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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

ND, SMC grads manage debt well

Official Cohort Default Rate, Fiscal Year 2004

Notre Dame	.3
Duke	.4
Georgetown	.5
Boston College	.9
Northwestern	.9

Source: U.S. Department of Education, 2004 statistics

JEFF ALBERT/The Observer

By EILEEN DUFFY
Assistant News Editor

As indebted college students and recent post-graduates nationwide struggle to fork over money for their credit card and student loan bills on time, Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students are taking a different route and paying them back in a fashion that's not only timely — it's "amazing," said an executive at Notre Dame Federal Credit Union (NDFCU).

Of the 300 Notre Dame graduates who were paying

back government-guaranteed student loans — according to the U.S. Department of Education's 2004 statistics (the most recent available) — just one "defaulted," or was late on his payments. Statistics from 2003 show that Saint Mary's had a zero cohort default rate, meaning not one graduate paid her bill late.

"All I can quote are numbers, but that's exceptionally low," said Rick Burden, senior vice president and chief lending officer at NDFCU — where two-thirds to three-fourths of incoming freshmen

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Pell change could ease high costs

By STEVE KERINS
News Writer

President Bush's administration recently announced his 2008 budget will include a proposal to increase the maximum value of Pell Grants by \$550 to \$4,600. For low-income students who want to attend Notre Dame but cannot afford the high tuition, these grants could help bridge the payment gap, said Director of Financial Aid Joe Russo.

Russo is optimistic about the implications for Notre Dame and its peers should Bush's proposed budget be approved by Congress.

"The good news of possibly improved Pell Grant funding should serve as an encouraging signal to many applicants and result in increases in applications nationally," he said.

Pell Grants, which do not need to be repaid, are designed to help low-income students pay for college. Students who receive these grants can use them at Notre Dame to lower the total cost of their tuition.

"Any improvement in maximum awards would result in increases in the amount of such aid to our Pell-eligible students and thus result in increases in need-based assistance for our undergraduates," Russo said.

But many questions remain. While educators and policy analysts have lauded the proposed increase, many are concerned about how it will be funded, including professor

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Albion: Work for goals, not money

By MEGHAN WONS
News Writer

Mark Albion co-founded six start-ups, wrote a New York Times bestseller, taught at Harvard Business School and spoke both in front of the United Nations and with Mother Teresa — but he told his audience at the Mendoza College of Business Tuesday night he was simply a fellow journeyman.



Albion

A social entrepreneur and cofounder of Net Impact, a nationwide organization of graduate students and professionals supporting responsible business, Albion came to campus after Notre Dame's MBA Net Impact chapter invited him to participate in its annual Ethics Week.

Albion urged students to work for more than a paycheck, find an occupation that makes them passionate and use it to impact the world.

"What's your contribution going to be?" he said. "What are you going to do with your God-given life? That's the big question."

Albion recalled the day that changed his perception of his career and put him on a "different path."

On June 5, 1986, Albion said, he was a Harvard busi-

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Engineers anticipate new hall

By JOHN-PAUL WITT
News Writer

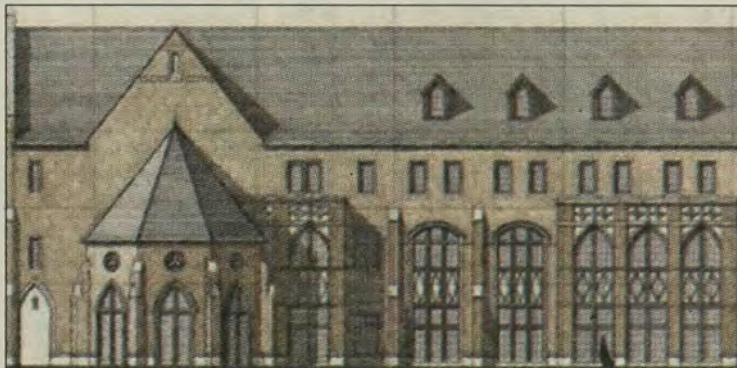
The \$69.4 million Stinson-Remick Hall will house some of the most sophisticated equipment known to Notre Dame, College of Engineering officials said Tuesday.

The new facilities, to be completed in the next three years where the University Club currently stands, will allow for pioneering work in circuitry, particularly in the "clean room" — an advanced lab for constructing complex circuits, said Thomas Fuja, the chair of the department of electrical engineering.

The clean room will contain air 20,000 times more pure than normal air, electrical engineering professor Gregory Snider said.

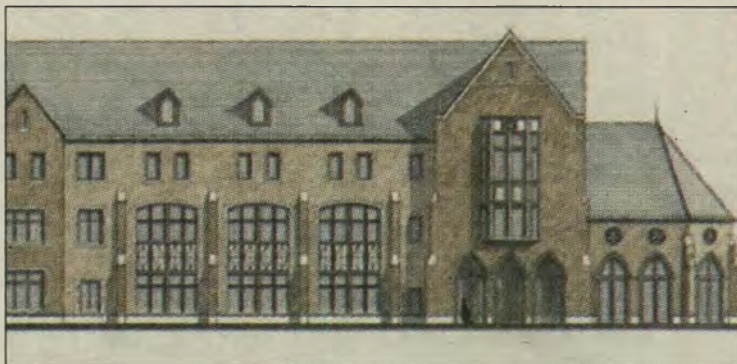
"This will allow us to do computations with individual electrons, and construct at the nano level," Snider said. "This

see BUILDING/page 6



Illustrations courtesy of the College of Engineering

An artist's rendition depicts the south (top) and west (bottom) views of the new Stinson-Remick Hall. Construction on the project will begin in November on the current site of the University Club.



Students celebrate Valentine's Day

By AMANDA GONZALES
News Writer

Cupid, flower shops and young Notre Dame couples in love may feel warmth in their hearts today — despite the snow outside — thanks to Valentine's Day.

Employees at Irish Gardens, a student-run florist, are inundated with requests and said February is one of the shop's most lucrative months.

Junior employee Laura Steinbrenner said customers continued to request the traditional dozen red roses more than any other arrangement in the Irish Gardens selection.

Steinbrenner said students could have cut back their Valentine Day's errands by ordering last Friday to receive free personal delivery.

Despite these attractive promotions, Irish Gardens faced competition from Pasquerilla West Hall residents and their popular \$1 carnation sale.

Florists, however, will not be the only businesses to bring in profits today.

Local restaurants — including LaSalle Grill and Tippecanoe Place — have been busy taking reservations for tonight, in some cases three months in advance.

Tippecanoe employee Katie Gillis said she expects nearly 500 couples to eat at the



CASEY CARNEY/The Observer

Freshman Hector Avitia picks up flowers and a balloon from Irish Gardens for Valentine's Day.

INSIDE COLUMN

Celebrating today

"On the morning of 14 February 1969, during a company-sized patrol in Quang Nam Province..."

The first time I read these words, Valentine's Day stopped being about buying my mom a heart-shaped chocolate container or exchanging notes with pretty girls.

John-Paul Witt
News Wire Editor

These lines open the Silver Star citation awarded to my uncle, James Patrick Witt, for his actions on Valentine's Day, 1969.

This medal was awarded posthumously. He succumbed to the wounds he suffered in combat 38 years ago.

This letter is what I have of him, what I can touch and see. All else are ancient memories gleaned from once-soldiers over too much wine, too late at night.

Read on: "the point element took the command post of a North Vietnamese Army company by surprise."

The point element. My uncle. "Second Lieutenant Witt ... while initiating an aggressive assault on the enemy bunker, received multiple wounds as he moved across the fire-swept terrain ... Although painfully wounded, Second Lieutenant Witt calmly ... delivered explicit directions regarding the course of action to be followed by his men."

I never knew my uncle. In my home, he was always spoken of in quiet, hushed tones.

"Your uncle Jim was a Marine," my father would say.

Marine. Not "brave," not "a leader," but, Marine. As if no other word was necessary.

But all I had of him was a sheaf of paper bearing a red and gold seal, and a plaque of medals, for bravery and valor.

I felt I was missing something. A part of my family. A part of me that runs through my veins.

I don't know how my father bore it, every year. He would take me to a candy store on the 13th, and I would buy something for my mother.

If I were him, I would still weep.

As I grew in age and wisdom, I resolved to learn about my uncle, from the ones who knew him best.

I traveled to Orlando for a reunion of the First Battalion, Seventh Marine Regiment. My uncle was part of Delta Company.

There, I met men who still bore the scars of the war that was consigned to history three decades ago. They live it every day. They weep in church, and drink in camaraderie.

From them, I was able to paint a picture of my uncle that was more real than the words of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, or my parents' respectful silence.

"He never asked anyone under his charge to do anything that he himself would not do," his men said.

"It was my fault. I put Jim on point that day, because he was aggressive. It was my decision," said his captain.

They told me about a man who cared about his men, was a good leader and a gallant soldier.

I celebrate Valentine's Day. I weep as I write this, because "We Remember." Semper Fidelis.

Contact John-Paul Witt at jwitt1@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: WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY?



Amanda Jaszowski
sophomore
Welsh Family

"I'm celebrating Valentine's Day March 10 when I visit my boyfriend in Rome."



Jordan DelPalacio
sophomore
Keenan

"Cure AIDS with my peers."



Kevin Crowley
junior
Alumni

"Watching 'Lost.' What else?"



Melissa Cruz
sophomore
Cavanaugh

"I'm getting excited to watch the Mike Peterson Show at Legends Thursday."



Rick King
senior
off campus

"I'm going to Hooters with the boys. That's where I spend every special holiday."



CASEY CARNEY/The Observer

From left to right, students Raquel Rios, Ricardo Pineda, Luis Silva, Cassie Montoya and Carlos Amaya audition at the Latin Expressions tryouts Tuesday.

OFFBEAT

Zoos give adults tour of love in the animal kingdom

TAMPA, Fla. — Genevieve Chandler has been visiting the Lowry Park Zoo since she was a kid, but the tour she got the other night was definitely not the G-rated fare of her childhood. Among the things Chandler, 30, and her date learned on their "Wild at Heart" zoo tour: Male pigs have a unique corkscrew endowment and impressive, um, output; manatees have orgies and don't really care if their partners are male or female; and a

male porcupine has only one four-hour window a year to mate — very carefully, of course.

Valentine's Day is the time of year when zoos around the nation seek to woo a new adult audience with risque tours that couple champagne, chocolate-covered strawberries and candlelight dining with impressive facts about how animals do the wild thing.

House painter swallows diamond ring

HOLLIS, N.H. — A house painter accused of taking a \$7,000 diamond

engagement ring from the condo he was working at apparently swallowed the evidence during a break from questioning at the police station — and it was caught on tape, police said Tuesday.

Kenny Narron, 44, of Richlands, N.C., was charged with theft and falsifying evidence. Doctors had to perform emergency surgery to get the 1.2-carat ring out. Narron was arraigned from his hospital bed.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Dale Recinella, a Notre Dame graduate, will speak today at 7 p.m. in room c-103 of the Hesburgh Center about his career as a lay chaplain to prisoners on death row.

The student body presidential election run-off debate will take place at 7:30 p.m. today in the Main Lounge of LaFortune.

The Ballroom Dance Club is hosting a Valentine's Day ball today from 8 p.m. to 10:30 in the LaFortune ball room. The cost is \$4 for the night.

The student body president run-off election will take place Thursday. Students can vote online between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. at the Judicial Council Web site or by clicking on a link in an e-mail from the Council.

The men's basketball team will play Providence College Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Joyce Center.

The Second City Comedy Tour will perform at Washington Hall at 6:30 p.m. and 9:30. Student tickets are \$5 and are available at the LaFortune Box Office.

Junior Parents Weekend will commence Friday with the Opening Gala and will end Sunday with the Closing Brunch.

The men's lacrosse team will play Loyola College of Maryland Saturday at 1 p.m. in the Loftus Sports Center. Admission is free.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 23 LOW 12	HIGH 13 LOW 2	HIGH 14 LOW 5	HIGH 18 LOW 9	HIGH 25 LOW 13	HIGH 27 LOW 22

Atlanta 43 / 40 Boston 34 / 22 Chicago 14 / 8 Denver 17 / 0 Houston 48 / 36 Los Angeles 67 / 46 Minneapolis 8 / -4 New York 37 / 26 Philadelphia 37 / 28 Phoenix 63 / 47 Seattle 49 / 39 St. Louis 21 / 13 Tampa 71 / 63 Washington 38 / 30

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee created to explore fund options

By SONIA RAO
News Writer

Members decided to create an ad hoc committee to explore the possibility of an endowment fund during the Council of Representatives (COR) meeting Tuesday in LaFortune.

The endowment, which would be supported through the carry forward fund of the Student Union Board's (SUB) budget, could be invested in an account that would acquire interest for student government. The current carry forward fund has been used as a reservoir for funds student government groups do not spend and also as a safety net in case of debt problems.

"The groups don't always reach their budget. They're being responsible and so [the carry forward account] is growing," SUB treasurer Steve Friend said.

As of Jan. 31, he said, the carry forward account had \$213,500, not including revenues from The Shirt or other student activities. Friend estimated the carry forward fund would hold around \$221,000 once those revenues were added.

Friend also mentioned "The Shirt Royalty Fund," which he described as a "rainy day fund" that currently holds \$300,011.

The fund only grows if The Shirt achieves record-high sales. Some of the money in the royalty fund could be put toward the student government endowment, Friend said.

The money would then accumulate interest.

Friend cautioned that though the carry forward and royalty funds have rapidly expanded over the past five or six years, it is still important to have money on hand for debt emergencies.

"There's going to be a time when The Shirt is not as successful as it's been [in the past]. There was a time when it sold only 40,000 units," he said.

Breen-Phillips senator Maris Braun moved for an ad hoc committee to be formed for endowment explorations. SUB manager Patrick Vassel volunteered to lead the group, and student body president Lizzi Shappell said she would assist Vassel in researching investment possibilities.

Hall President's Council co-chair Bryan Lowery said he discussed the nuts and bolts of an endowment with Director of Accounting and Financial Services Jason Little. Lowery said an endowment fund would be possible for student government, "but we would have to go through Development if we wanted outside donors," he said.

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"They're being responsible and so [the carry forward account] is growing"

Steve Friend
SUB treasurer

Loans

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at Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross set up accounts each year, according to Burden.

"I guess the average person going to these schools is not ... well, not your average person," he said. "The self-discipline it takes to maintain academic standards is reflective of the individuals."

As the supervisor of Perkins loan collection from Notre Dame graduates, Barbara Wardlow agrees. While Notre Dame students' loans usually total more than \$20,000, and debt occasionally blindsides them upon graduation, "our students are very good about paying back their loans," she said.

Notre Dame's one-in-300 rate in 2004 translates to a .3 cohort default rate, lower than peer institutions such as Duke (.4), Georgetown (.5), Boston College (.9) and Northwestern (.9).

It's their predecessors' near-spotless loan payback record that makes the board of directors at NDFCU feel comfortable granting credit cards to Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross students with no credit history. A student can receive up to a \$1,000 credit card limit as a freshman or sophomore, \$1,500 as a junior or senior and \$2,000 as a graduate student.

"It's unusual and frankly,

kind of scary, when you think about it. When I first got here [about 13 years ago], I thought the board of directors was nuts," Burden said. "College students have no money, generally, so how are they going to pay these bills back?"

"But in general, our students with credit cards probably have a better pay record than our members."

"I guess the average person going to these schools is not ... well, not your average person."

Rick Burden
senior vice president
NDFCU

While that record is partly due to local students' self-discipline, Burden said, many students also send bills home to their parents — so they're careful about their purchases.

"The Linebacker probably isn't going to show up on that bill," he joked.

Bad credit history occasionally occurs with incoming freshmen, though. Often they apply for credit cards they can't pay for as seniors in high school, Burden said, or they join a health club and don't pay the membership fees — prompting the club to notify the credit bureau.

"It's rare, but it does happen," Burden said, adding quickly that NDFCU would deny such students. "That shows we're not totally stupid."

Nor is the University, which recognizes the staggering debt many graduates will face come graduation day. So it works to make students aware of and prepared for the money they'll owe after college.

The Career Center hosts a three-part Senior Transitions Course, now in its second year, which gives seniors a

glimpse into the real world. Topics covered include developing a career plan, networking with alumni, budgeting and investing.

"If you graduate from Notre Dame and you owe \$30,000, that's going to be a concern for you," said Father Joe Carey, a career advisor at the Center and an organizer for the course. "That's going to impact where you live, how much you can pay for rent, how much you spend on food. These sorts of things are big questions."

The first leg of the series takes place tonight.

The Financial Aid Office also warns seniors how much they will owe, how often, and in what size increments. They used to hold meetings, but now they forward this information online. Wardlow still encourages students to come in for an exit interview, where a financial aid representative can answer any questions a student might have.

She also advises graduating seniors to keep in touch with their loan lenders, from notifying them of an address change to asking them for forbearance if they know the money won't be available to pay back.

"You should never ignore the billings and any correspondence you get from your lenders," she said. "It's very hard to clean up your credit once you get that black mark on it."

And while Burden's job is to negotiate as many loans as he can, he admitted there are situations when credit isn't the right choice.

"People borrow so much money nowadays," he said. "We shouldn't be in a hurry to get young people into debt."

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 Saint Mary's Students: Mike Sanders at msanders@saintmarys.edu
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Grants

continued from page 1

Notre Dame's Department of Economics and Policy Studies. The Bush administration plans to draw federal funds away from other student aid programs, including Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG).

"The [proposed] increase in the Pell Grant may not offset the supplemental grant in all cases," Warlick said. "It's going to redirect monies they have allocated for low-income students, so there are going to be some winners and some losers."

And relatively expensive schools like Notre Dame would likely see less of a benefit from any funding increase compared to less costly state universities.

"I think we'll be less likely to see the effects because it's such a small drop in the bucket [relative to total tuition costs]," she said.

With more of the burden placed on lenders, legislation to raise the Pell Grant maximum may also harm higher-income students who take out loans to pay for college.

"This is really reallocating from one set of people to another set of people rather than increasing the budget," Warlick said. "They're going to shift the burden from the low-income families onto the middle-class families, and the price of borrowing is going to rise."

But Warlick said an increase in funding for Pell Grants could still attract more high-quality, low-income applicants to Notre Dame, holding other variables constant.

"A [funding] increase would actually reduce the net price [of attending Notre Dame] if the amount of other aid isn't altered," she said. "But you have to ask, is the increase in Pell Grants equal to or greater than the increase in tuition?"

Warlick said the number of low-income students who apply to Notre Dame could increase as a result of an increase in the value of the Pell Grant, but only if their financial aid policies compare favorably to other universities.

"It's not only what the internal action is at Notre Dame, but also how other universities respond to the Pell Grant," Warlick said.

But these changes are contingent on the Pell Grant proposal passing through Congress. Policy watchdogs and educators agree that Bush's budget may fail to pass in its current form. It could be months or years before the fate of the Pell Grant, along with other federal government student aid programs, will be known.

"What remains a matter of contention and uncertainty," Russo said, "is how the resources necessary to support these proposed awards would actually be funded."

Warlick agreed, citing the recent impasse between President Bush and the Democratic Congress.

"This President has an extremely low public approval rating, and I don't think [the Pell Grant proposal] is any less controversial than anything else he's proposed," Warlick said. "I don't think [the budget] is going to pass like this."

Contact Steve Kerins at skerins@nd.edu

Albion

continued from page 1

ness professor making a seven-figure salary and preparing to buy his "first trophy purchase, a black Jaguar" — until he received a distressing phone call from his mother, announcing she had cancer.

"It was the phone call from hell," he said. "When I called the doctor, he told me that she had six weeks. It was stage four cancer."

After Albion spent those six weeks by his mother's side in resignation, the doctors performed an exploratory surgery to monitor the cancer's progress. Instead, they discovered she was "microscopically clean, she was cancer free," Albion said.

His mother managed a textile factory and employed a

lot of immigrant workers, whom she taught English and helped secure other jobs. Albion called her "one of the first social entrepreneurs ... even though they didn't use words like that back then."

He said he found out after her recovery she had continued working at the factory during her illness.

Inspired by his mother's passion for her job, Albion left his paycheck behind to pursue other interests.

"The best time to make a change is early on ... Don't live a deferred life plan."

Mark Albion
author

"In deciding to go down my own path, I asked myself four questions: Who are you? What do you want? What can you do? Where are you going?" Albion said.

He challenged audience members to ask these four questions and said they should look back to their childhood aspirations. For Albion, a simple trip to the attic led to the right track to self-fulfillment.

He said he found a box of old short stories in a box in his attic he would try to sell for three to five cents when he was younger. "They were real classics like 'I Became the Demon,'" he said with a laugh.

Although he loved writing, the young entrepreneurial Albion quickly discovered it wasn't very profitable and quit.

He said he would have liked the opportunity to tell his preadolescent self that it is integrity and passions that should guide a person's career decisions, not a search for profit.

"Don't get really good at what you don't want to do," Albion said. "The best time to make a change is early on ... Don't live a deferred life plan."

In a time when people are easily replaced by computers or outsourced, Albion told students they needed to bring their personal spark to their jobs to really achieve suc-

cess. "You need to determine how you are going to measure success," Albion said. "My dad once asked me if I would rather be rich or famous. It took me 37 years to figure out those are the wrong options."

Albion said he recently asked his daughter the same question and when she quickly said she would choose the money, he was initially concerned — but she clarified her answer.

"My daughter said, 'You can't give your fame away, but you can give away your money.' I thought then, I must be doing something right," he said.

Albion will be on campus for the next few days and will facilitate a presentation at noon Thursday in Mendoza's Giovanni Commons that is free and open to the public.

"You need to determine how you are going to measure success."

Mark Albion
author

Contact Meghan Wons at mwons@nd.edu



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Six dead in Algeria bombings

ALGIERS — A group linked to al-Qaida staged seven near-simultaneous bomb attacks Tuesday, targeting police in several towns east of Algiers and killing six people, officials said.

Al-Qaida in Islamic North Africa—the new name for the Salafist Group for Call and Combat, known by its French acronym GSPC—claimed responsibility for the attacks in a telephone call to the Al-Jazeera television network and in a statement on the Internet. The group allied itself with al-Qaida last year, raising the stakes in the region's fight against terrorism.

The seven bombings, some of them car explosions, hit the Kabylie region east of Algiers between 4 a.m. and 10 a.m. Tuesday, the state news agency said.

The apparently coordinated attacks surprised the North African country, which has steadily emerged from an Islamic insurgency that killed more than 150,000 people in the 1990s. While scattered violence by the GSPC continues, such carefully planned strikes are rare in today's Algeria, an ally in the U.S.-led war against terrorism.

Belgian elite collaborated with Nazis

BRUSSELS — A government-backed report released Tuesday blamed Belgian authorities and the ruling elite for collaborating with the Nazi persecution of Jews during World War II.

Although Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt has already recognized the level of collaboration, the report was the first time it had been presented in such detail.

"The Belgian authorities cooperated with the racial anti-Jewish policies during the occupation," and acted in a way "unworthy for a democracy," said the study.

NATIONAL NEWS

U.S. plans to forgive Liberia's debt

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration plans to forgive Liberia's \$391 million debt to the United States, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told an international conference on Tuesday.

"We will cancel that debt, all of it," Rice said in a speech to a World Bank gathering of international development experts and delegates from at least 20 countries.

With Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf seated nearby, Rice said the reduced debt burden should enable Liberia to devote more resources to reconstruction and development.

The country's \$3.7 billion overall debt is something that today's leadership and today's people of Liberia do not deserve, Rice said, a pointed reminder that it is a burden that authoritarian rulers of the past quarter century were responsible for.

Tornado strikes New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS — Eighteen months after Hurricane Katrina, Stella Chambers' modest red-brick house had finally been repaired, and she was waiting for one last utility hookup to move back in. But the 85-year-old woman never made it.

A tornado tore through her neighborhood in the city's Gentilly neighborhood before daybreak Tuesday, flattening her house, ripping apart the front-yard FEMA trailer in which she was living, and killing her.

LOCAL NEWS

Students start nap club at IUSB

SOUTH BEND — The idea of college students walking around campus with pillows and blankets seems funny, and the idea of a nap club at Indiana University South Bend did, indeed, start out as a joke.

But students Michael Duttlinger and Joe Spencer, president and vice president, respectively, might have started something that could revolutionize the school.

Science says napping can heighten creativity, boost memory and increase alertness. So students who nap potentially boost their GPAs, which could lead to better jobs.

No joke.

EGYPT

Al-Zawahri: Bush a liar, gambler

Audiotape calls for Muslim unity, claims U.S. is losing in Iraq and Afghanistan

Associated Press

CAIRO — Al-Qaida's No. 2 said President Bush was an alcoholic and a lying gambler who wagered on Iraq and lost, according to a new audiotape released Tuesday.

Ayman al-Zawahri said in the tape that Bush has been forced to admit his failure in Iraq after he was "stubborn" and repeated the "lie, which he became addicted to, that he is winning" in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Bush suffers from an addictive personality, and was an alcoholic. I don't know his present condition ... but the one who examines his personality finds that he is addicted to two other faults — lying and gambling," al-Zawahri said in the audiotape.

Bush, who is now 60, has acknowledged he had a problem with drinking but gave up alcohol when he was 40 years old.

The 41-minute audiotape could not immediately be authenticated but was seen by The Associated Press on a Web site commonly used by insurgent groups and carried the logo of the multimedia arm of al-Qaida, as-Sahab.

The audio was accompanied by a video that showed a still picture of al-Zawahri and featured an English translation of the audio at the bottom of the screen.

Transcripts of the audiotape were first released by two U.S. groups that track extremist messages, the SITE Institute and the IntelCenter.

On the tape, al-Zawahri said Bush has gone down in history as one of the world's "most notorious liars."

"So pay attention before it's too late, and beware of Bush's losing gambler's lie which claims that he, with the corpses of your killed and limbs of your wounded, is spreading democracy around the world," said al-

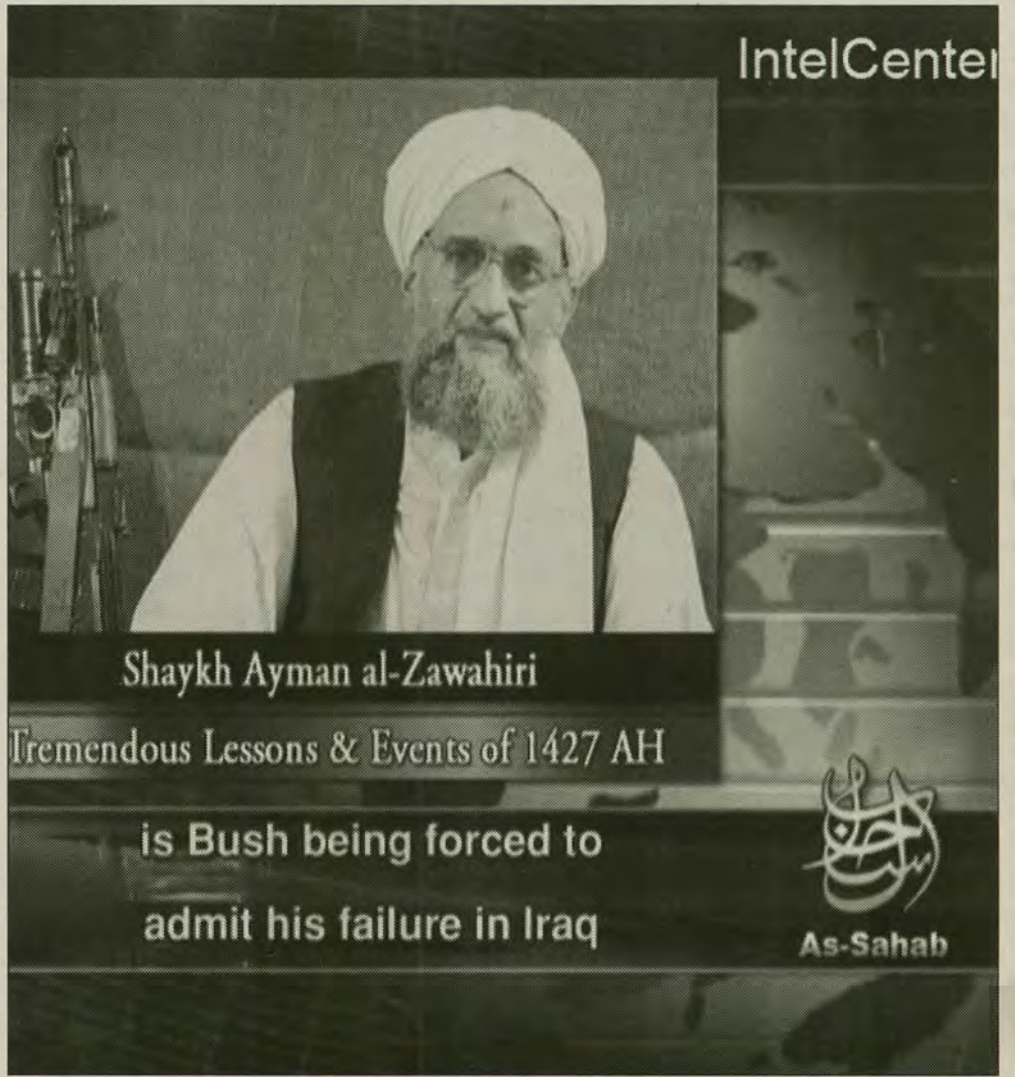


Image from an undated al-Qaida video of a man identified as al-Qaida's No. 2 leader Ayman al-Zawahri, who verbally attacked President Bush in an audiotape released Tuesday.

Zawahri, apparently addressing the American people.

Al-Zawahri also said recent congressional elections in the United States that elected a majority of Democrats would change nothing.

"The people chose you due to your opposition to Bush's policy in Iraq, but it appears that you are marching with him to the same abyss," al-Zawahri said of the Democrats according to the transcript.

He repeated an earlier condemnation of the Palestinian Fatah movement led by Mahmoud Abbas for seeking to establish a secular state.

"I'm not asking them to

join Hamas, the Islamic Jihad or al-Qaida, but rather, I'm asking them to return to Islam, in order to fight for the establishment of an Islamic state over all of Palestine and not for the establishment of a secularist state which will please America," al-Zawahri said.

He also warned of an escalating threat from the Taliban in Afghanistan and called on all Muslims to strive for unity, "even if they are Afghans, Persians, Turks or Kurds."

It was the fourth message by Osama bin Laden's deputy since the beginning of the year. The last was on Jan. 22, when he mocked Bush's plan to send an additional 21,000

troops to Iraq. Al-Zawahri called what he described as Bush' failure in Iraq and the growing Taliban resistance in Afghanistan the "most important events" of the past year. He also said "the people cooperating with the United States in Afghanistan and in Iraq would be abandoned by the Americans once they fail, the same way they did in Vietnam."

Muslims around the world, he added, should go to "Afghanistan, Iraq, Algeria and Somalia, because your brothers the Mujahedeen are in need of men, money, materiel, opinion, expertise and information."

Deputy to oversee Chinese trade

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson is setting up a telephone hotline connecting him directly with the vice premier of China and naming a new deputy to oversee high level talks amid agitation in congressional quarters for a tougher line with Beijing on trade issues.

Paulson's announcements came on the same day the U.S. government reported that the United States trade deficit set a record for a fifth consecutive year and the imbalance with China soared to the highest

level ever for an individual country.

Paulson said he understood there was growing pressure on the administration to do something about the U.S.-China trade relationship but he said he believed that the high-level strategic dialogue he has created offers the best opportunity to achieve results.

Alan Holmer, an executive of a pharmaceutical company and a former trade official during the Reagan administration, was tapped to be Paulson's deputy in charge of the strategic dialogue talks.

The first high-level talks were held in Beijing in December and Paulson said the second round would occur

May 23-24 in Washington.

Paulson is also scheduled to travel to China in early March, his third trip to China as Treasury secretary. He will give a speech in Shanghai urging the Chinese government to allow U.S. financial firms to operate more freely in the country.

Holmer replaces Deborah Lehr, who quit after being in the job for just a few weeks. Paulson said that he would soon have a replacement as well for Timothy Adams, Treasury's undersecretary for international affairs and a key architect of the administration's China policies. Adams announced he was stepping down earlier this month.

Building

continued from page 1

is research which will greatly increase the speed and efficiency of computers."

But this type of research has the potential to create an impact beyond the performance of computers, engineering Ph.D. student Trevor Cickovski said.

"I'm excited to use these facilities for research that has significant contributions to society," Cickovski said. "We'll potentially be able to work with nanotechnology as small as human cells, which has countless medical applications."

This level of research is not possible in the College of Engineering's current home, Fitzpatrick Hall,

interim College of Engineering Dean James Merz said.

"Our clean room now isn't much cleaner than the hallway, because we don't have the proper ventilation technology in Fitzpatrick," Merz said. "Our current building wasn't designed to do the latest engineering research."

But Stinson-Remick Hall will be able to serve these needs as it is set to include architectural features especially designed for an engineering facility, said Mark McCready, the chair of the chemical engineering department.

"The structure will be built stiffer to minimize the vibration of the building, which affects our work on the nano level," McCready said. "The site will also be grounded against electromagnetic interference, which could interfere with

our instruments."

He said experiments that don't require cutting-edge facilities will still be conducted in Fitzpatrick Hall.

The new building will also contain practical features for students — including a 24-hour discussion lounge, a small cafeteria and a chapel — which the College of Engineering currently lacks, McCready said.

The facility will provide new lab spaces for graduate students and faculty members — but with the new Engineering Learning Center, Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering department chair Stephen Batil said the building will be geared toward undergraduates.

The learning center will occupy four times the instructional space currently available to undergradu-

ate students.

Stinson-Remick will also contain more labs than there are current engineering faculty members, but the department chairs said they expected the new infrastructure additions would attract new scholars and professors to Notre Dame.

"We're 20 years behind where we need to be on buildings," Batil said. "Every other major research university has had 10 times the building construction we've had in engineering."

New facilities are necessary for Notre Dame's undergraduate and research engineering programs to remain competitive against rivals like Princeton and Purdue, he said.

"If we want an engineering program like Princeton, for example, we need to invest like they do," Batil said.

The new addition will also play an important role in the advancement of the University's national prestige, Merz said.

"Students in all Colleges want to graduate from a top-ranked university and this new building will contribute to that," Merz said.

Planning for Stinson-Remick Hall began in 1994, and fundraising has gone on for the past five years. Construction is expected to begin in November 2007, Batil said.

Contact John-Paul Witt at jwitt1@nd.edu

Cupid

continued from page 1

restaurant tonight, and every woman will be greeted at the door with a long-stemmed red rose.

At LaSalle Grill, which was completely booked for tonight more than a month ago, a special "Tastes of Love" Valentine's Day menu will be prepared for the evening.

Another restaurant, Studebagels, capitalized on the holiday by making heart-shaped bagels.

Freshman Michelle Ripple may visit one of these restaurants tonight, but as she ventures into a classic Valentine's Day romance ritual — the blind date — she doesn't know her exact plans for the evening.

"I arrived at my dorm to find a rose and an invitation to a private dinner with about five other couples, and those are all the details I know," she said with a smile.

Ripple, however, was not the only one counting the hours before Valentine's Day.

The staff at LeMans Hall set up multiple tables in the front lobby anticipating the arrival of many bouquets and floral arrangements for its residents, something that surprised sophomore Maggie McSorley.

At Notre Dame, the Ballroom Dance Club will mark the occasion with a Valentine's Day dance tonight, but the group's excitement may not be shared by the entire community.

More than 400 anti-Valentine's Day Facebook groups are available to cynics and lonely hearts, including the "Anti-Valentine's Day," "Boycott Valentine's Day" and "Valentine's Day Should Be Abolished" groups.

Sophomore Ashleigh Cross joined the ranks of the dissenters.

"Valentine's Day is too commercialized and exclusive and if you don't have a certain someone to spend it with," she said. "It's not that fun."

It may not be a cause for celebration for Cross, but others may appreciate the historical significance of Valentine's Day.

The holiday stemmed from three Catholic priests martyred on February 14.

One of them, St. Valentine, defied Roman emperor Claudius II in the 3rd century by marrying young couples in secret.

However, the happiest people today may not be the holiday's devotees, but the stockholders of the companies reaping the commercial benefits.

Approximately 180 million roses and 36 million heart-shaped candy boxes will be exchanged today, and profits associated with the holiday will near \$14 billion, according to the History Channel.

Contact Amanda Gonzales at agonzal8@nd.edu

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones 12,654.85 +102.30

Up: 2,369 Same: 134 Down: 903 Composite Volume: 2,655,220,173

AMEX	2,154.78	+16.51
NASDAQ	2,459.88	+9.50
NYSE	9,351.35	+93.03
S&P 500	1,444.26	+10.89
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	17,787.53	+166.08
FTSE 100(London)	6,381.80	+28.30

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100 TR (QQQQ)	+0.37	+0.16	43.86
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	+0.84	+1.21	144.66
ONYX PHARM INC (ONXX)	+96.98	+1.87	26.02
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	+7.74	+0.19	29.03

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	+0.21	+0.010	4.804
13-WEEK BILL	+0.10	+0.005	5.020
30-YEAR BOND	+0.31	+0.015	4.886
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.23	+0.011	4.796

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GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+1.20	668.50
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+0.55	106.58

Exchange Rates

YEN	121.2250
EURO	0.7666
POUND	0.5134
CANADIAN \$	1.1676

IN BRIEF

U.S. centers target chronic fatigue

ATLANTA — The television spot shows a 40-year-old woman, in slow motion, as her family and co-workers rush by over the course of a day. It ends with her sitting alone, amid the remnants of a birthday party.

"The worst part isn't even that everyone thinks the problem's in my head," a female voice intones. "The worst part of chronic fatigue syndrome is missing my life."

The spot is the centerpiece of a remarkable \$4.5 million public awareness campaign bankrolled by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It's remarkable, in part, because of the role advocacy and politics played in creating it.

Chronic fatigue syndrome is not contagious or life-threatening, and medical skeptics continue to question its merits as a focus for public health. But the money is being spent, in part, thanks to strategic lobbying and congressional interest.

It is not the only example, or the most successful. In 2000, the March of Dimes lobbied Congress to create a center on birth defects within the CDC. In December, advocates — including Autism Speaks, an effective fundraising organization founded by General Electric Co. Vice Chairman Bob Wright — were credited with passage of a bill that targeted nearly \$1 billion over five years to research that condition.

Developer Mills ends Brookfield deal

WASHINGTON — Mall developer The Mills Corp. said Tuesday it now favors a \$1.6 billion offer from Simon Property Group Inc. and hedge fund Farallon Capital Management LLC — a deal that tops an earlier takeover agreement Mills made with Brookfield Asset Management Inc.

Chevy Chase, Md.-based Mills said its board of directors concluded that the Simon-Farallon deal, at \$24 per share, is "superior" to Brookfield's proposed \$21-per-share deal, valued at \$1.35 billion. The board authorized Mills to end the Brookfield deal.

Mills said in a statement that it will give Toronto-based Brookfield three days to top its previous offer, however, before it breaks the original agreement, signed Jan. 17. The company said it "is ready and willing to negotiate such an amendment" with Brookfield.

Jury finds Walgreens not guilty

Unanimous verdict ends \$2.5 million civil lawsuit over racial discrimination

Associated Press

RENO — A jury Tuesday cleared Walgreen Co. of racial discrimination alleged in a \$2.5 million civil lawsuit brought by four black Texas men who say they were wronged in a confrontation at a Reno drug store four years ago.

The six-woman, two-man jury in Washoe County District Court deliberated less than an hour after listening to seven days of testimony.

The unanimous verdict capped a dramatic trial that saw the judge repeatedly admonish both legal teams and the lead plaintiff, Bruce Johnson, 44, of Houston, taken from the courthouse by ambulance last week when he suffered an asthma attack after aggressive cross-examination.

In their lawsuit, the four men claimed that a photo lab clerk shouted a racial slur, slammed a door and denied them service after they complained about the quality of their photographs at the downtown Reno store in February 2003.

Walgreens' lawyers acknowledged the clerk slammed a door and walked off the job but denied the clerk uttered the n-word and maintained the incident was a case of poor customer service absent any racial bias.

"Obviously, we're pleased with the verdict," said Howard Rosenblum, a lawyer for Walgreens. "We take allegations such as this very seriously," he said. "Walgreens has said all along we don't tolerate discrimination of any sort. ... It's good to see the system work."

A lawyer for the plaintiffs said they would appeal the case to the Nevada Supreme Court.

"We're not done," Ian Silverberg told The Associated Press. He said the appeal would chal-



Judge Janet Berry presides during a lawsuit against the Walgreens drug store chain in Reno on Jan. 26. The company was cleared of discrimination charges Tuesday.

lenge some rulings "that kept out a lot of information that I think should have gone to the jury about what Walgreens knew" about the clerk accused of the misconduct.

Silverberg said in closing arguments Tuesday morning that the men deserved millions but would accept just \$1 as justice served.

"It was wrong for Walgreens to treat these men differently for one reason and one reason only — the color of their skin," Silverberg said.

"These men stood up against the 14th largest company in the U.S. for four years to let Walgreens know they were not going to take it,"

he told the jury. "Please let Walgreens know there is no more harmful word with such history and meaning for an entire group of people."

But a lawyer for the company, Clark Vellis, said the four men were "professional victims" looking to "turn justice into money." He urged the jurors to base their verdict on facts, "not sympathy or inflammatory statements about the Ku Klux Klan."

"Every time somebody has a bad experience, you can't sue. Every time somebody does something you don't like, you can't sue and try to turn it into money," Vellis said in his closing argument.

Judge Janet Berry told

the jury before they began deliberations that in order to award damages to the men they must prove they suffered "monetarily compensable physical or emotional injuries" as a result of Walgreens engaging in "extreme and outrageous conduct considered in a civilized society to be atrocious and utterly intolerable."

That conduct does not include such things as insults, threats, indignation or petty trivialities, she said.

Johnson, a gospel singer, said pursuit of justice in the case became his calling and he launched a Web site, stopalldiscrimination.com, to help others facing a similar plight.

Judge: Zyprexa papers confidential

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A federal judge has stopped further disclosure of confidential documents that became the basis last year for a series of critical stories in The New York Times about the antipsychotic drug Zyprexa.

Ruling Tuesday in federal court in Brooklyn, U.S. District Judge Jack B. Weinstein found that Times reporter Alex Berenson conspired with an Alaska-based lawyer, James Gottstein, to obtain and illegally distribute the internal documents from Eli Lilly and Co., the maker of Zyprexa. The judge had sealed the material while a settlement in a consumer lawsuit was pursued.

Though he labeled Berenson's conduct "reprehensible," the judge said his final order doesn't apply to him.

Berenson wrote a series of articles in late 2006 saying that the Indianapolis-based drug manufacturer had downplayed Zyprexa's risks and marketed it for unapproved uses, charges Lilly has denied. The documents also turned up on Web sites before the judge granted the company's request for a preliminary injunction.

The reporter was deeply involved in a scheme to subvert the sealing order by having Gottstein subpoena the documents from Dr. David Egilman, an expert for the plaintiffs,

the judge wrote while granting a permanent injunction.

The judge said his final order, though, didn't apply to the newspaper or Web sites.

"No newspaper or Web site is directed to do anything or to refrain from doing anything," he wrote. "No person is being enjoined from expressing an opinion or writing about the documents."

Instead, the injunction bars Gottstein, Egilman and six other people from further distributing copies of the documents. It also orders them to turn over any papers still in their possession to a special master overseeing evidence in the case.

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The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor in Chief, Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editors and department editors. Commentaries, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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.

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Mike Gilloon.

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Top 10 worst Valentine's Day gifts to give a girl this year

Valentine's Day is here once again. Many of you will spend this evening with your Valentine "same-side" dining at the dining hall, or if your boyfriend is lucky enough to have borrowed a roomie's car, enjoying the oh-so-romantic atmosphere of Chili's, or perhaps even The Vine. If you are like me, however, you are most likely to be found pigging out on the box of chocolates your mom sent you while watching "The Notebook" until your tear ducts run dry, alone in your room. Yet if you do find yourself single this Valentine's Day, fear not, for over the years I have discovered that on Valentine's Day, girlfriends are left unsatisfied, while their boyfriends are left in the doghouse because they cannot live up to their girlfriend's "unrealistic" expectations. That does not sound like "the Holiday of Love" to me. But being a girl myself, I understand a woman's expectations on Valentine's Day: they are not that high. Therefore, I have compiled a list of the Top Ten Worst Valentine's Day Gifts to Give a Girl this Year. This way, the fellas will know how not to end up in the doghouse, and unless I've missed a bad gift or two, the ladies will finally have a happy Valentine's Day. So men, read up,



Katie Palmitier

A Word to the Wise

and ladies ... you can thank me later.

10. Anything that looks like it might have been purchased at a gas station — Sure, we all have a soft spot in our heart for last-minute spontaneity, but two packs of Big Red and a Zippo lighter isn't exactly what we have in mind.

9. Stale candy — Candy is as much a part of Valentine's Day as the color red. That said, when we open up a box of chocolates and find three pieces missing, two pieces cracked open in search of the caramel filled, and almost break a tooth on one of the remaining pieces, we're going to assume that you are simply re-gifting the candy that you're ex-girlfriend gave you last year.

8. Dinner on the cheap — Guys, Valentine's Day is not the time to call your girlfriend and say, "I know we had reservations at La Salle Grill, but I just found a ton of change in my car, and I could really go for some quarter dogs tonight." You may be thinking, "What guy would ever say that?" Well, the same thought just crossed my mind, but then I remembered I spent last year's Valentine's Day in the Huddle ...

7. A Facebook gift — We all know you get one free gift to give. And while a little picture of a lava lamp or a bar of soap may appear to be the key to your lover's heart, trust me, it's not.

6. A serenade — An exception will be made if your boyfriend can croon like Frank Sinatra. However, for the rest of us, if your guy shows up at your door dressed as Cupid and tries to belt out

"My Funny Valentine," it's most likely going to end awkwardly for everyone involved.

5. A membership to the local gym — There is a fairly good chance that you will end up in the doghouse if you use Valentine's Day as an opportunity to gently suggest that your Valentine could stand to lose a few pounds before spring break.

4. A Lasercat — Unless your girlfriend's name is Dr. Scientist, a Lasercat should not be your Valentine's Day gift of choice, because after all, some will use Lasercats for good, and some will use them for evil ...

3. A vacuum cleaner — Believe it or not, trying to pass cleaning supplies off as an acceptable gift will not result in us volunteering to come over and clean your dorm room on a weekly basis.

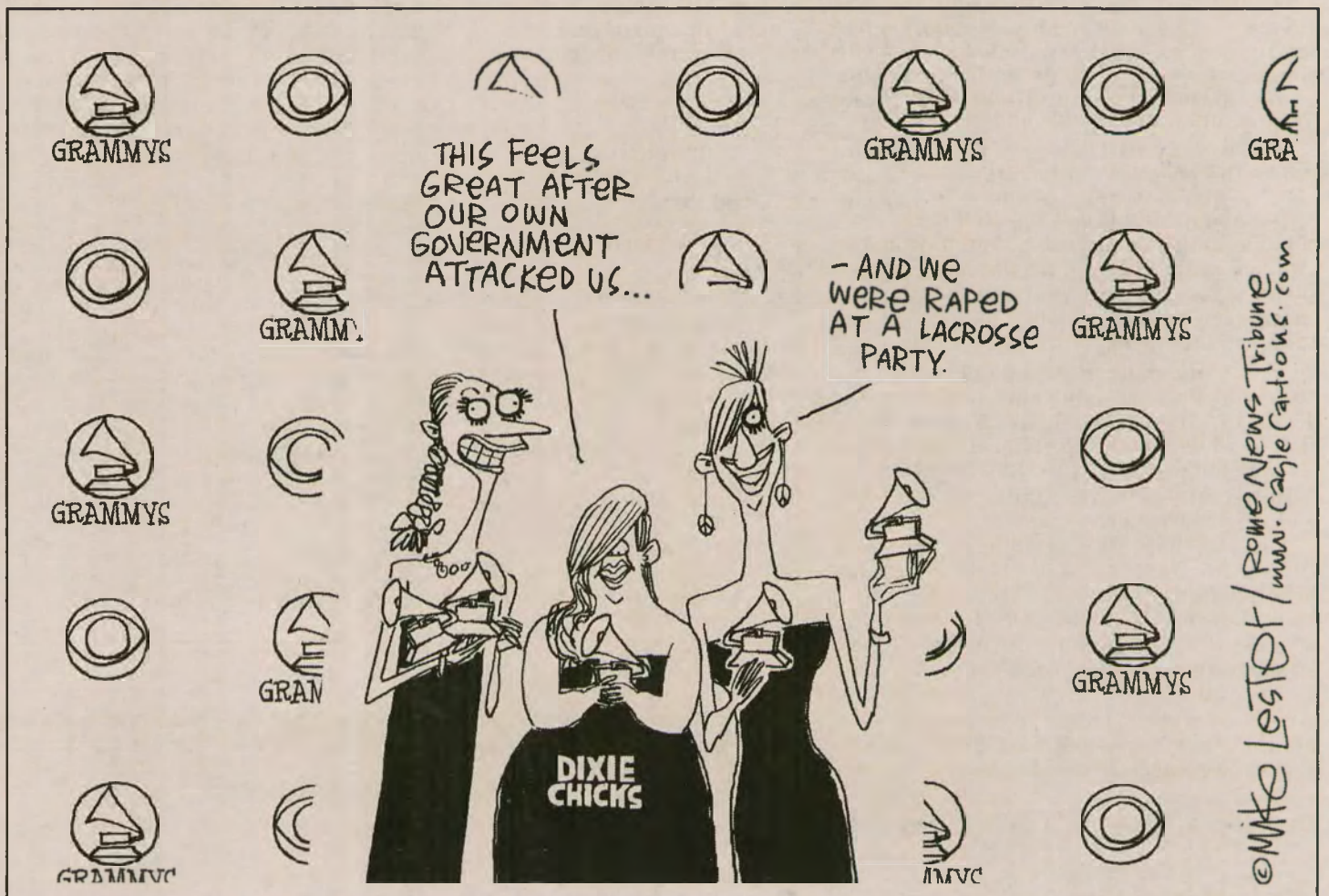
2. An invitation to come over and watch "24" with your roommates — It's not that we don't like your friends. Really, they're great guys. It's just that we don't want to spend Valentine's Day in a crowded dorm room watching Jack Bauer bite someone in the neck while saving the world one hour at a time.

1. Step one: Cut a hole in a box. Step two ...

Katie Palmitier is a sophomore political science major. She can be contacted at kpalmiti@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

What was the most important factor in your vote for student body president?

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m. at www.ndsmcobserver.com

Submit a Letter to the Editor at www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Nothing takes the taste out of peanut butter quite like unrequited love."

Charles M. Schulz cartoonist

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From 'We need to talk,' the dialogue continues

*Proud to be from
 Saint Mary's*

I wrote an article about the Notre Dame football team in 2005 saying that I was proud of their sportsmanship. If I would have known it would have been used against me, I would have kept my mouth shut.

I am a fourth generation Saint Mary's student, and that is something I am proud of. I am proud to say that when I graduate with a chemistry degree, it will be from a nationally accredited program. I am proud to say that I know my physical chemistry teacher so well that I would gladly give up my football tickets to keep that close bond alive. Saint Mary's is more than being able to reap the perks of Notre Dame. I love the idea that I'll never step into a class that is over 30 people. I know my teachers to the point where I have been invited to their houses for dinner. I always feel that my voice will be heard.

This may not be every Saint Mary's woman's case, but I know it is the majority. We're not all here for the football games or to be managers or to be in the marching band. Students can do that at any university. We are here for the education and environment we know Saint Mary's can provide us. Besides, if Notre Dame students are just using Saint Mary's for the education classes, O'Laughlin, and Semester Around the World, what is that guy doing in nursing? And who was that in the calculus three course? And I'm pretty sure no girl here bench presses 300 pounds. There is a road connecting the two schools. They do not have to be under the same name for all students to take full advantage of the opportunities both schools have to offer.

Lastly, go Kansas State football.

Christine Herdman
 junior
 LeMans Hall
 Feb. 13

'Severing all ties' not the answer

I graduated from Saint Mary's in 2005 and was a news writer for The Observer. Please don't kill me, girls (hear me out), but I think Jonathan Klingler's column ("Saint Mary's — We need to talk," Feb. 13) was a pretty good column. At least, it was well-written, well thought-out and not entirely one-sided. However, here are my opinions.

This issue is a matter of deep frustration for me and the majority of the Saint Mary's population. It's a struggle to legitimize our SMC-ness when, in fact, we do associate ourselves so strongly with Notre Dame in many ways. I can't think of college without thinking of football, Notre Dame dorm/house parties, ski team (majority Notre Dame students), volunteering, eating in the Notre Dame dining hall; hell, outside of class I must have spent the majority of my college life across the street or with Notre Dame students. Even now I am attacked by the Notre Dame comparison.

We are supposed to justify why we are allowed these "rights" to "their" traditions, when we clearly did not get accepted or graduate from the same school. Well, true, Saint Mary's didn't agree to the terms of their merger. We want to hold on to our own identity. That's fine. But Saint Mary's also has to realize that it has to partly embrace the identity it has in Notre Dame as well. I think the label "Separate and Proud" opens the door to criticism and backlash, seeing as we enjoy so much of the Notre Dame culture.

I'm proud to have been a Saint Mary's student. It was exactly what I wanted: my major, small classes, an excellent education. But can you

imagine life without the school across the street? Some girls can't, and those girls transferred or found another school. But for those who thrive in the atmosphere that exists, they shouldn't be forced to "choose" one or the other. What is needed is not separate identities; Notre Dame and Saint Mary's need balance and an understanding.

I don't know why I'm practically writing an editorial right now, but I'd hate to see us all rise up in revolt to throw rotten tomatoes across the street. It shouldn't have to come to that. If Saint Mary's is to remain separate, which it should, it needs to focus on its own unique strengths and not go head to head with the powerhouse that provides its students with so much opportunity or try to separate themselves even more. This shouldn't be a competition.

So, I guess in all fairness, I appreciate opinions like this because the issue is one that won't go away and deserves addressing. I don't think it's a personal issue that Klingler has with Saint Mary's girls, but you know I'd say the same thing he did if Notre Dame was being hypocritical (taking pride in being separate yet clinging on to other traditions). I hope that, in the end, Saint Mary's will not be considered as tag-alongs, or as riding on the coat tails of Notre Dame, because we all know it's so much more than that. And all of our friends at Notre Dame would hopefully say the same thing.

Anne Mahoney
 alumna
 Class of 2005
 Feb. 13

*Saint Mary's alliance
 beneficial to both sides*

Notre Dame, it's your turn to listen. First and foremost, we understand why you feel taken advantage of by the students of Saint Mary's; however, we were under the impression that the Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross community hold a mutual relationship. You have not walked in the shoes of a Saint Mary's student — you have not seen how many of us have been mistreated while on the campus of "your" university for the sole reason that we are Saint Mary's students; you have not seen that although we participate in "your" clubs and activities, our participation is limited because we are Saint Mary's students; you have not seen how hurt we were when our own sister school referred to us as a parasite of "your" university because we are Saint Mary's students.

We support your sports, your publications, your clubs and activities, your classrooms, your traditions and heritage, and overall, your success. We give you the respect that we feel you deserve because you are a group of intelligent and hard-working college students. We smile with pride as we say, "I go to Saint Mary's, the school across the street from the University of Notre Dame." We love being a part of the community of Saint Mary's, Notre Dame and Holy Cross, and while many of you may think that we only want to be a part of your university because we "couldn't get in to Notre Dame," you could not be more wrong.

We respect and honor you because the founders of both our colleges had a common goal to educate men and women in a way in which they could learn to work and grow together — that is not the case today. Yes, we are given the opportunity to take classes at Notre Dame, but the number of students who actually take classes is few. We are so busy with our own rigorous schedule and activities that it is very difficult to find time or the opportunity to do so.

While you disapprove of us taking classes across the street, we actually encourage you, Jonathan Klingler, to take full advantage of our classes, facilities and clubs. Our professors love to see new faces, hear new perspectives and teach anyone who is willing to put forth a great amount of effort.

As far as our ability to purchase football tickets, we do not attend football games to see Brady Quinn and guys in tight uniforms; we go because we have a genuine love for football. We know the players, the positions, the opponents, and some of us even know specific plays. We wear head-to-toe apparel and we cheer as loud as we can. We ask you — the "best student body in the country" — would you rather have enthusiastic sports fans cheering in your student section, or mediocre fans who converse during the entire game? (Side note: Last season I was in section 63, the very last row in the student section, but I was too preoccupied cheering and doing push-ups to notice.)

Saint Mary's students have a fond respect for the University and, in turn, we deserve the same. Our student body leaders use campaigns that exclaim, "Separate and Proud," because they realize we deserve a place that genuinely appreciates our intelligence as well as the contributions we make to the College. If we are not receiving the same respect across the street why should we remain loyal when we are given the ultimatum, "choose whether [you] want to be 'separate and proud' or a part of Notre Dame."

As much as we respect you, Notre Dame, we respect ourselves even more to stand up for our dignity and our competence ... even if that means pulling away from something we love.

Jessica Howle
 junior
 Holy Cross Hall
 Feb. 13

*Klingler's column
 unfounded,
 unresearched*

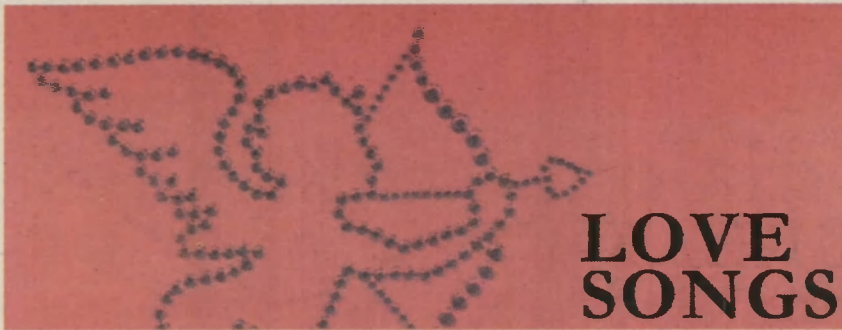
This is in response to the unbiased and well-informed article written by Jonathan Klingler ("Saint Mary's — we need to talk," Feb. 13). I first wanted to thank Klingler for his intelligent analysis of the relationship between our two schools.

Being a student at Saint Mary's, I was completely unaware of how much we were taking from the University, and I'd like to apologize for that. After all, students at Notre Dame certainly can't use our dining hall, our gym, participate in our activities, or join any of our clubs. That's obvious! And clearly the Notre Dame football ticket system must be rigged since SMC students get the better seats, despite paying more. So there is no way it could possibly be done randomly as we are all told. The students from Notre Dame that we Saint Mary's women see around campus must be illusions and not real people. They certainly wouldn't bother to participate in our Rome study abroad program and others, appear in our plays, and take classes here. I won't even bother mentioning that Klingler's own dorm, Keenan, must bring itself down by hosting its largest event, The Keenan Revue, on Saint Mary's campus.

All that being said, I'd also like to thank Klingler for insulting an entire campus by using his poorly researched "facts," of which very few were correct, and clearly biased opinion. The elitist outlook he expressed is the kind of mindset that not only opposes the good relationship our two schools have, but encourages more stereotyping of women here at Saint Mary's and perpetuates the silent rivalry between the women at both schools.

More than that, though, I pity him. I pity Klingler because by writing off an entire school he is missing out on around 1,500 opportunities which he now undoubtedly misses out on of his own free will. This isn't referring to dates or "hook-ups" as I'm sure many are thinking. These opportunities are in getting to know and understand the women of Saint Mary's, and, in so doing, understanding better what makes our school "separate and proud" while still holding on to the traditions that created us. By saying that Saint Mary's needs to either sever all ties with the University or merge completely, Klingler forgets that he would be destroying a huge part of what makes the three schools in Notre Dame, Ind. so unique. His ridiculous accusations and unfair assumptions would destroy part of the identity that not only makes us the No. 1 Women's College in the Midwest (a fact which he failed to mention in Tuesday's article), but also makes his school the "top-20 undergraduate institution" it is.

Caitlin Morrison
 sophomore
 Holy Cross Hall
 Feb. 13



TEN SONGS FOR THE ROMANTICALLY INCLINED

Whether you're planning on celebrating this Valentine's Day by bringing sexy back or just engaging in some hardcore hand-holding, it never hurts and can help in a lot of ways to have some mood-setting musical ambience as you spend some quality time with your significant other. Just whatever you do, resist the urge to emulate Justin Timberlake and his three-step plan for romantic gift giving. Cutting holes in boxes should be left to the professionals. Instead, here are some tunes to throw on the old LovePod and help turn your campus pad into a "Love Shack."



Tae Andrews

Assistant
Scene Editor

"All My Life" — K-CI and JoJo

Shades of middle school, anyone? Gentlemen, remember those awkward days of middle school dances, desperately trying to avoid eye contact with your date while simultaneously keeping your hands from sliding down from the small of her back while also leaving room for the Holy Spirit betwixt the two of you? This Valentine's Day, hearken back to that era of dance-ending slow songs. Of these, without a doubt, K-CI and JoJo's masterpiece remains the defining example of an era. Slow-dancing is optional.

"Crash" — Dave Matthews Band

This song was practically made for pulling off the old "yawn and stretch" routine. Just try to resist the urge to pull out a lighter and start singing along.

"Let's Get It On" — Marvin Gaye

Depending on your position in your relationship, this one is either for the somewhat less-than-serious or for the very serious. Either way, a little Marvin is great for at least a laugh or two, or perhaps something more, DuLac or no DuLac.

"Truly Madly Deeply" — Savage Garden

Again dipping back into the well of middle school-esque pop-culture, Savage Garden's intense use of adverbs and nature-themed lyrics ("I wanna stand with you on a mountain / I wanna bathe with you in the sea") go a long way towards planting the seed of passionate romance between you and your special person.

"My Girl" — The Temptations

This is a good one to use if you're going for the cute and sweet approach. Used in conjunction with a scenic stroll around the lakes and some liberal use of Flex Points at Starbucks, your would-be significant other won't know what hit them. They definitely will not be able to resist the "temptation."

"L.O.V.E." — Frank Sinatra

It just doesn't get much more classy than Mr. Sinatra, does it? Feel free to throw on this classic if you're taking your lady to a classy venue for a candlelit dinner, such as escorting your date arm in arm to Flank Steak night at North Dining Hall.

"You're Beautiful" — James Blunt

Seems crazy, doesn't it? Yet the proof of this straightforward track by the appropriately named Mr. Blunt lies in the pudding. Despite its somewhat stalkerish lyrics and JB's ridiculous falsetto, his results can't be denied — after recording this smash hit, Blunt went on to date the professionally hot Sports Illustrated swimsuit model Petra Nemcova. Please don't try to match him pitch-for-pitch, however, as that will only end badly for you.

"Melt With You" — Modern English

This '80s-sounding track is a great feel-good jam and the perfect song to pop in the old player as you and your lover defrost after braving campus hazards such as frozen tundra and broken gas mains. As Modern English sings, "the future's open wide" for you if you play this gem.

"You Look Wonderful Tonight" — Eric Clapton

In addition to just plain being something nice to say to your Valentine's Day date, this Clapton classic was made for intimate moments. You could say it with candy and superhero-themed valentines, but sometimes you just have to trust in Eric C's soothing melodies and soulful guitar strums.

"Unchained Melody" — The Righteous Brothers

You're probably thinking this one is the black sheep of the family here, but give it a try. This old-school doo-wop has survived the test of time and has allowed multiple generations of V-Day Casanovas to "get righteous" with their lucky ladies.

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

VALENTINE'S DAY

VALENTINE'S DAY UNDER



VALENTINE'S DAY UNDER

Despite the chill of subzero weather and snow on the ground, February is a figurative (if not literal) oasis from the perma-cloud oppression — Valentine's Day, even on a day like February 14th, would be lost. How surprisingly enough, creative and romantic Domers over the years have an impressive variety of date-like activities you and your sweetie can enjoy this Day on campus.

Given the holiday in question, one that the romantic-minded student would begin their evening with an offering of a similar token of affection. Luckily, sweatpants-clad, ball cap-wearing gal, LaFortune can meet all of your date needs. The basement's Irish Garden, a variety of flower arrangements, and a unique mix of your date's favorite at the Huddle can make even the laziest and considerate.

When asked the question "What would most young adults would spring to do on a movie. At Notre Dame, the possibilities for evening with these options are near infinite.

The default dining location would be the dining hall and indeed, the token "dining hall" of Notre Dame's young couples. Whether in the oak panels of South or the marble of North, the dining halls allow for maximum immediate impact on your wallet.

Those with slightly more sophisticated tastes, one of several on-campus restaurants like Greenfields or even Reckers. Legend has it, a slightly more international flavor is available at a date funded by Flex Points, kids.

The more financially well-endowed students, off-campus for a Valentine's Day dinner. Surrounding towns provide nothing but well-known chains and smaller restaurants often include the Olive Garden and the ever-classy Chocolate Café.

When it comes to entertainment, there is a usually lengthy list of activities. Events and SUB movies are always available, including PEMCo's "Ragtime" and "The Untouchables." For those wishing to avoid the Huddle's film selection takes no prisoners.

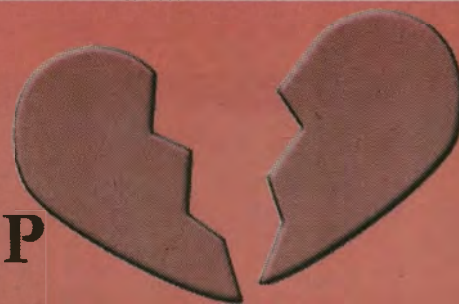
What makes a Notre Dame date special is the touches that only Domers would appreciate. Around Saint Joe's and Saint Mary's, the cliché for those with a Notre Dame temperature is below freezing, it's a good time to spend some time with that special someone.

Capping off the stroll with a trip to a classic, with most students stopping at the area's many candles. And with an ever-watchful eye, the Notre Dame spirit will sparkle to the Day.

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

VALENTINE'S

BREAK-UP SONGS



TEN SONGS FOR SOLITARY SINGLES

I know what you're thinking. You're sitting in your dorm room, playing Halo if you happen to be a guy, or doing whatever it is that girls do in their free time (playing with Barbies?). Meanwhile, you're looking wistfully out your window at the merry couples frolicking in quad snow, wishing that you weren't a victim of Notre Dame's estranged gender relations and had a special person to share Valentine's Day with. Well fear not, for the friendly folks here at the Observer Scene Section have compiled the perfect playlist for you to take your mind off of your V-day blues. On a day renamed by some as Singles Awareness Day, there's no need for you to stay sad — get glad! Or mad, depending on how you like to cope with your failures regarding the opposite gender. Either way, here are some tunes to keep that chin up. Who needs love, anyway?



Tae Andrews

Assistant
Scene Editor

"Complicated" — Avril Lavigne

As a teeny-bopper wannabe-rock star, Avril Lavigne is clearly the heir apparent to angry female artists such as Alanis Morissette, poised and ready in the wings to take over the title of "Most Disgruntled Female Star on the Planet." This heartfelt track goes into depth about the complexities of trying to reconcile adolescent romance with the social challenges of being cool.

"You Are So Last Summer" — Taking Back Sunday

Nothing says, "this relationship is over and I'm in no way bitter at all" than using some valley-girl speak to tell off your ex. Using such lyrics as "You could slit my throat / And with my one last gasping breath I'd apologize for bleeding on your shoes," this song will be sure to keep that tail droopy, Eeyore. Remember, you can't spell "mope" without "e-m-o."

"Ain't No Sunshine" — Bill Withers

This track by the serendipitously-named Bill Withers will let you feel right at home as you wither and waste away in your dorm room. Interestingly enough, "Ain't No Sunshine" could also be a fitting comment to describe the current fresh-air situation here on campus. Seasonal Affective Disorder? Singles Awareness Day? Coincidence? Probably not. Either way, you're SAD.

"My Paper Heart" — The All-American Rejects

Feeling insecure in your relationship? Time to embrace some emo. Take refuge with these Rejects, who not only revel in their exalted loser status, but feel compelled enough to share their lack of luck in love with the rest of the free world.

"Let Her Cry" — Hootie and the Blowfish

Sometimes the best way to get over a painful breakup is to take it out on the next person who has the misfortune of crossing paths with you. So here's to letting her down hard, gentlemen.

"Jude Law and a Semester Abroad" — Brand New

Girlfriend studying abroad? Take comfort by celebrating your insecurities with this song, in which college-aged frat boys wax poetic about the pain of their unrequited love from overseas ex-girlfriends.

"Layla" — Eric Clapton

Despite your Facebook stalking and awkward forays on the quad, does that special someone in your life rebuff your every advance? Enter "Layla," Eric Clapton's song about the most famously ruthless female of all time. So the next time you find that your unicorn has "got you on your knees," feel a sense of compatriotism with Mr. Clapton.

"I Want You To Want Me" — Cheap Trick

This one's pretty straightforward, but unlike the kill-yourself ethos of the emo genre, the song manages to stay fairly upbeat with a hip, old-school rock sentiment. Play this track if you're trying to say, "I like you, but I'm not desperate."

"Respect" — Aretha Franklin

The anthem of scorned women everywhere, this classic simultaneously allows women to stand up for themselves while expressing female solidarity, much as the Spice Girls did several decades later with their hit, "If You Wanna Be My Lover." If you're looking for a little added backbone, feel free to throw this one on and feel better about yourself.

"Cry Me A River" — Justin Timberlake

Perhaps nothing speaks more about unreturned romance than the poppy sensibilities of a former boy band head honcho. Best of all, listening to the high-pitched mourning of JT will allow you to bust out some sweet choreography to Timbaland's unique beats. As the saying goes, cry yourself a river, then build a bridge and get over it.

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrew1@nd.edu

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

AT THE DOME

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Analise Lipari

Assistant
Scene Editor

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'MISS SUNSHINE,' THE 'LITTLE' FILM THAT COULD

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Scene Editor

Editor's Note: This is the third in a five-part series on the 2007 Oscar nominees for Best Picture.

"Little Miss Sunshine" is the Little Movie That Could, a small film that flew under the radar upon its initial release, but gradually gained steam to become this year's dark horse Best Picture nominee.

There seems to be one every year — the film whose very nomination is a bit perplexing, who seems overmatched and undermanned in the furious race for cinema's biggest prize. "Little Miss Sunshine" garnered a nod over bigger and more visible films like "Dreamgirls" (the leader of the pack in terms of pure numbers, with eight nods) and "Children of Men."

For some reason, the Academy really likes to throw in one of these kinds of films every year. Consider some of the Best Picture nominees over the past decade: "Chocolat" (2000), "In the Bedroom" (2001), "The Cider House Rules" (1999), "Elizabeth" (1998), and "The Full Monty" (1997). None of these films had the clout and marketing power of the bigger studio productions and each was doomed almost from the start to be an also-ran.

So why, without fail, does the Academy nominate a film that has almost no chance of winning? Well, history has proven that these kinds of films actually do have a slim chance of winning. The

appeal with a film like "Little Miss Sunshine," which isn't being marketed as hard as some of the bigger pictures in the race (including the no-show "Dreamgirls") is that it allows voters to "discover" it on their own without being told to like it. It's the same kind of appeal that drove the last two Best Picture winners, Paul Haggis' "Crash" and Clint Eastwood's "Million Dollar Baby," respectively. Neither of those two films had much Oscar buzz in the early going ("Crash" was even released in the summer, an almost definite sign that it wasn't being considered for the awards season), but the buzz gradually gained momentum and hit its apex on Oscar night — before any backlash could befall it.

Those two wins indicate that there's something of a shift in mentality — the "Miramax Marketing Machine," which so successfully used snob appeal to drive "The English Patient" (1996) and "Shakespeare in Love" to Best Picture wins, has come up empty in the past few years. Oversaturation of the last two Scorsese pics, "Gangs of New York" (2002) and "The Aviator" (2004), led to a backlash that cost the films (and some say Scorsese as well) come Oscar night.

Unlike the Best Actor and Best Actress races, which seem to be sewn up well before Oscar night, there really aren't very many guarantees in the Best Picture race. Upsets happen, and with startling frequency. Neither "Crash" nor "Million Dollar Baby" nor "Shakespeare in Love" were the favorites walking in the door, and it seemed almost inconceivable at the time that they would topple the jug-



Steve Carell, center, and the rest of the "Little Miss Sunshine" cast crashed the Academy Awards party, putting themselves in the running for the Best Picture Oscar.

ernauts that were "Brokeback Mountain," "The Aviator" and "Saving Private Ryan," respectively.

If "Little Miss Sunshine" wins the Best Picture Oscar on February 25, it will indeed be an upset, but perhaps not as big an upset as people will make it. With no clear frontrunner, it's entirely possible that "The Departed" and "Babel" will split the vote, allowing a smaller film like

"Little Miss Sunshine" to slip through the cracks and take home the top prize.

Is it probable? No. But it wouldn't be the first time that an upstart film came from left field to be named the Best Picture. Just ask Clint Eastwood or Paul Haggis.

Contact Brian Doxtader at bdoxtade@nd.edu

ECLECTIC CAST GAINS CRITICAL ACCLAIM

By MARTY SCHROEDER
Assistant Scene Editor

"Little Miss Sunshine" stole the hearts of millions with its quirky humor about a dysfunctional family riding across the country in an aged, yellow VW Bus. While the film itself represents some of the best of American art-house cinema, the cast is composed of Hollywood veterans, staples of comedy and newcomers whose stars are rising. Alan Arkin,

Steve Carell and Abigail Breslin fill these labels and headline the cast of this impressive riff on pre-teen beauty pageants.

Alan Arkin

The multi-talented Alan Arkin has acted, directed and composed literature and music for longer than most of the rest of the cast has been able to say "Oscar." He starred in films such as "Catch-22" and "Edward Scissorhands" and even made an appearance on the

children's staple "Sesame Street" in the early 1970s. He is nominated for an Oscar for Best Supporting Actor due to his outstanding performance as the heroin-addicted Grandpa in "Little Miss Sunshine." However, this is not the first time acting accolades have come his way.

In his first screen appearance as Lt. Rozanov in the 1966 film "The Russians are Coming, the Russians are Coming," Arkin became one of only five men to be nominated for Best Actor in their debut performance. He went on to star as Bill in the Tim Burton classic "Edward Scissorhands," and played George Aaronow in the film adaptation of David Mamet's Pulitzer Prize winning stage play "Glengarry Glen Ross." With this resume, Arkin was perhaps the most highly regarded actor in "Little Miss Sunshine."

Steve Carell

Most know this rising star as Michael Scott, the boss on the American version of "The Office." His goofy antics have graced films such as "Bruce Almighty" and "Anchorman." But in "Little Miss Sunshine," he took a page out of "Bruce" co-star Jim Carrey's book and took on a more serious, dramatic role as the gay Proust scholar, Uncle Frank. Although funny at times, this role allowed Carell the dramatic space to explore a character more complex than any of his previous roles.

With his breakout role in "The Office," Carell won a Golden Globe for the Best Performance by an Actor in a

TV Series Musical or Comedy in 2006 and was nominated for the same category in 2007. He was also nominated for an Emmy in the equivalent category in 2006. After getting his start as a correspondent on "The Daily Show" and working with comedic greats like Jim Carrey and Will Ferrell, Carell has at last found his own niche where he can thrive.

Abigail Breslin

For her portrayal of Olive Hoover in "Little Miss Sunshine," 10-year-old Abigail Breslin has become the fourth youngest actress to be nominated for an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress. She earlier appeared in films such as Mel Gibson's "Signs" and "The Princess Diaries 2." Even at such a young age, Breslin has earned the respect of fellow actors such as Arkin and Greg Kinnear for her work in "Little Miss Sunshine." Although this rising star does not yet have many credits to her name, she will be an actress to watch in the coming years.

Arkin, Carell and Breslin anchor this cast and give the strongest performances in "Little Miss Sunshine," but the other actors, including Greg Kinnear, Toni Collette and Paul Dano also do admirable jobs. Together, they combine to form the engine which has propelled "Little Miss Sunshine" to the brink of Oscar glory.

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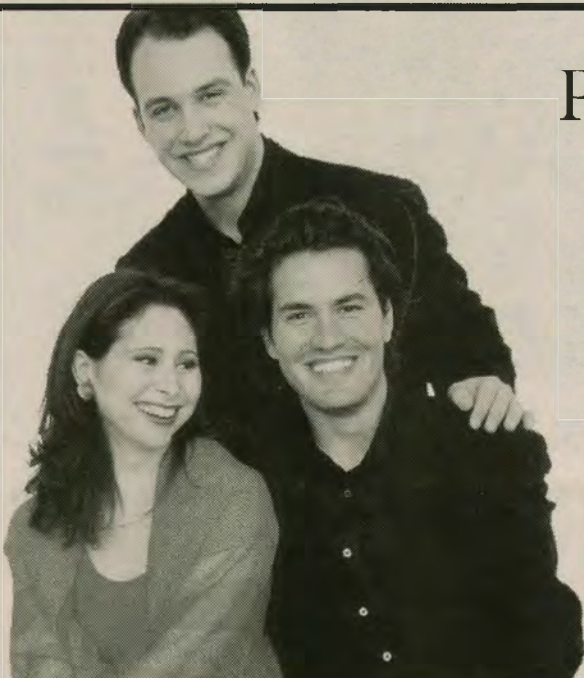


From left, Alan Arkin, Paul Dano, Steve Carell, Greg Kinnear, Abigail Breslin and Jill Talley all lent their talents to a cast that propelled the film to four Oscar nods.



JULLIARD STRING QUARTET

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15 AT 7:30 PM | LEIGHTON CONCERT HALL
 TICKETS: \$36. \$30 FACULTY/STAFF. \$30 SENIORS. AND \$15 ALL STUDENTS



PERLMAN/SCHMIDT/ BAILEY TRIO

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23 AT 8 PM
 LEIGHTON CONCERT HALL
 \$30, \$25 faculty/staff/seniors, and \$15 all students

Legends of Notre Dame and the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center have created a fantastic package that includes dinner at Legends and a ticket to the Perlman/Schmidt/Bailey Trio performance. Tickets for the package are \$38 (a 25% savings on performance tickets and 40% savings on dinner). Your coupon for dinner will be held with your ticket at the ticket office and needs to be picked up before your 6PM dinner reservation at Legends.

BROWNING CINEMA

Unknown (2006)
 Screenwriter Matthew Waynee (ND '95) is scheduled to be present
 Directed by Simon Brand
 NR, 98 minutes
 Thu, Feb 15 at 7 pm and 10 pm

Baraka (1992)
 Directed by Ron Fricke
 PG, 96 minutes
 Fri, Feb 16 at 7 pm

Fast Food Nation (2006)
 Films with (an environmental) Conscience
 Directed by Richard Linklater
 R, 116 minutes
 Fri, Feb 16 at 10 pm
 Sat, Feb 17 at 10 pm

Rashomon (1950)
 PAC Classic 100
 Directed by Akira Kurosawa
 PG-13, 88 minutes
 Japanese language with English subtitles
 Sat, Feb 17 at 3 pm

Our Daily Bread (2005)
 Films with (an environmental) Conscience
 Directed by Nikolaus Geyrhalter
 NR, 92 minutes
 Arabic and German language with English subtitles
 Sat, Feb 17 at 7 pm

Time of the Wolf (2003)
 Films with (an environmental) Conscience
 Directed by Michael Haneke
 R, 110 Minutes
 French language with English subtitles
 Sun, Feb 18 at 4 pm

FILM LINE: 631-FILM



DECADANCE VS. THE FIREBIRD

FEMALE HIP-HOP BALLET COMPANY INTERPRETS STRAVINSKY
TUESDAY, MARCH 7 AT 7:30 PM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7 AT 7:30 PM
 DECIO MAINSTAGE THEATRE | STUDENT TICKETS: \$15



NATALIE MACMASTER
CAPE BRETON FIDDLE RETURNS TO DPAC
 THU, MAR 8 AT 7:30 PM | LEIGHTON CONCERT HALL
 TICKETS: \$42, \$35 FACULTY/STAFF/SENIORS, AND \$15 ALL STUDENTS
 CALL 631-2800 AND ASK ABOUT OUR LEGENDS OF NOTRE DAME DINNER PACKAGE



For details about these shows, keep an eye on our Web site:

<http://performingarts.nd.edu>

You can buy your tickets online, or call the DPAC Ticket Office at 631-2800.

NBA

Wade scores 35 to lead Miami over Portland

Defending champs head into All Star break with .500 record

Associated Press

MIAMI — For the Miami Heat, this was a night of comebacks.

First, coach Pat Riley said he'll return after missing six weeks because of knee and hip surgeries. Then Dwyane Wade shook off a bruised left shoulder and outscored Portland by himself in the final quarter.

Now, the Heat's long trip back to .500 is complete, too. Wade had 35 points and the Heat beat Portland 104-85 on Tuesday night, giving Miami seven wins in eight games entering the All-Star break.

"I'm just glad we won. We've gotten to the point we kept talking about," said Heat interim coach Ron Rothstein, who went 13-9 as Riley's replacement and helped the team recover from being six games under .500 on Jan. 27. "Now this is our launching pad for after the break."

Wade had 16 of his points in the final quarter, one more than the Trail Blazers managed as a team, and almost single-handedly decided things with three straight baskets in an 88-second span early in the period.

Miami led 73-70 entering the fourth and the game was still in doubt when Juan Dixon hit a 3-pointer with 9:14 left, but Wade's three baskets pushed the lead to 85-75 — the Heat's biggest at that point — with 7:46 remaining. Miami would lead by as many as 21 in the final minutes.

"He showed why he is one of the best players in the league," Portland's Joel Przybilla said. "He just took over. They showed why they are the world champs."

Zach Randolph had 17 points and six rebounds for Portland, and Jarrett Jack added 16 points for the Trail Blazers, who had a modest two-game winning streak snapped.

Portland was only 4-for-13 from the floor in the first 10 minutes of the final quarter and wound up shooting 42 percent for the game — compared with 56 percent by Miami, which narrowly missed matching a franchise record by blocking 14 shots, and forced 17 turnovers that led to 27 points.

Raptors 112, Bulls 111

Chris Bosh sank two free throws with 2.1 seconds left and the Toronto Raptors blew a

12-point fourth-quarter lead before recovering to beat the Chicago Bulls Tuesday night.

The victory was the 28th for Toronto, giving the Raptors one more win than all of last season.

Bosh finished with 25 points and 14 rebounds for the Raptors, who ended a 15-game losing streak against the Bulls stretching back to Dec. 6, 2002.

Andrea Bargnani added 22 points for Toronto.

In the closing seconds, Chicago's Tyrus Thomas blocked a layup attempt by T.J. Ford but Bosh rebounded and was fouled by Thomas before hitting both free throws.

Ben Gordon, whose three-point play with 12.8 seconds left had given the Bulls a 111-110 lead and capped a 13-0 run, put up a jumper that was short at the buzzer.

The Raptors, winners of nine of their last 11, went ahead by eight points early in the fourth quarter when Jose Calderon converted a three-point play and moments later fed Bosh for a basket that made it 94-86.

Finding holes in the Chicago defense, Calderon made three straight Toronto baskets to increase the margin to 12 with about 6 minutes remaining.

Coming off a seven-game road trip, the Bulls got 30 points from Luol Deng and 26 from Gordon.

Chris Duhon's 3-pointer with 1:27 to go closed the deficit to five and after two Toronto misses, Duhon connected again from the corner, another 3-pointer that made it 110-108 with 35 seconds remaining.

Bosh's pass went off Anthony Parker's hands and out of bounds with 21.1 seconds to go and the Bulls had a final chance.

Gordon drove the lane and hit a bank shot as he was fouled, tying the game with 12.8 seconds left. His free throw gave the Bulls a short-lived lead.

Spurs 107, Nets 82

Beating the New Jersey Nets has never been a problem for the San Antonio Spurs.

With Jason Kidd and two other starters out of the lineup, this time it wasn't even much of a game.

Tim Duncan scored seven of his 21 points in a 20-0 San Antonio spurt to start the second quarter and the Spurs ran away from the injury-ravaged Nets on Tuesday night.

"The Nets are in a bad way, injury-wise" coach Gregg Popovich said after the Spurs beat the Nets for the eighth



Miami guard Dwyane Wade drives to the basket in the fourth quarter of the Heat's 104-85 win over Portland Tuesday night. The win lifted Miami's record to 26-26. AP

straight time. "It was a tough night with three of their top four not out there. It was pretty much a throw away game. They battled and did everything they could. It's impossible to be very successful with that many people out."

The Spurs only needed 18 minutes to take control of the game. They used a 12-4 run at the end of the first quarter to take a four-point lead and then took advantage of 13 straight misses by New Jersey at the start of the second quarter to push the advantage to 24.

"We're trying to get better as a team," Duncan said after the Spurs avoided tying their season-high three-game losing streak with their third win in eight games. "Consistency hasn't been there. As fun as it was, that's the way we need to play all the time."

Mavericks 99, Bucks 93

Dirk Nowitzki had 38 points and 11 rebounds and the Dallas Mavericks overcame a 16-point

second-half deficit to beat the Milwaukee Bucks Tuesday night for their eighth straight win.

The Mavericks, with the NBA's best record at 43-9, outscored the Bucks 28-11 in the fourth quarter as Milwaukee self-destructed with six turnovers and failed to hit a field goal in the final 7:05.

Dallas took its first lead of the game, 93-92, with 1:04 to play on Nowitzki's layup after the Mavericks got a third chance after a pair of offensive rebounds.

Milwaukee's Ruben Patterson, who finished with 20 points, tied it at 93 by hitting the second of two free throws, but Nowitzki, who finished with eight assists, drove and found Jason Terry for a 16-foot jumper that put Dallas ahead 95-93 with 34.9 seconds left.

With a chance to tie, the Bucks missed yet another shot, with Charlie Bell misfiring on an 18-footer. The Mavericks got the rebound, and Jerry Stackhouse hit two free throws.

Nowitzki added two free throws of his own for the final margin.

Grizzlies 108, Hornets 104

Hakim Warrick scored 15 points, including six straight in a key stretch late in the fourth quarter, and grabbed 12 rebounds to lead the Memphis Grizzlies to a victory over the New Orleans Hornets on Tuesday night.

Mike Miller scored 22 points to lead Memphis.

Chucky Atkins added 19, Rudy Gay had 18, and Junior Harrington and Pau Gasol 11 each. The win was the Grizzlies' first against a team in the Southwest Division. No team has ever gone winless in the division.

Tyson Chandler had 17 points and a franchise record-tying 23 rebounds for New Orleans, which snapped its three-game winning streak. Desmond Mason scored 23 points and David West had 22 to lead the Hornets. Jannero Pargo added 11.

CLASSIFIEDS

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AROUND THE NATION

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

NCAA Hockey

USCHO.com/CSTV Top 20

team	record	points	previous	
1	NOTRE DAME	24-5-3	765	1
2	Minnesota	23-5-3	756	2
3	New Hampshire	22-5-1	750	3
4	St. Cloud State	18-5-5	685	4
5	Maine	19-8-2	589	7
6	Michigan State	18-8-3	583	6
7	Boston University	15-5-8	554	8
8	Denver	20-11-3	501	5
9	Clarkson	19-7-4	498	10
10	North Dakota	16-11-3	420	11
11	Michigan	21-10-1	409	9
12	Miami (OH)	21-10-4	403	12
13	Boston College	16-10-1	312	15
14	Colorado College	16-11-3	286	13
15	St. Lawrence	17-11-2	251	16
16	Vermont	15-11-4	193	14
17	Niagara	17-10-3	119	18
18	Cornell	12-9-4	106	20
19	Massachusetts	13-10-5	73	17
20	Quinnipiac	14-10-5	49	19

NCAA Hockey

CCHA Conference Standings

team	conference record	overall record	
1	NOTRE DAME	18-3-3	24-5-3
2	Miami (OH)	15-7-4	20-10-4
3	Michigan	16-7-1	21-10-1
4	Michigan State	14-6-3	18-8-3
5t	Nebraska-Omaha	10-10-4	13-13-8
	Ohio State	10-10-4	12-13-5
7	Western Michigan	11-12-1	14-15-1
8	Lake Superior	9-12-3	15-14-3
9	Alaska	7-12-5	9-15-6
10	Northern Michigan	9-16-1	12-20-2
11	Ferris State	6-15-2	9-19-3
12	Bowling Green	4-19-1	6-24-2

NCAA Women's Basketball

Big East Conference Standings

team	conference record	overall record	
1	Connecticut	11-0	22-2
2t	Louisville	8-3	22-3
	Marquette	8-3	20-4
	Rutgers	8-3	15-7
5t	Pittsburgh	7-4	19-5
	South Florida	7-4	17-7
	NOTRE DAME	7-4	16-8
8t	Seton Hall	7-5	15-8
	West Virginia	7-5	16-9
10	DePaul	5-7	15-10
11	Cincinnati	4-7	13-10
12t	Providence	3-8	13-11
	St. John's	3-8	7-15
14	Syracuse	2-9	8-16
15	Georgetown	2-10	12-13
16	Villanova	1-10	7-17

around the dial

NCAA BASKETBALL
Ohio State at Penn State
7 p.m., ESPN

Maryland at North Carolina State
7 p.m., ESPN2

Duke at Boston College
9 p.m., ESPN

NHL
Chicago at Pittsburgh
7:30 p.m., CSN

NASCAR



Kasey Kahne leaves a practice session for the Daytona 500, which will be held in Daytona Beach Sunday. Kahne was one of four drivers penalized Monday as part of NASCAR's increased attempt to crack down on cheating.

Four teams penalized by NASCAR

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — NASCAR vowed last summer to crack down on cheaters, pledging to toughen penalties in a sport where bending the rules is as common as banging bumpers.

Officials made good on that promise Tuesday.

NASCAR suspended the crew chiefs for Matt Kenseth, Kasey Kahne, Scott Riggs and Elliott Sadler and docked all four drivers points before the season-opening Daytona 500 its strongest statement to date on cheating.

All four cars failed qualifying inspection, and a

fifth, Michael Waltrip's startup Toyota Camry, faces additional penalties that could be even more severe.

"It's obvious that we've ramped up our penalties and we're going to get people's attention," competition director Robin Pemberton said. "We're going to grab this one by the horns."

Robbie Reiser, crew chief for Kenseth, and Kenny Francis, crew chief for Kahne, were suspended four races. Rodney Childers, crew chief for Riggs, and Josh Brown, crew chief for Sadler, were suspended two races.

Kahne, Riggs and Sadler

are teammates at Evernham Motorsports. Kenseth, the 2003 series champion and runner-up last season, drives for Roush Racing.

All four crew chiefs can appeal, a process that could allow them to work the Great American Race. If they do and the committee cannot schedule a hearing before Sunday's race, they would be allowed to participate.

But Roush Racing already has a replacement for Reiser, and said the 500 will be the first race he has missed since the team's inception in 1999 — a stretch of 255 races.

Reiser and Francis may

not appeal because delaying the suspension could cause them to miss the debut of the Car of Tomorrow at Bristol Motor Speedway in March.

In toughening its penalties, NASCAR made the unprecedented move of taking points away before the season has even started. Kahne and Kenseth were docked 50 points apiece, while Riggs and Sadler lost 25 each.

Reiser and Francis also were fined \$50,000 each, while Childers and Brown were fined \$25,000 each.

All four drivers will start the season with negative points a move that most likely infuriated the team.

IN BRIEF

Barber ends NFL career, set to join NBC's 'Today' Show

NEW YORK — Former NFL running back and new "Today" show correspondent Tiki Barber said his off-season work at Fox News Channel made him recognize he had a passion for a career outside of sports.

Barber also said his problems with New York Giants head coach Tom Coughlin had "started to take its toll on me."

The just-retired NFL running back was formally introduced as an NBC Universal employee Tuesday. He'll contribute news and human interest stories to "Today," and he'll be an analyst on NBC's Sunday highlight show "Football Night in America" in the fall.

He spurned offers from Fox and ABC/Disney to take the NBC job.

"My dream has always been to be on the "Today" show," Barber said.

Barber, 31, retired as a Pro Bowl running back, scoring a touchdown in the NFL all-star game last weekend.

Allen, Okur chosen to play in NBA All-Star Game

NEW YORK — Seattle's Ray Allen and Utah's Mehmet Okur were chosen Tuesday by commissioner David Stern as injury replacements for the All-Star game.

With Steve Nash (shoulder) and Allen Iverson (ankle) both pulling out of Sunday's game in Las Vegas, the Western Conference was in need of a guard. Allen is seventh in the league with 26.9 points per game.

Okur's clutch late-game play has helped Utah keep rolling despite the absence of Carlos Boozer, who was chosen for the All-Star game but also was forced to pull out because of a hairline fracture in his leg. That had left the Jazz, whose 34-17 record is third-best in the league, without a player in Sunday's game.

Allen is headed to his fourth straight All-Star game and seventh overall. Okur is a first-time selection

Illinois basketball players sustain injuries in crash

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Brian Carlwell, one of two Illinois basketball players injured when their car went off the road and slammed into a tree on Monday night, is improving and could move into a regular hospital room soon, according to a University of Illinois spokesperson.

Carlwell is expected to move out of intensive care on Tuesday night. He suffered a severe concussion in the single-car accident, according to Illinois spokesperson Kent Brown.

Teammate Jamar Smith, who was driving, had a concussion as well. He was treated and released and, according to reports, should be fine physically.

Illinois coach Bruce Weber spent the night in the hospital with Carlwell, a 6-foot-11 freshman center.

"We just hope and pray Brian is going to be OK," Weber said.

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles prepare for Albion

Conference foes to square off again after overtime battle last month

By DAN COOPER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will look to avenge its Jan. 17 overtime loss to Albion at 7:30 tonight at the Angela Athletic Center.

Since that loss, the Belles are 5-1 and have worked their way to third in the MIAA with a 10-11 overall record and a 9-5 league mark.

Albion, which is riding a two game winning streak, is 13-9 and 8-6, respectively.

"We definitely have our hands full. They are a good team and they're on a roll," Belles coach Jennifer Henley said. "We're going to try to win the boards and limit their second chance opportunities."

In its last meeting with Saint Mary's, Albion had a balanced offensive attack that showcased four double-digit scoring efforts. Three starters had 11 or more points, including junior forward Jessica Babcock, who scored 19. Sophomore forward Kati Till added 14 points off the bench.

The Britons out-rebounded the Belles and shot a higher percentage from the floor en route to a 72-69 victory.

"Babcock's a lot like [Belles guard Alison] Kessler. She will always get her points. We need to keep her below her average and limit the rest of the team," Henley said.

Kessler had one of her best



Observer file photo
Saint Mary's guard Alison Kessler drives to the basket during the Belles' 72-69 overtime loss to Albion Jan. 17.

games on the season in the loss to the Britons. She was 12-of-22 from the floor with 31 points, four steals and three assists. Senior guard Bridget Lipke had a solid game with 12 points and 10 assists and freshman forward Anna Kamrath pulled down a game-high 12 rebounds.

Albion has continued its winning ways since the last meeting, and the Belles had already matured by the time they first faced Albion. The Belles had a strong, balanced performance in their last game against Albion so the "we've improved since then"

pep talk that has worked for Henley all year does not apply.

Regardless, Henley said Saint Mary's should enter this game with confidence knowing it played Albion close in their last meeting and this time it has home court advantage.

"We haven't played well our last two games and we need to get back on track," she said. "It will be nice to have a game at home because we have played well at home all year."

Contact Dan Cooper at dcooper1@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish get set to take on trio of ranked teams

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

No. 2 Notre Dame hosts No. 23 Michigan to kick off a tough three-match home stand today at the Eck Tennis Pavilion at 4 p.m.

"Michigan is always a good team to play because you know they're going to play hard and fair," Notre Dame coach Jay Louderback said. "It should be a really good match. They're undefeated and they beat Vanderbilt, Oregon, and Washington, which are all quality teams."

Michigan senior Jenny Kuehn, a fifth-year transfer from Tulane, leads the Wolverines with a spotless dual-match record this season.

"[Kuehn] has a lot of experience," Louderback said. "She played No. 1 and No. 2 singles at Tulane, and they were a top-20 team when she was there."

After Michigan, No. 7 North Carolina (9-2) and No. 20 Wake Forest (4-0) will travel to South Bend for matches on Friday and Sunday, respectively. The Irish (6-1) are accustomed to playing highly ranked teams in a short time span. Two weeks ago at the ITA National Team Indoor Tournament, Notre Dame knocked off No. 13 Clemson, No. 10 Baylor and No. 6 Northwestern in consecutive days before falling to No. 3 Georgia Tech in the finals.

"[The experience at the ITA] is really going to help, espe-

cially against Michigan and Wake Forest," Louderback said. "They're just going through the tough part of their schedule now and they haven't gone through what we have, but North Carolina has."

A key factor in Notre Dame's success has been its ability to capture the doubles point at the beginning of every match. The only time this season the Irish failed to capture the doubles point was in their loss against Georgia Tech.

But even if Notre Dame does start the match ahead 1-0, Louderback says the Irish still have to remain cautious.

"The thing that'll be interesting with Michigan is that they're 3-0, but they haven't won the doubles point yet," Louderback said. "So they struggle in the doubles but then they've come out and at least won four singles matches."

On the singles side, Irish freshman Cosmina Ciobanu has won all seven of her singles matches this season while Catrina Thompson has gone 5-2. No. 31 Colleen Rielley will try to halt a three-match losing streak against the Wolverines.

"We've just had her hit a lot of balls. She just needs her confidence back. She's just had some tight matches and played pretty well," Louderback said. "The more she plays at the top of our lineup and gets more experience, she'll be fine."

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

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Lawsuit

continued from page 20

Weis, who is seeking unspecified damages, could testify Wednesday. He and his wife, Maura, sat in the front row Tuesday. Mone said Patriots quarterback Tom Brady, who visited Weis in the hospital, also could testify this week.

In a gastric bypass, an egg-sized pouch in the upper stomach is created by stapling it off from the rest of the organ and then connected to the small intestine. The most dangerous complication is leakage from any of the connections. In Weis' case, the connection between the pouch and the small intestine leaked.

Mone claimed Hodin failed to conduct a diagnostic test in which the patient swallows a solution that radiologists track to find leaks. He said that by Saturday morning, Weis was showing "classic signs" of internal bleeding.

"He should have intervened at that point," Mone said. "He chose not to operate. It was not going to correct itself."

But Dailey said a CT scan of Weis on Saturday showed no evidence of a leak. He said doctors were concerned that Weis' breathing problems may have been a pulmonary

embolism, in which an artery in the lung becomes blocked. The scan also ruled that out, however.

"There was no evidence that this leak was present on Saturday at all," Dailey said.

Weis removed his own breathing tube at 9 p.m. Saturday, Dailey pointed out.

Jennifer Wilson, an intensive care nurse who was assigned to care for Weis, testified she eventually became concerned there was internal bleeding. She consulted with a different doctor Sunday to order the "barium swallow" test, which occurred at 3 p.m. that day. A leak was detected, and surgery was conducted two hours later.

"He spent days at death's door," Mone said of Weis' condition after the second surgery.

Five years later, Weis still suffers nerve damage in his legs as a result, Mone said.

Weis became interested in the surgery after learning that Al Roker, weatherman of NBC's "Today" show, had gastric bypass surgery in 2002. The American Society for Bariatric Surgery estimates more than 177,000 Americans had weight-loss surgery in 2006, up from 47,000 in 2001.

Five to 10 percent of patients suffer major complications, Dailey said, and about 1 in 200 die.

"He spent days at death's door."

Michael Mone
Weis' attorney

Revenge

continued from page 20

Irish coach Tim Welsh said. "We know we have to challenge for the meet, and we find that a pretty motivating experience."

Judging by their record, defeating the Mountaineers will be an arduous task. West Virginia has left opponents in its wake on its way to a 13-0 dual meet record and a first-place finish in the Maryland Invitational. It is worth noting, however, that Notre Dame is the only ranked team the Mountaineers have faced this season.

"West Virginia is a very strong team," Welsh said. "They sprint very well. Four of their five relays are excellent, and they have the top seed in almost all of the races this weekend."

"We have more depth [than West Virginia] in some events, especially in the middle and long distance freestyle and diving events. If we compile a lead in those events, we might be able to hold them off, but it's going

to take great swimming on our part."

The Irish will likely rely on a combination of youth and experience in their quest to take home their third consecutive Big East title.

Notre Dame has nine swimmers and divers who have garnered all-BIG EAST accolades at past Big East Championships.

Leading the way for the Irish will be junior Jay Vanden Berg — the two-time defending Big East champion in the 1,650-yard freestyle as well as the 2005 Big East champion in the 500-yard freestyle. Senior co-captain Tim Kegelman will also look to replicate past success at the Big East Championships. Kegelman, a nine-time all-Big East performer, won the 100-yard fly, 200-yard IM in 2005.

"[Our past success] certainly gives us some history and some confidence based on that

history," Welsh said. "It's important not to rest on our laurels though. We want to do it again."

In addition to its experienced swimmers and divers, Notre Dame will need strong performances out of many team members making their first appearance for the Irish at the Big East Championships, and Notre Dame's freshmen have been up to the challenge so far this season.

Andrew Deters (1,650-yard freestyle), John Lytle (100-yard freestyle) and MacKenzie LeBlanc (200-yard fly) all hold the fastest team times in their respective events. Welsh described the role these swimmers would play this weekend as pivotal.

"We have a lot of freshmen in key positions," Welsh said. "We just want our freshmen to do what we want all our other guys to do, something we've been working towards all season, and that's swim lifetime bests."

"We have a lot of freshmen in key positions."

Tim Welsh
Irish coach

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Eleventh

continued from page 20

Nixon said. "We have a lot to look forward to in addition to the Big East."

Such confidence should not be mistaken for a lack of respect for the 11 teams who will be trying to break Notre Dame's stranglehold on the Big East Championships, Nixon said.

"I feel like every year there's always some team that's gunning to take us down," senior Jessica Stephens said. "When you're on top, you always have to watch out because there's some team trying to knock you down."

When asked who she expected that team to be this year, Stephens selected No. 22 Rutgers — an unsurprising pick given that the Scarlet Knights have finished as the runner-up to Notre Dame in five of the previous seven Big East Championships. This season, Rutgers has com-

pleted a dual meet record of 6-1. The only blemish on the Scarlet Knights' dual meet résumé came at the hands of No. 15 Penn State who defeated them 195-105 Jan. 20.

The other team that could pose a threat to Notre Dame is West Virginia. Although the Irish defeated the Mountaineers earlier this season 22.50-147.50 at the Shamrock Invitational, Nixon said West Virginia is a rapidly improving squad.

"The West Virginia coach has done a great job recruiting since he took over two years ago," Nixon said of Mountaineers coach Sergio Gomez. "I don't know if they have the depth to compete with us, but they're up and coming."

While the Mountaineers are a young team on the rise, the Irish are an experienced team full of confidence from previous success at the Big East Championship. Notre Dame will be led by senior captain Katie Carroll, a three-time NCAA tour-

namer qualifier. In her three trips to the Big East Championship, Carroll has amassed 11 Big East titles and 21 Big East honors. She was the named the Big East Championships' most outstanding swimmer in 2004.

In addition to Carroll, the Irish will lean on the experience of junior Caroline Johnson, an eight-time Big East champion, senior Julia Quinn, the champion in the 200 breaststroke at the 2006 Championships, and sophomore Christa Riggins, an all-Big East performer in five events her freshman year.

"I think it's crucial, and I think it's a big part of how much success we've had," Nixon said, referring to her team's past success at the Big East Championships. "It gives you a lot of confidence in what you're doing, and it helps you know what it takes to win."

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogas@nd.edu

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Recycle

The

Observer.

Nova

continued from page 20

D'Amico, who had totaled just eight points her last five games and was riding a three-game streak without a field goal, bounced back with 15 points in 18 minutes.

On the defensive end, Notre Dame forced 20 turnovers, resulting in 22 Irish points. It was the 18th time in 25 games that Notre Dame has forced 20 or more turnovers.

"We did a good job of getting turnovers and turning those into points at the other end," McGraw said. "Our transition offense is where we were able to break the game open."

Villanova had no such defensive prowess. The Irish turned the ball over only 8 times, a season low.

Notre Dame led 34-25 at the half, and Allen had scored 15 of her 25 points on 7-of-10 shooting

"I thought we executed well, especially on the offensive end of the floor," McGraw said.

In the second half, Villanova closed the gap, at one point trailing by 3. Forwards Stacie Witman and Jackie Adamshick, who led the Wildcats with 16 points each, combined for 12 quick points in the first five minutes after the break.

But after that point, the Irish steadily increased their lead, due in part to their ability to get to the free throw line. Notre Dame made 10-of-14 free throws, while Villanova finished 4-of-6.

Irish freshman Ashley Barlow started her second consecutive game and scored 15 points. Although the freshman did not make a field goal until 12 minutes into the sec-



Irish guard Tulyah Gaines looks to pass in Notre Dame's 64-55 win over Louisville at the Joyce Center Feb. 7.

ond half, McGraw said Barlow's defense and stamina during her 38 minutes on the floor was a big part of the win. Barlow was also 5-for-7 from the charity stripe.

For the second consecutive game, the Irish had four players in double figures. Senior guard Breona Gray rounded out the group, scoring 10 points and sinking both 3-pointers she attempted.

Notre Dame was choosy but effective with its outside shooting, making 3-of-5 on the night. Villanova, by contrast, took 19 3-pointers and made only four.

Notre Dame improved to 17-8 overall and 8-4 in the Big East. The win was the second conference road win for the Irish this season.

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TRACK AND FIELD

Piane sends runners to Windsor to improve

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Practice makes perfect.

At least that's what Irish coach Joe Piane was thinking when he decided to send competitors to the Windsor Team Challenge Saturday. Even though the Irish did not qualify any additional competitors for the Big East championships, which start this weekend, they improved their times in a competitive atmosphere.

"We had a couple of performances improve, like Jose [Genao] and Dominique Manning in the 60 [meter dash]," assistant coach John Millar said. "But in the most part it was more of a meet that we were using to prepare for this weekend and just give them a chance to compete away from the Loftus Center."

The Irish women excelled once again in the sprints, taking the top three spots in the 60-meter and 300-meter runs. In the 60, senior Maryann Erigha won the event, followed by juniors Brienne Davis and Manning. Freshman Joanna Schultz placed first for the Irish in the 300 with senior Okechi Ogbuokiri and junior Crysta Swayzer taking the second and third spots.

Manning also took first in the 60 meters, while the Irish women won the 800-meter relay.

"Overall for the women, the ones that competed here ran pretty well. And most of them

ran pretty close to their seasonal best," Millar said. "But they ran better than last year at the same time so I felt really good about that."

On the men's side, the Irish were equally impressive. Genao set a seasonal best mark Saturday in the 60 meters while senior Jordan Powell set his own personal best in the 300 meters.

The Irish won the 600-meter in convincing fashion, with juniors Austin Wechter and Robert Kueny taking first and second, respectively.

Even though no one from the limited Irish squad qualified for the Big East championships, the Irish still considered the weekend a success. Going into the tournament, Piane said the main goal was to taper some of the runs for qualified runners in order to give them a little extra preparation for the conference meet this weekend. This meant many of the races Notre Dame competed in, such as the 300-meter sprint and the 800-meter relay, are not Big East events. Millar also said the main goal was to help get the team ready for the Big East.

"It was mainly a group of sprinters and quarter-milers and that sort of thing," Millar said. "But I think overall it was successful from the standpoint of preparing them for the conference meet and just getting one last competitive opportunity."

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

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MAIN & DOUGLAS

ND SWIMMING

Big East splash

Men's squad looks to avenge loss to West Virginia, take title

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

When No. 19 Notre Dame takes to the pool today in East Meadow, N.Y. for the start of the Big East Championships, it will enter as the two-time defending champion — just don't tell that to the Irish.

A loss to No. 17 West Virginia earlier this season at the Shamrock Invitational bruised Notre Dame's image as the top team in the Big East, and it left the Irish feeling they have something to prove.

"The result of losing to WVU turned us from defending a title to challenging for one,"

see REVENGE/page 17



Irish sophomore Sam Pendergast dives into the pool at the Dennis Stark Relays Oct. 6. Both the Notre Dame men's and women's teams will compete for Big East Championships today in East Meadow, N.Y.

PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

10-time defending champ women want yet another crown

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

Entering the Big East Championships, No. 19 Notre Dame brings the confidence of a 10-time defending champion.

The Irish will be swimming for a Big East record 11th consecutive conference title beginning this morning in East Meadow, N.Y. — something never before accomplished in any sport in Big East history. Coach Carrie Nixon and her team, however, have even higher goals in mind.

"We keep our sights set on the NCAA Tournament, and setting our sights high helps us to improve and stay motivated," Nixon said. "We have a lot to

see ELEVENTH/page 17

FOOTBALL

Lawyers give opening statements in Weis suit

Coach alleges botched surgery; defense denies carelessness by doctors

Associated Press

BOSTON — Doctors failed to recognize life-threatening complications after Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis' gastric bypass surgery, allowing him to bleed internally for more than a day, his lawyer said Tuesday at the start of the coach's malpractice trial.



Weis

Weis had the surgery in June 2002 while he was offensive coordinator for the New England Patriots. He weighed 350 pounds and has said he wanted a permanent solution to years of weight problems, both for his family's well being and to improve his chances of becoming a head coach.

Weis alleges that Massachusetts General Hospital surgeons Charles Ferguson and Richard Hodin acted negligently and left Weis

so close to death that he received the Roman Catholic sacrament of last rites.

The doctors maintain they did nothing wrong.

Weis had difficulty breathing in the early morning a day after his June 14 surgery, his lawyer, Michael Mone, said in an opening statement in Suffolk Superior Court. On June 16, doctors performed a much more invasive surgery to fix problems caused by the initial procedure.

"For more than 30 hours, Mr. Weis continued to bleed," Mone said.

Ferguson performed the surgery on a Friday, then left for the weekend. Hodin was charged with caring for Ferguson's patients while the doctor was gone, and performed the follow-up surgery on a Sunday.

William J. Dailey Jr., an attorney for the doctors, told jurors the doctors acted appropriately and that Weis was believed to be in good condition the morning of the second procedure.

"There was no carelessness," Dailey said. "Unfortunately, Mr. Weis experienced one of the complications that is known to exist."

see LAWSUIT/page 17

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish win fourth straight

ND forces 20 Villanova turnovers, cruises to 75-58 road victory

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

A tough defensive performance and strong play by center Melissa D'Amico and guard Charel Allen led Notre Dame to its fourth straight win, 75-58 at Villanova Tuesday.

"It's always a difficult place to play, at Villanova," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said during her post-game press conference. "We were fortunate to come out with a victory tonight."

The Irish started out hot, taking a 6-0 lead, but the Wildcats battled back to lead the game 11-8.

That would be the last lead they would have.

Jump-started by an Allen 3-pointer, Notre Dame went on an 11-point run and never looked back.

Allen came out firing, scoring 13 of her 25 points in the first eight minutes of the game. She also took — and made — the only Irish 3-point attempt of the first half.

"I thought Charel Allen played an exceptional game tonight," McGraw said.

see NOVA/page 18



TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

Irish forward Crystal Erwin goes up for a shot in Notre Dame's 64-55 win over Louisville at the Joyce Center Feb. 7.

SPORTS
AT A GLANCE

TRACK AND FIELD

Runners improve their times before Big East meet at the Windsor Invitational.

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SMC BASKETBALL

The Belles look to avenge overtime loss to Albion at home today.

page 16

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Michigan at Notre Dame

Today, 4 p.m.

The No. 2 Irish take on the No. 23 Wolverines.

page 16

NASCAR

Four crew chiefs are suspended for Sunday's Daytona 500.

page 15

NBA

Heat 104 Trail Blazers 85

Dwyane Wade scores 35 in Miami's win over Portland.

page 14

NBA

Raptors 112 Bulls 111

Two Chris Bosh free throws with 2.1 seconds give Toronto the victory.

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