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Ethel Kennedy to speak at ND

College Democrats sponsor visit by Obama supporter, RFK widow at Washington Hall

By KATIE PERALTA
Assistant News Editor

The Notre Dame College Democrats have had their hands full with the lively Democratic campaigning this spring and their efforts will continue this weekend with another historical guest speaker on campus.

The group will sponsor a talk by Ethel Kennedy, wife of the late Robert F. Kennedy, at 2 p.m. on Saturday in Washington Hall.

"The [Barack] Obama campaign had been wanting her to come to Notre Dame," said Chris Rhodenbaugh, current vice president of College

Democrats and freshman from St. Edward's Hall.

Rhodenbaugh said. Kennedy, along with brother-in-law, Massachusetts senator Edward Kennedy, endorsed Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama earlier this year.

Rhodenbaugh said the purpose for Kennedy's visit is twofold.

"[She is coming] to demonstrate the presence of Obama's campaign on campus and [because] she is Catholic," Rhodenbaugh said.

College Democrats finalized plans for Kennedy's appearance earlier this week.

"Chris let me know the Obama campaign wanted her

to come, then we went to SAO [Student Activities Office] to work out the details and the policy," said Cory Mehlos, co-president emeritus of the College Democrats and a senior in Dillon Hall. "It was pretty simple."

The visit marks the 40th anniversary of her husband's campaign trip to the South Bend area during his run for the Democratic Party nomination. Robert Kennedy had spoken

at the Stepan Center the morning of April 4, 1968, the day on which Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot later in the afternoon, Mehlos said.

Mehlos said following his talk at Notre Dame, Robert Kennedy was notified that King was shot and put together a few notes on his way down to Indianapolis. Police, fearing riots, urged him against speaking publicly, but Kennedy spoke anyways and moved the crowd deeply.

"[Indianapolis] was perhaps one of the only major cities in the nation where there were no riots that day," Mehlos



Kennedy

see KENNEDY/page 4

Peters to address '08 grads

By LIZ HARTER
Saint Mary's Editor

Three days after Notre Dame announced the speaker for its 2008 Commencement exercises, Saint Mary's announced its speaker as well.

The College revealed that Susan Peters, vice president of Executive Development and Chief Learning Officer of General Electric (GE), and 1975 graduate will deliver the principal address on Thursday, May 17.

Along with delivering the commencement address, Peters will receive an honorary doctor of humanity degree. Colleen Ryan, a member of the College Board of Trustees, and Mary Kay Kinberger, a nun who worked with the Marianites of Holy Cross community in New Orleans, will also receive degrees, according to a news release from the College.

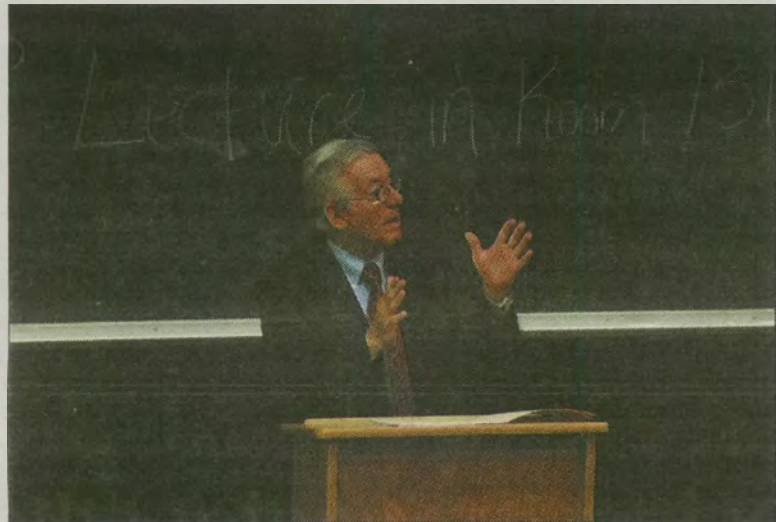
"It is a true honor to be named as the commencement speaker for the class of 2008," Peters said. "It is particularly meaningful to come back to Saint Mary's and share some thoughts with the graduates, knowing that I was in their shoes 33 years ago."

A graduate with a degree in English literature, Peters has been active in the Saint Mary's community since she graduated. She currently serves on the President's Advisory Council.

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Rabbi discusses John Paul II's youth, papacy

Former pope's Jewish influences in his childhood led to increased dialogue between faiths



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Rabbi David Dalin lectures on the relationship between Pope John Paul II and the Jewish community.

By THERESA CIVANTOS
News Writer

Noting his personal relationships and Polish upbringing, Rabbi David Dalin, professor of history and politics at Ave Maria University and a research fellow at Stanford University, spoke about the effect each had on John Paul II and his papacy. The lecture, entitled "John Paul II and the Jews," was presented in DeBartolo Hall Thursday.

Dalin's presentation began with a discussion of the late pope's childhood in Wadowice, Poland.

"Wadowice was a really small town that was unique in being

free of the anti-semitism that characterized a lot of the rest of Poland at this time," Dalin said.

Dalin focused on the many Jewish influences John Paul II had in his youth.

"John Paul II was one of the only popes to count Jews among his childhood friends," Dalin said.

Known then as Karol Wojtyla, John Paul II learned to overcome religious boundaries at an early age, Dalin said.

"At his high school, the Catholic boys and the Jewish boys formed different teams to play soccer, but Karol was always willing to play for the

see POPE/page 4

University hosts Spring Visitation

By GENE NOONE
News Writer

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions, in its efforts to increase diversity on campus, welcomed prospective students from underrepresented ethnic groups to campus Thursday for the annual Spring Visitation Weekend (SVW), commonly referred to as "Spring Viz."

High school seniors of African, Asian, Latino and Native American descent will spend Thursday through Sunday learning about Notre Dame while living on campus with student hosts.

This year, 102 students will attend SVW, a near 30 percent decrease from last year in an attempt to focus the event and provide the students with more personal attention, said senior Jesse Carrillo, head event coordinator for SVW.

"We have fewer students this year because we really want to give them more one-on-one support," Carrillo said. "We want to do everything to get their questions answered."

SVW, directed by supervisors from the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, has been lead by for-

see VISITATION/page 4

Students vie for Irish Idol crown

Sophomore wins vocal title in campus-wide competition at Legends

By AMBER TRAVIS
News Writer

More than 200 students gathered at Legends last night to watch ten finalists vie for the ultimate title of Irish Idol 2008.

In the end, sophomore Carolyn Rose Sullivan won the competition.

During the top ten competition, Sullivan sang the Frank Sinatra hit "They Can't Take That Away From Me," and for her winning performance, she performed Diana Krall's "Peel Me a Grape."

Sullivan participated last year but did not make it to the top three.



DUSTIN MINELLA/The Observer

The Irish Idol contestants gather during the final rounds of the competition Thursday night at Legends.

see VISITATION/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

Join the bash, Sorin

Even as both the Office of Residence Life and Housing and my nd.edu-obsessed mother cluttered my e-mail account with messages reminding, prodding and attempting to coerce me into applying for a spot in the brand-new Duncan Hall, I have officially signed my letter of intent (or, more commonly, my housing contract).

Matt Gamber
Associate Sports Editor

My decision? To remain a resident of Sorin College.

Hey, if it's good enough for Monk, it's good enough for me.

Despite Sorin's status as the first and consequently oldest dorm on campus, only a small handful of its residents applied to live in Duncan — so I'm not alone in my proclamation that Sorin is irrefutably the greatest residence hall under the dome.

Thanks to its prime location on God Quad, Sorin is under the watchful eye of Our Lady and well within earshot of some of the finest Sunday morning wake-up calls around (thank you, Basilica bells.)

While other dorms subject their freshmen to embarrassing rituals during Frosh-O, the residents of Sorin College set up camp in the backyard, a cigar in one hand and a water balloon in the other, just waiting for the next group of giddy girls' attempt to serenade them.

And why? We've got nothing to prove.

How many other dorms had the audacity to secede in the '60s to make a statement about the University's stance on Vietnam? Zero.

What other hall contains leaders like the former president of the University (Rev. Monk Malloy, C.S.C.), the current president of the student body (Bob "We want our DVD's NOW" Reish), and the future president of the United States (Soeren "Yeah, like the dorm" Palumbo)? None.

And what other building on campus has housed such Notre Dame legends as Knute Rockne, the Four Horsemen, Johnny Lattner, Paul Hornung and Matt Henry? Don't even try to think of one.

OK, so other dorms have traditions, too. Like Alumni's Wake Week that's coming up — yeah, it sounds pretty cool from what I hear. But who really wants to live in the dorm most often used as an impromptu urinal for those got-to-go times on weekend nights waiting for a Main Circle pick-up?

But hey, we're not here to bash other dorms. We're here to get other dorms to join the bash — at Sorin College.

It's not just about our prime location, illustrious tradition or impressive inhabitants; Sorin also boasts the largest social room on campus (perfect for video games and book club meetings.)

And while I thank my esteemed colleague (and Harry Potter enthusiast/obsessed fan) Bill Brink for his cute rendition of the sorting hat song, praising each dorm for its unique qualities, I can leave you with only one thought.

Come hang out at Sorin — Bobby Powers does.

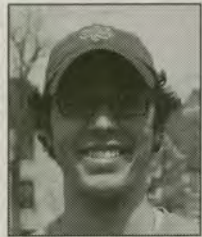
The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@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: If you could pull a prank on anyone, who would it be and what would you do?



Jared Zenk
junior
Dillon

"I'd tell the American people Hillary won the election."



Lauren Wickel
junior
Badin

"I'd paint the White House black."



Marissa Treece
freshman
Lewis

"Brady Quinn. I'm having your baby."



Roxanne Blair
junior
Badin

"I'd tell Lauren the Rock is having her baby."



Travis Allen
junior
Dillon

"I'd put Jared Zenk's mattress on top of the stalls in the bathroom."



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Students through Human Rights ND set up a "South Quad Refugee Camp" in front of O'Shaughnessy Hall to raise awareness about the plight of refugees.

OFFBEAT

Woman bites dog who bit her dog

MINNEAPOLIS — Amy Rice feared for her dog's life when a pit bull jumped over a fence into her yard and attacked her pooch. So she took matters into her own mouth.

Rice says she bit the pit bull on the nose Friday after trying to pull the dog's jaws off her Labrador retriever, Ella. The dog had jumped a fence to get into Rice's northeast Minneapolis yard, and Rice says she feared the pit bull would kill Ella.

Rice says she drew blood

when she bit the dog, and her doctor will have to determine whether she should get shots for rabies.

The pit bull was quarantined. Ella is recovering with staples and stitches to her head and a crushed ear canal.

Calf carcasses found at Wyoming high school

CASPER — A student from a rival high school was disciplined after the carcasses of two dissected calves were found outside Natrona County High School, a school official said. The calves were found

just before 7 a.m. Wednesday and quickly covered so most students were not exposed to them.

One carcass was placed on a hurdle on the school's track. The other was placed on a railing near the front entrance of the main building, with internal organs on the ground around it.

Wayne Beatty, Natrona County School District safe schools administrator, said he didn't think there was any malicious intent behind what he termed a prank.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Lyons and O'Neill Halls will sponsor Recess today from 3 until 6 p.m. on South Quad. The event includes free food, games and tie-dyeing.

The Notre Dame men's tennis team will play Ball State at 4:00 p.m. today at Eck Tennis Pavilion.

The Notre Dame baseball team will play Rutgers today at 5:05 p.m. at the Eck Baseball Stadium.

La Alianza will host Celebración: Latin Expressions tonight 7 at the O'Laughlin Auditorium at Saint Mary's College. Tickets are on sale in the LaFortune Box Office at \$7 for students and faculty.

The Notre Dame Dance Company will perform "Taboo" tonight at 7 p.m. in Washington Hall. Tickets are available at the door for \$5.

Notre Dame College Democrats will host a talk by Ethel Kennedy on Saturday at 2 p.m. at Washington Hall. Admission is free.

The Black Cultural Arts Council (BCAC) will sponsor the fashion show "iRep: Me" on Saturday at the Century Center in downtown South Bend. Admission is \$7 for students.

Saint Mary's will host its third annual Dance Marathon tonight from 8 p.m. until 8 a.m. All proceeds will go to Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 54 LOW 31	HIGH 44 LOW 31	HIGH 58 LOW 38	HIGH 65 LOW 44	HIGH 54 LOW 39	HIGH 58 LOW 41

Students gather to discuss peace

Conference organizers say attending discussions is just a first step

By EMMA DRISCOLL
News Writer

Students from across the globe will gather on campus this weekend to discuss ways to make peace both possible and practical at the annual Student Peace Conference at the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

The conference, entitled, "Bringing Peace Down to Earth," will consider "practical, down-to-earth, hands-on approaches to peace building," said senior Ryane Burke, conference co-chair.

"Even if you're not a peace builder per se, that you can - or possibly should - be involved in building peace because peace is something we should all be working toward," Burke said.

For keynote speaker Dr. Ellis Jones, author of "The Better World Handbook" and "Better World Shopping Guide," the title of the conference is especially significant.

Jones said "Bringing Peace Down to Earth" involves converting peace from an abstract idea into something people can incorporate into daily life.

"Based on the idea behind the title of the conference, I really think that, for me, the whole conference is playing off the theme of how to take this very big, overwhelming problem of peace and all of the problems that fall underneath that rubric and how to make that something everyday people can engage in, rather than just something that is done by nation states or governments or even activists," Jones said.

Jones said his speech aims to show people possible ways to carry out the conference's theme in their everyday lives.

"My area of interest really lies in what I call the democratiza-

tion of activism," Jones said.

The conference will also include a musical entertainment portion, a video clip and panel discussions.

Kroc Institute Masters students will

moderate panels and discuss a variety of topics - from violence in Columbia to the role of women and gender, Burke and fellow co-chair Mariah Quinn said.

Quinn said she hopes Notre Dame students attend this year's conference.

"There are people coming from other schools, but we're trying to up the number of Notre Dame students who attend the conference," she said.

Jones said conferences like this are part of the solution of how to bring peace to the world, but attending them is not the only action people can take.

"[The conference] allows people to come together and really flesh out what we're talking about," he said. "We have to take what is talked about, and we have to somehow integrate it back into what we do. This is where a lot of conferences fall short and this is what particularly attracted me in this conference."

He hopes conference attendees will apply what they learn during panels and discussions to their own lives and share it with others.

"The question is 'Where do I go from here?'" he said. "And to really complete the picture, what we need is for people to be able to give other people the opportunity to take this information back with them, act on it in some practical way and make a difference and pass it on to other people."

The event is sponsored by the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies and attendance is free.

Contact Emma Driscoll at edriscoll@nd.edu

"We have to take what is talked about, and we have to somehow integrate it back into what we do."

Dr. Ellis Jones
keynote speaker
Student Peace Conference

Anthropology chair receives CSC award

Special to the Observer

Mark Schurr, associate professor and chair of anthropology at the University of Notre Dame has received the 2008 Rodney F. Ganey, Ph.D. Faculty Community-Based Research Award from the Center for Social Concerns.

The \$5,000 award annually honors a Notre Dame faculty member whose research has made a contribution to a local community organization.

Since 2003, Schurr has done research with the Kankakee Valley Historical Society (KVHS) to learn about how Native Americans in Northwest Indiana responded to forced removal from their lands during the 19th century. Schurr's project has involved some 40 Notre Dame students in archeological field work which helped support the KVHS mission to restore and interpret the Kankakee Valley environment while preserving its archeological resources.

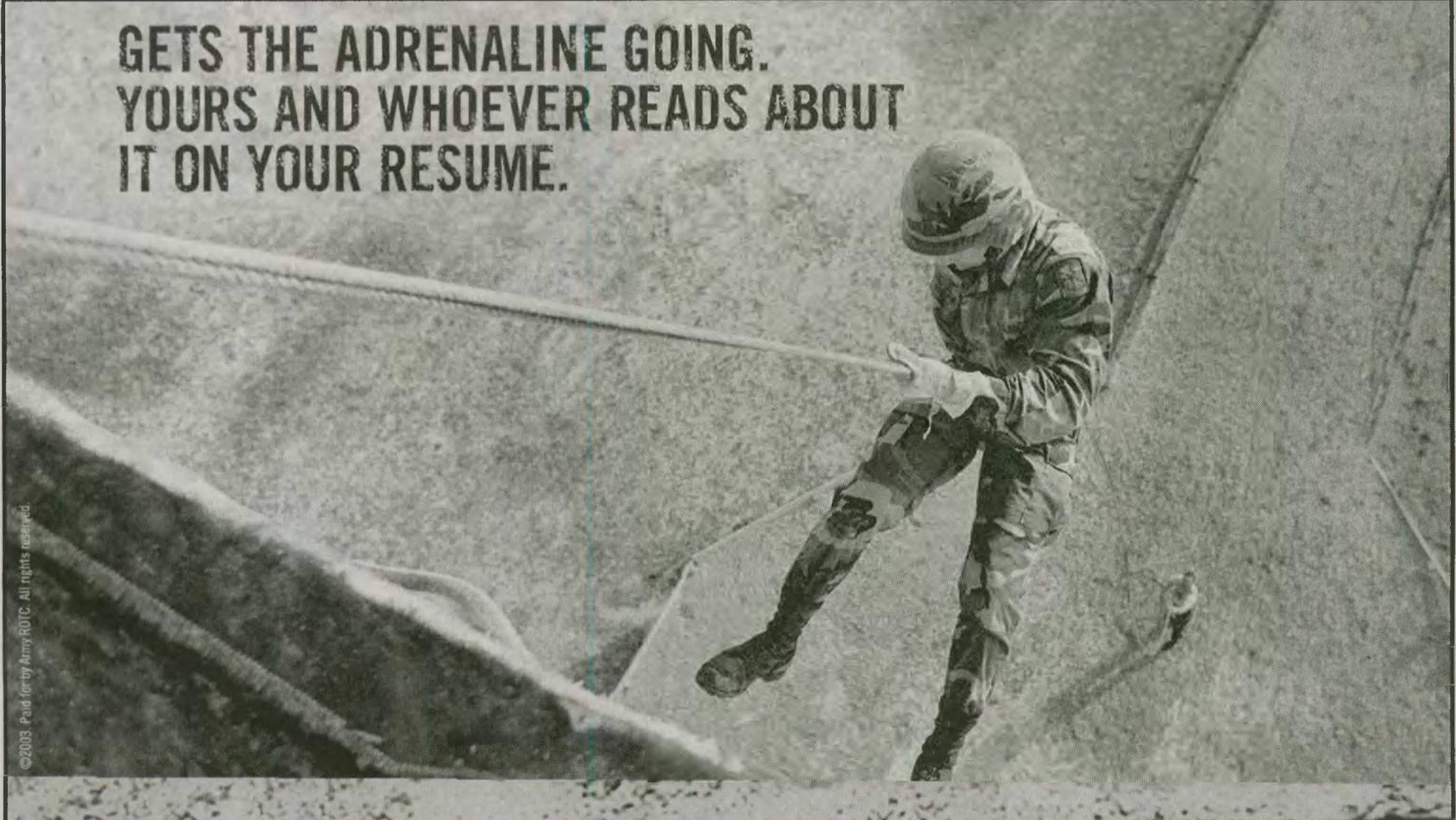
Also announced by the Center for Social Concerns, which manages the Ganey projects, were three mini-grant projects which will receive \$6,000 funding each to explore:

- Factors that perpetuate criminal activity—Michael Jenuwine, a member of the Law School's Legal Aid pro-

gram and an associate professor of psychology, and undergraduates Andrea Laidman and Martha Calcutt will investigate the impact of such factors as poverty, lack of education and job training, mental illness, drug use and abusive home situations on violent crime. They will partner with Dismas House of Michiana and Companions on the Journey.

- Lead exposure and asthma—A team directed by psychology professor John Borkowski and led by psychology graduate student Jody Nicholson will partner with Memorial Hospital and the St. Joseph County Head Start Consortium in an effort to reduce exposure to lead and other household pollutants.

- Elementary school switching and student achievement—Students of Jennifer Warlick, associate professor and chair of the Department of Economics and Policy Studies, have learned that South Bend's most economically disadvantaged elementary school students frequently switch schools during the year, a change associated with poor academic performance and behavioral problems. Warlick, student Nicholas Krafft and a partner in the South Bend Community School Corp. will explore low-cost programs that reduce student mobility.



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Visitation

continued from page 1

mer Spring Visitation participants for over 20 years.

"The primary goal of the weekend is to give prospective students the opportunity to make an informed decision about coming to Notre Dame," Carrillo said.

Events throughout the weekend serve to educate the students about academic and social life at Notre Dame. Students will be given the opportunity to meet with professors and faculty to take part in events that celebrate Notre Dame's ethnic and cultural diversity.

On Thursday evening the Asian American Association (AAA) hosted an icebreaker game night in the LaFortune Ballroom to let prospective students get to know not only each other, but their student hosts as well. This is the first year AAA has sponsored an event at SVW.

As in past years, La Alianza's Latin Expressions and the Black Cultural Arts Council (BCAC) Fashion Show will take place Friday and Saturday nights, respectively. The aim of these events is to showcase the school's diversity while giving the prospective students the chance to interact with one another.

Sophomore Kristine Yuen, a student coordinator for SVW, said these events help make SVW successful.

Of the prospective students who have attended SVW in the past, Carrillo said at least half decided to attend Notre Dame, although the exact number has fluctuated from year to year. He said this number is consistent with their goals to increase diversity in the school.

"We really want to increase diversity at Notre Dame not just with students from different ethnic backgrounds, but with students who have a lot of talent and who will continue to improve our school," Yuen said.

Visiting students applied for admission in the fall of 2007 and were invited by the Admissions Office upon being admitted to the University.

Yuen and Carrillo said the Admissions Office extended invitations to about 200 high school seniors within the continental U.S. Their invitations were determined by a number of factors, Yuen said.

"Admissions tries to invite students from a variety of backgrounds who normally might not have the chance to see Notre Dame," she said. "Some may live too far to visit or can't find the means to visit. Some are first generation college students who might not be able to visit on their own."

SVW will conclude Sunday morning when the prospective students convene in LaFortune Student Center, say their good-byes and return to their respective homes.

Contact Gene Noone at enoone@nd.edu

Pope

continued from page 1

Jewish team," Dalin said.

John Paul II "was the first to admit" that his early Jewish influences affected his relationship to Judaism as pope.

Dalin quoted John Paul II as saying, "It's from them that I have this feeling of community and friendship about Jews."

Wojtyla's closest friend throughout his childhood was Jerzy Kluger, the son of the local synagogue president. On one occasion, Wojtyla attended a Yom Kippur service with his father and the Kluger family, Dalin said.

"John Paul II is the first modern pope to attend a synagogue worship service while he was growing up," Dalin said.

Kluger and Wojtyla remained close throughout their lives. Kluger and his English-born wife Renee were John Paul II's first dinner guests at the Vatican after his papal election.

"John Paul II's life-long

friendship with Kluger helped to influence and shape his understanding of Jews and Judaism and of issues relevant to modern Judaism," Dalin said.

On the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, Kluger encouraged John Paul II to hold the first-ever Holocaust Memorial event at the Vatican.

"John Paul II had a personal commitment to keeping the memory of the Holocaust alive in the center of Roman Catholicism. He was the 20th Century's greatest papal friend of the Jews."

Rabbi David Dalin
professor of history and politics

Diplomats, Jewish leaders and over 200 Holocaust survivors attended the event, Dalin said.

"John Paul II was the first bishop of Rome to visit the synagogue of Rome. In doing so, he changed history," Dalin said.

"John Paul II had a personal commitment to keeping the memory of the Holocaust alive in the center of Roman Catholicism," Dalin said. "He was the 20th century's greatest papal friend of Jews. This was one of the enduring legacies of his pontificate that should be remembered and cherished by Catholics and Jews alike."

Contact Theresa Civantos at tcivanto@nd.edu

Idol

continued from page 1

"I wanted a chance to go at it again," Sullivan said.

"The entire process was fantastic, because almost all of these kids are my friends. It was really a blast," Sullivan said.

Notre Dame students senior John Fister and junior Whitney Young were among the top three performers of the evening.

"Winning felt pretty good. Whitney [Young] put up a good fight," Sullivan said.

Notre Dame senior Bridget Higgins, who took part in judging the competition, said all three of the judges really enjoyed last night's performances, especially the top three performances.

"All three of the judges were unanimous on our top three, so the decision was pretty easy," Higgins said.

Higgins said the quality and individuality of the performances were the key in last night's competition.

"Everybody did well, but those three stood out particularly because they made the performance their own," Higgins said.

Legends press writer Bridget Keating said the club's staff played a huge role in organizing this year's Irish Idol. She also said the club has been planning this event since the fall, but auditions were not held until right after Easter Break, during which time around 50 students auditioned.

"Anything like this showcases the amazing talent that we have here on campus," Keating said. "Every year the competition gets more and more fierce and we see more and more talented students every single year."

Keating also said more than 50 students auditioned for this year's Irish Idol and any student from Notre Dame, Saint Mary's or Holy Cross was eligible to participate.

Many students and parents came out to support the finalists in this year's competition.

Notre Dame sophomore Clarisa Ramos said she and her friends enjoyed last night's performances.

"I definitely found the performers who really went for entertainment the most interesting," Ramos said. She also said that she was pleased with last night's attendance to the event.

"I think that the people who are here supporting their friends shows that the Notre Dame community is there to love each other and support each other in everything that we do," Ramos said. "This is just one of those kinds of events."

Contact Amber Travis at atavis@nd.edu

Peters

continued from page 1

She also spoke at the College in 2005 as a Shannon Executive Scholar Lecture speaker.

The Shannon lecture takes place annually and features an outstanding alumna speaking to students.

Peters was recently nominated to serve on the national Board of Directors of Girl Scouts USA and will begin her term in late 2008.

She joined GE in 1979 through the Human

Resources Management Program and was appointed a company officer in 1997. In 2007 she assumed responsibility for all leadership training and for GE's Management Development Institute.

"Susan Peters is an extremely accomplished alumna. I look forward to recognizing both her exceptional career at GE and her commitment to Saint Mary's," College president Carol Ann Mooney said in a statement

from Susan Dampeer, executive assistance to the president.

"She is an engaging speak-

er and I know that she will connect with our graduates and their families," Mooney said.

Like many students, senior Monica Mastracco was excited to learn the speaker of the Commencement address at her graduation.

"Just learning that she is a graduate, that's fantastic," Mastracco said. "I am really happy to hear that we have a Saint Mary's alumna to come back to the College."

She said it will be helpful to see an accomplished woman like Peters speaking to a group of women who will soon be starting their own careers and lives after graduating.

"I've gone to the Commencement ceremony the last two years, and the

speakers have been great and have had insightful things to say but it will be nice to see in a physical manifestation the actual quality of graduates that this College is putting out into the world,"

"I'm really happy to hear that we have a Saint Mary's alumna to come back to College."

Monica Mastracco
Saint Mary's senior

Mastracco said.

Contact Liz Harter at chart01@saintmarys.edu

Kennedy

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The visit marks the 40th anniversary of her husband's campaign trip to the South Bend area during his run for the Democratic Party nomination.

Robert Kennedy had spoken at the Stepan Center the morning of April 4, 1968, the day on which Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot later in the afternoon, Mehlos said.

Mehlos said following his talk at Notre Dame, Robert Kennedy was notified that King was shot and put together a few notes on his way down to Indianapolis. Police, fearing riots, urged him against speaking publicly, but Kennedy spoke anyways and

moved the crowd deeply.

"[Indianapolis] was perhaps one of the only major cities in the nation where there were no riots that day," Mehlos said. "Bobby's campaign ensured that the American dream might live on for generations."

College Democrats sponsored a visit from Chelsea Clinton and Sean Astin, the actor who played the title role in the movie "Rudy," last week. Mehlos said Astin endorsed Democratic presidential hopeful

Hillary Clinton.

Mehlos said becoming involved in politics is especially important this year.

"The most important thing is to get involved in the political election. It has been 40 years since we have had a competitive primary."

Corey Mehlos
College Democrats
co-President emeritus

"The most important thing is to get involved in the political election," Mehlos said. "It has been 40 years since we [Indiana] have had a competitive primary. That makes this election historical."

Max Kennedy, ninth child of Ethel and Robert, will join his mother on campus. Admission is free.

Contact Katie Peralta at kperalta@nd.edu



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MANOR



Find the medallion and win \$300!

Clue #5:

You've been faithful and read all the clues
You've put in the time, paid your dues
No simpler than this can it be
So if you don't win don't blame me:
While relaxing with Moose
Your feet should you loose
Fifteen to the front
Up walls with a grunt

Swing round at the light
Where right is not right
Ten paces you go
Walk swiftly not slow
The one of the six
This one have we picked
The base by the three
It's here you will see
The medal, at last!
Now go find it, FAST!

The Manor Medallion Hunt is a week long campus-wide search for a single three-inch medallion. The Medallion is located somewhere on the Notre Dame campus – not in a residence hall, church, or at the Grotto. A new riddle will appear daily in the Observer and at the Morrissey website:

www.nd.edu/~manor

Bring the medallion to Morrissey 001 between 9-10 PM to claim your \$300 prize!!

WORLD & NATION

Friday, April 4, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Iraqi government promises crackdown

BAGHDAD — Iraq's prime minister pledged Thursday to expand his crackdown on Shiite militias to Baghdad, despite a mixed performance so far against militants in the southern city of Basra.

The U.S. ambassador, meanwhile, said that despite a "boatload" of problems with the Basra operation, he was encouraged that the Shiite-led government was finally confronting extremists regardless of their religious affiliation.

Iraqi forces launched a major operation March 25 to rid Basra of Shiite militias and criminal gangs that had effectively ruled the city of 2 million people since 2005. But the offensive stalled in the face of fierce resistance from the militiamen and an uprising across the Shiite south spearheaded by the Mahdi Army of anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

Rebel leader rules out hostage release

BOGOTA, Colombia — A senior rebel leader ruled out the unilateral release of an ailing French-Colombian hostage, casting doubt on the mission of French diplomats and doctors who flew to Colombia on Thursday to save her life.

Rodrigo Granda, the rebels' foreign relations chief, did not mention the French plane sitting on the tarmac in Bogota, but suggested the French had no deal with the rebels for the release of Ingrid Betancourt, 46, who was kidnapped while running for president of Colombia six years ago.

NATIONAL NEWS

Ark. will accept FEMA mobile homes

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Arkansas will accept Federal Emergency Management Agency mobile homes for tornado victims but has put a limit on their formaldehyde levels, Gov. Mike Beebe said Thursday.

The state will not take mobile homes with formaldehyde levels higher than 40 parts per billion, Beebe said. Anything below that level is typical for most housing, he said.

FEMA has been criticized for its response to concerns about much higher levels of formaldehyde in mobile homes used by victims of the 2005 Gulf Coast hurricanes. About 34,000 remain occupied, but FEMA has stepped up efforts to move residents.

Thousands of unused FEMA mobile homes remain in storage. Tests on 32 of them set aside for Arkansas victims of Feb. 5 tornadoes showed that three of them had levels above 77 parts per billion. That is considered high enough to raise residents' risk of cancer and respiratory illness.

Pre-dawn Pennsylvania fire kills ten

BROCKWAY, Pa. — A pre-dawn fire engulfed a western Pennsylvania home where three generations of the same family lived Thursday, killing 10 people, most of them children, while the patriarch worked an overnight shift.

Authorities identified the dead as a 40-year-old woman and nine people under 20, including two infants. Most of the younger ones were children or grandchildren of the woman, Kimberly Peterson.

LOCAL NEWS

Indy to commemorate RFK speech

INDIANAPOLIS — As riots erupted in dozens of cities after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., Robert Kennedy's calming words in Indianapolis are credited with quelling violence in the city.

"The people of Indianapolis were inspired by Senator Robert Kennedy to express their sorrow and outrage peacefully," said state Rep. William Crawford, D-Indianapolis, who was among a mostly black crowd who listened to Kennedy's passionate speech that night 40 years ago.

Friday's anniversary of both historic events will be commemorated in a ceremony that Kennedy's widow, Ethel, and one of his sons, Max, plan to attend. Weather permitting, the main program will be held at the site where Kennedy spoke.

CUBA

Castro lifts limits on consumer goods

Peso is too weak to allow most citizens to actually make use of new economic freedoms

Associated Press

HAVANA — President Raul Castro has lifted restrictions on consumer goods and hotel stays, but most Cubans get paid in virtually worthless pesos, which can't buy basic items like toilet paper, let alone a DVD player or poolside mojito cocktails at the Hotel Capri.

Nearly everything Cubans want or need must be bought with a separate currency created for tourists and foreigners. So, until the regular peso increases in value, Castro's moves will be bittersweet gestures.

The new leader's solution, now the talk of the island: merge the two currencies. But this turns out to be much easier said than done.

Shelves remain virtually bare at the few stores where Cubans can buy things in regular pesos, which they mostly use for heavily subsidized items like rationed food, transportation and medicine. In one store, recent offerings included a half-dozen motorcycle helmets, a thin blanket and a single pair of boy's underwear.

Overpriced DVD players, flat screen televisions, French cosmetics and Uruguayan steaks are now available to anyone who can afford them at the elite stores Cubans call "el shopping." But they must be bought with the "convertible" pesos tourists get when they trade in their dollars, euros and other foreign currency.

Cubans can use their regular pesos to buy convertible pesos known as CUCs (pronounced "kooks"), but at a dizzying exchange rate of 24-to-1. And even then, few can afford expensive goods on average salaries equivalent to \$19.50 a month.

Regla Jimenez' 15-year-old daughter wants an MP3 player for her birthday, but "I can't give it to her," complained the 45-



A teller counts convertible pesos in a Havana bank on Thursday. DVD players, flat screen televisions and steaks are now available to anyone who can afford them.

year-old office worker, who earns the equivalent of \$17 a month. "With my salary of 350 Cuban pesos, my priority is food."

If only Castro could declare a 24-fold increase in the value of all state salaries with a wave of his hand.

It would cause an unprecedented buying spree, but with a terrible hangover when the few available goods are gone.

And the government lacks the hard currency needed to pay much higher salaries, so Cubans could soon find themselves even worse off, with little reason to work harder, save more and spend their pesos.

"Let's assume the government decides tomorrow

to gradually reach one single monetary system and starts by making one CUC equal to eight pesos instead of 24," said Carmelo Mesa-Lago, a Cuba economics expert and professor emeritus at the University of Pittsburgh.

"People will immediately change their pesos to CUCs, which suddenly buy three times as much, and clean out the shops. Then what does the government do the next day?"

The dual currency system is despised among Cubans because it has created two classes of people in a socialist society supposed to be based on egalitarianism: the 60 percent who have at least some access to CUCs, and the

rest who don't.

In pockets of extreme poverty, especially in western Cuba, people are restless over their dire living conditions. Even middle-income workers in Havana can hardly benefit from their newly announced freedoms.

"Now I can go to hotels. That's nice, but with what? Not on my salary," said Silvita, a 42-year-old doctor who like many Cubans would not give her last name to international media.

"If they don't give the peso more value or create one money system, I think these measures will be worse. Because they'll just remind us that our salaries don't buy anything."

Clinton pledges equal benefits for gays

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democratic Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton said she would defend gay rights as president and eliminate disparities for same-sex couples in federal law, including immigration and tax policy.

Clinton said states such as New Jersey and Massachusetts are extending rights to gay couples "and the federal government should recognize that and should extend the same access to federal benefits across the board. I will very much work to achieve that."

Clinton's comments came in an interview with the Philadelphia Gay

News that was posted on its Web site Thursday.

Clinton said she and her husband have many gay friends that they socialize with when they get the chance. "I've got friends, literally, around the country that I'm close to. It's part of my life," she said.

She said that when they ask her why they can't get married, she tells them marriage is a state law. She said that fact helped defeat a constitutional amendment to prohibit same-sex weddings that she said would "enshrine discrimination in the Constitution."

"States are really beginning seriously to deal with the whole range of options, including marriage, both

under their own state constitutions and under the legislative approach," she said. "I anticipate that there will be a very concerted amount of effort in the next couple of years that will move this important issue forward and different states will take different approaches as they did with marriage over many years and you will see an evolution over time."

Clinton said she opposes a measure that would ban gay marriage in Pennsylvania.

"I would be very distressed if Pennsylvania were to adopt that kind of mean-spirited referendum and I hope it won't happen," she said.

FAA whistleblowers say jobs are threatened

Southwest Airlines founder apologizes for safety inspection scandal, but says that passenger security remains top priority

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The whistleblowers who exposed maintenance and inspection problems at Southwest Airlines told Congress their jobs were threatened and their reports of noncompliance were ignored for years.

Federal Aviation Administration inspector Douglas Peters choked up Thursday at a House hearing and needed a few sips of water to tell lawmakers about how a former manager came into his office, commented on pictures of Peters' family being most important, and then said his job could be jeopardized by his actions.

Rep. James Oberstar, D-Minn., said FAA managers' actions displayed "malfeasance bordering on corruption," adding that if presented to a grand jury, the evidence would result in an indictment.

The FAA last month took the rare step of ordering the audit of maintenance records at all domestic carriers following reports of missed safety inspections at Dallas-based Southwest. The airline was hit with a record \$10.2 million fine for continuing to fly dozens of Boeing 737s, which carried an estimated 145,000 passengers, that hadn't been inspected for cracks in their fuselages. Southwest has said it will appeal the penalty.

Both FAA whistleblowers — Charalambe Boutris and Peters — said the agency views the airlines as its "customers" instead of companies to be regulated. They said the FAA's chief maintenance inspector at the time, Douglas T. Gawadzinski, knowingly allowed Southwest to keep planes flying that put passengers at risk, and that another inspector knew of the problem and did nothing.

Transportation Department Inspector General Calvin L. Scovel III echoed concerns about the FAA's inspection office responsible for Southwest Airlines, testifying that it had "developed an overly collaborative relationship" with the carrier.

"FAA's oversight in this case appears to allow, rather than mitigate, recurring safety violations," Scovel said.

His office found that the agency fails to protect employees who report safety issues and doesn't adequately respond to problems when they are identified. He recommended immediate action be taken to fix the air carrier oversight programs.

Herb Kelleher, Southwest's founder and executive chairman, apologized for allowing planes to fly that should not have. "Our people made engineering judgments they were not entitled to make," he said, adding that passenger safety was never compromised.

Southwest Chief Executive Gary Kelly said the airline increased the number, scope and frequency of audits and implemented more stringent requirements of maintenance plan changes after the problems were discovered. The airline will take further action after independent investigators, the FAA and Southwest staff finish their reviews, he said.

When FAA inspectors blew the whistle in March 2007, Gawadzinski was their superior. He's still employed by the FAA, but has no responsibility for safety decisions, said Nicholas Sabatini, the agency's associate administrator for aviation safety.

Oberstar disputed that assertion and said Gawadzinski had retained oversight responsibility after his removal from the Southwest office. Sabatini said he would look into it those claims and promised that the FAA will "take whatever action the law will allow" when the investigation is complete.

Gawadzinski was not asked to testify at Thursday's hearing because of the ongoing nature

of the investigations and he was considered to be a hostile witness who would most likely refuse to answer questions that could have incriminated himself, according to a spokesman for the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Committee Chairman Oberstar said as long as the FAA views the airlines as customers "that culture of safety will not take hold and is not going to permeate the organization."

Sabatini said the FAA is a regulator and that he would immediately work to correct that internal problem of perception.

Still, the inspectors' concerns

about Southwest, which the FAA first acknowledged a year ago, have since been confirmed, and the agency on Wednesday said it is investigating four airlines for failing to comply with various federal aviation regulations. It did not name the airlines.

In the last week alone, AMR Corp.'s American Airlines, Delta Air Lines and UAL Corp.'s United Airlines have canceled flights to perform unscheduled inspections of certain aircraft, and US Airways Group Inc. found problems on some Boeing 757s after a wing part from another plane fell off during a flight.

Spokesmen from Delta, United, Northwest Airlines, US Air and American said they have not been informed that their companies are the subject of an investigation. A Southwest spokeswoman said the carrier has not been

informed of any additional investigation.

On Wednesday, the FAA announced a new reporting system designed to make it easier for inspectors to raise concerns and strengthening ethics policies aimed at easing potential conflicts of interests.

The agency will launch the system by the end of this month to provide employees an additional way to raise safety concerns they feel are not receiving the necessary attention or response from management, acting FAA Administrator Robert A. Sturgell said.

And by June 30, the agency will start a rule-making process to set a two-year "cooling off" period before former inspectors could work for an airline there were overseeing. That would match the time that new inspectors hired from industry must wait before they can oversee their former employer.

"Our people made engineering judgments they were not entitled to make."

Herb Kelleher
Southwest Airlines founder



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NASDAQ	2,363.30	+1.90
NYSE	9,140.64	+36.18
S&P 500	1,369.31	+1.78
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	13,248.15	-141.75
FTSE 100 (London)	5,891.30	-24.60

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	+0.25	+0.34	137.04
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IN BRIEF

Bernanke defends Bears Stearns rescue

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke and the Bush administration on Thursday defended the decision to rescue Bear Stearns amid questions by lawmakers about why the government was helping Wall Street investment houses but not people on Main Street.

Bernanke and Treasury Department Undersecretary Robert Steel said that the consequences to the U.S. economy and financial system would have been far more serious had the government allowed the nation's fifth largest investment house to go bankrupt.

"Given the exceptional pressures on the global economy and financial system, the damage caused by a default by Bear Stearns could have been severe and extremely difficult to contain," Bernanke told the Senate Banking Committee.

The panel conducted a five-hour hearing as lawmakers sought to understand the decisions made during the hectic weekend of March 14-15 after Bear Stearns informed the Fed that it was on the verge of having to file for bankruptcy protection because nervous creditors were demanding to be repaid.

Unemployment benefits claims leap

WASHINGTON — The number of new people signing up for unemployment benefits last week shot up to the highest level in more than two years, fresh evidence of the damage to a national economy clobbered by housing, credit and financial crises.

The Labor Department reported Thursday that new applications filed for unemployment insurance jumped by a seasonally adjusted 38,000 to 407,000 for the week ending March 29. The increase left claims at their highest point since Sept. 17, 2005, following the blows of the devastating Gulf Coast hurricanes.

"This report supports the view that the jobs market is deteriorating toward recessionary conditions," said T.J. Marta, a fixed-income strategist at RBC Capital Markets.

The latest snapshot of labor activity was worse than economists had anticipated. They had predicted claims would be much lower, around 365,000.

Budget crises hit state prisons

Lawmakers consider cutting costs by releasing drug addicts, violent criminals early

Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Lawmakers from California to Kentucky are trying to save money with a drastic and potentially dangerous budget-cutting proposal: releasing tens of thousands of convicts from prison, including drug addicts, thieves and even violent criminals.

Officials acknowledge that the idea carries risks, but they say they have no choice because of huge budget gaps brought on by the slumping economy.

"If we don't find a way to better manage the population at the state prison, we will be forced to spend money to expand the state's prison system — money we don't have," said Jeff Neal, a spokesman for Rhode Island Gov. Don Carcieri.

At least eight states are considering freeing inmates or sending some convicts to rehabilitation programs instead of prison, according to an Associated Press analysis of legislative proposals. If adopted, the early release programs could save an estimated \$450 million in California and Kentucky alone.

A Rhode Island proposal would allow inmates to deduct up to 12 days from their sentence for every month they follow rules and work in prison. Even some violent offenders would be eligible but not those serving life sentences.

A plan in Mississippi would offer early parole for people convicted of selling marijuana or prescription drugs. New Jersey, South Carolina and Vermont are considering funneling drug-addicted offenders into treatment, which is cheaper than prison.

The prospect of financial savings offers little comfort to Tori-Lynn Heaton, a police



Tori-Lynn Heaton, a police officer that has lobbied against the early-release proposals, is seen at her home in Greenwich, R.I. on March 31.

officer in a suburb of Providence whose ex-husband went to prison for beating her. He has already finished his prison term, but would have been eligible for early release under the current proposal.

"You're talking about victim safety. You're talking about community member safety," she said. "You can't balance the budget on the backs of victims of crimes."

But prisons "are one of the most expensive parts of the criminal-justice system," said Alison Lawrence, who studies corrections policy for the National Conference of State

Legislatures. "That's where they look to first to cut down some of those costs."

Rhode Island Corrections Director A.T. Wall was not sure how many prisoners could be freed early. The payoff for doing so may be relatively small: less than \$1 million for the first fiscal year, although that figure would increase over time.

In California, where lawmakers have taken steps to cut a \$16 billion budget deficit in half by summer, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger proposed saving \$400 million by releasing more than 22,000 inmates who had less

than 20 months remaining on their sentences. Violent and sex offenders would not be eligible.

Laying off prison guards and making it more difficult to send parole violators back to state prison would account for part of the savings.

Law enforcement officials and Republican lawmakers immediately criticized Schwarzenegger's proposal, which would apply to car thieves, forgers, drunken drivers and some drug dealers. Some would never serve prison time because the standard sentence for those crimes is 20 months or less.

Stocks rise slightly ahead of jobs report

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stocks managed to notch a modest gain Thursday, with Wall Street cautious ahead of Friday's jobs report but hopeful that the global financial system is on the mend.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke told Congress Thursday the Fed expects to recover most, if not all, the \$29 billion worth of loans it made to keep struggling Bear Stearns Cos. from collapse. Bernanke's remarks, in which he defended the central bank's decision to aid JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s buy of Bear Stearns, were calming to investors hoping that demand is returning to the tight credit markets.

John Thain, the chief executive of Merrill Lynch & Co., also lent some solace to the market after telling Japanese financial newspaper The Nikkei that the investment bank has sufficient cash and will not need to raise more.

The stock market has been perform-

ing well recently due to its newfound confidence about global financial system — even in the face of poor economic data. Early Thursday, stocks dipped after the Labor Department reported a spike in jobless claims to a level not seen since September 2005.

But the decline was very mild and short-lived — particularly given the huge advance Wall Street logged Tuesday and has mostly maintained, and the fact that economists expect the government on Friday to report there was a jobs loss in March for the third straight month.

"I think that the desire to sell is coming off," said Thomas J. Lee, equities analyst at JPMorgan. The fact that the market has not been shaken by recent disappointing economic data "tells me that the recession is largely discounted."

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 20.20, or 0.16 percent, to 12,626.03.

Broader stock indicators also edged higher. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 1.78, or 0.13 percent, to 1,369.31, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 1.90, or 0.08 percent, to 2,363.30.

The Dow, which shot up nearly 400 points on Tuesday, is up 7.6 percent from its March 10 low, its worst level since October 2006.

"I think we're going to have a big test coming up," Lee said. "Are U.S. stocks poised for another downturn, or are U.S. stocks telling us the worst is behind us?"

With a broad swath of corporate earnings reports set to arrive in the coming weeks, investors appear upbeat. Over the past few weeks, the market has occasionally been knocked lower by disappointing economic readings, particularly on consumers' discretionary spending, but it has ultimately righted itself amid signs that the credit markets are improving.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe to campaign in run-off

Attacks on opposition, journalists a sign incumbent to use violence

Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Intruders ransacked offices of the main opposition party and police detained foreign journalists Thursday in an ominous sign that President Robert Mugabe might turn to intimidation and violence in trying to stave off an electoral threat to his 28-year rule.

Earlier, Mugabe apparently launched his campaign for an expected run-off presidential ballot even before the official results of Saturday's election were announced, with state media portraying the opposition as divided and controlled by former colonial ruler Britain.

Five days after the vote, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission still had not released results on presidential election despite increasing international pressure, including from former U.N. chief Kofi Annan, who recently mediated an end to Kenya's post-election violence.

The opposition Movement for Democratic Change already asserted its leader, Morgan Tsvangirai, won the presidency

outright, but said it was prepared to compete in any run-off.

The police raids came a day after official results showed Mugabe's party had lost control of parliament's 210-member lower house. The election commission was slow on the 60 elected seats in the Senate, releasing the first returns late Thursday that gave five seats each to the opposition and ruling party.

MDC secretary-general Tendai Biti said hotel rooms used as offices by the opposition at a Harare hotel were ransacked by intruders he believed were either police or agents of the feared Central Intelligence Organization.

"Mugabe has started a crackdown," Biti told The Associated Press. "It is quite clear he has unleashed a war."

Biti said the raid at the Meikles Hotel targeted "certain people ... including myself." He said Tsvangirai was "safe" but had canceled plans for a news conference. Tsvangirai was arrested and severely beaten by police a year ago after a banned opposition rally.

In a further signal of the government's hardening mood, heavily armed riot police surrounded and entered a Harare hotel housing foreign correspondents and took four away, said a man answering the telephone at the hotel. Eight journalists were staying at the York Lodge.

Bill Keller, executive editor of The New York Times, said Times correspondent Barry Bearak, a winner of a 2002 Pulitzer Prize, was one of those taken into custody. "An American consular official who visited him at the central police station reported that he was being held for 'violation of the journalism laws,'" Keller said.

The identities of the other reporters hadn't been determined.

The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists expressed alarm over the detentions and called for the reporters' immediate release. "It is imperative that all journalists, foreign and domestic, be allowed to work freely," said Joel Simon, the group's executive director.

Zimbabwe lawyer Beatrice Mtetwa said "quite a few" American and British people had been detained by police but no charges had been filed against them. She said some were being questioned individually by police but were not allowed to have lawyers present.

"Mugabe has started a crackdown. It is quite clear he has unleashed a war."

Tendai Biti
Secretary-General of
Movement for
Democratic Change

IRAQ

Al-Maliki to expand crackdown on militias

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's prime minister pledged Thursday to expand his crackdown on Shiite militias to Baghdad, despite a mixed performance so far against militants in the southern city of Basra.

The U.S. ambassador, meanwhile, said that despite a "boatload" of problems with the Basra operation, he was encouraged that the Shiite-led government was finally confronting extremists regardless of their religious affiliation.

Iraqi forces launched a major operation March 25 to rid Basra of Shiite militias and criminal gangs that had effectively ruled the city of 2 million people since 2005. But the offensive stalled in the face of fierce resistance from the militiamen and an uprising across the Shiite south spearheaded by the Mahdi Army of anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

Fighting eased Sunday when al-Sadr ordered his fighters to stand down under a deal brokered in Iran.

Nevertheless, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, himself a Shiite, insisted that the campaign to reclaim Basra was on track and that he would soon go after "criminal gangs" in Baghdad and elsewhere.

"We cannot remain silent about our people and families in Sadr City..."

Nouri al-Maliki
Iraqi Prime Minister

Al-Maliki specified two Baghdad neighborhoods — Sadr City and Shula — where the Mahdi militia holds sway and where U.S. and Iraqi forces have clashed with militants

in recent days.

Both areas remain under a vehicle ban imposed last week throughout Baghdad but which has been lifted elsewhere in the capital.

"We cannot remain silent about our people and families in Sadr City, Shula and other areas ... while they are held hostage by gangs that control them," al-Maliki said. "We must liberate (them) because we came into office to serve them."

It was unclear whether any new operation was imminent, but residents of Sadr City and other Shiite areas of the capital said many people began stocking up on food and water after al-Maliki's remarks.

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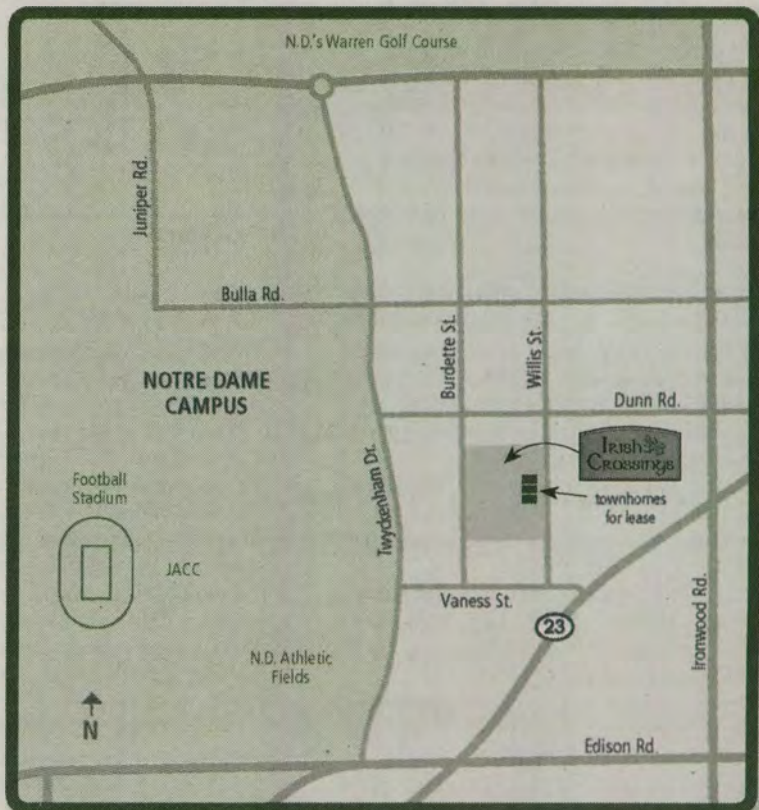
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ROMANIA

NATO supports Bush's missile defense plan

Alliance leaders extend membership to Albania, Croatia, but decline admission to Ukraine, Georgia, Macedonia

Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania — NATO allies gave President Bush strong support Thursday for a missile defense system in Europe and urged Moscow to drop its angry opposition to the program. The unanimous decision strengthened Bush's hand for weekend talks with Russian

President Vladimir Putin. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said it was "a breakthrough document on missile defense for the alliance." At Bush's first NATO summit in 2001, "perhaps only two allies gave even lukewarm support for the notion of missile defense," Rice said.

This was Bush's final meeting

with members of the 26-nation alliance, and White House officials described it as a day of freewheeling talks in which leaders and their foreign ministers got off script and gathered in crowds to debate the wording of a statement. "It doesn't happen in NATO meetings a lot," said Bush's national security adviser, Stephen

Hadley.

He said a group of leaders — "men in suits" — gathered around German Chancellor Angela Merkel to talk about putting former Soviet republics Ukraine and Georgia on a path toward NATO membership, a step she opposes. Moscow heatedly opposes any further eastward expansion of the alliance.

Summit leaders refused to grant the two countries a membership plan now, but said they would look at the issue again in December and they empowered their foreign ministers to decide it. The Balkan nations of Albania and Croatia were invited to join the alliance. Macedonia was turned aside at the insistence of Greece, which says the country's name implies a territorial claim to a northern region of Greece, also called Macedonia.

France helped resolve a sensitive issue for NATO by pledging to send as many as 1,000 more combat troops to Afghanistan's eastern part. That would free up U.S. forces to move into the south, home of fierce fighting with Taliban and al-Qaida forces. Canada had threatened to pull its soldiers from the south unless it received 1,000 reinforcements from another ally.

Some allies, notably Germany, Italy, Turkey and Spain, refuse to send troops to the Afghan front lines because of the unpopularity of the war at home. Hadley said military commanders in Afghanistan are pleading for more forces.

Already the largest contributor to NATO's 47,000 troops in Afghanistan, the United States is dispatching an additional

3,500 Marines and readying plans to send in more in the south next year, Hadley said.

Putin, in the last days of his presidency, arrived Thursday evening and joined the leaders at dinner. Putin planned to meet more formally with NATO chiefs Friday.

With U.S.-Russian relations in a deep chill, Bush and Putin will meet Saturday and Sunday in the Black Sea resort of Sochi in their last talks before the Russian leader steps down in May. Bush's term ends in

January.

Rice said the two leaders were expected to produce "a strategic framework" to guide relations between Washington and Moscow under their successors. "Part of that has to be some discussion of missile defense," Rice said, but she stopped short of saying

the two leaders would find agreement on the prickly subject.

Russia views the system as designed to weaken its military might and upsetting the balance of power in Europe. Bush argues that the shield is not aimed at Russia but at Mideast countries such as Iran.

In a series of concessions, the White House has offered to let Moscow monitor the sites and promised to delay activation of the shield until Iran or another adversary tests a missile with a range to reach Europe.

Rice said the Russians said those measures were viewed as "useful and important" when she and Defense Secretary Robert Gates were in Moscow last month. "We hope that we can move beyond that to an understanding that we all have an interest in cooperation on missile defense. But we will see."

Aside from the NATO endorsement, the anti-missile program advanced on another front with the Czech Republic's agreement to host a radar system that would track the sky for any threats. The White House has to complete a deal with Poland where 10 interceptor rockets would be based.

The NATO statement said "ballistic missile proliferation poses an increasing threat to allies' forces, territory and populations. Missile defense forms part of a broader response to counter this threat."

The statement called on NATO members to explore ways in which the planned U.S. project can be linked with future missile shields elsewhere. It said leaders should come up with recommendations to be considered at their next meeting in 2009.

Significantly, the document prodded Russia "to take advantage of United States missile defense cooperation proposals" and said NATO was "ready to explore the potential for linking United States, NATO and Russian missile defense systems at an appropriate time."



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Seniors deserve voice in choice of Commencement speaker

This week, the University announced that Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, archbishop emeritus of Washington D.C., would give this year's Commencement address. No doubt, Cardinal McCarrick is a worthy Commencement speaker. He has a distinguished career and was with members of Notre Dame in France earlier this year to celebrate the beatification of Fr. Basil Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

But how much of a voice did the senior class have in the process of choosing Cardinal McCarrick? Apparently, not much.

Senior class president Bridget Keating and vice president Chris Doughty said the Provost's office contacted senior class officers and asked for their input last May. In response, the senior class officers sent e-mails to their class members and asked for their suggestions. The officers assembled a list of three possible candidates and sent it to the Provost's office: Stephen Colbert, the Emmy and Peabody-winning host of "The Colbert Report," was the most popular choice. The senior officers also submitted U2 lead singer and global poverty activist Bono, and Sandra Day O'Connor, the first female member of the Supreme Court, as other possible candidates. The class officers also sent suggestions for the types of speakers seniors would like to see, Keating said.

However, after the officers submitted this list, the Provost's office did not ask them to have further involvement in the process of selecting a speaker, despite the senior class officers' requests to have more input.

This should change. Commencement is one of the most important moments in the any student's academic career and seniors should have a stronger voice in the selection of a Commencement speaker. It isn't fair to have the seniors submit suggestions, only for them to have no further input as to the final decision.

According to the vice president for News and Information, Dennis Brown, students, faculty and others at the University can submit suggestions for a commencement speaker. University president Fr. John Jenkins then makes the final decision regarding the selection of Commencement speaker with consultation with board members, and other officers at the University.

But where are the seniors in this final consultation?

If the seniors' suggestions for Commencement speaker are not viable options, and since he makes the final decision, can't Fr. Jenkins work with the seniors to ensure the selection of a speaker both the University and senior class would like? After all, this is a weekend for the seniors and their families. We're not saying Fr. Jenkins should always select whom the seniors want, but they should have a greater voice in the discussion.

Brown said the University pays each speaker a "modest honorarium" so money shouldn't play too much of an issue in the selection of a speaker. Brown also said the University tries to vary the fields the

Commencement speakers come from. One year the speaker could be somebody from entertainment, another year from politics or business, another year from the Church or some other field. If the class officers select speakers from the field of a recent Commencement speaker, Fr. Jenkins shouldn't simply toss the seniors' suggestions to the side, he should consult the senior class officers and work with them to select a speaker from the field the University wishes to represent this year.

And if he does try to book one of the seniors' suggestions and he can't, he should communicate that to the council and work with them to select another speaker.

This way, everyone has a voice in the process, and the seniors will know the administration respected their input in preparation of one of the most significant days of their lives.

THE OBSERVER Editorial

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Speaker approval

I understand the disappointment of Chad Lavimoniere ("Rampant excitement for commencement speaker," April 3) and perhaps others that this year's Commencement speaker will be Cardinal Theodore McCarrick. He isn't young and witty like Stephen Colbert or even rich and powerful like last year's speaker, GE CEO Jeffrey Immelt. Perhaps many in the Class of 2008 had hoped for someone different, someone famous, someone unconnected with the Catholic Church. Yet I do not believe I am alone in saying that I am happy with Notre Dame's choice of speaker this year.

While he may not be young, rich and powerful in the worldly sense, or particularly famous, Cardinal McCarrick, from what I've learned about him, has a good heart and much wisdom, which I believe is what is really needed in a good commencement speaker. I disagree with what Lavimoniere writes, albeit it in jest, that "Commencement is our last big chance to hear someone tell us important lies about the real world before we're jettisoned into it." While I grant that he is rightly poking fun at the way most Commencement speeches turn out to be, I take the less cynical view that it doesn't have to be this way. Simply because Cardinal McCarrick is a man of the Catholic Church does not mean that his speech will be just another homily, as Lavimoniere expects.

I do not know what his speech will be like, but I do not expect it to be overtly religious or clerical. I expect from a man of Cardinal McCarrick's character an honest and well-informed take on what we are to expect from life and how to go about living it well. As I see it, a good commencement speaker is one who has lived a good, moral life and can aptly guide us fledgling adults in how to spread our wings and fly. Therefore, I am satisfied with this year's choice of speaker and I look forward to hearing what he has to tell us.

Chris Spellman
senior
off campus
April 3

Share the wealth

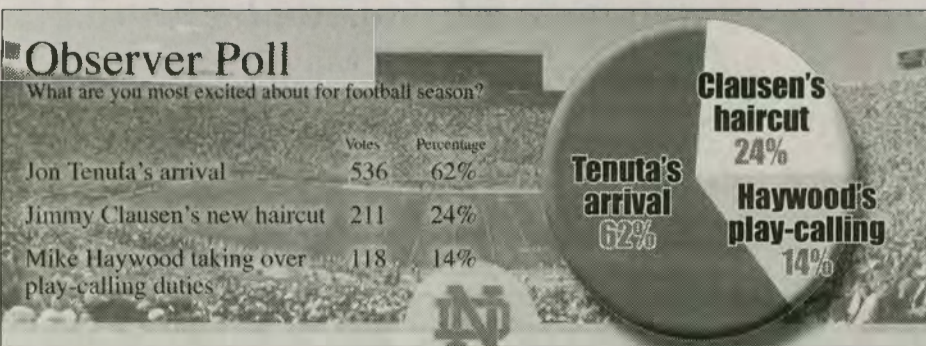
Even though an unfortunate side effect of submitting this letter is that my fervent love for Colbie Caillat ("Bubbly" was overplayed and overrated, but the rest of her CD? Life-changing.) might be divulged to the entire Notre Dame community, it is a risk that I am willing to take in order to make my point.

Included in the "In Brief" section of the March 31 Observer was the announcement that Ms. Caillat herself would be at Saint Mary's College on April 10 to perform in O'Laughlin Auditorium. Where can I get tickets? Well, the paper informed me that I cannot, because "tickets have already been distributed."

I am not sure if this event is closed to non-Saint Mary's students or if tickets simply ran out, but either way I know that I never saw an advertisement for the concert at Notre Dame. This is a disappointment to me because it is my understanding that Saint Mary's students can attend concerts put on by Notre Dame at Legends, the Stepan Center and the Joyce Center.

Saint Mary's is often the subject of derision because, though it calls itself Notre Dame's sister school, many claim that the College benefits from the relationship far more than does Notre Dame. While I do not wholly support that line of thinking, I do believe that the administration, students and faculty at Saint Mary's could make progress in quelling derisive comments aimed at them if they showed the same courtesy to Notre Dame that we show them by making concerts open to students from both schools.

Mary Margaret Skelly
sophomore
Pasquerilla East
April 3



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Hell is other people."

Jean-Paul Sartre
French philosopher

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keep current Frosh-O

After hearing about the new plans for Freshman Orientation ("Group discusses change to Orientation format," April 1), I have to wonder if Coughlin and members of the Campus Life Council ever attended Notre Dame Frosh-o. The very things they want to change (the fast-paced schedule, the bizarre rituals, the general awkwardness of the whole weekend) are what make Frosh-o so effective. Being bombarded with so many traditions and so many people so fast not only initiates freshmen into the campus community, it makes it easier to sit down in class on the first day and introduce yourself without much hesitation.

I think it's ridiculous to put less emphasis on interdorm activities. Dorm unity is great, but really, isn't it better to know there are other people on campus besides your roommates? My favorite parts of orientation weekend were the little planned outings we had with other dorms, that "awkward and forced ... inter-gender socialization" — the "Shoe Dates," the dodgeball games on the library quad and the nights when the boys' dorms would run around campus singing.

Some of my best friends here I met through those so-called inane Frosh-o activities — both male and female. And as for more time to "say good-bye to parents": Haven't freshmen had 18 years with them? A whole summer to plan for college? And a weeklong fall break in a few months when they'll probably see their family again?

Freshmen Orientation is — big surprise here — called as such because it's supposed to orient freshmen to their new homes. I love my parents, but I think this new idea of more time spent with families is more for the parents' sake than the student's.

Jordan Gamble
 sophomore
 McGlenn Hall
 April 1

'Absurder' in poor taste

Even when I attended Saint Mary's College back in the early '80s, The Observer was known to push the envelope occasionally in its publications. This time you have taken the whole April Fool's "joke" too far. Disrespect of our bishop, mockery of the pro-life cause, and vulgarity in calling women by a single private body part is abhorrent. First of all, where are your basic manners; and second of all, what about journalistic ethics?

If I were a female student on the campus at Notre Dame, I'd be making an appointment this afternoon with school officials over the discriminatory and hateful joke. With the privilege of being able to publish a newspaper comes the responsibility of conscientious reporting. The joke that appeared in your newspaper leaves an awful impression of a prestigious and time-honored Catholic university, not to mention the newspaper itself.

As luck would have it I had recently copied and pasted The Observer Web site link to an email group, solely created to help Catholic parents help their sons and daughters find a college in the next couple years. They had heard negative public relations about Notre Dame in the news and I was encouraging them to give the University a second look. I had Googled information on the recent Edith Stein Project and decided to put The Observer's page on it as reference. Imagine my embarrassment at knowing these parents were reading today's paper, where the joke was just a click away.

What appeared [Tuesday] was a waste of education, money and talent. As a member of the Catholic press myself, I couldn't be more disappointed in those hoping to make a career in the media very soon, and who are off to a very bad start. You owe a whole group of people a public apology.

Sincerely,

Theresa Thomas
 alumna
 Saint Mary's Class of 1985
 April 1

Rethinking alcohol consumption

It is 1:30 a.m. Sunday morning and I sit at my desk awaiting the moment when I can close my eyes and drift off to sleep. St. Ed's is unusually loud at this time of the morning as partygoers clamor up and down the stairs and aimlessly roam the halls in a drunken stupor. On this night I have overheard students, some my friends, say things in a public hallway that could be construed as sexist, racist and altogether unbecoming of students growing in Catholic character. What possesses people to act so foolishly? The answer is not shocking and I can actually smell it as its vapors seep through the hallway and into my room. Put simply, it is alcohol.

Like other drugs, alcohol causes a change in the mind, body and spirit of those who consume it. I have always wondered why humans find such pleasure in a substance that can alter one's sense of consciousness and perception of reality. What is the benefit to be had in imbibing copious amounts of liquor? To be honest, I see none. What I do see and hear, however, is unbridled lasciviousness and immaturity.

To be certain, alcohol in and of itself is not evil. In moderation wine and other forms of alcohol can bring families together around a dinner table. Around the altar in Catholic Mass, believers grow closer to Christ's Mystical Body in the act of consuming a sip of consecrated red wine. These acts are not evil and they promote friendship and participation in the sacramental life of the Church. What is evil, however, is the immaturity that drunkards exhibit when they allow a mere substance to possess their spirit and direct their will. What reckless abandon! Why do decent human beings allow themselves to act so foolishly in public? It is apparent to me that many students have not been taught the value of responsibility.

Responsibility, in this sense, is the awareness that one can drink, yet the understanding that he or she must do so in moderation lest the substance take possession of his or her will. I learned this important value with my grandpa in youth with the help of his Cabernet Sauvignon, but many students are forced to conjure some sense of responsibility when handed a plastic cup of foul smelling liquid at 1:00 in the morning. Where is grandfather now? He cannot help this student. The student should have sought his wisdom in youth when the mind was willing to learn the true value of responsibility.

Now the student looks around the room and sees that drinking the substance affords her the opportunity to make new friends and achieve a proverbial high. Yet the friendships and the highs are temporal as bonds made in wine are false and not founded upon virtue. They are instead founded in the masquerade of drunkenness. Students must recognize that in consuming alcohol they are facing the risk of expressing a false sense of their true being. I know the people jabbering outside my door are truly not sexists, yet alcohol gives the impression that they are. Why would anyone willingly accept the risk of embarrassing herself and her dignity for the pleasures of the moment?

I do not have this answer, yet it is clear to me that many students on this campus place little value in the virtue of responsibility. As I conclude my thoughts I realize that parietals have already passed and the noise is beginning to quiet in the hallway. I hear the chapel door open as students place themselves in God's presence to offer praise and thanksgiving in darkness and peaceful silence. I am encouraged that the masquerade might be coming to an end and am optimistic that many may have learned valuable lessons from their experiences with alcohol this night. Yet I am also concerned that the responsibility and maturity that is clearly lacking in so many students will not be learned this week. I fear that I may witness the events of this night the following weekend. Let us hope that wisdom guides the weary to embrace virtue in place of temporal pleasure this week.

Daniel Cerrone
 junior
 St. Edward's Hall
 March 30

Hesburgh's choice

This morning, I thought about the Hesburgh challenge, and soon found myself wondering: when I get to the 14th floor, do I offer Fr. Hesburgh a Natty Light, or is he a Keystone kind of guy?

My first thought would be that Catholic priests prefer natural world order. And hey, Jesus was the Light of the world. But then, I realized that Keystone would definitely be the beer of St. Peter; he holds the keys to the pearly gates, and he is the rock, or stone, on which the church has been built.

Both compelling arguments, but I'd like to think Papa Hesburgh would double fist in a heartbeat, unless of course he goes Old Style. I encourage you to write in with your thoughts on this important debate.

Alex Barbuto
 freshman
 Keenan Hall
 March 27

Lack of ticket lottery

ESPN broke a story on their Web site that Davidson College provided free transportation, lodging and tickets to any student who wanted to watch Davidson play in the NCAA Tournament in Detroit. As I read this story, I immediately thought of the recent announcement that Notre Dame would not be holding a student ticket lottery for the football game at Boston College in November 2008. The only explanation the University provided was that a two day weekend is not enough time for a trip to Boston without missing class.

Seemingly, this is a reasonable concern. However, after about two seconds of thought, I realized that the earliest the game can be is noon on Saturday. I haven't checked with the registrar, but I assume there are no classes at 10 p.m. on Friday night. The tickets will probably go to alumni in the Boston area, but if the University is going to push the students aside again (the Breytopia controversy comes to mind), they should come up with a better lie to tell the students. Notre Dame, a school that prides itself on dorm life and school pride, is simply ignoring its own students. Davidson is setting an example from which we should learn.

Ryan McFarlane
 sophomore
 Sorin College
 March 27

This box is grey.
 Make it black and white.

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

RAIN BOOTS AND SARONGS SPICE UP SPRING FASHION



It's time to cast off the shackles of winter and rejoice in the fashion freedom that is spring. Banish the mittens, chunky scarves and earmuffs. Spring is here to liberate you from the winter blues, drab wardrobe and sweatpants. As you plan your spring style, here are some tips to help you shine.

Jess Shaffer

Scene Writer

BOOT-LICOUS

Now that Uggs are no longer necessary to your survival, you can expand your horizons. Despite appearance, there is more out there than just furry, tan boots. Use the nice weather as encouragement to try out new styles.

Rain boots are always a nice, practical staple, with lots of styling potential. With their new found popularity, it seems that there may be no end to the variety of styles available. No doubt with the multitude of colors and patterns you can find a pair that tickles your fancy.

Whether you like cute polka dots, chic plaid, vintage yellow or playful graphics, rain boots can give your outfit a nice pop. Plus, for those of us a little tight on cash, you can find these gems in a variety of price ranges. Stores from Target to DSW to JCrew all seem smitten with this trend. It's hard not to love a practical guard against puddles that doesn't look like your grandpa's fishing boots.

PRINTASTIC

A neat pattern, whether a romantic floral or a bold geometric design, never fails to give your wardrobe some more depth.

While this trend may help you mix things up, remember to approach with caution. Excessive, clashing patterns are not only a fashion no-no but also a head ache to look at.

Mixing and matching prints is more than fine, but make sure some complimentary factor ties the different pieces together. For example, contrast a masculine plaid with a feminine floral or compliment similar colors and styles.

HATS, SWEATERS AND SCARVES, OH MY

One thing Notre Dame "fashionistas" know how to do is layer. It's the cardinal rule of South Bend styling — so don't get rid of all winter supplies just yet.

For cute looks on a low budget, make the most of what you already have. Scarves can be retied and wrapped in funky, new ways, and worn over a casual t-shirt for a relaxed look that is more sophisticated than jeans and a t-shirt.

Same goes for hats, a cool and underused accessory.

Sweaters are ideal for April's constantly shifting weather. Whipping this layer on and off can not only help you adjust to DeBartolo's hot and cold extremes, but also adds an interesting additional aspect to your look.

LET ME SEE YOUR SARONG

Perhaps the most versatile piece that you can use in any season is a sarong.

It may come as a surprise, but sarongs are amazingly useful. For those who have not discovered their fabulous potential, a sarong is basically a huge piece of fabric, usually about 6 feet long and 3.5 feet wide.

Classic sarongs usually have an Asian, particularly Indian, look with bright colors and metallic accents. But the trend has diversified recently, so they are also available in simple solids, flirty florals and still bold, brilliant hues. Sometimes they are stiffer fabrics, other times they are thicker and warm, and sometimes they are loose, thin or crinkly.

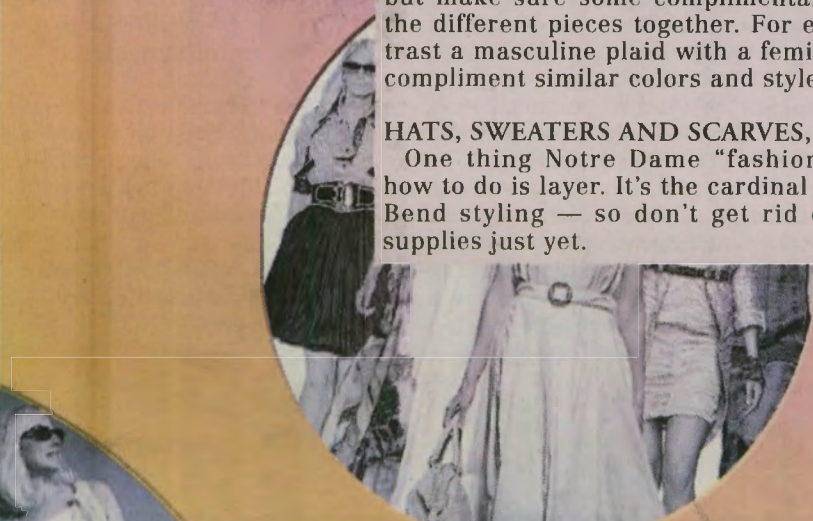
Sarongs can be used in many ways. In the fall and winter they are best used as full scarves. In the summer, skirts and dresses work on and off the beach.

For spring, the possibilities are endless. Scarves, skirts, tops and dress creations are totally acceptable when incorporated with weather appropriate additions, like leggings. Wrap, tie, and twist until your heart's content.

Whatever may appeal to your spring whims, take risks, go to extremes or try something new. That's what spring is all about. Just remember to flatter your body; you'll look good and feel even better. Otherwise take the liberty of the season to be true to your own inner style guru and explore.

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

Contact Jess Shaffer at jshaffe1@nd.edu



STOP-LOSS DEPICTS CASUALTIES,
HOME AND ABROAD



By Mark Witte
Assistant Scene Editor

Commonly referred to as a "Back Door Draft," stop-loss is a contractual loophole, in which the United States military, in times of war, can retain servicemen by involuntary extending their enlistment terms and refusing to let them retire. This is one of the subjects Kimberly Peirce, the director of the Academy Award winning "Boy's Don't Cry," tackles in her latest film "Stop-Loss."

Sgt. Brandon King (Ryan Phillippe) and a few of his comrades, Sgt. Steve Shriver (Channing Tatum) and SPC Tommy Burgess (Joseph Gordon-Levitt), return from what should have been King and Shriver's final tour in Iraq. However, upon turning in his gear, King learns that he's been commissioned to ship back out to Iraq in less than a month. "You've been stop-lossed," a military clerk tells him.

Feeling betrayed, he takes the issue up with his commanding officer, Lt. Col. Boot Miller (Timothy Olyphant), arguing with the Lieutenant that because the Iraq conflict has not been officially declared a war, the stop-loss clause is invalid. His case falls on deaf ears, and when the Lieutenant threatens to put him in the stockade for insubordination, King starts a scuffle and flees the base.

However, there is more to King's defiance than just betrayal. At the heart of King's refusal to return to Iraq is a deep-rooted type of trauma. But to understand this we must retrace our steps to the first ten minutes of the film.

The movie opens in Tikrit, Iraq, where a car full of insurgents breach Sgt. King's roadblock. He and his men pursue the insurgents into a back alley where the Iraqis ambush them from the rooftops. In the intense shootout that ensues, three of King's men perish and another soldier is critically wounded. Near the end of the skir-

ish, Sgt. Shriver charges into an apartment building and when King storms in to retrieve him, he ends up taking the lives of a number of Iraqi civilians.

Shortly afterward, the men return back to the United States. During the bus ride to the army base in King and Shriver's hometown, their commanding officer, Lt. Col. Boot Miller (Timothy Olyphant) informs his men that they are not to drive drunk or get into fights with civilians. Upon their arrival the inhabitants of the small Texas town hail the returning soldiers as heroes. However, there is something destructive brewing inside these soldiers waiting to erupt. And it doesn't take long.

Burgess starts the night off by getting into a bar fight with a man who mistakenly hits on his wife. Before the night is over, she gets upset over his drunkenness and throws him out, prompting him to drive drunk. Likewise Shriver, in a drunken haze, and hallucinating that he's still in Iraq, hits his fiancé Michelle (Abbie Cornish) before digging a foxhole in her front lawn.

King, Shriver and Burgess decide to escape to King's family ranch to regroup. In a scene embodying of their struggle to readjust, they shoot-up all Burgess' unopened wedding gifts. It is a disturbing portrait of the contrasting lifestyle soldiers returning home are forced to reintegrate into.

And their lives don't get any easier when King is forced to flee town. Without their squadron leader, the lives of Shriver and Burgess really begin to fall apart.

Peirce's film works itself in a circular fashion, bearing toward ending that is inevitable as the future it represents. The soldiers are all connected in their struggles to cope with the horrors they witnessed in Iraq and in their struggles to reenter American society.

There's another scene later in "Stop-Loss," where while traveling to Washington D.C. to sort out his problems, King's car is vandalized. He tracks down the vandals and in a back alley fight nearly kills the men. After disarming them, he lines them up and begins screaming Iraqi ethnic slurs as if they were insurgents. It is a significant insight into the mind of a soldier who cannot differentiate home and peace from war.

"Stop-Loss" avoids judging the Iraq conflict directly, leaving that up to its viewers, but it is unwaveringly honest in its portrayals of pain and confusion. When King describes the Tikrit episode to Michelle, he tries to come to terms with the death of his men and the Iraqi civilians by relating just that confusion: "Everybody's got a weapon. Nobody knows whose who."

It is this kind of world where soldiers and civilians, both home and abroad, carry weapons, and it is this kind of world where the last person who knows whose who is the war-torn soldier, struggling to find a home.

Stop-Loss
MTV Films

Director: Kimberly Peirce
Written by: Mark Richard and Kimberly Peirce
Starring: Ryan Phillippe, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Channing Tatum and Abbie Cornish



Contact Mark Witte at mwitte@nd.edu



MLB

Royals earn opening series sweep as Tigers' offense swoons

Hunter homers in seventh in emotional return to Minnesota, Napoli and Matthews also go yard to lift Angels

Associated Press

DETROIT — The Kansas City Royals were supposed to provide a perfect launching pad for the Detroit Tigers' highly touted offense.

The Royals pitchers did not cooperate, and the Tigers failed to launch.

Zack Greinke had another outstanding pitching performance for Kansas City, allowing one run in seven innings as the Royals finished off a season-opening sweep with a 4-1 win on Thursday.

The Tigers and their \$138.7 million payroll managed five runs in the series, including just one in the final 21 innings.

"We stunk," Tigers manager Jim Leyland said. "We look like we're just going up there and giving at-bats away without any purpose. The manager's responsible for the preparation and the performance of the club, and right now, we don't look very prepared.

"We just look like dead."

Detroit is hitting .206 with 24 strikeouts in three games.

"That's not going to happen too many times to that team," Greinke said. "They might not have another stretch like that all year."

Kansas City is 3-0 for the first time since winning its first nine games in 2003. Last year, the Royals didn't win a series until their sixth try, when they took two of three against Minnesota from April 20-22.

"Obviously, we're very pleased by this — especially with our pitching," rookie manager Trey Hillman said. "It's nice to come in here and play this well against a team like that."

Alex Gordon and Mark Teahan homered for Kansas City. Gordon's two-run shot, a 410-foot liner over the bullpen in left-center, put the Royals ahead in the fourth. It was his second of the year.

"We know that Detroit's going to be very good, so we're going to celebrate this sweep," Gordon said. "Hopefully, we can go to Minnesota and do the same thing."

As a highly touted rookie last season, Gordon didn't hit his second home run until April 21.

"We all know that he's got that power in him," Hillman said. "It's nice to see it coming out in the first series of the year."

The Tigers lost their first three games for the first time since 2003, when they began 0-9 and

finished with an AL-record 119 losses.

"It's early, but you still care about it," said Placido Polanco, who is 1-for-14. "We're not hitting, and if you don't score runs, you don't win. You worry when you don't win games."

Already missing a broken hand, the Tigers played without Miguel Cabrera, who is day to day with a quadriceps strain, then saw designated hitter Gary Sheffield tear a tendon in his left ring finger on a play at second in the eighth inning.

"He would have not been able to hit if we came around to him in the ninth," Leyland said. "I don't know how serious it was, but he couldn't bend it."

Brandon Inge ended Detroit's 18-inning scoreless streak with a solo homer in the seventh.

Greinke (1-0) gave up six hits while improving to 7-3 against Detroit. Ramon Ramirez and Joakim Soria finished, with Soria getting three straight outs for his second save.

Jeremy Bonderman (0-1) gave up four runs and eight hits in 6 1-3 innings. He had been 5-0 in eight previous starts against Kansas City dating to April 2006.

"I threw the ball, but I made two mistakes and they punished me," he said.

Detroit had runners in four of the first five innings, but couldn't get anyone past second base.

Teahan made it 3-0 with a two-out homer in the sixth. Magglio Ordonez led off the bottom half with a long double to center, but Greinke got infield popups from Carlos Guillen and Ivan Rodriguez before Edgar Renteria grounded out.

Jose Guillen had an RBI single in the seventh. Rodriguez struck out to end the eighth with a runner on third.

Angels 6, Twins 4

After four days of standing ovations, two pregame ceremonies to honor him and a week's worth of reminiscing, Torii Hunter is ready to go home.

For the first time in 10 years, home does not mean Minnesota. He's headed back to Los Angeles with the Angels after a draining opening series against his former team, but he made sure to leave Twins fans with a little something to remember him by.

In the final game of an emotional return to the Metrodome, Hunter homered leading off the



Royals left fielder Mark Teahan, right, avoids shortstop Tony Pena, left, to catch a fly ball off the bat of Detroit's Marcus Thames in the ninth inning of Kansas City's 4-1 win on Thursday.

seventh inning to back a strong start from Ervin Santana and help Los Angeles beat Minnesota on Thursday.

"That's big, to kind of end it that way," said Hunter, who was honored with a pregame video on opening day and given his Gold Glove before Game 2. "I started to slow down the last two games. I didn't have any opening-day ceremonies or anything like that.

"It was more emotional, man, than anything. Just coming back, walking up the wrong way, going in the wrong clubhouse, running to center field from the wrong side. It was weird."

Prior to his drive, Hunter had gone just 2-for-14 to start the season and admitted to being gassed from the pageantry and warm welcomes he received from Twins fans who watched him star in center field for the previous nine years.

On getaway day, he had just enough left in him to muscle a mistake from Brian Bass into the seats in left-center field, and the small crowd at the Dome gave one last standing ovation to the fan favorite who signed a \$90 million, five-year deal with

the Angels in the offseason.

Mike Napoli and Gary Matthews Jr. also homered for Los Angeles. Hunter went 1-for-4 to finish the series 3-for-16.

"I am drained. I'm tired. Mentally tired," Hunter said. "I get to go home and relax, back at home in L.A. No pressure. No emotional (situations). I'm good to go."

Francisco Rodriguez got Michael Cuddyer swinging with runners on first and second to end the game and pick up his second save. The Angels took three of four from the Twins to open the season and got an encouraging start from Santana, who gave up just two runs and four hits with three strikeouts in six innings.

Joe Mauer had two doubles and two RBIs for the Twins, who lost starter Kevin Slowey (0-1) in the fourth inning with a strained right biceps.

Slowey, the 2007 Twins minor league player of the year, gave up three runs and four hits in 3 1-3 innings.

Manager Ron Gardenhire said Slowey likely will skip his next start and be evaluated from there.

"It's nothing serious but cer-

tainly nothing that we want to mess around with," Slowey said. "I'll keep it in ice and follow the trainers the next couple days and see how it goes."

Jason Kubel homered in the seventh to cut the lead to 5-4, but that was it for Minnesota's struggling bats. Justin Morneau went 0-for-3 with a sacrifice fly and is 0-for-13 this season.

It had to be a confidence builder for Santana (1-0), who is coming off a trying 2007 that featured him getting knocked out of his spot in the rotation. He also spent a month at Triple-A Salt Lake, and lost some momentum from a promising two-year start to his career.

After winning 24 games in his first two seasons, Santana went 7-14 with a 5.76 ERA last year.

Manager Mike Scioscia said Santana was "terrific" with his mechanics and his command.

"If he can bottle that, he's going to have a good year," Scioscia said.

Despite starting the season with their top two starters — John Lackey and Kelvim Escobar — on the disabled list, the Angels should feel great about their rotation as they leave Minnesota.

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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AROUND THE NATION

Friday, April 4, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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NBA Standings

Eastern Conference

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Boston	60-15	.800	8-2	-
Detroit	53-21	.716	7-3	6.5
Orlando	47-28	.627	6-4	13
Cleveland	42-33	.560	5-5	18
Washington	38-37	.507	5-5	22
Toronto	38-37	.507	5-5	22
Philadelphia	38-37	.507	7-3	22
Atlanta	35-40	.467	8-2	25
New Jersey	31-44	.413	4-6	29
Indiana	31-44	.413	6-4	29
Chicago	29-45	.392	3-7	30.5
Charlotte	28-47	.373	4-6	32
Milwaukee	26-48	.351	3-7	33.5
New York	20-55	.267	1-9	40
Miami	13-62	.173	2-8	47

Western Conference

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
New Orleans	52-22	.703	8-2	-
San Antonio	52-23	.693	8-2	.5
LA Lakers	51-24	.680	6-4	1.5
Phoenix	50-25	.667	7-3	2.5
Utah	50-26	.658	7-3	3
Houston	49-25	.662	5-5	3
Dallas	47-28	.627	5-5	5.5
Denver	46-29	.613	7-3	6.5
Golden State	45-30	.600	4-6	7.5
Portland	38-37	.507	4-6	14.5
Sacramento	34-40	.459	5-5	18
LA Clippers	23-52	.307	2-8	29.5
Memphis	20-55	.267	5-5	32.5
Minnesota	19-55	.257	4-6	33
Seattle	17-58	.227	1-9	35.5

NCAA Men's Baseball Baseball America Rankings

rank	team	overall
1	Arizona State	25-1
2	Miami	21-2
3	North Carolina	21-5
4	Missouri	20-5
5	UC Irvine	19-3
6	Florida State	23-3
7	Cal	18-5
8	Vanderbilt	18-6
9	South Carolina	18-7
10	Long Beach State	17-7
11	Nebraska	21-4
12	Wichita State	20-3
13	Stanford	12-7
14	Virginia	23-5
15	Rice	19-9
16	Texas	18-8
17	San Diego	19-10
18	Arizona	14-9
19	Florida	20-6
20	UNC Wilmington	21-4
21	Kentucky	22-4
22	Michigan	14-6
23	UCLA	12-10
24	Coastal Carolina	21-6
25	Cal State Fullerton	15-9

around the dial

MLB

White Sox vs. Tigers
1:05 p.m., WGN

Astros vs. Cubs
2:20 p.m., Comcast Sports Net

NBA

Mavericks vs. Lakers
10:30 p.m., ESPN

NFL



Former Bengals wide receiver Chris Henry catches a touchdown pass during Cincinnati's 20-17 loss in San Francisco on Dec. 15, 2007. Henry was cut by the Cincinnati after his fifth arrest since 2005.

Bengals cut ties with troubled WR Henry

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Bengals receiver Chris Henry lost his job while in jail awaiting arraignment on assault charges on Thursday.

The Bengals cut him after his fifth arrest since 2005.

An attorney for Henry, 24, entered not guilty pleas for him after Henry was accused of punching an 18-year-old man in the face and breaking his car window with a beer bottle.

Municipal Court Judge Bernie Bouchard set bond at \$51,000 on charges of misdemeanor assault and

criminal damaging. Noting Henry's previous arrests involving drugs, guns and alcohol, the judge called Henry "a one-man crime wave." He ordered electronic monitoring if Henry makes bail.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said it was premature to speculate on Henry's future in the league.

"It will be reviewed under the standard conduct policy," Aiello said.

Henry did not speak at the hearing. His lawyer, Perry Ancona, disputed the allegations in the complaint sworn by Gregory Meyer.

"We have a different set of facts we ask the court to consider," Ancona said.

Minutes before the arraignment, Ancona broke the news to Henry that he had been released.

Bengals president Mike Brown said in a statement that Henry, an often brilliant receiver who would be in his fourth pro season this year, had forfeited his career with the club.

"His conduct can no longer be tolerated," Brown said.

Henry was suspended by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell for the first half of last season for

repeatedly violating the league's conduct policy. He also was suspended for two games in 2006.

"The Bengals tried for an extended period of time to support Chris and his potentially bright career," Brown said. "We had hoped to guide him toward an appropriate standard of personal responsibility that this community would support and that would allow him to play in the NFL. ... But those efforts end today, as we move on with what is best for our team."

Henry's agent, Marvin Frazier, thanked the Bengals for their patience.

IN BRIEF

Shoulder injury won't keep Parker out of Final Four

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee All-American Candace Parker's shoulder dislocation has mended to the point where the Lady Vols said Thursday she has been cleared to play in the Final Four this weekend.

"Following further evaluation and consultation, doctors said Parker was found to have a non-traumatic shoulder dislocation," Lady Vols trainer Jenny Moshak said in a statement. "Furthermore, she has very good range of motion and very good strength. She has been cleared to play and will wear a shoulder brace."

Parker will continue to rehab the shoulder since suffering the injury in Tuesday's victory over Texas A&M that put Tennessee in its 17th Final Four. The Lady Vols play LSU on Sunday.

"It's ugly to look at," team trainer Jenny Moshak told The Tennessean on Wednesday. "Basically, she had a bone sticking out."

MLB asks Canseco to aid in steroids investigation

NEW YORK — Jose Canseco was approached by two employees from Major League Baseball before a book signing appearance, and the lawyer for the former AL MVP said they asked for assistance in drug investigations.

"You could have knocked us over with a feather," Canseco's lawyer, Robert Saunooke, said Thursday. "Four years of denial and treating him as a pariah, and now they want his help."

Saunooke said he and Canseco spoke with the investigators, Eduardo Dominguez Jr. and Victor Burgos, for about 15 minutes Wednesday in the green room of a Barnes & Noble bookstore in Manhattan.

"We asked, 'Why didn't you come before?'" Saunooke said, "and they said, 'Those are good points. You're right, and now we want you help. Anything you can do to help us, we would be very interested in.'"

Athletes to be tested for HGH before Olympics

LONDON — Athletes around the world will be subjected to out-of-competition tests for human growth hormone in the lead-up to the Beijing Olympics, marking a potential breakthrough against one of the most widely abused doping substances in sports.

David Howman, director general of the World Anti-Doping Agency, said Thursday that newly produced HGH testing kits soon will be distributed to accredited doping labs around the globe to screen blood samples for the banned performance-enhancing hormone.

An improved HGH test also will be in place during the Aug. 8-24 Olympics.

"We are expecting that an athlete will see this is going to happen and will be deterred from using the substance," Howman said in a telephone interview. "There may be those who will take major risks. We hope that they are majorly caught out, simple as that."

NFL

Del Rio signs five-year contract extension with Jaguars

Jacksonville is 45-35 during his tenure with two playoff appearances including an 11 win season last year

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE — Jaguars coach Jack Del Rio signed a five-year contract extension Thursday, a reward for winning his first playoff game.

Del Rio's salary was not disclosed, but it was believed to be a significant jump from the original five-year, \$6.5 million contract he signed in 2003.

The Jaguars were 11-5 last season, beat Pittsburgh in the first round of the playoffs and then ended the season with a 31-20 loss at New England.

"Clearly when I reflect back on the last five years, great things have happened," team owner Wayne Weaver said. "Under Jack's leadership, this franchise has continued to really make great progress."

Jacksonville is 45-35 in five years under Del Rio and has two playoff appearances, the first of which landed the coach a contract extension that paid him \$3 million annually the last two years.

Del Rio's deal could keep him in Jacksonville through the 2012 season.

"I look forward to building

on what we have begun," Del Rio said a day before his 45th birthday. "I really do feel that there is something very special taking place here in Jacksonville right now."

Del Rio believes the Jaguars have closed the gap on AFC powers New England and Indianapolis, especially after the team's offseason makeover.

Del Rio hired four new assistant coaches, including defensive coordinator Gregg Williams, and parted ways with several aging veterans. Then he signed cornerback Drayton Florence and receivers Jerry Porter and Troy Williamson in free agency.

He also traded oft-injured, three-time Pro Bowl defensive tackle Marcus Stroud to

Buffalo in exchange for two draft picks.

"We believe the arrow is up and we ought to be able to compete at the very highest level this year," Weaver said.

With Del Rio's deal done, Weaver said the Jaguars will turn their attention to getting quarterback David Garrard a new contract.

Garrard is entering the final year of a four-year deal worth about \$2 million annually.

"I think you can expect something on the quarterback," Weaver said. "We hope

it'll be sooner than later. We think the world of David. He's the guy that we believe can lead us and bring that world championship here to Jacksonville, so hopefully we'll get that done sooner than later."

"Clearly, when I reflect back on the last five years, great things have happened. Under Jack's leadership, this franchise has continued to really make great progress."

**Wayne Weaver
Jaguars' owner**



Jaguars' head coach Jack Del Rio sends signals to his defense in the Jaguars' 31-29 win over the Steelers during last year's wildcard game.

MEN'S GOLF

Irish Invitational begins Saturday

Team getting off two-week layoff after 10th place finish in Tucson

By PETER REISENAUER
Sports Writer

Notre dame looks to defend its greens when teams from all over the country fly into South Bend to compete in the Irish Invitational on Saturday.

The Irish have had themselves a two-week break since their last tournament, the National Invitational Tournament, in which they fin-

ished tied for 10th place. The bright spot in the tournament was once again junior Josh Sandman, who upon tying for 10th place became the first golfer for Notre Dame to finish in the top-10 in three consecutive tournaments in eight years.

Notre Dame needs to drive the ball a little bit better this weekend if they hope to compete.

The Irish believe that this

tournament can help them turn their spring season around and possibly give them some momentum heading into the Big East tournament in two weeks.

Doug Fortner built some momentum during the National Invitation Tournament when he move up 10 spots on the last day.

Contact Peter Reisenauer at preisena@nd.edu

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For more information, please view our job posting on **GoIrish**, or contact Jeff Osborn at josborn@prosportsmarketing.net.



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The
Observer

Spring Visitation Weekend Prospects Arrive on Campus

The Office of Undergraduate Admissions would like to recognize and welcome the 101 prospective African American, Asian American, Latino and Native American students visiting campus to attend this year's Spring Visitation Weekend

The University of Notre Dame Welcomes the Following Students:

Karen Acevedo	Port Hueneme, CA	Rachel Lee	Livonia, MI
Danielle Achiardi	Las Vegas, NV	Cesar Leyva	El Paso, TX
Ashley Ainley	Sacramento, CA	Yuan Lin	Medina, NY
Alan Alaniz	Rio Grande City, TX	Maricruz Luna	Houston, TX
Kenenna Amuzie	Lawrenceville, GA	Antwane Mason	Gary, IN
Jonathan Barnett	Hudson, OH	Jaime Montes	Vinton, TX
Alexander Barrosse	Yardley, PA	Heidy Morales	Whittier, CA
Erik Blackwood	Chula Vista, CA	Julian Murphy	Anderson, IN
Christina Chavarin	Middleburg, FL	Bernard Nartey	Chicago, IL
Tony Dang	Granger, IN	Ralanda Nelson	Huntington, NY
David Davila	Riverside, CA	Joseph Nguyen	Whitehall, PA
Yessenia Diaz De Leon	Chicago, IL	Dorothy Nguyen	San Diego, CA
Jacqueline Diaz De Leon	Elgin, IL	Patricia Nicholls	Plano, TX
Thuong Dinh	Marietta, GA	Chimno Nnadi	New Milford, NJ
Linh Gavin Do	Texarkana, AR	Izundu Obi-Onuoha	Raleigh, NC
Andrea Drayton	Buffalo, NY	Abigail Ochoa	Houston, TX
Katie Druen	Turlock, CA	Ijeoma Offodile	Kent, OH
Nneka Ekechukwu	Myrtle Beach, SC	Anthonia Ojo	Spring Branch, TX
Matthew Esparza	El Paso, TX	Nnena Okeke	Houston, TX
Jesus Espinoza	Rio Rico, AZ	Jermain Onye	Cincinnati, OH
Michelle Ferreira	San Gabriel, CA	Kevin Park	Bayside, NY
Anne Fredell	Colorado Springs, CO	Manali Patel	Parlin, NJ
Marcus Garcia	Turlock, CA	Maricel Paz	Homestead, FL
Albert Garcia	Dallas, TX	Stephanie Perez	Baytown, TX
Adrienne Garcia Waddell	Austin, TX	Hannah Peterson	Bakersfield, CA
Eric Garduno	Miami, FL	Natalie Rufat	Miami, FL
Dionna Gary	South Bend, IN	Dora Servin	Fillmore, CA
Katherine Gaston	New Orleans, LA	Erica Silva	Santa Fe, NM
Oscar Gonzalez	Los Fresnos, TX	Samantha Smith	Grand Prairie, TX
Erika Gustafson	Wheaton, IL	Eugene Staples	South Bend, IN
Maria Julia Gutierrez	Brownsville, TX	Anna Svensson	Upper Saddle River, NJ
Massiel Gutierrez	Jersey City, NJ	Hannah Tan	Placentia, CA
Christopher Hammitt	Cloquet, MN	Alejandro Torres	Dallas, TX
Ashley Havens	Corpus Christi, TX	Albert Toscano	Pico Rivera, CA
Senay Hawelti	Hawthorne, CA	Ashley Toscano	Round Rock, TX
Crystal Ho	Brownsville, TX	Stephanie Townsend	Mesa, AZ
Taylor Hodges	Portland, OR	Vy Tran	Westminster, CA
Sarah Hodges	Leesburg, FL	Quan Tran	Spring, TX
Winnie Hu	Dix Hills, NY	Katlyn Turner	Granger, IN
Khai-Hoan Huynh	Westminster, CA	Aimee Uwilingiyimana	Buffalo, NY
Julie Hyppolite	Marlboro, NJ	Rafael Vasquez	Avondale, AZ
Shirley Ip	Brooklyn, NY	Lisa Vavricka	Pasadena, TX
Daniel Johansen	Tracy, CA	Omar Veloz	El Paso, TX
Jose Juarez	Ontario, Canada	Carla Villacis	Pequea, PA
Cindy Kang	Federal Way, WA	Jacob Wamala	Milford, NH
Richard Kim	Winnetka, CA	Melissa Woo	Walnut Creek, CA
Rachael Kirkwood	Gulfport, MS	Maryam Yoon	Nashville, TN
William Kolbus	South Bend, IN	Kelly Yuen	South Bend, IN
Marysa Lai	Bloomington, MN	Aditi Zaveri	National City, CA
Vincent Lau	Chanute, KS	Nancy Zhu	New York, NY
Seung Lee	Montrose, CA		

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Squad ousts top ranked Blue Devils

Strong play from goalie Goodman key to win

By ANDY ZICCARELLI
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame and Duke women's lacrosse teams entered Thursday's game heading in different directions, with the Irish having won 5 of 6 and with Duke riding a 2-game losing streak. Thanks to arguably their best performance of the year, the Irish were able to keep their momentum going and keep Duke stuck in neutral — defeating the seventh-ranked Blue Devils by a score of 12-8. The win was Notre Dame's first over a top 10 opponent this season.

"We were able to dominate them from start to finish," said Irish coach Tracy Coyne. "It was an awesome all-around team performance."

She mentioned strong showings from players from all over the field, noting the play of junior goalkeeper Erin Goodman and the all-around play of senior midfielder Caitlin McKinney.

Duke opened the scoring in the game, running out to a 1-0 lead just 33 seconds into the game. However, the Irish were quick to respond, scoring the next five goals in the game and taking a lead that they would never relinquish. Notre Dame went into the half with a 7-3 lead.

"We had a solid game plan and we executed it to a tee," said Coyne. "And when we came out with adjustments, we handled those as well." It was evident, as the strong play continued into the second half. The teams traded goals until, with an 11-8 lead, junior attack Jillian Byers scored with 1:58 left, dealing the proverbial

nail in the coffin. Byers has been a consistent scoring threat all season long, but was quick to deflect the spotlight onto her teammates as well.

"We have a lot of young guns who are stepping up," Byers said. "I definitely don't do it by myself."

Also crucial in the victory was the ability to shut down the Blue Devils' top scoring threat, Carolyn Davis. The junior attempted 10 shots, but only found the net once, and was hounded by the Irish defense all game long.

The win marked the first time the Irish have ever won in Durham, N.C. — they were previously 0-5 — and only the second time they have defeated the Blue Devils in school history. More significantly, the win solidifies Notre Dame's spot among the game's elite.

"This game shows that we can beat a top 10 team," said Coyne. "Not just play with them, but actually beat them."

Additionally, the win was a crucial first step in a grueling three-game stretch in which the Irish will travel to top-ranked Northwestern and will visit Big East leader Georgetown. Coyne thinks the team now has the mental makeup to make some noise late in the season as they push for a Big East championship and, eventually, a run at the National Championship.

"Obviously this win gives us a lot of confidence," said Coyne.

Armed with confidence, the Irish will take on No. 1 Northwestern in Evanston, Ill. on Thursday at 7 p.m.

Contact Andy Zicarelli at
azicare@nd.edu

SMC GOLF

Belles compete in tourney

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's will compete in its last tournament before playing its first NCAA qualifying match when they tee off at the Tri-State Invitational event this weekend in Angola, Ind.

The Belles have some ground to make up after finishing third in the MIAA conference during the fall season.

The first two tournaments of the spring season have yielded discouraging results.

In their first event, the St. Andrews Invitational, the Belles finished 10th place out of 11 teams.

The second event was more of the same. In the Northern Kentucky Invitational, the Belles finished 18th out of 21 teams.

The competition levels in these tournaments are much higher than what they will be facing in the NCAA qualifier.

Both tournaments included numerous Div. II opponents and top-ranked Div. III foes.

Belles coach Mark Hamilton believes his team has a good shot to be successful in the upcoming national qualifiers.

"The way I see it, we have a week and a half to shave off about ten strokes from our total before the qualifier tournament," said Hamilton. "But I think we have worked harder than our competition and have made the necessary improvements to catch and surpass them."

The Belles are led by their senior captain Katie O'Brien who has shot the lowest score in every tournament so far this season. Freshman Rosie O'Connor has topped us as a solid No. 2 for Saint Mary's finishing right behind O'Brien in both spring tournaments.

Mark Hamilton
Belles' coach

Contact Alex Barker at
abarker1@nd.edu

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ATP

Roddick ends 11-match skid against Federer in Florida

Williams advances to the finals with comeback win against Svetlana, on verge of fifth Key Biscayne Tournament victory

Associated Press

KEY BISCAYNE — Andy Roddick whacked one last thunderous serve to finally beat Roger Federer, then slowly walked to the net with his head down, as if unsure how to celebrate such a rare achievement.

With an almost flawless performance, Roddick ended a streak of 11 consecutive losses against his nemesis Thursday at the Sony Ericsson Open. Roddick dominated with his serve and took advantage of Federer's suddenly shaky play down the stretch to win 7-6 (4), 4-6, 6-3 in the quarterfinals.

"I came in knowing that nobody has beaten me 12 times in a row," Roddick told the delighted capacity crowd afterward. "So I had that on my side."

In the women's semifinals, Serena Williams overcame a slow start to outlast Svetlana Kuznetsova 3-6, 7-5, 6-3. Williams needs one more win for her fifth Key Biscayne title and second in a row.

"I haven't won anything five times, except I win all the time in Uno," Williams said. "I don't think that counts."

Her opponent Saturday will be No. 4-seeded Jelena Jankovic, who beat No. 19 Vera Zvonareva 6-1, 6-4. Jankovic made the final after barely surviving her opening match, when she saved five match points.

Roddick improved to 2-15 against Federer, who came into the tournament hoping to quell talk that his game is in decline. Slowed by mononucleosis early in the year, the top-ranked Federer has yet to reach a final in 2008, making this his worst start since 2000.

"I am just sort of disappointed not to see my name playing in the finals," Federer said. "I think I have the game to obviously be there."

Roddick's opponent in the semifinals Friday night will be No. 4 Nikolay Davydenko, who beat unseeded Janko Tipsarevic 6-2, 6-1.

To beat Federer for the first time since 2003, Roddick had to be at his best, especially down the stretch. He fell behind love-30 serving at 3-3 in the final set, then won the next 11 points, five of them thanks to unforced errors by Federer.

Twice during the stretch Federer shanked shots.

"I figure I was due," Roddick said. "He hadn't missed a ball in a crucial moment for about six years against me. I figured the law of statistics had to come my way eventually."

Federer lost serve at love to fall behind 5-3, losing the only break point he faced in the match. Roddick closed out the victory with a 140-mph service winner, and he served well throughout, hitting 18 aces — including two in the tiebreaker.

That helped him end a streak of 10 consecutive sets lost against Federer.

"I always said it's tough to play against Andy — you know, that serve," Federer said. "He's always going to have a chance. That's why I'm quite amazed about my record against him."

Roddick improved to 1-0 against Federer since his recent engagement to swimsuit model Brooklyn Decker, who watched from the stands.

"Being happy and content off the court is only going to help in my mind," Roddick said. Seeded sixth, he's two rounds from his second Key Biscayne title.

Williams toiled for nearly three hours to reach match point against Kuznetsova, then

hit two more shots and raised a fist, tired but triumphant. On a muggy, 85-degree afternoon, Williams' newfound fitness may have made the difference.

She arrived for this year's tournament a slimmer Williams, joking after one win that this is the best she has looked since 1982. She was then an infant.

Her recent rigorous training regimen paid off in a semifinal that became a test of stamina.

"I don't feel tired or sore or anything," Williams said 90 minutes after the match. "I feel like I'm really fit. I've been working really hard."

In the final set, Williams broke for a 5-3 lead when she skipped a shot off the net cord, leaving Kuznetsova with an awkward backhand she dumped into the net.

Williams slammed her 12th ace to reach match point, and Kuznetsova then sailed a lob long.

"Serena was a bit fresher," Kuznetsova said. "In the end she was moving well and serving incredibly hard."

Williams' home-court advantage may have been a factor, too. She grew up in nearby

Palm Beach Gardens.

"Serena, this is your house," one fan yelled.

Her 46-5 record at Key Biscayne suggests he's right.

"I love playing here," Williams said. "All my friends come out. I promised tickets for Saturday, so I was like, 'I can't lose. I've got to stay in there a little bit longer.' It was mainly my motivation."

Kuznetsova, the 2006 Key Biscayne champion, eliminated three-time champion Venus Williams in the quarterfinals and made a strong bid to complete a sweep of the family.

Serena Williams had a flurry of unforced errors at the start, and she appeared to hurt her back chasing a backhand on the final point of the fourth game. In the next game, Kuznetsova fell behind love-40 on her serve, then won five consecutive points for a 4-1 lead.

Williams then took an injury timeout, and said it later felt as if she had been stuck in the back. A massage from a trainer alleviated the problem.

"Once she came out it got better, like straightaway," Williams said, "and it got even better after that."

ND MEN'S LACROSSE

Laxers carry offensive momentum to Illinois

By GRIFFIN DASSATTI
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will look to keep their offensive firepower going as they take on the Pioneers of Denver this Saturday at 3 p.m. at Toyota Park in Bridgeview, Ill.

Since their 8-6 loss to North Carolina March 8 — the team's only blemish on the season — the Irish (7-1), ranked No. 7 in the most recent Nike/Inside Lacrosse poll have gone on a tear, scoring an average of 17 goals in their last three games.

In the team's most recent contest, a 19-7 drubbing of Bellarmine last Saturday, senior midfielder Michael Podgajny led all scorers with four goals while senior attack Alex Wharton tallied three assists to go along with a goal of his own. Irish head coach Kevin Corrigan credits the offensive explosion to the team hitting its collective midseason stride.

"It's a great example of the sum being greater than the parts," he said. "Our offense has really played well together. They've developed a great

chemistry and they work not only to create opportunities for themselves but opportunities for the offense. I think that's been a great formula for us and hopefully the best is yet to come."

Going into this weekend's game against Denver, Corrigan said he and his team have a lot of respect for the Pioneers, a team that has had a lot of success late in games.

"Denver is a good team that is playing well right now," Corrigan said Thursday. "They've won five of their last six games. They've come from behind in at least three of those games and won two in OT. You're talking about a team that's really worked hard to put themselves in a great position this season and own a lot of close games so we're looking forward to a good game."

Corrigan said he is particularly excited about playing in Toyota Park, the recently constructed stadium and new home of Major League Soccer's Chicago Fire.

Contact Griffin Dassatti at gdassatt@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S TRACK

Irish to run in separate meets

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will split up this weekend, as the Irish will participate in both the Stanford and Purdue Invationals.

Senior runner Jacqueline Carter and throwers junior Anna Weber and sophomore Jaclyn Espinoza will travel with some other members of the men's team to compete in the Stanford Invitational in Palo Alto, Calif.

"The Stanford meet is a very high level of competition, especially in the distances and throws," Irish coach Tim Connelly said. "We sent people whom we felt would benefit

from that level of competition."

The Purdue Invitational will provide solid practice for the rest of the Irish who will be competing against a variety of schools.

"Some of our top people should find good competition there [at Purdue], but there should also be competition that our more developing athletes should benefit from," Connelly said.

The outdoor season has been a success so far for the Irish. The first meet of the season, the Arizona State Invitational, produced a number of solid results.

"Our sprinters, throwers, and 800 meter runners got off to a very good start, with a

number of NCAA Regional qualifying marks," Connelly said.

Junior Alyssa Hasan and the Irish 4x400-meter relay team have each qualified to compete in the NCAA regional meet at the end of the season.

Freshman Marissa Treece will not be competing in this weekend's meet and will be held out of competition until at least May.

"Treece won't compete until at least the week before the Big East meet," said Connelly. "She needs to recover from the World XC meet so that she can have a strong May and June."

Contact Alex Barker at abarker1@nd.edu

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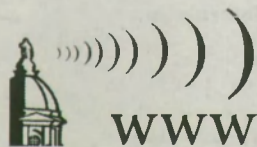
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NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Buckeyes clinch NIT title with win over UMass

Associated Press

NEW YORK — In a locker room outburst equal parts joy and angst, Jamar Butler finally dropped the charade Ohio State had been playing for nearly three weeks and revealed its main motivating factor for a roughshod run through the NIT.

"This is what happens when you put an NCAA tournament team in the NIT," Butler yelled, surrounded by his teammates after beating Massachusetts 92-85 in the title game Thursday night. "Write that down and send that to the committee."

A year removed from a loss in the national championship game, the Buckeyes have a trophy to carry home — even if it's not the one they had wanted.

"Kind of a sore loser," coach Thad Matta said, when asked whether he would watch the Final Four this weekend. "I don't know what I'm going to do. I think I'm going to rest."

Butler had 19 points and eight assists in his final college game, which culminated with the kind of raucous victory celebration inside Madison Square Garden that he couldn't have last year in Atlanta.

The Buckeyes lost to Florida in the Final Four, and a snub by the NCAA selection committee kept them from playing for another trip there. They rebounded to dominate each of their four opponents on the way to New York, then had enough to withstand every UMass run.

"In 24 hours I've probably watched 10 or 12 games they played," Minutemen coach Travis Ford said, "and I never saw them shoot like that."

Kosta Koufos added 22 points and earned the tournament's most outstanding player award. Evan Turner finished with 20 for the Buckeyes (24-13), who shot 63 percent (19-of-30) from the field in the second half.

"They had their press coming at us," Butler said, "and once we broke out, I think we were fine on the open floor and I think we made great plays."

Ricky Harris scored 27 for UMass (25-11), hitting three 3-pointers in the closing minutes

to help the Minutemen stay close.

The last of them made it 77-75 with 3:13 left, but Othello Hunter scored moments later and after Harris missed another 3 try at the other end, Butler drained a 3-pointer from the wing to give Ohio State some breathing room.

Turner took care of things from the free throw line over the final minute and a half, helping the Buckeyes wrap up the title.

"I've seen this team go through a lot," Matta said, moments before cutting down the net. "I'm happy for them."

Etienne Brower, one of four players in the starting lineup who grew up in New York, had 17 points and 12 rebounds for UMass. Gary Forbes finished with 16 points and six assists, and Dante Milligan scored 14.

Massachusetts dominated Ohio State on the boards, out-rebounding the bigger Buckeyes 49-37 and corralling a startling 30 on the offensive end. But UMass figured to be in trouble when the frenetic pace that it also enjoys kept up in the second half: Ohio State was 15-1 this season when scoring at least 70 points.

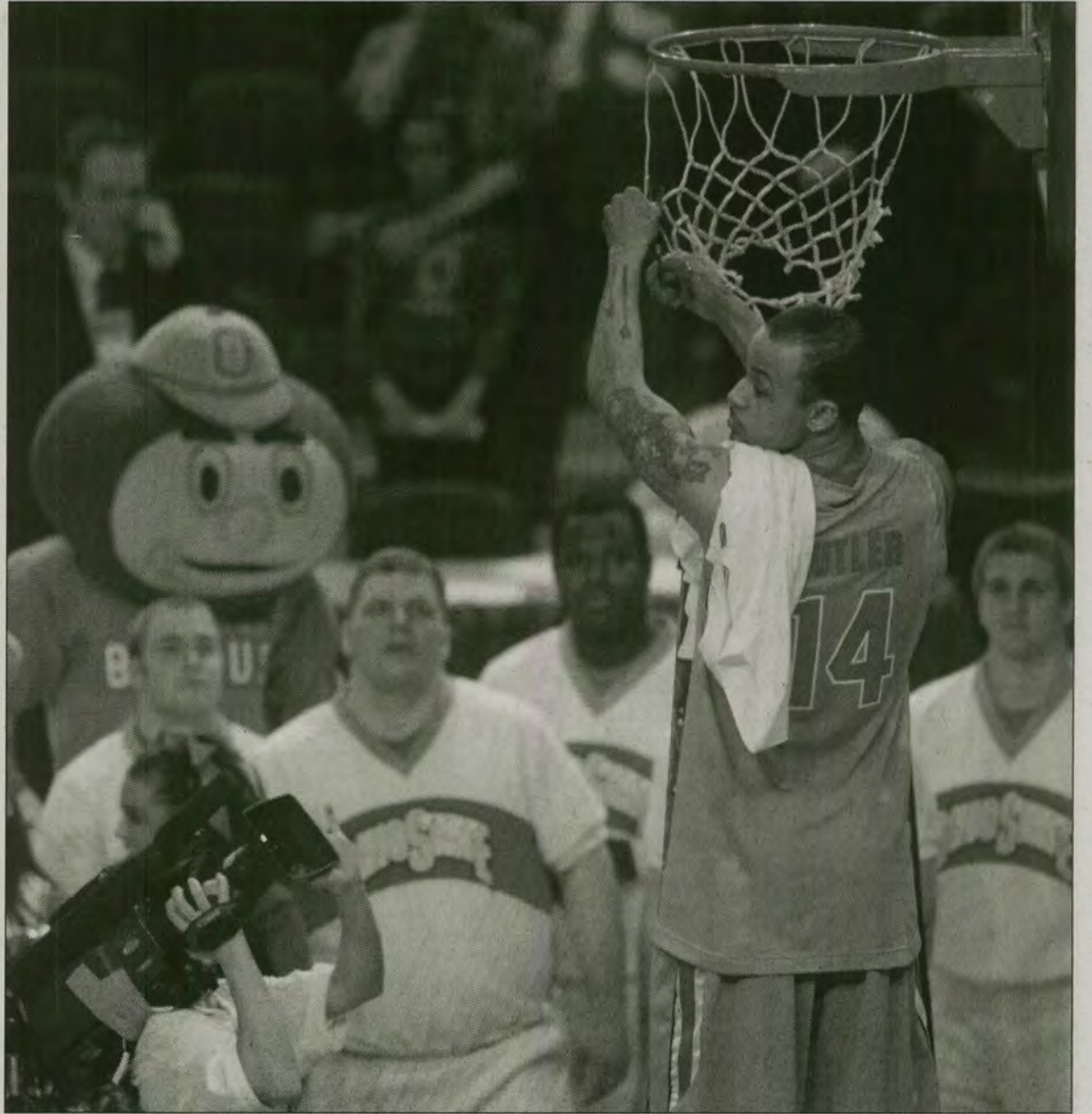
"We didn't even know if we were up or down, we were just giving it all we had," Brower said. "They're a solid team."

Massachusetts put a scare into Ohio State from the moment the last notes of the national anthem were played, rushing the entire length of the court to shake hands with its stoic, startled Big Ten opponent.

The Minutemen kept racing once the ball was thrown up, forcing three turnovers in the first 2 minutes and taking a 10-2 lead on a basket by Milligan.

The Buckeyes came right back, with Hunter scoring four of his 17 points to cap a 13-2 run and take a brief lead. But the Minutemen again edged ahead, and Forbes' 3-pointer with 3:50 left before halftime got the team's assistant coaches so animated the referees stopped to calm them down.

Fourteen busloads of people were ferried to New York from



Ohio State guard Jamal Butler cuts a piece of the net in celebration after the 92-85 Buckeye win to seal the NIT title Thursday.

the UMass campus in Amherst, but they represented just a fraction of the partisan crowd. The school sold its allotment of tickets quickly, and appeared to have far more dressed in its slightly darker shade of red than its counterpart from Columbus.

"You can see by the fan support that came out, we made a difference since I've been here," said Forbes, a senior playing his last game. "A lot of fans have come out, supported us, and this has been a great roll."

Now they all have to sit back

and wonder whether the popular Ford will stay in town. His name has popped up as a leading candidate for the opening at LSU, which could offer the former Kentucky player a chance to return to his roots in the Southeastern Conference.

One fan, wearing a UMass jersey a couple rows behind their

bench, held up a sign that pleaded, "Please Stay Travis." A couple rows down was another sign that read, "Travis Ford, Forget LSU."

Ford said he hasn't spoken with any other schools, but wouldn't say whether he would listen to offers in the coming days.

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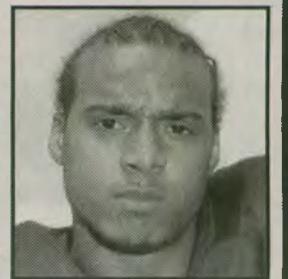
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NBA

Gordon's well-timed free throws clinch win

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Hunched over an ice-filled tub as he soaked his ankles and feet, LeBron James rubbed his forehead and groaned.

The back spasms weren't relenting.

They kept coming back — just like the Chicago Bulls.

Ben Gordon made five clutch free throws down the stretch and Larry Hughes scored 19 of his 25 points in the second half against his former team, rallying the Bulls to a 101-98 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Thursday night.

The Bulls, with nothing to play for in the season's final weeks, overcame a 17-point deficit in the second half and snapped a six-game road losing streak.

Hughes, traded by the Cavaliers to Chicago at the Feb. 21 deadline, added nine assists and eight rebounds in 45 minutes. Gordon scored 24 points and Luol Deng and Andres Nocioni had 15 each.

James scored 33 to lead Cleveland, but with his back tightening, he scored just one point in the fourth and missed all five field-goal tries. With their go-to-superstar unable to cut, jump and move as usual, the Cavaliers scored only 13 points in the final 12 minutes.

"It was tough to do some of the things that I wanted to do," he said.

Still, the Cavaliers had a chance to take the lead in the

closing seconds. But James, the NBA's leading scorer, drove the left side and was short on a double-pumping layup with 5.9 seconds to go. James as well as coach Mike Brown felt he was fouled by rookie Joakim Noah, who stepped in front to contest the shot.

"I went up and got hit on the arm," James said. "But that's not why we lost the game."

Following James' miss, Gordon was fouled and made two free throws with 3.4 seconds remaining to put the Bulls ahead by three.

Cleveland had one last chance, but after catching a pass from James, Daniel Gibson missed a potential game-tying 3-pointer before the horn.

The Bulls' season has been a complete disaster, but they never quit against a Cleveland team still trying to secure home-court advantage in the first round.

"It says a lot about our guys to get down 17 on the road against a team like this and fight our way back," interim coach Jim Boylan said.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored 23 points for the Cavaliers, who are trying to nail down the No. 4 seed in the Eastern Conference.

Trailing since early in the second quarter, the Bulls finally caught the Cavs and took the lead at 99-98 with 1:42 left when Gordon knocked down three straight free throws after being fouled by Delonte West while attempting a 3-pointer.



Bulls guard Ben Gordon drives past Cavaliers guard Daniel Gibson in a 101-98 Chicago victory in Cleveland Thursday.

Bookstore

continued from page 24

665 by forfeit over Prima Ballerinas

The team known only as "665" won by forfeit over the Prima Ballerinas, who didn't make it to the court. In their first round game, 665's opponents almost didn't make an appearance either, not arriving until 15 minutes after the game was scheduled to start.

They don't know who they're playing next, but, "They might as well not even show up," 665 team member Emma Klosterman said.

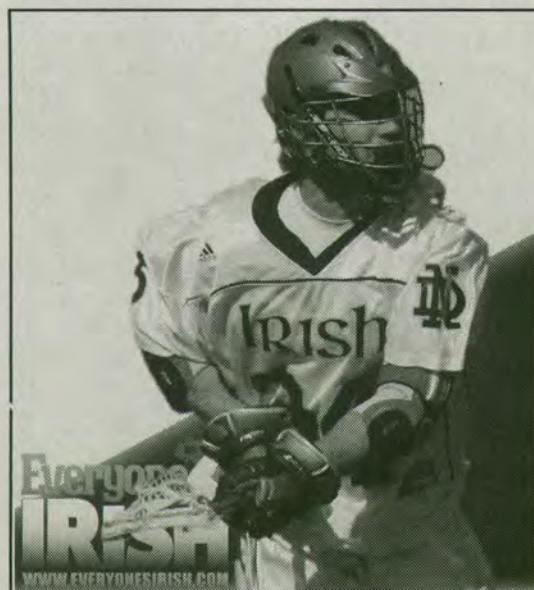
"It's disappointing because we were excited to play," Lynch said. "But we're looking forward to Wednesday."

Lynch, Klosterman, along teammates Colleen Flahive, Michelle Maitz, and Nicole Bobowski will compete Wednesday against the winner of the Nickelodeon Moonshoes or Academic Freedom.

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

Youth Ministry

The parishes of Mt. St. Peter and All Saints in New Kensington, PA, (located in the Diocese of Greensburg) are seeking a dynamic leader for a full-time position as Coordinator of Youth Ministry. This position is envisioned as one of coordination of junior and senior high youth. An intergenerational, experiential catechetical model is desired. Weekends and evening hours required. Applicant should possess a BA in theology, religious education or related field. Persons submitting resumes should be Catholics in good standing. Send cover letter, resume and two letters of recommendation to Bill Staniszewski, Mount Saint Peter Church, 100 Freeport Road, New Kensington, PA 15068 by April 15, 2008.



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vs. SYRACUSE
 SUN, APRIL 6 @ 12PM

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Big East

continued from page 24

they hope not to repeat this weekend.

After exploding for eight runs against IUPUI on March 26, the Irish offense has been in a bit of a slump, scoring only five runs in the three games since then. Thanks to stellar pitching, however, they were able to come away with wins in two of those contests with the only loss being a 2-1 defeat at the hands of DePaul, who is No. 18 in the latest NFCA poll.

St. John's (15-9, 2-4) and Seton Hall (11-18, 0-6) opened their conference schedules in a doubleheader against each other at St. John's on March 22. St. John's took both of those games, registering their only wins in conference thus far.

The Red Storm and the Pirates both met South Florida and Louisville for doubleheaders following their meeting. Each squad

dropped two games each to the Bulls and Cardinals, who currently sit first and second, respectively, in the Big East standings.

St. John's was able to rebound following their four straight conference losses when they stepped outside the league and swept a doubleheader against Army on Wednesday.

While their upcoming opponents may have struggled lately, the Irish will be careful not to take anything for granted this weekend.

"The biggest thing for this team to stay sharp is to play seven hard innings every game," Bargar said. "We can not let up on anything, not a single out or pitch. Every play, we have to finish."

Action in Jamaica, New York against St. John's is set to begin at noon on Saturday, while the doubleheader against Seton Hall will begin at 11 a.m. in South Orange, NJ.

Contact Chris Doyen at cdoyen@nd.edu

Florida

continued from page 24

and hopefully that'll give us some momentum heading into the Big East Tournament."

This season has been marked by historic successes for the Irish. The squad has had a program-record four first-place finishes this season, including a program-first three consecutive tournament victories. Notre Dame also collected honors at Golf World Magazine's mid-season awards banquet, being named the most surprising women's team, while Irish freshman So-Hyun Park was named most surprising women's player. Park is on pace to shatter the program's single-season scoring record of 74.12 with a season average of 73.26, and has carded eight consecutive top-10 finishes, including two first-

place finishes. Holt is not surprised by the team's successes.

"As a group, we're right on target,"

Holt said.

"As a team, at the beginning of the year, we set high goals for ourselves. People on the outside might be surprised, but to be honest, we aren't. We made a commitment to do exactly what we're doing. We're on track."

Although Park has set the pace for Notre Dame, the team has succeeded in large part because of solid contri-

butions from everyone on the team. Each golfer has recorded at least one top-ten finish this year, with junior captain

Lisa Maunu opening up the season with a first-place finish at the Cougar Classic last Fall. Holt has attributed her squad's success to fundamentals and mental focus.

"Golf is basically hitting shots and playing holes and managing our game," Holt said. "We have to get into our mode, that thought

process, that comes with managing the course well."

Contact Michael Blasco at mblasco@nd.edu

"As a group, we're right on target. As a team, at the beginning of the year, we set high goals for ourselves. People on the outside might be surprised, but to be honest, we aren't. We made a commitment to do exactly what we're doing. We're on track."

Susan Holt
Irish coach

Streak

continued from page 24

After losing their previous seven matches, the Orange have found some momentum by winning three in a row over Villanova, Colgate, and St. John's.

Syracuse has played well against its foes from the Big East, going 6-4 in conference play this year. Notre Dame will face just its third conference opponent of the dual season and enters the match with a 2-0 record against the Big

East.

Syracuse will travel to South Bend for the first time in history. Notre Dame has won the previous four meetings, all at other venues. The match has been moved back to 1 p.m. ET to make it the back half of a Sunday morning doubleheader with the Notre Dame men's tennis match against William & Mary.

With the level of competition and amount of matches rising, the depth of Notre Dame will continue to be tested. Notre Dame Head Coach Jay Louderback recognizes the need for depth and how

important it has been this season.

"Being really deep is something that's been a factor the whole year for us. We are able to compete all the way down the lineup," Louderback said.

With Kristen Rafael day-to-day due to a sprained ankle, the lineup switches have showcased the depth Louderback has at his disposal.

"Katie [Potts] played great yesterday, and Kali [Krisik] is playing well down there at five and six. It takes the pressure off the top, and actually they even play with more pressure at the bottom, because

they feel like everyone above them is going to win," Louderback said.

The desire for team success pushes individual accomplishments to the back burner. Louderback says his players do not focus on personal rankings but rather on the team.

"The only time we look at [rankings] is the end of the year because they use it to put kids into the individual tournaments," Louderback said. "Otherwise, we really don't look at it much at all."

The focus instead is on getting reps outdoors in preparation for the final week of matches and

postseason play.

"Our biggest thing now is just getting outdoors because the Big East and NCAA tournaments are both outdoors. So any chance we get to practice and play matches outside is big for us," Louderback said.

Louderback anticipates both matches this weekend being outdoors as the team starts to wrap up the regular season, make final preparations, and look forward to a deep postseason run.

Contact Dan Masterton at dmastert@nd.edu

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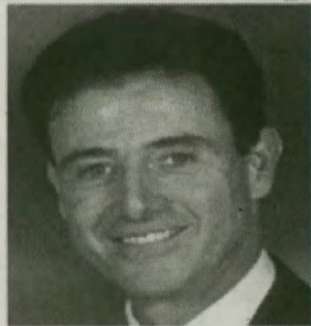
MICHAEL MIKUSKA

The Observer apologizes for the absence of Black Dog.

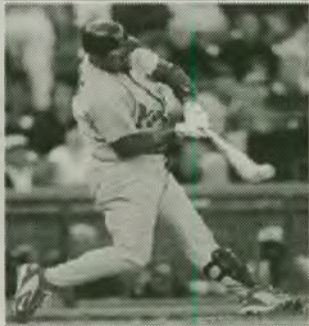
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DIDIER LEWIS

Cardinals that would be more interesting than the one ND selected for the commencement ceremony.



Rick Pitino



Albert Pujols



Matt Leinart

THE SINGLE LIFE

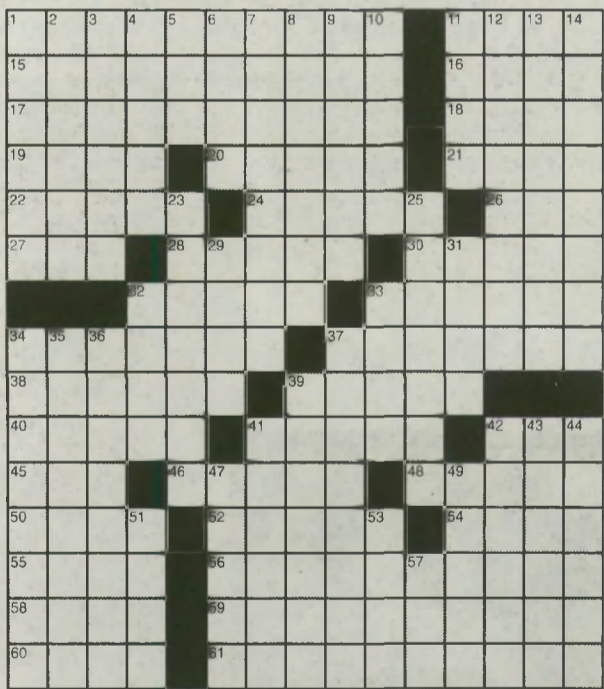
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- Across**
- 1 Awfully accurate?
 - 11 California wine center
 - 15 Salade niçoise ingredients
 - 16 "The company for women" sloganeer
 - 17 Providers of exceptional service?
 - 18 Neural network
 - 19 With 50-Across, surmount
 - 20 Turn out to be
 - 21 Presidential middle name
 - 22 Queen in a long-running comic strip
 - 24 "What's ___?"
 - 26 Pal
 - 27 Disconcert
 - 28 Strip alternative
 - 30 Change from two to one
 - 32 They might indicate hunger
 - 33 "Centuries"
 - 34 Where to find pop art?
 - 37 Turns up
 - 38 Start of some how-to titles
 - 39 One who brings bad luck
 - 40 Childish comeback
 - 41 Some are manicured
 - 42 NATO member. Abbr.
 - 45 Boulogne-sur-___, France
 - 46 Response of feigned innocence
 - 48 Lose successfully
 - 50 See 19-Across
 - 52 Parry
 - 54 Holder of many tracks
- Down**
- 1 Mil. V.I.P.
 - 2 Eye component
 - 3 Where I-25 and I-70 meet
 - 4 Poet who won a Pulitzer for "The Dust Which Is God"
 - 5 Prefix with directional
 - 6 Shortening in the kitchen?
 - 7 Level
 - 8 Kinkajou's kin: Var.
 - 9 1883 Maupassant novel
 - 10 Dine, in Düsseldorf
 - 11 Caper
 - 12 Bit of kitchen wear
 - 13 Execute exactly
 - 14 Over, with "of"
 - 23 Suffered a blow to one's pride
 - 25 Magazine holder
 - 29 Creation of 31-Down
 - 55 ___-Mints (Roloids rival)
 - 56 Singer of the 1967 hit "California Nights"
 - 58 Incomplete picture?
 - 59 Subject of the 2004 book "Dancing Revelations"
 - 60 Jarrow's river
 - 61 Outdoor toy that attaches to a garden hose



Puzzle by Mike Nothnagel and David Quarfoot

- 31 See 29-Down
- 32 "Underboss" author Peter
- 33 Smythe of hockey
- 34 Cause of colonial unrest
- 35 "You don't say!"
- 36 Hide in the woods
- 37 It's out for a pout
- 39 Ruler of Scotland, 1567-1625
- 41 Hanks's "Apollo 13" role
- 42 "That's Amore" setting
- 43 Scented
- 44 Photo flaw
- 47 Papa Bear of the N.F.L.
- 49 Watch
- 51 What some people get caught on
- 53 Home of Davy Crockett: Abbr.
- 57 Title syllables in a 1961 Lee Dorsey hit

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

R	O	B	E		P	S	A	T		T	H	I	S				
U	P	A	T		A	T	A	D		R	E	A	D				
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A	L	I		C	H	E	W	S	A	T		C	A	T			
A	B	A		R	E	S	T	E	D		S	K	I	L			
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C	A	N	O	E		M	I	X	E	D	N	U	T	S			
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N	A	Y	S		I	S	E	E		U	T	E	S				

Mixed nuts: pecan, filbert, cashew, almond

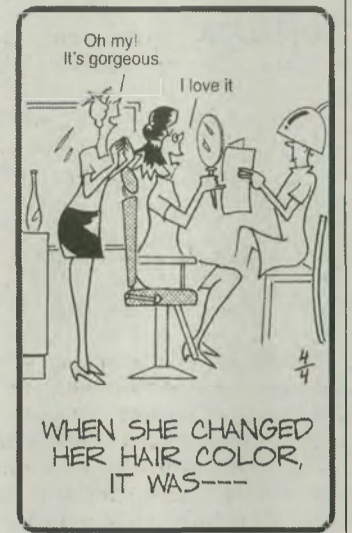
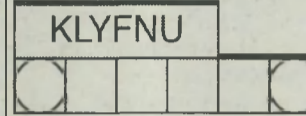
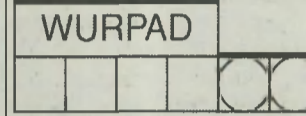
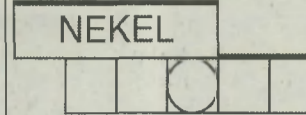
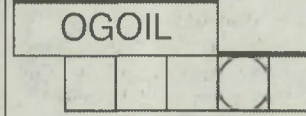
JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: TO "□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □" □ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Yesterday's Jumbles: CUBIT CRANK GROUCH FORAGE
Answer: What he drove when he bought a used car — A TOUGH BARGAIN

HOROSCOPE

FRIDAYS WITH FRAN

- ARIES** (March 21-April 19) More Ovaltine please. Pleeese.
- TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) The guy that sits next to you in class is tucking in.
- GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) Doesn't it make sense that Adam Sandler might be a child molester? How many of his hit movies prominently feature children? Big Daddy, Billy Madison...oh wait, that might be it. Scratch that molester comment.
- CANCER** (June 21-July 22) You are not a Communist. You might be lazy, a traitor and a Communist but you are not a porn star.
- LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) If it's in your wheelhouse, don't miss it.
- VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) The Irish girl would certainly be the American Idol front-runner if she didn't have that hideous tattoo. Are we in agreement on this point?
- LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Did you ever notice that the words 'jolly' and 'chuckle' are only used to describe fat men? Uh oh, someone called your laugh a jolly chuckle this week, right?
- SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Counter the Monologue with the Hamburger.
- SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Do you know how to Charlie Brown? If you do, you're the only one.
- CARPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) One of you was gonna get props for responding 'Legally Blonde' to last week's question. But unfortunately, the recipient of the responses deleted them because he's an idiot. So if you're reading this, you get props. See? I'm generous. Free props for all.
- AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) What is the funniest object that comes in a loaf? Text your response to (630)247-4042. The best answer will get a shout-out next week. It's in the stars.!
- PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) Raise your hand if you enjoy an occasional Sloppy Joe Manwich.

THE OBSERVER

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SOFTBALL

She's on fire

By CHRIS DOYEN
Sports Writer

Coming off a close victory over Toledo in non-conference action Wednesday, Notre Dame returns to Big East play as they travel to St. John's and Seton Hall for two weekend double headers.

This is the first conference road trip for the Irish this year, and junior pitcher Brittney Bargar believes her team is ready for the challenge.

"No matter what the situation is, it is always tough to play on the road, regardless of where we are," she said. "[We] just have to stay with one another and play some great ball. There is nothing we aren't prepared for, and we are ready for every challenge thrown our way."

Notre Dame (18-10, 1-1) opened the conference season last weekend with a split at DePaul. As has been the case often in the early part of the season, the pitching staff carried the team to its victory. The same thing happened Wednesday against Toledo, where freshman Jody Valdivia and Bargar teamed up to pitch seven innings while allowing only one run between the two.

The Irish scored only two runs on RBIs from senior second baseman Katie Fleury. The two runs were enough for Valdivia and Bargar, but the Irish stranded several runners in scoring position, something

see BIG EAST/page 22



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Freshman second basemen Katie Fleury fields a ground ball against Toledo in a 2-1 Notre Dame victory over the Rockets at Ivy Field Wednesday. The Irish will face St. John's and Seton Hall this weekend.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Squad looking to keep winning streak intact

By DAN MASTERTON
Sports Writer

No. 20 Notre Dame (14-7) looks to extend its season-high seven-game win streak this weekend, traveling to No. 46 Iowa today and then returning home to face Syracuse on Sunday.

The Hawkeyes (11-4) started the season by winning eight in a row

but have struggled of late. Historically, Iowa has not fared well against Notre Dame, winning just once in 15 matches all-time.

Iowa's doubles lineup will pose a legitimate threat to Notre Dame's eight-match streak of doubles point wins. Freshman Alexis Dorr and senior Jacqueline Lee lead the Hawkeyes' doubles attack. Both are 10-5 in singles play, and the two have played together as

Iowa's No. 1 doubles pair in every match this year, going 10-5.

Senior Milica Veselinovic, who leads the team with a 14-1 singles record on the dual season, teams with junior Merel Beelen for doubles. The duo has gone 7-4 playing in the No. 2 slot.

Junior Kayla Berry and freshman Lyn Poggonsee-Wei round out the lineup. The pair boasts an 8-3 record giving them the best

winning percentage of the Iowa's main doubles teams.

Serve is set for 4 p.m. CT at Hawkeye Recreation and Athletic Complex. After the match at Iowa, the Irish return home to face the Syracuse Orange who are in rebuilding mode.

The Orange (9-11) are coached by former professional tennis player and ESPN analyst Luke Jensen. Jensen is in just his sec-

ond year as head coach, and many of his players are learning on the job with five freshmen getting significant playing time.

The youth movement is lead by Christine Tan. The freshman has played No. 1 singles in all of Syracuse's matches this year earning the same 9-11 record as her team.

see STREAK/page 22

WOMEN'S GOLF

Irish head south for invitational

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

Coming off a hard fought fifth-place finish at last week's Betsy Rawls Longhorn Invitational, No. 20 Notre Dame hopes to take care of business next week at the Canes and Cardinals Classic in Miami, Fla. The tournament will be three rounds — held over two days — at the par-72, 6,982 yard Senator Course at Don Shula's Golf Course.

The University of Miami-hosted tournament is the final contest of the year for the Irish before they play in the Big East Championship at the end of the month.

Notre Dame head coach Susan Holt is optimistic that the team will perform well.

"The course at Miami will be a fun course," Holt said. "We should play well there



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Sophomore Kristen Wetzel prepares to tee off at the Irish Invitational last September, where the Irish finished second.

see FLORIDA/page 22

BOOKSTORE BASKETBALL

Talented freshmen oust juniors, 21-17

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

Two Pats and a MAT 21, I've Made a Huge Mistake... 17

Two Pats and a MAT took advantage of an excessive number of missed lay-ups by I've Made a Huge Mistake and advance to win their first-round, rescheduled game.

"Lay-ups killed us today," Mistake captain Dan Hussey said. "We came to win, it didn't work out so well."

Hussey seemed to make no mistakes early, putting his team up early with a couple of early buckets. Teammate James Smith ran the point for Mistake, assertively calling out plays at the top of the key. However, it seemed that any play he called inevitably ended up in a failed alley-oop or a missed lay-up down low. Smith got on his

teammates about the lack of easy baskets.

"I was talking [expletive] to Jordan," Smith said. "But I missed a few too. Honestly the game is on everybody."

Both the Pats and the MAT were thrilled with their hard-fought victory.

"It was huge win," captain Alex Cota said. "They're a bunch of juniors and we're just little freshmen. We were undersized, but we came out to play today."

Despite their differences on the court, both teams agreed on one thing after their game, which ended around 8:00 p.m.

"We are extremely satisfied," Cota said. "We're gonna go eat right now."

Smith agreed. "We played hard," Smith said. "And I'm so hungry."

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