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Memorial held for Aher, McGrath

University community fills Basilica to remember students; Jenkins presides over Mass

By CHRIS HINE
News Writer

University President Father John Jenkins called Sunday, the day he learned Timothy Aher and Connor McGrath died, his "worst day as president of Notre Dame."

Jenkins presided over a Mass Tuesday at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart held in memorial of Aher, a 25-year-old Law School student, and McGrath, a 20-year-old sophomore, who died in unrelated incidents over the weekend.

Students and faculty nearly filled the Basilica and shared laughter and tears listening to

stories of Aher and McGrath delivered by law professor Father John Coughlin and Keough Hall rector Father Peter McCormick.

Aher, who was from Brookfield, Conn., and received a Bachelor's degree in linguistics from the University of Chicago, died Sunday in the town of Ilford, a suburb of London. He was studying in the Law School's London Programme.

McGrath, from Oklahoma City, died Sunday in Dillon. McGrath was a resident of Siegfried Hall this semester but lived in Dillon his freshman year and had

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DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer
People gather in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart before a memorial service began for Connor McGrath and Timothy Aher Tuesday.

Cell towers increase reception

OIT receives fewer AT&T complaints

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

AT&T's two new cell antennas atop the Morris Inn have reduced the number of complaints from students on South Quad about dropped calls, Chief Technology Officer Dewitt Latimer said.

The antennae, Latimer said, have been operational since the middle of January and have improved service.

"We have noticed a lack of complaints with AT&T customers," Latimer said.

The towers, Latimer said, were specifically directed at South Quad residents.

"AT&T just bought their 17th antenna on campus particularly to address some coverage concerns over at the Alumni and Dillon area," Latimer said. "The customers in that area were complaining about dropped calls. Students in the area of Alumni and Dillon Halls who use AT&T should notice a significant improvement in signal reach and strength."

The initiative to improve cell phone coverage on campus began two years ago with the removal of landlines from the dorm rooms, Latimer said. The movement from landlines to cell phones, he said, presented a problem for the University.

"We know how much students rely on cell phones," Latimer said. "We also know that over the years there has

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Hollywood writer discusses strikes

Stepakoff, who worked on 'Wonder Years,' 'Dawson's Creek,' shares opinions on industry



JESS LEE/The Observer
Jeffrey Stepakoff, who wrote and produced episodes of "Dawson's Creek," speaks in Browning Cinema Tuesday.

By KARA COYLE
News Writer

Jeffrey Stepakoff spoke about the rise, fall and rebirth of scripted entertainment in a speech in Browning Cinema Tuesday night.

Stepakoff, who for 18 years wrote for television programs including "The Wonder Years" and "Dawson's Creek," as well as developed two animated films for Disney, said his career did not begin with success.

After he moved to Los Angeles in the late 1980s, Stepakoff's debut as a Hollywood writer coincided with the 1988 Writer's Guild strike.

This strike, Stepakoff said, resulted in \$500 million worth of damage to the Los Angeles economy and a nine percent decrease in viewers.

"[The strike] was the beginning of audience erosion," he said.

Despite the efforts of the strikers, Stepakoff said people thought the strike itself was unsuccessful.

"The gains that were made for the writers were not really that far from what was on the table before the strike," he said.

Stepakoff took a different stance on the success of the most recent writer's strike, which last several months and ended last week.

"I propose that this event was different not just because of the financial gains but because the writers stuck together," said Stepakoff, contrasting it to the 1988 strike that ended due to internal struggles.

Stepakoff said he isn't sure whether the most recent strike was worth the loss of revenue for Hollywood.

"I think we could not have gotten the renewed strength without hav-

see HOLLYWOOD/page 4

Professors weigh Democrats' obstacles to winning

By LINDSAY SENA
News Writer

In a Democratic presidential race that will most likely produce either a black or a woman nominee, Notre Dame political science professors are debating which is more electable.

Professor Darren Davis said while America is not completely ready for either, conditions in the country make it possible.

"America is not ready for just any woman or any black person," said Davis, who specializes in public opinion and political psychology. "You can't run just any woman and

think they would do as well as [Hillary] Clinton.

"There are unique features about Clinton and [Barack] Obama that make both of them extremely appealing, but I think it would be a mistake to think that just because they're both doing well in the primaries that America is ready for a black president."

Still, the current political climate gives the two candidates a chance, Davis said.

"We're at war; the economy and the particular features of Clinton and Obama makes it right," he said.

Despite the factors working in Clinton and Obama's favor, Christina Wolbrecht, who specializes in American politics

and political parties, said she thinks the two candidates need to pay attention to how they market themselves to the public.

"I think both candidates are walking a fine line where you want to appeal to people of all races or genders," Wolbrecht said. "You need to be a president who is going to represent and serve the entire population."

Dianne Pinderhughes, whose teaching focuses on racial and ethnic politics in the U.S., as well as voting rights policy and American urban politics, said that may be the case, but the candi-

see DEMOCRATS/page 6



Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. Hillary Clinton stand together before a Democratic presidential debate in Los Angeles on Jan. 31.

INSIDE COLUMN

Who we fight for

Every weekday afternoon since the second day back at Notre Dame from fall break, I have made the long trek from Sorin College to the JACC for Bengal Bouts practice.

Going into training for the Bouts, I had absolutely no boxing experience.

John Tierney

News Wire Editor

Currently, just days before I fight in the preliminary round next Monday night, I've been in the ring six times.

Needless to say, I'm not Muhammad Ali.

However, I will say that Bengal Bouts has been one of the best experiences in my two years at Notre Dame. It's taught me a lot about myself and it's given me a really good way to let loose some aggression.

It's also gotten me in pretty good shape, especially compared to last winter's lazy plan to stay in shape by going to the Rock.

Ever since the first practice, the Bengal Bouts captains have insisted that the Bouts are about more than getting in shape. Instead, we fight for something bigger than any one of the approximately 230 individuals in the program, bigger than the 230 individuals put together, and even bigger than Notre Dame.

Bengal Bouts are about raising money and awareness for the Holy Cross Mission in Bangladesh.

The Holy Cross missionaries work with the tribal people of Bangladesh, who are the poorest of the poor in a country in which 45 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, according to the CIA World Factbook.

The missionaries have established medical and educational resources for the people of Bangladesh over the years, with substantial help from the Bengal Bouts program. The Bouts are the largest single supporter of the missions on a yearly basis.

Every year is a rough one for Bangladesh, but 2007 was tough even by Bangladesh standards.

Cyclone Sidr made landfall in Bangladesh on Nov. 15, 2007 as a category 4 storm, stronger than Hurricane Katrina when it devastated New Orleans.

The cyclone was responsible for the deaths of at least 3,113 people. According to UNICEF, 3.2 million people were affected by Sidr, which also destroyed approximately 750,000 homes in Bangladesh.

More than ever, the people of Bangladesh need the support of the Notre Dame family. In Bangladesh, the money of supporters from Notre Dame can go a long way. \$40 can pay one month's salary for a teacher in the Holy Cross Missions, and \$2,000 is enough money to build a school for that teacher.

So this year, and throughout your time at Notre Dame, make sure to support the Bengal Bouts. Just as importantly, make sure to remember who we fight for.

The Bouts begin with the preliminaries on Monday and the quarterfinals on Thursday. The semifinals and the finals continue the week we return from spring break.

Please buy tickets, and please make donations, even small ones of a couple of dollars. Those small donations add up.

And even one small donation can go a long way in Bangladesh.

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

Contact John Tierney at jtierne1@nd.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: WHATS THE BEST EXCUSE YOU'VE USED WHEN YOU'VE FORGOTTEN YOUR HOMEWORK?



Trey Mohr

junior
Alumni

"Reckers food gave me food poisoning."



Carlos Padilla

senior
off campus

"I couldn't find it in the Charlie Pad."



Ashley Cunningham

senior
off campus

"It froze and shattered on the ground."



Michael Bruns

freshman
Stanford

"I spilled chemical acid on it, but had no base to neutralize it."



Stacey Gill

sophomore
Farley

"I was too busy saving the world."



BRITT BURGESSON/The Observer

Notre Dame freshman Justin Schneider is featured in this ad from popular clothing store Abercrombie & Fitch. His ads will be seen around the nation and online throughout the spring season.

OFFBEAT

DVD in firefighter's coat blocks bullet

WALTERBORO, S.C. — A South Carolina man is thankful for a DVD that ended up taking a bullet for him. Colleton County Fire and Rescue Director Barry McRoy says he was leaving a Waffle House restaurant in Walterboro on Saturday morning when two men ran in fighting over a gun. Police say a bullet hit one of the struggling men, shattered a window and then hit McRoy.

The bullet hit a DVD McRoy was carrying in his

pocket. He suffered a bruise but didn't realize he had been shot. As he told a police officer what happened he noticed a bullet hole in his jacket, the shattered DVD case and a piece of the bullet.

"I was saved by a DVD," McRoy says. "How lucky can you get?"

The DVD was nicked. It was a gift from an employee who had recorded a TV show about fire extinguishers.

Church urges hanky panky among members

YBOR CITY, Fla. — A

southwest Florida church issued a challenge for its married members: Hanky panky every day. Relevant Church head pastor Paul Wirth issued the 30-day sex challenge to take on high divorce rates.

"And that's no different for people who attend church," Wirth said Sunday. "Sometimes life gets in the way. Our jobs get in the way."

The challenge doesn't extend to unwed congregants, however.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

As part of the fireside chat series "Telling HERstory," theology professor Catherine Hilkert will speak today at noon in the Coleman-Morse Center lounge.

Eucharistic Exposition will take place tonight at 9:30 in Holy Spirit Chapel in LeMans Hall at Saint Mary's. Exposition takes place every Wednesday night and Friday at 12:30 p.m. in Regina Chapel.

"The Call of the Entrepreneur" will be shown on Thursday at 5:00 in the Jordan Auditorium, Mendoza College of Business.

The men's basketball team will play against No. 22 Pittsburgh Thursday at 7 p.m. in the Joyce Center.

As part of the Ten Years Hence lecture series, professor Karen Hunt Ahmed from the department of finance at DePaul University will speak at 10:40 a.m. Friday in the Jordan Auditorium of the Mendoza College of Business.

There will be Stations of the Cross Friday at 7:15 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Stations will be held each Friday during Lent.

The 50th Annual Collegiate Jazz Festival will begin Friday at 7 p.m. with a concert featuring at least four different bands. The festival will conclude Saturday with an afternoon concert at 1 p.m. and an evening concert at 7 p.m. All events will be in Washington Hall.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 19 LOW 9	HIGH 9 LOW -9	HIGH 22 LOW 13	HIGH 29 LOW 19	HIGH 27 LOW 21	HIGH 31 LOW 22

BOG

Group targets body image

Representatives schedule forum, hope to unite residence halls

By **ASHLEY CHARNLEY**
News Writer

Body image — and two forums on the subject — was the main focus of Tuesday's Board of Governance (BOG) meeting.

Residence Hall Association (RHA) president Cassie Quaglia announced that communications professor Terri Russ will be holding a body image forum, "Get it Girl," sponsored by the RHA today at 7 p.m. in Holy Cross Parlor.

"Body image at an all-women's college is definitely a big issue," Quaglia said. "One of the goals of RHA is uniting the residence halls, and this will help do that."

The forum will have door prizes and food will be provided.

Two representatives from Notre Dame's Health and Body Image Conference, Brenna Doyle and Patrick Tighe, came to present the other conference to Saint Mary's student government. The forum, "Live as You Are," will be held March 11-13 in McKenna Hall. Doyle and Tighe came to give posters and registration forms to BOG in order to help publicize the conference at the College.

The keynote speaker for the Notre Dame event will be Ann Simonton, a former model who has been on the covers of magazines such as Vogue. She is now an activist who discusses body image



Student body president Kim Hodges speaks during the Board of Governance Meeting Tuesday.

ANNIE HARTON/The Observer

and the objectification of women in the media. She also runs the non-profit organization Media Watch International. Tighe said students interested in learning more about Simonton could look at the Web site mediawatch.org.

In other BOG news:

- ◆ Saint Mary's will celebrate Women's Appreciation Week from March 10-13, Student Diversity Board president Abby Hinchy said. There will be fundraisers and guest speakers throughout the week.
- ◆ The Board of Trustees will

be on campus beginning Thursday evening at the Belles' home basketball game, student body president Kim Hodges said. The game is in Angela Athletic Facility at 7:30 p.m.

◆ Hodges also announced that the new director for the Center for Career Opportunities, Stacie Jeffers, is working on publicity for the Center. She will be holding two forums open to the student body tonight at 5:30 and Thursday from 2-3 p.m. in Conference Room A in the Student Center basement.

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn01@saintmarys.edu

Robinson Center to receive \$282,000 check

Special to The Observer

A \$282,000 appropriations request for Notre Dame's Robinson Community Learning Center (RCLC) by Rep. Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., and Sen. Evan Bayh, D-Ind., has been funded in a bill that recently became law.

Donnelly will present a ceremonial check at a celebration to mark the seventh anniversary of the RCLC at 5:30 p.m. Friday (Feb. 22) at the center. University President Father John Jenkins also will be in attendance at the event, which will feature an awards ceremony and musical entertainment.

The RCLC will receive the funding to support and develop Robinson Enterprises, a comprehensive training, entrepreneurship and business promotion initiative. The program will specifically promote business success for at-risk youths and young adults (ages 16 to 24) through training, mentoring and start-up incubation for the launch of for-profit enterprises.

"We are grateful to Congressman Donnelly and Sen. Bayh for their leadership in funding this innovative venture," said Jay Caponigro, director of the RCLC. "Robinson Enterprises will enable the University and community to work together to cultivate entrepreneurship and

self-sufficiency.

"I was happy to learn that the Robinson Community Learning Center will receive the funding it deserves to continue and expand its operations," Donnelly said. "The outstanding work done at the center contributes to area revitalization and provides employment opportunities for South Bend-area residents."

Founded by Notre Dame in 2001, the RCLC is a community-driven education center. In addition to Robinson Enterprises, the center sponsors a number of programs and activities and hosts others led by local agencies and organizations. These include violence prevention initiatives, health education and screenings, GED and English-as-a-second-language classes, children's programming, youth tutoring, and after-school programs. It also features a Computer Teaching and Learning Center, which is equipped with 20 computers and provides instruction and Internet and e-mail access.

Some 500 residents and volunteers participate each week in on-site RCLC programming, and as many as 250 Notre Dame students, faculty and staff volunteer with center programs. Some 35 University departments and residence halls are involved in RCLC partnerships.

Looking for solid business and accounting experience to put on your resume?

The Observer is accepting applications for a 2008-09 Business Manager and Controller. Responsibilities include preparing a yearly budget and handling payroll for a 200-person staff.

Since the Controller will take over as the 2009-10 Business Manager, Controller applicants should be sophomores, or juniors staying for a fifth year.

Both positions are salaried, about six to 10 hours a week. Please contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu or Kyle West at kwest1@nd.edu if interested.

Mass

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attended the University of Central Oklahoma this fall.

The University has not released information about the causes of either death, but police investigators said Monday that diabetes may have played a role in McGrath's death.

McCormick, who lived next to McGrath last year when he was an assistant rector in Dillon Hall, said he got to know him well when the two "shared a wall."

"After living in such close proximity to him, I certainly have plenty of stories to tell about Connor," McCormick said. "But only some that would be

pulpit-ready."

One "pulpit-ready" story McCormick did share with those gathered involved a time he asked McGrath if he ever considered entering the priesthood.

"Connor kind of gave me that look and then proceeded to avoid me for the next week," McCormick said. "I figured he had other plans."

McCormick said McGrath was a "fun-loving social young man who took the time to get to know others" and hoped people remember McGrath as a respectful, outgoing person.

Coughlin, who spoke about Aher's death, talked about the law student's accomplishments and mentioned that Aher developed a proficiency in Russian and studied German, French and Uzbek.

"Not only did he enjoy learning to speak a language," Coughlin said, "but he also immersed himself in the study of the culture and society in which the language was spoken."

Aher also had a deep appreciation for music, Coughlin said. Aher served as station manager at WHPK-FM, a student-run radio station at the University of Chicago, and wrote reviews of popular music groups.

"Although I have to acknowledge that I have little appreciation of this repertoire," Coughlin said, "I enjoyed reading Tim's well-written and clearly expert reviews."

After graduating from the University of Chicago in 2002, Aher worked for two years at the Bank of America Securities

before applying to law school, where he hoped to keep pursuing his love of language by becoming an international lawyer.

Aher also had a summer internship in New York City where he helped AIDS patients deal with their legal problems.

"Although Tim was neither a Catholic nor, from what I know, a person of obvious religious conviction, he was a man with a deep and refined spirit that led him to devote his considerable intellect to service to some of the most poor and powerless of our society," Coughlin said. "In my opinion, Tim's example represents the best of what it means to be a law student at Notre Dame."

Coughlin said Aher also dealt with much pain in his life and

his death is a deep loss for him personally, for Notre Dame, and the legal profession.

"To love deeply is to suffer deeply," Coughlin said. "Tim was no stranger to emotional suffering in his own life, and he struggled mightily to cope with it."

Father Mark Poorman, vice president of student affairs, delivered the homily and said members of the Notre Dame community are "blessed" to have each other to cope with the deaths of Aher and McGrath.

"Tim and Connor's lives have been wonderful, further expressions of [God's] love and we are grateful for the time we spent with them," Poorman said.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

Cell

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been a general disdain for having cell towers on or near campus."

OIT installed antennas on various buildings on campus that were painted to blend in, Latimer said. Since then, he said, OIT has worked in conjunction with the service providers to offer the best coverage possible.

The service providers, and not the University, are largely responsible for the quality of coverage on campus, Latimer said. OIT has the job of negotiating contracts with the providers, he said, but it

is ultimately up to them to service the campus.

"To date we have been successful in getting both Verizon and AT&T on campus," he said. "Even though the system is capable of handling any operator, those two are the only operators that have developed the business case for investment."

OIT has since made efforts to contract other providers on campus such as T-Mobile, Nextel and Sprint, Latimer said. Those efforts have not yet been successful.

Students with these service providers "complain very loudly," Latimer said. He did, however, offer a solution.

"If your cellular provider is not on campus, tell them you

would like them to hook up to Notre Dame's distributed antenna system," he said.

Verizon is the second largest provider on campus, but has only six antennae, compared to AT&T's 17. OIT is pursuing a new contract with Verizon to install four more antennas. Latimer hopes that those will be installed before the fall semester.

"We are getting close," he said. "Verizon wants it and we want it."

Those antennae will significantly improve the service of Verizon customers on campus, Latimer said.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Hollywood

continued from page 1

ing this labor unrest," he said.

One of the main issues of this writer's strike was how to evaluate a writer's work, a question that Stepakoff says he has asked himself numerous times.

"The value of writers, the lifeblood of writers, was really what this conflict was about," Stepakoff said. "What is the price of a writer's blood? How do you evaluate what we do? Are we worth the billions of dollars for the shows we make?"

The answers to these questions differ greatly from studio executives to writers, Stepakoff said, "[but] the lifeblood of these compa-

nies is the work of writers."

Stepakoff also discussed the rise of reality television and its implications on Hollywood writers.

"Reality television is not a fad. It is not something that popped up arbitrarily," he said.

He said reality television is becoming a popular genre not because people enjoy it, but because the networks in the studios are able to use writers that are not in the guild.

Reality television is used as an intimidation device against writers, Stepakoff said.

"A lot of this stuff is being programmed as a threat to writers," he said. "It's cheap to make and it keeps writers in check."

Contact Kara Coyle at kcoyle@nd.edu

Dining With The

Stars



February 20
8:00-10:00 pm

Lafortune,
BK Lounge
(near Burger King)

Get your friends together
and bid on a dinner with
campus celebrities including:

Anre Venter	Charlie Weis
The Undertones	Fr. Hesburgh
Chuck Lennon	Mike Brey
ND Men's Swim Team	Monk Malloy
ND Leprechauns	Fr. Poorman
Nd Cheerleaders	Dean Woo
The Sharpley Brothers	Professor Hums
Geoff Price	Brett Perkins

Breen-Phillips Hall
Meal Auction

All proceeds go to
Meals on Wheels

Bidding is per plate

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Bush calls for action to stop violence

KIGALI, Rwanda — On ground haunted by one of the worst atrocities of modern times, President Bush pleaded with the global community Tuesday for decisive action to stop grisly ethnic violence now plaguing other African nations like Kenya and Sudan.

"There is evil in the world and evil must be confronted," said Bush, shaken by his visit to a museum that tells the story of Rwanda's 1994 genocide in which more than 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered in just 100 days by extremist Hutu militias.

Bush, who once wrote "not on my watch" in the margin of a report on the Rwanda massacre, has responded to the atrocities that have raged in Sudan's western Darfur region by imposing sanctions, applying diplomatic pressure, and training and transporting other nations' soldiers for peace-keeping. But he decided not to send U.S. troops into Sudan, and it took three years after the crisis began in 2003 to announce sanctions against a few of people, prompting renewed criticism that his actions don't match his impassioned rhetoric on the topic.

Opposition parties win Pakistan election

ISLAMABAD — A top opposition leader called Tuesday on President Pervez Musharraf to step aside after his ruling party conceded defeat in parliamentary elections. The vote was also a slap to Islamist parties, which lost control of a province where al-Qaida and Taliban fighters have sought refuge.

With counting from Monday's election nearly complete, the two main opposition parties won a total of 154 of the 268 contested seats, according to the Election Commission.

NATIONAL NEWS

New missile to be shot at crippled satellite

WASHINGTON — An attempt to blast a crippled U.S. spy satellite out of the sky using a Navy heat-seeking missile — possibly on Wednesday night — would be the first real-world use of this piece of the Pentagon's missile defense network. But that is not the mission for which it was intended.

The attempted shutdown, already approved by President Bush, is seen by some as blurring the lines between defending against a weapon like a long-range missile and targeting satellites in orbit.

The three-stage Navy missile, designated the SM-3, has chalked up a high rate of success in a series of tests since 2002 — in each case targeting a short- or medium-range ballistic missile, never a satellite. A hurry-up program to adapt the missile for this anti-satellite mission was completed in a matter of weeks; Navy officials say the changes will be reversed once this satellite is down.

Beef industry, animal groups in dispute

DENVER — The cattle industry and animal rights groups bickered over the treatment of beef destined for U.S. dinner plates a day after secret video triggered the nation's largest meat recall.

Undercover video taken at the Westland/Hallmark Meat Co. of Chino, Calif., shows workers shocking, kicking and shoving debilitated cattle with forklifts, prompting the government to pull 143 million pounds of the company's beef.

LOCAL NEWS

Lawmakers sign anti-gay marriage petition

INDIANAPOLIS — A majority of lawmakers in the Indiana House have signed a petition showing their support for a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage — despite a decision by House leaders not to give the proposal a hearing this year.

Rep. Jim Buck, R-Kokomo, said Tuesday that representatives wanted to do something to show voters that they support the amendment. He said some lawmakers, both Republicans and Democrats, have been criticized for not doing enough to push for the proposal.

"We could demonstrate with our signatures our reaffirmation to those in our districts that we do support it," he said.

Democrats hold a 51-49 majority in the House. Most Republicans and seven Democrats signed the petition, which had 55 signatures Tuesday. Buck said more representatives could sign onto the petition later if they chose.

CUBA

Castro retires after half century of rule

Dictator's younger brother Raul to take over after serving as acting president since July 2006

Associated Press

HAVANA — Now that Fidel Castro has retired, many Cubans are looking to his brother to let more people open businesses, own homes and even travel abroad. But it will probably fall to a new generation of leaders to ultimately fulfill or frustrate their dreams of prosperity.

During his time as acting president, 76-year-old Raul Castro has hinted at reform but made few major changes — a reticence many see as a sign of respect for his beloved, more doctrinaire older brother, who survived despite the efforts of 10 U.S. presidents to bring him down.

And while hoping that Raul and his likely No. 2, Carlos Lage, will advocate for change, they wonder how that will fly with Fidel, who stepped down but isn't going away.

"There has to be some change, more freedom with Raul," said Andres, 63, who like many Cubans wouldn't give his last name for fear of reprisal when talking about the Castro brothers. "The other one always nipped that off at the bud."

The resignation, announced Tuesday, should give Raul Castro the autonomy he lacked as the government's caretaker since Fidel was sidelined by intestinal surgery in July 2006.

The younger Castro raised expectations of openings in the state-controlled economy with his reported fascination with Chinese-style capitalism, calls for unspecified "structural changes," and acknowledgment that government wages averaging \$19 a month do not satisfy basic needs. He also encouraged Cubans to open a fearless and critical debate, as long as they remember that the final decisions will be made by the island's Communist leaders.

"That way we reach decisions, and I'm talking about big decisions," he told student leaders in December



Images of longtime Cuban leader Fidel Castro decorate the side of a bicycle cart in Havana. Castro announced Tuesday he will not accept another term as president.

2006.

Many Cubans want to hear more such talk from their next leader. Inspired by Raul, some leading Cuban cultural figures have called recently for dropping onerous visa requirements and other limits on their freedoms, a message that resonates with ordinary Cubans.

"This is what we needed. I hope to God people have more freedom — the freedom to have opinions and always speak their minds," 37-year-old Lydis Perez said after dropping her son off at school. "People talk in the hallways or the back rooms. ... There's a lot of fear."

Fidel Castro, however, insisted in his resignation letter Tuesday that he won't disappear — or stay quiet if

he sees his revolution going astray.

"This is not my farewell to you," he wrote. "My only wish is to fight as a soldier in the battle of ideas. I shall continue to write under the title, 'Reflections of Comrade Fidel.' It will be another weapon you can count on. Perhaps my voice will be heard."

As the Council of State's first vice president, Raul Castro has been his brother's constitutionally designated successor for decades, so the big question is who will take his place as No. 2 on Sunday when the National Assembly selects Cuba's new leadership.

A leading candidate is Lage, the de-facto prime minister, who at 56 is a full

generation younger than the Castros. He's among the most experienced leaders in a power structure dominated by septuagenarian former rebels, and he has built a reputation as a reformer.

A less likely possibility could emerge from a handful of leaders in their 30s and 40s, such as Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque, whose Communist fervor earned them the collective nickname of "Young Talibans."

While no less loyal to the elder Castro, Lage was the architect of reforms that saved the island from economic collapse in the early 1990s. His moves allowed foreign investment in state enterprises, a measure of self-employment, and legal use of the U.S. dollar.

Supreme Court turns down wiretapping appeal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court dealt a setback Tuesday to civil rights and privacy advocates who oppose the Bush administration's warrantless wiretapping program.

The justices, without comment, turned down an appeal from the American Civil Liberties Union to let it pursue a lawsuit against the program that began shortly after the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

The action underscored the difficulty of mounting a challenge to the eavesdropping, which remains classified and was confirmed by President Bush only after a newspaper article revealed its existence.

"It's very disturbing that the president's actions will go unremarked upon by the

court," said Jameel Jaffer, director of the ACLU's national security project. "In our view, it shouldn't be left to executive branch officials alone to determine the limits."

The Terrorist Surveillance Program no longer exists, although the administration has maintained it was legal.

The ACLU sued on behalf of itself, other lawyers, reporters and scholars, arguing that the program was illegal and that they had been forced to alter how they communicate with foreigners who were likely to have been targets of the wiretapping.

A federal judge in Detroit largely agreed, but the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed the suit, saying the plaintiffs could not prove their communications had been monitored and thus

could not prove they had been harmed by the program.

The government has refused to turn over information about the closely guarded program that could reveal who has been under surveillance.

ACLU officials described the situation as a "Catch-22" because the government says the identities of people whose communications have been intercepted is secret. But only people who know they have been wiretapped can sue over the program.

A lawsuit filed by an Islamic charity met a similar fate. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals last year ruled against the Oregon-based U.S. arm of the Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation, concluding that a key piece of evidence is protected as a state secret.

4 killed in school bus crash

Classes cancelled at Minnesota public schools after highway accident

Associated Press

COTTONWOOD, Minn. — A school bus and several other vehicles crashed in southwestern Minnesota Tuesday, killing four students and forcing the first-arriving motorists to rush some of the injured to nearby hospitals.

The bus was hit by a van around 3:25 p.m. on a highway north of Cottonwood. The bus then hit a pickup and tipped on its side, State Patrol Lt. Mark Peterson said. At least 14 people were hurt.

Rescue squads and ambulances from many nearby cities arrived at the crash site. The Marshall Independent reported that the first motorists on the scene were asked to take some children to the hospital.

"I parked my car and called 911, and ran to the school bus and the driver was handing kids out the door as fast as I could take them," Karen Mahlum told the newspaper.

Other motorists also stopped and took kids from the driver. "You just wanted to make sure it was safe," she said. "They were screaming and screaming on the bus. There were so many kids."

Pictures from the scene showed the school bus lying on

its side on the hood and cab of a pickup truck.

The bus was on its regular route, carrying children from kindergarten through 12th grade.

Initial reports said the bus was carrying 40 people, but it actually carried 28 students and a driver, Minnesota Public Safety spokeswoman Christine Krueger said.

Parents were asked to gather at Lakeview School to await word on their children.

Of the 11 victims taken to Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center, two were in critical condition while one had already been treated and released, spokeswoman Deann Holland said.

Others were being treated for back and neck injuries, lacerations, bumps and bruises, she said.

Two of the victims were taken by ambulance to Granite Falls Hospital, which is about 15 miles north of the accident scene. Hospital CEO George Gerlach said one was 11 years old and the other 14.

"They were treated and stabilized in our ER," Gerlach said. Neither had life-threatening injuries, but had fractures that required a higher level of care than could be provided in

Granite Falls, he said.

They were being taken, one by helicopter and the other by ambulance, to Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, S.D., to undergo orthopedic surgery, Gerlach said.

Gov. Tim Pawlenty issued a statement calling it "a sad night for Minnesota."

"It is especially heartbreaking when young lives are lost," he said. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who were killed or injured in this tragic accident."

The victims weren't immediately identified, and their ages weren't immediately given.

News of the crash swept through Cottonwood, a small town of about 1,000 people about 121 miles southwest of Minneapolis. About 40 people attended an evening press briefing at Swan Lake Evangelical Free Church.

When Fire Chief Dale Louwagie was asked what the community could do, he said simply, "Pray."

Classes were canceled Wednesday at Lakeview, which serves about 585 students in Cottonwood and Wood Lake, and plans were made to have grief counselors and clergy available to students, a school official said.

Democrats

continued from page 1

dates do appeal to certain groups of people.

She said she sees Clinton as a candidate who "appeals to women as a group, across racial lines."

"Generally, women respond to her candidacy in a positive way," she said. "In terms of how [gender] hurts her, men tend not to support her strongly. It's almost as if they're judging that it's not appropriate to have a woman as a president."

Wolbrecht agreed, noting the stereotypes associated with the female gender.

"When people look at candidates and they see a woman they make certain assumptions, consciously or unconsciously, whether negative or positive," Wolbrecht said.

Women may seem less corrupt or more experienced in health care and education, Wolbrecht said, but less qualified in areas like economics.

Davis said while Clinton's gender could help her, Obama's race could hurt him.

"Race is never an advantage to begin with," Davis said. "There have been people who talk about race helping him, but race is still an incredible disadvantage within American society."

Clinton and Obama have

referred to themselves in different ways throughout the campaign, Davis said.

"Whereas in several debates, Clinton has referred to herself as the first female candidate for a presidential nomination, Obama never frames or considers himself to be a black person running for president," Davis said.

Davis said he is unsure how Clinton referring to herself as the first female candidate will impact her campaign, but said Obama would hurt his campaign if he brought up his race.

Pinderhughes pointed out the conflict within Obama's campaign over his race.

"Some of his campaign managers want him to deemphasize his race, some of his black campaign aids want him to address the black community," she said. "So that is a tension for him, in terms of strategy."

Overall, Pinderhughes said, more people are ready for a black male president than a female president.

"It seems as if people are more able to say 'yes, I think we're ready for an African-American man to be president,'" she said. "[Americans] can handle a male across race better than they can handle a female, who is also white. So in this case, gender trumps race."

Contact Lindsay Sena at lsena@nd.edu

Obama increases lead after winning Wisconsin

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Barack Obama cruised past a fading Hillary Rodham Clinton in the Wisconsin primary Tuesday night, gaining the upper hand in a Democratic presidential race for the ages.

It was Obama's ninth straight victory over the past three weeks — with results unknown from the night's Hawaii caucuses — and left the former first lady in desperate need of a comeback in a race she long commanded as front-runner.

"The change we seek is still months and miles away," Obama told a boisterous crowd in Houston

in a speech in which he also pledged to end the war in Iraq in his first year in office.

"I opposed this war in 2002. I will bring this war to an end in 2009. It is time to bring our troops home," he declared.

Sen. John McCain, the Republican front-runner, won a pair of primaries, in Wisconsin and Washington, to continue his march toward certain nomination.

In a race growing increasingly negative, Obama cut deeply into Clinton's political bedrock in Wisconsin, splitting the support of white women almost evenly with her. According to polling place interviews, he also ran well among

working class voters in the blue collar battleground that was prelude to primaries in the larger industrial states of Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Clinton made no mention of her defeat, and showed no sign of surrender in an appearance in Youngstown, Ohio.

"Both Senator Obama and I would make history," the New York senator said. "But only one of us is ready on day one to be commander in chief, ready to manage our economy, and ready to defeat the Republicans. Only one of us has spent 35 years being a doer, a fighter and a champion for those who need a voice."

In a clear sign of their relative standing in the race, most cable television networks abruptly cut away from coverage of Clinton's rally when Obama began to speak in Texas.

McCain won the Republican primary with ease, dispatching former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and edging closer to the 1,191 delegates he needs to clinch the GOP nomination at the party convention in St. Paul, Minn. next summer. The Arizona senator also won the primary in Washington, with 19 delegates at stake.

In scarcely veiled criticism of Obama, the Republican nominee-in-waiting said, "I will fight every

moment of every day in this campaign to make sure that Americans are not deceived by an eloquent but empty call for change."

McCain's nomination has been assured since Super Tuesday three weeks ago, as first one, then another of his former rivals has dropped out and the party establishment has closed ranks behind him.

Not so in the Democratic race, where Obama and Clinton campaign seven days a week, he the strongest black presidential candidate in history, she bidding to become the first woman to sit in the White House.

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IN BRIEF

Toshiba ready to abandon HD DVD

TOKYO — Sony's Blu-ray technology is emerging as the likely winner in the format battle for the next generation of DVD players after Toshiba appeared ready to ditch its HD DVD business.

Such a move would help consumers know which system to invest in and would likely boost sales in Blu-ray gadgets, analysts say. But it will disappoint the 1 million people around the world estimated by Toshiba who have already bought HD DVD players.

Toshiba Corp. said Monday no decision has been made but acknowledged it had started a review of its HD DVD strategy. The comments follow a flurry of weekend Japanese media reports that the company was close to pulling the plug on the business.

A company official, speaking on condition of anonymity because she isn't authorized to speak on the matter, said a board meeting could be held as soon as Tuesday, where a decision is likely.

Supreme Court won't help Katrina victims

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court refused Tuesday to offer help to Hurricane Katrina victims who want their insurance companies to pay for flood damage to their homes and businesses.

The justices rejected appeals from Xavier University and 68 other individuals and businesses seeking to allow their lawsuits against the insurers to go forward.

Xavier asked the court to step in after the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the policies did not cover damage from floods, even those that resulted from man-made failures such as the collapsed levees in New Orleans.

Other cases working their way through state courts have so far reached differing conclusions. A Louisiana appeals court has said that language excluding water damage from some insurance policies was ambiguous. The Louisiana Supreme Court will hear arguments in that case on Feb. 26.

Xavier and the other plaintiffs had asked the federal court to allow the state Supreme Court to rule on their suits as well. The 5th Circuit refused and the U.S. high court upheld that ruling on Tuesday.

The cases are Xavier University of Louisiana v. Travelers Casualty Property Company of

Oil futures spike to record high

Refinery explosion, falling dollar, potential OPEC production cut blamed for price increase

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Oil futures shot higher Tuesday, closing above \$100 for the first time as investors bet that crude prices will keep climbing despite evidence of plentiful supplies and falling demand. At the pump, gas prices rose further above \$3 a gallon.

There was no single driver behind oil's sharp price jump; investors seized on an explosion at a 67,000 barrel per day refinery in Texas, the falling dollar, the possibility that OPEC may cut production next month, and continuing tensions between the U.S. and Venezuela.

Gasoline and heating oil prices appeared to be leading the advance, rising faster in percentage terms than oil due to the explosion Monday at Alon USA's Big Spring, Texas, refinery, which could be shuttered for two months.

"The refinery fire in Texas is making people a little concerned," said Michael Lynch, president of Strategic Energy & Economic Research Inc. in Amherst, Mass.

Light, sweet crude for March delivery rose \$4.51 to settle at a record \$100.01 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange after earlier rising to \$100.10, a new trading record. It was the first time since Jan. 3 that oil had been above \$100.

March gasoline jumped 10.93 cents to settle at \$2.6031 a gallon, and March heating oil rose 11.45 cents to settle at \$2.7614 a gallon, also a record.

Oil prices are still with-



Fires burn after an explosion at an Alon USA oil refinery in Big Springs, Texas, on Monday. The explosion could close the refinery for two months and is one factor in Tuesday's rise in oil prices.

in the range of inflation-adjusted highs set in early 1980. Depending on how the adjustment is calculated, \$38 a barrel then would be worth \$96 to \$103 or more today.

The dollar fell Tuesday, giving investors another reason to buy oil. Crude futures offer a hedge against a falling dollar, and oil futures bought and sold in dollars are more attractive to foreign investors when the greenback is falling.

For the moment, investors appear to have

put aside concerns about the economy that have sent oil prices down into the mid-\$80 range twice since crude peaked above \$100 last month. Traders are instead focused on the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which will meet early next month to map out production plans, and Venezuela, where President Hugo Chavez made conflicting statements this weekend about the country's legal dispute with Exxon Mobil Corp.

OPEC could move to cut production in the second quarter, typically a period of low demand, though many analysts feel that's unlikely. In Venezuela, Chavez said he was not serious about an earlier threat to cut oil sales to the U.S., but also threatened to sue Exxon Mobil. The world's largest oil company is fighting Venezuela's nationalization of an oil project, and recently convinced several courts to freeze \$12 billion in Venezuelan oil assets.

Bush has no plans to lift Cuban embargo

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is ruling out any changes in its Cuba policy — including lifting a five-decade trade embargo — deriding Fidel Castro's brother and heir apparent, Raul, as "dictator lite."

Despite having openly wished for Castro's demise and the end of his rule for years, U.S. officials said Tuesday that Castro's decision to step down on his own terms leaves little hope for real democratic transition in communist Cuba during Bush's final year in office, although it may open options for his successor in the White House.

Led by President Bush, a chorus of officials expressed hope that Castro's departure would spark fundamental changes for the Cuban people. But they also said they doubted that would happen under Raul Castro and said there was little chance the nearly 50-year-old U.S. embargo on Cuba would be lifted.

"They're the ones who suffered under

Fidel Castro," Bush told a news conference in Rwanda. "They're the ones who were put in prison because of their beliefs. They're the ones who have been denied their right to live in a free society. So I view this as a period of transition and it should be the beginning of the democratic transition in Cuba."

"Eventually, this transition ought to lead to free and fair elections — and I mean free, and I mean fair — not these kind of staged elections that the Castro brothers try to foist off as true democracy," Bush said. "The United States will help the people of Cuba realize the blessings of liberty."

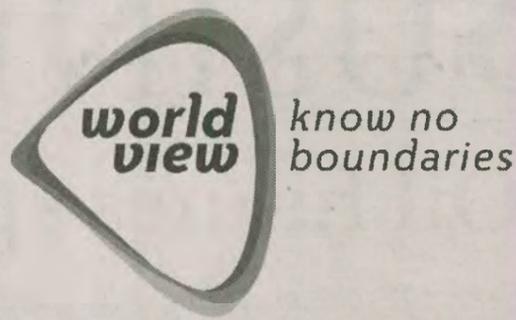
Even as U.S. lawmakers suggested Castro's retirement should set off a review of U.S. policy, senior State Department officials in Washington said there would be no lifting of the embargo, which has been the centerpiece of American policy toward Cuba since it was first imposed in 1960 and strengthened in 1962.

"I can't imagine that happening any time soon," said Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte.

The ailing Castro, 81, who has called the embargo "criminal" and claims its impact has run into the tens of billions of dollars, announced earlier Tuesday he would not accept another term in office when parliament meets to elect a new president this weekend.

Castro outlasted nine U.S. presidents who, with some minor policy adjustments, have steadily ramped up pressure on Cuba. At least two Secretaries of State, Madeleine Albright and Colin Powell, said publicly while in office that they hoped "the actuarial tables" would catch up with the aging Cuban leader who was a persistent thorn in Washington's side.

Long-standing U.S. irritation with Castro was evident on Tuesday with officials stressing they were not optimistic for any kind of quick change under Raul Castro, to whom Fidel ceded power temporarily in July 2006.



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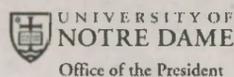
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KOSOVO

Serbs protest independence

Militants set off small bombs, torch U.N. border checkpoints

Associated Press

KOSOVSKA MITROVICA — Thousands of Serbs chanting "Kosovo is Serbia" marched Tuesday to a bridge dividing them from ethnic Albanians while others torched U.N. border checkpoints and cars to protest Kosovo's declaration of independence.

NATO troops later closed down the roads leading to the checkpoints, cutting off the only link between northern Kosovo and Serbia, said Besim Hoti, a U.N. spokesman. The move appeared to be due to fears that the reduction of U.N. control of the border could allow Serbian militants to return to fight in Kosovo, a land Serb nationalists consider the cradle of their state and religion.

Smoke billowed from two

checkpoints separating Kosovo from Serbia and flames engulfed several U.N. vehicles set ablaze in protest against Kosovo's weekend proclamation of independence and anger over international recognition of the new nation.

For two days, Kosovo's Serbs have shown their determination to shun the declaration by destroying U.N. and NATO property, setting off small bombs and staging noisy rallies through the Serb stronghold of Kosovska Mitrovica.

The attacks on U.N. border crossings showed the protesters' willingness to use violence to hold onto Kosovo — and could clear the way for Serbian militants to return to fight in Kosovo, a land Serb nationalists consider the cradle of their state and religion.

In Belgrade, the Serbian

government minister for Kosovo, Slobodan Samardzic, hailed the attacks, saying "today's action is in accordance with the general [Serbian] government policies."

"Belgrade has the intention to take over the customs in northern Kosovo," Samardzic told private B92 television. "The customs points were intended to become part of [Kosovo's] state border and we are not going to let that happen."

Kosovo has not been under Belgrade's control since 1999, when NATO launched airstrikes to halt a Serbian crackdown on ethnic Albanian separatists. A U.N. mission since has governed Kosovo, with more than 16,000 NATO troops and a multiethnic police force policing the province.

SWITZERLAND

Two stolen paintings found in backseat of car

Associated Press

ZURICH — A frantic search for four stolen Impressionist paintings led to a most unlikely place: the parking lot of a mental hospital just a few hundred yards from the scene of the crime.

There, in the back seat of an unlocked car, a painting by Claude Monet and another by Vincent van Gogh were found Monday in perfect condition, authorities said Tuesday.

The paintings, worth \$64 million combined, were still under the display glass used by the private museum from which they were stolen in a Feb. 10 armed robbery, museum director Lukas Gloor said.

"I am incredibly relieved that two paintings have returned," Gloor said. "We're very happy that both the paintings are in

absolutely impeccable shape."

The other two paintings taken from the E.G. Buehrle Collection — by Paul Cezanne and Edgar Degas — remain missing, police said. Together, the four paintings are worth an estimated \$163 million.

Art experts have suggested that the robbers took advantage of what appeared to be an easy mark — a low-security museum — without knowing much about art or how difficult it can be to sell such well-known works.

"The robbery was not done with knowledge about art," Gloor said.

The robbers took the first four paintings they came across when they raided the museum shortly before closing on a Sunday afternoon. Although they managed to take the most valuable painting in the collection — Cezanne's "Boy in the Red Waistcoat" — they passed over the second-most valuable picture, another Cezanne.

Gloor said he suspected the robbers abandoned the two paintings, which were the largest of the four, because their size complicated transporting them.

They were discovered Monday on the back seat of a white sedan in a parking lot in front of the University Psychiatric Clinic. It was not known how long the car had been there, police said.

An employee of the clinic making a routine check of the lot noted the car because it was unlocked. Police immediately sealed off the area, examined the car and hauled it away.

Police had said initially that a white vehicle might have been used by the three robbers when they made their escape. The clinic is about 500 yards from the museum.

The recovered paintings — Monet's "Poppy field at Vetheuil" and van Gogh's "Blooming Chestnut Branches" — will be returned to the museum in the coming days, Gloor said.

"But we must not forget," he added, "that two more paintings of our collection are still missing, including our collection's landmark 'Boy in the Red Waistcoat.'"

That painting alone is worth \$91 million. The other missing painting is Degas' "Ludovic Lepic and his Daughter," worth \$9 million.

"The most valuable one and the least valuable one are still missing," said Gloor.

Zurich police spokesman Marco Cortesi said the clinic employee who found the paintings would get a part of a \$90,000 reward. He said the exact amount has yet to be determined.

Asked whether a ransom had been paid for the paintings, Cortesi said, "It is unknown whether a sum of money has moved." Gloor, standing next to him, said, "I can't give any information on that."

AXA Art Insurance AG, which insures museums, said this robbery and the theft of two Picasso paintings a few days before underscored an increasing threat to museums and they should take steps to improve security.

"Successful robberies are usually characterized by easy access to objects and quick escape routes," the Cologne, Germany-based insurer said.

Authorities have yet to solve the smaller theft of the two Picassos from nearby Pfäeffikon.

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Reason depends on faith

"What is most embarrassing to the world today," said Georgetown professor James Schall, S.J., "is that the most intelligent voice it confronts, or deliberately refuses to confront, is that coming from the papacy."

Fr. Schall has a point. He was commenting on Pope Benedict XVI's second encyclical, "Spe Salvi," which drew its title from its opening words, "SPE SALVI facti sumus—in hope we were saved." The message is simple: "A world without God is a world without hope." No. 44.

Benedict admits that "we need the ... hopes that keep us going day by day. But these are not enough without the great hope which ... can only be... the God who has a human face and who has loved us to the end, each one of us and humanity in its entirety." No. 31. A secularist culture, he insists, can offer no hope for anything after death. No future. In contrast, their "encounter with Christ" gives Christians their "distinguishing mark" which is "the fact that they have a future: it is not that they know the details... but they know in general terms that their life will not end in emptiness. Only when the future is certain as a positive reality does it become possible to live the present as well." No. 2.

A point of interest to a university community is the relation between the lack of hope and what Benedict had described at Regensburg in 2006 as "the self-imposed limitation of reason to the empirically verifiable" so that "questions of religion and ethics no longer concern it." When reason is so limited, affirmations of God and objective morality are dismissed as non-rational. No one can know anything about God. And "justice" becomes, in the words of Hans Kelsen, the foremost legal positivist of the last century, "an irrational ideal."

Benedict describes as "presumptuous and false," the idea that "[s]ince there is no God to create justice... man himself is now called to establish justice." "It is no accident," he said, "that this idea has led

to the greatest forms of cruelty and violations of justice.... A world which has to create its own justice is a world without hope." No. 42. Justice will be whatever man decrees. Thus Kelsen said that Auschwitz and other Nazi exterminations were "valid law." In accord with his "philosophical relativism," he could not reasonably criticize them as unjust.

"Spe Salvi" traces "the foundations of the modern age" to Francis Bacon and others who thought that "man would be redeemed through science." Nos. 16, 25. "[U]p to that time, the recovery of what man had lost through the expulsion from Paradise was expected from faith in Jesus Christ.... Now, this 'redemption,' the restoration of the lost Paradise is no longer expected from faith, but from the newly discovered link between science and praxis [practice, action or conduct]. It is not that faith is simply denied; rather it is displaced onto another level — that of purely private and other-worldly affairs — and... it becomes... irrelevant for the world.... This ...vision... shapes the present-day crisis of faith which is ... a crisis of Christian hope. Thus hope too... acquires a new form. Now it is called: faith in progress.... [T]hrough the interplay of science and praxis... a totally new world will emerge, the kingdom of man." No. 17

Benedict affirms the achievements and potential of science, but he cautions that "[i]f technical progress is not matched by ... progress in man's ethical formation... it is not progress at all, but a threat for man and for the world." No. 22. The problem is that ethical formation is impossible unless reason can offer answers on moral right and wrong. But reason cannot do that if it is limited to the empirical, without "integration through... openness... to the differentiation between good and evil... [R]eason... becomes human only if it is capable of directing the will along the right path and it is capable of this only if it looks beyond itself.... Let us put it very simply: man needs God, otherwise he remains without hope... God truly enters into human affairs only when, rather than being present merely in our thinking, he

himself comes towards us and speaks to us.... Reason... and faith need one another in order to fulfill their true nature and their missions." No. 23

Because of protests, Benedict XVI cancelled an address last month at La Sapienza University in Rome. In the address he had prepared, he said, "the danger for the western world... is that... because of the greatness of his knowledge and power, man will fail to face up to the question of truth."

That comment is pertinent to the United States, where the Supreme Court has misinterpreted the First Amendment to impose an impossible neutrality between "religion and irreligion." In theory, that "neutrality" forbids any public official to affirm that the Declaration of Independence is in fact true when it identifies God as the author of rights. Similarly, public education is founded on a non-theistic religious proposition, that moral questions can — and must in the public sphere — be decided without reference to any controlling role of God and His law. Instead, each person creates his own moral truth. He is his own god. The result is not neutrality but an established agnosticism devoid of ultimate hope.

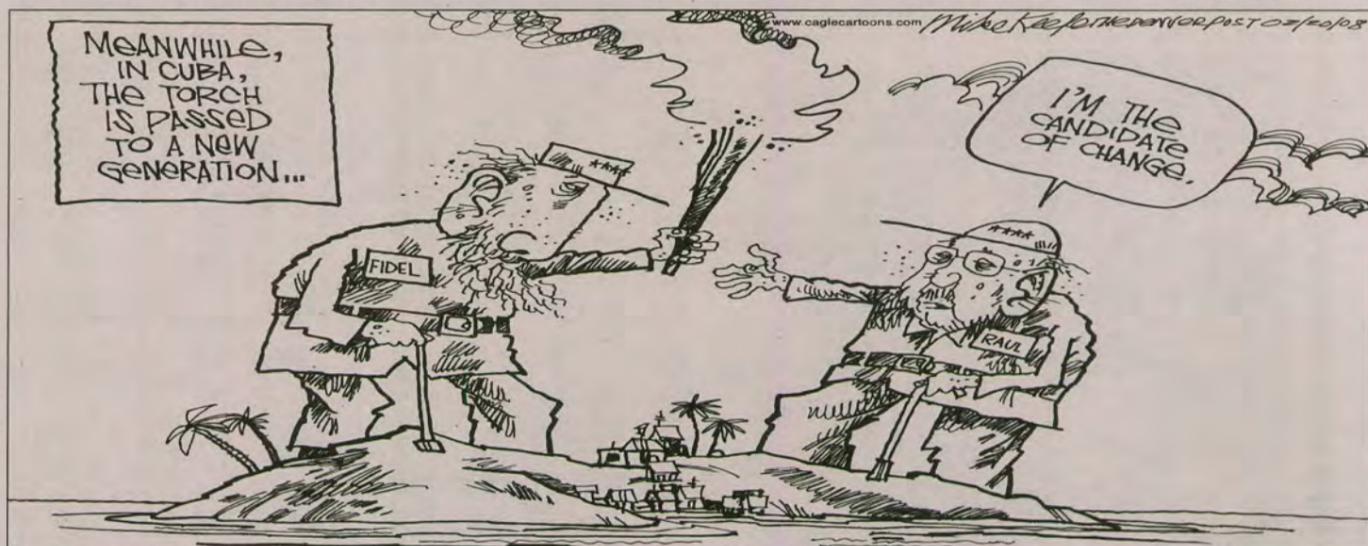
"Spe Salvi" is part of Benedict's ongoing project to rescue reason by integrating it with faith and objective morality, so that it can address questions beyond the empirical. He would have told the Sapienza students that "if reason, out of concern for its alleged purity, becomes deaf to the great message that comes to it from Christian faith and wisdom, then it withers like a tree whose roots can no longer reach the waters that give life to it."

Fr. Schall described Benedict XVI as "the only universal voice in the world." He is that. His vindication of reason should be taken seriously, especially in universities that claim to be Catholic.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

What is your favorite local pizzeria at Notre Dame?

Bruno's
Rocco's
Polito's
Barnaby's

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I was taught that the human brain was the crowning glory of evolution so far, but I think it's a very poor scheme for survival."

Kurt Vonnegut
author

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

Rethinking unnecessary consumption

Restrain yourself: wipe your hands on your jeans

"Confirm thy soul in self-control" — America the Beautiful, 2nd verse.

Does anyone ever sing the second verse of that song, anyways? Maybe we should start. How is it that, in our morals that derived so heavily from Puritanism, we overlook the virtue of self-restraint when it comes to the economy, to our material lives?

Jackie Mirandola Mullen

Reusable Feet

As Americans, we have had a long history of ideologically fighting for values. If we are going to insist upon upholding our rights, however, we need to reconcile the excess of our culture with the self-restraint that we simultaneously preach.

I wanted to start out this column by defining luxury. Going to dictionary.com was, of course, my first and most reliable means to find such a definition (a true product of my generation, I am). The first definition given was as follows: "a material object, service, etc., conducive to sumptuous living, usually a delicacy, elegance, or refinement of living rather than a necessity."

The next five definitions rang a bit more negatively. Definition No. 6 read: "Archaic. lust; lasciviousness; lechery." Three of the four definitions preceding

No. 6 included the word indulgence, which takes a negative connotation in our American society that emphasizes prudence and self-restraint.

Hmm, America. Negative view on self-indulgence, yet positive view of luxury. How to mitigate this conflict of values? I decided to turn to my too-often forgotten arsenal of SAT vocab words. Synonym for luxury ... luxury ... Lexus? No, those are car ads speaking through me. Ah, amenity, that's close. Definition of amenity from my reliable source?

1. An agreeable way or manner; courtesy; civility: the graceful amenities of society. No, that's not what I was looking for. Second?

2. Any feature that provides comfort, convenience, or pleasure: The house has a swimming pool, two fireplaces, and other amenities. More like it. The definition of amenity does not explicitly use the word "material," but as the example sentence implies, "comfort, convenience or pleasure" certainly comes from material goods.

But after assigning a word to generally classify the comforts and pleasures of life, I wanted to explore what comes before them. So, opposite of amenity ... necessity (didn't even need SAT vocab for that one).

Necessity:

1. The condition or quality of being necessary. Well thanks, American Heritage Dictionary. Back to diction-

ary.com:

1. Something necessary or indispensable: food, shelter, and other necessities of life. Necessities, just like amenities and luxuries, are material. Well, considering we are made of materials, just like everything on this earth, this makes sense. But the catch, "the rub," as Bill Shakespeare would say, lies in the word indispensable.

Try to think of what in your life is indispensable. The word "indispensable" in itself makes this question tricky: with what in our lives do we not dispense? ("dispense with": to do without, forgo). What did you throw into the trash yesterday? How many food wrappers? Styrofoam cups? Napkins, paper towels, toilet paper, tissues? Granted, some of those last few can be necessary. But take a step back: why are they necessary? Because we define them as so in our lives. We certainly cannot classify them as indispensable; we dispense of them daily! Plus, life would assuredly continue were we to "go without, forgo" use of them.

I'm not advocating that you stop using toilet paper. That you use less, well, maybe. Think about your personal use of paper towels and napkins. How is drying your hands with four paper towels necessary? It's not, that's inarguable; your hands will still dry if you do not use any paper towels at all.

So if it's not a necessity, it must be a luxury, right? An amenity. Something

that provides comfort and pleasure in your life. A form of self-indulgence.

Here is the point where we need to reflect upon our lifestyles. We are choosing to indulge, to use more than is necessary, in order to uphold our values of drying our hands with paper towels? A few dorms on campus have considered getting rid of paper towels in their bathrooms all together. This proposition has been met with criticism, sarcasm and flippancy by many decent and upstanding individuals on our campus.

If paper towels are really that important in the pleasure we find in life, then so be it. We can continue to order them in droves so that everyone on campus can be comfortable and indulge themselves. But maybe self-restraint really should not be that hard for us as a culture when it comes to something as simple as drying your hands. Confirm thy soul in self-control. Be an American.

Wipe your hands on your jeans.

Jackie Mirandola Mullen is a sophomore German and History major. She would like to thank Dr. Peter Burns for his ENVG 10101 lecture that included the line, "You'd be flat as a pancake. Flatter! You'd be Nebraska!" She can be reached at jmirando@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Catholic faculty maintain University's identity

While I was quite pleased with The Observer's coverage of our townhall meeting this Monday, in light of Mr. Dechant's editorial ("Questioning Quotas," Feb. 19), there are a few further points that ought to be addressed. Mr. Dechant, after considering the rationale behind support for mission hiring, suggests that "many teachers believe departments should hire based solely on academic merit," especially as we otherwise risk sending the method that we prefer religious faith to rigorous thinking. But this glosses over two key factors to consider.

First, the administration stresses that preferential treatment for Catholics would only factor in at the end of a selection process: that, after literally dozens of applications have been sorted through, if there are two or three equally qualified candidates and one is Catholic, the religion of the applicant should be taken into consideration.

Second, and crucially, this 'other factors' approach is already a standard practice university-wide: we already grant preferential treatment to female and minority applicants in precisely this manner. If the faculty as a whole does indeed believe decisions should be made "solely" on academic merit, then it ought to be up in arms against affirmative action. (Lest I be misunderstood, I should add that I personally believe that preferential treatment ought to be given for diversity as well as for mission-fulfillment.)

There is yet another problem with the "academic merit alone" stance. It is that, as a matter of historical record, the most critical turn toward the secularization of the Ivies and dozens of other schools has precisely been when hiring of the faculty began to be done with an eye exclusively to prestige. Those who disbelieve me are encouraged to consult "The Dying of the Light," the monumental study of this issue by former Notre Dame Provost James

Tunstead Burtchaell., C.S.C. — or to contact the good people at Project Sycamore for plenty of other academic sources.

It is understandable that Mr. Dechant would assert that "the core of faith at Notre Dame does not come from the faculty, and never has." In the day-to-day life of a student, dorm masses, Campus Ministry, and the Center for Social Concerns are much more tangibly influential than the religious affiliation of one's chemistry or accounting professors.

Furthermore, Arts and Letters Dean Mark Roche has repeatedly and rightly stressed that every faculty member, no matter their faith or lack thereof, has the potential to contribute to our religious mission, by thoughtfully engaging the Catholic tradition. And I myself have been powerfully influenced by Professor David Solomon, director of Notre Dame's Center for Ethics and Culture, who exemplifies the way in which a faculty member can build up Notre Dame's identity without being Catholic himself.

But all such caveats aside, in the long run, it is an historical fact that the meaningful adherence of a university to its religious founding depends upon the preponderant adherence of its faculty to said denomination.

In recognizing this and taking measures to promote Catholic hiring, the administration is doing no more than seeking to ensure that when we students become alumni with children of our own to send to college, the Notre Dame we re-visit will not be a pale imitation of our secular 'aspirational peers,' but a place where it is still the case that, as Father. Hesburgh often says, "the Church does its thinking."

Brian Boyd
 senior
 off campus
 Feb. 19

'Monologues' deserves a fair shot

Kim Stoddard ("Letters to the Editor," Feb. 19), I would like to ask you, first of all, which "part of the script" of "The Vagina Monologues" did you read? Did you read one skit? Half a skit? Because I am baffled as to how you arrived at the exact opposite conclusion I did after reading the entirety of the play. The point of the "Monologues," which you seem to have missed, is in fact not to reduce women to "one body part," but to do the opposite.

The "Monologues" are meant to point out that society has made women into one body part that can be objectified through things like rape and sexual assault. The "Monologues" combat this degradation of women, and enable and empower us to find our voices, which have been historically silenced because we were seen for so long (and by some, still are seen) as the "lesser sex."

Furthermore, the "Monologues" are testimonies of women reclaiming their bodies and their souls, both of which have been violated. The "Monologues" are about reclaiming the part of the female body that has been seen as a shameful thing, something which makes women objects and not human beings with souls.

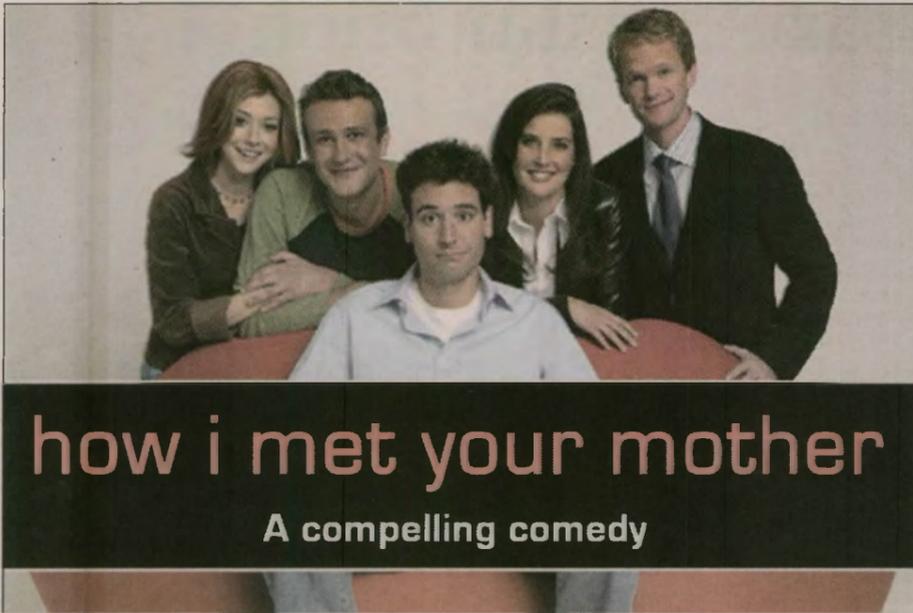
Now, with regard to this whole debate about whether the "Monologues" should be allowed on campus, I would like to point out that we show SUB movies like Closer, which

is rated R for "sequences of graphic sexual dialogue, nudity/sexuality, and language." So why can't we have on campus a play that deals with the sexuality and empowerment of women? Notre Dame wants us to expand our minds and our perspectives.

This debate has been running in The Observer forever, now, and has been brought up in previous years also. If "The Vagina Monologues," and the discussion of them, isn't expanding our minds, then I don't know what is. The "Monologues" may not align with Catholic teaching, but isn't that the point? Seeing things from different perspectives? Discussing different perspectives?

Finally, I would like to point out that you, Kim, chose to educate yourself about "The Vagina Monologues" by reading the play. Only a portion of it, but still, you examined the piece for yourself. Doesn't that in and of itself say that students on this campus should have the choice and the right to do the same thing, and go see the "Monologues" for themselves? (And, after all, everyone would still have the choice NOT to go see it.) I also think that you, Kim, should go read or watch the entire play before you pass your judgment on it so entirely.

Melanie LeMay
 sophomore
 Pasquerilla West Hall
 Feb. 19



how i met your mother

A compelling comedy

MADELINE NIES | Observer Graphic

"Have you heard of the Lemon Law?" If not then "Suit up!" because you're missing "How I Met Your Mother."

"How I Met Your Mother" has been running for three years, but until last month I knew nothing about it. Described by a friend as "Seinfeld" with younger people who frequent a bar instead of a diner, it piqued my interest, but not enough to start watching the CBS show. However, my friend finally convinced me to sacrifice 20 minutes, and I gave the pilot episode a shot. I have to admit, the first time I heard Neil Patrick Harris' character, Barney, tell his friend Ted to meet him at the bar and "Suit up!" I was hooked.

Mark Witte

Scene & Heard

I am currently halfway through the first season and my friend has decided to set an ambitious goal for me to watch all 55 episodes in the first two and a half seasons to get me caught up before the show resumes its third season on March 17.

I hope for the sake of my grades that I won't make it.

The hook of the show is simple, Ted Mosby, played by Josh Radnor in the present and voiced-over by Bob Saget in the future, tells a story to his children of how he met their mother. Of course, none of the episodes actually involve Ted meeting his future wife, or at least, not so far.

The show focuses on the lives Ted and his four friends, Marshall, Lily, Barney and Robin, living in New York City back in 2005. Ted and Marshall (Jason Segel) live together and although she has her own place, Marshall's fiancé, Lily (Alyson Hannigan), lives with them too. Marshall and Lily make a humorous couple if for no other reason than their extreme height difference, which turns into hilarity when Lily meets Marshall's family.

Together the three frequently go out to

bars, where in the pilot episode Ted meets Robin Scherbatsky (Cobie Smulders), a news reporter who Ted becomes convinced is his future wife. As we find out at the end of the episode, she isn't. In fact, as future-Ted tells his children, she's actually their aunt.

But I almost forgot about Barney. Always in a suit and tie, Neil Patrick Harris' character bumps into Ted one day in the bathroom and decides that they are going to be best friends. This doesn't bode well for Ted.

Barney's favorite game to play at the bars is "Have you met Ted?" In this game, he taps the shoulder of the nearest girl, says the tagline, "Have you met Ted?" before scampering off, leaving Ted in an awkward lurch with the girl.

Later in the first season Barney comes up with a new, revolutionary idea, that he

calls the "Lemon Law." Having nothing to do with lemons, the law simply states that in the first five minutes of a first date, if you decide you're not into your partner, you can evoke the "Lemon Law" and ditch them. The law appalls the others, but Barney claims it will catch on,

saying "It's gonna be a thing!" And it does catch on. Before the end of the episode one of Barney's dates use the law on him.

My favorite aspect to the show is that every time Barney and Ted decide to go out, Barney instructs his friend to "Suit up!" Of course, Ted never does and this drives Barney mad.

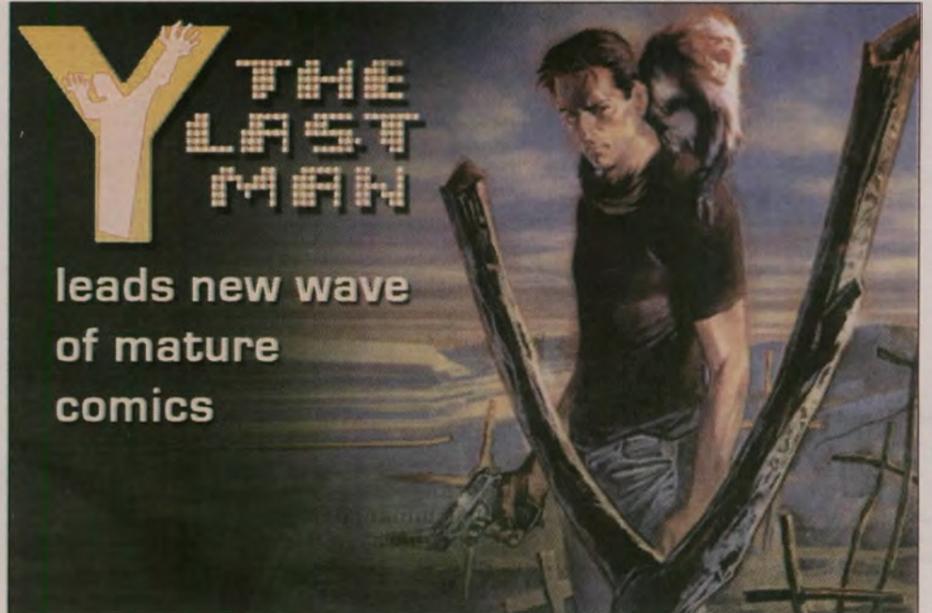
"How I Met Your Mother" has grown on me in the little time I've been watching, and it's even beginning to influence my ways. During Junior Parents Weekend, my friends and I decided to hit up the bars after dinner on Saturday and, oh yes, we suited up.

Contact Mark Witte at mwitt@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Observer.



Photo courtesy of insidesocal.com

The cast of CBS's sitcom series "How I Met Your Mother," including Alyson Hannigan, second from right, and Neil Patrick Harris, center.



leads new wave of mature comics

MADELINE NIES | Observer Graphic

Adult comics have made a huge comeback in America.

I don't know how many people on campus give any attention to comic books and their "adult" counterpart, graphic novels, but comic books are no longer the stuff of adolescent boys.

Mychal Stanley

Scene & Heard

While Japan has never forgotten the appeal comics have on people of all

ages, Americans have delegated comic books to mere kids' stuff. If you are one of these people, you should be ashamed of what you are missing. I know it's easy to be caught up in the hip and socially current comics like Marjane Satrapi's "Persepolis," but comics dealing in the realm of fantasy still have some great stories to tell.

Series like Alan Moore's "Watchmen" deal with how superheroes would be viewed in the real world. Imagine the scenario from "The Incredibles" in which superheroes are outlawed, but the topic is dealt with in a darker tone that is more political, serious and adult. Not only that, but Watchmen was published a full 20 years ago.

Neil Gaiman's "Sandman" series deal with an extended and beautifully-complex mythology following the personifications of Dream, Death and others, and how they operate in the world we know.

But if these two aren't enough for you, I recommend you give "Y: The Last Man" a try.

Written by Brian K. Vaughan, it finished its 60-issue run last month, and now would be the perfect time to pick up the graphic novel collections if for nothing else than the unbeatable premise. One day, every mammal with a Y-chromosome is killed simultaneously except for an immature young escape artist named Yorick and his pet monkey.

What happens from there defies all predictions and blazes a new and exciting path in popular storytelling. What could have easily devolved into meaningless gender pandering becomes an intelligent conjecture on what the world would be like if run by women. And it's done fairly, provocatively and entertainingly.

In the first few issues, it deals with the rebuilding of the American government, a fanatical feminist group called the Daughters of the Amazon who seek to destroy every last reminder of men (including sperm banks) and an Israeli general seeking to preserve Israel at any cost.

Meanwhile Yorick finds a world-renowned geneticist who seeks to understand why Yorick and his monkey survived. They are escorted by a government agent from Washington D.C., to the doctor's lab in San Francisco, all while being chased by Yorick's sister — a member of the Daughters of the Amazon.

The story may be complex, but it is paced in a methodical manner, like a good action movie. It's hard not to become attached to the magnificently-written characters as they grow and mature in the hardships they come to face. It's about human beings coming face-to-face with the impossible, and how they react to the pressure.

Beyond all the breathtaking twists is a beautifully reserved ending in the aftermath of a complete resolution. It makes the wacky science explanation bearable.

After all, it's not about bad things happening, but how human beings keep going anyhow.

Contact Mychal Stanley at wstanley@nd.edu

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



Photo courtesy of thebraxcave.com

Vertigo Comics' "Y: The Last Man" is one title in the recent wave of adult oriented comic series.

The Magnetic Fields

release the perfect winter album

By MYCHAL STANLEY
Scene Writer

Stephin Merritt, the frontman for The Magnetic Fields, has an incredible talent in writing pop tunes.

It's strange, then, that he writes some of the most melancholy, self-deprecating pop songs out there. Nothing has changed in his new release, "Distortion," where Merritt and co-vocalist Claudia Gonson sing about being rejected, lonely or drunk.

But if this all sounds too much like a Notre Dame winter, a lot of the subject matter is handled with some humor. In "Too Drunk to Dream," Merritt sings the benefits of being drunk as opposed to being sober (Sober / nobody wants you / S***faced / they're all undressing), concluding that he needs to get too drunk to dream about an absent lover.

Gonson sings in "The Nun's Litany" as a nun thinking about missed opportunities, paths she could've went down and what it would be like to be a "dominatrix / which isn't like me / but I can dream," among other things.

In the best song on the album, Merritt laments spending Christmas alone in the form of a hate letter to that dread plant, mistletoe itself. "Mr. Mistletoe" is probably the best song about an emotion a lot of people feel on Christmas, and it's done with a brooding humor that you'd be hard-pressed to find anywhere else.

This album, however, is much more than just the great songwriting that is typical of The Magnetic Fields. The name of the record is very literal, and every song is accompanied by swirling torrents of guitar distortion and noise. It's not enough to be distracting, instead providing a luxurious soundscape to disappear into when you put on your headphones.

Where else can you hear a deep-voiced man dejectedly opine, "O Mr. Mistletoe / wither and die / you useless weed / for no one have I." It's this unique kind of pop songwriting mentality that sustains and has maintained The Magnetic Fields' relevance.

This album, however, is much more than just the great songwriting that is typical of The Magnetic Fields. The name of the record is very literal, and every song is accompanied by swirling torrents of guitar distortion and noise. It's not enough to be distracting, instead providing a luxurious soundscape to disappear into when you put on your headphones.

Other than the layer of distortion, The Magnetic Fields' usual sound has not changed. Merritt is obsessed with pop song structure, especially from the 1960s. He specializes in breaking down the formula to its most basic and catchy components.

Underneath the noise, minimalist piano plunking, basic guitar chords and Merritt's deep bass or

Gonson's sweet childlike voice don't revolutionize or advance the sound of the band. The distortion may add a new sheen, but really, the band is just doing what it has been doing for years. And that's not a bad thing at all.

The Magnetic Fields provide some of their catchiest tunes on this record, and you will find it difficult not to get swept away by some of their indelible hooks. Merritt has perfected the structure of a good pop song, and he knows how to lay down great tunes and words around them in tidy three-minute portions.

If you've never heard of The Magnetic Fields, you're in for a treat because "Distortion" perfectly accompanies these gloomy winter days. The swirling distortion is the perfect soundtrack to the swirling rain and snow.

The distant instruments feel exactly how sound is muffled in the winter air. The Magnetic Fields have put out an album that could very easily become the soundtrack of your life, especially during these sad, cold, lonely days of winter.

Contact Mychal Stanley at wstanley@nd.edu

Distortion

The Magnetic Fields

Label: Nonesuch Records

Recommended Tracks: "Too Drunk to Dream," "The Nun's Litany"



NBA

LeBron's triple-double falls short to Houston

Rockets win ninth in a row behind balanced scoring; Magic rout Pistons, snapping Detroit's 10-game winning streak

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Shane Battier chuckled before revealing Houston's defensive game plan to stop LeBron James.

"Well, we hoped he had a good time in New Orleans," Battier said.

It was the Rockets, though, who gave James the headache.

Rafer Alston scored 22 points, Yao Ming added 16 points and 14 rebounds, and Houston tied a team record Tuesday night with its ninth straight road win, 93-85 over the Cleveland Cavaliers, who wasted a triple-double from James.

The Rockets entered the NBA's unofficial midseason interruption as the Western Conference's hottest team and they didn't cool off, winning their ninth in a row to improve to 18-3 since Jan. 4.

"We don't want to get tired of winning," said Tracy McGrady, who added 17 points on just 6-of-21 shooting. "A lot of people probably thought the break would be bad for us because we had so much momentum, so much swagger. But everybody came back and we said, 'Let's start it off right.'"

And so they did by digging in on defense. Houston last reeled off nine victories in a row on the road in 1993.

Luis Scola added 15 points as the Rockets, one of the league's stingiest teams, won for the 12th time in 13 games. The one constant during the spurt has been a defensive mind-set that was missing early this season.

"It just took time for us to figure it out," Battier said.

James, who won his second All-Star MVP in three years on Sunday in New Orleans, finished with 26 points, 13 rebounds and 11 assists. It was his fifth triple-double this season and career No. 15 — the third youngest to reach that mark behind Oscar Robertson and Magic Johnson.

Hounded by Battier, who got help from his teammates, James missed all seven shots in the first half.

"Anyone who says he can guard him (James) one on one is lying," Battier said. "What you have to have is support behind you, great communication. Every time LeBron turned the corner, one of our big men made him think twice about going down

the lane. We got him to settle for some jumpers."

And James' shots didn't start falling with regularity until the fourth. His 3-pointer with 10:11 left brought the Cavaliers within 70-66.

However, Alston sank a long 3, reserve Carl Landry converted a three-point play and Scola did too — all in a less than a minute — to put the Rockets ahead by 13.

James tried to rally Cleveland down the stretch, but every time the league's best fourth-quarter scorer made a big basket, the Rockets, Alston in particular, answered.

"I missed too many easy shots that I usually make," James said.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas and Larry Hughes had 16 points apiece for the Cavs, who never got untracked offensively and shot just 39 percent as the Rockets swarmed them from the start.

"What we're developing on this team is a team like the Pistons," McGrady said. "Great defensive team, going out there and playing together and not relying on one or two people to score the rock."

"What we really care about is playing great defense and playing together. And, it showed."

Magic 103, Pistons 85

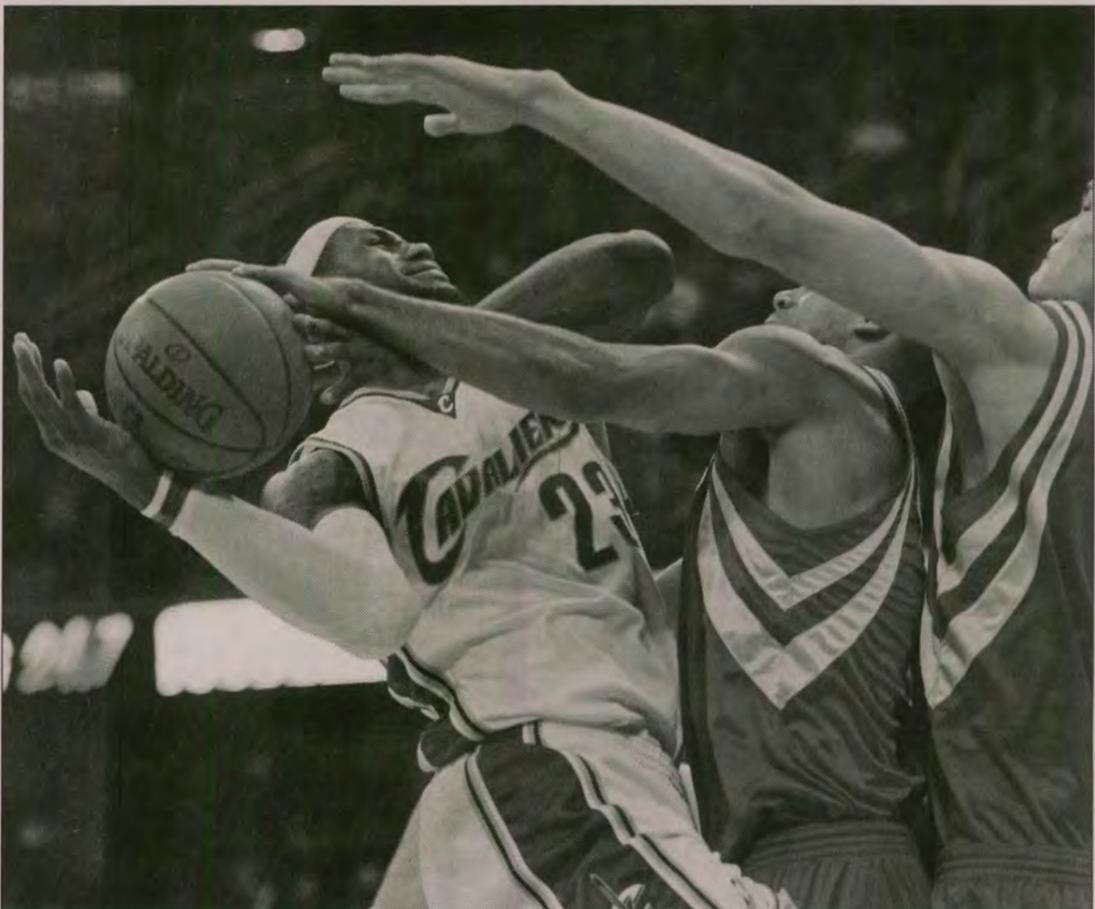
A blowout at the Palace of Auburn Hills is nothing new.

The surprise Tuesday night was that it was the Pistons getting routed. Detroit trailed the Orlando Magic by as many as 26 points and its 10-game winning streak was snapped with a loss.

"I certainly didn't foresee that happening," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said. "A lot has to go right for us to beat the Pistons like that, especially on a night when Dwight Howard scores eight points and Hedo Turkoglu goes 4-for-13."

Detroit extended its win streak to double digits with a lopsided victory over Indiana on Feb. 13, but knew it would be tough to keep its intensity through the All-Star break.

"You hate having a break when you are on a winning streak, because it messes with your momentum," said Chauncey Billups. "That's not an excuse, because we feel like we should have come in here and played better than that. No one



Houston forward Shane Battier, center, and center Yao Ming defend a shot attempt from Cavaliers guard LeBron James during the Rockets' 93-85 win Tuesday.

likes losing like this."

The Pistons looked fine early in the game. On the first possession, Rasheed Wallace blocked a dunk attempt by Howard, his All-Star teammate and the new dunk champion.

Detroit, though, couldn't stop Orlando's outside game. The Magic shot 65 percent on 3-pointers in the game, hitting 13-of-20.

"We started the game saying we didn't want to let Dwight dunk, but you can't take away dunks and 3-pointers," Billups said. "You've got to give up something. They got hot and stayed hot."

The Magic outscored Detroit 63-37 over the second and third periods, shooting 56 percent and holding the Pistons to 24 percent.

"We played a good second quarter and a great third quarter," Van Gundy said. "We knocked down a lot of shots, but it was our defense that stepped

up."

Howard didn't have a great statistical night, but Van Gundy felt he was the difference in the game, especially in Detroit's 17-point third quarter.

"Dwight had eight points and eight rebounds, and there's been other nights when he's gone 20-20, but this might have been his best game of the season," he said. "In the third quarter, he made it virtually impossible for Detroit to get any offense going inside. He changed every shot."

Howard said that his 2-of-9 shooting night, starting with Wallace's blocked dunk in the first 20 seconds, spurred him to a better night defensively.

"I wasn't able to get anything going offensively, so I knew I needed to pick it up on the other end," he said. "I guess it worked."

The Magic had been the last team to beat Detroit, winning 102-100 at home on Jan. 21. The Pistons avenged the loss

four days later, but couldn't do it again Tuesday.

"We should have played harder than this," said Detroit coach Flip Saunders. "We didn't need to come out and lay an egg like that in the second half."

Even though they are the only team to beat Detroit in the last month, and they've now done it twice, Van Gundy doesn't think the Magic will have any advantage in a possible postseason matchup.

"This is big for our guys, because we know how good that team is," he said. "But this is only the regular season. Detroit has been through the wars, and we'll have to play at a much higher level than this to beat them in the playoffs."

Former Piston Maurice Evans added 16 points for the Magic, including eight in a 14-3 run that helped Orlando put the game away in the third quarter. Orlando finished with six players in double figures.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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Do you, don't you want me to love you
I'm coming down fast, but I'm miles above you
Tell me, tell me tell me, c'mon tell me the answer
Well you may be a lover but you ain't no dancer.
Now Helter Skelter, Helter Skelter, Helter Skelter, yeah ...
a-Will you, won't you want me to make you
I'm coming down fast, but don't let me break you
Tell me, tell me, tell me the answer
You may be a lover but you ain't no dancer.
Look out!
Helter Skelter, Helter Skelter, Helter Skelter, oohh...
Look out, 'cause here she come"

"Left a good job in the city,
Working for The Man every night and day,
And I never lost one minute of sleeping,
Worrying 'bout the way things might have been.
Big wheel keep on turning,
Proud Mary keep on burning,
Rolling, rolling, rolling on the river.
Cleaned a lot of plates in Memphis,
Pumped a lot of 'tane down in New Orleans,
But I never saw the good side of the city,
Until I hitched a ride on a river boat queen.
Big wheel keep on turning,
Proud Mary keep on burning,
Rolling, rolling, rolling on the river.
Rolling, rolling, rolling on the river.
If you come down to the river,
Bet you gonna find some people who live.
You don't have to worry 'cause you have no money, People on the river are happy to give."

AROUND THE NATION

Wednesday, February 20, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

NCAA Men's Hockey USCHO.com/CSTV Division I Poll

team	record	last poll
1 Michigan	25-3-4	1
2 North Dakota	19-8-2	3
3 New Hampshire	19-7-2	4
4 Colorado College	21-8-1	5
5 Miami (Ohio)	25-6-1	2
6 Michigan State	20-8-5	8
7 Boston College	16-7-7	7
8 Denver	19-10-1	6
9 NOTRE DAME	21-10-3	9
10 Wisconsin	14-12-6	10
11 Minnesota State	16-11-4	13
12 Clarkson	17-10-3	11
13 Minnesota-Duluth	12-10-6	12
14 Northeastern	14-11-3	15
14 Providence	13-11-4	14
16 St. Cloud State	14-13-3	19
17 Princeton	15-10-0	17
18 Mass.-Lowell	13-11-4	18
19 Quinnipiac	17-9-4	16
20 Niagara	16-8-4	20

NHL

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
New Jersey	34-21-5	73	6-2-2
Pittsburgh	33-21-5	71	6-3-1
NY Rangers	30-24-7	67	6-3-1
Philadelphia	30-24-5	65	2-8-0
NY Islanders	28-25-7	63	4-5-1

Eastern Conference, Northeast Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Ottawa	34-20-5	73	4-5-1
Montreal	32-19-9	73	5-4-1
Boston	29-23-6	64	5-3-1
Buffalo	28-23-8	64	6-2-2
Toronto	24-27-9	57	4-5-1

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Carolina	30-28-4	64	6-4-0
Washington	28-26-6	62	5-4-1
Atlanta	29-28-4	62	6-3-1
Florida	27-28-6	60	5-4-1
Tampa Bay	25-28-6	56	5-4-1

Western Conference, Central Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Detroit	42-15-5	89	4-5-1
Nashville	31-23-7	69	6-2-2
St. Louis	27-22-9	63	5-3-2
Columbus	27-25-9	63	2-5-3
Chicago	27-25-6	60	4-4-2

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Minnesota	34-21-4	72	7-2-1
Vancouver	29-22-8	66	4-3-3
Calgary	29-22-8	66	5-5-0
Colorado	30-25-5	65	4-5-1
Edmonton	27-28-5	59	5-5-0

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	pts.	last 10
Dallas	37-21-5	79	9-1-0
Anaheim	33-23-7	73	6-3-1
San Jose	31-20-8	70	4-5-1
Phoenix	31-25-4	66	4-4-2
Los Angeles	25-34-3	53	5-5-0

NBA



Mavericks coach Avery Johnson, left, and guard Jason Kidd smile during a news conference announcing the 14-year veteran's trade back to Dallas on Tuesday.

All-Star Jason Kidd returns to the Mavericks

Associated Press

DALLAS — Jason Kidd is a member of the Dallas Mavericks. Again. Finally.

The long-discussed, once-scuttled and ultimately reconfigured deal to bring Kidd from New Jersey back to the team that drafted him was finalized Tuesday. He was reintroduced in Dallas 14 years after the Mavericks made him the No. 2 pick.

Back then, Kidd was supposed to help turn around one of the worst franchises in sports. Now, as one of the league's best point guards, he's seen as a crucial piece in the Mavs' pursuit of a championship.

"There's no bigger

reward than to have that championship trophy in your hand," said Kidd, who lost in the NBA finals twice with the Nets. "That's why I'm here. Because Dallas has its eye on that prize."

The eight-player deal, in the making since before the All-Star break and talked about a lot longer than that, sends Kidd, forward Malik Allen and guard Antoine Wright to Dallas.

The primary piece headed to New Jersey is point guard Devin Harris. The others are center DeSagana Diop, swingman Maurice Ager, forward Trenton Hassell and retired forward Keith Van Horn. New Jersey also gets two

first-round draft picks and \$3 million.

Van Horn and Hassell replace Jerry Stackhouse and Devean George in an original trade proposal. Stackhouse's presence in the deal was muddled by plans to get him back to Dallas — within the rules, although in a way the league frowned upon — and George used his veto power to block his involvement.

"It's been the most amazing, interesting trade we've ever done, and we've done some doozies here," Mavericks owner Mark Cuban said. "I've never seen anything like it, but all's well that ends well. We got the right guys."

Kidd wasn't the answer in Dallas a decade ago, and he was shipped to Phoenix after 2 seasons. Five years later he was traded to the Nets, who went to back-to-back NBA finals in 2002-03.

New Jersey hasn't made a long playoff run since, and Kidd started talking trade a year ago, when he almost went to the Los Angeles Lakers. He went public with his latest trade demand last month.

"He's a once-in-a-lifetime type of guy to play with and coach," Nets coach Lawrence Frank said. "He's had an unbelievable impact on everyone in this organization and we wish him nothing but the best."

IN BRIEF

Former MVP Tejada remains silent concerning steroids

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — Houston Astros pitcher Woody Williams walked into the clubhouse and saw a swarm of reporters gathered around Miguel Tejada.

"Leave the guy alone!" Williams said with a smile.

No chance.

Tejada arrived at spring training with his new team on Tuesday, and within minutes faced questions about the Mitchell Report and an FBI investigation looking into his alleged link to performance-enhancing drugs.

Tejada refused to answer any of them, preferring to discuss baseball and his fresh start with the Astros.

"I can't really talk about that situation," he said. "Right now, I just want to talk about baseball, because that's really my focus."

The Astros acquired the four-time All-Star shortstop from Baltimore on Dec. 12, the day before the Mitchell Report was released.

Aaron says baseball can survive the steroids era

KISSIMMEE, Fla. — He's no longer the home run king, but he's still the Hammer.

Hank Aaron hobbled into Atlanta's spring training camp on Tuesday — he needs knee-replacement surgery — with no opinion on whether Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens deserve to be in the Hall of Fame, but saying he's confident baseball is on the way to recovering from the Steroids Era.

"I think baseball is trying to clean up its act," Aaron said, sitting in the Braves' dugout during batting practice. "It's unfortunate for baseball, but baseball has been through some tough times. It went through the White Sox scandal and survived. It went through a lot of things and survived. It's going to survive this, too."

Like many baseball fans, Aaron tuned in when the Mitchell Report was released, and he was in front of the television set again for Roger Clemens' testimony before Congress last week, when the seven-time Cy Young Award winner denied using human growth hormone as alleged by his former trainer.

Potential IRL-Champ Car merger talks heat up

A possible unification of America's two open-wheel series is still on track, with both sides saying Tuesday progress is being made.

David Higdon, Champ Car World Series spokesman, said discussions are "heating up," but no announcement was expected Tuesday. "As long as everyone is still talking, there's hope."

Fred Nation, a spokesman for the Indy Racing League, told The Associated Press "there is no deal yet." He said talks "between the principals from both sides" are continuing and IRL officials remain "optimistic" an agreement can be reached, possibly as early as Thursday.

Both sides have struggled for fans, sponsors and TV ratings since the IRL, founded by Indianapolis Motor Speedway president Tony George, began competition in 1995, competing against the established CART series.

around the dial

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

North Carolina at NC State

7 p.m., ESPN

NBA

Lakers at Suns

9 p.m., ESPN

NBA

Shaq ready for Suns debut against former team

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Shaquille O'Neal says he is ready to run with the Phoenix Suns. Really.

"I'm going to be looking to get out like Randy Moss and Terrell Owens," he said Tuesday after going through his final workout before making his debut with the Suns on Wednesday night against his old team, the Los Angeles Lakers.

The prospect of the 7-foot-1, 325-pound O'Neal, at age 35, fitting in with the high-octane Suns has been ridiculed across much of the NBA.

The Lakers' Phil Jackson, O'Neal's former coach, said Shaq's role would be "taking the ball out of bounds and waiting

for the other team to get back."

"He's a jokester, and that's funny, very funny," Shaq said without smiling. "Ha-ha. Very funny."

Suns coach Mike D'Antoni says people will be surprised about how well a motivated O'Neal can move, and playmaker Steve Nash was elated with the trade that brought O'Neal from Miami for Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks.

"We're going to have to adjust slightly to his strengths," Nash said, "but you know where he's strong we've been weak, and that's having a big presence in the paint, taking up space and guarding the rim."

O'Neal says he has no desire to be a star with his new team.

Those roles belong to Nash and Amare Stoudemire, he said.

"I'm more like a senior adviser so I don't like to come in here and try to take over," O'Neal said. ... "Just like your basic karate movie where the young guys come to the old guys with beards who have them do weird stuff to get to the other side. That's who I am, the old guy with a long beard."

Long pause.

"You like that analogy?" he said, obviously pleased with himself. "That was pretty good?"

Nash was a willing sidekick.

"I think this is his 73rd Asian martial arts film," he said. "We're excited to learn from the great master."

Shaq's charisma and humor

have energized the Suns franchise since last week's trade, with the anticipation building toward Wednesday night's showdown with Jackson, Kobe Bryant, newcomer Pau Gasol and the rest of the Lakers. O'Neal insisted there is nothing special about the opponent being the Lakers, other than the fact that it's a tough Pacific Division foe.

"We had more great times than bad times together, but they've moved on, I've moved on," O'Neal said. "I have a new team now and I have a new focus."

Still, Jackson's comments have not been brushed aside.

"I don't take anything personal," O'Neal said. "I just have a certain file in my head, so

Earthlings must be careful with what they say."

O'Neal is part of a recent migration of talent to the already-tough Western Conference, with Gasol going to the Lakers from Memphis and, in a trade finalized on Tuesday, Jason Kidd to the Dallas Mavericks from New Jersey.

There will be no time for O'Neal to ease into his new role. After the Lakers, the Suns are home to Boston on Friday night and Detroit on Sunday.

"We don't have three cupcakes to start, but that's all right," Nash said. "We're going to learn a lot about ourselves and where we're going, and maybe that will give us a steeper learning curve to play against terrific teams."

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Email ndethics@nd.edu with questions or comments.

THIS WEEK IN **IRISH** SPORTS



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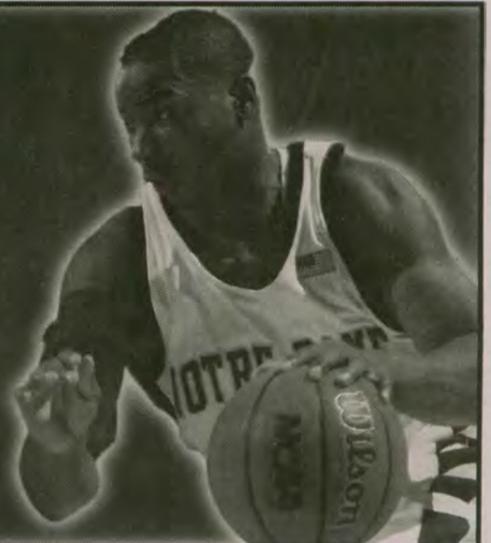
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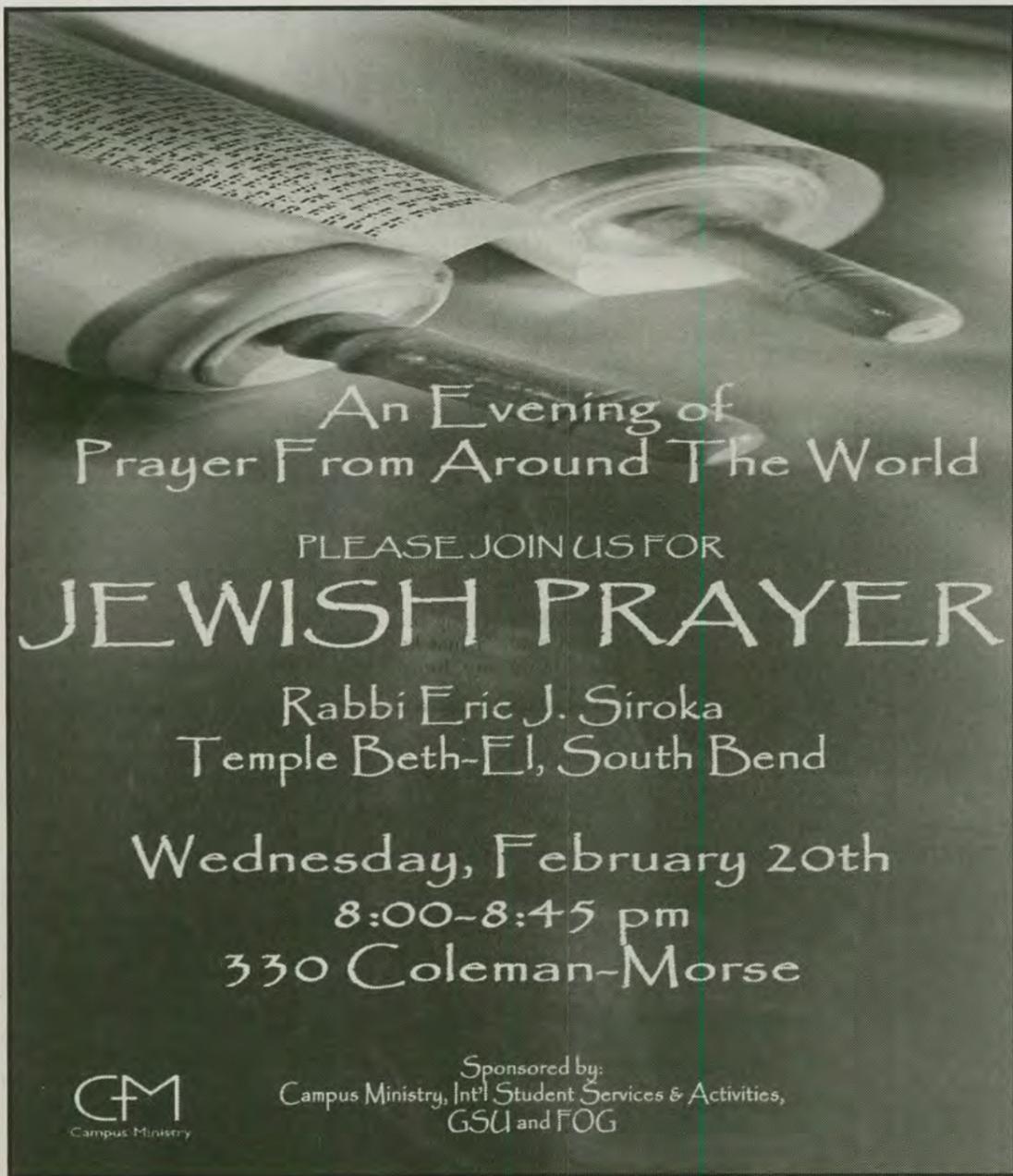
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Email: jmadden2@nd.edu

Applications can also be picked up in Retreats Office in 114 Coleman-Morse Center.

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SMC BASKETBALL

Team looks to improve MIAA mark at home

Belles counting on Newsom against Adrian

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

The Belles picked up an important victory Saturday afternoon over an MIAA opponent, sparked by a revamped defense anchored by junior captain Erin Newsom.

The 71-39 win over Kalamazoo Saturday gave Saint Mary's the boost it needed to move up in MIAA standings. With a conference record of 6-8, Saint Mary's moved into a tie for fourth place with Adrian, Alma and Olivet.

The Belles play tonight against Adrian at 7:30 in Angela Athletic Center.

"At the Kalamazoo game we communicated and worked well together as a team on defense, and it enabled us to pick up easy steals, which led to a stronger offense," Newsom said.

On Saturday, the Belles knocked down 44.8 percent of their field goals and 57.1 percent of their free throws while grabbing 46 rebounds.

The Belles' chief focus this season has been improving their inconsistent defense and low rebounding numbers.

Newsom, the Belles captain, is central to their effort on the boards. Newsom not only leads the team with 186 rebounds this season, but also is second in scoring with 242 points.

Belles coach Jenn Henley said Newsom has also improved on defense.

"We have really been working with Erin on her post defense this season and have seen great improvements to this point," Henley said. "I think she presents some defensive problems for opponents because of her shooting range and how well she runs the floor."

Belles junior guard Katie Rashid credits Newsom with being reliable under the basket.

"Erin has always been one of the leading rebounders for us," Rashid said. "It is nice to know that if we take a shot from the perimeter we will have somebody inside fighting for the rebound."

This season isn't the first in which Newsom has been a key contributor for Saint Mary's. In her freshman season, she grabbed 161 rebounds and scored 240 points. She proved herself again last season when she ended the year with 212 rebounds and 281 points. Newsom was named to the MIAA second team last season.

"I don't know how I have improved this season, if I even have at all, but I do know that with each new season I have to learn and adapt to a new team,

just like any other player does," Newsom said. "So I don't know if I am a better player each year, but my role has changed depending on what our team needs each new season."

This season, Newsom has had the opportunity to play with her sister, freshman forward Becky Newsom.

"Coming in as a freshman and having Erin here has made it a much easier transition to college, both with basketball and school," Becky Newsom said. "As teammates we push each other to do better in practice. She is a great leader for our team. She knows when to be serious and when to have fun."

To take down Adrian, Saint Mary's will need Erin Newsom's rebounding and newly polished defensive presence.

"Our focus is still on team defense and rebounds," Henley said. "Both Adrian and Olivet are solid teams that present a challenge for us. The last time

we played Adrian, we did not have a great performance in the first half."

Rashid agreed that the Belles must concentrate on defense to beat Adrian.

"At times we have played great team defense and other times we have struggled," Rashid said. "We have been work-

ing on our communication on defense in order to improve as a team. I think our game on Saturday was a good indication of how well we are capable of playing on defense if we communicate with each other."

But Newsom is not satisfied, saying the squad still needs to improve at getting stops.

"To be honest we have been playing inconsistently as a team, especially on the defensive end," Newsom said. "I don't doubt that our team is capable of beating any team we come up against, we

have the players to do it, we just need to really focus on our team defense and have the same intensity as we did Saturday versus Kalamazoo."

The conference showdown against the Bulldogs tonight is the Belles' penultimate MIAA matchup.

"I hope that we build off of Saturday's win and use it to win our last two conference games this week," Newsom said. "These next two games against Adrian and Olivet are crucial to the conference rankings, and we'd really like to host the first round on our home court."

Note:
Alison Kessler is 12 points away from tying the school record for most career points.

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@saintmarys.edu

"These next two games against Adrian and Olivet are crucial to the conference rankings, and we'd really like to host the first round on our home court."

Erin Newsom
Belles center

"It is nice to know that if we take a shot from the perimeter we will have somebody inside fighting for the rebound."

Katie Rashid
Belles guard

Please recycle The Observer.

NBA

Suns, Nuggets to play outdoor game

Associated Press

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. — The Phoenix Suns and Denver Nuggets will play the first outdoor game in more than 35 years during the 2008-09 preseason.

The exhibition game on Oct. 11 at the 16,000-seat Indian Wells Tennis Garden will be televised by TNT.

The game follows the NHL's successful outdoor game on New Year's Day in Buffalo, N.Y.

"What will happen here will be historic," Rick Welts, the Suns' president and chief operating officer, said Tuesday. "More importantly, I think this will be a lot of fun. Most of us learned how to play basketball outdoors. This had the perfect circumstances to do it in the NBA."

It won't be the first NBA game to be played outdoors. The Suns defeated the Milwaukee Bucks in a preseason game on Sept. 24, 1972, at a baseball stadium in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Welts said the ideal weather in October and the facility made it possible to hold the event. The tennis stadium is home to the Pacific Life Open, one of the major events on the men's and women's pro tours.

Because the seating is built around the parameters of a tennis court, rather than a hockey

rink like most NBA arenas, Welts said the game will offer a more intimate setting.

"It's an NBA-quality facility with no roof on it," Welts said.

Nuggets center Marcus Camby said he may have to work on his jumper to make it more wind resistant.

"I have a high release — it's probably not too good outdoors," Camby said. "It will be fun. I've seen hockey have a couple of outdoor games, so it will definitely be interesting. I hope the weather's nice."

In the unlikely event the game is rained out, Welts said it would be played the next day.

Denver coach George Karl liked the concept of an outdoor game.

"I grew up playing outdoors and loved it," he said.

Karl was asked if chain-link nets would be a natural fit for the outdoor game.

"Or lopsided balls," Karl said with a laugh. "One of the biggest decisions was finding a ball that wasn't lopsided."

The Suns feature megastars Steve Nash, Amare Stoudemire and Shaquille O'Neal. The team picked the Nuggets because of their marquee players, Allen Iverson and Carmelo Anthony, and because there are direct flights from Denver to Palm Springs.

Interested in submitting a proposal abstract for the University Scholars Conference?

Learn more

Conference Application, Abstract-Writing, and Presentation Workshop

Thursday, February 21, 4:30-5:30
Coleman Morse Center Student Lounge

Writing Center staff will be on hand to provide guidance for developing conference abstracts. Bring drafts of your papers or proposals.

RSVP to clucero@nd.edu by NOON, Thursday, February 21

Don't forget: Deadline for University Scholars Conference Abstract Submission is Monday, March 10

Recognize Excellence

Nominations are sought for two awards that recognize excellence in teaching and advising.

Dockweiler Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising

Student, faculty and staff nominations are sought to identify faculty or professional staff members whose involvement with undergraduates inspires students to reach their academic and career goals. Nominees may be members of the academic advising and career counseling staffs or members of the faculty and staff who:

- Facilitate learning outside the classroom
- Serve as mentors or role models
- Encourage student participation in fellowships, internships, undergraduate research and post-graduate opportunities
- Cultivate relationships with organizations that recruit Notre Dame graduates

Nominations are due Friday, February 29. Three faculty or staff will be chosen.

Submit online nominations at provostawards.nd.edu.

The Joyce Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

Student and faculty nominations are sought to identify faculty who:

- Create environments that stimulate significant student learning
- Elevate students to a new level of intellectual engagement
- Foster students' ability to express themselves effectively within the discipline

Nominations due by Friday, February 29. Nineteen recipients will be selected.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

No. 15 Indiana bests Hoosier-state rival Purdue

White excels despite sprained left knee, picking up 19 points, 15 boards to end Boilermakers' 11-game winning streak

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Kelvin Sampson couldn't understand why he was still being asked if his problems over possible NCAA violations were a distraction for his team.

Eric Gordon scored 22 points to lead No. 15 Indiana to a 77-68 victory over No. 14 Purdue on Tuesday night in the Hoosiers' last game before the completion of the school's investigation into accusations Sampson committed major rules violations.

"I think the way our team is playing answers all the questions," he said. "I think our play speaks for itself."

D.J. White, who had 19 points and 15 rebounds despite playing on a sprained left knee, said the Hoosiers (22-4, 11-2 Big Ten) aren't thinking about what Sampson's future holds.

"When we're on the court, that's all we're focused on," he said. "Right now, we're just trying to win games."

The latest win snapped Purdue's 11-game winning streak and brought Indiana within one-half game of the Boilermakers (21-6, 12-2) at the top of the conference standings.

Indiana's fans seemed to move toward Sampson's side after a giving him a lukewarm response during pregame introductions. Chants of "Kel-vin Samp-son" rang out in the game's final minutes.

Sampson said he expects to be on the sideline Saturday at Northwestern. If Tuesday's game was his last at Indiana, he has White to thank for it ending well.

"You learn not to take a kid

like him for granted," Sampson said. "He's a horse."

White said it would have taken a more serious injury to keep him out of the game.

"At the beginning, I was kind of timid," he said. "It's always in your head when you have an injury like that. I got more comfortable as the game went on."

Armon Bassett added 16 points and eight rebounds for the Hoosiers.

Robbie Hummel had 17 points for the Boilermakers, while Scott Martin added 12.

University president Michael McRobbie said last Friday that the school would conduct a new investigation into the NCAA's accusations that Sampson committed five major rules violations.

A school investigation last year revealed Sampson and his assistants made more than 100 impermissible calls. That occurred while Sampson was on NCAA probation for making 577 improper phone calls between 2000 and 2004 while coaching Oklahoma.

Athletic director Rick Greenspan, university counsel Dorothy Frapwell and faculty representative Bruce Jaffee were asked to run the investigation and recommend by this Friday what steps the university should take.

The Hoosiers went 30-of-34 from the free throw line while Purdue was just 11-of-21.

Purdue coach Matt Painter said his team was aggressive in creating turnovers, but couldn't turn it down enough to avoid committing fouls.

"We made careless mistakes, putting our hands on guys," he



Indiana guard Eric Gordon tracks down a loose ball in front of Purdue guard Tarrance Crump in a 77-68 Hoosier win Tuesday. Gordon scored a game-high 22 points to lead the charge in the win.

said. "We had so many situations where if we get a stop, we could take the lead, and then we'd foul."

The Hoosiers shot 47 percent to make up for committing 23 turnovers.

Sampson said his team played a great game aside from the turnovers.

"Sometimes you have to bring them into the huddle and remind them what color jersey they're wearing," he said.

Painter said there was no

answer for Gordon and White.

"Those guys have got to be the best 1-2 punch in the country, the best inside-outside combination," he said.

The Boilermakers shot 31 percent (11-of-36) in the first half but stayed in the game by forcing 12 turnovers.

White had 10 points and six rebounds in the first half, which featured five lead changes and ended with Indiana leading 32-29.

The Hoosiers opened the sec-

ond half on a 13-6 run capped by a long 3-pointer by Gordon that gave Indiana a 45-35 lead with 12:28 left.

Indiana led by 12 points before Purdue went on a 7-0 run, including a 3-pointer and a layup by Hummel, that made it 53-48 and forced the Hoosiers to call a timeout. Martin's 3-pointer with just under 7 minutes to go cut Indiana's lead to 57-55 but the Hoosiers went 17-of-20 from the free throw line the rest of the way.

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League

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Louisville enters the meet as the only Big East squad with a national ranking and boasts a team that has been steadily gathering momentum throughout the season. The Cardinals hold the top conference times in 10 events, including all five relays.

Pittsburgh is a 19-time conference champion, and the Panthers placed fourth in last year's meet. The Panthers are likely to challenge Notre Dame for the top positions in the diving events. Junior Alex Volovetski holds the Big East's top score in the 1-meter dive, while senior Jeremy Stultz boasts the highest 3-meter score.

Notre Dame freshman Michael Sullivan swam the fastest 200-yard backstroke in the conference, while Irish junior diver Michael Bulfin holds the second- and third-best scores in the 3-meter and 1-meter boards, respectively.

"I think people are prepared, and I think they're excited to swim their races," Welsh said. "This is as wide open as the meet has been in several years, and places will go to the teams that swim the fastest. There is something very pure about that."

Contact Chris Doyen at cdoyen@nd.edu

Rutgers

continued from page 24

court we gave them a great game, but I thought we could have won. We missed some easy shots and we didn't do a good job rebounding."

Both Notre Dame and Rutgers struggled to perform in the paint in the first half, continually missing shots and combining for 19 turnovers.

The Scarlet Knights looked to turn things around 12 minutes into the game with a 9-0 run to cruise to a 22-14 lead with 6:21 left in the half. But that spurt ended Rutgers' output in the opening period. The Irish rallied to score the next eight points, with the final two coming on a buzzer-beater by guard Charel Allen to tie the game at 22.

Notre Dame continued to play tough defense in the second half, holding Rutgers scoreless in the first few minutes after halftime.

The Scarlet Knights finally managed to put points on the board when junior center Kia Vaughn's putback in the fourth minute brought Rutgers down only two. Vaughn's basket sparked a 17-5 run over Notre Dame to give Rutgers a 41-33 lead. The Irish did not regain the lead and never managed to get closer than four points for the rest of the game.

McGraw was happy with Notre Dame's ability to shut down Rutgers, but said she would have liked to see more from her offense.

"I thought we did a great job



Irish sophomore center Erica Williamson, center, and senior guard Charel Allen, right, defend Rutgers guard Essence Carson during Notre Dame's 57-51 loss to the Scarlet Knights Tuesday.

defensively to hold them to 57," McGraw said. "That was our goal, we wanted to keep the game in the 50s and I felt we did a really good job of that, so I was really pleased with our defense. They're an excellent defensive team as well, and we really just missed a lot of shots that we probably could have made."

Sophomore guard Epiphanny Prince led the Scarlet Knights in scoring with 18 points and senior guard Matee Ajavon added 15. Allen matched Prince with 18 points for the Irish and guard Lindsay Schrader chipped in 10.

Despite the production from Allen and Schrader, the Irish

struggled to score in the paint.

"We missed shots, we just missed too many shots," McGraw said. "We had a lot of opportunities to win the game, and we didn't rebound and we missed shots, and that was the game."

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu



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NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Williams responds to Coach K's words



Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski diagrams a play for two Blue Devils during the team's 86-73 loss to Wake Forest on Sunday.

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — North Carolina coach Roy Williams apparently doesn't think too highly of Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski's views on injury reports.

In a small tiff that has added the latest spice to college basketball's most intense rivalry, Williams took exception to a comment made by Krzyzewski on Sunday that the Blue Devils don't discuss injuries "unlike other schools."

While Krzyzewski never mentioned the third-ranked Tar Heels specifically, Williams felt the statement was a subtle jab at his team, which has had a much-publicized run of injuries and ailments in the past two weeks.

It was enough to have Williams, in a comment on his weekly radio show Monday, telling an unspecified person to "coach their own damn team, I'll coach my team."

On Tuesday, Williams found himself discussing the comments again instead of focusing on the Tar Heels' game at North Carolina State on Wednesday.

"It's not like I'm getting a dadgum plane and flying it around to say, 'Roy fell against a wall and banged his nose' or anything," Williams said in a news conference. "We have to do

those things [talk about injuries] and everybody's hurt. But there's different stages of being hurt.

"If you're hurt and missing games, that's not exactly like having a hangnail. And so we do have some people that are getting hurt and missing games. I don't think that somebody should say we're putting it in front of the public."

When a reporter attempted to ask a follow-up question, Williams said he didn't want to discuss the comments further and have "battles through the media." But when the news conference ended, Williams came back to the topic once more.

"I said before we played Duke it's impossible to have any more respect than I do for Mike," Williams said, "but I felt like that comment was aimed towards us."

Duke team spokesman Jon Jackson declined to comment Tuesday, one day before the Blue Devils (No. 4 ESPN/USA Today, No. 5 AP) travel to Miami.

Krzyzewski's comment came in a radio interview after Duke's loss at Wake Forest. While noting that freshman Nolan Smith had been playing through a knee injury for a few weeks, Krzyzewski added, "unlike other schools we don't release our injuries," according to the Web site for radio station WRBZ-AM in Raleigh.

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Streak

continued from page 24

recruiting," White said. "We have a great school and some great facilities that allow us to bring in some of the best swimmers out there."

But White said the most important reason for the squad's success is the development of swimmers that maximize their potential.

"It is really important to just make people faster," White said. "And that is a product of mental preparation, training, environment, coaching, support and first-rate facilities. And we have all of that here at Notre Dame."

The Big East championship runs from today to Saturday at the Nassau County Aquatics Center. The preliminary heats of the individual rounds will be held in the mornings with the finals and the relays taking place during the evenings. The Irish will look to maximize their scores by only swimming in their best events, as each participant can compete in a limited amount of events.

"We hope to qualify for the [NCAA Championship] with as many girls as possible," White said.

The Irish have fared well thus far against Big East foes, taking a 2-1 conference record into the championship. Their only Big East dual-meet loss was to Pittsburgh in a 150-148 nail-biter. They dominated Louisville 188-111 and West Virginia 249-116 in dual-meet competition this season.

This event is the culmination of a season of hard work for many of the swimmers. All the training, early-morning swimming, dry workouts and the daily grind lead up to the next four days of swimming.

"The secret to success is lasting for the entire four days," White said. "It takes a lot of focus. The girls just have to take it one event at a time."

The wildcard for the Irish is the 25-day layoff since their last meet. But the Irish traditionally come out of the break very strong.

"The girls feel really good," White said. "I have never seen them looking so fast."

Rutgers, West Virginia and Pittsburgh have the best chances to upset Notre Dame in the championship, but the Irish are confident they will add another trophy to their case.

"If we just stay focused, we will do very well," White said.

Contact Jared Jedick at jjedick@nd.edu

Recycle
The
Observer.

Letdown

continued from page 24

the only sub-par score of the tournament, a four-under 212. Her pair of 70s on Monday were the lowest two scores for the week.

Monday afternoon's respectable team score of 300 indicated that the Irish could rebound from their slow start, but a final-round 314 on Tuesday dashed any hopes of matching the team's earlier successes.

"I was happy with [Monday] afternoon because we held our composure after the first round," Holt said. "Plus we didn't play that bad in the windy and rainy conditions. We put ourselves in a good position heading into today, but we couldn't continue that momentum."

"We put ourselves in a good position... but we couldn't continue that momentum."

Susan Holt
Irish coach

Notre Dame junior Lisa Maunu led the Irish in scoring for the third time this season, shooting a 12-over-par 228, tied for 15th overall. Her Monday afternoon 74 was the low round of the week for the Irish.

Freshman standout So-Hyun Park trailed Maunu by one stroke, finishing up with a 13-over-par 229, tied for 18th overall. Fellow freshman Katie Conway added a final round 78 to end the tournament with a 17-over-par 233, tied for 31st overall.

Sophomores Annie Brophy and Kristin Wetzel both shot 80s on Tuesday to finish up with 239 and 243, tied for 50th and 61st respectively.

Notre Dame next hits the links at the Rio Verde Collegiate Invitational, which will be held March 7-9 in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Contact Michael Blasco at mblasco@nd.edu

Sawgrass

continued from page 24

of the top teams in the tournament. But the Gators shot their best score of the event, 288 — a tournament-best for the day.

Meanwhile, no team could keep up with No. 4 Alabama, who won the tournament by four strokes over No. 2 UCLA. The two teams were the favorites coming into a highly competitive weekend with 10 of the top 50 teams in the nation.

No. 5 Charlotte was the biggest disappointment of the tournament, finishing in fifth place, 16 strokes out of the lead. Host North Florida ended the final round at 13-over par and took third place overall in the tournament.

The winner on the individ-

ual side of the tournament was Georgia State's Joel Sjolholm, who led his team to a ninth-place finish.

The tournament also featured some solid individual performances by the Irish.

Sophomore Doug Fortner finished the tournament with a combined score of 224, which left him in a tie for 29th. Fortner's score was 8-over par over the weekend, but was still impressive considering only six players finished below par for the weekend. Irish captain and No. 1 golfer Josh Sandman finished in a tie with Fortner.

The par-72, 6,895-yard Sawgrass Country Club is considered one of the hardest courses on the college tour.

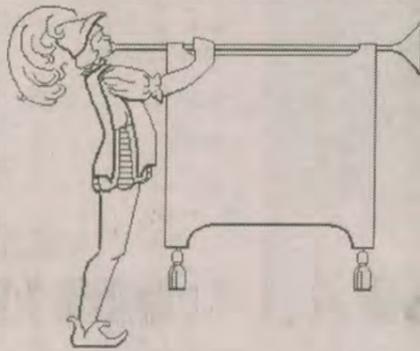
The tournament allowed the Irish to shake off some of the rust that has built up over the long break since the fall season. The team improved its score every day of the tournament.

The Irish will be in action again March 3-4 at the USC Collegiate Invitational in Westlake Village, Calif.

Contact Peter Reisenauer at preisena@nd.edu



Sandman



Announcing the Year 2008 Annual Awards of the Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship

Thanks to a generous gift from the Albert Ravarino family, the Italian Studies Program is pleased to announce the year 2008 annual competition for travel in support of summer research and foreign study in Italy. Grants will be made in amounts not to exceed \$3,000, and will not normally cover all expenses. Notre Dame graduate and undergraduate students who are planning to pursue research or a formal program of summer study in Italy are invited to apply. Students must have completed at least one year of Italian language. The course work will normally be in Italian; will involve the study of Italian language, literature, and culture; and must be applicable to a student's degree program at the University of Notre Dame.

Recommended programs for foreign study include, but are not limited to: Loyola University in Rome, Boston University in Padua, UCLA in Pisa, Miami University in Urbino, Columbia University in Scandiano. Interested students are encouraged to consult the materials on Italian foreign study in the Department of Romance Languages, 343 O'Shaughnessy Hall.

Students are invited to submit a letter which should include:

- 1) an explanation of how the proposed research or foreign study will enhance their degree program at Notre Dame;
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- 5) two letters of recommendation;
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Application Deadline: Wednesday, February 27, 2008
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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Scarlet blood

Defense not enough in loss to Rutgers in N.J.

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

It was a night about defense from an Irish team known more for its high-scoring offense.

No. 14 Notre Dame — averaging 80 points per game — was held below the 60-point mark for only the third time this season in its 57-51 loss to No. 5 Rutgers in Piscataway, N.J., Tuesday night.

But it wasn't just the Scarlet Knights defense that performed well. The Irish kept Rutgers scoreless for 11 minutes throughout the course of the game.

"I felt that we really improved since the last time we played a top-five team," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "And on their home

see RUTGERS/page 20



Irish sophomore center Erica Williamson fights for a loose ball with several Rutgers players during Notre Dame's 57-51 loss Tuesday in Piscataway, N.J. AP

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Team looks to continue title streak

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame is again set to put its stamp on history as it goes for its 12th consecutive conference title at the Big East championship this week in East Meadow, N.Y.

The current 11-year streak is already the longest in Big East history in any sport.

"You can't help but think about a streak like that," Irish assistant coach Joel White said. "But the girls all know that they can only take care of what they have control over."

White said a variety of factors have allowed the team to sustain its dominance.

"I would have to say that a lot of it comes down to good

see STREAK/page 22

ND WOMEN'S GOLF

Irish struggle, come in 10th in first competition of spring

Coach disappointed with unit's effort

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

No. 19 Notre Dame stumbled out of the gate in its

opening tournament of the spring schedule, finishing 10th in a field of 15 at the Central District Invitational in Parrish, Fla.

The Irish carded a 314 in the final round en route to a season-worst total score of 929, ending up at 65-over-par in 54 holes at the River

Wilderness Golf Club.

Notre Dame coach Susan Holt said she was disappointed with the Irish squad.

"We beat ourselves," Holt said. "I was shocked with how we played. I think we lacked focus and discipline and that hurt us. We didn't pay attention to detail and hopefully it's

a wake-up call."

Host No. 23 Michigan State cruised to a comfortable 10-stroke victory, shooting 303 in the final round to lead the field with an overall 892.

No. 25 Texas A&M made a final-round push, shooting a 298, to climb to second overall with a 902. Only two

strokes separated the rest of the top five, rounded out by No. 14 Kent State (912), No. 37 Ohio State (913), and No. 31 Texas (914).

Michigan State's Sara Brown took home top-golfer honors, finishing the tournament with

see LETDOWN/page 22

MEN'S GOLF

ND finishes strong, falls short

Team improves every day of tournament

By PETER REISENAUER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame got the score it was hoping for, but it was just not enough.

The Irish finished last in a field of 15 Tuesday at the John Hayt Invitational in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Going into Tuesday's action, Irish coach Jim Kubinski said he hoped the team might be able to put up a score in the 290s. The Irish met that goal, finishing the day with a score of 296, 8-over par. The final-round score was an improvement on the 301 they shot Monday.

Kubinski thought the score might give his team a chance to climb out of eighth place. The coach hoped to catch Florida, one



Irish sophomore Doug Fortner follows through on a putt at the Gridiron Classic on Sept. 30. IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

see SAWGRASS/page 22

MEN'S SWIMMING

Squad aims for Big East championship

By CHRIS DOYEN
Sports Writer

After a 24-day layoff filled with physical and mental preparation, the Irish enter the pool in competitive action today when the Big East championships start at the Nassau County Aquatic Center in East Meadow, N.Y.

"It's been quite a long lay-off," Irish coach Tim Welsh said. "But the focus has been wonderful. I think as we've tried to get everything sharpened up, we've made a lot of progress. We're very optimistic."

The Irish will seek their third conference title in four years. At last year's meet, they were dethroned by West Virginia — who won by only 4.5 points.

Notre Dame exacted some revenge on the Mountaineers

in its final regular season meet, the Shamrock Invitational, when it defeated West Virginia 219-150. In that event, as well as a victory over Pittsburgh in November and a loss to Louisville in January, Notre Dame got a chance to see its top conference competition up close.

Those three schools, along with Notre Dame and Cincinnati — last year's fifth-place team — are expected to battle it out for the top spot Saturday, the final day of competition.

The defending champion Mountaineers will compete without many of last year's key performers, but seniors Nick Delic and Kevin Donohue have shown quality leadership this season under the direction of new head coach Vic Riggs.

see LEAGUE/page 20