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ND eyes 2008 presidential election

Students, professors scrutinize Clinton, Obama, Brownback, Edwards, other hopefuls

By EILEEN DUFFY
Assistant News Editor

With election 2008's Iowa primaries less than a year away, as presidential hopefuls hustle to announce their candidacies, the politically minded on Notre Dame's campus are analyzing the field and, in some cases, itching to back their personal favorite.

The 2008 presidential election marks the first time in 80 years that neither the sitting president nor sitting vice president is running for the job, leaving the door wide open for potential candi-

dates.

One by one, they're walking through. On the Democratic side, Sen. Hillary Clinton (N.Y.), former Sen. John Edwards (N.C.) and Gov. Bill Richardson (N.M.) have proclaimed their intentions to run for president, and Sen. Barack Obama (Ill.) said he will make an official announcement on Feb. 10.

Sen. Sam Brownback (Kan.) is one of a few Republicans officially

in the running, but potential Republican candidates include Sen. John McCain (Ariz.), former mayor of New York City Rudy Giuliani and former Speaker of the U.S. House Newt Gingrich.

The openness of the race, coupled with front-loading in the nomination procedure — that is, slating caucuses and primaries for early in 2008 — is prompting hopefuls to

announce their candidacies so early, said American Studies professor Robert Schmuhl. The candidates are likely to be set by February of that year, he said.

When it comes to the Republican primaries, Notre Dame College Republicans president Sarah Way doesn't think McCain or Giuliani



Clinton



Brownback



Obama

see ELECTIONS/page 4

Suspension provokes debate

Students divided over McAlarney decision

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

The University decided Monday how to deal with Notre Dame basketball player Kyle McAlarney's marijuana possession charges — suspension from Notre Dame — but students are still grappling with the case and its outcome.

Many students said they support the decision to suspend the sophomore guard — who was pulled over and arrested near campus early on Dec. 29 — and hailed it as consistent with du Lac, while others expressed frustration with what they saw as unfair aspects of University policy.

"This was a big punishment, but it was deserved," freshman Jill Schroeder said. "It sends the message there's no special treatment for athletes and the policy is fair."

But students like junior Jake Watson said the University overreacted to the arrest since marijuana was involved — an issue not just for McAlarney, he said, but any student caught for possession.

"They'll just fine someone \$15 for getting caught with a beer in the hallway underage, but I know people who got kicked out of the school for having pot," he said. "Really, this should be a less severe offense than under-

see REACTION/page 6

Hodges, Payne to lead SMC students



Kim Hodges, left, and Kelly Payne were elected student body president and vice president, respectively, in a runoff Thursday.

By KATIE KOHLER
News Writer

Kim Hodges and Kelly Payne came away with a narrow victory over opponents Colleen Ferreira and Jenny Antonelli in the Saint Mary's student body presidential and vice presidential elections Thursday.

The pair received 300 total votes over Ferreira and Antonelli's 263 votes. The two tickets met in a runoff when the results from Tuesday's preliminary knocked out third ticket Annie Davis and Courtney Kennedy.

Hodges-Payne clinched the victory by less than 10 percent in the runoff with 52.2 percent versus Ferreira-Antonelli's 45.7 percent.

Prior to the election, the race was neck-and-neck, with the

pairs within two percent of each other. Tuesday, however, saw Ferreira-Antonelli in the lead.

"I am not surprised by the results at all," Hodges said. "I am just surprised how close it was."

Ferreira found no security in holding the lead during the preliminary vote.

"It is an election. It could go either way at any time," she said.

Hodges and Payne ran a dedicated campaign and attributed their success to their persistence. The pair said the main difference between winning and losing was meeting new people.

"We did whatever we could to get our message out. We sat outside the dining hall, went door-to-door in dorms and put

see SMC/page 4

Keenan Revue tickets sell out in 13 minutes

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

Tickets for the Keenan Revue, a traditionally irreverent annual production, sold out at a rate of more than 100 per minute Thursday.

"It was a great and rousing success," said sophomore ticket seller Peter Vignali.

Vignali and fellow ticket seller senior Johnny McDermott experienced a busy afternoon distributing tickets to one of the most-anticipated campus shows of the year.

The Revue is a sketch comedy production run by Keenan Hall that pokes fun at various aspects — and people — of

the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's communities.

Tickets were distributed Thursday at Saint Mary's from 1 p.m. to 3 and at Notre Dame from 4 p.m. to 6 at the Joyce Center.

Showing up early was a good strategy for getting tickets, which were gone in 13 minutes.

"The first people showed up at the JACC at 1:15 and [ticket distribution] didn't start until 4," McDermott said. "We were cleaned up and out of there by 4:20."

Tickets for the Thursday and Saturday night performances went fastest.

Despite the rush, sellers

see REVUE/page 6

Lennon honored with dinner

Alumni Association director recognized for 25 years of service

By JOHN PAUL WITT
News Writer

One hundred and fifty people filled the Joyce Center Monogram Room Thursday night to honor Alumni Association Executive Director and Associate Vice President for University Relations Chuck Lennon.

While students know Lennon primarily as the MC of pep rallies — with his trademark "raise the roof" — Thursday's dinner and speeches focused on his 25 years of service as head of the Alumni Association, the 120,000-member union of Notre Dame alumni, family and friends.



Chuck Lennon, right, speaks with Father Theodore Hesburgh during a dinner Thursday in Lennon's honor.

see LENNON/page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

Fantasy films on the rise

The fantasy film is the hot thing in Hollywood right now and no one is the worse off for it.

Since the "Lord of the Rings" phenomenon, films have been released that have taken the fantasy genre to new places and audiences to worlds they never thought existed.

Marty Schroeder

Assistant Scene Editor

Well, what do I mean when I say fantasy? Some would say it means only those stories that are similar to "Lord of the Rings" in which valiant humans and elves too snobby for their own good fight evil orcs or some other devil that is threatening to take over the world, Middle Earth or whatever the battlefield of the film might be called.

I would like to take a more general approach. This year, the third installment in the "Shrek" series will be released with rumors of a few more. Those few could include a "Puss in Boots" film similar to the way the "X-Men" film series is branching off into films about exclusive characters, such as Wolverine.

These films have captured the hearts of children and adults alike, and while many will say the original was the best, the creative team at DreamWorks is still motivated enough by the competition from Pixar to release what I think will be an extremely delightful film.

Perhaps the film that has gotten to most press concerning the fantasy genre is last year's Academy Award nominated "Pan's Labyrinth." From the wild imagination of Mexican director Guillermo del Toro, this film brought adults to the fantasy realm and pulled it away from the nerds who know every elven king to have ever existed and the kids who only want to see the donkey make fun of Shrek more. "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy and "Shrek" series are great films, but the way del Toro parallels the human world and fantasy world is amazing. This is where fantasy films are going and where I hope they continue to go.

This may all be a flash in the pan, you say. However, there are more fantasy films on the horizon. "The Hobbit" details are still being worked out but an adaptation of the children's book, "Bridge to Terabithia" is due out this year along with the film adaptation of the wonderful Neil Gaiman story, "Stardust." Fantasy films are here to stay and the cinema, it seems, has found something that lets audiences find worlds they never could have imagined.

And if anyone is wondering how many elven kings there were in the history of Middle Earth, just come find me.

Contact Marty Schroeder at mschroe1@nd.edu
The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE HOBEY BAKER IS?



Alle Minnis
sophomore
Cavanaugh



Bobby Polish
sophomore
Dillon



Elisa Suarez
junior
Cavanaugh



Erin Dolan
freshman
Cavanaugh



Jordan Lacy
junior
Zahm



Michelle Byrne
sophomore
Cavanaugh

"Duh, a person that bakes hobeys. It was a vocab word in 5th grade."

"The clubbing of baby seals."

"Skiing."

"A hobo bakery."

"Yes, I do. It's Cutty Sparks' favorite hobby."

"It's like the Heisman for hockey. Figure it out."



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

The French department will present "Le Medecin Malgre Lui" today and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Philbin Studio Theater of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The show is directed by professor Paul McDowell, left, who will act in the play along with senior Annie Lauer.

OFFBEAT

NJ warns: Don't eat squirrels near dump

TRENTON, N.J. — New Jersey has warned squirrel hunters near a toxic waste dump about consuming the critters because they could be contaminated with lead.

It is the first time the state has cautioned Ringwood residents — many who are members of the Ramapough Mountain Indian tribe who hunt and fish in the area — about their squirrel intake, said Tom Slater, a spokesman for the Department of Health and Senior Services.

A lead-contaminated squirrel was found in the

area two months ago, prompting the agency, along with the state Department of Environmental Protection, to send out letters advising that adults eat squirrel no more than twice a week and even less for children and pregnant women.

Lead, which is harmful in small amounts, can damage the nervous system, red blood cell production and the kidneys.

Drug dog sniffs on despite death threats

LETICIA, Colombia — She's had a price on her head since 2004 and a 24-

hour guard monitors her food for poisoning. For a 5-year-old, she has made a lot of enemies.

But none of this keeps Agata, a golden Labrador who is one Colombia's best drug-sniffing dogs, from doing her job.

Stationed in the southern Amazon River border town of Leticia, Agata works at the local airport. She is the only Colombian police dog to have a contract put out on her by drug smugglers tired of having their goods confiscated.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The 18th annual ND Student Film Festival will take place today and Saturday at 7 p.m. and 10 in the Browning Cinema in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The festival features 13 short films made as class projects during the past year. Tickets are \$6 for general admission, \$5 for faculty/staff and \$3 for students.

Summer Shakespeare presents "The Romeo and Juliet Story: In Concert" today at 7:30 p.m. in the Decio Mainstage Theatre in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The performance features two singers, three actors and a 30-piece orchestra onstage. Ticket prices range from \$12 to \$50.

The Student Activities Office and O'Neill Hall are sponsoring an Improv Comedy Show in Carey Auditorium today at 8:30 p.m. The show will feature the Chicago Comedy Company with an opening act from ND's own Humor Artists. This event is free for all students.

The film "An American in Paris" will be shown at 3 p.m. on Saturday in the Browning Cinema of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$6 for the general public and \$3 for students.

The South Bend Symphony will perform music by Mozart and Salieri at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday in the Leighton Concert Hall of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$25 for the general public and \$10 for students.

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	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 30 LOW 30	HIGH 15 LOW 5	HIGH 33 LOW 10	HIGH 18 LOW 6	HIGH 18 LOW 6	HIGH 18 LOW 0

Atlanta 48 / 26 Boston 20 / 11 Chicago 31 / 11 Denver 41 / 23 Houston 59 / 31 Los Angeles 72 / 47 Minneapolis 33 / 17 New York 21 / 13 Philadelphia 26 / 16 Phoenix 66 / 44 Seattle 48 / 35 St. Louis 46 / 22 Tampa 64 / 41 Washington 30 / 17

Faculty member wins minority poetry award

Aragón chosen out of 115 nominated artists

By BECKY HOGAN
News Writer

The Rhode Island Alliance of Artist Communities selected Francisco Aragón, director of "Latinas Letras" of the Institute of Latino Studies at Notre Dame, as one of the seven recipients of the Midwestern Visions and Voices Award.

Funded by the Joyce Foundation, the award aims to increase the number of emerging minority artists who attend artist residencies. There were 115 total nominated artists and writers.

"My responsibility as a Latino writer is to be the best writer that I can be," Aragón said. "I am of the opinion that any writer, regardless of ethnicity, should be able to write whatever they want in whatever style they want. It is important to try to get a better variety of voices in the mainstream. Latino writers sometimes have it more difficult because they are expected to write in a certain way."

Aragón, who has never attended an artist residency before, will have the opportunity to dedicate an entire month to writing. The resi-

dency will be an opportunity to complete his second book of poetry, he said.

Aragón will spend the entire month of September at the Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies located in Red Wing, Minn.

"The job I have at Notre Dame is a nine to five job, so having this free time is very welcome," Aragón said. "I've never been to Minnesota and I understand that the area I am going to is quite beautiful."

Aside from his second book of poetry, Aragón is currently working on translating a collection of poems from Spanish to English by the Nicaraguan poet, Rubén Darío.

Aragón recently edited a book of poetry entitled "The Wind Shifts: New Latino Poetry," which will be published this year.

As assistant resident specialist of the Institute of Latino Studies, Aragón teaches in the English department and also holds creative writing workshops.

"I believe it is important to help out other writers to try to form bridges and form a sort of community," Aragón said.

Aragón plans to return to Notre Dame after he completes his residency.

Contact Becky Hogan at rhogan2@nd.edu

Students head to Iraq war protest

D.C. trip part of national peace rally

By SONIA RAO
News Writer

Thirty Notre Dame students will join herds of protesters Saturday in Washington D.C. to speak out against the war in Iraq, three days following U.S. President George W. Bush's State of the Union address.

The protest is sponsored by the United for Peace and Justice coalition, and will be complemented by musical performances, workshops and guest speakers.

Sophomore Michael Angulo, vice president of the Progressive Student Alliance, attended a war protest September of his freshman year and decided to organize a trip for Notre Dame students.

"At the end of last semester I found that the United for Peace and Justice [coalition] was organizing a national protest in

D.C. ... I talked to some friends and there was some interest in getting vans and Notre Dame students to go," he said.

Vans will be leaving from Notre Dame starting at 9:30 a.m. Friday to make the nine and a half hour trip to Washington. The march will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday, weaving around various governmental buildings and stopping in front of the White House, Angulo said.

In addition to the march, keynote speakers will include the Reverend Jesse Jackson, Susan Sarandon, Tim Robbins and Jane Fonda, according to the United for Peace and Justice Web site.

Angulo said he was excited to see Notre Dame students interested in activism.

"I'm really glad to see that more people, especially moderate middle-class America, are really showing their opposition. ... [The protest] is going to bring a lot of different groups together whether it's the people who were against the war from the beginning or the people who thought the war wasn't handled well and

based on faulty information."

For freshman Laura Lauck, the tipping point was learning that President Bush believed "the war will be over by the time he's done with his presidency, which is two years from now," and realized two years was too long to wait.

"The United States needs to get done what they have to get done, but they need to relinquish some of their power to the United Nations or some other international organization," she said.

Freshman Dan Savage has a more personal reason for traveling to Washington, as a family friend recently died in Iraq. He also has other motives, however.

"I'm doing it because I think it's important to remind the President that ... he didn't have the majority of the population to win his presidency and that to act with such disregard to opposition without consideration of bipartisanship at all was wrong," he said.

Contact Sonia Rao at srao1@nd.edu

Gurulé uncovers terror finances

Special to The Observer

As Jimmy Gurulé faces students in his spring semester class "The Law of Terrorism," he knows his audience is willing to delve into the complexities that al-Qaeda, and global terrorism in general, present.

Too often, says the professor of law, other groups – the public, media and politicians, in particular – have been willing to settle for more simple,

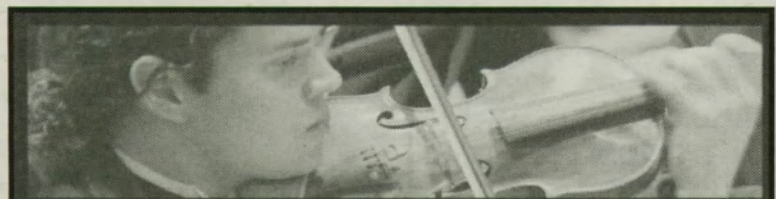
black-and-white perspectives, that take a hard line of certainty.

"But the issues are extremely complex, defying simple resolution," he said.

Gurulé is among a number of international legal experts who have gained firsthand insight on how the terrorist attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, have dramatically changed the law, both domestically and interna-

tionally.

His perspective on the recent conviction and hanging-execution of former Iraq leader Saddam Hussein is informed by his participation, in spring 2004, in a Judicial Conference on Rule of Law in Iraq. The meetings, in The Hague, assembled the Iraqi judges who would later try Hussein. Some had been incarcerated under the dictator; all had lived under his iron fist.



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Salieri - Sinfonia in D
Mozart - Symphony No. 35
Mozart - Sinfonia Concertante

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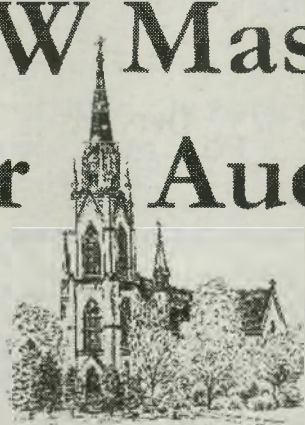
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JPW Mass Lector Auditions



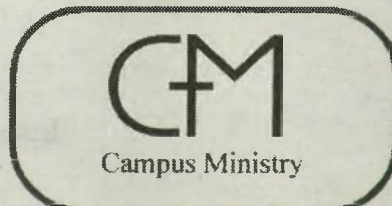
JPW Lector auditions will take place in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on each of the following dates:

Monday, January 29th at 4:00pm

Tuesday, January 30th at 4:00pm

Please attend one of the two auditions.

For further information, please contact Harv Humphrey at 631-8520 or by email at humphrey.17@nd.edu



SMC

continued from page 1

up posters everywhere," Payne said. "There are always your friends who you know you can count on for a vote, but it is important to meet new people and convince them that you are the right people for the job."

The pair's platform also separated it from its opponents, Hodges said.

"Our platform was the most realistic and strategic for the school as a whole," she said.

The pair will officially assume its duties at the beginning of April. In the mean time, Hodges does not plan to slow down while finishing her term as vice president of the Student Diversity Board.

"Right now, I am working on the Diverse Students Leadership Conference, which will be March 1-3," she said. "There is a lot to do between now and then."

Ferreira said she felt her ticket ran a strong campaign, relying on a platform of tangible goals that could have been accomplished if she and Antonelli were elected.

Hodges and Payne are confident that they are the best candidates for the job based on their public sup-

port from the Davis-Kennedy ticket, who was eliminated Tuesday.

"The girls [Davis-Kennedy] recognized that we were going to do a good job," Hodges said. "That is why they want to be on our boards. They are supportive and will be very helpful in the future."

Ferreira and Antonelli did not return Observer phone calls Thursday night.

The election itself was "typical," elections commissioner Christin Molnar said.

"The turnout was pretty average, but there were more people who voted in the runoff than the preliminary, which was different," she said.

While Hodges-Payne were victorious, Molnar saw potential in each of the three original tickets.

"All three [tickets] had strong points," she said. "Some had less feasible ideas, but they all wanted it and probably would have done a good job."

Ferreira echoed Molnar's confidence in the candidates.

"Everyone did a good job presenting their issues. Each had their own specialty and the student body has its own tastes. That is just the way it goes," she said.

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohle01@saintmarys.edu

Elections

continued from page 1

is likely to earn the candidacy. McCain is too centrist on most issues, she said, and while Giuliani will get recognition for the post-Sept. 11 work he did in New York, Way said "he's pretty liberal on a lot of domestic issues."

In any case, Way pointed out, there's a lot of time before Nov. 2008 — time for journalists to dig deep.

"As soon as the media starts to really scrutinize these people," she said, "a lot of things could change."

Right now, though, standing out from the crowd are Obama and Clinton, who recently shared the cover of Time magazine and prompted a New York Times article to ask who America would be more likely to elect as president: a woman, or a person of color?

Clinton's tough road

A woman, the Times concluded. Still, political science associate professor Christina Wolbrecht thinks Clinton has a

tough road ahead of her.

"Any woman running for office, especially for the presidency, will have a hard time getting past our predetermined notions of what we think an executive leader looks like," she said.

Schmuhl cited "strength, intelligence, command and empathy" as essential characteristics for a leader — but can a female display that command, wonders Wolbrecht, "without acting against her own gender?"

"She certainly is doing everything she can to counter a perception of potential weakness," Schmuhl said, citing Clinton's involvement in the Services Committee, her trips to military bases domestically and abroad, and her original vote to support the war in Iraq — a vote she has not called a mistake, unlike other presidential candidates.

Clinton also has a powerful force in her husband, former President Bill Clinton, who can act as either an asset or a liability for her. While many have fond memories of the Clinton years, Wolbrecht said, and Bill Clinton is incredibly charismatic, that itself can pose a chal-

lenge.

"How do you use him? Bring him to an event and have him give a speech?" Wolbrecht said. "You have to remind yourself that not very many people are as good of a speaker as Bill ... including her."

While Hillary Clinton has certainly had success in her own right as a senator, her last name remains what it is. Her victory would translate to 14 straight years of either a Bush or a Clinton residing in the White House, Schmuhl noted.

'Rock-star magnetism'

A breath of fresh air may come in the form of Barack Obama, the junior senator from Illinois who leapt into the spotlight following his 2004 speech at the Democratic National Convention.

In a piece he wrote for the Chicago Tribune comparing Obama to former President Ronald Reagan, Schmuhl couldn't help but mention the two politicians' "ready smiles, rhetorical eloquence and rock-star magnetism." Charisma not only attracts voters to a candidate, but makes them more likely to listen to what he is saying, Schmuhl said.

But the Times, Wolbrecht and political science professor Alvin Tillery all think strains of racism pervade in America.

"I am of the view that race is still too great a barrier for most black politicians to overcome in even statewide elections, let alone the presidency," Tillery said, noting that Obama is the third black senator in history.

"I also think," Tillery said, "that Obama will have a particularly hard time because he is a black candidate running from the political Left. I think that white voters may be more likely to vote for black candidates that they deem to be 'conservative.'"

Complicating matters is Obama's résumé, worryingly short for a presidential candidate. Yet one major item it lacks — a vote in the Iraq war — could benefit him tremendously: he's not "tainted" by that record, Tillery said. Plus, senior Matt Ploszek believes Obama's instincts in foreign affairs are dead-on, despite his lack of experience.

Ploszek, who interned with Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) this summer, cited a speech Obama gave in October of 2002 as "a really prescient critique" of what has gone on in Iraq.

"I know that even a successful war against Iraq will require a U.S. occupation of undetermined length, at undetermined cost, with undetermined consequence," Obama told the crowd.

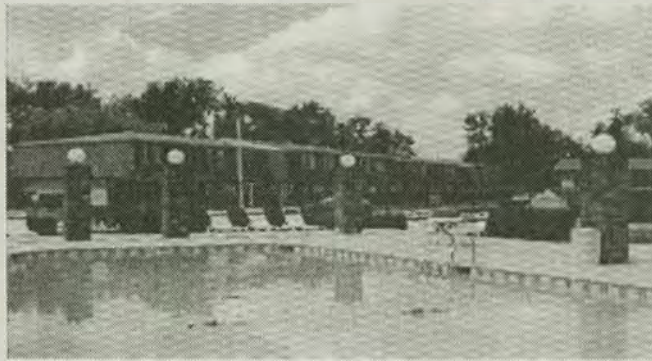
Should Obama indeed announce his intention to run for president on Feb. 10, Ploszek hopes to become involved in his campaign in some capacity.

"Looking at his 2004 Democratic Convention speech, he came out and he said, there's no reason we need to buy into this idea that America is divided along political lines, along cultural lines, along lines of education ... that's the type of thing that's been used to get people elected," Ploszek said.

"[But Obama has] a new, unconventional approach to politics," he said. "... Given this environment of pretty harsh partisanship that we've seen over the last several years, I think [Obama] would be a good antidote for that."

Contact Eileen Duffy at eduffy1@nd.edu

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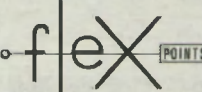
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Pope calls for Christian unity talks

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI on Thursday called for honest dialogue among Christians as he expressed sadness over tensions between churches following centuries of divisions.

Benedict presided at a prayer service in St. Paul Outside the Walls Basilica in Rome to mark the end of a week of prayer dedicated in churches around the world to efforts aimed at uniting Christians.

"Honest and loyal dialogue constitutes the typical and indispensable instrument in the search for unity," Benedict said.

Christians were praying "so that all the disciples of Christ be one, and so ... they can give harmonious testimony to the men and women of our times," said Benedict, who is devoting much of his papacy to achieving Christian unity.

In his homily, Benedict said through such encounters as Thursday's service it has been possible to perceive the joy of brotherhood, together with sadness for the tensions that remain.

Sunni lawmaker accuses Iraqi PM

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A Sunni lawmaker accused the Shiite prime minister of persecuting his sect and said his government's efforts at national reconciliation were nothing more than a sham. The premier accused the Sunni of supporting the kidnapping of Shiites and refused to shake his hand.

This televised display from the floor of the Iraqi parliament on Thursday mirrored the sectarian divide on the streets of Baghdad, where a suicide car bombing killed at least 26 people in the Shiite neighborhood of Karradah and two rockets slammed into the heavy fortified Green Zone not far from the U.S. Embassy.

NATIONAL NEWS

Congressman questions caucuses

WASHINGTON — White House hopeful Tom Tancredo said Thursday the existence of the Congressional Black Caucus and other race-based groups of lawmakers amount to segregation and should be abolished.

"It is utterly hypocritical for Congress to extol the virtues of a colorblind society while officially sanctioning caucuses that are based solely on race," said the Colorado Republican, who is most widely known as a vocal critic of illegal immigration.

Eight men finally arrested in 1971 case

SAN FRANCISCO — A fingerprint on a cigarette lighter, shotgun shells and an informant helped lead to the arrests this week of eight men accused of killing a police officer in the 1970s, according to court papers released Thursday.

Some of the evidence was recovered using forensic techniques that didn't exist 30 years ago, according to the document, which was used to obtain an arrest warrant in the case.

Prosecutors say members of the Black Liberation Army, a violent offshoot of the Black Panthers, stormed the lobby of a San Francisco police station the night of Aug. 29, 1971, killing Sgt. John V. Young with a shotgun and injuring a civilian clerk with gunfire.

LOCAL NEWS

House prohibits 'serial meetings'

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana House passed legislation Thursday that would prohibit so-called "serial meetings" — separate gatherings by less than a quorum of a government board to discuss the same subject with the purpose of conducting official business.

The bill, approved 89-7 and sent to the Senate, would close what proponents call a loophole in Indiana law that allowed Indiana University's trustees to meet without public notice to discuss basketball coach Bob Knight's fate shortly before his firing in 2000.

LEBANON

Beirut clashes cause city curfew

University cafeteria scuffle breeds Hezbollah-Sunni violence; 3 killed, 169 injured

Associated Press

BEIRUT — It started with a lunchtime scuffle in a university cafeteria. Within minutes, angry Sunnis from nearby homes had moved in and their Shiite Hezbollah rivals were using walkie-talkies to call in reinforcements armed with clubs and stones.

Some eight hours and a deadly melee later, Beirut was under curfew for the first time in a decade.

The violence Thursday underlined what Lebanese have feared for months: that the confrontation between Hezbollah and Sunni backers of the U.S.-supported government could rage out of control.

At least three people were killed and 169 were injured before army troops backed by tanks and firing barrages of warning shots into the air dispersed most rioters.

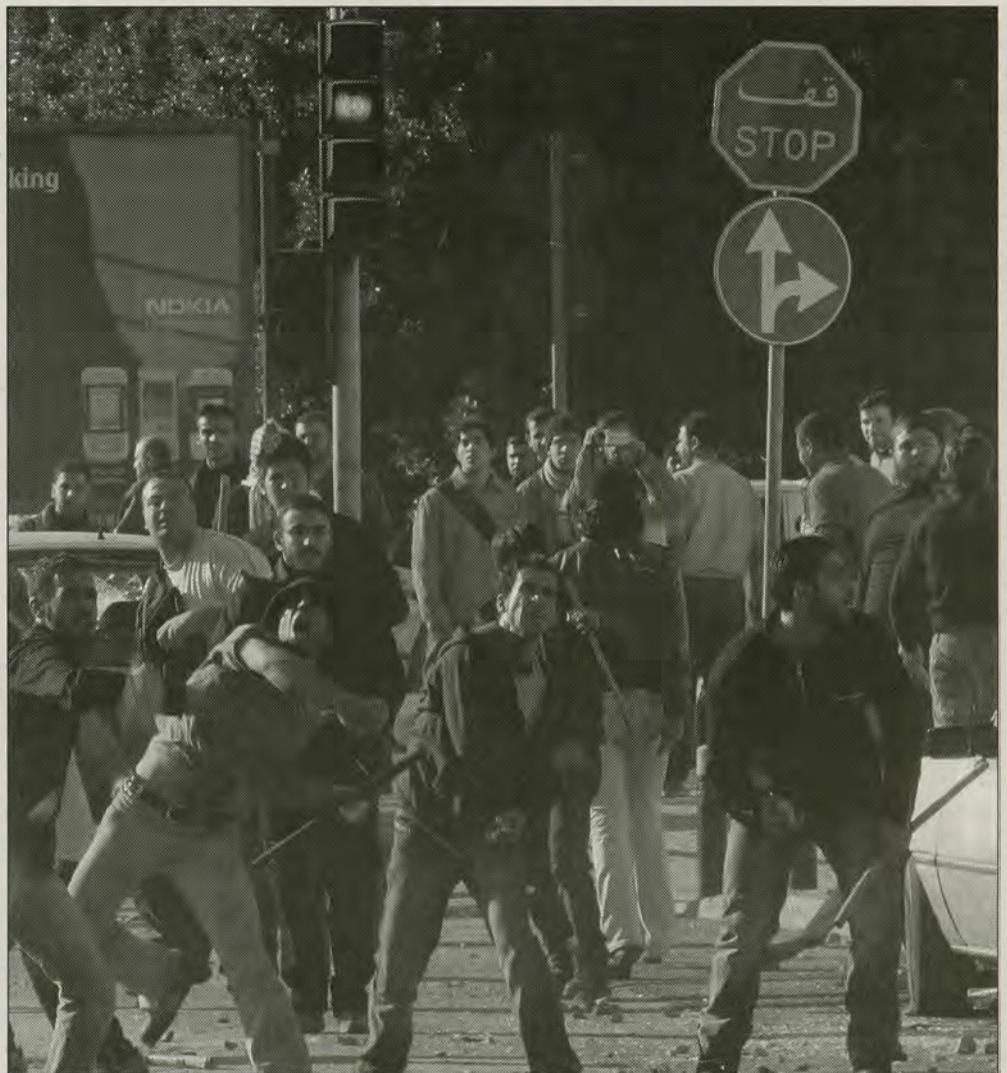
But the fallout reached far beyond the casualty count. The clashes reinforced fears that Lebanon's sectarian divisions are erupting into violence as they did during the 1975-1990 civil war.

"We are afraid about the future of the country. We are afraid about civil war," said Mohammed Abdul-Sater, a 21-year-old Shiite student.

It was the third straight day of violence, sparked by a Hezbollah-led strike Tuesday that came ahead of a crucial gathering of donor nations in Paris. The conference Thursday raised pledges of \$7.6 billion to help Prime Minister Fuad Saniora's U.S.-backed government rebuild after last summer's devastating Israel-Hezbollah war.

The money and show of international support could boost the embattled Saniora. The Iranian-backed Hezbollah has vowed to bring him down unless the opposition is given more power.

"The chaos has paralyzed the government. Hezbollah



Supporters of the Lebanese government throw objects at opposition in a confrontation Thursday near Beirut Arab University in Lebanon.

leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah said Wednesday that donors were backing the wrong party in the standoff and that he could topple Saniora at any time.

In Paris, Saniora pleaded to his countrymen to "distance themselves from tensions."

"No one can help a country if the people of this country don't want to help themselves," he said. "I call on your wisdom and reason."

Leaders on all sides called for calm. Nasrallah — who has insisted in recent days he does not want Lebanon to tumble into civil war — went on TV in the evening to tell followers it was a "religious duty" to get off

the streets to allow security forces to keep order.

"I appeal to you in the name of Lebanon and human conscience ... It's a pity to waste Lebanon like this," said Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, a Hezbollah ally. "It is time we learn from the past."

During Lebanon's civil war, Christians battled Muslims. But the new confrontation has taken different sectarian lines: Shiites support the opposition, Sunnis back the prime minister and Christian parties are divided between the two camps.

If sectarian divisions explode in Lebanon, it would likely further fuel Sunni-Shiite tensions

around the Arab world, already heightened by Iraq's turmoil. Mainly Sunni Arab nations like Egypt and Saudi Arabia have shown alarm at Hezbollah's increasing strength in Lebanon and have backed Saniora.

Thursday's clashes in Beirut showed just how quickly any spark can turn into a wildfire.

Students said it began with a scuffle in the cafeteria of Beirut Arab University between Sunni Muslims and supporters of the Shiite Hezbollah. As Sunnis in the surrounding Tarik el-Jadideh district moved in, Hezbollah activists called in reinforcements.

Cheney's spokeswoman testifies

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Vice President Dick Cheney's spokeswoman testified Thursday she told I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby that a prominent war critic's wife was a CIA employee earlier than Libby has said he first learned it from a reporter.

On the third day of Libby's trial, Cathie Martin became the first member of Cheney's inner circle to contradict statements by Libby that led to the charges he lied to the FBI and a grand jury investigating who leaked the wife's identity to reporters in 2003.

Theodore Wells, defense lawyer for

Cheney's former chief of staff, quickly sought to limit any damage from the testimony of Cheney's former assistant for public affairs.

Wells got Martin to acknowledge that she herself could not recall for sure whether she relayed the information about CIA operative Valerie Plame, wife of Iraq war critic Joseph Wilson, to Cheney and Libby on June 11, 2003, or as late as July 6, 2003.

The date is important because Libby told investigators he first heard of Plame's job from NBC reporter Tim Russert on July 10. Libby claims that because he was preoccupied with pressing national security issues, he simply forgot he had earlier learned

about her work at CIA from government officials.

Besides Martin, one State Department and two CIA officials testified earlier to conversations with Libby about Plame before July 10, 2003. The defense tried to show each had imperfect memories.

On Thursday morning, a legal argument between Wells and prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald outside the jury's presence increased the likelihood that Libby will testify. Fitzgerald argued that Wells was trying to get the memory defense into evidence "with no guarantee of Mr. Libby testifying" and being subject to cross-examination about his memory.

Reaction

continued from page 1

age alcohol consumption, but that's not how they're treating it. ... Because not very many people smoke pot here, it becomes a bigger deal."

The University's drug policy divided students like Watson, who see problems with how Notre Dame weighs marijuana and alcohol offenses, and other students, who say there are definite distinctions to be made.

"The University policy is fair because marijuana is illegal," freshman Erin Jelm said.

Freshman Isaac Song also said marijuana use should be punished severely because of its illegality.

"Who cares when this happened or where it happened, because marijuana's illegal," he said.

Others, like freshman Gina Camarata, said they were unaware of the specifics of the University's drug policy — a reaction that may support Watson's statement about relatively low levels of marijuana use at Notre Dame.

"I've never looked up how much trouble I can get in for something I wouldn't do," she said.

In a climate in which universities across the country have been accused of giving their student-athletes special treatment in incidents similar to the one involving McAlarney, most students interviewed believe the point guard was treated the same as any student would have been.

Freshman Mike Sayles, who said he knew students involved in a similar situation last semester, believed the punishment was at least on par with expectations.

"There should be a consistent punishment for anyone caught with marijuana, and that's what this is. If you suspend non-athletes for a semester and don't suspend McAlarney, that would be inconsistent," he said.

Regardless of their stance on the University's decision, students said they were disappointed.

"I'm disappointed in the school. Getting caught with a half of a joint shouldn't get you suspended for two semesters," junior Jake O'Neil said.

Jelm said she was "disappointed in the whole situation, really."

"It mars the reputation of the basketball team and of the University," she said. "Kids look up to these athletes and then they find out stuff like this and it's just sad."

For Schroeder, the decision is something to think about the rest of the season.

"It's just sad that this is going to take away from the team's success," she said.

McAlarney may not have received special treatment in his punishment, sophomore Colin Fath said, but the guard has received special treatment during his tenure at the University and took it for granted.

"They set everything up to his advantage and he did something stupid and blew it," Fath said.

Contact John Tierney at jtierne1@nd.edu

Lennon

continued from page 1

"There's no one who better reflects what Notre Dame is about," said Executive Assistant to the President Frances Shavers, who spoke at the dinner. "Its values, its spirit, the desire to embrace everyone — he genuinely loves the students and the University."

Of the 150 people in attendance, there were 12 former presidents of Directors, the current board members, their families, and University officials, among them University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh.

Vice President for University Relations Lou Nanni announced the creation of the Charles and Joan Lennon Endowment for Excellence — a fund with \$275,000 contributed by Lennon's Alumni Board colleagues to better allow the Alumni Association to provide services to its members.

When Lennon addressed the crowd, he told attendees they "weren't here to honor Chuck Lennon," but to honor "you who have given me this opportunity to take what God has given me to a new level."

The dinner also honored Lennon with a tribute video and a tribute book, containing letters written by past and present Notre Dame and U.S. government officials as well as friends and family, lauding Lennon's love of Notre Dame and dedication to the University.

The video highlighted Lennon's history with the University and contained comments from faculty and

Hesburgh, who called him "a great Notre Dame man."

Lennon received a letter from President George W. Bush, which congratulated Lennon on his 25 years of service to Notre Dame, and said that his efforts to better the University and the community "reflect the character of America."

Lennon thanked all "people who care to live their lives as men and women of Notre Dame — graduates, spouses, students, and subway alumni."

Lennon also paused to thank Hesburgh, who hired him 25 years ago.

"Thank you, Father Ted, for your belief in me," he said.

After Hesburgh delivered a final prayer, the Glee Club sang Notre Dame Our Mother and the Victory March, while a teary-eyed Lennon joined them in song.

Lennon also credited his wife, Joan, and his family with his success, as well as the student body.

"You students are what make this place great," he said.

Lennon graduated from Notre Dame in 1961, earning two monograms in baseball and serving as president of his class. He also completed a Master's degree in guidance and counseling at Notre Dame in 1962, and served as assistant basketball and baseball coach until 1967.

Lennon worked in several community agencies in South Bend until Hesburgh offered him the position of executive director of the Alumni Association in 1981, and University President Emeritus Father Edward Malloy named him associate vice president of University Relations in 1999.

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Revue

continued from page 1

said everyone in line managed to get tickets.

"We had just enough for everyone," said Vignali, who also mentioned that the record for tickets selling out is eight minutes.

Saint Mary's and Notre Dame distributed 1,700 tickets altogether, 1,300 of which were unloaded at the Joyce Center.

"We were pleased with how it went at Saint Mary's. We credit increased efforts in advertising," Vignali said.

There are around 3,900 tickets total, but not all these tickets are distributed. Each Keenan resident receives four tickets and all rectors must also receive tickets. There are some tickets reserved for VIP

faculty.

McDermott said there are about 1,200 to 1,250 ticketed people in the audience on any given night of the show. The venue fits 1,300. About 50 people in the audience do not have tickets, but are Revue cast members.

Vignali and McDermott were reluctant to reveal any details about the show's content.

"It should be less than three hours and more than two hours," McDermott said.

Producer JJ Cappa also hesitated to comment on specifics. The final skit list has not even been approved yet.

"We usually don't like to give anything away. It's more fun if people come in not knowing and every skit is a nice surprise," Cappa said. "The humor has definitely improved."

This year, Keenan brought in professional comedian

"We were pleased with how it went at Saint Mary's. We credit increased efforts in advertising."

Peter Vignali
ticket seller

"We usually don't like to give anything away. It's more fun if people come in not knowing and every skit is a surprise."

JJ Cappa
producer

Peter Wicks to help with the skit writing. Wicks works in all kinds of comedy, including stand-up.

"The Revue has come from being controversial last year. [This year] we know we can put on an equally good show without making people cringe," Cappa said. "We've really encouraged very creative skit writing. We try to be funny without being offensive."

The Keenan Revue will be showing at 7 p.m. on Feb. 1-3 in the Saint Mary's O'Laughlin Auditorium.

Contact Eva Binda at jbinda@nd.edu

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks		
Dow Jones	12,502.56	-119.21

Up: 793 Same: 106 Down: 2,531 Composite Volume: 3,044,544,977

AMEX	2,075.30	-13.64
NASDAQ	2,434.24	-32.04
NYSE	9,154.66	-113.83
S&P 500	1,423.90	-16.23
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	17,365.80	-92.50
FTSE 100(London)	6,269.30	-45.50

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100 TR (QQQQ)	-1.29	-0.57	43.73
SUN MICROSYS (SUNW)	+3.09	+0.19	6.34
INTEL CP (INTC)	-1.15	0.24	20.60
CISCO SYS INC (CSCO)	-2.06	-0.64	30.45

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+1.19	+0.057	4.867
13-WEEK BILL	+0.20	+0.01	5.00
30-YEAR BOND	+1.06	+0.052	4.962
5-YEAR NOTE	+1.21	+0.058	4.864

Commodities		
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-1.14	54.23
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+0.20	654.70
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-0.83	98.10

Exchange Rates	
YEN	121.3600
EURO	0.7736
POUND	0.5090
CANADIAN \$	1.1834

IN BRIEF

California bans harmful chemical

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California regulators on Thursday enacted the nation's first statewide ban on the most common chemical used by dry cleaners, pleasing environmentalists but worrying some small businesses.

By 2023, no more dry-cleaning machines that use the toxic solvent perchloroethylene, a potential carcinogen, will be permitted in the state.

The regulation by the California Air Resources Board will phase out the fluid next year, banning dry cleaners from buying machines that rely on the solvent. The state's 3,400 dry cleaners who now use it must get rid of machines that are 15 years or older by July 2010.

"Dry cleaners have known this is a problem for quite some time," board member Dorene D'Adamo said. "There is a cost to society, and believe me taxpayers are paying for it."

The rule was approved unanimously by the seven-member board and was embraced by environmental and health advocates. They urged the board to accelerate the ban because of the chemical's health effects. The solvent has contaminated one in 10 wells in California.

ConAgra closes plants, cuts 200 jobs

OMAHA, Neb. — Packaged-food maker ConAgra Foods Inc. announced plans Thursday to close two manufacturing plants and expand another while cutting about 200 jobs.

The changes are part of a reorganization plan the Omaha-based company announced in March last year. ConAgra said it would close 10-12 plants as part of an effort to streamline operations, cut operating costs and raise gross margins.

On Thursday, a company spokeswoman said ConAgra would start closing its microwave popcorn plant in Edina, Minn., by late April and transfer production to plants in Rensselaer, Ind., and Irapuato, Mexico.

The ConAgra Foods South popcorn-ball plant in St. Paul, Minn., will be closed and its production moved to the ConAgra plant in Lakeville, Minn.

Ford: 2006 loss largest in history

North American sales decreases, extra costs lead to \$12.7 billion decline

Associated Press

DEARBORN, Mich. — With big red numbers on its balance sheet that amount to \$1,925 for every car and truck it sold last year, one has to wonder if Ford Motor Co. has the money to keep the doors open long enough for its restructuring plan to take hold.

On Thursday, the 103-year-old industrial icon reported a staggering \$12.7 billion loss for 2006, and it warned that losses would continue this year and next. The loss was the largest in Ford history, driven by slumping North American sales and \$9.9 billion in special items, including restructuring costs tied to the planned closure of 16 plants.

Chief Executive Alan Mulally, who is leading the massive remaking of the storied automaker, is confident in its plan to return to profitability by sometime in 2009.

But some industry analysts, while impressed by Ford's cost-cutting efforts, are skeptical that its new product lineup can carry the company that invented the assembly line back into the black.

"We know where we are. We are dealing with it and we're on plan," Mulally told reporters and industry analysts in a conference call after the numbers were announced.

Although huge, Ford's losses were far from the largest annual corporate deficits on record; Time Warner Inc. reported a \$97.2 billion loss in 2002, largely due to new accounting rules about how to value assets. Ford could not rely on accounting rules, however, to explain its total.

Ford's loss also wasn't the worst annual total in the auto industry. General Motors Corp. lost \$23.4 billion in 1992, due mainly to accounting rule changes on health care liabilities.

The whopping 2006 loss surpassed Ford's old record of \$7.39 billion set in 1992.



Ford, which manufactures Expeditions like these in Maryland, announced its biggest loss in company history Thursday.

It amounted to \$6.79 per share versus a profit of \$1.44 billion, or 77 cents a share, in 2005. The company also reported losing \$5.8 billion in the fourth quarter and \$6 billion on its North American operations.

Several analysts said the loss was not surprising, given Ford's high costs and falling market share and sales. Ford's future is cloudy at best, given the deficit that it must overcome, analysts said.

"They have a massive challenge in front of them. Their basic business is billions of dollars in the red," said Burnham Securities analyst David Healy.

Ford is banking on the restructuring to pull it through the next two years. Mulally, hired from aero-

space giant Boeing Co., is leading the drastic efforts to turn around the company.

Ford mortgaged its assets to borrow up to \$23.4 billion to pay for the restructuring and to cover losses expected until 2009. About 38,000 hourly workers have signed up for buyout or early retirement offers, and Ford plans to cut its white-collar work force by 14,000 with buyouts and early retirements.

Chief Financial Officer Don Leclair said Ford expects favorable results from its automotive business in 2007.

But because of interest on its debt, "total automotive results are expected to be worse in 2007 than in 2006," he said.

Leclair said the company

finished 2006 with \$33.9 billion in cash available for its automotive operations, including \$12 billion that it borrowed in December. He said the company could tap into nearly all of that cash to fund its operations.

The company is on target, though, to achieve its goal of cutting \$5 billion in annual costs by 2008 compared with 2005 levels, Leclair said.

Mulally said Ford will continue to review its costs, looking for more cuts as it gains efficiencies from building more cars worldwide on fewer frames in more efficient factories.

"The more I review the details, the more confident I am that we can continue that cost reduction through 2009 and beyond," he said.

Stocks fall as home sales decline

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stocks suffered their biggest pullback in two months Thursday, with the Dow Jones industrials logging a triple-digit decline as a lackluster home sales report and a disappointing bond auction halted the market's two-day rally.

The market drifted lower for much of the session after the National Association of Realtors said sales of U.S. existing homes fell 0.8 percent in December to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.22 million. Then, in the afternoon, a less-than-enthusiastic reception for the Treasury's latest sale of five-year notes sent bond prices falling and yields rising sharply, rattling stock investors already worried about

higher interest rates.

Stocks fell further while the yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to highs not seen since the summer.

Earlier in the day, investors' cheer over quarterly reports from eBay Inc., Nokia Corp., AT&T Inc. had failed to translate to gains as strong earnings news had done in previous days.

"We had a great run," said Ryan Larson, senior equity trader at Voyager Asset Management, a division of RBC Dain Rauscher. "I think people are kind of tired right now and looking for other avenues."

The Dow fell 119.21, or 0.94 percent, to 12,502.56.

Broader stock indicators also fell. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell

16.23, or 1.13 percent, to 1,423.90 and the Nasdaq composite index was down 32.04, or 1.30 percent, at 2,434.24. The pullback comes a day after the Nasdaq rose well over 1 percent and the Dow set record trading and closing highs. The Dow's decline erased nearly all the previous two-day rally of about 145 points.

Bond prices fell in response to the auction and the Realtors' news, which also showed the inventory of existing homes available for sale fell 7.9 percent to 3.51 million. The yield on the benchmark 10-year note jumped to 4.87 percent from 4.81 percent late Wednesday. The dollar was mixed against other major currencies, while gold prices fell.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 8

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THE OBSERVER

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THE
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Viewpoint space is available to all readers. The free expression of all opinions through letters is encouraged. Letters to the Editor must be signed and must include contact information.

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Suspension demands clarification

Twenty-five days. That's how long it took Notre Dame basketball player Kyle McAlarney to hear from the University as to how he would be punished for his late December arrest on misdemeanor marijuana possession charges.

That's quite some time, especially considering that it took St. Joseph County only 18 days — until Jan. 17 — to rule that McAlarney should enter into a pre-trial diversion program.

Yes, the arrest occurred over winter break, so it probably took the Office of Residence Life and Housing significantly longer to handle the case. And yes, Notre Dame isn't allowed, under federal law, to comment on individual disciplinary proceedings.

But don't students, basketball fans and, apparently, the McAlarneys deserve just a little clarification?

Notre Dame is a private, Catholic institution, and those who elect to come here know to expect several differences from other college environments. But it's unfair that students, coaches and parents — at least in this case — do not know exactly what to expect.

The administration needed close to a month to respond to a case picked up by the national media hours after McAlarney was arrested and sorted out by South Bend a week before the school could issue its decision.

During this span, McAlarney attended classes and practiced with the basketball team, before being suspended from a

semester he was allowed to begin. If he received word in a more timely fashion, McAlarney could have moved on with his life at a different school, with hopes to return to Notre Dame or intentions to start over somewhere else.

It's easy to say that McAlarney should have known, that possession is frequently grounds for suspension at Notre Dame, that he shouldn't expect to be treated differently than any other student.

Except, for some reason, his mother is saying he did. Or she did, at least. Which raises a whole new set of questions about what was really going on here. When the only voices in the discussion are McAlarney and his mother, it would seem to be to the University's benefit to say something — however general — that might explain the situation. It would certainly ease the rumors and speculation propagated by members of the campus community, newspaper columnists and bloggers over the past few days.

Regardless of the punishment, Notre Dame owes those accused of breaking University rules a timely response. Federal law prohibits University comment on McAlarney's specific case. That's fine. But when the case is this high profile, the school could at least issue a statement explaining the timeframe for disciplinary decisions when the charges happen over break.

Let's hear it.

The
Observer
Editorial

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keenan Revue must take care

Last week, two friends told me that they were recently raped. The previous spring, I listened to similar stories from two other dear friends. The experience of hearing these four devastating stories is impossible to describe. I felt helpless and sick.

The psychology of rape is subtle and devastating. The mental and spiritual chaos that my friends poured out to me that sprung from their victimization is staggering. Chaos is the right word. But perhaps, the most important bit of this to focus on is that, each time, the man did not conceive this forced sex as violence. Three of the four rapes were subtle; the women were disoriented in the moment of the rape, enough for the men to brush off their "no's" as just being coy. The violence of this subtle rape is no less real.

I planned on going to the Keenan Revue this year. I lived in Keenan for four years and know of the camaraderie and fun that can come of Revue week. But with the pain of these women's stories and the memory of the jokes I saw and laughed at in past Revues, this year, I cannot go.

I do not fear feeling bad or offended. My uneasiness stems from questions about the kind of culture that the show creates and expresses. Even if there are no jokes about rape, this does not mean the material does not touch issues of sexual violence. The cultural formation of someone who would take advantage of a woman is complex. I consider this cultural formation to be tied to women's self-image issues (especially eating disorders), irrational homophobia, objectification of women, domestic abuse, insane drinking. In the past, the show laughs at all of these more subtle issues. I have a hunch that the roots of this are deeper than I know, much deeper than a two-hour show.

I hear that this year's staff has taken special care to clean up the show, and for this effort they should be thanked and commended. But still I fear that we do not ask deep enough questions about a culture that is slow to confront sexual violence.

Paul Mitchell
fifth year senior
off campus
Jan. 24

Condoms undermine Catholic ideals

With Notre Dame being a Catholic institution of intellectual exchange, I would like to take this opportunity to partake in the ongoing dialogue regarding the use of contraceptives and condoms. Many of those who have contributed disagree with Eleanore Strong ("Contraceptive society morally harmful," Letter to the Editor, Jan. 22). Although I missed reading the letter, after reading the disagreeing responses I feel the need to address some of the assertions put forth by others.

Let me start by attending to the definition and purpose of sex, as set forth in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Sex is to be the selfless act of love that consummates the loving relationship between a man and a woman, and is best appropriate in the context of marriage. In this sense, sex is said to be unitive, that is, uniting the two persons in a physical act of love. The second purpose of sex is procreative, an openness to possibility of the creation of a new life. Contraceptives and condoms prohibit these purposes of sex because, in using contraceptive or 'protective' measures, not only are the persons obliterating the procreative purpose, but they are also preventing sex from being a selfless, unifying act.

One might ask: How is this possible, contraceptives and condoms allow people to engage in sex without the "fear of death, disease or an unwanted pregnancy?" (Letter to the Editor, "Condoms are not the cause," Jan. 23). Such a question exhibits a misunderstanding of and lack of respect for the sexual act. Sex, when practiced under the circumstances for which it was intended, is meant to be a complete and selfless gift of oneself to one's partner. This entails an unconditional surrender of any personal reservations (such as fear) of each and an acceptance of the vulnerabilities of the love that sex professes.

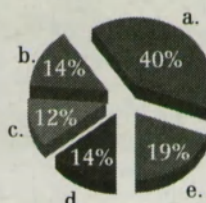
Contraceptives, condoms and the like allow people an avenue to access sex in a more selfish context by allowing partners (long- and short-term) to experience the physical pleasures of sex without necessarily being concerned with the other person. This is where we get the term "contraceptive mentality," which refers to the devaluing of sex to the extent that it is seen in a casual and even commercial light. Although called the "contraceptive" mentality, this concept refers to the general deprecating attitude toward the true purposes of sex, whether or not actual contraceptive measures are used. While many factors have contributed to this present mentality, it can be reasonably stated that the advent of contraception was a big push down the slippery slope on which we now find ourselves.

Mary Kate Daly
freshman
Welsh Family Hall
Jan. 24

OBSERVER POLL

If the Democratic primary were held today, who would you vote for?

	% of votes	# of votes
a. Barack Obama	40%	853
b. Hillary Clinton	14%	415
c. Bill Richardson	12%	308
d. John Edwards	14%	302
e. Other	19%	257



This poll is based on the result of 2135 votes at <http://www.ndsmcobserver.com/>

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Sometimes the questions are complicated and the answers are simple."

Dr. Seuss
American author

The eccentricity of the saints

In the Martins' parking lot the other day, I passed a poorly but enthusiastically maintained Mazda whose rear-end was overloaded with absurd bumper stickers, most of them along the lines of this: "Conscientious Non-Conformist." The cheap shot one is tempted to make is that no person answering to that description could possibly have found so many bumper stickers to "express" his heart-felt opinions. It is a cheap shot, because most of us cannot make anything on our own — not even descriptions of ourselves — but must buy or steal everything.

James Matthew Wilson
The Treasonous Clerk

Sometimes the cheap shot is correct, however, as it is in this case. When the mass of men and women subscribe to barbaric opinions or listen to savage, banal and unsublimated music, they generally do so for some arguable good reason that has nothing to do with their identity as "consumers" or "individuals," as "conformists" or otherwise. The owner of this ideologically-loaded jalopy, on the other hand, could have put up that mass-produced, block-lettered, sticky declaration of individuality only for one end — a purpose it singularly could not achieve.

In one respect, I cannot help sympathizing with its trite, failed message. Reading the major intellectuals of the nineteenth century and after, from Alexis de Tocqueville to G.K. Chesterton and W.H. Auden, one encounters the constant fear-

ful apprehension that men are all growing alike. The person under the reign of modern society had become a black-coated, straight-faced bore, and had so become because of the pressures of modern industry, the workplace and especially through the offices of that "hygienic" arm of the modern state, mass education.

Auden, a product of the elite schools of England, argued strongly that parents should be left as much control of their children's education as possible, and that children should be let to run around with as many neuroses as they could without seriously hurting themselves. If conformity cast an increasing pall on former times, and if the commodification and "sanitization" of persons has continued unabated, what basis have we to believe the situation has gotten better rather than worse?

None. In ages past, occasional eccentrics sprung up in the hamlets of England or in the Villages of the Italian peninsula, and their exceptional attributes were but some of the signs by which they called one to greater devotion to God. They sealed themselves up in side-chambers of churches, fasted and prayed; they sat on pillars, moaned and prayed; or they flagellated themselves at the edges of town; or they performed works of mercy among the poor, sick and outcast. They shouted with joy the beauty of cats and the sublimity of shook foil. They were called saints, and it was on account of their unusual behavior that the great masses of people flocked in fascination to bathe within the light of their eccentric

haloes.

The death of saints, I think we can say, was always the plot of some jealous few. In other words, the notion of popular saints — of persons being declared "saints" by popular demand — suggests the way in which most people once welcomed those different from themselves, so long as that difference was a signifier for a higher mode of life. Difference, when it reflected elevation, was a privilege not a derangement. And the makers of martyrs were those who did not so much persecute the difference in the saint, but rather, sought to exterminate the deep but exposed humanity in him: that self-revealing quality whereby the saint threatened to bring to light the frailty and thirst for mercy and justice in every run-of-the-mill person. The sorrow of martyrdom comes in part from our basest common character falling under the control of this jealous few, betraying and spurning that noble common need.

We, at present and as a rule, can no longer understand sainthood. When someone proposes the virtue of a celibate life, we look on in confusion and contempt. We whisper in corridors and rear back our heads like furious pack horses. When someone proposes the good of the life of contemplation, we sneer at her uselessness. "She'll learn when she's starving," we say, though we have managed to avoid ever seeing anyone starve. We presume the celibate must suffer some secret sexual disorder — or what used to be called a "disorder" before it became just

another consumer choice. And we simply accuse the contemplative of being "impractical" or "unrealistic," although no one I have heard use those terms has ever bothered to think what they might mean.

This transformation from past to present is especially glaring at a Catholic university, where light of the saints in stained glass falls upon us all the time as we cross campus on our way to a marketing or economics lecture, where we learn the only truth worth countenancing is that of "supply and demand." Or coming home from yet another "mock interview," as we train to describe ourselves the way that will least expose our self and play up those fungible attributes that show we have the promise of being docile good workers.

St. Francis wore a tonsure; other saints wore hair-shirts. Chesterton wore a cape and saber. I do not write to recommend this. But rather than celebrating the "diversity" of what we listen to, wear, or copulate with, all the while we continue living lives thoughtless, identical and efficient, we might do better to seek after those higher goods that inevitably make the human wheel spin a little wobbly.

James Matthew Wilson is a Sorin Research Fellow, and recalls daily George Santayana's avowal that "It is not wisdom to be only wise." He can be reached at jwilson5@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

For University policy, approval and doubts

Enforcing standards important

Whether all the members of the Notre Dame community want to accept it or not, the standard at Notre Dame is zero tolerance with respect to possession or use of drugs including marijuana. This is basis for the statements in du Lac concerning "shall be subject to disciplinary suspension ...".

In the case of Kyle McAlarney, he chose to separate himself from the Notre Dame community by his actions on Dec. 29. He may not have realized it, but that is what he did. Sometimes these cases do not rise to the level of a disciplinary hearing. For example, dorm rectors I am sure may choose to exercise some

discretion in dealing with disciplinary matters "internally" at the dorm level.

Unfortunately in Kyle's case, there was no opportunity for an intermediary to take action, and the matter had to go to the disciplinary hearing stage. The decision by the disciplinary board simply confirms Kyle's own decision. As an alum, I am proud that Notre Dame has chosen to take action consistent with its published standards.

Jack Freneau
alumnus
Class of 1971
Jan. 25

Consistency needed

Many of the people in the Notre Dame community are deeply disturbed by the University's decision to suspend Kyle McAlarney from school. This is the first time in my 25 years that even the most devout Notre Dame supporters are truly distressed. My father has almost come to tears over this matter despite having no affiliation with the McAlarney's.

Friends I haven't spoken to in months have communicated with me in the last few days to express their concerns. Premarital sex, according to du Lac, is subject to the same punishment as possession (and a joint is hardly possession in the grand scheme of things). But, no one in their right mind would ever suspend an individual for one sexual encounter with a significant other. That is because we do not live by the letter of the law ... judicial bodies are given discretion because laws are not

absolute.

Kyle should be punished and what he did was terrible. However, the appropriate disciplinary action was not taken. The message that is received is one of arrogance, not suitability. Furthermore, I find a lack of consistency when examining past University rulings. Whether it be drunk driving or physical acts of violence, punishments less severe seemed to be a common recourse.

Kyle seems like a Notre Dame kid. It was his dream school. He was a good kid that made a bad mistake. Where was the Notre Dame community when he needed it most? I sincerely hope that the University learns from their mistake. We know Kyle has.

Paul Benedict
alumnus
Class of 2003
Jan. 25

Policy not in community interest

While I don't know the details of Kyle McAlarney's situation, through my experience with the Judicial Council (a resource I highly recommended to any student in trouble) I do have experience assisting students who have been in situations very similar to his. Based on these experiences, I have two observations.

1. The University is consistent in its application of the rules. Any other student caught with marijuana would have been suspended as well. du Lac is unequivocal as to what the punishment should be, and in my experience the University is consistent in administering it.

2. It is difficult to balance the needs of the individual with the needs of the community — a concept addressed thoroughly on pages 90-91 of du Lac. However, I feel the University's policy of mandating suspension for students who possess marijuana (p. 189) does not adequately balance these needs when applied to those have never been in trouble before and only possessed a small amount.

The students I assisted were in this exact situation, and I doubt anyone would consider them threats to the community. They weren't possessing large amounts of marijuana and selling it, which definitely calls for severe punishment. They weren't using so-called "hard drugs." They weren't even using drugs and then getting in fights, disrupting the dorm, or vandalizing campus (as sometimes happens with drinking alcohol). While there is no excuse for such illegal activity, it hardly seems to warrant the punishment given out.

Consider especially that driving while intoxicated, an activity which is also illegal but arguably far more dangerous than possessing small amounts of marijuana, carries a minimum punishment of probation, not suspension, according to du Lac. "The punishment doesn't fit the crime" arguments aside, at the heart of this matter is how the community treats its members who have behaved in a manner inconsistent with its values. Though the theory behind du Lac's policies emphasizes the importance of positive individual growth as well as the need to foster a good community, the poli-

cies themselves fall short of these goals. I would think all members of the community would support a policy in favor of helping and educating those who are troubled but do not pose a threat to the community's safety as opposed a policy which removes them from the very community that can help them the most.

I assisted several students who told me they were moving from a very supportive environment at Notre Dame to a far less supportive environment at home because of their suspension. Is this what we really want for our students? If Notre Dame truly wants to live up to its reputation of being a family — a reputation repeatedly emphasized on campus from orientation to graduation and on television commercials throughout the country — then it should treat its members as family.

If Notre Dame truly wants to live up to the Catholic traditions of justice, forgiveness and helping others, then in addition to punishing students it should support these students with its various resources, such as its counseling services. It should especially do so for those students who have done nothing to affect the community other than possess small amounts of marijuana. I can't help but think the needs of these individuals and the community would be better met by placing the students on probation and mandating participation in a drug program — thereby allowing them to receive the benefits and resources of Notre Dame, just as those with alcohol problems do. I hope the University will take time to reflect on its policy, and I hope student government and the Campus Life Council will engage in a conversation aimed at striking a better balance between the needs of the community's individual members and the needs of the community as a whole — a balance that will help our individuals and the community grow together in a positive manner.

James Leito
alumnus
Class of 2006
Jan. 25

SCENE & HEARD

Academy Awards race proves tight from start to finish

George C. Scott once refused an Oscar, calling the Academy Awards "a rat race." If so, it's the most prestigious, exciting and controversial rat race in the world. The nominations were released on Tuesday, prompting the usual award season controversy and hype. This year's Oscar race is being touted for its unpredictable nature — a true front-runner hasn't emerged, and the top-nominated film ("Dreamgirls," with eight) is not even up for Best Picture.



Brian Doxtader

Scene Editor

As with any race dependent on voters, early buzz is good, but late momentum is better. "Babel," which won the Golden Globe for Best Picture (Drama), seems to be the early favorite, but it's not yet clear whether the thematic comparisons to previous high-profile pictures like "Crash" (last year's winner) and "Traffic" will help or hinder the socially conscious film. The momentum gained from the Golden Globe will no doubt be a benefit, especially since the Best Picture (Comedy or Musical) Golden Globe winner, "Dreamgirls," was not nominated for the Oscar.

The good word-of-mouth surrounding "Letters to Iwo Jima" may lead to an upset come Oscar time, especially since it wouldn't be the first time that a Clint Eastwood-directed film made a late push to win the

award. His last picture, "Million Dollar Baby," beat the Miramax behemoth "The Aviator" for the top prizes (Best Picture and Best Director for Eastwood) in 2004.

Speaking of "The Aviator," the biggest question is whether or not this is the year that Martin Scorsese gets it done. "The Departed" is one of those films that didn't seem hyped for Oscar prestige, but has picked up steam for one key reason: it's really good.

The film is far more deserving than Scorsese's other high-prestige pictures of recent years ("The Aviator" and "Gangs of New York"), it might garner the venerated filmmaker the Best Director statuette that has eluded him — unless he loses to Eastwood again. "The Departed" is also probably the best film in the race, but its violent cynicism might be problematic with some voters, especially since it lacks the social consciousness or historical rooting of films like "The Queen" or "Babel."

"Little Miss Sunshine" is this year's dark horse. Every year, there's an "odd man out," a film whose nomination is a little puzzling — "Seabiscuit" in 2003 or "Finding Neverland" in 2004. The buzz surrounding "Little Miss Sunshine" is growing, however, thanks to several hundred thousand DVDs that have been sent to Academy voters.

Some surprise acting nominations include Ryan Gosling in the little-seen "Half Nelson," Mark Wahlberg for "The Departed" and Abigail Breslin in "Little Miss Sunshine." There are a pair of sure bets this year in the Best Actor and Best Actress awards, which already have Forest Whitaker ("Last King of Scotland") and Helen Mirren's ("The Queen")



Photo courtesy of allmoviephoto.com

The action movie "The Departed," starring Matt Damon, left, and Leonardo DiCaprio, is one of the early favorites for the Academy Award for Best Picture.

names inscribed on them.

As with other years, the 2006 omissions are just as notable as the nominations. Among the films that failed to garner Best Picture noms are Alfonso Cuarón's "Children of Men," Guillermo Del Toro's "Pan's Labyrinth," Paul Greengrass' "United 93" and the aforementioned "Dreamgirls." Both "Children of Men" and "Dreamgirls" were expected to be front-runners in the race, and their complete elimination is puzzling, especially in the face of nominated films like "Little Miss Sunshine" and "The Queen." Neither of the two major 9/11 films ("United 93" and Oliver Stone's "World Trade Center") received Best Picture nominations, though their early releases may have hindered their chances. "The Departed" is

under-represented in the acting department, as Jack Nicholson failed to garner a nomination, and DiCaprio got the nod for "Blood Diamond" instead.

The award ceremony is still over a month away, but the build-up is already beginning. "The Departed" is being re-released and several high-profile films are finally reaching wide-release. The momentum and vibes over the next several weeks will determine who walks away with statuettes and who won't. Let the race begin.

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

Classic American tale spun with a French twist

By ERIN MCGINN
Assistant Scene Editor

A bohemian painter falls in love with the fiancée of another man, leading to an incredible song-and-dance routine. "An American in Paris" stars Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron in a sumptuous rendering of one of the world's most beautiful cities.

The plot is little less than dazzling. Kelly stars as the inspiration-starved painter Jerry Mulligan, who meets the gloriously rich Milo Roberts (Nina Foch) as he sets up his work for curbside exhibition. She chooses Kelly to be her latest boy toy. Milo does her best to convince him she loves him as an artist, but even to the somewhat naïve Mulligan, the transparency is evident. Still, he likes being recognized as a painter and permits himself to be swept off his feet despite his initial objections.

Roberts' amorous plans are overturned upon the arrival of the beautiful dancer Lise Bouvier (Caron). She also pursues a relationship with Mulligan and they begin a romantic love affair that is inconvenienced only by their secret relationship. Bouvier is promised to Henri Baurel (Georges

Guétary), a friend of Adam Cook (Oscar Levant) who rooms in the same hostel and is friends with Mulligan. The rivalry between Baurel and Mulligan remains veiled for a large part of the film. Baurel even tries to convince Mulligan that he can capture the woman's heart. Cook catches on early but refrains from interfering, though it obviously pains him to do so.

As musicals of the era often did, director Vincente Minnelli spends long, laborious takes filming the dancing and singing of its stars. People expected to see Kelly dance and they got their wish in abundance. At least half of the film is spent with Kelly dancing to a musical number.

The difference between this and other similar productions is that the plot is at least admirably interesting, thanks in part to the terrific performances of Caron, Foch and especially Kelly.

The biggest spectacle in the film is probably the most worthwhile. Despite running for a lengthy 20 minutes, Kelly dances through a dreamlike reality of Paris rendered beautifully by art directors Preston Ames and Cedric Gibbons. Using famed artist renderings of Parisian locations (such as those by Manet), Ames and Gibbons transport the audience to a surreal world.

Although "An American in Paris" was far superior to the other musicals of its time, it isn't as fully developed as Kelly's next big project, "Singing in the Rain." The two are constantly compared, and even though the argument can be made that



Photo doctormacro.com

"An American in Paris," directed by Vincente Minnelli and starring Gene Kelly, is an intense story of love set in the romantic city of Paris, France.

"An American in Paris" is the weaker of the two, it still stands as a remarkable musical from an era that produced some of the world's most fondly remembered films.

"An American in Paris" received an impressive six Academy Awards, competing directly with two other popular films of the time ("A Streetcar Named Desire" and "A Place in the Sun"). There were no acting nominations, but the film swept up technical prizes

left and right, as well as being the surprise winner for the Best Picture award.

"An American in Paris" is a triumph of filmmaking. It is entertaining as well as cinematically remarkable, with its dream-sequence closing ballet acting as a showcase for what the movie-musical is able to achieve.

Contact Erin McGinn at emcginn@nd.edu

An American in Paris



CD REVIEW

Emo rockers Taking Back Sunday
Sunday up to old tricks



Photo courtesy of frontiertouring.com

"Taking Back Sunday," the Amityville, N.Y. based emo-punk band, recently released "Louder Now" — the group's first album under the Warner Bros. label.

By MARTY SCHRODER
Assistant Scene Editor

Taking Back Sunday's formula on their third album "Louder Now" does not seem to have strayed much from the emo-pop-rock recipe that the band is so very good at. While still a solid album that many teenage girls and boys will be listening to and lamenting their loss of love and romance, it fails to do much in the way of new material that the truly creative bands are capable of.

This band used to be spot on. With its 2002 release of "Tell All Your Friends," Taking Back Sunday was on the forefront of the emo-rock that was just hitting the scene. Although bands had sung about girls before and Chris Carrabba's one man Dashboard Confessional had been pouring his heart out to ready teenagers for a couple of years, "Tell All Your Friends" was emo with an edge. When Taking Back Sunday front man Adam Lazzara pleadingly moans "And if you slit my throat / with my one last gasping breath / I'd apologize for bleeding on your shirt," one knows it's teenage emo off its hinges but there was something real in that first album. "Louder Now" is still good music and the lyrics are more intelligent than your average emo-rock fare four years down the line, but this album is still doing the same old thing and suffers for it.

"Louder Now" opens with a frenzy in the form of "What's it Feel Like to be a Ghost?" Bassist Matt Rubano sets the tone with a frantic bass line that clears the way for Lazzara's singing. Following this is "Liar (It Takes One to Know One)" which is just as edgy and emo-punk as the previous track. The middle of the album shines with "Twenty-Twenty Surgery" and mourns

with the string accented "My Blue Heaven."

This album was the first for Taking Back Sunday to be released on the Warner Bros. label. They had previously been with emo-punk mainstay Victory records and here Warner displays the cleaner production it can offer. However, the band does not lose its rough edge. While the production is clean thanks to producer Eric Valentine, the music is classic emo-punk sound is not lost. While the album is not the most groundbreaking album ever to be released it is surely good enough to warrant a listen.

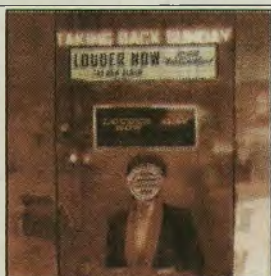
The biggest problem with the album is the cookie-cutter feel. Where "Tell All Your Friends" may have been overly melodramatic, it was, at very least, fresh. However, "Louder Now" will keep the band's fans happy. They rock hard and sing about doomed relationships and, of course, the girl that got away. However, if Taking Back Sunday wishes to be truly recognized as a band that is serious about music, they must begin to move in a new direction. The emo-punk will keep the kids happy but the critics will begin to tear them apart. While some might say Taking Back Sunday is doing the same thing that My Chemical Romance did to make it big, My Chemical Romance isn't changing its music; they are changing their image. Perhaps it's not necessary that Taking Back Sunday go out and buy black eyeliner. It would, however, be nice to hear fresh music from this talented band. This music may sell some records, but it seems Taking Back Sunday is going to be long forgotten as one of the ubiquitous emo-punk bands that are dominating the airwaves.

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Taking Back Sunday

Louder Now

Warner Bros.



Recommended tracks: "What's it Feels Like to be a Ghost?,"
"Liar (It Takes One to Know One)" and "My Blue Heaven"

WEEKEND
PREVIEW

DEBARTOLO
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

"Le Medecin Malgre Lui" "The Doctor in Spite of Himself"
Professor Paul McDowell's latest French Theatre Production, "Le Medecin Malgre Lui," arrives at the Philbin Black Box Theater this weekend at the DPAC. The latest in the annual series of French plays performed by Professor McDowell's classes, "Le Medecin Malgre Lui" is a classic farce by legendary French playwright and humorist Moliere about a drunken lout with more than his fair share of vices. The cast is entirely composed of Notre Dame students, including Mary Corrigan, Michael Barret, Tom Dorwart and even Professor McDowell himself.
January 26th and 27th, 7:30pm, and January 28th, 3pm

18th Annual Notre Dame Student Film Festival
Notre Dame's student filmmakers have returned for another year's showcase of the Film, Television and Theater department's best and brightest work. This year's festival will feature thirteen films, including "Welcome to Snyderville" and "Flipped."
Friday, January 26th through Saturday, January 27th at 7pm and 10pm

Glee Club concert: ND and University of Michigan
Friday 8pm
The Romeo and Juliet Story: In Concert, Presented by Summer Shakespeare
Friday 7:30pm
DPAC Movies
"An American in Paris" (Classic Film) Saturday 3:00pm, Browning Cinema (PAC Classic 100)
Mozart and Salieri - South Bend Symphony Concert
Sunday 2:30pm

LEGENDS
OF NOTRE DAME

Bopology Swing Band concert
Friday 10pm
Swing Nightclub
Friday at midnight

Margot and the Nuclear So and So's (WVFI)
Saturday 10pm
Reggaeton Nightclub
Saturday at midnight

ND TRACK

Irish set to host home competition at Loftus

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will continue its early indoor track season with another home meet today in the Notre Dame Invitational.

So far this season, the Irish have proven themselves very capable of succeeding indoors.

Notre Dame's season began at home in the Loftus Center with the Blue and Gold Invitational. Irish competitors dominated the meet with 42 Big East qualifying times and scores across the board.

For the women's team, the distance runners performed especially well, with five qualifying for the Big East championships Feb. 17-18 in Akron, Ohio. Highlighting the team's performance on the men's side was sophomore Patrick Smyth's second-place finish in the 5,000-meter run in 14:00.73. Smyth's time was good enough for an NCAA provisional qualifier.

At the Purdue Invitational Jan. 13, the Irish had numerous Big East qualifiers, including sophomore Anna Weber in the throwing events and sophomore Mary Saxer in the pole vault.

In the Notre Dame Indoor Opener Jan. 20, the Irish were dominant in all aspects of the meet.

The men's and women's teams combined for 15 event winners, as well as 15 additional qualifiers to the Big East Championships.

The Notre Dame distance

runners on the women's side were again able to put up strong numbers. Senior runner Amy Kohlmeier crossed the line for the mile at 4:55.66, only to be followed by four straight Irish runners.

One difference between the Notre Dame Invitational and the other meets this season is as simple as the athletes competing for the Irish.

"We have a couple of guys that haven't run yet, a guy in particular — [freshman sprinter] Jeff Farnell — that will be a big impact," senior sprinter Ryan Postel said. "He has had a problem with his hamstring, so coach hasn't let him run yet."

But the Irish athletes will compete this weekend in various, not necessarily familiar events.

"We are going to be doing some things differently. A lot of us will be in events that we normally wouldn't be in," said Postel, who will run in the 200-meter dash.

Postel normally runs longer sprints, including the 400-meter event.

Even though the Irish are already entering their third tournament of the indoor season, their focus still lies ahead to the tough matchups later on.

"The Notre Dame Invitational is sort of like a primary for the race next week, the Mayo Invitational," Postel said. "So we don't have any specific goals for this race."

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MEN'S TENNIS

Team wants to reign in Cavaliers

Notre Dame is ranked No. 13 nationally heading into the spring

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

Notre Dame is hoping 13 isn't all that unlucky.

The Irish head to Virginia today for the season opener, ranked No. 13 by the Fila Collegiate Tennis Rankings. Notre Dame comes back to campus Sunday for an afternoon rendezvous with Indiana.

The team is led by two strong individual singles players — senior Stephen Bass and junior Sheeva Parbhu are currently ranked No. 14 and No. 30 in singles, respectively.

Adding to his rankings is Parbhu's No. 11 spot in doubles with partner senior Ryan Keckley.

But the team is less concerned with its preseason rankings than it is focused on their upcoming performances.

"We don't worry too much about numbers and rankings, particularly right now," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "The number you want to have that is high is at the end of the year."

Entering the spring season ranked is nothing new for the Irish — it is the 16th straight season that Notre Dame will start the preseason in the Fila rankings and

the 12th time in the last 16 years that it does so in the top 30.

The No. 13 ranking is the highest since 2002 when the Irish started the season at No. 7.

No. 29 Louisville joins Notre Dame as the other Big East team ranked in the top 30.

The team's top singles player, Bass last faced Virginia's Somdev Devvarman (No. 8 nationally) last January when the Irish took on the Cavaliers. Bass almost defeated Devvarman but fell 6-3, 5-6, 6-4. Virginia took the meet 4-3 for the win.

Devvarman is a familiar opponent for the Irish —

Parbhu faced him in the quarterfinals of the NCAA Singles Championship in May. Devvarman ended Parbhu's streak in the tournament with a 6-1, 6-3 win.

Bayliss and the Irish hope to walk away from Virginia this year with a win.

The team is well rounded in both singles and doubles play and feels it is well

matched to take on the Cavaliers.

"I am pretty confident that it will be a very close match," Bayliss said. "We also want to play our best at doubles and see if we can get the doubles to win."

"I am pretty confident that it will be a very close match. We also want to play our best at doubles and see if we can get the doubles to win."

Bobby Bayliss
Irish coach

The team will rely on the duo of Parbhu and Keckley to challenge No. 7 Devvarman and Treat Huey.

Bayliss expects big performances from his top two singles as well. Bass will have to

adjust his game to the slower courts the team will face in Charlottesville.

Bayliss hopes that Bass will be able to start the team on a successful path for the match.

"We hope to start from [Stephen's match] and go straight on down [to win]," Bayliss said.

The team plans on performing well no matter the ranking of its opponent.

"I expect we will be in every match and win the majority of them," Bayliss said.

Indiana is currently undefeated and ranked No. 58 in the ITA poll.

The meeting between the Irish and the Hoosiers will be Indiana's first road match of the season.

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MLB

Slammin' Sammy close to signing deal with Rangers

Associated Press

DALLAS — Although Sammy Sosa and the Texas Rangers were close to finalizing a minor-league deal Thursday, a final resolution isn't expected until at least early next week.

The Rangers and Sosa's agent, Adam Katz, have exchanged a couple proposals since the 38-year-old, who has 588 career homers, worked out twice for Texas. The most recent workout was Jan. 15.

An agreement appears likely, but Katz has been travel-

ing and the wife of Rangers general manager Jon Daniels is due to give birth to the couple's first child.

Texas did agree to a minor-league contract with righthander Jamey Wright, who will go to spring training with a chance to compete for the fifth spot in the rotation behind Kevin Millwood, Vicente Padilla, Brandon McCarthy and Robinson Tejeda.

Wright has a 67-98 career record with a 5.14 ERA in 260 games (237 starts) over parts of the last 11 seasons with Colorado, Milwaukee, St.

Louis, Kansas City and San Francisco.

He went 6-10 with a 5.19 ERA in 34 games (21 starts) for the Giants last season.

If Wright is placed on the 40-man roster, he would get a \$900,000, one-year contract and the chance to earn \$350,000 in performance bonuses based on innings.

The bonuses start at 120 innings and top out at 180 innings.

Like Wright, Sosa will have to earn his spot on the Rangers' roster.

Sosa hasn't played in the majors since 2005 with

Baltimore, when the seven-time All-Star hit .221 with 14 homers and 45 RBIs in 102 games.

His major-league debut came with the Rangers in 1989, when he played only 25 games before being traded to the Chicago White Sox.

If completed and he makes the team, Sosa's contract would likely have a base salary of about \$500,000.

He would have the chance to earn additional performance bonuses.

In his career with the Rangers (1989), White Sox (1989-91), Chicago Cubs

(1992-2004) and Orioles, Sosa has batted .274 with 1,575 RBIs.

Sosa has hit 60 home runs or more in a year three times.

Sosa was the NL MVP in 1998, when he batted .308 with a career-high 66 homers and 158 RBIs for the Cubs.

That was the season he was in the home run chase with Mark McGwire, who became the first major-leaguer to hit 70 homers.

Sosa remains the only player in major-league history to hit 60 or more home runs in three straight seasons.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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Happy Birthday Lammie! P.S. Hi Amy.

Killer Tofu.

AROUND THE NATION

Friday, January 26, 2007

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 13

Women's Basketball Associated Press Top 25

team	record	points
1 Duke	21-0	1235
2 North Carolina	22-0	1212
3 Maryland	21-1	1128
4 Tennessee	18-2	1122
5 Ohio State	18-1	1085
6 Connecticut	17-1	1000
7 Oklahoma	17-2	972
8 LSU	19-2	873
9 Stanford	16-3	856
10 Arizona State	18-2	766
11 George Washington	16-2	673
12 Purdue	19-3	671
13 Baylor	17-3	636
14 Vanderbilt	17-4	633
15 Louisville	17-4	503
16 Georgia	17-2	485
17 Texas A&M	18-2	444
18 Bowling Green	19-2	367
19 Marquette	18-3	359
20 Middle Tenn. St.	15-4	268
21 California	14-4	210
22 Texas	16-5	177
23 Michigan State	15-5	159
24 Mississippi	14-6	125
25 Kansas State	16-4	74

Men's Basketball Associated Press Top 25

team	record	points
1 Florida	18-2	1759
2 Wisconsin	20-1	1720
3 UCLA	17-1	1679
4 North Carolina	18-2	1597
5 Ohio State	17-3	1470
6 Texas A&M	16-3	1438
7 Oregon	18-1	1387
8 Kansas	17-3	1248
9 Pittsburgh	18-3	1203
10 Duke	17-3	1091
11 Memphis	16-3	954
12 Alabama	15-4	937
13 Oklahoma State	17-3	867
14 Butler	17-2	856
15 Marquette	18-4	726
16 Air Force	19-2	676
17 Arizona	14-5	545
18 Nevada	17-2	534
19 Clemson	18-3	507
20 Washington State	16-3	418
21 LSU	13-6	392
22 NOTRE DAME	16-4	304
23 Indiana	14-5	210
24 Virginia Tech	15-5	177
25 USC	15-5	149

Men's Basketball Big East Standings

team	Big East record	overall record
1 Pittsburgh	6-1	18-3
2 Marquette	5-2	18-4
3 Syracuse	4-2	15-5
4 Georgetown	4-2	14-5
5 Louisville	4-2	14-6
6 NOTRE DAME	4-3	16-4
7 West Virginia	4-3	15-4
8 Villanova	3-3	14-5
9 Providence	3-3	13-6
10 Seton Hall	3-4	11-8
11 St. John's	3-4	12-8
12 DePaul	3-4	12-9
13 Connecticut	2-4	13-6
14 South Florida	2-5	11-10
15 Cincinnati	1-4	10-9
16 Rutgers	1-6	8-12

NFL



Former Cowboys coach Bill Parcells is silhouetted before Dallas' game against Indianapolis Nov. 19. The Cowboys hired former Dallas quarterback Jason Garrett to become the team's new offensive coordinator Thursday.

Cowboys hire Garrett for vague job

Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — The Dallas Cowboys added Jason Garrett to their coaching staff Thursday night, and said he would remain a candidate to replace retired head coach Bill Parcells.

Garrett, the backup to Hall of Fame quarterback Troy Aikman for two Super Bowl titles in Dallas from 1993-99, was quarterbacks coach in Miami the last two seasons — his only coaching experience. Garrett also had been in line to become the Dolphins' offensive coordinator for new head coach Cam Cameron.

The Cowboys said

Garrett's responsibilities and title won't be determined until the head coaching search is complete. The most likely scenario, however, is that Garrett will become the offensive coordinator if he's not the head coach.

"The nature and timing of this hire is unique in that we were dealing with a limited window of time in which to talk to Jason about returning to Dallas," Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said in a statement.

The Dolphins gave Dallas permission to talk to the 40-year-old Garrett, but also told the former quarterback that he had to decide by Thursday if he

was going to sign a contract extension. That deadline passed with Garrett still in Texas.

"Jason is someone who is held in high regard as a bright offensive mind throughout the NFL," Jones said. "We are grateful to the Dolphins for granting the Cowboys permission to explore this opportunity. Jason will now proceed further in our head coaching search as an in-house candidate."

San Diego defensive coordinator Wade Phillips, the former head coach at Denver and Buffalo who also had interim stints in New Orleans and Atlanta, is scheduled to interview

Friday about the head coaching vacancy.

The Cowboys also plan to talk to San Francisco offensive coordinator Norv Turner, a former head coach for Washington and Oakland, and New Orleans defensive coordinator Gary Gibbs. Both are former Dallas assistants. It wasn't clear when those interviews would take place, but Turner is coaching the Senior Bowl on Saturday.

Parcells retired Monday after going 34-32 with two playoff losses in four seasons with the Cowboys, ending a 19-season career that included two Super Bowl titles with the New York Giants.

IN BRIEF

Blue Devils top Tigers with buzzer-beating layup

DURHAM, N.C. — David McClure hit a layup as time expired Thursday night to lead No. 10 Duke to a 68-66 win over No. 19 Clemson.

McClure's basket capped a wild final 13 seconds for the Blue Devils (17-3, 4-2 Atlantic Coast Conference), who blew a five-point lead before answering with the sophomore's stunning basket.

With the score tied at 66 after Vernon Hamilton erased the deficit with a layup and a 3-pointer, Josh McRoberts inbounded the ball with 4.4 seconds left to freshman Jon Scheyer. Scheyer pushed the ball near midcourt, then sent a pass ahead to McClure.

McClure, who had a step on Hamilton, laid it up over the outstretched arms of K.C. Rivers for the win as the horn sounded.

Duke's players immediately spilled onto the floor in celebration and mobbed McClure.

Federer slams Roddick in Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia — If he could pick any player from any era to test himself against, Roger Federer would like a shot at Rod Laver or Bjorn Borg.

Laver, the last man to win all four majors in one season, was at the stadium that carries his name Thursday to witness Federer dismantle Andy Roddick in the Australian Open semifinals.

After what he saw, Laver would just as soon stick to meeting Federer in the locker room — after the matches.

Federer likes to put on a show when Laver is at Rod Laver Arena, and called his 6-4, 6-0, 6-2 victory over Roddick his best match in Melbourne.

"I had one of these days when everything worked," the Swiss star said. "I was unbeatable. I was playing out of my mind. I am shocked myself."

N.C. State coach returns after bout with cancer

SAN DIEGO — Brandt Snedeker knew the score.

He just couldn't believe where he was.

The only time Snedeker had ever been 9-under through nine holes was sitting in front of a monitor playing a Tiger Woods video game. He knew that wasn't the case Thursday in the Buick Invitational because Woods was two groups ahead of him on the North Course at Torrey Pines and well behind him on the scoreboard.

And when the 26-year-old rookie added yet another birdie, he even started taking away some of Woods' fans.

"I don't know if they know who I am or what was going on," Snedeker said. "But they were sure rooting me on like they were my best friend. It was great."

So was his opening round of the year.

around the dial

TENNIS

Australian Open Women's Final
9:30 p.m., ESPN2

SMC SWIMMING

Belles enter home meet with low expectations, high hopes

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

It's not often a team heads into a competition expecting to lose, but when Saint Mary's swims against Calvin tonight, the Belles will emphasize other aspects of the meet against the top-10 opponent.

"Calvin is a national challenger, and, well, Saint Mary's isn't quite there yet," freshman Jen Lebiecz said.

But neither the coaches nor the swimmers are the least bit concerned about it. The Belles, who have two wins this season, shun the inevitability of the outcome and focus instead on their individual goals and achievements. When a meet victory is most likely out of reach, a season-best time or fine-tuning of technique become the new goal.

"Most coaches have a pretty good idea of how meets will play out before they happen," Belles coach Ryan Dombkowski said.

Dombkowski strives toward small personal improvements

that will enhance future success. He tries to refine portions of the race, such as the start or turn, and also pushes the swimmers toward new low times.

Lebiecz sees the meet as a chance to measure her abilities before the MIAA championships in two weeks.

"This meet is pretty important in regards to conference; it's really our jumping point," she said. "From here on out, it's all about conference, so a great meet against Calvin would help to put everyone in the right mindset."

That mindset can make or break a swimmer — a swim race is a delicate balance of emotions that must be kept in check. Dombkowski related the idea of peak anxiety versus performance to a bell curve — too little will make the swimmer lackadaisical, too much will cause over-worrying and either way performance suffers.

The Belles swim at 6 p.m. at Washington High School.

Contact Bill Brink at
wbrink@nd.edu

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SMC BASKETBALL

Belles look to shake the Thunder

Team wants to pick up fourth win in five games against Tri-State

By **BILL BRINK**
Sports Writer

The Belles had already turned their season around when they won three of four games between Dec. 6 and Jan. 2. Now they've turned it up a notch.

Saint Mary's is 7-10 overall but 6-4 in the MIAA and tied for third in the league with Olivet. The Belles are on the heels of another 3-of-4 streak. Before the run started, the Belles came within a missed free throw of forcing overtime against national No. 12 Calvin on Jan. 6. And Saturday, they visit last-place Tri-State (4-14 overall, 2-8 in MIAA).

Saint Mary's can take sole possession of third place in the MIAA with a win this weekend. If the Belles go on to beat Olivet next Wednesday, they could take a two-game lead for the third spot in the conference.

Sophomore guard Katie Rashid said she understands the magnitude of the upcoming games.

"It is very important to capitalize on teams during the sec-

ond round of conference play in order to secure one of the top four seeds," she said.

The top four seeds receive home court advantage in the first round of the league playoffs.

The Belles are averaging 73.5 points per game over their last four games. Junior guard Alison Kessler has kept up her solid play, but she now has help. Other players, somewhat quiet in the first half of the season, have stepped up.

Freshmen center Anna Kammrath, in particular, has steadily improved all season. Over the past four games, she's averaged 11 rebounds per game. Sophomore forward Erin Newsom is shooting 51 percent from field goal range and has also been a presence on the glass.

Rebounding, a weakness of Saint Mary's during the earlier part of the season, has improved as well. Belles coach Jennifer Henley continues to stress that aspect of the game in practice. The Belles will try to capitalize on Tri-state's poor offensive rebounding.

"We will attack the same way, trying to gain good posi-

tion and secure every defensive rebound," Rashid said.

In Saint Mary's 83-79 win over Tri-State Jan. 2, the Belles out-rebounded the Thunder 52-41.

Tri-State has no player shooting over 40 percent from the field. They are led by freshmen guard Sarah Howe, who leads the team with 13.2 points and 7.1 boards per game.

"It is important to play great help-side defense on Sarah Howe and be in position for the rebound," Rashid said.

In the teams' previous meeting, Newsom had a double-double, dropping 20 points and grabbing 16 rebounds. Kessler scored 22 points, and senior guard Bridget Lipke had 19.

Tri-State fell victim to Saint Mary's 24 second-chance points. The Thunder netted just 13 on second efforts. The Belles hope to have similar success Saturday.

"We will attack the gaps and crash the boards," Rashid said.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish encounter squad with a familiar face

By **CHRIS HINE**
Sports Writer

No. 4 Notre Dame begins its dual match season in familiar company today as it squares off against Illinois in Champaign, Ill.

The Fighting Illini are coached by 2001 Notre Dame graduate and former assistant coach Michelle Dasso.

Dasso, who was the ITA (Intercollegiate Tennis Association) Senior of the Year in 2001, was a four-time All-American at Notre Dame and won the Francis Patrick O'Connor Award in 2001. The award is given to one male and one female student-athlete annually for "best exemplifying the spirit of Notre Dame."

Dasso joined the Illini this season.

"Obviously playing Notre Dame is very special for me," Dasso said. "I have so much respect for [Irish coach] Jay Louderback as a coach and person. He has been my mentor after having played for him and coaching with him for so many years. ... I look forward to seeing some competitive tennis with a ton of hustle this weekend."

Last season, the Irish finished 27-2, reaching the NCAA quarter-finals. The ITA named Louderback coach of the year and Dasso assistant coach of the year for their success with Notre Dame in 2005-06.

"The players will be psyched for it; Michelle was such always such a tough player and she'll have them ready to play," Louderback

said. "Our kids will be excited to because they always had a lot of respect for Michelle and what she's done."

Notre Dame will have three freshmen — Colleen Rielley, Cosmina Ciobanu and Kali Krisik — making their dual match debuts. Rielley and Ciobanu faced each other in the ITA Midwest Regional Finals in October, with Rielley claiming the title 7-5, 6-4. This was the first time two freshman teammates faced each other in the singles final of that event.

"For them it's a chance to break the ice and get their first match under their belt," Louderback said.

The Irish also feature the ITA nationally ranked doubles teams of No. 5 junior Brook Buck and sophomore Kelcy Tefft and No. 11 seniors Catrina and Christian Thompson. Rielley and Catrina Thompson are No. 31 and No. 41, respectively, in the singles' poll.

After taking on Illinois, Notre Dame will come back to campus to host No. 12 Vanderbilt Sunday at noon at the Eck Tennis Pavilion. The Commodores are one of six teams the Irish will face this season that are in the top 20 of the current ITA poll.


Louderback is confident that his group is ready for the challenging weekend.

"Over Christmas they were on their own and they were good about hitting on their own," he said. "They all came back and looked good."

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

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New York

continued from page 20

building a team."

Bednarski said the Irish would use Saturday to rest after the long bus trip. The competition begins at 7:30 a.m. Sunday.

He said the fencers would meet with members of the Notre Dame Club of New York City, some of whom will be cheering on the Irish the next day at the Cole Sports Center in Manhattan.

"I have really high expectations," Irish assistant coach Gia Kvaratskhelia said. "Everybody's pumped up and ready to go."

After the Notre Dame Duals, Kvaratskhelia said, the Irish had Monday off. Some fencers worked out individually, but the best team practices of the week were Tuesday and Wednesday, he said.

Kvaratskhelia said the Irish hope to face Columbia and St. John's in a short time span Sunday to keep Notre Dame's adrenaline high without having a let-down between duals.

A year ago, the Irish men and women each finished 4-1 at the elite eastern competi-

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

Shamrock

continued from page 20

season with victories over Purdue, Michigan State, Pittsburgh and Hawaii. Maintaining its pristine dual meet record will be on Notre Dame's mind as it enters the pool this weekend.

"It is important to us, and [having a perfect dual meet record] was one of our goals at the beginning of the season," Irish senior Katie Carroll said.

Of the four teams coming to campus this weekend, Penn State will likely pose the greatest threat to Notre

Dame's undefeated mark. The Lions, currently ranked No. 15 in the country by CollegeSwimming.com, also have yet to lose a dual meet. Their latest victory was a 195-105 thrashing of No. 22 Rutgers.

"The Big Ten is always very strong, so it will be good for us to swim against one of their fastest teams," Carroll said. "[This weekend] will also be a good test of where we stand

has a good young team."

With the Big East championships less than three weeks away, the Shamrock Invitational will give both the men and women's teams an opportunity to gauge themselves against West Virginia.

The Mountaineers will pose one of the biggest obstacles in the men and women's bids to win their third and 11th consecutive Big East titles, respectively.

"Everything we do every day has some relationship with what we want to see for us at the Big East Championship."

Tim Welsh
Irish coach

The proximity of the Big East Championships will certainly be on Notre Dame's mind this weekend. The Irish view the meet as a chance to further prepare themselves for Feb. 14 in East Meadow, N.Y.

"[The Big East Championships] are the focal point for everything," Welsh said. "Everything we do every day has some relationship with what we want to see for us at the Big East championship. This weekend, we're trying to sharpen everything and get faster for the Big East."

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogas@nd.edu

Write Sports. Call Ken at 631-4543.

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UConn

continued from page 20

from start to finish," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said after the loss.

The Huskies (17-2, 7-0 Big East), the current conference leaders, are coming off a 88-76 win over DePaul Wednesday. Sophomore guard Kalana Greene recorded her third double-double of the season as she dropped a career-high 25 points and grabbed 12 boards. Greene leads the Huskies with 13.4 points per game, and is second on the team with 7.3 rebounds a game.

Greene, however, is only one of five Huskies to average in double figures, as each starter on the team averages at least 11.6 points per contest.

Despite Connecticut's potent offense, McGraw does not anticipate changing Notre Dame's game plan.

"We're not going to do anything different than we've been doing all year," she said. "We're just trying to continue

to get better defensively."

The Irish will be led by junior guard Charel Allen. Allen, the reigning Big East player of the week, scored 31 and 25 points last week in games against St. John's and Syracuse, respectively. Allen scored 17 points Tuesday at Marquette.

Allen's recent offensive surge has not surprised her coach.

"I thought she could get 18 to 20 points if she shot the ball enough," McGraw said. "I thought what she did last week [against St. John's and Syracuse] was a little over my expectations, but I think she's capable of doing that. She's like a completely different player now."

For the Irish to have a chance to win, McGraw said, they must be a presence on the boards. The Golden Eagles pulled down six more rebounds than the Irish did Tuesday, snapping Notre Dame's three-game streak of positive rebound differentials.

However, for the Irish to succeed, McGraw said, they must limit Connecticut's fast break points.

"We gotta stop the transition," she said. "We can do that by taking care of the ball and just being patient with the ball."

Notre Dame has averaged just 11 turnovers in its past three games, a dramatic improvement over its 17.6

mark for the season.

The Irish are currently 2-2 against teams currently ranked in the top 25, boasting wins over No. 13 Purdue and No. 16 Bowling Green with losses to No. 4 Tennessee and No. 17 Marquette. The Huskies are

currently 1-2 against ranked teams, with a win over Purdue and a pair of six-point losses to Top-5 teams in Tennessee and No. 2 North Carolina.

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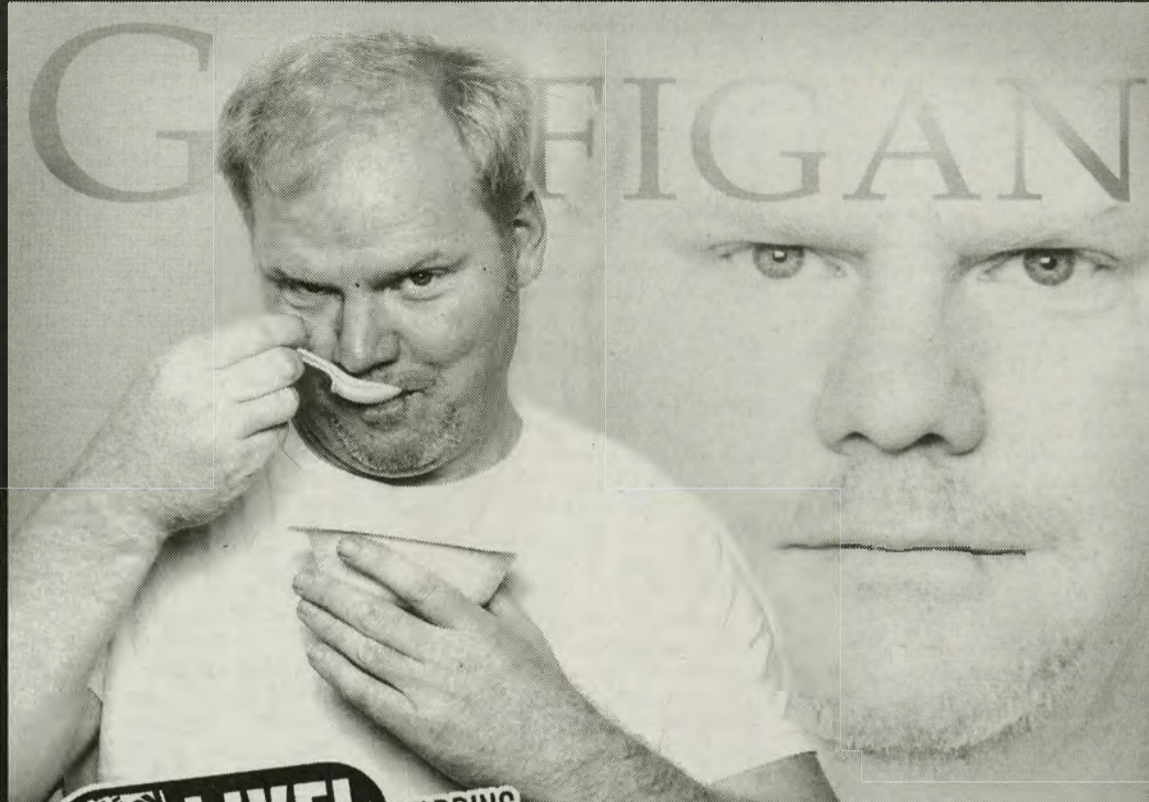
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MEN'S BASKETBALL

After the storm

Nova to face Irish for second time on heels of road loss at St. John's

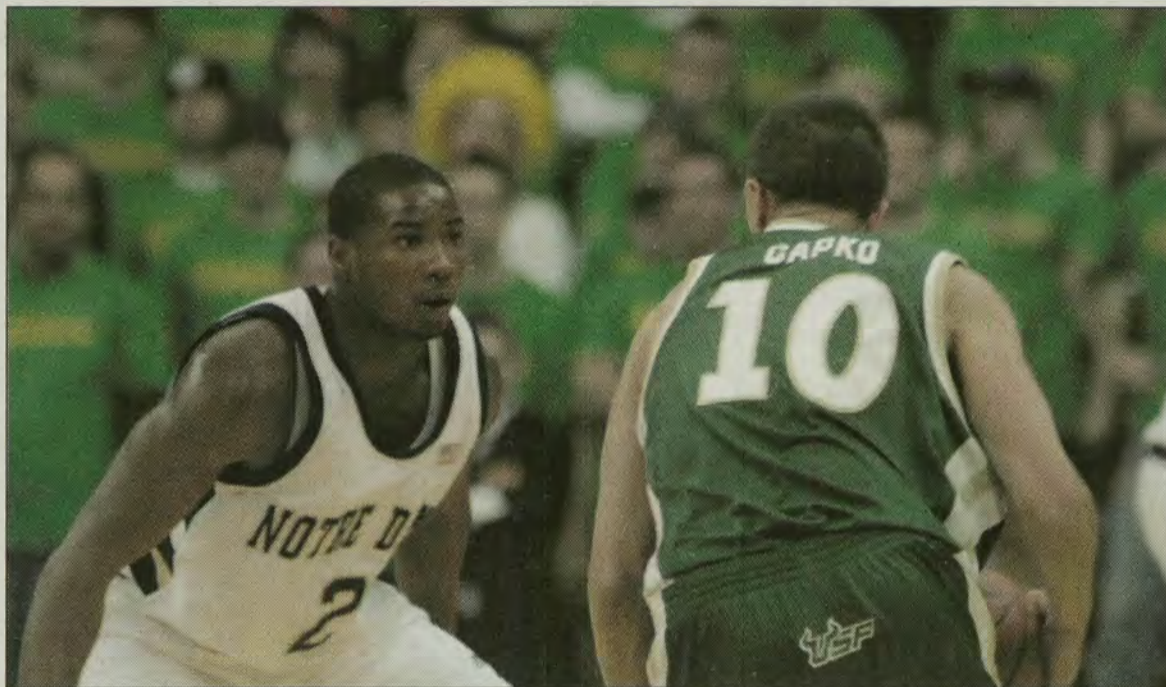
By CHRIS KHOREY
Associate Sports Editor

After a week that included the news that its starting point guard had been suspended from school and a loss in the final seconds to St. John's, No. 21/22 Notre Dame will try to get its season back on track Saturday at 4 p.m. against Villanova at the Joyce Center.

The Irish (16-4, 4-3 Big East) lost to the Wildcats (14-5, 3-3 Big East) 102-87 Jan. 17 in Philadelphia. Since then, Villanova has also beaten Texas and Providence.

"Villanova is playing very well," Notre Dame coach Mike

see WILDCATS/page 18



Irish freshman Tory Jackson, the team's new starting point guard, defends South Florida guard Chris Capko in Notre Dame's 82-58 win over the Bulls last Sunday at the Joyce Center.

VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

McAlarney's future at school unclear; MSU denies CBS report

By CHRIS KHOREY and
KEN FOWLER
Sports Writers

Even if suspended point guard Kyle McAlarney returns to Notre Dame next fall, he will have to take classes at another college this semester to ensure his eligibility for the beginning of the 2007-08 men's basketball season.

And because of NCAA rules governing how many credit hours a student-athlete must complete in the past 12 months — and specifications for when the classes must be taken — McAlarney's potential return to Notre Dame may save him only

see MCALARNEY/page 18

FENCING

Team travels to New York for prestigious tournament

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Editor

Notre Dame head coach Janusz Bednarski said this weekend wouldn't be easy.

He was talking about both the 14-hour bus ride the Irish will be making to New York and the field of perennial top

teams at the NYU Duals.

"It will be a good check for what we can do," Bednarski said of the chance to face Columbia and St. John's, two of the nation's best squads. "It will be interesting from the point of view that they rarely fence against us."

One team at the competition the Irish are familiar with is

Ohio State. Notre Dame beat the Buckeyes 14-13 on the women's side last weekend before Ohio State returned the favor with a one-bout decision on the men's side.

Notre Dame won each of its 14 other team matchups by at least seven bouts.

For the modest Bednarski, last weekend's 15-1 perform-

ance in the Notre Dame Duals is just a sign of building the team.

"It was a good tournament for us because [we] had an opportunity to [go] through the first tournament and field," he said.

While confident, Bednarski praised the field for the event in New York. Besides Ohio

State, Columbia and St. John's, the field will include NYU, Yale, Wayne State, Stevens Tech and the Northwestern women's team.

"They are very good fencers; they have strong teams," Bednarski said. "We are still in the process of

see NEW YORK/page 16

ND SWIMMING

Invitational features key Big East squads

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame men and women will host the Shamrock Invitational today and tomorrow at Rolfs Aquatic Center, the final home meet for both teams.

The guest list will include Big East rivals West Virginia and Connecticut and out-of-conference opponents Penn State and Oakland. On the men's side, the No. 20 Mountaineers — who currently hold the fastest Big East times in nine of the 15

see SHAMROCK/page 16

swimming events — appear to offer the Irish their biggest test.

"They're currently the hottest team in the Big East," Notre Dame coach Tim Welsh said. "It's a very big challenge for us, and I'm glad they're coming to our pool."

West Virginia is undefeated in dual meets on the season — a distinction the Irish shared until suffering their first dual meet defeat of the season at the hands of No. 8 Northwestern 167-131.

The Notre Dame women's team is still able to boast a perfect dual meet record. The Irish stand at 4-0 on the

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

No. 5 Huskies await Irish

By ERIC RETTER
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame will face its toughest Big East challenge of the season as it travels to Storrs to, take on No. 5 Connecticut Saturday at 7 p.m.

The game marks the midway point of a three-game road trip against ranked Big East opponents for the Irish (13-6, 4-2 Big East), who will attempt to rebound from a 71-62 loss at No. 17 Marquette Tuesday. Despite a plus-eight turnover differential, Notre Dame was only 22-of-62 from the field.

"It was just a bad game

see UCONN/page 17



Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw talks with Irish center Erica Williamson in Notre Dame's 83-55 win over Syracuse last Sunday.

ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Notre Dame at Illinois

The Irish open up their dual match season today at Illinois.

page 15

SMC BASKETBALL

Saint Mary's at Tri-State

The Belles look for fourth win in five games with road win at Tri-State.

page 15

SMC SWIMMING

Saint Mary's at Calvin

Team doesn't expect to beat Calvin, just wants strong showing against MIAA foe.

page 15

NFL

The Cowboys hire Jason Garrett as offensive coordinator while leaving head coaching job open.

page 13

MEN'S TENNIS

Notre Dame at Virginia

Squad heads to Virginia for season opener ranked No. 13 nationally.

page 12

ND TRACK

The Irish host the Notre Dame Invitational at Loftus this weekend.

page 12