running on the platform of “experience and innovation.”

“For us, the big one is experience and knowing how the process works and knowing who to go to so we can hit the ground running,” Kenney said. “Yet at the same time, I think we bring a new and exciting energy to SCC.”

Presidential candidate Catherine Soler said she wants to plan events like class trips to a water park trip or Cedar Point, a class tailgate and a poker tournament.

Other ideas include using the class Web site to form studying groups and class yoga and pilate sessions to help ease students’ stress.

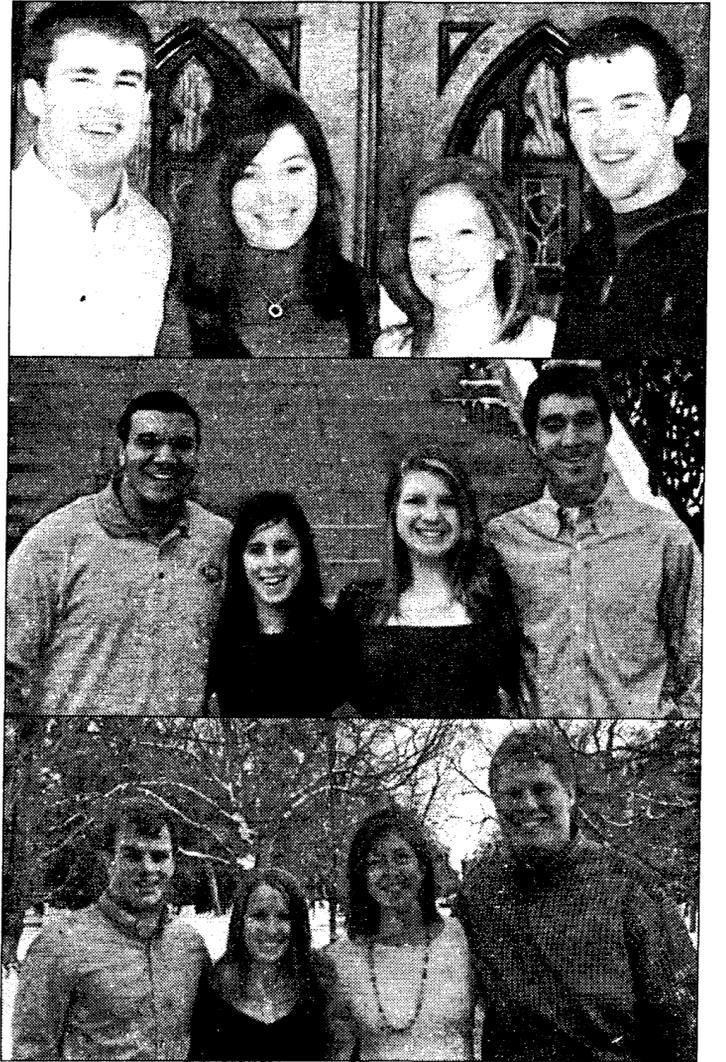
The ticket also plans to have town-hall style meetings once or twice a month in which students can give feedback on what is and isn’t working, Soler said.

Responding to criticism that the current freshman class council is an exclusive clique, Soler said it is a “misconception” and that her ticket wants to “connect with a wider range of people than this year.”

“We’re genuine and we really have a passion for what we do. We enjoy being in class council and we understand the commitment. For us, this is by no means an exclusive club, and we would like all levels of involvement from SCC,” Soler said.

Kenney said the experience the ticket would help bring leadership.

“I think hands down that we are the most qualified ticket for



Top, from left, Jay Kenney, Catherine Soler, Shannon Crotty and Ben German. Middle, from left, C.J. Kelly, Courtney Vargas, Katie Kelliher and Nick Schmidt. Bottom, from left, Jay Mathes, Lauren Ruhling, Laura Philip and Carl Brophy.

SCC because of our experience,” he said. “It took us awhile to get the system down but we have it down. We know where we want to go and what needs to be done. And I think that is a definite edge over the other groups.”

Kelly-Vargas-Schmidt-Kelliher
Sophomore class council presidential candidate C.J. Kelly

said his ticket wants to bring strengthened “community, unity and communication” to the Class of 2012.

In order to improve communication with the class, they will strive for “openness of government,” Kelly said.

This will include meetings that are open to the entire class,

see 2012/page 8

Seniors have choice of three campaigns

By SARAH MERVOSH and LIZ O'DONNELL
News Writers

Harmon-Kinsey-Bell-Hamill

Christina Harmon, senior class presidential candidate, said her ticket has an innovative and unique platform.

“We believe our platform differentiates us from our competition from being the first ticket to think of a Senior Class Ball to the Class of 2010 Bar Crawl to the necessity of increased communication and accessibility of class officers,” she said.

The Senior Ball, one of the campaign’s top initiatives, would take place in Chicago. Other activities included in their platform are a revamped senior day at a home football game, office hours for the president in the class office, a Speakers’ Forum Series and a revival of the 2010 website.

“It is our hope that people are excited about what we intend to plan if elected,” said Harmon.

In addition to these plat-

forms, the team said it will also try to have a class of 2010 market place at the end of the school year for students to sell excess furniture and goods that they have bought to furnish their dorms and apartments.

Harmon said the team is ready to assume the responsibility for serving a sixth term after graduation in order to plan the fifth year reunion and other activities.

“We know our basic obligations as class officers and we want to go above and beyond to give our class the best and most memorable senior year,” Harmon said.

Tillett-Hwang-Molloy-Trousdale

The 2010 ticket of Chris Tillett, Joy Hwang, Elli Trousdale, and Matt Molloy has broken their campaign platforms down into three phases: tradition, transition, and innovation.

“What this translates to is that we want to accomplish the things that the senior class has always done,” said Tillett, the ticket’s presiden-

tial candidate. “We want to put our own spin on next year as well.”

The campaign plans to continue the annual senior year activities including Senior Week, Margaritaville, and Class Mass.

In the transition phase, the team

wants to focus on preparing the class of 2010 to enter the real world. They will provide instruction on taking care of everyday issues such as filing taxes, taking out loans, keeping track of personal finances and learning to cook.

The final section of the campaign, the innovative phase, “revolves around the distinct opportunities that we hope to provide to make our senior year particularly memorably,” Tillett said.

These activities include a “One Hundred Days Dinner”, Barbeque Tailgate Cook-off,

see SENIORS/page 4

See photos of senior class candidates on page 4

Event celebrates French cinema

By MEGAN LONEY
News Writer

Saint Mary's returns to its French roots with the annual French Film Festival taking place this week in the Vander Vennet Theatre in the Student Center.

A grant through the Tournées Program of the French American Cultural Exchange, part of the French Cultural Services, enabled the College to show five films during the week, one each evening, Monday through Friday at 7 p.m.

Senior French major Katie Lescanic and Associate Professor of Modern Languages Mana Derakhshani chose the five films that will be shown from a catalog sent by a granting agency. Derakhshani said there was no particular theme that they tried to follow when selecting the films.

"These [movies] had received the most acclaim and were the ones we wanted to see," Derakhshani said. "All are very recent, from the last three years."

The films cover a variety of topics. "La Faute à Fidel (Blame it on Fidel)" is the story of a nine-year old girl trying to make sense of key political events happening around her. "Molière" is a historical fiction film about a young actor who is released from prison in exchange for acting lessons.

In "Ne le dis à personne (Tell No One)," a man tries to prove his innocence in his wife's murder. "L'origine de la tendresse and Other Tales" is a compilation of six short films that represent the diversity of the French people.

"Persepolis" is an animated film about a young Iranian girl whose parents send her to school in Vienna to ensure her safety.

Even though Saint Mary's is hosting the event, the festival is free and open to the public.

"The Film Festival is something special that Saint Mary's has been able to offer its own community and the Michiana community," Derakhshani said. "It offers an additional resource to students of French in the area — from Saint Mary's and other colleges, universities and secondary schools in the area — to hear authentic language and be exposed to the cinematic art as well as the cultural contexts of the language they are studying."

Derakhshani said she is expecting a good turnout, as long as the weather allows for easy travel. In the past, the Festival has had a strong turnout with about 50 people present each night, she said.

"In the past years, attendance depended somewhat on the weather," Derakhshani said. "We often had very cold temperatures or ice and snow, which made it harder for people to come out."

Derakhshani said the Festival is important because she believes being exposed to other cultures through events such as this foreign film festival is vital.

"Foreign films are just one more way in which we can get to learn something about other cultures," Derakhshani said. "They provide an opportunity to become more aware of the world outside the borders of our nation."

Contact Megan Loney at mloney01@saintmarys.edu

Seniors

continued from page 3

Networking Conference and Senior Showcase Benefit.

"When all this comes together, our overall goal is to be able to help send the senior class off into the world, but we want to put finishing touches on the knot that binds us all to Notre Dame as well," Tillett said.

Kyrouac-Lakusta-Schank-Donahue

Senior class council presidential candidate Kim Kyrouac said she and her running mates will try to help the Class of 2010 take full advantage of all Notre Dame has to offer as well as make their final year on campus memorable.

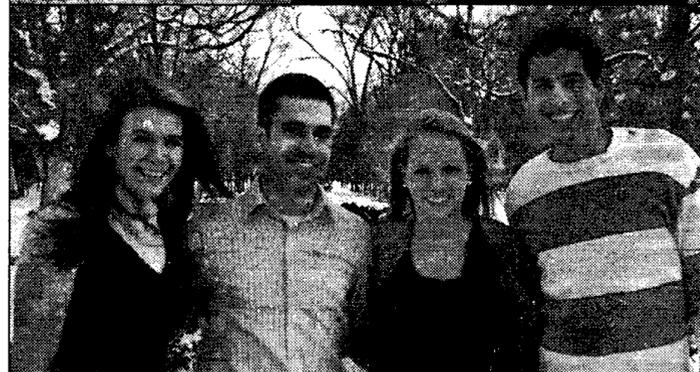
"We feel that our ticket has pulled together a number of fun and realistic ideas that include both new and signature senior events," Kyrouac said.

This team's platform includes continuing the senior traditions of Margaritaville and Senior Week. For new ideas, the campaign includes wine tasting and a beer garden, as well as a Christmas press box dinner and commencement ball.

Kyrouac also highlighted the senior transition seminars that would take place to help students with economic issues.

The ticket also plans to hold a senior superlatives lecture, which would involve a gathering of seniors to listen to memorable stories, advice and lessons given by classmates.

"Senior superlative lectures would take place in Washington Hall during the



ZHIBIN DAI/The Observer

Top, from left, Jessica Bell, Christina Harmon, Arthur Kinsey and Kim Hamill. Middle, from left, Matt Molloy, Ellie Trousdale, Joy Hwang and Chris Tillett. Bottom, from left, Kathleen Donahue, Jordan Schank, Kim Kyrouac and Jeff Lakusta.

spring semester," Kyrouac said. Five seniors would speak at each event.

Overall, the team is excited to have the possibility to continue serving their class.

"The four of us feel that as Notre Dame students we are

blessed with a number of opportunities and resources that are unique and exciting," Kyrouac said.

Contact Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu and Liz O'Donnell at ecodonne01@nd.edu

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The University of Notre Dame's Department of Film, Television, and Theatre presents

Guernica
by Yiannis Lyntsioulis

2008-2009 Notre Dame Theatre Season
Tuesday, Feb. 24 – Saturday, Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 1 at 2:30 p.m.
Philbin Theatre, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center

Tickets: \$12 for Faculty and Staff and \$10 for Students
For Tickets, call the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center Ticket Office at 631-2800 or visit performingarts.nd.edu
Co-sponsored by the College of Arts and Letters
Ftt.nd.edu

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bishop ordered out of Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — The traditionalist bishop whose denials of the Holocaust embarrassed the Vatican was ordered Thursday to leave Argentina within 10 days.

The Interior Ministry said it had ordered Richard Williamson out of Argentina because he had failed to declare his true job as director of a seminary on immigration forms and because his comments on the Holocaust "profoundly insult Argentine society, the Jewish community and all of humanity by denying a historic truth."

Williamson's views created an uproar last month when Pope Benedict XVI lifted his excommunication and that of three other bishops consecrated by the late Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre as part of a process meant to heal a rift with ultraconservatives.

Livonian almost an extinct language

PARIS — Only one native speaker of Livonian remains on Earth, in Latvia. The Alaskan language Eyak went extinct last year when its last surviving speaker passed away.

Those are just two of the nearly 2,500 languages that UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, says are in danger of becoming extinct or have recently disappeared. That's out of a total of 6,000 world languages.

In a presentation Thursday of a new world atlas of endangered languages, linguists stressed the list is not restricted to small or far-flung countries. They also sought to encourage immigrants to treasure their native languages.

NATIONAL NEWS

Terrorist released, will be deported

NEW YORK — A Black September terrorist who served only about half his 30-year sentence for planting three car bombs in New York City in 1973 was released Thursday into the custody of immigration officials to be deported.

Khalid Al-Jawary, 63, was released from the Supermax maximum-security prison in Florence, Colo., said Carl Rusnok, a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement spokesman. Rusnok said a federal immigration judge had signed a deportation order for Al-Jawary.

Al-Jawary's release date was set for Thursday after he was credited with time served before his sentencing and good behavior.

Virginia passes partial smoking ban

RICHMOND, Va. — Lawmakers in tobacco-friendly Virginia passed a limited ban on smoking in bars and restaurants Thursday.

The measure restricts smoking to separately ventilated rooms in restaurants and private clubs in Virginia, which has grown tobacco for 400 years.

The decisive 60-39 vote was in the House of Delegates, dominated by Republicans who have battled tobacco restrictions for years. The Senate earlier voted 27-13 for the bill, which now heads to Gov. Timothy M. Kaine, who said he would sign it.

LOCAL NEWS

Man pays property tax in change

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — A South Bend man has paid a \$4,079 property tax bill in coins to protest different assessments for his home and for a rental property he owns across the street.

Richard Ross and his son-in-law lugged two carts with 11 sacks of change into the St. Joseph County treasurer's office Tuesday. He said the money was the property tax for the rental home.

"Same size house, same value, but because it's a rental home and I don't live in it, I don't have the benefit of any of the exemptions or credits," Ross said.

Nine-year-old accepts plea bargain

Boy accused of shooting two men in October pleads guilty to one count of negligent homicide

Associated Press

ST. JOHNS, Ariz. — A 9-year-old boy accused of methodically shooting his father and his father's roommate to death last fall pleaded guilty Thursday to one count of negligent homicide, settling the case that shocked and mystified the nation.

Under a plea agreement, he pleaded guilty in the death of the roommate and charges of premeditated murder for both deaths were dropped. Police said the boy used a .22-caliber rifle to shoot the men as they returned home from work Nov. 5.

The boy's plea spares the rural community of about 4,000 from what would have been an emotional trial and prevents the boy from serving time in the state juvenile corrections system or being tried as an adult.

He was polite in court and was never asked about to explain any motive for the killings.

The boy has not yet been sentenced. He could be sent to the county juvenile system, which would keep him close to his relatives. Apache County Attorney Michael Whiting wants the boy to undergo extensive mental evaluations and treatment, an option allowed by the plea agreement.

"It's a compromise — no one is really pleased," said defense attorney Benjamin Brewer said after the hearing.

The boy's mother cried throughout the hearing and, through her lawyer, objected to the plea deal. But Superior Court Judge Michael Roca accepted it.

The boy was 8 when he was accused of shooting his 29-year-old father, Vincent Romero, and 39-year-old Timothy Romans, a co-worker who also rented a room from Romero.



This photo taken on Nov. 8, 2008 shows the home in St. Johns, Ariz., where a 9-year-old boy shot his father and his father's roommate with a .22-caliber rifle. AP

Police in St. Johns found Romero and Romans shot to death after the boy ran to a neighbor's house. He was questioned after Romans' wife raised suspicions about him, and in a videotape released by prosecutors, he admitted pulling the trigger.

Police reports say the boy told a state Child Protective Services worker that his 1,000th spanking would be his last.

Prosecutors and defense attorneys struggled with what to do with a child who was charged with murder while he was so young. No child 8 years old or younger committed homicide in the United States during 2005-2007, according to FBI statistics.

Friends in the close-knit community said Romero, who had full custody of his son, was a caring father who seemed to be doing all he could to raise a polite and respectful boy.

Authorities said they had no record of any complaints filed about the boy with Arizona Child Protective Services and that the youngster had no disciplinary record at school.

Talk of a plea deal emerged less than a month after the shootings, but Brewer said at the time that he was unsure of his client's ability to understand the proceedings.

In court Thursday, the boy was more talkative

and relaxed than in previous hearings, laughing and chatting with his lawyer and mother.

But his demeanor became more serious as the hearing got under way. Roca questioned him for nearly an hour about whether he understood his rights, the terms of the plea agreement and the consequences.

The boy answered respectfully and politely, using "yes, sir" or "no, sir" in most cases.

As Roca wrapped up the questioning, he asked the boy "this is what you want to do?" The boy responded "yes, sir."

The boy is due back in court for a pre-sentencing hearing on March 5.

IRAQ

Journalist did not apologize at trial

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi journalist who threw his shoes at George W. Bush did not apologize as his trial began Thursday, and instead struck a defiant tone — telling the judges he wanted to huff back at the humiliation Iraq had suffered at U.S. hands.

It was Muntadhar al-Zeidi's first public appearance since he was arrested in mid-December for hurling shoes at Bush during a joint news conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. The act turned the obscure 30-year-old reporter into a cult hero throughout much of the Middle East.

"What made me do it was the humiliation Iraq has been subjected

to due to the U.S. occupation and the murder of innocent people," al-Zeidi told the court. "I wanted to restore the pride of the Iraqis in any way possible, apart from using weapons."

He also said he had been tortured with beatings and electric shocks during his interrogation — allegations the Iraqi government has denied. The trial was later adjourned until March 12.

Supporters of cheering and ululating dozed off during al-Zeidi as he arrived at the courthouse in western Baghdad in an Iraqi army Humvee. As the journalist walked into the courtroom, his aunt handed him a scarf imprinted with a red, black and green Iraqi flag, which he kissed. He wrapped the scarf around his neck

and wore it proudly during his 30-minute testimony to the three-judge panel.

Many people in the region — angry over the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq — have embraced al-Zeidi. They have staged large street rallies calling for his release, and one Iraqi man erected a sofa-sized sculpture of a shoe in his honor that the Iraqi government later ordered removed.

When al-Zeidi threw his shoes at Bush, he shouted in Arabic: "This is your farewell kiss, you dog! This is from the widows, the orphans and those who were killed in Iraq."

The shoes did not hit Bush, who ducked, and al-Zeidi was quickly wrestled to the ground by guards and dragged away.

Editors

continued from page 1

Observer his freshman year, including sustainability issues, student government and other campus news.

"We're fortunate to have a talented staff at The Observer and I'm confident our team will produce an outstanding newspaper in the year ahead," Steiner said.

King, the current viewpoint editor, is a junior majoring in accounting and economics. She is most recently from Thorpe, Surrey, UK, and served as viewpoint copy editor from 2006-08.

"I look forward to becoming more involved with the paper in the upcoming year," she said.

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Burris loses support of black ministers

Ill. junior senator faces requests for resignation after accusations of questionable finances

Associated Press

CHICAGO — A group of black ministers who supported U.S. Sen. Roland Burris as he fought to get his job now plan to ask for his resignation following revelations that he tried to raise money for the disgraced governor who appointed him, one of the ministers told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Many of the city's influential black pastors supported Burris because of his scandal-free reputation — even though he was appointed by then-Gov. Rod Blagojevich three weeks after the governor was arrested for allegedly trying to sell the Senate seat.

Now some of those pastors will ask Burris to resign, according to the minister, who spoke on condition of anonymity because a meeting with Burris had not yet been scheduled.

Clergy speaks Interdenominational, an umbrella group that includes hundreds of Chicago's black churches, will meet Friday to discuss its support for Burris, spokeswoman Stephanie Gadlin said. For now, the group still supports him and its leaders are unaware of discussions about asking him to resign, she said.

Burris spokesman Jim

O'Connor would not say whether the senator would meet with ministers and referred to a statement from Burris asking that leaders "stop the rush to judgment."

Burris testified before the Illinois House committee that recommended Blagojevich's impeachment in January that he hadn't had contact with key Blagojevich staffers or offered anything in return for the Senate seat vacated by President Barack Obama.

Last weekend, however, Burris released an affidavit saying he had spoken to several Blagojevich advisers, including Robert Blagojevich, the former governor's brother and finance chairman, who Burris said called three times last fall asking for fundraising help. Burris, a former state attorney general, changed his story again this week when he admitted trying, unsuccessfully, to raise money for Blagojevich.

Illinois lawmakers have asked local prosecutors to look into perjury charges, and a preliminary U.S. Senate Ethics Committee inquiry is under way. Burris denies lying under oath and has resisted a growing chorus of calls for his resignation, including from within his own party.

Burris is, like Obama was, the only black U.S. senator.

Current sentiment in the

black community is not unanimous, but the clergy's silence as the maelstrom of criticism swells around Burris "speaks volumes," said another minister, Ira Acree, of the Greater St. John Bible Church.

"I'm a little disturbed, but because of his track record, don't want to rush to judgment," Acree said Thursday. "But neither will I attempt to defend his actions."

Blagojevich publicly turned to black ministers in times of trouble, welcoming a group that included Acree to his home for private prayer shortly after his Dec. 9 arrest on federal corruption charges.

Even before the U.S. Senate appointment became embroiled in controversy, Burris trumpeted clergy support, telling the AP on Nov. 5 that a half-dozen black ministers from Chicago had approached him to see if he was interested in the job.

After Blagojevich named him to the seat, Burris appeared at a New Covenant Church service, where supporters including U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush and about 60 ministers condemned Senate Democratic leaders for initially rejecting Burris.

Burris' latest revelations are "making the black community just as suspicious of him as anyone else," said the

Rev. Leonard Barr of Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church.

But Burris deserves a chance to defend himself and should not step down, he said.

"I think he can do the job," Barr said. "He would be a good senator and a conscientious senator."

People who have supported Burris are torn between feelings of anger and betrayal and a desire to keep the only black senator in the country, said Laura S. Washington, a politics professor at DePaul University and columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times.

"They're disappointed, embarrassed and worried that the seat will be in jeopardy," Washington said.

Edward Bogan, a 58-year-old printer from Chicago, said he doesn't buy Burris' explanation for not telling the House impeachment committee about all his contacts with the Blagojevich administration.

"If your memory is that bad, why do we need you in there?" said Bogan, who is black. "... If you're only going to remember the part that benefits you, what good are you?"

But Chicago resident and real estate counselor Danyelle Hall, 37, says plenty of African-Americans still support Burris.



JUST DANCE

Date: Friday February 27

Time: 9 pm - 12

Where: Hagger Parlour

@ Saint Marys College

MARKET RECAP

Stocks			
Dow Jones	7,465.95	-89.68	
Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:
1,132	121	2,630	2,341,964,707
AMEX	1,351.53	+9.54	
NASDAQ	1,442.82	-25.15	
NYSE	4,881.16	-43.38	
S&P 500	778.94	-9.48	
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	7,473.43	-84.34	
FTSE 100 (London)	4,018.37	+11.54	

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
BK OF AMERICA (BAC)	-14.00	-0.64	3.93
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	-1.07	-0.85	78.18
CITIGROUP INC (C)	-13.75	-0.40	2.51
FINANCIAL SEL SPDR (XLF)	-5.27	-0.42	7.55

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+4.73	+0.129	2.86
13-WEEK BILL	0.00	0.00	0.30
30-YEAR BOND	+4.62	+0.163	3.69
5-YEAR NOTE	+5.50	+0.098	1.88

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+4.86	39.48	
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-1.70	976.50	
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-0.90	79.45	

Exchange Rates	
YEN	94.1800
EURO	1.2620
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.2588
BRITISH POUND	1.4225

IN BRIEF

FBI tracks down wanted financier

WASHINGTON — Texas financier R. Allen Stanford was tracked down Thursday in Virginia, where FBI agents served him with legal papers in a multibillion-dollar fraud case.

FBI agents, acting at the request of the Securities and Exchange Commission, served Stanford court orders and other documents, the FBI and the SEC said.

Stanford is not under arrest and is not in custody.

In a civil complaint Tuesday, the SEC accused Stanford, two other executives and three of his companies with committing an \$8 billion fraud that lured investors with promises of improbable and unsubstantiated high returns on certificates of deposit and other investments. It's not clear how much of the \$8 billion was lost and how much investors might recover.

Lawsuit seeks identities of tax cheats

WASHINGTON — A government lawsuit Thursday seeks the identities of tens of thousands of possible U.S. tax cheats who hid billions of dollars in assets at the Swiss-based bank UBS AG. A defiant Swiss president pledged to maintain his country's bank secrecy laws.

In the suit filed in Miami, the Obama administration wants UBS to turn over information on as many as 52,000 U.S. customers who concealed their accounts from the U.S. government in violation of tax laws.

"At a time when millions of Americans are losing their jobs, their homes, and their health care, it is appalling that more than 50,000 of the wealthiest among us have actively sought to evade their civil and legal duty to pay taxes," the acting assistant attorney general, John DiCicco, said in a statement.

A deal announced Wednesday provides access to about 250 to 300 UBS customers who used Swiss bank secrecy laws to hide assets.

To avoid prosecution, UBS agreed to pay \$780 million, which Justice Department officials said was the largest ever in a criminal tax case.

Banks charge extra in times of trouble

Withdrawals, overdrafts, phone call fees add up for those hit by recession

Associated Press

First, Arthur Santa-Maria called Bank of America to ask how to check the balance of his new unemployment benefits debit card. The bank charged him 50 cents.

He chose not to complain. That would have cost another 50 cents.

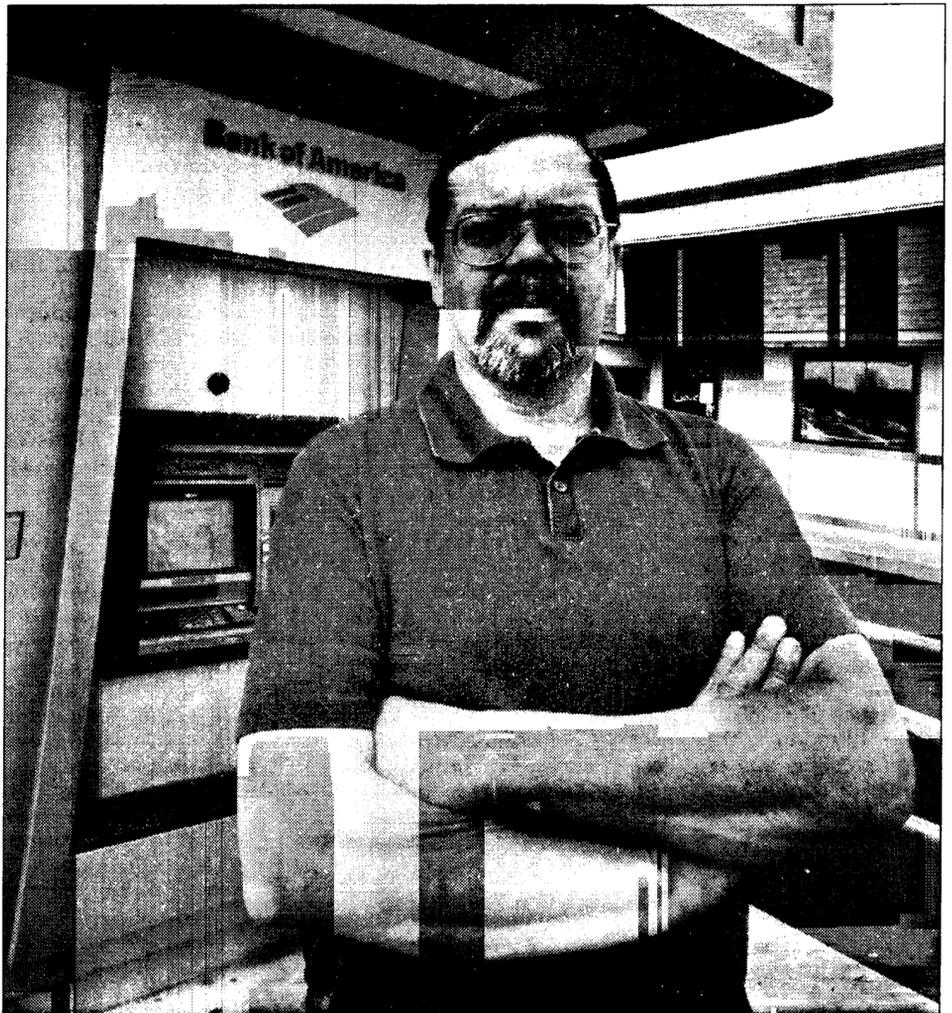
So he took out some of the money and then decided to pull out the rest. But that made two withdrawals on the same day, and that was \$1.50.

For hundreds of thousands of workers losing their jobs during the recession, there's a new twist to their financial pain: Even when they're collecting unemployment benefits, they're paying the bank just to get the money — or even to call customer service to complain about it.

Thirty states have struck such deals with banks that include Citigroup Inc., Bank of America Corp., JP Morgan Chase and US Bancorp, an Associated Press review of the agreements found. All the programs carry fees, and in several states the unemployed have no choice but to use the debit cards. Some banks even charge overdraft fees of up to \$20 — even though they could decline charges for more than what's on the card.

"They're trying to use my money to make money," said Santa-Maria, a laid-off engineer who lives just outside Albuquerque, N.M. "I just see banks trying to make that 50 cents or a buck and a half when I should be given the service for free."

The banks say their programs offer convenience. They also provide at least one way to tap the money at no charge, such as using a single free withdrawal to get all the cash at once from a bank teller. But the banks benefit from human nature, as people end up treating the cards like all the other plastic in their wallets.



Arthur Santa-Maria stands in front of a Bank of America ATM in Los Lunas N.M., after learning that using his debit card to withdraw unemployment money would cost him.

Some banks, depending on the agreement negotiated with each state, also make money on the interest they earn after the state deposits the money and before it's spent. The banks and credit card companies also get roughly 1 percent to 3 percent off the top of each transaction made with the cards.

"It's a racket. It's a scam," said Rachel Davis, a 38-year-old dental technician from St. Louis who was laid off in October. Davis was given a MasterCard issued through Central Bank of Jefferson City and recently paid \$6 to make two \$40 withdrawals.

Neither banks nor credit card companies will say how much money they are making off the programs, or what proportion of the revenue comes from user versus merchant fees or interest. It's difficult to estimate the profits because they depend on how often recipients use their cards and where they use them.

But the potential is clear. In Missouri, for instance, 94,883 people claimed unemployment benefits through debit cards from Central Bank. Analysts say a recipient uses a card an average of six to 10 times a month. If each cardholder makes three withdrawals at

an out-of-network ATM, at a fee of \$1.75, the bank would collect nearly \$500,000. If half of the cardholders also call customer service three times in any given week, the bank's revenue would jump to more than \$521,000. That would yield \$6.3 million a year.

Rachel Storch, a Democratic state representative, received a wave of complaints about the fees from autoworkers laid off from a suburban St. Louis Chrysler plant. She recently urged Gov. Jay Nixon to review the state's contract with Central Bank with an eye toward reducing the fees.

Layoffs hit all time high in Feb.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — February is shaping up to be another brutal month of job losses: The number of laid-off workers receiving unemployment benefits hit an all-time high of nearly 5 million, and new jobless claims are at levels not seen since the early 1980s.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that the number of people receiving regular unemployment benefits rose by 170,000 to 4.99 million for the week ending Feb. 7, marking the fourth straight week continuing claims have hit a record.

The surge in joblessness has pushed those claims far above the 2.77 million people getting benefits a year ago. The number totals

6.54 million with the inclusion of an additional 1.5 million people who are getting extended benefits under a program passed by Congress last summer.

And those numbers are sure to climb higher, based on the flood of newly laid-off workers seeking benefits.

The government reported Thursday that new jobless claims for last week totaled 627,000, the same level as the previous week but higher than economists expected. It also was near the recent high of 631,000 hit three weeks ago, which was the most new weekly claims since 1982 when the country was in another severe recession. The three straight weeks of seasonally adjusted claims above 600,000

also is the longest stretch in more than 26 years.

"The labor market is in disarray," said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com. "We are seeing job losses across nearly every industry and every region of the country."

Based on current trends, net job losses for February could well top 700,000, Zandi said. That would surpass the 598,000 jobs lost in January, which had been the biggest total since 1974.

Worries about the economy dragged the Dow Jones industrial average down nearly 90 points Thursday to close at 7,465.95, its lowest level in more than six years. The Standard & Poor's 500 index and the technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index also fell.

2012

continued from page 3

comparison to dorm unity.

"We're all the class of 2012. We are all going to graduate together. We are all going out into the world together. We want to get close now," Kelliher said.

Kelly said the ticket will achieve this unity through events like poker games, dodge ball and MarioKart tournaments.

He said in order to make sure people are able to attend events, they plan to create a class Web site in addition to a tab on InsideND to display upcoming SCC events.

Vice presidential candidate Courtney Vargas said the team thinks their individual involvement in different activities, like liturgical choir and mock trial, gives them a broad range of perspectives from which they can understand the sophomore class.

"We'll work really hard to make this class the best class that Notre Dame has ever seen," Vargas said. "That is our promise."

Ruhling-Mathes-Phillip-Brophy

Class of 2012 presidential candidate Lauren Ruhling said her ticket was motivated to run because she said the current Freshman Class Council (FCC) acts too much like a clique.

"We feel kind of a disconnect between students and the Class Council ... I couldn't name all

four of our class officers right now. So we really just want to change that and make us more accessible to students," Ruhling said.

Laura Phillip, candidate for secretary, said the ticket plans to create a class Web site with a calendar of events and a suggestion box. She also said they plan to have a day where the entire sophomore class participates in a community service project.

Other ideas include a Halo tournament and a bake-off in which the girls bake and the guys taste.

Vice presidential candidate Jay Mathes said they also want to hold a concert that would be similar to The Show, hosted by the Student Union Board every fall. He said the concert would occur in the spring and would be performed by a well-known band.

Ruhling said the ticket is running in order to make a change, not so they can have the title on their resume.

Phillip agreed, and said they came together because "FCC is a huge click and ... we wanted to make a change."

Mathes emphasized that, if elected, the team would be visible and accessible.

"We're not just going to sit in some student council office room by ourselves. We're here to help people," he said.

Contact Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu and Liz O'Donnell at codonne01@nd.edu

Anti-Arab leader endorses Israeli premier candidate

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Benjamin Netanyahu won the endorsement Thursday of an anti-Arab politician who emerged from Israel's election as a kingmaker, virtually ensuring that the hawkish, U.S.-educated politician will once again become prime minister.

The big question is whether Netanyahu will be able to build the broad coalition he will likely need to stay in power and avoid clashing with the Obama administration and much of the world.

With his top rival, centrist Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, signaling that she would enter the opposition, Netanyahu's prospects for such a coalition do not look good. He will probably have little choice but to forge a coalition with nationalist and religious parties opposed to peacemaking with the Palestinians and Israel's other Arab neighbors.

One major Orthodox Jewish party, Shas, also threw its support to Netanyahu, joining a group of similar movements that did the same.

"Today the foundations were laid for an extremist right-wing government under the leadership of Netanyahu," Livni said in a text message to 80,000 members of her Kadima Party. "That is not our way and there is nothing for us in such a government... We must be an alternative of hope and go into opposition."

If Livni stays out of Netanyahu's government, it would almost surely hurt Netanyahu's credibility with the United States and Europe. And his hold on power would be more tenuous in a narrow coalition of rightists, with hard-line allies threatening to bring down his government in the face of any concession for peace.

Livni seeks a negotiated settlement with the Palestinians, a position supported by the Obama administration, while Netanyahu's partner on the right, Avigdor Lieberman, has drawn opprobrium with his call for Israel's 1 million Arabs to swear allegiance to the Jewish state or lose their citizenship.

Israel's ceremonial president, Shimon Peres, held talks with political parties before choosing a candidate to form a government. Peres is scheduled to meet separately Friday with Netanyahu and Livni, and is likely to make his choice over the weekend, the daily newspaper Haaretz report-



Leader of the Yisrael Beiteinu party Avigdor Lieberman is seen during a meeting with Israel's President Shimon Peres, not seen, at

Mexico: Exodus of migrants decreases

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Migration from Mexico, mainly to the United States, has fallen dramatically as fewer Mexicans leave their country to look for work abroad amid a global economic downturn, the government said Thursday.

The net outflow of Mexicans — both legal and illegal — declined by over 50 percent in the 12 months ending in August 2008, compared the same period a year earlier, said the Eduardo Sojo, president of the board of Mexico's National Statistics, Geography and Information Institute.

Sojo attributed the net drop in migration to tough economic conditions abroad motivating Mexicans to stay at home, rather than Mexicans in other countries returning to their homeland.

"There is declining tendency of people going abroad, but we have not detected, up to now, any increase in people returning to the country," Sojo said.

Sojo also said a recent survey of "leading indicators" suggests that the number of Mexicans planning to emigrate in the future is also dropping. He did not provide details of that survey.

He said the net outflow of Mexicans — those leaving the country minus those returning from abroad — dropped to 204,000 people between August 2007 and August 2008. That was down from 455,000 for the year ending in August 2007.

The number of returning Mexicans was roughly the same over the two periods, declining slightly to 450,000 by late 2008, from 478,000 in the 2007 period.

But the number leaving Mexico fell sharply to 654,000 from 933,000.

The government has said in past years that a majority who leave are undocumented migrants. Its figures are estimates based on quarterly surveys of Mexican households carried out by the institute.

A government survey also shows the number of households in Mexico that receive remittances — the money sent home by Mexicans working abroad, the vast majority in the United States — has also fallen to 1.16 million in 2008 from 1.41 million in 2005, Sojo said.

Remittances, Mexico's second-largest source of foreign income after oil, plunged 3.6 percent to \$25 billion in 2008 compared to \$26 billion for the previous year, according to the country's central bank.

Despite anecdotal reports of migrants returning to Mexico because of the downturn in the U.S. economy and construction sector, experts say the new statistics confirm there has been no large-scale homecoming in Mexico. An estimated 11.8 million Mexicans now live in the U.S.

"The majority of those who are there are in a family unit, they have relatives there. We know some have children who are in school, some of whom are U.S. citizens," said Agustin Escobar, an analyst with the Center for Investigations and Superior Studies in Social Anthropology. "There are a lot of reasons for them not to leave."

"They are going to look for other more temporary or more precarious jobs, or rely on their relatives ... rather than just disappear from the United States," he said.

Please recycle The Observer.

Lawmakers pass large tax increase

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — California lawmakers passed a massive tax increase Thursday along with making billions in spending cuts, ending a grueling week of negotiations over closing the state's \$42 billion budget deficit.

The package of bills was sent to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger after the early-morning votes in the Assembly and Senate, and the Republican governor was scheduled to sign it Friday.

Schwarzenegger called the Legislature's work courageous, noting that Democrats compromised on their opposition to deep spending cuts and some Republican lawmakers set aside their opposition to tax increases.

"Now, instead of worrying every day only about IOUs and about red ink, we can start moving California forward once again," he said. "This action to solve our \$42 billion deficit was difficult but courageous and just what California needs."

Both houses of the Legislature got the bare minimum of votes to reach the two-thirds requirement needed to pass the package, which includes \$12.8 billion in tax hikes, \$15.1 billion in cuts, billions in borrowing and measures intended to stimulate the state's economy.

If the economy doesn't worsen considerably, the plan is intended to balance the state's budget through June 2010. The Senate began debating before dawn Thursday after a moderate Republican, Sen. Abel Maldonado of Santa Maria, agreed to provide the final vote.

In exchange, he won major concessions from Democrats and the governor. Maldonado was able to strip out a 12 cent-a-gallon gas tax from an earlier version of the package and have two measures placed on a future ballot: One seeks fully open primary elections and another would freeze lawmakers' pay when the state runs a deficit. He also got \$1 million for office furniture in the controller's office deleted.

RUSSIA

Jury acquits for journalist's murder

Associated Press

MOSCOW — A jury in Moscow voted unanimously Thursday to acquit three men in the killing of journalist Anna Politkovskaya, dimming hopes for justice in a case that has mocked Russia's claims to be a modern democratic nation.

The brazen 2006 slaying of the crusading investigative reporter sent a grim signal to other dissenters in Russia, proving that even the most prominent of Kremlin critics could be murdered with impunity.

And it provoked international outrage, raising suspicions that her death was ordered by prominent public officials.

A jury acquitted two Chechen brothers and a morose ex-cop following a trial that defense attorneys and Politkovskaya's supporters said was marred by prosecution errors and oversights.

All three were suspected of playing minor roles in the killing. A suspected triggerman, a third brother, has not been found.

Politkovskaya was shot five times in the elevator of her central Moscow apartment building on Oct. 7, 2006, after a trip to the supermarket.

In her articles, Politkovskaya had attacked some of Russia's most powerful political leaders. She was a ferocious critic of former president and current Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, on whose birthday the 48-year-old journalist was slain. In one book, she accused him of crushing dissent and leading a "failing democracy."

She had also accused the regime of Ramzan Kadyrov, a

former militia leader and now president of the Russian region of Chechnya, of torture and corruption, charges that he has denied.

During the trial, Politkovskaya's colleagues and family said, prosecutors put together a feeble case — never bothering to offer a formal theory of who might have paid for the suspected contract slaying, or why.

Now those close to Politkovskaya fear they will never see justice done.

Sergei Sokolov, one of Politkovskaya's editors at the opposition newspaper Novaya Gazeta, said the verdicts could make it harder to pressure low-level plotters to testify against organizers.

Now, he said, he feared authorities would "catch the first few homeless people they see, label them guilty and close the case."

Politkovskaya's two adult children absorbed the verdict with sadness and resignation.

"To say I'm disappointed — I can't really say that, because I was ready for such a verdict," said Ilya Politkovsky, the journalist's son.

Karina Moskalenko, a prominent lawyer who represented Politkovskaya's family during proceedings, sought to keep the pressure on authorities to continue pursuing the case.

"Everything is still ahead — the investigators now have to start a proper investigation," she said. "The more time goes by, the harder it gets."

She said the Chechen president Kadyrov should have testified during the trial, because his name came up frequently

in case reports and interviews with witnesses. But she said he was never questioned by investigators.

Prosecutor Vera Pashkovskaya vowed to appeal, saying the judge had committed numerous procedural violations.

Not guilty verdicts are often reversed by Russia's higher courts. But it is hard to predict what will happen in this politically explosive case.

In the ensuing investigation, prosecutors and investigators appeared to stumble on several occasions. Authorities made unusually detailed statements about the case in the press last year — statements that may have prompted the alleged triggerman to flee.

The defendants included two brothers, Dzhabrail and Ibragim Makhmudov, both ethnic Chechens, as well as former Moscow police officer Sergei Khadzhiburbanov.

Relatives of the Makhmudovs clapped and cheered when the forewoman announced the verdicts.

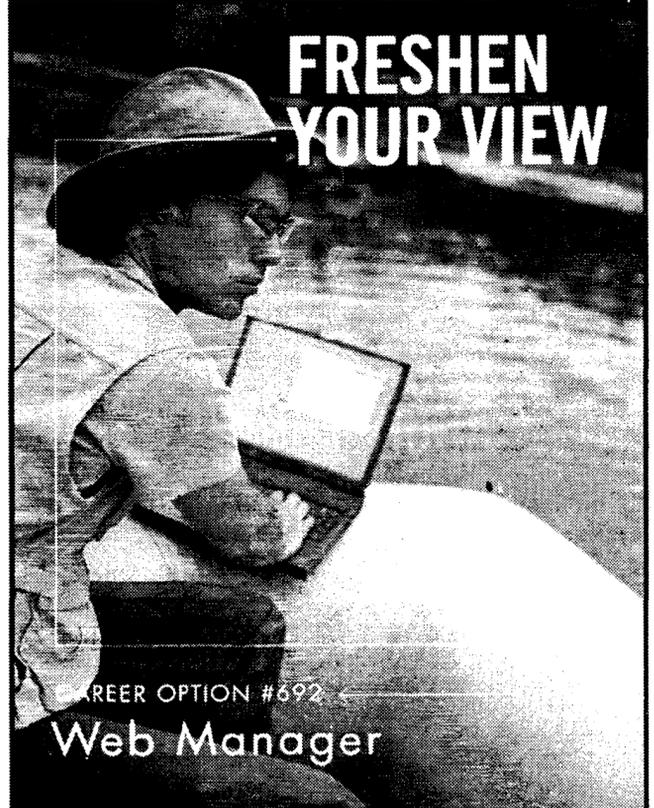
"Thank God, thank the jury," said Dzhabrail Makhmudov, while still confined to a metal courtroom cage. "There was no other possible outcome."

After the judge said the defendants were free to go, they burst out of the cage and embraced relatives.

"We're glad," said defense lawyer Murad Musayev. "This is something that happens rarely in Russia. This is what I call justice."

In final arguments Tuesday, Musayev accused the prosecution of fabricating evidence and dismissed their case as "dust, fluff and ash."

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TurtleCreek
 APARTMENTS

Steves

continued from page 1

load 18 itineraries for free. Steves said these are meant to act as supplements for Rick Steves-type guidebooks. The one-to-two page itineraries offer tips on transportation options, where to eat and sleep for cheap and where to find the best nightlife destinations. Most of the itineraries are geared for weekend trips.

Want to spend a few days in Dublin? Steves recommends taking discount airlines RyanAir or AerLingus. Stay at Paddy's Palace hostel and take advantage of their free airport shuttle service.

Steves wasn't impressed with Irish food: "FYI, black pudding is fried blood. Just a heads up," he writes on the itinerary. Walk 20 minutes from the city center to the Guinness Brewery, and "have a pint of the black stuff" in its Gravity Bar. The Irish Museum of Modern Art is worth seeing too, he writes.

And if students are in search of enjoyment, they should head to the Temple Bar area.

Steves said the site is meant to be a collaborative effort. He wants students who have spent time in European cities to e-mail him with tips on places to grab lunch or hostels at which students can stay.

Growing up as the son of a well-known European travel guide writer, Steves spent every summer touring the continent. But when he was younger, he didn't enjoy the experience.

"When you're just 12 or 13 years old, you are missing all of your friends' birthdays going on back home, and the field days when we'd leave school a week early," he said.

But looking back, all that travel experience was really "a

blessing in disguise."

"I didn't realize how unique it was," he said. "It was just something I did very summer."

He went to Europe without his parents for the first time after he graduated from high school. Along with his best friend, he traveled the continent, stopping in cities like Amsterdam, Paris, Madrid, Barcelona, Nice, Switzerland, Rome, Sicily and Florence.

It was an experience that turned him into an enthusiastic world traveler.

"It just opened up a completely new continent to me, because you could do what you want, you could see what you wanted when you wanted to do it," he said.

During the spring semester of his junior year, Steves, an industrial design and Italian major, went to Rome. He book-ended his semester with 10 days in Prague, followed by a week on a 40-foot sailboat with five friends in Greece, a week in Istanbul and trips to Switzerland and Dublin.

During his semester in Rome, he realized there was not much advice available for college students about how to find food and lodging to fit a college budget.

"I realized at least half [the Notre Dame students in Rome] had brand new passports, never once used, so it was their first time abroad, let alone out of the country in several instances, so they would come to me and ask advice about how to get to different places," he said. "I saw a huge void where there's no information geared specifically to the college student abroad."

Steves has posted itineraries, blog entries and photos for cities including Rome, Paris, Stockholm, Milan and London. He's working on creating a forum for visitors to discuss their travel experiences and trade questions and advice. He

also has a Facebook group to draw attention to the site.

When students study abroad, they have a limited number of weekends in which to visit other places in Europe, Steves said.

"Every weekend is an opportunity, but also there is a lot of pressure to make the most of your time everywhere," he said.

The pictures and descriptions of activities to do and sights to see should help college students decide which destinations to visit while in Europe.

The site won the Colombo Award, which is granted to "outstanding person in the tourist sector" by an Italian tourism association earlier this year. Steves has been in contact with Notre Dame's International Studies office, as well as programs at colleges around the country, to promote his site.

Everything on the site is free, but Steves is exploring business opportunities to expand the itineraries into tour packages for college students.

Traveling is something that has been a part of Steves' life from the start, he said, and his philosophy is that traveling opens people up to accepting and respecting other cultures and beliefs.

"With understanding, you decrease the fear of other cultures and other people and other countries," he said. "Traveling, not just in Europe, but traveling all over the world, is important to understanding these people, and with an understanding that me, a 21-year-old in Iran, a 21-year-old in Japan, and one in Argentina, are all just children of God, people of the earth."

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at krliely@nd.edu

Professor

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the process starts all over again."

Indulgences have long been available and their return doesn't represent a change in policy so much as a shift in focus. One theory states that more bishops are promoting indulgences as more lay people seek them because of a growing hunger to understand the meaning of sin and repentance in modern society.

On the surface, this trend also appears to confirm what many view as Pope Benedict XVI's efforts to restore traditionalist principles to the church.

"The Pope generally wants to remind Catholics that some devotional elements and practices of the pre-Vatican II Church are still with us and that Catholics who wish to do so can still avail themselves of the spiritual benefits accruing from these devotions and practices," McBrien said. "The rest of the Church, however, is free to ignore them."

Although the Pope's motivations are unclear, McBrien said that the bishops who are

pushing the indulgences could have a specific goal in mind.

"In my opinion — and it is only that — those bishops who wish to emphasize indulgences once more are concerned with the diminishing of clerical authority in recent years," he said. "This may be an attempt on their part to reassert clerical, and especially episcopal, authority."

McBrien added: "By making themselves once again the bestowers of great spiritual benefits which only they have the power to confer. The problem is that most Catholics have no interest in indulgences."

Lack of interest could prevent the revival

of indulgences from having much impact on the daily lives of Catholics. When asked if he thought the renewed tradition would distract people from the church's ministry, McBrien said, "no, because most Catholics will pay no attention to them, and those Catholics who are involved in social justice ministries will continue to be involved, without reference to the renewed attention to indulgences."

Contact Robert Singer at rsinger@nd.edu

"In my opinion — and it is only that — those bishops who wish to emphasize indulgences once more are concerned with the diminishing of clerical authority in recent years."

Richard McBrien
theology professor

Write News. E-mail
obsnews@nd.edu.

JPW

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tography, she said.

University President Fr. John Jenkins will preside at a mass for juniors and their parents on Saturday at 5:30 p.m. in the Joyce Center Arena, Hendricks said. Father Mark Poorman will deliver the homily.

After the mass, the President's Dinner for juniors and their parents will take place in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse. President Emeritus Fr. Edward Malloy will deliver the Invocation and Jenkins will give the President's Address, Hendricks said. Junior class president Kim Kyrrouac will give the junior class address.

A closing brunch will take place at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse. Lou Holtz will be the guest speaker, Hendricks said. Rev. Paul Doyle, C.S.C. will deliver the Invocation and President Emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh, C.S.C. will give the Benediction.

The JPW committee has added something new to the events this year.

"We've also added a Rosary

Service at the Grotto this year," Hendricks said.

On Saturday, workshops and receptions will take place in the different colleges to give parents a chance to meet professors, Hendricks said.

"I know that the College of Science is doing interactive labs and [parents] can see the facilities and such," Hendricks said.

Additionally, each hall will host a luncheon on Saturday for juniors and parents on Saturday, Hendricks said.

Parents can enjoy some entertainment from Harmonia, The Undertones and Unchained Melodies in the Hospitality Room of LaFortune on Saturday from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Hendricks said.

The Student Union Board [SUB] has also planned entertainment for students and parents during the weekend.

Second City, the Chicago-based improv comedy group, will perform in Washington Hall at 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. tonight, SUB Manager Pat Gartland said. Students and parents can purchase tickets and attend.

Contact Emma Driscoll at edriscol@nd.edu

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Project

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trification, or the displacement of low-income residents as a consequence of development.

"We worked with the University to make the ground rules and look over their shoulder all the time to make sure they were doing what they were supposed to, and they did," Taylor said. "There has not been one person that has moved from the area that's not better off than before the move."

In the early days of the project, Affleck-Graves said there was some concern about gentrification, but the University worked with the neighborhood residents so all parties could benefit from the project.

"A lot of that concern has dissipated," he said. "We don't want to

go take over the whole neighborhood and rebuild everything."

Luecke said while the University is developing houses to sell to faculty, the city is concerned with subsidizing houses in the neighborhood to make them affordable for community members.

"Out of roughly 60 new homes constructed in the neighborhood, our commitment

is that 30 percent will be available to lower income families," he said.

This effort will result in a mixed-income neighborhood with an offering of affordable housing and houses sold at the market rate, Luecke said.

Taylor said this effort has made it possible for many families in the neighborhood to own homes.

"The first family that moved [into a subsidized home] were renters. They never had owned a home," she said. "Through this program, they were able to purchase a home on Ironwood."

Taylor said the NNRO also has a say in the design of the Eddy Street Commons. She said when the project began, there was talk of calling the center 'University Village' but the NNRO vetoed that suggestion in favor of a name that doesn't imply a connection to Notre Dame.

With concerns of gentrification mostly put to rest, Luecke said the Eddy Street Commons is a bright spot in the current landscape of an economic downturn.

"The construction itself is creating jobs in the short term, and as the stores open up and the office spaces are filled, we will see additional jobs added in

the community," he said.

Luecke said the city is paying for the parking garage in the Commons and some other infrastructural needs such as drainage and streetlights with a Tax Increment Financing plan. Instead of taking city money from other projects, this project will be funded by the increased property taxes that will arise from the commercial entities in Eddy Street Commons, such as the retail stores and a hotel.

Kite Realty, the private developer then pays for all the construction, and the University owns the land.

"There has been a huge private investment in the area, which is why the city is willing to make a public investment," Luecke said.

Along with creating jobs in the area, Taylor said Eddy Street Commons will bring foot traffic back to the neighborhood.

"I was born in this neighborhood, and you couldn't buy a loaf of bread without getting in your car," she said.

The Eddy Street Commons is the first attempt to bring commerce into the neighborhood surrounding campus, Luecke said.

"I think for many years the University and the city coexisted, but students weren't always

encouraged to go off campus and there wasn't a lot of interaction with the community," he said. "So we didn't see some of the development that happens in other university communities."

Luecke said this recent collaboration between the University and the city represents an important, emerging partnership.

"I am delighted with the way people have worked together," he said. "There has been a deep recognition that our futures are linked. For each of us to succeed, we both have to thrive."

The Eddy Street Commons and the Northeast

Neighborhood Revitalization project represent short-term development and economic stimulus, but the city and the University are also collaborating to bring about long-term economic development in the form of Innovation Park.

Along with Notre Dame, Luecke said the city has invested money into the project, and they acted as the applicant to the state of Indiana and the Federal government to receive status as a state research park and government money.

"The energy and the creativity that will focus there at Innovation Park is something

that will enhance research on campus and make our community more attractive," he said. "We are seeing interest around the country in what happening in here in South Bend."

Luecke said the objective of Innovation Park is to transform research done at Notre Dame into businesses that will take root in the area and expand. Additionally, businesses will come to South Bend to use the research that emerges from the Park.

For example, Luecke said researchers at Notre Dame have worked with the city to make a product that functions in the sewers and reduces pollution flowing into the river. Innovation Park would take this idea and turn the research into a business that would sell the product beyond the city of South Bend.

Innovation Park sits on 13 acres, but Luecke said the vision ultimately extends beyond that.

The city has funded the construction of Ignition Park, which spans about 85 acres and would complement the work of Innovation Park by taking the research when it grows too large for the original Park.

"I think the next phase in our city's growth will be to be a rising center of creativity, innovation and commercialization," Luecke said. "Innovation and Ignition Park will show people how to take ideas and make them real products that benefit the community and create jobs and investments here."

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

"We worked with the University to make the ground rules and look over their shoulder all the time to make sure they were doing what they were supposed to, and they did."

Marguerite Taylor
neighborhood resident

"The energy and the creativity that will focus there at Innovation Park is something that will enhance research on campus and make our community more attractive."

Steve Luecke
Mayor
South Bend



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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Food gripes

Notre Dame's dining options, while a step ahead of other schools, leave something to be desired.

The fixes require only effort, not a massive overhaul of the system. The dining halls present plenty of options for students to choose from, but they often lump them on the same nights and go weeks without bringing them back. Students have a multitude of choices outside of the dining hall, such as Subway, but the lack of participation in nationwide sales events detracts from the experience. Finally, some of the blame falls on students: they gum up the works in the dining hall and prolong the dining experience.

We believe simple steps will solve these problems. Not a Chipotle on campus or brand-new food in the dining halls, but small changes to take the solid dining options this campus offers to the next level.

First, the dining hall: it's not hard to see which foods attract the most students. The lines for peppered flank steak and General Tso's chicken demonstrate the level of demand. And more often than not, when the dining hall introduces a new option, it gets a good response. Same with the cookies at lunch and cinnamon rolls.

So why serve some of these items on the same night? Asking someone to choose between the General and shrimp poppers just isn't fair. Serving six-cheese sachattini and chicken fingers also asks for too much of a decision.

Once the great items have been served, they disappear for weeks, and we're left with roast top round of beef for six days straight and the rest of the dining hall food that's there every day.

Spacing out the good stuff makes sense. If it was offered every day, it wouldn't be special. But space out the good meals between themselves as well, so there are solid options

at least one or two nights a week.

On another note, no more breakfast for dinner nights on the weekend. Essentially, you're eating breakfast for lunch and dinner, and nobody wants that.

Also, do the wings have to invade the dining halls on wing night? The wings occupy all three grilling stations in South Dining Hall on wing night, leaving you little choice but to take some wings.

Now to Subway. If we're going to be barraged with five-dollar footlong commercials on television, we should be able to purchase them in LaFortune. Whether it's real money or flex points, five-dollar footlongs would increase revenue for Subway because more people would buy them. Think of how nice this would be for off-campus students with no meal plans or flex points who — gasp — use real money to buy food.

Finally, to the students in the dining hall. It's like everything else in life: Use your head. Look where you're going. But in case that's too complicated, here are some guidelines to follow.

Follow this pecking order when allowing people to go past you: dining hall personnel with carts, students with full trays, dining hall personnel without carts, students with empty trays and finally, regular students. Don't get in the way of someone with a loaded tray.

Don't stand in front of the drink dispensers, or any food for that matter. Get your cup or plate, procure your choice of food or drink and move on.

Don't line up for the coveted second-level tray spot on the empty-tray carousel. Put some effort into it and put the tray on the top level or, if you're feeling really ambitious, lay your empty cups down and use the first level.

Just some food for thought.

THE OBSERVER Editorial

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Punishment must fit crime

Thank God someone finally started this discussion.

We would just like to voice our complete support for Ben Linskey's discussion of the Michael Phelps case in the Feb. 19 Observer ("Phelps scandal is reefer madness"). We have been considering writing to The Observer for some time regarding marijuana, and the University's overall policy towards it.

We feel that the University is unfair in its differing policies between underage drinking and the possession of ganja. While most people know that if a student is caught drinking and is under the age of 21, it means a ResLife, and probably community service. It is a slap on the wrist.

In contrast, possessing the sweet Mary Jane is, in the words of Du Lac, "a serious violation. Students who possess or use such substances shall be subject to suspension or dismissal." Is it fair that students who drink alcohol excessively, become obnoxious, start fights, scream in the quads at 4 a.m., are disrespectful to police officers and school staff and put themselves and others in danger should get the college equivalent of a detention (ResLife), while students who make the, as Linskey puts it "private and harmless decision" to smoke weed are subject to dismissal from the University?

These students will most likely spend the evening sitting in a room, listening to "No Woman No Cry," watching Aqua Teen Hunger Force

and laughing to themselves at pretty much everything; they are not throwing up at Legends or screaming at everyone they meet.

Reefer is a drug that mellows out people and makes them more aware of their surroundings, whereas alcohol makes people get aggressive and lose regard for anyone other than themselves. Smoking the sticky icky is non-addictive and there are no known cases of death directly due to an overdose of the bud. Alcohol is highly addictive and thousands die every year from it, whether directly or indirectly.

So why is lighting up the chronic considered such a terrible offense, in the minds of the general public (as Linskey so adeptly pointed out) and in the mind of our administration? Why is the penalty for smoking the herb so severe when the penalty for drinking alcohol excessively, clearly a graver and much more ubiquitous problem is so mild? We do not know.

We would only like to thank Linskey for putting forward this issue for the consideration of the student body and the administration. We think the administration needs to reevaluate this "arbitrary standard set forward by the federal government."

One Love,

Dan Parker
Anthony Bonadio
sophomores
Keenan Hall
Feb. 19

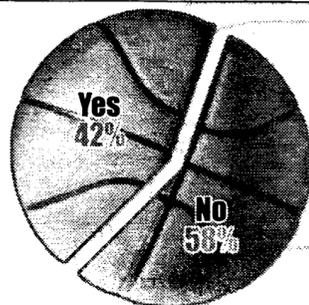
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Observer Poll

Will the men's basketball team make the NCAA tournament?

	Votes	Percentage
No	390	58%
Yes	285	42%



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If we were not all so interested in ourselves, life would be so uninteresting that none of us would be able to endure it."

Arthur Schopenhauer
German philosopher

Fat weekend is upon us

For many who regularly fall short of intended Lenten sacrifices, today begins a "Fat Weekend," or a binge run-up to Ash Wednesday. Just as Christmas decorations appear earlier each year — sometimes uncharacteristically well before

Halloween — similarly, Lenten light-weights try to compensate by beginning Fat Tuesday earlier. As a charter member of the lightweight legion, this year I prefer to approach Lent backwards, beginning with the calm of Easter Saturday.

Imagine that Easter was behind us, Lent has just begun, but Fat Tuesday is still more than six weeks away. Would our mental preparation and attempts to purge our weaknesses be less intense? It seems unlikely that a reverse timeline could spawn such a Mardi Gras atmosphere when Ash Wednesday eventually arrived. In fact, the process could become more introspective and less celebratory.

If Lent were to be reversed, today, at its conclusion, I would think of the Bengal Bouts. My reflections would naturally remind me of Father James L. Riehle,



Gary Caruso

Capitol Comments

C.S.C., '49, '78 MSA, who passed away in October. Riehle's iconic campus personality evolved while fighting as a boxer during his youth. Maybe his magic came from his seminary training, or maybe it was the fact that he entered the priesthood at the age of 43 after living a life in the real world. But Riehle's uniquely masculine yet tender persona, as Pangborn Hall rector for a dozen years, as the Monogram Club's executive director for two decades and as athletic chaplain presiding over the Notre Dame football team's game-day mass for more than a quarter of a century.

Riehle successfully managed an impossible task while dean of students during the height of the Vietnam war from 1967 to 1973. He was the sheriff of Campus Mayberry — an insulated Catholic educational enclave whose residents knew too well roommates lost overseas. The harsh reality became starkly visual one day when someone planted more than 200 white crosses on the South Quad, each representing a lost Notre Dame graduate. In the end, a pair of stalkers moved Riehle from a cane to a golf cart. Yet, the frail shadow of this man never lost his measured temperament, sense of justice nor his legendary wit.

Lent focuses us on death, hope and life. It teaches us that the good in our loved ones is never gone. So each winter bits of

Fr. Riehle come back to those who shared a moment with him during the Bengal Bouts or at a Monogram Club function. When trekking back to campus for a football game, his old office in the Main Building conjures ghosts of times many of us were summoned for disciplinary reasons. On any evening at home, we whose lives were touched by Riehle can still thumb through a year book for a tangible snapshot of his image.

As dean of students, Riehle ruled autonomously in a time that University president emeritus Fr. Theodore Hesburgh calls the student "revolution." As president, Hesburgh established his famous 15-minute rule whereby disruptive students hindering another's rights were given 15 minutes to meditate, then desist or face expulsion. Page 336 of the 1970 year book, "Dome," includes a photograph of Riehle in the Main Building looking at his watch to time a warning to more than 100 students protesting against the CIA and Dow Chemical, manufacturer of napalm, on campus to recruit students. Riehle expelled five students and suspended five others. Yet, all but one returned to earn a degree.

My favorite photograph of Riehle lives on page 280 of the 1976 "Dome." It exhibits the human side of Riehle who, as Dean of Students, mingled with students and shared mutual respect. The photograph

shows Riehle at the Senior Bar with his signature cigar in hand while grasping a plastic cup of beer and speaking with a student who held a beer as well. It reveals how Riehle lived a measured Sheriff Andy Taylor existence during the height of the Vietnam war's upheaval years.

During Riehle's tenure as dean, this columnist installed a ten-button telephone as a switchboard for rooms in a Lyons Hall wing. The phone company removed it and notified Riehle. He asked if it was stolen. Yes was the reply. "Well, the phone company took the phone and does not recommend anything, so don't do it again," Riehle ordered.

Lent is forgiving regardless of the approach or degree of sacrifice. For those who depend on Fat Weekend in preparation, Lent can actually be the best of times. Lent calls out Riehle's oftentimes pronounced verdict and signature comment, "Don't do that again."

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Reefer madness' is insalubrious

In Ben Linskey's "Reefer Madness" (Feb. 19), he argues that weed is not addictive, does not cause serious health problems, does not adversely affect the population and is a far less dangerous drug than alcohol.

I come from San Diego, one of the most pot-infested cities on the map. I have numerous friends who have battled their drug addictions, and oftentimes they'll tell me that their Dad still hasn't kicked the habit of smoking pot. The most unsafe I've ever felt in a car was when I was a passenger in a car where the driver was getting stoned. For all of Linskey's noble opposition to drinking and driving, I would go further and say that smoking pot and driving is just as bad — impaired reaction time and altered perception being chief concerns.

Linskey's assertion that weed is harmless is incorrect. One needs only to Google-search "harmful effects of marijuana" to find the medical consensus on its adverse effects. There's also a concept I taught when I was an anti-drug counselor back in San Diego for three years: amotivational syndrome — that a pothead loses his or her motivation to participate in everyday activities: sports, classes, relationships.

Some people say that smoking pot is natural because it is of the Earth, but should we be breathing in the fumes of a bonfire, if that is also "of the Earth?" Anytime a person inhales smoke, they are doing damage to their body — on both a microscopic level and a holistic level.

When I evaluate a person's argument, I look for areas where a person uses hyperbole, or conversely, euphemisms. Linskey tells of how the government is holding it's war on drugs because marijuana is deemed "insalubrious." Please! Call the drug what it is; and don't downplay the harmful effects of pot.

Linskey's ideal of drug users keeping it in the home does not often occur in actuality. One of my former good friends back home in San Diego keeps on getting arrested, not for smoking, but for repeatedly trying to break into liquor stores — a very half-baked idea.

Furthermore, Linskey is wrong in his belief that "you have no right to dictate to your neighbor what he may do within the confines of his home." Obviously the government has the right to intercede in cases of slavery, rape, abuse, etc., and all these cases occur in the confines of a home.

I'll agree that the governmental war on drugs isn't going well — but how much worse off would we be without it? There are untold and unknown numbers of how many more people would do drugs if we weren't as educated about the subject as we are today. We are the product of an education system that really showed us how bad drugs are.

For all the readers out there that had considered trying weed but ultimately decided against it, you are the reason why the War on Drugs is, on some level, effective.

Daniel Tostado
sophomore
Dillon Hall
Feb. 19

Promoting vs. support

I would like to thank Tommy Maranges ("A clear misunderstanding," Feb. 19) for bringing some sense and reason to the debate about homosexuality, which has recently featured far too much rhetoric and far too little logic. I fail to see why the refusal to promote an idea is seen to be tantamount to rejecting, denying, or even hating that idea.

Bridget Flores, Mary Dewey and Jackie Emmanuel ("Catholic teachings," Feb. 19) would have you believe that anyone who does not own an "Ally" or "Gay? Fine With me" T-shirt dislikes or discriminates against homosexuals. While this is ludicrous to the average reader, many find it acceptable to believe that the University is discriminatory against gays, just because the mission statement does not explicitly denounce it.

The problem with the Queer Film Festival is that it does nothing to eliminate the isolation described by Flores and Co. Instead, organizations and events tailored specifically towards homosexuals only serve to highlight our differences and create the very isolation that Flores so gravely dreads. If a gay movie

was banned or censored during a sexuality-neutral film festival, an outcry against discrimination and isolation would certainly be appropriate, but using a gay-only film festival to fight isolation is the equivalent of using a male-only film festival to improve gender relations. If a demographic wishes to separate themselves from the population with specific events just for them, they lose the right to blame the majority for the divide that will inevitably arise.

In conclusion, a refusal to promote gay-specific activities is not anti-gay. Rather, it is the University acting on a religious foundation to not to promote a lifestyle deemed to be morally disordered. "Pro-gay" and "anti-gay" are not the only options. Supportive of homosexuals but not actively promoting the lifestyle, the University is fulfilling its duty as a Catholic institution of higher learning.

Nathan Furtado
sophomore
Dillon Hall
Feb. 19

Footlongs worthy of fight

Dear Michelle Byrne and Lauren Cummings ("That's bologna," Feb. 19),

I would like to thank you for expressing your profound sentiments concerning John Traub's five-dollar footlong campaign ("Five-dollar footlongs," Feb. 13). You truly are an inspiration to us all.

I completely agree that the speed at which the Facebook group gathered 1550 students to support the cause is truly an accomplishment. Perhaps it's a sign that Notre Dame students do actually have a pulse and care about some sort of justice, that students will not stand for price gouging (something that just happens to be illegal in many other industries) and are at least nominally willing to break the stereotype of the rich spoiled brat that surrounds the Notre Dame student body, trying to be at least a little more fiscally responsible.

And I couldn't agree more with your classification of recycling and sexual assault as "trivial issues." Meriycam Webster's online Dictionary defines trivial as being "commonplace or ordinary." Five-dollar footlongs have occupied the front cover of The Observer for all of one day, whereas stories about sexual assault and recycling seem to be a daily occurrence.

Finally, I would like to applaud your classification of the different types of Notre Dame Students. Indeed only that one percent of us who are "vegans

and wear tie-dye" care about the rest of the world, the other 99 percent of us selfish, diversity-hating fascists could care less. It's not as if the majority of students are involved in various service initiatives across the greater Michiana area, or that the student government, directly elected by the students, is actively trying to make a difference in the community and in the environment ...

Give me a break! Just because you couldn't care less about a blatantly unfair economic situation at your own school doesn't mean that you have to attack this idea. People do genuinely care about conflicts in Africa and sustainability, recycling and Sexual Assault, but are sick of hearing a small and vocal minority consistently badger the greater Notre Dame community about what they think is right. We want to take care of an issue that affects each and every red-blooded person at this campus and, as John Traub's research shows, really may make a significant impact, lest we forget that money, in fact, does not grow on trees (especially for college students).

Get it?

Jonathan Jasinski
sophomore
Stanford Hall
Feb. 19

Scene Oscar Picks for the

The question is, are you feeling lulling from acclaimed blockbusters like "Wrestler," the films of 2008 offered a special critics, movie aficionados, and top dogs. And the Scene's predictions

**BEST PICTURE: SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE**

"Slumdog Millionaire" has been racking up awards from every which way this awards season. And barring any upset, it will probably receive the season's highest honor, Best Picture at the Oscars. What was originally a film intended to go straight to DVD has truly become the Cinderella story of 2008. Only, in the process, it has become Goliath, leaving every other film to inhabit the role of David. However, the Academy's infatuation with biopics may very well prove the wild card factor here, and may land "Milk" the honor. "Milk" has been scoring best picture wins in film critics' circles across the nation, but has yet to receive the coveted grand prize at any of the nation's big-audience awards shows ("Crash," anyone?). So, if the Academy feels in a maverick sort of mood, and the moment is ripe for an upset, "Milk" may very well pull it off. However, put your money on "Slumdog Millionaire," capping off its dream run with the Best Picture award.

Please Contact Shane Steinberg at ssteinb2@nd.edu.

**BEST ACTOR: SEAN PENN**

This year's Best Actor race is probably the tightest of all the major categories. The list of nominees all delivered powerful performances this year; the competition is so stiff that vets Leonardo DiCaprio and Clint Eastwood were left out of the category.

Sean Penn's turn as Harvey Milk shows his versatility. He immerses himself so completely into Milk's character and delivers an utterly transformative performance that is nothing short of remarkable. For this, Penn will probably garner the Oscar; it may be Gus Van Sant's film's only major award.

The only real competitor standing in the way of Penn's second Academy Award in five nominations is this year's comeback kid — Mickey Rourke. Rourke's triumphant return in "The Wrestler" has already won him a Golden Globe. His own story, which so closely parallels that of struggling has-been Randy 'The Ram' Robinson, has struck a chord with audiences and critics alike. His authentic and sensitive performance might be strong enough to kick Penn out of the ring.

The Oscar, though, will go to Penn, whose acting tour de force will recruit the members of the Academy to vote for Harvey Milk over "The Wrestler" for Best Actor.

Please Contact Jenn Metz at jmetz@nd.edu.

**BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR: HEATH LEDGER**

Ah, what a year to be a supporting actor.

This often lower-profile category is hosting five powerhouses this year, all of whom are deserving of their nominations. Josh Brolin ("Milk") has proven himself to be more than the pretty-boy son of another pretty-boy actor, bringing gravitas and power to throwaway roles. Michael Shannon, the lone actor from "Revolutionary Road" to garner a nomination, is arguably that film's emotional and moral anchor, a feat for a man portraying an institutionalized black sheep. Phillip Seymour Hoffman is always a legitimate threat when he's nominated, and his portrayal of Father Brendan in "Doubt" is as solid as ever. And Robert Downey Jr.'s performance in "Tropic Thunder" is nothing short of outrageous — it's a risk-taking move for an actor who rarely settles for the ordinary.

But despite the sentimentality that might come along with this decision, the Academy should choose Heath Ledger on Sunday night. Ledger's performance as the Joker in "The Dark Knight" is a transformative, revolutionary approach to a role that audiences have already seen on the big and small screen. Ledger torments his predecessors, become darker, funnier and more disturbing than most actors dare to let themselves. Ledger would become only the second actor to posthumously win a golden statue, a real testament to his performance.

Please Contact Analise Lipari at alipari@nd.edu.

TOP 10
FILMS OF
2008**SHANE STEINBERG**

Scene Writer

1. "The Wrestler:" An awe-inspiring tour de force of a film, Darren Aronofsky's masterpiece is so deeply penetrating that it becomes a sort of beautiful requiem. Mickey Rourke's performance as an over-the-hill wrestler trying to hold onto the false hope that he can mount a comeback is iconic at the least and deserves placement alongside the great screen performances of all time.

2. "4 Months, 3 Weeks, 2 Days:" This isn't a movie about illegal abortion in the communist bloc. No, it's a surreal, downright horrifying freefall into the confines of human suffering and isolation so washed in unbearable

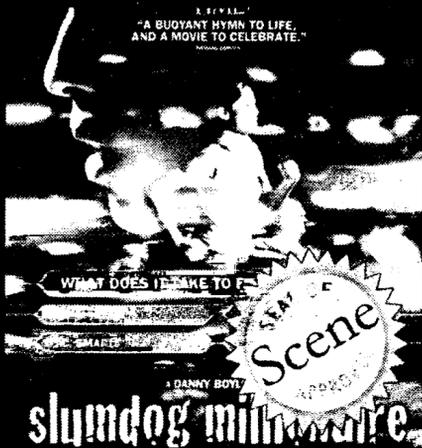
rawness, that at its end, a part of you will wish that you hadn't seen it because of how scarred it leaves you.

3. "Wall-E:" Very little dialogue and a robot with feelings as the main character? No problem. This searing love poem straight from the masterminds at Pixar studios is so heartfelt that its title character has probably become the studio's most beloved, which is saying a lot. This is one of those rare films that even the coldest of hearts can't keep from cheering for.

4. "Waltz With Bashir:" A paradox of a film, this animated documentary about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the 1980's is a marvel in every sense of the word. It will at once tug and tear at your insides forcing you to want to look away in anguish, only to fail because the animation draws you in and doesn't let you escape its

81st Annual Academy Awards

lucky? Well, The Scene is. After a year of cinematic glory, ranging from "The Dark Knight" to lesser-known lovable films like "The Reader," there's a wide variety for viewer's cinematic pleasure. Now, it's professional self-proclaimed movie experts to pick and choose this year's nominees for Oscar winners are...



BEST DIRECTOR: DANNY BOYLE

This year's nominees for achievement in directing are David Fincher for "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button;" Danny Boyle for "Slumdog Millionaire;" Ron Howard for "Frost/Nixon;" Gus Van Sant for "Milk;" and Stephen Daldry for "The Reader." Despite the presence of previous winners in the mix, and Daldry's unique place in Academy Award history (he's been nominated for each of the three films he's directed), the Oscar will go to Boyle. "Slumdog Millionaire" owes its creative, Bollywood-infused style of filmmaking to Boyle, along with the relentless sense of energy that pervades the entire film. In a lesser director's hands, "Slumdog" could have easily fallen into clichés, but Boyle managed to craft a film that does not shy away from harsh realities and yet retains a joyful, uplifting spirit. This movie represents a new style of international filmmaking, completely different from any of the other films nominated in this category in this and in past years, and its director should be recognized for his remarkable achievement. For those who didn't see "Slumdog" and can't understand what the fuss is about, just look at the indications from other award shows so far this year, Boyle has won a Golden Globe, a BAFTA, and an award from the Director's Guild of America. On Sunday night, he will win an Academy Award as well.

Please Contact Ellie Hall at ehall4@nd.edu.



BEST ACTRESS: KATE WINSLET

This is Kate Winslet's year. Twelve years ago her ship sank in the bitter battle for Best Actress, losing to Helen Hunt for "As Good As It Gets." But she picked up from there, creating dead-on performances that led to four more Oscar nods, including the one she has for this year's World War II film "The Reader." She's won for this role twice already, at the Golden Globes and the SAGs, but both gave it to her in the Supporting Actress category. This isn't even her most successful film at the box office this year. That was "Revolutionary Road," her kickback reunion piece with Leonardo DiCaprio.

The dark horse for this category is Anne Hathaway. Long gone are the days of frizzy hair and Disney princess endings. She's nominated for her role as a recovering addict in "Rachel Getting Married," a performance that turned heads and revealed to the world this girl really does have acting chops.

But if Winslet doesn't win, it will most certainly go to Meryl Streep. Always a safe bet. Angelina Jolie, like her co-pilot Brad Pitt, is just a novelty nomination, and Melissa Leo is the Academy's way of proving it tries not to play favorites. Nice try, but this one belongs to Hollywood's proven goddess, Winslet.

Please Contact Stephanie DePrez at sdeprez@nd.edu.



BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS: PELELOPE CRUZ

Penélope Cruz will take home the Oscar her role in "Vicky Cristina Barcelona." With Kate Winslet out of the way (for most awards, she was nominated in this category for "The Reader," but at Academy Awards, this role earned her a Best Actress nomination), Cruz looks like she will be the winner. She has received eight nominations from the major awards circuit and has won five of them for her role as the unstable ex-wife of Javier Bardem's artist. Winslet was easily her main competition. Amy Adams and Taraji P. Henson, although deserving of their nominations, don't seem to be serious contenders for the award. The most likely to keep Cruz from the award are Viola Davis for her brief role in "Doubt" and Marisa Tomei for "The Wrestler." People just love Davis as the mother of a potentially abused boy, and Tomei easily wins Mickey Rourke's heart, and the audience's, as a caring stripper. However, the odds are still in Cruz's favor. She will likely walk away with her first statue for her second nomination. She was previously nominated Best Actress in 2007 for the Spanish-language film "Volver."

Please Contact Maija Gustin at mgustin@nd.edu.

otherworldly allure. In the end, this is powerful filmmaking at its best.

5. "Revolutionary Road:" This is the most underrated film of 2008. Sam Mendes directs Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet in this emotionally wrought, brutally honest drama about the struggle to hold onto one's individualism when it seems as though life is resigning itself only to leave behind a numb existence. There isn't an ounce of happiness in this film, but it works because of how well it's put together and how poignant the end result is.

6. "Let The Right One In:" One of this year's real finds, this foreign gem of a film takes the huge risk of trying to tell the tale of a young vampire girl who unexpectedly falls in love with a socially outcast schoolboy, and surprisingly enough, it works.

7. "The Curious of Benjamin Button:" It's the "Forrest Gump" of 2008, with Brad Pitt showing once again that not only is he a A-list movie star, but a gifted actor. David Fincher's time-driven, wildly imaginative love story may be a bit long and sloppily edited, but overall it succeeds in being what so many other movies try to be but fall short of being — epic.

8. "The Dark Knight:" Undoubtedly the audience favorite of 2008, "The Dark Knight," is one of those once-in-a-blue-moon films that unite both general audiences and critics alike. Although many factors make up the film's success, Heath Ledger's career-defining performance as The Joker is the single reason why "The Dark Knight" manages to be the accomplishment that it is.

9. "Slumdog Millionaire:" A critical darling that has left audiences cheering all across the country, "Slumdog Millionaire" is, in essence, this year's "Juno," or if you want to go one step further, 2006's "Little Miss Sunshine." Only, for some reason, it has succeeded in dominating this awards season. It's a loveable film and a great one at that, but when it really comes down to it, this is probably this year's most overrated film.

10. "Shotgun Stories:" A truly American story of redemption and family rivalry, this small, hardly seen Southern masterpiece is as subtle as they come, which is both its greatest success, and the single greatest obstacle keeping it from being a true Goliath among films.

Please Contact Shane Steinberg at ssteinb2@nd.edu.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Duke rebounds with victory over St. John's

Struggling Xavier falls again to Charlotte 65-60 as Mack scores 12 points in final eight minutes for the young 49ers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Duke was in rare territory for one of college basketball's premier programs over the last few decades. So the ninth-ranked Blue Devils went back to basics to right things for at least one game, a 76-69 victory over St. John's on Thursday night.

"We stopped playing with an edge on defense and that happens and it doesn't take much for it to happen," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said after the Blue Devils snapped a two-game losing streak that was part of them losing four of six. "We just have to find that edge and tonight we were closer to it and Elliott helped in that regard. It was a collective response on the defensive end."

Freshman Elliott Williams, who Krzyzewski said added some "verve" in recent practices, made just his second start of the season and he was the early spark Duke needed on the defensive end, pressuring the ball and improving the team's speed. "I found out I was starting two days ago after a couple of good practices," said Williams, who had a career-high 11 points on 5-for-6 shoot-

ing at Madison Square Garden. "I tried to be a spark for the veteran guys. I tried to think of it as just a game but it was pretty exciting."

Gerald Henderson scored 19 points for the Blue Devils as the starters scored all but four points.

The Blue Devils (21-5) looked more like the team that has spent the entire season in the top 10, including one week at No. 1, hitting 3-pointers and converting turnovers into points.

Jon Scheyer had 18 points, Kyle Singler scored 15 and Lance Thomas added nine for Duke.

"This has been a tough time for us, the last couple of weeks but that's what the Atlantic Coast Conference and the Big East does to its members," Krzyzewski said. "We were knocked back a little bit and we have to recover. This was a big step in the right direction."

The Blue Devils finished 7-for-15 on 3s (46.7 percent), the first time since Jan. 24 they shot better than 33 percent from beyond the arc. They were 3-for-16 in the loss to Boston College on Sunday.

"We weren't in a slump, it's a

game of percentages and they come around," Singler said, sounding like the shooter he is. "We got good shots tonight and we made good shots."

D.J. Kennedy had 20 points for the Red Storm (12-14), who have lost five straight overall and six in a row to Duke. The Blue Devils have won 13 of the last 15 meetings and this win improves their record at Madison Square Garden in the series to 5-1.

With Singler and Scheyer both going 2-for-3 on 3s in the first half and St. John's matching its season average for a game with 14 turnovers, Duke was able to take a lead as big as 32-18 with 4:48 left and the Blue Devils led 37-26 at halftime.

They led by as many as 16 points in the second half, the last time at 60-44 on a jumper by Thomas with 10:09 to play. St. John's closed to 74-69 on two free throws by Malik Boothe with 15.6 seconds to play, but Scheyer made two free throws to seal it.

"We just didn't get some shots down," said St. John's coach Norm Roberts whose team shot 54 percent (27-for-50), its second-best mark of the season. He did explain the turnovers. "Youth and inexperience and trying to make something happen when it's not there."

Henderson said the Blue Devils did take the game as a must-win.

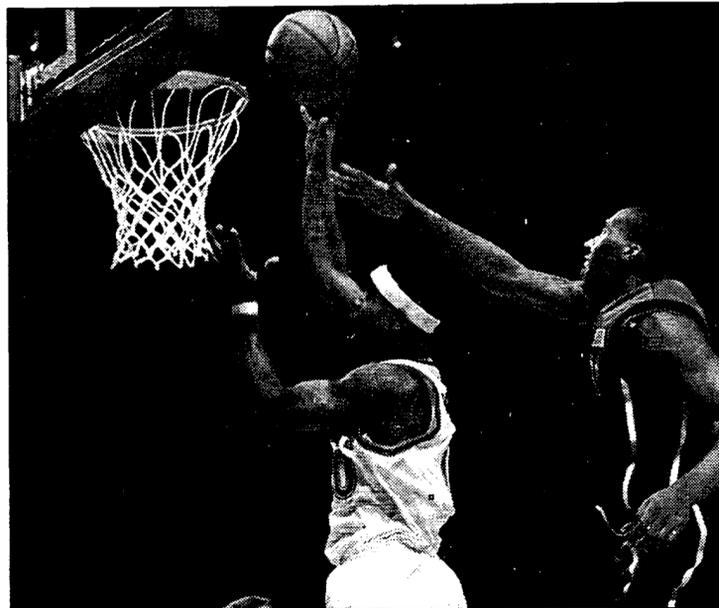
"Absolutely we did. We had lost four of six," he said. "We got a win and that's part of how we want to play. This was a big win for us."

Charlotte 65, No. 16 Xavier 60

No. 16 Xavier's latest loss in its puzzling slide left coach Sean Miller fuming and Charlotte celebrating like old times.

Able to corral its young but raw talent and finally getting top scorer Lamont Mack hot late in the game, the 49ers stunned No. 16 Xavier on Thursday, dropping the struggling Musketeers to second place in the Atlantic 10.

On a night the 49ers retired the jersey of 2005 Conference USA player of the year Eddie Basden, the 49ers (10-15, 4-7) played like the teams that used to contend in that competitive league before realignment, leaving their suffering fans



AP
St. John's guard Quincy Roberts drives over Duke's Jon Scheyer in the Blue Devil's 76-69 win Thursday at Madison Square Garden.

pouring onto the court for a confetti-dropping party.

"This team, I've said it all year, has never quit and never stopped believing, despite all the injuries and adversity that we've had," coach Bobby Lutz said. "It's amazing how hard they work and how much they believe that we can beat anybody we play."

"We also know that we've got a fine margin for error."

It's why they needed the five 3-pointers and 16 points from Ian Andersen and why the tide turned when Mack got out of his funk, scoring all 12 points in the final 8 minutes, including a 3-pointer with 31 seconds left to put Charlotte ahead 62-58.

C.J. Anderson had 13 points and seven rebounds for the Musketeers (21-5, 9-3), who got only nine points from senior B.J. Raymond in their third straight road loss.

Upset with confusion over who should go first in the postgame news conference, Miller declined to come to the podium and released a brief statement after his team slipped a half-game behind Dayton in the A-10.

"They're playing their best basketball of the season right now," Miller said of Charlotte. "We are not playing well right now. We need to fix some things and it needs to start with practice tomorrow."

Xavier, which has had two stints in the top 10, may fall out

of the rankings as it continued its funk that's included losses to Dayton and Duquesne.

In a back-and-forth game with 24 lead changes and 17 ties, Mack scored six consecutive points to put Charlotte ahead 56-53. A minute later Andersen hit an off-balance 3 from the right wing to give Charlotte a 59-55 lead with 2:21 left.

Xavier got within 59-58 on Anderson's driving layup with 49 seconds left before Mack's 3 sent the Halton Arena crowd into a frenzy.

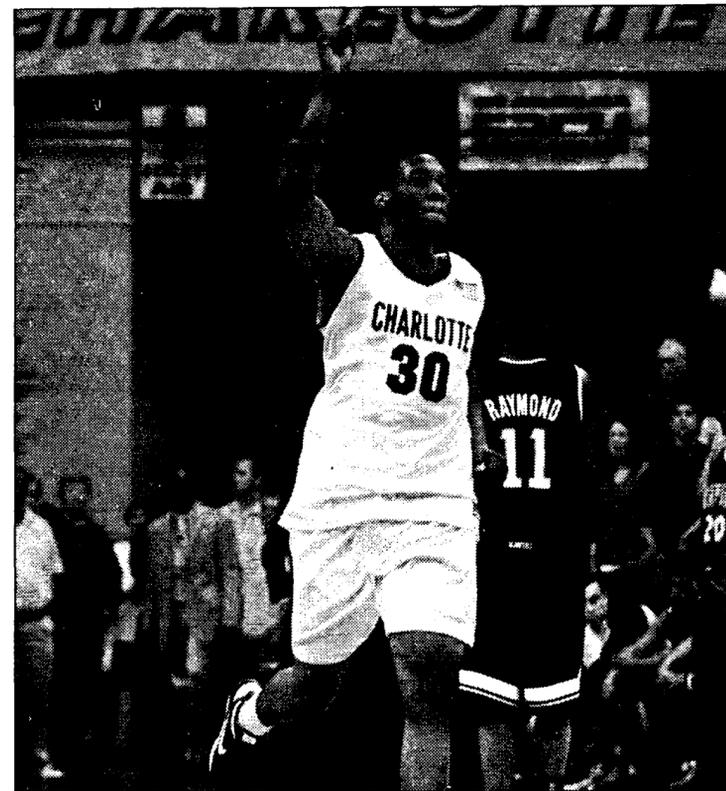
An'Juan Wilderness, who scored 15 points, iced it by going 3-for-4 from the foul line in the final 11 seconds.

"It was great. I love the atmosphere," Wilderness said. "I can't even put it into words right now."

Xavier cruised to a 22-point home win over Charlotte last month behind a 20-rebound advantage. But, the 49ers were without Wilderness, who was since returned from a stress fracture in his foot.

Despite its poor record, the athletic if not polished 49ers entered having won four of their past five home games, including a win over now-No. 25 Dayton just before the Flyers knocked off Xavier.

And while Xavier controlled the inside, it struggled to keep up with Charlotte's frenzied pace behind point guard DiJuan Harris.



AP
Charlotte forward Phil Jones reacts Thursday after upsetting No. 16 Xavier 65-60 in Charlotte.

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.

LOST & FOUND

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PERSONAL

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? Do not go it alone. We have many resources in place to assist you. If you or someone you love needs confidential support or assistance, please call Sr. Sue Dunn at 1-7819 or Ann Firth at 1-2685. For more information, visit NDs Assistance for Pregnant Students/Office of Student Affairs website at: osa.nd.edu/health-safety/assistance-for-pregnant-students. If you or someone you care about has been sexually assaulted, visit Support Services for Victims of Rape & Assault at: http://osa.nd.edu/health-safety/assault/

If you boat a lot you are known as a boating enthusiast. I like to bowl, but I just don't ever want to be referred to as a bowling enthusiast.

I hope they call me a guy that likes to bowl.

I went to a record store, they said they specialized in hard-to-find records. Nothing was alphabetized.

I don't have any children but if I had a baby I would have to name it so I'd buy a "baby naming book". Or I would invite somebody over who had a cast on.

I order the club sandwich all the time, but I'm not even a member, man. I don't know how I get away with it.

AROUND THE NATION

Friday, February 20, 2009

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 17

Fila ITA Division I Men's Tennis Rankings

team	points	previous
1 Ohio St.	25	1
2 Texas	24	2
3 Georgia	23	3
4 UCLA	22	4
5 Virginia	21	5
6 Southern California	20	6
7 Florida	19	7
8 Tennessee	18	8
9 Mississippi	17	9
10 Baylor	16	10
11 Stanford	15	11
12 Tulsa	14	12
13 Illinois	13	13
14 Texas A&M	12	15
15 LSU	11	16
16 Florida St.	10	17
17 Oklahoma St.	9	18
18 Michigan	8	14
19 Alabama	7	19
20 Pepperdine	6	20
21 Wake Forest	5	21
22 North Carolina	4	22
23 Miami (Fla.)	3	23
24 California	2	24
25 NOTRE DAME	1	25

ITA Division I Women's Tennis Rankings

team	points	previous
1 Northwestern	25	1
2 California	24	2
3 UCLA	26	3
4 Baylor	22	4
5 Stanford	21	5
6 Georgia	20	6
7 Georgia Tech	19	8
8 Duke	18	9
9 Southern California	17	10
9 Florida	16	7
11 North Carolina	15	17
12 Clemson	14	11
13 Fresno St.	13	12
14 NOTRE DAME	12	14
15 Miami (Fla.)	11	13
16 Vanderbilt	10	15
17 Arkansas	9	16
18 Michigan	8	18
19 Arizona St.	7	19
20 Kentucky	6	20
21 TCU	5	21
22 Tennessee	4	22
23 LSU	3	23
24 William & Mary	2	24
25 Texas A&M	1	NR

Men's USFCA College Fencing Coaches' Poll

team	points	previous
1 NOTRE DAME	10	1
2 Penn St.	9	1
3 Ohio St.	8	3
4 Penn	7	6
5 Columbia	6	4
6 Princeton	5	5
7 St. John's (N.Y.)	4	9
8 Duke	3	10
9 Harvard	2	7
10 Stanford	1	8

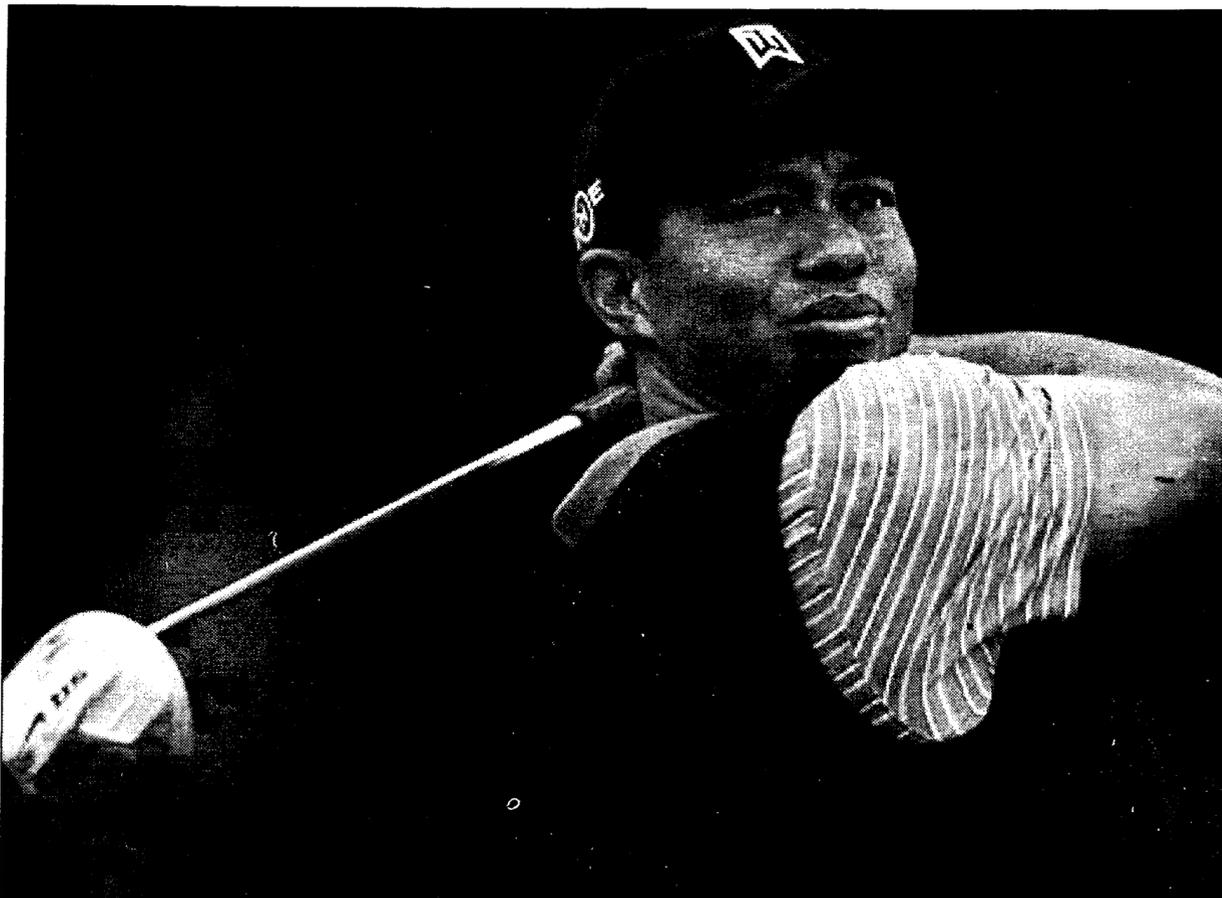
around the dial

NBA

Dallas at Houston
8:00 p.m., ESPN

New Orleans at L.A. Lakers
10:30 p.m., ESPN

PGA



Tiger Woods watches a drive during a practice round at last year's U.S. Open. Woods announced that he will return to PGA Tour competition after an eight-month hiatus by defending his title in the Accenture Match Play Championships next week.

Woods to return after knee surgery

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Eight months after winning the U.S. Open on one good leg, a healthy Tiger Woods is returning to golf.

Woods said on his Web site Thursday that he will defend his title next week in the Accenture Match Play Championship, believing his reconstructed left knee and his game are good enough to win.

"I'm now ready to play again," Woods said.

The Match Play Championship in Tucson, Ariz., begins Wednesday.

Players whom Woods has beaten so often while compiling 65 victories were

happy to hear he was coming back.

"He was ready to go weeks ago," Stuart Appleby said at Riviera. "I don't think he needs to do a couple of laps around the track. He'll be on that horse and he'll be whipping it."

The timing for Woods to end his 254-day break from competition could not be better for the PGA Tour, which has seen television ratings plunge after the world's No. 1 player had to miss the second half of the season, including two majors, the Ryder Cup and the FedEx Cup playoffs.

"We are delighted that Tiger is returning to competition and look forward to

watching him compete next week," commissioner Tim Finchem said in a statement.

The last shot Woods hit for real was a short par putt on the 91st hole of the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines, where he defeated Rocco Mediate in a playoff to capture his 14th major, which Woods described as "probably the best ever" under the circumstances.

He had surgery after the Masters last year to repair cartilage damage in his left knee, and suffered a double stress fracture in his left leg while preparing for his return.

He limped badly over the final few days of the U.S. Open, later saying the

swelling was so bad at night that he couldn't see his knee cap. A week after winning, he had reconstructive surgery, the third operation on his left knee in five years.

What to expect?

"He's human," swing coach Hank Haney said. "He has played one tournament in 10 months. I would think he would be a little rusty, but I really don't know what to expect. Nothing with Tiger ever surprises me."

Woods began hitting short irons toward the end of December, and friends such as Mark O'Meara and John Cook said he had been playing plenty of golf over the last few weeks at his home course in Florida.

IN BRIEF

Spurs Ginobili out 2-3 weeks with ankle injury

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Manu Ginobili started the season dealing with an injury to one ankle. Now the San Antonio Spurs super-sub is sidelined because of the other one.

Coach Gregg Popovich said Thursday before the Spurs played in Detroit that Ginobili is expected to be sidelined for 2-3 weeks.

"It's a stress reaction, not a stress fracture, which is important," Popovich said. "If it had been a stress fracture, there's no way he could have been playing, and certainly not as well as he has been."

Ginobili had X-rays, an MRI and a CT scan, and Popovich said the results were encouraging.

"The new bone is already starting to lay down, which means the healing process is underway," he said. "We're thinking that it will be 2-3 more weeks from tonight."

Rodriguez refuses to speak further on steroid claims

TAMPA, Fla. — Alex Rodriguez ducked follow-up questions about his drug use, refusing to address a report identifying the Yankees star claims injected him with a banned substance.

"I'm not talking about it anymore," Rodriguez said Thursday.

The slugger also wouldn't discuss Major League Baseball's attempt to interview him about his tainted past.

"I'd rather not get into that," he said.

The three-time AL MVP met with Yankees owner George Steinbrenner and worked out on the main field at New York's spring training camp. Fans applauded and shouted encouragement, and critical shouts were at a minimum.

"The relief was just putting the uniform back on and running out there with my teammates," Rodriguez said. "No matter what happens and what has occurred in my life, the baseball field is where I feel most comfortable."

Guard Alston traded from Rockets to Magic at deadline

HOUSTON — The Houston Rockets traded point guard Rafer Alston to Orlando and acquired Magic forward Brian Cook and Memphis guard Kyle Lowry on Thursday, two people with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press.

Memphis also received the Magic's first-round draft pick as part of the deal, said the people, who requested anonymity because the trade had not been announced by any of the teams.

The three-team swap came one day after Rockets star Tracy McGrady announced on his Web site that he'll have season-ending microfracture surgery on his troublesome left knee.

The Magic, meanwhile, needed an experienced point guard after Jameer Nelson suffered a potentially season-ending shoulder injury Feb. 2.

NCAA FOOTBALL

Leach agrees to new contract with Texas Tech

Associated Press

LUBBOCK, Texas — Texas Tech and coach Mike Leach agreed Thursday on a new contract after months of contentious negotiations.

Leach signed the contract shortly after he and Kent Hance, the university's chancellor, met for about two hours Thursday afternoon to hammer out an agreement. Hance said the negotiating part lasted only about 15 minutes.

"Me and my family are thrilled to death that we're going to be in Lubbock for another five years," Leach said at an evening news conference. "I appreciate Chancellor Hance and Gerald (Myers') efforts to allow us to stay here and the opportunity to be here to coach the Red Raiders for many years to come."

Weeks ago, Leach and Tech essentially settled on the financial terms of a five-year, \$12.7 million deal. But Leach took issue with several clauses the school added when the sides were trading proposals. The provision that bothered Leach the most would have triggered his firing and a \$1.5 million penalty if he interviewed for another job without getting permission from Myers, the athletic director. Leach's existing contract had no such restriction.

He had prepared to keep coaching under the remaining two years of a five-year, \$10 million contract.

In the new contract that keeps Leach at Tech through 2013, Leach only needs to notify Myers in writing to interview at another school.

The contract also includes a \$250,000 bonus if Leach and Tech win the national championship, a \$75,000 bonus if Tech participates in a BCS Bowl and a \$50,000 bonus if Leach is picked as national coach of the year.

If Tech terminates the contract, the school must pay Leach \$400,000 for each year remaining on the agreement. And there is no buyout amount.

Hance said he is confident in Leach will stick around for many years.

"We'll just make that zero on the buyout," Hance said, recalling his conversation with Leach earlier in the day. "I know he's not leaving."

Myers said he has always wanted Leach to be Tech's coach.

"I think that got lost with all the rhetoric and speculation," Myers said. "To put it mildly this has been a tough negotiation, and it's good to get it behind us."

On Tuesday, the school's Board of Regents scheduled a special meeting hours before a second deadline passed without Leach accepting Tech's "last and final" offer. The board planned to meet Friday but that meeting was canceled once the deal was sealed.

The meeting was to have been in private to discuss Leach's status, but the coach requested a



Texas Tech coach Mike Leach, center, watches from the sidelines as the Red Raiders play against Kansas on Oct. 25, 2008. Leach agreed to a new five-year contract Thursday.

public hearing late Wednesday. Under state law, the board had to grant his request. Leach then met with Hance to discuss his contract.

The termination clause that led to the stalemate had been added after Leach flew to Seattle to interview for the Washington job in December. Myers wrote to Leach's agents that he didn't want the coach interviewing elsewhere, then returning to Lubbock

without commenting to reporters. He said he didn't want to unreasonably withhold permission for Leach to talk to other schools, just that he wanted to know when Leach was doing it.

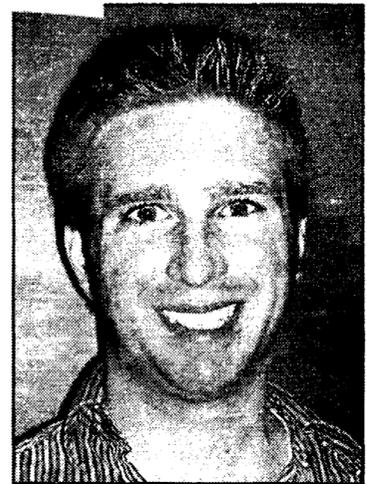
In their ninth season under Leach, the Red Raiders reached unprecedented heights in 2008. They went 10-0 for the first time and beat top-ranked Texas to secure the highest ranking in school history at No. 2. Texas

Tech was knocked out of BCS contention with a blowout loss to Oklahoma, then fell to Mississippi in the Cotton Bowl to finish 11-2.

Public opinion seemed to favor Leach as the drama unfolded. A few dozen supporters rallied on his behalf Tuesday, the day before a Texas Tech alumnus and another fan took out a full-page ad in the Lubbock newspaper blasting the Texas Tech administration for its stance.

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Andy is one of fourteen Churchill Scholars, and the first Churchill Scholar from Notre Dame since the program began in 1963. He will study for the Certificate of Advanced Studies in Pure Mathematics at the University of Cambridge where he will pursue his interests in algebraic and differential geometry and algebraic topology.

A Goldwater Scholar, Andy has participated in two National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates, and he is the recipient of the Balles Award for the outstanding senior mathematics major, the Taliaferro Prize for first place in the mathematical essay competition for sophomores, and the Aumann Prize for first year students in mathematics. In addition to his mathematical interests, Andy has a deep passion for music: he plays percussion, saxophone, oboe, English horn, and piano. He is a member of the Marching Band (Drum Captain), the Symphonic Winds Ensemble (saxophone section leader), the Orchestra (oboist) and the Chorale. After Cambridge, Andy plans to do his PhD in theoretical Mathematics in the United States.

The Churchill Scholarship encourages the exchange of knowledge and the sharing of ideas in science and technology between the US and Great Britain. This program enables outstanding American students to do graduate work in engineering, mathematics and the physical and natural sciences at Churchill College, Cambridge University.

See <http://winstonchurchillfoundation.org/> and the Office of Undergraduate and Post-Baccalaureate Fellowships (www.nd.edu/~fellows) for more information on the Churchill Scholarship.



ND SOFTBALL

Irish travel to Nike Invitational

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will head west this weekend to take on another top team.

The Irish (1-3) began their season Feb. 13 with a 10-1 loss against top-ranked Alabama in the Bama Bash. Today, the team will begin the three-day Nike Invitational in Palo Alto, Cal., with games against the Sacramento State Bandits and the No. 5 Stanford Cardinal.

On Saturday, the Irish will take on Sacramento State and Stanford again. The team will finish the weekend by facing the Western Kentucky Lady Toppers on Sunday morning.

Though the beginning of the

season did not go Notre Dame's way, several bright spots shone through.

In a 2-1 win over East Carolina on Feb. 14, sophomore Katie Fleury hit a home run and a single, tallying both RBI. Sophomore Sadie Pitzenberger also had two hits in the game.

The two lead the Irish with batting averages of .364 and .444, respectively.

Senior pitcher Brittany Bargar also got off to a strong start. In 13.2 innings at the Bama Bash, she compiled a 2.56 ERA with 12 strikeouts.

Bargar will have her hands full with Stanford (8-1). The Cardinal has already defeated several ranked teams and averages 8.6 runs per game. Their offense has been sparked by freshman Ashley

Hansen, who leads the team with a .531 batting average and two home runs.

Stanford's top pitcher, senior Missy Penna, is 6-1 with a 1.02 ERA in seven starts. She has struck out 68 batters and walked only eight in 41 innings.

The Irish take on Stanford today and Saturday at 5:30 p.m. both nights.

Sacramento State (2-0) has not played as much as Stanford, but already shows signs of offensive prowess. The Bandits hit five home runs in their two wins over Pacific, three of which came from the bat of senior Jamie Schloredt.

Notre Dame will play Sacramento State today at 1:00 p.m. and Saturday at 7:45 p.m.

Western Kentucky (5-2) comes to Palo Alto following a successful campaign at the Auburn Invitational, which ended with a 13-0 victory over Eastern Kentucky.

After that performance, Toppers junior Lindsay Antone was named co-Sun Belt Conference Player of the Week. Antone hit for a .637 batting average in three games with two doubles and 5 RBI. She leads the team with a .480 overall batting average.

The Irish do not face the Lady Toppers until Sunday, and will play them at 12:00 p.m.

Contact Laura Myers at lmyers2@nd.edu

TRACK & FIELD

Top athletes travel to Big East finale

By DOUG FARMER
Sports Writer

From the first days of fall practice, the Irish coaches have focused the team on this weekend.

"Where we really want to run is the Big East championships," coach Jow Piane said from the start. After each meet along the way, he repeatedly said, "This was just one small to getting the team ready for the Big East."

Those long-awaited Big East Championships have finally arrived. The team departed for New York City on Thursday for the competition this weekend.

A couple of athletes lead each the men's and women's squads across the country. For the men, senior Bill Buzaid will compete in the 500-meter dash. Patrick Smyth will race in both the 3,000 and the 5,000, and Dan Clark will do his part in the mile, a notoriously difficult Big East event.

"The mile is a bear. There are two guys seeded under four minutes," head coach Joe Piane said. "Distance running has always been pretty darn good in the Big East."

As for the women, the dominating field events duo of seniors Anna Weber and Mary Saxer expect to headline the women's performances. Weber hopes to place in both the shot put and the weight throw, while Saxer will try to keep her incredible pole vault season rolling.

The deep underclassmen hope to follow the seniors' examples. In the mile, freshman Jordan Carlson will join Clark, while joining Buzaid in the middle-distance events are

both freshmen Jordan Rincon and junior Balazs Molnar running the 400, and junior Jack Howard will represent Notre Dame in the 800.

Sophomore Justin Schneider finished second in the multi-events as a freshman, and will have a chance to improve on that this weekend, with strong Irish participation throughout the field events supporting him. The Schipper brothers, Matt, a junior, and Kevin, a freshman, have already qualified for the NCAA Championships, and will pole vault this weekend as well. Meanwhile, Eric Quick is jumping in both the triple and long jumps.

All the competitors face strong competition at the Big East championships. The stiffest opposition will come from Connecticut and Louisville, as both are anticipated to fight for the first and second team places in both the men's and women's results.

"People don't understand how good the Big East Conference is in track and field," Piane said. "Historically, the Big East is terrific in track and field."

"Year in and year out, track may be the best sport the Big East has. Now, this year basketball may be, but year in and year out, track or cross country is the most competitive sport the conference has."

That sport will have a chance to live up to its billing this weekend in the Big Apple. Most of the finals are scheduled for Sunday, but the long jump, the weight throw, the pole vault, the 5,000, and the distance medley will conclude Saturday.

"People don't understand how good the Big East Conference is in track and field."

Joe Piane
Irish coach

Contact Doug Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu

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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

No. 11 Irish face off against No. 1 Wildcats

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame's campaign for a championship continues as it opens its home season this weekend as it hosts the No. 1 Northwestern Wildcats Friday and the Ohio State Buckeyes Sunday.

The No. 11 Irish have met with the Wildcats nine times in their 13 seasons — the Wildcats hold a 7-2 edge in the series. Last year, Northwestern ended Notre Dame's season with a 15-7 win in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

Against the Buckeyes, the Irish hold a 7-6 edge in the two teams' history, going 3-4 at home. In their last meeting, Notre Dame took the game 14-11.

Notre Dame is coming into this game 1-0 after a 22-7 win last weekend at Duquesne in its season opener. Ten different Irish players scored in the game, led by junior Gina Scioscia and sophomore Shaylyn Blaney, each with four goals.

All 13 of Notre Dame's seasons have been coached by head coach Tracy Coyne, who is in her 22nd season of coaching after two at Denison, where she was 23-5, and seven at Roanoke with a 91-21 record. Coyne led Denison and Roanoke to a combined six Div. III NCAA tournament appearances. In the past seven years, Notre Dame has advanced to the NCAA tournament four times, including a first-time appear-

ance in the finals in 2006.

Leading the Irish this season are senior captains Shannon Burke and Jillian Byers, both preseason all-Big East selections. Burke is key to Notre Dame's defense, coming out of last season with eight goals and three assists, second on the team for ground balls (33) and draw controls (51), and led the team in caused turnovers (52).

Byers has been a unanimous selection on the all-Big East team her last three seasons, and a three-time second team All-American. Last season, she led the Irish with 67 goals, 14 assists for 81 points, and a school record of 52 draw controls. She holds the Notre Dame record as the all-time leader in goals with 182, is seventh in assists, and third in points.

Both the Wildcats and Buckeyes will have to be wary of another Irish senior this season, goalkeeper Erin Goodman. Goodman has made 37 consecutive starts since the beginning of the 2007 season, and has a career 24 wins, the most recent being at Duquesne. Last season she had single-season records of 172 saves and played over 1,100 minutes. She is third for the Irish with career saves of 316. Thought you would enjoy this one.

Notre Dame goes up against Northwestern Friday at 7 p.m. in the Loftus Sports Center, and Ohio State Sunday, 1 p.m. also at home.

Contact Meaghan Veselik at
mvesel01@saintmarys.edu

NFL

Panthers sign All-Pro Gross

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The Carolina Panthers placed the franchise tag on Julius Peppers Thursday, setting up a potential nasty showdown with their four-time Pro Bowl defensive end who wants to play elsewhere next season.

The move came moments after the Panthers signed All-Pro left tackle Jordan Gross to a six-year deal worth more than \$30 million in the first three seasons. Having locked up Gross, the Panthers then placed the non-exclusive tag on Peppers, who had said he would request a trade under that scenario.

"Julius was expecting to be franchised," Peppers' agent, Carl Carey, wrote in a text message. "We will continue to work toward a resolution that is in line with his professional goals."

Under the non-exclusive franchise tag rules, Carolina offered Peppers a one-year guaranteed deal worth \$16.7 million that will immediately count against the salary cap. While Peppers can still solicit offers from other teams, any club signing Peppers would have to surrender two first-round draft picks to Carolina.

Placing the tag on Peppers theoretically allows the Panthers to trade him for something less than two first-rounders and get some compensation instead of letting the cornerstone of their defense walk away in free agency. But Peppers has power because no team would likely trade for him without first securing a long-term con-

tract agreement.

A person close to Peppers on Wednesday said he would agree to be traded to only four teams, including the Dallas Cowboys, who do not hold a first-round pick. So the Panthers face the prospect of not being able to work out a trade and then having Peppers either hold out or be disgruntled while eating up a giant portion of the salary cap.

But while Peppers has been adamant that he won't sign a long-term deal with Carolina, general manager Marty Hurney wouldn't rule out Peppers returning and said the team will not immediately seek a trade.

"We've said many times how many times we value Julius," Hurney said. "We would like him to play here."

NFL teams can place the franchise tag on just one player, so the Panthers were scrambling to come to terms with Gross before the Thursday afternoon deadline.

Carolina's first-round pick in 2003 played last season under the franchise tag in a one-year, \$7.45 million deal. His new contract makes him one of the NFL's highest-paid offensive linemen.

"Jordan is one of the top left tackles in our league and our offensive line was one of our strong points of our team last year," Hurney said. "Jordan's a very big part of that. ... We're so glad we were able to come to an agreement and be able to have Jordan here for another six years."

Gross, who made his first Pro Bowl and was voted a first-team All-Pro last season,

had said he wanted to stay in Carolina and was the key cog in an improved offensive line that helped running backs DeAngelo Williams and Jonathan Stewart have breakout seasons.

The moves mean that all five starters on the line are locked up in long-term deals. The defensive line, meanwhile, is in flux — and Gross' contract allowed the Panthers to play hardball with Peppers.

"He actually texted me congratulations after I signed and said you deserve it," Gross said of Peppers in a brief phone interview Thursday night. "I think it was much easier on the team dealing with him."

Peppers, the No. 2 overall pick in the 2002 draft, is a freakish athlete and Carolina's career sacks leader. But Peppers has also been criticized for inconsistent play — he had a career-high 14½ sacks this past season, but a career-low 2½ the year before.

Even in 2008, Peppers didn't record a single tackle against Denver and was shut down in Arizona's upset loss to Carolina in the playoffs.

Peppers, who turned down a lucrative contract extension before the start of last season, has said he would like to play outside linebacker in a 3-4 defense instead of staying in Carolina's 4-3 alignment.

There is precedent to slapping the franchise tag on a player and then dealing him. Kansas City traded defensive end Jared Allen to Minnesota last year for a first-round pick and two third-round choices.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Freshman Zeller returns from injury for North Carolina

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Tyler Zeller couldn't pass up a chance to play a meaningful role in North Carolina's run at another national championship.

The 7-foot freshman broke his wrist two games into the season, but instead sitting out and picking up another year of eligibility, 26 games into the Tar Heels' season Zeller played in his third college contest Wednesday.

The 2008 Indiana Mr. Basketball from Washington High School grabbed 8 minutes in North Carolina's 89-80 victory over in-state rival North Carolina State.

"It is one of those things where I am losing half a season, but I know at the same time, these are my teammates," Zeller said. "I've got to help support them if I can help them in any way. ... I feel like I'm obligated, just because they have been great to me the whole time I have been injured."

"As I come back ... if there's anything I can do to help them out, to help them get to their goal of winning a national championship, then I will help."

It wasn't long ago that North Carolina took another hit when two other players were ruled out for the remainder of the season. The Tar Heels (24-2,

10-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) regained a measure of their once unruined depth with the earlier-than-expected return of

Zeller.

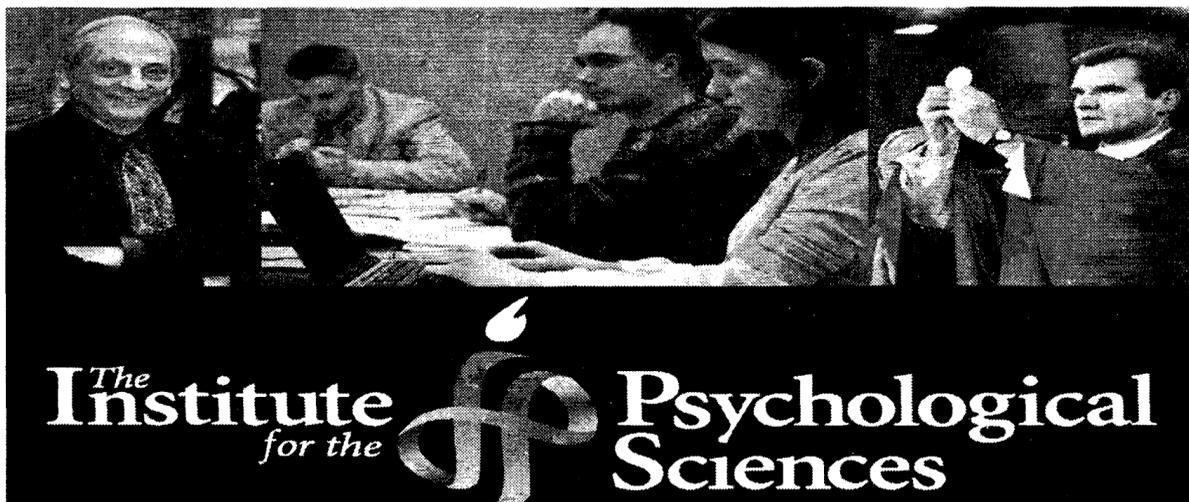
Zeller started the season as the emergency replacement for then-injured star Tyler

Hansbrough, but he broke his left wrist late in the second game of the year.

Team officials said at the time

his season was likely over because the injury had a normal recovery period of 12-to-16 weeks.

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MLB

Glavine agrees to one year deal with Braves

Associated Press

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — Tom Glavine has returned to the Atlanta Braves for one more season, reaching a preliminary agreement on a \$1 million, one-year contract.

The deal is likely to be announced Friday, a person familiar with the negotiations said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the Braves had not yet confirmed it. It will contain \$3.5 million in bonuses based on roster time.

"It's very close," Braves spokesman Brad Hainje said Thursday night. "They're going to talk again in the morning."

The left-hander, who turns 43 next month, was 2-4 with a 5.54 ERA in 13 starts last season, cut short by an elbow injury. Glavine's partially torn elbow tendon was repaired on Aug. 21 by Dr. James Andrews, who also cleaned up Glavine's shoulder.

A 305-game winner, Glavine spent his first 16 major league seasons with the Braves, winning the NL Cy Young Award in 1991 and 1998.

The 10-time All-Star pitched for the Mets from 2003-07 and earned his 300th win with New York in 2007 before returning to Atlanta for the 2008 season, when he made \$8 million.

Glavine would earn a \$1 million bonus when he is placed on the active roster and \$1.25 million each for 30 and 90 days on the active roster. The Braves have the ability to defer the \$2.5 million from the final two levels. He is not expected to report to

spring training until about March 1, instead continuing his rehab program in the Atlanta area.

The deal with Glavine will be a welcome bit of news in the Braves' camp, still reeling from Ken Griffey Jr.'s decision to sign with the Seattle Mariners.

The 39-year-old Griffey had approached the Braves last week, expressing a desire to finish his career in Atlanta, but apparently had a change of heart. He informed the Braves late Wednesday he was returning to the city where he played his first 11 big league seasons.

Glavine will likely serve as Atlanta's fifth starter behind Derek Lowe, Jair Jurrjens, Javier Vazquez and Kenshin Kawakami. The lefty will have some extra time to rehab his elbow and shoulder, since the Braves won't need a fifth starter until April 19 because of days off.

"It would be great to get Tommy back," manager Bobby Cox said. "It's always better to have one more option."

Glavine's return will likely ensure that top prospect Tommy Hanson gets a little more seasoning in the minors. The 22-year-old right-hander has never pitched above Double-A, and the Braves would like him to get at least a half-season at their top farm club.

"There's no question he will benefit from more time in the minor leagues," general manager Frank Wren said. "He will continue to develop and grow from his experiences."

MEN'S TENNIS

Irish net fifth straight win

By CHRIS MICHALSKI
Sports Writer

With a come-from-behind singles victory by freshman Niall Fitzgerald, No. 25 Notre Dame knocked off previously undefeated Northwestern University yesterday with a hard-fought 4-3 victory. The win marks the fifth straight Irish victory, bringing their overall record to 6-4.

The match began with Steven Havens and Casey Watt falling to Northwestern's Alex Sanborn and Joshua Graves 8-2 in second doubles. The 13th-ranked doubles team of Brett Helgeson and Tyler Davis then won first doubles followed by a third doubles win by Niall Fitzgerald and Matt Johnson. The win gave Notre Dame a 1-

0 lead early in the meet.

Freshman Casey Watt tacked on a second point with a win at fourth singles. Northwestern's Joshua Graves kept it close, winning No. 6 singles over Notre Dame's freshman Samuel Keeton.

The teams went back and forth once more with No. 122 Daniel Stahl winning at third singles followed by a three-set Northwestern win at second singles. No. 18 Brett Helgeson then ended his personal three-match singles win streak by dropping a three-set match to the Wildcats' Marc Dwyer.

With the score deadlocked at three, Niall Fitzgerald pulled through and ensured the victory for the Irish. After dropping the first set 1-6, Fitzgerald came back to win the second

and third sets 6-2 and 7-5, respectively. The win is his third straight at singles.

The schedule does not get any easier for the Irish as they next to travel to Columbus to face Ohio State. The No. 3 Buckeyes are currently 9-1 and coming off a victory over UCLA. The Buckeyes have a number of skilled tennis players. Their top-three have all been ranked in the top-five in the country at some point in their careers. It will be a major challenge for the Irish, as coach Bobby Bayliss considers them the "odds-on favorite to win this year's NCAA tournament."

First serve is noon on Sunday.

Contact Chris Michalski at jmichal@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish set to take on BYU, Utah

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

Fresh off a 7-0 thrashing of in-state rival Purdue Wednesday, the Irish will travel cross-country to take on Brigham Young and Utah in a dual-match road trip this weekend in Provo, Utah.

No. 14 Notre Dame is currently 7-1 on the season, including six victories over ranked opponents. The Irish's only loss came against top-ranked Northwestern in the

semifinals of last weekend's ITA Indoor National championships.

Freshman Shannon Mathews has led the Irish so far this season notching a 6-0 record at the No. 6 singles spot. Mathews' 3-0 record at the Indoor National championship tournament resulted in her being named to the All-Tournament team. She becomes the first Irish player to receive this honor.

"Shannon has come up with big wins for us this season," Irish coach Jay Louderback said. "She's really been able to build on her success as the season has progressed."

Louderback has been very pleased with his team's performance so far.

"I feel really good about where we are right now," he said. "At this point, I believe we can compete with any team in the country."

Even with two early victories over top-five teams Baylor and Stanford, Louderback is still looking for

his team to continue improving with every match.

"We have plenty of tough matches in the next few weeks and winning some close ones against top-five teams has definitely helped our confidence," he said. "But we have some things that we have to improve on to do well at the end of the year."

As for this stretch of matches that will give the Irish a bit of a break after facing three top-five teams in a row, Louderback won't be taking the weaker opponents any lighter.

"Doing well last weekend puts a bigger target on your back," he acknowledged. "So we really have to be ready for every team we play."

After this weekend's long road trip, the Irish will return home for a three-game stretch at the Eck Tennis Pavilion starting with

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Anonymous Student, Survivor of Sexual Assault

All are welcome and the dinner is free,
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MEN'S SWIMMING

Tourney finishes Saturday

Lytle and Hoffman set records on Thursday

By MIKE GOTIMER
Sports Writer

At the halfway point of the 2009 Big East Conference Championships, Notre Dame finds itself in a familiar position, leading the field with 296 points after two days of competition.

The Irish followed up their strong performance on Wednesday as two Notre Dame records fell on the day. In the consolation round of the 50-yard freestyle, Irish junior Andrew Hoffman recorded a time of 20.39, graduate 2005 Notre Dame student Frank Krakowski's record by .06 seconds. Krakowski had originally set the record during the 2002-03 season, making it Notre Dame's longest standing record.

However, Hoffman's record wouldn't last, as junior John Lytle bested his classmate one

heat later in the event final with a time of 20.05. Lytle's performance was good enough for fifth place in the event, as Cincinnati's Josh Schneider held onto first place after breaking the Big East record in the morning session with a time of 19.17.

Lytle and Hoffman later teamed up to form the front half of Notre Dame's 200-yard freestyle relay team to further cement their status in the Irish record books. The Irish sprinters teamed with sophomore Joshua Nosal and senior Danny Lutkus to break the Irish record with a time of 1:19.42, which was good for second place and an NCAA B-cut time.

Arguably, the most impressive Irish performance of the day came in the 500-yard freestyle, as a dominant performance in the preliminaries put six Notre Dame swimmers into the event finals. Sophomore Steven Brus won his first career conference title in the event with a time of 4:23.99, which earned him an NCAA B-cut time. Fellow

sophomore Michael Sullivan finished in second place to garner all-conference honors while senior Jeff Wood finished fourth. Juniors Jeff Wood and Andrew Deters finished fifth and sixth, respectively, while Lutkus scored for the Irish in the eighth spot. In the consolation final, Nosal led the event for the first 400 yards but was overtaken by Connecticut's John Hogan in the final 100 to finish in second place.

In other action, senior Bill Bauman finished third in the consolation finals of the 200-yard individual medley after a strong surge in a time of 1:50.63, the team's best of the season.

Heading into the final two days of competition, Notre Dame leads Louisville by 25 points. The Irish will look to extend that lead on Friday, when the Big East Championships resume at the Indiana University Natatorium in Indianapolis at 10 a.m.

Contact Mike Gotimer at
mgotimer@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Irish in good shape to win lucky number 13

Miller sets school record in 50-yard freestyle

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

Coming into the second day of competition of their Big East Championship title defense, Notre Dame was in good shape.

The No. 25 Irish were in led the field with 80 points, 12 ahead of second-place No. 23 Louisville.

Shaking off the jitters from the first day, Notre Dame continued to increase its lead over the Cardinals and the rest of the field Thursday with 200 points to bring its overall score to 289. Louisville held onto second with 242.5 points.

Irish sophomore Amywren Miller had a record-breaking performance in the 50-meter freestyle. Her time of 22.37 made her the fastest swimmer in Notre Dame history, but couldn't earn her a win. She was out-touched by one one-hundredth of a second by Louisville junior Whitney Campbell.

Sophomore Lauren Sylvester topped the day off well for the Irish with a third place finish in the first race of day — the 500 freestyle. She finished with a time of 4:50.32.

Junior Megan Farrell and

freshman Emily Barton placed next for the Notre Dame in the 200 individual medley. Farrell came in second and Barton finished less than a second behind her for third. The Cardinals once again took first place in the race. Notre Dame's Ashlee Edgell finished just outside of the top three with a time of 2:01.77.

The Irish divers dominated the 1-meter springboard, with junior Natalie Stitt and sophomore Heidi Grossman grabbing the top two spots with scores of 290.15 and 268.05, respectively.

In the freestyle of the day, the 200 freestyle relay team snagged second in 1:31.01, just shy of Louisville's winning mark.

Under the direction of first-year head coach Brian Barnes, the young Irish squad will continue their quest for a record-extending 13th consecutive Big East Championship. Barnes is used to winning after spending three seasons as an assistant at perennial powerhouse Auburn University.

The meet will conclude Saturday.

Contact Alex Barker at
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2/24-26 Resource Tables from 11:30 to 1:30pm in LaFortune
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2/25 Committee on Sexual Assault Prevention (CSAP) Student Forum

7:00 pm in Reckers Hospitality Room

2/27 "A Time to Heal" Dinner with Faculty and Student Speakers

Carolyn Nordstrom Professor of Anthropology

John Cavadini Department Chair and Professor of Theology

Kyle A.C. Rocca Survivor of sexual assault

Tim Latham President of Men Against Violence

Anonymous Student Survivor of sexual assault

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3/1 SAAW Sunday featuring petitions, ribbons and
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SEXUAL
ASSAULT
AWARENESS WEEK

Boards

continued from page 28

could end up being a metaphor for Notre Dame's season. Despite many chances to get its season back on track, Notre Dame keeps letting them slip away and is in grave danger of missing the NCAA Tournament for the first time in three seasons.

Saturday's game at Providence (16-10, 8-6) represents one of Notre Dame's final chance to keep its Tournament hopes alive and prevent the metaphor from being complete for now.

A win over the Friars would keep a 9-9 conference record a realistic goal for Notre Dame's Big East slate. On the rest of their schedule, the Irish have four home games, the most challenging coming against No. 14 Villanova on March 2. After Providence, Notre Dame has one road game left on its schedule when it travels to No. 1 Connecticut on Feb. 28. That's a good thing for Notre Dame, who has been abysmal on the road this season. The Irish have a grand total of two road wins

this season — against 2-25 Loyola Marymount and 8-18 DePaul — hardly wins they can brag about.

Assuming a loss at Connecticut, Notre Dame could get in the NCAA Tournament with a .500 Big East record. Last season, both Syracuse and Villanova finished 9-9 in conference play and faced each other in the first round of the Big East tournament. In a virtual play-in game for the Big Dance, the Wildcats won, and played on in March, while Syracuse was relegated to the NIT for the second straight season.

But this scenario would likely require Notre Dame to overcome its road woes and beat the Friars Saturday.

Providence, who sits in sixth place has done what Notre Dame has failed to do this season — beat the middle of the pack teams in the Big East. Its biggest win came against Syracuse, and it has a record of 8-2 against teams below it in the standings. Providence returns many players from last season, when it took Notre Dame into overtime at the Joyce Center before falling 81-74. Guard Weyinmi Efejuku, who averages, 13.7 points per game, is its leading scorer. But if Notre Dame wants to remedy its rebounding problems from Wednesday, when West Virginia out-hustled Notre Dame to a 44-32 victory on the boards, it

will likely have to keep a body on Geoff McDermott, who's averaging eight points and 8.88 rebounds per game this season. In Notre Dame's win last season over Providence, McDermott nearly had a triple-double, scoring 10 points, grabbing eight rebounds and dishing out eight assists.

Even with Notre Dame's numbers, forward Luke Harangody continues to put up player of the year numbers, averaging 24.4 points per game and 12.7 rebounds. But down the stretch Wednesday, the rest of Notre Dame's offense disappeared. Notre Dame had 28 points in the second half against West Virginia — Harangody had 16 of them.

Notre Dame will also need to play the defense that it played in home wins over Louisville and South Florida last week, when it allowed just 57 points in each contest. But a requirement for good defense is good rebounding, something that Notre Dame needs to improve for Saturday, or it could end up disappointed on selection Sunday.

The game will start at 12 p.m. and will be broadcast on ESPN Full Court.

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

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu.

Despite many chances to get its season back on track, Notre Dame keeps letting them slip away and is in grave danger of missing the NCAA Tournament...

Huskies

continued from page 28

its season rests largely on the hands of sophomore forward Maya Moore. In her freshman season she was named the Big East player of the year, the first time a freshman player garnered the award on the women's or men's side. She is one of the most well-rounded players in the country.

"She's an amazing player," McGraw said. "She's somebody that you enjoy watching because she's a hard worker, she's a really great kid. She's just a great person and I think everybody likes her. And when you watch her play you just have to kind of smile and when you watch her play other teams, it's fun to watch. I'm not sure I'm going to enjoy it as much on Sunday. But there's so many things she can do. She can control the game at both ends of the floor, she's a great defender. She can score in so many different ways and she's just pretty unstoppable."

But the Irish have their own sophomore who's starting to come into her own. Forward Becca Bruszewski had 20 points over South Florida and five defensive boards. McGraw

said Bruszewski deserves all the credit for her improvement.

"We've played her at a lot of different spots, she's got a lot of versatility. She can play on the perimeter or inside. She's having a lot of fun the way she's playing right now and I think that for her that's when she plays at her best. We're not looking for her, we're not running plays for her, she's just creating her own shot right now and playing within the framework of the offense," McGraw said.

Even though Bruszewski has been making field goals, the rest of the Irish haven't been as consistent. And against the Huskies they can't afford to make those mistakes. So McGraw said if the Irish will strive for one thing against the Huskies it's a boost in their defensive game.

"Because we have times where we don't shoot the ball particularly well, we have times where we will go four or five minutes without a field goal. We've had those kind of droughts, so we really need to pick it up on the defensive end," McGraw said.

The Irish will look to put a dent defensively in Moore and the Huskies Sunday at 2 p.m.

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

"[Moore] can control the game at both ends of the floor, she's a great defender. She can score in so many different ways and she's just pretty unstoppable."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

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Opener

continued from page 28

expected to switch to short-stop this season after starting at second base for three years. He hit .307 with eight home runs and 50 RBIs last year and was named a second-team all-Big East player.

Two Irish football players will also help lead the baseball team this season. Senior Evan Sharpley led the team in home runs with 13 last year, and he is expected to start at first base. Sophomore Golden Tate started only nine games last year but is expected to start in left field.

Junior outfielder A.J. Pollock was named to the preseason honor roll by Baseball America. Pollock started all 55 games last season and hit .352 with four home runs and 42 RBIs.

Sophomore catcher Matt Scioscia, son of former major leaguer and current manager of the L.A. Angels of Anaheim Mike Scioscia, is expected to split time this spring with sophomore Cam McConnell. Both will have to fill the gap left by Sean Gaston, the fifth-year senior and tri-captain who graduated this spring. Gaston batted .301 and com-

mitted just nine errors in his four-year playing career.

Baseball America also predicted that Notre Dame would make the NCAA Tournament as a No. 4 seed and finish second in the Big East. The Big East coaches picked the Irish to finish third in the conference. Notre Dame went 16-10 in the Big East last season. The Irish lost three straight games to South Florida to end the regular season, then lost another to USF and one to West Virginia to exit the tournament.

Notre Dame lost six players to the MLB draft last year: Kyle Weiland, David Phelps, Wade Korpi, Brent Graffy, Sam Elam and Brett Lilley.

Eight freshmen joined the Irish this season, five of them pitchers. Dustin Ipsas, a right-hander from Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., went 3-0 with two saves and an 0.77 ERA in conference action in high school. Steve Sabatino, a lefty from Lockport, Ill., had a 1.79 ERA his junior season at Lockport Township High School. He had 57 strikeouts in 47 innings, an average of 10.9 strikeouts per nine innings, and also hit .327.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu



Irish coach Dave Schrage is confident in his young team in his third season as Notre Dame's skipper.

VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

PSU

continued from page 28

Sophomore Chris Hogan netted four goals for the Nittany Lions, but the Colonials racked up a .414 shooting percentage from the field.

Penn State received significant contributions in the opener from a pair of freshmen. Redshirt attack Jack Forster tallied a goal and three assists, and true freshman Matthew Mackrides had an assist and two goals. Penn State finished 7-7 in 2008, with a 2-5 record

in conference play.

The Irish received some good news Thursday, as Hoff was named to the Tewaaron Trophy watch list. The trophy is presented annually to the most outstanding player in college lacrosse.

Hoff is fifth all-time in goals for Notre Dame with 105 in his career. He became the first player in program history to

record back to back 40 goal seasons after scoring 41 last year, barely eclipsing his mark of 40 from his sophomore year.

"We just turned everything up a notch."

Scott Rodgers
Irish senior

The Irish and Nittany Lions will face off at 1 p.m. Sunday at Holuba Hall. Notre Dame will then open at home Feb.

28 against Dartmouth.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

UNO

continued from page 28

Irish coach Jeff Jackson said while he'd like the league crown for seeding purposes, he didn't want his team to get hung up on it.

"I'm not going to put a ton of emphasis on winning the conference championship because there's a lot more to play for after the fact," Jackson said.

First, Notre Dame will need to take care of business against the Mavericks, who currently sit in sixth place in the conference with 26 points. Recently, though, Mike Kemp's squad has struggled, going winless since Jan. 9.

The Mavericks are led by their power-play unit, which ranks fourth in the CCHA with a 15.2 percent efficiency. Irish captain Erik Condra, though, was confident in his team's ability to step up defensively.

"Northern [Michigan] had a great power play coming in here and our penalty kill stepped up and did the job," he said. "And I think that's what we need to do this weekend."

Early in the season,

Nebraska-Omaha had one of the most explosive offenses in the country, and notched several impressive wins, including an 8-3 non-conference thrashing of No. 7 Yale on Dec. 29.

"They've got good depth offensively," Jackson said. "I'm afraid of them right now because they haven't scored a lot of goals in the last month, and that's hurt them, but they have the potential to break out at any time."

"We play a more simple game on the road."

Erik Condra
Irish captain

Notre Dame has played the role of road warrior all season, currently sporting an 11-2-1 record away from the Joyce Center this season. Prior to a Feb. 8 loss at Ohio State, the Irish hadn't lost on the road since a season-opening defeat to Denver.

"The big thing about playing on the road is momentum," Jackson said. "And you control

the momentum by what you do with the puck, not taking bad penalties, not giving up odd-man rushes."

"I'm not going to put a ton of emphasis on winning the conference championship because there's a lot more to play for after the fact."

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach

Condra echoed his coach on the importance of controlling the pace of play away from home.

"We play more of a simple game on the road," the senior center said. "We don't want the other teams crowding it in and getting momentum."

Last weekend against Northern Michigan, Notre Dame took leads of 3-0 and 4-0, but allowed the Wildcats to cut the scores to 3-3 and 4-2. Though the Irish won both games, Jackson acknowledged that they struggled to put the game out of reach. Condra was confident the same would not happen this weekend.

"I think it's all mental," he said. "And we realized that and we talked about it. Once we get on teams we need to stay on them."

If the Irish do stay on the Mavericks this weekend, it's possible that fans could see a new banner hanging in the Joyce Center soon. Condra, though, said that the team wouldn't rely on the RedHawks faltering to get their league title.

"We know we need five points to win the league," he said. "And we'll just take care of it ourselves."

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

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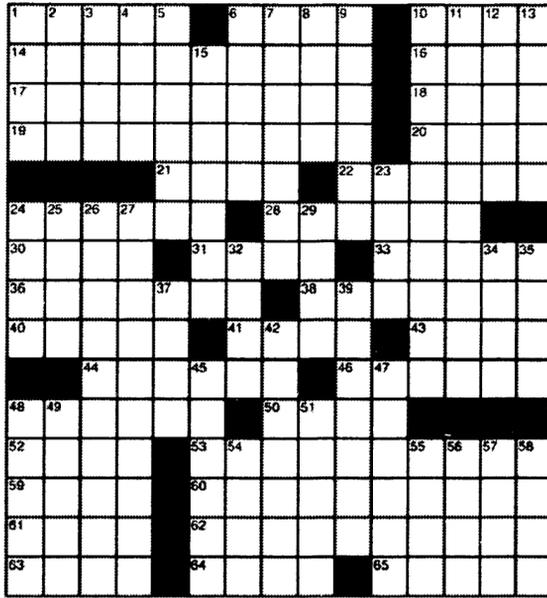
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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
- 1 Romp
 - 6 Scotch flavorer
 - 10 Soprano ____ Huang
 - 14 A raise may raise it
 - 16 Novel about its author's experiences on Tahiti
 - 17 When many shots are taken
 - 18 ____ snuff
 - 19 Not letting go
 - 20 Many a Kirkuk native
 - 21 Some livestock
 - 22 Regatta setting
 - 24 "A Writer's Life" writer, 2006
 - 28 Some singing villains
 - 30 PBS station with a transmitter on the Empire State Building
 - 31 Spin cycles?
 - 33 Upland inhabitant
 - 36 Response to "I have a question for you"
 - 38 Tinseltown is part of it
 - 40 Cul-____
 - 41 He fought Robin on an episode of "Batman"
 - 43 "An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals" philosopher
 - 44 Since
 - 46 Genre of Austin Powers films
 - 48 Reno's county
 - 50 Break
 - 52 Michigan's ____ College
 - 53 Arnold
 - 59 Somewhat dense
 - 60 Match point?
- Down**
- 1 Steward's domain
 - 2 Poet who wrote "Hope springs eternal in the human breast"
 - 3 Penitent
 - 4 Birds with "meat cleaver" bills
 - 5 "The Two ____" (Martha Finley children's book)
 - 6 Run on
 - 7 Passes gingerly
 - 8 Greatly
 - 9 Addition column
 - 10 Unnamed individual
 - 11 Many an item at a checkout line
 - 12 Our counterpart in France?
 - 13 Small perk
 - 15 Reply to "Have you got that in stock?"
 - 23 Brand named after the pronunciation of its parent company's initials
 - 24 Flat
 - 25 Huber of women's tennis
 - 26 "Keep it simple"
 - 61 Government largesse
 - 62 It requires spin control
 - 63 ____-Ball
 - 64 See 48-Down
 - 65 Ringer of some necks

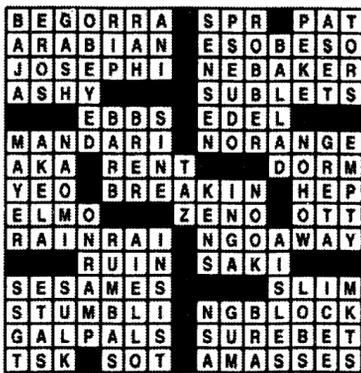


Puzzle by Mike Nothnagel

- 27 Oscar nominee for "Training Day," 2001
- 29 Kind of ed.
- 32 Aleutian island
- 34 Torch site
- 35 Israel's Weizman
- 37 Prefix with -pod
- 39 Béchamel sauce ingredient
- 42 Adapts
- 45 Confines
- 47 Leak
- 48 With 64-Across, sight under the eaves, at times
- 49 Perfectly good
- 51 Not just jitters
- 54 Force through a sieve
- 55 Is in Spain?
- 56 Sluggers' stats
- 57 ____ fil (wireless, in Paris)
- 58 Conclusion lead-in

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Molly Ringwald, 41; Dr. Dre, 44; Matt Dillon, 45; John Travolta, 55

Happy Birthday: Not everyone has as innovative and original a mind as you. Open up your ideas and plans. You are the one to make reforms and to standardize what's going on in your community. Your numbers are 4, 10, 18, 24, 29, 43, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Promote love and good times. The encounters you have had with different people you've helped out will be honored now, so do not hesitate to ask for help or to share your plans. An unexpected surprise will cause alterations. ★★ ★★ ★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It's no one's business what you are doing with whom and, by being vocal, you will invite opposition. Don't make promises without knowing what you will get in return. A professional change will be dependent on the decisions you make now. ★★ ★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make the changes that will help you get ahead. You can be a leader who makes a difference so don't hold back. If someone questions you, address that person and continue confidently down the path you have chosen. ★★ ★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You may have to be more creative with your money but that doesn't mean you should invest in one fast-cash scheme. Don't fear trying something new or pushing for advancement. Utilize your skills to the fullest. ★★ ★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You have what it takes to sway people to think the same way you do. If you can form a group, you will be a driving force, accomplishing what you set out to do. A partnership could unravel your plans. ★★ ★★ ★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep your emotions out of your decision-making if you don't want to make a mistake. Hard work, lots of detail and not letting others meddle will determine the outcome of whatever you are trying to achieve. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You have positioned yourself well so don't let anyone cause you to question your choices. A unique approach to life, love and creativity will bring others to your side, giving you the strength to follow through with your plans. ★★ ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Criticism will discourage you and can be avoided if you are diligent and perfect what you are pursuing. It's not worth the risk of losing the confidence of someone who can help you in the future. ★★ ★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You have to take action based on what you feel is right, not what someone else is telling you. Have faith in who you are and what you can do. An imaginative approach to some of your old projects can turn things around drastically now. ★★ ★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Taking chances is for amateurs who don't know how to play the game. You can stay in control by keeping things as stable, simple and safe as possible. Change will come when the time is right. ★★ ★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will build strength of character by pursuing things that are good for you -- like a fitness regime and healthy diet. Learning will lead to a whole new world of prosperity and increased self-esteem. Show confidence in all that you do. ★★ ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It's time to venture into talks with someone who can contribute to what you are working on. A past partnership that was shaky or ended on bad terms needs to be reestablished in order to finish what you began. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, kind and willing to help the underdog. You are a thinker and a doer. You are unafraid to venture into unfamiliar territory.

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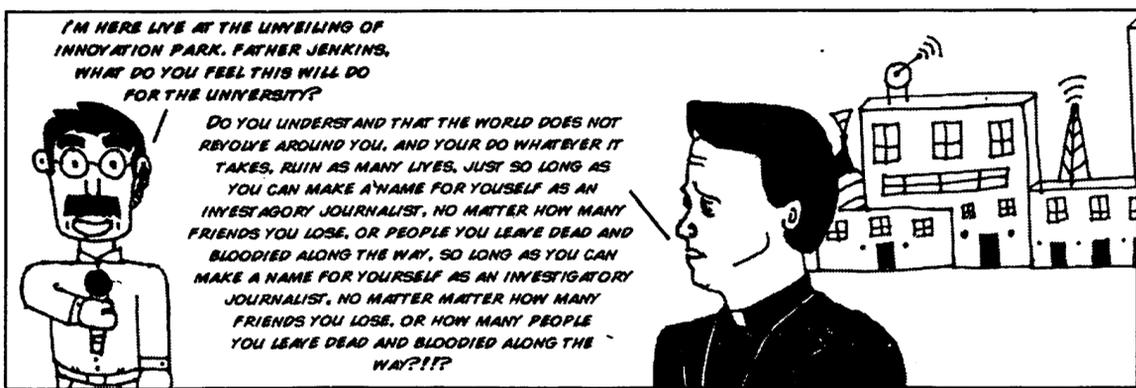
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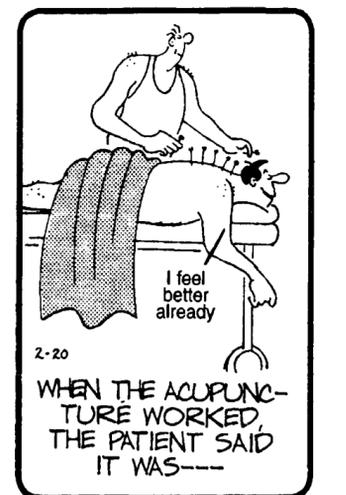
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A: A

(Answers tomorrow)

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Answer: Can be heard at a snooty garden party — "FLOWERY" TALK



THE OBSERVER

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BASEBALL

Batter up!

Irish kickoff season in Florida this weekend

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

Notre Dame can escape the snow this weekend when it heads to Florida to play Ohio State, Illinois and Purdue in the inaugural Big East/Big Ten Challenge.

The Irish, who were 33-21-1 last season, send righty Brian Dupra to the mound in the first game, against the Buckeyes, tonight at 7:30. Dupra was 3-3 with a 5.44 ERA last season. Notre Dame faces the Illini Saturday and the Boilermakers Sunday.

The tournament, which features eight Big East teams and 10 Big Ten squads, starts a 15-game stretch away from home for the Irish. Their first home game comes on St. Patrick's Day, March 17 against Ball State.

Senior Jeremy Barnes is
see OPENER/page 25



Notre Dame junior outfielder A.J. Pollock and the Irish kick off the 2009 season this weekend in Florida. Pollock was recently named to Baseball America's Preseason Honor Roll.

VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

MEN'S BASKETBALL
COMMENTARY

Team gets beat on the boards

By CHRIS HINE
Editor-in-Chief

Early in the second half of Notre Dame's 79-68 loss to West Virginia Wednesday, Mountaineers guard Darryl Bryant missed a 3-pointer.

It seemed like a good defensive stop for Notre Dame until West Virginia grabbed the offensive rebound. And then another. And then another. And then another.

On West Virginia's fifth shot of the possession, Mountaineers forward Da'Sean Butler finally put Notre Dame (14-11, 5-8 Big East) out of its misery by hitting a jumper in the lane. Most teams struggle when they allow second-chance points, it's no surprise a team that allows fifth-chance points would lose.

In many ways, that possession

see BOARDS/page 24

MEN'S LACROSSE

Notre Dame hopes to hand out frowns in Happy Valley

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will try to ruin Penn State's home opener this weekend, as it travels to Happy Valley to face the Nittany Lions on Sunday.

The No. 8 Irish (1-0) come to town after winning their season opener last weekend over

Loyola in dramatic fashion. Senior attack Ryan Hoff scored with 5:29 remaining to give Notre Dame a 10-9 win over No. 17 Loyola in Atlanta.

"If our offense keeps playing the way they have, I think it will be hard for any defense in the country to stop them," senior defenseman Regis McDermott said.

Junior Grant Krebs led the

Irish offense with three goals and one assist. Junior Neal Hicks also netted three goals in a return to his native area. Senior goaltender Scott Rodgers had several key saves down the stretch in his first collegiate start.

Rodgers said the team had stepped up its effort and performance in the offseason.

"We just turned everything up

a notch," Rodgers said. "Our lifts, our conditioning and individuals were insane this fall and winter."

For the Irish to be successful, the Irish have to improve their performance on faceoffs. The team lost 16-of-22 against the Greyhounds. The Nittany Lions led the Eastern College Athletic Conference in faceoff percentage last season.

Notre Dame is 11-4 all-time against Penn State, and has won six straight games in the series. The Irish defeated the Nittany Lions 15-9 last year in South Bend.

Penn State dropped their opening match last weekend against Robert Morris, losing 12-11 in double overtime.

see PSU/page 25

HOCKEY

Banner hangs in the balance

Wins over UNO can clinch conference title

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

The No. 2 Irish hit the road again this weekend with a chance to clinch the regular season CCHA Championship in two games with Nebraska-Omaha.

Any combination of five points between Notre Dame and Miami (Ohio) will give the Irish the league title over the second-place RedHawks. Notre Dame currently holds a four-point lead with each team having four games to play, but Miami (Ohio) has the tie-breaker thanks to its two-game sweep of the Irish on Oct. 24 and 25.

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Notre Dame junior Kevin Deeth stops on a dime during a 5-2 Irish win over Northern Michigan last weekend in the JACC.

WU YUE/The Observer

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish take momentum into UConn territory

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Assistant Managing Editor

Winning on the road against South Florida was a huge confidence booster for the Irish, but Connecticut has had wins like that game after game. That's why the Huskies are the No. 1 team in the nation.

Irish coach Muffet McGraw said the Irish are up for the challenge. The trip to Connecticut is always one the team looks forward to, and with Connecticut fans that treat basketball like Notre Dame does football, the Irish women know they'll be respected no matter what the outcome.

"We always like playing there because the crowd is always so great. They have a lot of energy and it really is an

educated crowd. They cheer for good basketball and certainly their seeing a lot of it the way Connecticut has been playing all year. They're an outstanding team," McGraw said.

Coming off a huge 86-79 win over South Florida Tuesday, the Irish know they can play with teams at the top of the Big East. But Connecticut is a different story. The Huskies nipped off South Florida 83-37 in January and defeated Louisville 93-65 later that month. The smallest margin of victory for the Huskies was 11 points in their 82-71 win over Georgia Tech back in November.

One of the main reasons Connecticut has been able to win so definitively throughout

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