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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

ESPN to broadcast live at game

Joyce Center doors will open at 9 p.m., allowing students to camp out for basketball seats

By CHRIS HINE
News Writer

Some Notre Dame students got a special treat as they sat down to dinner Wednesday night in South Dining Hall — former Notre Dame basketball coach Digger Phelps visited their tables, encouraging them to show up for the ESPN College Gameday's live broadcast from the Joyce Center Saturday from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. and then to No. 19 Notre Dame's basketball game against No. 3 Connecticut at 7 p.m.

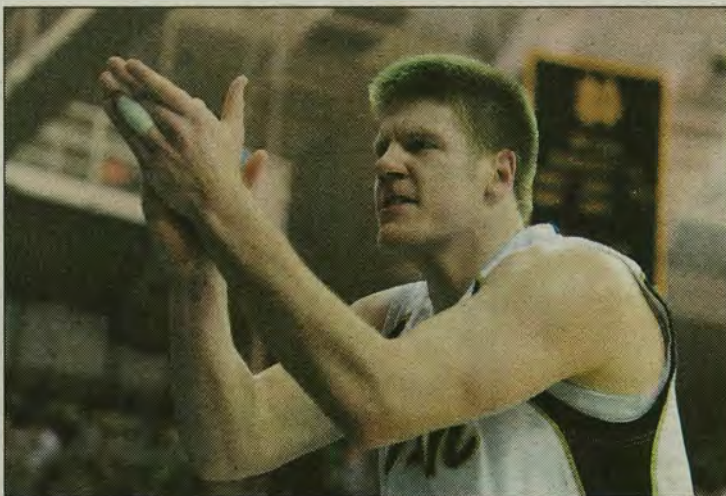
"They couldn't believe I was there," Phelps said. "I stood

up on a couple chairs and give a big loud speech and then I went around from table to table to say 'Hey, get your dorm there. I want everybody there.'"

Phelps, who's a co-host of the show, was passing out fliers featuring a picture of well-known ESPN reporter Erin Andrews that said "She'll be there Saturday! Will you?"

Phelps even popped his head in one dorm where University President Fr. Jenkins was giving a talk. Phelps said Jenkins spotted him in the back of the room, and called on him to give his basketball spiel.

see ESPN/page 6



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Luke Harangody cheers at the Seton Hall game. College Gameday will broadcast ND basketball for the first time ever Saturday.

New Career Center site launched

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

In the current less-than-stellar economic situation, finding a job is a difficult task to undertake. This task is even harder for young college graduates just making their debuts in the work force, so Notre Dame's Career Center is trying to alleviate some of that pressure.

Associate Director Kevin Monahan said the Career Center has begun to use www.linkedin.com, a professional networking site geared at connecting past alum with recent graduates. The Career Center began using this Web site in September of 2007, but it's just now starting to "grow in leaps and bounds," Monahan said.

"This site focused on professional relationships," he said. "Students were wondering, 'How can I connect?' This site helps them connect with alumni, who join because they want to help and connect with recent graduates."

These alumni are eager to help, Monahan said.

"Building relationships — that's what it's all about," he said.

The Web site is very easy to search, and many criteria can help sort through the data, Monahan said.

"There are almost 6,700 alumni listed," he said.

Setting up a profile on the Web site only takes a few min-

see CAREER/page 4

Panelists examine porn culture

GRC held talk to help unite faith and sexuality

By IRENA ZAJICKOVA
News Writer

Pornography has become ubiquitous in today's culture, panelists said at a lecture Thursday titled "Pornucopia: Living in a Pornified Culture."

Five panelists took part in the discussion, sponsored by the Gender Relations Center, to examine the issue of integrating faith and sexuality in a modern "pornified" culture.

Gail Bederman, an associate professor of history at the University of Notre Dame, discussed the beginning of modern pornography.

Modern pornography has existed for about 300 years, Bederman said, since the end of the 17th century. As people began to be considered part of a commercialized world, where commodities could be bought and sold, the meaning of sexual arousal changed and the circulation of sexualized images increased. But sexual images had been around for much longer, Bederman said.

"The circulation and use of sexually explicit images is by no means a new thing," she said. "You can go back to ancient Greece, ancient Rome and sexual images were there."

Rick Garnett, a professor of law at Notre Dame, covered the topic of protection of pornography under federal law.

"Pornography, as a rule, is con-

see PORN/page 4

Law School addition complete

Renovations now underway on old Law School building

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Writer

Walking across Notre Dame's campus, one will most likely run into unfinished buildings, closed off paths and hear the sounds of large trucks or boulders echoing across the quad.

Several major construction projects are taking place on campus, including a nearly \$58 million project on the Law School addition, said Craig Tiller, Senior Project Manager at the University Architect Office.

The new Law School build-

see LAW/page 6



JESS LEE/The Observer

A student studies in the new Law School addition, which is now complete. The renovations cost nearly \$58 million.

220 ND students attend protest

More than 200,000 participants marched against abortion on the National Mall

By TESS CIVANTOS
News Writer

WASHINGTON — The 220 Notre Dame students who attended the 36th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. Thursday sensed new energy and purpose in the wake of the recent inauguration and were met with meaningful support, marchers said.

"There was a lot more energy in how the politicians at the rally were speaking," said junior Mary Daly, Notre Dame Right to Life club president.

Onlookers were thrilled to see Notre Dame marching 220 strong.

"Walking along, people

were cheering for us, calling out support," Daly said. "They'll come up and ask us how many people we brought. People are always very impressed and glad to see us there."

High school junior Colin Cortes of Chicago, Ill. said he enjoyed seeing Notre Dame's strong presence at the march.

"I loved seeing Notre Dame there, really representing what a Catholic university should be, especially now that a lot of Catholic universities don't value church teachings. It's great to see Notre Dame standing up for them," Cortes said.

see MARCH/page 4



AP

Activists protest abortion laws at the March for Life rally in Washington D.C. Thursday.

INSIDE COLUMN

Inauguration Sensation

WASHINGTON — When I arrived at the Cannon House Office Building Monday morning to help my father, who was recently elected to represent New York's 13th District, a long line of people waiting to receive tickets to Obama's was already stretching down the street.

By mid-afternoon, the wait was three hours.

Luckily, I was able to use the ID card issued to Congressional family members to bypass the security check.

The inauguration presented a challenge to my father's new team, since immediately after Nov. 4 his office was flooded by thousands of ticket requests from constituents.

But the line outside of the Cannon building was dwarfed by the crowds I awoke to early the next morning.

It seemed that the entire city of Washington was packed with people in town to witness the inauguration of America's first black president. My parents were invited to a breakfast in the Capitol and sat in comfortable seats during the swearing-in (my mother's seats were so good, she bragged about sitting next to Beyonce, Jay-Z.).

My Aunt Linda and I were left to brave the crowds together.

The tickets were color-coded, and my aunt and I were lucky enough to have yellow tickets which would give us an excellent view of the event. But when we arrived at the yellow gate at 9 a.m., we soon realized the yellow section was not as exclusive as we had imagined. It took us 20 minutes just to walk to the back of the line, and we were afraid we wouldn't get inside.

As the line progressed, we passed a number of vendors attempting to sell Obama merchandise. Before Tuesday, I had never realized how much useless stuff could be sold at ridiculous prices simply by putting a man's face on it. Everything one could imagine, from Obama t-shirts and hats to buttons and calendars to Obama pretzels and condoms, was available.

We waited for two and a half hours and went through the airport-esque security check before we finally arrived at our section. The view was much better than I could have imagined, and I was clearly able to see the former presidents paraded out onto the balcony before Obama and his family arrived.

The event itself was relatively short, and after an opening by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Rick Warren gave an uninspiring invocation that left some in the crowd next to me questioning his selection as a speaker, followed by music from Aretha Franklin. The crowd really responded well to the classical performance arranged by John Williams and featuring Yo-Yo Ma.

Many in the media have labeled Obama's inaugural address as uninspiring, especially when compared with his other speeches and the past inaugural addresses of some presidents. But the speech was truly unique in that it addressed the concrete issues that America faces. Facing one of the largest crowds ever addressed by a single public speaker, Obama seized upon the opportunity to challenge the American people by pointing to the troubles ahead.

One image that will always stick in my mind was turning around to see the one million plus Americans standing behind me on the National Mall waving flags. For those and many Americans, Obama has become more than simply a leader. The inauguration marked the rise of a man who has become a cultural icon.

As we shuffled through the crowd and toward the gate after the ceremony, my aunt and I bumped into her boss, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. After yelling toward him, the mayor turned toward my aunt, who serves as one of his deputy mayors.

"Hello, Linda," he said. "Don't forget, tomorrow is a work day."

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

Contact Joseph McMahon at jcmah06@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.

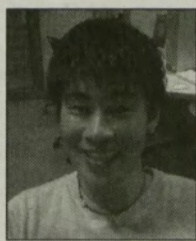
QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT TIME WILL YOU BE GETTING TO GAME DAY ON SATURDAY?



Jaclyn Espinoza

junior
Pasquerilla West

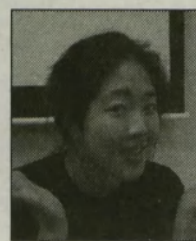
"I don't sleep.
I'm always
ready."



Jonathan Lee

junior
Off campus

"Twilight."



Julie Kim

junior
Pasquerilla East

"What's game
day?"



Kevin Dacey

junior
Saint Edwards

"I'll be
shredding up
the slopes of
Crystal
Mountain."



TOM LA/The Observer

Icicles form on campus trees after a cold spell hit South Bend last week when temperatures dipped below zero, causing students to bundle up.

IN BRIEF

The Notre Dame Student Film Festival will take place today and Saturday at 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. at Browning Cinema in DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The festival will show 20 student films. Tickets can be purchased at performingarts.nd.edu.

John Smart, president of the Acceleration Studies Foundation will give his lecture entitled "Foresight Development in a World of Acceleration Change: Thoughts from an Evo Devo Futurist" in the Jordan Auditorium. Mendoza College of Business as part of the Ten Years Hence Lecture Series. This event will be held on Friday at from 10:40 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Auto manufacturer Saturn will give a special discount to college students and recent college graduates in order to help students purchase a Saturn vehicle. All college students enrolled in a 2-year or 4-year degree program, a restistered nursing degree program or graduate degree program are eligible. For further information, call Saturn of Michiana at 574-258-6333.

Tim Robbins' The Actor's Gang will present "1984" Saturday at 2 p.m. at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The play is an adaptation of George Orwell's classic novel.

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

OFFBEAT

Landlord removes tenant's toilet

SPRING VALLEY, N.Y. — A New York landlord accused of removing the toilet and other fixtures from a basement apartment to get a tenant to move out has been fined nearly \$10,000. The Rockland Board of Health issued the fine to Fausto Pinos of Bushkill, Pa., on Wednesday.

Pinos did not appear at the meeting, but his brother, Jesus Pinos, speaking on his behalf,

said the landlord did not dispute the charges. He said Pinos thought that removing the toilet, a bathtub, kitchen sink, stove, oven and countertop from the Spring Valley, N.Y., apartment would force the woman and her child to move.

It is not clear why the landlord wanted her evicted.

Man misses bus because of dancing with strangers

SOUTH BEND — An 83-year-old South Bend man said he

missed his bus home from the presidential inauguration because he was dancing. Mussa Muhammad said his "spirit jumped sky-high" when President Barack Obama took the oath of office Tuesday. He became separated from his group and, he said, "just danced and danced" with a couple of young women he met along the way.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

LOCAL WEATHER

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
HIGH	34	29	13	12	15	18
LOW	13	22	5	9	11	14

Atlanta 63 / 46 Boston 37 / 31 Chicago 31 / 29 Denver 42 / 31 Houston 68 / 45 Los Angeles 65 / 50 Minneapolis 16 / 10 New York 26 / 18 Philadelphia 26 / 20 Phoenix 71 / 54 Seattle 45 / 34 St. Louis 43 / 27 Tampa 70 / 45 Washington 49 / 33

Thornton, former law prof, dies at 90

Special to The Observer

Peter W. Thornton, professor emeritus of law in the University of Notre Dame Law School, died Jan. 19 in Santa Barbara, Calif. He was 90 years old.

Thornton taught law at Notre Dame from 1968 to 1993, interrupting his tenure from 1973 to 1976 to serve as founding dean of the Nova Southeastern University Law Center in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. He served as director of Notre Dame's London Law Programme from 1976 to 1978 and also was an associate dean of the Notre Dame Law School.

"I was fortunate to be Pete's student in civil procedure in the early 1970s, as well as his colleague on the faculty in the '80s and '90s," said Patricia O'Hara, Joseph A. Matson Dean of the Notre Dame Law School. "I know many alumni who would drop by Pete's office on visits back to campus to ask him to

reprise his theatrical delivery of the holding on personal jurisdiction in the famous 1945 Supreme Court case of *International Shoe Co. v. Washington*. He and his beloved wife, Kit, were warm hosts on behalf of the Law School on many occasions over the years."

A New York City native, Thornton was a 1939 graduate of Brooklyn College and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He earned law degrees from Brooklyn Law School and taught there for 21 years before joining the Notre Dame faculty. Along with his long career as a teacher of law, Thornton was a member of the New York State Bar from 1941 to 2006.

Thornton is survived by four sons, Peter, Thomas, James, and John, all of them attorneys and law teachers.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated today at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Carpinteria, Calif.

ND celebrates Moreau feast day

Profs Cavadini, O'Connell discuss Christian views of suffering

By MOLLY MADDEN
News Writer

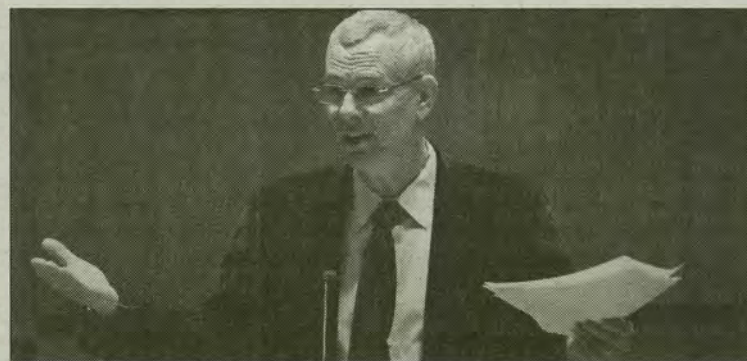
The month of January contains a very special day for the Notre Dame community, as Blessed Basil Moreau, founder of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, celebrated his feast day on the 20th of January.

Last year, Pope Benedict XVI beatified Moreau, bringing him one step closer to being canonized as a saint in the Catholic Church.

In honor of his feast day, the inaugural Blessed Basil Moreau Lecture took place in the Jordan Auditorium at the Mendoza School of Business Thursday. The lecture, titled "The Cross, Our Only Hope: Two Christian Views of Suffering" was given by John Cavadini, chair of the Notre Dame Theology Department, and the response was given by Professor Mary Ellen O'Connell of the Notre Dame Law School.

The views expressed by both professors focused on the views of suffering in the Christian tradition and then made connections between these views and the motto of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, "Crux Spes Unica" or "The Cross is Our Only Hope." The fundamental question the lecture tried to answer was that given the suffering of Jesus, is suffering in any way good?

Cavadini opened the lecture by outlining two traditional views of suffering within the Christian belief system, the Irenaean theodicy and the Augustine theodicy.



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

John Cavadini, the chair of the Notre Dame Theology Department, speaks Thursday about suffering.

Irenaeus believed that God created humans as imperfect, Cavadini said, so that as they grow into the moral image of God, they would grow to love God as well. Irenaeus believed that the best way to become more moral was to undergo suffering.

In this belief system, God allows us to define ourselves by our own choices, Cavadini said. God punishes only to purify and to bring repentance.

In a sense, God is acting as a good parent by issuing punishments that educate the wrongdoer, he said.

Cavadini explained that Augustine believed that God could not or would not abolish evil. That suffering was common for both the good and the wicked human being.

Suffering and struggle bring us into contact with our status as being created, Cavadini said. In this view, suffering of the body is

meaningless.

But Cavadini stated that both systems believe that faith in Christ is the means of salvation.

Perfect joy is found in Christ, which allows us to take our suffering and turn it into something good, he said. Faith is the only saving power in the world that is of God's love.

This leads us back to the motto of the Congregation of the Holy Cross; in this sense, the cross really is our only hope.

Overall, Cavadini said that one good can always be taken from suffering.

The experience of suffering brings about signs of God's love which creates hope, he said. Humans build not on suffering, but on hope. Hope is what allows us to put our suffering to good use.

Contact Molly Madden at mmadden@hcc-nd.edu

Recycle The
Observer.

The Observer is now accepting applications for the position of

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Position is for the 2009-2010 term.

Applicants for Editor-in-Chief should demonstrate strong journalistic and management skills. Also, experience with aspects of newspaper production is essential, including skills in Microsoft Word, Quark XPress and Photoshop.

Applications should include a 15-page paper detailing the applicant's qualifications and goals and should be submitted to Chris Hine before the end of next week in The Observer offices in the basement of South Dining Hall. Please direct questions about the applications to Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu.

Porn

continued from page 1

stitutionally protected," Garnett said.

Since adults are allowed to view or use erotic material in their own home, any law that might be passed might tread on those rights. Another problem arises in the area of moral value, because the Supreme Court could be accused of imposing its beliefs on others. This makes regulation of sexually explicit material very difficult.

Father Nate Wills, an associate pastor at St. Joseph Parish in South Bend, discussed the intertwining of religion and pornography.

"The people I see are nor-

mally good Catholics, who are struggling to love Christ more deeply in their lives, but they come across this thing that is so powerful that it takes away from the things they love," Wills said.

The reasons for the Catholic Church's opposition to pornography are varied. Pornography distorts a person's worldview, hijacks relationships and causes a cycle of addiction and isolation, Wills said. People think the images will bring fulfillment into their lives, but the opposite happens and the human is reduced to an "object of flesh," as Wills called it.

Brian Vassel, a third-year Master of Divinity Student at Notre Dame, has facilitated the group Men of Faith, a group for men who are try-

ing to integrate their faith and sexuality through support and prayer.

He cited two reasons why people should not view pornography: because it exploits those who take part in its production, and it changes and affects the people who watch it in profound ways.

Christina Traina, an associate professor of religion at Northwestern University, discussed some of the more unpleasant aspects of repeated exposure to pornography.

"Objectification, the making of a person into a thing, is the prerequisite for all kinds of violent acts," Traina said.

Contact Irena Zajickova at izajicko@nd.edu

Career

continued from page 1

utes, Monahan said.

When it comes to advice for graduating seniors, Monahan has one definite rule.

"Start now. Don't wait," he said.

One senior entering the job market soon is Katie O'Connell.

"The Career Center has been really helpful with networking," O'Connell said. "They have provided me with contact

information of Notre Dame graduates in the field that I would like to work in."

Sometimes the search can be frustrating, especially in this market, O'Connell said.

"The hardest part, for me, is staying positive when a company doesn't have anything open or you don't get the job."

But she does try to keep looking.

"It's difficult to stay up, but keep e-mailing and speaking to people in the field you want to work in," O'Connell said.

Monahan said the current economy has noticeably affect-

ed the job search.

"Instead of firms having, say, 10 jobs available, now they might only have four," he said.

"I want to encourage seniors to 'hit the pavement.' Networking is paramount, and the key to networking is building relationships and trust."

When it comes to job interviews, Monahan urges students to "do your homework."

"Know the company. Know your achievements. Also, review practice questions."

Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@nd.edu

March

continued from page 1

"Seeing that, I consider myself a huge Notre Dame fan," he said.

The march began with a rally on the National Mall. A series of pro-life politicians and religious leaders, including rabbis, Byzantine Orthodox priests and Protestant pastors each spoke briefly to the audience of more than 200,000.

The controversial Freedom of Choice Act, commonly known as FOCA, was brought up repeatedly. FOCA is a bill before Congress that states every woman in the United States has the right to terminate a pregnancy due to health reasons or before the fetus is viable.

Following the series of speakers, several members of the United States Council of Catholic Bishops introduced themselves to the crowd by name and diocese. Marchers from the bishops' hometowns greeted their bishops with resounding cheers.

The rally concluded with the Archbishop of Washington, D.C., Donald W. Wuerl, leading the marchers in prayer.

"We come before you as men and women as many faiths," he said, drawing attention to the many faiths represented at the march.

The marchers then walked to the Supreme Court building. Notre Dame students made their presence known with cheers adapted

from football games, like "Go Irish! Save Babies!" and frequent renditions of the Fight Song and Alma Mater.

Daley said one big change to the march is that faculty came this year. The whole staff of the Center for Ethics and Culture joined in the march.

"With the new pro-life fund through the Center for Ethics and Culture we were able to invite the entire University hierarchy. Even though Father Jenkins couldn't come, his senior advisor, Father Jim McDonald, was able to make it," she said.

Bill Dotterweich, a 1958 Notre Dame alum, is a big supporter of the pro-life movement and Notre Dame Right to Life, Daley said. He contributed to the fund to send members of the Notre Dame administration to Washington for the march, as well as to support Right to Life efforts on campus.


Sophomore Karlo Leonor went on the march and returned on the bus later the night following.

"I thought it was really encouraging to see the professors there, especially those who brought their families," Leonor said.

Leonor said there was a sense of camaraderie among the marchers.

"You could feel the common appreciation for Notre Dame as America's Catholic institution," Leonor said

Contact Tess Civantos at tcivanto@nd.edu



Riverside Terrace

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*Offer valid until 02/28/09. Limit one discount per table. Discount may not be used during special events.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Press restrictions lifted in Gaza

JERUSALEM — Israel said Thursday it is lifting restrictions on foreign journalists entering the Gaza Strip, a ban that had drawn strong criticism from news media.

The government said journalists would be free to enter and leave the war-ravaged territory starting Friday — two days before the Israeli Supreme Court was scheduled to rule on a request by the Foreign Press Association to declare the restrictions illegal.

The court hearing will probably not take place if the government lifts the ban.

Israel imposed restrictions on entry to Gaza in early November as a cease-fire with Gaza's Hamas rulers began to fray. It tightened the rules after launching a military offensive Dec. 27 and ignored a Supreme Court order six days later to allow limited access to international reporters. Only when a cease-fire was declared Sunday did Israel begin opening the border to a trickle of journalists.

Hamas calls for reconciliation

DAMASCUS, Syria — Hamas called Thursday for reconciliation with supporters of rival Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas but insisted on pursuing "resistance" against Israel.

The condition appeared to preclude any agreement with Abbas, who seeks a peace deal with Israel and whose moderate Fatah faction was not among the groups that backed the statement by Hamas and seven other Damascus-based radical Palestinian factions.

The call came days after Israel ended a devastating 23-day war with the Islamic militant rulers of Gaza that Palestinian officials say killed about 1,300 people in the territory.

NATIONAL NEWS

Two children die, a third injured

NEW YORK — An unoccupied delivery van mistakenly left in reverse jumped a curb and barreled into a group of children returning to their day care center after a trip to the library Thursday, killing two of them and seriously injuring a third, police said.

Fourteen other children were hospitalized for treatment of minor injuries.

The incident, which occurred in Manhattan's Chinatown commercial district around 11:30 a.m. as the children walked less than two blocks through the busy area with their teachers, was ruled an accident, and the driver wasn't charged, police said.

An investigation found that the driver had double-parked and jumped out of the van to make a delivery, thinking he had left it running in park, police said. Instead, the van traveled backward and hopped a curb on the opposite side of the street.

Escaped killer captured in MD

BALTIMORE — Maryland authorities have recaptured a convicted killer who escaped five days ago from a state prison.

Kandelario Garcia-Ramos escaped Saturday from the Maryland Correctional Institution in Hagerstown, scaling two fences topped with razor wire.

State police say an FBI fingerprint comparison has confirmed that the man captured Thursday after a foot chase just six miles from the prison is Garcia-Ramos.

LOCAL NEWS

Six charged in South Bend shootings

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Six people have been charged in a string of shootings in South Bend last fall.

Twenty-one-year-old Bradley Walls of South Bend died at a hospital after being shot in his car on Oct. 26. Four others were wounded in two separate incidents the same day.

At a news conference Thursday, prosecutors said Mark Murphy, Anthony Brown and Andre Payne have been charged with murder and attempted murder; and Victorio Belcher and Quintin Ferguson with battery and attempted murder.

Pay freeze enforced in White House

Employees earning over \$100,000 a year suffer consequences of freeze

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — What do Tropicana Casino and Resort, Avis, Yahoo and the White House now have in common?

They're all freezing the pay of some of their workers. It's part of a growing trend by employers facing the fall-out — economic and political — from a brutal recession.

For companies, pay freezes are a key cost-cutting tool for surviving hard times.

For President Barack Obama, who ordered a pay freeze for White House employees earning over \$100,000 a year, the move on his first full day in office sent a message to a nervous country: We're in this together.

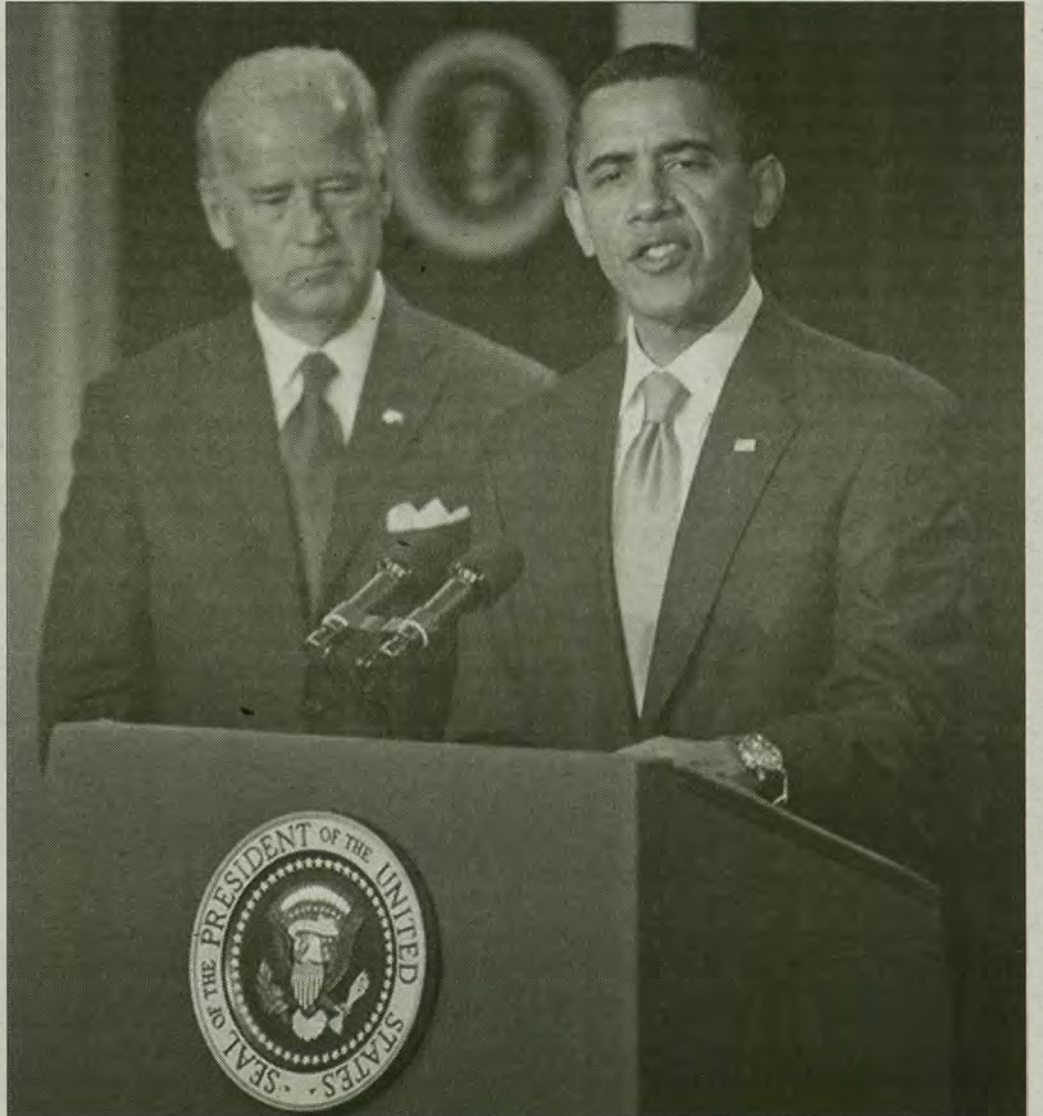
"During this period of economic emergency," Obama said Wednesday, "families are tightening their belts, and so should Washington."

The unemployment rate last month bolted to a 16-year high of 7.2 percent. Last year, 2.6 million jobs vanished, the most since World War II. The jobless rate is expected to march upward and layoffs to pile up even with a multibillion-dollar stimulus package being crafted by Obama and Congress.

More squeezed employers, though, are seeking an alternative to layoffs. They're turning to pay freezes, pay reductions and other cost-cutting options, such as ending their contributions to 401(k) accounts.

"All of that hurts, but nothing hurts more than losing a job," said Allen Sinai, chief global economist at Decision Economics Inc. "It is a growing trend as companies try to cut costs. Going forward, we will see more of this, absolutely."

The Federal Reserve has taken notice. In a recent survey of economic conditions, it observed that in some parts of the country, companies were resorting to "pay freezes or reductions in compensation."



President Barack Obama announced the pay freeze of about 100 White House employees, Wednesday, as Vice President Joe Biden looks on.

A wide range of employers have followed suit. In some cases, they're imposing pay freezes or cuts to avoid immediate layoffs, though economists say such steps tend to lead to layoffs anyway. In other cases, employers are cutting or freezing pay and laying off workers.

"It's a real tectonic shift," Terry Connelly, dean of Golden Gate University's Ageno School of Business, said of pay freezes and cuts. Such steps, which once affected mainly union workers, are spreading to white-collar industries, he said.

"The extraordinary pace of layoffs has shifted people's internal calculations to the

point where they are not only willing to take a pay cut to save their own job but also take a freeze to save their co-worker's," Connelly said.

Fresh unemployment data out Thursday underscored the grim reality facing workers. The number of newly laid off Americans signing for unemployment benefits last week jumped by 62,000 to 589,000, the Labor Department reported. The number of people continuing to draw benefits climbed to 4.6 million, and both figures were worse than economists expected.

Yahoo said Thursday that employees will forgo pay

raises this year as the slumping Internet company struggles amid the recession.

Sunnyvale, Calif.-based Yahoo laid off 1,500 workers last month. A company spokesman said no other job cuts are planned, though management previously warned another purge could come, depending on how much longer the 13-month-old recession lasts.

Tropicana Casino and Resort of Atlantic City, N.J., said Wednesday it's freezing pay for those making \$50,000 and up and capping raises for lower-paid workers. But the company said more than 100 employees could still lose their jobs.

IRAQ

Gov't budget plunges as oil prices rise

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's government will have dramatically less money to spend this year than expected because of plunging oil prices — a dire economic situation that's already forced the country to slash rebuilding plans by 40 percent, The Associated Press has learned. As the U.S. seeks a timetable for withdrawal, cutbacks on spending and jobs could trigger heightened violence.

U.S. commanders have repeatedly warned that without speedy economic development and reconstruction, the sharp improvements in

security since the U.S. troop surge of 2007 could be at risk in a country where about 38 percent of the work force is estimated to have no job or just part-time employment.

But rebuilding requires money. And with oil prices plummeting, the government has been forced to cut planned spending — by one-third overall and 40 percent for rebuilding, Iraqi officials told the AP — and to consider even deeper reductions.

It's an ironic turnaround from just months ago when U.S. lawmakers complained that Iraq was swimming in cash from high oil revenues and should do more to help itself, rather than spend U.S. taxpayer money to

rebuild.

Iraq is almost entirely dependent on oil money. More than 90 percent of the government's revenues come from oil sales. The government says it earned about \$60 billion from oil sales in 2008 but hasn't said publicly how much it expects to take in this year.

Iraq's government has in the past often used money to create jobs and projects as a way to keep different political groups happy, such as the money it threw into Baghdad's Sadr City district last summer to ease Shiite tensions there. That will become harder now that revenue expectations have fallen sharply.

ESPN

continued from page 1

On Saturday, Notre Dame will be putting its nation-best 45-game home winning streak on the line. Saturday will also mark the first time Gameday will come to Notre Dame for a basketball game. To mark the occasion, the University, in cooperation with the Leprechaun Legion, has planned a camp out and other events beginning tonight.

At 9 p.m. tonight, Gate 3 of the Joyce Center will be open for students who wish to camp out for the night inside the Joyce Center. Lines can form at 8:45. Wristbands will be handed out at 9 p.m. for line placement for seats at Saturday's game.

Senior Tony Ceravolo, the president of the Leprechaun Legion, encouraged students to bring pillows, blankets and extra homework they might have. The Legion will also provide poster boards and Sharpies to make signs for Gameday.

"Anti-UConn sentiment is also encouraged," Ceravolo said.

Doors will close at midnight and inside there will be basketball games, showing of movies, such as "Hoosiers," and sign creation for Gameday. Drinks will be provided by head coach Mike Brey.

On Saturday, the doors to Gate 3 will re-open at 6 a.m., and wristbands will again be handed out. At 7 a.m. breakfast will be served compliments of Brey.

At 9:15, students will be admitted into the Joyce Center Arena for the airing of Gameday. At that time Phelps will run contests where students can win prizes such as round-trip airline tickets, \$50 gift certificate to Legends, Bookstore gift cards, free books for a semester and autographed memorabilia from Phelps, former Indiana coach Bob Knight and the rest of ESPN's Gameday crew.

At 10 a.m. ESPN will film a live show from the Joyce Center to air on SportsCenter and at 11 a.m., Gameday will

begin, concluding at 12 p.m. The arena will be cleared and students can return to Gate 11 at 2 p.m. for line placement according to their wristbands. At 5 p.m. the students will enter the arena for the game.

"It's huge for students to show up to the gameday events this weekend," Ceravolo said. "This is the first time ESPN Gameday has to come to Notre Dame for a basketball event and we want to show the nation how supportive we are and that we aren't just a football school," Ceravolo said.

Phelps said he wants the crowd to resemble the crowd that came to see Notre Dame's 1977 win over a then-undefeated San Francisco team. The crowd was so loud and affected so much that NBC, who was broadcasting the game, named the crowd the most valuable player.

"I've seen Gamedays all over for five years and this team has earned the right to have Gameday here and I just want to show the nation that this is Notre Dame," Phelps said.

Contact Chris Hine at
chine@nd.edu

Law

continued from page 1

ing, which includes an addition plus renovation to the old building, will be 192,500 square feet, Tiller said. The addition is complete, and everyone has been moved into that part of the building so renovation work can be done on the old part of the building, he said.

The gates around the archway through the Law School building have been removed, so students can pass from Main Circle to DeBartolo Quad.

Once all work is complete, the classrooms will be in the new part of the building, while the library, career services and admissions will reside in the renovated part, he said.

"The new building has 205

"The new building has 205 seat classrooms, 270 seat classrooms, five seminar rooms and a whole host of teaching spaces."

Craig Tiller
Senior Project Manager

seat classrooms, 270 seat classrooms, five seminar rooms and a whole host of teaching spaces," Tiller said.

Part of the reason the construction is being done is because the old Law School building was very "maze-like and had a lot of level changes."

"[There were] 17 different entrances into the library. You can imagine it was very problematic," he said. "Part of the renovation is to take out that confusion."

The nearly \$58 million project was made possible solely through donations, and the new building, named Biochini Hall, is expected to be finished in June of 2010, Tiller said.

Additional construction projects are taking place across campus, including a new engineering building, named Stinson-Remick Hall, a new women's residence hall, Ryan Hall, and Geddes Hall, which will house

the Institute for Church Life and Center for Social Concerns.

Jim Lyphout, vice president for Business Operations, said there is still interior construction to be done on all of these projects, "while Ryan, Stinson-Remick and Geddes Hall still have remaining exterior work to complete."

Lyphout expects Ryan Hall and Geddes Hall will be completed by Aug. 1 while Stinson-Remick will be completed in December of this year.

Construction also started on the Joyce Center in September, with the foundations of the Purcell Pavilion, Lyphout said.

The Purcell Pavilion will be a "47,000 gross square foot addition to the south dome of the JACC," according to the University Architect Web site.

The Web site also says that the project will include a new major entry for the arena, a new varsity shop, new ticketing operations, new concessions and a new third floor club for hospitality.

Contact Sarah Mervosh at
smervosh@nd.edu

Snite Museum Exhibition

Opening Reception

2:00 – 4 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009

Gallery Talks at 3:00



The Art of the Disegno:
Italian Prints and Drawings from
the Georgia Museum of Art

O'Shaughnessy Galleries
Jan 11 – Mar 1

Niccolò Boldrini, *Venus and Cupid*, 1566
Woodcut on oatmeal paper
12 7/16 x 9 1/8 in; 31.6 x 23.2 cm
Georgia Museum of Art,
University of Georgia;
extended loan from the collection
of Giuliano Cesari
GMOA 1995.773E

Lola Alvarez Bravo
O'Shaughnessy Galleries
Jan 25 – Mar 15



Lola Alvarez Bravo, *Suma, Resta, y Multiplica* (Add, Subtract, and Multiply), ca. 1940s
Gelatin silver print
8 7/8 x 7 1/8 in
Gift of Mr. Jamie Niven
— 2008.005

MAKE TEA NOT WAR



The Graphic Imperative:
International Posters for Peace,
Social Justice and
the Environment 1965–2005

Milly and Fritz Kaeser Mestrovic
Studio Gallery
Jan 25 – Mar 1

Karmarama, *Make Tea Not War*, 2003,
United Kingdom, 13 x 10 in

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks
Dow Jones **8,122.80** -105.30

Up: 930 Same: 101 Down: 2,835 Composite Volume: 2,598,714,448

AMEX **1,357.42** **0.00**
NASDAQ **1,465.49** **-41.58**
NYSE **5,171.68** **-102.31**
S&P 500 **827.50** **-12.74**
NIKKEI (Tokyo) **7,813.83** **-237.91**
FTSE 100 (London) **4,052.23** **-7.65**

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
SPDR S&P 500 (SPY)	-1.55	-1.30	82.75
BANK OF AMERICA (BAC)	-14.52	-0.97	5.71
CITIGROUP INC (C)	-15.26	-0.56	3.11
ULTRA FIN PRO (UYG)	-10.39	-0.35	3.02

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+2.69	+0.068	2.594
13-WEEK BILL	-9.09	-0.010	0.100
30-YEAR BOND	+3.57	+0.112	3.250
5-YEAR NOTE	+1.06	+0.017	1.616

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+0.12		43.67
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+8.70		858.80
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	0.00		82.00

Exchange Rates			
YEN			88.9800
EURO			1.2987
CANADIAN DOLLAR			1.2546
BRITISH POUND			1.3831

IN BRIEF

Bank of America president resigns

NEW YORK — John Thain resigned under pressure from Bank of America on Thursday after reports he rushed out billions of dollars in bonuses to Merrill Lynch employees in his final days as CEO there, while the brokerage was suffering huge losses and just before Bank of America took it over.

The bonuses were paid before Bank of America's acquisition of Merrill became final on Jan. 1, and while Bank of America was privately telling the government that Merrill was losing so much money that the deal might fall through unless it could get more federal bailout money.

Bank of America later received an additional \$20 billion from the government, in part to offset the unexpected Merrill losses. The brokerage lost \$15 billion in the fourth quarter and more than \$27 billion for the year.

Wage discrimination bill clears Senate

WASHINGTON — A wage discrimination bill that heralds the pro-labor policies of the Democratic-controlled Congress and White House cleared the Senate Thursday and could be on President Barack Obama's desk within days.

The legislation reverses a 2007 Supreme Court ruling that narrowly defines the time period during which a worker can file a claim of wage discrimination, even if the worker is unaware for months or years that he or she is getting less than colleagues doing the same job. It has been a priority for women's groups seeking to narrow the wage gap between men and women.

The House is expected to act quickly to again approve the measure, sending it to Obama for his signature. The House passed a nearly identical version two weeks ago but then combined it with another bill that the Senate didn't consider.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid predicted that "the first bill that President Obama will sign will be this piece of legislation." He said the bill would send an important message because "this administration stands for equality and fairness."

Obama strongly backs the measure and invited Lilly Ledbetter, the retired Alabama tire company worker whose lawsuit inspired the legislation, to accompany him on the train trip bringing him to Washington for the inauguration.

Microsoft feels the burn of recession

5,000 lose their jobs as the company makes the first mass layoff in its history

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Microsoft Corp. will make the first mass layoffs in its 34-year history, cutting 5,000 jobs as demand for personal computers falls and even one of the world's richest companies gets burned by the recession.

The company announced the cuts Thursday as it reported an 11 percent drop in second-quarter profit, which fell short of Wall Street's expectations. Microsoft shares plunged more than 11 percent.

"We're certainly in the midst of a once-in-a-lifetime set of economic conditions," Chief Executive Steve Ballmer said during a conference call. With less access to credit, businesses and consumers are spending less and stretching the life span of their existing computers.

The biggest names in the technology sector have been no stranger to layoffs lately. Giants such as chip maker Intel Corp. and even Google Inc. are among the companies that have pulled back on jobs to hunker down in the recession.

Google also reported earnings Thursday and said its quarterly net profit fell 68 percent, its first such drop ever. The results were better than analysts had expected, however.

At Microsoft, the cuts appeared to reflect uncertainty about when times will get better. The company said it could not issue a forecast for earnings and profits for the rest of the year.

The software maker was already facing tough problems, among them its inability to snag a significant share of the lucrative Web search advertising market from leader Google Inc. It tried to fix this by buying Yahoo Inc. and pouring money into its own technology, all the while relying on Office programs such as Word and Excel, and on Windows to keep bringing home huge profits. Now, with the recession pinching soft-



Microsoft displays Microsoft Windows 7 at a booth in the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. The company announced 5,000 job cuts Thursday.

ware earnings, Microsoft's problems seem even harder to fix.

Microsoft, which has \$20.7 billion in cash on hand, said its business prospects were hurt by the deteriorating global economy and lower revenue from software for PCs. The holiday quarter of 2008 was the worst for the PC market since 2002, with computer shipments declining about a half of 1 percent, according to IDC, a technology research group.

Making matters worse, the one type of PC consumers have warmed to in tight times — the low-cost, low-power "netbook" — actually

cut further into Microsoft's earnings. The tiny portable computers run on Windows XP, which is older and less profitable for Microsoft than Windows Vista.

The layoffs, starting with 1,400 on Thursday, will affect workers in research and development, marketing, sales, finance, legal and corporate affairs, human resources and information technology, and mostly in Redmond, Wash., where the company is based. The cuts are expected to touch virtually every division and include the computer programmers who write code for existing and future appli-

cations.

Employees reached by The Associated Press declined to comment on the news, saying it was against company policy to speak to reporters.

Microsoft had never done layoffs on this scale before — it had only made relatively limited staff cuts after acquiring companies or reorganizing product groups.

The software maker won't stop hiring entirely. During the conference call, Ballmer said the company will add new jobs in the next 18 months to support key areas, including Web search, so the total number of employees will drop by 2,000 to 3,000.

Recovery plan advanced in Congress

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Amid grim new evidence of economic weakness, legislation at the heart of President Barack Obama's recovery plan advanced in Congress Thursday over the persistent opposition of Republicans seeking deeper tax cuts.

"We are very pleased with the progress," said Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., after \$275 billion in tax cuts cleared the House Ways and Means Committee on a party-line vote of 24-13. Democratic leaders have promised the measure will be ready for Obama's signature by mid-February.

"It will create jobs immediately, and it will also lay the foundation for economic stability as we go forward," Pelosi added.

But Republicans said there was no reliable estimate of the bill's impact on employment.

"The American people deserve to know what they are getting for their nearly \$1 trillion," said Rep. Dave Camp of Michigan, the top Republican on the tax-writing committee.

On the key vote of the day, Democrats closed ranks to preserve a tax break for this year and 2010 that would mean \$500 for many workers and \$1,000 for millions of couples, including those whose earnings are so low that they pay no federal income tax.

Democrats also turned back a Republican attempt to jettison a new federal subsidy to help laid-off workers pay for health insurance after they lose employer-paid coverage, and to waive income taxes on

unemployment benefits for two years.

They argued that the GOP proposals would favor upper-income individuals and couples who, they said, benefited disproportionately from tax cuts passed during the administration of former President George W. Bush.

"We need to be dealing with people at the bottom of the income scale," said Rep. Jim McDermott, D-Wash. He also noted that the legislation would provide a \$25-per-week increase in unemployment benefits.

But Camp cited a report by the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service that he said showed lower and middle-income workers already would have received most of the benefits from the proposal to eliminate the tax on unemployment benefits.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 8

Friday, January 23, 2009

THE OBSERVER

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Missing history

On Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009, one of the biggest milestones in U.S. history was reached. For the first time ever, a black man will occupy the White House. Greeted with voluminous applause and worldwide vigor, Barack H. Obama became the 44th president of the United States. More than one billion people around the world tuned in to hear his inaugural address. Offices set up televisions and organized breaks to watch. High school classes gathered around the TV screen. But at Notre Dame and Saint Mary's, students were forced to skip classes to watch this historic event. Or if they were lucky, their professors turned it on for them in class.

Why should students have to take an unexcused absence from class to experience the most celebrated event in recent history?

Notre Dame and Saint Mary's were also in classes Monday, Martin Luther King Jr. Day — a national day of service. Other schools across the nation cancelled classes, leaving their students free to volunteer at grocery stores or soup kitchens. Meanwhile, Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students were in the classroom, unable to participate and give back to their community — which was an essential part of King's legacy. Notre Dame, like thousands of other schools across the country,

should cancel classes for the day in honor of the memory and contribution of Dr. King.

Four years ago, when Father John Jenkins was inaugurated as University President, Notre Dame was given the day off. Does Fr. Jenkins outrank the president of the United States? Martin Luther King Jr.? Obviously, the answer is no, however, Barack Obama — the president of the United States — was not even given a few hours of attention by the University.

In anticipation of such a momentous week, the University should have prepared to usher in a new era. The simple action of watching the Inaugural address (which, mind you, was less than 15 minutes long) as a community in the Joyce Center or other venues on campus would have avoided the penalty of skipping classes and would have allowed students and faculty alike to witness history.

Watching the first black president take the White House ought to trump the extra 15 minutes of class time students would miss. As such, both Notre Dame and Saint Mary's need to put into perspective that forfeiting 15 minutes of class is well worth the tradeoff of witnessing history as it happens, instead of watching it on YouTube a few hours later.

THE OBSERVER Editorial

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Action is eloquence."

William Shakespeare
English playwright

Submit a Letter
to the Editor

www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You can observe a lot
just by watching."

Yogi Berra
U.S. baseball player

Obama turning excitement into reform

President Barack Obama's inauguration was so momentous that it even excited Washington insiders with an uninterested "been there, done that" attitude. While many ethnic groups hailed the election as a triumph over their historical struggles for equality, federal employees hope for their freedom.

Government workers of all political affiliations have already begun to blow the whistle on the Bush hiring practices and surveillance procedures. MSNBC's "Countdown with Keith Olbermann" featured an interview

with a former National Security Administration employee who charged that his superiors illegally spied on ordinary Americans and explained how he avoided providing information to congress.

As promised in his inaugural speech, Obama has quickly begun to question if government works in his effort to remake America. The president reversed Bush procedures affecting government personnel and access to federal documents. However, it will be a daunting task to repair nearly a decade of ethically challenged, if not outright illegal, Bush policies.

Last year, the struggle to expose illegal political tampering centered around the calculated firings of eight Republican,



Gary Caruso

Capitol
Comments

Bush appointed U.S. Attorneys who disappointed Republican Senators and Representatives when directly contacted about ongoing criminal cases. While presidential appointees serve at the pleasure of the president — and this writer was appointed by President Clinton — impeding criminal procedures is not reason to remove loyal competent Republican prosecutors like one in Michigan who had studied to be a nun for eight years before turning to law.

While those outside the beltway may think that every administration acts similarly, they do not. In recent history — not the Kennedy or Johnson liberals nor the Reagan conservatives — has such an ideologically charged partisan group been appointed as those of George W. Bush. Not only did these appointees march lockstep to a rigid ideology, they broke laws to suit their political agendas.

Forewarnings existed to alerted us. They included issuing unauthorized wire taps, eliminating habeas corpus for "foreign combatants" and removing Senate confirmed replacement U.S. Attorneys through the Patriot Act. Bush's signing statements pronounced that he could ignore the law he was signing. When congress changed to Democratic control, Bush issued an order mandating that all federal regulations be approved by his political appointees before they were published. Obama's first presidential act was to temporarily suspend pending regulations.

It is no wonder that early in the Bush term, EPA appointees edited scientific

global warming data and career civil rights lawyers at the Justice Department resigned when political appointees ignored their unbiased legal findings. This writer has firsthand knowledge of career civil servants, with whom I have spoken, who were illegally forced to proceed with projects or hiring matters based purely on political motives.

For example, government experts who submitted nonpartisan facts, economic indicators and statistical data watched their numbers changed by political appointees at the Social Security Administration, Commerce Department, FEMA and Justice Department. Also, Bush political appointees overseeing the Bureau of Economic Analysis routinely and blatantly changed monthly statistics before releasing them to the public whenever those economic growth rates contradicted Bush political talking points.

Early in the Bush term, when a rubber-stamp Republican congress ignored oversight of agencies, a senior Social Security Administration political appointee lied during a Government Accountability Office investigation. GAO caught this appointee — subsequently fired and immediately escorted from his office — ordering career employees to remove information from the SSA web site. Even after initially confronted, the appointee continued to instruct subordinates to remove additional information while pursuing a project that he knew was contrary to existing law.

While personally interviewing for career civil service positions, political appointees

routinely administered an illegal political litmus test to me. At the Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation in 2006 when asked my home state, a political appointee told me that he too was from Pennsylvania. His next statement, "I can't stand Rick Santorum."

When I replied that Santorum was an incumbent with good constituent services and should get reelected, the appointee did not ask about my qualifications, but continued with politics. He noted that since the PBGC was not a "policy shop," it was okay to hire Democrats. The appointee said, "In fact, most of our employees here are Democrats."

Obama's administration and congress should invite career employees throughout the government to testify about past known illegalities. Such an open invitation with an e-mail trail of evidence will prove without doubt the pervading "don't give a damn" mentality of the Bush political appointees. It is a sad day, even in light of the promise of this week's inauguration, when just obeying the rule of law is a remake of America.

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Leprechaun Legion

Coach Digger Phelps here, trying to give you all a little perspective on the upcoming game this weekend between your Fighting Irish men's basketball team and the third ranked Connecticut Huskies. ESPN College Basketball GameDay has been around for five years and this is the first visit to Notre Dame.

The nation has not yet seen what Notre Dame students are capable of. I know you are the best students in the nation and this Saturday is time to prove it. We are riding a nation's best 45-game home win streak and it is time to show America why we are so tough to play at the Joyce Center. I talked to the University and with the help of some students and Coach Brey, we are going to open up the field house on Friday night at 9 pm. I want as many students as possible there ready to cheer on the Irish.

If you cannot camp out Friday night, be in the building Saturday morning so we can start the madness at the Joyce Center. Students who arrive early will book their priority seats for the game. Don't let me down. It's time to show the nation what every ND fan already knows. Go Irish!

Digger Phelps
former Notre Dame basketball coach
Jan. 21

Objectivity, please

I was extremely disappointed yesterday, upon reading Emma Driscoll's article concerning President Obama's shut down of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility.

The opinions of Professor O'Connell and Catherine McKinney were extremely biased in favor of the President and Ms. Driscoll's inability to present the opposing view of this controversial issue is quite disheartening.

While I am sure that many of my peers will express their own opinions about the dangers of providing unrepentant terrorists with civilian trials, I would just like to remind Ms. Driscoll and other writers at The Observer that objectivity is a cornerstone of journalistic integrity, and that ideological banter should be reserved for the pages of the Viewpoint.

Nathan S. Furtado
sophomore
Dillon Hall
Jan. 22

Joe Biden: First Goofball

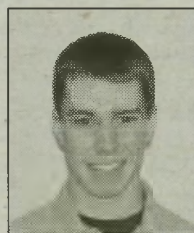
After Joe and Jill Biden appeared on Oprah earlier this week, there was much talk about Mrs. Biden's comment that our now vice president had been given his choice between being Obama's running mate or secretary of state. In the ensuing shhhhhshing of his wife, Biden started off the week with a bang and demonstrated why he was the perfect choice to be our nation's second-in-command. While the whole world has been transfixed on the opening days of Barack Obama's presidency, Joe Biden has been slightly left of center stage as he was sworn in as our 47th vice president. By taking the oath of office, Biden follows such esteemed men as Spiro Agnew, Walter Mondale, and Dick Cheney, but as history tells us the vice president is no more of a second-in-command than a First Goofball, a role for which Joe Biden is incredibly well suited.

As any student of history knows, the First Goofball role of the vice president goes all the way back to the early days of the republic and our third vice president, Aaron Burr. Possibly the most insane man to even hold public office in the United States, Burr is remembered today for such feats as killing Alexander Hamilton in a duel and attempting to form his own country in the (then) western United States. In fact, Burr's actions were so off the wall that in later life he was forced to use an alias just to reside in the States.

While First Goofballs in modern times have not been as insane as Aaron Burr, they have still added a lot to the long history of this unwritten vice presidential responsibility. Spiro Agnew used alliterative phrases to attack his opponents. Walter Mondale pledged to raise taxes while running for president. Dan Quayle had about the intellectual capacity of Michael Scott from The Office. Al Gore claimed to have invented the Internet, and Dick Cheney actually shot a man in the face.

Even those vice presidents who have actually succeeded to the presidency have not been our most conventional. Johnson spoke with staffers and gave interviews while utilizing the toilet. Ford ruined his future political career by pardoning Nixon. Bush 41 has been spending his later years jumping out of air planes and broing out with the man who defeated him. These are not typical behaviors of our chief executives.

Why, you might be asking yourself, have our vice



Bob Kessler

House of Stix

presidents tended to be goofballs? One predominant theory is that this is the way that presidents take out an insurance policy on their life. The notion that Barack Obama is safer from assassination because nobody outside of Scranton wants Joe Biden to be our chief executive is a highly compelling one that stands up to incredible scrutiny. Why else would John McCain have picked Sarah Palin as his running mate?

Another theory is that presidential candidates look for Goofballs to be their running mates so that they appear to be more serious. Is it a coincidence that Burr's actions have been juxtaposed in history with those of Thomas Jefferson? If the vice president is going around saying and doing stupid things, it takes some attention away from the smaller stupid things that the president might actually do. By the time Joe Biden was finished taking the oath of office on Tuesday, I thought he was going to start laughing hysterically. This eased the way for Obama, and everybody pretty much brushed off the fact that Obama messed up his first act as president (taking the oath of office). This is minor, however, and there are many examples that go against it.

While this theory does not always stand up to the scrutiny of history, it does help to explain the predicament of the last eight years. Dick Cheney was not always allowed to assume his role as because W. was actually acting as First Goofball. When Bush choked on his pretzel while watching a football game less than a year into his presidency, he started to be seen as the jokester that he actually is. We were then met with an administration that has a vice president who takes himself too seriously and a president who does not take himself seriously enough.

Therefore, because we have gone eight years with a president who was the First Goofball, Joe Biden has a large task ahead of him in reasserting the vice president as a Goofball. The American people are counting on Biden to be the man that we thought he was a year ago when he dropped out of the presidential race. He needs to say things like, "Stand up, Chuck" to a man in a wheelchair or "You cannot go into a 7-11 or Dunkin' Donuts unless you have a slight Indian accent." If Joe Biden can do these things, than he will be a great vice president, and an even better First Goofball, and Barack Obama will be remembered more fondly because of him.

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



ANDREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic

By MICHELLE FORDICE
Asst. Scene Editor

Whether or not you will appreciate "Capades," by Obi Best and featuring singer Alex Lilly, depends on your tolerance for synthesizers. Lilly's spacey voice and whimsical lyrics and arrangement can be fun, but unless you've just woken up from the 1980s it may take a bit of time to adjust.

Alex Lilly began her career as a backup singer for The Bird and the Bee, an indie-pop musical duo whose songs you may have caught on the soundtracks for "Grey's Anatomy," "Sex and the City: The Movie," and "Forgetting Sarah Marshall." "Capades" is Lilly's first solo effort and she is now touring as the opening act for The Bird and the Bee.

The sound of Obi Best is a pop layering of piano, voice, synthesizer, and drum machine which has been compared to bands like Stereolab, Her Space Holiday, Feist and Au Revoir Simone.

"Nothing Can Come Between Us," starts off well with a catchy piano melody line, but it never grows out of its initial bounce as Lilly sings, "You know what I mean, but nothing can come between us now."

"Who Loves You Now," steps back from the gratingly bright opening track and delves into more creative lyrics, opening with the ironic, "Every word I say is true, I'll say anything to be close to you," and continuing with the quirky and fun imagery, "I know there will be times to run around like a bird with its head cut off...to flop around like a fish whose air we're drinkin'...to dream of once again breathing."

"Green and White Stripes," stands out on the album as a flowing ballad that successfully combines the elements of Lilly's voice, the band's different sound,

and the lyric. Opening with, "Lovely laughter sitting on a wall, its love...you can read between the lines, but its only notes and dots and lines/It's only music," it has a strong build and manages to be both unique and listenable.

There is little instant access to this album; Obi Best demand that you listen a few times to get into their songs. But it offers a unique sound and quirky lyrics that make it worth the investment.

"It's Because of People Like You," is a humorous story of dealing with the kind of people that leave nasty notes on your car about how you parked. It has a fun beat that will get you moving as it declares, "Nothing in the way I park could warrant such a cold remark," and "Now really I'm sure you hate people as much as I do/But

try to write things that are true."

"Origami" is the only song on the album that brings in voices distinct from Lilly's with a deep male chorus line throughout. It plays with fifth chords and sings, "Can I love you this way? Can it be true? Paper cranes and daisies say I love you."

"Swedish Boy" is fun in its oddity as it croons, "It seems to me you live in a made up country...Its something you would make up when you were high/It's something the Gods would make while they're dreamin'/It's something you would make up when you were five." (If you find you like the song, Social Science Studios has opened a competition to design the music video for it.)

The lyric of "Within These Forrest Walls" make it stand out, with, "In my garden/Don't you worry/Can't you see that I'm freer than you'll ever be/They say that I can leave to seek a life out there but the world is not for me/It dangles hidden keys/It's the biggest fantasy."

"Days of Decadence," closes the album with a lighter, refreshing swing and, "I'll just linger back instead/This is not my time/I see some greaser kids out looking for me/I wish I could rewind and find those dusty days waitin' there for me/Days of decadence are ringin' through me."

Some of the songs on the album are less successful. "What It's Not" sounds a bit whiney at times and "Blooms Like Flowers" lingers on for too long without offering much internal change.

There is little instant access to this album; Obi Best demand that you listen a few times to get into their songs. But it offers a unique sound and quirky lyrics that make it worth the investment. "Capades" will be released in stores February 24 but it is all ready available digitally on stores like iTunes.

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ANDREA ARCHER | Observer Graphic

By STEPHANIE DEPRez
Asst. Scene Editor

This week Scene got a chance to sit down with Alex Lilly, the main brain behind Obi Best. Between bad cell connections and last minute answer changes (what music would you want on a deserted island?) Lilly revealed her complete down-to-earth interest in sound effects, quirky lyrics, and the joys of being just plain silly.

What was it like working with The Bird and the Bee?

I had been working on my thing before I came to LA, and the backing vocals kind of came out of the blue. I'd never done backing vocals before for a band so I was pretty excited when it happened. Sort of a lucky accident.

I think that they did influence me a little bit. I was inspired by performing with both Inara and Greg. I actually wrote the song "It's Because of People Like You" right after playing with them, so I'm sure some of Greg's awesome contrapuntal madness got into my writing a little bit. I was already writing stuff that felt sympathetic to stuff they were doing. That was part of the reason I was so excited to play with them.

Your music is very spacy and outside of the box. How do you create a song?

What do you write first, music or lyrics? How do you decide where to layer voice and instruments?

The music comes first. Usually what will happen is that I start writing a piece of music and then it reminds me of something that happened in my life or remind me of a concept, maybe something that I've seen. The music does come first.

Sometimes the melody line that I have in mind directs me to a new key or to find another chord, but usually I tinker with something a lot until I find something that feels right, that is exciting to me. Sometimes if I've been in the same key for a while and I want to write a bridge I'll think oh, it would be cool to go to the parallel minor, so little music theory stuff will pop up just to kind of shake me up. Usually I just do it with my ear and it will send me into other keys and other territories. I experiment with different sounds until I have an idea of a mood that I want. I'll record a bunch of stuff and it becomes a process of elimination.

What's it like to have that kind of control over your music?

I've never had it any other way. I've always had to take control. Music has always been my idea. My grandma plays piano but I had to ask for piano lessons. I asked for a guitar. I asked for Pro Tools. I felt like I always asked for what I wanted or saved up money to buy mic's.

"It's Because of People Like You" is about an angry note someone left on your car. Did someone really do that?

They did indeed. It didn't say "It's because of people like you" but it had the sentiment, "Learn to park and lock your car." I had sort of a junky car, and it was not parked improperly, as I mention in the song, but he left a really belligerent, pissed-off note with underlines and capital letters, an incoherent mean note, and that inspired the song.

Well, they picked the wrong car. They have become forever immortalized

because of it.

Yeah, I know. He's my muse. That crazy old man, he'll never know.

The first thing I thought when I picked up your album was, why is she hugging three people wrapped in sheets?

I can explain that! When I finished the record I decided to do a photo session where I dressed up as all my songs, so one session I'm dressed up for "Origami" and I'm in a kimono, and in another one I'm a "Swedish Boy." The cover represents the song "Who Loves You Now" and it's hugging all the boyfriend ghosts, all the boys you've been with and all the relationships you've had. They're still kind of shaping you, and in your life, and you embrace them anyway. I dressed up people who were playing with me at the time.

I hear you are holding a video contest for the song "Swedish Boy." Tell me about that.

We thought it would be fun to throw a contest for Swedish Boy. I think it will be cool if people want to submit a crazy video of vegetables dressed up as Swedish people. It's supposed to be pretty low budget. A few people have entered. If there's any film students that want to do anything, they can come up with something pretty silly and have a good chance of winning. Let them know!

What do you think is the most unexpected thing people will find when listening to "Capades?"

Hopefully they'll be surprised with each song. Each song is different. Sound effects. Cooking glasses during "Days of Decadence."

Why the name Obi Best?

I wanted something that had ridiculous positive childlike sentiment. I thought it would be funny to take the word Obi, which is a sash that goes on a kimono, and just put it before the word best, so its, "Oh be your best!" It's ani-punk, so instead of anti-establishment it's absolutely positive and kind of stupid.

What would you say are your major musical influences?

I remember taking dance classes in fifth grade and this really cool modern dance instructor played Tom Tom Club's "Genius of Love." I was obsessed with it. At the same time my mom had put The Doors in my Christmas stocking, so I was pretty in to that. Grace Jones I love. Of course all the classics like Queen, Led Zeppelin, the Talking Heads, Hpc, but not the drug! When I went to college I went through the classical phase and I would listen to Messiaen, Prokofiev, and Ravel.

It's very intelligent music to listen to.

You know those Baby Genius CD's? It's like that for a college kid. You get smarter when you listen to it.

If you were stranded on a desert island and could bring the complete works of one artist, who's would you bring?

I'd probably have to bring someone eclectic so I don't go crazy. The Beatles? No. Miles Davis? I have to go with Pink Floyd. Yes. Pink Floyd. They do a lot of different stuff.

(Five minutes later, the phone rings again.) Hello?

I have my answer! David Bowie.

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Capades

Obi Best

Released by: Social Science Records

Best Tracks : "Green and White Stripes," "It's Because of People Like You"



IRISH INSIDER

Friday, January 23, 2009

THE
OBSERVER

Lucky #13

Point guard Tory Jackson is used to battling people who are bigger and stronger than he is — He did it growing up as the second-youngest in a family of fourteen children.

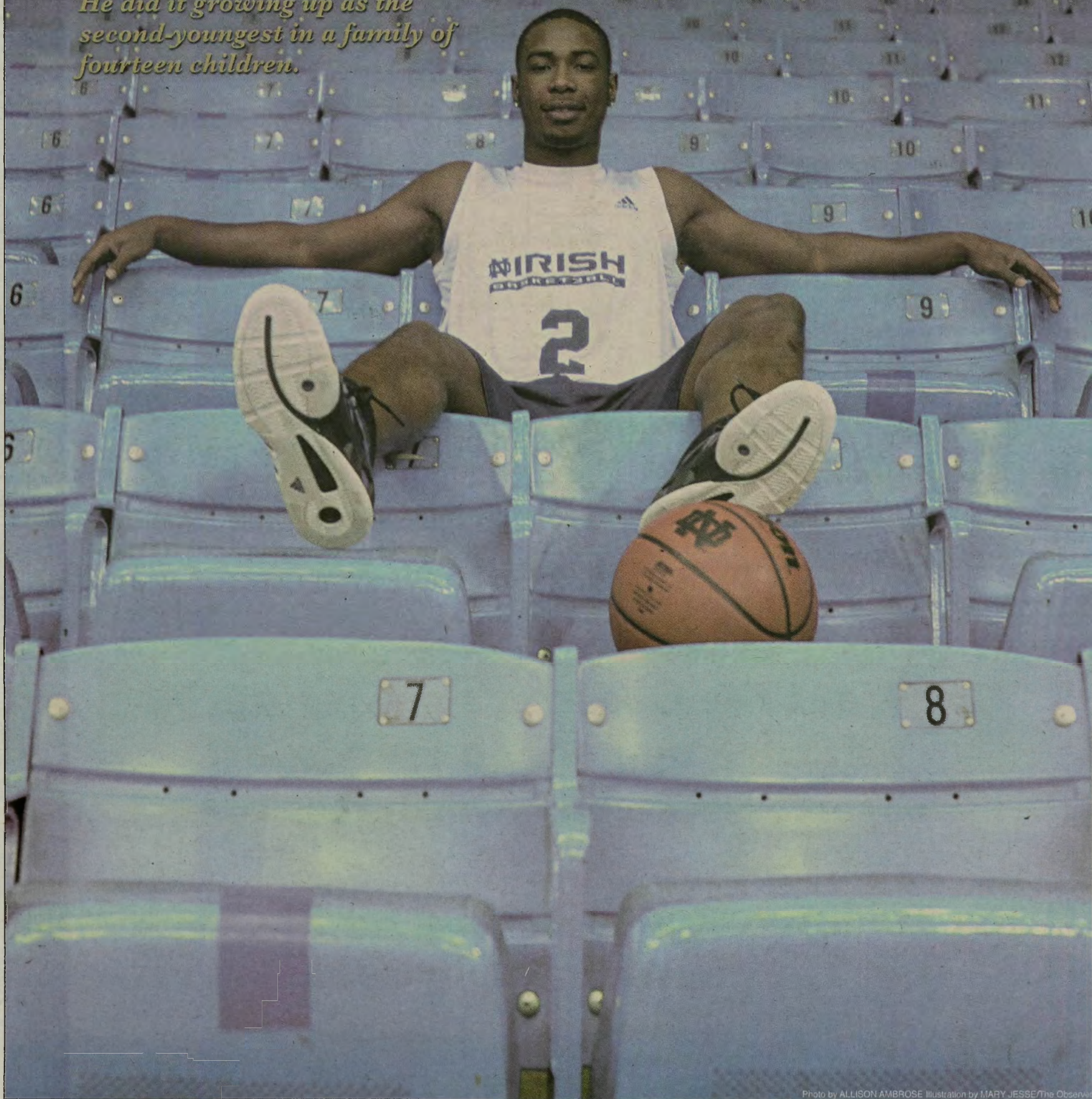


Photo by ALLISON AMBROSE Illustration by MARY JESSE/The Observer

COMMENTARY

Irish need boost from home fans

Don't underestimate a crowd's ability to electrify. To embolden. To inspire. To take a group of athletes and help them reach a higher place.

Digger Phelps doesn't. How could he?

On January 19, 1974, Phelps and his No. 2 Irish stood ready when UCLA strolled into South Bend with a videogame-esque 88-game win streak. They had been ranked No. 1 since 1971. With 3:30 left in the game, it was business as usual for UCLA who led 70-59, but then John Shumate scored four straight points. And then the noise turned up. And then came UCLA's next four possessions: turnover, travel, missed shot, and an offensive foul.

The Bruins, renowned for their flawless execution, were so rattled that coach John Wooden had to break from his philosophy of never calling a timeout at the end of the game. It didn't matter. The Bruins missed their final shot, and the court was engulfed by delirious students.

That wasn't even the most impressive performance turned in by the Irish crowd under Phelps' tenure.

Just over three years later on March 5, 1977, the University of San Francisco was flirting with a perfect season at 29-0 when they walked onto Notre Dame's floor. They were subsequently greeted with chants of 29 (clap! clap!) and one (clap! clap!).

The chorus reigned down on the Dons throughout the game growing in intensity as the Irish pulled away for a 93-82 victory. After the game, NBC's commentary team of Dick Enberg and Billy Packer made the unprecedented move of giving the Player of the game award to the student body.



Greg Arbogast
Sports Writer

So come early. Be creative. And when the first Huskey sets foot on that court, shake down the thunder like your life depends on it.

This Saturday night, the Irish need that kind of boost from the crowd.

What started as the most highly anticipated Irish season in decades is suddenly teetering dangerously close to spiraling out of control. Losses at Louisville and Syracuse have given the Irish their first back-to-back Big East losses since 2007. Now, No. 3 Connecticut comes to town followed by No. 11 Marquette and then a game at No. 4 Pittsburgh. Two losses could turn into three losses which become five defeats in a row, and Notre Dame's No. 9 preseason ranking is a distant memory.

That can't happen.

Rarely does a moment of need coincide so ideally with one of opportunity, but the Irish have been blessed by the scheduling gods in the form of a certain college basketball show led by our own Phelps.

Digger knows the effect Gameday has. He described the energy during the morning broadcast as a force that carries over to the moment when the prime-time lights come on. Maybe that's why he's campaigning dorm-to-dorm in an effort to pack the JACC with 11,000 fans for the 11 A.M. broadcast.

Even the administration seems to sense the opportunity to seize the moment. The doors to the JACC will be opened at 9:00 p.m. Friday for students who want to "campout" prior to Saturday's festivities. Notre Dame's also dropping their traditional anti-sign stance, offering a subtle encouragement to the student body.

So come early. Be creative. And when the first Huskey sets foot on that court, shake down the thunder like your life depends on it.

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

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2009 Big East Standings

		Last game	Next game
	(5-0)	W, 78-59, RU	at Syracuse
	(5-0)	W, 91-82, PROV	vs DePaul
	(6-1)	W, 89-83, 'Nova	at Notre Dame
	(5-1)	W, 78-60, 'Cuse	at West Virginia
	(5-2)	L, 78-60, Pitt	vs Louisville
	(5-2)	W, 98-93, S. Hall	vs Syracuse
	(3-2)	W, 75-58, G'Town	vs Pittsburgh
	(3-3)	L, 58-75, WVU	at Seton Hall
	(3-3)	L, 74-93, 'Cuse	vs Connecticut
	(3-4)	W, 71-60, St. John's	at USF
	(2-3)	L, 83-89, UConn	vs Georgetown
	(2-4)	W, 70-61, DePaul	vs Villanova
	(1-5)	L, 60-71, Cinci	vs Rutgers
	(0-6)	L, 93-98, Prov.	vs Georgetown
	(0-6)	L, 59-78, Louisville	at St. John's
	(0-6)	L, 61-70, USF	at Marquette

Check out The Observer's new sports blog, featuring updates on every sport: observersportsblog.wordpress.com.

If you are interested in writing for Sports, e-mail Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu or Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Tory's story

Tory Jackson's childhood was a good warmup for the tall players he'd face in the Big East

By CHRIS HINE
Editor-in-Chief

Growing up, Tory Jackson didn't possess a height advantage.

As the 13th of 14 children growing up in Saginaw, Mich., Jackson constantly had to fight his bigger, older siblings for everything from toys, to the extra food on the dinner table, to who would do the chores around the house. It was rare when he came away victorious.

"It was probably one of the toughest challenges I faced so far, fighting for everything and me being so little," said Jackson, who's listed at 5-foot-11. "The older kids, they got everything. They beat me to it or they were just too big and I couldn't take it from them."

On the court, the results weren't much different. For the first 13-plus years of his life, Jackson's frequent foe, his brother Cory, one year his senior, always had the upper hand. When Tory was in eighth grade, he finally beat his brother.

"We had a rivalry, it was like the Pistons and the Bulls and every rivalry you can think of, Michigan vs. Ohio State," Jackson said. "I feel like our rivalry was tougher than all of theirs because we had to do everything, we had to fight for food, we had to fight each other growing up. It was always a competition."

That competition served Jackson well. To beat Cory and his other siblings, Jackson learned how to be a scrapper. He fought for every loose ball, fought for every rebound and used his quickness to offset his siblings' height and strength, something he does to opponents every night in the Big East.

While beating any member of

his family in a game of one-on-one is no longer a problem, those early defeats helped form him into one of the best guards in the Big East and continue to inspire him to get better.

"All the talent came I have came from God and it came from my family beating me up all the time back in the day," Jackson said.

One man's suspension is another's opportunity

Once he got to Notre Dame, Jackson wasn't playing as much as he'd like.

Kyle McAlarney was Notre Dame's starting point guard and the Irish also had scorers in the backcourt in Colin Falls and Russell Carter. Jackson got his minutes coming off the bench, something he never did in his playing career.

"When I first got here, I was like, 'I want to play right away.' But that's not the case all the time," Jackson said. "This was the first time I was coming off the bench, all through high school all through elementary, everything, I always started, always played big minutes. Coming in, beginning of my freshman year, I had to play behind K-Mac, and it was one of those learning things."

Then McAlarney was arrested for marijuana possession just before Big East play started in the 2006-07 season and subsequently suspended from the University for the rest of the semester. Jackson was now Notre Dame's starting point guard. And Jackson was ready to take over, thanks in part to his childhood.

"It was one of those things, it kind of reminded me of my past," Jackson said. "When I was growing up, it was a tough

challenge, but I was raised to take [a challenge] and go with it. I didn't let it phase me."

Jackson got off to a rocky start in his new role. He had three points and five turnovers in his first start against Stony Brook.

"The first five minutes of the Stony Brook game, Falls and I kind of looked at each other because he had two turnovers and we were like, 'Oh no, is this going to work?'" Brey said.

But those doubts about Jackson were erased in his second game as a starter when Notre Dame played Louisville.

Jackson had 14 points, five rebounds and four assists in a 78-62 win on Jan. 3. Jackson grew up fast his freshman year.

"To be thrown into that and handle it with the maturity that he did was really impressive," Brey said.

When Falls and Carter weren't getting the ball as much as they might like, it was Jackson who took the blame and played peacemaker.

"I respect them because they were a lot older and I expected them to feel that way," Jackson said. "It was one of those things where I knew what was coming so I took the blame for it because I felt like I was strong enough mentally and physically to take it."

Jackson helped lead Notre Dame to an 11-5 conference record.

The culmination of his season came against Georgetown in the semifinals of the Big East tournament. All the skills he picked up playing his older taller siblings seemed to culminate that night, when Jackson made a dizzying array of plays around the basket late in the game, including multiple reverse layups going into the paint against 7-foot-3 Roy Hibbert that caught the attention of everyone at Madison Square Garden that night. Even though Notre Dame lost in the final seconds, Jackson's 20-point, eight-rebound and five-assist performance was hard to forget.

"It was one of those nights, just playing on that floor, it's always amazing to play there," Jackson said. "It was one of those things where I was excited but at the same time had to hide it because it was in the middle of a game."

Showing such promise his freshman year, Jackson set the bar high for himself for the following year

Learning to adjust

By his sophomore season, the word was out on Tory Jackson. No longer would teams let him burn them the way he did Georgetown. They laid off Jackson to guard against his ability to drive, and tried to make him settle for jump shots.

He ended up scoring 8.0 points per game, averaging an unusually high 5.1 rebounds per game for someone his height. Most likely a product of having to battle his older siblings for the ball in those one-on-one games when he was younger.

But most importantly for his



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Tory Jackson is averaging a career high 11.4 points per game this season for Notre Dame.

team, he led the Big East with 6.1 assists per game as Notre Dame finished 14-4 in conference play.

It was a successful season by most standards, except his own.

"I felt like it was one of those years where it was a down year from me," Jackson said. "I expected a lot more, especially coming off that freshman year. I expected myself to be a lot better and I never really adjusted to teams' defenses."

"They finally knew about me. In high school I was playing different teams (Saginaw Buena Vista) It was one of those things where I was

playing different teams and nobody had a scouting report, but in college everybody's scouting you, they got something on you and I never really adjusted and tried to fix my game."

And where would Jackson turn to fix his game? His family.

Evolving into a complete player

Jackson knew he had to develop his jump shot headed into his junior year, and his family was there to help inspire him to keep working at it. Some of Jackson's family members relocated to South Bend and worked out with him over the summer. Naturally, the Jacksons couldn't help but turn their workouts into a competition.

"I was thankful for my brothers being around and at times we would be in the gym working out after hours or something like that, or just shooting around and they would start some kind of competition and the jump shooting would begin," Jackson said.

"So much competition, and it made you want to work and fix each other and see what was wrong with my jump shot."

As a result, Jackson's touch has become noticeably softer this season. His arc has improved, and his shooting percentage has gone up. Jackson is shooting 43.3 percent from the field, up from 38.6 a year ago, and is 37.5 percent from 3-point range, up from 30.2 percent last season. He's averaging 11.4 points per game, Notre Dame's third-leading scorer this season. He's third in the league in assists, averaging just under six per game. And he's still averaging 4.6 rebounds per game.

But this season, Notre Dame has struggled defensively on its way to a 3-3 record in the Big East this season and Jackson is taking it upon himself to remedy that.

"I feel like defensively I should set a spark. Offensively not much should change, maybe shot selection. Defensively, I should set a spark. I think everybody else will feed off it."

But regardless of his statistics and regardless of winning or losing, there's always one phone call Jackson makes everyday.

"I'll call my mom, [Sarah], because I know she'll say something good, something that'll really pick me up and even if I don't smile, I have to fight it sometimes," Jackson said. "I'll want to be so tough, but she'll say something to make me smile."

Jackson recognizes that his size is going to be an obstacle he'll have to overcome to play in the NBA. It's hard to predict where he'll end up when graduates next May, but without his family, Jackson probably wouldn't have any shot at all of making the league.

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ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish guard Tory Jackson attempts to dunk during a photoshoot on Wednesday. Jackson is averaging 5.9 assists per game this season.

Notre Dame welcomes trash-talking Huskies

By FRAN TOLAN
Associate Sports Editor

There is a palpable buzz in the air for the No. 19 Irish. Who said Notre Dame is a "football school?"

No. 3 Connecticut is coming to town and brings with it ESPN's College Gameday, trash talk and many other factors that should motivate the Irish, who are looking to break a two-game losing streak.

Much of the student body plans to flood the Joyce Center Saturday morning to catch a glimpse of Rece Davis, Bobby Knight, Hubert Davis, Jay Bilas and — of course — Digger Phelps.

"With College Gameday being here, it's a great honor to be part of that," Irish co-captain Ryan Ayers said. "It'll be exciting and it is a big game ... We kind of relish these opportunities to show people what we can do, especially on a big national stage."

After a week off since they lost to Syracuse last Saturday, the Irish will square off against the Huskies at 7:30, and Irish coach Mike Brey said the Leprechaun Legion will be going wild.

"I think this crowd will be the best I've seen since I've been here and that's saying something," said Brey, who has guided the Irish for nine years. "I can feel it building, I can feel the crescendo. And I think we will feel an intensity and an energy in the building Saturday

night that maybe has never been in this building, and I really believe that."

The Irish are currently riding a 45-game home winning streak and, with a win Saturday, would set a record for consecutive Big East home wins with 20.

"It's awesome. I'm very, very proud of [the streak] and I think it says how consistent the group has been to put us in position to actually break it," Brey said. "I'm very proud of the group."

Which brings us to Jeff Adrien. After a win over Seton Hall Sunday, the Connecticut forward uttered some trash talk about Notre Dame's Joyce Center dominance.

"It's going to feel good to break [Notre Dame's] home winning streak," Adrien told the Associated Press. "It's a tough place to play, but we can do it. We almost did it last year."

The Irish players had measured responses to Adrien's comments.

"We kind of just laugh at it, use it as motivation," Ayers said. "We're not going to say anything back to him obviously, we're just going to let our play do the talking."

Nonetheless, Adrien's quote was the second insult of Notre Dame by a Connecticut player. In November, Huskies center Hasheem Thabeet appeared on the cover of ESPN the Magazine and took a jab at Irish forward Luke Harangody. Alongside a picture of Thabeet ran this quote: "Nobody's better than

me, only more experienced. I played Luke Harangody and he was not tough ..."

"There's definitely going to be a lot of hype with this game especially with what Adrien said and what Thabeet's been saying, so that might add a little excitement for the game," Harangody said. "But personally I'm going to take it as just another game."

Still, Harangody admitted he is excited to stand toe to toe with the 7-foot-3 Thabeet.

"It's always a fun matchup with him. It's such a challenge because he's such a great player," Harangody said. "So yeah, you do circle this one on the schedule."

Last season, Harangody scored just 14 points on 5-of-23 shooting during Notre Dame's 73-67 win over Connecticut on Jan. 5. But Harangody exploded for 32 points and 16 rebounds in a February rematch that, oddly enough, the Irish lost.

However, Harangody pointed out that Saturday's game will be about a lot more than the matchup in the paint. He said he expects Ayers and senior forward Zach Hillesland to bounce back after several rough games on the road.

"I think coming home is going to add an element to guys like Zach and Ryan," Harangody said. "They're capable of putting up big numbers so I think you'll be able to see that Saturday."

Brey agreed that his team is looking forward to returning to the Joyce Center. It will be



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish forward Ryan Ayers is averaging 11.3 points per game this season. He had a career-high 35 points against South Dakota on Dec. 2.

Notre Dame's first Big East home game of the year while school is in session.

"I've missed our students because they haven't been at a home game since the [Boston University] game and they pulled us through that one," Brey said. "Our players, more importantly, have missed having the student body there because that drives the energy in the building. They've certainly been rested up so they can let it rip Saturday."

Ayers added: "It's probably going to be one of the greatest

games I've ever played in. We're playing against a great team, a top-five team, so it's just going to be awesome. The crowd's going to be buzzing."

Yes, there is certainly considerable excitement about Saturday's matchup with the Huskies. So don't be surprised to see tailgates and rabid fans all over campus this weekend. It may be mid-January but there is football-sized hype surrounding this game.

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NOW PLAYING: Songs from the 2009 Broadway Season

FORTNIGHT PRODUCTIONS

By ANALISE LIPARI
Scene Editor

Tonight, Fortnight productions, an event series sponsored by the Student Activities Office, returns with its latest production, "Now Playing: Songs from the 2009 Broadway Season." The performance, a revue featuring well-known songs from contemporary Broadway shows, is free for students.

Kyle Chamberlain, a student at the Notre Dame Law School and graduate of the University, is one of the people behind Fortnight Productions, an initiative of Student Activities that first came into being last year. According to Chamberlain, the project began as an effort to reach out to students whose academic or personal schedules kept them from getting involved with other, larger productions on campus.

"When I was an undergrad," Chamberlain told Scene in a recent interview, "I never did any theater work, which was a big departure from high school, where I performed all year round. I was too busy to commit back then."

Chamberlain said that the philosophy of Fortnight Productions is threefold: One, that their shows are always performed on weekends, so students can easily attend; two, that the performances are always free for students; and three, that the entire production schedule will take no more than two weeks. This approach then allows students who have an interest in theater but aren't necessarily free to join larger campus groups, such as the Pasquerilla East Musical Company (PEMCO) or the Farley Hall Players, to participate in similar activities.

The short time span of each produc-

tion also encourages students who haven't worked in musical theater before to try their hand at theatrical performance. The students involved in Fortnight Productions, Chamberlain noted, range from the very experienced to those who've never set foot on a stage before.

"We have some people whose first time on stage is now," he said. "We draw from a lot of different groups."

Chamberlain first came up with the idea of Fortnight Productions while working for Student Activities last year.

"I tried to think of what I would enjoy as an undergrad. The mantra behind Fortnight is that it's an opportunity for talented performers who are involved in other things — those whose schedules keep them too busy — have a chance to act."

This year, the event series moves to Washington Hall — their previous production, a similar musical revue, was held in the LaFortune Ballroom.

Chamberlain promised that the revue's selections are both varied and fun, drawing from a wide range of Broadway shows that students should recognize.

"The current revue has songs from shows that are playing or have played on Broadway sometime this year. That includes some newer stuff, like 'Hairspray,' 'Wicked,' 'Jersey Boys,' the big blockbusters, and also older things, including revivals of 'South Pacific' and 'Guys and Dolls.'"

The revue format, Chamberlain noted, is well-suited to the range of talent and strengths of the students involved in the show.

"The good part about the revue format is that you can pick numbers that are well suited to the talent you have,"



Graphic courtesy of Kyle Chamberlain

Photo courtesy of Kyle Chamberlain

An actor in Fortnight Production's "Now Playing" rehearses for the company's review-style performances this evening.

he said. "If you have people that work well with a certain genre, you can find something that showcases their abilities. That's a big advantage."

Highlights of the show will include selections from "Wicked," "Jersey Boys" and the recent stage adaptation of "The Little Mermaid."

"I think people will really like the four guys who do some of the Jersey Boys numbers," Chamberlain said, "looking back on the Four Seasons. Some of the big ensemble numbers we're doing will also be highlights, including numbers from 'Spamalot,' and a performance of 'Under the Sea,' complete with a steel drum band."

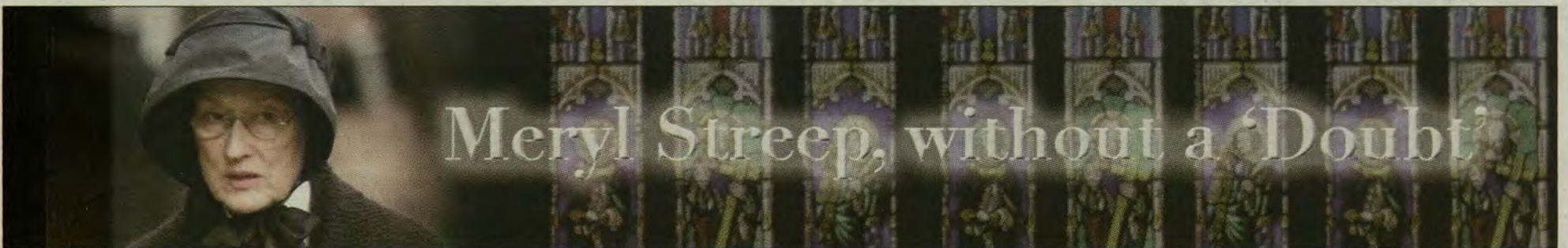
Ultimately, Chamberlain said he

hoped to draw a wide variety of students to the revue for a fun night of musical theater.

"This show has a little bit of something for everybody," he said. "Musical theater fans will love it, but people who aren't normally interested in that art will also find something entertaining. It's a short time commitment, and it's free. You don't have anything to lose."

"Now Playing" begins tonight at 9:00 p.m. in Washington Hall, and is free to students with a Notre Dame, Saint Mary's or Holy Cross ID.

Contact Analise Lipari at
alipari@nd.edu



ANDREA ARCHERI Observer Graphic

By ADRINA PRATT
Scene Writer

Thomas Aquinas once said, "Doubt is the beginning of wisdom." When it is brought to Sister Aloysius's (Meryl Streep) attention that the new priest at her 1964 Catholic church and school in the Bronx might have made homosexual come-ons to the school's first African American student, doubt is not a word to be found in the severe no-nonsense woman's vocabulary.

Even though Fr. Flynn is very well liked as the parish priest whose homilies transcend heavenly matters by infusing inspiring doses of pragmatism, his charming personality and warm persona only irritate and displease Sister Aloysius more and the issue is not to be treated lightly on her part.

Tired of the changes Vatican II is attempting to make and the rascally students who are constantly trying to pull the wool over her eyes, Sister Aloysius's patience has fatigued and no plea will convince her that Fr. Flynn (Philip Seymour Hoffman) is innocent.

Sister James (Amy Adams), the naïve and innocent young sister who brought the suspicions of the miscreant behavior to Sister Aloysius's attention when she smelled alcohol on young Donald Miller's breath after a visit to Fr. Flynn's rectory, plays the gullible go-between, changing her opinion on who's guilty based on whose side of the story she most recently heard.

Another twist to the plot comes when, in Sister Aloysius's attempt to uncover more evidence of Fr. Flynn's corruption of her youthful son, Mrs. Miller (Viola Davis) reveals to Sister Aloysius that Donald is "that way" and that she will allow any attention he receives from Fr. Flynn to continue.

The issue further complicates itself when Mrs. Miller begs Sister Aloysius not to make anything of it, both because Donald's father would most likely beat her son to death if he found

out what was possibly taking place and also because African Americans did not have much of a chance to succeed academically during that time period and it would only be a few more months until Donald could graduate and they could put all of this behind them.

Though this film received many accolades and acclaim for its adaptation of the 2004 play to the screen, it was overly praised.

With a rosary in her hand and her black bonnet severely strapped tight to her head, Sister Aloysius leaves behind Mrs. Miller's request and has one final confrontation with Fr. Flynn.

In this climactic scene Sister Aloysius snarls that she will accept nothing less than Fr. Flynn's dismissal from their parish.

A conversation between the two sisters who brought this case to light reveals the complexities of each of their characters and the soft core that lies beneath Sister Aloysius's tough exterior. A fantastic performance by

Meryl Streep brings the many dimensions of her character full circle. The audience leaves wondering which aspect Sister Aloysius doubted — her accusation of Fr. Flynn, or even more consequential, a doubt of her very own faith.

Though this film received many accolades and acclaim for its adaptation of the 2004 play to the screen, it was overly praised. The fact that it was about a controversial topic (in particular one that deals with homosexual Catholic priests — a media favor

ite) brought it enormous attention. The performances were beautifully done and the words were beautifully spoken, but the storyline made for an overall unexciting plot, a key component to any movie that deserves true praise. See this film if you are in the mood for something thought-provoking, but it is not worth skipping your homework to do because, as Sister Aloysius says, "Every easy choice today will have its consequence tomorrow."

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NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Butler's 27 points leads West Virginia to upset

Streaking Boilermakers shut down Minnesota with strong defensive effort; Butler rallies to win over Wisconsin-GB

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — So West Virginia is the ninth-best team in the Big East? If so, that's going to be some tournament at Madison Square Garden in March.

Da'Sean Butler scored 27 points, a relentless defense forced 19 turnovers and the Mountaineers knocked hard on the door of the conference's eight ranked teams Thursday night with a 75-58 win over No. 12 Georgetown.

In a game in which nearly every basket was hard-earned — and steals were sometimes canceled out by quick counter-steals — Butler stood out by going 11-for-18 from the field. The Mountaineers shot 58 percent in the second half, while the No. 1 scoring defense in the Big East limited the Hoyas to 33 percent shooting after the break.

Georgetown went 2-for-16 from 3-point range for the game and again had trouble on the boards, allowing 16 second-chance points on West Virginia's 14 offensive rebounds.

Darryl Bryant added 13 points, and Alex Ruoff had nine assists and 10 points, including

an eye-popping driving dunk that gave the Mountaineers a 59-48 lead with 5½ minutes to play. His play came shortly after a 12-3 run that put the lead in double digits for the first time.

West Virginia (14-4, 3-2) has won eight of 10, with the only two losses coming to ranked Big East foes Connecticut and Marquette.

Chris Wright scored 13 points, DaJuan Summers had 12 and Greg Monroe added 11 for the Hoyas (12-5, 3-3).

The Mountaineers were supposed to signal the start of the softer part of a Georgetown schedule that so far has been the toughest in the country. Five of the Hoyas' previous six opponents were Top 20 teams, but even an unranked school is a handful in the Big East this season.

Getting an open shot was hard work from the start. The Mountaineers missed eight of their first nine and trailed 9-2 before turning the tide with Butler's three-point play and a four-point play resulting from an intentional foul following a steal at midcourt.

The Hoyas shot relatively well at first — when they could get a

shot off. Georgetown turned the ball over 11 times in the first half and went more than five minutes without a field goal near the end of the half.

The Mountaineers used that Georgetown dry spell to go on a 9-0 run and take a 31-22 lead, highlighted by Devin Ebanks' steal and two-handed dunk. Monroe stopped the momentum with a steal and layup under the West Virginia basket after a Mountaineers rebound, and the Hoyas went into the break trailing 31-26.

The Mountaineers built the lead to nine points again early in the second half, but three-point plays from Wright and Monroe and a nice backdoor pass from Monroe to Omar Wattad helped close the gap before West Virginia began to pull away for good.

No. 18 Purdue 70, No. 21 Minnesota 62

Behind relentless defensive pressure, and 19 points and five blocks from JaJuan Johnson, Purdue banged its way to a victory over Minnesota on Thursday night.

E'Twaun Moore added 16 points for Purdue (15-4, 4-2 Big Ten), which won its fourth straight conference game after an 0-2 start. The Boilermakers entered charged-up Williams Arena with the second-ranked field goal percentage defense in the country and made life miserable all evening for the Gophers (16-3, 4-3).

Al Nolen had 17 points on 3-for-14 shooting and four steals for Minnesota, which shot a season-low 27.6 percent, including 3 for 19 from 3-point range, to lose its second in a row.

The Gophers trailed nearly the entire game and were run out of The Barn by a 17-6 run midway through the second half. Lewis Jackson scored seven points in the spurt and Johnson punctuated it with an emphatic dunk to get the Boilermakers rolling toward another win.

Purdue looked shaky early in the conference season because of injuries to floor leader Robbie Hummel and defensive specialist Chris Kramer. Both are healing up now, and Purdue is looking more like the team that was picked as a favorite to win the Big Ten.

Still slowed by a back injury,



West Virginia guard Da'Sean Butler drives to the basket during the Mountaineers' 75-58 upset of No. 12 Georgetown on Thursday.

Hummel came off the bench and scored five points. But with Moore, Johnson and Jackson going a combined 16-for-27 against a humbled Minnesota defense, Purdue cruised.

The Gophers take pride in the defensive end as well. Tubby Smith's crew entered the night second in the Big Ten in field goal percentage defense at 39 percent, and the Gophers had 12 steals and 10 blocks in this one.

But Purdue shot better than 50 percent for most of the game to overcome 17 turnovers.

The Gophers have been hampered by slow starts for much of the season, and Thursday night was no different. They missed 13 of their first 18 shots and committed 11 turnovers in the first 15 minutes to fall behind 27-15.

Moore made 5 of 7 shots in the period, but the Boilermakers missed five free throws and turned the ball over nine times to allow Minnesota to hang around at 36-29.

As the game wore on, the Gophers grew frustrated. Leading-scorer Lawrence Westbrook missed six of his eight field goals, and two of those were on forced drives to the basket in transition midway through the second half that were swatted away by Purdue's superb help defenders.

Following those blocks, Jackson scored on a drive to the

hoop and Keaton Grant hit a 3-pointer from the top of the key to give the Boilermakers a 47-35 lead with 11:36 to go.

No. 16 Butler 68, Wisconsin-Green Bay 59

Matt Howard scored 15 points and Butler got its offense in sync in the second half, rallying to beat conference rival Wisconsin-Green Bay on Thursday.

The Bulldogs won their ninth in a row overall, their ninth straight over the Phoenix and are now 17-1 (8-0 Horizon League) for the first time in school history.

Rahmon Fletcher scored 22 points for Green Bay (14-6, 6-2), which lost for only the second time in 10 games.

Butler has won 19 straight Horizon League games and improved to 9-0 at home this season with the victory.

For two of the conference's hottest teams, this was anything but a typical night.

Howard and Willie Veasley spent most of the first half on Butler's bench because of foul trouble, and Green Bay got itself into foul trouble early in the second half.

The shooting was brutal early, too. Butler was 7-of-25 from the field in the first half, giving the Phoenix a chance to take advantage. Instead, Green Bay was 10-of-27 and led only 25-22 at the half.



Purdue's JaJuan Johnson beats Minnesota forward Ralph Sampson III for a rebound in the Boilermaker's 70-62 win in Minneapolis.

CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED

VOLUNTEERS WANTED The Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC), located at Notre Dame, is looking for volunteers. If you would enjoy spending 2 hours per week reading to preschool children, building with blocks and playing games, please attend one of the Volunteer Sign-Up Sessions on either Thursday, 1/29 or Friday 1/30 from 3:00-5:00. Volunteering at ECDC is a wonderful opportunity to support the development of delightful children and is an excellent addition to your resume. ECDC-ND is located on the ND campus on Bulla Road, across from O Hara Grace Residences at the corner of Leahy and Bulla. For more information please call 631-3344 or www.nd.edu/~ecdcd

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PERSONAL

Happy Birthday Matt!

Love Mom, Dad, and Chris

Sandy brown haired sailor looking
for a loveboat.
Enjoys long walks around the lake,
smooth jazz, and will cuddle.
Meet at duck island at 5:30 today.
-CB

Congratulations to the Morrissey
Manor Interhall Baseball Team,
possibly the greatest of all time.

The original filling in Twinkies was
banana. It was replaced by vanilla-
flavored cream during World War II,
when the United States experi-
enced a banana shortage.

There are no female characters in
Robert Louis Stevenson's Treasure
Island because he was following
the instructions of his stepson,
Lloyd Osbourne, for whom he wrote
the book. Lloyd wanted a story
"about a map, a treasure, a mutiny
and a derelict ship...No women in
the story."

The longest movie ever screened
was a 1970 British film that lasted
48 hours, 0 minutes. Believe it or
not, its name is The Longest and
Most Meaningless Movie in the
World.

The computer in 2001: A Space
Odyssey as a tongue-in-cheek re-
ference to IBM.
The name was derived from
the fact that the letters H-A-L
precede the letters I-B-M
in the alphabet.

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.

AROUND THE NATION

Friday, January 23, 2009

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 13

USCHO/CBS College Sports Division I Men's Hockey Top 20

	team	points	record
1	NOTRE DAME (38)	986	19-3-3
2	Boston U. (7)	931	16-5-1
3	Cornell (5)	877	13-1-3
4	Denver	828	15-6-2
5	Northeastern	821	15-5-2
6	Minnesota	753	12-5-5
7	Vermont	673	13-5-3
8	Michigan	637	16-8-0
9	Princeton	562	13-5-0
10	Miami (OH)	507	13-8-3
11	New Hampshire	468	11-6-4
12	Ohio St.	467	16-6-2
13	Colorado Col.	427	13-8-5
14	Boston College	320	9-8-3
15	North Dakota	316	14-10-2
16	Wisconsin	280	13-10-3
17	Minn. Duluth	123	11-7-6
18	Dartmouth	117	10-7-0
19	Alas. Fairbanks	100	11-8-5
20	Air Force	94	15-6-1

USTFCCCA Division I Men's Indoor Track and Field Top 25

	team	points
1	Oregon	132
2	Arizona St.	130
3	Arkansas	129
4	Florida	126
5	Florida St.	104
6	Texas A&M	102
7	Texas	82
8	LSU	79
9	Louisville	73
10	BYU	71
11	Kentucky	69
12	Texas Tech	67
13	UNI	65
14	Baylor	59
15	Nebraska	56
16	South Carolina	55
17	Michigan	54
18	Kansas St.	52
19	Arizona	51
20	Georgia	49
21	Georgetown	48
22	Boise St.	47
23	Missouri	42
24	UCLA	41
25	Stanford	40

MIAA Women's Basketball Rankings

	team	record
1	Marquette	5-0
2	Louisville	5-0
3	Connecticut	6-1
4	Pittsburgh	5-1
5	Syracuse	5-2
6	Providence	4-2
7	Georgetown	3-2
8	NOTRE DAME	3-3
9	West Virginia	2-2
10	Villanova	2-3
11	Cincinnati	2-4
12	USF	2-4

around the dial

NBA

Mavericks at Pistons
7:00 p.m., ESPN

X-GAMES

Winter X-Games 13
9:30 p.m., ESPN

NFL



Cardinals receiver Anquan Boldin, right, catches a pass in the NFC Championship game against Philadelphia on January 18. Boldin and the Cardinals will play the Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XLIII.

Receiver Boldin laughs off run-in

Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Arizona wide receiver Anquan Boldin laughed off the negative reaction to his nationally televised run-in with offensive coordinator Todd Haley, calling it "hilarious."

Boldin's shouting match with the coach on the sideline came as Arizona drove for the winning touchdown in Sunday's 32-25 victory over Philadelphia in the NFC championship game.

Boldin didn't stay on the field in the postgame celebration, making a quick exit through the locker room. He said that he did congratulate his teammates and left quickly only to avoid ques-

tions about the Haley incident.

Instead, he acknowledged after Thursday's practice, his abrupt departure "made it worse."

"For me it's hilarious," Boldin said of the criticism he's received. "I mean, I don't want to sit here and dwell on it because for me it's in the past, but that's something that goes on every week in the NFL whether people know it or not."

"Every week, somebody on the sidelines gets into an argument, but it's in the heat of the moment, it's part of football and once it's done, it's dead on all sides."

Team leaders Adrian

Wilson and Kurt Warner strongly defended Boldin.

"I think people are making a lot out of nothing," Wilson said. "That stuff happens all the time. Q is very dedicated to this team, very dedicated to the players. I think it's a non-issue."

Warner said it was "crazy" for people to define Boldin's personality by this one incident after "everything that guy's done all year and the character he's displayed all year long."

Boldin acknowledged it was a lesson in how things are magnified when a team reaches this point.

"The attention has grown," Boldin said. "Do you have to be careful? I guess

so, but at the same time you can't alter who you are. You can only be you and let the rest take care of itself."

He added: "Guys in the locker room know what kind of guy I am and they know exactly what went on."

Boldin said he was upset that Haley had gone to a personnel group that didn't include him.

"I was mad because they took me out of the game," Boldin said. "I mean, I think any competitor would have had the same reaction. A game of that magnitude, how close the game was, potentially driving to score a touchdown, I wanted to be in there. That's just the type of guy I am."

IN BRIEF

McGwire accused of steroid use by brother

NEW YORK — Mark McGwire's youngest brother says in a book proposal that he injected the former baseball star with steroids, according to Deadspin.com.

Jay McGwire is circulating a manuscript titled "The McGwire Family Secret: The Truth about Steroids, a slugger and Ultimate Redemption," the Web site reported Wednesday. Jay McGwire, a body builder, said his brother started using steroids in 1994 and that he injected Mark with Deca-Durabolin.

"Mark is a man I think most would like to forgive because his reason wasn't nefarious — it was for survival," the proposal says, according to the Web site. "My bringing the truth to surface about Mark is out of love. I want Mark to live in truth to see the light, to come to repentance so he can live in freedom — which is the only way to live."

First basemen Fielder signs two-year deal with Brewers

MILWAUKEE — First baseman Prince Fielder and the Milwaukee Brewers reached a preliminary agreement Thursday on an \$18 million, two-year contract.

The agreement is subject to a physical, Brewers general manager Doug Melvin said. Melvin declined to discuss the contract's value.

"There's things you have to do to get to that point to finalize deals," Melvin said. "We won't have anything tonight, but there's a good possibility we could have something tomorrow."

Milwaukee renewed Fielder's contract last year for \$670,000, and Fielder was eligible for arbitration for the first time. He asked for \$8 million and the Brewers offered \$6 million when figures were exchanged Tuesday.

He can become a free agent after the 2011 season.

Former All-Star Mourning to retire due to leg injury

MIAMI — Alonzo Mourning has decided to retire rather than mount another NBA comeback at age 38.

The seven-time All-Star center said Thursday he won't return from a devastating leg injury Dec. 19, 2007 — the fourth anniversary of his lifesaving kidney transplant. He had been working out at the Miami Heat complex and said he's running and jumping again, but he feared another leg injury if he returned. "My health is more important than anything," Mourning said at a news conference. "God willing I'll be able to live another 40 or 50 years, and I want to do it in a comfortable state. Right now I'm there."

Mourning, who turns 39 next month, played at Georgetown and was the second overall pick in the 1992 draft by the Charlotte Hornets. He also played for New Jersey but spent the majority of his career with the Heat, helping them reach the playoffs six consecutive years.



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MEN'S SWIMMING

Irish host tough competition

By MIKE GOTIMER
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame men's swimming and diving team returns to action this weekend when it hosts the Shamrock Invitational for the fourth time at the Rolfs Aquatic Center.

The meet will consist of three sessions that span a two-day period and it will be run in a championship style format. The Irish hope the championship style will prepare for the upcoming Big East conference championships.

"This is an important competition for us," Irish coach Tim Welsh said. "It is our last major tune-up before the Big East conference championships."

The Irish will welcome a strong field to Rolfs, as Denver, Michigan State and West Virginia will be making the trip to Notre Dame.

"The field this year is excellent," Welsh said. "West Virginia

was the Big East conference champion two years ago. Michigan State is enjoying their best year in quite a while and Denver beat us in the Ohio State Invitational in December. So the field is very strong and that is exactly what we want."

The Irish are looking for strong swims this weekend and hope to stop their current four meet losing streak that dates back to a 172.5-86.5 loss to Ohio State on Nov. 21. That loss came before Notre Dame's fourth place finish in the Ohio State Invitational, which was also the Irish's last championship style meet.

Despite two dual meet losses last weekend, the Irish still had impressive individual accomplishments, led by junior John Lytle. Lytle's four individual wins last weekend earned him Big East Athlete of the Week honors in swimming and diving. This weekend, the Irish look to get a sense

of where they stand as a team heading into the Big East conference championships.

"We would like to see where we are in our primary events," Welsh said. "This is a weekend we certainly want to measure improvement."

Prior to the Saturday evening session, Notre Dame will honor seniors Bill Bauman, Michael Bulfin, Jace Hopper, Danny Lutkus, Daniel Rave, Mitchell Sherman, Jeff Wood and manager Mike Mashura as they wrap up their home careers.

The Shamrock Invitational will begin with the first session at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, resume with the second session on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. and conclude with the third session on Saturday evening at 5:00 p.m. All events will take place at the Rolfs Aquatic Center.

Contact Mike Gotimer at mgotimer@nd.edu

SMC SWIMMING

Belles travel to final away meet

By ERIC PRISTER
Sports Writer

The Belles will look to carry over momentum from their dominant performance over Albion College last weekend as they take on Hillsdale Saturday.

Saint Mary's won all but one event against Albion, and were led by season-best performances from senior Melissa Gerbeth in the 1000 and 200 yard freestyle events, and from

freshman Audrey Dalrymple, who set personal records in the 100 and 200-yard breaststroke, the latter being a school record as well.

Dalrymple has been a valuable addition to the team this season, leading the team in victories along with freshman Eva Cavadini and sophomore Maggie Williams.

Hillsdale comes into the meet with a 9-2 record in dual meets, and last faced the Belles in the TYR Invitational. Saint


Mary's finished fourth in that meet, one place behind Hillsdale.

After Saturday's meet, the Belles have two home meets against Kalamazoo and Olivet before competing in the MIAA Championships February 19-21 at Rolfs Aquatic Center.

The Belles take the pool at 1 p.m. at the John "Jack" McAvoy Natatorium in Hillsdale, Mich.

Contact Eric Prister at eprister@nd.edu

B u i l d S t r o n g e r



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ND WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

Irish hope for success at home

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

The Irish will line up against some of their toughest competition of the season this weekend when they host the Notre Dame Invitational tonight at the Loftus Sports Center. It will be the third of five meets scheduled to be hosted by the Irish this season.

"The level of competition will be very good," associate head coach John Millar said. "We are running a scored meet with Wisconsin, Michigan State and Marquette. These schools have a number of outstanding individuals and solid overall teams."

Millar believes this meet will offer his team a great chance to gain experience under the

conditions of an actual meet.

"This meet will be an opportunity for the whole team to come together to compete in a scored team meet, which is one of the few that we compete in annually," he said. "It should be a very competitive meet in all events and I know our athletes are looking forward to it."

So far this season, the Irish

have looked very strong. In last week's Notre Dame Opener held at Loftus, the Irish had 12 women qualify for the Big East Championship, including senior pole-vaulter Mary

Saxer whose jump of 4.06-meters also qualified her for the NCAA regional meet and set a Loftus record.

At Friday's Invitational, Millar hopes his team will be able to maintain the momen-

tum it has built up over the last few weeks.

"Our team goal is to win the meet," he said. "Individually, our athletes are looking to improve on their performances and hopefully establish some Big East and NCAA qualification performances."

Looking ahead past Friday, Millar sees a bright future for the Irish as they move into the tougher meets in their schedule.

"So far, the indoor season has been successful," he said. "We have had some individual NCAA qualifiers, a number of athletes performing at a higher level than this time last year, and I believe we are on schedule to continue improving as the major meets of the year approach."

Friday's Invitational will kick-off with the long jump and weight throw events at 5:30 p.m., followed by the start of the running events at 6:30 p.m.

Contact Alex Barker at
abarker1@nd.edu

"These schools have a number of outstanding individuals."

John Millar
Irish coach

MEN'S TRACK & FIELD

Three teams travel to invitational at Loftus

By DOUGLAS FARMER
Sports Writer

With the Big East Indoor Track & Field Championships less than a month away, tonight's Notre Dame Invitational will take on a little more meaning, as the Irish host Michigan State, Wisconsin, and Marquette in the Loftus Center in the first scored meet for the teams this season.

The Irish hosted two indoor meets earlier this season, but this is the first meet in which team scores will be kept.

"Since it's a scored meet, some kids will be doing multiple events," Irish coach Joe Piane said. "There's a premium on not just running well, jumping well, or throwing well, but also on placing well."

The list of athletes competing in multiple events is highlighted by junior Eric Quick, who will be long and triple jumping.

This meet will be a pressure-cooker with competition. Many

athletes have their eyes on qualifying for the NCAA Indoor Championships, and the three visiting teams all present stiff challenges to the Fighting Irish.

"Marquette usually has some individuals who are pretty talented," Piane said. "Michigan State is probably the most improved team in the Big Ten, and Wisconsin is very good annually. In 2007 they did win the NCAA Indoor Championships as a team."

The opponents notwithstanding, multiple Notre Dame competitors aim to qualify for the NCAA Indoor Championships.

Senior distance runner Dan Clark will be attempting to do such in the mile. According to Piane, in most years a time of 4:04 would qualify Clark for the NCAAAs, and a time of 4:01 would assure him an entry.

"Dan has a legitimate shot on Friday," Piane said.

Contact Douglas Farmer at
dfarmer1@nd.edu

SMC BASKETBALL

First-place Belles take on Thunder

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

For the second time in a little over a month, the Saint Mary's basketball team will take on MIAA rival Trine University, with tip-off set for Saturday at 3 p.m. On Dec. 3, the Belles took down Trine 80-72.

"In this league you can't overlook anyone," head coach Jen Henley said. "Records and standings never truly indicate the strength of a team."

Trine is currently fifth in the conference standings with a 4-4 record, while Saint Mary's is tied with Hope for the conference lead, with both teams only having one loss.

One of the biggest wins for the Belles this season came over No. 1 Hope.

"Our team never gave up in the Hope game," Henley said. "We were down 10 points with 6:15 left to go. We did a nice job with the boards down the stretch and our bench gave us nice offense down the stretch."

The Belles will need to continue their well-balanced attack to earn another win over Trine this time.

Senior Erin Newsom has been a key player for Saint Mary's this season, breaking the school record for most all-time rebounds earlier in the year.

"I think we see all of the conference teams as big rivals," Newsom said. "Some schools are seen as tougher teams to beat like Hope and Calvin, but we try to go into every game with the attitude that we need

to play our best in order to win, regardless of the team we're put up against."

The Thunder were a tough match for the Belles last time out when they tied the game at 41-41 less than three minutes into the second half.

However, the Belles stepped up to the challenge and opened up a 66-51 lead with 8:52 left to play. Trine never pulled within six points of the Belles the rest of the game.

The Belles most recent win came over Kalamazoo, only a week after dropping their only conference game so far this season.

Saint Mary's got off to a great start in the game against Kalamazoo, opening up a 15-2 margin less

than four minutes into the game.

Freshman Patsy Mahoney was a force in the Kalamazoo game, shooting a perfect 6-6 from the floor, including 2-2 from behind the three-point line.

"I think our freshmen have adapted well to their first season of college basketball," Henley said. "I believe they understand what it takes to compete in this league as well as finding the balance between academics and athletics."

The Belles will look to continue their inter-conference dominance in this game against Trine, and then they will travel to Calvin on Jan. 28. Tip-off is set for 3 p.m. against Trine, and then 6 p.m. against Calvin.

Contact Kate Grabarek at
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"I think we see all of the conference teams as big rivals."

Jen Henley
Belles coach

NBA

Howard leads East All-Star team

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — He was the first to dress as Superman to win a dunk contest.

He's now the first player to get 3 million votes from fans.

Yes, the All-Star game is fast becoming Dwight Howard's personal showcase.

The Orlando Magic center — who leads the NBA in rebounds, blocked shots and double-doubles — got a record 3,150,181 votes to lead this season's All-Star team, released Thursday.

The Feb. 15 game in Phoenix will mark the third All-Star trip for Howard, who'll be starting for the second time and easily topped the previous record of 2,558,278 votes collected by Houston's Yao Ming four years ago.

"Wow, what a blessing," said Howard, the 6-foot-11 center who dressed in full Superman regalia, cape and all, on the way to winning last year's slam dunk competition. "That is what I took it as, a blessing from God and then the fans. It's just a great honor and I was surprised, but like always I thank the fans for everything they have done for us."

The final results of fan balloting didn't exactly bring any major surprises.

Miami's Dwyane Wade (2,741,413) and Detroit's Allen Iverson (1,804,649) will be in the East's backcourt, alongside reigning All-Star MVP LeBron James of Cleveland (2,940,823) and Boston's Kevin Garnett (2,066,833), who beat New Jersey's Yi Jianlian for the starting nod by 253,004 votes.

"The All-Star game is always so meaningful to me because of the fans," said James, whose 24.3-point scoring average is the highest in All-Star game history for players with four or more appearances.

Kobe Bryant of the Los Angeles Lakers (2,805,397) was the West's top vote-getter,

and will be joined at guard by New Orleans' Chris Paul (2,134,798). At center, Yao (2,532,958) will start for the sixth time, along with forwards Tim Duncan of San Antonio (2,578,168) and Amare Stoudemire of Phoenix (1,460,429).

"When I first heard I was leading in votes, I was shocked, to be honest with you," Howard said. "I really didn't expect anything considering you have guys like Kobe, LeBron and Dwyane."

Howard entered Thursday averaging 20.2 points, 14.1 rebounds and 3.2 blocks for the Magic, who took the league's best overall record (33-8) into a home game against the reigning NBA champion Boston Celtics.

But on the national stage,

Howard still might be best-known for his exploits in last year's All-Star dunk contest in New Orleans, with his cape sailing on one jam and capping his night by using teammate Jameer Nelson as a prop in another slam.

"That's his element there. He's an entertainer. He loves it," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said. "I think sometimes people look at that kind of thing, where Dwight's out there having a good time, and they doubt the seriousness of a guy. That's not the case at all. He's very serious about winning and very serious about being a great player."

Van Gundy likened Howard's All-Star antics to what the NBA has come to see from another giant jokester — Shaquille O'Neal.



Orlando center Dwight Howard, the first player ever to receive 3 million All Star votes, dunks in a Jan. 4 game against Toronto.

Fencers

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Newcomers Meinhardt and Courtney Hurley have already made a splash in the world of fencing. Hurley won the 2006 Cadet World Championship in Korea, while Meinhardt, along with Kelley Hurley, represented the U.S. in last summer's Olympics. Meinhardt was the youngest fencer to compete for the U.S. in Beijing.

"Experience in the Olympic games shows two things," Bednarski said. "First, it shows that you

"We never had such a good result like this year."

Janusz Bednarski
Irish coach

are a good defender who can play at the highest level of professional fencing. Second, it shows that you can fight on the big stage in front of all the cameras. This will bring calm to a young team that can easily get nervous.

Beijing will help in getting used to pressure situations."

Notre Dame will begin its team season Saturday at the St. John's Duals in Queens, N.Y.

and Sunday's NYU Invitational in New York, N.Y.

Contact Michael Blasco at mblasco@nd.edu

OSU

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end of the year."

Ohio State is ranked fourth in the preseason Big Ten rankings, and the Buckeyes national ranking is their highest since 2001. Ohio State is led by junior Kirsten Flower, a transfer from Georgia Tech, who is ranked 14th in the Midwest region in the preseason ITA rankings.

"It's going to be a very good first match for us," Louderback said. "It should be very competitive — they're a team a lot like us, with a lot of depth and good doubles teams."

Frilling and Tefft, who went 10-1 as a doubles team in the fall season, begin the season ranked first nationally after advancing to the finals of the ITA National Indoor Championships in October.

While Tefft played the most matches and gained the highest ranking with Frilling, the senior also played enough matches with junior Kali Krisik to

rank third nationally.

In addition to the top doubles teams, the Irish have four players ranked in the top-65 in singles, and seven in the regional top-20. Frilling is ranked 39th in the national preseason singles rankings, and Tefft is 45th. Rounding out the group for Notre Dame is junior Kali Krisik at 46th, and sophomore Kristen Rafael at 62nd.

Louderback praised the team's off-season training and was impressed with their work ethic.

"I think it has been the toughest conditioning we've ever had, and they've responded well," Louderback said. "I think it has helped with our speed, and we're covering the court a lot better as a result."

Northwestern led the preseason rankings, followed by California and UCLA. Baylor and Stanford also were in the top-five.

Notre Dame opens at home February 6 against Michigan.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

MLB

Cubs find winning bidder

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The billionaire Ricketts family has been selected by Tribune Co. as the winning bidder for the hard-luck Chicago Cubs.

The bid is worth about \$900 million, said Dennis Culloton, a spokesman for Tom Ricketts. The sale would include Wrigley Field and a 25 percent interest in a regional sports network.

"My family and I are Cubs fans," Tom Ricketts, the family's point person in the Cubs purchase, said in a statement Thursday night. "We share the goal of Cubs fans everywhere to win a World Series and build the consistent championship tradition that the fans deserve."

The family also said in the statement that its looking forward to working with the Tribune and Major League Baseball to close the transaction promptly.

Tribune Co. spokesman Gary Weitman did not immediately return a telephone call from The Associated Press after the Ricketts family issued the statement. He declined comment earlier Thursday.

The selection of Tom Ricketts, a member of the founding family of TD Ameritrade Holding Corp., and chief executive of InCapital LLC, was first reported by the Chicago Sun-Times' Web site.

Tribune Co. purchased the Cubs from Wm. Wrigley Jr. Co. for \$20.5 million in June 1981. It put the team on the market on opening day 2007, when real estate mogul Sam

Zell agreed to buy Tribune Co.

Cubs chairman Crane Kenney said last week that the team hopes to have a new owner in place by opening day, April 6, but many steps must happen before a sale can be completed.

"Obviously, these final negotiations are key, but my client is, as the statement indicates, pretty optimistic," Culloton said.

Ricketts must reach an agreement with Tribune Co., which filed for bankruptcy protection last month. While the Cubs and Wrigley Field were not included in the bankruptcy filing, a sale likely will have to be approved by the creditors' committee and possibly a bankruptcy judge.

In addition, a sale must be approved by baseball owners. Major League Baseball had not been informed by Tribune Co. of the winning bidder as of Thursday evening, a baseball official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because discussions between the team and MLB are not made public.

Under the structure that had been discussed with baseball officials, Tribune Co. would keep a small percentage of the team for tax reasons, probably around 5 percent, the baseball official said.

Other finalists in the bidding included Hersch Klaff, who owns a Chicago commercial real estate firm, and a partnership between two New Yorkers involved in private equity, Marc Utay of

Clarion Capital and Leo Hindery Jr. of InterMedia Partners.

Tom Ricketts grew up watching the Cubs on WGN, once lived in an apartment above a bar across the street from Wrigley Field, and met his wife in the bleachers at a Cubs game. His father, J. Joe Ricketts, founded Ameritrade and became a leading online stockbroker, but Tom never worked for that company.

He was a market maker at the Chicago Board Options Exchange and finance executive before starting investment bank Incapital LLC.

If the deal is approved, the Ricketts would acquire a team that hasn't won the World Series since 1908 and hasn't even made it to the Fall Classic since 1945. While the Cubs won the NL Central in each of the last two seasons, they were swept in the first round of the playoffs both times.

Tribune Co. considered selling the team and the famous ballpark separately but rejected a plan from the Illinois Sports Facilities Authority to purchase the ivy-walled stadium. Kenney said recently the two would be sold together.

Tribune Co., which owns the Los Angeles Times, Chicago Tribune, The (Baltimore) Sun, The Hartford Courant and other dailies, as well as 23 television stations and the Cubs, sought bankruptcy protection last month. The media conglomerate was smothered by a drop-off in advertising and a crushing \$13 billion in debt from the company's takeover a year ago by Zell.

The company, which did not include the Cubs or Wrigley Field when it filed for bankruptcy, is selling off assets as it desperately seeks to raise cash to deal with the huge debt load.

NHL

Penguins star Crosby to miss All-Star Game with injury

Associated Press

MONTREAL — Pittsburgh Penguins captain Sidney Crosby will miss the All-Star game because of a left knee injury.

Tampa Bay scoring leader Martin St. Louis replaced Crosby on Thursday on the Eastern

Conference roster. The game is Sunday at the Bell Centre.

Crosby, second in the NHL scoring race with 60 points on 17 goals and 43 assists in 47 games, missed a game Friday night because of the knee injury, and was struck twice on the left arm by pucks during a 2-1 loss to Carolina on Tuesday night.

He played in the Penguins' final two games before the break, then was examined by doctors on Wednesday and Thursday.

With the Penguins out of playoff position in the Eastern Conference, they don't want to take a chance the injury might worsen if Crosby plays in a game that doesn't count in the

standings.

Crosby's status for the Penguins' Jan. 28 game against the Rangers in Pittsburgh won't be determined until the team resumes practice Monday.

Crosby's injury is believed to be a bruised left knee, but NHL teams are not required to disclose the

exact nature of injuries.

Crosby received a record 1.7 million votes in fan balloting. A high ankle sprain kept him out of last year's All-Star game.

St. Louis will be making his fifth straight All-Star game appearance. He has 17 goals and 29 assists this season.

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Nova

continued from page 20

think we can go into a game thinking about how to stop her." Kurz, former Irish forward Rob Kurz' sister, averages 18 points and 7.8 rebounds per game.

Kurz also made 3-of-7 3-pointers she attempted against George Washington, which poses a challenge to Notre Dame's 3-point defense. The Irish defense sometimes lost shooters on the perimeter and allowed them open shots against St. John's. McGraw didn't mention specifics, but she said the team has worked on keeping track of the shooters.

"We put a lot of emphasis on that," she said. "We're doing some different things, moving some people around, and trying some different looks, and I think it's going to be pretty effective for us."

Junior guards Tia Grant and Maria Getty will test the Irish perimeter defense. Grant makes 41.5 percent of her threes and Getty hits 33.8 percent of hers. The team as a whole, however, is shooting only 29.5 percent from 3-point

range.

The freshman have received more playing time off the bench this season because the Irish lost both forward Devereaux Peters and guard Brittany Mallory to anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) tears, and McGraw said she's happy with their play. They are making positive contributions, she said, and also receiving good experience for the future.

"Not only are they learning a lot, they're getting better every game," she said.

Freshmen Erica Solomon and Natalie Novosel both average more than seven points per game.

McGraw said she's also pleased with the play of sophomore forward Becca

Bruszewski, especially with her versatility.

"I think that teams are worried about [guard Lindsay] Schrader, [guard] Ashley Barlow and [guard] Melissa Lechlitner, and she's the one that they forget about," McGraw said. "I've just been really happy with the way she's been able to just play her game. She takes what comes her way."

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

"We're doing some different things, moving some people around, and trying some different looks, and I think it's going to be pretty effective for us."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach

UVA

continued from page 20

what might have been is certainly not going to make anything positive happen."

The young Irish squad has a tough schedule to open up the season. The Irish face top-20 teams in all but one of their first six matches.

Notre Dame travels first to Virginia to take on William and Mary — a team they have already seen this season when the Irish traveled to the William and Mary Invitational in November.

"We lost to William and Mary a year ago," Bayliss said. "It clearly was not one of our best matches. We played there in November at their tournament, so our guys are familiar with their courts. Brett (Helgeson) might have an edge at No. 1 singles, but he lost last year so I think he will be prepared. We certainly can't look past them because of last year's match."

Freshman Sam Keeton was able to pull out a key singles win in the loss to Pepperdine at No. 5 singles. The Kansas City native missed the entire fall season with a broken right wrist, which proved to be a blessing in disguise.

"Sam played up pretty close to the baseline,"

Bayliss said. "He really put a lot of pressure on Jensen Turner. Not many guys can match his ability from the back of the court. On top of that he passed well, leaving Turner feeling like he had to hang back with Keeton. In the second set Sam loosened up a bit and was able to turn up the heat for an easier time."

After meeting William and Mary the Irish will take on No. 5 Virginia on Sunday.

Virginia was ranked No. 1 for the majority of last year, and despite losing two seniors to graduation, Bayliss

noted they boast another strong team this season.

Senior Dominic Ingot will prove to be a force for the Cavaliers again this season. Ingot was ranked as high as No. 3 in the nation last season.

"Sophomores Michael Shabaz and Sanam Sing hit as clean a ball as you will see anywhere," Bayliss said. "Throw in Houston Barrick and you have a core nucleus that are hard to contend with."

The Irish will square off against William and Mary at 10 a.m. on Saturday, with the Virginia match beginning at noon on Sunday.

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgrab01@saintmarys.edu

"We lost to William and Mary a year ago. It clearly was not one of our best matches."

Bobby Bayliss
Irish coach

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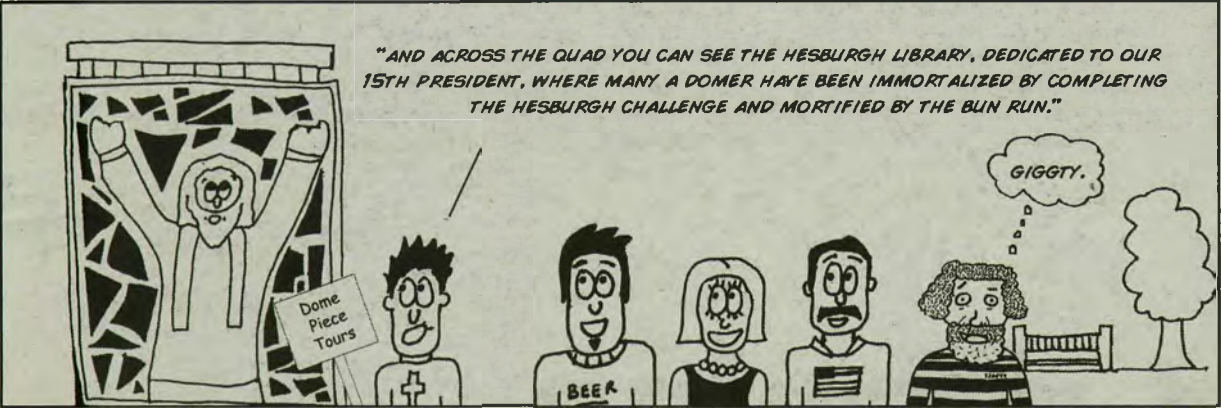
BLACK DOG

MICHAEL MIKUSKA



PEANUTS

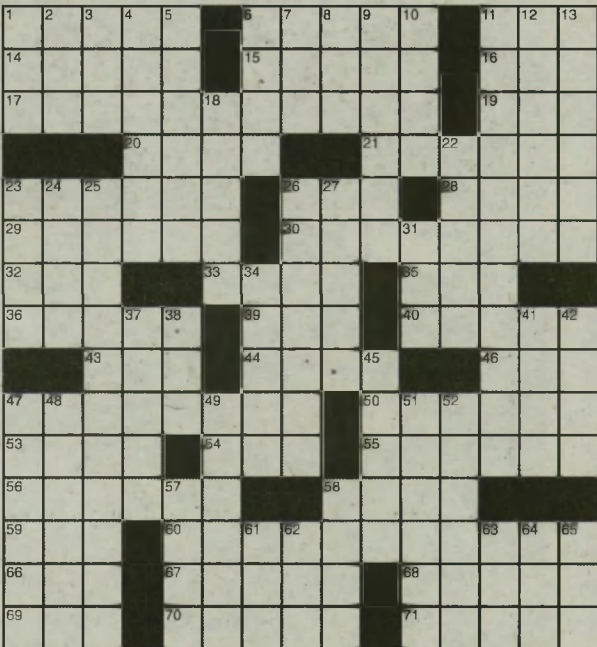
DAVID CAVADINI



CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
- 1 Bay State sch.
 - 6 Juicy fruits
 - 11 Target of many a boxing blow
 - 14 Sophomore's grade
 - 15 Old Testament prophet
 - 16 "It's no ____!"
 - 17 Good sign on a highway
 - 19 Reverse of NNW
 - 20 Dollar or Budget competitor
 - 21 Like the season before Easter
 - 23 Floated gently in the air
 - 26 7 on a grandfather clock
 - 28 Prefix with potent
 - 29 Use a rasp on
 - 30 Comment on, as in a margin
 - 32 Expected
 - 33 Org. for the humane treatment of pets
 - 35 Bobby of the N.H.L.
 - 36 Alcoholics Anonymous has 12 of them
 - 39 Once around a track
 - 40 Catnip and fennel
 - 43 Safe box opener
 - 44 White ____ (termites)
 - 46 Cousin of a Keogh, briefly
 - 47 Arizona's Petrified Forest dates from this period
 - 50 Optimistic
 - 53 Sups
 - 54 "____ luck?"
 - 55 Heavy hammer
 - 56 Bear witness
 - 58 Consequently
 - 59 Fr. holy woman
 - 60 Good sign on a candy box
 - 66 Dark time, in poetry
 - 67 Vice President Burr
 - 68 Weights abroad, informally
 - 69 Scores in the end zone, for short
 - 70 Velocity
 - 71 Appears
- Down**
- 1 Western tribe
 - 2 "____ in Black," Will Smith film
 - 3 &
 - 4 Layers
 - 5 Acted rudely while in a line, maybe
 - 6 Academics' degrees
 - 7 High's opposite
 - 8 Grp. that entertains the troops
 - 9 Magician in Arthurian legend
 - 10 Hot Japanese drink
 - 11 Good sign on a car trunk
 - 12 Concurrence
 - 13 Ineffectual one, slangily
 - 18 Helpers
 - 22 ____ Dame
 - 23 Bankrolls
 - 24 Be next to
 - 25 Good sign on a lawn
 - 26 Good sign at a motel



Puzzle by Robert Dillman

- 27 Not well-put
- 31 "That feels goood!"
- 34 "Above the fruited ____"
- 37 Kind of porridge
- 38 The "S" in CBS: Abbr.
- 41 Boast
- 42 Fill the stomach of
- 45 Dish often served with 10-Down
- 47 Group of cups and saucers
- 48 Squealed (on)
- 49 Despot ruler
- 51 Sets (down)
- 52 Nickname for Elizabeth
- 57 Places to be pampered
- 58 Manage, as a bar
- 61 Anger
- 62 Actress Caldwell
- 63 ____ de France
- 64 Suffix with official
- 65 Twisty curve

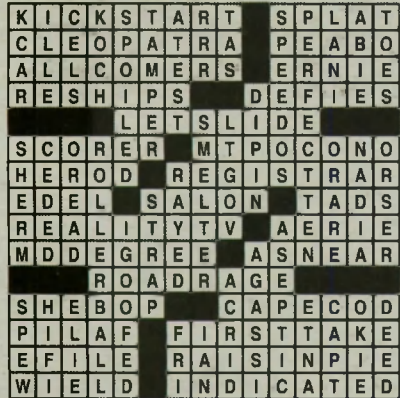
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

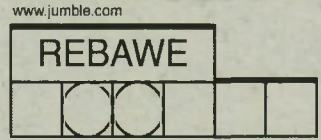
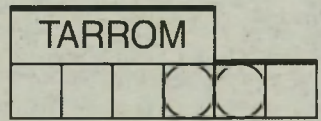
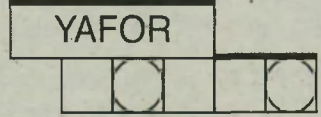
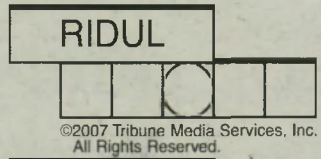


JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

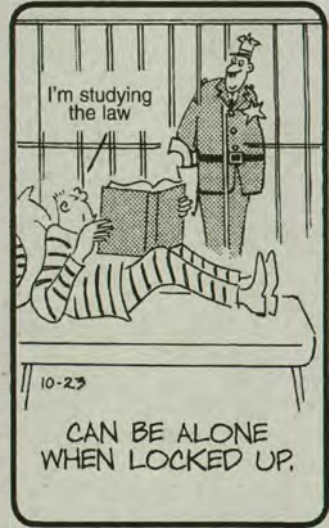
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: A [] [] [] [] [] OR [] [] [] [] []

Yesterday's Jumbles: ONION VIGIL PEOPLE GROTO
Answer: When his dog had puppies, the street cleaner said it was — "LITTERING"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



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

(Answers tomorrow)

FRIDAYS WITH FRAN

FRAN TOLAN

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Connecticut rhymes with zit. Sort of.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Buy a man a fish, feed him for a day. Buy a man a bottle of Carlo Rossi, teach him how life is supposed to be.

Aries (March 21- Apr. 19) We need more tromboners in this orchestra.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20) Sorry about your warts in that unpleasant area. Probably should have told you about that, huh?

Gemini (May 21-June 20) Dog the Bounty Hunter is no match for Cat the Fugitive Chaser.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) "Blossom" sucked and "Step by Step" sucked. Why can't you get that straight?

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Speaking of straight, Elton John's here for the game this weekend.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Dick Cheney defines the freerider problem.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Quack attack is back, Jack.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Romulus and Remus: Now, those are names.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22- Dec. 21) Kiefer Sutherland's first name is very distracting if you say it fast a few times.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Why are toddlers called toddlers if nobody ever uses the verb toddle? I propose a more accurate term, like youngsters-who-run-into-walls-and-look-like-drunken-idiot.

THE OBSERVER

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FENCING

Irish open up dual-match season with two in New York

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

After outstanding individual showings at the North American Cup last week, the Irish squad opens its dual-match season with matches against St. John's and New York University this weekend. The competitions mark the beginning of a long campaign that Irish coach Janusz Bednarski hopes will end in the program's eighth national

championship. Notre Dame finished second to Ohio State last year.

"We have a very strong team," Bednarski said. "Maybe not the strongest in the nation, but we can fight anybody. They are positioning themselves well for the national team, but we are ready to compete now with the best collegiate teams in the nation."

In this season's fourth and final portion of the North American Cup, five Irish

fencers finished in the top-five of their category, three taking home medalist honors. Freshman Courtney Hurley took top honors in women's epee, while classmate Gerek Meinhardt earned first in men's foil. Sophomore Avery Zuck earned the final Notre Dame gold in men's sabre.

"We never had such a good result like this year," Bednarski said. "We won a lot of medals — that's a positive of this competition. I believe that it was one of the

best starts in national tryouts for [Notre Dame]."

The Irish, who return 12 All-Americans, feature prodigious talent in both the women's and men's squad. All-Americans junior Kelley Hurley, Courtney's older sister, and sophomore Sarah Borrmann won NCAA Championships last year in epee and sabre, respectively. Sophomore epeeist Ewa Nelip, senior foil Adrienne Nott, sophomore foil Hayley Reese, and junior sabre

Eileen Hassett are all coming off All-American seasons, as well.

The men's team also returns six All-Americans. Senior epeeist Karol Kostka, senior foil Mark Kubik, his younger brother, sophomore foils Steve Kubik, sophomore foil Zach Schirtz, senior sabre Bill Thanouser, and sophomore sabre Barron Nydam have all earned the distinction.

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

'Cat napping

Squad hopes to use extra rest to bounce back against 'Nova

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

Notre Dame's close shave against St. John's on Jan. 17 presented the team with plenty of room for improvement: in the press, on defense, rebounding, scoring in the paint. But taking some time to rest, coach Muffet McGraw said, benefited the team most.

"We took a couple days off," McGraw said. "I think that probably helped us more than anything."

The No. 13 Irish had a full week between the St. John's game and their next game, on the road at Villanova tomorrow. McGraw said after the St. John's game that she wanted to use the week to focus on fundamental, rather than game-specific, skills.

"We've worked a lot on defense," she said. "We've

worked on some different things just trying to get ready for the second part of the Big East season."

The Fighting Irish are 15-2 and 4-1 in conference play, with their only loss coming on the road to Marquette on Jan. 13. Villanova is 10-8, 2-2 in conference play, but the Wildcats have lost to both ranked teams they faced — No. 6 Baylor on Nov. 28 and No. 23 Rutgers on Jan. 14.

Villanova displayed two different styles in its 67-60 loss to George Washington Wednesday. The Wildcats scored only 13 points in the first half and couldn't quite muster a comeback despite out-scoring GW 47-45 in the second half. Senior forward Laura Kurz led the team with 29 points; in fact, she's led the team in scoring in all but six games this season. How to stop her?

"I don't think you do," McGraw said. "They take advantage of the mismatches. She's able to drive the ball, shoot the ball, pass the ball, she's just a great player. I don't

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IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Irish senior guard Lindsay Schrader goes up for a layup during Notre Dame's 70-67 win over St. John's Saturday. Schrader finished with 13 points.

MEN'S TENNIS

Squad travels south for a pair of matches

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

After dropping their spring opener to Pepperdine last Friday, the No. 30 Irish will now head to Virginia to take on William and Mary and No. 5 Virginia.

"I think our guys are han-

dling the loss to Pepperdine as well as can be expected," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "We could not have played any harder and we certainly left everything out on the court. We are going to play a ton of matches just like this and dwelling on

see UVA/page 18

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

ND opens season vs. OSU

Defending Big East champs led by top duo of Tefft, Frilling

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

The No. 17 Irish will begin their spring season this weekend, opening at No. 32 Ohio State. Notre Dame, led by the No. 1 ranked doubles team of senior Kelcy Tefft and freshman Kristy Frilling,

is looking to defend its Big East title and return to the NCAA Tournament.

The Irish will square off in Columbus following a strong 2007-08 campaign that featured a Big East Championship and ended in the second round of the NCAA Tournament. Notre Dame's final record was 22-

9. "I would say this is the most talented team I've coached here," Irish coach Jay Louderback said. "We have a lot of firepower, some great doubles teams, and really want to set ourselves up to make a good run at the

see OSU/page 17

Inside: check out the Observer's Basketball Insider which features Tory Jackson and previews Notre Dame's game against Connecticut