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Schmidt-Weber administration begins term

Leaders outline 'big four' initiatives for 2009-2010

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Editor

Student body vice president Grant Schmidt said four initiatives — which he called “the big four” — will be his prime focus as he assumes the position of student body president today.

Taxi reform, cheaper textbook options, an online syllabus database and changes in the class registration system are first on the to-do list, he said.

“We would like to have a way for students to prepay for cab rides,” Schmidt said. “That way, students wouldn't have to worry about carrying cash all the time or be confused with rates.”

Cynthia Weber, who took the posi-

see SCHMIDT/page 4



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Bob Reish, left, presides over his final Council of Representatives meeting Tuesday. As of today, Grant Schmidt, right, is the student body president.

Reish reflects on this year's accomplishments

By JOHN TIERNEY
Assistant News Editor

Outgoing student body president Bob Reish worked on major initiatives until his final day in office Wednesday, and he believes diligence characterized his administration.

“We're working on this Symposium, which is the last possible weekend I could have done something,” Reish said in an interview Thursday.

“There wasn't a time I was complacent in this position,” he said.

Reish and outgoing vice president Grant Schmidt are also proud that their administration let students know they were accomplishing things that mattered to students.

“Student government has always

see REISH//page 4

Refugees give lecture at College

By JESSICA ROBBINS
News Writer

A small group of Saint Mary's students and faculty from across the country learned about life from four very special refugees Monday night in the Stapleton Lounge in LeMans Hall.

Janice Pilarski, coordinator of the Justice Education Program, introduced Jasminka Giezenaar, Joseph Bukassa, Jean Baptiste Cyusa and Ghada Kalid to share their personal and very emotional experiences to help celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the Declaration of Rights during a lecture titled “Speaking Truth to Power.”

Giezenaar, originally from Bosnia, has been in the United States for 10 years and her road here has not been easy, she said. Her story started in the 1990s over religious wars in Bosnia.

Gizenarr, whose married parents were of different religions, said, “If you were not Orthodox, you were practically told to move out because you were a minority.”

The Red Cross helped her and her family over the Bosnian border to a neighboring nation. From there, her family moved to Germany

see REFUGEE/page 6

Hoffman, Griffin take SGA office at College

Pair plan to alleviate tension by being more transparent, create open forums for students

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
Saint Mary's Editor

Student body president and rising senior Jenny Hoffman and student body vice president and rising junior Meg Griffin begin their term today for the 2009-2010 academic year.

There has been a rift between student government and the student body after the stipend dispute in the fall semester. However, Hoffman said transparency is their main goal for the term.

“I feel like our theme this year is transparency. In the sense

that, our main goals should be the main priorities of our students,” Hoffman said. “In that way, I think it will alleviate tension that has been felt in the past.”

Griffin also added she hopes to make Student Government Association (SGA) more approachable by the students. She said she hopes to do this by creating open forums for people to voice their concerns.

“We are part of the student body. We are not here to accomplish the goals we are interested in, we are here for the student body,” Griffin said.

see TURNOVER/page 4



JESS LEE/The Observer

Student body vice president Meg Griffin and student body president Jenny Hoffman will take office as of today.

Students pledge to stop using the 'R-word'



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Junior Tiffany Olier was one of the students who signed the pledge to end the use of the 'R-word.'

By IRENA ZAJICKOVA
News Writer

Yesterday, the University participated in an “End the R-Word Day” event, the goal of which was to collect pledges from Notre Dame students to end their derogatory use of the word “retarded.”

Student volunteers manned booths at the LaFortune Student Center as well as both dining halls to encourage students to sign pledge banners that read: “As a member of the Notre Dame community, I pledge to end my pejorative use of the word ‘retarded.’”

Soeren Palumbo, a sophomore at Notre Dame who brought the event to campus, said that the main goal of the event is to call the University's student body to take a stand against hate speech.

“Once someone sits down and thinks about the prejudice and hatred that the word embodies, they will realize that to these people and these people's families, this word is really a form of hate speech,” Palumbo said. “Disabled people have been a target of mockery and dehumanization for the entirety of human history.”

see PLEDGE/page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

Last Firsts

I think my real last first hit me last night. Bookstore basketball, not just for drunk freshman anymore.

Regardless, "senioritis" has hit me hard. Standing in the pouring rain, actually physical, athletic domination in the pouring rain, made me realize my time here is almost up. And it's not just Bookstore. Everyday for most seniors is a realization that it's time to move on; reality is just a few steps away. But Notre Dame is a place that allows seniors to revel in their final moments: Bookstore Basketball is just one of those moments.

Last night my best friends since the first day I stepped on this campus showed our athletic prowess; was it pretty, of course! We faced the No. 6 ranked team, and did we dominate? Is that even a legitimate question? Of course we dominated, the score however may reflect otherwise. I think that the thing I fear the most is today's date. Sure it's April 1, April Fool's Day, the Absurder is released upon the world, big woop. April 1 signals the last full month for seniors on this campus. Raise your hand if you aren't ready for graduation. I'm guessing that 99.9 percent of my class isn't ready to see May 17 knock on their door.



Deirdre Krasula

Senior Staff Writer

So for those who may have dominated their final Bookstore game, but failed to advance to the next round of Bookstore, here's a few "lasts" I encourage you to partake in:

1: Skip a few classes, come on you know you aren't really paying attention anyway.
2: If you live off campus, return home, your Home under the Dome that is. Pay a trip back to where you grew up — be it where you first got in trouble or where you figured out who you were. Your Notre Dame dorm is home, nothing else will replace it.

3. Unemployed; who cares? Welcome to the world of 2009. We're graduating in a world nearly as bad, if not comparable to our grandparents. 2009, may well be the beginning of the next Great Depression, but don't take my word for it. Last week, I (a finance and English major) took a little survey for Mendoza College asking if I was employed. The answer: NO. But that's because I'm pursuing a "professional" job, like that of an actor or singer. Do I have the talent? You bet I do! Realistically, I measure my talent as a journalist, not exactly Mendoza's standards. But the percentage of business majors unemployed this year is incomparable to previous years.

The point is, graduation is about 50 days away. Have you figured out your life? If you have, congratulations. The rest of us haven't. Just enjoy these last few days. Revel in the friends you still have from freshman year — KR, Hannah, Megan, Becki, VyVy, Bilek, Jac — I love you to death. It's these people who will define our four years here (if you were lucky enough to make it out.) The memories you made in the past aren't likely to fade, they'll just repeat themselves.

Don't forget how you started your life here, it's most likely how you will end it.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

An article in the March 31 edition of The Observer titled "Multicultural clubs must publicize," incorrectly stated that multicultural clubs were not publicizing enough. The article should have said University funded programs for Multicultural & International students need to be publicized to students. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT BOOKSTORE BASKETBALL?



Becki Dorner

senior Badin

"Sideline Grinding."



VyVy Le

senior Badin

"Jamal the Leprechaun."



Katie Rose Hackney

senior Badin

"The ensembles."



Megan Veith

senior Badin

"Bad decisions."

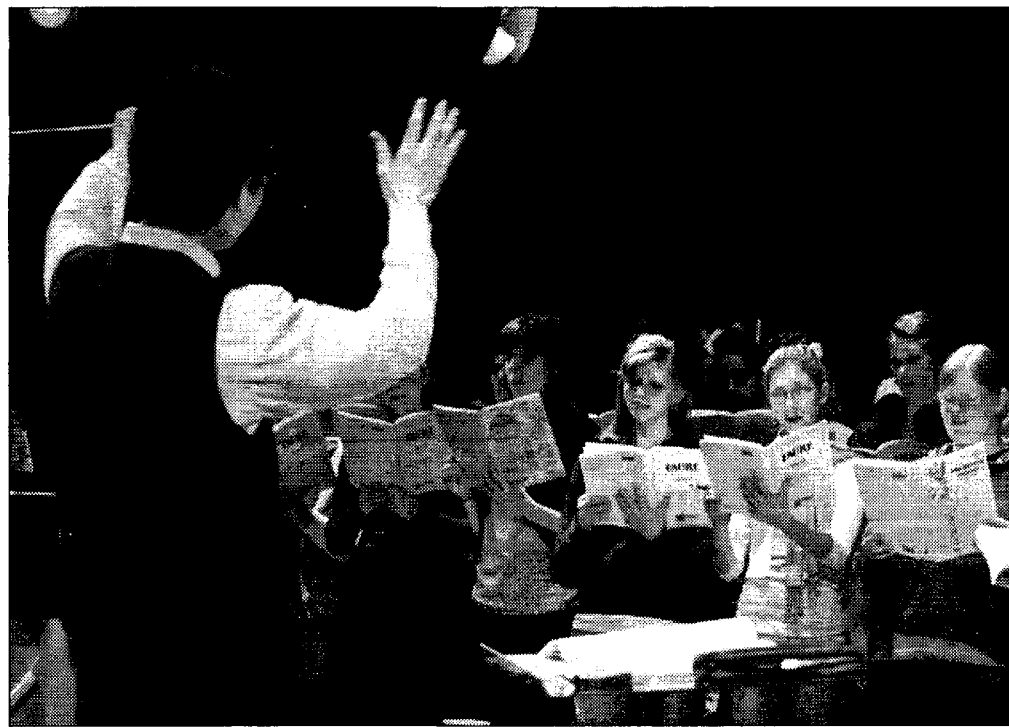


Hannah Duffy

senior Badin

"The amazing people."

Have an idea for Question of the Day? E-mail observer.questions@gmail.com



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Maestro Tsung Yeh of the South Bend Symphony Orchestra conducts the Notre Dame Chorale and the Bethel College Choir during rehearsal in the Leighton Concert Hall on Tuesday night. The two choirs and the South Bend Symphony Orchestra are teaming up for an upcoming concert at the Morris Performing Arts Center on April 4.

OFFBEAT

Man charged with drunk driving after crashing bar stool

NEWARK, Ohio — Authorities in Ohio say a man has been charged with drunken driving after crashing his motorized bar stool. Police in Newark, 30 miles east of Columbus, say when they responded to a report of a crash with injuries on March 4, they found a man who had wrecked a bar stool powered by a deconstructed lawn mower.

28-year-old Kile Wygle was hospitalized for minor injuries. Police say he was charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated

after he told an officer at the hospital that he had consumed 15 beers. Wygle told police his motorized bar stool can go up to 38 mph.

Wygle has pleaded not guilty and has requested a jury trial.

Jobless gather in NYC for 'Unemployment Olympics'

NEW YORK — Who hasn't secretly wished they could pin the blame on their boss? Or slam office equipment against the pavement? Dozens of unemployed people got the chance to do exactly that during the homespun, tongue-in-cheek

Unemployment Olympics at Manhattan's Tompkins Square Park on Tuesday.

In a twist on the classic game Pin the Tail on the Donkey, participants pulled a hat over their eyes and spun around before using a pushpin to attempt to Pin the Blame on the Boss.

Competitors also played a game of Office-Phone Skee Ball.

Nick McGlynn attended. He was laid off in November and said he's thrilled to have an activity to fill part of his day.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The play "Our Town," by Thornton Wilder will be shown today through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in Decio Mainstage Theatre of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The play was first published and produced in 1938, and depicts life in Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, transforming the simple events of everyday existence into universal truths. Regular ticket prices: \$15 general public; \$12 senior/ND faculty/staff; \$10 students.

Pig Roast in Paradise, sponsored by Breen-Phillips Hall will take place today on North Quad from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Free food and drinks for students.

Cavanaugh Hall will host Dance-a-Thon 2009 tomorrow from 7 p.m. to midnight in the LaFortune Ballroom. Buy raffle tickets now for \$1 each or 12 for \$10 at North or South Dining Hall during dinner and potentially win prizes. Proceeds benefit St. Margaret's House and Healing Mercies.

Dr. Richard Wolff, professor emeritus, University of Massachusetts, Amherst will give a lecture entitled "Capitalism Hits the Fan: A Marxian Perspective of the Crisis" from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. tomorrow in DeBartolo Room 141.

The annual Student Peace Conference will be held this Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Hesburgh Center. Its theme this year is "Perspectives on Peace." Admission is free, but registration is required.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 47 LOW 35	HIGH 37 LOW 35	HIGH 60 LOW 32	HIGH 47 LOW 38	HIGH 60 LOW 40	HIGH 58 LOW 30

Atlanta 65 / 49 Boston 50 / 35 Chicago 51 / 34 Denver 42 / 24 Houston 74 / 53 Los Angeles 65 / 54 Minneapolis 38 / 25 New York 51 / 40 Philadelphia 53 / 41 Phoenix 82 / 55 Seattle 47 / 38 St. Louis 67 / 39 Tampa 83 / 69 Washington 55 / 44

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Members discuss topics to be addressed by new administration

By LIZ O'DONNELL
News Writer

Topics for next term's administration were discussed Tuesday evening at student body president Bob Reish's final Council of Representatives (COR) meeting.

Reish said that he would like to leave student body president-elect Grant Schmidt and student body vice president-elect Cynthia Weber with a "springboard" for COR.

One topic discussed was to address what was spoken about at the recent Intercollegiate Symposium and apply it to Notre Dame student government.

"We should look to apply what was liked from the Symposium," freshman class president Malcolm Phelan said. "We should see if there is anything we need to implement or change."

Off-campus president Billy Lyman also suggested a number of areas that could be addressed to help improve life for members of Notre Dame living outside the gates.

"The off-campus student survey could be useful for next year," said Lyman. "It showed a need for off-campus student services."

Lyman also suggested that COR look into possibly implementing an off-campus orientation for stu-

dents moving off for the first time.

Reish offered the idea of looking into the club registration process, citing that there may need to be a change not only for the way that new clubs register, but also updating the registration of already established clubs as well.

COR members also conversed about the addition of having student government leaders come together annually for a town hall talk which would include leaders coming together to discuss issues pertinent to the student body.

Schmidt's concern with this idea was whether it would only happen when a particular situation arises or if it would be something that occurred on a regular basis.

Members of the Council indicated that it would be a good idea for the talk to occur on a yearly basis, citing the fragmentation of the different sections of student government. The general consensus was that the talk would draw everyone together.

Senior class president Joey Brown added the idea of incorporating an orientation to familiarize students with the new Google accounts.

"We should look into setting up a place for people to have workshops for using Google," said Brown.

Another area where Schmidt wanted the opinion of the group was whether or not to implement a new practice of recapping what each constituency is doing during each meeting.

He said, similar to Student Senate committee reports, COR would ask for representatives to send a few sentences weekly about what they are doing.

This idea was well received by many members of the Council, who hoped that this process would help curtail the announcements section of the meeting, which is held at the end.

Outgoing Chief Executive Assistant Karen Koski asked the Council if they felt that COR would be a group where if an informal survey was needed, the members could ask their constituencies and then report back.

"Especially if we need feedback on big-time issues where representatives felt that they couldn't necessarily represent their constituencies," Koski said.

The rest of the Council said that was a good idea and it would not be too difficult to implement.

In other COR news:

♦ Junior Ian Secviar was unanimously approved as the new president of the Judicial Council.

Contact Liz O'Donnell at edonne1@nd.edu

Newton appointed dean of Law School

Special to the Observer

Nell Jessup Newton, most recently chancellor and dean of the Hastings College of the Law at the University of California, has been appointed as the new Joseph A. Matson Dean of the University of Notre Dame Law School by University President Fr. John Jenkins.

Newton succeeds Patricia A. O'Hara, who will be ending her tenure as dean after serving in that capacity for 10 years and will remain professor of law at Notre Dame.

"In Nell Newton, Notre Dame has gained a superb scholar, a proven academic leader, and a person deeply committed to the University's mission," Jenkins said. "She will help us continue and deepen education and research in our law school, and I am delighted to welcome her to Notre Dame."

Notre Dame's provost, Thomas Burish, said: "Dean Newton is an experienced, effective and admired leader who has an uncommonly broad and deep understanding of legal education. She has an untiring work ethic, a commitment to and appreciation of the special mission of Notre Dame, and a focused ambition to build on the Law School's strong foundation to help it achieve even greater excel-

lence."

Newton, who also was appointed professor of law, will become dean on July 1.

"I am humbled and excited to have been chosen to lead the Notre Dame Law School and be part of the great intellectual tradition and mission of the University," she said. "It is an honor to follow one of the great law deans, Patricia O'Hara, who has done so much for the law school during her tenure."

Newton's scholarship focuses on American Indian law with an emphasis on tribal property and federal constitutional issues. She is the author of more than 50 articles on Indian legal issues, co-author of the third edition of the textbook "Cases and Materials on American Indian Law," and serves as the editor-in-chief of "Cohen's Handbook of Federal Indian Law." Her law review articles have been reprinted in collections on race law, the law of reparations, and the philosophy of law. She is also an associate justice of the Yurok Tribal Supreme Court.

A member of the Hastings faculty since 2006, Newton previously served as dean of the law schools at the University of Connecticut and the University of Denver and taught at American University and Catholic University of America law schools.

the 2009 Lewis Hall Crush!



The following lucky dates are invited to
Lewis Hall's Courtyard at 6:30 on Thursday, April 2nd and
a tropical dance at South Dining Hall at 10pm on Friday, April 3rd!

Mat Abernethy
Paul Allen
Brendan Andrew
Kyle Bailey
Derek Bailey
Tyler Baker
Matt Beall
John Bellaire
E-man Bello-Ogunu
Robert Blanton
Trevor Boston
Matt Boutillier
Mike Bradley
Jake Brems
Ben Broadmeadow
Michael Brundage
Kevin Burke
Garrett Busch
Mike Byrnes
Garrett Campbell
Jamie Cantania
Rory Carmichael
Patrick Cash
Ryan Caulfield
Levi Checketts
Barry Clark
Martin Colianni
Brian Cook

Dayne Crist
Alex Deak
Josh Diaz
Joey Dipiero
Sy Doan
Zach DuBois
Tom Dugan
Jacques Dupuis
Bill Ehrlich
Joe Fauria
Nathan Feldpausch
Chad Gardner
Michael George
Colin Goodman
Brendan Hart
Jeff Henkel
Matthew Herrmann
Joey Herrod
Wes Howard
Michael Hubert
Charlie Hunter
Allan Jones
Andrew Jones
Chris Jung
Jon Kennedy
Quinn Ketterman
Andrew Krizman
Tom La

Chris LaCosta
Ben Linskey
Pete Lobaccaro
Jason Lovell
Andrew Lundquist
Kevin Mader
Terry Mahoney
Brian Malloy
Andrew Matasic
Mikey Maurer
Andy McCourt
Danny McRae
Kevin Mickey
Patrick Mines
Joey Moore
Mike Moriarty
Ryan Noble
Mike O'Brien
Aron O'Connor
Kevin O'Day
Mike Oliver
Matthew Ong
Kevin Padden
Aaron Patzwahl
Angelo Perino
Justin Pham
John Plunkett
Evan Possley

Matthew Prelee
Nick Raic
Nick Reaves
Chris Redenour
Joey Ricioli
Chase Riddle
Alex Robinson
Mike Rodio
Sergio Rodriguez
Matthew Russell
Davin Sakamoto
Tony Schlehuder
Doug Schuda
Mike Schwind
Jo Seib
Brent Shawcross
Billy Shields
Robbie Singer
Mathew Spencer
Chris Stare
Steve Stober
Patrick Sturm
Jarrett Styles
Moises Torres
Zack Tracy
Steve Voelkel
Matthew Wilcox
Bryan Winther

Reish

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been effective," Reish said. "I think we've begun to ensure students realize it's effective. It's doing something and the perception. It's not just perception."

He cited student government as the organization that brought cable to dorms, Domer Dollars to Notre Dame Stadium and newspapers to the dining halls through the College Readership Program.

"I think student government was effective every year since I've been here," Reish said.

However, many students did not credit student government for these successes. "They were definitely productive," Reish said. "It's just a matter of informing students that that was student government's work and that you had a voice in it."

To ensure students knew student government was working for them, Reish and Schmidt focused on improving communication using a variety of resources.

"I think that strategy that we saw this year was really utilizing all the different channels we have to communicate with students," Reish said. "One of those was definitely The Observer."

"[The Observer] was a good venue for us," Reish said, citing a "common understanding" between his administration and former Observer News editor Jenn Metz.

Reish's administration emphasized approachability in the hopes that more students can contribute their ideas to student government.

"We have to relate to students and we don't think of this office as separate from the students," Schmidt said. "Hopefully we're approachable in the sense that if you do know we're in student government and you want to see something done, there's no way that you would not approach us."

Reish solicited ideas from students more formally through the student survey. The survey showed students that "when you participate and give us your

feedback, we listen," Reish said.

The survey helped Reish have more power when he presented an idea, he said. "We were able to push things through the University and Student Senate with those results," he said.

The survey specifically helped Reish ensure that all dorms will be equipped with a printer for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Reish and Schmidt made efforts to cultivate a good relationship with the University administration during their term. "We can't play the 'us against the man' mentality with the administration," Schmidt said. "There are times that we disagree, but in order to get things done, there's got to be some sort of dialogue and some sort of understanding between the two."

According to Schmidt, approachability is Reish's legacy. "Bob has really expanded on the fact that you can touch students in a different way," Schmidt said. "You can reach out in a different way whether it's to other universities or to students who aren't typically catered to."

Reish cited freshmen as students who he has made special effort to embrace. "It's easy to be a senior in this position," Reish said. "We really branched out to all years, seniors through freshmen."

However, Reish does not want to talk about his "legacy," saying that it is dependent on "what sticks here."

Reish will spend the next two years on an entrepreneurial fellowship in Indianapolis, through which he will work for a small start-up company called Angie's List. He said that he eventually plans to attend business school.

However, Reish said he will miss his time at Notre Dame. "Since I'm going to be in Indianapolis, I'm going to be coming back for football games," he said.

Reish said he does not know if he wants to get involved in politics after Notre Dame. "For me, I could see myself being involved in the community, but I'm not sure how much higher than that," he said.

Contact John Tierney at jtierne1@nd.edu

Schmidt

continued from page 1

tion of student body vice president today, said she and Schmidt have been in contact with several community leaders about making the taxi system more efficient and safe for students. She said they are hoping to create a system in which students pay for rides with coupons instead of cash.

The team will also tackle the issue of high textbook costs, which Schmidt said is a concern that has been brought up many times by students.

"Our goal is to contact professors directly over the summer to get ISBN numbers in an adequate amount of time for students to be able to purchase books," he said.

Schmidt said the idea is to give students an alternative to buying textbooks from the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore, which currently does not disclose ISBN numbers.

"It's a pretty basic concept," he said. "This way, if you want to use Dorm Books, eBay or Amazon, you at least have the option."

Schmidt said changing the course registration process so

that there is a "shopping cart" option is also in the works. He said he would like to create a tool so that students can put classes in the shopping cart prior to registration, so when the students register, they can just refer to the cart and choose their classes without going through the class search again.

Finally, Schmidt said the online syllabus database — an initiative that was first undertaken by the previous Bob Reish-Grant Schmidt administration — will remain a priority. This would allow students to view the current syllabus or an old syllabus for a class before registration, he said.

Although Schmidt said he would continue many of the initiatives of the previous administration, there will be a few changes as well.

In order to reach out to the student body, Schmidt said he reinstated the Department of Communications as the prime way to connect with students.

This Department is replacing the Student Outreach Committee, which previously had the task of communicating with students. The Department of Communications will regularly send out a press release, and Schmidt and Weber will possi-

bly broadcast videos with updates about student government's work.

"We want to advertise to the student body what we are doing," Schmidt said. "We want to reach out to students and figure out what matters to them."

Weber said many of the tasks of the Student Outreach Committee, such as administering the student survey and analyzing the results, will continue, just in the form of a communications department rather than a committee.

She said regular communication with the student body is an important goal for the coming term.

"In terms of the broader principles of student government, we want to get students more involved," she said. "In general, we want to be faithful servants to the student body."

Schmidt said people often question whether student government can really make a difference, but he said he guarantees a successful year.

"[Student government] is really a cool thing," he said. "We want this term to be a process of making this year better."

He said everything is in place for the new term so student government can "hit the ground running" in achieving the goals laid out for next year.

"There's a general excitement for this year," Schmidt said. "We will really figure out what students want and get it done right."

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Turnover

continued from page 1

Hoffman and Griffin would like to continue the initiatives that were started by exiting student body president Mickey Gruscinski and student body vice president Sarah Falvey.

These proposals include putting printers in the Student Center and residence halls, extending the hours of the Student Center and possibly the library as well as improving communication between the student body and SGA.

"There is a lot of information on this campus, and I think it would be a lot easier to consolidate all that information in one place," Hoffman said.

They do have short-term goals they would like to see accomplished before the end of the school year, such as putting a printer in the Student Center to monitor student use. Also, they will be sending out a student survey to get opinions on their goals for the upcoming school year.

"We would like to have a student survey which we hope will encompass a lot of issues that will help us to determine our long-term goals for next year,"

Hoffman said.

The previous Board recently passed a new SGA Constitution. At the beginning of the spring semester Griffin, who is also chair of the Constitution Committee, plans to write the bylaws for the new document.

"Once we have those bylaws down, it will be easier to see if there are any holes anywhere that we need to add to the Constitution," Griffin said.

Both said they hope to make student government more efficient and make sure commissioners are doing everything they can to serve students, Griffin said.

"While our commissioners do have a responsibility for campus programming, it is also in their job description to serve the student body," she said. "I really want them to help us know what is going on with student concerns."

Once SGA meets next Monday for Hoffman and Griffin's first meeting, the two said they do not want to waste time on expanding on the work of the previous Board.

"Now that our foundation has been laid, we can really start building on it," Hoffman said.

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn01@saintmarys.edu

Please recycle the Observer.

College Night Thursdays!!!

\$2 cover with Student ID (\$5 without)

FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS!!

Emcee & Dusty

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Migrants drown off coast of Libya

TRIPOLI, Libya — Hundreds were feared dead Tuesday in the chilly waters of the Mediterranean Sea, days after an overcrowded wooden fishing boat packed with migrants seeking a better life in Europe capsized in stormy waters off the coast of Libya.

A few survivors — those who could swim — were rescued, but authorities pulled 21 bodies from the waters and at least 200 more were still missing after the boat capsized Friday.

Thousands of African, Asian and Middle Eastern migrants fleeing wars and poverty use Libya and other North African countries as a launching pads for the dangerous journey across the Mediterranean to southern Europe — often in rickety, overloaded boats.

China denies report on spy ring

BEIJING — China on Tuesday denied a research report's contention that a China-based computer spy ring stole sensitive information from thousands of hard drives worldwide, calling the accusation a lie meant to feed anxiety over Beijing's growing influence.

In the government's first reaction to the report, Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said the conclusions were symptoms of a "Cold War virus" that causes people overseas to "occasionally be overcome by China-threat seizures."

The report by the Information Warfare Monitor added to growing concerns that China has become a center for cyber-warfare, spying and crime.

NATIONAL NEWS

Raw nuts: Source of salmonella

TERRA BELLA, Calif. — The salmonella scare that prompted a blanket federal warning against eating pistachios may have erupted because contaminated raw nuts got mixed with roasted nuts during processing, the company at the center of the nationwide recall said Tuesday.

Lee Cohen, the production manager for Setton International Foods Inc., said the company does not believe pistachios were contaminated by a human or animal source in its plant. He said the company suspects that roasted pistachios sold to Kraft Foods Inc. may have become mixed at Setton's plant with raw nuts that could have contained traces of the bacteria.

Amish tour Jewish community

NEW YORK — The city's ultra-Orthodox Jews took the Pennsylvania Amish on a walking tour of their world Tuesday, saying their communities are naturally drawn to each other with a commitment to simpler lifestyles.

"It's reinforcing to the Amish community to see us Jews living the way the Bible says Jews are supposed to live, and have lived since the time of Moses and Abraham," said Israel Ber Kaplan, program director for the Chassidic Discovery Center in Brooklyn. "The Amish are also living their lives as the Bible speaks to them."

LOCAL NEWS

Senate approves 'puppy mills' bill

INDIANAPOLIS — An Indiana Senate committee has advanced a bill to regulate large-scale dog breeding operations in the state, but some want stricter requirements on breeders.

The Senate panel unanimously supported the revised bill, saying current animal neglect laws that simply require dogs to have food and water are not enough for prosecutors to go after so-called "puppy mills."

ISRAEL

Nation's new leader seeks peace

Netanyahu wants peace with Arabs, but refuses to speak of 'Palestinian state'

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Benjamin Netanyahu, taking office as Israel's new leader Tuesday, promised to seek "full peace" with the Arab and Muslim world, but refused to utter the words the world was waiting to hear: "Palestinian state."

The well-spoken, U.S.-educated hawk took pains to portray himself as a pragmatist, telling a packed parliament that Israel does not want to rule the Palestinians.

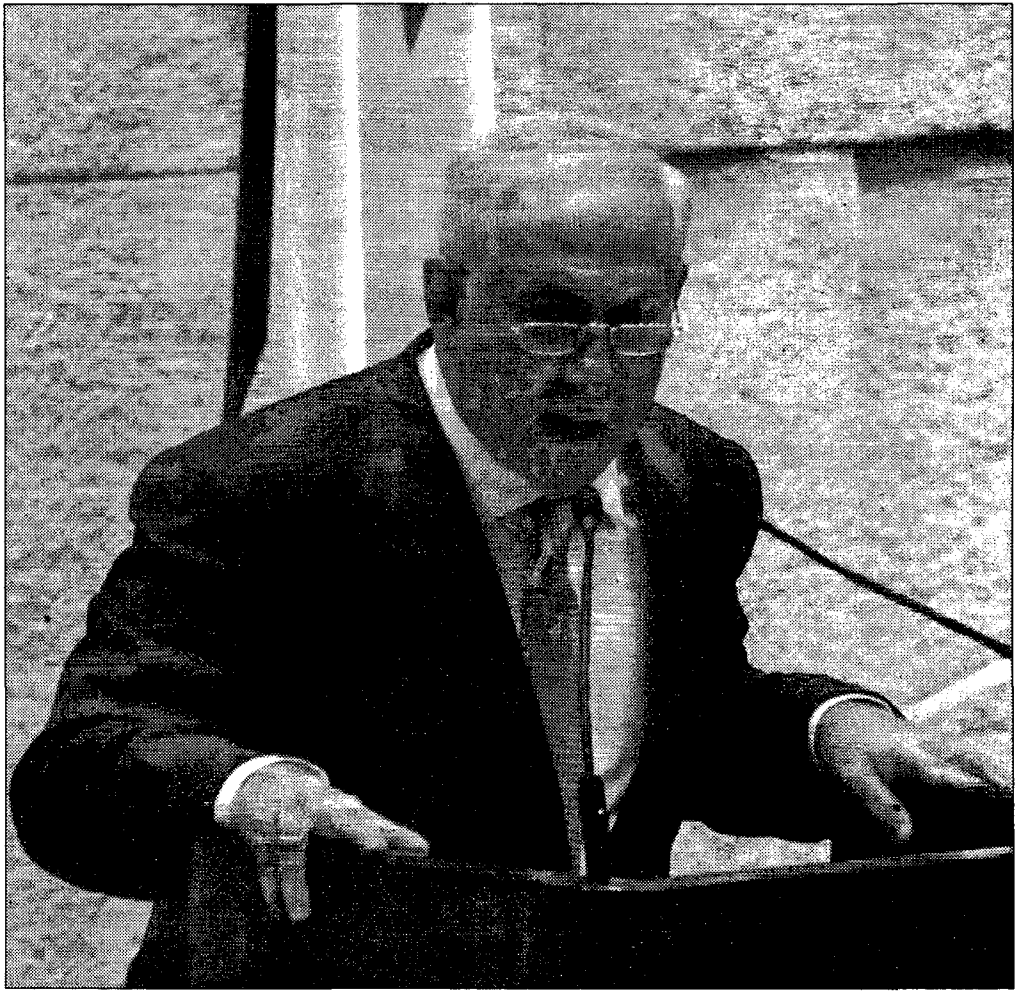
"Under the permanent status agreement, the Palestinians will have all the authority to rule themselves," Netanyahu said in comments that appeared to hark back to a decades-old notion that peace could be achieved through limited Palestinian autonomy.

His words drew a sharp reaction from Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat. "I want to say to Mr. Netanyahu that the only way the Palestinians can rule themselves, by themselves, is through ending the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and establishing an independent Palestinian state," Erekat said.

Netanyahu's refusal to embrace the idea of Palestinian statehood could put him at odds with the Obama administration and much of the rest of the world.

In recent days, however, Netanyahu has moved to soften his image, welcoming the centrist Labor party into an otherwise markedly right-wing coalition and announcing that he supports peace talks with the Palestinians.

The 59-year-old politician — the son of a prominent historian and the brother of a war hero who died commanding the daring 1976 hostage rescue at Entebbe, Uganda — is returning to the premier-



Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addresses the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, ahead of the swearing-in ceremony of his new government, Tuesday.

ship a decade after being forced from it amid a string of failures.

In his speech before parliament Tuesday, Netanyahu praised Islamic culture as "great and rich," and said Israel and moderate Arab states could find common ground fighting radical Islam and what he called the extremist regime in Tehran.

"Israel has always, and today more than ever, striven to reach full peace with the entire Arab and Muslim world," he said.

A senior Netanyahu aide appeared to suggest his boss would accept the much hailed two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the next few weeks, perhaps ahead of a planned trip to

the United States.

The aide, speaking on condition of anonymity so as not to pre-empt any announcement, said Netanyahu will say something that will "take this issue off the table" and avoid confrontation with the world.

If he does, Netanyahu would join the ranks of hard-line Israeli leaders such as Menachem Begin and Ariel Sharon, who changed their minds about giving up land and ended up making far-reaching concessions.

However, so far there is no indication that Netanyahu's latest conciliatory statements are anything more than words designed to curry favor with the West.

He has not retracted his promise to press ahead with construction in West Bank settlements to make room for settlers' growing families. And his new government includes many ministers opposed to territorial compromise, including a housing minister from an ultra-Orthodox Jewish party that sees giving up land as a betrayal of God's will.

Perhaps most troubling to those seeking moderation in Mideast politics is the fact that Lieberman, head of the Yisrael Beitenu Party, is now the Jewish state's top diplomat. He based his recent campaign on a proposal that would require Israeli Arabs to swear loyalty to Israel or lose their citizenship.

Storms threaten recovering Southeast

Associated Press

GENEVA, Ala. — Thunderstorms accompanied by the threat of tornadoes rolled across the already soaked Southeast on Tuesday, raising new worries for residents still recovering from a weekend deluge that flooded hundreds of homes, washed out roads and forced evacuations.

Tornado warnings were issued for points in southeast Alabama, the Florida Panhandle and Georgia, and the National Weather Service forecast more thunderstorms in the region Wednesday and Thursday.

Southern Mississippi residents were still cleaning up from tornadoes and flooding as disaster officials warned

them to brace for another round of potentially severe storms that could fatten swollen rivers. In southeast Alabama, volunteers and Houston County jail inmates filled more than 2,500 sandbags for people to place in front of their homes to keep out water.

"We've had more than 300 houses flooded countywide," sheriff's Lt. Jeff Carlisle said. "It's everywhere, even in places where it's never flooded before. Every low-lying area in the county is flooded."

Schools were closed in one Mississippi county and more than a dozen residents in Alabama were staying at a motel. The problems could worsen.

In their 40-plus years running Stinson's Grocery in Geneva, Ann and Lloyd Stinson said they've never seen so much rain in such a short time.

"Saturday afternoon people were pulling out carpets and cleaning up all over downtown," Ann Stinson said. "What's so frustrating is to think they're going to have to do it all over again."

The area could receive about a foot of rain by this weekend.

The National Weather Service called Tuesday for as much as three to five inches across south Alabama, the Florida Panhandle and Georgia.

Those amounts are expected to increase with new storms spreading rain throughout the area.

Refugee

continued from page 1

where more religious contradictions nearly forced them, yet again, out of the country.

Fortunately, a local member of Saint Joe's Catholic Church and a Saint Mary's alumna, Lori Pinter, sponsored Giezenaar and her family during their difficult time of complete transition into the United States.

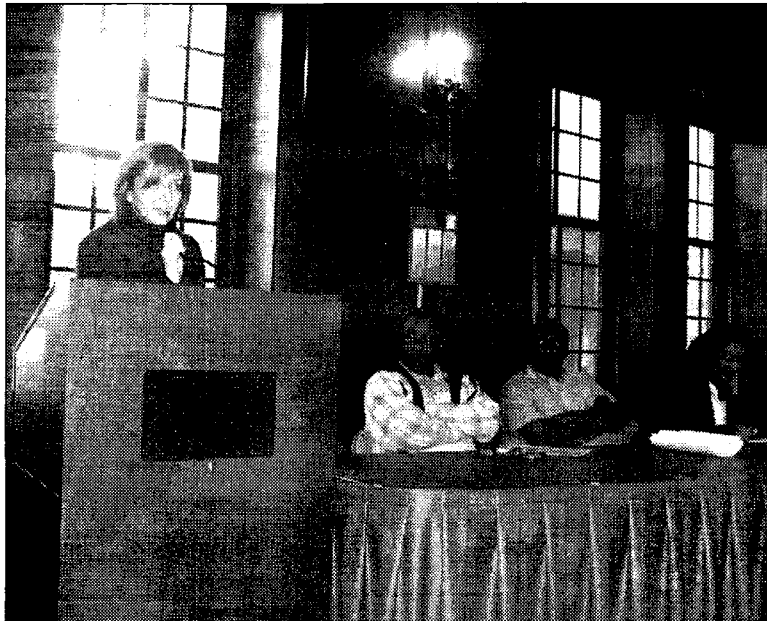
Bukassa of the Congo demonstrated his story as one of change. Change from a life of stability and strength to a war-ridden and politically unstable nation before he could even begin to fathom how the world around him was shifting, he said.

"In my country, men never cry; never weep. But since I have been here, I have cried nearly every day," Bukassa said.

While going through the long process with the U.S. Embassy, Bukassa was forced to spend time away from his loved ones for months at a time in order to ensure a better life for his loved ones.

Cyusa, formally from Rwanda, was once a very prestigious businessman in his country. In 1991, he started his own business after obtaining a master's degree in Architecture, and for a while led a comfortable life.

In 1993, political battles between two groups, the Tutsi and Hutu led to genocide for thousands of Rwandan residence under Hutu rule. By 1995, Cyusa lost his job and his way of



GRACE KENESEY/The Observer
Janice Pilarski introduces refugees, from left to right, Jasminka Giezenaar, Joseph Bukassa and Jean Baptiste Cyusa at the lecture Monday.

life. "Suddenly," he said, "you lose."

His advice to Americans is to be thankful: thankful for a new day, your friends and your family, and to never, ever give up.

Kalid, a refugee from Sudan, inspired hope and desire to do something to fight the problems of human rights today. The war-torn country brought pain to many citizens of Sudan in 1989 and still today.

After her father was detained and released multiple times, her family made the decision to escape to Egypt and later to the United States. Within this time, she and the rest of her family were separated from her father.

She received an education and has lived and worked in America, and her experience has inspired her to work to build a culture bridge between the United States and Sudan by writing for a newspaper in her home country, she said.

These bi-weekly reports show its readers that "it doesn't matter who you are; you are alike in so many ways," Kalid said.

Bukassa closed the lecture saying, "You are living in bliss in this country. Go outside and you can see how people are suffering, for nothing ... This country is like heaven."

Contact Jessica Robbins at jrob01@saintmarys.edu

Pledge

continued from page 1

Palumbo, who is a co-director of the Special Olympics Outreach Program, came up with the idea while talking with Tim Shriver, a Yale student, at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Boise, Idaho.

The two students decided to declare one specific day as "End the R-Word Day" in order to ensure their project had the biggest impact. They created a Facebook page and once people learned of the idea, more and more people wanted to help, he said.

Special Olympics International got involved, as did actor John C. McGinley of the hit show "Scrubs," who has promoted the event through various media appearances. This advertising inspired many high schools and universities, including Notre Dame, to bring the event to their campuses.

Palumbo relied heavily on a team of dedicated helpers to promote the event on campus. Students hung up posters, invited their friends to a Facebook event and decorated the ground with sidewalk chalk. He said he was happy to see so much support for the event from students.

"It's cool to see that there

are all these other people on campus that are really passionate about it," Palumbo said. "It's not just some little pet project."

Sophomore Mary Forr is one such student. She said she has been affected by use of the word "retarded" by watching its effect on her older sister.

"My older sister Marita has several physical and mental handicaps and I've seen how hurt she is by people's thoughtless use of the word," she said. "I realize that people don't mean to hurt, anyone by the use of this word, but it does hurt them."

Ed Suski, the president of Best Buddies at Notre Dame, agreed that much of the problem stems from students not understanding how insulting the word is.

"The goal [of this project] is really just raising awareness," he said. "You hear people saying the R-word all the time and they don't even think about how it's hurtful."

Palumbo, who has a younger sister with an intellectual disability, said he hopes the event will inspire people to get involved in the cause.

"You can take the pledge but it's about much more than taking a word out of your vocabulary," he said.

Contact Irena Zajickova at izajicko@nd.edu

The Observer is online at ndsmcobserver.com

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Trial begins for marine in Iraq killing case

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — A court-martial began Tuesday for a Marine accused of killing an unarmed captive in Iraq in a case officials knew nothing about until the defendant sought a Secret Service job and was asked about the most serious crime he had ever committed.

An attorney for Sgt. Ryan Weemer told the jury that prosecutors cannot prove their case because they have no body, no forensic evidence and no relatives complaining of a lost loved one. Prosecutors, however, played recorded interviews in which Weemer said he and other Marines shot a total of four men in Fallujah in November 2004 after their squad suffered its first fatality.

Weemer, 26, of Hindsboro, Ill., is accused of the unpremeditated murder of one man and dereliction of duty. His former squad leader was acquitted of related charges in federal court and another squad member has yet to face court-martial.

The case came to light long after the battle.

In 2006, after he left the Marine Corps, Weemer applied for a job in the Secret Service. During a background interview before a polygraph test as part of the application, he was asked about the most serious crime he ever committed.

"We went into this house, there happened to be four or five guys in the house," Weemer said in a recording of the interview played during the prosecution's opening statement. "We ended up shooting them, we had to."

The U.S. military had ordered all civilians out of Fallujah ahead of an assault aimed at recapturing the city

from insurgents. "Operation Phantom Fury" involved vicious house-to-house fighting.

Weemer's account triggered a criminal investigation and led to Weemer being recalled to active duty to face military prosecution.

"This is a case about following the rules, this is a case about doing the right thing at the most critical time," the prosecutor, Capt. Nicholas Gannon, told the jury of eight officers.

Weemer's civilian attorney, Paul Hackett, countered that it was "a tragic story that represents the reality of combat."

"This is not a perfect science... Marines are put in tough positions and they have to make snap decisions," Hackett said.

The shaven-headed Weemer sat straight in his chair, occasionally speaking to his military attorney.

His squad, led by Sgt. Jose Nazario, had been ordered to clear a house immediately after losing its first man, Lance Cpl. Juan Segura, who was shot by a sniper.

Inside the home, the Marines found three young men and one older man, who were unarmed and had their hands in the air, prosecutors said. Hackett said a sweep of the property turned up at least two AK-47s with hot barrels as well as spent ammunition cartridges.

Weemer said in the interview that the unarmed Iraqis were slain after the squad asked superiors for instructions.

"We called up to the platoon leader and the response was, 'Are they dead yet?'" Weemer said in the recording.

MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones 7,608.92 +86.90

Up: 2,819 Same: 113 Down: 912 Composite Volume: 2,790,611,203

AMEX	1,359.33	+26.88
NASDAQ	1,528.59	+26.79
NYSE	4,978.98	+79.93
S&P 500	797.87	+10.34
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	8,109.53	0.00
FTSE 100 (London)	3,926.14	+163.23

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
BK OF AMERICA (BAC)	+13.10	+0.79	6.82
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	+0.93	+0.73	79.52
CITIGROUP INC (C)	+9.52	+0.22	2.53
FINANCIAL BULL 3X (FAS)	+13.40	+0.65	5.50

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	-1.07	-0.029	2.685
13-WEEK BILL	+66.67	+0.080	0.200
30-YEAR BOND	-1.14	-0.041	3.561
5-YEAR NOTE	-3.01	-0.052	1.675

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+1.49	49.90
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+7.30	925.00
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+2.80	86.55

Exchange Rates

YEN	99.0000
EURO	1.3254
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.2620
BRITISH POUND	1.4350

IN BRIEF

Ford to cover car payments

DETROIT — Opening Day came early for employees Tuesday at Jack Kain's Ford, Lincoln, Mercury dealership, when Ford Motor Co. announced a new program that would help buyers in the event of a job loss.

Weighed down by the lowest sales levels in 27 years and consumer confidence at historic lows, Ford and General Motors Corp. announced two programs that would cover buyers' monthly car payments in the event they lose their jobs. All automakers report sales figures for March on Wednesday, which are expected to be just as dismal as February, when companies sold about 688,909 cars.

Under Ford's plan, customers that purchase a new car or truck between Tuesday and June 1 and subsequently lose their job through no fault of their own, will have Ford make their monthly payments for up to one year. The maximum monthly payment Ford will make is \$700 — customers would have to make up the difference for payments exceeding that amount. That amount would cover the monthly payment of a \$30,000 to \$40,000 vehicle depending on interest rates, down payment and trade in value.

Congress expands AmeriCorps

WASHINGTON — Tens of thousands of Americans, from teenagers to baby boomers, soon will get a fresh chance to lend a helping hand in a time of need.

The House voted 275-149 Tuesday for a \$5.7 billion bill that triples positions in the Clinton-era AmeriCorps program, its largest expansion since the agency's creation in 1993, and establishes a fund to help nonprofit organizations recruit and manage more volunteers. AmeriCorps offers a range of volunteer opportunities including housing construction, youth outreach, disaster response and caring for the elderly.

Obama has made national service programs a high priority.

The president, who began an eight-day European trip Tuesday, plans to sign the measure when he returns to Washington.

Corn and wheat acreage to drop

Despite fewer staple crops, consumers should not expect big increase in prices

Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. — The nation's farmers are expected to plant fewer acres of corn and wheat — staple ingredients in a wide variety of foods. But industry experts say consumers should not expect a big jump in prices at the grocery store.

The Agriculture Department's planting report Tuesday does nothing to change last week's Economic Research Service forecast of a 3-4 percent increase in the Consumer Price Index for food this year, said Terry Francl, senior economist with the American Farm Bureau, which tracks retail food prices.

Last year, when market prices for staple commodities skyrocketed, the increase in the index was 5.5 percent.

"We're looking at slower increases, and this report would pretty much support that forecast," Francl said. "I think this would be categorized as good news."

A slack in demand from the ethanol and livestock industries and overseas markets is leading to a smaller projected corn crop this year, with acres tailing off in areas outside the traditional corn belt.

Corn is an ingredient in a large number of foods, and also is used to feed the cattle, pigs and chickens that end up as packaged meat on grocery store shelves.

"We're projected to produce over 12 billion bushels ... and corn stocks are up 1 percent from March of 2008. In my opinion there's plenty of corn to go around," said Bob Dickey, president of the National Corn Growers Association.

That level of production would match last year's crop, despite a projected 1 percent drop in acres from a year ago to 85 million because lower prices and



Cotton farmers are expected to plant 8.8 million acres this year, their fewest since 1983, blaming low prices and high production costs for the reduction.

the unstable cost of fertilizer are discouraging some farmers from growing corn this year.

It would be the second straight year of a decrease, though total U.S. acreage still would be the third-largest in the last 60 years, behind the 2007 and 2008 crops, USDA said. Farmers in major corn-producing states such as Iowa intend to plant a slightly larger crop this year.

"We're hoping that at some point in time we can increase demand at all levels, whether it be the ethanol industry, livestock industry or exports," Dickey said.

Exports are down

because of the falling value of the dollar, he said. Demand for corn- and soybean-based feed from the livestock industry dropped off last year when commodity prices spiked.

Darin Newsom, senior analyst for Omaha, Neb.-based DTN, said the report is at best "neutral" for a corn market that was expecting a substantial decrease in acres. "One million acres is pretty minuscule," he said.

However, Newsom said the corn numbers still could drop more. If poor weather persists in the Northern Plains and eastern corn belt, more farmers might end up switching

corn acres to soybeans, which can be planted later, he said.

The soybean crop is expected to be up slightly, to a record 76 million acres, but Newsom said the market was expecting even more — up to 81 million acres.

"Yes, it's a record number of acres, but it was well below what everybody was anticipating so the market should look at that as being somewhat bullish," he said.

Francl said the report pushed soybean prices higher. "That eventually could work into slightly higher cooking oil prices for consumers," he said.

UNITED KINGDOM

World leaders discuss economic crisis

Associated Press

LONDON — Desperate but divided on ways to lift their nations from economic misery, world leaders converged for an emergency summit Tuesday holding scant hopes of finding a magic-bullet solution for the crisis that brought them hurrying to London.

Even as President Barack Obama and the others were arriving, the U.S. acknowledged its allies would not go along with a massive burst of stimulus spending, while Europe was forced to backpedal from hopes for tighter financial regulation.

Instead, leaders are trumpeting the limited common ground they could reach, including more money for the International Monetary Fund and

closer scrutiny of hedge funds and tax havens. As for the broader issues, they're hoping for the best — or at least that they will do no harm.

With turbulent world markets watching closely, the stakes are high, especially for America's new president, stepping onto the world stage for the first time to deal with the economic crisis and to meet face-to-face with many other leaders.

One global change is being acknowledged: The forum for grappling with world economic problems has grown beyond the established eight post-war economies that dominated previous economic summits — the U.S., Britain, Germany, France, Japan, Canada, Italy and Russia. Now, 20 nations are coming together in London, with fast-growing devel-

oping economies such as China, India, Brazil and Saudi Arabia — important players in any effort to coordinate economic policy — sitting as full negotiating partners.

"For the first time, there's a recognition that major emerging markets and developing countries have a critical role at the table," said Mike Froman, a White House international economic adviser.

But will that mean action to stop a global downward spiral?

Froman acknowledged that there have been few examples of international gains in times of crisis. "The depression was made 'great' by the lack of cooperation," he said, noting that nations like to keep control over their own fiscal and monetary policies.

Obama's aunt a symbol in debate

Associated Press

BOSTON — Barack Obama's Kenyan aunt lost her bid for asylum more than four years ago, and a judge ordered her deported. Instead, Zeituni Onyango stayed, living for years in public housing.

Now, in a case that puts the president in a tough position both personally and politically, Onyango's request is being reconsidered under a little-used provision in U.S. immigration rules that allows denied asylum claims to be reheard if applicants can show that something has changed to make them eligible.

Such as the ascension of her nephew to the presidency of the world's most powerful country.

"If she goes back to Kenya, she is going to be much more in the limelight, and that, in and of itself, could put her at a greater risk. The chances of her going back and keeping a low profile are gone at this point," said Boston immigration attorney Ilana Greenstein.

Onyango, 56, the half-sister of Obama's late father, moved to the United States in 2000. Her first bid for asylum was rejected, and an immigration judge ordered her deported in 2004; she continues to live in public housing in Boston.

In December, a judge agreed to suspend the deportation order and reopen her case. An initial hearing is scheduled Wednesday in U.S. Immigration Court in Boston.

Obama has said repeatedly that he didn't know his aunt was living in the United States illegally and believes that laws covering the situation should be followed. If she wins asylum, he could look soft on immigration enforcement. If she loses, he could face criticism from immigrant advocacy groups.

The White House says Obama is staying out of it.

"The president believes that the case should run its ordinary course, and neither he nor his representatives have had any involvement," spokesman Ben LaBolt said last week.

Over the past decade, relatively few Kenyans have sought asylum in the United States: 343 through immigration courts in the fiscal year 2008, compared with 9,250 asylum requests from China and 6,424 from El Salvador. Only 60 Kenyans were granted asylum that year through immigration courts.

From the fiscal years 1999 through 2008, about 20 percent of Kenyans who applied through immigration courts were granted asylum, according to an Associated Press review of immigration records.

People who seek asylum must show that they face persecution in their homeland on the basis of religion, race, nationality, political opinion or membership in a social group.

Onyango's reasons for seeking asylum have not been made

public, and her immigration hearing will be closed at her lawyer's request.

Kenya has been fractured by violence in recent years. In 2008, more than 1,000 people were killed in the East African nation following a disputed presidential poll, which saw a Luo candidate, Raila Odinga, declared loser to President Mwai Kibaki, a Kikuyu, the largest tribe in Kenya.

Since Kenya gained independence from Britain in 1963, periodic tensions have arisen among the Luos — Onyango's tribe — and some of Kenya's other tribes, including the Kikuyus.

J. Patrick Kelly, an international law professor at Widener University, said the United States views Kenya as fairly stable. The country acts as a regional diplomatic and economic hub and hosts the only headquarters for a United Nations agency outside the West, the U.N. Environment Program.

Onyango could improve her chances of winning asylum if she can argue successfully that some in the Kenyan government may perceive — because of her relationship with Obama — "that she may have some level of political power and be able to transfer that power" to her tribe, Kelly said.

Onyango's lawyer, Margaret Wong, may also argue that she needs to stay in the United States for medical reasons. Onyango, who has been photographed walking with a cane, has some kind of a neurological problem, said Mike Rogers, Wong's spokesman.

In his memoir, "Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance," Obama affectionately referred to Onyango as "Auntie Zeituni" and described meeting her during his 1988 trip to Kenya.

Onyango has not responded to requests for interviews. Her case is being closely watched by people on all sides of the immigration debate. Some critics say her status has already damaged the president's credibility on immigration issues.

"The president's moral authority has been compromised by his aunt's situation," said Dan Stein, president of the Federation for American Immigration Reform. "Americans have the right to expect aliens to respect our law, to leave when they are supposed to and not thumb their nose at the legal system."

But immigrant advocates say opponents are unfairly using Onyango's case as political fodder.

"Whether it's the president's aunt, my aunt or your aunt — anybody who's seeking asylum is seeking that status for a very important reason," said Ali Noorani, executive director of the National Immigration Forum. "We are always worried that a person whose asylum claims are rejected, that they end up in a situation where they are a victim of violence."

FBI probes pay-for-play allegations

Missouri lawmakers accused of demanding campaign contributions

Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — The FBI is questioning Missouri lawmakers about allegations that legislative leaders demanded campaign contributions in exchange for prestigious committee posts, legislative sources told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Two lawmakers said they specifically were asked about House Minority Leader Paul LeVota, a Democrat from Independence. Both spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the ongoing probe and because they didn't want colleagues to know they had spoken with federal investigators.

In an interview with the AP, LeVota said he has not been contacted by the FBI. He denied any wrongdoing and suggested the accusations stem from a disgruntled political rival.

The Kansas City Star first reported Sunday, citing anonymous sources, that the FBI is investigating alleged pay-for-play scenarios at the Missouri Capitol.

Bridget Patton, a spokesman for the FBI office in Kansas City whose jurisdiction includes Jefferson City, said Tuesday that she could neither confirm nor deny a public corruption investigation at the Missouri Capitol.

The investigation into alleged political favors dates at least to 2008, when House Speaker Rod Jetton, R-Marble Hill, was in charge of the chamber. Jetton, who did not seek re-election last year because of term limits, said he had not been contacted by the FBI and had "absolutely not" asked any law-

makers to make campaign donations to get committee assignments or to have their bills heard.

One of the lawmakers who spoke on condition of anonymity told the AP he had been contacted by the FBI multiple times in 2008 and 2009 with questions about pay-for-play scenarios in the Capitol, including whether House committee assignments were offered in exchange for lawmakers contributing money to campaign committees. The lawmaker said the FBI's questions focused on LeVota and others in legislative leadership positions.

Another lawmaker told the AP about an interview with the FBI that occurred several weeks ago in the Capitol. That lawmaker also said the FBI asked specifically about whether LeVota had made committee assignments contingent upon lawmakers contributing money to Democratic campaign committees.

The lawmaker also said the FBI asked about an e-mail sent last year by LeVota on the letterhead of the Missouri House Democratic Campaign Committee.

The Sept. 22 letter, obtained by the AP, asks for donations of between \$50 and \$250 to help Democratic candidates. But instead of listing the address for the committee, which helps all Democratic House candidates, the bottom of the letter directed donations to LeVota's personal campaign committee in Independence.

LeVota told the AP that he "never asked anyone to give an amount for a committee spot whatsoever."

He said his personal cam-

paign address was listed because it was sent under his mass e-mail account.

"Hindsight tells me I should have taken it off for that request," said LeVota, who later added: "It was my intent to try to raise money for the HDCC."

LeVota's campaign committee contributed \$35,000 for the 2008 elections to the House Democratic Campaign Committee, according to campaign finance reports filed with the Missouri Ethics Commission.

LeVota said he believed the FBI's apparent questions were prompted by a "political rival who's trying to throw me under the bus."

Current House Speaker Ron Richard, R-Joplin, who took over in January, said he has not been interviewed by the FBI and was not aware of anyone who had been. None of the lawmakers who said they were interviewed by the FBI described any questions specifically focused on Richard.

Former House Speaker Pro Tem Carl Bearden, R-St. Charles, who resigned in July 2007 and now is a lobbyist, said Tuesday that Republicans who were given prime committee spots were expected to help raise money for the caucus. He said he has had no contact with the FBI.

"What people were told is if you want to be chair, you need to be out working for the team, raising money," Bearden said. But he added: "There was never a deal 'if you want to keep that committee chairmanship, or if you want that committee chairmanship, here's the dollar amount.'"



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ARGENTINA

Argentine President Alfonsin dies at age 82 of lung cancer

Government leader symbolized the return of democracy across Latin America after an era of military dictatorship

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES — Raul Alfonsin, whose presidency came to symbolize the return of democracy across Latin America from an era of military dictatorship, has died.

Alfonsin's personal doctor, Alberto Sadler, said former Argentine president died of lung cancer on Tuesday. He was 82.

The presidential inauguration of the burly, mustachioed leader on Dec. 10, 1983, ended more than seven years of a repressive military regime that left at least 12,000 disappeared.

He won an open election that the military was forced to call, in disgrace, after the nation's defeat in the 1982 war with Britain over the Falklands Islands.

His presidency was marked by two milestones: his daring decision to bring to trial the leaders of the dictatorship for human rights violations, and an economic collapse that made him hand power to his successor six months early. Annual inflation had jumped to over 3,000 percent.

Few discussed his crucial role in the restoration of democracy at a time when military regimes ruled most of South America.

He was instrumental in getting several political groups to set aside differences and unite in a loose coalition that paved the way for the 1983 election. He garnered 51.7 percent of the vote, handing the powerful Peronist party its first election defeat ever.

Shortly after entering the Pink House presidential palace, he ordered the trial of nine members of the former ruling military junta, on charges including kidnapping, torture and the forced disappearances of thousands.

It was a bold step in a country where the military dominated for decades, having taken power in six coups in the 20th century.

"I think that sometimes I take too many risks, because what we did no one had done before," he said later.

He said the trials were needed to restore a strong judicial system and break the destructive cycle of political chaos and military coups that

wracked Argentina for a half-century.

The civilian court trials, unprecedented in Latin America, ended in December 1985 with the conviction and imprisonment of five former military rulers, including two ex-presidents. Four others were acquitted.

Alfonsin established a National Commission on the Disappearance of People which produced for the courts a lengthy report known as "Nunca Mas," or "Never Again," detailing the military's ruthless campaign against dissident based on testimony by hundreds of victims and their relatives and witnesses.

Alfonsin was right about the risks involved in trying the military. He survived three military uprisings between 1987 and 1988, and as a result asked Congress to approve legislation ending the trials and exempting from guilt lower ranking officers.

Alfonsin was born in the small town of Chascomus near Buenos Aires, where he completed primary school and first found an interest in politics, joining the Radical

Party, Argentina's brand of Social Democrat.

He kept his aura as a key figure of democracy until the end.

"You are a symbol of democracy," Cristina Fernandez told him as she was sworn in as Argentina's Peronist President in 2008.

He made clear, however, there was still work to be done.

"Our democracy is limp and incomplete," he said as the nation marked the 25th anniversary of civilian rule. "Intolerance and violence," he said, were problems Argentina needed to solve.

Alfonsin explained his strong rejection of authoritarian rule as inherited from his father, a fervent supporter of the Republican Forces crushed by Gen. Francisco Franco in the Spanish civil war.

After elementary school, however, he went for five years to a military academy.

"Those were five very good years, for they served to tire me of military officials," he later observed.

As a 23-year-old law gradu-

ate from the University of La Plata, Alfonsin married Maria L. Barrenechea, whom he had known since childhood and courted at neighborhood dances in Chascomus. They had six children.

Law practice was a base for launching his political career, becoming a Chascomus city commissioner in 1955, a provincial legislator three years later and a member of the national House of Deputies in 1963.

In 1976, the military toppled President Isabel Peron, who had succeeded her husband, Gen. Juan Domingo Peron at his death, and launched a harsh campaign to wipe out leftist subversion.

In response, Alfonsin and several prominent citizens formed the Permanent Assembly on Human Rights, which denounced rights abuse, challenging the regime.

Alfonsin was his party's uncontested presidential candidate when the military permitted elections in 1983. He won on a platform of human rights and honesty in government.

GM, Chrysler race deadlines to hold off bankruptcy

Associated Press

DETROIT — He doesn't know exactly what the Obama administration wants him to do, but Fritz Henderson, the new CEO of General Motors Corp., isn't waiting around to find out.

Cut deeper. Work harder. Move faster.

That's how he described the ailing automaker's urgent effort to meet a June 1 deadline to fix its debt-ridden balance sheet, cut billions in costs and take other steps to transform itself into a profitable entity.

It's the same government-imposed race that Chrysler LLC is running, only GM's smaller neighbor has to cover more distance in half the time.

The Auburn Hills, Mich., automaker must make the same cuts as GM, and sign up Fiat Group SpA as a partner, all in 30 days. Fiat's CEO jetted to Detroit

for intense negotiations, but if Chrysler doesn't meet the deadline, it's almost certainly destined for the auction house.

For GM, failing to take quick action means surrendering to court supervision in bankruptcy. The company has resisted bankruptcy talk in the past, but Henderson said Tuesday it is now "certainly more probable."

The companies have yet to receive specifics from the task force on how much more they must cut and where, but Henderson is proceeding with deeper cuts and pulling previously announced measures forward.

"We need to reinvent General Motors, and we need to do it in a very, very abbreviated time frame here in 2009 so that we're not spending our time careening from crisis to crisis in the future," he told reporters at GM's headquarters complex in downtown Detroit.

There are formidable obstacles, though. Even with less demanding hurdles in the government's original loan terms, GM's bondholders have been reluctant to settle their \$28 billion for what may be pennies on the dollar. The company still hasn't reached a deal with the United Auto Workers on funding a union-run trust that will take over retiree health care costs.

It's uncertain whether they can work together to compromise on their competing interests, even though failure means they stand to lose a lot more.

It was clear, though, that every scenario will include more pain for just about anyone connected with the companies.

GM said in its February plan it would cut 47,000 jobs worldwide by the end of the year. Presumably those cuts will come sooner.

Henderson said GM also must

slash its staggering liabilities — not just the \$49 billion in bond debt and secured loans, but also pension obligations and retiree health care costs.

"We need to basically address all of our level of indebtedness, because in fact, what they want is a healthy balance sheet, and that healthy balance sheet needs to address each of these constituencies," he said.

Henderson wouldn't say specifically if pensions or health care would change, but it's likely that GM's 400,000 U.S. retirees and spouses will see benefit cuts, along with its 244,000 active workers.

He said the company probably will close more than the five factories it promised to shutter in its February restructuring plan filed with the government. More buy-out and early retirement offers are likely.

If GM doesn't satisfy the government in time, a short bankruptcy would allow the company to wipe out its debt, change contracts and emerge as a healthy business. The government is backing automakers' warranties and has pledged financing for GM.

For Chrysler, however, Obama's auto task force has decided it has no chance to survive alone, and it would be left to get sold off in pieces. There were signs of progress, however, that a partnership could be arranged.

Fiat CEO Sergio Marchionne flew to Detroit late Monday for talks, and the Italian automaker agreed to reduce its stake in Chrysler from 35 percent to 20 percent in exchange for providing small-car technology, according to a person briefed on the negotiations who was not authorized to speak publicly. Under the new terms, Fiat's share would increase in 5 percent increments every time certain milestones are met, the person said.

At GM, Henderson said the 60

days should be enough time to accomplish its work, but bankruptcy could come before then if GM management and the government determine it won't be able to meet the deadline.

"If it's quite clear that we're not able to accomplish what we need to do in terms of operational restructuring, reduction of debt on the balance sheet and what we need to do to accomplish these broad parameters of having a viable business, this will be a management judgment," Henderson said.

Besides slashing costs, GM must start selling more cars, and the company announced Tuesday its own version of a plan that will make car payments for customers who lose their jobs through no fault of their own. It's called "Total Confidence," and its designed to pull in timid buyers who fear the economy will claim their employment.

The company, Henderson said, counted on revenue for too long from trucks and sport utility vehicles. Now, every vehicle has to turn a profit. That means unprofitable cars and trucks could get the ax, and soon.

"The view is everything's got to pay rent in our product portfolio," he said.

GM also has to jettison unprofitable brands, including iconic Hummer. A decision on closing or selling was supposed to be revealed Tuesday, but GM is still talking with potential buyers. Henderson said an announcement will come within weeks.

GM is alive today only because of \$13.4 billion in government loans, and Henderson wouldn't reveal how much more money the century-old company will need to get through the 60 days. The Treasury Department has not told the company how much money it will get to sustain itself, but Henderson said he doesn't expect a dollar more than necessary.



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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Wednesday, April 1, 2009

THE OBSERVER

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THE
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An apology to Saint Mary's girls

This column is for the ladies, specifically the Belles of Saint Mary's College. No, I'm not just angling for a date to your formal (though everyone knows I'm a phenomenal dancer with nothing to do on April 25). Instead, this column is an attempt to atone for a year of neglect from your brothers and sisters across the lakes.

I know some of you might be thinking, "Why should Notre Dame apologize? Surely they've done nothing but respect and support us over the years!" A few might feel vindicated: "Finally! Someone recognizes that we are not Notre Dame's red-headed step-sister!" Still more might be confused: "What is this guy talking about? Why am I reading this column when I could be watching 'Gossip Girl?'"

The truth is, we Domers have been pretty selfish in '08-'09 — we haven't given you a Viewpoint war to call your own. We've been completely preoccupied with our own issues, (Melissa's buddies, snowballs, yelling "sucks!" at basketball games, Obamania, etc.), and have completely overlooked the Saint Mary's firestorm that normally arrives every spring with the tulips.

Furthermore, a quick glance at the calendar shows little chance of Saint Mary's taking over the Observer at all this year. In two weeks' time, everyone will be upset over the "lameness" of the

new Shirt, even though they will buy one the day it comes out. Then there will be fallout from PigTostal or the lack thereof (Side note: make it happen, swim team. Stick it to the man). Even with those two issues, we still will not have addressed the 500 lb. gorilla in the room: Vagina Monologues. It's a crowded schedule, and unless you act now, you won't make it in.

To add insult to injury, even the Keenan Revue refrained from making any Saint Mary's jokes this year. The Keenan Revue, of all things! By junior year at Notre Dame, I was sure of only three things: losing in the first round of Bookstore, sweatpants after Thanksgiving and smick chick jokes at the Revue. All that's left of the Revue now is a bunch of guys in their underwear grabbing each others' butts, (not that the butt-grabbing isn't tastefully choreographed).

In talking with a few seniors at Saint Mary's, I've learned that they feel cheated by these developments. To them, Belle-bashing is an annual rite, something to be celebrated rather than avoided. To me, their thick skin and ability to take a joke is a quality which I hope will someday cross Route 31. They have to put up with our endless indignation over nonissues all year, and it is only fair that they get their 15 minutes of fame. Therefore, in the spirit of making amends before I have to be forcibly removed from campus in May, (trust me, I'm not leaving without a fight, NDSP), I would like to give this year's seniors the Viewpoint war (albeit abridged) they deserve:

Notre Dame letter: You probably can't

read this because of your inferior intellect, and you shouldn't be allowed in the student section at football games because you can't understand our complicated cheers.

Saint Mary's letter: Zahm doesn't even understand all of the cheers.

Notre Dame letter (guy): You're all named Caitlin or Katie or Kate or Mary Kate or Maribeth, which makes remembering your name easy after a drunken weekend hook-up while making cell phone directory organization extremely difficult.

Saint Mary's letter: That's not true! Respectfully, Katie '09.

Notre Dame letter (girl): I hate you because I can't get my ring by spring from that dreamy guy in O'Neill. The reservation I made my freshman year to have my wedding in the Basilica will now go to waste!

Saint Mary's letter: The first day of spring was two weeks ago. Don't hate the player; hate the game.

There you have it, in so many words. I'm glad that's behind us. Now we can get back to debating important topics like Bookstore team name censorship.

Brad Blomstrom is a senior majoring in finance, economics and closed-mindedness. Although he loves being a college student, he can't wait for the day 40 years from now when he will still be writing outraged letters to the Viewpoint editor while yelling at kids to get off his lawn. He can be contacted at bblomstr@nd.edu

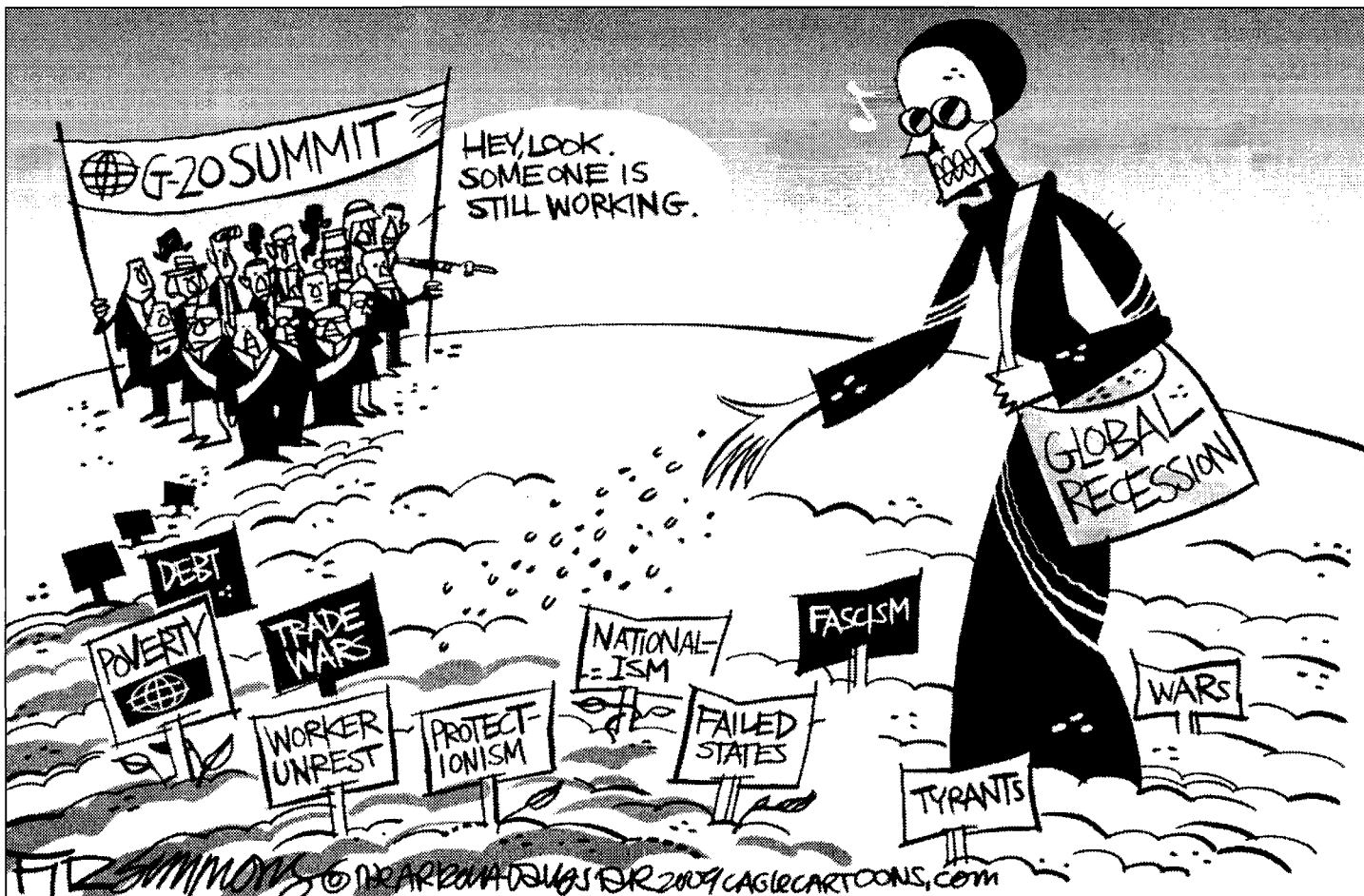
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.



Brad Blomstrom

The Daft Punk

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The time to stop talking is when the other person nods his head affirmatively but says nothing."

Henry S. Haskins
American writer

Submit a Letter
to the Editor

at

www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"My Grandmother is over 80 and still doesn't need glasses. Drinks right out of the bottle."

Henry Youngman
American comedian

(Sings) 'Hellohh, I am your mind'

In a far more idealistic time, I swore never to begin a column with the words, "As I sprawled out to write this column, I said to myself, 'Self? What blissfully optimistic aspect of humanity are we going to go frolicking in this week?'"

"And Self said, 'Katherine, you need to get out more.'"

"But then I didn't. So here's the semi-weekly frolic." Etc.

Several months later, having produced approximately one column that didn't involve frolicking, the resolve to avoid this beginning is hanging by one very weak thread.

So as I sprawled out to write this column, I said to myself,

"You know what, Self? We've been traveling all over the place this past week. We're drained and exhausted. We have no sense of time or place right now. We're just relieved that we'll likely not be waiting in another airport check-in line at a ridiculously early hour until Holy Thursday. We sincerely hope we will not be eaten by Rome on Easter weekend."

"But you know what, Self? There's something we can be sort of proud of, and if we don't get smug about it, it might just spawn a column."

And Self said, "Seriously, Katherine. Stop dissociating."

Katherine Khorey

Both Sides Now

But then I didn't. "Self, since very early in 2009, we have not set foot on a RyanAir flight. And we should, just for us, try to keep it that way. This column, Self, can explain what that all means."

Self rolled her eyes and went out for a Mudslide.

For those of you who aren't where I am, RyanAir is a budget airline, useful for inter-European travel, whose type of advertising and service suggests it considers its patrons no more than piggy banks desperate to be squeezed.

To claim a flight costs zero Euro and then slowly add up "extra" cost is a sin of many airlines, and a tactic that should fool no one with common sense. But RyanAir — which, by the way, will be shortly charging you to use the on-flight lavatories — pulls it off with an especially tacky flair.

The inside of a RyanAir plane is brightly plastered with advertising for itself. Now that you're here, asks the placard on the seat in front of you, don't you want to pay another "zero" Euro to come back and stare at this same placard next time?

While you're waiting to take off, you'll listen to a repeated commercial for something akin to Fruit20 (for sale on board). And doesn't that just sound refreshing after all the airport stress?

Actually, no. What would be refreshing would be to pay my 50-some Euro up front and thus honestly charged, then enjoy some post-airport relaxation amid cloud grey,

navy blue and soothing classical music. And a reasonably priced Sprite — in this economy, "complimentary" may be too much to ask — wouldn't go down so badly either.

There are budget airlines out there that still offer almost that experience (except for the upfront charges). They treat customers as people, and not chromatically stimulated ATMs. And these are the ones I will patronize.

Will one person's defecting from RyanAir affect the company at all? Probably not.

But by defecting, has said person reasserted some measure of personhood? I speak only for Self and I. But I think so.

Of course, if you couldn't care less what the inside of your plane looks like, so long as you make it to Paris in one piece, more power to you.

Although there could be something else that makes you feel a bit dehumanized. Maybe it's something that no one else in your world seems to care about. But if your feelings are legit, and asserting them causes no damage, then why not act?

Just act effectively.

I'd accomplish nothing if I only wrote this column to complain about RyanAir, but hadn't stopped giving it money. Convincing others is one thing, but what's the point if you don't do it for yourself first?

A case in point: Maybe spending weekends as an anonymous saliva receptacle isn't as fulfilling as you'd like, and neither can you think of any face you'd be totally

happy to see at the other end of the Basilica aisle in the near future. Maybe you'd still like a little romance, but you'd be best off, for now, on a middle ground.

Just make that middle ground. Repeat after me: "Taylor, I really enjoy being around you, and I'd like to be there more often. Want to hit up Barnes and Noble for Italian sodas on Saturday?"

And then, no matter what Taylor answers — even if you're clearly too short for her, or he's only interested in C-cups or above — you'll have made the leap. And you, your personhood, your self, will be stronger for it.

"See, Self?" I said, as she poured two coffees. "That's why we're flying Aer Lingus from now on. So that you won't disappear on me. So that even if someone, say, directly threatened to turn our college graduation into a circus, you'd be strong enough that it'd be impossible. I'm going to make you strong, Self. Isn't that why we're here?"

"It's not just about us, Katherine." Self cut her bran muffin into quarters.

"I know. But it'll help make it about everyone. Did you want some blueberry jam on yours?"

Katherine Khorey is a junior studying English and Russian at Trinity College, Dublin. She can be contacted at kkhorey@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Explain yourselves Sorin

I'm sure this is precisely what you want: A rise out of us W.I.L.D. women in response to another whiney protest of Sorin College (Should I remind you that you walked out on Bon Jovi?). While you eloquently attempt to state your case, it is downright nonsensical and avoids the actual reasoning of another immature reason why you hate Walsh. I, myself, have experienced the animosity of Sorin towards Walsh for what seems no reason, as you launched water balloons at our flag football team while we innocently walked to the Grotto. Clearly, something big must have occurred between the dorms for such a war to be waged, but it has confused me since I'm only a freshman.

Curious to find the answer, I asked fellow freshmen that reside in Sorin why exactly we're their disliked neighbors. Their response? "They tell us first day, 'That's our neighbor, Walsh. We don't like them'" And simply, that's all. While I've heard a rumor that the disagreement is based merely upon a breakup gone bad between a Walsh girl and Sorin boy, which occurred before any of us attended Notre Dame, I feel these vicious allegations had to be

stirred by some other reason because a breakup surely does not equal hatred. I'd rather you dislike us for something logical, perhaps vandalizing your dorm or slandering the name of Sorin College (please don't claim that a "lame" request for a game of assassins is the answer because that is equally lame).

So, tell me Sorin, did we Walsh girls spray graffiti upon your walls during a late night plan to vandalize your abode? Or maybe it was all those viewpoints we sent in to The Observer out of the blue, claiming the worst of your dorm. In all seriousness, please explain why you dislike us so much, breakup and petty excuses aside. I won't speak on behalf of my entire dorm like a certain someone, but keep your giant hand off our front steps. If you stop making up reasons to dislike us, perhaps you'll learn that you love your old sister dorm.

Margaret Kowieski
 freshman
 Walsh
 March 30

Stand up for ideals

I wish to express my gratitude to the students who, earlier this month, presented a petition to Fr. Jenkins asking that sexual orientation be added to the University's non-discrimination clause. Fr. Jenkins' decision to reject the petition is deeply distressing. I hope that in the future Notre Dame will reconsider this decision, which contradicts the ideals set out in the 'Spirit of Inclusion.' Despite the disappointing result, I thank those brave students who stood up for the rights of L.G.B.T.Q. students, and stood up for the ideals Notre Dame claims to uphold.

Ailbhe Darcy
 graduate student
 off campus
 March 31

Unions may be the problem

Yesterday Sarah Lyons wrote an letter in support of the ironically named Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) ("Unions a necessity," March 31). This bill, if passed, would change the process of how workforces can unionize.

Currently, once a majority of workers sign cards in favor of an election, there is a waiting period triggered while both the union and management get to make their respective cases for and against unionization. After this period is over, a secret ballot election is held, where each worker can go into a booth alone and vote his conscience. Were the EFCA to pass, the process would go like this: A majority of workers sign union cards, and a union is automatically formed.

Without the protection of the secret ballot, workers would be subject to intimidation from union bosses and peer pressure since card signing is done in public. There would be no chance to vote without fear of consequences from those that disagree with him. Yet, Ms. Lyons sights fairness as a reason to support this bill. Going from a system where both parties get to present their side of the argument and then the worker gets to make a choice anonymously, to a sys-

tem where one side of the argument gets to openly cajole and intimidate workers until they get their way, seems unfair to me.

One man who agrees with me is famed liberal Democratic Senator George McGovern. Despite his longtime support of labor unions, McGovern has actively campaigned against this bill which he sees as an attack on democracy. I do not believe that most of the supporters of the EFCA truly wish to attack democracy. I think they simply believe that there is absolutely no downside to unionization for workers and that any obstacle in the way of unionization should be removed, no matter if it is the secret ballot. However, one must look no further than one of the most heavily unionized industries in the country, the failing and layoff happy U.S. automotive industry, to see why some workers might want the opportunity to say no to unions with the privacy of a secret ballot.

Brian Benjamin
 junior
 Knott
 March 30

We aren't supposed to fill this space, you are!

Submit a letter to the editor



BLAIR CHEMIDLIN | Observer Graphic

By GENNA McCABE
Scene Writer

Everyone loves a good David and Goliath story. Something about the success of the underdog is captivating to audiences. A new drama from Michael Green, executive producer of "Heroes," offers a fresh and modern take on this beloved tale. Set in a modern-day monarchy, "Kings" focuses around a humble soldier who appears to be destined for greatness.

Not unintentionally, "Kings" centers around a young soldier named David. David lives in the monarchy Gilboa, which is ruled by King Silas Benjamin. Silas is said to have brought order and unity to Gilboa, establishing his monarchy in a land previously given up to destruction and despair. In the capital of Gilboa, Shiloh, Silas has created a shining beacon

of hope and prosperity for his people.

We first meet David as a boy living on a farm with his large family. He offers help to a strange man having car trouble. This man is Reverend Ephram Samuels, the spiritual leader of Gilboa. Through their discussion we learn that David's father died in a war. The audience cannot help but sense that these two characters will meet again.

From there, the story fast forwards several years, and finds David fighting in a war of his own. This war, between Gilboa and the neighboring nation Gath, seems to have been going on for many years, and it is clear that the citizens of Gilboa want peace. When a group of Gilboan soldiers are captured by Gath, David goes against orders and rescues them. Little does he know that he has just rescued the son of the King, and that his life is going to change forever. He is whisked off to Shiloh to be shown off as a hero and soon gets caught up in the politics of city life.

The plot of "Kings" purposefully models itself after the David and Goliath story from the Bible. In accordance with the Biblical connection, there is a heavy religious influence in the show. While they are not specifically any one denomination, King Silas often references his own religious beliefs. He speaks of his monarchy as being ordained by God and relies heavily upon the approval of the Reverend Samuels. A favorite anecdote of the King recounts a moment when a great swarm of butterflies came down upon his head. At that moment, Silas knew God approved of his work. Ominously, a similar event occurs to David upon his arrival to Shiloh, perhaps fore-

shadowing a royal future of his own.

An ambitious undertaking by any producer, Green seems to have made his modern adaptation of David and Goliath work — at least for the time being. At times the plot and dialogue of "Kings" can be seen as overworked or insincere. There is no doubt that the story is packed full of archetypes and symbols, but many go by too quickly for the audience to catch on. Still, there is something strangely enthralling about the show. There is deceit and trickery, lies and secrets, romance and passion, and it is all wrapped up in a story from the Bible. While it may be a stretch to say that this series is groundbreaking or award worthy, it is, at least three episodes into the first season, hard to stop watching. If nothing else, the desire to find out what the future holds for David keeps this author coming back.

The plot of "Kings" purposefully models itself after the David and Goliath story from the Bible. In accordance with the Biblical connection, there is a heavy religious influence in the show.

"Kings" airs on NBC Sunday nights at 8 p.m.

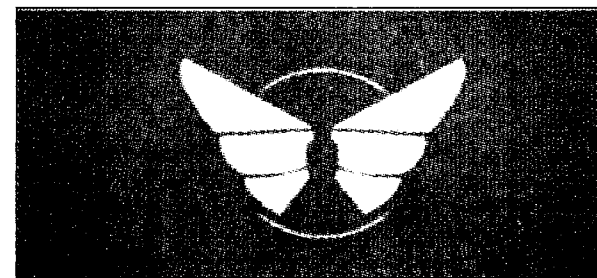
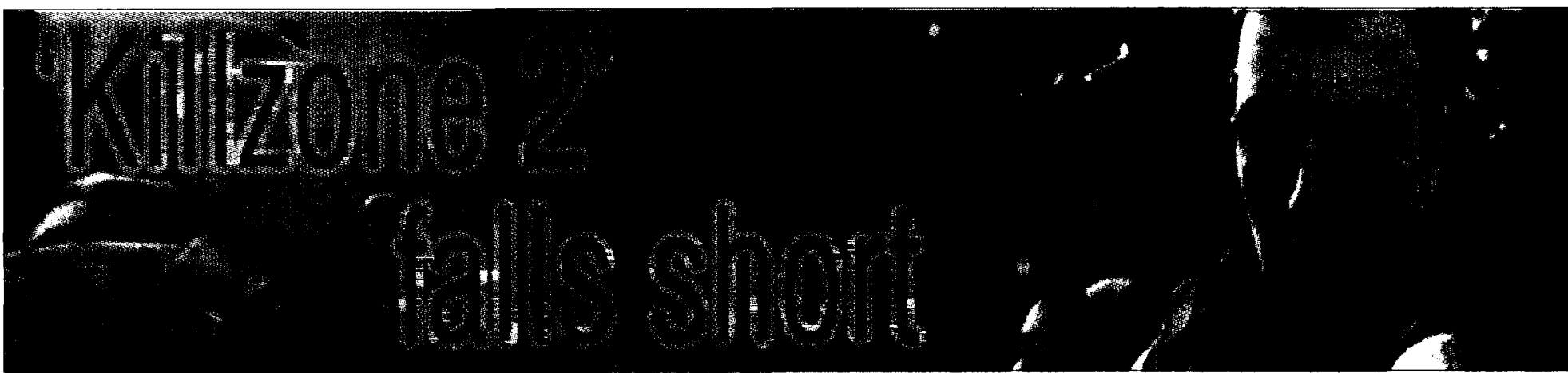
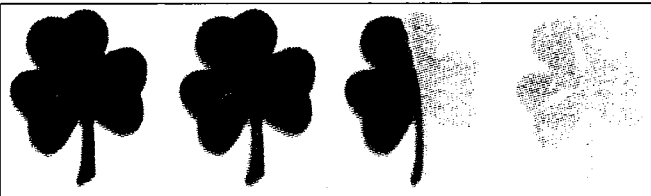


Photo courtesy of sisterrose.wordpress.com

Contact Genna McCabe at gmccabe@nd.edu

Kings

Starring: Christopher Egan (David), Ian McShane (Silas), Eamonn Walker (Samuels), Allison Miller, Susanna Thompson, Sebastian Stan, Dylan Baker, Wes Studi, Sarita Choudhury
Airs: Sundays, 8pm on NBC



BLAIR CHEMIDLIN | Observer Graphic

Killzone 2

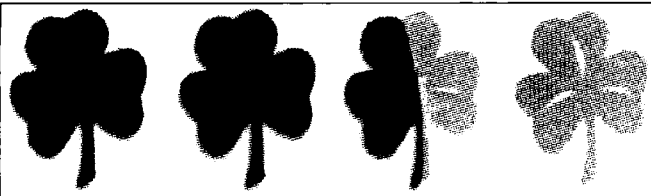
Price: \$59.99

ESRB Rating: M

System: PS3

Pros: Multiplayer mode, customization, best-of-seven gameplay

Cons: Uninspired single-player mode, boring storyline



By ANDREW SERHOFF
Scene Writer

At first glance, the highly anticipated "Killzone 2" looked like everything a video-gaming male could ever want: killing and zone warfare. While the game delivers in these aspects, there are a couple reasons why this game falls short of being the Halo-killer it was predicted to be.

As with most first-person shooters, "Killzone 2" features both single-player and multiplayer modes. Unfortunately, it suffers a similar fate as highly touted first-person shooter games before it: its single-player mode is flat and uninspired. You start the game dropped right into a Normandy-style invasion, with explosions and gunfire all around you. Orders are barked at you by the

radio voice god, and you complete these arbitrary objectives, usually utilizing the tacky Sixaxis motion-sensitive controls for non-combat related tasks. The gameplay and visuals (especially the cutscenes) are exceptional, but the story is uneventful and uninteresting. In addition, the known remedy to disappointing storylines — the cooperative campaign — is suspiciously absent.

The multiplayer is the reason to play "Killzone 2." The mechanics feel like the widely successful "Call of Duty 4," especially with the customizable soldier load-outs. In "Killzone 2," customization is expanded to include different unlockable classes, talents and weapons with a unique system that is intuitive and challenging (but not to the point of absurdity). While gameplay is too

advanced for first-person shooter beginners to have a chance against seasoned veterans a la Halo, it won't take the average gamer long to adjust to the nuances of "Killzone 2." Probably the best new feature is a best-of-seven game rotation on a single map, giving the player the opportunity to play all the classic first-person shooter objectives without the tedious pre-game and post-game setup and loading.

"Killzone 2" makes great work of the PS3's power and is a valuable addition to any first-person shooter fan's library. The multiplayer is near-flawless and a pinnacle of the genre, but if online shooting isn't for you, neither is "Killzone 2."

Contact Andrew Serhoff at aserhoff@nd.edu

CAMPUS RANT:

BLAIR CHEMIDLIN | Observer Graphic

By PATRICK GRIFFIN
Scene Writer

The University of Notre Dame is a premier university, with ample opportunities for success available to young people of all backgrounds. Arguably, no other institution offers the variety in academics, athletics, arts and leisure that is so accessible here on our campus. Notre Dame boasts the capacity to turn nearly any interest into regular practice with its wide array of facilities, faculty and student leadership.

Why then, is there a significant shortage of casual performance of popular music by Notre Dame's students? In comparison with many other colleges of varying sizes, Notre Dame lacks notably in this department.

This statement is not meant to be taken as a criticism of the musical inclinations of Notre Dame's student population. The talent is clearly there, evident in any special performances, talent shows, and the rare sunny-day drum circle. Rather, the claim is that there is a scarcity of opportunities and venues for Notre Dame musicians to display the soul, the chillness and the flow that is characteristic of college-age music.

Now, when compared to other student bodies, Notre Dame students may be slightly more preoccupied with their academic endeavors than with publicly mellowing out with an acoustic guitar strapped to their shoulders. The claim can be made that between difficult classes, the environmental club, applying for mission work in Uganda, and the co-rec ultimate

Frisbee team (note the Notre Dame manifestation of the Jack Johnson stereotype), casual "jamming" is unfortunately pushed to the back burner.

Students, however, seem to have little difficulty involving themselves in ways that tailor to their interests and talents; go see any Notre Dame stage production and it is clear that students are willing and capable of producing performance masterpieces. The problem may then lie in the availability of casual performance opportunities, both on campus and in South Bend.

Weekly Acousticafé performances display the talent being discussed. But these unplugged sessions don't guarantee a

full bill and thirst for a larger commitment. And how often do Notre Dame student performers climb onstage at Legends for exclusive shows, or even as opening acts for the many touring bands that pass through? Unless it's the case of very poor advertising, there exist virtually no student performances anywhere off campus.

What Notre Dame and South Bend need are more venues and opportunities to kick out a few jams. We're talking coffee shops, cafes, restaurants, nightclubs and other locations that would allow a college student to sit down, with or without accompaniment, and bust out a few popular covers, or even introduce the community to some original songwriting.

Talented student musicians always seem to seep out of the woodwork at one-and-done events like talent shows or some of the various cultural festivals

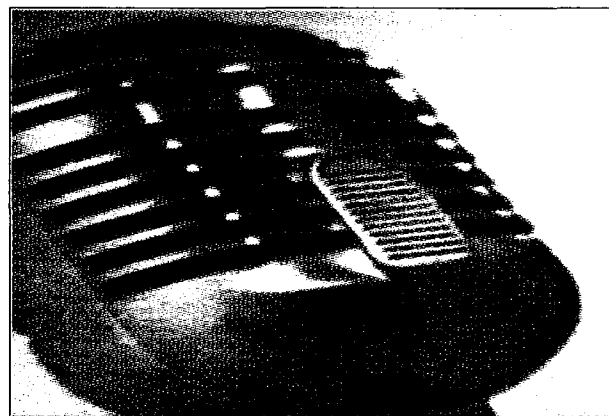
that sweep quickly across campus. Why not have a place where these valuable talents can stick around for a while.

Hopefully, what we as students will see, or more appropriately, hear, in the near future is the mellow musings of musicians during the quieter hours at Reckers. Perhaps a fellow student will preempt a touring artist with his own tunes at Legends. Maybe soon posters alerting passing students of upcoming off-campus performances will also adorn the walls of O'Shag.

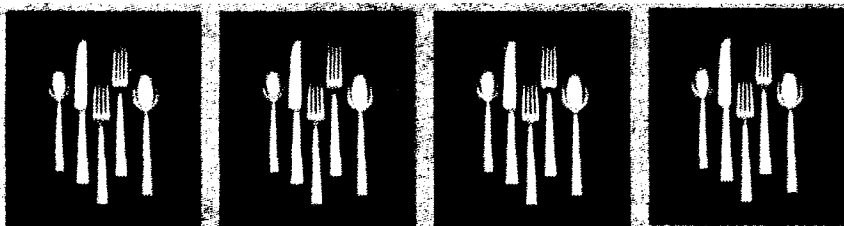
Opportunities abound for students at Notre Dame. It's time that students' music was given the same chance.

The problem may then lie in the availability of casual performance opportunities, both on campus and in South Bend.

There is a scarcity of opportunities and venues for Notre Dame musicians to display the soul, the chillness, and the flow that is characteristic of college age music.



Contact Patrick Griffin at pgriffi3@nd.edu



Dining Hall Dish

By SARA FELSENSTEIN
Scene Writer

It is easy to get into a routine with lunch foods, especially if you don't have time to be one of those lunch-goers at South with the big backpacks, doing circles around the salad stations as they weigh their options. Maybe you head to the deli station day after day for some turkey and cheese on a roll. Or maybe you're a fan of peanut butter and jelly and see no reason to go for another alternative. Of course, there's nothing wrong with these

options, but a little change is always good. Try out these easy recipes and your lunchtime experience could be revolutionized.

Buffalo Chicken Salad

So yes, my level of innovation here can be explained by my job at Reckers. Although there is something special about a good Reckers Buffalo Chicken Salad, if you're running low on Flex points, a similar alternative can be made at the DH. Take a

Finally, add those crispy delicious noodle things that no one seems to know the name of.

plate of Romaine lettuce. Add celery, onions, diced tomatoes, bleu cheese crumbles and

shredded carrots. Then take a chicken breast from the grill station and cut it into strips. (If the chicken poppers are available you could use those instead). Top the salad in buffalo sauce from the deli station. Finally, add those crispy delicious noodle things that no one seems to know the name of. Put another plate on top and shake until the ingredients are evenly distributed. Eat with a side of pita slices (no organic piadina bread with this one, sorry).

The Ultimate Grilled Cheese

Tired of the generic grilled cheese that sits out in the fried food section at both lunch and dinner, day after day? Maybe you don't like American cheese, and what could be a

quick, satisfying lunch is repeatedly overlooked. Well, even if you never tire of the premade grilled cheese's crunchy, buttery goodness, this new grilled cheese is worth a try. Take two slices of sourdough bread from the deli section. Add a slice of cheese (cheddar, Swiss or provolone — I'd go for cheddar) to each piece of bread. Then put two slices of ham (or three pieces of bacon) on the bottom piece, and add spinach leaves, onions and tomatoes to your liking. Press the sandwich at the panini station. Once the cheese has melted on both sides, your ultimate grilled cheese is good to go!

Contact Sara Felsenstein at sfelsens@nd.edu

NBA

Thunder prevent Spurs from clinching berth

Anthony's 29 against Knicks leads Nuggets into second place; Bobcats earn critical win over Lakers

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Kevin Durant scored 31 points and the Oklahoma City Thunder continued to torment the San Antonio Spurs with a 96-95 victory Tuesday night.

The Thunder led by as much as 17 and denied the Spurs a playoff-clinching win after beating San Antonio for the second time this month. With eight games left, the Spurs lost their slim lead in the Southwest Division and fell into a first-place tie with Houston.

Russell Westbrook had 16 points and 10 assists for the Thunder, who fought off a furious rally from the Spurs to break a three-game losing streak and win in San Antonio for the first time since 2004.

The Spurs had a chance to win, but Michael Finley's off-balance jumper as time expired clanked off the back of the rim. Tim Duncan scored 21.

San Antonio has lost two straight and will play five of its final eight games on the road, including another one at Oklahoma City next week. San Antonio still needs either a win or a Phoenix loss to clinch a playoff spot for the 12th straight year but could still be seeded anywhere from No. 2 to No. 8.

The Thunder seemed determined not to punch San Antonio's playoff ticket.

Oklahoma City, which had won just once in the six games since beating the Spurs on March 16,

built a 74-57 lead in the third before the Spurs came storming back. The Thunder's lead shrunk to 94-93 with 1:11 left on a 3-pointer by Finley, but Nenad Krstic hit a jumper to push the lead back to three.

Duncan blocked a layup by Jeff Green with 13 seconds left, but the Spurs struggled to find a shooter after immediately pushing the ball up the floor and settled for Finley's errant jumper as the buzzer sounded.

Manu Ginobili scored 17 points in his first start since December. Finley had 14 and Tony Parker had 11 for the Spurs.

Krstic and Green each had 16 for the Thunder.

San Antonio led by as much as eight in the first quarter before the more youthful Thunder — whose starting lineup has fewer years of NBA experience combined (8) than Duncan (11) — began exhausting the Spurs.

Kyle Weaver's 3-pointer with 7:12 left in the second gave the Thunder their first lead since the opening minutes. From there, Oklahoma City went on a 10-3 run and held the Spurs without a field goal for more than five minutes to take a 51-40 lead.

Oklahoma City's lead ballooned to 17 in the third on Durant's jumper, but the Spurs rallied. Duncan answered with a layup on the other end to start a 9-2 run to end the quarter.

Joining the Thunder on the bench in street clothes was new addition Shaun Livingston, who signed a multiyear contract

Tuesday after spending three weeks with their NBA Development team. The No. 4 pick out of high school in the 2004 draft, Livingston is trying to comeback from a gruesome knee injury with the Los Angeles Clippers in 2007.

Livingston will practice with the team for the first time Thursday but may not make his debut until next week. Oklahoma City has just eight games remaining.

Nuggets 111, Knicks 104

Carmelo Anthony scored 29 points and the Denver Nuggets clinched a playoff spot by holding on for a victory over the New York Knicks on Tuesday night after blowing most of a 27-point, second-quarter lead.

The Nuggets' win, coupled with San Antonio's 96-95 loss to Oklahoma City, moved Denver into the No. 2 spot in the Western Conference heading into the final two weeks of the season.

Denver's 49-26 record is its best 73-game mark since joining the NBA in 1976. The Nuggets clinched a playoff spot for the sixth straight season. Only Dallas, Detroit and San Antonio have also made the playoffs every year since 2003-04.

Denver has won nine of 10 and New York has lost nine of 10, so a mismatch was expected, and the Nuggets obliged by racing out to a 62-35 led with five minutes left in the first half.

That's when they got sloppy, and the Knicks, who were led by Nate Robinson's 30 points, got hot.

The Knicks used a 26-3 spurt spanning halftime to pull to 65-61 and make a game of it, much to the chagrin of the Pepsi Center crowd that had settled in for another blowout from the Nuggets, who are vying for home-court advantage in the playoffs for the first time in Anthony's six seasons in the NBA.

New York pulled to 80-77 on Wilson Chandler's jumper with 1:19 left in the third quarter, but that was as close as the Knicks could get as the Nuggets scored the next 14 points.

Bobcats 94, Lakers 84

Needing victories to make up ground in the playoff race, the schedule fell perfectly for the Charlotte Bobcats: The mighty Los Angeles Lakers came to town.

Continuing perhaps the most unlikely dominance of one team over another in the NBA, the Bobcats got 21 points and 13



Nuggets forward Kenyon Martin reaches in for a steal against New York's Wilson Chandler in the fourth quarter of Denver's 111-104 win.

rebounds from Gerald Wallace and used stifling defense to beat the Lakers on Tuesday night and move within one game of the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Raymond Felton added 16 points, D.J. Augustin scored 14 and Boris Diaw had 12 assists as the Bobcats frustrated Kobe Bryant and completed a season sweep of the Western Conference leaders, who have lost six of seven to Charlotte over the past four seasons.

"We match up real well with them," explained Wallace after the fifth-year Bobcats set a franchise record with their 34th win. "We kind of force Kobe into taking a lot of tough shots, and kind of get him out of the way he wants to do things offensively. At the same time, we're able to attack them and take advantage of their weaknesses."

Failing to reach 100 points in consecutive games for the first time since November, the weary Lakers dropped their second straight with one game left Wednesday in Milwaukee on their seven-game, 13-day road trip.

Bryant scored 25 points, but hit just 11 of 28 shots. Lamar Odum added 20 points as the Lakers slipped to three games behind Cleveland for the NBA's best record and home-court for a possible finals matchup.

"We've just got to build momentum, build rhythm," said Bryant, who is 18-for-47 from the field in the past two games.

"You want to be playing well going into the playoffs."

With Raja Bell shadowing Bryant, the Bobcats held the Lakers to 39 percent shooting — and as the game wore on, Bobcats fans drowned out the thousands of Lakers fans who helped produce the largest crowd for a Bobcats game in their 4-year-old arena.

"It was like an NCAA tournament game," Bobcats coach Larry Brown said. "They were cheering for the underdog."

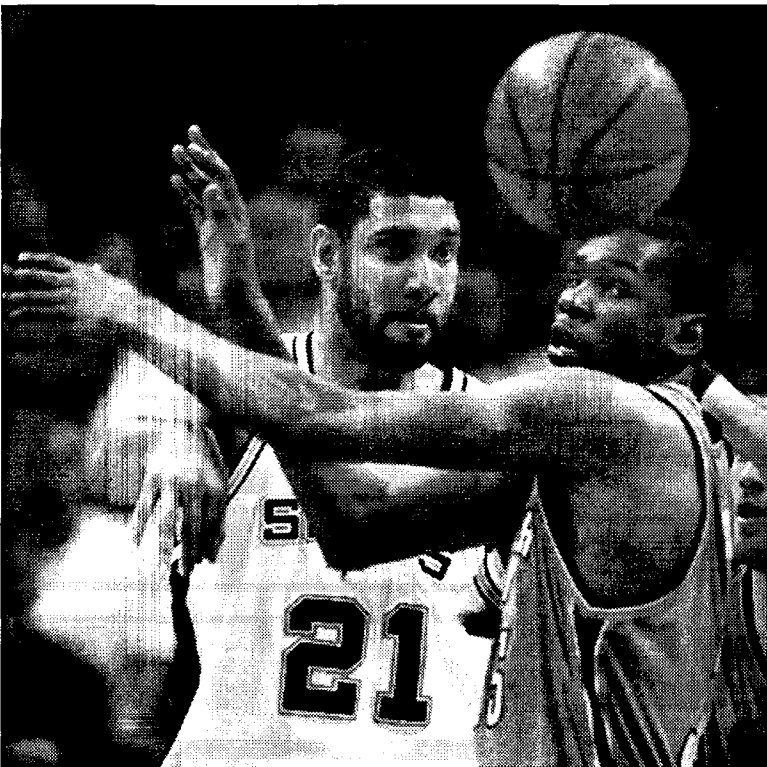
Brown's latest turnaround job has the lightly regarded Bobcats in the playoff mix despite a brutal closing schedule that includes six of eight on the road, starting Wednesday in Boston.

After losses by Chicago and Detroit on Tuesday, the Bobcats are a game behind the eighth-place Bulls and two back of the seventh-place Pistons.

"It gives us a big chance to make it to the playoffs this season," said Vladimir Radmanovic, who had seven points in his first game against his former team since being dealt for Adam Morrison. "Of course, playing against your old team, it's always a pleasure when you beat them."

Hot shooting and tough defense down the stretch was the difference.

After Bryant had two buckets in an 8-0 run to get the Lakers within 80-78 with 5:32 left, Diaw hit a floater in the lane and Bell made a 3-pointer on the next possession.



San Antonio's Tim Duncan passes the ball past Oklahoma City forward Kevin Durant during the fourth quarter of the Spurs' 96-95 win.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

WANTED

One or two roommates needed for brand new 3 BR 3 Bath Condo at Irish Crossings fully furnished. \$500 per mo. incl. utilities - wireless, gas, water, electric and parking.

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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/>

\$35 Paid Today! New Donors (w/ad) IBR Plasma Center, 2102 S. Michigan, South Bend 574-234-9568.

Notre Dame will win the 2010 BCS National Championship.

... April Fools.

AROUND THE NATION

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

NCAA Women's Tennis ITA Division 1 Rankings

	team	points	previous
1	Northwestern	87	1
2	Georgia	79	2
3	NOTRE DAME	72	3
4	Baylor	69	5
5	Miami (Fla.)	67	4
6	Georgia Tech	67	6
7	Southern California	65	10
8	California	65	8
9	Duke	63	7
10	Stanford	55	11
11	Clemson	53	12
12	UCLA	52	9
13	Tennessee	46	13
14	Fresno State	44	15
15	Arkansas	43	23
16	Florida	41	14
17	Florida State	39	25
18	North Carolina	38	18
19	Vanderbilt	37	NR
20	Kentucky	37	19
21	Arizona State	35	20
22	SMU	35	24
23	Michigan	34	16
24	LSU	34	21
25	Alabama	33	17

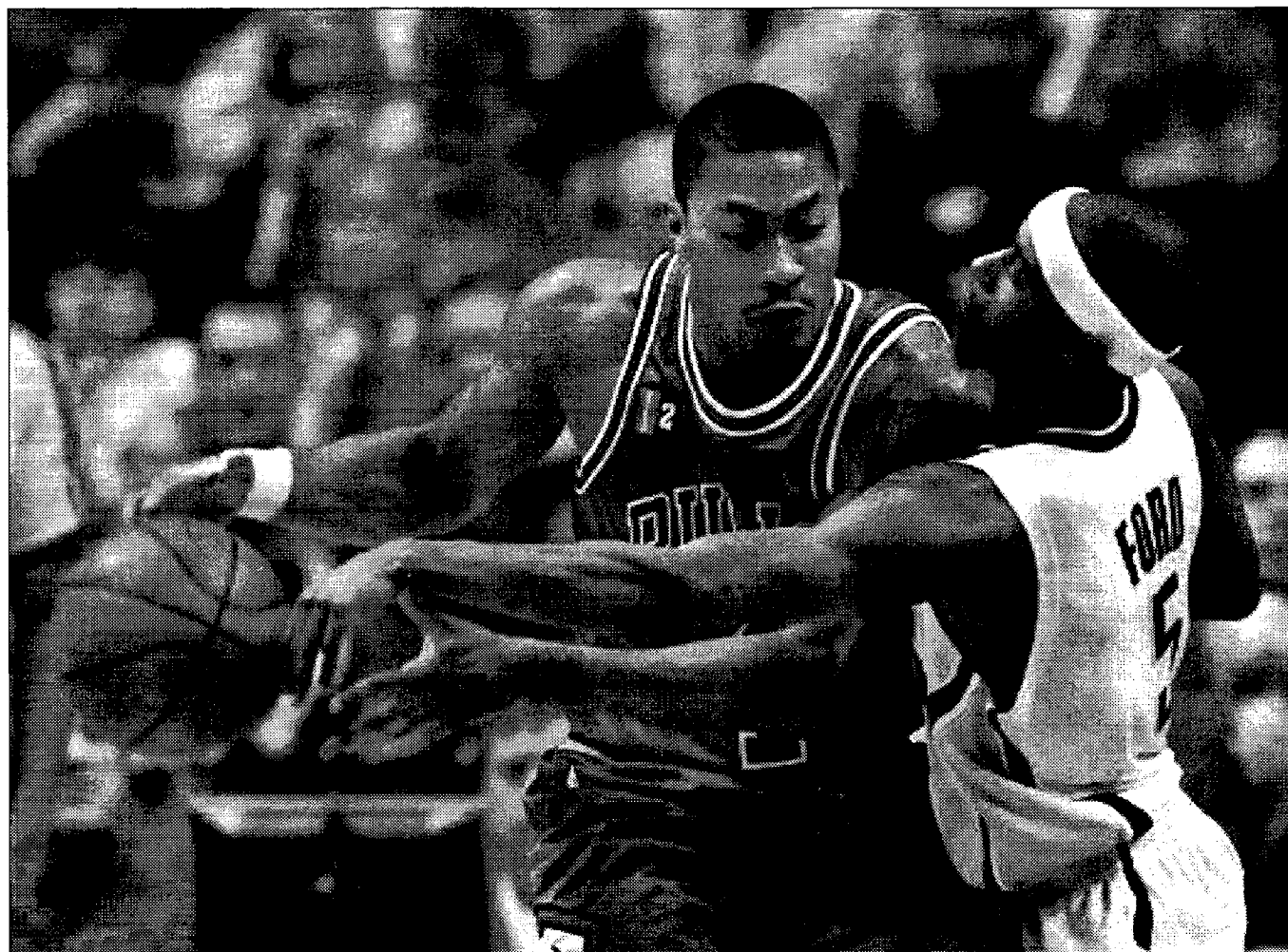
NCAA Women's Lacrosse IWFLCA Division 1 Rankings

	team	record	previous
1	Northwestern	9-0	1
2	Maryland	8-0	2
3	Penn	7-0	3
4	North Carolina	7-2	6
5	Duke	8-2	7
6	Georgetown	5-3	4
7	Princeton	5-1	9
8	Syracuse	6-2	8
9	NOTRE DAME	8-1	10
10	Virginia	6-3	5
11	Vanderbilt	4-3	11
11	Boston University	5-3	12
13	Loyola (Md.)	6-1	20
14	Stanford	6-2	15
15	Penn State	4-4	17
16	Dartmouth	3-3	19
17	Ohio State	7-1	18
18	James Madison	4-3	16
19	Cornell	6-2	14
20	New Hampshire	4-3	13

NCAA Men's Golf Nike Division 1 Rankings

	team	points
1	Georgia	572
2	Southern California	540
3	Oklahoma State	530
4	Clemson	455
5	Stanford	446
6	Illinois	435
7	Florida	418
8	Alabama	406
9	Arizona State	397
10	Indiana	386
11	Georgia Tech	287
12	Washington	282
13	Texas Tech	276
14	South Carolina	260
15	Texas	241

NBA



Derrick Rose of the Chicago Bulls is guarded by the Pacers' T.J. Ford during Indiana's 107-105 win over the Bulls Tuesday. Ford scored a final field goal with 3.9 seconds left.

Chicago falls to Indiana in final seconds

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS— T.J. Ford hit the go-ahead jumper with 3.9 seconds left, and the Indiana Pacers beat the Chicago Bulls 107-105 on Tuesday night to tighten the race for the eighth spot in the Eastern Conference.

Chicago had a chance to tie or win, but Ben Gordon missed a long shot that was signaled as a 3-pointer in the closing seconds.

Ford finished with 22 points and nine assists. Danny Granger led the Pacers with 31 points, while Troy Murphy had 15 points and 12 rebounds after missing the previous three games with a strained medi-

al collateral ligament in his left knee.

Derrick Rose had 24 points and a career-high 11 rebounds, Kirk Hinrich had 20 points, seven assists and seven rebounds, and Tyrus Thomas added 20 points for the Bulls.

Indiana won for the fourth time in five games and is 3½ games behind Chicago with seven games left.

Chicago had been up by more, but didn't take advantage and failed to score on its next three possessions. Granger scored on a put-back to make it 103-102, then the Pacers forced Chicago into a shot clock violation.

Indiana worked the ball to

Granger again, and he drained a 3-pointer with 43 seconds left to give Indiana its first lead of the quarter.

Gordon responded with a fallaway jumper from the free-throw line to tie the score with 38 seconds left.

Indiana worked for a shot, and Murphy missed, but the ball went out of bounds off a Chicago player, giving the Pacers a new 24-second clock with 26 seconds to play.

Ford worked the shot clock down, then drove left against Rose before hitting the fadeaway.

The Bulls led 52-50 at halftime, but the Pacers opened the half with a flurry that included a 3-pointer and a reverse dunk by

Murphy to take a 59-54 lead with just over 8 minutes left in the quarter.

Chicago rallied, and back-to-back 3-pointers by Tim Thomas and Hinrich gave the Bulls a 69-63 lead.

Josh McRoberts' two-handed baseline jam in the final second of the third quarter cut Chicago's advantage to 79-76.

A two-handed dunk and a layup by Tyrus Thomas increased Chicago's lead to 85-78. Indiana rallied again, and a 3-pointer by Granger trimmed the Bulls' lead to 87-85 and caused Chicago to call a timeout.

Chicago responded with a 12-6 run during which four different Bulls scored to take a 99-91 lead.

IN BRIEF

Tony Dungy invited to be on White House Advisory Council

INDIANAPOLIS — Former Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy has been invited to join a White House faith-based advisory council.

Dungy publicist Todd Starowitz confirmed Tuesday that President Barack Obama had invited the former coach to join the Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. He said Dungy had not decided whether to accept.

White House deputy press secretary Bill Burton declined comment. The Associated Press left a message for Dungy on his home answering machine.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State has criticized Dungy's selection, citing his 2007 support for efforts in Indiana to ban same-sex marriage.

"We're not trying to downgrade anyone else," Dungy told a crowd of 700 while accepting a "Friend of Family" award from the conservative Indiana Family Institute in 2007. "But we're trying to promote the family — family values the Lord's way."

Plaxico Burress' gun trial pushed back to June

NEW YORK — A gun possession case against New York Giants star Plaxico Burress was adjourned Tuesday until June unless he reaches a plea agreement with prosecutors to resolve the matter sooner.

Burress accidentally shot himself in the thigh with an unlicensed gun he'd stuffed into his waistband at a Manhattan nightclub last year.

The star receiver, wearing a gray suit and a light blue shirt, arrived at Manhattan Criminal Court in the company of his wife and his attorney, Benjamin Brafman.

Both sides agreed to adjourn the case to June 15 following a brief hearing before Judge Michael Yavinsky. Burress' bail was continued.

Prosecutor John Wolfstaetter told the judge that the prosecution was continuing its investigation.

Paris leads Oklahoma women to Final Four

OKLAHOMA CITY — Courtney Paris will get the chance to back up her national championship guarantee in the Final Four.

Paris led the way with 19 points, 13 rebounds and six blocks as top-seeded Oklahoma surged ahead in the second half to beat Purdue 74-68 Tuesday night to earn the second trip to the Final Four in school history.

The Sooners (32-4) will face Louisville, an upset winner against top-seeded Maryland, in the national semifinals in St. Louis.

Danielle Robinson scored 23 points for Oklahoma, which has made it this far for the first time since losing to Connecticut in the 2002 championship game.

Lindsay Wisdom-Hylton led sixth-seeded Purdue (25-11) with 20 points and 13 rebounds, and Lakisha Freeman and Brittany Rayburn scored 12 points apiece.

around the dial

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL
McDonald's All-American Game
8 p.m., ESPN

NHL

Chicago Blackhawks vs. St. Louis Blues
8:30 p.m., CSN

MLB

Poll: Major League ticket prices too high

Associated Press

Take me out to the ballgame ... because I can't afford it.

The high price of going to a game is now the No. 1 problem in Major League Baseball, a new Associated Press-Knowledge Networks poll of fans shows.

Soaring salaries and steroids dominated fans' worries in past AP surveys. But with opening day less than a week away, the nation's recession is delivering the biggest blow.

"Like every election, it's the economy," said New York Yankees star Mark Teixeira, who signed a \$180 million, eight-year contract in the off-season. "In tough times, disposable income may not be there."

In other poll results released Tuesday:

—Nearly 60 percent of fans said no player who used steroids or performance-enhancing drugs should get into the Hall of Fame.

—85 percent said all 104 names on the list of players who tested positive for drugs in 2003 should be made public. So far, only Alex Rodriguez has been identified.

—60 percent said they were not interested in the World Baseball Classic — the pre-season tournament involving major leaguers that was won by Japan for the second time.

But the cost of tickets, concessions, parking and everything else added up to fans' main concern. The toll of attending a game was tops at 45 percent, followed by player salaries (29 percent), steroids/drugs (19 percent) and the length of games (6 percent).

"It's gone up like everything else. The last game we went to, we paid \$50 for a seat. That's pretty steep," Robert Neel, a retired director of admissions at the University of Cincinnati, said at spring training in Florida.

That would make for a cheap seat at either of the two new ballparks opening in New York. At the \$1.5 billion Yankee Stadium, a ticket in the lower deck between the bases goes for a minimum of \$350 and tops out at \$2,625.

At the Mets' Citi Field, it's \$18 just to park.

The average ticket price in the majors was \$25.43 last

year — up 11.7 percent over the previous season, according to The Team Marketing Report. The 2009 cost hasn't been determined, but the increases typically outpace the inflation rate.

MLB said two-thirds of the 30 teams lowered either their average ticket price or some level of seats. The Toronto Blue Jays went even further, offering a season ticket in the upper deck for \$76 — less than \$1 per game for all 81 home dates.

"The prices at the concession stands are insane," Cleveland fan Larry Jameson complained at spring training in Goodyear, Ariz. "Eight bucks for a beer. My wife bought a T-shirt. It cost her 22 bucks. She was going to get me a golf shirt. It was 55 bucks. I said forget about it, we need a plane ticket home."

Margaret Costello, a retired teacher from Sandusky, Ohio, assessed blame across the board.

"I'm not happy about the prices," she said this week at the Indians' new camp. "Every sports team in America, every professional athlete, is out of line."

"We have people losing their jobs, and CC Sabathia — I love him, he was my favorite — he gets more millions than a third-world country's national budget?" she said.

"I'm here for spring training, but I think this is the last time. Every year, I get more disillusioned with the millionaire players. Now, with Americans really in a financial bind, these guys keep getting richer? It has to stop."

Sabathia, who signed a \$161 million, seven-year deal with the Yankees, accepted that sentiment.

"I'm not surprised with the economy being so bad and the way things are, the price of a ticket is probably going to be high. Hopefully they'll still come out and support us," he said.

Overall, almost 60 percent of poll respondents said going to a game was more expensive than other entertainment they might consider. Yet there was no indication they would stay away because of the prices — only 11 percent who went to a game in 2008 said they aren't likely to go back this year.

SOCCER

Police blamed for stampede

Associated Press

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — Fans who survived a deadly stadium stampede in the Ivory Coast blamed police Monday for the tragedy, saying security forces provoked the panic by tear gassing people who had nowhere to run.

World soccer body FIFA called for a prompt investigation into the stampede Sunday at Abidjan's Felix Houphouet-Boigny arena that left 19 people dead and injured more than 130. The president of Ivory Coast declared a three-day period of mourning.

Tens of thousands of fans turned out to see Chelsea striker Didier Drogba — a native of Ivory Coast — as the home team squared off against Malawi at a World Cup qualifying match. Interior Minister Desire Tagro said on state TV that fans outside the stadium began pushing and shoving before the game began, setting off the panic. But witnesses said that as fans tried to get into the stadium, police fired tear gas into the crowd, setting off the stampede.

The weight of the fans pushing forward caused a wall to come crashing down, according to an AP photographer and other witnesses. An Abidjan morgue listed 19 dead, and Tagro gave the number of injured as 132.

Members of the Ivorian Football Federation denounced the police. Senior federation member Anzouan Kacou told Radio France Internationale that security forces had been "negligent" and had violated safety procedures by using tear gas inside the stadium.

"We saw people falling from the top bleachers," said Diarassouba Adama, who was inside the stadium. "The stampede was provoked by the security forces

who threw tear gas canisters at us. I don't know why they fired on us."

Relatives of the dead outside one of the capital's morgues agreed. "My brother left to go to the stadium with his friends. At the entrance, they were attacked by security forces. That's what set off the

"We saw people falling from the top of bleachers. The stampede was provoked by the security forces who threw tear canisters at us."

Diarassouba Adama
Stampede witness

stampede," M o m o d o u Kamara said after identifying the body of his brother.

Women fainted with grief outside the m o r g u e Monday and others sobbed as they held each other. Fathers and brothers stood, their eyes red with sorrow.

Morgue officials released the names of the 19 dead — including two children, one of whom was age 10. There was no immediate word Monday on the condition of the injured.

President Laurent Gbagbo announced a three-day period of mourning to mark the incident, said his spokesman C o u l i b a l y Gervais on state TV. Prime Minister Guillaume Soro called a meeting of his c a b i n e t Monday to discuss the tragedy.

Local newspapers argued that more tickets had been sold than were seats inside the 35,000-seat capacity stadium. The daily "Super Sport" cited anonymous sources who said that fans were able to bribe security forces to let them into the stadium for the game even though they did not have tickets.

The game took place Sunday despite the deaths and Ivory Coast won 5-0. It was the first match in the final stage of African qualifying for the 2010 World Cup.

"We are all so sad about what happened and can only send our condolences to the family and friends of all those who died," said Drogba, who scored two goals for the Ivory Coast in the match.

The organizer of the next World Cup, meanwhile, pledged Monday there will be no stadium stampedes during Africa's first World Cup in 2010 or during the 2009 Confederations Cup, both being held in South Africa.

Danny Jordaan told reporters in Johannesburg that many African fans buy their tickets only when they reach the stadium, and delays often create impatient crowds outside.

"It triggers a stampede that leads to disaster," Jordaan said. "Those things will not occur in the Confederations Cup or the World Cup. It is impossible."

Jordaan said World Cup and Confederations Cup tickets will have to be purchased well in advance and those without tickets will be stopped far away from the stadiums.

He said stadium gates will open early, three hours before kickoff, and public transportation to stadiums will be improved — all to reduce a n x i o u s crowds.

Both he and FIFA President Joseph S. Blatter offered their condolences to the families.

If tear gas was to blame in Abidjan, it would be the fourth time since 2001 that police firing tear gas have set off deadly stadium stampedes in Africa.

In 2000, 13 fans died at a match in Zimbabwe after police fired tear gas into the crowd. A year later, at least 123 people died in Accra, Ghana, after security forces fired tear gas and seven other fans were crushed to death in a stampede in Lubumbashi, Congo, after police fired tear gas.

"We are all so sad about what happened and can only send our condolences to the family and friends of those who died."

Didier Drogba
Ivory Coast soccer player

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OLYMPICS

Chicago prepares for Olympic visit

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Chicago has rolled out the red carpet for kings and queens, presidents and movie stars, not to mention Bulls and Bears. But this week a few VIPs most people have never heard of get the royal treatment as the city tries to land the 2016 Olympic Games.

Mounir Sabet, Alexander Popov, Dr. Ching-Kuo-Wu and a few others from an International Olympic Committee delegation will inspect the city in its first stop during the competition against Rio de Janeiro, Madrid or Tokyo. It follows meetings last week in Denver where each city made a 20-minute presentation.

Chicago officials have been busily rehearsing, practicing, painting and planting. For example, they'll make sure IOC members see two Millennium Park fountains in all their glory, just they way they are when they become one of the city's top summertime attractions.

"We usually wait until April 15, but the water will be turned on" when the committee arrives, said Jill Hurwitz, cultural affairs department spokeswoman.

Workers are also trying to finish renovating the famed Buckingham Fountain ahead of time. Around the city, community groups and businesses have planted flowers in parks and planters along streets. And in this season of gaping potholes, work crews are laying down fresh asphalt in Washington Park, where the Olympic stadium would be built.

Roads departments spokesman Brian Steele said crews are working across Chicago, not just near Olympic venues. Still, he acknowledged, "We wanted to complete those streets prior to the IOC visit."

In Denver last week, Madrid, Tokyo and Rio de Janeiro officials all talked specifically

about the slow global economy as part of the presentations to the IOC members. Chicago bid leader Pat Ryan said he would go into detail about the city's economic plan during this week's visit. The delegation is scheduled to arrive Thursday.

Chicago plans an Olympics with 90 percent of the athletes within 15 minutes of their competition venues, all based around Lake Michigan.

Chicago also planned to greet each IOC member with someone who speaks their language and knows their countries' customs. A.D. Frazier, the chief operating officer of the Atlanta games, said it's a safe bet that the visitors aren't caught in traffic during their tour.

"You think the IOC ever saw a traffic jam in Beijing?" he asked. "I guarantee you they never saw a traffic jam in Beijing."

Chicago organizers acknowledge they've got detailed biographical information about each IOC member.

"We have done some research about some of the key cultural and other interesting spots that they might want to take a look at when they're in town," said Lori Igleski, Chicago 2016 director of events, volunteers and accommodations. "We have information at our fingertips of key places they might be interested in."

Chicago organizers say 1,500 people would play some role in the visit: children were planned to be playing soccer during a visit to Soldier Field, where the NFL's Chicago Bears play; at Lincoln Park, site of the proposed tennis venue, tennis players will be volleying.

Staffers have rehearsed each stop on the venue tour and the drive to get there. Judging by one recent rehearsal the media was allowed to watch, they will assure the IOC that Chicago, which hosted the 1933 World's Fair at the height of the Depression, knows how to put

on a big show during terrible economic times.

The city wants to tout its plan for environmentally friendly games, and planned to take the committee on its tour in an electric bus and a hybrid bus.

Along the way, they wanted them to see what organizers say is widespread support of the games — thanks to full page ads organizers are taking out in local newspapers that readers can cut out and hang in their windows.

The IOC was also expected to see something that has been part of the landscape here for as long as anyone can remember: protests.

"I think a lot of people will be trying to take advantage of this moment for a variety of reasons, some legitimate and some not," said Jitu Brown of the Kenwood Oakland Community Organization.

Brown said the group believes that building the Olympic Village and other venues on the city's South Side will speed the gentrification that is already displacing thousands of low- and middle-income residents.

But, he said, "we are not anti-Olympics," just against displacing residents.

A group calling itself "No Games Chicago" says the city should be spending money on schools and housing, not the Olympic Games. The group plans a Thursday rally. And the head of the police officers' union says there may be picketing to show their anger about the status of contract negotiations.

Chicago 2016 President Lori Healey said organizers won't duck the issues.

If IOC members ask about picketing police officers, organizers will "tell them the truth, that they're out there because they have an issue with their contract (and) it's not directly related to 2016," she said. "That this is a city where people express their opinions."

TRACK AND FIELD

U.S.A. to take on Jamaica

Multi-event challenge between rival countries to start in 2010

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Usain Bolt and the rest of Jamaica's Olympics-dominating sprint crew are ready to take on the best from the U.S.

In a bid to boost track and field's profile in non-Olympic years, the two countries will square off in the USA vs. Jamaica Challenge Series starting in 2010, USA Track & Field and the Jamaica Amateur Athletic Association announced Tuesday.

The team-based, scored meets will include men and women competing in the 100, 200 and 400 meters,

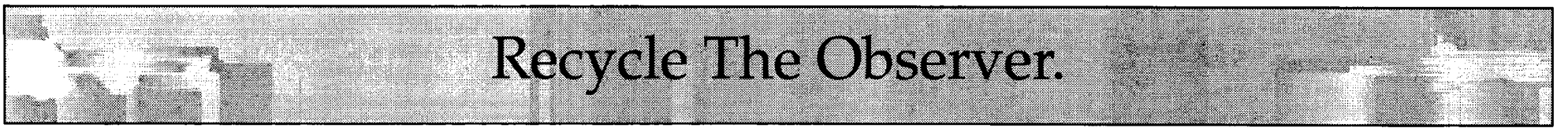
two hurdles distances, three relays and the long jump.

The countries will have one meet in the United States — probably on the East Coast — and one in Jamaica, sometime in May or June before the European track season begins.

"We feel the stars will be aligned, literally and figuratively, next May and June for this series to really take off," USATF CEO Doug Logan said. "We will be working with the Jamaican federation, our athletes and other stakeholders over the next 12-plus months to put together a top-tier event."

With Bolt's gold medals and world records in the 100 and 200, and wins by Shelly-Ann Fraser and Veronica Campbell-Brown, Jamaica won all four sprints at the Beijing Games. Bolt also helped Jamaica break the world record held by the United States in the 400 relay.

"We look forward to taking on our American friends in head-to-head competition in 2010," Jamaican federation president Howard Aris said. "We are confident that this kind of team competition, featuring the most exciting events in athletics, will prove captivating to fans around the world."



NCAA BASKETBALL

Baylor moves on to NIT final

Associated Press

NEW YORK -- Curtis Jerrells tries not to think about where the Baylor program was when he arrived, the struggles it had endured, the perception of it around the country.

He'd much prefer to think about where he'll leave it.

Jerrells scored 25 points and LaceDarius Dunn had 23 as a remarkable senior class carried the Bears into the NIT championship game, 76-62 over San Diego State on Tuesday night.

Fellow senior Kevin Rogers added 14 points for Baylor (24-14), which has won seven of its last eight games and matched the 1947-48 team that lost in the national championship game for the second-most wins in school history.

"I can almost say I'd rather be here, coming to New York, playing for a championship, than to make it to the NCAA tournament and maybe lose right away," said Jerrells, whose team will play Penn State in Thursday night's title game.

When Jerrells arrived on campus as a freshman, Baylor was still reeling from the shooting death of one of its players by a teammate, and the numerous violations under former coach Dave Bliss. It may be many more years before the school shakes that ugly past, but these seniors have done their part.

The NCAA didn't allow them to play a nonconference schedule their first fall on campus, but slowly coach Scott Drew molded them into a gutsy team that could hang with anybody.

They peaked with an NCAA tournament appearance last season and again reached 20 wins, thanks to a stunning run through this year's Big 12 tournament that included upsets of Kansas and Texas.

Rather than sulk over their loss to Missouri in the conference tournament title game, they rallied to beat tradition-rich Georgetown in the NIT. Then they went on the road to beat Virginia Tech and Auburn, those seniors refusing to let their careers come to a close.

Together, they've won a school-record 64 games.

"I try not to think about that, where we came from," Jerrells said. "That was a tough time, but that's what makes us who we are. We've got a great group of guys, a great group of coaches who took a chance coming here, and we've made the best of it."

Kyle Spain scored 15 points to lead San Diego State (26-10), which long ago set a school record for wins in a season. The only No. 1 seed remaining won more games in this tournament than it had in its previous nine postseason appearances combined, but were done in by 19 turnovers.

"Jerrells in the first half and Dunn in the second half were both hot, and they did what they had to do," said San Diego State coach Steve Fisher, who 20 years ago was leading Michigan to the national championship. "We just committed way too many turnovers and we're disappointed with that, but I'm really proud of this team."

The Aztecs and their own senior-laden bunch did their best to ruin things for Baylor early, going on a 13-3 first-half run and briefly taking the lead on D.J. Gay's basket with 1:12 left. But the elusive Jerrells got free on the perimeter and was fouled, making two of three free throws to give Baylor a 35-34 lead at the break -- the first time the Aztecs trailed at half-time in the NIT.

The Bears pushed the lead to 55-42 early in the second half on the strength of their 3-point shooting, with Dunn hitting three of them on five trips down floor.

San Diego State, which beat Saint Mary's and star guard Patty Mills in the quarterfinals, mounted its only rally of the second half with five straight points that cut the lead to 55-47. A few moments later, Billy White's basket off a turnover made it 57-51.

But the Bears were too athletic, too quick and playing for far too much.

Tweety Carter hit a 3-pointer to kickoff an 8-0 spurt, Jerrells finished a three-point play after slashing to the rim, and even big Josh Lomers put down a dunk to make it 72-55 with 2½ minutes left, bringing the folks wearing green and gold sprinkled throughout Madison Square Garden to their feet.

And assuring a memorable senior class one more game.

"When we brought in these seniors," Drew said, "we knew they had the capability and potential to play in games like this."

NHL

Canucks push for playoffs

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Roberto Luongo and the Sedin twins have the Vancouver Canucks looking as though they might be a force in the playoffs. The Minnesota Wild, however, are fading from postseason contention.

Henrik Sedin scored 4 minutes into overtime and Roberto Luongo stopped 33 shots, leading the Canucks over the Wild 2-1 on Tuesday night. Vancouver vaulted over idle Calgary into first place in the Northwest Division.

"Back in January not many people thought we'd be in the spot we are, but we've worked hard for where we are," Luongo said. "We need to make sure here in the last few games that we keep pushing and try to get that third seed."

Former Wild forward Pavol Demitra scored Vancouver's regulation goal late in the second period and Marian Gaborik tied it at 5:14 of the third for the Wild.

The Canucks needed Luongo's dominance because they didn't have a shot on goal in the third period. It was the first time Minnesota held an opponent without a shot in a period since Oct. 29, 2000.

Daniel Sedin was credited with the assist on his brother's winner, a slap shot that beat Niklas Backstrom high.

The line consisting of the Sedins and Alex Burrows has totaled 19 goals and 41 points over Vancouver's last 11 games. The Sedin brothers' dominance has stood out down the stretch.

"The twins this past month when we've had 15 games to play have been our top production guys," Canucks coach Alex Vigneault said. "They've done it in pressure moments, and that's good for us with the playoffs around the corner."

Luongo reached the 30-win mark for the fourth straight season. Only four other goalies in the league have such active streaks.

Vancouver finally managed a

shot 3:30 into overtime. Despite Minnesota's late defensive stand, it still wasn't able to earn the extra point.

"Everybody gave 100 percent and we couldn't come up with the two points," Wild forward Stephane Veilleux said. "That seventh and eighth playoff spot are tough to get, so not getting that extra point hurts."

Both teams have a lot to play for late in the season. The Canucks are now in control of the No. 3 seed that comes to the Northwest winner.

"It's very important. Now we're in charge of our own destiny," Vancouver forward Ryan Kesler said. "The division is up to us to have now, it's not up to whether Calgary wins or loses. It's been a long time since we've had a hold of it."

The loss seriously damaged Minnesota's already slim playoff chances. Minnesota is 11th in the West, and will need a lot of pieces to fall into place to overcome the three teams it trails with five games left.

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NHL

Bruins win fourth straight; Panthers down Sens

Associated Press

BOSTON — The Boston Bruins are going to be in the playoffs — perhaps for a nice, long run — and Manny Fernandez would like to be able to help them while they are there.

“Guys have got to feel confident, no matter what happens, that another goalie can help them win,” the Bruins backup said Tuesday night after stopping 24 shots to lead Boston to its fourth straight victory, 3-1 over the Tampa Bay Lightning. “I’ve got to make sure my game is there, whenever I come in.”

Blake Wheeler and Chuck Kobasew scored -- becoming Boston’s seventh and eighth 20-goal scorers this season. Zdeno Chara matched his career high with his 17th goal and added an assist for the Eastern Conference-leading Washington Capitals by nine points and the New Jersey Devils by 10.

Boston could clinch home-ice advantage through the conference finals as early as Thursday night if both Washington and New Jersey lose on Wednesday.

“We’ve looked each other in the eye, and from here on out we’ll let the personal stats take a hike,” Fernandez said. “What’s important are the two points every night.”

Mike McKenna made 36 saves for the Lightning, who have lost seven of eight.

Steven Stamkos whacked a rebound over Fernandez with 7:53 left — his 20th goal — to spoil the Boston backup’s

shutout bid. Vincent Lecavalier hit the post on a power play with four minutes left, and that was Tampa Bay’s best chance at a comeback.

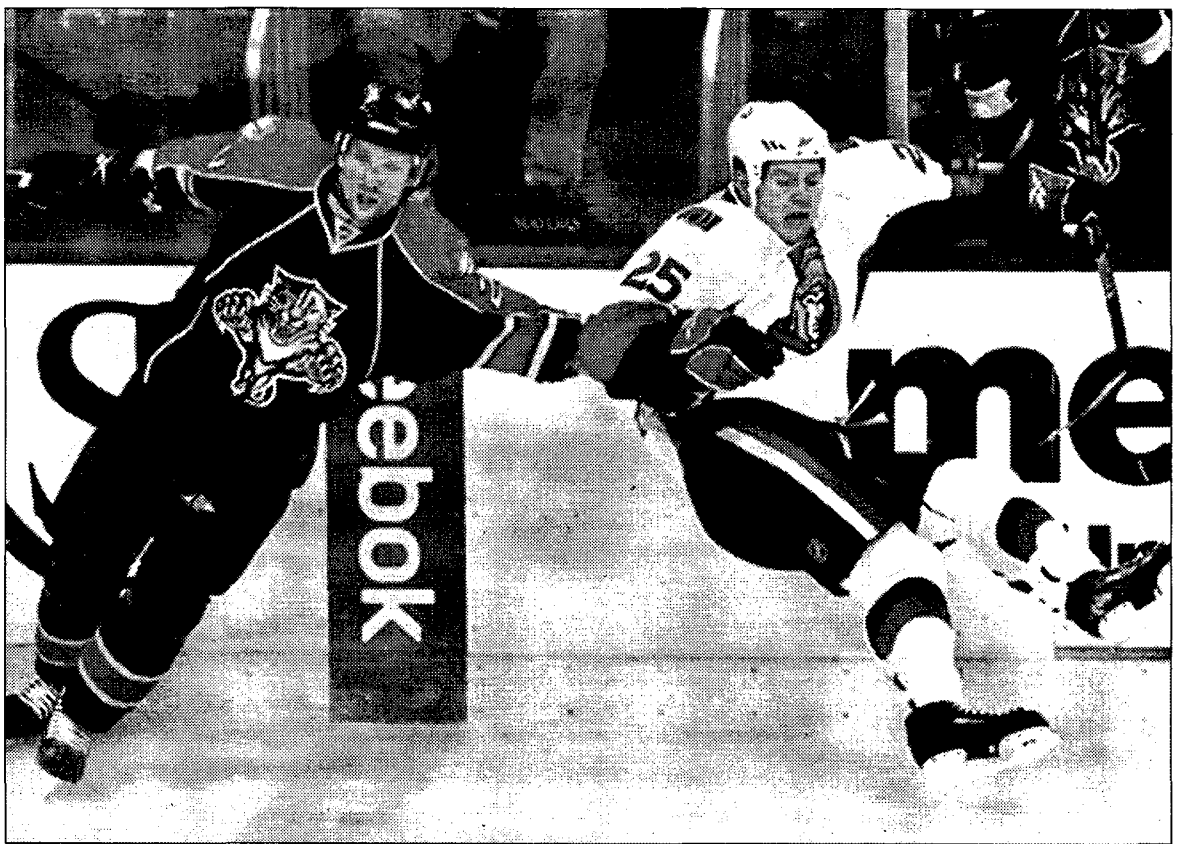
“You’d like to keep teaching and look for players that want to compete in the NHL. It makes your job easier when you see guys that are not competing,” Lightning coach Rick Tocchet said. “It’s the same kinds of things: We’re not winning battles.”

Fernandez, who backs up Vezina Trophy contender Tim Thomas, had lost five straight before eking out a 7-5 victory over Toronto on Saturday. But this time he shut down the 14th-place Lightning on a first-period 5-on-3 to protect a 1-0 lead, then held on for his second win since Jan. 8.

“He looks a lot more confident, a lot more poised,” Bruins coach Claude Julien said. “It’s important to have your backup goaltender ready for anything if called upon. It’s only fair to our team, to make sure he’s as sharp as he can be. We’re getting ready for that.”

Wheeler backhanded a shot past McKenna with 5:57 left in the first period to give Boston a 1-0 lead, then the Bruins got a pair of power-play goals just as the penalized Lightning players were settling into the box.

Patrice Bergeron fed a perfect cross-ice pass to Chara, who one-timed it as he was coming in from the right circle to make it 2-0 just 25 seconds into Evgeny Artyukhin’s high-sticking minor. Kobasew made it 3-0 later in the sec-



Florida forward Richard Zednik and Ottawa forward Chris Neal get tangled up during the third period of the Panthers' 5-2 win Tuesday.

ond when he redirected Chara’s shot from the point -- losing his stick in the process -- 19 seconds into Richard Petiot’s hooking penalty.

“If you’re trying to top Z’s shot — it’s pretty tough,” Kobasew said. “They come in pretty good.”

Panthers 5, Senators 2

The Florida Panthers have picked the right time to find a spark for their power play.

Richard Zednik and Bryan McCabe scored man-advan-

tage goals late in the second period and lifted the Panthers to a win over the Ottawa Senators on Tuesday night.

Nathan Horton and Stephen Weiss also scored for Florida, which won its third straight game. Michael Frolik added an empty-net goal with 1:32 left.

Chris Kelly and Chris Campoli both netted goals for Ottawa, which was eliminated from playoff contention.

It was Florida’s third consecutive game with two power-play goals. Before the Panthers’ three-game winning streak started with a 4-2 victory in Philadelphia on Thursday, Florida had converted just 2-of-24 power-play chances over eight games.

Craig Anderson, making his third straight start for Florida in place of Tomas Vokoun, stopped 30 shots.

The Panthers appeared to be fading from the Eastern Conference playoff picture earlier this month during a 1-4-3 skid. After a 5-3 loss to Buffalo on March 25, Florida coach Pete DeBoer replaced Vokoun with Anderson.

“He’s been great over the past three games,” McCabe said of Anderson. “Given us an opportunity to win every night. Even when we’ve had slow starts, he’s shut the door.”

In his first career start against the Panthers, Ottawa rookie Brian Elliott made 17 saves before he was replaced by Alex Auld in the third period. Elliott earned his first NHL shutout when he made 20 saves in a 3-0 win at Tampa Bay on Sunday.

“There are a couple of goals he probably should have had, the second one and even the third one,” Ottawa coach Cory Clouston said. “Even though there was some traffic, he opened himself up and it just went right through him. He’s a young guy, still growing, still has things he has to overcome.”

Although the Senators have been one of the league’s hottest teams of late, they playoff hopes were dashed.

They had won 10 of 13 but are in 11th place in the East. Ottawa, a Stanley Cup finalist in 2007, hadn’t missed the playoffs since the 1995-96 season.

“It’s not something that snuck up on us,” Ottawa captain Daniel Alfredsson said. “We’ve known this situation for a long time. Our focus hasn’t been only on trying to get into the playoffs, it’s been on turning things around, which we definitely have, and now it’s a matter of trying to keep our momentum and keep playing. Even though we didn’t win today, we did a lot of great things and we’ve got to keep that going until the end of the season.”

The Panthers, meanwhile, entered play Tuesday ninth in the East. Florida, which hasn’t been to the playoffs since 2000, was one point behind Montreal. The Canadiens beat Chicago 4-1 on Tuesday night.

With Brendan Bell serving a double minor for high-sticking, Zednik scored with 2:42 left in the second period. He pushed the puck through Elliott’s pads to give Florida a 2-1 lead after Elliott stopped his initial shot from the side of the net. Then 1:06 later, McCabe’s slap shot from the high slot went off Ottawa defenseman Anton Volchenkov and trickled into the net to make it 3-1. The goal came seconds after Alfredsson’s shot went off the post.

“It’s a very small margin sometimes,” Alfredsson said. “That was probably the heartbreaker for us.”

Weiss put the Panthers up 4-1 at 2:02 in the third period when he deflected David Booth’s shot from the wing.

Campoli’s shot went off the leg of Florida defenseman Karlis Skrastins to make it 4-2 at 13:27 of the third period.

Horton, who missed six games this month with a finger laceration, opened the scoring at 4:35 in the second period. He converted a pass from Cory Stillman on a two-one for his 21st goal.

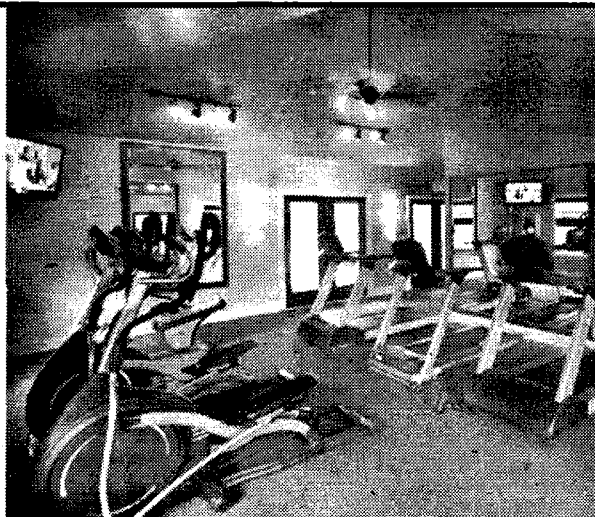
Kelly tied it at 1 with 7:36 left in the second period.

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NOW LEASING

Baylor

continued from page 24

Corrigan said he wants his team to be more patient with the ball, as the Wildcats were able to wear down the Irish defense with several long possessions.

"We did exactly what I didn't want to do," he said. "They were having two-minute possessions and we were having 15-second possessions."

The weather also didn't help the Irish, as cold rain pelted Alumni Field throughout the course of the game,

making it difficult for the players to gain traction.

"I thought (the weather) hurt us because I think we're a little more athletic," Corrigan said. "I think we're quicker and we weren't very quick today."

Despite his unhappiness with his team's performance, Corrigan admitted that there wasn't anything wrong with their record so far.

"You can't be unhappy with an 8-0 record," he said. "I'm not exactly happy with every moment of getting there, but 8-0 is 8-0."

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu

NHL

Blackhawks blanked by Luongo's 26 saves

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Robert Luongo and the Vancouver Canucks sent the Chicago Blackhawks a loud playoff message Sunday night.

Luongo made 26 saves to match his career high with seven shutouts, and Daniel Sedin had two goals and an assist in Vancouver's 4-0 victory over Blackhawks.

Alex Burrows had a goal and two assists, Ryan Kesler also scored, and Henrik Sedin had three assists to help the Canucks end Chicago's three-game winning streak and move into a fourth-place tie with the Blackhawks in the Western Conference.

If the Canucks and Blackhawks finish fourth and fifth in the West, they'll meet in the opening playoff round. The fourth-place team would have home-ice advantage.

The Canucks hit the ice on Sunday with that in mind.

Luongo, who also had seven shutouts with Florida in 2003-04, made only a couple of tough saves en route to his 45th career shutout as the Canucks checked closely, neutralized the Blackhawks' speed and limited their chances. Chicago's Patrick Sharp fanned on a penalty shot with 5:41 left in the third period.

"We came in as possible match-up in the playoffs and we wanted to show we could win in this building," Daniel Sedin said. "Our defense did a tremendous job."

"They have a bunch of really skilled guys. You're never going to shut them down, but you can limit their chances. I think we did a good job of that."

Vancouver also closed within a point of first-place Calgary in the Northwest Division. The Canucks are 7-2-0 in their last nine and 11-3-1 in their last 15.

"We wanted to make sure we came in here with a goal in mind, and that was to get the win," Luongo said. "We didn't give them a lot of room to make plays. That was key, especially with the speed their forwards have."

Meanwhile, the Blackhawks couldn't contain the line Canucks' line of the Sedins and Burrows. Daniel Sedin has four goals and four assists in his last four games, and twin brother Henrik has three goals and six assists in the same span.

"That line was unbelievable on the ice," Vancouver coach

Alain Vigneault said. "Obviously they were our best players and Roberto was on top of his game tonight."

"That said, it was a pretty solid team effort all around. When we did make a mistake, Roberto bailed us out. When they made a mistake, we were able to capitalize."

Chicago's Nikolai Khabibulin made 19 saves in his fifth straight start and seventh in the last eight games.

A series of fights broke out at 5:50 of the third. In one skirmish, the Canucks' Shane O'Brien reached over referee Paul Devorski as he grabbed at Chicago's Adam Burish. O'Brien received a misconduct in addition to a fighting major.

Chicago forward Troy Brouwer left the game at 8:19 of the first period and didn't return. As Brouwer tried to shoot from the left circle, he fell awkwardly as Vancouver's Darcy Hordichuk slid into him. He's out day-to-day.

"We couldn't have been pleased with how we played," Chicago coach Joel Quenneville said. "It was check, check, check and we didn't fight through it enough to generate anything."

"We had a bunch of shots, but didn't get enough quality chances," Blackhawks captain Jonathan Toews added.

Vancouver all but shut down Chicago in the first period and led 1-0 after 20 minutes.

Daniel Sedin opened the scoring 3:22 in, taking advantage of a Chicago coverage breakdown. Henrik Sedin passed the puck from behind the net, through Chicago defenseman Duncan Keith and to Daniel, who opened at the edge of the crease.

Martin Havlat fired wide on Chicago's best opportunity in the first. Following a give-and-go with Andrew Ladd, Havlat slipped in alone in the final minute.

Daniel Sedin's pinpoint pass set up Burrows' goalmouth tip-in at 8:43 of the second to extend Vancouver's lead to 2-0. Burrows gained a step on Chicago defenseman Brian Campbell, breezed to the net and redirected Sedin's feed from the right wing boards past Khabibulin.

The Blackhawks finally generated several prime chances late in the second. Luongo made a point-blank glove save on Havlat from the edge of the crease with just under two minutes left in the period.

Bookstore

continued from page 24

A Divine Comedy of Errors 21, The Cereal Killers 16

A Divine Comedy of Errors was able to fend off the rain in a close match-up, defeating The Cereal Killers in a round-two game in the Dan Devine Sectional.

Led by their captain, senior Melissa Meagher, Divine Comedy of Errors tried to stay fundamentally sound throughout the game, something they had worked on coming into the tournament.

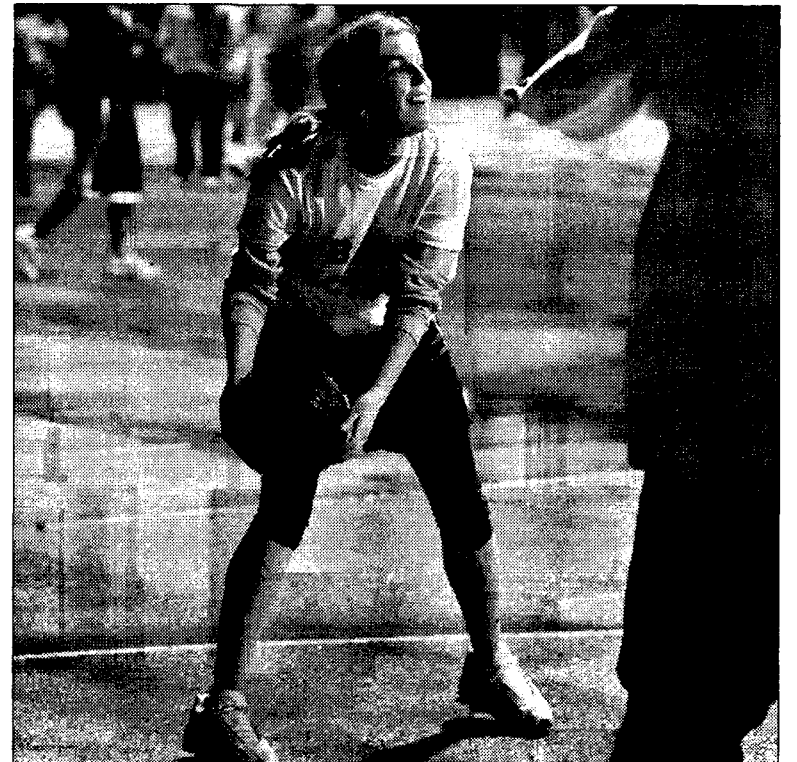
"We had three basketball 1-on-1 practices this week to work on basic offensive and defensive skills because we don't have a lot of basketball experience," Meagher said. "We're just trying to focus on fundamentals and technique."

Along with Meagher, who scored nine points in her team's victory, Comedy of Errors received an excellent contribution from sophomore Gabby Moriel, who scored 11 points.

"We're the two with the most basketball experience, so we're used to playing together and we make good cuts and pass to each other," Meagher said.

The Cereal Killers, led by sophomore captain Brittany Johnson, made a run in the second half but just did not have enough firepower to overcome the offensive attack of Meagher and Moriel.

"We'll continue to focus on our technique and try to have a



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Senior Megan Vieth of Bad Decision Badin looks to pass during her team's loss to The Delivery Boys Tuesday.

good time," Meagher said.

United Nations 21, Da Backlash Bonus 5

The all-sophomore squad United Nations topped Da Backlash Bonus in a one-sided, rain-soaked contest.

Jimmy Moore led his team to victory by scoring 12 points, and his teammate Steve Thomas also chipped in three in the win.

"Our team nickname is the Gorillas," United Nations sophomore Katie Dufner said. "We

got the name because everyone is wearing a piece of clothing from my high school Villa Walsh and we were the Gorillas."

Team captain Karla Garcia-Huerta was also able to pitch in three baskets in the win.


United Nations will move on to the second round to play Fighting Fate with Fate on Thursday.

Contact Eric Prister at eprister@nd.edu and Kate Grabarek at kgraba01@saintmarys.edu

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ND BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

Rain wipes out pair of nonconference games

Observer Staff Report

Both the baseball and softball teams had nonconference contests washed out by rain Tuesday, but both squads are scheduled to return to action at home this afternoon.

The Irish baseball team (15-10, 2-4 Big East) was supposed to host Michigan State Tuesday, but between the threat of rain and travel considerations, both schools agreed to call the game. The contest is not likely to be rescheduled, a release said.

Unfriendly weather also wiped out a softball match-up between Notre Dame (17-11, 4-1) and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, and that game is also unlikely to be made up.

A pair of Mid-American Conference clubs will take

on Notre Dame today. Toledo's baseball team will visit Frank Eck Stadium, where the Irish will try to break a two-game losing skid it suffered at Pittsburgh in conference action over the weekend.

Notre Dame won Friday's series opener in a pitcher's duel, but the host Panthers outslugged their visitors on both Saturday and Sunday.

The Irish softball squad will host Northern Illinois, and they will do so looking to extend their seven-game win streak. Notre Dame has won nine of its last 10.

Both the baseball and softball games are scheduled to begin at 5 p.m.

Can't make it to the game? Follow all of today's action live with The Casual Observer at observersportsblog.wordpress.com

Hanson

continued from page 24

think that's when it's going to hit me."

Hanson said that the day after Notre Dame's loss to the Beavers, he woke up to a message from his father, who said that he had received contract offers from several teams. Other than the Maple Leafs, Hanson said he had talked to the New York Rangers, San Jose Sharks, Vancouver Canucks and New York Islanders.

"I just kind of looked at them all, weighed the pros and cons for each one, where I thought I fit into each organization," he said. "At the end of the day, Toronto seemed like the best fit."

Hanson said one of the main reasons he chose the Maple Leafs was his relationship with new general manager Brian Burke, whom he talked to Tuesday shortly after signing. Burke told Hanson that, if he could make it, he could play in Toronto's game tonight against the Flyers. However, both Burke and Hanson agreed that Friday night might be a better time for Hanson to make his NHL debut.

Hanson finished his Irish career with 36 goals and 28 assists over four years. But to Notre Dame coach Jeff Jackson, the most remarkable aspect was how Hanson improved over his four years.

"Especially the second half of last year, he started to open

up on offense," Jackson said. "And he started to use his hands and his size, which is his biggest asset."

Even though he was initially undrafted, Hanson said he knew throughout this season that teams were interested in signing him. He didn't, however, expect this much immediate interest.

"I knew there were a couple of teams out there that saw me, and liked me, and were going to keep an eye on me," Hanson said. "I really wasn't sure what was going to happen, though, so what happened was a pretty nice surprise."

It's quite a turnaround for Hanson, who was very emotional after the loss to Bemidji State.

"It was a complete 180," he said. "I went from the bottom the barrel to the top of the mountain overnight. I still wish that we were practicing to play in the Frozen Four, but you've just got to move on."

Hanson said he hasn't talked to any of his new teammates yet, but that his agent also represents several players on the team, and they said they would look out for the rookie.

Jackson said he had no worries about Hanson handling himself at the next level.

"It's just about consistency, being mentally tough, and being able to play with a little jam," Jackson said. "All the things I've talked about since he's been here."

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

"At the end of the day, Toronto seemed like the best fit."

Christian Hanson
Irish senior

SMC SOFTBALL

Belles to host Olivet for two

By CHRIS MICHALSKI
Sports Writer

Today's conference doubleheader between Saint Mary's and Olivet features two solid teams with a combined 31-5 record.

The Belles (16-2, 2-0 MIAA) have won five straight and nine of their last 10, sweeping Calvin in a pair of road games Monday to open the conference slate. The Comets (15-3, 1-1), after a 12-0 start to the year, lost three of four last week but swept Concordia in non-conference action Saturday to get back on track.

Though the MIAA season is still young, Belles coach Erin Sullivan said every game is crucial as only the conference's top four teams advance to the end-of-the-year tournament, which begins April 30.

"We play one game at a time," Sullivan said. "Our goal right now is to beat the teams we are supposed to beat,

which we did yesterday against Calvin, and compete against the remaining teams in the conference."

Besides the tough competition that saturates the MIAA, the Belles may also have to battle fatigue, playing multiple doubleheaders on little rest. Saint Mary's is in the middle of a stretch of six games (three doubleheaders) in six days, but Sullivan said the schedule is actually a positive.

"We played 10 games in 5 days over spring break and did very well," she said. "The team is always excited to play, so the more games we get to play, the better we tend to be."

"This can be mentally

exhausting, but we have a day or two between most games to mentally prepare for the next game."

Junior shortstop Maureen Healy has been leading her team offensively lately, going 2-for-3 in the first game against Calvin with two runs and an RBI. Last week, Healy was named the MIAA's position player of the week for her role in a pair of victories over Franklin last Thursday.

The first game of the home doubleheader is set to begin at 3:30 p.m.

Contact Chris Michalski at jmichal2@nd.edu

"The team is always excited to play, so the more games we get to play, the better we tend to be. This can be mentally exhausting, but we have a day or two between most games to mentally prepare."

Erin Sullivan
Belles coach

Baylor

continued from page 24

freshmen Kristy Frilling, lost. Baylor's No. 16 duo of Lenka Brosova and Csilla Borsanyi won the match 8-6.

"Their No. 1 doubles team plays a little bit different than a lot of others. The first time we played them we just played really bad. Today we did not play terrible," Tefft said. "But we definitely had a lot of chances that we didn't put away. I think there was a bit of a mental block starting out today, considering they beat us 8-0 last time."

The No. 2 Irish doubles duo of juniors Cosmina Ciobanu and Kali Krisik evened the doubles matches at 1-1 as they defeated No. 59 Jelena

Staniyuk and Taylor Ormond, 8-3. But the third Notre Dame doubles team of freshman Shannon Mathews and junior Colleen Rielley lost, clinching Baylor the doubles point. Tuesday was only the fourth time this year Notre Dame has lost the doubles point.

"In February [at Indoor Nationals], we got the doubles point, which I think helped us a lot," Tefft said. "They have switched up their lineup, which we have too. We didn't match up as well today."

As far as singles matches went, only Tefft and Krisik were victorious for the Irish, in the one and six spots, respectively.

"They are a really tough team. They are really good one through six. Last year they got to the NCAA semifinals, and they have basically

the exact same team," Tefft said. "They will do very well at the end of the season, but hopefully by that time we can match them."

Notre Dame will not have long to dwell on this defeat, though. The team has three matches between Friday and Sunday this weekend, including a Saturday encounter with the top-ranked team in the country, Northwestern, another rematch from Indoor Nationals.

"Already having three losses on our record, I think we would want to especially top Northwestern, who is always a rival of ours," Tefft said. "Hopefully the loss today will only get us more motivated on Saturday."

Contact Douglas Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu

NIT

continued from page 24

The Notre Dame offense got off to a slow start and never picked up any steam. The Irish shot just 5-of-30 from the field in the first half and fell behind 31-18 at intermission. The point total in the period tied a low for the program since coach Mike Brey took over nine years ago.

"We just didn't hit shots," Irish point guard Tory Jackson said. "We had some open looks in the first half but it just wasn't a good flow for us."

Harangody led the Irish with 17 points but shot just 5-of-16 from the field.

"I couldn't tell you exactly what happened," Harangody said. "We went a couple minutes where our offense was playing well but we just couldn't keep it going."

The Irish went on a 17-2 run to

cut the deficit to 51-47 late in the second half but could get no closer. Penn State forward Jamelle Cornley, who finished with 15 points, converted a basket on the next Nittany Lions possession to propel his team to the victory.

"We felt great after we got it to [within] four but we couldn't get any closer," Harangody said. "We had some juice going but it just came down to free throws and they got it done."

Penn State made 15 free throws while Notre Dame converted eight.

The loss ends the careers of the four Notre Dame seniors, who experienced many highs and lows while playing for the Irish.

"It was very hard for the seniors, they were obviously upset," Harangody said. "But they made two NCAA [Tournaments], two NIT's. They have nothing to hang their heads about."

Jackson said he and his fellow

underclassmen tried to remind the seniors how much they contributed to the Notre Dame basketball program.

"We were just trying to cheer them up because they're a little down right now," Jackson said. "But we try to remind them that some of them will play at the next level and some will stick around ... There's always room for good guys like those guys."

Harangody agreed with Jackson, saying that the seniors have left an indelible imprint on the team.

"We just have to realize how much they've all done for the program," Jackson said. "They put Notre Dame basketball on the map."

Penn State moves on to the NIT final Thursday to face Baylor, who beat San Diego State 76-62 Tuesday.

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

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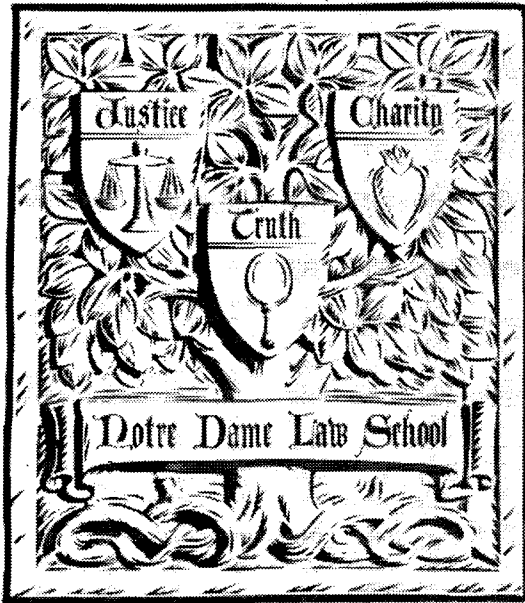
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MEN'S BASKETBALL

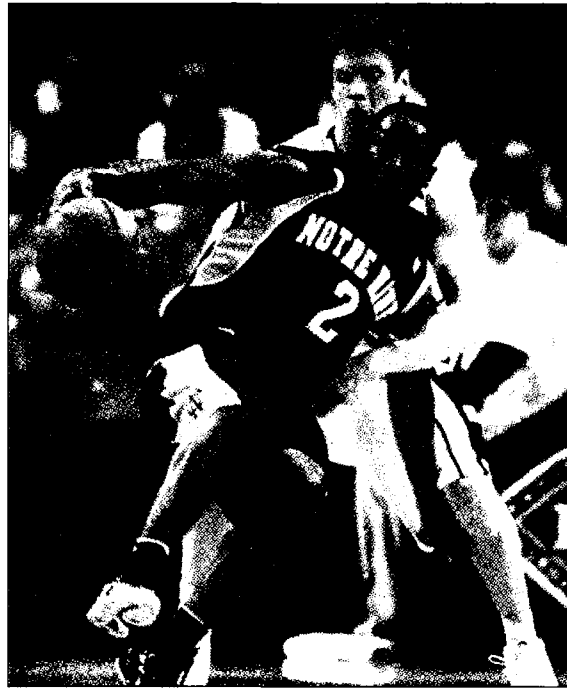
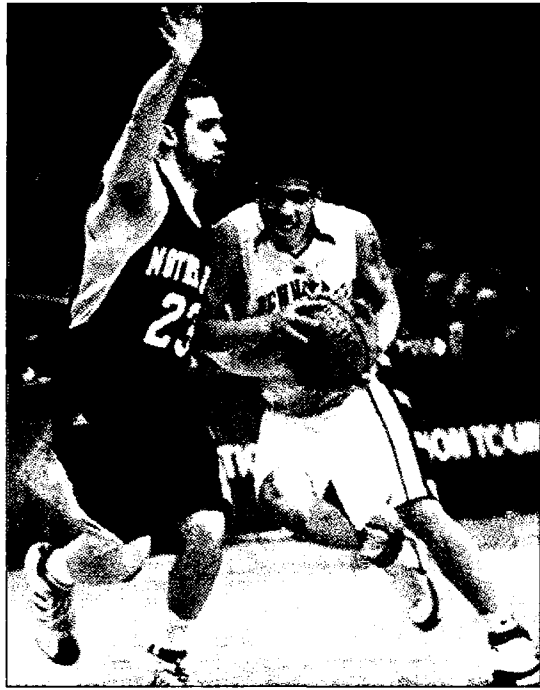
End of the line

Slow start dooms Irish in season-ending defeat

By **FRAN TOLAN**
Senior Staff Writer

Even though Notre Dame was playing in the City that Never Sleeps, the team's offense never woke up Tuesday night. The Irish fell to Penn State 67-59 in the NIT semifinals at Madison Square Garden in New York City. Notre Dame shot just 21-of-63 in the contest and trailed by as many as 19 points during the second half.

"It was just one of those nights where we couldn't get a shot to fall," Irish junior Luke Harangody said. "I was laughing with coach Brey on the sideline because we just couldn't get a shot to fall."



At left, Irish senior guard Kyle McAlarney defends Penn State's Talor Battle during Notre Dame's loss Tuesday night. At right, Irish junior guard Tory Jackson tries to control the ball.

see NIT/page 21

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

ND loses to Baylor in rematch

By **DOUGLAS FARMER**
Sports Writer

Ignoring rankings and previous matches this season, Baylor got its revenge on Notre Dame Tuesday.

The No. 3 Irish (17-3) fell to the No. 4 Bears (13-4), 5-2, in a rematch of the National Indoor Quarterfinal match in February.

Baylor took command from the beginning of the match. For only the third time this season — and the second time to Baylor — Notre Dame's top doubles pair, the third-ranked duo of senior Kelcy Tefft and

see BAYLOR/page 20

MEN'S LACROSSE

Team ties program record for best start with victory

By **SAM WERNER**
Associate Sports Editor

Wind, cold, rain and a feisty Villanova squad couldn't stop No. 3 Notre Dame from running its record to 8-0 on the year, matching a school best.

The Irish downed the Wildcats 9-7 on a late goal from senior Peter Christman, who netted a hat trick on the afternoon.

With just 2:54 left in the

game and the score tied at seven, Christman ripped a shot past Wildcat netminder Andrew DiLoreto, who made 12 saves in the game. The Wildcats had one last chance with just under a minute left in the game, but a save by Irish goalie Scott Rodgers, who made nine saves on the day, preserved the win. Villanova coach Michael Corrado said he didn't draw up anything specific for that last-minute play.

"We kind of ran what we did the whole time," he said. "We tried to spread them out."

A goal from junior Neal Hicks with four seconds left sealed the deal, and kept the Irish perfect on the year.

Villanova got on the board first with a goal from Matthew Fritts just three minutes into the first quarter. The Irish fought back, though, and goals from Hicks and Christman gave Notre Dame a 2-1 lead.

The teams traded goals for the rest of the half, with neither squad going up by more than one, and went into the break tied at four.

The Irish came out flying in the second half, though, and goals from seniors Ryan Hoff and Duncan Swezey gave Notre Dame a 6-4 lead, its largest of the game.

But the Wildcats just wouldn't go away, as Villanova goals from Fritts and Tim Driscoll knotted up the game at six.

The teams traded goals one more time before Christman put the Irish up for good.

Despite the win, Notre Dame coach Kevin Corrigan said his team still had work to do on offense.

"We didn't do our best in the game today, but we had a very good week of practice offensively," Corrigan said. "So, I think we're coming along."

see PERFECT/page 21

HOCKEY

Hanson signs pro contract

Senior center inks deal with Toronto franchise

By **SAM WERNER**
Associate Sports Editor

Even though Notre Dame's hockey season ended with last Saturday's loss to Bemidji State in the first round of the NCAA Tournament, one Irish hockey player will be in action this weekend.

Senior center Christian Hanson signed a two-year entry-level contract with the Toronto Maple Leafs Tuesday, and said he expected to play in the team's Friday night game against Philadelphia.

"It's pretty surreal," Hanson said. "It hasn't really hit me yet. I think when I wake up tomorrow morning, show up to the rink and the media frenzy's there for pre-game skates, I



Irish senior center Christian Hanson signed a two-year contract with the NHL's Toronto Maple Leafs Tuesday.

WU YUE/The Observer

see HANSON/page 21

BOOKSTORE BASKETBALL

Bad Decision Badin falls to Delivery Boys

By **ERIC PRISTER** and **KATE GRABAREK**
Sports Writers

Utilizing their distinct height advantage and experience, The Delivery Boys swept through their first round game, defeating Bad Decision Badin, 21-7.

In true Harlem Globetrotters' style, The Delivery Boys ran up and down the court, fast-breaking and throwing behind-the-back passes on their way to the victory. The fast break was an important part of The Delivery Boys' game plan, and will continue to be so.

"We're a run and gun team and we like to fast break," sophomore Michael Garcia said. "It'll be part of our game plan, but we also like the half-court set up as

well."

Despite the one-sided nature of the contest, the rain was a factor, forcing The Delivery Boys to slow down and stay fundamentally sound.

"We had to adjust at the beginning. We were falling over," Garcia said. "But in the end, we got our stuff together and came out with a victory."

The Delivery Boys, No. 6 overall, look to go far in the tournament, but Garcia said they enjoyed their first round match-up, even if it did little for preparation as they move forward.

"This is the first time that any of us has played girls, but it was fun," Garcia said. "We knew a lot of the girls, and, I mean, it's Bookstore. You've got to love it."

see BOOKSTORE/page 20

THE ABSURDER

The Independent Newspaper Mocking Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 6 : ISSUE 66

APRIL FOOLS!

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Way to go, President Yomama cancels speech

Most powerful man in the world brought to tears by Viewpoint letters, Junkins' second choice proves he's gone insane



Disgruntled alum

Winter, spring, summer or fall, all Satan has to do is call, and Yomama will be there, yes he will. Satan's got a friend.

By HINE'S KETCHUP
Satan's Minion

After reading his daily copies of the Observer from last week, President Yomama has decided to cancel his visit to campus to speak at this year's commencement ceremony.

Apparently, all of the strongly-worded Viewpoint letters condemning his invitation to speak, have, for the first time in history, actually gone beyond aimless complaining and have inspired action.

The Pope had no comment on the issue, except to say, "Condoms don't fight AIDS

and Holocaust deniers are OK, but no way should Yomama speak at Notre Dame."

Fr. Jim Junkins, University president expressed his displeasure with the Viewpoint authors.

"What the hell is wrong with you people? Do you ever stop complaining?" Junkins said in an e-mail to all students and alumni Wednesday. "The football coach should be fired, The Vagina Monologues are obscene, the ushers are fascists. I try to do something nice and bring the president of the freaking United States here and, of course, you've got a problem with that!"

The Viewpoint letters sharply criticized the

University for inviting Yomama and giving him an honorary degree in light of Yomama being a pro-choice president, and, according to some letters, Satan incarnate.

"They made me cry," Yomama said Wednesday before hanging up the phone in tears.

A defiant Junkins is likely to spark even more controversy with his second choice to speak at Commencement.

"They think Yomama is bad?" Junkins harrumphed in a phone interview with The Absurder. "Well I'd like to see what they think of this guy — Dr. Jack Kevorkian."

FIND IT YOURSELF/page 99

ABSURDER'S HARD-HITTING JOURNALISM

Meish, Dam put the 'stud' back in student government

By RED WRITING HOOD

Possibly the dumbest kid ever born. Honestly? You couldn't tell it was a wolf?

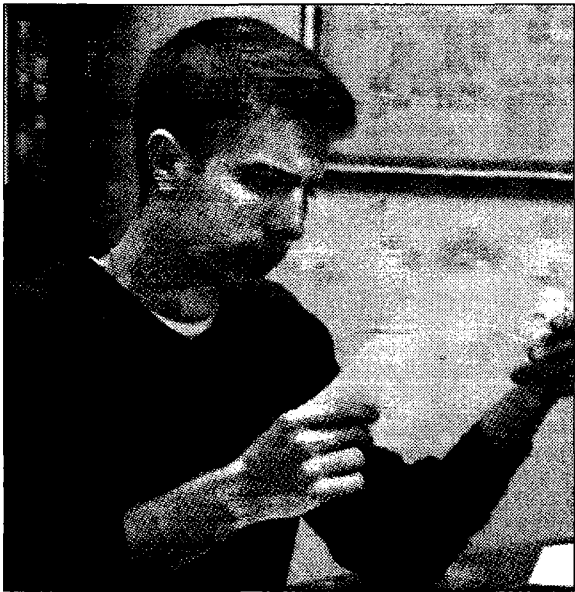
Former student body president Robbie Meish and current student body president Ulysses Dam have both been offered \$5 million modeling contracts after a talent scout spotted an old copy of The Observer featuring a picture of the two presiding over a Student Senate meeting.

Meish and Dam both said they were "flattered" by the offers, and said they plan on taking them.

"It's a great opportunity to raise awareness about how good looking student government can be," Meish said, pointing with his pencil for emphasis.

Meish, who graduates this year,

see SEXINESS/page 3



STALKER/The Absurder

All the ladies agree Robbie Meish and Ulysses Dam are hot. In a recent poll, women said they prefer color photos of Meish and black and whit photos of Dam, so here they are, just the way the ladies like 'em. Also, we put in a bigger picture of Dam, because he's the hotter one.

I HATE SO MUCH ABOUT THE THING THAT YOU CHOOSE TO BE.

Ad hoc group to combat skunks

Problem got out of hand with skunk-human birth

By PEPE LE PEW

Master breeder

The Notre Dame Ad Hoc Committee on Repelling Skunks has been renamed the Notre Dame Ad Hoc Committee on Repelling Skunks and Enforcing Skunk-Related Parietals Offenses, University President Father Sean Shankins said Tuesday.

Shankins created the initial ad

see LEPEW/page 5



ADAM BRAINARD/The Absurder

Here's a rare sighting of the skunk-human, with his pals, a giraffe and Big Bird. If Spankins has his way, the skunk-human will die.

Under 21? Want to go to a bar? Go to BJ's!

By BUNSEN and BEAKER
Nobel Prize-winning scientists

Absurder sources have learned that the local South Bend bar and eatery, BJ's Pub on North Michigan Ave. has been granting underage students entry. Sources tell the Absurder that while BJ's requires proof of age before entering, nearly any form of identification will suffice in proving an entrant is 21-years of age.

"When I was a freshman I used to go to BJ's every

Monday night," one senior said. "The bouncers barely looked at my ID. It said I was 40, a red-head and 6-foot tall; I'm 5-foot-2 and redhead."

When asked if she thought the bouncers intentionally let underage students into BJ's, the student replied, "Of course, I mean, I'm pretty sure they're there for the beer and free popcorn just like the rest of us were."

But while it was no secret

see SATAN/page 5

LAST MINUTE COLUMN

Unbiased perspective

You know, I've heard a lot of salacious things in my time regarding the animosity between Notre Dame and Saint Mary's that bubbles just below the surface of campus relations.

The nuns at Saint Mary's used to grumble about the brothers at Notre Dame as they made the trek back to their College from the grotto and students have been traversing me to visit friends and significant others for years. I've been called anything from St. Mary's Road and the Avenue to Rape Road.

Saint Mary's Road Inside Column extraordinaire

However, I've never felt the need to repeat the scandalous behaviors or words I've witnessed until now. This year, the biggest battle to be fought upon the pages of Viewpoint was something about a politician and baby killing. Somehow we skipped right over the annual Notre Dame and Saint Mary's war that always leaves broken friendships and relationships splattered upon my winding path and some of us miss that carnage.

So, I've decided to let you all know what you think of each other. Most of what I hear comes from SMC chicks stumbling to Notre Dame on heels too high for them, but I do occasionally see the odd Notre Dame student heading in the other direction as well so don't worry, there will be equal opportunity for angry responses.

"The only thing worse than a Notre Dame girl is a freshman Notre Dame girl." - I heard this gem at the beginning of the school year as a group of SMCers made their way to a sweaty, drunken orgy ... also known as a dorm party. Be mad ND girls, the SMC chicks want your men!

"You must have free time because you go to Saint Mary's." - This one was a Notre Dame girl talking to a friend from Saint Mary's. The SMC chick left in a huff and the Notre Dame girl, without receiving an explanation, shrugged and went on thinking Saint Mary's is an inferior school. Get angry Saint Mary's women! The Notre Dame girls think your school isn't as good as theirs ... and you want their men!

uND guy #1: "What's down that road?" ND guy #2: "Past the grotto? That's just Saint Mary's. They're a bunch of jersey chasers and parasites." - OK, in all honesty I just made this one up. But really, it's a question asked every year, and jersey chasers and parasites are adjectives that have been applied to Saint Mary's in the past.

And really, SMC, you should just admit it. You really are a parasite. You don't offer activities of the same caliber as Notre Dame. Sure, you may give the Keenan Revue a place to perform, but no Notre Dame kids actually walk on me unless they have friends across US-31. On the other hand, you walk to Notre Dame all the time - usually in short skirts and high heels. Let me ask one favor: please, put on pants.

And Notre Dame, you'd do well to remember there's another institution of higher learning across the street. It's pretty. And they don't have DuLac rules threatening expulsion for sexual relations. So go visit the ladies across the street every once in a while. Their feet will get a break from walking in three-inch heels for a change.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are held subconsciously by everyone on campus. Deal with it.

CORRECTIONS

The Absurder regards itself as a professional publication. We do, however, suck from time to time. Scholastic sucks more. Think you can do better? Fine. Try it. Give 10 hours out of your night a couple times per week and see if you put out a perfect paper with no errors.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE NOTRE DAME MEN'S BASKETBALL SEASON?



Mock-Tee coach



Chuckie Wise one foot out the door



Irish McBlarney male model



Trigger Yelps Martin's salad bar fanatic



Leprejuan Ragin' Cajun

"There aren't enough mock turtlenecks in the world to answer that question."

"All I can say is that they made us look good."

"We didn't really weed out the bad teams in the beginning. We were a little green. Kind of burned out. Didn't blaze the trail. Ya know?"

"Did you know I snapped UCLA's record-setting winning streak?"

"HERE WE GO FENCING HERE WE GO."



Suck it, Sensenbrenner/The Absurder

In a hard-hitting interview with President Yomama, an Absurder reporter asked Yomama what color The Shirt should be next year. Yomama babbled for 12 minutes about how his story is only possible in America before responding "green."

BEATOFF

Notre Dame "just Catholic enough"

CHI-TOWN - The Society of Catholic Educators has issued a report stating that Notre Dame is "just Catholic enough."

"A lot of people say Notre Dame isn't Catholic enough. Others say it is too Catholic. We've done extensive research and concluded that Notre Dame is 'just Catholic enough,'" said Mark O'Donnell, the president of the society.

The report analyzes data including the ratio of classrooms to crucifixes, the number of times the catechism is quoted in the school newspaper's opinion section, the average number of hook-ups per

student per weekend and the number of cheers that use the phrase "suck it."

The Society also factored in the ratio of people that have attended the "The Vagina Monologues" to the number of crosses planted on campus during pro-life demonstrations.

Notre Dame spokesman Menace Brown declined to issue a statement in response to the release, saying he didn't want to "jinx it."

Following the news about the report, the Irish Rover, Notre Dame's conservative newspaper, announced today they plan to jeer the Society of Catholic Educators in their next issue, then devote the rest of it, as usual, to explaining

why Notre Dame is not Catholic enough.

SMC to donate alcohol to ResLife survivors

Saint Mary's students are collecting gently consumed bottles of hard alcohol or cases of beer to donate to recovering ResLife survivors.

"We just want to make sure the girls can get back on their feet," college president Caroline Moody said.

Alcohol will be distributed accordingly to students who are most deserving of the moral support, Moody said.

Information compiled by washed out seniors living off campus.

BOXERS OR BRIEFS?

The Excise Police will be visiting all off-campus apartment complexes tonight from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. Students are asked to be hospitable. Free breathalyzer tests will be available.

Club 23 is offering bullet-proof vests to the first 100 students in line on Monday. The initiative, titled "Getting Caught is Costing us Business" will be followed by a brief seminar called "Be Careful Whose Screen Doors You Knock On."

Students will be passing out free "Stem Cell Research? Fine By Me" T-shirts at LaFortune today from 3 p.m. to 5.

Graduating seniors can purchase Obama voodoo dolls at LaFortune this week. All proceeds go toward Planned Parenthood.

Tonight in Coleman-Morse, Student Government will host the next installment of its totally original Last Lecture Series. Tonight's speaker will be Carl Goodcook, the genius behind Hot Carl's Chicken Sandwich.

The Irish Rover and the Right to Life Club will be holding a public flogging and stoning of all College Democrats at Notre Dame tonight at 8 p.m. on the steps of the Main Building. Contrary to e-mails sent out earlier this week, the groups do not have enough stones for everyone to throw, so please, bring your own stones. It's only polite.

Fr. Hesbrugh will be hosting a kegger tonight in the 13th floor of the library, sponsored by Bill Dapalucci and the Audit and Advisory Services.

Why do we let people publicize this crap for free?

Weather forecast table with columns for TODAY, TONIGHT, THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY and rows for HIGH and LOW temperatures.

West Baltimore 12 murders / 3 murders (Never cross Avon or Stringer). Beantown 38 / 29 Scranton 34 / Depressing Illadelph 68 / 42 City of Angels? 60 / 43 Dillon, Texas 55 / 31 Hesburgh Library 39 / 30 St. Lunatics 29 / 17 Mishawaka 74 / 59 Do you really read the weather?

NEWS YOU WON'T READ

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

COMPILED FROM THE ABSURDER'S INTREPID REPORTERS

page 3

BOG uses stipend to buy Observer comic strips

President Mickey McSmickey is glad no more SMC chicks will be made fun of in paper's most popular page

By DRUNK KOHLER
Sloshed

After years of frustration, outrage, and parasitic references, Saint Mary's Board of Governance (BOG) has decided to use their \$60,000 annual stipend to buy the rights to Observer comics, citing they are "Like totally not true and super annoying," student body president Mickey McSmickey said.

The stipend, which is allotted to the six top executives on the Board, has typically been used on alcohol, tank tops from Forever 21, and quesadillas from the Cyber Café is now being used for a greater purpose — for student rights, McSmickey said.

"We're like really tired of getting made fun of, so we're taking a stand against those mean boys who write those comics. First of all, they're not funny. And, B, we don't even look like that," she said.

Student body vice president Caitlin Caitlinson echoed McSmickey's sentiments. "We're more than just doodles, you know."

While rights to the comics cost less than \$10,000, BOG is donating the rest of the stipend to the campus group Students Against Students Who Make Fun of Other Students Across the Street.

"It's for a good cause. A lot of people out there have been affected by the comics and it's time to take a stand."

McSmickey said the space usually reserved for the comics will be filled with a special "She's Saint Mary's" section where students will

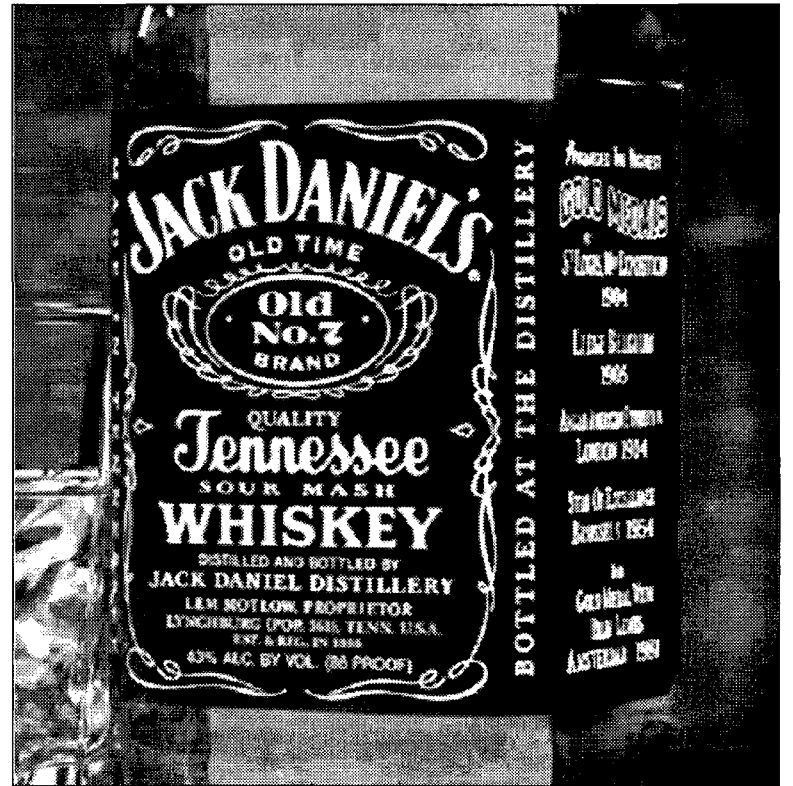
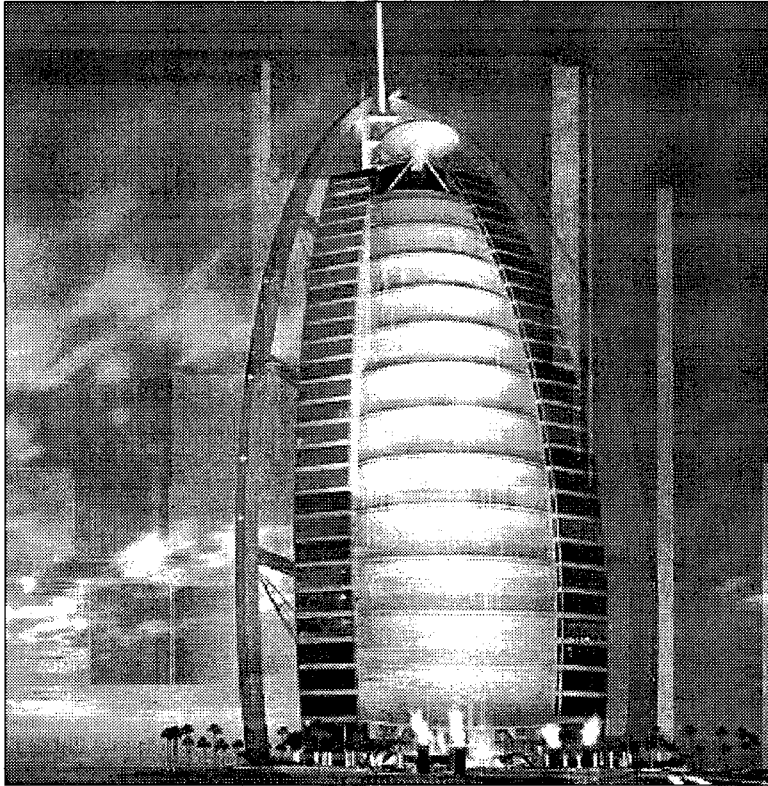


Photo courtesy of possible Copyright Infringement

Don't worry SMC students, your money won't go to providing Student Government with alcohol or nights in luxurious hotels anymore.

compete weekly to have their pictures featured. "It's a great way to get more dates and show how totally awesome we are," Caitlinson said. "We might also try to buy the Question of the Day space so more of us can be in The Observer. We think it's totally the best idea ever. Seriously."

Students are relieved to have the space and also to be featured in campus' most read and reliable

news source.

"I already sent in 10 of my sexiest Facebook pics. I really hope I get picked. I look really good in black and white," freshman Lizzie LeMans said. "I've never been to a school that has so many opportunities."

Even though the Board has forfeited the stipend money to the students, they will still take their annual cruise to the Caribbean and

have all their meetings catered by Ruth's Cris Steak House.

"See? We can do good stuff and still get tan. I love steak," executive assistant Bella Belles said.

"I agree. I mean we put in at least four hours a week for our school. Don't we deserve a vacation too? I think yes," McSmickey said.

As for the future of the Observer comic strip, Editor in Chief Jenny Mets is a little disappointed.

"Our funds were low, so we had to give in. I'm just going to miss all those nights in the office without Papa John's."

McSmickey and the rest of the Belles are happy that the comics and subsequent Viewpoint battles have been laid to rest. "Boys are mean. Throw rocks at them."

Contact Drunk Kohler at Passedout@gmail.com

Yomama

continued from page 1

That's right, Jenkins' next choice to speak at the graduation of the most prestigious Catholic University in the world is the euthanizing, recently-released from prison doctor who has assisted in the deaths of over 130 people.

"I was initially shocked when I received a phone call from Fr. Junkins and thought he was

going to condemn me to hell," Kevorkian said. "But hey, the economy's bad and people don't have the money to be euthanized since I got out of jail. Too many are resorting to just plain old suicide. I could use the money."

Kevorkian was released from prison in 2007 after serving eight years of a 10 to 25-year prison sentence. He was released on parole for good behavior. All this information on Kevorkian was obtained by The Absurder using that beacon of journalistic integrity

known as Wikipedia.

Associate vice president of News and Information and University spokesman Menace Brown defended Junkins' selection.

"Look, just because President Junkins invited somebody to speak here doesn't mean he supports their views," Brown said. "In this case, Fr. Junkins obviously doesn't condone euthanasia. It's clear why he chose Dr. Kevorkian. He's a doctor, duh. And he's probably a smart guy with a lot of other things to talk about besides

euthanasia.

"Maybe he can talk about his time in prison. That's what kids want to hear at Commencement."

"No it isn't," said senior Spoiled Brat. "If we couldn't get Stephen Colbert, Yomama was a great second choice. But now, those stupid alumni and right-wing idiots ruined my graduation."

Many alumni expressed outrage with Junkins' choice.

"This is ludicrous," said Diss Gruntled, Notre Dame '80. "Though I don't know who'd be

worse, an abortion-loving president or a euthanizing criminal.

"After all, the people that were euthanized did want to die anyway. Fetuses don't have a choice. But who cares what the students think? We need to make a point here."

South Bend/Fort Wayne Bishop John F'Artsy fell over in his chair and accidentally killed himself when Junkins told him about Kevorkian. F'Artsy could not be reached for comment.

Contact Hine's Ketchup at iwillnotrespond@gmail.com

Hi there, this is your friendly neighbors at Reslife. We realize that we're not the most popular people on campus, and that we try to take all the fun out of college. We just want to say — don't expect us to stop now.

You whiny little brats shouldn't have fun, because we at Reslife are stuck in a dead-end bureaucratic hellhole for the rest of our careers with no end in sight. We need an outlet for all of our frustration. We didn't have fun in college and neither should you. So, for the rest of your time here at Notre Dame, expect us to keep breaking up your fun and likely violating your Constitutional rights by serving you with inordinately high punishments for relatively petty offenses.

And don't think that because you move off-campus or even graduate that you're free from us. Oh no, DuLac applies everywhere. Why is that? Because it says so in DuLac. That's ironclad logic right there. Don't like it? Suck it up. That's what she said.

This ad paid for by Jeff Shopaholic and Captain Kirk.

THE ABSURDER VIEWPOINT

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Wednesday, April 1, 2009

THE ABSURDER

The Independent, Yearly Newspaper Mocking Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

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POLICIES

The Absurder claims nothing in this paper to be true. Anything you read in this special section is not subject to review of the Notre Dame administration. We hope it will remain that way.

Special thanks to:

Bill Kirk
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Phil Johnson
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The entire cast of Our Town

Questions regarding Absurder policies are inane. Shut the hell up and go home.

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Success has no place in ND athletics; Fire Janush

Janush Bedfellow is one of the top coaches at the University. As fencing coach, he has won National Championships, produced All-Americans and even a few Olympians. And for that, he must go.

Notre Dame's athletic department has taken a new turn in the last few years, and Bedfellow does not exemplify that direction. Since new Athletic Director Jack Swashbuckle took over during the summer, Notre Dame has striven for mediocrity.

Recently, Notre Dame fencing came in second in the NCAA Championships, losing to Penn State at State College, Pa. It's not that second place isn't good enough; it's that second place is too good for Notre Dame.

Let's look at the facts.

Chuckie Wise and the football team got the ball rolling early, realizing how things worked midway through the season. After a surprising 5-2 start to the season, Weis figured out how things work now, finishing the season 6-6. So as not to make his losing too apparent, Weis at least coached during the Hawaii Bowl to get a winning record to end the sea-

son.

Men's basketball was ranked as high as No. 7 in the nation before head coach Mock Tee got the memo on the new standard operating procedure. Tee's squad foundered during Big East play before losing to Penn State in the Final Four - of the NIT.

It took a little longer for Little Miss Muffet and Jack Jefferson to get the memo, although they fell into line eventually. The women's basketball team was ranked No. 4 all season, but later slipped in the polls down to the 20s. The squad lost in the first round of the NCAA Tournament - as a No. 7 seed - to Minnesota.

Jefferson did an even better job with the hockey team. The Irish were the top-ranked team for most of the season before slipping to No. 2 going into the NCAA Tournament. With a team that looked even better than last season's National Runner-up, Notre Dame seemed poised for a deep post-season run. But there's a new way of

doing things, and Jefferson knows it. The 5-1 loss to Bemidji State is the exemplar of the new Notre Dame Way.

Even Randy Wallbanger of the women's soccer team understood what he needed to do to succeed at Notre Dame, and not a moment too soon. The team was undefeated all season, and looked almost unstoppable going into the Tournament. But the Irish gave up the game-winning goal with only two minutes left to lose the Championship to a North Carolina team they had already beat-

Notre Dame's athletic department has taken a new turn in the last few years, and Bedfellow does not exemplify that direction.

en.

Compare that to Bedfellow. He started out the season ranked as one of the best teams in the nation. He continued to push his team to excel throughout the season. He lost in the end, but to one of the only teams ranked ahead of his for the season. He's one of the most decorated coaches the Notre Dame has and therefore, he has no place here.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hook-up, schmook-up

Dear four guys, two dining hall workers, my rectress, Father Junkins, and nightly janitorial staff of The Huddle:

Thank you for the hook-up. It was ... amazing. It wasn't a typical freshman year hook-up at all. (Father Junkins ... helloooooo!)

Some of you (cough cough janitors) led me on, while others just drunkenly happened (JJ you know sacramental wine makes me wild). Obviously, I wanted it because I didn't stop you. I love to kiss janitors and presidents of prestigious universities. Some people call it my "hobby."

Yes, the hook-up itself was fine, but afterwards we've run into a problem. At the dining hall, dorm parties, Board of Trustee meetings, and on the quad. It's the way you look at me, with that awkward stare that makes me want to scream "Just because we did it in the janitor's closet or behind the salad bar doesn't mean we can't talk like civil human beings!" Other times, you pretend you don't see me at all and just go on praying or serving mashed potatoes. To be fair, I think I may have gotten a "hey" from one or two or a "Body of Christ" on occasion (but it's been a while).

What about my number? You know you asked for it. Is that your way of saying, "Thanks for the hook-up, can I have your number so that I can give you ResLife at a later date?" Well it worked, I haven't heard from any of you, except via e-mail, which was addressed to the whole student body. I know you all have Katie O'Katerson in your phone book. Use it. I'm very needy.

Don't blame me for not calling you. I broke my phone because I drunkenly threw it in the lake as I was crying over you not calling. You probably wouldn't answer anyway. I've blocked my number several times and called and you still don't answer. What the eff?

Of course I don't render myself blameless. Our hook-up was the most convenient form of instant gratification that I could find. I am just as guilty as you are (except I didn't take a vow of chastity ...). But next time I smile at you on the quad, wear shirts that show off my cleavage, have a "wardrobe malfunction," or accidentally drop my fork in the dining hall, can you pretend that you haven't gone both deaf and blind since that night we met?

I am sure of one thing after all of this: you are where I draw the line. This weekend, I refuse to add to my list (unless your name is Menace Brown or Ted). I can't afford to have any more people refusing to look at me. I am looking to make friends (not lovers, clergy or staff alike). I can find a new hobby, hopefully something that really does make me happy, but, like Kelly Clarkson, I do not hook up. See you at the dining hall.

Sincerely,
Katie O'Katerson

P.S. Don't worry about our dome under the Dome. Xoxo.

Anger

I thought I'd come to Notre Dame, get my easy business degree, watch "Family Guy" 24/7 and not give a crap about "getting involved" with any campus activities. That's for nerds.

Then I heard something that really grinds my gears:

The Subway in Lafortune will not sell \$5-footlongs

This is absolutely outrageous. Don't they know every other Subway across the country is selling them? Those price-gougers.

Well, I'm getting off my couch, putting down my beer and doing something about it. Nothing else at this school has angered me this much. Abortion? Nah. Politics? Nah. Food. That's what I really care about.

D-bag
March 31

TODAY'S STAFF

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OBSERVER POLL

Would you hit that?

- (A) Yes.
- (B) No.
- (C) After 5 or 6

Vote by paper ballot in the University president's office.

Submit a Letter
to the Editor at
www.imawhiner.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I know that human beings and fish can coexist peacefully."

George W. Bush
Former president of the United States

BJ's

continued from page 1

that underage students can gain entry into BJ's, more notorious faces have been appearing.

Sources tell the Absurder that sophomore wide receiver Silver Skate has been spotted as a regular at the bar, along with dozens of other underage athletes. Sources also report that Skate has been spotted taking "body shots" off of female classmates.

"Yah, I see him there pretty much every Monday, sometimes Wednesday's too," a male junior said. "He's pretty hard to miss, all the girls around him, the issued gear, I mean hell, I wish I had lived that life when I was 20."

Skate, who does not turn 21 until this upcoming August, refused to be interviewed by the Absurder.

Head football coach Chuck Wise released a statement that he could neither confirm nor deny the alleged underage drinking of his players.

"We do not condone underage drinking," Wise said. "But if underage drinking is occurring at local establishments, I highly doubt any of

my players are involved."

Despite denying that his players were regulars at BJ's, the Absurder overheard Wise was telling them to "lay low for awhile." The Absurder also heard Wise state that Skate "would be 21 soon enough and that all of this will blow over."

Underage athletes drinking at BJ's is not a new issue. The Absurder reported similar problems back in 2005 when then-freshman quarterback M a n e a t Brady was spotted at BJ's before he was 21.

BJ's Pub owner Connor McJohns stated that while he does not permit underage students in his bar, it is possible

that a few slip in here and there.

"We have installed great measures to prevent the presence of underage students at our bar," McJohns said. "Our bouncers are trained to know all 50 state licenses by heart, but even the best bouncers slip up. Sometimes back doors get left open, these things happen."

In a statement released by the University, President Jim Spankins states, "under Du Lac, underage drinking is not permitted no matter who you are. Athletes should not receive special treatment, but I can't help it if people in the South Bend community are willing to look the other way."

"Do I really have to explain myself twice? If you need to know why this annoying little box is here, read my rant on the right side of the page. Right now, it's almost 5 a.m. The Grab N' Go ladies are setting up shop for the day across the hall and we still have about 4 pages to finish before we can finally leave this place. Crap, I need to fill about four more lines of text before the article can end. Phew! There we go."

**Overtired copy editor
The Absurder**

Contact DK all the way at dkrasula@nd.edu

Le Pew

continued from page 100,000

hoc group in response to student complaints about the presence of skunks on campus.

"After careful consideration and prayerful deliberation, I have decided to create an ad hoc group, which will report directly to me, composed of several members of the Notre Dame community, as well as skunk experts from the South Bend area, and oddly enough, some members who were on that pointless ad hoc group to examine stadium security issues," he said in a news release last month.

The ad hoc group proposed spraying Notre Dame with a chemical agent that members of the group believed would repel the skunks. The Notre Dame Security Police used Segway vehicles to scatter the powdered chemical around the campus.

The chemical did not work as intended, however, and has produced larger skunks capable

of breeding with humans, resulting in several skunk parietal violations. At least one skunk-human couple has produced a skunk-human hybrid offspring, who has been seen on many occasions visiting South Bend drinking establishments.

Shankins renamed the ad hoc committee to address the parietals violations.

"After careful consideration and prayerful deliberation, I have decided to create an ad hoc group, which will report directly to me, composed of ResLife and NDSP. Skunk-human parietals breaking is an abomination," he said in a news release.

Speaking anonymously, a top member of the Shankins administration told The Observer that Shankins has retreated to isolation and is "flipping out."

"This is worse than the Vagina Monologues," the official said. "I only hope next year Loyal Daughters won't have a piece about skunk-human premarital sexual encounters."

The rash of skunk parietals violations have been compared by others to the Vagina

Monologues controversy, with some questioning Notre Dame's Catholic character.

"When I went to Notre Dame, no one ever had sex before marriage," cranky 1965 alum Roger Whelan said. "Now students are having sex with skunks? I'm withdrawing my donation until Notre Dame becomes Catholic again. I've also ripped up my five Notre Dame sweatshirts and I punched a baby I saw at the grocery store holding a toy football, because it reminded me of Notre Dame. I never thought I'd say this, but Notre Dame is no longer my university"

Some students, however, have supported the skunk parietals violations. Sophomore Casey Martin has formed a Facebook group promoting "skunk love."

"Notre Dame is a great place, but it is so anti-skunk," she said. "Why aren't skunks included in the non-discrimination clause?"

Martin is planning on selling black and white striped shirts that say "Skunk? Fine by Me."

Contact Pepe Le Pew at creepfrenchskunk@aol.com

Studly

continued from page 69

will begin modeling in the summer, and Dam, currently a junior, will begin in a year.

Dam said he still anticipates appearing on the front page of The Observer most days of the week.

"Appearing on the front page of The Observer is a great way to help students remember that student government is here, working for them, and that the people in charge of student government look really, really good while doing it," he said.

Dam takes over for Meish as president today, and he said he's planning on making some changes now that he realizes how good looking he is.

"We're going to eliminate the position of Chief Executive Assistant and replace it with Chief Executive Photographer," he said. "It's going to really improve student life for people. I've done a lot of research into it, and I know it's what students want."

The photographer will take pictures of Dam as he goes about his daily life looking fantastic.

Dam said he's also launched a new Web site, DamImfine.com, to give students easier access to the photos.

"It will make student government so much more accessible to students," Dam said. "Now what looks better, the white shirt or the striped one? Glasses on or off?"

Earlier this year, Meish and Dam e-mailed a survey to the student body asking for reactions to several student government initiatives, including an all-out effort to become the two most widely sought-after men on campus.

The questionnaire asked students whether they thought Meish

and Dam looked better in black and white or in color.

"The response rate was overwhelming," Meish said. "Students obviously care a lot about improving the quality of life at Notre Dame, and also having male eye candy on the cover of their newspaper every morning."

The results of the survey indicated that 65 percent of students think Meish looks better in color, and 89 percent think Dam looks better in black and white.

"Look, the story was too short for the required space, so we had to put in this inane pull-quote in our best attempt to make it fit."

Sometimes the quote is attributed to SMC volleyball coach Julie Schroeder-Biek. why? Because that's the dummy pull-quote we use each night and if you see her name in the pull-quote that means we forgot to change the name to the right person or our stupid editors didn't catch the mistake at 4 a.m. Hey, professional papers make similar mistake like that all the time.

We're not the only ones who screw up. Pull-quotes may seem like a waste of space to you, but if we didn't have these, we might kill ourselves."

**Burned out copy editor
The Absurder**

"I'm going to take the responses students have given us and use them to help student government work better for them," Dam said, stroking his strong jaw line.

One of the initiatives Meish and Dam planned was a meeting of the student body presidents from across the Midwest. The leaders will converge at Notre Dame to talk about initiatives at their schools and trade ideas.

"We also want to see whether any of their presidents or vice presidents are better looking than us," Meish said. "Notre Dame has to stay competitive."

Some others in student government, however, are jealous of all the attention Meish and Dam are getting.

"They're so ugly. I'm 10 times better looking than that rat Meish," said Asian Joey, senior class president.

When Meish graduates from Notre Dame in May, he will immediately head to Bermuda to shoot a spread for GQ.

Dam said Meish will be missed, but said new vice president Lydia Sheber will bring experience, competence and good ideas to his administration.

"Oh, also, she looks great in black and white," Dam said.

Contact Riding Hood at Wolfstomach@gmail.com

Screw GreeND.

Like they're making a difference.

Just chuck The Absurder in the trash when you're done reading the Viewpoints.

And if you want to write for us, too bad, you're probably not good enough.

Write for The Rover instead.

Riots

continued from page 8

swordfight with my roommate all the time, it's not that hard."

The hundreds of fans that wreaked havoc on innocent women and children following the loss apparently first tried to express themselves constructively. They initially looked into appealing the NCAA's decisions. However, none of the fans knew any of the rules of fencing, or had ever seen a match, so that plan never got off the ground.

Fans instead relied on the unfair home advantage given to Penn State to justify their complaints. The championship tournament was held at the Nittany Lion's home fighting area - the Happy Valley ThunderDome. Several Irish fighters complained that the raucous Penn State fans threw off their concentration several times.

"Oh really, no such thing as a home advantage? Haven't you seen 300?" said senior Matthew Wacca.

Berdnarz, in fact, had never seen the 2007 Zach Snyder film, but he did admit that playing at Penn State present-

ed a bigger hill to climb.

"Sure, it was bush league, total bush league," he said. "What do they think is, women's basketball?"

Wacca is the president of the Destructive Rioters Upset with Notre Dame Kinesthetics (DRUNK) and has led several riots after disappointing losses. Up until this past weekend, DRUNK was best known for urinating in the Stone Henge fountain after the Notre Dame football team lost to Syracuse. Wacca said the organization normally sticks to no more than throwing eggs or PVC pipes, but the fencing loss needed something bigger.

"To be honest, I was pretty drunk. I'm not sure what happened. I was just trying to do something crazy," Wacca said.

When police arrived on the scene several houses were on fire and students were dancing in circles singing the classic Billy Joel song, "We Didn't Start the Fire."

Initial reports show that two bicycles, a picnic set and three South Bend area homes were burnt to the ground. The city believes that the damage will cost over \$700 to repair.

Contact with public toilet seats can give you diseases.

"I don't get it. I swordfight with my roommate all the time, it's not that hard."

Jim Andruszkiewicz
Alpha Male

AT LEAST IT'S A LITTLE FUNNIER THAN BLACK DOG.

Hot Dogs

continued from page 8

tossin' around the pigskin without trippin' on your own two feet? Silly really."

To combat not just underage drinking, but drinking in general, Gagme has equipped each usher with a shotgun.

"If you booze, you lose ... possibly even an arm or a leg now," he said.

Roger Underager was one of the POWs who The Observer spoke to via telegram. "This is a load of sh*t. Stop. I don't pay \$40,000 a year for this bulls*&^! Stop. SOS. Stop."

University President Father John Junkie issued an official

statement yesterday claiming that he sees no problem with addressing the problem head on. "Drinking? At Notre Dame? They don't pay \$40,000 a year to be blowing it all on unsacramental wine."

Gagme said once football season ends, they will move onto other highly attended sports including fencing and women's crew. "We'll hit 'em where it hurts."

At this time, the time of release of the prisoners is still uncertain. "We'll let them out when they learn their lesson," Gagme said.

He added that if the prisoners wrote a letter saying they had in fact learned their lesson and pretended to complete 20 hours of community service he would seriously

consider shortening their sentences.

The new shotgun measure caused concern with Notre Dame alumni's premier website, slackernation.com Many angry threads have been posted and caused the website's administrator, Lipton IcedTea, to quit his dayjob just to manage the site.

One poster, I'dTeabagHoltz69, summed up poster's concerns

"The only shotguns that should be on campus are made with keyholes and beer cans," I'dTeabag said. "And it's out God-given right to shotgun those beers in the Stadium, and nobody will ever take that away!"

Joe College lost his blackberry. Contact him at a dorm party.



PROP JOE/The Absurder

Omar Little, former gay Baltimore native, who previously made his living stealing from drug dealers, will rise from the dead in 2009 to lead the NDSP's shotgun enforcement team.

ANOTHER STUPID STORY

By TOM WOLFE
Special to the Absurder

Bishop John F'Artsy, whose diocese includes Notre Dame, announced Monday that he would not attend the April 18 Blue-Gold Game, the traditional spring exhibition match for the Notre Dame football team, so he could "get blackout" at PigTostal instead.

"This will be the 25th Notre Dame Blue-Gold Game during my time as bishop,"

F'Artsy said. "After much prayer, I have decided not to attend.

"I wish no disrespect to Charlie Weis, I pray for him and wish him well. I have always revered the job of Head Coach of the Fighting Irish. A bishop must teach the Catholic faith 'in season and out of season' but I've heard that PigTostal is a lot more fun than sitting through four hours of mediocre football."

F'Artsy has waited for this day all spring.

"My decision is not an

attack on anyone," F'Artsy continued, "But rather in defense of my desire to get completely wasted and pass out before 6 p.m."

University President Fr. John Junkins issued no reply in requests for comments by press time, but University spokesman Menace Brown told The Absurder there was no way Junkins was "picking F'Artsy's drunk-*** up when he calls asking for a ride to Taco Bell."

Contact Tom Wolfe at Shinywhitesuit@gmail.com



Sgt. Pepper/The Observer

Local pet salesman Marcus Craymur lost his house in the riot. Above is all that remained when the fire station arrived.

Moving off campus?
In the market for a portable dishwasher?
Don't mind the occasional gunshot?
Enjoy talkative crack addicts that sell socks door-to-door?

Call I-Have-No-SHAMER.

You may lose your security deposit, you may be forced to move, but you'll never be evicted.

Properties still available for the 2008-09 school year.

Hilarity

continued from page 8

names referencing Cleveland Browns wide receiver Dante Stallworth, who was recently involved in a fatal car crash that claimed the life of Mario Reyes, a 59-year old man in Miami.

"He hit a guy with his car and the guy died. Hahahaha," Pooper said. "Naturally, it

was all we could do to contain ourselves anytime we saw a team name that said something similar to 'Dante's Killer Drives.' Oh man, that one really cracked me up."

Pooper reiterated his claim that anything with alcohol should be censored.

"Unlike domestic violence and manslaughter, alcohol ruins lives. It's nothing to joke about," Pooper said. "Also, did you know that the drinking age was 21? Most stu-

dents on this campus shouldn't be drinking. Domestic abuse and manslaughter, on the other hand, have no age limits."

Pooper said this policy is unlikely to change any time soon, since allowing alcohol and sex-related names in

absolutely unacceptable.

"You don't want to offend anybody with these Bookstore names."

**Part E. Pooper
Bookstore censor**

Bookstore Basketball is Catholic institution."

"It's not just harmless fun," Pooper said. "There are Catholic principles at stake here and we all know, the University will not compromise its identity as a

Pooper also said the policy that says Bookstore censors cannot allow any team names that make fun of anybody within the University will stand.

"You don't want to offend anybody with these Bookstore names," Pooper said. "You have to be sensitive in some areas."

That's what she said.

Contact Censor This at dirtysanchez@nd.edu

Skanks

continued from page 8

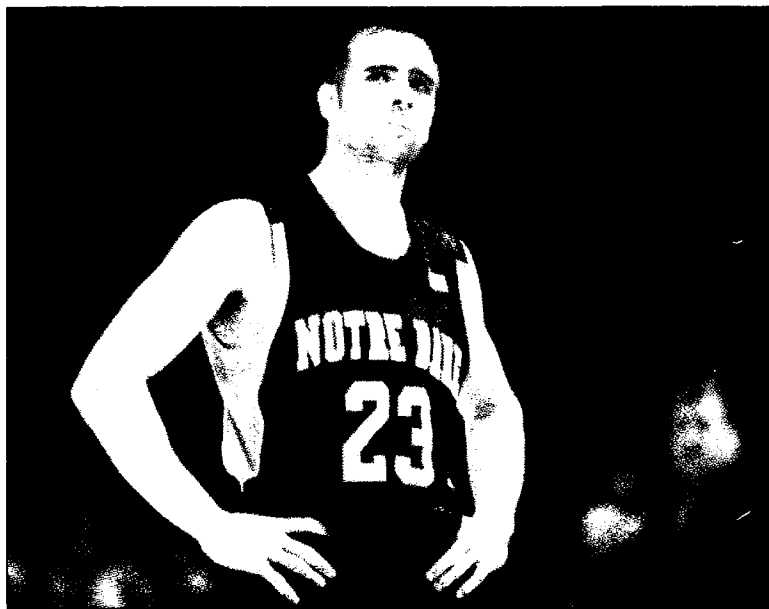
McBlarney gained his coveted status after Brady's assumed successor, Stork Dausen, failed to live up to the renowned lofty expectations of the Jersey Chasers.

"Everyone thought Stork would replace Manmeat," said Darla Skankintosh, president of the Jersey Chasers. "But he just assumes girls want to hook up with him, which is true — don't get me wrong, a lot of us would still totally do Stork — but McBlarney, just does something to us that's indescribable. We all want to marry him, then divorce him for the money."

Skankintosh said McBlarney's smile, his sexy on-again, off-again beard, and velvety Staten Island accent put him ahead of other candidates on the football and basketball teams.

"Have you heard him speak? Holy crap," said Lyla Loosehips, vice president, or "the sloppy second" of the Jersey Chasers. "That's part of why we all line up one after the other to approach him at Fever or Cheers when we see him out."

McBlarney had no problem edging out competition from his own team, most notably senior forward Mac Hillandsand.



IT'S BEARD-FACE! / The Absurder

Aww, doesn't Irish McBlarney look so sad after ND lost to West Virginia? Don't you just want to give him a hug?

Hillandsand had some things going for him as well, Skankintosh said. At 6-foot-8, he is one of the tallest men on campus, always a good thing, she said. But Hillandsand fell behind in the race because he tried too much to be like Justin Timberlake.

"Yeah, Mac thinks he can dance, but have you seen him strip down to his beater at Finny's and try to bust a move or two?"

said Ja Rule Jackson, junior guard on Notre Dame. "It's embarrassing not only to him, but to me as well. People think I showed him those moves!"

His attempts at being smooth failed on the court as well.

"Just watch any of our games and watch as he tries to dribble to the basket, shoot a free throw, hell, do anything that requires a bit of coordination," said Duke Hairybody, junior forward on



TIM RIGGINS / The Absurder

Sorry, Mack Hillandsand, the Jersey Chasers all agree, you're not as hot as Irish McBlarney. What's up with the creepy face?

Notre Dame. "A turnover is the least of our worries. It's a miracle when he doesn't fall over."

McBlarney's two-year reign at the top rivaled that of Manmeat's, and he can go to bed as the envy of men everywhere and the desire of thousands of women. When asked who would take his place, McBlarney said there are a couple of candidates, but McBlarney said the man who will might take his place in the start-

ing lineup next year. Ben Handsbro, will take his place as the No. 1 stud at Notre Dame.

When asked to evaluate Handsbro's qualifications, Skankintosh said: "He's not bad. But he's from Missouri right? Then why in God's name does he sound like he's lived in Alabama all his life?"

Contact Hines Ward at SuckitRayLewis@gmail.com

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SMOKIN' HOT

Jersey Chasers: McBlarney No. 1 catch

President Skankintosh says all want to marry him, then divorce him for money in 5 years

By HINES WARD
Bane of the Ravens

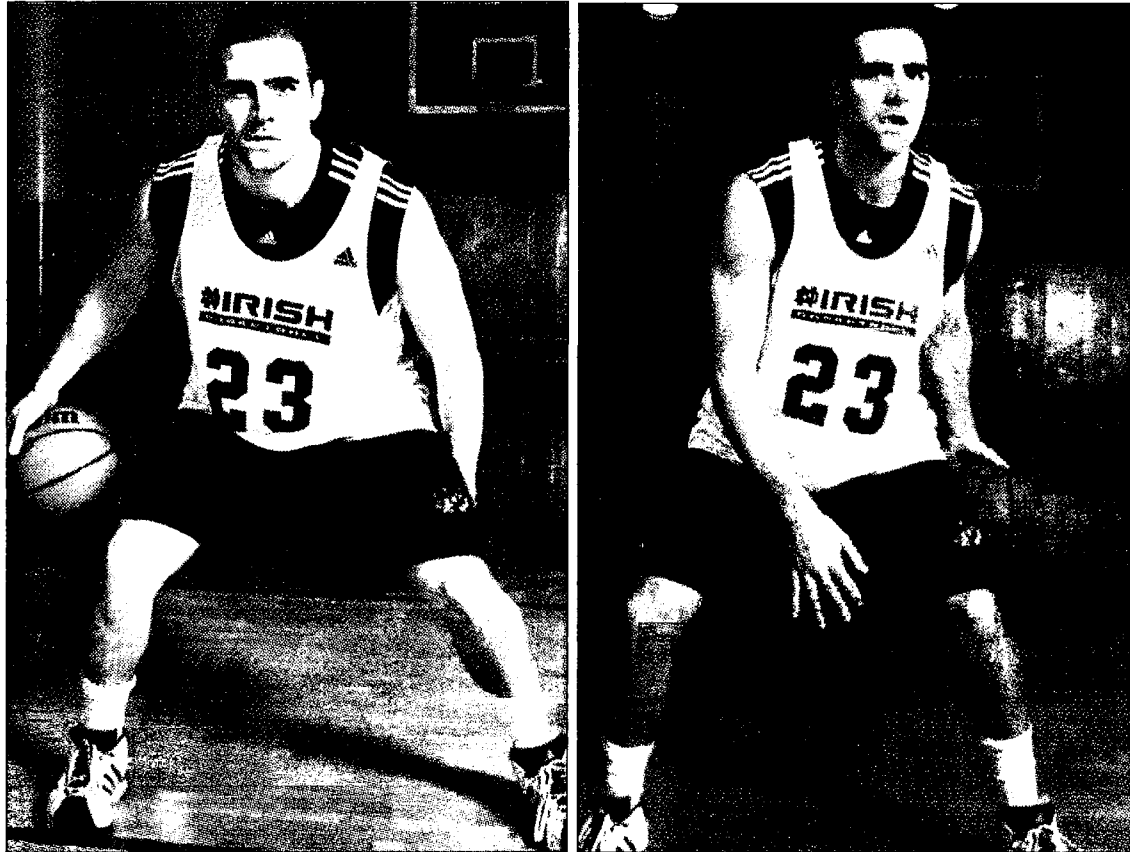
When Manmeat Brady left Notre Dame, he left a void on campus, a void many thought would be left unfilled for years.

No, not the void he left at Notre Dame's quarterback position, rather the void in the hearts of the many undying, jersey-chasing females on campus as the unanimous No. 1 catch at Notre Dame.

Thankfully, one man stepped up to fill those shoes and raise the heart rates of women (and even some men) all over campus — senior basketball star Irish McBlarney.

"It's been a burden to bear these past two years since Manmeat went to the NFL," McBlarney said after the Jersey Chasers elected him the No. 1 catch. "At first, I didn't know how I'd handle my new role, but I think there's been plenty of me to go around. Luckily, the Jersey Chasers are easier for me to conquer than Marquette's half-court defense."

see SKANKS/page 7



At left, Irish McBlarney stares intensely into your eyes. Yes, you, just like you always dreamed he would. At right, McBlarney wants to do some dirty, dirty things to you.

I'D DO HIM/The Absurder

FOOZEBALL

Ushers given shotguns

University no longer content with capturing drunken, rabid fans

By JOE COLLEGE
Never seen the second half

Forty-two students, 12 alumni, three hot dog vendors, and a blind spectator have been taken into custody as prisoners of war (POWs) at Saturday's football game. What war, you ask? "The war on underage drinking," usher leader Chappy Gagme said. "Zero tolerance. I won't rest until prohibition is reinstated at Notre Dame."

Gagme, who has been at Notre Dame since prohibition in 1920, said it is the only way to make football games fun again.

"Whatever happened to

see HOT DOGS/page 6

BOOKSTORE BASKETBALL

Censors: Alcohol and sex = bad. Domestic abuse = hilarious

By CENSOR THIS
Nothing But Chet

Once again, the Bookstore censors did their usual hatchet job on hundreds of potential bookstore names that clever Notre Dame students tried to sneak by them. No doubt, these heroes spent countless hours on Urban Dictionary trying to decide if

such teams as "The Backdoor Threats," "The Impenetrable Box" and "A Little Dribble Between My Legs" should be replaced with plain, old numbers. And of course, anything to do with alcohol has to be banned.

"It's only natural," Bookstore commissioner Part E. Pooper said. "Alcohol and sex have no place at Notre Dame, whatsoever."

But Pooper said there was one category of team names the committee didn't have to think twice about approving — anything to do with the Chris Brown/Rihanna domestic abuse scandal.

"Let's face it, domestic abuse is downright hysterical," Pooper said. "And it really brings out the best in creative thinking among Notre Dame students."

"How can you not get a chuckle out of teams like 'We Play Better Defense than Rihanna' or 'We'll beat you worse than Chris Brown.' It's so funny!"

Pooper said it didn't matter that domestic abuse may be a sore subject for some students on campus, and that some may have parents or may even be victims themselves of such terrible vio-

lence.

"Besides, it's not like Rihanna is a real person anyway," Pooper said. "Have you ever heard her sing? She sounds like a computer! Now, she's back with Chris Brown anyway, so it should be OK to make fun of how bad she got beat up."

Also acceptable are team

see HILARITY/page 7

FENCING DISASTER

Fencing flop ignites riots among ND students

By MARCUS CRAYMUR
Newly homeless

Irish fans have had enough. Last Sunday, following Notre Dame's second place finish at the NCAA Fencing Finals, loyal athletic supporters showed their outrage by rioting in South Bend.

South Bend Police Chief Ray Jingflamerr said that several homes, big screen televisions and lives were destroyed.

"We were able to get things under control pretty quickly," Jingflamer said. "I didn't want to make any arrests because I feel for these kids. I saw the finals on the Ocho and I was upset about it too. We're not the excise, you know."

Notre Dame students have grown used to disappointing clubs falling short of expectations this year. Back-to-back

poor football seasons, a projected top 10 basketball team now playing in the NIT and a loss in the women's soccer national championship laid the groundwork, the fencing loss was the final straw.

The Irish fencers finished the regular season as the No. 1 team in the country. However, perennial powerhouse Penn State proved to be too much in the tournament. Irish coach Janski Berdnarz said that he was proud of the way his team fought throughout the whole season.

"You're not going to come out on top every time you have a sword in your hands. Just ask Rufio," he said.

Upset fans found that hard to understand.

"I don't get it," senior Jim Andruszkiewicz said. "I

see RIOTS/page 6



Crazed Irish students from the Destructive Rioters Upset with Notre Dame Kinesthetics (DRUNK) torch furniture following Notre Dame's loss to Penn State in the NCAA Fencing Championships.

Photo courtesy of The one and only Facebook