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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

ND builds on Ugandan partnership

University develops plan to work with village; students involved in research, interviews

By MARCELA BERRIOS
Associate News Editor

Last January, a group of Notre Dame delegates led by University President Father John Jenkins traveled to Nindye, Uganda, to visit the village that would become Notre Dame's partner in the Millennium Development Initiative.

One year later, the ties between the University and the village of 5,000 have strengthened with the research and findings of the project's staff and Notre Dame students, as well as the enthusiasm among the Ugandans, according to the project's assistant director, Tim

Lyden.

"We've done a lot of listening and learning over the last year, in order to really understand the people of Nindye and their needs. That was the first thing we needed to do," Lyden said Thursday. "We didn't want to just jump into this partnership without taking a breath to figure out what our next step would be and how we were going to do it."

After the 2006 Notre Dame Forum on global health, Jenkins announced the University's involvement in the United Nations' Millennium Villages Project. Notre Dame, he said, would partner with a sub-

see UGANDA/page 9



Photo courtesy of nd.edu.

University President Father John Jenkins poses with Ugandan bishops in a visit to Kampala, Uganda's capital, in January 2007.

ND SIBC launches projects

By EMMA DRISCOLL
News Writer

Notre Dame students have been putting their business savvy to many uses through the Student International Business Council (SIBC).

Organized into six different divisions — accounting, business consulting, finance, global development, human resources, internships and marketing — the SIBC works on projects to "accomplish [its] vision of peace through commerce," said Maria Bufalino, director of the marketing division. "We accomplish this by working with different companies on a more international level."

The SIBC has worked with companies such as PricewaterhouseCoopers, Boston Consulting Group, Starcom, Deloitte, RSM McGladery and NBC Sports, as well as nonprofits like Luca Leadership, Bufalino said.

The Council has also worked with Notre Dame Millennium Development Initiative (NDMDI), Bufalino said.

Bufalino said there are three to six projects for each of the six divisions, and anywhere from five to 20 students working on an individual project.

"We try to keep it very diverse," Bufalino said. "It really can benefit everyone, not just business majors. You get to practice presenting in front of people and you get to meet a variety of people and you get to learn and have fun."

Students present projects to companies in order to form partnerships.

see SIBC/page 4

Juniors contend alone

SMC candidates run unopposed for president, VP

By KRISTEN EDELEN
News Writer

Saint Mary's students met juniors Mickey Gruscinski and Sarah Falvey, who are running unopposed for next year's student body president and vice president, in the atrium of the Student Center Thursday night during a "Meet the Candidates" event.

Gruscinski, who is running as president on the ticket, currently serves on Saint Mary's Residence Hall Association (RHA) as treasurer. Falvey is the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) executive assistant, a representative position in a national organization.

"An unopposed race is something that is definitely not normal and will make for an interesting election because they still have to campaign," said senior Maggie Siefert, former student body vice president and executive director of elections.

Shortly after the forum, Gruscinski and Falvey began knocking on doors across campus to promote their campaign to students.

"Even though there is only one ticket they are working just as hard, as if there were

see ELECTIONS/page 9

Coalition slow to meet

Committee has yet to convene to discuss town-gown relations

By JOSEPH McMAHON
Assistant News Editor

The Community Campus Advisory Coalition (CCAC), the central part of the South Bend Common Council's compromise to ditch its proposed party permit ordinance, has yet to meet since being established in September and has no current plans to convene.

Student body president Liz Brown lobbied for the group as part of a compromise with the South Bend Common Council when discussing alternatives the proposed ordinance.

The major founding goal of the CCAC was to foster

better relations between South Bend and the local universities — Notre Dame, Saint Mary's, Holy Cross and Indiana University-South Bend (IUSB). However, bringing all these parties to the table can often take some time, said Timothy Rouse, the president of the South Bend Common Council and co-sponsor of the original ordinance.

"When you have a variety of folks and you want the inclusiveness, it takes a while to get it jump-started," Rouse said. "I'm sure that it will happen and it will be inclusive of the entire community."

In addition, poor weather, the Council elections in

November, and winter break have all been factors in delaying the CCAC's first meeting.

"We had hoped to have a meeting before Christmas time, but then it was thought with finals and the students going home, so we'd thought we'd wait until after the first of the [new] year," said at-large Council member Al "Buddy" Kirsits.

Still, no date has been set, and many are hoping that the group can meet within the next few months.

Brown, whose term ends April 1, said she would like to have the opportunity to

see CCAC/page 6

New students arrive for spring semester

ND admits 9 transfers, SMC admits 15

By MEG MIRSHAK
News Writer

Notre Dame added nine transfer students, and Saint Mary's gained 15 new students as members of the spring transfer class.

The Notre Dame Office of Admissions received 95 applications from students seeking to be admitted as a spring transfer student, said Susan Joyce, the associate director of admissions.

Although juniors can apply to transfer to the University, all nine students admitted for the spring semester were sophomores.

This year, the University's spring transfer class was unusually small, Joyce said, adding that the normal number of spring transfer students is typically around 18 students.

"[The Office of Admissions] does not see this as a trend,"

see TRANSFERS/page 4

Transfer Students at ND & SMC



INSIDE COLUMN

Waiting for George

Possibly as a result of the winter doldrums or Christmas vacation withdrawal, I have decided to approach this Inside Column with my current annoyances.

First, political candidates can no longer use the word "change." They should consider offering less

abstract, insubstantial plat-forms to run their campaigns. **Katlyn Smith**
News Wire Editor

As a first time voter, I'd prefer to see clear-cut strategies as opposed to simply identifying the nation's problems. Furthermore, the news media seems to devote ample time to tears and haircuts on the campaign trail when coverage of genocide is rare.

Similarly, I do not turn to CNN for the latest couch-jumping or umbrella-attacking celebrities. Attempting to stay aware of international events, I find myself more informed on recent mug shots or failed court appearances. However, I no longer need to purchase an US Weekly.

Third, although going green is crucial for the planet, I do not think changing light bulbs is truly effective. Massive reforms at the Washington level must increase fuel efficiency standards in the even nearer future. Nevertheless, any global warming critics can support their case with South Bend weather.

Fourth, the standard cable company for the residence halls does not provide Turner Classic Movies. Apparently, Comcast assumes students are more likely to watch HGTV and Lifetime. In addition, the channel broadcasts classics when Hollywood had IDEAS. This summer, theaters offered an impressive selection, namely Shrek 3 or Rush Hour 3. Tough call.

Fifth, the writers' strike has prevented the pure joy, elation and ecstasy of George Clooney in a tux. In effect, the award season acknowledges and honors the writers. Moreover, I'm already overwhelmed with reality television. Without the writers, I'm forced to watch reruns of David Letterman throwing pizzas at a Christmas tree.

Sixth, Green's Bay pass protection and special teams prevented one of the more sportsmanlike, humanitarian quarterback-backs from reaching the pinnacle Super Bowl. Eli has his entire career ahead of him.

Also, no words can express my frustration with my hometown team: the Bears. Except, perhaps sign Brady, as in Quinn. Only a former Purdue quarterback with a terrible beard would stumble under the pressure.

Although I would never convert to the Sox fan base, how many times do I have to declare, "Maybe this is the year?" And the hall of fame has denied Ron Santo's induction for too long. Shockingly, this baseball player has never used steroids.

Likewise, the PGA has not scheduled a tournament for Illinois until 2009. No Tiger. No Sergio.

Looking toward Notre Dame's next season, students who leave during the alma mater only reaffirm the "fair-weather" accusation. Furthermore, field goals are an acceptable means of scoring.

Surely, the spring weather will bring a more positive outlook. So until the groundhog fails to see his shadow, I can only wait for George's Oscar win to alleviate my winter doldrums.

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

Contact Katlyn Smith at ksmith01@saintmarys.edu

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 MOVIE/ACTOR SHOULD HAVE BEEN NOMINATED FOR AN OSCAR?



Meghan Newcomb
senior
off campus

"Journey to Jay's Lounge, starring Crazy Doug."



Anne Martell
senior
off campus

"Life at Waddicks."



Carolyn Plou
senior
off campus

"725 E Angela: Peace, Love and Tequila."



Jim Brady
senior
off campus

"A Night at the Torch."



Kaitlyn Conway
freshman
Farley

"The destroying of du Lac. It would be about the various ways one could destroy du Lac."



DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

Construction of the new law building on DeBartolo Quad progresses as the framework of the building is erected.

IN BRIEF

Actors From The London Stage will present "The Taming of the Shrew" tonight and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. Student tickets are available for \$12.

Prints from the Snite Museum of Art's collection that focus on artistic subjects from the 17th century will be displayed today from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The exhibit, "Rembrandt and the Art of Printmaking in Holland," will highlight the golden age of Dutch art, depictions of landscapes, portraits of animals and individuals in non-aristocratic social and economic classes, and scenes of their everyday life.

There will be a men's and women's indoor track invitational tonight at 5 in Loftus Sports Center. Admission is free.

The Harlem Globetrotters will be playing tonight at 7 at the Joyce Center. For tickets, call 631-7356.

Men's hockey will play Bowling Green tonight at 7:35 at the Joyce Center ice rink.

The Notre Dame Student Film Festival is taking place today and Saturday at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. It features 13 short films made in classes during the past year by students in the FTT department. From dark comedy to documentary, the films cover a wide range of genres. Tickets are \$3 for ND students.

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

OFFBEAT

RIBBIT! This green isn't part of salad

NEW YORK — You just don't want to eat some greens. That's how a Brooklyn mom felt when she found a tiny frog comfortably nestled in the leaves of organic lettuce she was preparing to eat.

"I jumped away," said 39-year-old Yvonne Brechbuhler, who described the green critter as no bigger than the tip of her pinky finger.

"I didn't know what it was. But once I realized it was a frog, I was OK," she told the Daily News

in Thursday editions.

Intrigued, she named the frog "Curious."

Brechbuhler, a stage actress, said she bought the lettuce at her local food co-op and kept it in the refrigerator three days before using it last week.

Naked rug portrait found in dumpster

MCMINNVILLE, Ore. — Tamera Bremer has her woven self-portrait back. It's a bit stinky but the image is as curvy and naked as the day it was stolen. In October, the weaving was taken from

an exhibit at Linfield College, where the Portland artist is an adjunct professor.

Police said a man saw it in a garbage bin Monday, recognized it from news about the theft and called. He'll get the \$500 reward the college offered.

The work is titled "The Sexy Sex: All Nude Revue Rug One." It is a hooked rug in hand-dyed alpaca, 85 by 17 inches. Bremer said it took about two years to complete.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 22 LOW 15	HIGH 12 LOW 5	HIGH 33 LOW 27	HIGH 35 LOW 28	HIGH 38 LOW 28	HIGH 33 LOW 18

Rwandan dancers visit SMC

Michiana-based group makes second appearance on campus

By ROHAN ANAND
News Writer



ROHAN ANAND/The Observer

The Berwa Organization performs a traditional Rwandan dance at O'Loughlin Auditorium Thursday night.

Members of the Saint Mary's community attended a performance by the Berwa Organization at O'Loughlin Auditorium on Thursday night. This was the second time that the Rwandan dance group, consisting of about 30 members, performed at the College.

"It's more of a local, regional group," said Richard Baxter, the College's director of special events. "They performed at Saint Mary's about a year ago in a much smaller, intimate setting, and I explored the possibility of having the group return for a larger audience."

Traditional dance and music play an important part in the lives of Rwandans. At the beginning of the performance, one of the leaders of the group said dance and music are a way to teach younger generations how to live in peace, love and harmony.

All members of the Berwa Organization live in the Michiana area, where hundreds of Rwandans reportedly live. The name Berwa means "be proud" in the native Kinyarwanda language. The Berwa members ranged in age from 9 to 50.

"They use dance to cope

with what they have been through and pass the heritage of their dance styles on to their children," Baxter said. "Watching them perform these dances on a grander scale serves as a great lesson to us."

The performance began with the "Inganzo" dance performed by younger girls, followed by the "Nyaruguru" dance performed by teenage girls. The second act consisted of the "Abakobwa b'Iwacu" dance that showed, in artistic movements, the typical day in the life of a Rwandan Movement.

Following was the "Ingoma" dance performed by the Berwa drummers, and after the intermission was a series of acts depicting the Rwandan tradi-

tional wedding, the Rwandan naming ceremony, and the celebration of a child's birth. The performance concluded with a fashion show.

"It's uplifting to watch them dance, because it reaches their hearts," Baxter said. "It's hard to talk about dance and how it affects you emotionally, but you are so captivated by their commitment to what they are doing, and you can't help but invest in the project."

All proceeds from the event will be sent by the Berwa members back to their families in Rwanda, a nation that has been torn apart by genocide and civil war.

Contact Rohan Anand at ranand@nd.edu

Heritage dinner to honor Moreau

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
News Writer

Saint Mary's Board of Governance will host a Heritage dinner in Stapleton Lounge tonight at 6 to round out its celebration of the third annual Heritage Week.

The week celebrates the history of the College, and tonight's dinner will honor Father Basil Moreau only days after the first celebration of his feast day since his beatification in 2007.

Student body president Kim Hodges said this year's dinner will be different from years past. BOG has invited Sisters of the Holy Cross to attend the dinner to tell stories about their experiences at Saint Mary's, and one of the sisters is going to share her experience from the celebration of Moreau's beatification.

"The main purpose of the dinner is to bring the Sisters of the Holy Cross, faculty and students to converse and celebrate the heritage of the College," Hodges said.

BOG is strongly encouraging student participation.

"The significance of the dinner is to pass down tradition, pass down themes of who we are as Saint Mary's women from people who have been pillars at Saint Mary's

College," Hodges said.

College vice presidents and BOG officials will attend the dinner along with the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

Sodexo, the company in charge of dining hall services, will cater the French-themed meal. The courses will be similar to the dinner Monday in the dining hall that was held for Moreau.

The dinner is open to the public and free of charge, but space is limited. Students interested in attending need to sign up at the front desk of the Student Center.

The dinner will be followed by a sock hop in the Student Center Lounge from 9 p.m. to 11. There will be an ice cream bar at the dance, and free T-shirts will be passed out in honor of Heritage Week.

Another Heritage Week festivity today will be guided tours of Reidinger House, a small building in the center of campus. The building was formerly the location of home economics classes at the College. The tours run from 3 p.m. to 5.

The winners of the scavenger hunt that began Monday will also be announced today and awarded their prize.

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn01@saintmarys.edu

DUELING PIANOS

LEGENDS OF NOTRE DAME

FRIDAY... TONIGHT!

10 PM

No Cover

DUELING PIANOS

LEGENDS OF NOTRE DAME

FRIDAY... TONIGHT!

10 PM

No Cover

SIBC

continued from page 1

"The projects, almost all of them except for the global development projects, are presented to the companies that we work with, mostly in Chicago," Bufalino said. "There was a group of students last semester that went to Goldman Sachs in New York and another group that went to Liz Claiborne in New York. We try to broaden out and get to other projects that are across the country."

Through working on various projects, students get the opportunity to learn about the business world. Many students also work on projects and internships internationally — in places such as Uganda, Cambodia, Ireland, London, Thailand, Ghana and Poland.

"Artisan Opportunities International is an organization founded by two SIBC members a couple years ago," said Tina Tovar, global development division director. "They founded it and they went to Nicaragua and when they were there, they decided they wanted to work with hammock artisans."

The SIBC purchased the hammocks made by artisans, took them to the United States to be sold and used the profits from the hammocks to help the artisans in Nicaragua, Tovar said.

Tovar said that she researched the needs of the artisans and determined the best use for the

hammock profits when she visited Nicaragua.

"We would go visit homes everyday and kind of observe and talk to them about what their needs were," she said. "Basically our trip was mostly for research purchases."

While in Nicaragua during its rainy season, Tovar saw that the artisans' houses "were in very bad condition, they were getting rained on and everything inside was getting wet."

Thus, the SIBC members in Nicaragua decided a housing project would benefit the artisans.

SIBC chief financial officer Kadeja Gaines also spent time abroad with the program. She traveled to Uganda on the Uganda Project, part of the NDMDI.

Members of the Uganda Project found a group of women in which

"The projects, almost all of them except for the global development projects, are presented to the companies that we work with, mostly in Chicago."

Marla Bufalino
director
SIBC marketing division

one had attended a seminar to learn how to dye fabrics to earn money, Gaines said. The women live in an area heavily affected by HIV/AIDS, and part of the project will aim to "create a

sewing school where HIV orphans can learn a craft that can make them money when they are adults in the future," Gaines said. "Currently we are trying to research markets, importing and exporting the fabrics, and also [determining] what these fabrics can be made into."

Students and women in Uganda can benefit a great deal from this project, she said.

"Students in this project are learning how to build a business

from the ground up. [It is] great for these women in Uganda because it is hopefully going to allow them to turn a profit and allow them to better their community," Gaines said.

The SIBC has developed more

of an international focus recently.

"It has changed in the fact that we're more focused on our vision of peace through commerce ... and what skills we can use to develop the vision," Bufalino said. Bufalino said that interested

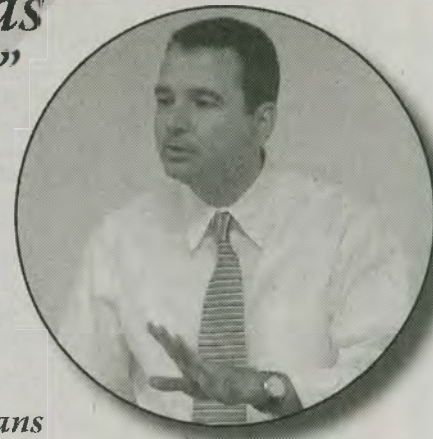
members can attend division meetings next week, and information about all projects is available on the SIBC's Web site.

Contact Emma Driscoll at edriscol@nd.edu

11TH ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ON

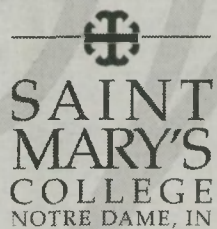
St. Thomas Aquinas

"Lessons from Aquinas on the War in Iraq"



Featuring Professor Timothy Renick
Chair, Dept. of Religious Studies,
Georgia State University

Author of *Aquinas for Armchair Theologians*



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Transfers

continued from page 1

Joyce said. "Sometimes the application pool is different."

A transfer student must complete one-half of his total degree requirements at the University. The number of juniors applying for transfer during the spring semester is usually less than the fall semester. But, occasionally, the Office of Admissions will receive an application from a first-semester junior who is off the normal four-year college sequence, Joyce said.

Last summer, the admissions committee evaluated 572 fall-semester applicants. Of the 159 students admitted, 87 percent were sophomores.

At Saint Mary's, the number of incoming students is similar to what the Admissions Office has seen in past spring semesters, said Summer Runyan, the assistant director and campus visit coordinator of the Admissions Office.

Saint Mary's evaluates transfer applicants on the qualifications that the student has completed two consecutive semesters of transferable college work. The applicant must have earned a 3.0 grade point average, Runyan said.

The Notre Dame sophomore class experienced a net gain of students after gaining fall and spring transfer students, Joyce said. Transfer students register for classes after returning students and enter a lottery for on-campus housing. All nine spring transfer stu-

dents at Notre Dame obtained on-campus housing, and the remaining fall transfer students who were placed on a waiting list in the fall received on-campus housing assignments this semester, Joyce said.

Orientation sessions were held for transfer students at both Notre Dame and Saint Mary's. Twelve students attended the Saint Mary's orientation, which included information sessions introducing students to the campus and technology use at Saint Mary's.

At Notre Dame, transfer students attended an abbreviated schedule of normal orientation events. The Transfer Orientation Committee, chaired by previous spring-semester transfer students Ashley Weiss and Colin Ethier, planned two days of activities beginning the Sunday before classes began.

Twelve previous transfer students were on the committee.

"[The members of the committee] go out of their way to welcome the new students because they know what it is like to transfer colleges," Joyce said.

On the first day of transfer orientation, separate panel discussions were held for students and parents, followed by a dinner in the Main Building. Transfer students and their families also joined University President Father John Jenkins for a Mass in the Log Chapel.

Contact Meg Mirshak at mmirshak@nd.edu

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

U.N. set to increase sanctions on Iran

UNITED NATIONS — Major U.N. Security Council powers have agreed on an incremental increase in sanctions on Iran, including a new restriction on exporters doing business with the country, diplomats said Thursday.

A draft resolution also calls for more monitoring of Iran's military and financial institutions, broader travel bans on Iranian nuclear scientists and other key officials, and freezing the assets of people and banks linked to weapons proliferation, Security Council diplomats told The Associated Press.

Diplomats from the five nations with veto power on the council — the U.S., Russia, China, Britain and France — spent a third day negotiating a final agreement on principles that would form the basis for a third round of U.N. sanctions on Iran. They were joined by Germany, which has long been involved in efforts to resolve the Iran nuclear dispute.

Italian premier resigns after vote

ROME — Italian Premier Romano Prodi resigned Thursday night after his government lost a risky Senate confidence vote.

The center-left government fell four votes short of the 160 needed for victory. The vote was 161-156.

Elected in April 2006, Prodi has had a shaky government from nearly the start. But it lurched toward collapse after a small Christian Democrat party, whose votes were vital to a coalition majority in the Senate, yanked its support earlier this week in the latest squabbling among his allies.

NATIONAL NEWS

GOP candidates compete for Florida

BOCA RATON, Fla. — For Republican presidential contenders John McCain and Mitt Romney, Thursday's debate presented a chance to step out smartly in the struggle for victory in next week's Florida primary.

For Rudy Giuliani and Mike Huckabee, it represented perhaps a last, best hope to shake up a statewide — and national — campaign that appears to be slowly leaving them behind.

Rep. Ron Paul, a libertarian-leaning Texan with a vocal following, also had a spot on the stage for the prime-time debate, broadcast on MSNBC, five days before the primary.

The Florida primary offers 57 Republican National Convention delegates to the winner. It is the first big state to vote in the nominating campaign, the first winner-take-all contest in terms of delegates, and the final election before a virtual national primary on Feb. 5.

Feds raid museums for looted art

LOS ANGELES — Federal agents executed search warrants Thursday at several Southern California museums, looking for stolen antiquities, officials said.

Authorities were searching the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana and the Mingei International Museum in San Diego, said Virginia Kice, a spokeswoman with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

A search warrant was also issued for the Pacific Asia Museum in Pasadena.

LOCAL NEWS

A tied vote stalls pro-life legislation

INDIANAPOLIS — A tie vote in the Senate Thursday stalled legislation that would allow pharmacists to deny customers prescriptions they believe cause abortions — a bill opponents say could limit women's access to birth control pills and other common contraceptives.

The Republican-controlled Senate voted 24-24 for the contentious bill, but legislation must have 26 votes — a majority — to pass the chamber. Because the bill was not defeated outright, however, it could come up for another vote in coming days.

Bill sponsor Sen. Jeff Drozda, R-Westfield, said pharmacists should not be required to fill prescriptions that go against their moral beliefs.

PAKISTAN

White House offers combat aid

Gates says U.S. 'ready, willing and able' to help fight insurgents affiliated with Al-Qaida

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is willing to send a small number of U.S. combat troops to Pakistan to help fight the insurgency there if Pakistani authorities ask for such help, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Thursday.

"We remain ready, willing and able to assist the Pakistanis and to partner with them to provide additional training, to conduct joint operations, should they desire to do so," Gates told a news conference.

Gates said the Pakistani government has not requested any additional assistance in the weeks since al-Qaida and affiliated extremists have intensified their fighting inside Pakistan. And he stressed that the United States would respect the Pakistanis' judgment on the utility of American military assistance.

"We're not aware of any proposals that the Pakistanis have made to us at this point," he said. "This is clearly an evolving issue. And what we have tried to communicate to the Pakistanis and essentially what we are saying here is we are prepared to look at a range of cooperation with them in a number of different areas, but at this point it's their nickel, and we await proposals or suggestions from them."

Gates made his remarks not as an announcement but in response to questions from reporters at a regularly scheduled news conference in which he also declined to say whether U.S. combat troops have previously crossed the border from Afghanistan into Pakistan to conduct combat operations.

The question of a U.S. troop presence in Pakistan is highly sensitive, although at times senior U.S. officials have acknowledged various arrangements. In an Associated Press interview in January 2002, for example, Gen. Tommy Franks, who headed the U.S. Central



Pakistanis listen to President Pervez Musharraf's Jan. 2 announcement that he has asked for British help to investigate the assassination of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto.

Command at the time, disclosed a deal with Pakistan allowing U.S. troops in Afghanistan to cross the border in pursuit of fugitive extremist leaders.

Gates said Pakistani authorities were understandably taking their time in deciding whether to request more military assistance from the United States. He noted the assassination in Dec. 27 of former prime minister and opposition leader Benazir Bhutto and subsequent fears of increased unrest.

"I think that the emergence of this fairly considerable security challenge in Pakistan has really been brought home to the Pakistani government relatively recently and particu-

larly with the tragic assassination of Mrs. Bhutto," Gates said. "So I think it's not particularly surprising that they have not fully thought through exactly how they intend to proceed and their strategy going forward."

The United States has about 28,000 troops in neighboring Afghanistan, and Gates earlier this month ordered another 3,200 to go this spring to train Afghan forces and to help fight Taliban insurgents.

U.S. intelligence believes al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden is on the Pakistani side of the border with Afghanistan.

The top American commander in the region, Navy Adm. William J. Fallon, was

in Pakistan earlier this week meeting with senior Pakistani officials, including the new army chief, Gen. Ashfaq Kayani. Last week Fallon told reporters that Pakistani officials were more willing to seek U.S. assistance.

Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who appeared at the news conference with Gates, said he did not know whether Fallon had offered or received any new proposals.

Most of the discussion with the Pakistanis thus far has focused on the possibility of U.S. troops being used to train Pakistani forces, Gates said, but he acknowledged that combat operations might also be included.

Border Patrol widens searches

Associated Press

PEARL, Miss. — Detective Nick McLendon, on stakeout duty along a dark stretch of eastbound Interstate 20, noticed a red Chevy Suburban with heavily tinted windows and no light over its rear Texas license plate. The missing light gave him all the excuse he needed to pull the SUV over.

Packed into the Suburban, he discovered, were 14 illegal immigrants, two suspected smugglers, and a spiral notebook on the front seat, listing the passengers and their destinations in Spanish — "Arterio Ramirez to Nuy Jersey; David Luna to Nueva

York; Marcelina and Jasmin to Carolina del Norte; Jose Aguilar to Alabama; Josefina Ortega to Chicago; Gustavo Ribera to Florida."

The arrests — some 800 miles from the Mexican border — represented a new and dramatic shift in U.S. immigration enforcement strategy.

Federal agents, with help from local law officers like McLendon, a Pearl detective, have begun intercepting illegal immigrants and smugglers along stretches of highway deep in the U.S. interior, where those who have slipped into the country usually have little chance of getting caught.

"They think they're pretty much home free once they get up here," said Bill Botts, the assistant chief

patrol agent in charge of the Border Patrol's Gulfport, Miss., station. But Operation Uniforce, as the two-week crackdown begun Jan. 13 is called, "is pretty much a shocker for the smuggling organizations."

More than 300 immigrants and suspected smugglers had been arrested as of Tuesday, more than a week into the operation.

Interstate 20 has become a major corridor for immigrant smugglers. It peels off from I-10 in West Texas and runs across the South, passing through Atlanta and linking up with other major highways, including I-95, which leads to Miami to the south and Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and Boston to the north.

CCAC

continued from page 1

meet with the coalition before she leaves office — and she has been trying for the last several months to organize a meeting.

"I won't have a whole lot left to contribute because I only have a little over two months left in my term, but I do think it's important to at least get it formed in the year that it was created," she said.

Rouse, however, is not positive that the coalition will meet before April 1, and although he welcomes Brown's input, says he will not rush a meeting.

"Although we wish Ms. Brown well and are sure that she will be very successful in whatever field she decides to go into, and her thoughts will always be welcome throughout the years, in all fairness to the coalition, this is not contingent upon whether she's in the community or not," he said.

However, Brown is not alone in wanting to meet sometime this spring. Some Council members would also like to see the CCAC convened to discuss what they consider a very important issue.

Though he still receives "some" complaints about student partying, Kirsits said that he has already seen an improvement in student-community relations since the CCAC was formed.

"I do believe, with some of the ordinance work, and the idea of registering parties, it got people together to reel things in and get people talking to try to make the neighborhoods a little bit better for everybody," he said.

Despite the slow start, Rouse is optimistic that the coalition will be able to accomplish its goals.

"I'm sure that it will meet the need that it was created for, and we're still very optimistic and proactive on that whole process," he said. "The results are going to be very much worth the wait."

Nonetheless, these goals can never be fulfilled if the CCAC is never convened. And ultimately, the responsibility rests with the members of the South Bend Common Council to empower the coalition.

"In terms of our end, we've followed up by asking when it's going to be formed, if it's going to be formed," Brown said. "Unfortunately at this point I just think it's kind of a waiting game. The ball is in their court. They know we've been following up."

Contact Joseph McMahon at jmcmaho6@nd.edu

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NASDAQ	2,360.92	+44.51
NYSE	8,942.25	+136.57
S&P 500	1,352.07	+13.47
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	13,383.36	+290.58
FTSE 100 (London)	5,875.80	+266.50

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	+0.84	+1.13	134.99
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	+2.02	+0.89	44.91
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IN BRIEF

Dems spar with Bush's EPA director

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration's top environmental regulator faced off Thursday against Democratic senators who took turns denouncing him for blocking tailpipe emission cuts in California and more than a dozen other states.

EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson defended his decision and didn't budge as he was accused of doing the bidding of the White House and the auto industry. It was his first Capitol Hill appearance since denying a federal waiver last month that would have allowed California to implement a law slashing greenhouse gas emissions from cars and trucks.

Other states could then have followed suit and 12 were ready to do so, with others making preparations.

"I evaluated all the data, I made the decision, it's the right decision," Johnson said. "I was not directed by anyone to make the decision."

"I am bound by the criteria in the Clean Air Act, not people's opinions," he said, contending California did not meet all those criteria.

Bush proposes family leave changes

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is proposing the first changes in more than a decade to regulations that give workers unpaid leave to deal with family or medical emergencies, a move that concerns some of the law's supporters who want to see it expanded.

The Labor Department announced Thursday it had sent the first proposed changes to regulations governing the Family and Medical Leave Act to the White House's Office of Management and Budget for approval.

While refusing to outline the changes, Assistant Labor Secretary Victoria A. Lipnic said the proposed regulations will not reduce the number of people today who can take advantage of FMLA leaves. "People who are currently eligible under this law do not lose their eligibility," she said.

But Debra Ness, president of the National Partnership for Women and Families, suggested that officials should be trying to expand the law, not change regulations.

Asian markets rise on U.S. news

American stock gains, labor figures, strong rate cuts stimulate Pacific rally

Associated Press

HONG KONG — Asian markets rallied Friday, further recovering from their plunge earlier this week, as investors took heart from gains on Wall Street overnight and positive figures about the U.S. economy.

Investors also welcomed details of a tax rebate for U.S. consumers announced as part of President Bush's economic stimulus plan. The tax rebate will put \$600 to \$1,200 in most tax filers' pockets.

"The markets are reacting to news that Bush and Congress have agreed to accelerate tax rebates for U.S. consumers so they can go out and buy more exports from Asia," said Francis Lun, a general manager at Fulbright Securities in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index jumped nearly 6 percent in early trading before trimming some gains. By midmorning, it was up 1,138 points, or 4.83 percent, at 24,667 points. The index fell 2.2 percent the previous day.

In Tokyo, Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index extended its gains for a second straight session, rising 367.05 points, or 2.8 percent, to 13,459.83 by midday. It gained 2.1 percent Thursday.

Markets in Australia, South Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines were also up.

On Wall Street Thursday, the Dow Jones industrials rose more than 100 points, partly lifted by data that suggested the U.S. job market is holding up. The Labor Department said number of people seeking unemployment benefits last week fell for a fourth straight week.

Investors were also



A pedestrian walks past an electric market board in Tokyo on Friday. Japan's benchmark stock index rose 2.8 percent Friday morning following a rally on Wall Street.

cheered by strong gains Thursday in Europe.

Hong Kong gainers were led by property issues on expectations that the U.S. Federal Reserve would again slash rates when it meets next Tuesday and Wednesday. Hong Kong banks usually match the U.S. rate cuts as the Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the U.S. currency.

Asian markets have had a volatile week, buffeted by worries that the U.S., a key export market and the world's biggest economy, was going to contract.

On Monday and Tuesday,

all Asian markets suffered steep losses before rebounding Wednesday and Thursday after the U.S. Fed slashed lending rates by 0.75 percent.

The Hong Kong index bucked Thursday's upward trend. After rising 3 percent in the morning, it slumped 2.3 percent later in the day after French bank Societe Generale announced a massive write-down in subprime assets and detailed how a junior trader had lost the bank more than \$7 billion. Analysts described Hong Kong's

drop as a "knee-jerk reaction" to the French bank's news.

"We should have ended up yesterday," said Rob Hart, an analyst at Morgan Stanley. "But there was nowhere else to pull money from when the Societe Generale news came out. Tokyo and Seoul had already closed."

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 0.88 percent to 12,378.61 Thursday, following a 2.5 percent surge on Wednesday. The Nasdaq composite index advanced 1.9 percent to 2,360.92.

FRANCE

Trader defrauds bank for \$7 billion

Associated Press

PARIS — Last Sunday, Societe Generale Chief Executive Daniel Bouton got the call every banking chief dreads.

Undetected by multilayered security systems at the bank, France's second-largest, 31-year old junior trader Jerome Kerviel had for over a year been fraudulently using company funds to bet on European stock markets — wrongdoing that was going to cost the bank billions.

The timing could not have been worse: Stock markets suffered their blackest day since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on Monday, meaning Societe Generale was forced to sell the contracts built up by the rogue trader just as bourses were plunging.

It took the bank three days to unload them, and appeared to be

the largest trading fraud ever carried out by a single person.

The losses, Societe Generale announced Thursday, amounted to 4.9 billion euros, or more than \$7 billion — making it one of history's biggest banking frauds and prompting immediate calls for tighter regulation of the industry.

Societe Generale said Kerviel — described as a "brilliant" student by one of his former university teachers — appears to have netted no personal gain from the scheme.

The trader was compared to Nick Leeson, who bankrupted British bank Barings in 1995. Barings collapsed after Leeson, the bank's Singapore general manager of futures trading, lost 860 million — on Asian futures markets, wiping out the bank's cash reserves. The company had been in business for

more than 230 years.

Leeson himself told the British Broadcasting Corp. on Thursday that he was not shocked such a fraud had happened again, but "the thing that really shocked me was the size of it."

Though the scale of losses at Societe Generale is far greater, Bouton insisted that the bank is still financially sound.

The company said it expects to post a net profit of 600 million to 800 million euros (\$874 million to \$1.16 billion) for all of 2007 — even after the fraud and another 2.05 billion euros (\$2.99 billion) lost in the subprime mortgage crisis.

As a result, the bank said it would be forced to raise about \$8 billion in new capital, partly by selling shares in a rights offer underwritten by JPMorgan Chase and Morgan Stanley.

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Uganda

continued from page 1

Saharan village to help it tackle the challenges of disease, hunger, poverty, illiteracy and environmental degradation through the empowerment of its people and institutions.

This meant that rather than impose a solution to these problems, Notre Dame would collaborate with and give the villagers the tools and resources they might need to improve the standard of life.

Lyden said that during the first half of 2007, Notre Dame and its partner school, Uganda Martyrs University, worked together to conduct research on the village and comprehensive interviews with its residents. The two schools also studied Ruhira, a more advanced Millennium Village in the Isingiro district of Uganda.

"We looked at some of Ruhira's strategies, timelines and budgets and hope to adapt those to Nindye's needs," Lyden said.

One of those strategies was hiring a consultant from the Ugandan capital, Kampala, to conduct a participatory mapping exercise in Nindye. Lyden said the project's staff called on the same consultant used in Ruhira to "map out existing infrastructure, water sources, topography and population density, among

other things, so that we could gain a better understanding of the region and take those things into consideration in the future."

The mapping exercise, he said, involved the villagers by inviting them to three open meetings where they could offer their input and knowledge of the region. More than 100 people attended each of the sessions, Lyden said.

"Word was getting out among the people about the way in which we wanted to build the partnership — an inclusive one,"

"Word was getting out among the people about the way in which we wanted to build the partnership — an inclusive one."

Tim Lyden
assistant director
Millennium Development Initiative

he said. "And they were also willing to cooperate with us and talk to us because they knew we were working with Uganda Martyrs."

When five Notre Dame undergraduates arrived to spend the summer in Nindye, the villagers were

open and receptive.

"People were extremely willing to spend one or two hours talking to our students," Lyden said.

Two students were there through the Student International Business Council (SIBC), identifying and interviewing local entrepreneurs while the other three were doing academic research on different areas, including the education system and the economic and political conditions in Nindye, Lyden said. Their findings and conclusions will become the basis for a more tailored systematic survey that the project staff hopes to get out to the villagers in 2008.

This baseline survey, he said, will yield more information about Nindye's demographics, the level of education of its residents, their religion, mortality rates, measures of maternal health and incidence rates for HIV/AIDS and other diseases like tuberculosis and malaria, among other key attributes.

"We hope the results from this baseline survey will tell the people of Nindye what to tackle first: Do they work on purifying water sources or on building new schools? Although ultimately, the hope is to be able to start working on a variety of different initiatives at the same time and in that way, 'jumpstart' the entire village," Lyden said.

He said it's likely the survey will not be conducted until mid-2008, when Uganda Martyrs students in need of a summer job and who can speak the local language — Luganda — can distribute it to the villagers, compile the results and communicate them to the people of Nindye.

Notre Dame, for its part, will concentrate on raising more capital to back up the project, Lyden said. This might include extending an invitation to the alumni to become more involved in the efforts to help Nindye, but those plans aren't finalized yet.

"We do know that sometime this fall, we hope to be able to gather the villagers, tell them what our findings are, work with them to prioritize their needs and come up with specific actions to address those needs, so that when resources become available, they know exactly where to distribute them," Lyden said.

Contact Marcela Berrrios at aberrrios@nd.edu

Elections

continued from page 1

five tickets," Siefert said.

Speaking to a group of about 20 students, Gruscinski acknowledged the unusual nature of their unopposed contest, but said she and Falvey are still taking their campaign very seriously, and are concerned with increasing voter turnout at Saint Mary's.

"Students will still be asked to vote," Gruscinski said.

She explained that students will have the option of either voting for them or selecting an abstain option on Saint Mary's PRISM Web site on Monday.

In the circumstance that 51 percent of students do click the abstain option, Gruscinski and Falvey will not take office next school year.

If the abstention vote wins, it will be the first time in school history, Siefert said. Since that has never happened before, she was unsure how the situation would be handled.

Extended Student Center hours, reliable and extended wireless Internet are part of the issues that built the candidates' platform.

"We really want to make

Saint Mary's a [better] place for students to be," Falvey said.

If elected, a push to extend Student Center hours until midnight on weekdays and 2 a.m. on weekends will be made, and improving wireless connection on campus is something the team said they would "really fight hard for," even if it means cutting funds elsewhere. Falvey believes it can be done.

"We'll make it work," she said.

The duo also wants to increase the study break options to once a week throughout the semester instead of just during exams.

"The idea for study break options came from a thought that stress occurs at different times, not just during finals week," Gruscinski said.

When asked what these study breaks would entail, Gruscinski suggested more movie showings in Vander Vennet theater, recruiting performers onto campus, and hot chocolate nights.

Falvey ended the event by emphasizing her and Gruscinski's dedication.

"We both have great visions for the school," she said.

Voting begins on PRISM at midnight on Monday and continues until 11:59 p.m.

"We really want to make Saint Mary's a [better] place for students to be."

Sarah Falvey
SMC vice presidential candidate

Contact Kristen Edelen at kedeled01@saintmarys.edu



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SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR: Christian Sagardia

OFFICE MANAGER & GENERAL INFO

(574) 631-7471

FAX

(574) 631-6927

ADVERTISING

(574) 631-6900 observad@nd.edu

EDITOR IN CHIEF

(574) 631-4542

MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4541 obsme@nd.edu

ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR

(574) 631-4324

BUSINESS OFFICE

(574) 631-5313

NEWS DESK

(574) 631-5323 obsnews.1@nd.edu

VIEWPOINT DESK

(574) 631-5303 viewpoint.1@nd.edu

SPORTS DESK

(574) 631-4543 sports.1@nd.edu

SCENE DESK

(574) 631-4540 scene.1@nd.edu

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Ramadan loss unfortunate

Four years after it was created, the teaching position meant for Tariq Ramadan is still unfilled. The Muslim scholar, hired by Notre Dame in spring of 2004 to teach Islamic ethics and fill a new tenured position at the Kroc Institute, had his visa revoked that fall for reasons initially unreleased by the U.S. government. Barred from entering the country, the Swiss citizen resigned his position at Notre Dame. So Oxford promptly took him.

In fall of 2006, the government finally explained the problem: Ramadan had given money to a Swiss charity later classified as a terrorist group. The ACLU took up his case. This December, a federal court dealt Ramadan another blow, dismissing his lawsuit and upholding the government's decision.

It is a long-awaited disappointment.

Ramadan is a complex figure. His criticism of certain French Jewish intellectuals has drawn accusations of anti-Semitism. But he has also called for religious tolerance. His writings and lectures and his family history — his grandfather founded the Muslim Brotherhood — have elicited warnings from critics, who call him insincere and accuse him of backing oppressive, militant Islam. But he is also known as a reformer, strongly opposed to extremism.

That complexity is what makes Ramadan fascinating — and unique. Whatever his critics say, Ramadan is an academic whose charisma and message propelled him to prominence, an Islamic intellectual with a reputation both good and bad. It would have been a distinctive background for a professor at Notre Dame.

It also would have been a distinctive experience for students. Ramadan "is influential with millions of people whom we seek better to understand and engage in a constructive way," R. Scott Appleby, director of the Kroc Institute, told The Observer earlier this week. That perspective is unparalleled.

At a Catholic university that emphasizes the importance of dialogue, Ramadan would have added an important voice. The Kroc Institute would have gained an invaluable dimension. Notre Dame would have gained additional prominence.

A controversial professor should not be hired for controversy's sake; a professor — controversial or not — should be hired for the value he presents to the University. The Kroc Institute pursued Ramadan for the contribution he could have made to Notre Dame and defended its choice to critics. Notre Dame cannot shy away from controversy in the future.

THE OBSERVER Editorial

Ad nausea

Let's get it started (ha!), let's get it started in here. Let's get it started (ha!), let's get it started in here. After wasting far too much time trying to come up with an adequate introduction to this article, we concluded that anything we came up with would pale in comparison to the words of the Black Eyed Peas. Now that we got things "started (ha)" on to the topic at hand ... how the new Budweiser spokesman is the embodiment of all the worst qualities of every jerk we've ever met



Kessler and ...

Smooth as Silk

For all of you who watched the AFC and/or NFC championship games, no matter who you were rooting for, I think there is something we can all agree upon. The new Budweiser guy is a huge d-bag. Who is this condescending butt clown and why is he wearing that obnoxious sweater and sport jacket combo.

I think we all know what this guy's story is: He was second team all conference in hockey as well as the captain of the football team which made it to state his junior year. After high school he went to the same college as 69 percent

of his graduating class and was a preferred walk-on to the football team. After quitting halfway through his freshman season he joined a fraternity where he earned the nickname "Moose" for his drinking prowess. Junior year, well on his way to his communications degree, he met his wife, Jenni, at the Phi Delta Phi "Jungle Jamboree."

Fast forward 20 years and they are married with three boys. No longer known as "Moose," he prefers to be called "Coach" since he coaches his 12-year-old son's traveling baseball team. He is a really crappy coach and continually plays his son way more than other kids even though his son throws like Smalls at the beginning of "The Sandlot." Up 15 runs, he has no problem stealing second and then third. He enjoys bullying the pimple-faced 14-year-old umpires not just to get the calls but out of the pure pleasure he gets from seeing a pre-pubescent boy cower in fear. Finally, he intentionally walks the opposition's top players to reach the uncoordinated weiners at the bottom of the batting order.

As if his on field actions weren't lame enough, this is the same dude that brags amount his hemi-loaded Dodge Ram and eats three quarters of his meal before deciding he doesn't like it

and demanding a refund. Furthermore, this stud is the one creepy old guy who is always overly willing to buy beer for the high school kids in hopes of gettin' some from a 16-year-old JV cheerleader.

This patronizing douche is supposed to make me want to drink Budweiser "premium lager" by talking to real fake-looking people in a picturesque bar setting? I really wonder who thought it was a good idea to make this stereotypical meat head the face of Budweiser. I mean, I think everyone feels like they kind of know that guy or have met his type of person at some time in their life, but the only problem is when you think of that guy you immediately then think about how much he sucks and make that comment to the nearest person whereupon they agree and bring up something about him that you didn't know you hated.

Kessler and ... is a non-profit pharmaceutical organization in search of a cure for male pattern baldness. Rick Loesing, Pat Canna, Dave Ferron, Ces Knee and Matt Lisowski contributed to this column. They can be contacted at kesslerand@gmail.com

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

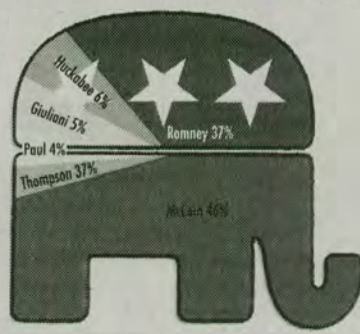
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Observer Poll

Who will win the Republican nomination?

	Votes	Percentage
John McCain	309	46%
Mitt Romney	251	37%
Mike Huckabee	40	6%
Rudy Giuliani	36	5%
Ron Paul	26	4%
Fred Thompson	17	3%



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The trouble about trying to make yourself stupider than you really are is that you very often succeed."

C.S. Lewis
English novelist

Debates tarnish Obama's image

Last Monday, during the contentious South Carolina Democratic debate, Sen. Barack Obama tarnished his own image as a "new" type of politician — so much so, that only his support from African-Americans rises above double digits over rival Senator Hillary Clinton. Obama continues to fall off message, exposing his inexperience while under intense pressure and scrutiny on the national stage. The political landscape of the past half-century is littered with similarly unsuccessful presidential candidates of both parties who offered a new direction, good intentions and charismatic rhetoric — but failed to win their party's nominations. Consequently, Obama has drifted away from his original image as an inclusive candidate with high ideals who happens to be an African-American into the more narrowly defined candidate of African-Americans. Unfortunately, voters demand broad appeal rather than a narrowing candidacy, which can be as fatal as being labeled the Haliburton candidate.



Gary Caruso

Capitol
 Comments

Political pundits have consistently mischaracterized Obama's appeal. In Iowa, they lumped him with former Senator John Edwards as the anti-Clinton change agents. However, it is Edwards, the

party's former vice presidential nominee, and Clinton who are dividing the experience-based vote over Obama's inexperience. While Obama energized new and independent voters with lofty ideals in early contests, South Carolina is the first "closed" primary of the season in which only Democrats may vote. With more than half of the voters African-American, Obama's win will be narrowly viewed.

Obama's back-to-back losses in New Hampshire and Nevada caused his campaign to change tactics, taking their eyes off of the ultimate prize. Desperate for a win, Obama catered to South Carolina's African-American majority voters, first with his Nevada concession speech (read from a Teleprompter), then with new body gestures and language that make him sound more like a Southern Baptist minister. Voters in other parts of the country can clearly see his transformation away from his original Iowa persona, a demeanor that now dramatically emphasizes the notion that he is just another politician doing what he needs to do for a desperate win.

Obama unwittingly began transforming himself by describing his candidacy to a Nevada editorial board. Comparing his goals with the coalition-building skills of Ronald Reagan was a fair assessment but lacked the wisdom to avoid agitating Democrats unenthusiastic about Reagan. However, when Obama lumped Bill Clinton with Richard Nixon, an effort to contrast and slightly discredit Hillary, he stooped to a personal level by insulting the former president. It is a mystery how

Obama cannot comprehend that his remarks were personal and how they surely invited, and drew, a quick response from Bill Clinton.

The Obama campaign has been too sensitive against and too quick to engage the Clintons. First, they accused Hillary of a callous disrespect for Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. when she suggested that he needed President Lyndon Johnson's support to achieve the passage of civil and voting rights laws. Then, in a zeal to win the next primary and break his losing streak, Obama himself complained about the former president's remarks that Obama's votes for military funding are identical with Hillary's votes, yet she is accused of supporting the war. Obama has become so rattled by the Clintons that he publicly whined about the former president to Hillary during the debate.

Bill Clinton is demonstrating that in the presidential arena, Obama cannot have it both ways — hurling insults on the one hand, which Obama then decries as the old political way, and rationalizing his personal Clinton slurs as simply laying forth the facts. If other Democrats, like Al Gore or John Kerry, had been standing in Hillary's place on stage, they would have scolded Obama with, "Well, welcome to the big leagues. Do you naively think Republicans are will be genteel this fall because you invoked Reagan's name?"

Most importantly though, Obama has been impatient and sounded curt during the debates. This week, he landed a body blow to Clinton by announcing that she served on the Wal-Mart board of directors

when he was working as a community activist. The savvy and experienced Clinton returned a roundhouse knock-down when she countered that he had worked for a "slum lord in the inner city of Chicago," a reference to "Tony" Rezko, an unsavory Obama financial backer, whose contributions of \$40,000 this year and another \$11,500 in 2006 were given to charities.

Modern history shows that challengers like Obama rarely overcome insider candidates like Clinton in the contest for either party's presidential nomination. Despite lofty ideals eloquently espoused by charismatic candidates, party faithful of all genders and races routinely reward candidates who are experienced and have earned their rises through the party ranks. Beyond Saturday's South Carolina primary lies Super Duper Tuesday, a national primary day of 22 states, most open only to Democrats. Immediately following Monday's debate, Hillary left South Carolina to campaign elsewhere, keeping focused on the prize. For Obama, last Monday's debate marks a transformation of him and turning point in the campaign where his stature has been diminished.

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

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

PERSPECTIVE: 1969

SENIOR WEEKEND

Kick-off Party

First drink - 49¢

Second drink - 1¢

5 gallons of free spirits

as door prizes

TONIGHT

at Alumni Club

This image first appeared in the Nov. 19, 1969 edition of *The Observer*.

PERSPECTIVE: 1984

Timid males

Dear Editor:

Why is it that so many Notre Dame males complain about the quality and quantity of "normal" social interaction with their female counterparts? I for one am tired of hearing it.

The problem does not lie within the female population. The problem is rooted in the timid males who hide behind masks of studliness. The reason for this is more complicated than it may first seem. It begins with the devastating fear of rejection.

Most Notre Dame males were very popular in high school and never quite became attuned to the reality of being rejected. Hell, one of the greatest and most mystical universities in the country even granted them acceptance.

Then they enter the "Notre Dame zone" where the next guy is just as smart, just as popular as he.

And the women are so much brighter and wiser to the ways of the world than Notre Dame males are used to. The Notre Dame male enters a world where he is no longer numero uno — which is in itself rejection.

Many of these males become intimidated by the whole situation. Unfortunately one of the consequences of this is that they shy away from doing the things they did in high school — i.e., asking girls out on dates.

This leads to the formulation of excuses for the poor social interaction between men and women here at Notre Dame. It also may be a cause of other problems such as alcohol abuse. And it is a shame that the major excuse used places the blame on the women in the Notre Dame community. Wake up, guys!

I feel that it is a responsibility for you and me to cure this situation. Not by passing the blame to those who don't deserve it, but by taking action and asking that cute blonde who sits in front of you in philosophy class if she would like to see a movie with you on Friday. If she says no, ask another.

John K. Spendley

This letter first appeared in the March 5, 1984 edition of *The Observer*.

EDITORIAL CARTOON



TITANIC

The Musical



MARY JESSE | Observer Graphic

By TAE ANDREWS

Scene Editor

Under the tagline “a familiar story told a whole new way,” director Kyle Chamberlin and the rest of the “Titanic: the Musical” crew cast off with two performances this Saturday night in the Ballroom of the LaFortune Student Center.

As the first performance put on by Fortnight Productions, “Titanic” differs vastly from nearly every other campus production in one regard — the cast and crew will have staged the entire show, from auditions to performances, in just two weeks. Talk about a whole new way of telling a familiar story.

Given how busy many Notre Dame students are, Fortnight Productions provides another theater venue for would-be performers who might not otherwise have the time to commit to a full-scale production. The cast read and sang through the show for the first time on Jan. 14 and then went through scheduled rehearsals for 12 of the next 13 days. With the accelerated production schedule, the extremely tight timetable forced the production staff to be flexible and adapt to various challenges as they arose.

Despite the many challenges of staging Titanic on two weeks’ notice, Chamberlin said he has enjoyed the experience of directing the ship. “It has been particularly rewarding to help a group of talented, intelligent, experienced performers do something that none of us have ever done before,” he said.

Chamberlin went on to say that he listened to the soundtrack for “Titanic: The Musical” well before he ever saw the show onstage. When he finally did see the show, the performance didn’t live up to his expectations. “With so many people on board that fateful voyage, there was a host of compelling stories,” he said. “I felt there was an opportunity to do so much more with the story.”

One of the stories the show does not include is the story arc played out by Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet in the movie version of “Titanic.” “Neither Jack or Rose are anywhere to be found in our production, and if you want to hear ‘My Heart Will Go On’ you best bring your mp3 player,” Chamberlin said. “Instead of trying to compete with the grandeur of the movie, we left the focus on our talent and the music.”

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrew1@nd.edu

Titanic: The Musical
LaFortune Ballroom

Saturday at 7 and 10:30 p.m.
Admission: Free

NEW AMERICAN GLADIATORS is worth watching, despite changes



MARY JESSE | Observer Graphic

“American Gladiators” is back — just not the way you remember it.

NBC has resurrected the reality competition this season in the wake of the writers’ strike, but the new, glitzy version of the show fails to live up to the legacy of the original.

Jay Fitzpatrick

Scene & Heard

Viewers are greeted to the arena by former WWE superstar Hulk Hogan and boxing’s super middleweight champion Laila Ali. Hogan can be counted on to get the crowd excited, and his personality has not changed much since he was a professional wrestler. But Ali lacks the charisma that defined her father, Muhammad Ali, and often comes up short when doing interviews.

Moreover, the pair act merely as talking heads, lacking the same kind of play-by-play coverage that former hosts Mike Adamle and Larry Csonka did in the original series. Adamle and Csonka could be counted on for quality and insightful commentary that rivals most of what is on television today.

Ali and Hogan’s interviews with the contenders rarely add anything meaningful to the show, instead only wasting just enough time to cut down on the number of events. (In the original run of the show, contenders competed in seven events before the eliminator. That has since been reduced to five.) The contenders usually show their hubris by blurting out absurd statements that make them look either silly or rude.

The contenders themselves are inherently different from their counterparts in the original. When standing next to the gladiators, the original contenders looked downright puny. They were fit, but rarely did any of them have any really muscular builds like all of them do today.

The contenders were also asked only

to be athletes; now, each of them has to have an interesting story. In the same episode, three different contenders claimed they needed to win the \$100,000 grand prize in order to rebuild a house destroyed by Hurricane Wilma, buy a house to help her mother move out of a trailer and help spread Christianity.

On the other hand, the gladiators remain as they were in the original: mysterious and dominant. The names that you grew up with are gone (no more Thunder, Lazer or Gemini), but they have been replaced by the Haka-dancing Toa and the howling Wolf. Wolf is by far the best of this new crop of American heroes, if for no other reason that he looks to be flat out crazy. During events in which he is competing, he has the wild look in his eye of a madman bent on vengeance — something that has suited him just fine in the early goings of “American Gladiators.”

The female gladiators have drastically changed from the original. Fans of the original series will remember the

Amazons who competed were large, incredibly muscular women who would have fit right in with the East German swim team. But in an age when sex sells, NBC traded in these behemoths for a set of gladiators who, despite still at least as strong as their predecessors, look like actual women. Even

the mighty Hellga, whose role in the show is simply to be an immovable object, at least has some ladylike features.

Many of the events remain the same as in the original series, and the new ones still have the same general feeling of contender versus gladiator. But the new show has a distinct advantage over the original in its Eliminator. In the original series, the Eliminator was a lengthy obstacle course at the end of the show that was more or less ceremonial because it was impossible to make



Photo courtesy of fetemagazine.com

NBC has reinvented the American Gladiators of yore.

up any lead lost during the race. But that has all changed. The Eliminator is much longer now and requires contenders to use all of their strength just to finish.

The most important change is the move of the “travelator” (an inclined treadmill) from the beginning of the race to the end. This has wreaked havoc on the contenders in the revival, punishing the proud contenders as they struggle to maintain their footing all the way up to the finish.

Overall, the new series provides the same quality entertainment that the original provided a decade ago. Even though the current installment of “American Gladiators” has not been able to, and may never, match entertainment and competition of its predecessor, this new 21st-century installment is still very much worth watching.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

The views expressed in Scene and Heard are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Fans of the original series will remember the Amazons who competed were large, incredibly muscular women who would have fit right in with the East German swim team.



Photo courtesy of nbc.com

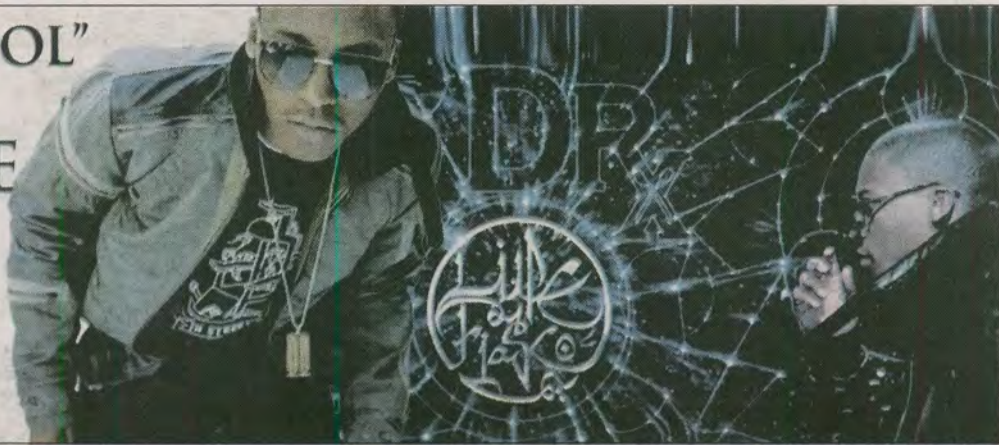
Hellga continues to strike fear into the hearts of contestants on the new American Gladiators show.



Photo courtesy of nbc.com

Wolf has established himself early as one of the most intimidating of the new breed of gladiators.

LUPE'S "THE COOL"
AVOIDS THE
SOPHOMORE
SLUMP



MARY JESSE | Observer Graphic

By CORBIN HICKS
Scene Writer

Lupe Fiasco was given the tough task of following up a debut album that was produced by Jay-Z and nominated for a Grammy. While the hip-hop artist doesn't deliver a classic this time around, it's safe to say that he has exceeded expectations.

Since releasing his debut album, much has changed in the life of Lupe Fiasco. Gone are the incessant comparisons and references to skateboarding. Fiasco has had to deal with a bevy of recent personal struggles and obstacles — including the deaths of his father and his good friend, rapper Stack Bundles. Also, his mentor, business partner and close friend Charles "Chilly" Patton was sentenced to 44 years in prison after a conviction on drug charges. These have not been the best 12 months for Fiasco.

However, it hasn't been all negative. Average listeners and critics alike hailed his debut album as an instant classic. He almost effortlessly became an icon for lyricism and the poster child for a return to the founding ideals of hip-hop. Seemingly coming out of nowhere, he has established himself as an epic songwriter and has leapfrogged other up-and-coming Chicago MCs, such as Rhymefest and Bump-J, in mainstream accessibility and critical acclaim. No small feat for a rookie in the music business.

Lupe Fiasco's follow-up effort, "The Cool," shakes off any fears of falling victim

to the sophomore slump. The album begins with a spoken-word intro that discusses the subjectivity of things that are tolerated in our society. Fiasco claims that what may be "cool" for one person could strike fear into the hearts of others. This track is followed by a solemn tribute to his incarcerated mentor.

The grave seriousness of these first two tracks is eased somewhat by the up-tempo, double-time rhythm used in "Go-Go Gadget Flow," where Fiasco proclaims that Chicago is the "best city in the whole wide world." The brooding theme returns on the next track, "The Coolest," and we begin to see a trend that is littered throughout this album. Obviously, Fiasco has been dealing with some personal demons, and his songwriting reflects these struggles. The subject matter on this album is very dark, but it is not unbearable as the music alternates between the lively and the moody.

The next song is "Superstar," which was the album's first single. Most of the Notre Dame student body remembers this as one of the unknown songs that Fiasco performed when he stopped by for "The Show." The next track is "Paris, Tokyo," which has an old-school, A Tribe Called Quest vibe to it. In this song, he explains all of the different kinds of places that he would take a special lady.

These places include Paris, Tokyo, New Orleans, Brazil and various other exotic locations. Next is perhaps the song that stands out the most, "Hi-Definition," which features a guest verse by Snoop Dogg, is by far the most commercial attempt on the album. It is not bad by any means, but it throws off the continuity that the album has built up so far.

After "Gold Watch" are two of the best storytelling tracks to ever come from a rapper. "Hip-Hop Saved My Life" is a detailed description of the life of an aspiring rapper and the journey that they endure in order to reach stardom. By the way, if you hear a song with a screwed-up hook that goes "Stack That Cheese" in the next six months, you know where it came from.



Photo courtesy of thelastminuteblog.com

"The Cool" is Lupe's follow-up to his Grammy award winning debut album.

"Intruder Alert" goes where very few rap songs go. In the span of the song, Fiasco covers three topics that are considered taboo, expounding on the vulnerability and heartache that certain situations cause people who become engulfed by tough circumstances.

The first verse deals with a female rape victim, the second verse discusses a drug addict and the third verse talks about a father sending his infant daughter to the United States so that she can have a better life. These topics could be stand-alone songs, but the fact that he is able to combine all three of these emotional stories into one song — that is actually an enjoyable listen — speaks to the wonders of Lupe's songwriting abilities.

The rest of the album is solid. The subject matter varies drastically from child soldiers to the average day of a cheeseburger, but it still maintains the album's somber undertone. His versatility makes this effort thoroughly enjoyable and the tough subject matter easy to digest. Lupe's latest might not win a Grammy, but it's worth a spin.

Contact Corbin Hicks at chicks2@nd.edu

The Cool
Lupe Fiasco

Label: Fiction Records

Recommended Track: "Hip-Hop Saved My Life," "Intruder Alert," "Fighters" & "Paris, Tokyo"

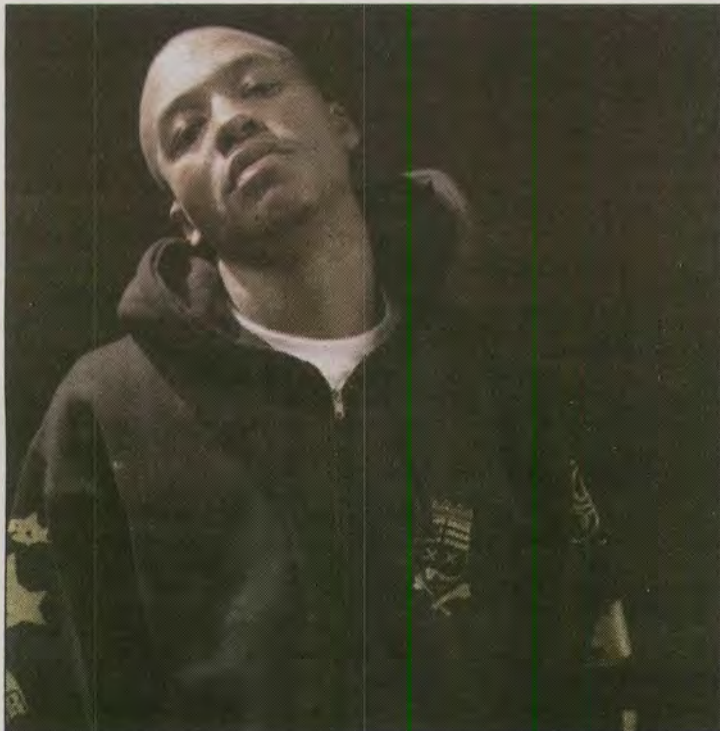


Photo courtesy of formatmag.com

After the deaths of his father and a good friend, Lupe Fiasco bounces back with the release of his second album.

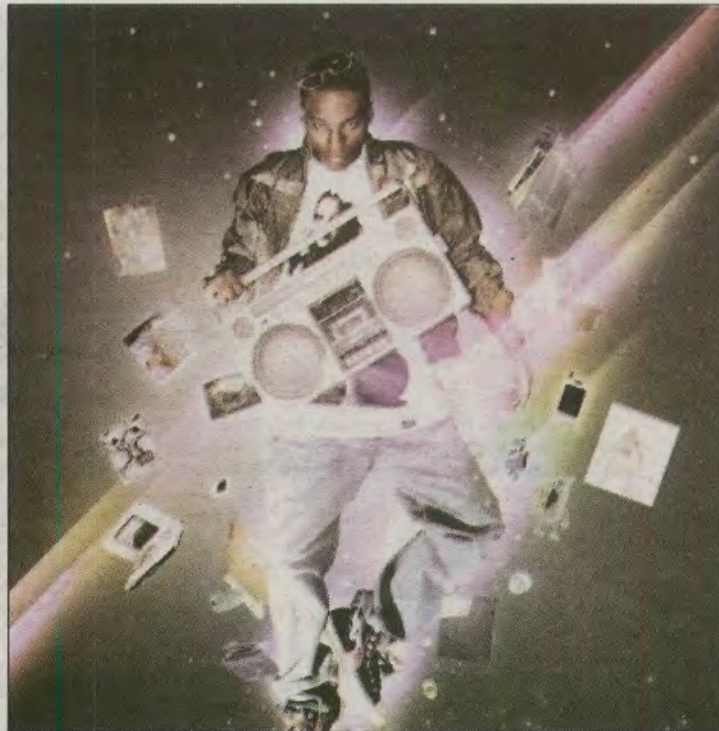


Photo courtesy of fall.about.com

Fiasco opened for OK GO at the 2007 version of "The Show" in Joyce Center here at Notre Dame.

London
actors stage
'Shrew'

By CLAIRE REISING
Scene Writer

In a play known for its complicated array of impersonation and deception, only five actors portray 23 characters, with some of them in disguise for the majority of the play. The Actors from the London Stage take a minimalist approach to Shakespeare in staging "The Taming of the Shrew." With the exception of a few nondescript chairs and a table, they use no scenery. What's more, the five actors constantly switch between roles. They wear black costumes and distinguish between most of their roles by changing accessories, props and accents.

The Taming of the Shrew
Washington Hall
Tonight at 7:30 p.m.
Tickets \$12 students, \$16 faculty/staff

This bare-bones production may not be a good choice for viewers who are unfamiliar with "The Taming of the Shrew" because the actors' multiple roles, combined with the convoluted plot, could make this production difficult to follow. Sometimes, the actors even play two characters within the same scene and carry on a conversation between their different roles. Also, portraying so many different roles with only five actors may lessen the depth of individual characters, but most of the roles in "The Taming of the Shrew" are played for comedy and not depth, so the acting does not suffer much from this minimalist approach.

The actors establish a chaotic, yet humorous atmosphere throughout the play, exploiting their characters' quirky personalities and portraying their dilemmas in a humorous light. Martin Parr draws several laughs from the audience, portraying a servant who impersonates a young woman and playing Bianca's suitor Gremio with an exaggerated accent, and Andy Greenhalgh smoothly transitions between characters just by changing his posture.

The main characters, Katherine and Petruccio, are still likable, despite their strong wills and quick tempers. Although Katherine is a "shrew," Louise Yates makes her seem like a rational character, and the audience can sympathize with her assertions of independence and her frustrations with the other characters. For example, in one scene, as Bianca snivels in front of her father, viewers can understand Katherine's annoyance with her sister. Also, after Petruccio marries Katherine, Yates leaves the audience wondering whether Katherine is actually submitting to him or just humoring him to get what she wants. Likewise, Victor Gardener blends Petruccio's volatile personality with craftiness and even affection, as he attempts to "tame" his new wife.

Although newcomers to "The Taming of the Shrew" may have trouble understanding the play, viewers already familiar with the comedy will enjoy this alternative approach to Shakespeare as they watch five actors play 23 diverse roles.

Contact Claire Reising at creisin2@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Irish host WVU in final home meet

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame gets one more chance to take on Big East competition before the conference championships when it faces West Virginia Saturday in the Shamrock Invitational.

The Irish have almost a month off before the Big East meet, which will begin on Feb. 20.

"This is really our last run-through," coach Carrie Nixon said. "We really want to hone and fine-tune our racing skills."

The Irish take to the pool for their last regular season meet of the season at the Rolfs Aquatic Center, and for the seniors, this will be their last opportunity to compete in their home pool.

"They are a little nostalgic," Nixon said. "They are pumped and sad at the same time."

West Virginia will be Notre

Dame's third Big East opponent this season.

"It is a good chance to flex your muscles and boost your confidence against an in-conference team, and that's always great," Nixon said.

This will be only the second meeting between the two schools, with the Irish winning big in a 222.5-147.5 romp in last year's Shamrock Invitational.

This year will still be a challenge for the Irish, assistant head coach Joel White said.

"West Virginia has some great swimmers," White said. "We always like to focus on the Big East."

This last competition will give the team a preview of what it can expect in the Big East championship.

In her final year, possible Olympic hopeful Caroline Johnson has been a top performer for the Irish. Nixon praised the effort Johnson put forth over the past four years.

"She has been a joy to coach from day one," Nixon

said. "She has had a huge impact on the team and I cannot say enough."

The Irish are swimming well, as they hold the fastest times in the conference in five individual events and one relay.

Freshman Amywren Miller holds the record in the 50-yard freestyle, junior Christa Riggins in the 200 freestyle, junior Casey Wagner in the 1,650 freestyle, freshman Sam Maxwell in the 100 breaststroke, and freshman Katie Casey in the 200 fly.

The Irish also have at least one swimmer in the top five in almost every event. That will be important in the Big East championship format, which favors depth over flair.

Saturday's meet will consist of a morning and an evening session, the first beginning at 9:30 a.m. and the second at 4 p.m.

Contact Jared Jedick at jjedick@nd.edu

MEN'S TRACK & FIELD

Spartans, Golden Eagles visit Loftus

By EUGENIA ALFONZO
Sports Writer

Notre Dame has a chance to improve its conference résumé today when it hosts Marquette and Michigan State in the Notre Dame Invitational at 5 p.m. in Loftus.

The Irish have already secured more than 40 Big East qualifying times for the conference meet in February.

Senior Kurt Benninger, who set the NCAA provisional mark for the 3,000-meter race with a time of 8:05.22 during the Blue and Gold meet on Dec. 7, has more of a team goal for tonight's meet.

"It's going to be a little bit different because before I was trying to qualify for the NCAA last meet," Benninger said. "[Today] I'll be pacing teammates in the beginning and then try to break four minutes [in the mile]."

"It's pretty easy to keep [the intensity] up; everyone knows the Big East and NCAA are big meets."

Kurt Benninger
Irish senior

The team shows no signs of relinquishing intensity, judging from last week's performance and its mental attitude, Benninger said.

"It's pretty easy to keep [the intensity] up; everyone knows that the Big East and NCAA are big meets," Benninger said. "It's really not that hard to get up for it."

Contact Eugenia Alfonzo at ealfonzo@nd.edu

SMC SWIMMING

Belles face Calvin after tough losses

By PETE REISENAUER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's hopes to rebound after two tough losses last weekend when it travels to Michigan to face MIAA power Calvin tonight.

Coach Ryan Dombkowski said he thought the losses to Hillsdale and Olivet brought his team together and taught it what it needs to do to beat a top-tier program like Calvin, which captured the MIAA title last season.

"Even though we came up on the short end two meets in a row, I think that this weekend may even push us to be a better team than two wins would have," Dombkowski said.

The team will need its best

effort as it faces undefeated Calvin, ranked No. 4 in Division III.

The Belles believe they are on the cusp of becoming a great program, and a win over Calvin could help them get there. To improve on their strong performances in the losses, the Belles will need top efforts from co-captains senior Kelly Tighe and junior Melissa Gerbeth. Saint Mary's also needs sophomore Lindsey Nelis and freshman Casey Niezer to have another solid meet.

The meet starts at 7:30 p.m. at East Grand Rapids High School in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Contact Pete Reisenauer at preisena@nd.edu

PGA TOUR

Tiger two back at Buick Invitational

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Tiger Woods delivered the score he expected in his 2008 debut, just not the game.

Despite playing from the sand, rough and behind a few trees early in his round, Woods began a much-anticipated season Thursday with a 5-under 67 on the tougher South Course at Torrey Pines. That left him two shots behind Troy Matteson, and gave him a strong presence on the leaderboard as he goes for his fourth straight title in the Buick Invitational.

"It wasn't pretty off the tee, but I hung in there," Woods said. "Shooting 67 is always going to feel pretty good on the South Course."

Imagine how it felt for Matteson.

He ran off five birdies in a six-hole stretch on the back nine, then finished his round with consecutive birdies to become the first player since Davis Love

III in 2000 to have the first-round lead while playing the South.

"I won't top that for awhile," Matteson said.

Brad Adamonis had a 66 on the North Course, which is 600 yards shorter and played more than two strokes easier.

Rory Sabbatini, Stuart Appleby and Kevin Streelman, who began the day as the third alternate, were in the group at 67 with Woods. They all played on the North, which is where Matteson and Woods play on Friday.

Phil Mickelson opened his season with a 70 on the North.

Matteson was 11 shots better than his last trip around the South Course. That was the final round a year ago, when he played alongside Woods and watched the world's No. 1 player turn an ordinary round into a winner.

Maybe someone of that rubbed off on Matteson.

"That's an experience that

any player would remember," Matteson said. "Anytime you get paired with Tiger, it's very interesting from a crowd standpoint, from a what-he-does standpoint. It's just pretty neat to see the guy shoot 66 on Sunday to win."

Woods, who hasn't played since winning his Target World Challenge by seven shots on Dec. 16, wasn't the only person returning to work.

Golf Channel anchor Kelly Tilghman was back in the booth after a two-week suspension for jokingly suggesting young players wanting to take on Woods should "lynch him in a back alley." She recorded an apology that opened the telecast.

That seemed to end a month's worth of troublesome news in golf outside the ropes — Tilghman's suspension, the firing of a magazine editor for putting a noose on the cover, and the death of popular caddie Steve Duplantis in Del Mar early Tuesday.

CLASSIFIEDS

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WANTED

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PERSONAL

PREGNANT OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS? You do not have to be alone. We want to help. Call our 24 hour confidential hotline at 1-800-No Abort or visit our web site at www.lifecall.org

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? Do not go it alone. If you or someone you love needs confidential support or assistance, please call Sr. Sue Dunn, OP, at 1-7819. For more information, visit our web-site at: <http://osa.nd.edu/departments/pregnant.shtml> or see our bi-weekly ad in The Observer.

If you or someone you care about has been sexually assaulted, visit:

<http://osa.nd.edu/departments/rape.shtml>

Need a job to gain experience?

Need experience to gain a job?

Entry-level position in Admissions and Alumni Affairs available January 2008 at a private boarding/day school located 30 minutes from the University of Notre Dame. LaLumiere School is looking for an energetic and dedicated person who likes to work with high school students. Some coaching and dorm supervision may be available as well. Please email kennedy@lalumiere.org for further information.

Happy belated birthday Matt.

Love,
Your Brother Chris

Happy early birthday Julianna!

Is there anything more beautiful than a beautiful, beautiful flamingo, flying across in front of a beautiful sunset? And he's carrying a beautiful rose in his beak, and also he's carrying a very beautiful painting with his feet. And also, you're drunk.

Probably to a shark, about the funniest thing there is is a wounded seal, trying to swim to shore, because where does he think he's going?

The face of a child can say it all, especially the mouth part of the face.

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 024 South Dining Hall. Deadline for next-day classifieds is 2 p.m. All classifieds must be prepaid. The charge is 5 cents per character per day, including all spaces. The Observer reserves the right to edit all classifieds for content without issuing refunds.

AROUND THE NATION

Friday, January 25, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

NBA

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Boston	33-7	.825	6-4	-
Toronto	23-19	.548	6-4	11
New Jersey	18-23	.439	3-7	15.5
Philadelphia	16-27	.372	2-8	18.5
New York	13-28	.317	5-5	20.5

Eastern Conference, Central Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Detroit	30-13	.698	4-6	-
Cleveland	23-18	.561	9-1	6
Indiana	19-24	.442	4-6	11
Chicago	17-24	.415	5-5	12
Milwaukee	16-26	.381	4-6	13.5

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Orlando	27-17	.614	5-5	-
Washington	22-18	.550	7-3	3
Atlanta	17-21	.447	3-7	7
Charlotte	16-26	.381	5-5	10
Miami	8-32	.200	0-10	17

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Denver	25-16	.610	6-4	-
Portland	25-17	.595	6-4	.5
Utah	24-18	.571	8-2	1.5
Seattle	9-33	.214	0-10	16.5
Minnesota	7-34	.171	3-7	18

Western Conference, Southwest Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
New Orleans	29-12	.707	9-1	-
Dallas	28-13	.683	8-2	1
San Antonio	27-13	.675	6-4	1.5
Houston	23-19	.548	8-2	6.5
Memphis	12-30	.286	3-7	17.5

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Phoenix	30-13	.698	7-3	-
LA Lakers	27-13	.675	8-2	1.5
Golden State	25-18	.581	6-4	5
Sacramento	18-23	.439	6-4	11
LA Clippers	13-25	.342	4-6	14.5

USCHO.com/CSTV Division I

Poll

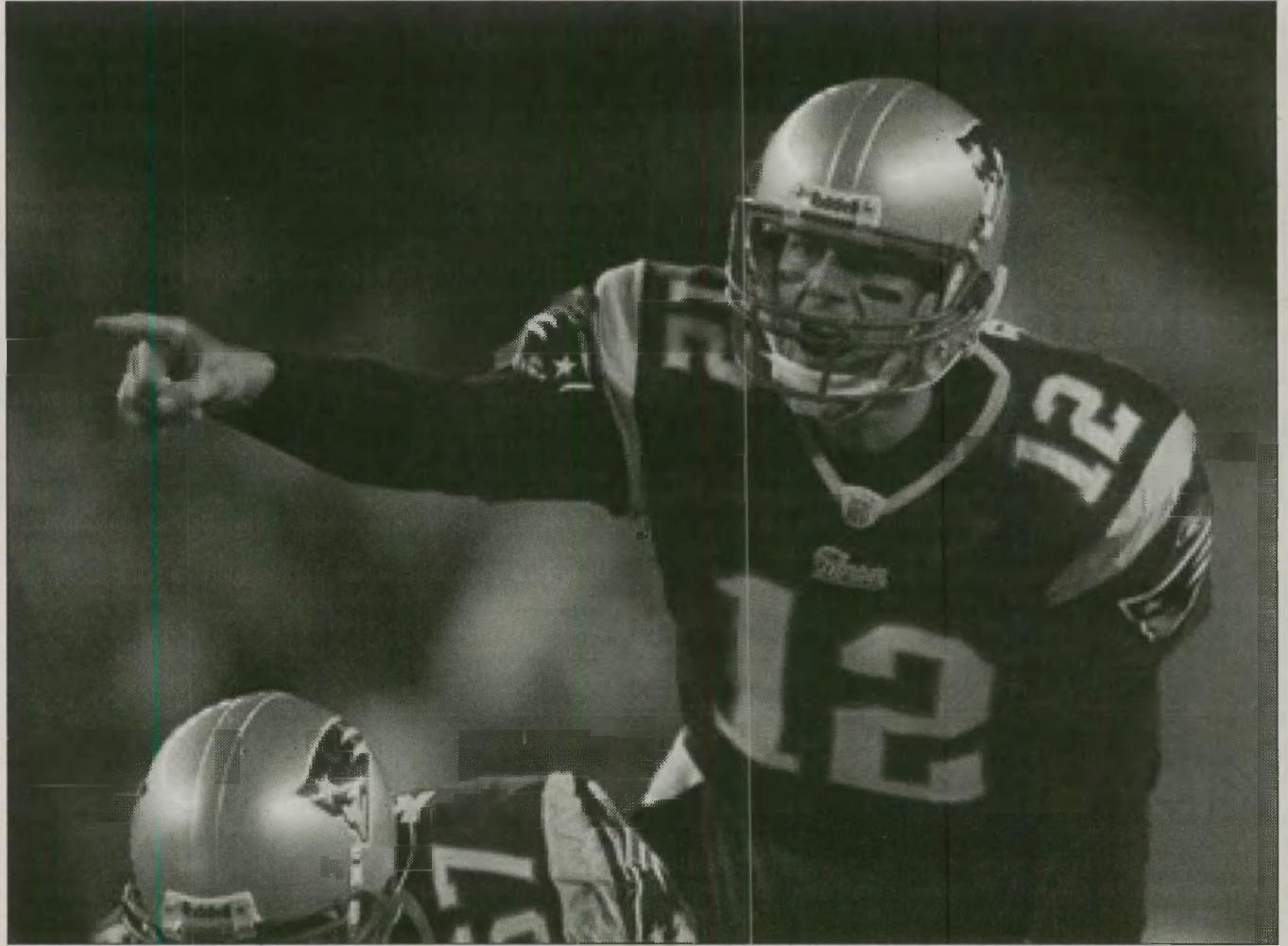
	team	record	previous
1	Michigan	22-2-0	1
2	Miami (OH)	23-3-0	2
3	Colorado College	18-6-0	3
4	North Dakota	14-8-1	6
5	Denver	18-6-0	4
6	Michigan State	16-5-4	7
7	New Hampshire	13-7-1	5
8	Boston College	11-5-6	11
9	NOTRE DAME	18-9-1	8
10	Clarkson	13-7-2	12
11	Northeastern	11-6-3	9
12	Quinnipiac	14-5-3	14
13	St. Cloud State	11-10-3	13
14	UMass	9-7-5	10
15	UMass Lowell	11-6-4	15

around the dial

NBA

Orlando at Detroit
7 p.m., ESPN

NFL



Quarterback Tom Brady calls out an audible during the Patriots' 21-12 victory over the San Diego Chargers Sunday. After the victory, Brady was spotted wearing a cast on his foot while walking around in New York City.

MVP eludes paparazzi despite dodgy ankle

Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — For once, not even the paparazzi could find Tom Brady.

Or his boot. They staked out the locker of the Patriots quarterback for 45 minutes before the media access period ended on Thursday. Then they focused for the 15 minutes they were allowed into practice and found two quarterbacks, Matt Cassel and Matt Gutierrez.

That was quite a change from early in the week when Brady walked through a bunch of videographers and photographers near the New York home of his girlfriend, supermodel

Gisele Bundchen.

On Monday, they took pictures of him wearing a protective boot on his right foot. Later in the day, he walked without the boot into a nightclub with Bundchen. Video on Tuesday also captured him without the boot as he headed for and entered a cab.

"I'm going to put on a boot and see if you all follow me around," New England halfback Heath Evans joked before practice.

Brady, the NFL MVP, reportedly has a minor ankle sprain that shouldn't keep him out of the Super Bowl on Feb. 3 against the New York Giants.

Coach Bill Belichick and

several players treated the Brady-boot saga with a mixture of stonewalling and smiles.

"I don't have any comment on it," Belichick said in a news conference before the Patriots held their first practice for the Super Bowl. "The injury report will be out next Wednesday and we're excited to give that to you. That form will be filled out completely and I can't wait to give that to everybody."

"I know you're anxious for it, so when it's due on Wednesday, we'll have it for you. Don't worry about that."

While Patriots' fans were concerned about the boot on Brady's foot, defensive

end Richard Seymour was more taken with the bouquet in Brady's hand.

"Every channel I turned to, there it was, magnifying in on the boot," he said. "To me, the good part was the flowers. I wasn't in on the boot."

Other players commented, or declined to, in more typical Patriots fashion: Stay away from anything controversial and never discuss injuries.

"I didn't see the video and I don't know anything about it," safety Rodney Harrison declared.

Cornerback Ellis Hobbs was no more forthcoming.

"That has nothing to do with me, man," he said. "Next question."

IN BRIEF

Clemens' hearing pushed back until February

WASHINGTON — Roger Clemens' meeting with a congressional committee investigating steroids in baseball was pushed back until Feb. 5.

Clemens originally was asked to appear Saturday for a deposition or transcribed interview with staff members from the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. That panel has called a Feb. 13 hearing where Clemens and his former personal trainer, Brian McNamee, are among five witnesses slated to appear.

The committee announced a new schedule Thursday of pre-hearing meetings with those witnesses.

Chuck Knoblauch, a former teammate of Clemens with the New York Yankees, was subpoenaed to appear for a deposition or transcribed interview on Tuesday, although the committee said he has yet to be served.

Beloved Bucs fullback retires after 12 seasons

TAMPA, Fla. — Tampa Bay's A-Train has made his final run.

Six-time Pro Bowl fullback Mike Alstott announced his retirement after 12 seasons Thursday, saying goodbye to the NFL during a tearful news conference in a meeting room where the Buccaneers played a highlight film of some of his most memorable plays.

The Bucs all-time touchdown leader, who played at Purdue from 1992-95, spent the 2007 season on injured reserve with a neck problem that was not related to a career-threatening injury that required surgery in 2003. He held little hope for a return, but still had difficulty saying his career was over.

"Though mentally I feel like I can continue, physically I can't," he said. "The second injury to my neck will prevent me from playing football forever."

Sharapova returns to Australian Open final

MELBOURNE, Australia — A year after losing the Australian Open final in embarrassing fashion to Serena Williams, Maria Sharapova is looking unstoppable in her quest for a third Grand Slam singles title.

But if it doesn't happen in Saturday's final at Melbourne Park against Serbia's Ana Ivanovic, she won't lose too much sleep over it.

"From the beginning of the tournament, you want to go a step further than you've done in the past," Sharapova said after her 6-3, 6-1 semifinal win over Jelena Jankovic on Thursday.

"That's always your goal, and your mantra going into a tournament. If it's not this Saturday ... if it doesn't happen, hey, it's life."

The way Sharapova is playing, she can afford to be introspective — six straight-set wins, including one that ended No. 1 Justine Henin's 32-match winning streak in the quarterfinals.

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from Old College


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PRAYER
with Fr. Nick Ayo, C.S.C.
& Fr. Michael Wurtz, C.S.C.

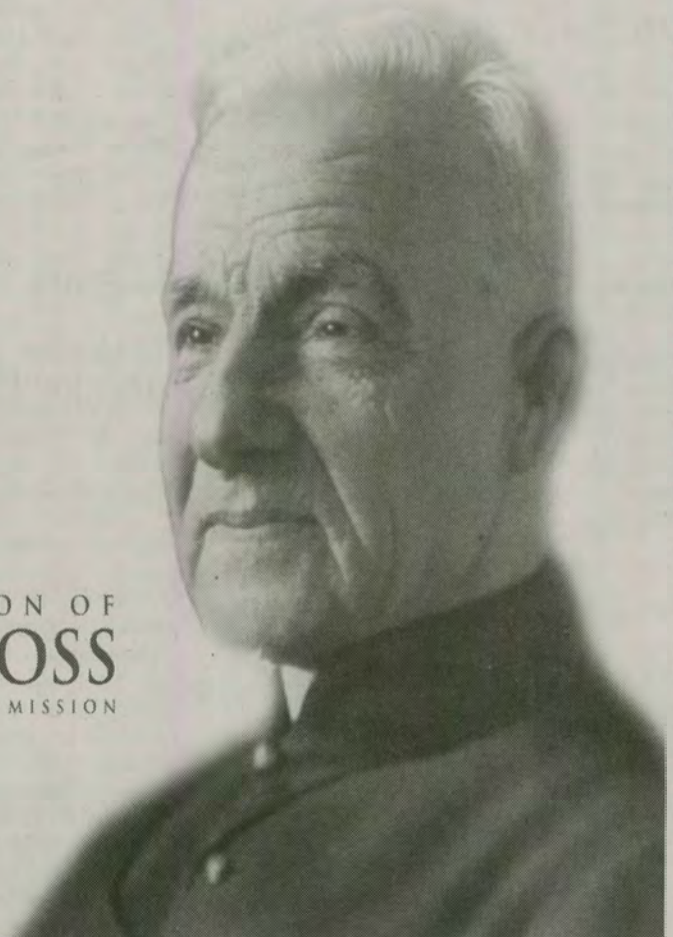
Feb 22
COMMUNITY
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Fr. Austin Collins, C.S.C.
Fr. Gary Chamberland, C.S.C.

5:30-7:30 p.m.
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MEN'S SWIMMING

Swimmers face West Virginia in final tune-up

By CHRIS DOYEN
Sports Writer

Coming off losses last weekend to Louisville and Northwestern, No. 22 Notre Dame will try to capture a win Saturday in its final meet of the regular season, an important test before the Big East championships.

The Irish will face West Virginia in the Shamrock Invitational, a meet that coach Tim Welsh said will be special.

"This is an important weekend for the team for several reasons," Welsh said. "It's the last meet of the season prior to the Big East championships, and it's the last home meet in this pool for seniors ever. It's our last chance to get everything right."

The Irish have competed against two other Big East schools in dual meets this season, notching a victory over

Pittsburgh in November before dropping the meet against Louisville.

Last season, the Irish squared off against West Virginia, Oakland, Penn State and Connecticut in the Shamrock Invitational. The Irish posted a 2-2 mark to finish third in the meet, while the Mountaineers won, going 4-0.

Junior diver Michael Bulfin, along with sophomores John Lytle, Andrew Hoffman and Ross Moore, are some of the returning point scorers from last year's invitational. Their experience, along with contributions from a large freshman class, should help the Irish in their attempt to avenge last year's home loss to the Mountaineers.

The two teams also met at the 2007 Big East meet, where West Virginia, which ended its regular season undefeated, edged Notre Dame by 4 1/2 points to win the conference crown.

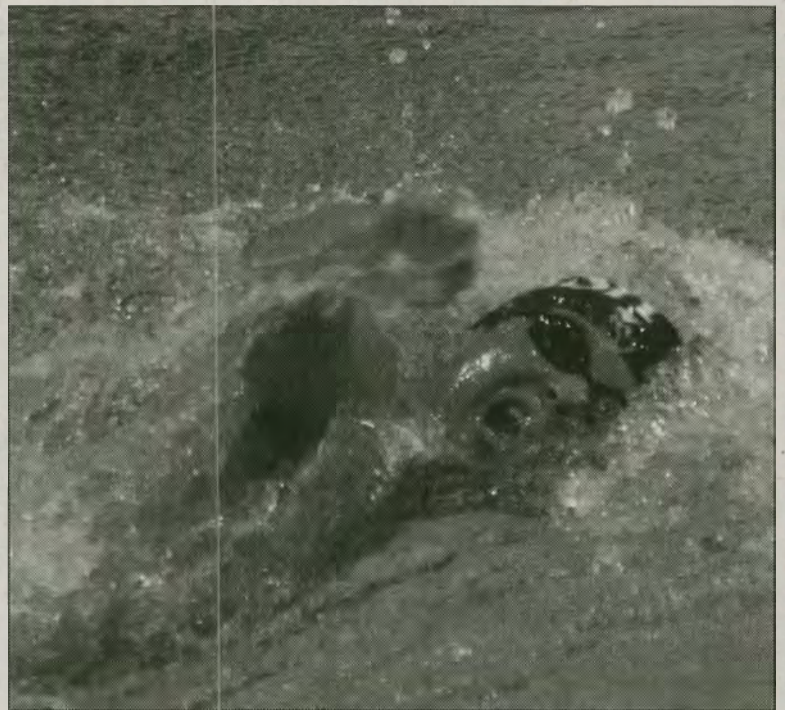
West Virginia has faced four conference opponents in dual meets this year and has compiled a record of 2-2 with losses to Pittsburgh and Louisville, and victories over Georgetown and Cincinnati.

Welsh thinks that Notre Dame's schedule in the past few weeks should help the Irish against West Virginia.

"West Virginia is the defending champion, and Louisville has been the hottest team in the conference all season long," Welsh said. "We will have seen them both in the last two weeks of the season. It's good preparation for us, and it's pretty exciting."

This year's Shamrock Invitational is a two-session dual meet, with the first session set to begin at 9:30 a.m. and the second at 4 p.m. Saturday at Rolfs Aquatic Center.

Contact Chris Doyen at cdoyen@nd.edu



Irish sophomore Andrew Deters competes Jan. 18 against Louisville at Rolfs Aquatic Center.



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ND WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

Runners face first big test at ND Invitational

By ALEX BARKER and
ANDY ZICCARELLI
Sports Writers

For the first time this season, the Irish will face legitimate Big East competition when they suit up for the Notre Dame Invitational today at the Loftus Sports Center.

The Irish will host conference foe Marquette and Big

Ten opponent Michigan State. "This weekend's competition will be a major step up from previous meets," Irish coach Tim Connelly said. "It will be a big step up in competition and a difficult challenge for us."

The timing of the Invitational could not be better for the Irish, who will not be battling health issues for the first time this season.

"Coming off a lot of injuries

and illnesses this fall, we now have almost everyone back and training consistently," Connelly said.

Sophomore Lindsey Ferguson and senior Julie Opet will run the mile after being held out of last week's meet. The Irish grabbed three of the top four spots, but couldn't take the top spot in the duo's absence.

Connelly said his team can use the meet to improve their

personal best times before the Big East meet.

"We still have a very long way to go to be close to our full potential. The big focus for us will be to continue to improve and continue to compete hard," Connelly said. "If we compete well against better competition, our times will continue to drop and we will start to work our way into a position where scoring well at the conference meet

becomes realistic. We need to take a step in that direction."

Irish athletes will use this meet as another opportunity to qualify for the Big East championships in February. So far this season, the Irish women have set 30 qualifying marks for the conference event.

Contact Alex Barker at abarker1@nd.edu and Andy Zicarelli at azicare@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Commodores look to avenge last year's loss

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

After a close 4-3 defeat last year, Vanderbilt is looking to avenge its loss against Notre Dame this weekend in Nashville, Tenn. The No. 9 Irish are aiming to thwart those plans as they face a very talented No. 16 Commodore team.

Coach Jay Louderback doesn't want to overlook this weekend's dual match against a solid opponent.

The Commodores are "very good," Louderback said. "They're ranked No. 16, but they're better than that. They are definitely a top-10 team. Last year they didn't finish in the top 10 because they had a couple of kids injured, but now that they're back, they have a lot of depth. Another thing about them is that they have experience. Only one of them is a sophomore and the rest are juniors and seniors."

Notre Dame is coming off a decisive 6-1 victory over Louisville last Sunday and wants to keep its momentum going.

To do that, the Irish will need big contributions and solid play from sophomore Cosmina Ciobanu, who is the highest-ranked player on the team at No. 62. Right behind her is senior Brook Buck, No. 64 in the nation. Three other Notre Dame players round out the top 100, including No. 82 junior Katie Potts, No. 88 sophomore Colleen Rielley and No. 89 sophomore Kali Krisik.

In addition, the powerful doubles duo of Buck and junior

Keley Tefft remain the No. 3 combination in the country.

Despite Notre Dame's individual talents, Louderback would rather have this weekend's dual match be an overall team effort.

"For us all year it has been about everybody," Louderback said. "Everyone is going to have to be in the match as opposed to one or two individual players. We are also very deep so we are extremely lucky, but we need everyone in the matches."

This week gave the Irish an opportunity to jell as a team.

"We had a great week of practice," Louderback said. "We were all fired up coming after the Louisville win and we had Sunday off. The rest of the week was great, though."

Louderback wanted to focus on certain tactics to employ against Vanderbilt.

"This semester we started working on a couple of drills," Louderback said. "These drills try to get our players to keep their balls deeper in the court closer to the baseline. This way, our opposition won't be able to be as aggressive in their attack."

Contact Lorenzo Reyes at lreyes@nd.edu



"SALESIAN LIFE IS VERY APPEALING TO YOUNG MEN WHO SEEK TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THIS WORLD."

Sean Hogan, Notre Dame, 04

I write this to encourage those young men who much like me during my time at Notre Dame yearned for something more than just a job, who yearned for a calling to serve, to give all they had for others. Most especially for those who hope to serve young people and bring them closer to Jesus.

Hi, I'm Sean Hogan class of '04 and still a Keough Roo at heart. After graduating from Notre Dame, I found myself in a small town in China working as a lay missionary with the Salesians of St. John Bosco. When I applied for a year of service and even before I left for China, I knew very little about the Salesians, but being around them for a short time it was easy to see what their life was all about.

I soon realized why this group of men, these Salesian priests and brothers, were the second largest religious order in the Church.

Salesian life is very appealing to young men who seek to make a difference in this world. Salesians, whether the men I worked with in China, Korea, or the ones I work with now in the states, live for young people. Salesians meet the youth where they are at, in schools, youth centers, parishes and everywhere else in between. Salesians live a life that allows them to offer a great presence to young people, leading and preparing them to be good Christians and honest citizens.

St. John Bosco, founder of the Salesians, was declared the patron of the young because of his work for poor and homeless youngsters. He founded the Salesians to continue God's work for the young, a work that now reaches 134 countries. John Allen, Vatican correspondent for the National Catholic Reporter, writes of them, "The Salesians are seen as robustly reliable - not theological innovators, but down-to-earth pastors and educators, and generally with a good sense of humor ... the Salesian pastoral model is: solid, orthodox Catholic piety; an 'in-the-trenches' commitment to the young, the poor, and to education; and a smiling closeness to the people."

Working with the Salesians has changed my life. I am now preparing to join them and continue St. John Bosco's work of reaching out to those who are young and poor. If you have ever felt the "holy temptation" to serve Christ in this way, check us out.

For more information: www.salesianvocation.com
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To read John Allen's article about the Salesians visit:
<http://nationalcatholicreporter.org/word/word/63006.htm>

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Keough/Welsh Family

Volleyball	Team A 7:30	Team B 6:30	Bags	Team A 8:45	Team B 8:00
Men's Basketball	Team A 6:00	Team B 6:20	LNO Obstacle Course	Team A 10:15	Team B 8:00
Women's Basketball	Team A 7:00	Team B 6:40	Men's Table Tennis	Team A 8:00	Team B 8:15
Target Golf	Team A 7:00	Team B 7:40	Women's Table Tennis	Team A 10:00	Team B 8:00
Co-Rec Broomball	7:30				

Sorin/Lewis

Volleyball	Team A 6:00	Team B 8:00	Bags	Team A NA	Team B NA
Men's Basketball	Team A 6:00	Team B NA	LNO Obstacle Course	Team A 8:30	Team B NA
Women's Basketball	Team A 6:40	Team B NA	Men's Table Tennis	Team A 8:00	Team B NA
Target Golf	Team A NA	Team B NA	Women's Table Tennis	Team A 8:00	Team B 8:45
Co-Rec Broomball	7:00				

O'Neill/McGlenn

Volleyball	Team A 8:30	Team B 7:00	Bags	Team A 8:15	Team B 8:15
Men's Basketball	Team A 6:20	Team B 7:00	LNO Obstacle Course	Team A 8:30	Team B 9:45
Women's Basketball	Team A 6:40	Team B 6:00	Men's Table Tennis	Team A 9:30	Team B 8:45
Target Golf	Team A 8:20	Team B NA	Women's Table Tennis	Team A 10:15	Team B 8:45
Co-Rec Broomball	8:00				

Keenan/Saint Mary's

Volleyball	Team A 6:00	Team B 6:30	Bags	Team A 10:00	Team B NA
Men's Basketball	Team A 6:40	Team B 7:00	LNO Obstacle Course	Team A 11:15	Team B NA
Women's Basketball	Team A NA	Team B NA	Men's Table Tennis	Team A 9:45	Team B 10:00
Target Golf	Team A NA	Team B NA	Women's Table Tennis	Team A 8:15	Team B NA
Co-Rec Broomball	7:30				

Dillon/Walsh

Volleyball	Team A 7:30	Team B 6:00	Bags	Team A 8:00	Team B 9:45
Men's Basketball	Team A 6:00	Team B 7:20	LNO Obstacle Course	Team A 8:00	Team B 11:00
Women's Basketball	Team A 6:00	Team B 7:00	Men's Table Tennis	Team A 8:00	Team B 9:30
Target Golf	Team A 7:40	Team B NA	Women's Table Tennis	Team A 8:15	Team B 8:30
Co-Rec Broomball	7:30				

Morrissey/Lyons

Volleyball	Team A 6:00	Team B NA	Bags	Team A NA	Team B NA
Men's Basketball	Team A 7:40	Team B NA	LNO Obstacle Course	Team A 10:00	Team B NA
Women's Basketball	Team A 6:40	Team B NA	Men's Table Tennis	Team A 8:00	Team B 8:30
Target Golf	Team A 8:00	Team B NA	Women's Table Tennis	Team A 8:00	Team B 8:15
Co-Rec Broomball	8:30				

Alumni/Carroll/Howard

Volleyball	Team A 6:30	Team B 8:00	Bags	Team A 8:30	Team B 8:30
Men's Basketball	Team A 6:20	Team B 6:20	LNO Obstacle Course	Team A 8:45	Team B 9:30
Women's Basketball	Team A 6:00	Team B NA	Men's Table Tennis	Team A 8:30	Team B 10:00
Target Golf	Team A 7:20	Team B NA	Women's Table Tennis	Team A 8:45	Team B 10:00
Co-Rec Broomball	7:30				

Zahm/Cavanaugh

Volleyball	Team A 6:30	Team B 7:00	Bags	Team A 8:00	Team B 8:30
Men's Basketball	Team A 7:00	Team B NA	LNO Obstacle Course	Team A 8:15	Team B 9:30
Women's Basketball	Team A 6:20	Team B NA	Men's Table Tennis	Team A 8:15	Team B 10:15
Target Golf	Team A 7:20	Team B NA	Women's Table Tennis	Team A 9:30	Team B 8:15
Co-Rec Broomball	7:00				

Knott/Pasquerilla East

Volleyball	Team A 6:00	Team B 7:00	Bags	Team A 8:00	Team B 8:45
Men's Basketball	Team A NA	Team B NA	LNO Obstacle Course	Team A 8:15	Team B N/A
Women's Basketball	Team A 6:00	Team B NA	Men's Table Tennis	Team A 9:45	Team B 8:45
Target Golf	Team A 7:00	Team B NA	Women's Table Tennis	Team A 8:00	Team B 9:45
Co-Rec Broomball	8:00				

Stanford/Breen-Phillips

Volleyball	Team A 7:30	Team B 7:00	Bags	Team A 8:15	Team B 8:45
Men's Basketball	Team A 6:40	Team B NA	LNO Obstacle Course	Team A 10:00	Team B NA
Women's Basketball	Team A NA	Team B NA	Men's Table Tennis	Team A 8:15	Team B 9:30
Target Golf	Team A NA	Team B NA	Women's Table Tennis	Team A 9:45	Team B NA
Co-Rec Broomball	8:30				

Fisher/Pangborn

Volleyball	Team A 7:00	Team B 6:30	Bags	Team A 8:45	Team B 9:30
Men's Basketball	Team A 7:00	Team B 7:20	LNO Obstacle Course	Team A 10:15	Team B 10:30
Women's Basketball	Team A 6:20	Team B 6:20	Men's Table Tennis	Team A 8:45	Team B 8:30
Target Golf	Team A 8:00	Team B NA	Women's Table Tennis	Team A 8:30	Team B 8:30
Co-Rec Broomball	8:00				

St. Edward's/Badin

Volleyball	Team A 6:00	Team B 7:00	Bags	Team A 8:30	Team B 9:45
Men's Basketball	Team A 6:40	Team B 6:00	LNO Obstacle Course	Team A 8:45	Team B 9:45
Women's Basketball	Team A 7:00	Team B NA	Men's Table Tennis	Team A 8:15	Team B 10:15
Target Golf	Team A NA	Team B NA	Women's Table Tennis	Team A 9:30	Team B 8:30
Co-Rec Broomball	7:00				

Siegfried/Pasquerilla W.

Volleyball	Team A 6:30	Team B 8:00	Bags	Team A 9:30	Team B 8:15
Men's Basketball	Team A 6:40	Team B NA	LNO Obstacle Course	Team A 10:45	Team B N/A
Women's Basketball	Team A 6:20	Team B NA	Men's Table Tennis	Team A 8:30	Team B 8:45
Target Golf	Team A NA	Team B NA	Women's Table Tennis	Team A 8:45	Team B NA
Co-Rec Broomball	7:00				

MEN'S LACROSSE

Starting spots up for grabs in opening exhibition

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

While Sunday's opening game against Robert Morris is an exhibition, the Irish have plenty to play for with several starting positions still up for grabs.

Notre Dame, ranked fifth in Lacrosse Magazine's preseason poll, will begin the season with a home scrimmage against the Colonials at 10 a.m. The Irish will look to build on a strong 2007 campaign that featured an NCAA Tournament appearance and the team's 10th Great Western Lacrosse League title.

Notre Dame coach Kevin Corrigan said he was looking forward to seeing his players go up against new competition.

"I just want to see our guys going up and down, playing in the roles we're looking to fill," Corrigan said. "When you compete against yourselves every day there are things you don't

get to see."

Robert Morris enters South Bend in just its fourth season as a varsity program. The Colonials struggled last season, going 3-9 and ending the season on a seven-game losing streak.

Key returnees for Robert Morris include senior captains Andrew Watt and John Kennedy, whose mammoth presence in goal will challenge the Irish offense. The 6-foot-2, 330-pound Kennedy recorded an 11.78 goals-against average last season in six games, while Watt led the Colonial offense with 22 goals and 30 points.

While the Irish return seven of 10 starters from last season's 11-4 team, Corrigan said there are still battles for starting positions.

"We still have competition at some positions," Corrigan said. "A lot of guys will be trying to win jobs or solidify their spots."

Returning in net for the Irish

is senior captain Joey Kemp, a preseason All-American selection and the 2007 GWLL player of the year. A four-year starter for Notre Dame, Kemp has a 26-11 record and 7.43 goals-against average for his career.

Senior Sean Dougherty, another preseason All-American, anchors an Irish defense that gave up a program-best 6.66 goals per game last season.

Two-sport athlete Will Yeatman, the 2007 LaxPower rookie of the year, will return as the leader of a strong Irish attack. Yeatman, who also plays tight end on the football team, led Notre Dame in points as a freshman with 21 goals and 25 assists.

Joining Yeatman on the attack will be junior Ryan Hoff, who netted a team-high 40 goals for the Irish last year. Even more impressive than Hoff's scoring might have been his accuracy — he posted a .500 shooting



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Irish senior midfielder Taylor Clagett runs for a ground ball against Air Force in a 16-4 Notre Dame win on April 13.

percentage on the season.

Corrigan said while the team has high expectations, players are focused on meeting daily goals in practice.

"We want to take everything we're doing up a level, and do it on a daily basis," Corrigan said.

Notre Dame will have one final tune-up Feb. 2 with an exhibition against Bucknell before beginning the regular season Feb. 16 against Loyola.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

FENCING

Irish travel to NYC for elite duals

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame fences in New York City Saturday in the most important regular-season competition on almost every elite team's schedule.

The Irish take on the major powers of the sport in the NYU Duals this weekend, meeting with a slew of top-10 teams — Ohio State, St. John's, Columbia, Yale and Northwestern — among others.

The only top team expected to challenge for the NCAA title this year who will not fence at the competition is Penn State. The Nittany Lions and Irish will fence at the Northwestern Duals on Feb. 2.

"It will be good just to try out our possibilities," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said.

"Of course it will not say everything yet, even if we win or lose ... but I hope the kids will fence well."

Notre Dame will be without sophomore All-American

epeeist Kelley Hurley, who will be competing in a World Cup event in Europe. The team will rely heavily on freshmen, who are expected to compose about half of the two dozen fencers slated to compete.

The Duals is similar to NASCAR's Daytona 500, in that it is an early competition with significant consequences for the remainder of the season.

The one-day event is only Notre Dame's second NCAA-sanctioned team event of the season. Irish fencers have competed individually in North American Cup events in Dallas; in Richmond, Va.; and in Atlanta over the past three months — but the only team event to this point has been the Air Force Western Invite. Notre Dame won both the men's and women's sides of that competition, which was held in Colorado Springs,

Colo., from Jan. 12-13.

"For us, it would be like an NCAA final and we want to see how we can be accounted

for," Bednarski said. "It will give us an opportunity to see how strong the others are and what the strong side of our team is."

Because of Notre Dame's victories at the Western Invite two weeks ago and its national rankings (No. 1 among women's teams, No. 3 among men), Bednarski said, there will be added expectations for the Irish.

"It's a pressure for sure. Kids, knowing we are going to the strong tournament, are very nervous — some of them," Bednarski said. "It's also an opportunity to deal with stress."

The Irish left for New York Thursday morning and were scheduled to arrive in the city by Thursday night. The team will go sightseeing in the Big Apple today before having dinner with alumni, including former fencers, tonight.

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

"It will be good just to try out our possibilities."

Janusz Bednarski
Irish coach

"It will give us an opportunity to see how strong the others are and what the strong side of our team is."

Janusz Bednarski
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Virginia

continued from page 24

both times. Last year, the Irish lost to the Cavaliers 6-1, and they fell 4-3 two years ago when Virginia was again ranked No. 1.

"We proved it can be done," Bayliss said. "We've had them on the ropes the last couple of years, but our freshmen have never been under that kind of pressure. It will tell us a lot about our team to see how well they handle the pressure this weekend."

Last weekend, the Irish played in a home doubleheader. In the opening match, Notre Dame defeated talented Penn State 5-2. It capped off the day with a 7-0 win over Toledo.

Coming through for the Irish was the doubles team of senior Sheeva Parbhu and junior Brett Helgeson, winning both of their matches.

"They return as well as anyone in the country, and have made great improvements at net," Bayliss said.

While Parbhu and Helgeson make the obvious splash at the

top of the lineup, a quieter force has been brewing at No. 2 doubles: senior Andrew Roth and freshman Stephen Havens. Roth is putting his game together after injuries plagued his early years at Notre Dame.

Roth has a determined work ethic, Bayliss said, and has become more accountable — along with being an emotional sparkplug.

Although the Irish came out with wins in their opening matches, they found some things they need to work on as well.

"Stephen Havens needs to stay in longer rallies," Bayliss said. "[Freshman] David Anderson is still working on attacking with his forehand more often. He is also working on coming to net more."

While these players are gearing up to face Virginia, one player isn't quite ready to see action. Freshman Matt Johnson is still sidelined because of a strained pectoral muscle. He has begun serving this week but will take more time to get back into playing shape, Bayliss said.

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgrab01@saintmarys.edu

Bowling

continued from page 24

"I expect it to be a playoff-type situation because they're playing at a very high level right now," Jackson said of the Falcons, who will bring a "quick, frantic style of play" to the Joyce Center for tonight's 7:30 start. "They have had a lot of success and gained a lot of confidence, and it's up to us to take the style of play we want into this type of game."

After a tough weekend series with No. 1 Michigan, in which the Irish lost a 3-2 heartbreaker on Friday before getting waxed 5-1 on Saturday, Jackson gave his frustrated club just what it needed: not extra rink-time, not added power-play drills, nor bonus conditioning, but a little game of "shiny."

"We came in Monday not sure exactly what we were going to do," said junior right wing Erik Condra, who leads the Irish in scoring with 27 points. "Coach surprised us by saying we should go out and have some fun out on the pond like we used to when

we were younger, so we got our mittens and hats and hooded sweatshirts and went out there. ... Playing six-on-six, just having fun, having some hot cocoa out there — just getting back to our roots."

The timing may have been just right for a quick break from the daily grind of a long, grueling season, as Condra believes the time is now for the Irish to start elevating their game to a new level.

"This is the weekend we need to start making a push for the end of the season," Condra said. "We're shooting for a playoff spot and a top-four seed in our league, and this weekend needs to start us off right."

Much has been made of the power play's current dire straits, which appeared to hit rock-bottom by giving up a short-handed goal in Saturday's loss to Michigan. Consistency's the word for Jackson, and he saw signs that the unit's coming around.

"We're getting some scoring chances, and that's all we can really ask," said Jackson, who hinted at minor changes

in personnel and strategy around the net. "Right now it's about getting the puck and trying to establish some pressure at the net. Those are the basics of the power play, and we have to make sure we're doing those things on a more consistent basis."

Puck control will be crucial in thwarting the Falcons' fast-paced, transition attack, which is led by senior forward Derek Whitmore, Bowling Green's leading scorer (24 points, 19 goals). Defenseman Kevin Schmidt (15 assists) and forward James Perkin (13 assists) will try early and often to get the puck to Whitmore, who has scored 18 of his 24 points in Bowling Green victories.

"Looking back to last year, we didn't have that many close, tough games," Irish senior defenseman Brock Sheahan said. "A lot of things seemed to go our way, and that might've hurt us in the NCAA Tournament. We've been facing a lot more adversity this year, and hopefully that will help us in the long run."

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

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UConn

continued from page 24

(18-0, 5-0 Big East) and most recently beat No. 3 North Carolina at home on Monday. Regardless of the challenge the Irish face, Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said the chance to play the best team in the nation at home on national television — ESPN2 will televise the game — will indicate how her team compares with the rest of the Big East.

"[It's] another opportunity for us to come out and see just how far we have to go this season to get to a spot in the Big East where we can really compete with everybody in the Big East," McGraw said during a conference call with reporters. "And we haven't been able to do that just yet, so that's something we're working on."

The Irish (15-4, 3-2 Big East) have sometimes hidden behind their offense, McGraw said. They average 79.4 points per

game and shoot 47.1 percent from the field.

"We have a little bit of an attitude that our scoring's going well, so let's just keep scoring and get the ball back and outscore them," McGraw said. "And we really can't do that against good teams, and that's really been hurting us."

Notre Dame allowed 87 points to Tennessee, 74 to Louisville, 86 to Georgetown and 81 to DePaul. McGraw said that playing zone defense might counteract the team's defensive woes, but that the team needs to focus no matter what defense it plays.

"We've been playing a lot of man to man, and we just haven't been good guarding the 3-point line whether in man or zone," McGraw said.

McGraw said the lineup didn't matter. She said she could tinker with it to tailor the game plan against specific defensive matchups, but she doesn't anticipate lineup changes if the team plays more zone defense.

"We're playing the same eight or nine people, not a big deal to me who starts," she said.

While the Irish need to improve their perimeter defense, that will be the least of their worries against Connecticut. The Huskies average 83.4 points per game and give up only 46.1. They shoot 49.6 percent from the floor and make an average of 6.4 3-pointers per game. They out-rebound opponents by 16.9 per game.

Huskies guard Renee Montgomery dropped 53 points in her last two games, 27 against Cincinnati on Jan. 19 and 26 against the Tar Heels, despite only averaging 11.9 points per game. Freshman forward Maya Moore leads Connecticut with 15.8 points per game, and center Tina Charles averages a double-double (13.8 points, 10.4 boards). Guard Mel Thomas has hit 39.3 percent of her 3-point attempts.

Despite her displeasure with the team's recent performance, McGraw said she was happy with the play of sophomore center Erica Williamson and freshman guard Ashley Barlow of late. Barlow led the team in scoring in the past three games and Williamson scored a career-high 16 points against DePaul Tuesday. She was also happy with sophomore guard Melissa Lechlitner.

When asked about the notion that some conference coaches view Connecticut as a throw-away game, McGraw dismissed the idea and said she welcomed the chance to face the Huskies.

"I think there might be some teams in the league that feel they can't compete against Connecticut right now, but I think it's a challenge for us and opportunity for us to play the No. 1 team in the conference ... and certainly for us on national TV, it makes it an even bigger opportunity," she said. "It's great to have them in the league because they set the standard for the conference. I think most of us would love to be where they are."

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

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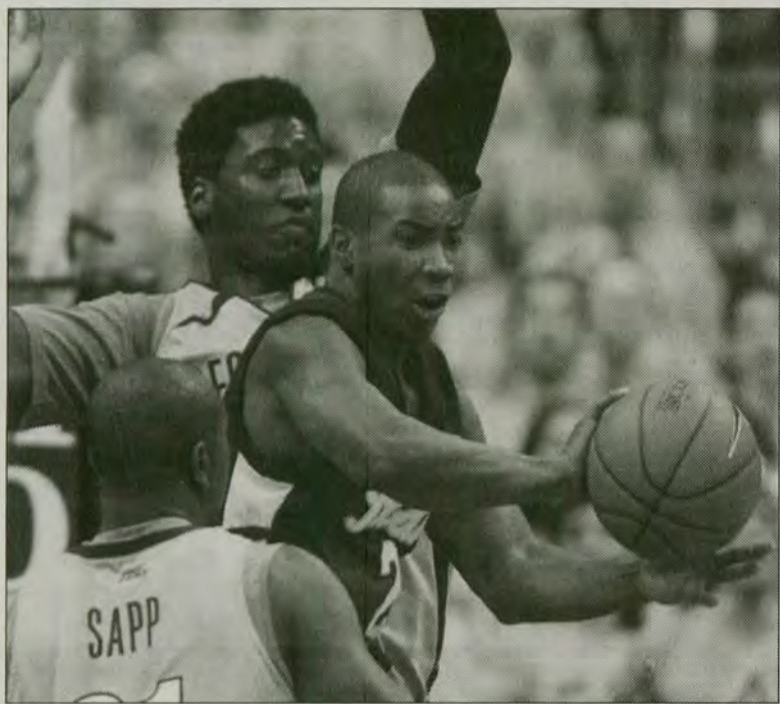
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Irish guard Tory Jackson looks to pass in Notre Dame's 84-65 loss to Georgetown on Jan. 19.

Brey said he thinks the Irish can exploit Villanova's lack of size by giving touches to their big men, senior forward Rob Kurz and Harangody.

"I do think we can get the ball inside and establish our inside game more successfully than we could against Georgetown," Brey said. "So we definitely want to try and do that."

Kurz and junior forward Ryan Ayers, who both grew up in the Philadelphia area, are looking forward to playing in the Wachovia Center.

Ayers said he is also excited to see Villanova red-shirt freshman Andrew Ott, who was Ayers' high school teammate at Germantown Academy.

"It's gonna be a great environment," Ayers said. "I'm just excited to play in front of my family and friends."

Despite the many extra ticket requests he has received from family and friends, Ayers said he is not distracted from his goal of helping the Irish to their first conference road win.

"As long as we play like we've been playing at home [we'll win]," he said. "We have to translate our home identity onto the road."

Brey agreed with Ayers, saying he doesn't want his team to change its style because it is the visiting team.

"We have not been very good on the road but I don't know if we want to overanalyze things," Brey said. "We want to, you know, come out and compete again. I don't think you make all kinds of changes to your system."

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu



Belles guard Alison Kessler attempts a shot in Saint Mary's 74-71 win over Tri-State on Jan. 19.

Nova

continued from page 24

Georgetown team last weekend. Villanova does not have any players taller than 6-foot-10, but the Wildcats feature a quick, guard-oriented system.

"It's a different team than Georgetown," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "They're nowhere near as big but they're fast and they'll shoot it. And they'll drive it and they'll spread us out with a lot of speed."

One of the biggest challenges for the Irish defense will be Wildcats sophomore guard

Scottie Reynolds, who is the reigning Big East player of the week after scoring a combined 46 points against DePaul and Syracuse last week.

"He's a heck of a player," Brey said. "We've gotta really be aware of him because he's the guy that kind of makes them go."

But in an 80-68 win over Villanova Wednesday, Rutgers proved that Reynolds can be contained. Rutgers held the Wildcats' star to 16 points on 5-of-19 shooting.

"I think [defending him] has gotta be by committee," Brey said. "We'll change it up. You gotta throw a lot of different looks at him."

Hope

continued from page 24

team they haven't beaten since the College joined the MIAA in 1997.

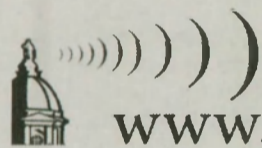
In the teams' last meeting, Saint Mary's struggled to keep up with Hope, shooting only 36.2 percent to Hope's 46.8 percent.

"Hope comes into the game still undefeated and top in the country," Henley said. "We need to find a way to slow down Hope's transition game and play solid team defense."

The Belles take on the Flying Dutch at 3 p.m. Saturday at Angela Athletic Center.

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@saintmarys.edu

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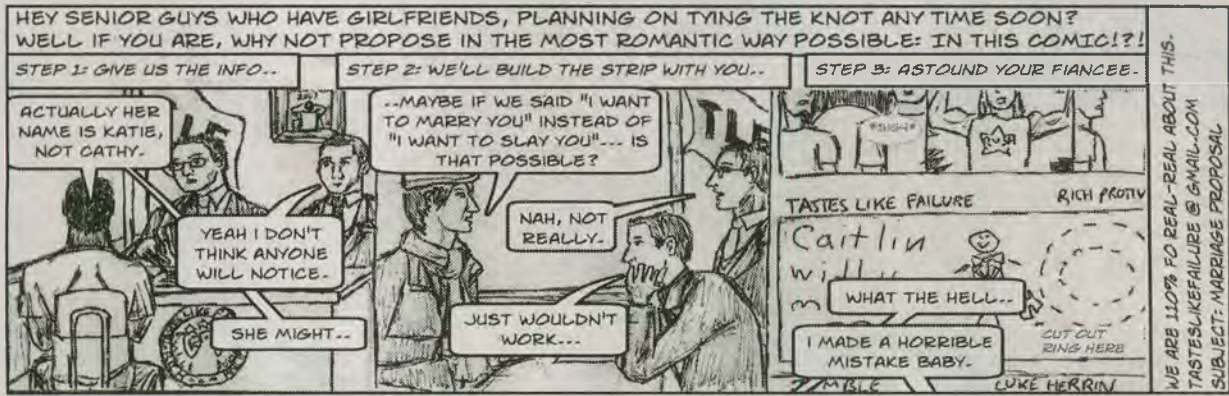
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Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
Use the word dingle in a sentence. Try not to say it to someone with a dingleberry; he or she will blush.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Wear those loafers, former gophers.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Anyone who relies on TMZ for news is an idiot. Sorry, their stories have been classified as news too often lately. Stupid, man.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
If you wanna make that dollah or dem dollahs, call (713) 569-2690.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
Calm down, you incestor.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)
Are you part of the J. Crew?

Aries (March 21-Apr. 19)
Don't misbehave. It was okay before but Heath Ledger is watching you now (from below).

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20)
Search "Bling Bling" on YouTube if you can handle having your life changed.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)
Have an individual pahty.

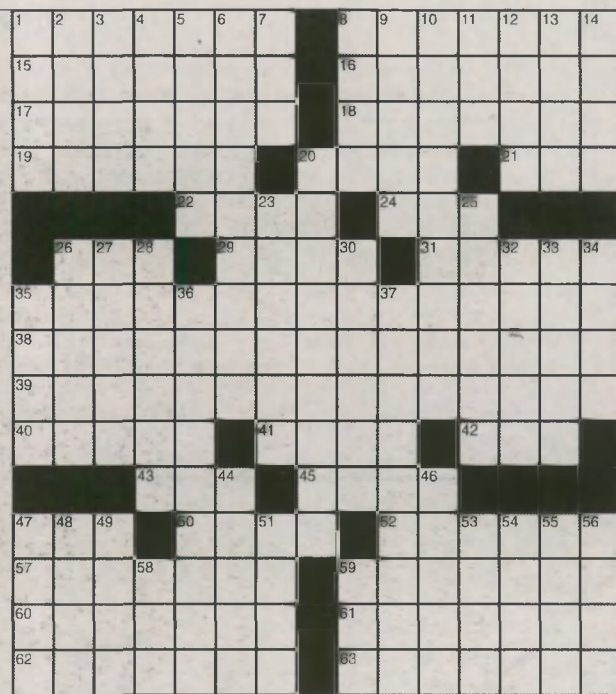
Cancer (June 21-July 22)
Out of 300 million swimmers, how were you the fastest?

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)
Hey Leo... LEO the Lion goes GER! If you know what that means, stand up and remove the pole.

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
- 1 Deadlock
 - 8 Watches in astonishment
 - 15 Went for unhesitatingly
 - 16 Luxembourg grand duke in whose name an annual art prize is awarded
 - 17 Tropical spots
 - 18 Plant material used for fuel
 - 19 Brawl-ending cry
 - 20 Beta tester, e.g.
 - 21 Commandment word
 - 22 French city where William the Conqueror is buried
 - 24 Work an aisle, slangily
 - 26 Monk's title
 - 29 Ba preceder
 - 31 "Salome" role
 - 35 Snap out of it
 - 38 Much work to get done
 - 39 Place for good deals
 - 40 Some bridge players
 - 41 Titan's place
 - 42 Blade
 - 43 "Baudolino" novelist
 - 45 It may be kept in a boot
 - 47 Hand tool
 - 50 Unclear
 - 52 Spill the beans
 - 57 Cook first, as pie crust
 - 59 Cardiff Giant or Piltown man
 - 60 Went through
 - 61 Away
- Down**
- 1 Sorry situations
 - 2 Gist
 - 3 Guam's ___ Bay
 - 4 Each
 - 5 Bite-the-bullet type
 - 6 Leader of the Alamo siege
 - 7 "The X-Files" subj.
 - 8 Schmoozes
 - 9 Something to bid
 - 10 Dilapidation
 - 11 Gypsy moth target
 - 12 Period of time
 - 13 "Now I see!"
 - 14 See 36-Down
 - 20 Neighbor of Hoboken, N.J.
 - 23 Singer John and others
 - 25 "Fuhgeddaboutit!"
 - 26 Renaissance artist Piero ___ Francesca
 - 27 Relatives of the Missouri
 - 28 Change
 - 30 Without hindrance
 - 32 Steer stopper



Puzzle by Manny Nosowsky

- 33 Sea ___ denizen of the North Pacific
- 34 Wayne W. ___, author of "Your Erroneous Zones"
- 35 Tear
- 36 With 14-Down, something that can have you seeing things
- 37 Keeping company with
- 44 Of a durable wood
- 46 It's seen on the back of a U.S. quarter
- 47 Some programs, briefly
- 48 Judge's order
- 49 Actor ___ Cobb
- 51 British ends
- 53 "And so?"
- 54 Loathsome sort
- 55 Flow in a coulee
- 56 Two from sixty-six?
- 58 Bart, to Maggie
- 59 Feather ___

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U P I R E D E A L T
S U B P O E N A O E S T E
E M A I L D O M A I N N A M E
D A R E D M I N S T R E L
S P I D E R S A N Y
A B A A G E B U N T
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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Road worries

After two dismal losses away from home, Irish face Villanova in Philly

By FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writer

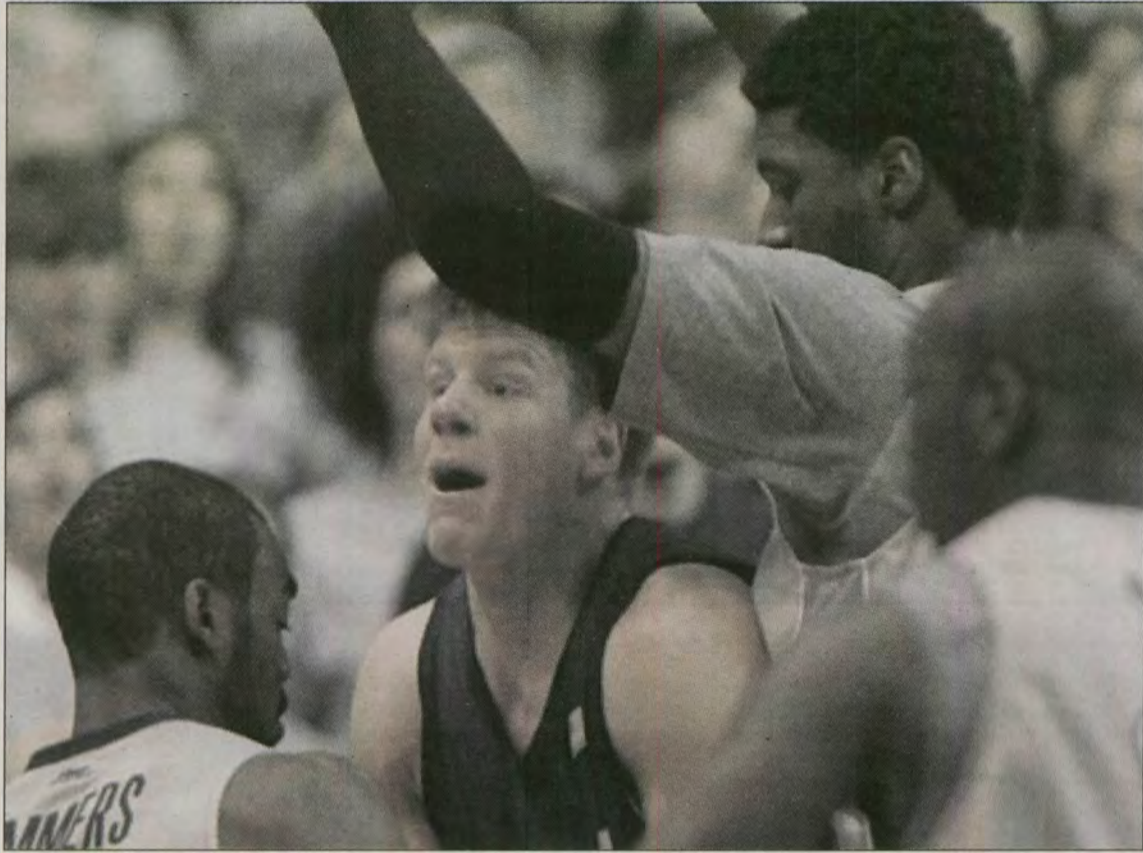
Following blowout losses to Marquette and Georgetown in its only two Big East road games, Notre Dame is confident the third time will be the charm in the quest for a conference road win.

The Irish feel good about their chances as they head to Philadelphia to take on No. 18 Villanova (13-4, 3-3) at the Wachovia Center Saturday.

"We're finally going to get over this road hump," sophomore forward Luke Harangody said. "We'll be fine. ... We just gotta go out there and show what we can do."

The Irish (13-4, 3-2) have won all three of their league home games but are coming off a 19-point loss to a physical

see NOVA/page 22



Sophomore forward Luke Harangody is swarmed by defenders in Notre Dame's 84-65 loss to Georgetown on Jan. 19. The Irish will try for their first conference road win against Villanova on Saturday.

MEN'S TENNIS

ND set to duel with Cavaliers

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame has a chance to see how it stacks up against the toughest competition in the country Sunday when it hosts No. 1 Virginia at noon at the Eck Tennis Pavilion.

"We will need to play our best match to have a chance," coach Bobby Bayliss said. "They have two new guys that I haven't seen play yet, but they will go to Illinois on Friday, so we'll know a little more about them [then]."

Virginia will field a strong lineup against the Irish. The Cavaliers' top doubles team of Treat Huey and Somdev Devvarman is also No. 1 in the nation.

Notre Dame has played Virginia each of the last two years, but the Irish fell short

see VIRGINIA/page 21

HOCKEY

Eagles could be the cure for ailing Irish



Irish right wing Erik Condra, right, gets ready for a faceoff in Notre Dame's 5-4 win over Nebraska-Omaha on Nov. 30.

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Writer

Heading into a weekend home-and-home series with conference foe Bowling Green, something's got to give for struggling No. 9 Notre Dame.

Not much has gone right lately for coach Jeff Jackson and the Irish, who are in the midst of a 2-5-1 slide, are coming off consecutive losses for the first time in nearly two years and have seen their power-play unit give up more goals than it has

scored during an 0-for-38 stretch.

That said, Notre Dame has dominated the No. 21 Falcons (12-10-0, 9-7-0 CCHA) recently, posting a 9-0-1 mark over the last 10 meetings, including a pair of wins earlier this season. The Falcons are surging, however, and now find themselves just five points behind the fourth-place Irish, who are clinging to a top-four slot in the conference, with which comes a first-round bye in the CCHA tournament.

see BOWLING/page 21

SMC BASKETBALL

Hungry Belles seek revenge

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

After an upsetting four-point loss to Calvin on Wednesday, Saint Mary's will have a tough time rebounding with a win Saturday when it takes on conference rival Hope.

The Flying Dutch (16-0, 8-0 MIAA) lead the MIAA and posted a 75-58 win over the Belles (8-8, 4-4 MIAA) on Dec. 21.

Saint Mary's had a strong effort to defeat Calvin, narrow-

ing the Knights' 24-14 lead with eight minutes remaining in the first period to 31-30 at the half. As the Knights continued to score in the second half — led by junior forward Marcia Harris, who finished with 23 points — the Belles managed to stay close, pulling within 63-62 with 1:11 to go. Still, they were unable to snatch the win.

"Our team played very hard against Calvin," Belles head coach Jennifer Henley said. "We had some opportunities to

come home with the win, but we had too many turnovers, especially in the first half."

Saint Mary's had 20 turnovers, 13 in the first half. But Henley said the Belles were able to stay close thanks to their rebounding and 92.9 percent performance from the line.

Up next for the Belles is a second chance at making history as they attempt to top the undefeated Flying Dutch, a

see HOPE/page 22

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

No. 1 Connecticut comes to town

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame hasn't fared well against teams ranked in the top five this season. The Irish have lost to Maryland and Tennessee, both ranked No. 3 at the time of the games.

And after coaches and players alike expressed the need to improve the defense after an 81-80 loss to DePaul Tuesday, a third loss in six games, the prospect of facing the No. 1 team in the nation catches Notre Dame at a bad time.

The Irish have their work cut out for them against Connecticut, which visits the Joyce Center at 7 p.m. Sunday. The Huskies are undefeated



Irish senior guard Tulyah Gaines attempts a layup in Notre Dame's 77-46 win over Michigan on Dec. 2.

WU YUE/The Observer

see UCONN/page 21