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Schmidt, Weber elected Pres., V.P.

With 51.9 percent of vote, ticket narrowly defeats Burdick-Sanchez in run-off election

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

Junior Grant Schmidt and sophomore Cynthia Weber won the election for student body president and vice president with 51.9 percent of the vote in one of the closest elections in recent years, according to Judicial Council president George Chamberlain.

Schmidt and Weber defeated juniors Laura Burdick and Derek Sanchez, who received 48.1 percent of the vote.

Slightly less than half the undergraduate student body, or 3,942 students, voted

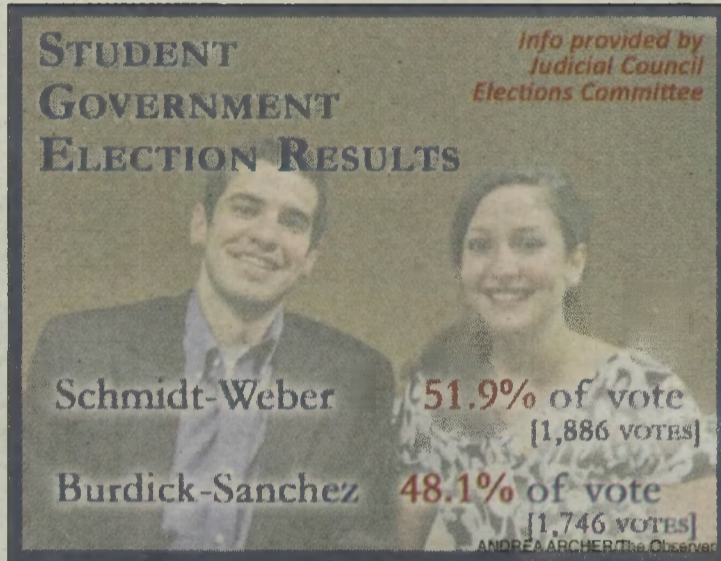
Thursday, Chamberlain said. The Schmidt-Weber ticket received 1,886 votes while the Burdick-Sanchez ticket grabbed 1,746 votes.

Chamberlain said the 310 votes to abstain were excluded from the denominator used to derive the percentages, but if the abstaining votes had been included, neither candidate would have received the necessary 50 percent to win the election.

"This is the closest run-off election I have seen in my time here," Chamberlain said.

Schmidt said he is happy with the high voter turnout

see ELECTION/page 4



Donations down; ND fares better than peers

By AARON STEINER
Assistant News Editor

While donations to the University "certainly have been affected by the economic downturn," the University has fared better than most of its peers, Notre Dame's Vice President for University Relations Lou Nanni said Thursday.

Nanni said his office has seen a measurable impact on fundraising given the current economic situation, which he called "unprecedented in most of our lifetimes."

In the most recent seven-month period, the University raised slightly over \$157 million in cash, pledges and deferred gifts, down almost 90 million from the previous year, which Nanni said was a record year for donations.

"The situation has affected philanthropic giving across the board, and Notre Dame's not immune to that," Nanni said.

He emphasized that Notre Dame has fared better than its peers.

"Relative to other schools, we've been doing reasonably well," he said. "We have a very loyal following in alumni, parents and friends. ... We're really, really privileged in terms of the adhesion and loyalty [of donors]."

Nanni called Notre Dame a

see DONATION/page 6

Spring break on despite recession

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

This spring break, the economy has had an effect on travel and prices, according to Anthony Travel's Leisure Manager Kayleen Carr. But it's an effect that benefits the traveler.

"Prices are cheaper," Carr said. "Similar packages are cheaper this year than last year."

There isn't a noticeable change in the amount of people vacationing, Carr said.

Vacation destination trends are slightly different. Cruises and cruise packages were the popular item last year, Carr said, while this year land packages, including airfare, hotel rooms, and in some cases, food and drinks, are the most popular choice.

"Compared to last year, students are getting a better deal because the packages are all-inclusive," Carr said.

The average cost of these all-inclusive packages is \$850, she said.

Prices for flights are also down because of lower fuel costs, Carr said.

"People are paying \$500 for hotel and airfare this year, what last year would have gotten them just airfare," she said.

Carr said companies are also advertising plenty of last-minute deals to bring in more customers.

All of these cheap prices have been good for Anthony Travel.

"We've had more spring break business than last year," Carr said.

This year's most popular Spring Break destination for students is Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, Carr said. Other popular destinations are Riviera Maya, which is south of Cancun, and Punta Cana, in the Dominican Republic.

see BREAK/page 6

Veterans honored at halftime

Basketball fans give 'Wounded Warriors' standing ovation

By FRAN TOLAN
News Writer

At halftime of the Notre Dame men's basketball game against Louisville Thursday, the team honored four United States soldiers that were injured in combat in Afghanistan.

The four "Wounded Warriors" — Lance Corporal Anthony Villarreal, Staff Sergeant Leroy Petry, Staff Sergeant Dillon Behr and Staff Sergeant Freddie De Los Santos — were greeted at midcourt by a standing ova-



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Members of the "Wounded Warriors" were honored at halftime of the men's basketball game Thursday.

see HALFTIME/page 4

Irish Gardens peddling flowers

Student-run business promotes wares in anticipation of Valentine's Day celebrations

By LIZ O'DONNELL
News Writer

With Valentine's Day on Saturday, student-run business Irish Gardens is using the occasion to advertise its name on campus as well as accommodate the hundreds of students who have placed orders for bouquets.

"We are hoping to promote our name around campus," student manager Mary Kathleen Julien said. "We want the campus community to be aware that we are around campus."

Irish Gardens is a student-run business on cam-

pus. Julien and three other student managers, Mary McDougall, Sara Snider and Michelle Maloney, oversee the business.

They are currently in the middle of their Valentine's Day campaign, which Maloney said is one of their busiest times of the year.

"It is definitely busy around Valentine's Day every year, it is absolutely packed," she said. "This is our first themed campaign, and we are hoping to promote the store as much as possible."

To promote the event,

see FLOWERS/page 6



DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Jacyln Klaus and Mary Kathleen Julien, employees at Irish Gardens, show off arrangements for sale at their shop.

INSIDE COLUMN

Valentine's Day don'ts

With Valentine's Day fast approaching, many Notre Dame students may need help figuring out what to buy for that special someone.

Unfortunately, I can't help you. This was made abundantly clear to me when an anonymous male friend asked me what he should give his girlfriend, and then shot all of my suggestions down. Apparently, I'm too stupid to know what girls want for Valentine's Day. Even though I am, in fact, a girl who wants stuff for Valentine's Day.

However, I'm pretty sure that I'm qualified to tell you what NOT to buy. I've been subjected to many awful gifts.

Below, I've compiled a handy list of presents that you should avoid at all costs.

For him:

▫A decorative box. Boys don't store their belongings in decorative boxes. Unless the box is decorated with beef jerky or pictures of attractive sports-caster Erin Andrews, skip this one.

▫Sweaters for his dog. The only way your boyfriend will appreciate this is if he aspires to be an eighty-year-old woman.

▫Any kind of ceramic figurine. What's he supposed to do with it? Collect and trade them amongst his friends?

▫A stuffed animal that's dressed exactly like you. I don't understand why anyone would buy this for someone they love.

Why don't you just wallpaper your boyfriend's room with giant pictures of your face?

For her:

▫An exercise video or a bathroom scale. Even if your girlfriend has put on weight, I don't think Valentine's Day is the best time to remind her of it.

▫Low-fat chocolate. Same reason.

▫Anything targeted toward elementary-school children. I once jokingly said I wanted a "Barbie: Fairytopia" DVD during a trip to the mall. I got it two weeks later for my birthday. Last time I checked, I'm not five.

▫Jewelry followed by the phrase "If you don't like it, my mom said she wanted it." Unfortunately, this is yet another true story from my life.

▫Any kind of weird food. For example, cooking a romantic dinner complete with salad made with lettuce and mushrooms from your pet iguana's food dish. This happened to a friend of mine, and is the opposite of a fun evening.

For anyone:

▫A his-and-hers gravestone. Yes, such an item actually exists. This doesn't say, "I love you." It says, "One day I may kill you in your sleep."

Hopefully my suggestions were helpful and all of you were able to steer clear of getting your sweetie anything as stupid as the gifts I listed above. If you'd like to thank me, I'll be spending Valentine's Day in my room, watching "Barbie: Fairytopia" and eating some low-fat chocolate.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Irena Zajickova at izajicko@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 ARE YOU DOING FOR VALENTINE'S DAY?



Billy Cowhey
freshman
Keough

"When is that again?"



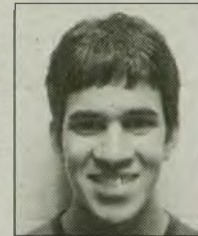
Sarah Gatens
freshman
Welsh Family

"You mean Singles Awareness Day?"



Mike Sheehy
freshman
Keough

"Finding true love at U of M."



Michael D'Netto
freshman
Keough

"Finding true love back at home."



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Fans smile for the camera as they cheer at the Notre Dame men's basketball game Thursday. The team beat Louisville 90-57, ending a seven game losing streak.

OFFBEAT

Woman loses record-breaking fingernails in crash

SALT LAKE CITY — A Utah woman listed in the Guinness Book of World Records for her long fingernails has lost them in a car crash. Lee Redmond of Salt Lake City sustained serious but non-life-threatening injuries in the accident Tuesday.

Redmond's nails, which hadn't been cut since 1979, were broken in the crash. According to the Guinness Web site, her nails measured a total of more than 28 feet long in 2008, with the longest nail on her right thumb at 2 feet, 11 inches.

Salt Lake County Sheriff's

Lt. Don Hutson says Redmond was ejected from an SUV in the crash and taken to the hospital in serious condition.

Redmond has been featured on TV in episodes of "Guinness Book of World Records" and "Ripley's Believe It or Not."

Woman charged for selling neighbors' dogs

COLUMBIA, Pa. — A 27-year-old central Pennsylvania woman is in the doghouse after allegedly selling her neighbors' West Highland terriers on Craigslist for \$150.

Brandi Anderson of

Columbia says she found the tagless purebred dogs last week and didn't know the owner. She maintains that she kept the two dogs for a few days, then sold them so they'd have a good home.

Police charged her with theft of lost property. They say she didn't take reasonable measures to find the owner.

The owner told the Lancaster Intelligencer Journal that she and her family live on the same block as Anderson.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Ten Years Hence Lecture Series will present a lecture entitled, "Sustainability: Past, Present and Future from a Corporate View." Friday in the Jordan Auditorium in the Mendoza College of Business. The lecture will take place between 10:40 a.m. to 12:10 p.m.

The annual Edith Stein Project will take place throughout the day today. The conference will address women's issues which will include speakers, a Mass, meals. Saint Mary's and Notre Dame students are invited free of charge, but must register at <https://marketplace.nd.edu/cce/index.cfm>.

The Pasquerilla East Musical Company (PEMCo.) will show the musical "The Producers" tonight and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. Tickets are available at the LaFortune box office, \$6 for students and \$8 general admission.

The Student Union Board (SUB) will show "Twilight" in 101 DeBartolo Hall tonight and Saturday at 8:00 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.. Tickets are \$3.

The Browning Cinema will present the film "Welcome to Sarajevo" Saturday at 9:30 p.m. The event is free but ticketed. Tickets can be obtained by calling 574-631-2800.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 36 LOW 25	HIGH 26 LOW 22	HIGH 34 LOW 23	HIGH 35 LOW 20	HIGH 34 LOW 21	HIGH 41 LOW 27

Sophomores to host parents over weekend

By ALICIA SMITH
News Writer

Sophomore Parents' Weekend, a time for parents to participate in activities with their daughters, kicks off at Saint Mary's College today.

Sophomore Rachel Flaherty said she is looking forward to spending time with her family.

"I am very excited for Sophomore Parent's Weekend because it allows my parents to come to Saint Mary's College and see the places that I spend my time at away from home," Flaherty said.

For Katie Brown, the weekend will be an opportunity for her to see her parents outside of breaks.

"My mom hasn't been on campus since move in at the beginning of the year, so I am excited for her to see everything again," Brown said.

The weekend contains many different events planned to help students bond with their parents while at school. On Friday, there will be a silent auction. Parents and students are invited to take

part in bingo, a special Mass and a dinner on Saturday.

Meg Griffin, the president of the class of 2011, oversaw the planning of this event.

"Sophomore Parents' weekend is the first in a series of weekends designed to allow girls to show off their campus and college experience to their parents," Griffin said. "This is a great opportunity for parents to see where their daughters live and work, and who they interact with on a daily basis."

About 350 students and parents will be attending the weekend.

"The purpose of this weekend is to create a bonding experience with parents and daughters and celebrate their daughter's education," Griffin said.

"I wanted my parents to come to this weekend so that they could spend time with me at my home away from home, and also so we could have fun doing things we wouldn't normally get to do," Flaherty said.

Contact Alicia Smith at
asmith01@saintmarys.edu

Campus celebrates Darwin

Scientist's 200th birthday observed with party, poetry slam event

By TESS CIVANTOS
News Writer

Charles Darwin has been dead for 127 years, but over 80 Notre Dame students and faculty members celebrated his 200th birthday with a party and poetry slam event Thursday night.

Professor Hope Hollocher of the biology department organized the event, which was sponsored by both the biology department and Notre Dame's Environmental Research Center.

"The biology department hadn't organized anything fun for the 'Darwin at Notre Dame' series, and his birthday was still open, so we planned this," Hollocher said.

The audience drank tea and munched on scones while 23 students and Hollocher's seven-year-old daughter performed the poems they had written.

Hollocher helped judge the poetry competition, along with English professor John

Wilkinson, biology graduate student Matthew Barnes and Cici Holley, a senior biology student.

The event brought students and faculty from different disciplines together.

"This event is a confluence of science and the arts, a chance to see how those two things meshed," Hollocher said. "There's this idea of different departments getting together. It's really cross-disciplinary."

The judges graded the poems on form, performance, content and humor. Audience cheers determined the winner of an audience appreciation category.

The overall winners were Kyle Rocca and Angela Salvo, whose poem honored all the scientists before Darwin whose efforts helped his discoveries. Mentioning Mendel's peas, Leeuwenhoek's microscope, and many others, their poem concluded, "The past we must remember, but the future lies with you."

The poems included limericks, haikus and sonnets, and addressed topics ranging from the Great Tennessee Monkey trial to Darwin's famous trip on the H.M.S. Beagle.

Grace Ho wrote a letter to Darwin from the perspective of the pigeons he raised for research. Her poem, "Dear Darwin, Love Pigeon," won the form category.

Gabriel Pham wrote a tongue-in-cheek limerick about how evolution and natural selection make it difficult for guys who lack financial stability to mate.

"A disclaimer, this poem is a little risqué," Pham said before reading.

Biology student Cat Stecyk and English major Michelle Romeu teamed up to write "One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Evolution Fish."

"This was a cool idea," Romeu said. "It's a fun way to enjoy poetry and science."

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Edith Stein Project to discuss love, relationships, dignity

Fourth annual conference aims to empower men, women to 'evaluate honestly their own lives and relationships'

By LAURA McCRYSTAL
News Writer

The fourth annual Edith Stein Project will focus on issues relating to love through a variety of events, including 25 speakers and two

panel discussions.

"Our purpose is to engage men and women in discussion on their inherent worth and dignity in a manner that is relevant to everyday life, with an emphasis on the dignity of women," said senior Caitilin Podlaski, the chair of the

conference.

Podlaski said she hopes that between 300 and 400 participants will attend the conference on Friday and Saturday.

The conference presents views of human dignity based on optimism and the teachings of the Catholic

Church, she said.

"We hope that this conference compels and empowers men and women to evaluate honestly their own lives and relationships," she said.

Podlaski has attended each of the four Edith Stein Projects, which is

hosted by the Identity Project of Notre Dame (idND). idND became an official club after the first Edith Stein Project in 2006, she said.

"It all began with a group of friends with a passion for the beauty and inherent worth of every person," she said.

Although online registration closed Wednesday, Podlaski said people could still attend as many of the events as they like. Most events will be held in McKenna Hall.

Two of the 25 speakers are Film, Television and Theatre professors Susan Ohmer and Don Crafton, who will give a presentation on "Love in Film and Television" Friday evening.

The project's Web site lists the schedule of events, including speakers on issues such as homosexuality, contraception, family life and healthy relationships.

The two panels during the conference will feature student speakers, who Podlaski said offer unique perspectives on the issues.

According to the conference Web site, Friday afternoon's panel will examine the hook-up culture and how it is related to the difference between internal and external beauty.

Podlaski said Saturday afternoon's panel concerns violence against women.

"We have several students on the panel, and some of them share very personal stories," she said. "It is eye-opening and yet also very inspiring."

The conference concludes Saturday evening with a formal banquet.

Podlaski hopes that students will experience new points of view by attending the conference.

"People may or may not agree with all of the positions presented, but this is an academic conference," she said. "Therefore, diverse opinions are not only encouraged but absolutely necessary for fruitful dialogue and for the conference to fulfill its mission."

Contact Laura McCrystal at
lmcrcryst@nd.edu

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Election

continued from page 1

and the close election because close elections create high expectations for the winner.

"I want this position to be earned," he said.

Weber said the close election puts more pressure on the duo to perform well in office.

"So many people voted, and Derek and Laura had so many supporters," she said. "They are going to hold us to a high standard."

Weber said she is confident the Weber-Schmidt administration will represent the Burdick-Sanchez supporters.

Schmidt said the high voter turnout is an indication of the strength of both tickets.

"These four clearly represent the student body," he said.

Schmidt said he believes his experience as student body vice president along with Weber's current job as sophomore class president were crucial in earning the win.

Weber said she believes their grassroots campaign also impacted the outcome of the election.

"We took time to meet with individual students and we listened to what they want," she said.

As student body vice president, Schmidt said he is in the position to implement his platform ideas right away.

"Since I'm in office this year, a lot of our work will start now," he said. "There are also things Bob and I want to get done before his term ends."

The taxi reform plan, which will offer students coupons to cover cab fares, and the effort to create cheaper options

when buying textbooks are the top platform ideas on the list, Schmidt said.

"If we are going to accomplish those we will have to start now," he said.

The promise of expanding 'Grab n Go' food options is also a plan that will be implemented quickly, he said.

Schmidt said he and Weber want to continue to address the frequent question from students about what student government actually does.

"Cynthia and I want to make student government more visible," he said.

Despite their defeat, Burdick and Sanchez said they believe in their campaign platform and will not abandon it.

"We will work on our platform ideas without the title," Burdick said.

She said her and Sanchez discussed the implementation of their ideas with the necessary departments during campaigning, and they will continue to do so next year.

Although she lost, Burdick said she is happy with the large number of students who made the effort to vote.

"I think it's saying something about the candidates that this many people voted," she said. "Obviously both tickets had a lot of support. It wasn't a blowout."

Burdick emphasized that her ticket only lost by 140 votes.

"That's awfully close," she said.

Schmidt and Weber both said they are excited and ready to lead the student body starting April 1.

"Right now, we are pumped," Schmidt said. "We will continue to evaluate ways to better Notre Dame."

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Halftime

continued from page 1

tion from the sellout crowd during intermission of the home team's win.

"It was a lot to take in, emotionally. I held it in but it is a weird experience," Lance Corporal Villarreal said immediately after the tribute. "You just think you went over there and did your job and you have all these people appreciate you in that way. It kind of makes you grateful for what you've done."

The halftime presentation was part of "Camo Night" at the Joyce Center, an event Notre Dame coach Mike Brey began last year. Every fan in attendance received a camouflage T-shirt upon entering the game.

In May 2007, Brey traveled to Kuwait as part of "Operation Hardwood," a four-day basketball tournament in which he coached a team of service members. After returning to the United States, Brey said the trip was one of the top five experiences of his life.

"I think it's great that as a University, we've done this camo night and honored [the troops]," Brey said after Thursday's game. "This year, though, we actually had some

true heroes here."

The halftime ceremony consisted of a video tribute and an acknowledgment at mid-court of the four soldiers, each of whom was presented with a Notre Dame autographed basketball. After the soldiers received their balls, the crowd broke out in chants of "U-S-A."

Petry, whose son Landon accompanied him to mid-court, said the crowd's reaction was emotional for him.

"Having [Landon] here after I've been wounded is great," Petry said. "I want to thank everybody for their support."

Brey, meanwhile, said he and his team might have owed extra thanks to the troops. Notre Dame was on a seven-game losing streak before blowing out Louisville 90-57.

"Those guys brought me some good karma, I guess," Brey said. "I spent some time in our reception area with them at 2:00."

Notre Dame point guard Tory Jackson agreed, saying: "The way they fight for us — it was one of those things — we kind of returned the favor for them, fought for them a little."

Besides, the 5-foot-11 Jackson joked that he would be afraid of the consequences if the team were to lose.

"It was a lot to take in, emotionally. I held it in but it is a weird experience."

**Lance Corporal
Anthony Villarreal
U.S. Army**

"I think it's great that as a University, we've done this camo night and honored [the troops]."

**Mike Brey
men's basketball coach**

"I think they were gonna beat us up if we hadn't won," he said with a laugh.

Unbeknownst to Jackson, Petry said he was expecting nothing less than a win.

"The team hasn't been doing very well. We got to meet with the coaches earlier and we told them, 'Hey, we're letting you guys know we came here to see you guys win,'" he said.

Captain Joe Kosek, a Notre Dame assistant professor and former Notre Dame ROTC cadet, said Brey was instrumental in organizing the halftime ceremony.

"It's amazing for me to see that key players at the University like Mike Brey are taking such steps to recognize the soldiers abroad," Kosek said. "We just want to try to make it as amazing as we can for the Wounded Warriors."

Kosek said the men's basketball program contacted the Notre Dame Army ROTC to help plan the event.

"As far as the Wounded Warriors go, we didn't really have any role except helping contact them," he said. "They've done a great job of bringing them in. We've just acted as a consultant for their trip here, and figuring out things they might want to do when they're here."

All four soldiers sat court-side for the Irish win. With just over six minutes remaining in the first half of the game, the public address announcer asked all veterans and those currently serving in the military to stand and be recognized.

"It's awesome. To have Notre Dame fans cheer for you is unreal, really," Villarreal said.

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Islamic group agrees to truce

CAIRO — The deputy leader of Hamas said Thursday night that the Islamic militant group agreed to an 18-month truce with Israel for the Gaza Strip, the official Egyptian news agency reported.

Moussa Abu Marzouk told MENA that Egypt's government, which has been mediating between Hamas and Israel, would announce the truce in two days after consulting with other Palestinian factions.

In Jerusalem, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert's office said the Israeli government had no comment on the report.

Earlier in the day, Egyptian and Hamas officials reported progress in truce talks, which included Hamas' strongman from Gaza, Mahmoud Zahar, and Egypt's top mediator, intelligence chief Omar Suleiman.

Pakistan admits to link with attacks

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan acknowledged the Mumbai attacks were partly plotted on its soil and announced criminal proceedings against eight suspects, including three alleged ringleaders, in a sign it is heeding U.S. and Indian demands to punish those responsible for the deaths of 164 people.

India called Thursday's announcement a "positive development" and the news was welcomed by Washington, which had feared tensions the attacks triggered between the nuclear-armed neighbors would distract Pakistan from its struggle against the Taliban and al-Qaida.

"I want to assure the international community, I want to assure all those who have been victims of terrorism, that we mean business," Interior Ministry chief Rehman Malik said at a news conference, while holding up a copy of the findings that were later handed over to India.

NATIONAL NEWS

Inspection costs five their lives

DALLAS — Fire officials failed to identify serious safety concerns, including a lack of smoke detectors and proper exits, when they inspected an east Texas homeless shelter where five men later died in a fire, according to records obtained by The Associated Press.

"Looks OK" was the only thing written on one report prepared after an April 2005 inspection, one of the documents provided by the city of Paris in response to the AP's request under the Texas Public Information Act.

None of the five inspections conducted in the 10 years before the Jan. 5 fire was by a state-certified fire inspector, and all failed to notice that the facility lacked the basic safety requirements for overnight occupancy. Dozens of men lived amid containers of used clothing and other highly flammable material.

Peanut plant orders recall

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas has ordered a recall of all products ever shipped from a now-closed Peanut Corp. of America plant in Plainview amid a nationwide salmonella outbreak.

The order came Thursday evening from the Department of State Health Services. The agency says "dead rodents, rodent excrement and bird feathers" were discovered Wednesday in a crawl space above a production area.

A state inspection also found that the unit's air handling system was pulling debris from the infested crawl space into production areas.

LOCAL NEWS

Man guilty of murder after 24 years

CROWN POINT, Ind. — A man extradited from California to Indiana pleaded guilty but mentally ill Thursday to raping and murdering a Gary woman 24 years ago.

Mark Erler, 48, did not have a plea agreement with prosecutors. He pleaded guilty but mentally ill to charges of murder and murder in the perpetration of rape in the death of 22-year-old Linda Bennett. Her body was found May 5, 1984, at Riley School in Gary. Her throat was slashed, she had been stabbed twice in the chest and raped.

Judge pleads not guilty to bribery

DeLaughter charged with five federal counts including conspiracy and mail fraud

Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — A judge known for successfully prosecuting a white supremacist decades after a civil rights-era killing pleaded not guilty Thursday to five federal charges in an unrelated judicial bribery scheme that has snared some of the state's wealthiest attorneys.

Mississippi Circuit Judge Bobby DeLaughter was influenced with a promise that former U.S. Sen. Trent Lott would help him get appointed to the federal bench, according to an eight-page indictment unsealed Thursday. Lott has not been accused of wrongdoing.

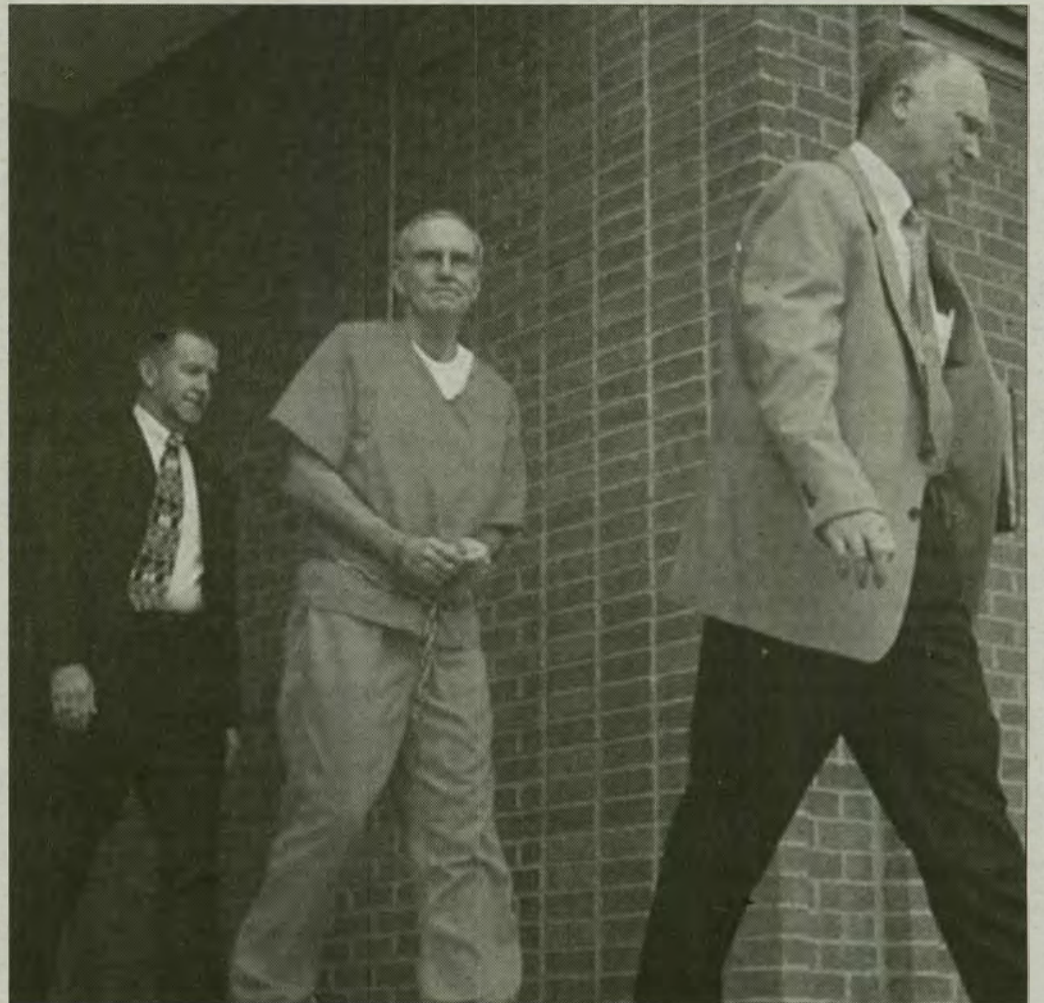
DeLaughter, a judge in Hinds County, which includes Jackson, is charged with conspiracy, mail fraud and obstruction. His arraignment in U.S. District Court in Oxford came just two days after Lott's brother-in-law, noted anti-tobacco attorney Richard "Dickie" Scruggs, pleaded guilty to mail fraud charges.

DeLaughter's attorney did not immediately respond to a message from The Associated Press.

DeLaughter presided over a bitter dispute among Scruggs and other lawyers over millions of dollars in fees from asbestos litigation.

Scruggs, a chief architect of the multibillion-dollar tobacco settlements of the 1990s, has admitted he was involved in a scheme to entice DeLaughter to rule in his favor by promising he'd be appointed to the federal bench. Lott talked to DeLaughter but ultimately recommended someone else for the job.

Scruggs was already serving five years for conspiring to bribe a north Mississippi judge when investigators began taking



Former trial lawyer Richard Scruggs, center, is escorted out of the U.S. District Courthouse in Aberdeen Miss., by U.S. Deputy Marshals Scotty Peters, left, and Neal Cruse, right.

a hard look at the DeLaughter case. A plea deal in which Scruggs admitted trying to influence DeLaughter added two years to Scruggs' sentence Tuesday.

Prosecutors say Scruggs and his associates exploited DeLaughter's weaknesses: his relationship with his mentor, former Hinds County District Attorney Ed Peters, and his desire to be a federal judge.

Scruggs and the others hired Peters, DeLaughter's old boss and close friend, to influence him behind the scenes, according to the indictment.

From August 2005 to August 2006, DeLaughter "secretly and corruptly

communicated with the Scruggs legal team through Ed Peters, affording them a unique and valuable opportunity to foresee and attempt to influence his rulings," the indictment says.

Others allegedly involved in the scheme are former Mississippi Auditor Steve Patterson and two disbarred attorneys, Joey Langston and Timothy Balducci.

Langston also has pleaded guilty to trying to influence DeLaughter on Scruggs' behalf. Balducci and Patterson pleaded guilty to conspiring to bribe a different judge and have been cooperating in the investigation.

Langston said he direct-

ed \$1 million to Peters to help persuade DeLaughter to rule in Scruggs' favor. The government has seized \$425,000 from Peters, which is all they say is left after taxes and stock market losses. Peters has not been charged and has not returned calls for comment.

DeLaughter was once an assistant district attorney under Peters. They made headlines in 1994 by successfully prosecuting Byron de la Beckwith for the 1963 assassination of Mississippi civil rights leader Medgar Evers. The case was portrayed in the 1996 movie "Ghosts of Mississippi" and DeLaughter wrote a book about the trial.

CONGO

Rebels send victims as a warning

Associated Press

BANGADI, Congo — Rebels from the Lord's Resistance Army sent torture victims — including a man whose back was sliced with a machete — to warn the people of this Congolese town they would be next.

The town's three policemen fled and there was no response from the military and U.N. peacekeepers to the increasingly panicked pleas for help. That's when residents realized they were on their own.

"We were sending warnings and begging for help practically every day for two weeks. And nothing happened," said community leader Nicolas Akoyo Efudha. "We finally understood that we were abandoned

— in danger and without protection."

So Akoyo called a town meeting and told everyone to bring whatever weapons they had: pre-World War II rifles, homemade shotguns, lances, swords, machetes, hunting knives, bows with sheaths of poisoned arrows.

The women came armed with kitchen knives and log-sized wooden pestles used to pound yams into flour.

Since then, the residents of Bangadi have successfully driven off two attacks by the Ugandan rebels, who have killed at least 900 people in this remote northeastern corner of Congo over the past seven weeks.

News of Bangadi's success — and the lack of military protection — have spurred hundreds of villages to form self-defense groups, according to Avril

Benoit, a spokeswoman for Medecins Sans Frontieres.

The ragtag groups are filling a security vacuum as Congo tries to recover from back-to-back civil wars that devastated the Central African nation over nearly a decade.

Aid workers and human rights activists are watching the phenomenon with trepidation. In a part of Congo with dozens of militias and rebels, they fear these self-defense groups could transform into a menacing force.

Congo's army, cobbled together from various rebel groups and the defeated troops of ousted dictator Mobutu Sese Seko, has never been cohesive and has suffered repeated defeats at the hands of the rebels.

Flowers

continued from page 1

the managers have put posters up around campus and have placed paper tents on the tables in both dining halls on campus. They also used the electronic signs in LaFortune.

Irish Gardens has set up a table on the main floor of LaFortune where students can place orders. If the students have specific questions, they are redirected downstairs to the actual store.

"The surge in business that we see during Valentine's Day is a great opportunity for us to let everyone on campus know that we are around throughout the school year, not just for the holidays," Julien said.

There are a variety of options offered by the store, including special bouquets that were created by the student managers.

Julien's bouquet is called the "MK Bouquet." It contains stock flowers, which are different types of wildflowers, snapdragons, roses, alstroemeria and gerbera.

"I wanted to create a bouquet that was both beautiful and reasonable," Julien said.

"This combination of flowers makes that possible."

Maloney also created a bouquet for Valentine's Day called the "Mystical Mythical Michelle." This bouquet is simple, but elegant containing three stock flowers and three roses.

Maloney and Julien agreed that their most popular flower has been the red rose. They said that they have also been selling large numbers of daisies.

Irish Gardens also has a number of add-ins to accompany the bouquets.

"We have both latex and Mylar balloons, stuffed animals, and lollipops," Julien said. "This year we have also added an assortment of candy bars that buyers can choose from."

The student managers said they have seen a steady flow of traffic all week, but expect the biggest rush to come on Saturday.

"We will probably be up all night Friday making pre-orders so that on Saturday we can solely focus on completing the orders that come in that day," Maloney said.

Contact Liz O'Donnell at codonnell@nd.edu

Donation

continued from page 1

"preferred charity" for most donors.

But he was cautious about predicting whether the situation would improve or not.

"We're fairly early into this downturn," he said. "No one knows how much worse will it get and how much longer will it go."

A new survey by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education forecasted a 1.7 percent decrease in fundraising this year, making it the second worst in the past 21 years.

Nanni said it's too early to make comparisons to downturns like those experienced in the 1980s or after Sept. 11, but "all indications" lead him to believe that the current recession will be far worse than either of those.

Nanni said he sees a "combination" of a decline in donors and amounts of individual donations.

Some donors have lost "anywhere between 30 to 50 percent of their net worth," Nanni said.

"And what is perhaps most difficult ... is the uncertainty as

to when this economy is going to come back," he said, which has affected giving.

The University is currently in the middle of the fourth year of its largest capital campaign in its history, the Spirit of Notre Dame campaign. The campaign began in July of 2004 with the goal of raising \$1.5 billion.

The University has raised \$1.46 billion to date, which is about 97 percent of the goal, with over two years remaining.

Of the \$1.46 billion raised, about 70 percent has already been received in cash, he said.

"That's a very high pledge payment rate for any campaign nationally," Nanni said, "so that leaves us less vulnerable than other schools."

Nanni said the timing of the campaign has been particularly advantageous.

"As you recall the economy dipped in 2002, 2003, so our starting point was particularly gratuitous," he said. Now, near-

ly all funds have been raised with enough time for the University to meet and exceed the goal, Nanni said.

"We have been very blessed, timing wise," he said.

"A number of universities announced campaigns this summer," he said, adding that it would be a "very difficult" time to hold such a campaign.

During the recession, Nanni said that fundraising efforts "focus on the basic fundamentals."

"This is a time when Notre Dame really focuses on cultivating relationships among prospective donors," he said.

The University can emphasize the impact that donations have, he said.

"There's a lot of ways to give to Notre Dame where at the same time people can feel they're impacting ... greater society and it's needs," he said.

Contact Aaron Steiner at asteiner@nd.edu

"This is a time when Notre Dame really focuses on cultivating relationships among prospective donors."

Lou Nanni
Vice President for University Relations

Break

continued from page 1

Notre Dame senior Katie Begerow will be one of the many students traveling this Spring Break.

"We're going to Utah, and staying with my boyfriend's family," Begerow said.

Price affected their Spring Break destination choice.

"It was between a cruise over spring break or a trip to Europe this summer, and we wanted to go to Europe more," she said.

Lower fuel prices also affecting her normal routine of buying tickets in advance, Begerow said. Her normal routine of buying plane tickets months in advance was changed to just a few weeks.

Another benefit to her trip is staying with a family, Begerow said. This removes the added costs of a hotel.

"I only had to pay for the plane ticket, which is nice," she said.

Begerow doesn't see that big of a difference in Spring Break travel due to the economy.

"Friends who normally go places are going places, and friends who normally go home are going home," she said.

Contact Amanda Gray at agray3@nd.edu

Kareem elected to Nat'l Academy of Engineering

Election to society signifies high honor for Kareem, director of ND NatHaz Modeling Lab

Special to The Observer

Ahsan Kareem, Robert Moran Professor of Civil Engineering and Geological Sciences at Notre Dame, has been elected a member of the National Academy of Engineering (NAE).

Election to NAE is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer. Academy membership honors those who have made outstanding contributions to engineering research, practice or education, including significant contributions to engineering literature, the pioneering of new and developing fields of technology, making major advancements in traditional fields of engineering, or developing and implementing innovative approaches to engineering education.

Kareem, who also is director

of Notre Dame's NatHaz Modeling Laboratory, was cited for contributions to "analyses and designs to account for wind effects on tall buildings, long-span bridges, and other structures."

Kareem specializes in probabilistic structural dynamics, fluid-structure interactions, structural safety, and the mitigation of natural hazards. To better understand and predict the impact of natural hazards on the constructed environment, he uses computer models and laboratory and full-scale experiments to study the dynamic effects of environmental loads under winds, waves and earthquakes on structures and to develop mitigative strategies to enhance the performance and safety of structures.

Kareem is the lead U.S. collaborator for a project titled "New Frontiers of Education and Research in Wind Engineering" at Tokyo Polytechnic University's Global Center for Excellence. The center, founded by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, was established to build a sustainable urban environment that is resilient to extreme wind events and is in harmony with regional and local environments.

A member of the Notre Dame faculty since 1990, Kareem has served in the administration, management and organization of numerous professional societies including the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), as well as committees of the National Research

Council, NAE and the American Association for Wind Engineering. He also has served as a senior consultant to several major oil, insurance and consulting engineering companies and the United Nations.

The research findings of Kareem and his students and postdoctoral fellows are having a major influence in the area of structural engineering, including monitoring of hurricane winds and their load effects; development of innovative structural systems for offshore drilling and production; monitoring dynamics of coastal construction, deepwater offshore structures, tall buildings, bridges and industrial structures; risk modeling; and development of cyber-based collaborations for research and education in wind effects.

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks			
Dow Jones	7,932.76	-6.77	
Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:
1,680	145	2,001	2,527,007,205
AMEX	1,405.66	+2.47	
NASDAQ	1,541.71	+11.21	
NYSE	5,256.45	+3.77	
S&P 500	835.19	+1.45	
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	7,753.53	+48.17	
FTSE 100 (London)	4,202.24	-32.02	

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
SPDR S&P 500 (SPY)	+0.07	+0.06	83.66
BK OF AMERICA (BAC)	-3.29	-0.20	5.87
FINANCIAL SEL SPDR (XLF)	-4.27	-0.12	9.20
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	+1.23	+0.37	30.57

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	-1.27	-0.035	2.730
13-WEEK BILL	-5.00	-0.015	0.285
30-YEAR BOND	+0.29	+0.010	3.460
5-YEAR NOTE	-2.72	-0.048	1.720

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-1.96	33.98	
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+4.70	949.20	
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+1.13	82.10	

Exchange Rates	
YEN	90.660
EURO	1.2868
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.2432
BRITISH POUND	1.4270

IN BRIEF

Retail sales rise by one percent

NEW YORK — Americans bought a sweater or two, ate out a little more, purchased some gadgets and turned to the Internet in search of bargains in January. These small indulgences nevertheless provided some relief to suffering stores, boosting retail sales by 1 percent.

The unexpected increase from December, reported by the Commerce Department on Thursday, reversed a six-month decline and marked the biggest increase in 14 months.

But it's far too early to break out the champagne. With nearly 5 million Americans still drawing unemployment benefits late last month and the specter of more layoffs to come, economists believe the reversal is unlikely to last. In a sign of how fearful businesses are, they slashed inventories in December by the biggest amount in seven years — potentially triggering further cutbacks in production and more layoffs.

Obama pitches plan to Caterpillar

EAST PEORIA, Ill. — President Barack Obama on Thursday pitched his economic plan at a Caterpillar Inc. plant reeling from layoffs, his message blunted when the company's chairman warned that it may be up to a year before the multibillion-dollar program has a positive impact on the economy.

The \$790 billion stimulus plan is nearing votes in the House and Senate. If all stays on the course, the package of spending programs and tax relief will soon become law with Obama's signature.

"It is time for Congress to act, and I hope they act in a bipartisan fashion," Obama said of the legislation, which drew little Republican support in the Senate and none in the House. "But no matter how they act, when they do, when they finally pass our plan, I believe it will be a major step forward on our path to economic recovery."

Caterpillar has announced more than 22,000 layoffs because of sliding demand. Obama said the company would rehire some of the workers when the economic bill becomes law and predicted other companies will have similar stories.

Congress works overtime on stimulus

Controversy over school-modernization money forces delay in final votes

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Reluctant to call it quits, key lawmakers bargained into overtime Thursday on the \$790 billion economic stimulus legislation before reaching final agreement more than 24 hours after first announcing a deal.

Lingering controversy over school-modernization money and a scaled-back tax break for businesses forced a delay in final votes on the legislation.

But by nightfall, with Democratic leaders eager for final passage by the weekend, all issues were reported settled. House leaders announced a vote for Friday, with the Senate to follow later in the day or over the weekend.

Republicans, lined up to vote against the bill, piled on the scorn. "This is not the smart approach," said Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, the Republican leader. "The taxpayers of today and tomorrow will be left to clean up the mess."

President Barack Obama delivered what has become a daily call for congressional action, this time from the industrial heartland. With approval of the bill, he said in Peoria, Ill., companies "may be able to start growing again. Rather than cutting jobs, they may be able to create them again."

He spoke at Caterpillar Inc., the heavy machinery giant that has announced 22,000 layoffs. The president has said in recent days the company has promised to rescind some of them once the stimulus passes, but Chief Executive Jim Owens said there probably would be more layoffs before that can occur.

At the Capitol and in an atmosphere of uncertainty, provisions were coming to light that had not been included in the original



House Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio, center, prepares to answer questions from reporters Thursday on Capitol Hill.

bills that passed the House or Senate — or that differed markedly from earlier versions, or that appeared to brush up against claims of the bill's supporters that no pet projects known as "earmarks" were included.

One last-minute addition was a \$3.2 billion tax break for General Motors Corp. that would allow the ailing auto giant to use current losses to claim refunds for taxes paid when times were good. GM got a \$13.4 billion federal bailout late last year — and is expected to receive more in 2009 — and argued that without

the provision, its government-financed turnaround plan could force the company to pay higher taxes.

The legislation does not mention GM specifically, but the company has been lobbying hard for the provision for months, with help from Michigan's representatives in Congress. "We wanted to make sure that the restructuring wasn't counteracted," said Rep. Sander M. Levin, D-Mich., a supporter of the provision.

It was not immediately clear why the provision had not been included in the bill that cleared the House several weeks ago.

Negotiators sweetened another tax break at the last minute, doubling to \$1.6 billion a provision that would benefit businesses that buy their own debt at a discount. It was a major priority of business groups such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which argued it would help firms and banks clear debt from their balance sheets and begin to hire workers and lend money to customers. The business group announced its support of the bill, despite the heavy opposition from its customary Republican allies in Congress.

Third Cabinet nominee withdraws

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Saying "I made a mistake," Republican Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire abruptly withdrew as commerce secretary nominee on Thursday and left the fledgling White House suddenly coping with Barack Obama's third Cabinet withdrawal.

Gregg cited "irresolvable conflicts" with Obama's policies, specifically mentioning the \$790 billion economic stimulus bill and 2010 census in a statement released without warning by his Senate office.

Later, at a news conference in the Capitol, he sounded more contrite.

"The president asked me to do it," he said of the job offer. "I said, 'Yes.' That was my mistake."

Obama offered a somewhat differ-

ent account from Gregg.

"It comes as something of a surprise, because the truth, you know, Mr. Gregg approached us with interest and seemed enthusiastic," Obama said in an interview with the Springfield (Ill.) Journal-Register.

Later, he told reporters traveling with him on Air Force One that he was glad Gregg "searched his heart" and changed course now before the Senate confirmed him to the Cabinet post. He also said Gregg's withdrawal won't deter him from working with Republicans and trying to change the partisan ways of Washington.

"Clearly he was just having second thoughts about leaving the Senate, a place where he's thrived," Obama added.

The unexpected withdrawal came

just three weeks into Obama's presidency and on the heels of several other Cabinet troubles. The new president is in the midst of expending political capital in Washington — and around the country — for his economic package and is seeking to move forward with an ambitious agenda in the midst of an economic recession while the country continues to face threats abroad.

Now Obama also finds himself needing to fill two vacancies — at Commerce and at the Health and Human Services Department. Former Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle withdrew his nomination for that post amid a tax controversy. Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner was confirmed despite revelations that he had not paid some of his taxes on time.

Studies examine ADHD, memory

Special to The Observer

It happens to us all — you walk to the refrigerator, open the door, then stand there, unable to remember why you went to the kitchen in the first place.

You may call it a brain cramp, but in psychological terms, it's a "failure of active maintenance," and it could be a key to decoding Attention Deficit

Hyperactivity Disorder, or ADHD, according to Brad Gibson, a Notre Dame associate professor of psychology whose research looks at the link between memory and the disorder in adolescents.

In recent years Gibson and colleagues have focused their studies on what's called "working memory" — the kind that allows us to remember things like phone numbers or a story someone has told us — and found a direct correlation between ADHD and a weakness in that function. The researchers started working on therapies to enhance working memory.

"That's the part of memory that people thought was unique in ADHD," Gibson explains. "The teacher tells kids to do something and they can't maintain the instructions that they're given and then they end up not being able to execute the instructions and they get distracted. A lot of the externalized behavior, the distraction, was thought to arise from a problem with working memory."

But now the team is starting to reconsider that theory and instead look at the "retrieval component" of memory — that "Why did I go to the refrigerator?" or "What was I going to say?" function that is familiar to so many of us.

"Retrieval component has been relatively ignored in the working memory literature," Gibson says. "It's only recently that it's becoming

clear that this is something that isn't included in the working memory capacity measure that we talk about."

Working with middle school students from the nearby Penn-Harris-Madison school district, the researchers have been able to demonstrably strengthen active maintenance in study participants by administering an intervention that consists of a series of memory games played on a computer.

"We have this working memory intervention that is doing something," Gibson explains. "They have better scores after it than before it, but we haven't really understood why it was working and we thought it was improving active maintenance."

With a new focus on the retrieval component, Gibson and his colleagues are starting to consider some new theories.

"What we're finding is that kids with ADHD tend to retrieve more irrelevant information; so they're coming up with things, but they're not really relevant, they're not the items from the list," he says. "Right now the challenge is to come up with measures that can accurately assess their weaknesses."

A new study is starting this semester, and Gibson hopes that this fresh approach will open some promising doors.

"This is an advance in the way that we're thinking and it has implications for treatment because it still could be that the intervention that we're using actually improves the retrieval component, which would be directly addressing the weakness," he says. "It allows us to potentially fine-tune the intervention by having a better idea of what the problem is in the first place."

Obama pays tribute to Lincoln

Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Summoning the pride of a nation, President Barack Obama paid fond tribute Thursday to Abraham Lincoln by challenging people to embrace his vision of a collective union and reject a "knee-jerk disdain for government."

"He recognized that while each of us must do our part, work as hard as we can and be as responsible as we can — in the end, there are certain things we cannot do on our own," Obama said of Lincoln at a celebration of the revered president's 200th birthday.

"There are certain things we can only do together," Obama said. "There are certain things only a union can do."

Here in the place that Lincoln called home, and from where Obama launched his presidential bid, the new president's speech capped his third event honoring Lincoln's bicentennial.

It was a whirlwind day for

Obama. He squeezed in economic comments in East Peoria, Ill., and coped with the abrupt withdrawal of another commerce secretary nominee.

The stories of Obama and Lincoln have become entwined by history, geography and symbolism. Their paths are viewed as not just their own, but the country's as well — a lineage from the man who freed the slaves to the first black president in U.S. history.

Obama said Lincoln understood that self-reliance was at the core of American life. But Obama said individual liberty is "served, not negated, by a recognition of the common good."

The pendulum, Obama said, has swung too far toward a philosophy that says government is the problem — a notion that it should be dismantled, with tax breaks for the wealthy that might eventually help out everyone.

"Such knee-jerk disdain for government — this constant rejection of any com-

mon endeavor — cannot rebuild our levees or our roads or our bridges," Obama said. His list of collective examples went on: better schools, modern health care, an economy built on clean energy.

"Only a nation can do these things," Obama said. "Only by coming together, all of us, and expressing that sense of shared sacrifice and responsibility ... can we do the work that must be done in this country. That is the very definition of being American."

Earlier Thursday, back in Washington, Obama celebrated Lincoln's resolve at a ceremony in the stately Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol. And he spent Wednesday evening at a performance at the newly renovated Ford's Theatre, where Lincoln was assassinated in 1865.

Like Lincoln, Obama is a skinny lawyer who rose from obscurity and served briefly in the Illinois legislature before leaping to national office at a time of burgeoning crisis.

Prof looks at global trade of species

Special to The Observer

David Lodge, professor of biological sciences and director of the Center for Aquatic Conservation at Notre Dame, is the lead organizer for a symposium on global trade and aquatic invasive species that will take place today during the 2009 American Association for Advancement of Science (AAAS) annual meeting in Chicago.

Titled "Global Trade and the 'Homogocene': Lessons from the Great Lakes for the World," the session will present recent advances in research on ship-borne aquatic invasive species in the Great Lakes and globally.

"Biological invasions are obliterating the very geo-

graphic patterns of organisms that fueled Darwin's and Wallace's discovery of evolution," Lodge said. "Some biologists already refer to this epoch as the 'homogocene.' Increased trade is bringing distant ecosystems into contact in new ways. Organisms are transported to unfamiliar settings that are conducive to invasion. These invasions cause biotic homogenization and economic damages that are costly and often impossible to reverse."

Speakers at the symposium will reveal major new results from biology, economics and policy. They will discuss novel network models to inform management strategies, the first estimate of aggregate

financial costs caused by ship-borne invasions in the Great Lakes, and an analysis of alternative policies to better balance competing uses of the Great Lakes.

Symposium sessions include "Shrinking Degrees of Separation Among World's Ports," by John Drake, Odum School of Ecology, University of Georgia (and a graduate of Notre Dame's biological sciences doctoral program); "Invasion-induced Losses of Ecosystem Goods and Services in the Great Lakes," by Lodge; and "Impact of Ship-borne Invasions in the Great Lakes Regional Economy," by David Finnoff, Department of Economics and Finance, University of Wyoming.

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KYRGYZSTAN

Base not shut down despite gov. threat

Associated Press

MANAS AIR BASE — Aircraft took off throughout the day and workers built a new fire station at this vital military base Thursday despite Kyrgyzstan's plans to shut down a facility seen as essential to the war in Afghanistan.

The Manas air base works around the clock as the main air transportation hub for coalition efforts in Afghanistan, acting as a transit point for hundreds of troops and 500 tons of cargo moving in and out of the region each month. It is also a key link for medical evacuations from Afghanistan, which has seen rising violence and allied casualties.

Within a few minutes Thursday morning, a KC-135 Stratotanker departed for Afghanistan, while a huge C-17 Globemaster cargo aircraft landed.

Kyrgyz President Kurmanbek Bakiyev shocked Washington last week by announcing the closure of the Manas air base. Losing access to the facility poses a serious challenge to President Barack Obama's plan to send up to 30,000 more U.S. forces to fight surging Taliban and al-Qaida violence in Afghanistan.

About 75 percent of U.S. sup-

plies to Afghanistan travel through Pakistan but increasing militant attacks on depots and truck convoys there have raised doubts about the security of supply routes.

But a final decision on the base has since been put off until March, leaving open the possibility that the Americans could still negotiate a deal to retain their only base in Central Asia.

At the base, however, servicemen were too busy to worry about the future of Manas, a spokesman said.

"The mission here keeps people pretty busy," said Maj. Damien Pickart, a native of Blairtown, Iowa. "If we had a lot of time on our hands for something other than work, we might be thinking about [the future of the base] a little more."

Most of the aircraft at Manas are KC-135s, which refuel smaller planes on extended reconnaissance and attack missions. Last year, the Stratotankers flew more than 3,200 sorties out of Manas and refueled around 11,400 aircraft.

About 1,000 U.S. troops — and dozens each of French and Spanish — work at the base to move thousands of troops a year through the facility for the Afghan campaign.

VATICAN CITY

Pope Benedict to visit Israel

Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI told American Jewish leaders Thursday that he plans to visit Israel in May, coupling the long-awaited announcement with his strongest condemnation of Holocaust denial.

The 81-year-old pope assured the group that the Catholic Church was "profoundly and irrevocably committed to reject all anti-Semitism," helping to ease Jewish furor that followed the pope's reinstatement of an ultraconservative bishop who questioned the extent of the Holocaust.

"Such warmth, with an outstretched hand," said New York Rabbi Arthur Schneier, a Holocaust survivor, after the audience in the frescoed Consistory Hall. "The visit is on, no hesitation, reservations."

There has been only one other official visit by a pope to the Jewish state. Both sides said it will take place in May.

The trip, talked about since the start of the German pope's papacy in 2005, has been up in the air for some time due to problems raised by both sides. The latest jolt came when Benedict last month lifted the excommunications of four ultraconservative bishops — one of whom denied that Jews were gassed by the Nazis during World War II.

Protests by Jews, the pope's own bishops in Germany and German Chancellor Angela Merkel led the Vatican to demand the bishop recant, easing tensions and leading to Thursday's meeting with more than 60 representatives of American Jewish organizations.

Addressing the group in English as they sat in chairs before him, Benedict called the slaughter of 6 million Jews a crime against God.

The Vatican said Benedict did not know about the views of Bishop Richard Williamson when he agreed to lift the excommunication, but he clearly referred to him Thursday.

"The hatred and contempt for men, women and children that was manifested in the Shoah was a crime against God and against humanity," Benedict told the visiting leaders, using the Hebrew term for the Holocaust. "This should be clear to everyone, especially to those standing in the tradition of the Holy Scriptures."

Jewish leaders applauded his comments, most saying the crisis with the church over Williamson's comments was over.

"We came here with heavy hearts because of recent events, but we came away pleased and honored by the words of His Holiness," Malcolm Hoenlein, vice president of the Conference of

Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, told reporters.

Abraham Foxman, a Holocaust survivor and the national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said the Vatican should excommunicate Williamson again because of his remarks.

"Every moment that he stays in the church gives him credibility," he told reporters after the meeting.

"Today's statement was important but it did not bring closure," he said. "You cannot condemn Holocaust denial and anti-Semitism and reinstate someone who to this day continues to be an anti-Semite and deny the Holocaust."

In an interview with Swedish state TV broadcast Jan. 21, Williamson said only about 200,000 to 300,000 Jews were killed, none of them gassed.

Williamson has apologized for causing distress to the pope, but has not recanted. He said he would correct himself if he is satisfied by the evidence, but insisted in an interview with the German magazine Der Spiegel that examining it "will take time."

Benedict's trip had been planned before the Williamson affair surfaced.

Pope John Paul II made the first official visit in 2000, moving many when he prayed at the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site.

Winds cause destruction across country

At least five people were killed, hundreds of thousands lost power

Associated Press

Wild winds with gusts topping 65 mph blew from the Great Lakes to the East Coast on Thursday, knocking out power to hundreds of thousands of customers, disrupting travel and killing at least five people.

The high winds, attributed to a strong low pressure system, started Wednesday night and moved east overnight, kicking up gravel and sand from construction sites and hurling garbage cans onto busy New York City streets on Thursday.

"I got more sand in my eyes than a beach, and I almost got blown over backwards," said electrician Michael Lazzaro, who ducked into a bar on his way home from work in New York.

Utilities such as Jersey Central Power & Light in New Jersey reported downed power lines from wind-snapped trees. About 250,000 customers remained without power Thursday in Pennsylvania, and 140,000 more in Ohio. There were also about 109,000 outages in West Virginia, 14,900 in Michigan and nearly 14,000 in New Jersey.

"This is one of the largest power outages we've seen in many years," said Jimmy Gianato, West Virginia's director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. At one point,

220,000 customers were without power. At least six state parks also had no electricity.

Utilities in Ohio and West Virginia said electricity wouldn't be restored to some residents until the weekend or later.

In New Jersey, a 61-year-old motorist was killed early Thursday in Union County when a tree snapped, crashing through her car's windshield and impaling the woman. A woman in Newark died of massive head injuries after a tree branch fell and struck her Thursday afternoon.

Wind also was believed to be a factor in the Thursday death of a 59-year-old New York City construction worker who was killed when a wall collapsed, officials said.

A woman in West Virginia and a truck driver in Ohio also were killed in weather-related deaths Wednesday night, when gusts topping 70 mph in Indiana and Ohio were reported as the system moved through.

Gusts as high as 65 mph were reported Thursday, disrupting the morning rail commute in the New York City area. Four people were hurt, apparently by flying glass, when the wind blew a crossing gate into a Long Island Rail Road train.

Average flight delays were two hours Thursday at LaGuardia Airport and nearly four hours at Newark

Liberty International Airport in New Jersey.

In Philadelphia, winds ripped off part of a portable classroom's roof on Thursday, forcing 40 kindergarten students inside to evacuate, said James Cantwell, Smedley Elementary School's principal. No injuries were reported.

The National Weather Service confirmed Thursday that a small tornado had touched down in Indiana, damaging the roofs of a barn and a home near the town of Medford. No injuries were reported.

In Kentucky, devastated by a crippling ice storm two weeks ago, utilities worked Thursday to restore power to about 55,000 customers, down from at least 150,000 outages a day earlier. A 35-year-old utility worker from Minnesota fell 30 feet to his death Thursday while helping repair crews restore power in Kentucky.

Some 25 to 30 Kentucky National Guard members were assigned to help clean up debris, a Guard spokesman said. Most of the new outages were in the southeastern part of the state, while the ice storm mostly affected western Kentucky.

Power outages were also reported in Tennessee, Indiana, New York, North Carolina, Virginia, Delaware and Maryland.

Marriage counters experience protests

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Same-sex couples seeking to wed showed up at marriage license counters nationwide Thursday to highlight a right they don't have in 48 states, part of an annual protest that took on renewed urgency given recent election setbacks.

In San Francisco, where same-sex marriage was legal for nearly five months last year before California voters approved a ban, many couples who came to City Hall had already tied the knot but wanted to express their gratitude and to show they're still part of the fight.

"All of our marriages are under the cloud of Proposition 8," said Stuart Gaffney, 45, referring to California's ballot initiative banning gay marriage. "Equality is an unfinished business in California."

In Las Vegas, couples gathered outside the downtown marriage bureau with signs that read "Don't hate my love" and "No laws on love." In New York, activists wore signs that said "Just Not Married." They were turned away empty-handed in both places when they asked for marriage licenses.

"We could get married in Massachusetts or Connecticut, but we'll wait a little and see what happens in New York," Matt Flanders, 37, of Brooklyn, said after he and his partner,

Will Jennings, 29, participated in the protest in Manhattan. "It's a matter of principle. This is our home, and we should be able to get married where we live, where our friends are."

The protests around Valentine's Day, part of the 12th annual Freedom to Marry Day, were considered especially important this year because they come after the November passage of Proposition 8. The measure has prompted protests, lawsuits and questions about the direction of the gay rights movement.

"A lot of people feel a sense of determination and regret over having been too complacent or quiet before, so there is a commitment to, 'Never again, we have to take action,'" said Evan Wolfson, a civil rights lawyer who conceived Freedom to Marry Day. "In that sense, California was a terrific energizer and wake-up call."

Currently, gay marriage is legal only in Massachusetts and Connecticut, while 30 states have gay marriage bans in their constitutions. Gay rights activists are pressing lawmakers in New Jersey, New York and Vermont to take up bills that would legalize same-sex marriage in those states.

Jennifer Pizer, director of the marriage project at gay rights legal group Lambda Legal, said the disappointing outcome of the California election has created momentum in other parts of the country.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

THE OBSERVER

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Student government wish list

Saint Mary's student body president and vice president elections are taking place at the College on Monday. For the second year in a row, the race is uncontested as one of the two announced tickets, juniors Mallory Price and Katie Lewis, dropped out of the race early Thursday morning.

Barring a majority of Saint Mary's students voting for the abstain ticket, junior Jenny Hoffman and sophomore Meg Griffin will become the next president and vice president, respectively. We hope and are confident that the women will not allow their uncontested ticket to result in complacency, but will instead continue working hard to address the following important issues in their upcoming term:

u **Transparency** — One of the biggest problems Saint Mary's students have had with student government in the past few years is that the students don't know what is going on. This became an issue when eight students took a large stipend from student funds two years ago. The stipend, essentially, is payment for serving in student government. This year's Board of Governance (BOG) Executive Board tried to do the same. This caused an uproar when students heard what BOG was trying to do. One of the reasons the stipend issue received such a passionate response from the students is that they felt BOG was underhanded and deceptive in trying to pass the stipend. With a bit of prodding, this year's BOG has done a better job letting students know what they are doing, especially with funds, a practice which next year's leaders should continue. But they could take it one step further by keeping lines of communication open between students and BOG.

u **Resolving issues in a timely-fashion** — It took BOG four weeks to approve the Student Government Association budget this school year because of opposition to the Executive Board stipend. Many students felt strongly about the issue, which stalled the budget as the Executive Board balked at removing the stipend and those opposed to the stipend refused to

approve the budget. Without an approved budget, funds were frozen and clubs and organizations received their allotments late, forcing them to find outside funding if any of their activities occurred before they received it. Student government needs to find a way to shorten the time it takes to resolve issues such as this, so as to not punish students by withholding or forcing groups to cancel activities.

u **Representing the students** — While student body president and vice president are lofty titles, the key words of both of them is "student body." The students fulfilling these jobs are voted into office by the students and should be serving those students. Opening lines of communication between what women at the College want to see and what Student Government does will help BOG better serve the student body.

They should pay attention to what students are saying to them and they should speak for the student body. When students on campus were concerned about slow campus security response involving a trespasser near one of the residence halls, BOG missed a perfect opportunity to act on behalf of the students. When something happens on campus that people are concerned about, BOG should be the first to step up and offer ways to resolve the issue by facilitating discussions between administrators and students.

u **Respect is crucial to accomplishing anything as a student government**, whether it be on the part of the students or those serving the students. Many members of this year's BOG have side conversations or roll their eyes while other commissioners or students raise concerns. The level of respect at these meetings, and in any interactions with students, needs to be increased.

Although these suggestions may seem simple, their implementation by Hoffman and Griffin will be critical in improving relationships between the Saint Mary's student body, and the representatives they elect.

THE OBSERVER Editorial

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The evils of the admin

It is unfortunate that Mr. Griffith's recent letter ("Tradition never graduates," Feb. 9) concerning the disappearance of some of the most beloved traditions at Notre Dame is no hyperbole, but the daunting reality that can, and should, be traced back to the current administration.

The "iron fist" has done more than cancel events enjoyed by Alumni, visitors and students alike, thus putting a damper on weekends. No, if this were all that the abolition of the Frosh-O shoe date did, then I should probably reevaluate where I am focusing my attention. These unfounded measures however, have actually threatened the educational development of Notre Dame students. The banning of social, theatrical, sporting and other events reduces students' opportunities for networking and enhancing interpersonal skills.

I recently spoke with a trusted professor about this issue, who, to my surprise, shared this concern with the students in his Seminar. He referenced a recent study that concluded that the number of Notre Dame students who have preformed well in interviews has decreased significantly since the late 1990s. Clearly, we aren't getting enough practice in the art of persuasion. Consequently, fine skills for which students' tirelessly strive to achieve are going unnoticed in the real world. The unwanted result: the all important news rankings suffer.

Furthermore, many alumni have been personally offended upon visiting Notre Dame, finding themselves treated in a less

than favorable manner by authority figures. Grown men have been kicked to the ground by horses, mothers reprimanded for wondering where they should park to drop of their child's luggage and I have been personally appalled by the growing lack of guidance for undergraduates. Not only do we face a spring without the opportunity to meet every resident in Fisher, but one with no real hope for improvement by next year.

I humbly ask of all Domers and friends of the University — past, present and future — to voice your trepidations about the changes that may not be so helpful after all.

To ResLife: I thank you for your concern, but I'm keeping my fingers crossed that I will be able to practice how to make a favorable first impression through events that bring the traditions of all dorms together. Here's to the resurrection of the fondly remembered AnTostal festival, the Dillon Pep Rally, the Alumni Wake, the Fisher Zoo and all the other runs, songs and dances that built the Notre Dame tradition.

My only wish is that I will depart having participated in these events, leaving me with precious memories and not wondering what it would have been like to know what the phrase "tradition never graduates" actually means.

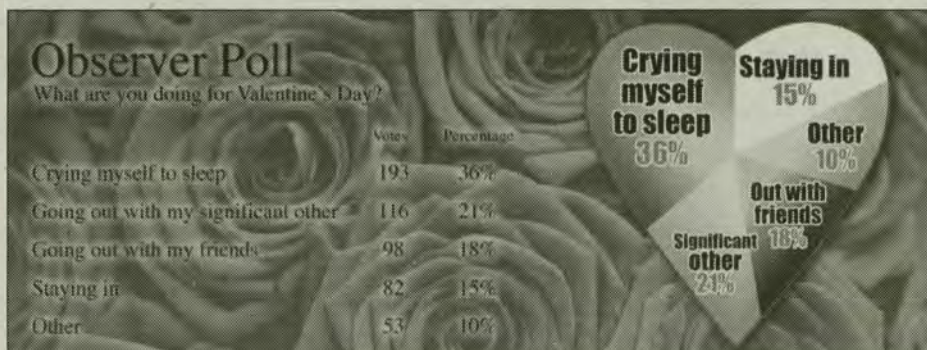
Nicola Menchetti
sophomore
Cavanaugh Hall
Feb. 11

Fuel the fire.

Or start your own.

Submit a Letter to the Editor.

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Talk sense to a fool and he calls you foolish."

Euripedes
Greek dramatist

True love at Club Fever

If love, actually is all around, then why do my friends scoff at my notion that true love can be found at Club Fever? If people can find love in the marching band, with the roommate of a high school best friend, in ROTC, when a roommate is asleep in the same room, in biology class, at a dorm party and at a Frosh-O event, then why not at Club Fever?



Bob Kessler

When I tell my kids the story about how I met their mother, I would love to tell them about

House of Stix

Club Fever. I'd describe the wide open dance floor with cages towering in the middle, and one dollar Natural Lights flowing through our veins. I might describe the stripper poles upstairs that people refuse to touch or the sawdust covered shuffleboard tables in the basement where I rarely win victory.

In the grand scheme of stories about people meeting the great loves of their life, this would be somewhere between the lame "she was the receptionist at the office where I worked" and the awesome "well I was a monk, and then got thrown out of the monastery, and then she was picking up crates of wine from the

monks, and I got a ride with her, but then I crashed my boat on a crazy island and was lost for three years until my crazy time travelling powers let me talk to her on Christmas Eve." There's something about Club Fever, something that I will never let go to, that makes the perfect balance between cute and crazy.

Then why do people keep telling me that it's impossible? I'm not walking around the bar whispering "You complete me" to girls while I am dancing with them, or interrupting a dance floor makeout session to say, "I wish I knew how to quit you." I should be able to go up to the bar and say, "I'll have what she's having," and find the love of my life over a conveniently overpriced mixed drink. Right?

Wrong.

All I want is to be able to tell my wife, "we'll always have Fever." but whenever I go there, girls move away from me faster than the Xlerator dries your hands in the bathrooms of LaFortune. It doesn't matter if I say anything to them, because they somehow think that I want to love them like Chris Brown loved Rihanna. I'll be a nice Notre Dame guy, and do all the awesome things that Notre Dame couples do. We can spoon on a couch in the middle room of a quad, make collages of each other for Valentine's Day, go to see movies such as "He's Just Not That Into You," walk

around the lakes (does anybody actually do this?), hold hands and nibble each other under the eternal sunshine of home football games, go on dates to Papa Vino's and become friends with each other's friends (by this, I mean that she will become friends with my friends and then cease to have friends of her own; it's not like I want it that way, I just know how Notre Dame relationships work).

Tonight, however, I go to Club Fever in earnest knowing that of all the nights of the year, tonight I have my best chance to find true love. I'm nothing special; just a common man with common thoughts, and I'm leading a common life, but since it is Desperation Friday (the night before Valentine's Day) I must be able to find true love on the dance floor. There will be people everywhere looking for love like I look for similes and pop culture references to include in Observer columns. Yet my friends that are girls still think I am at the octuplet mother level of craziness for thinking that I can find true love at Club Fever. But what do Kate, Caitlin, Katie C., Katie B., Mary Kate, Mary, Marilyn and Maribeth know about finding true love at Club Fever? Most of them are far more likely to be seen at Finny's, The Backer or even the Potawatomi Zoo this weekend.

Why then, am I always sleepless in

South Bend thinking about my lack of a Notre Dame relationship? It can't be because I am looking in the wrong places or basing everything I know about relationships on episodes of "The O.C." Is it because I look really young? No, that didn't hurt William Miller in "Almost Famous." I think the reason I can't find true love at Club Fever has to be because of single-sex dorms and the horrific gender relations at Notre Dame. I mean, every problem at Notre Dame can be blamed on one of five things: 1) Football Losses, 2) Sweatpants, 3) Cold Weather, 4) Bill Kirk, and 5) Single-Sex Dorms. I can't exactly blame Mr. Kirk on my lack of a girlfriend now.

On the bright side, I have some awesome bromances that would make Brody Jenner envious, a support group of girls with similar sounding names, and a bunch of couples I can look to for inspiration. I just hope that one day I can turn to them all and say, "Sorry, guys; I gotta see about a girl."

Until then, I'll just dance ... and start apologizing to all the couples I poked fun at above.

Bob Kessler is a senior majoring in political science and economics. You can contact him at rkessler@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Five-dollar footlongs

As a frequent customer of the Subway restaurant located in the LaFortune Student Center, I have been extensively snubbed by the lack of the now infamous "five-dollar footlongs" deal along with the rest of you, the student body.

Widely publicized by firemen, construction workers and various other hardworking blue-collar Americans in Subway's long-running TV ad series, the deal has been so popular as to prompt a permanent installation in the Subway arsenal.

However, our Subway in LaFortune finds it unnecessary to offer such a deal, and rightfully so. The LaFun Subway has been ranked as high as third nationally in sales and consistently tops the regional charts. While the managers have every right to run a highly profitable business, and I congratulate them on doing so, I am opposed to the exploitation of students and therefore propose a student body boycott of the LaFortune Subway.

After contacting Subway on the matter, a representative informed me it would be a bad business decision if he were to implement the deal. Further questioning was fruitless. However, this is not about business. Rather, it is about the students.

A boycott may seem arbitrary given the price of textbooks in the current day, but consider a savings of roughly two dollars on every Subway footlong purchase: if a

student purchases Subway once a week (I usually miss at least one dining hall meal per week) he or she will save over \$50, or 16 percent of his or her total Flex points. Wouldn't this come in handy as the points dwindle around finals?

Hard money aside, it is also unacceptable for a Subway to exploit college-aged students simply because they know the students will never stop buying their product. Subway offers no such deal and simply wishes to capitalize off of a ravenously hungry student body which is given nothing greater than Burger King and Sbarro. If hardworking firemen and construction workers deserve footlongs for five dollars, why do young and financially struggling college students not deserve the same? Because our Flex points are pre-paid and we would spend them all anyway?

Join us in this fight. If you are not working with us, you are working against us. For the complete unabridged manifesto and more visit the Facebook group Fighting for Footlongs.

John Traub
Colin McNamara
James Hinckley
Andrew Baeckstrom
Dom Golab
sophomores
Stanford Hall
Feb. 12

Where are the gyros?

Dear Food Services:

Just a quick question — what happened to all the gyros? They were my favorite item served in the dining hall and I'm sure they're favorites of many other students. I ask because last semester, they were listed one day on the menu, but did not actually show up in the lines. Ever since, they have not appeared in the cafeterias to delight many hungry students. Is the situation something like the sliced apples? Is there a shortage? Have they been taken hostage by the flying spaghetti monster who is envious of their juicy texture and cool tzatziki sauce taste?

Please, Food Services, let my gyros go!

Daniel Quinlan
sophomore
St. Edward's Hall
Feb. 10

Women in the priesthood

Acknowledging the gifts of women is not the same as respecting women. You can call us "God's masterpiece," graciously allow us to be theologians, and wax poetic about our ability to conceive and give birth, yet until women are allowed to stand on altars as priests, it will remain doubtful as to whether the Church really respects women.

Additionally, if we're going to remain truly committed to the gender roles indicated in the Bible, then some adjustments will need to be made in the celebration of Easter. All four Gospels state

that women were the first to encounter the risen Jesus, and were then instructed to tell the men of the Resurrection; women were then the first Christian preachers of the Resurrection. In keeping with this tradition, women should lead Easter services while men hide behind locked doors.

Sarah Testa
senior
Opus Hall
Feb. 11

Sidewalks not enough

In response to Steve DeLaurentis' Letter to the Editor regarding the unfortunate mud problem on campus ("Please save me from the mud," Feb. 11), I wish to voice my complete agreement. Steve proposed one solution: "Architects in the past (smarter than those employed by Notre Dame) have built buildings with no pre-planned walkways connecting them — then after a year of observing the patterns worn into the grass, they subsequently paved those slowly-trodden pathways."

Unfortunately, this method creates an entire year of muddy walks about campus without the alternative option of clean concrete pathways. Instead, I have some more suggestions as to how Notre Dame could fulfill their responsibility to keep students' shoes clean when they voluntarily walk through mud.

1. Students should have the option to send their class schedules to Ziolkowski Construction in order for them to customize the sidewalks on campus to better accommodate every students' walking needs.

2. Students should be provided a personal assistant that will physically carry them to all their classes, and if need be, lay down face first in the mud so we can walk over them.

3. Complementary shoe shines should be available at 2,500 locations around

campus so that no Domer will ever show up to a place on campus with a thin layer of mud around the base of their shoes.

4. Students should be given jetpacks so they can take the most direct, mud-free route to class. That's right, I propose that jetpacks no longer be available only to student athletes anymore.

5. All grass on campus should be uprooted and replaced with astroturf ... or carpet.

6. All classes should be held in dorms or off-campus residences so students don't have to walk at all.

7. Janitors should use hand held blow-driers to dry up every collection of moisture that settles on the lawns of Notre Dame's campus.

8. Notre Dame should build a giant roof over campus so no precipitation or sunlight can contribute to mud formation on our pristine University ever again.

Although these solutions may be a bit costly, I can't think of a more important issue Notre Dame could focus their efforts toward then ensuring all students the right to walk through mud without arriving to class with muddy shoes.

Zeb Hunter
senior
off campus
Feb. 11

LIKE IT, LOVE IT,
I WANT SOME MORE OF IT



JESS SHAFFER
Assistant Scene Editor

Valentine's Day in all its pink and red glory is supposed to embody romance. But cheesy love ballads can be treacherous icebergs for your love boat. So this Valentine's Day, opt for something a little more chic, cultured and unique. This playlist takes a little bit of old and a little bit of new, taking romance to a new level of sophistication.

Someone To Watch Over Me- Amy Winehouse

Despite her questionable style choices, Winehouse has an undeniable music talent, with a modern edge and jazzy, evocative style. Her cover of this classic longing-for-love song is sensitive and moving.

Try A Little Tenderness- Otis Redding

For 80s lovers, this song should summon images of Ducky dancing his heart out for Molly Ringwald. For those less Brat-Pack informed, this Otis Redding's instructional manual, which could be also called "Love for Dummies." Good for pre-date guidance and for reminding your significant other that you know how to treat them right.

Cheek to Cheek- Eva Cassidy

Eva Cassidy embodies all the class and nostalgia of jazz. With elegance, she covers this sweet vintage classic.

Write You A Song- Plain White T's

Everyone knows "Hey There Delilah." But "Write You A Song" will melt the hearts of every girl who doesn't have the good fortune of being named Delilah (which is most of us). With lines like, "I don't know how to fight, but I'll draw blood tonight if somebody tries hurting you," the romantic appeal of this ditty is obvious.

Your Song- Elton John

Touching without being corny, this song expresses passionate emotion with perceptive simplicity. Though many will remember it from the glitz and glamour of "Moulin Rouge," this love song, in its original form, is unique because of its effortless ease.

How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved By You)- Marvin Gaye

With a voice like velvet, this melody is sweetly seductive, without being as explicit as other Gaye hits (i.e. "Let's Get It On").

J'Ai Deux Amours- Madeleine Peyroux

This Canadian artist will make you feel like you're in the city of love. You don't have to understand French to appreciate the sheer romance of this tune. And who doesn't love Canada? This love song proves that it is a small world after all, giving Valentine's Day an international flair.

As Time Goes By- Rosemary Clooney

Her music is just as attractive as her son. George. Enough said,

Such Great Heights- Iron & Wine

This cover of the Postal Service's techno-pop serenade slows things down with an acoustic instrumental. Lyrics like "I'm thinking it's a sign that the freckles in our eyes are mirror images and when we kiss they're perfectly aligned" could make the saddest single drop his/her seventh chocolate bar with a breathless sigh.

If I Fell In Love With You- Evan Rachel Wood

Some readers might be aghast that Wood's cover was chosen over the original Beatle's hit. Musical elitism put aside, both versions bring a lot to the table, Wood's version simply has deliberate, slow paced vocals that are undeniably romantic, drawing attention to the vulnerable lyrics.

Bella Luna- Jason Mraz

Substitute this smooth, seductive song for the cheesy hits about "when the moon hits your eye."

That's How Strong My Love Is- Otis Redding

Redding made this list twice for a reason. This song embodies everything a girl wants to hear. So listen and learn from lyrics like, "I'll be the weeping willow drowning in my tears, you can go swimming when you're here. I'll be the rainbow when the sun is gone, wrap you in my colors and keep you warm." This song is so effective on the female heart that you will begin to doubt the misnomer that women are complicated.

Contact Jess Shaffer at jshaffe1@nd.edu.



MICHELLE FORDICE
Assistant Scene Editor

What is my fiancé going to be doing for Valentine's Day? Going to an auto show. So since that isn't my cup of tea and I now have plenty of free time on my hands this weekend, I thought I would put it to use on an extra special Valentine's Day edition of the Dining Hall Dish.

Now, a trip to the dining hall will never be the most romantic option. Above all, the best advice that can be given is to not even go there, but if you are stuck, short on funds, or just want ideas for the rest of the year, here are a couple ways to spruce up a less than perfect situation.

As always, many things come down to location, location, location. Now, you've already committed yourself to either North or South, so you're already hurting, but at least head to some of the more secluded areas so that you can be with your special someone. Try the smaller tables in South or the room behind the pasta bar in North.

Put some effort into your presentation. Mail your significant other an invitation several days before your dinner (if it's already too late for that, slide one under his or her door). Surprise your date with flowers on the table (can't afford even a carnation? Google yourself some origami flower instructions and steal some paper from the printers). Pull out his or her chair. Get creative.

Finally, make your date dessert! If you're really proactive, you can try serving them an entire meal (search the archives of www.ndsmcobserver.com for past Dining Hall Dish recipes), but that could take a lot of running around, plus they would have to sit alone for awhile. But you can pull off dessert pretty quickly and they'll feel a bit more pampered. Below is a selection of some of our best dessert recipes. And don't forget presentation. For example, let's say you are just going to serve your date a piece of chocolate cake. Take one of the larger plates, use chocolate sauce to create a design across the plate (you'll probably want to use a utensil other than the ladle for this), sprinkle on some powdered sugar, plate your cake, and then add a scoop of ice cream.

Dessert Recipes

Brownie Sundaes

This is nothing more than a twist on the above. A warm brownie melting your cold ice cream? What could be better?

1. Pick up your favorite type of brownie, whether nut filled or M&M topped.
2. Heat the brownie in the microwave.
3. Top with your favorite ice cream - traditional vanilla and mint are good options.
4. Top with whipped cream, hot fudge, nuts (if you like them) and of course a cherry!

Ice Cream Cookie

Surprise your date by taking the cookie to new heights. Again, make sure you know what his or her favorite cookie is.

3. Select two of your favorite cookies from the dessert bar.
4. Fill a bowl with a good scoop of your favorite ice cream. Toss in some of your favorite mix-ins. Some good combinations: vanilla ice cream and caramel inside oatmeal-raisin cookies, chocolate-chip cookies with mint chocolate chip ice cream and hot fudge, and peanut butter cookies with chocolate ice cream for that Reece's effect.
5. Heat up the cookies in the microwave.

6. Fill the two cookies with your ice cream mixture and take a messy bite! (Or if you're of the more delicate variety, go after it with a fork).

Contact Michelle Fordice at mfordice@nd.edu.

Hate is a strong word, but I really don't like you Valentine's Day



SZYMON RZYNER
Scene Writer

Romantic comedies, the prime genre of Valentine's Day. Some will be forced to watch them, trapped in their cuteness, their witty banter and picturesque love stories. The rest will be sitting alone, eating ice cream, huddled in Snuggies, crying themselves to sleep. Instead why not watch films that are relatively unwatchable in romantic settings? It could do wonders for helping to avoid thinking about the crippled self-worth that goes hand in hand with this holiday.

Passion of the Christ

With Lent quickly approaching, what better film to enjoy on Valentine's Day than Mel Gibson's vision of Jesus' last hours? With the dialogue solely in subtitles and numerous scenes filled with brutal beatings, it will be impossible to think of romantic abandonment while reliving Good Friday, one of the more incorrect names given to religious holidays.

Requiem for a Dream

A brilliant film on the topic of drug abuse and the consequences it brings. With a climax that is guaranteed to leave you shocked and ever-so-slightly disturbed, feeling lonely will be out of the question, as will doing anything else.

Terminator 2 : Judgment Day

One of the more memorable action films from the 80's, Terminator 2 tells the touching love story of a boy and his robot. Fantastic action sequences, Arnold at his prime, and an evil, shape shifting, liquid metal adversary sent from the future to destroy John Connor. A John Connor who will be played by the recently criticized Christian Bale in the upcoming Terminator film. Also very important to note, no girlfriend would ever watch this film.

Silence of the Lambs

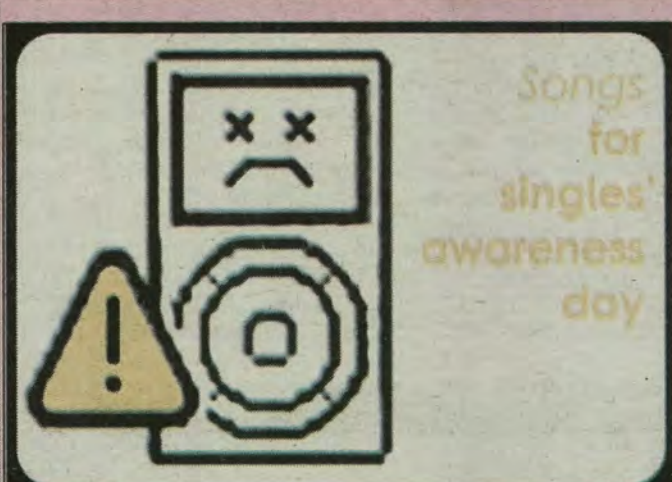
There is a subtle tension between Clarice and the insane Hannibal "The Cannibal" Lecter, but nothing to emulate. The sexy dance of Ted Levine's serial-killer Buffalo Bill may spark a pang of longing, a real treat for the ladies.

An Inconvenient Truth

What better thing to enjoy during the day of St. Valentine, the patron of love and relationships, than a filmed lecture on the topic of climate change. Al Gore's strong baritone warns of the impending doom that will be caused by humanities lack of respect for mother earth. It's an educational experience that helped to solidify the "green" movement's place in the mainstream and won Gore a Nobel prize due to his super-serious approach.

Pan's Labyrinth Perhaps the worst of possible date movies, based on the experiences of a certain Scene writer, should be watched, but not around anyone in whom there lies romantic interest. A visually stunning story of post-Spanish Civil War Spain, shows the experiences of a young girl and her family. Strange mythological creatures, and unnecessarily graphic torture and beatings will allow the viewer to realize there's worse things than loneliness.

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STEPHANIE DEPREZ
Assistant Scene Editor

Valentine's Day is upon us, and with it dutifully comes Singles Awareness Day, a day dedicated to the broken-up, lonely or decidedly single. But this is no day for bemoaning singularity, because beneath the façade of solitude comes a never-ending stream of music to perfect the mood. For every love song there are about 15 anti-love songs. And on Valentine's Day, we singles celebrate them all.

Here are a few songs to make you get up and sing, celebrating the freedom of being out of a relationship. Whether you instigated the break up or were left speechless when it happened, there are millions of tunes ready to pick up where your significant other left off. At the top of this list is, of course, "Since U Been Gone" by Kelly Clarkson. Nothing really beats opening your windows and blasting it, singing along at the top of your lungs. Male or female, this song is the ultimate catharsis. "Thanks to you, now I get what I want!" In the vein of post-break up pop-stars, who can resist Pink's hit "So What"? "So what! I'm still a rock star! I got my rock moves and I don't need you!"

Three Days Grace really captured the feeling of a failing relationship with "I Hate Everything About You." Linkin Park has the market cornered on angsty anti-relationship riffs with songs like "In the End" and "Numb." The queen-bee of angry chick rock, Alanis Morissette, established the biting break up song with "You Oughta Know." "I'm here to remind you of the mess you left when you went away." Rounding this section out is the staple from Destiny's Child, "Survivor." "Now I got you out of my life, I'm so much better. You thought that I'd be weaker without you, but I'm stronger."

Then of course come the songs about thriving in the single light. The most recent hit here would have to be "Single Ladies (Put a Ring on It)" by Beyonce. Good Charlotte provides an anti-love song at the ready with "I Don't Wanna Be in Love." Another rock-out song is "It's My Life" by the Charlie-approved Bon Jovi. You can kick it old style with Fleetwood Mac's "Go Your Own Way."

The true oldies-but-goodies include "I Will Survive" by Gloria Gaynor and "Respect" by Aretha Franklin. Honorable mention must also go to Cher's "Strong Enough" and "Song For the Lonely." Nothing quite beats jumping around and singing along to "Owner of a Lonely Heart" by Yes. "Owner of a lonely heart, much better than an owner of a broken heart." No matter who you are or where you are, these songs contain the essence of what it means to be single and proud of it.

Valentine's Day doesn't have to be a day for looking around at all the love in the world you don't have, but a day to remember the inner strength that comes from forging your own path, and looking at the world fearlessly. Being single is as old as humanity, and as long as we've been around people have been singing about it.

But there's really only one song that captures the true meaning of Valentine's Day: "Song for the Dumped" by Ben Folds.

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NHL

Heatley leads Senators to third straight win

Red Wings defeat Wild despite depleted lineup; Lightning hold on to early lead for win over Maple Leafs at home

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Suddenly the Ottawa Senators are starting to feel good about themselves.

Dany Heatley scored two unusual goals, Jason Spezza had a goal and an assist, and Brian Elliott made 34 saves to help the Senators win their season-high third straight game, 5-2 over the Philadelphia Flyers on Thursday night.

"We've beaten two pretty good teams the last couple of days," Heatley said. "We are feeling good about ourselves."

Nick Foligno and Antoine Vermette also scored for the Senators, who still trail Florida by 14 points for the eighth and final Eastern Conference playoff spot. Ottawa has 29 games remaining, one more than the Panthers.

Are the Senators daring to think about the playoffs?

"It's definitely not out of the question," said captain Daniel Alfredsson, who picked up an assist and leads the Senators with 49 points. "It's possible. We won the first two games of this road trip. Who knows? We just can't look too far ahead."

Darroll Powe and Mike Richards scored for Philadelphia.

Elliott made 13 saves in the second period, stopping Mike Knuble's deflection and Claude Giroux's breakaway and making a brilliant glove save on Joffrey Lupul.

"Our goaltender was the best player on the ice tonight," said Ottawa coach Cory Clouston, 3-1-1 since replacing the fired Craig Hartsburg.

"We've played very well on defense the last three or four games. The offense has struggled but tonight the goals came naturally."

It was Elliott's third straight impressive performance. He beat Buffalo 3-2 and 3-1 in his previous two starts, stopping the Sabres on 11 of 12 power plays Wednesday night in Buffalo. The Flyers failed on three power plays.

"Their goalie was great and I didn't have my best night," Flyers goalie Antero Niittymaki said. "I think that was the difference."

Heatley was credited with Ottawa's first goal after his shot hit the right post, then bounced off Niittymaki and Flyers winger Scott Hartnell into the net with 1:38 left in the first period. It was Heatley's team-leading 23rd goal.

Spezza made it 2-0 with his 21st goal on a power play at

8:40 of the second. He deflected Brenden Bell's shot with his skate while standing to the left of the net.

Foligno scored with 14 seconds left in the period, taking a pass from Ryan Shannon and ripping a backhander past Niittymaki.

"It was kind of a weird night for us," Lupul said. It seemed like we had a lot of chances. They got that goal right at the end of the second period. It was a killer for us."

Philadelphia cut it to 3-1 when Powe put in a rebound at 8:00 of the third period.

Heatley scored his second goal at 10:15 when his shot hit the crossbar and bounced straight down into the goal.

"I heard it but I didn't see it," he explained.

Richards made it 4-2 with a wrist shot 39 seconds later, and Vermette scored unassisted at 15:20 after stealing the puck from Jeff Carter.

It was the first time since November 8 that the Flyers dropped back-to-back home games in regulation. Philadelphia lost to Boston, 3-1, on Feb. 4.

Red Wings 4, Wild 2

The Detroit Red Wings were without two of their top six forwards and a top-four defenseman, and Pavel Datsyuk and Henrik Zetterberg were scoreless.

No problem.

Jiri Hudler and Kris Draper scored in a 50-second span in the second period, and Chris Osgood made 21 saves in Stanley Cup champion Detroit's victory over the Minnesota Wild on Thursday night.

Mikael Samuelsson and Ville Leino also scored, and Marian Hossa had two assists to help the Red Wings win their sixth straight. The team was without Tomas Holmstrom (hernia surgery), Johan Franzen (hand) and Brad Stuart (back).

"We've got other guys who are pretty good too," Samuelsson said.

Osgood has struggled this season despite his 18-4-6 record. But he made big saves when he needed to.

"It's more mental than anything else," Osgood said. "I'm going out there now without the weight of the world on my shoulders. As an athlete you have high expectations for yourself."

Brent Burns and Mikko Koivu scored for Minnesota, and



Red Wings forward Kris Draper celebrates after scoring Thursday in Detroit's 4-2 win over Minnesota.

Antti Miettinen had two assists. Josh Harding made 39 saves.

Wild coach Jacques Lemaire agreed with Samuelsson.

"They have about nine players who can do things constantly," Lemaire said.

Hudler gave Detroit a 2-1 lead with 9:38 left in the second period, beating Harding with a one-time shot from the bottom of the right circle for his 18th goal after a give and go with Hossa. Draper then scored on a slap shot from the top of the left circle with 8:48 left -- also off a pass from Hossa.

"It's always a little tough playing against those guys," Harding said. "They have a lot of skill."

Leino made it 4-1 with 2:45 left in the second when he scored on a wraparound.

"In the second we took over and we played creative," Hossa said. "We got the three-goal lead. In the third period, we just controlled the game."

Koivu picked up a short-handed goal with 9:35 left, cutting in off the right wing and stuffing a shot past Osgood. It was Koivu's 16th goal.

Samuelsson opened the scoring 9:26 into the game when he put in a puck from the crease after Brett Lebda's shot trickled through Harding's pads. It was Samuelsson's 15th goal.

Burns' power-play goal tied it for Minnesota with 4:29

remaining in the first period. He scored on a one-time shot from the right circle for his eighth goal. The Wild had a two-man advantage and the goal came 1:14 after Hossa and Datsyuk were both called for hooking with the Red Wings' already short-handed.

Lightning 6, Maple Leafs 4

Steven Stamkos and Vincent Lecavalier scored third-period goals, and the Tampa Bay Lightning held off the Toronto Maple Leafs on Thursday night.

Ryan Malone scored twice a 54-second span in the first period, and Mark Recchi and Martin St. Louis also scored in the period to help Tampa Bay take a 4-1 lead.

Lee Stempniak scored twice for Toronto, and Niklas Hagman and Nikolai Kulemin added goals.

Stamkos, the No. 1 overall pick in the draft last summer, scored on a power play to give Tampa Bay a 5-3 lead at 6:01 of the third. He has seven goals.

Lecavalier added his team-high 25th goal with 6:32 left.

The Lightning scored four times in a 4:13 span of the first.

After Malone got things started with his 17th and 18th goals, Recchi and St. Louis added power-play goals. St. Louis scored his 20th goal and had three assists.



Senators Dany Heatley and Daniel Alfredsson battle in front of the goal in Ottawa's 5-2 win over Philadelphia.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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PERSONAL

If you or someone you care about has been sexually assaulted, visit Support Services for Victims of Rape & Assault at: <http://osa.nd.edu/health-safety/assault/>

If I was on death row and given one last meal I would ask for a fortune cookie. "Come on 'long prosperous life!"

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? Do not go it alone. We have many resources in place to assist you. If you or someone you love needs confidential support or assistance, please call Sr. Sue Dunn at 1-7819-or Ann Firth at 1-2685.

For more information, visit NDs Assistance for Pregnant Students/Office of Student Affairs website at: osa.nd.edu/health-safety/assistance-for-pregnant-students.

My belt holds up my pants and my pants have belt loops that hold up the belt. What the hell's really goin on down there? Who is the real hero?

If you drink O'Douls, you don't drink. But if you drink 20 O'Douls in a half hour, then you're a non-alcoholic. Non-alcoholism is a problem too. And there are symptoms, like when you fall down, does it always hurt?

I had this parrot. The parrot talked, but it did not say "I'm hungry." So it died.

I don't have a microwave oven but I do have a clock that occasionally cooks stuff.

My friend asked me if I wanted a frozen banana. I said "no, but I want a regular banana later, so ... yeah!"

AROUND THE NATION

Friday, February 13, 2009

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

NCAA Men's Baseball USA Today Preseason Poll

team	points
1 LSU (14)	738
2 North Carolina (12)	737
3 Rice (1)	673
4 Georgia	600
5 Texas A&M (2)	590
6 Stanford (1)	576
7 Arizona State	533
8 CS Fullerton	507
9 Florida State	500
9 Texas	500
11 Ole Miss	431
12 Georgia Tech	327
13 Oklahoma State	321
14 Miami (FL)	320
15 San Diego	304
16 Louisville	292
17 Baylor	269
18 UC Irvine	262
19 Fresno State (1)	247
20 Missouri	224
21 Pepperdine	156
22 UCLA	140
23 Florida	112
24 Coastal Carolina	102
25 Clemson	80

NCAA Men's Hockey USCHO.com/CBS Poll

team	points	record
1 Boston Univ. (49)	999	21-5-1
2 NOTRE DAME (1)	912	21-5-3
3 Northeastern	897	19-6-2
4 Michigan	847	21-9-0
5 Vermont	791	16-6-4
6 Cornell	688	15-4-4
7 Miami (FL)	668	16-8-4
8 Denver	650	17-9-3
9 Princeton	622	17-6-0
10 Yale	507	17-5-1
11 North Dakota	405	16-11-3
12 New Hampshire	402	13-9-4
13 Wisconsin	389	16-11-3
14 Minnesota	360	12-9-5
15 Boston College	346	12-9-4
16 Ohio State	335	18-9-3
17 Minnesota-Duluth	235	15-9-6
18 Colorado College	211	14-9-7
19 Dartmouth	89	12-8-3
20 Air Force	47	19-7-2
21 St. Cloud State	34	15-13-2
22 Minnesota State	19	13-13-3
23 St. Lawrence	17	14-11-3
24 Alaska	8	12-10-6
24 Niagara	8	14-10-2

NCAA Swimming CSCAA Rankings

Men

1 NOTRE DAME
2 Penn State
3 Ohio State
4 Columbia
5 Princeton
6 Pennsylvania
7 Harvard
8 Stanford
9 St. Johns
10 Duke

Women

Penn State
NOTRE DAME
Ohio State
Columbia-Barnard
Harvard
Northwestern
Princeton
Temple
Pennsylvania
Duke

MLB



Yankees third baseman Alex Rodriguez is interviewed by ESPN's Peter Gammons on Monday. Rodriguez admitted during the interview that he used performance-enhancing drugs from 2001-03 because of his high-pressure contract.

Selig: A-Rod 'Shamed the game'

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Unable to punish Alex Rodriguez for flunking a drug test that was supposed to be anonymous, Bud Selig could only chastise him.

"What Alex did was wrong and he will have to live with the damage he has done to his name and reputation," the commissioner said Thursday, three days after the Yankees star admitted using banned substances from 2001-2003 while playing for the Texas Rangers.

"While Alex deserves credit for publicly confronting the issue, there is no valid excuse for using such substances, and those who use them have

shamed the game," Selig said.

Rodriguez's admission followed a Sports Illustrated report that he was on a list of 104 players who tested positive for steroids in 2003, when testing was intended only to determine the extent of steroid use in baseball.

The results were seized by the government in 2004 and remain under seal.

Because it was an anonymous test and because Rodriguez's confession involved years before the drug agreement took effect, there is little Selig can do in terms of punishment.

Players and owners didn't agree to a joint drug program until August 2002, and testing with punishment didn't start

until 2004.

"It is important to remember that these recent revelations relate to pre-program activity," Selig said. "Under our current drug program, if you are caught using steroids and/or amphetamines, you will be punished. Since 2005, every player who has tested positive for steroids has been suspended for as much as 50 games."

Yankees manager Joe Girardi, speaking after his first staff meeting of spring training, said he wasn't sure whether he wanted Rodriguez to address the team. Position players are due to report Tuesday and start workouts the following day.

"If it's in his heart, yes, I would, but if it's not, that's OK, too," he said.

Girardi said Rodriguez, baseball's highest-paid player, "has a chance to have a major platform" in speaking out against drugs. Rep. Elijah Cummings, a Maryland Democrat, wrote a letter to Rodriguez inviting him to discuss steroids at an anti-drug event. Cummings said Baltimore's Brian Roberts spoke to the group last year.

Rodriguez's admission has overshadowed all the other big events of the offseason: the signings of CC Sabathia, A.J. Burnett and Mark Teixeira at a cost of \$423.5 million, and former manager Joe Torre's new book.

IN BRIEF

Agent Rosenhaus shopping WR Burress to NFL teams

NEWARK, N.J. — Plaxico Burress seemingly wants to leave the New York Giants.

Drew Rosenhaus, the agent for the troubled receiver, sent an e-mail to the NFL's teams earlier this week letting them know that Burress was one of his three clients who wants to be traded, an NFL executive told The Associated Press on Thursday. The person requested anonymity because the e-mail was supposed to remain private.

The Star-Ledger of Newark was the first to have the story, reporting in its Wednesday editions that Rosenhaus' initial e-mail to the teams said that Burress could be acquired through a trade.

However, the NFL executive who asked not to be identified because he had to deal with Rosenhaus, said the initial e-mail said that the agent had three "players desiring a trade."

League slaps Brown with \$25k fine for outburst

CLEVELAND, Ohio — Mike Brown went to the All-Star game with less spending money.

Cleveland's coach was fined \$25,000 by the NBA on Thursday for publicly criticizing referee Joey Crawford following the Cavaliers' last-second loss at Indiana earlier this week.

Although league disciplinarian Stu Jackson said in a release that Brown had been fined for comments made about "the officials," Brown's postgame tirade was directed at Crawford, who whistled LeBron James for a foul on Pacers forward Danny Granger in the final second. Crawford felt James made contact with Granger, who sank one free throw to give Indiana a 96-95 win.

Brown claimed Crawford made a pre-determined — or makeup — call against James, who had been involved in a similar play moments earlier when Granger was whistled for a foul while trying to defend an alley-oop pass intended for James.

Titans' Haynesworth given probation for speeding

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Titans All Pro defensive tackle Albert Haynesworth is being blamed for causing an accident that left a Tennessee man needing hip replacement and has a district attorney reviewing the Dec. 13 incident for a possible probation violation.

Haynesworth is due to become a free agent Feb. 27 and is seeking to become the NFL's highest-paid defensive player.

In December, he agreed to 30 days' probation to divert a ticket for driving 103 mph in a 70-mph zone in March only four days before being cited for careless driving on Interstate 65 south of Nashville. He allegedly was speeding in his 2008 black Ferrari and trying to pass Corey Edmonson of Nashville, who lost control and crashed into the concrete median.

Haynesworth was cited for careless driving and having an expired registration in the incident, charges dismissed in Brentwood City Court on Thursday.

around the dial

College Basketball
No. 13 Villanova at West Virginia
9:00 p.m., ESPN

NHL
Chicago at St. Louis
7:30 p.m., CSN

NASCAR

Four drivers earn spots at Daytona qualifier

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Jeff Gordon and Kyle Busch both celebrated in Victory Lane, far away from the real winners of the Daytona 500 qualifying races.

Jeremy Mayfield choked back emotion. AJ Allmendinger hid his tears behind sunglasses. Scott Riggs felt as if he'd just won NASCAR's biggest race.

None of them are a threat to

win the Daytona 500, but at least they'll be in the show.

Allmendinger, Mayfield, Riggs and Regan Smith earned spots in the season-opening race in Thursday's Gatorade Duels.

"It feels absolutely awesome. It's like we just won the race," said Riggs, who finished eighth in the first qualifier.

None of the four drivers had rides a month ago, piecing together any opportunity they

could to get them to Daytona International Speedway. Allmendinger was let go from Red Bull Racing late last year, and is clinging to an eight-race deal with Richard Petty Motorsports. Riggs became unemployed when Tony Stewart took control of his race team and revamped the driver lineup.

Smith was a casualty of the merger between Dale Earnhardt Inc. and Chip Ganassi Racing, while

Mayfield has been out of full-time work since Ray Evernham fired him midway through the 2006 season.

Allmendinger, who failed to make the 500 in his first two NASCAR seasons with Red Bull, will finally be able to rest after a stressful buildup to the qualifying races.

"I've been so nervous over the last couple days 'cause I've been in this position the last two years," Allmendinger said. "But I really felt like this

year I deserved to be in the race, that this team deserved to be in the race."

Mayfield has felt the same way, watching from the sidelines as NASCAR roared on without him.

With no ride lined up, Mayfield at the last minute threw his own team together for one last try. He's got a mismatched group of volunteers, and after loaned-out jackman Kyle Roland was injured while pitting Kirk Shelmerdine's car during the first qualifying race, Mayfield borrowed an emergency replacement from Michael Waltrip's crew.

"Man, 23 days ago we didn't even have a race team," Mayfield said after finishing ninth in the second qualifier. "It's a very unbelievable feeling. To know where we were at then, how much hard work has been done in such a short amount of time is just unbelievable. To come here and do this, it's like winning 10 races."

The 39-year-old journeyman is throwing everything into this effort. After racing just 25 times over the past two years, and failing to draw much interest when rides became available, starting his own team became the last option in continuing his career.

"If I ever want to retire as a driver, I want to retire on my own, not be pushed to the wayside," Mayfield said. "That's what kept me motivated to do this."

Riggs could relate after a fruitless offseason job search had him still scouring for work last month.

He was finally swayed by Tommy Baldwin, who was crew chief and competition director at Bill Davis Racing before the sponsor-strapped team folded in late December. Baldwin was putting together a startup race team, and lured Riggs to the driver seat.

"It came down to a point that I had to make a decision — am I going to sit at home and stay on the phone and call people and hope that something opens up to give me an opportunity to get in the car?" Riggs said. "Or am I going to go down to Daytona and start the season off with somebody like Tommy?"

"What really made the decision for me was when I talked to Tommy and just heard the passion in his voice. Man, I am just elated."

So was Gordon, who ended the longest winless drought of his career by winning the first duel.

The four-time Cup champion, coming off his first winless season since his 1993 rookie year, climbed from his car in Victory Lane and immediately reached for his young daughter. Ella was just an infant during his last victory celebration, in October 2007.

"I've been fortunate enough to visit Victory Lane quite a few times, but not many times as a father," Gordon said. "There's nothing more special than that."

The non-points Gatorade Duels doesn't officially count for anything in Gordon's victory total, but gave him a second-row starting spot in Sunday's race.



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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish look to win golden racket

Women will compete in ITA Championship

By DOUG FARMER
Sports Writer

This weekend Notre Dame will join 15 other teams in Madison at the ITA Indoor National Championships, all with hopes of winning the golden racket. The No. 14 Irish encounter the No. 5 Stanford Cardinal to start things off today.

The Irish have been in Madison since Wednesday so they could practice on the championship courts before the matches begin. While admittedly anxious upon arrival to the team hotel, a chance to hit around on the courts should calm the team's nerves greatly, and with no time to spare.

Stanford and a bit of tennis history await the Irish on Friday. Stanford has won 15 national championships since 1982, including three straight from 2004 to 2006.

"Stanford has been down a little bit for the last few years," senior Kelcy Tefft said. "But they are always really, really good."

Stanford will be the first top-10 team that Notre Dame faces this season, and thus, the team knows the match will be quite a change from the season so far — a season marked by dominance and rising in the rankings.

"It's going to be a really long match, really draining, but hopefully, we will take two or three of those first three dou-



ZHIBIN DAI/The Observer

Irish junior Kalli Krisik and her teammates take on the top 15 teams in the country this weekend in Madison, Wisc.

bles matches," Tefft said. "I think that would really help us out."

Worry not, this Irish team will not serve softly just because they are facing a formidable foe.

"I think we are a lot better than our No. 14 ranking," Tefft said. "So coming into this weekend I think our whole team wants to prove that."

And if the Irish do prove it on Friday, they will face the winner of the No. 11 North Carolina, No. 4 Baylor match. But this is the type of road every one of the 16 teams in Madison must take to play on Monday, the fourth and final day of the tournament. A good chunk of the Notre Dame team already knows this.

"Our sophomore year we got to the finals, so all of the jun-

iors and seniors know what it is like to be there," Tefft pointed out. "That experience will help us a lot."

That experience, along with the No. 1 doubles pairing of Tefft and freshman Kristy Frilling, lead the Irish to Madison with high expectations and hopes.

"While younger, I think this is the most talented team I have played on so far," Tefft said. "We are very hopeful and optimistic. We just have to go out there and prove it."

On Friday, Notre Dame begins what could be a four-day trek to a national championship.

"We could definitely do it," Tefft said.

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SMC BASKETBALL

Improved Belles face young Britons

By ALEX WEST
Sports Writer

On January 14 Saint Mary's (14-8) lost its first conference game of the year to Albion (11-10) 77-72. On Saturday, the Belles will look for revenge.

"They did a great job of getting to the free throw line against us last time," Belles coach Jennifer Henley said. "We just didn't play well defensively for 40 minutes."

The Belles are riding the momentum of a three-game winning streak, and have won six of their last seven games since playing Albion.

Senior Erin Newsom and freshmen Patsy Mahoney lead the charge Wednesday night with 22 points each in a 77-71 win over Adrian. Newsom also pulled down 11 rebounds to have her sixth double-double of the season.

"Patsy and Erin both did a good job for us on the offensive end," Henley said. "[Newsom and Mahoney] both attacked the basket and hit the open shots."

Albion on the other hand is trying to bounce back after a

tough, two-week stretch. The Britons lost four in a row before a victory over winless Kalamazoo Wednesday night. Since their last meeting with the Belles, the Britons are just 3-4.

Regardless of Albion's recent play, Henley is sure her team won't be overlooking the Britons.

"Albion is a good young team that has a lot of options on offense," she said. "We need to focus more on transition defense and contest their outside game."

The Belles have already clinched the No. 2 seed in the MIAA tournament as well as achieving other school milestones. With three games left in the regular season, the Belles have already set the school record for conference victories with 12 and have tied the school record for total wins in a season (14).

Saint Mary's will try to continue to add to these totals Saturday. The tip-off is slated for 3:00 in Kresge Gymnasium at Albion College.

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NFL

Colts offseason plans affected by economy

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Colts president Bill Polian is working on his usual offseason to-do list.

He's negotiating with agents to keep players, preparing for the draft and dealing with NFL salary cap rules. But things are much tougher this year.

Polian said Thursday the economy and the NFL's revised cap rules have put the Colts in a financial pinch that is forcing the team to look at options, including a possible change of site for training camp.

"Like everyone else in the country, expenses are an issue for us," Polian said. "So we're looking at everything we do, be it travel costs or training camp or whatever. One glaring area is training camp, so we have to make a decision about where to go, and we have not made it."

The Colts have held camp in Terre Haute since 1999, but their contract with host Rose-Hulman has expired and they're now considering a return to Anderson, which was their pre-season home from 1984-98 and is closer to Indianapolis.

Former coach Tony Dungy often said he enjoyed the time in Terre Haute, but new coach Jim Caldwell has not stated a preference. Polian said no decision has been made.

Training camp isn't the only money issue for Indianapolis.

The Colts recently announced they were cutting 25 jobs in the front office, and now they're trying to re-sign three prominent free agents — Pro Bowl center

Jeff Saturday, cornerback Kelvin Hayden and running back Dominic Rhodes.

Polian would like to re-sign all three, but he considers Hayden, who won the starting job two years ago, the top priority.

Polian would not say how much Hayden wants, but he said negotiations with agent Fletcher Smith are not going well. That could force Polian to use the franchise tag, something he will consider.

Smith did not answer his cell phone and it was not accepting messages on Thursday.

To clear some room under the cap, Polian has already agreed to convert Dallas Clark's roster bonus into a signing bonus, spreading the money out over more years. And he may do the same with Bob Sanders. Still, Hayden's deal may determine how much money is left to keep other players and could force the team to cut other veterans.

The cuts come with a hefty price, too.

Because this is the last year of the salary cap, there are new rules.

If players with expensive bonus clauses are cut this year, teams will have to take the full value of the remaining bonus money. In the past, that money has been prorated over the life of a contract. So if a player received a \$10 million bonus on a five-year deal, teams were charged \$2 million per year. Now, if that player is cut with two years left on the contract, that team would take a \$4 million cap hit in 2009.

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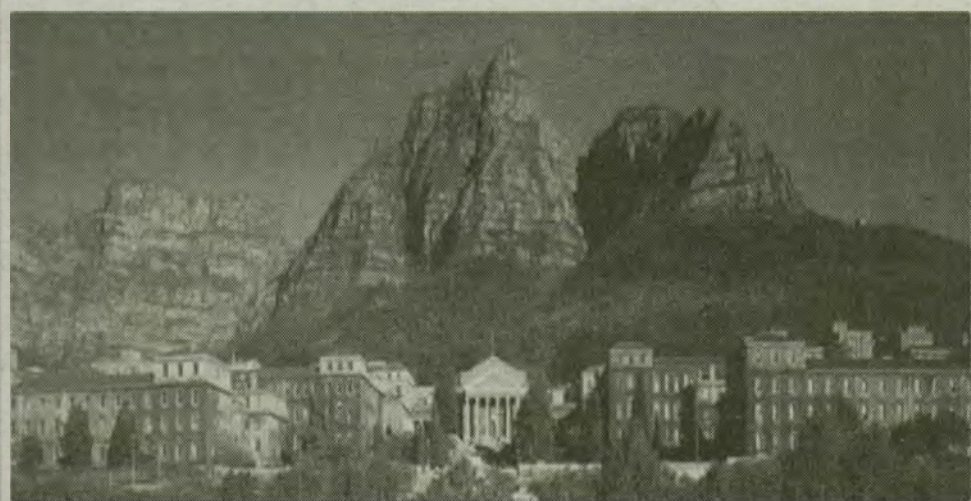
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FENCING

Four underclassmen go to Junior Olympics



WU YUE/The Observer

Irish senior Karol Kosta competes in the epee at the Notre Dame duals on Feb. 8, 2008.

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

Four fencers from Notre Dame will compete individually at the Junior Olympic Championships this weekend in Albuquerque, N.M. The event marks the second chance for fencers to pick up a US Fencing qualification in 2009, after January's North American Cup.

Irish fencers chalked up five top-5 finishes at the NAC in January, including three first place finishes. A win in the NAC gave those fencers an "A" ranking from the US Fencing Association. Fencers are ranked nationally anywhere from A through D and a solid performance this weekend will help fencers move up the ladder.

After graduating one of the strongest senior classes in the nation last year, the results earlier this season was encouraging for Irish coach Janusz Bednarski.

"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]."

A squad of freshman and sophomore epees will fence in

individual competition in Albuquerque. Sophomore Jacob Osborne, freshman Kristoff Pinkowski, freshman Stephanie Myers, and freshman Nick Crebs will all try for a solid qualification for the 2009 season.

"I feel very positive for them all," assistant coach Marek Stepien said. "I know they will continue to remind the country why Notre Dame's fencing program is truly world class. They have been training extremely hard and I'm certain that at the [NCAA National Championships] and on into next season you will see results that will be even stronger than [this weekend]."

The men's epee bouts begin Friday evening, while the women's epees will square off on Saturday.

The Junior Olympic Championships are the last competition Irish fencers will face before the Midwest Fencing Competition. The men's squad finished the season with a perfect 33-0 record, while the No. 2 women ended up 32-2. The team is in prime position for a run at a third national championship since 2003.

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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Irish open with Duquesne

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame looks to start its season off with a win Saturday as the team travels to Pittsburgh to take on the Duquesne Dukes. The Irish have had no problem with The Dukes in the past, winning both of their two previous meetings 16-4.

Notre Dame starts the year ranked No. 11 in both the WLCA coaches' preseason poll and the Inside Lacrosse poll. They finished last season at 12-7 (4-1) Big East, falling in the first round of the NCAA tournament to four-time defending champions Northwestern. Notre Dame has advanced to the NCAA tournament four times in the last seven years.

Leading the Irish this season are Irish coach Tracy Coyne, entering her 13th season with the Irish, and the team's new captains, seniors Shannon Burke and Jillian Byers.

"They have the respect of

their peers and the full confidence of the coaching staff to lead the team this season," Coyne said in a press release earlier this week.

Burke has started at mid-field/defense her last two seasons, contributing both offensively and defensively for the Irish in her third season. She had career highs in goals (8), assists (3), and points (11). On defense she led the team in turnovers (32) and was second on the team for ground balls (33) and draw controls (52).

Burke was also chosen as a selection on the second team IWLCA all-West/Midwest regional team, and a Big East defensive player of the week, finishing fourth in the conference with 1.56 caused turnovers per game last season. Burke was also recently chosen as a selection on the preseason all-Big East team.

Byers has been a key force in the Notre Dame attack in each of her first three seasons. She wrapped up her junior season with a team-high 67 goals and 81 points,

and a school record-setting 52 draw controls.

"Jill and Shannon possess many of the attributes that good leaders must have — a positive attitude, a great work ethic and outstanding communication skills," Coyne said.

Byers is first all-time in goals (179), third in points (225) and seventh in assists (46) at Notre Dame, as well as the only Notre Dame player to score more than 50 goals in three seasons and 66 or more points in three consecutive seasons. She has been a selection on the all-IWLCA second team and a unanimous selection on the first team all-Big East each of her past three seasons. Along with Burke and fellow teammate Shaylyn Blaney, Byers was selected to the all-Big East preseason team this season.

The team will have its first chance to live up to the preseason hype on Saturday in Pittsburgh.

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NHL

Vokoun, Panthers rout Hurricanes

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. —Tomas Vokoun didn't really need his quick-strike Florida teammates to score so many goals. As impenetrable as he was in net, one was plenty.

Vokoun made 42 saves for his fourth shutout of the season, Anthony Stewart and Gregory Campbell scored 12 seconds apart in the second period and the Panthers routed the Carolina Hurricanes 5-0 on Thursday night.

Nathan Horton had a goal and an assist, and Michael Frolik and Richard Zednik each scored. The Panthers scored all five goals in the first 33 1/2 minutes and never eased up while claiming a rare win in Raleigh.

"I much prefer these than the dramatic ones," Florida coach Peter DeBoer said. "I thought our goaltender was our best player tonight."

Vokoun finished with the 29th shutout of his decade-long career and the first since Dec. 23 against Nashville. He became the first goalie to shut out Carolina this season.

The Panthers improved to 6-2

since the All-Star break while picking up a critical two points in the Eastern Conference standings. They lead Carolina by three points in the race for the eighth playoff spot in the East.

Cam Ward stopped just nine of the 13 shots he faced before he was pulled midway through the second for Michael Leighton, who made nine saves and allowed Florida's fifth goal.

Neither goalie had any answers for a Florida offense that entered averaging 3.63 goals in the new year and was coming off a 5-4 overtime victory over Toronto in which it erased a three-goal deficit by

scoring four times in the third period and the extra session.

"We were dead in the water if we (had) lost that game," Vokoun said. "There would be a different feeling in the dressing room. But that's all 'ifs.'"

That quick-strike offense helped the Panthers put this one away with a second-period flurry led by role players Stewart and Campbell.

Stewart had a step on defenseman Niclas Wallin as he chased down a loose puck along the boards, and as Ward tried to poke it away from him, he slipped a backhander past the goalie to make it 3-0 with 10:42 left.

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NCAA BASKETBALL

Purdue's Hummel needs time to heal

Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Purdue coach Matt Painter doesn't want sophomore forward Robbie Hummel bouncing in and out of the lineup anymore.

So the Big Ten's preseason player of the year, who has missed the past three games with a hairline fracture in his lower back and has played hurt for much of the season, won't return until he has healed enough to play consistently.

"Everybody is itching to want him to get back," Painter said after Wednesday's 61-47 win over Penn State. "I think the key for him is to get back, then stay."

The Boilermakers (18-6, 7-4) play at Iowa on Saturday, then at home against No. 9 Michigan State on Tuesday. Painter said Hummel could play in both games, or neither.

"I don't think they really want to put a timeframe on it because it really depends on how I feel," Hummel told The Associated Press this week.

Hummel has been a difference-maker in conference games. When he plays, Purdue is 6-1, averages 68 points per game and allows 60. When he sits, Purdue is 1-3 and scores 60 points per game while surrendering 63.

Hummel averages 10.4 points and 6.9 rebounds in conference play, but Painter said those numbers don't fully explain his value.

"Rob does something for us offensively and defensively that balances our team," Painter said. "He's a facilitator. He moves the basketball, he makes the extra pass, he gets the ball inside. ... Some of the basic things that don't show up in a box score is what we miss."

Hummel said he first injured the L5 vertebrae in his back against Oklahoma on Nov. 28, then aggravated it in a loss to Duke on Dec. 2. He played against Illinois on Dec. 30, then sat out the next game, a loss at Penn State. He returned to play the next six games before missing the past three games, against Ohio State, Illinois and Penn State.

Hummel hasn't been through a full practice since the Dec. 20 game against Davidson, but Painter said he is making progress. He participated in warmups before the Penn State game and was involved in some non-contact drills on Thursday.

"We need to think about what's best for him, not what's best for us in terms of a Big Ten race," Painter said. "I think he's going to have a long career in basketball and we have to keep that in mind."

MEN'S TENNIS

Irish take on tough Spartan team

By KATE GRABAREK
Sport Writer

Notre Dame will try to bounce back from its first loss of the dual match season to No. 1 Virginia last Sunday. The Irish play host to the Spartans of Michigan State on Saturday.

The Spartans are off to one of their best starts in recent history, heading into the contest against the Irish with a record of 5-1 with their only loss coming in a hard fought battle with Vanderbilt.

"They came very close to beating Vanderbilt this past weekend," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "They served for the match at 5-4 but couldn't hang on to the lead. We have beat them soundly in the past, but we're young and they returned just about everybody."

With only three freshmen on the roster, the Spartans do boast more experience than the Irish. Bayliss thinks that it will be a good test for his young team.

"We will need to win the

doubles point," Bayliss said. "They are very strong at one and two doubles, and we will need to win the matches that we have a slight advantage in."

The Spartans are led by senior No. 1 singles player Nick Rinks. In the fall season Rinks teamed up with junior Alex Forger to defeat Stephen Havens and Tyler Davis at the Tom Fallon Invitational.

"Rinks is able to beat just about anybody in the country," Bayliss said. "We normally rely

"Havens made a lot of extra balls. Both players were fairly close in ability level, and that was apparent in the last two sets."

Ryan Sacchire
Irish assistant coach

very heavily on our top two singles spots, but we can't count on those tomorrow. Rinks split sets with Stephen Bass two years ago, but Bass won 10-8 in the third set."

Much like the Spartans lineup is dominated by a senior, the Irish's own Sheeva Parbhu put his name in an elite group, easily handling Dominic Inglott of Virginia on Sunday.

"Sheeva [Parbhu] was a lot quicker than Inglott," assistant coach Ryan Sacchire said. "If Inglott doesn't overpower you, he's out of his

game plan."

Parbhu played relentless tennis, and stayed mentally tough in every point. He played quality points, and made Inglott really grind the points out according to Sacchire.

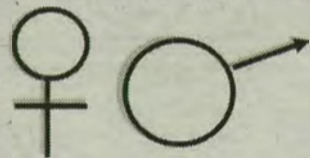
Another bright spot for the Irish early this season has been the play of freshman Stephen Havens. Havens earned the other point for the Irish on Sunday winning his match in three sets.

"Havens made a lot of extra balls," Sacchire said. "Both players were fairly close in ability level, and that was apparent in the last two sets."

Sacchire also commented that Havens was conservative when he was on defense, but dictated and finished points well.

The Spartans and Irish know each other well. Spartans coach Gene Orlando, has been coaching at Michigan State for 17 years, and Bayliss at Notre Dame for 19. Bayliss and the Irish have won 18 in a row over the Spartans. The head-to-head meetings between the two programs date back to 1926.

After the Irish face the Spartans Saturday, the Irish will head to Evanston, Ill. to face Northwestern on Feb. 19 with the first serve set for 4 p.m. for both matches.

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GETTING THE MOST OUT OF SEX

Only for dreamers?

For Mathew Roggs, it was seeing his grandparents holding hands, fingers interlocked that helped him believe deep and lifelong love was possible. "Funny," he thought, "all these years, and they're still holding hands." In the introduction to his book *Project Everlasting*, he continues:

In that moment, the couple before me became more than just my grandparents. I saw them as partners who had journeyed through a lifetime of challenge and struggle. Now at the end of their journey together, they were still crazy about each other. [...] How simple they made it seem! But to me it represented what I wanted most in the world. More than anything, I wanted to find the love they were living. My grandparents had been married sixty-three years, but it was not convention or habit that kept them together. Jack and Dorothy Mann were two people very much in love.

Many of us have probably had similar experiences. We've observed other couples' happiness and their loving commitment to each other, and we've realized our own desire for someone whom we can love deeply and who will return that love to us.

But how do we get there? Unfortunately today, it seems examples of finding and holding onto love are few and far between. Divorce is all too common, and meanwhile, our peers prepare for marital uncommitment with premarital uncommitment. The possibility of being both in love and faithful to one person for a lifetime is dismissed as a dream.

But is it only a dream? Is a stable and happy marriage merely an ideal of the past? Or, are there more couples like Jack and Dorothy Mann, whose time-weathered love has only increased in strength, beauty, and devotion over the years? Many of us would dare to affirm the latter. We've witnessed the marriages that have worked, and we've noticed a distinct pattern among them. Happiness and fulfillment in romantic relationships is possible.

But the key is preparing for faithfulness in marriage by practicing faithfulness while dating. By this, we do not mean sexual faithfulness to one person after another. Instead, we mean practicing fidelity to your spouse even before knowing who that person is.

This is the essence of chastity.

Chastity: FOR, not against, sex

Contrary to some common assumptions, chastity and abstinence before marriage does not necessitate being irrationally religious, sexually repressed, afraid of the opposite sex, or afraid of sex in general. Rather, chastity is on the other side of the spectrum — it does not reflect a fear or denigration of sex, but rather chastity honors sex and allows it to flourish to its full capacity.

Sex and the "bonding" hormone

During sex (and, recent studies show, also during prolonged embraces or "cuddling") the "bonding" hormone oxytocin is released in men and even more in women. This means that there is no such thing as "casual" sex. No matter how much people may desire to easily detach themselves or forget about the sexual intimacy they shared with another person, they are physiologically bonded to that person. This is why so many people, young women especially, feel abandoned, used, and empty when they get the sex without the personal commitment. In our biology, human sexuality is not designed for serial sexual relationships. Rather, our sexuality is meant for intimacy with one person.

Freeing the heart to love and be loved completely

Consider the nature of sex. In sexual intercourse a man and a woman actually do become one. There is a mutual giving and receiving between the two of them, constituting a real exchange of persons, a real communion of persons. Therefore, every sexual act speaks the language of total self-gift across every dimension of our being — the physical, emotional, psychological, spiritual, and temporal.

To make our acts of love limited or conditional in any of these ways is to fail to respect ourselves and our partner. To be happy and fulfilled, we cannot have the sex (the physical commitment) without the commitment on the other levels as well. Rather, our behavior in a romantic relationship should be in harmony with the actual nature and maturity of our friendship with the other person. Because sex is an exchange and communion of whole persons, the only context in which it is honest in what it communicates is one where the man and woman have committed themselves to each other "for better or worse." Paradoxically, this commitment, far from constraining the spouses, frees them up to love and give themselves to each other without reserve or fear of being used.

Authentic intimacy and enduring love

Therefore, in order to experience sexual intimacy that is honest, loving, and fulfilling, it is best to practice sexual fidelity to your spouse now, not later. Only in this way will we allow sex to be all that it is meant to be.

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SEX MYTHS

- 1) *Sexual tension builds up over time.*
False: It only seems like this because we are constantly stimulating ourselves, whether sexually or through our other senses. Our sexuality has no need to be constantly expressed, and our bodies handle chastity and abstinence perfectly fine.
- 2) *You need to masturbate and experiment sexually in order to be comfortable with your body and sexuality.*
False: By understanding our biological, psychological, and emotional design, we also understand that we actually love our bodies and respect our sexuality more by not masturbating, experimenting, etc. Furthermore, in marriage, discovering how to best please your spouse is not a burden, but rather part of the beauty of marriage.
- 3) *Faith is the only real reason for chastity.*
False: The argument in support of chastity and abstinence is available to common reason. In fact, even many of the religious arguments for chastity are perfectly reasonable.
- 4) *You're just trying to preach to me and force your morals on my lifestyle.*
False: We want sexual happiness and fulfillment just like everyone else. We are not judging anyone. We simply strive to help others understand why we believe chastity to be the best path to that goal, and we invite them to try it out for themselves.

February 14, 2009

info@loveandfidelity.org

Snapped

continued from page 24

could seemingly do no right. The smiling Irish lingered for a while after the game and celebrated with their fans, as they welcomed back the prodigal feeling of winning.

"This is what we play basketball for," senior Kyle McAlarney said. "This feeling right now, we appreciate it so much right now. I think we found our rhythm a little bit. What a feeling, to finally get one, this is what we were looking for."

Irish coach Mike Brey added: "To say we needed that I think would be the understatement of the year."

But Thursday night's win was more than luck. Luke Harangody had 32 points and 17 rebounds and Notre Dame played the type of basketball its fans have waited to see for the past seven games — effective offense combined with shut-down defense and a commitment to rebounding.

"The last couple of practices were intense, everybody was on everybody. No let up," said Irish guard Tory Jackson, who finished with 14 points, five rebounds, five assists and five steals.

The win was the largest margin of victory for a Mike Brey-coached team in Big East play. During their losing streak, the Irish could never put together 40 minutes of consistent play. That wasn't the case Thursday.

The Irish rebounded Louisville 48-28, while the 57 points Notre Dame allowed were the fewest since beating Savannah State 81-49 on Dec. 22.

"I thought our post defense was the best it was all year," Brey said.

The strong effort, Brey said, came from the intensity the team developed during practice when Brey told them they would be playing man-to-man defense no matter what.

"When you've gone through what we've gone through ... if you're going to make your stand and dig your heels in the ground, you're not doing it in a

2-3 zone tonight," Brey said. "You're locking up on guys, putting your chest on people, battling in the paint like we did. You're not sitting in a zone."

Notre Dame held Louisville to just 19 first-half points and didn't let up in the second half. Offensively, Notre Dame was clicking inside and out. Harangody earned points seemingly at will and featured a number of running hook shots in the lane.

But even when Notre Dame was in its losing streak, Harangody was the one constant. What was missing was the sharp-shooting of Ayers and senior guard Kyle McAlarney. Against Louisville, McAlarney scored 21, while Ayers had 19, and the two combined to shoot 10-for-16 from 3-point range. McAlarney and Ayers lit up the Cardinals during a 15-4 second-half run where Notre Dame's lead ballooned to 30 for the first time.

Ayers hit a three to start the run, followed by a Harangody fadeaway. McAlarney then came down on a fast break and had the option to give it to Harangody, who was open with his arms flailing, calling for the ball underneath, but passed it up in favor of a three. The three swished.

Ayers canned another three on Notre Dame's next possession. Then, euphoria set in at the Joyce Center when McAlarney hit a three from the corner, got fouled, and was almost tackled by an overly exuberant Jackson.

"A lot of emotions, a lot of emotions," Jackson said of the near-takedown. "For him to get in a rhythm like that, he hasn't been going like that in a few games, for him to feel it and to get that 4-point play, I forgot he was my teammate for a second. It was like were playing football, it was amazing."

Notre Dame took a few minutes to find its offensive rhythm in the first half, and led 8-4 before a head up play by Jackson sparked the Irish. After Louisville forward Terrence Williams grabbed a rebound off a McAlarney miss, Jackson came from behind to steal it. He waited as McAlarney made his way back down the floor before dishing it to him for McAlarney's first three. The score was 11-4 with 15:04 to play in the first half and the rout was on.

Earl Clark led Louisville with 11 points and 10 rebounds, while Samardo Samuels added 10. "A few years ago we had to win eight out of 10 of our games and our guys dug in like Notre Dame dug in," Louisville coach Rick Pitino said. "They didn't feel sorry for themselves. I think Notre Dame could do the same thing. These guys are terrific young men and I hope they rally the same way we did two years ago."

Notes:
Despite pledging after Saturday's 89-63 loss to UCLA that all starting spots would be up for grabs, Brey had his starting five already figured out, the five that started the majority of games this season, Ayers, McAlarney, Harangody, Jackson and Hillesland.

"I was just kidding you guys in Los Angeles," Brey said to the media. "We needed to get back to our starters ... That's a no-brainer, we had to go back to our nucleus. You're coming back home. That nucleus of guys have won a lot of games for us and played well together and that nucleus gets us into that offensive rhythm that we need to compete in this league."

Sophomore Tyrone Nash played 14 minutes Thursday, scored zero points but grabbed six rebounds. Brey said he liked what he saw from Nash, and that his play may be a product of getting kicked out of practice on Sunday. Nash may have been the unfortunate one to incur the wrath of Brey on Sunday, but it may have helped on Thursday.

Contact Chris Hine at chinc@nd.edu

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Contact Chris Hine at chinc@nd.edu

Rink

continued from page 24

release said.

The new arena will be built south of the Joyce Center, just north of Edison Road and just west of where the new track and field facilities are being constructed, the release said.

The facility will include two ice sheets, one of which will be Olympic-sized. Plans also call for offices, locker rooms and training facilities for the hockey team. Additional locker rooms will also be available for students and members of the community to use.

The new arena will not be ready in time for most current members of the Irish squad, but the upperclassmen's impact on making a new rink a reality is one that isn't being overlooked.

"Those kids were instrumental in creating an identity for hockey on this campus," Jackson said.

Senior goaltender Jordan Pearce added, "Yeah, it kind of stinks that we're not going to

be able to play in it, but we take a lot of pride in that the last three or four years really probably pushed it over the edge to finalize it. To be able to maybe look back 15 years down the road and know that it was my class, my team that helped bring this arena here will be a great source of pride."

Much of the talk at Thursday's practice was about the rink announcement, but the

No. 2 Irish (21-5-3, 15-4-3-3 CCHA) have a tough series with a Northern Michigan team that hasn't lost since Jan. 9. The Wildcats (11-13-4, 8-10-4-3) are 6-0-1 over that span and have moved into eighth in the conference standings.

"They had a tough first half but have really come on as of late. This is a

team that was picked by most to finish in the top-four of the conference," Jackson said. "It's going to be a tough weekend for us, and we have to be prepared to play well at both ends of the ice."

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

"To say we needed that I think would be the understatement of the year."

Mike Brey
Irish coach

"I thought our defense was the best it was all year."

Mike Brey
Irish coach

Bouts

continued from page 24

teaching them the discipline, courage and mental and physical toughness to compete. More importantly, the men's boxing club forms a genuine brotherhood among fellow athletes.

"There's a nice sense of community here, especially when we start sparring," an unnamed sophomore boxer said. "You get into the ring and beat the hell out of each other and then you come out and shake hands and go work out. It's a lot of fun."

Veterans teach rookies, freshman give advice to seniors as each member of the men's boxing club strives to make others better each day.

But Bengal Bouts is much more than just a community of boxers giving up their time for an annual competition.

Espousing the Notre Dame

call to service, Bengal Bouts is the largest single contributor to the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh. Since 1931, the Holy Cross Brothers have

established several elementary and secondary schools in the region, while providing extensive outreach programs to the poor.

"Our money is dedicated to funding education in villages in Bangladesh," Weber said. "We are really trying to form relationships with the people over there and learn from them rather than just sending money."

Although 4,000 tickets have already been sold, Weber added that the current state of the economy has made it more

difficult to raise money this year. Tickets are still available and can be purchased through any boxer or on fight night.

As Valentine's Day approaches, the restless boxers have anything but kisses and hugs on their minds.

"It's time for the training to pay off," freshman fighter Adam Zaabel said. "You spend so long training for something, and it's almost surreal when you step into the ring. You really put a lot into it when you've got this tradition behind you."

The preliminaries begin this Sunday at 5 p.m. in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse.

Contact Chris Masoud at cmasoud@nd.edu

"It's time for the training to pay off."

Adam Zaabel
freshman fighter

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Bama

continued from page 24

on Sunday.

Irish coach Deanna Gumpf said she hopes to come away with some wins in order to build momentum for the rest of the season.

"We want to become a better team each game we play," she said.

Senior pitcher Brittney Bargar will lead the Irish rotation at the Bash. In 2008, Bargar won 30 games and earned all-conference and all-region honors.

Bargar is one of 14 monogram winners returning for Notre Dame, who lost only two seniors from last year's squad.

"The approach of our veterans is solid," Gumpf said. "They are businesslike and understand what they need to do to win."

Gumpf said that although there are many returning players, the lineup will not look the same.

"We look much different," she said. "There are major changes if you look at our line-up at the end of the year last year."

These changes include the additions of junior infielder Heather Johnson and sophomore utility player Sadie Pitzenberger, both of whom were injured last season, as well as junior catcher Alexia Clay, who transferred from Tennessee and was forced to sit out last season.

The Irish have also added four freshmen to the mix.

They will get a trial by fire this weekend. After Alabama things don't slow down. East Carolina hosted an invitational last weekend, winning three of four games. Sophomore pitcher Toni Paisley had two wins and a save for the Pirates, earning the honor of Conference USA Pitcher of the week.

The Badgers have not been as successful so far. They fell in all four of their contests at the Cathedral City Kickoff in Palm Springs, Calif., last weekend.

The Bama Bash begins a series of warm-weather invitationals for the Irish, who will not play in South Bend until a two-game series against Toledo on March 18.

"We do enjoy the weather, but the reality of the early season tournaments is to win ball games and become the best team we can be," Gumpf said.

The Irish kick off the season today at 5 p.m.

Contact Laura Myers at lm Myers2@nd.edu



DAN JACOBS/The Observer
Irish senior Linda Kohan will need to have her bat ready to go against No. 1 Alabama this afternoon in the season opener.

Loyola

continued from page 24

season, is led by the all-conference senior McDermott. He started all 17 games last season and helped Notre Dame hold opponents to 7.04 goals per game.

On offense, the Irish will look to another all-conference selection, senior attack Ryan Hoff. The captain will be looking for his third straight 40-goal season after leading Notre Dame with 41 last year.

"I think our team's strength is that we don't have a huge weakness," Hoff said. "We are pretty solid throughout the ranks. Our offense brings a whole lot back from last year, and our midfield is very talented and hard-working."

The Irish offense returns three of the top four scorers from last year's team, which was also ranked No. 5 nationally with 12.09 goals per game.

Junior Grant Krebs netted 26 goals, second on the team, and senior Duncan Swezey tallied 22.

Joining McDermott as captains for 2009 are seniors Peter Christman, Scott Rodgers and Davey Malera.

Rodgers will be looking to fill the shoes of graduated All-American goalkeeper Joey Kemp. The Wantagh, N.Y. native has played in seven career games and carries a 5.73 goals-against average.

"I feel like this is going to be a great opponent for our first game," Rodgers said. "Loyola is a disciplined, fundamentally sound squad, but then again so are we. It's going to be a battle but we are prepared."

The Irish will face off against the Greyhounds Saturday at 1 p.m. The home opener for Notre Dame is Feb. 28 against Dartmouth.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

"I think our team's strength is that we don't have a huge weakness."

Ryan Hoff
Irish senior

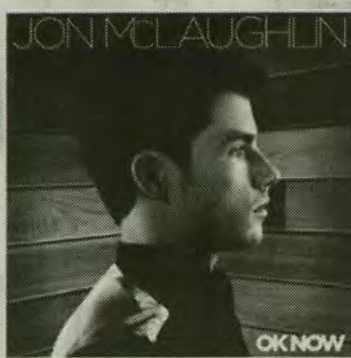
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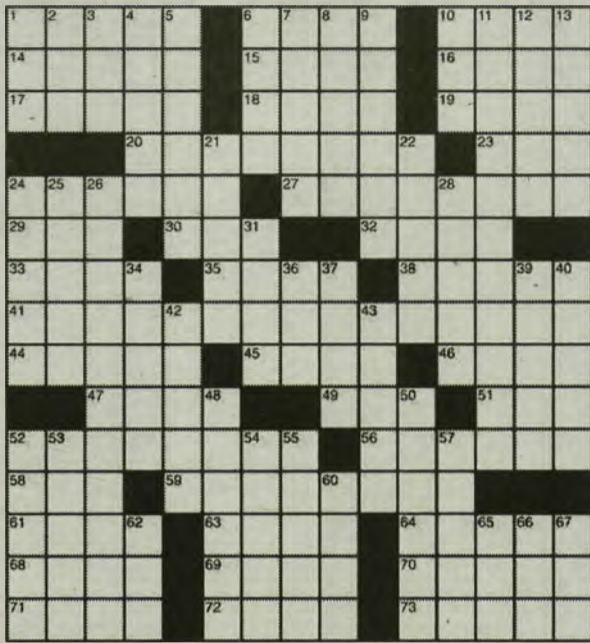
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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
- 1 Rivera of the original "Chicago"
 - 6 "Dragnet" force, in brief
 - 10 Org. for which a D.V.M. might work
 - 14 Southwestern sheepherders
 - 15 Mythical king of the Huns
 - 16 Press
 - 17 Unending pain
 - 18 Ayatollah's land
 - 19 N.Y. neighbor
 - 20 With 59-Across, hint to this puzzle's secret
 - 23 Grp. that conducts many tests
 - 24 Honeymoon suite feature
 - 27 Souvenir from a bad trip?
 - 29 Le Figaro article
 - 30 Epigram
 - 32 See 65-Down
 - 33 "Come here often?," e.g.
 - 35 Chewy candy
 - 38 River to the Rhone
 - 41 What to do after completing this puzzle, with four straight lines
 - 44 Children's author Blyton and others
 - 45 Chief Whitehorse, e.g.
 - 46 Subject of illicit trade
 - 47 Japanese leader of the 1960s
 - 49 "The Gift of the Magi" gift
 - 51 Ample shoe width
 - 52 Promoted
 - 56 Gwen of the original "Chicago"
 - 58 Berlin cry
 - 59 See 20-Across

- Down**
- 1 "Yikes!"
 - 63 Like some hands
 - 64 ___ Gay (W.W. II plane)
 - 68 Some votes
 - 69 Cain of "Lois & Clark"
 - 70 China company
 - 71 Secy.
 - 72 Dry
 - 73 Jim-dandy

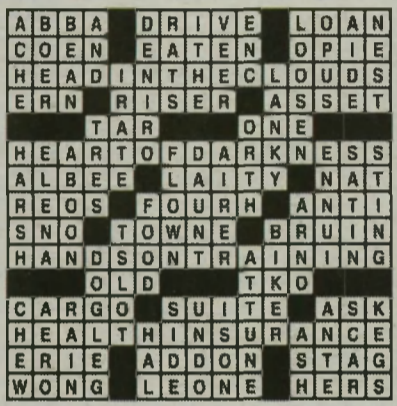


Puzzle by Patrick Blindauer

- 31 Curtain puller of film
- 34 Wrap up by
- 36 50 degs., maybe
- 37 Former Swedish P.M. Palme
- 39 Beau
- 40 City north of Cologne
- 42 Any acetate, chemically
- 43 Pope after John X
- 48 ___ Foods, Inc.
- 50 Instruments for drawing angles
- 52 Animals
- 53 Spanish skating figures
- 54 Cain vis-a-vis Abel
- 55 ___ Lama
- 57 Freshen
- 60 Be inclined
- 62 Post W.W. II pres.
- 65 With 32-Across, a ball game
- 66 Response to a joke in an I.M.
- 67 Rocker ___ Rose

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kelly Rowland, 28; Mike Shinoda, 32; Jennifer Aniston, 40; Sheryl Crow, 47

Happy Birthday: There is so much hidden that must be brought out into the open before you can move on. You have the power, the dedication and the heart and soul to give your all. Your numbers are 8, 19, 23, 26, 35, 38, 41

ARIES (March 21-April 19): An innovative approach to life and friendships will spice things up. Set the pace and your own rules and you will find the happiness you are searching for. Stand up for what you want and speak your mind. ★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): It may seem as if everyone is working against you but, as long as you keep moving forward, you will accomplish what you need to do. Avoid meddling and meddlers and everything else will fall into place. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Nothing is likely to go according to plan but you will act fast and efficiently. Emotions will get you into trouble, so avoid letting people set you off. Act on facts, not personal feelings. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The tables are turning and it's time for you to make some adjustments to your living arrangements. Once you feel comfortable with the way things operate, you will ease your stress and eliminate the possibility of letting things spin out of control. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take it easy, relax and stay calm. Aggressive behavior will lead to trouble or cause someone to play with your emotions. Overdoing it in any manner will come back to haunt you. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Talk to people who can help and encourage you. A little extra work will pay off but don't jeopardize your health by overdoing it. A change of plans will result in a better connection with someone in whom you are interested. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Not everything is as it appears. Someone is working against you, so take extra precautions. Insincere gestures of friendliness or someone offering you too good a deal should be handled with care. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Stop standing still waiting for someone else to pick up the slack or show you the way. You have to be in the lead if you want to be successful. Your willingness to take a chance or to try something new or different will set you apart. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Weigh the pros and cons before you make a life-altering decision. Chances are good that the dynamics of whatever is going on around you are changing too rapidly to make a good assessment. You are better off doing as directed and playing it safe. ★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep your wits about you. With so much to juggle, you must keep a clear head and be ready to take action immediately. Stay in the loop at all times. Greater profits and advancement can be yours. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't give in to what others want if it isn't what you want. Be honest about your intentions. Don't let confusion cause you to stand still when the answer is to simply follow your heart. ★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Avoid putting too many demands on others. You will get the most for your money if you do the work yourself without being dependent on anyone. You can sort through any problems you have by taking a serious look at how they started. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are powerful, dedicated and a reformer. You are serious, compassionate and relentless in your search for justice and beneficial change. You are a great friend, companion and leader.

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MIKE ARGIRION

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

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REYMOB
TINTEN



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

Answer: _____
 (Answers tomorrow)
 Yesterday's Jumbles: GOING DOUSE ABSURD BISHOP
 Answer: What the successful rancher had — A BIG "SPREAD"

THE OBSERVER

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HOCKEY

Program takes major step with new free-standing rink

Team excited as they prepare for No. Mich.

By MATT GAMBER
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame will begin construction next spring on a new, free-standing, on-campus ice arena that will likely be ready for the start of the 2011 to 2012 season, athletic director

Jack Swarbrick announced Thursday in an official release.

"We're thrilled about the plans for a new ice arena on our campus, particularly based on the superb job Jeff Jackson and our hockey team have done to position our program as one of the best in the nation," Swarbrick said in the release.

No college program has won more games than Notre Dame since the start of the 2006-07

season, and finally Irish coach Jeff Jackson will receive his reward.

"It's something I've been searching for since the time I got here," Jackson said. "Hockey has arrived at Notre Dame, and this is kind of like the final piece of the puzzle for us."

Plans for the new arena have yet to be finalized, but the rink is expected to seat 5,000 — nearly double the current Joyce

Center rink's capacity of 2,713.

"I give Jack Swarbrick a lot of credit for having the vision to see that it was something that was probably necessary," Jackson said. "I wish he would've been here three years ago to push this idea because we might be so much further ahead. His vision is realistic — I think we can draw 5,000 fans a game."

Though a facility upgrade had long been discussed, it

appeared the most likely scenario would be renovations to the hockey team's current home in the Joyce Center. Instead, Jackson, Swarbrick and the University's Board of Trustees, among others, decided to start with a completely new building. Removing the Joyce Center ice sheet will free up training space for other athletic and University events, the

see RINK/page 20

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Streak snapped

Irish end losing streak in impressive fashion

By CHRIS HINE
Editor-in-Chief

In the second half, Irish forward Luke Harangody went to pass the ball inside to forward Ryan Ayers, but the pass was too much for Ayers to handle.

No matter. The ball bounced off Ayers, off the backboard and into the basket.

"It was a good pass," Harangody said.

It was that kind of game for Notre Dame (13-10, 3-7 Big East) in its much-needed, cathartic 90-57 win over No. 5/7 Louisville (18-5, 9-2 Big East). It was a night where Notre Dame could do no wrong after suffering through a seven-game losing streak where they

see SNAPPED/page 20



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Notre Dame's Tyrone Nash, right, Tory Jackson and Kyle McAlarney celebrate the end of a seven-game losing streak during Notre Dame's 90-57 win over No. 5 Louisville Thursday night.

ND SOFTBALL

Top teams await ND in opener

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

The Irish certainly aren't easing in to the 2009 season.

Notre Dame will travel to Tuscaloosa, Ala. today to take part in the Bama Bash. In their first game, the Irish will face No. 1 Alabama.

The Tide (4-0) participated in the South Alabama Invitational Feb. 6-8. They swept their opponents on the bat of freshman Cassandra Reilly-Boccia, who hit .667 with six RBIs in her first four games in a college uniform.

The Irish will play Alabama again on Saturday, as well as East Carolina (3-1). They finish up against Wisconsin (0-4)

see BAMA/page 21

MEN'S LACROSSE

Irish and Greyhounds open season in Atlanta

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

The No. 7 Irish will travel to Atlanta to open their season against No. 17 Loyola (Md.).

The Irish return five starters from a strong 14-3 campaign in 2008. The 14 wins tied a program record, and Notre Dame advanced to the quarterfinals of the NCAA Tournament.

Senior captain Regis McDermott said the Irish have very high expectations for the season.

"Part of the culture and tradition we have been building is to expect a lot of ourselves every year, and this year is no different," McDermott said. "Our goal is to be playing Memorial Day weekend in Foxboro [in the NCAA Final Four]."

The Irish ended the regular season tied for first in the Great Western Lacrosse League

(GWLL) with Denver and Ohio State, with each team sharing an identical 5-1 record. Notre Dame then defeated Quinnipiac and Ohio State in the inaugural GWLL tournament to win the conference championship.

The Irish will face a strong test at a neutral site against the Greyhounds, who have made the NCAA Tournament the past two seasons. Loyola finished 2008 with a 7-7 record after losing in the first round to top-seeded Duke.

The Greyhounds will be without top attack Shane Koppens, who was granted an extra year of eligibility by the NCAA but must sit out the first two games as a result of the decision. Koppens led Loyola last season with 44 points, tallying 19 goals and 25 assists.

The Irish defense, which ranked No. 5 nationally last

see LOYOLA/page 21

BENGAL BOUTS

Fights start Sunday night

84 bouts slated for preliminary round

By CHRIS MASOUD
Sports Writer

Knute Rockne's legacy at Notre Dame lives on as the 79th annual Bengal Bouts Tournament kicks off this weekend. Sunday night will feature 84 bouts in two rings.

"There is something special about the Bengal Bouts that only the guys who do it can truly appreciate," senior president Mark Weber said. "The Bengal Bouts is a unique blend of sweat, sacrifice, and solidarity. It's a rite of passage."

A tradition first organized in 1920 by Coach Rockne, Bengal Bouts offers students a rare opportunity to box, while

see BOUTS/page 20



CASEY CARNEY/The Observer

Junior captain Chris Cugliari lands a punch during last year's semi-final match-up against Robert Powers in the Joyce Center.