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Forum finds role for unions in economy

Participants discuss importance of collective bargaining for rights of labor, democracy

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

Unions and management often don't agree at the bargaining table, but Monday night, AFL-CIO Central Labor Council President Bob Warnock, Jr. and AM General Vice President of Human Resources Gary Wuslich agreed that unions are essential for the health of both workers and the corporation at "Union Forum: The Role of Unions in Today's Economy," a Higgins Labor Studies Program.

"I believe there is a value to organized labor," Wuslich, of AM General, the company that manufactures Hummers and

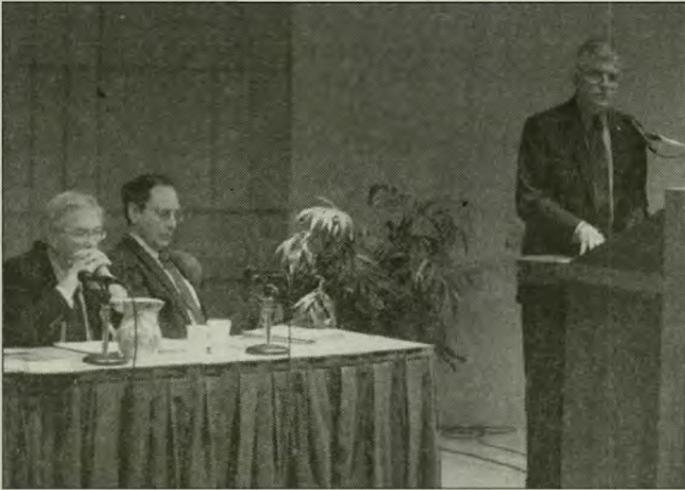
HMMWVs, said.

Wuslich said that he has tried to build positive relationships with unions throughout his career, and has turned down positions from manufacturing firms that do not negotiate with unions.

Wuslich describes the efforts to organize labor as one of the "two great social movements of the 20th Century," with the other being the civil rights movement.

However, he said that new generations do not understand the importance of unions. "Very few people have had exposure to unions and they do not understand what it took to get where we are today," he

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ALISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Bob Warnock Jr., AFL-CIO Central Labor Council President, speaks at the podium about labor unions in today's economy.

Hip hop and black culture examined

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
News Writer

The influence of hip hop on the perceptions of African American culture, especially in media, was discussed during a lecture entitled "Hip Hop Psychology 101" given by John Rogers III, director of orientation at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.

Rogers placed emphasis on the importance of looking back over the past and what has happened to ancestors and elders.

"When you look back over our history, and realize a lot of the things that have happened, it does give a lot of students pause," Rogers said.

During his multimedia presentation, Rogers showed clips from cartoons, films and television to explain the promotion of racial stereotypes in these mediums through the years.

One clip was from a cartoon called "Lazy Town" that aired in the early 1930s. The African American characters are portrayed as lazy with exaggerated features. Rogers stressed the inconsistencies of these depictions.

"Slaves weren't lazy, they couldn't be lazy. Women would give birth to babies and had to go back out into the fields right after giving birth," Rogers said.

These incorrect representa-

see HIP HOP/page 3

BOG

Circle K requests funding

By SARAH MAYER
News Writer

Brittini Qualizza, the secretary of Circle K, asked for two co-sponsorships from the Board of Governance (BOG) at their meeting Monday night. Circle K is a nationwide service organization that has a chapter at Saint Mary's.

Qualizza, along with Alicen Miller, Circle K's former president, requested the first co-sponsorship to help fund an upcoming conference involving all Indiana Circle K groups.

"Awards are given in April for the best clubs," Miller said. "It is a time to celebrate Circle K clubs and the board's turning over to next year's leaders."

Qualizza also asked for a co-sponsorship for the second annual alumni reunion weekend hosted by the Saint Mary's Affiliates of the American Chemical Society (SMAACS). She is in charge of gathering alumni to campus so they can present what they did after graduating from Saint Mary's.

"[The weekend] consists of alum from recent years to 15 years ago," Qualizza said. "It is a really good opportunity for younger women who are chemistry majors to see them give speeches and be influenced by their amazing place in society."

see BOG/page 4

CLC debates Good Samaritan Policy

DeBartolo study space, Web site, community relations also discussed

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Writer

Members of the Campus Life Council discussed technology and the Medical Amnesty Policy, which would protect students who have been drinking from getting in trouble while trying to help an intoxicated friend if they are hurt or sick, at their meeting Monday night.

Student body vice president Grant Schmidt reported for the task force on technology and student space in dorms. Schmidt said he and Fr. Pete McCormick, Keough Hall's rector, plan to meet

with the coordinators of the Web site agenda.nd.edu to discuss making it simpler and more appealing.

Schmidt pulled the Web site up on an overhead to show how he thought the Web site could be improved.

"It's extremely updated and it's very well kept. The problem with it is it's not very appealing," Schmidt said. "It's just really, really confusing, in my opinion and in our task force's opinion."

Schmidt demonstrated how the Web site was confusing to him by clicking on the Athletics tab, and showing that Junior Parents Weekend, which is not an

athletic event, was listed.

Schmidt also reported that his task force is working on creating more space for studying.

"We are also going to meet with the Office Registrar to discuss the possibility of using some of the rooms in DeBartolo for study space at night," he said.

Diversity Council Representative Brigitte Githinji spoke in behalf of the new student introduction to Notre Dame task force, and said they will be focusing on multi-cultural and international students.

see CLC/page 4

Profs compare development standards

By LIZ LEFEVRE
News Writer

Two University professors discussed how to measure development across different cultures at the first lecture in the Ford Family Program in Human Development Studies and Solidarity Discussions on Development series Monday.

Carolyn Nordstrom, a professor in the department of Anthropology, and Amitava Dutt from the department of Economics talked about whether people across cultures and communities can agree on what development is and how it can be gauged.

Nordstrom began with two stories from her field experiences in war-torn Angola in southwestern Africa. The first story told of a single man who appeared to

practice development by resettling displaced people onto a farm that produced goods which were then exported to other countries. Nordstrom pointed out that in this man's system, he made all the profit without doing any labor.

"This man is heralded as a king of development," she said, despite the fact that he was acting as a "robber baron" and profiting off of these displaced citizens.

Nordstrom's second story focused on a group of women in Angola, who, after having their entire lives destroyed by the war, pooled their resources and began to make and sell their own products before eventually setting up their own community banks.

see FORD/page 4



PAT COVENY/The Observer

Professor Amitava Dutt spoke about whether a cross-cultural standard can be reached for development at the Ford Family Program Monday.

INSIDE COLUMN

My 25 things ... or 15

In lieu of the fad that is sweeping Facebook, I have decided to create my own list of 25 Things About Myself (Well, more like 15.)

1. When it's October here, I think, "God, this is the most beautiful place on earth. How come I got so lucky as to end up here?" When it's January here, I think, "What idiot human decided to settle here? Who on earth hated themselves so much they decided to spend every moment they were outside wishing they could rip their face off because it's so cold it's going numb?"

Stephanie DePrez

Assistant Scene Editor

2. My roommates and I absolutely adore the dining hall's sweet potato fries. Whenever they gloriously appear, we have a mass texting circle that coordinates how we will systematically lift as many as possible from the DH to our room.

3. When I work out I put my laptop on the elliptical trainer consol and watch an episode of whichever TV show I am currently obsessed with. Dangerous? Yes. Enough to get me out of bed at 7 a.m.? You betcha.

4. I get sick, twisted pleasure out of ripping out the electrical chord of the radio in the bathroom when it's blasting U93.

5. I'm convinced someday my roommate and her boyfriend are going to run away together and open a penguin farm and train the penguins to sing Disney songs.

6. I have crushes on old guys. Hugh Laurie, Nathan Fillion, Hugh Jackman, Sting. The young ones, eh. They do nothing for me.

7. There is a video of me on Youtube that has 22,409 views. I don't know if that makes me proud or frightened.

8. I have written 41 articles for The Observer.

9. My roommates have somehow gotten it in their heads that they can convince me to do anything, no matter how ridiculous. And it's usually true. I draw the line, though, at standing on the table in the dining hall and belting out "And Iiiiiiiii will always love youuuuuuuuu." Maybe senior year.

10. In my film class, two class periods in a row I have gotten up to go to the bathroom. I'm starting to worry people in that class will only recognize me as the "Bathroom Girl."

11. I have had full conversations with a squirrel. They are very attentive.

12. I have joined the "Fighting for Footlongs" boycott. I only get 6-inch's, but I figure if the footlong price goes down to \$5, the 6-inch will have to cost less than \$4.19.

13. I am addicted to the Web site Whedoneque.com, and I check it hourly.

14. I love my "Notre Dame Music" sweatshirt. I am a little disappointed, though, that the slogan "Where My Pitches At?" didn't fly.

15. My 25 percent off receipt at the bookstore did not count for the \$20 pack of 50 CD's, and I was sorely disappointed.

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

Contact Stephanie DePrez at sdprez@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'S YOUR FAVORITE KIND OF CANDY?



Charles Janini

*freshman
Dillon*

"Gummy penguins."



Jason Miller

*junior
Dillon*

"Watermelon rings."



Kate Sullivan

*junior
Pangborn*

"Swedish fish."



Molly Smith

*junior
Walsh*

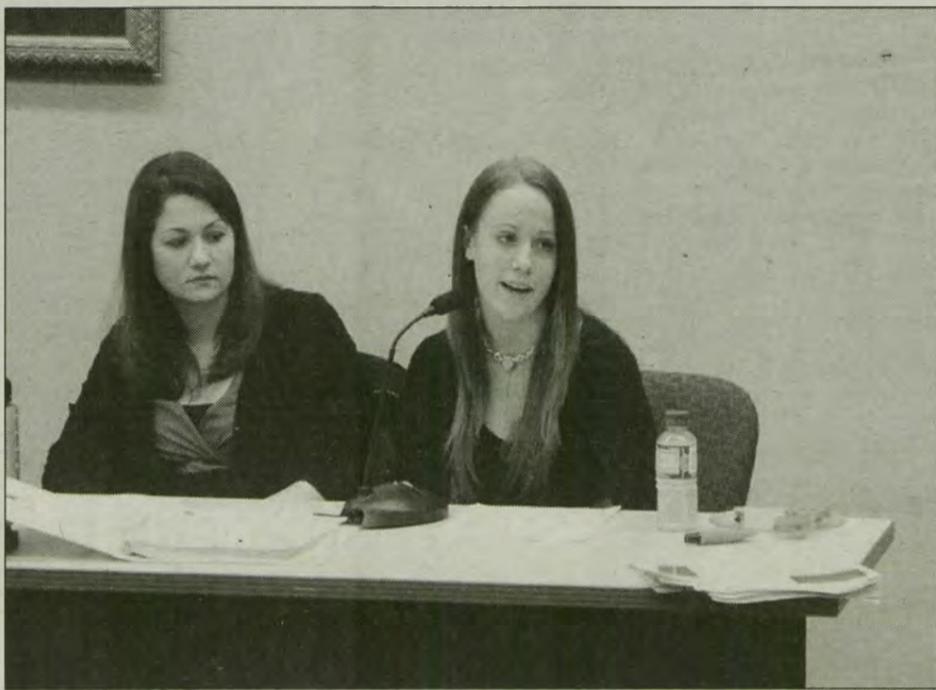
"The Lego candies, because I can make stuff out of them"



Rachel Brzenzinski

*senior
off campus*

"Sour gummy worms."



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Freshman Melissa Buddie, whose letter published in The Observer last fall inspired much debate about the college hook-up culture, speaks in a panel discussion at the Edith Stein lecture this past weekend.

OFFBEAT

Police shoot chimp after it attacks woman

STAMFORD, Conn. — A 175-pound chimpanzee kept as a pet was shot and killed by a police officer Monday after it attacked a woman visiting its owners' home, leaving her with serious facial injuries, authorities said.

The injured woman, described by police as in her 50s, was taken to a hospital; her condition and identity were not immediately available. The 15-year-old chimpanzee's owner and two officers also were hurt, though police said the extent of

their injuries was not immediately known.

The Advocate of Stamford reported on its Web site Monday night that the primate's owner called 911 and tried to stop the chimp from attacking the woman by stabbing it with a butcher knife.

Starbucks heist costs jeweler \$300,000

PARKER, Colo. — How much is a cup of coffee at Starbucks? For a jewelry salesman from Kansas, it ended up costing about \$300,000.

Police say the man

stopped for coffee Monday at a Starbucks in Parker, Colo., south of Denver. He was just returning to his car when he was held up. Three masked robbers took three "tubs" of jewelry and a briefcase containing the salesman's handgun.

Police didn't identify the 64-year-old salesman. Parker police spokeswoman Elise Penington says he was in town for a trade show. One of the robbers allegedly brandished a gun, but no one was injured in the robbery.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

"How the Health Are You?" a health fair open to students, will take place **Wednesday** from 4 to 5 p.m. in the Rolfs Sports Recreation Center. The event is free and attendees have the chance to win raffle prizes, including a free roundtrip ticket to anywhere in the United States.

The Saint Mary's senior class is hosting "Financial Tips for Recent College Graduates," a lecture by Professor Susan Vance **Wednesday** at 6:30 p.m. in 335 Spes Unica Hall.

Men Against Violence will present "That's What He Said?: Images of Modern Masculinity," a lecture relating the TV show "The Office" and the roles of men and women on **Wednesday** at 8 p.m. in Carey Auditorium in Hesburgh Library.

Panelists, including students, professors and members of the South Bend community, will debate **President Obama's impact on diversity Wednesday** at 7 p.m. in the Coleman-Morse Center lounge.

The Class of 2012 presents "Frosh Four Square" **Thursday** from 6 to 9 p.m. in Stepan Center. The event is free to participate, and \$5 for a T-shirt.

David Walker, the president and CEO of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, will speak **Friday** from 10:40 a.m. to 12:10 p.m. in Jordan Auditorium in the Mendoza College of Business. The event is part of the **Ten Years Hence** lecture series. It is free and open to the public.

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	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 31 LOW 21	HIGH 26 LOW 19	HIGH 42 LOW 32	HIGH 38 LOW 20	HIGH 26 LOW 13	HIGH 29 LOW 19

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University of Cape Town

Professor's book looks at plagiarism

Special to The Observer

Susan D. Blum, associate professor of anthropology at Notre Dame, is the author of a new book titled "My Word! Plagiarism and College Culture," which explores the prevalence of plagiarism among American college students and why it exists.

Blum is a cultural and linguistic anthropologist who has been researching deception, truth, lying and cheating for several years, mostly in the context of China but also cross-culturally. In "My Word!" she examines in greater depth the specific area of plagiarism, in which those same accusations are made.

"My goal simply is understanding," Blum said. "The book examines the complexity of student behavior using standard anthropological tools for holistic approach to a problem. I see my role as a translator of students' culture to non-students through analysis of the perspectives of faculty, administrators and students. I neither excuse nor blame students for the behavior we lump together as

'plagiarism.' Rather than complaining about how 'lazy' or 'distracted' they are, I decided to investigate all the claims on their time, and I offer suggestions to help faculty and administrators better communicate with them."

Blum, who served for five years as director of Notre Dame's Center for Asian Studies, also is the author of "Lies that Bind: Chinese Truth, Other Truths," which explores the ideology of truth and deception in China and elsewhere, as well as "Making Sense of Language: Readings in Culture and Communication," and "Portraits of 'Primitives': Ordering Human Kinds in the Chinese Nation. She is co-editor of "China Off Center: Mapping the Margins of the Middle Kingdom."

A member of the Notre Dame faculty since 2000, Blum was graduated from Stanford University. She earned master's degrees in anthropology and Chinese language and literature and her doctoral degree in anthropology from the University of Michigan.

Hip Hop

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These incorrect representations have continued into the hip-hop genre, he said.

Music throughout the decades has changed drastically according to Rogers. In the 1970s, African American music included the Sugar Hill Gang. In the 1990s, gangster rap began becoming popular. Now, African American music is "no holds barred," Rogers said.

He related this idea to the use of the "N" word in our society. Rogers commented on the overuse of the word all over the world, and how its use in music can be more influential than people realize.

"Depending on where your head is, that word can cause death just like anything else. People say, 'Well music doesn't have that much power.' Look, can't you catch the Holy Spirit by listening to music in church?" Rogers said.

He showed examples of the word, not only in hip hop music, but on television as well. It is also used on store fronts in foreign countries to sell the hip hop style, Rogers said.

Another important fact about African American representation in the media, Rogers said, is that very few of the outlets in radio or television are owned by African Americans. Channels like

Black Entertainment Television (BET) or MTV, which air black music and entertainment, use low quality music and lack diversity, Rogers said.

"There is something going on with our stations and the music getting to us, and the mainstream stations and the music getting to them," Rogers said.

Rogers also explored the statistics in African American society. Twice as many black women graduate from college as men, he said. He also discussed the increase of

divorce and single parents in this country for all races, and how that has negatively affected the black middle class. African American children raised in middle-class households "end up near poor," he said.

To conclude the presentation, Rogers showed a slide show that illustrated the African

American struggle from slavery, to the Civil Rights movement, to today's portrayal of black culture in the media. Pictures of Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcom X went across the screen as music from the hip hop genre played in the background.

One of his closing slides had a quote from Dr. Maoshing Ni reading, "We are the physical and spiritual fusion of ancestors whose genes we carry. Knowing our history is a starting point in the pursuit of knowing yourself."

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn01@saintmarys.edu

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Write News. E-mail
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BOG

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In other BOG news:

◆ Junior Caitlin Sullivan expressed concern about the parking in the Science Hall parking lot. She said that many of the spots are reserved for teachers leaving students to park in the back corner of the lot or in Angela parking lot while many of the spots in the teacher area remain unoccupied.

◆ Elections commissioner Francesca Johnson said the "Meet the Candidates" event for Residence Hall Association (RHA) and Student Diversity Board (SDB) president will be this Wednesday at 6 p.m. in the West Wing of the Noble Family Dining Hall.

◆ The SMC Monologues have two performances that will take place Friday Feb. 28 and Saturday March 1 in Vander Vennet Theater, women's issues commissioner Becki Faunce said. "We actually have too many people and too many monologues, and that is not a bad problem to have," she said.

◆ Sophomore Parent's Weekend, which took place this past weekend, went well according to sophomore class president Meg Griffin. Despite several last minute registries everyone had a great time, she said.

Contact Sarah Mayer at smayer01@saintmarys.edu

Unions

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said. "They take it for granted the sacrifices their forefathers made."

Wuslich admits that his company pays more money to labor because they employ organized workers.

"Do we pay a premium? Yes. Are we willing to? Yes," he said. "We get a better quality work, and a more efficient job. You cannot make the judgment about what you pay solely by the cost."

According to Wuslich, unions help to bring a sense of teamwork to the workplace that would not necessarily come with unorganized labor.

"If you are able to harness the influence, power, structure, management of organized labor to achieve a common goal, you achieve far more success," he said. This success can come in achieving both the company's goals

and the goals of a United Way campaign, he said.

Unions are essential for workers because "people need representation," Warnock said.

"The doctors have the AMA, the dentists have their group, everybody has their group," he said. "You need someone to represent you in your life."

Representation should be "democratic," and workers should be able to "vote the people in that run it, get to chose, and get the right to say 'yes' and 'no,'" Warnock said.

Representation is important

"If you are able to harness the influence, power, structure, management of organized labor to achieve a common goal, you achieve far more success."

Gary Wuslich
AM General Vice
President of Human
Resources

Ford

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Nordstrom noted that while groups of women like these are often ignored or disregarded as informal traders, "people like these women are the ones actually building the country."

In light of these contradicting perceptions of development, Dutt addressed the ways in which economists measure development.

"Development is some kind of progress, some kind of good happening," she said. "But in what sense? Who decides what is developed, and at what level?"

While presenting different ways that economists attempt to quantify development, each style had its own pros and cons. Dutt said there is "no single indicator" that signifies a "best" way to achieve development.

"Our choices may depend on what we are trying to do for what purpose," she said. "There is nothing fixed about development, as meanings and

environments can change."

Nordstrom said development is a "dangerous term" because it is such a difficult concept.

"It seems simple, but it becomes slippery the more you look at it," she said. "If we can't have a single meaning of development, then at least we can try to shed light on why it is a difficult term."

"Development is some kind of progress, some kind of good happening. But in what sense? Who decides what is developed, and at what level?"

Amitava Dutt
economics professor

and solidarity to implement innovative solutions for people trapped in poverty.

The second part in the Discussions on Development series will be held Wednesday, March 18, in the Coleman Morse Lounge. Scott Appleby, the director of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, and Paul Kollman, professor of Theology will discuss "The Impact of Religion on Development."

Contact Liz Lefebvre at lefebvr@nd.edu

for all workers, not just for manufacturing workers, according to Warnock. "None of us are in total control of our lives," he said.

Unions really are effective in representing workers, Warnock said. He cited Toyota's recent layoffs and hour reductions at their non-union plants, but not at their unionized plants as evidence that the unions are protecting their members.

"The bargaining committee's in there and you've got people representing you," he said. "But the people who don't have people representing them, they've got problems."

In addition to their effectiveness in dealing with management, unions are a basic right, according to Warnock. He said

that workers have a right to freely join a union and chose their own leadership.

Unions "do everything that the citizenry really demands," he said.

Wuslich agreed that unions are about more than their effectiveness.

"Inherent in every democracy is the right to bargain collectively," he said.

"On a broader, more strategic role, I believe that collective bargaining is the most democratic of democratic processes that exist," Wuslich said. "It immediately translates to economic value or economic devalue."

"What you do in collective bargaining makes a difference in the lives of people," Wuslich said.

Unions are also a crucial component of Catholic Social Teaching, according to Associate Director of the Center for Social Concerns Bill

Purcell. Catholic Social Teaching strongly believes in the dignity of work and labor, as it extends from humanity's co-creation with God in Genesis.

"Not only is life important, but quality of life is important," Purcell said. People have a natural right to decent work, fair wages and private property, he said.

According to Catholic Social Teaching, economics exist for people and systems are supposed to work for people, not the other way around.

Catholic Social Teaching also supports unions because of its emphasis on the community, according to Purcell.

"Everything that we do has to be about building community," he said. "One of those forms is the union."

Many of the audience members at Monday evening's forum were local union members, representing the steelworkers, carpenters, electricians, postal workers and autoworkers unions, among others.

Also present was local activist and 1970 Notre Dame graduate David Janes. Janes argued that a discussion of unions is incomplete without mentioning unorganized labor in third world countries.

"I can't imagine a discussion of the value and the future of unions without talking about the value and the future of unions on the Mexican-American border and in the fields of the Benediction of God in El Salvador, and in China," Janes said. "If we're going to talk about unions, we're going to have to talk about unions there."

It is only when the discussion on organized labor extends beyond national borders that Janes says we can focus on "uplifting the whole human race."

Contact John Tierney at jtierne1@nd.edu

CLC

continued from page 1

She also said that in the next few weeks, the task force plans to focus on what specific issues would be most helpful to these students and she said they are considering sending out surveys to get student input.

Chief executive assistant Karen Koski reported for the task force on the review of the Medical Amnesty Policy, which was formally known as the Good Samaritan Policy.

Rather than look at the implications of the policy on all rules on campus, such as parietals, Koski said that they task force has decided to focus on the Medical Amnesty Policy in relation to alcohol abuse.

"[The Medical Amnesty Policy] could apply to anything on campus, any kind of situation and the implications for that seemed harder to deal with than the alcohol ones. Not necessarily harder, but something that is too broad for us to deal with," Koski said.

Fr. Jim Lewis, rector of Carroll Hall, expressed concern that the policy seemed to focus on protecting students who had been drinking from getting in trouble rather than on safety or alcohol education.

"It sounds more like a policy coverage ... rather than deal with the more fundamental issue of alcohol abuse on campus," Lewis

said.

Schmidt said that students do think about whether or not they will get in trouble before making the decision to help an intoxicated student, which means that "the coverage is directly connected or correlated to the issue of safety."

Koski said that although her task force had discussed "whether we want an educational solution or a policy solution ... we did not by any means decide that policy was the solution that we were looking for, but just that the problem that we were addressing is alcohol."

Student body president Bob Reish reported on the relationship between the University and off-campus students.

"We toyed around with the idea of should there be some off-campus student services," Reish said.

Reish said they wanted to work on establishing that students need these services, and plan to do so by looking at what other colleges have to offer and perhaps implementing this issue into the Student Government survey, which will take place over Spring Break.

Linda Cirillo, rector of Lewis Hall, said the task force also wants to look into what services are already available for off-campus students so they can "find out what we really need that we don't have."

Contact Sarah Mervosh at smervosh@nd.edu

"It sounds more like a policy coverage ... rather than deal with the more fundamental issue of alcohol abuse on campus."

Jim Lewis
rector
Carroll Hall

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Submarines crash in Atlantic Ocean

LONDON— Nuclear submarines from Britain and France collided deep in the Atlantic Ocean this month, authorities said Monday in the first acknowledgment of a highly unusual accident that one expert called the gravest in nearly a decade.

Officials said the low-speed crash did not damage the vessels' nuclear reactors or missiles or cause radiation to leak. But anti-nuclear groups said it was still a frightening reminder of the risks posed by submarines prowling the oceans powered by radioactive material and bristling with nuclear weapons.

The first public indication of a mishap came when France reported in a little-noticed Feb. 6 statement that one of its submarines had struck a submerged object — perhaps a shipping container. But confirmation of the accident only came after British media reported it.

Taliban commander killed in attack

KABUL — Forces with the U.S.-backed coalition killed a regional Taliban commander and eight others in an airstrike in western Afghanistan, the U.S. said Monday.

The Sunday night attack destroyed the building housing Ghulam Dastagir and eight other militants in the village of Darya-ye-Morghab, near the Turkmenistan border, the U.S. military said in a statement.

Dastagir oversaw all of western Badghis province for the Taliban. He was responsible for a surge in violence in the province in recent months, including a November attack on an Afghan army convoy that killed 13 soldiers, the statement said.

NATIONAL NEWS

Winter storm strikes Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES — A winter storm that could be the largest of the season is bringing heavy rain and mountain snow to Southern California.

The National Weather Service says the rain should last much of the day, and wind with gusts of up to 45 miles per hour is causing dangerous surf conditions off the coast.

The California Highway Patrol says heavy snow has closed a section of Interstate 5 in the mountains north of Los Angeles.

Meteorologist David Gomberg calls it the "most significant storm so far this season." There could even be waterspouts or small tornadoes, he says.

Economy taking toll on dairy farms

TURLOCK, Calif. — Hundreds of thousands of America's dairy cows are being turned into hamburgers because milk prices have dropped so low that farmers can no longer afford to feed the animals.

Dairy farmers say they have little choice but to sell part of their herds for slaughter because they face a perfect storm of destructive economic forces. At home, feed prices are rising and cash-strapped consumers are eating out less often. Abroad, the global recession has cut into demand for butter and cheese exported from the U.S.

LOCAL NEWS

Vote on unemployment bill delayed

INDIANAPOLIS — Political fighting in the Indiana House has delayed at least temporarily a vote on a bill to help fix the state's depleted unemployment insurance fund.

The bill would raise taxes on employers to help balance the fund, which currently pays out millions of dollars more than it collects while relying on federal loans to issue unemployment checks. The plan wouldn't tamper with other ways to balance the fund, such as lowering payments to unemployed workers or tightening eligibility rules.

States face decisions on stimulus

\$27 billion allocated to states for infrastructure funding won't cover all projects

Associated Press

NEW YORK — It may sound like a nice problem for states — figuring out how to spend the billions in infrastructure funding they'll receive as part of President Barack Obama's economic stimulus plan.

But the task is more complicated than it seems, as state officials try to set priorities while managing competing pressures from communities, watchdog groups and federal regulators over how the money is allocated.

Under the plan Obama is expected to sign into law early this week, states will divide \$27 billion to build and repair roads and bridges. That is less than half the \$64 billion in projects states told the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials late last year that they had ready to go.

The law also requires that half the money be spent on projects that have been vetted by the federal government and deemed "ready to go" in 120 days, as a way to jolt the economy and create jobs. That means state officials are under pressure to make decisions quickly on which projects to fund and which to bypass.

While many states have made their lists of "ready-to-go" infrastructure projects available online for public review, others have resisted, in part because the limited stimulus funding means only a fraction of the projects will receive money. Watchdog groups say it's likely that state officials fear angering constituents if a project appears on a wish list and then is struck from the final allocation.

"There will be huge internal battles in states about priorities," said Phineas Baxandall of the



Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick arrives for a news conference on the federal stimulus. Patrick appointed a real estate developer to help with the bidding for stimulus funds.

Public Interest Research Group.

In California, for example, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's office rejected a request by The Associated Press for a detailed list of "ready-to-go" projects. The AP sought the information under the California Public Records Act, but the governor's office last week said the documents were internal drafts, adding "disclosure would chill critical communications to and within the Governor's Office, thereby harming the public interest."

The sheer volume of money directed toward state projects has fueled calls for transparency,

with journalists, interest groups and others demanding a full accounting of which projects receive the funding, which are rejected, and why.

Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick addressed that sentiment last week when he named a local real estate developer to oversee bidding for the stimulus money. Patrick also set up a new Web site with information on every project that receives the money.

"I don't want to send a mistaken impression there are pet projects," Patrick said.

The governor appeared with the state's attorney general, Martha Coakley, who also will help track

the stimulus funds.

"An ounce of prevention in handling the money is worth a pound of grand jury investigations and civil litigation down the road," Coakley said.

Mindful of the accelerated timetable they face, states are moving quickly to develop mechanisms for identifying priority projects and disbursing funding for them.

Some have created oversight commissions while others are leaving decisions to state transit officials. Some are required by law to involve state legislators, while legislators in states that don't require their participation are pressing to have input.

FRANCE

France recognizes role in the Holocaust

Associated Press

PARIS — France's top judicial body on Monday formally recognized the nation's role in deporting Jews to Nazi death camps during the Holocaust — but effectively ruled out any more reparations for the deportees or their families.

Jewish groups welcomed the ruling by the Council of State, the clearest legal acknowledgment to date of France's role in the Holocaust.

Nearly 70 years ago, the Vichy government helped deport some 76,000 people — including 11,000 children — from Nazi-occupied France to concentration camps during the war. Fewer than 3,000 returned alive.

The council said that the French government of the time "allowed or facilitat-

ed the deportation from France of victims of anti-Semitic persecution."

"In an absolute rupture with the values and principles notably of the dignity of the human person ... these anti-Semitic persecutions provoked exceptional damage of extreme gravity," it said.

The statement legally formalized a historic gesture by then-President Jacques Chirac in 1995, when he became the first French leader to say the nation bore responsibility for the deportation of Jews in wartime France. Chirac broke with the official position that France's Vichy regime was not synonymous with the French state.

"For us, it was France. The uniforms were French. The Germans did not always ask the Vichy government to do

what it did," said Serge Klarsfeld, a renowned French Nazi hunter and Holocaust historian.

Since Chirac's speech, deportees and their families have won special state pensions and other compensation for their suffering. Some €500 million has been paid out by a state commission established in 2000, according to Klarsfeld.

Monday's decision could put an end to the quest for such reparations.

A Paris court had sought the Council of State's opinion on a request by the daughter of a deportee who died at Auschwitz for reparations from the French state. She also was asking for material and moral damages for her own personal suffering during and after the occupation.

UAW, GM make progress in talks

Associated Press

DETROIT — With a government-imposed deadline for its restructuring plan just a day away, General Motors Corp. was making progress Monday in concession talks with debtholders and its main union, but deals may not come until after the deadline passes, according to people briefed on the situation.

Talks at GM and Chrysler LLC, both of which are living off billions in government loans, continued Monday with few details emerging. Both companies must submit plans to the Treasury Department by Tuesday to show how they will repay the loans and become viable again.

Two people briefed on the GM plan reported progress toward a deal with the United Auto Workers. Both spoke on condition of anonymity because the negotiations are private.

But UAW Legislative Director Alan Reuther said Monday he does not expect labor agreements in time for Tuesday's deadline.

One of the people briefed on GM's plan said some parts, such as bondholder and labor agreements, probably won't be complete by the time the plan is submitted to the Treasury Department late Tuesday. GM executives have said the company only has to show substantial progress by Tuesday, with the whole plan finalized

by March 31.

Reuther, who heads the UAW's Washington office, said he had not been updated on the talks since Sunday night but he doesn't expect agreements before Tuesday. He said the Obama administration's appointment Sunday night of a task force to oversee the automakers' restructuring should get things moving.

"I think this is an ongoing process, and having the Obama administration finally putting this task force in operation, hopefully it will be able to facilitate discussions going forward," Reuther said.

At GM, UAW bargainers walked out of talks Friday night in a spat over the company's contributions to a union-run trust fund that will take on retiree health care expenses starting next year. Although talks resumed Sunday, Reuther said the union's concerns had not been resolved.

GM has received \$9.4 billion in government loans and is to get another \$4 billion if its plan is approved by the government. Chrysler received \$4 billion and could get \$3 billion more if its plan is approved. The plans must include concessions from debtholders and unions as well as substantial restructuring.

GM is likely to seek more money, at least up to the \$18 billion that it requested from Congress in December under its worst-case scenario projections. That scenario has

arrived with U.S. sales at a 26-year low and auto sales dropping in other parts of the world, a person briefed on GM's plan said.

The plan will stick with GM's public strategy of trying to remain viable and avoiding Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, said the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the plan has not been finalized.

GM's plan will discuss cost savings from labor concessions and additional plant closures, but the locations of those plants will not be revealed, another person briefed on the plan said Monday. The number of factories to be closed wasn't available.

GM's board met Monday by teleconference to go over the plan, but details could not be obtained.

The people briefed on the plan said it will include more information about how GM will cut some of its eight brands, although nothing will be finalized. The company already has said Saab and Hummer are up for sale and Saturn is under review, leaving GM to focus on Chevrolet, Cadillac, GMC and Buick, with Pontiac reduced to one or two models.

Earlier, local union officials said negotiations had been slowed by the Obama administration's delay in appointing a "car czar." But Sunday night, the White House announced a task force to oversee the companies' restructuring.

Obama to decide troop levels in Afghanistan

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's chief spokesman said Monday that he will make a decision "within days, not weeks," on how many additional troops to send to Afghanistan, and when.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs made the observation in a chat with reporters Monday aboard Air Force One as Obama and his family flew back to the Washington area after a long weekend in his hometown of Chicago.

The president, his wife and daughters arrived at the military base just outside Washington at midday Monday. His family had left for Chicago on Friday aboard Air Force One. Among items topping Obama's agenda this week is signing into law the \$787 billion economic stimulus plan that Congress passed last Friday.

Obama has been widely believed likely to send fresh forces to the Afghan battle even as a wide review of U.S. strategy and goals there gets fully under way.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates had told a Pentagon news conference last week that Obama "will have several options in front of him." Gates suggested, as have other offi-

cials, that the ground commander in Afghanistan would eventually get all the forces he has asked for, but no more.

Lt. Gen. David McKiernan wants more fighting forces and support troops such as helicopter crews to push back against the Taliban in Afghanistan's increasingly dangerous south and eastern regions.

An opponent of the "surge" of U.S. forces that is now credited with turning around the Iraq war, Obama has taken a cautious approach to the addition of forces in Afghanistan. He is expected to initially approve only part of a military request for as many as 30,000 forces this year, while military and civilian advisers revamp U.S. war goals.

While in Chicago, the first family did not have a public schedule. The president played basketball with friends, visited the gym and got a haircut. Barack and Michelle Obama celebrated Valentine's Day with a dinner at Oprah Winfrey's personal chef's restaurant on Saturday.

It was Obama's first significant break since taking office on Jan. 20.

Obama won't be in Washington long; he heads to Denver, Colo., Arizona and Canada this week and he plans to sign the stimulus legislation in Denver.



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AMEX	1,401.12	0.00	
NASDAQ	1,534.36	0.00	
NYSE	5,206.76	0.00	
S&P 500	826.84	0.00	
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	7,750.17	0.00	
FTSE 100 (London)	4,134.75	-54.84	

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
SPDR S&P 500 (SPY)	-1.08	-0.90	82.76
BK OF AMERICA (BAC)	-5.11	-0.30	5.57
FINANCIAL SEL SPDR (XLF)	-3.80	-0.35	8.85
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	-0.46	-0.14	30.43

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+5.68	+0.1550	2.88
13-WEEK BILL	+1.75	0.00	0.29
30-YEAR BOND	+6.35	+0.22	3.68
5-YEAR NOTE	-8.56	+0.1470	1.86

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IN BRIEF

Clinton weighs in on economic crisis

WASHINGTON — Former President Bill Clinton said Monday he thinks the country will surmount the current economic crisis, but sees the threat of terrorism and global instability as a longer-term problem.

Clinton also gave President Barack Obama high marks for the \$787 billion economic stimulus bill that Obama will sign into law as early as Tuesday.

"I think he's off to a good start," Clinton said. "I think he's got a good team."

He said he thought Obama's White House handled the stimulus issue relatively well, "given the fact they had to do it in a hurry."

Clinton also said he believes the massive bill, which combines spending and tax cuts, will be "our bridge over troubled waters."

He confirmed he has talked to Obama about the job, although Clinton said he didn't want to be too specific.

He said he talked to the new president about "nuts and bolts" issues of the presidency and how to keep things from "falling through the cracks."

Job losses coupled with home losses

TOKYO — In corporate Japan, losing your job can mean losing your home as well.

As major companies cut their work forces in the economic downturn, many Japanese workers are finding themselves out on the street because they have to move out of company-run dormitories.

Sadanori Suzuki was one of them.

The 26-year-old lost his job at a car factory in December, and by mid-January he was kicked out of the dorm run by his employer. He moved from Internet cafes — which often have private rooms and double as flop houses — to "capsule" hotels, which are coffin-like individual compartments just for sleeping. But within two weeks he was nearly broke and out on the street.

He found his way to a Shinto shrine in Kawagoe, a Tokyo suburb, where he planned to take temporary refuge. But the worship hall was locked. Exasperated, Suzuki set fire on the shrine, then called police from a nearby pay phone and turned himself in. When he was arrested, last week, he had only 10 yen (11 cents).

PBGC sees \$11 billion deficit grow

Government corporation that insures 44 million pensions affected by economy

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The deepening recession spells trouble for a little-known government corporation that insures the pensions of 44 million workers and retirees.

The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. already has an \$11 billion deficit that seems sure to grow larger as Corporate America suffers through the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression.

With companies reporting shortfalls in their pension funds, it's all but certain that the PBGC will be forced to take over the pension plans of a rising number of bankrupt businesses.

That means more red ink at the corporation before things possibly can improve.

The future financial health of the agency is hard to forecast. It is hinged on interest rates, the length of the recession and the PBGC's own luck in playing the market, where it has billions invested.

The agency has \$63 billion in assets. But it is obligated to spend \$74 billion on pension benefits in the coming years. The PBGC might have time to rebound, but over the long term it might become insolvent and require a bailout.

"Someday — probably more than 20 years from now — there's a significant chance that somebody is going to have to pay the piper," said former PBGC Director Charles E.F. Millard, a Bush administration appointee who stepped down on Jan. 20 when Barack Obama became president. "In the near- to medium-term, there will be no need for a bailout of PBGC."

The PBGC quietly operates in a brick office



Members of the House and Senate discuss the economic stimulus bill. While PBGC has seen their deficit grow during the recession, it will not receive funding from the legislation.

building a few blocks from the White House. Its fate is important to the workers covered by the more than 29,000 employer-sponsored benefit pension plans it insures, and to all taxpayers who could be asked to foot the bill if its financial picture worsens down the road.

Congress created the PBGC in 1974 to guarantee the retirement security of workers covered by defined benefit pension plans. These traditional plans, which pay a specified monthly benefit at retirement, are being phased out as companies

turn to 401(k)-style programs that require workers to make contributions and shoulder investment risks. The PBGC, which receives no tax dollars, gets its money from premiums paid by companies that sponsor the pension plans, along with revenue from its investments.

The corporation's balance sheet has taken heavy hits in recent years. Nine of the 10 largest pension plan terminations in PBGC's history, including United Airlines, Bethlehem Steel and Kaiser Aluminum, have occurred since 2001.

When a plan is terminated, the PBGC takes over and pays benefits to the retired workers. But they might not get the full amount that their employer promised. The maximum guaranteed amount currently is \$54,000 a year for a person retiring at age 65.

Some pension experts shrug their shoulders at the PBGC's \$11 billion deficit, noting that the 35-year-old corporation has been operating at a deficit for most of its existence. They say the PBGC has many years to recoup its losses and fulfill its obligations to pensioners.

Oil prices stable as demand decreases

Associated Press

SINGAPORE — Oil prices stayed above \$37 a barrel Monday in Asia as OPEC members talked up more production cuts over the weekend amid weakening global demand for crude.

Light, sweet crude for March delivery fell 6 cents to \$37.45 a barrel by midday in Singapore on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose \$3.53 on Friday to settle at \$37.51.

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has implemented most of the 4.2 million barrels a day of output reductions announced since September, but the cuts have been overwhelmed by a collapse in crude demand amid the global slowdown.

On Sunday, Mohammed Saleh al-Sada, Qatar's minister of state for

energy and industry affairs, said OPEC is ready to cut output further when it meets next month. Al-Sada said a reasonable price for oil would be \$70 a barrel.

Venezuelan Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez said Saturday his country would support new production cuts in the face of rising crude inventories.

"It's probably 50-50 that they'll cut again in March," said Clarence Chu, a trader at market maker Hudson Capital Energy in Singapore. "The budgets of a lot of those countries run on oil so they need the price higher."

Even within OPEC, however, there is skepticism over whether reducing supply will spur higher prices.

Moussa Marafi, a high-ranking Kuwaiti oil official, told Annahar newspaper in comments published

Sunday that crude prices are unlikely to rise above \$40 per barrel, even if OPEC decides to cut as much as 2 million barrels per day next month.

Oil prices are being pressured by surging U.S. crude inventories and a lack of compliance to quotas by some OPEC members, he said.

"Until demand picks up, oil won't have a significant rally," Chu said. "Another big OPEC cut could add \$5 to the price, but it's not going to send it to \$70."

U.S. markets are closed Monday for Presidents Day.

Investors have already priced in the passage of a \$787 billion stimulus package that President Barack Obama plans to sign on Tuesday and will be looking for its impact on consumer and industrial demand in the coming months.

Ex-inmates hope for reconciliation after incarceration

Congress-approved Second Chance Act could help non-violent offenders find jobs, housing and counseling

Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Ex-convict Vikki Hankins had the misfortune of being freed from prison during the worst recession since the Great Depression. While serving an 18-year sentence for a nonviolent federal drug conviction, she was assured of taxpayer-funded food and shelter.

Now on the outside after her first offense, she lives in a motel room and struggles to find work.

Like thousands leaving prison amid the economic slump, Hankins could be helped by the Second Chance Act, a program approved by Congress to help nonviolent offenders get a new start on life.

Signed by then-president George W. Bush in April, the Second Chance Act is designed to help ex-convicts get jobs, housing and counseling. But congressional backers worry the act may not even see its first dollar as billions in taxpayer money are being shunted to the nation's economic bailout.

"I want to establish a life for myself. But where is my home going to be? What am I going to do for the rest of my life?" Hankins said.

Like many ex-cons, the 40-year-old wants a house, a job and a car. Since her release last spring, she has lived in Orlando-area motels and has been turned down dozens of times for jobs in fast food restaurants serving the Disney World

throngs.

Potential employers have been scared off by her past, and she's one of many people looking for work in Florida. The state's jobless rate hovers above 8 percent, topping the national average.

Hankins does administrative work with a group started by a retired federal corrections officer, called Advocate 4 Justice, which lobbies lawmakers to reinstate federal parole — particularly for nonviolent drug offenders. In exchange, the group helps pay her weekly motel bills and some basics such as toiletries and clothing. Still, she hasn't made enough for a car or a down-payment on an apartment rental.

"In many ways," Hankins said, "it's harder than being incarcerated."

Hankins, who heard about the Second Chance Act about the time she was released, is watching and waiting to see if its funding will be approved this year.

Lawmakers believed the Second Chance Act could help whittle down some of the \$50 billion-plus spent on offenders

behind bars. According to the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2.3 million people in the U.S. are held in jails, state lockups or federal facilities.

The Second Chance law won wide bipartisan support in 2008. Lawmakers anticipated setting aside \$165 million a year in grants to nonprofit organizations, religious groups and states to help prisoners re-enter society, but so far no funding has been approved.

U.S. Rep. Danny Davis, D-Illinois, said funding for Second Chance wasn't part of the stimulus bill; instead, it is expected to be in the annual appropriations package.

Those who work with ex-felons say grant money from Second Chance would support programs already in place or fund new ones that would help keep tens of thousands of ex-offenders from going back to overcrowded prisons — saving taxpayer money in the long run.

"In this economy, many of these individuals are going to be left out, left behind," said Davis, who sponsored the Second Chance Act. "At the end of the day, they will be just as unemployed as before."

Backers say the Second Chance Act is needed now more than ever because money for state or community-funded programs is tight.

"We have to work really hard to make this happen," said Jessica Nickel of the Washington, D.C.-based Justice Center of the Council of State Governments. "These people are coming home to our community, and having a job and a place to live are critical if you want them to be upstanding, taxpaying citizens."

Kemba Smith, 37, of Washington, D.C., is a former inmate who, like Hankins, received a long sentence for a first-time drug offender.

"Having a record, especially a drug conviction, does limit one's ability to move forward. How long should someone's past follow them?" said Smith, whose sentence was commuted by a 2000 presidential pardon.

Upon her release, Smith was hired as an administrative assistant by a law firm that was familiar with her story. She has since become a motivation speaker and educator, and a Hollywood producer has optioned her story.

"Even though my past kind of haunts me, my motivation when I got out was to keep pushing forward regardless of what doors close in my face," she said.

But the chief of the federal probation office in Tampa, Elaine Terenzi, says not all ex-

offenders have Smith's drive. Terenzi hopes the Second Chance Act funds will flow to ex-convicts who face enormous obstacles after prison.

"People who have served 10-, 15-year terms, many of their expectations are no longer feasible," Terenzi said. "Everything is so different."

Even those who served short sentences are discovering their criminal record is an employment barrier.

Donald Carter of Cincinnati thought he'd have no problem getting a job after three months' behind bars on a felony child support charge.

The 57-year-old had worked for years helping the mentally disabled, but spent months searching for jobs in and out of the social work field after his June release.

"I was so discouraged," he said. "That felony, it stigmatizes you; it makes employers put you in another category."

A tough economy didn't help either.

So Carter enrolled in a Cincinnati program that is already trying some of the concepts of the Second Chance Act and could qualify for funding under the law. Program leaders taught Carter interviewing skills, job-hunting tactics and wrote letters for to a judge who wondered why Carter hadn't found employment.

The program worked. Carter landed a job in December with a defense contractor.

"I want to establish a life for myself. But where is my home going to be? What am I going to do for the rest of my life?"

**Vikki Hankins
ex-convict
Orlando, Fla.**



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S.C. Police announce Phelps won't face drug charges

Lack of physical evidence keeps Olympic star out of hot water; eight others arrested, seven charged in investigation

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Now that Michael Phelps won't face drug charges, he can try to distance himself from a photo that showed the Olympian smoking a marijuana pipe.

A South Carolina sheriff decided Monday after a highly publicized investigation that he simply didn't have enough physical evidence to charge the 14-time gold medalist.

"We had a photo and we had him saying he was sorry for his inappropriate behavior. That behavior could've been going to a party," Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said.

"He never said, 'I smoked marijuana.' He never confessed that," the sheriff said.

Phelps, who lost a major endorsement and faces a three-month competition suspension in the fallout from the photo, said he was ready to put the ordeal behind him.

"For me, it's all about recognizing that I used bad judgment and it's a mistake I won't make again," the swimmer said in a statement. "For young people especially — be careful about the decisions you make. One bad decision can really hurt you and the people you care about. I really appreciate the support my family and fans have shown me."

The photo showed Phelps smoking from a marijuana pipe at a party in November when he visited the University of South Carolina.

Lott said authorities seized the marijuana water pipe, known as a bong, in the photo during the investigation but couldn't prove Phelps had smoked from it.

Holding a bong is not a crime, he said.

"They're sold in stores. We're kind of sending a double message," Lott said. "You can buy rolling papers at any convenience store in the world, but we're telling kids not to smoke dope."

Phelps didn't get through the scandal unscathed, though. USA Swimming suspended Phelps for three months in the wake of the photo, and Kellogg Co. said it would not renew its endorsement deal with him.

And while the swimmer won't face any charge, eight people were arrested during the investigation when a small amount of marijuana was found in raids on two homes. The bong was found in a car.

Seven people have been charged with simple possession of marijuana, which carries a maximum penalty of 30 days in jail or a \$575 fine. Another person was arrested for driving under suspension.

The sheriff, known for his tough stance on drug crimes, said ignoring the photo would have sent a message of tolerance.

Phelps' "bad decision and the highly published photo placed me and the Richland County Sheriff's Department in a no-win situation. Ignore it and be criticized or address it and be criticized. I chose to do what was right," said Lott, a Democrat who was first elected in 1996.

Lott rose from patrol officer to captain of the narcotics division in the early 1990s. He was well-known in the county for wearing stylish suits like the drug agents on "Miami Vice" and driving a



Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott holds a press conference on Feb. 16 in Columbia, S.C., to announce that Michael Phelps would not be charged as a result of the photograph that was published, which pictured him smoking from a bong during a November party.

Porsche seized from a drug dealer.

The sheriff said the investigation involved two narcotics officers that logged 25 hours over about a week. He said the house where the November party took place and another suburban home near Columbia had previously been investigated for drugs.

His investigation was criticized in newspaper editorials, on talk shows and by defense attorneys who questioned whether the sheriff was being overzealous because of Phelps' celebrity status.

Even if the sheriff had the evidence needed, he acknowledged Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott holds a press conference on Monday, Feb. 16, 2009, in Columbia, S.C., to announce that Michael Phelps would not be charged as a result of the photograph that was published, which pictured him smoking from a bong during a November party. He could not force Phelps to return to South Carolina to face a misdemeanor possession charge.

One of the attorneys representing the three students arrested said the accused were all in their

early 20s. Attorney Dick Harpootlian said the police kicked in the doors with guns drawn during the raids and found less than a cigarette's worth of marijuana in the house where the party was held. The other raid netted about four or five cigarettes worth, Harpootlian said.

The lawyer expects his clients to either have the charge dismissed or for them to get a conditional discharge, which allows an offender to avoid punishment as long as they comply with certain conditions for six months and stay out of trouble.

Dial-up still viable due to economy

Associated Press

With the costs of home-schooling a special-needs child, Arlene Dawes of Raleigh, N.C., says dial-up Internet is more attuned to her budget than broadband. Chuck Hester says the high-speed Internet options available in his rural neighborhood near Little Rock, Ark., are too pricey.

Lightning speed Internet is the wave of the future. But in a recession, good old dial-up service might get a longer look. Now Internet providers that have seen their dial-up customer base whittled over the past decade see an opportunity to stay in the game by offering the budget-conscious a cheaper option.

"Dial-up is declining overall, but that doesn't mean it's not still a viable business," said Kevin Brand, senior vice president of product management at EarthLink Inc. "There's still a big market out there and during these tough times, even customers who have bundles including broadband may be looking at their bill and thinking, 'Do I really need all this?'"

With that in mind, EarthLink recently rolled out a dial-up offer of \$7.95 per month, low-

ering its cheapest service — and undercutting competitors — by \$2.

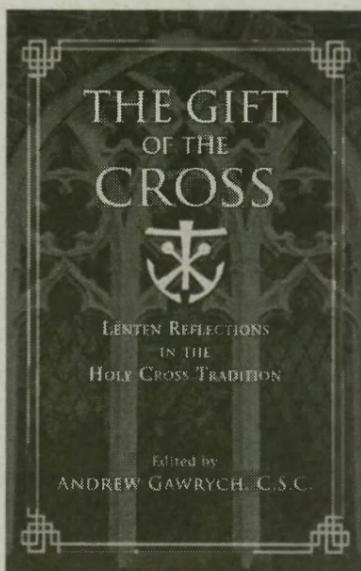
The move to more aggressively court new dial-up users is striking, since it's a market many consumers have fled.

Only 9 percent of Americans were still using dial-up in a study last year by the Pew Internet & American Life Project. Time Warner Inc.'s AOL, once the king of dial-up with almost 27 million U.S. subscribers at its peak, decided long ago to prop itself up instead on advertising revenue. Now AOL, whose Internet subscribers are still mainly dial-up customers, counts 6.9 million of them.

United Online, which offers dial-up through its NetZero and Juno services for \$9.95 a month, hasn't said whether it will match EarthLink's discount. But the company's ads signal the same approach to the recession.

"The economy is tough," Chief Executive Mark Goldston says in a recent TV commercial, claiming the 56 million American households with broadband could save \$16 billion a year by switching to NetZero dial-up. "It comes down the need for speed or the need to save," he says.

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Obama is not Lincoln

Even before he was elected, Barack Obama has attempted to model his rise to power and subsequent presidency on that of his hero, Abraham Lincoln. From the announcement of his candidacy at the Old State Capitol in Springfield where Lincoln gave his "House Divided" speech, to his arrival by train to Washington, D.C. on Inauguration Day, to being sworn in with his hand on the very Bible Lincoln used, to dining upon Lincoln-inspired foods at the Inaugural luncheon, Obama shows no qualms about comparing himself to the man who often sits atop historians' lists of greatest presidents in our nation's history.

The mainstream media, throwing all semblance of objectivity aside in an orgy of adulation for their beloved Chosen One, have seized upon the President's own blatantly deliberate attempts to draw parallels between himself and Lincoln with immense enthusiasm.

They eagerly point out that the two men were both lawyers of humble origins, both began their political careers in Illinois, and both served in that state's legislature. They compare Obama's eloquence to Lincoln's profound gift of rhetoric. They have even gone as far as observing their similarities in height and stature to prove their point. And instead of honoring the real man of the hour, they transformed the celebration of the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth into yet another chance to tout Obama's Lincolnesque qualities.

In their eyes, the current president might as well don a stovepipe hat, grow a beard, and have his visage carved into the side of Mount Rushmore.

Now I understand that it is perfectly reasonable for presidents to draw inspiration from their predecessors, and Obama has every right to express gratitude to

Lincoln for setting the stage that enabled him to become the first African-American president. But when the endless barrage of analogies begins to distort the truth, we must take a step back to reevaluate the accuracy of our oversimplified characterizations.

Indeed, there exist substantial differences between the two men that go beyond the superficial level of origin, career and appearance.

For instance, Obama's admirers and critics alike praise him as a gifted speaker, just as generations of Americans continue to extol Lincoln's powerful speeches. The difference, though, is that while Lincoln's rhetoric is steeped in substance and profound wisdom, Obama's words lose their luster when read from a transcript. The phrase, "yes we can" may have been an effective campaigning tool, but in terms of content, it holds next to nothing.

Upon closer inspection of their ideologies, it becomes apparent that Obama's vision for America dramatically diverges from the path Lincoln carved as president. When Lincoln assumed office in the midst of Southern secession, he knew that the nation would have to fight a war in order to remain united. Unlike his Secretary of State, William Seward, who attempted to reach an agreement with the South that would convince them to remain in the Union, Lincoln refused to budge on his opposition to the spread of slavery, even though he knew this would provoke Southern aggression. Somehow I can't see Obama, the champion of diplomacy and reaching out to hostile nations, taking a similar stance.

Obviously Lincoln was not very popular among Southerners, but many people today are unaware of the fact that some Northerners criticized the president, claiming that he was bent on destroying civil liberties and had become a tyrant. Rather than preserve the Union, these Northern Democrats were willing to call for an end to the Civil War, even if it meant granting Southerners their independence as a slave-holding nation. Obama and Democrats today, like their

forebears in the North, would rather see that terrorists are granted the right to habeas corpus and pull our troops out of Iraq than ensure American victory there.

But the most prominent difference between Lincoln and Obama stems from Lincoln's steadfast devotion to individual liberty. Although modern historians trace the expansive growth of the federal government to Lincoln's assumption of broad presidential power during wartime, the President never intended for his actions to establish a precedent upon which his successors could claim increased authority. Writing in response to accusations of tyranny, Lincoln declared:

"I can no more be persuaded that the Government can constitutionally take no strong measures in time of rebellion, because it can be shown that the same could not lawfully be taken in time of peace, than I can be persuaded that a particular drug is not good medicine for a sick man, because it can be shown not to be good for a well one."

Here, Lincoln demonstrates his recognition that his actions were authorized by extraordinary circumstances, but would not be justified during any other time. Furthermore, the argument that Lincoln's support for a strong federal government as opposed to states' rights would have made him a liberal in today's world because back then there was disagreement over whether or not the states had the legal ability to withdraw from Constitutional rule. Today, the states' rights debate deals with opposition to the federal government's encroachment upon the states' sphere of authority as delegated by the Constitution in the Tenth Amendment. Obama and his party are seeking to expand the federal government to new levels of vastness; Lincoln, with his heightened understanding of the Constitution, would balk at the suggestion.

Christie Pesavento is a junior and can be reached at cpesaven@nd.edu. The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.



Christie Pesavento

Right Winging It

EDITORIAL CARTOON



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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"When a quiet man is moved to passion, it seems the very earth will shake."

Stephanie Barron
author

Explore your 2nd Amendment right

I bet when you turned 18 you were excited to finally be able to legally buy a lottery ticket, tobacco products, and maybe even some pornography, but I bet you overlooked a critical freedom that became available when you crossed that milestone. In most states of the union, at age 18 you are able to purchase a long gun, which includes shotguns and many types of rifles, as long as you are an American citizen, are not a criminal, and have no record of unstable mental health. At 21, you are able to purchase a handgun in most states. That's good to know, but why would anyone need to think about buying one? Aren't guns outdated tools that are only useful in movies filled with zombies?

Mark Easley

Guest Column

There are many arguments as to why or why not the second amendment should be heeded. One is hunting, and yes, there are still people who mostly survive off of what they shoot today. I think their rights should be secure as long as they hunt within the law, but I have to admit that is a small percentage of the population. Opponents argue that guns cause crime, which I again have to admit that guns make crimes much easier to commit. They argue that the police have guns and it's their job to stop the "bad guys." Now we come to the crucial juncture. We have institutionalized personal protection and outsourced it to others who are not our person. In the process we have surrendered our right to defend ourselves and instead have to pray for the help of those who are tasked by law to

help us.

But what if no one comes? We have seen in episodes like Hurricane Katrina, you can't depend on the government to save you (doesn't matter who is in the White House). Now the majority democrats and liberals in the federal government will actively seek to limit your gun ownership rights even further. When this happens, you will be even more dependent on others to save you when chaos breaks out or as I like to say, "when the fecal matter hits the propeller."

Buying a gun is not a complicated matter. At a certified dealer, you select a firearm that matches your needs. Like anything, you should shop around and find the real price. You may expect to fill out a mountain of paperwork to secure ownership in this country, but in fact it is only one or two sheets of paper with questions certifying that you are eligible to own a firearm. The dealer will then call in to the Department of Justice to verify that you check out, and the whole process takes about half an hour, give or take. It is always important to handle guns safely and before purchasing firearm, one should research gun safety tips or consult a professional. Gun ownership is a hefty responsibility. Any crimes committed with your firearm will be traced back to you, and any fatal mistakes you make while handling a gun will live with you forever. It is illegal to conceal your weapon in public without a concealed carry license, which can be acquired through a certification class.

Shooting guns can be a lot of fun, and there are many places that cater to gun enthusiasts. Often there will be

gun clubs or local ranges in your area, where you can practice against targets. These places are good areas to interact with other gun owners and pick up tips and tricks to improve your accuracy and gun handling.

Thomas Jefferson wrote specifically in the Declaration of Independence that "Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness." Without guns, the revolutionaries would not have been able to break away from the tyranny of English monarchy. And so, it is a sacred right of Americans to also bear arms in the event our government is perverted by evil men, so that we as a people may restore a republic of "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

Guns are an insurance policy for survival when the law no longer applies. Whether it's in the back alley with a gangster or the collapse of civilization, the ones who are prepared will be the ones who have a better chance to survive.

Mark Easley is a freshman computer engineering major. He can be contacted at measley@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Catholic university

Tom O'Neil's column in the Observer Monday (How Notre Dame Sneakily Killed off the Queer Film Festival, Feb. 16) provided another example of someone who is shocked and offended when Notre Dame, rather than accommodate the radical views of a few, sticks to its Catholic roots. Just how radical are his views? Well, Mr. O'Neil answered that himself when he asked rhetorically, "But why hasn't anyone noticed? And why haven't Notre Dame leaders been denounced for the shocking way they killed off the fest? Why hasn't the Faculty or Student Senate issued new resolutions denouncing the University for this?" The reason O'Neil was only able to ask this question rhetorically is that, to put it simply, very few DO notice.

This play is not missed, despite all the wishes of disgruntled alums to the contrary. Notre Dame is a Catholic university that attempts to act in a way that is in accord with Catholic morality. Although there have been missteps in this endeavor along the way, including the initial acceptance of this play, that is no reason to further misstep in order to please a select few. Notre Dame's mission as a Catholic university is to guide its students in pursuit of the truth. How, then, could Notre Dame possibly reconcile support for such activities the Church deems, categorically, inimical to truth? In O'Neil's words, this amounts to "a gay bashing successfully pulled off by one of the most notoriously anti-gay universities in America." There is nothing "anti-gay" about Notre Dame. The Catholic Church is clear, however, in Her position on homosexual activity: "Basing itself on sacred Scripture, which presents homosexual acts as acts of grave depravity, tradition has always declared that homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered. They are contrary to the natural law. They close the sexual act to the gift of life. They do not proceed from a genuine affective and sexual complementarity. Under no circumstances can they be approved" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2357). It should be clear, then, why, as O'Neil put it, "It was a miracle, frankly, that the Queer Film Festival was permitted to exist at such a conservative Catholic school." This is because to allow such a production runs counter to the core of Catholic teaching.

O'Neil asks about the festival, "How could it go on without being able to identify itself?" I would ask Mr. O'Neil the same question about Notre Dame. You, sir, along with others, completely disregard the Catholic identity of the university and attempt to morph it to fit your specific worldview. Fortunately, there are many more people who wish to maintain this identity than those who wish to crush it. Notre Dame cannot allow its mission to be shaped by those determined to demoralize it. Mr. O'Neil, you should have made a different college choice if you had viewing homosexual productions on your college priority list. I'm sure there are plenty to choose from. As for Notre Dame, it is different, and that's what makes it so wonderful.

Brad Duffy

alum

class of 2008

Feb. 16

No class on St. Patrick's Day

While looking at a schedule, I noticed that classes are in session on March 17, 2009 here at Notre Dame. This is absolutely preposterous (this is not sarcasm. I'm totally serious!) This is Notre Dame, so we should be throwing the biggest St. Patrick's Day Celebration outside of Ireland itself, NOT going to class. Also, St. Patrick is a very important saint. He brought Christianity to Ireland and helped it spread rather quickly. Although many schools have class on his very special day, I think we should show St. Patrick some respect and cancel classes.

Kevin Eller

freshman

Stanford

Feb. 16

Respect doesn't stop at the Atlantic

I was appalled and dismayed this weekend when I heard students from Our Lady's University shouting obscenities and telling students from a fellow Big East University that they "suck." This event was not at a local sporting event or match. It was not even in America for that matter. I found myself riding an escalator out of the London Underground when three young men behind me were yelling at a group of students from this fellow University. They riddled them with obscenities and told them that they "sucked." They also continued to tell the students that they attended a "terrible school." I felt unease in my stomach as I began to pray that these students did not represent Notre Dame, but some other Big East school. To my sadness, they continued to curse and shout loudly behind me, before excitedly telling anyone and everyone within earshot that they were Notre Dame architecture students visiting for the weekend from Rome.

I am writing this letter to remind you that just because an ocean splits you from Our Lady's University that your conduct is still a reflection of the great University you all attend and we attended. Shouting obscenities and telling other students that they are inferior does not represent us well; in fact it was embarrassing to me and my wife that we also graduated from the University at which these students now call their own. I do not hold this against these three young men for their obvious intoxicated nature at noon on a Sunday was apparent to even the most innocent of those around us. No, I know that they were making an ill-advised attempt to have a good time and show their spirit for Notre Dame. I just implore you to remember that respect is a virtue, and school spirit does not need to include a complete and utter lack of respect for your fellow college students. It is an honor and privilege to attend and someday graduate from Notre Dame. Let us never forget the fact that Notre Dame reaches far beyond the simple shores of America and the respect we show for one another must resonate across the globe.

Matthew Frey

alum

class of 2006

Feb. 16

FRIDAY THE 13THslashes its way
to relative successBy JIM MCGUIRE
Scene Writer

If you're a slasher movie fan, your taste for blood has probably been wanting at the cinema lately. Who wants to watch some girl get haunted by her dead evil twin or, worse yet, see anemic vampires talk about their feelings? Never fear because one of horror's favorite sons, Jason Voorhees, the machete-wielding killing machine in a hockey mask, is back at Camp Crystal Lake to start some mayhem for any sexy teens who happen by in the remake of 1980's "Friday the 13th".

In the tradition of other recent horror remakes like 2003's "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" with Jessica Biel and Rob Zombie's 2007 "Halloween," this "Friday the 13th" has a much more polished and stylized look to it than the low-budget original. It is also a lot more gruesome with some of the most needlessly elaborate on-screen deaths in years.

The plot is really inconsequential but here it is anyway. Jason Voorhees has hidden himself away at the abandoned Camp Crystal Lake and, in order to avenge his long-dead (and equally insane) mother, kills whoever happens to intrude. This spells trouble for a

group of rich co-eds (played by mostly unknowns, including one-hit-wonder Willa Ford) coming to the lake to party as well as a guy named Clay ("Supernatural's" Jared Padalecki) who's come to the lake looking for his sister Whitney ("The OC's" Amanda Righetti) who disappeared under mysterious circumstances.

What transpires over the next hour and a half is pretty much an old-school slasher movie bloodbath, and

there are plenty of needlessly elaborate, cringe-worthy demises to suit anyone's tastes. Without giving spoilers, some of the best macabre moments involve a mishap with an iPod, a decorative wall furnishing and a sleeping bag being put in a precarious position. The film does try and inject some black humor throughout with moderate success, but basically you are just waiting for the next person to get axed. One certainly never ends up caring for

any of the over-sexed, perpetually wasted teenagers that get slaughtered in what ends up being a pretty predictable, check-list fashion. Although all the effects and gore are very (technically) well-done, it really isn't anything a horror fan hasn't seen or heard before a million times.

Jason Voorhees has always kind of been second-in-command to the likes of big horror movie baddies like Michael Myers and Freddy Krueger. This is pretty unfortunate because Jason has just as much history and on-screen presence as those icons, he's just a little different. That being said, Jason certainly deserved a high-quality Hollywood reboot like this, but it would have been a lot more effective if he had gotten a more original script to work with and something more to do than just brood and stab.

Contact Jim McGuire at
jmcguir2@nd.edu

In the tradition of other recent horror remakes like 2003's "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" with Jessica Biel and Rob Zombie's "Halloween," this "Friday the 13th" has a much more polished and stylized look to it than the low-budget original.

Friday the 13th

Director: Marcus Nispel

Starring: Jared Padalecki, Danielle Panabaker, Amanda Righetti, Willa Ford



"It's Not Me"
 ready for the dance floor,
 if not the rally

By MAIJA GUSTIN
 Scene Writer

Last week, British songstress Lily Allen followed up her acclaimed album "Alright, Still" with "It's Not Me, It's You." Allen still sounds like the same quirky pop-punk girl she was in "Alright, Still," but has stepped away a little from her formula with this new release.

While no less upbeat than "Alright, Still," "It's Not Me" shows Allen trying to deal with serious topics like love, sex, materialism, drugs and politics. You'd never know it, though since her songs are still perfectly tailored to the dance floor. Allen may not always succeed at making a political statement, but she does always succeed at making people want to dance.

Lily Allen's particular brand of pop may not suit the tastes of every listener, but it is infectious. Each song on "It's Not Me, It's You" could be a hit single. In some ways, this makes Allen's album less cohesive, but that's not really her goal. Each song is just meant to be a great song.

The album starts off with "Everyone's At It," which is total old-school Lily Allen. The song is so catchy that it's easy to forget that it's about drug-ridden society. As a message about drugs, it's not totally effective. At inducing head bobbing, it succeeds.

Next on the album is "The Fear," sung from the perspective of a spoiled rich girl. Again, it feels less like a song with a message and more like a catchy pop tune with an angle. Still, though, it's good. The third track, "Not Fair" is a sequel of sorts to "Not Big" from "Alright, Still." It's a hilarious number about less-than-stellar boyfriends actually set to the sound of Western-inspired banjos. Enough said. "Never Gonna Happen" is one of the best songs on the album. It features the best use of accordions in a pop song in a while, if not ever.

"F*** You" is the first single off the album, and it starts off sounding like a sitcom from the 70s. In reality, it's actually an anti-Bush song, and gives some insight into European perspective. It makes for an interesting context, but the song itself is just a great pop number. "Who'd Have Known"

and "Chinese," two classic pop ballads, prove that Lily Allen does actually have some vocal ability, and that she's not just an eccentric oddball.

"It's Not Me, It's You" is often raunchy, crass and explicit, but Lily Allen hides it well. Her songs often have the drug-like ability of distracting from the lyrics. The lyrics specifically are very hit-or-miss, but with Allen's sound, that doesn't really matter. Her songs are great pieces of pop that can revel in irrelevancy.

As a whole, the album is solid, but each song stands out in its own right. Lily Allen never fails at making fun music. Some of her songs are insightful political and social commentaries, while others just try to be, but she has created a great work of pop that deserves a listen.

Lily Allen will be playing in Chicago on April 12 at the Vic Theatre, which will undoubtedly be a great venue for Allen's danceable pure pop. This show is definitely worth a look.

Contact Maija Gustin at mgustin@nd.edu

Allen may not always succeed at making a political statement, but she does always succeed at making people want to dance.

It's Not Me, It's You
 Lily Allen

Label: Capitol

Recommended Tracks: "Chinese," "Alright, Still," "F*** You," "Everyone's At It," "Never Gonna Happen"



Lily Allen

It's Not Me, It's You



NBA

Porter out as Phoenix coach after just 51 games

Assistant coach Alvin Gentry to replace Porter as head coach, promises return to success for struggling Suns

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Terry Porter is out as coach of the Phoenix Suns. The failed effort to tame the Suns' offense went out the door with him.

The sputtering Suns fired Porter just four months into his first season as Phoenix coach and replaced him with assistant coach Alvin Gentry. Gentry promptly promised a return to the style so successful under Porter's predecessor, Mike D'Antoni.

"We are who we are and I think we have to go back to trying to establish a break-neck pace like we've had in the past," Gentry said at a news conference Monday announcing his promotion.

Phoenix (28-23) lost five of eight going into the All-Star break and trails Utah by one game for the eighth and final playoff spot in the West.

"We have enough talent that we should not be on the outside looking in right now," Gentry said.

The Suns' Grant Hill was with the Detroit Pistons when Gentry replaced the fired Doug Collins there.

"Considering the circumstances, considering what we've been through, he's probably the perfect person to take over at this time," Hill said after Monday's practice.

Gentry said the team needs to revert to the game that brought out the best in Steve Nash. Nash, twice the league

MVP with the Suns, called the coaching change "a difficult part of our business," but he welcomed the decision to go back to the high-octane game.

"That's a pretty natural thing for me and for our group, just kind of pick the pace up a little bit and open up avenues for our guys to excel," Nash said.

Gentry and Nash both said Shaquille O'Neal showed late last season he can be effective in a running system.

"The last 18 games we were 15-3 and we averaged 112 points a game with him in our lineup," Gentry said. "There's no reason — you saw him yesterday (in the All-Star Game) — why we can't run with him."

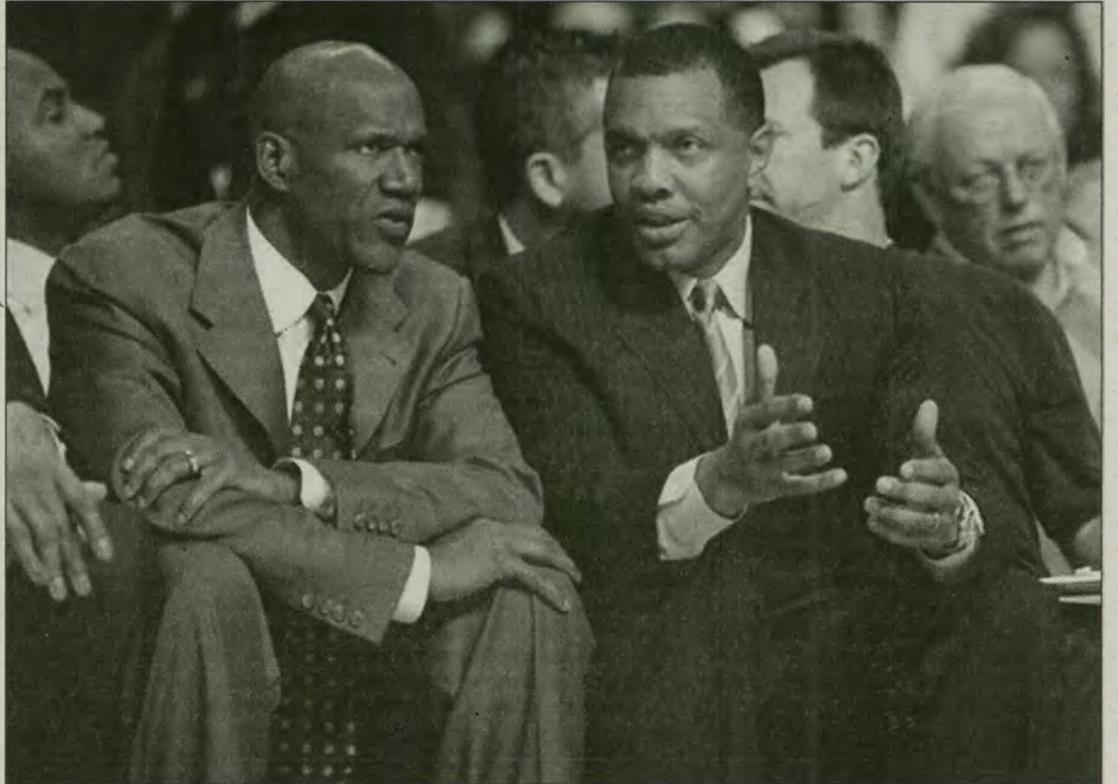
But the transition won't happen overnight, Nash said.

"We've got to get in shape, we've got to get that mentality back," he said. "I think we've also got to get some cohesion, find an understanding, a feeling between us that we're going to read and react rather than be as deliberate as we were. It takes time but I think it's worthwhile."

O'Neal, citing a cold and cough, did not talk to reporters after practice.

The Suns are the eighth team to fire a coach this season, meaning more than one-quarter of the league's coaches are gone at the All-Star break.

General manager Steve Kerr said he went to Porter's home



Former Suns coach Terry Porter, left, consults with new interim coach Alvin Gentry during a game against the Detroit Pistons Feb. 8 in Auburn Hills, Mich.

Sunday to tell him of the decision.

"I hired Terry because I believed in him. He's got a ton of integrity and dignity and class, and he's got a great work ethic," Kerr said. "I hired him because I believed he was the best man for the job."

But Kerr said he probably

underestimated the difficulty of the transition from D'Antoni's unorthodox style.

Porter, who played in the NBA for 17 seasons, was an assistant with the Pistons when he was hired by the Suns. The intention was for him to bring the Pistons' defense-oriented style with him. It was a bad fit.

"In the last month, it became apparent to me that, look, this is not working," Kerr said, "what we're trying is not working."

"I think we still can make this a very successful season. This was a move I think we had to make in order to give our team the best chance for success."

OLYMPICS

South Carolina sheriff: no marijuana charges for Phelps

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Now that Michael Phelps won't face drug charges, he can try to distance himself from a photo that showed the Olympian smoking a marijuana pipe.

A South Carolina sheriff decided Monday after a highly publicized investigation that he simply didn't have enough physical evidence to charge the 14-time gold medalist.

"We had a photo and we had him saying he was sorry for his inappropriate behavior. That behavior could've been going to a party," Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott said.

"He never said, 'I smoked

marijuana.' He never confessed that," the sheriff said.

Phelps, who lost a major endorsement and faces a three-month competition suspension in the fallout from the photo, said he was ready to put the ordeal behind him.

"For me, it's all about recognizing that I used bad judgment and it's a mistake I won't make again," the swimmer said in a statement. "For young people especially—be careful about the decisions you make. One bad decision can really hurt you and the people you care about. I really appreciate the support my family and fans have shown me."

The photo showed Phelps

smoking from a marijuana pipe at a party in November when he visited the University of South Carolina.

Lott said authorities seized the marijuana water pipe, known as a bong, in the photo during the investigation but couldn't prove Phelps had smoked from it.

Holding a bong is not a crime, he said.

"They're sold in stores. We're kind of sending a double message," Lott said. "You can buy rolling papers at any convenience store in the world, but we're telling kids not to smoke dope."

Phelps didn't get through the scandal unscathed, though. USA Swimming sus-

pended Phelps for three months in the wake of the photo, and Kellogg Co. said it would not renew its endorsement deal with him.

And while the swimmer won't face any charge, eight people were arrested during the investigation when a small amount of marijuana was found in raids on two homes. The bong was found in a car.

Seven people have been charged with simple possession of marijuana, which carries a maximum penalty of 30 days in jail or a \$575 fine. Another person was arrested for driving under suspension.

The sheriff, known for his tough stance on drug crimes,

said ignoring the photo would have sent a message of tolerance.

Phelps' "bad decision and the highly published photo placed me and the Richland County Sheriff's Department in a no-win situation. Ignore it and be criticized or address it and be criticized. I chose to do what was right," said Lott, a Democrat who was first elected in 1996.

Lott rose from patrol officer to captain of the narcotics division in the early 1990s. He was well-known in the county for wearing stylish suits like the drug agents on "Miami Vice" and driving a Porsche seized from a drug dealer.

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PERSONAL

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AROUND THE NATION

Tuesday, February 17, 2009

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

NCAA Men's AP Top 25 Rankings

team	record	points
1 Connecticut (66)	25-2	1,794
2 Oklahoma (4)	25-1	1,709
3 North Carolina (2)	23-2	1,676
4 Pittsburgh	24-2	1,589
5 Memphis	22-3	1,465
6 Michigan State	20-4	1,443
7 Louisville	19-5	1,280
8 Wake Forest	19-4	1,217
9 Duke	20-5	1,048
10 Marquette	21-4	1,045
11 Missouri	22-4	1,041
12 Villanova	20-5	983
13 Clemson	20-4	939
14 Arizona State	20-5	830
15 Kansas	20-5	651
16 Xavier	21-4	646
17 Gonzaga	19-5	599
18 Illinois	21-5	589
19 Purdue	19-6	582
20 UCLA	19-6	473
21 Butler	22-3	373
22 Washington	19-6	334
23 LSU	21-4	294
24 Syracuse	19-7	207
25 Dayton	23-3	194

NCAA Men's Basketball USA Today Top 25

team	points	record
1 Connecticut (30)	774	24-2
2 Oklahoma (1)	739	25-1
3 North Carolina	711	23-2
4 Pittsburgh	689	24-2
5 Michigan State	634	20-4
6 Memphis	618	22-3
7 Louisville	508	19-5
8 Wake Forest	489	19-4
9 Duke	468	20-5
10 Missouri	429	22-4
11 Marquette	409	21-4
12 Arizona State	409	20-5
13 Clemson	393	20-4
14 Villanova	377	20-5
15 UCLA	324	19-6
16 Illinois	294	21-5
17 Xavier	278	21-4
18 Kansas	268	20-5
19 Washington	224	19-6
20 Gonzaga	191	19-5
21 Purdue	176	19-6
22 Butler	162	22-3
23 Utah State	121	24-2
24 LSU	114	21-4
25 Syracuse	74	19-7

Big East Men's Basketball Standings

team	record
1 Pittsburgh	12-2
2 Marquette	10-2
3 Louisville	10-2
4 Connecticut	12-3
5 Villanova	8-4
6 Providence	8-5
7 Syracuse	7-6
8 Cincinnati	7-6
9 West Virginia	6-6
10 NOTRE DAME	5-7
11 Seton Hall	5-7
12 Georgetown	4-8
13 USF	3-9
14 St. John's	3-10
15 Rutgers	1-11
16 DePaul	0-13

NFL



Fred Taylor runs the football during the 2008 season. Taylor was released by the Jacksonville Jaguars on Monday after playing with the team for 11 seasons. Taylor is 16th on the all-time rushing yards leaders list.

Jags release veteran back Taylor

Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — Running back Fred Taylor wanted to end his career in Jacksonville, hoping to join the small list of standout players who spent an entire career with the same team. He won't get the chance. The Jaguars released Taylor on Monday, parting ways with their all-time leading rusher after 11 seasons and continuing the team's offseason makeover.

Coach Jack Del Rio flew to Fort Lauderdale earlier Monday to meet with Taylor and deliver the news. Del Rio made it clear the team has no plans to re-sign Taylor, who turned 33 last

month and was scheduled to make \$6 million next season.

"We felt like the best thing for this football team is what it has to be about," Del Rio said. "We feel good about the talented group of backs that we have ... and as you work through it, it's difficult to come up with a role that's going to be acceptable for everybody."

"It makes it awkward. It makes it difficult. We came to an agreement on what the best course of action was as a football team."

And that was to move on without Taylor, who ranks 16th on the NFL's career rushing list with 11,271 yards, 81 behind John

Riggins.

Taylor has said he would like to retire after passing Jim Brown (12,312) on the career list. Brown, Chicago's Walter Payton (16,726), Detroit's Barry Sanders (15,269) and San Diego's LaDainian Tomlinson (11,760) are the only running backs ahead of Taylor who spent their entire careers with the same team.

Taylor was not available for comment Monday.

Releasing Taylor was no surprise since he had clearly become the second option behind Maurice Jones-Drew. But deciding to not even try to bring back the longtime team captain was somewhat shocking, espe-

cially since the Jaguars endured chemistry issues last season after letting go of some veterans and bringing in high-priced free agents Jerry Porter and Drayton Florence.

The Jaguars released Porter and Florence last week. They also parted ways with longtime personnel chief James "Shack" Harris, defensive coordinator Gregg Williams, defensive backs coach Donnie Henderson and a few other assistants.

Taylor was next in line. Del Rio said it was time to turn the offense over to Jones-Drew, a 5-foot-7 dynamo who has scored 40 touchdowns in three years.

IN BRIEF

Ortiz in favor of year-long bans for steroids

FORT MYERS, Fla. — David Ortiz wants players who test positive for steroids to be suspended from baseball for a year instead of the current 50-game penalty.

Taking players to court, though, for cases involving use of the substances before players were subject to penalty is not the way to clean up the game, the Red Sox designated hitter said Monday.

"I would suggest everybody get tested, not random, everybody," he said. "You go team by team. You test everybody three, four times a year and that's about it."

And if a player tests positive for steroids?

"Ban 'em for the whole year," the slugger said.

The current penalties are a 50-game suspension for a player who tests positive once, 100 games for a second positive test for the same player, and a lifetime ban for a third positive test, though a player can seek to return after two years.

Richardson arrested for reckless driving with child

PHOENIX — The Phoenix Suns have suspended Jason Richardson for one game without pay as the result of his arrest on allegations he was driving 55 mph above the limit with his unrestrained 3-year-old son in the car.

In a brief statement late Monday afternoon, the Suns said Richardson would miss Tuesday night's home game against the Los Angeles Clippers "for conduct detrimental to the team."

A Scottsdale police officer first saw Richardson driving 67 mph in a 40 mph zone Sunday night and followed him, police said Monday. That's when the officer clocked him at 90 mph in a 35 mph zone and pulled him over.

Police said Richardson admitted to speeding and identified himself as a Suns player. The officer saw Richardson's son in the back seat of the car and that he was not in a child seat.

Richardson said he had taken his son to dinner and was on his way home.

Curry foresees return this week from injury

DAVIDSON, N.C. — Turns out Stephen Curry doesn't just have a lightning-quick release. He's a fast healer, too.

Davidson's star guard was walking with a just a slight limp Monday, two days after what appeared to be a gruesome injury to his left ankle.

The Wildcats host No. 21 Butler on Saturday in an important matchup for Davidson's NCAA tournament resume.

Curry was held out of practice Monday but was confident he could return this week — even if he couldn't bear to watch the replay of him turning his foot so badly his ankle scraped the floor.

"I saw it once and I turned it off," Curry said. "A few of my friends who saw it on TV were asking me if I had broke something because it looked pretty bad. I keep telling them that it looks worse on TV than it really was."

around the dial

College Basketball

No. 5 Michigan State at No. 21 Purdue
7 p.m., ESPN

Maryland at No. 13 Clemson
7:30 p.m., ESPN2

CYCLING

Leipheimer takes second

Armstrong involved in early crash in second stage of Tour of California

Associated Press

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. — Lance Armstrong took a spill when he got tangled with a motorcycle, and still moved up a spot in the overall standings Monday at the Tour of California after a rainy and crash-filled second stage.

Two-time defending champion Levi Leipheimer of Santa Rosa, Calif., became the third different race leader. He emerged from a chasing group on the final climb with about 17 miles left before finishing a close second to stage winner Thomas Peterson of North Bend, Wa.

Peterson was victorious in the 115.9-mile Sausalito to Santa Cruz road race in 5 hours, 6 minutes and 20 seconds.

Strong wind and heavy rain hampered the field throughout most of the stage, which crossed the Golden Gate Bridge shortly after the start.

Armstrong, the seven-time Tour de France winner making a comeback after a 3 1/2-year retirement, had his mishap about 80 miles into the stage.

"A motorcycle for the photographer from the race crashed right in front of me," Armstrong said. "Unfortunate, but it could have been worse. I

don't feel too bad, hip is a little banged up but overall a great day. Levi proved he is the best guy in the race hands down."

Armstrong quickly received a spare bike from a team car and returned to the field with the assistance of teammate Jose Luis Rubiera of Spain.

Armstrong, who began the day in fifth place, is now fourth, 30 seconds behind. He finished 13th in the stage.

Floyd Landis, the former 2006 Tour de France champ competing for the first time following a two-year doping suspension, is 29th overall, 6:04 behind.

In addition to Armstrong's crash, a group of 15 riders also crashed during the stage.

Andy Jacques-Maynes of Capitola, Calif., was also fell into a parked car and left the race in an ambulance. He suffered head and ankle injuries not considered serious, said Ben Jacques-Maynes, his brother and teammate.

Leipheimer, who began the day trailing former race leader Francisco Mancebo of Spain by 1 minute and 2 seconds, now leads the race's fourth edition by 24 seconds over Michael Rogers of Australia.

David Zabriskie of Salt Lake City is third overall, trailing

Leipheimer by 28 seconds.

"The weather has been nasty the last couple of days and it really changes the race," Leipheimer said. "I thought I better go because I didn't want to freeze up. I felt great, and I told (Yaroslav) Popovych 'I feel great, let's go. I couldn't wait any longer. I had to go.'"

Peterson, who missed his starting time Saturday in the prologue and finished last, rode behind Leipheimer in the final miles after being part of an earlier lead group.

"I just stayed on his (Leipheimer's) wheel," Peterson said. "It was pretty easy."

Leipheimer, who earned his fifth Tour of California career stage win, rode among teammates, including Armstrong, throughout much of the stage.

Leipheimer launched off the front of a group chasing Carlos Barredo of Spain, who pedaled in a solo lead until he began to lag on the final climb.

Mancebo, who rode to a long solo victory in the opening stage, was never a factor.

"Even though I had a rough rider today, I can still compete for the (leader's) jersey as well as the other jerseys," said Mancebo, who finished 27th in the stage and dropped to 16th place, trailing by 56 seconds.

NCAA FOOTBALL

Bradford wins O'Brien Trophy, looks ahead

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — No second thoughts for Sam Bradford.

At a time when top NFL prospects are getting ready for the draft, Bradford on Monday night was recognized with the Davey O'Brien Award as the nation's top quarterback — and looking ahead to another chance to lead Oklahoma to a national championship.

The NFL will have to wait another year—maybe two—for the O'Brien and Heisman Trophy winner. The 24-14 loss to Florida in last month's BCS national championship is what occupies his thoughts, not the decision he made to bypass the pros for another season with the Sooners.

"It's great to be in the game, but probably a lot more frustrating to actually be in the game and lose than if you weren't in the game at all," Bradford said. "I've thought about it probably every day since the game, just different things that could have gone different. ... I'm using it as motivation right now, work hard than I've ever worked to get back in that game."

Bradford has thrown for 7,841 yards and a school-record 86 touchdowns in his two seasons at Oklahoma, including 50 this past season as a sophomore.

Though he would have been a high draft pick, Bradford decided last month to stay with the Sooners.

"Before I made that decision, I knew whichever direction I was going to go, I had to be fully committed, and I had to just look ahead and not look in the past," Bradford said. "I felt like I made the right decision."

Two months after being named the O'Brien winner, the magnitude of the award hit him as he stared at the list of previous winners while sitting in his hotel room before the banquet.

"It was really humbling. It almost took my breath away," Bradford said. "It was hard for me to comprehend that I joined a list of football players that I idolized growing up."

Among the former O'Brien winners are Florida's Tim Tebow, who as a sophomore last year also won the Heisman and is also returning to the Gators, Troy Aikman, Steve Young, Peyton Manning and Jim McMahon, the initial recipient in 1981.

Bradford shared the podium with Super Bowl-winning and former Notre Dame quarterback Joe Theismann, who was presented the O'Brien Legends award. Theismann spoke with the Oklahoma quarterback about the specialness of the O'Brien trophy.

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MLB

Tribe enjoying new Arizona spring training facilities

Associated Press

GOODYEAR, Ariz. — Fresh from a morning run on an underwater treadmill in the 1,200-square-foot hydrotherapy room across the hall, designated hitter Travis Hafner sat at his locker while a few teammates watched highlights of the 1997 World Series on one of four plasma TVs hanging from the ceiling.

His back to the giant screens, Hafner sifted through a box stuffed with fan mail. Some of the envelopes had been forwarded.

The Cleveland Indians have a new address.

Unpacked but not completely moved in, they are settling into their new spring home.

After training from 1993 to 2008 in Winter Haven Fla., the Indians have returned to Arizona where they already are enjoying the amenities of the \$108 million state-of-the-art training facility and adjacent 10,000-seat ballpark they'll

share with the Cincinnati Reds, who will follow them West next spring.

Cleveland's new desert digs, nestled in the shadows of the Estrella Mountains, are a world away from the antiquated conditions they left behind in Central Florida.

"It's such an upgrade from Winter Haven, it's unbelievable," Hafner said, looking around the spacious clubhouse. "It's got everything: training rooms, weight rooms, hot tubs, batting tunnels. Anything we need is right here. In some ways, this is even nicer than Progressive Field."

On arid land first developed by Akron-based Goodyear Tire, the Indians' 42,000-square-foot training complex and ballpark have sprouted like a cactus flower in this fast-growing community west of Phoenix. Unable to work out a deal to remain in Florida, the Indians packed up and headed back to Arizona, where they previously trained for 46 years.

Upon arrival at the new complex, players have found themselves awed by their new surroundings.

"Every guy who walks in here is taken aback," said clubhouse manager Tony Amato. "It's like, 'Wow! This is unbelievable. It isn't Winter Haven anymore.'"

Not even close. Cleveland's former spring hangout had become a joke. With the club unable to work out a deal with Winter Haven officials, charming Chain Of Lakes Park deteriorated to the point that it was no longer major-league caliber. There were rats in the clubhouse and a snake slithered into the outdoor press box two years ago.

By contrast, the Indians' Player Development Complex and Goodyear Ballpark are up-to-the-minute modern. The two structures share a common design of dark-stained wood, glass and steel exteriors with interiors that are sparsely decorated yet maintain a distinct Southwest influence.

But beyond the 47-acre complex's architectural merits, the Indians are counting on the facilities to be a year-round training home for players throughout the organization.

"We look for opportunities at different junctures to have a competitive advantage," said assistant general manager Chris Antonetti. "To have a state-of-the-art facility and development complex, this provides us with those opportunities. It creates a better environment to work and to get work done."

Upon entering the training complex, visitors walk down a long hallway adorned with framed pictures of Indians greats Bob Feller, Satchell Paige, Sandy Alomar and Omar Vizquel. To the right is the club's minor-league clubhouse, housing the team's future, as well as cavernous weight and training rooms.

On the left is the lavish clubhouse, which was designed in an oval shape so players can

see everyone in the room to promote more interaction.

"It brings everyone together," Amato said. "It's the selling point of the facility."

Through the doors at the end of the hallway are the six practice diamonds— one with identical dimensions to Progressive Field, down to the 19-foot-high wall in left—six batting cages, two infields, an agility area for conditioning and a six-mound outdoor bullpen where Cy Young winner Cliff Lee and Fausto Carmona threw side-by-side on Monday.

Indians manager Eric Wedge, who will hold his first full-squad workout on Tuesday, said the club has already benefited from the facility's uniformity.

"It's just more efficient and the efficiency we have with our day-to-day work, that delivers. That's real," he said. "That's time. That's work and it's cleaner. It's been great here in the early going. I'll feel better after we get through the next few days and make sure everybody is going the right direction."

One cannot get lost on the way to the new ballpark, which is about a 10-minute walk from the complex. On Monday, tractors, cement mixers and delivery trucks all crisscrossed in the parking lot as workers readied the stadium for the Feb. 25 opener against the San Francisco Giants. The line at the box office was 12 deep at lunchtime and fans were already streaming into the team shop for souvenirs.

Walking around the perimeter, Jim and Nancy Marek of Marblehead, Ohio, could only wish they could get inside for a closer look.

"We love it," Jim Marek said as he checked the last image on his camera. "It's got everything. But it looks like they've got a lot of work to do in a short period of time."

There was still concrete being poured around a shade structure inside the ballpark, where the lower-bowl seating will bring fans even closer to the Indians, and safety netting was being hung on the third-base dugout. Otherwise, the ballpark, designed by renowned architectural firm HOK, looks ready for a game.

After giving a brief tour of the second-level press box, ballpark manager Nathan Torres proudly promised to have everything set for the first pitch next week.

"Our goal was to build a facility like no other," he said. "I think we've delivered on that concept."

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NCAA BASKETBALL

Blair grabs 23 rebounds as No. 4 Pitt beats No.1 UConn

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — DeJuan Blair had 22 points and 23 rebounds and Levance Fields scored all 10 of his points in the final 3:09 as No. 4 Pittsburgh beat No. 1 Connecticut 76-68 on Monday night, the Panthers' first win ever over a top-ranked team.

Fields missed his first seven shots from the field but the senior guard gave the Panthers (24-2, 11-2 Big East) the lead for good with a 3-pointer with 3:09 left that made it 64-61. He added another 3 with 2:21 left to make it 67-61, and he added four free throws in the final minute.

A.J. Price had 18 points for the Huskies (24-2, 12-2), who started their third week at No. 1 earlier Monday and had their 13-game winning streak ended.

Sam Young had 25 points for Pittsburgh, which lost all 13 games it had played against No. 1 teams, the last three against Connecticut over the last 11 years.

The game was expected to be physical down low and it was with the 6-foot-7 Blair flipping the 7-3 Hasheem Thabeet over his back in the first half, sending him to the bench for about 4 minutes. Blair got a dose back in the second half when he had to leave the game for almost 3 minutes after taking an elbow to the face.

The teams meet again on

March 7 and there could be another matchup in the Big East tournament.

Pitt took a 36-33 halftime lead behind Blair's 15 points and 13 rebounds and Young's 12 points.

Connecticut, which leads the Big East in scoring defense (60.5) and field goal percentage defense (37.3) held Pittsburgh to 7-of-25 shooting until Fields suddenly got going.

Both his 3-pointers were wide-open shots when Connecticut couldn't switch fast enough on screens, and they seemed to take the wind out of the Huskies, who came up empty on both possessions around the 3s.

The minutes leading up to Fields' big shots was as intense as college basketball gets. The lead changed hands four times and there was a tie in the 2½ minutes leading up to those shots.

Pittsburgh finished with a 48-31 rebound advantage, the first time the Huskies were outrebounded this season.

Connecticut fell to 40-8 as a No. 1 team and the loss kept them from the best start in school history. The Huskies remain tied with the 1995-96 team at 24-1.

Thabeet, who came into the game off a 25-point, 20-rebound, nine-block effort against Seton Hall, finished with five points on 1-for-5 shooting and had four rebounds and two blocks.



Connecticut's Stanley Robinson attempts to block a shot by Pittsburgh's DeJuan Blair during the first half of the Panthers' 76-68 win Monday. AP

Recognize Excellence

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

Dockweiler Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising

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

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Nominations are due Tuesday, March 3. Three faculty or staff will be chosen.

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NHL

Rangers, Penguins suffer tough losses

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The New York Rangers have lost eight of nine while scoring two or fewer goals in all the losses, and the strain seems to be getting to Henrik Lundqvist.

After giving up the go-ahead goal on a rebound to B.J. Crombeen with 5:14 to play in Monday's 2-1 loss to the St. Louis Blues, Lundqvist said the confidence of the players is fragile.

"You see when they score a goal, we totally lose our composure and start running around," Lundqvist said. "It takes a lot for us to bounce back from a goal because everybody gets so tight."

Lauri Korpikoski had the lone goal for the Rangers, who are 0-6-1 in their last seven on the road. This time they fell to a franchise whose rebuilding job is led by team president John Davidson, a longtime Rangers broadcaster and former goalie.

"He's one of the best," Rangers forward Scott Gomez said. "Since Day 1 when I came into the league, he's treated me like gold."

Chris Mason made 19 saves and Carlo Colaiacovo also scored for the Blues, 4-1-2 in their last seven games while trying to inch into playoff contention. They've been in last place in the Western Conference much of the season, but were tied for 13th and six points out of the postseason.

"It doesn't take much to figure out it's going to be a tough road and we're going to have to play really well," Crombeen said. "But we believe we can do it and it's showing in our play."

Lundqvist had 31 saves a day after yanked in the second period of a loss at Philadelphia. But the Rangers were 0-for-3 on the power play after coach Tom Renney juggled the lineup, and are in a 1-for-34 slump overall with the man advantage.

"We got four power-play shots, which might not sound like a lot," Renney said. "But for us, that's an accomplishment. We had traffic, the shots were intelligent shots, so what we're doing right now is trying to rebuild our foundation if you will."

Islanders 3, Penguins 2

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — If Dan Bylsma can't turn around the Pittsburgh Penguins in their final 24 games, the defending Eastern Conference champions will be in the same sorry state as the lowly New York Islanders — out of the playoffs.

Bylsma stepped behind the Penguins bench on Monday for the first time as an NHL head coach, less than 24 hours after taking over for the fired Michel Therrien. The result was not much better than many under the old regime as Pittsburgh was beaten by the Islanders in a shootout.

Frans Nielsen and Jeff Tambellini scored shootout goals, and Joey MacDonald

turned aside Penguins stars Evgeni Malkin and Sidney Crosby in the tiebreaker to snap the Islanders' 0-4-1 skid.

"I was a little bit surprised, but the team is struggling, so things can happen," captain Crosby said of the change. "The first time we met him was at a team meeting this morning, and then we went through our normal pregame routine."

Bylsma got the call that he would replace Therrien on Sunday, just before he was set to coach his Wilkes Barre-Scranton club in an AHL game.

The decision to dismiss Therrien, who led the Penguins to the Stanley Cup finals last year, was made by general manager Ray Shero after Pittsburgh blew a 2-0 lead at Toronto and gave up five goals in the third period of a 6-2 loss Saturday.

"When I talked to Ray Shero (Sunday), there were some nerves," Bylsma said. "But this was an opportunity you work for and if you are granted it, you do the best you can. I think with the little time we've had together, as the game went on, we got more in tune with the way we should be playing."

Bylsma is faced with the task of implementing a new fast, attacking style that can make the most of the Penguins' talented forwards. It produced a season-high 37 shots Monday, but only one point in the standings.

Malkin and Ryan Whitney scored tying goals, and Marc-Andre Fleury made 28 saves through overtime for the Penguins, 1-7-2 on the road in 2009. Pittsburgh (27-25-6) is 10th in the Eastern Conference, two places and four points below the playoff cutoff.

"We want two points every game, especially right now," forward Jordan Staal said. "The guys in the dressing room know what we're capable of. We know what we can do out there. It's a matter of going out and doing it."

Chris Campoli and Frans Nielsen scored for New York, which owns the NHL's worst record (17-33-6).

Bylsma paced behind the Penguins bench, keeping his arms folded for most of the game, and taking occasional drinks from a water bottle. He leaned over several times to talk to his new players. Only two Penguins in the lineup played under Bylsma in the AHL.

"He was right in the mix," Staal said. "In the third we really started to show what we could do in that system. Obviously we didn't get the result."

The Penguins erased a pair of one-goal deficits with 20 shots through two periods and then turned it on.

"We have to play that way for 60 minutes," Bylsma said. "If you do, you tip the scales in your favor."

A pretty passing play produced Whitney's second goal of the season and tied it at 2 with 2:53 left in the middle frame.

Please recycle The Observer.

Bulls

continued from page 24

game," McGraw said. "I want them to come out ready, to come out with a lot of intensity, and to really get after them defensively and rebound and do the things we can control. That always makes us feel a little bit better about our offense."

The Irish will need to stay focused against the Bulls to maintain their position as the No. 6 seed in the Big East. Currently, South Florida (5-6, 18-7) sits one game behind the Irish (17-6, 6-5) in the conference standings. McGraw said, however, that she has not emphasized that factor to her players, who already know this is an important game.

"I don't really stress that too much with the team. We don't talk about the standings; they know what's at stake," she said. "They know how important the game is. It's important to both teams. This is going to be a huge game."

The last time the Irish took the court, they hung with one of the best teams in the country — No. 8 Louisville — for most of the game, but could not complete a comeback, losing 71-65. That game was almost a week ago, and the Irish have had plenty of time to rest up since then.

The Irish will need that rest because of South Florida's prolific perimeter shooting. The Bulls are 189-of-576 shooting from beyond the arc, and have taken more than twice as many threes as the Irish (93-of-277). Bulls junior guard Janae Stokes has already launched 202 3-point attempts, connecting on 82 of those for a .402 shooting percentage from distance.

"That's gonna be huge. We need to step up and guard the 3-point line, especially when they're playing at home, they're gonna shoot the ball a little bit better," McGraw said. "We really have to be ready to get out and guard Stokes in particular, but [senior guard Shantia] Grace is a good 3-point shooter as well."

Grace leads the Bulls with 14.7 points per game, and is shooting 35.8 percent from 3-point land.

Although Stokes has "the hot hand," McGraw said, having lit up the scoreboard so often recently, Grace will still be a major threat in the Bulls' offense.

"And Grace, with the great assist-to-turnover ratio that she has (107-to-57), she is

very dangerous because she can find people inside, she can find them in transition, and she can score," McGraw said.

The best way to combat the Bulls' high-powered offense, which scores 80.4 points per game, McGraw said, is to get back to playing fundamentally sound defense.

"We want to get back to the way we were playing earlier in the year. We want to shoot the ball a little bit better; we want to defend a little bit better. We want to do a little bit better at everything," McGraw said. "We want to take better care of the ball, and we want to rebound better. I think those are the things that we were doing earlier in the year.... We're playing better; I think we just need to get everybody playing better."

One Irish player that is already playing at that level is forward Becca Bruszewski. The 6-foot-2 sophomore is averaging 9.9 points per game, but scored 18 against Louisville on Feb. 11, 14 against DePaul on Feb. 8 and 14 against Pittsburgh on Feb. 3.

"She's really playing well, and I think she's comfortable, I think she's loose. She's just going out and playing, she's not worried about things," McGraw said of Bruszewski. "She's doing the things that she's good at. She's shooting the ball well from the 3-point line and she'll run the floor and scoring inside. She's really showing versatility with what she's good at."

McGraw also said that Bruszewski's looseness is something she would like to spread to the rest of the team.

"I think that's what we need. I think the seniors feel like it's up to them and it's their responsibility to lead us and to play well. That makes you feel a little bit more pressure. That would be good if we could all just relax. At the same time play hard, but I think you need to be a little more relaxed."

Tip-off for the game is scheduled for 7 p.m. from the Sun Dome in Tampa, Fla.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

Coaches

continued from page 24

Brown runs the sidelines if they decide to explore that option.

"I can honestly tell you it's not a no. It's something that is still under consideration," Weis said.

Brown will be Weis' second in command and Tenuta will help to pick up any slack by taking over the defensive play calling responsibilities.

"Last year, game planning was a collaborative effort and that won't change. The only thing that will be different is that Jon will call the plays on Saturday," Brown said.

Tenuta and Brown will both have added support along the defensive line this season because of the addition of Bryant Young. Young graduated from Notre Dame in 1994 then went on to play in four NFL Pro Bowls before retiring two years ago.

Young said he spent a year traveling the country while weighing his options for the future.



Irish coach Charlie Weis looks on during Notre Dame's 49-21 win over Hawaii in the Hawaii Bowl on Dec. 24. IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

"I thought about a lot of things I might want to do," Young said. "The more I looked at different business opportunities, it didn't fire me up like coaching did." Notre Dame is still without

a defensive line coach, but Weis said promoting Young to that position is not very likely.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

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Rink

continued from page 24

fact that, despite the presence of funds donated specifically for a rink renovation project, several other Irish athletic programs (deserving in their own rights, of course) received major facility upgrades.

And I would have expressed my concern that, despite the program's remarkable progress in Jackson's first four years, Notre Dame could lose college hockey's best coach to a school that showed a greater financial commitment to its program's development.

Thursday was one of the biggest days in Irish hockey history, right up there with the days Notre Dame hired Jackson in 2005 and when the Irish beat Michigan in last year's Frozen Four. There was a palpable buzz from both the players and the increased media presence at Thursday's practice, and the general feeling seemed to be one of triumph — that, with this announcement, the hockey program had truly arrived.

No longer will players have to squeeze into an undersized locker room with no space for relaxation or study. No longer will the team have to jockey for

time to train in the overcrowded Guglielmino Athletic Complex or in the undersized Joyce Center weight room.

No longer will coaches have to remove their skates in a closet-like space half the size of a double in Morrissey. No longer will team meetings have to be held in a second-floor conference room or in the visitors' locker rooms.

No longer will the team's managers work in "caves," as Jackson not-so-fondly called the dungeon-like offices beneath the Joyce Center ice rink's bleachers. No longer will those offices have to be emptied each off-season to avoid the flooding that occurs when the ice is melted.

No longer will the pep band be forced into a few small rows of corner bleachers. No longer will some of the students responsible for making the Joyce Center a tough place to play for opponents be turned away because of limited student seating.

And no longer will I have to search for the right time to write that angry column.

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

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

Hope

continued from page 24

that how the Irish performed in the Big East tournament would likely determine their NCAA fate. That type of opportunity is really all Notre Dame can ask for after losing seven games in a row.

Getting to that magical .500 record in the Big East won't be easy. Notre Dame can be realistically favored in only two of their next six games — home contests against Big East bottom-feeders St. John's and Rutgers.

Assuming the Irish don't pull out a miracle victory at Connecticut, that means Notre Dame's NCAA Tournament hopes likely rest on three games: at West Virginia, at Providence and home against Villanova.

Win zero or one out of three and the Irish are looking at an NIT bid. Win two out of three and Mike Brey's men can play themselves into the Big Dance with a strong Big East showing. Win all three games and Notre Dame becomes one of the teams nobody wants to play come March.

That's Notre Dame's situation. Here's a look at how the rest of the Big East currently stacks up.

A cut above: No. 1 Connecticut (24-2, 12-2), No. 4 Pittsburgh (24-2, 11-2)

These two teams are not only the class of the Big

East but among an elite group of teams with legitimate national title hopes. They're not battling for top-four Big East seeds as much as they're battling for No. 1 seeds come Selection Sunday.

Top-four contenders: No. 7 Louisville (19-5, 10-2), No. 10 Marquette (21-4, 10-2), No. 12 Villanova (20-5, 8-4)

With the Big East Tournament switching to a 16-team format this year, a top-four seed assumes added importance, guaranteeing not one but two byes. Of these three teams, only two will likely secure that extended rest over spring break.

Although it may seem like Louisville and Marquette have the spots locked up, take a look at the Golden Eagles' remaining schedule: Seton Hall, at Georgetown, Connecticut, at Louisville, at Pittsburgh, Syracuse. With Villanova playing a much cushier final stretch, Marquette will have to earn its top-four seed.

Notre Dame and its competition: Providence (16-9, 8-5), No. 24 Syracuse (19-7, 7-6), Cincinnati (17-9, 7-6), West Virginia (17-8, 6-6), Notre Dame (14-10, 5-7)

If the Irish are to reach that .500 Big East mark, these are the teams they hope to pass on their way to a top-eight seed. Although it currently holds the best record of the group, Providence may be the most

vulnerable to an Irish comeback. The Friars have just one game remaining they should be favored in — at Rutgers — and a loss to the Irish would give Notre Dame the tiebreaker if the teams ended up with matching conference marks.

Notre Dame also partially controls its destiny with West Virginia, but the Irish would have to win in Morgantown this Wednesday. Only Pittsburgh and Connecticut have managed to do that thus far this year, and Villanova saw its six-game winning streak come to a grinding halt last Friday when the Wildcats lost by 21 points at West Virginia.

Playing out the string: Seton Hall (14-10, 5-7), Georgetown (13-10, 4-8), USF (8-16, 3-9), St. John's (12-13, 3-10), Rutgers (10-15, 1-11), DePaul (8-18, 0-13)

These teams are equivalent to a pre-pubescent middle school kid playing eighth-grade ball. They're at a competitive disadvantage, and the hits just keep on coming. Take DePaul for example. The Blue Demons have a winless conference record, and they get to try and end that streak against teams like Pittsburgh, Villanova and West Virginia. On the plus side, they get to try and avoid the goose egg in Big East play when they take on St. John's on Feb. 28.

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Write Sports for The Observer.
Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

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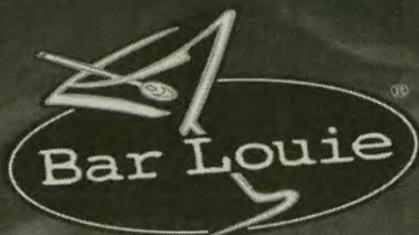


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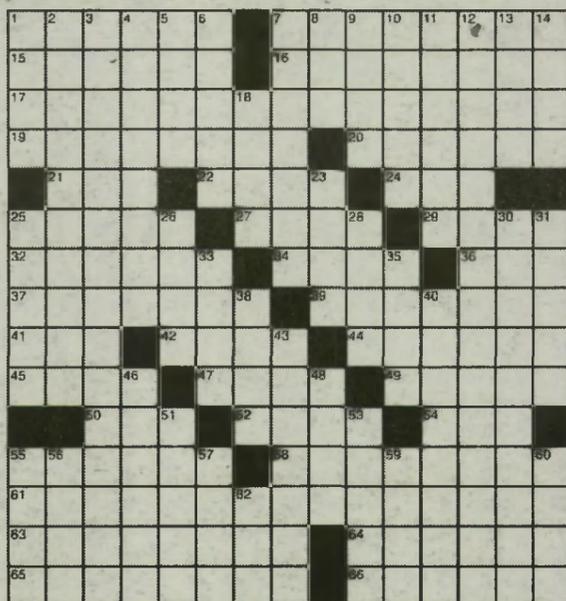
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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
- 1 Seinfeld's "sworn enemy"
 - 7 En route
 - 15 Dig up
 - 16 Vicious sorts
 - 17 1961 Connie Francis hit
 - 19 Up to no good
 - 20 Sterile, in a way
 - 21 Debussy's "Air de ..."
 - 22 Word before Oscar or Orloff
 - 24 Madras title
 - 25 Intl. agreement since 1993
 - 27 Class-conscious grps.?
 - 29 Prefix with skeleton
 - 32 Hold 'em challenge
 - 34 Fourth book of the Book of Mormon
 - 36 Gore follower
 - 37 Eponymous rink jump
 - 39 Bring up
 - 41 View from Long Is.
 - 42 Tennyson woman called "the Fair"
 - 44 ___ Beach, Fla.
 - 45 ___ Jordan, who wrote "The Crying Game"
 - 47 A writer may work on it
 - 49 Bolero, e.g.
 - 50 Long on screen
 - 52 First name in architecture
 - 54 One-third of a Morse "O"
 - 55 Children's author/photographer Alda
 - 58 "Here, I can help you"
- Down**
- 1 Google heading
 - 2 Thrill
 - 3 1952 Doris Day hit that was an even bigger hit for the Lettermen in 1961
 - 4 ___ acid (old name for hydrochloric acid)
 - 5 Bob ____, young man in Dreiser's "Sister Carrie"
 - 6 Web-based service
 - 7 Be in charge of
 - 8 Pointed extremity
 - 9 Suffix with beta
 - 10 First sitting president to visit the West Coast
 - 11 Protect
 - 12 "Huh?!"
 - 13 It rises in the Bernese Alps
 - 14 Battle of the ____, 1914
 - 18 Mr. Wickfield's clerk, in literature
 - 51 End of a line about "friends"
 - 63 Not be honest about oneself
 - 64 Ingredients in many stews
 - 65 Derides
 - 66 Become, as mush



Puzzle by Victor Fleming and Bruce Venzke

- 23 Narrow way
- 25 Passover month
- 26 Gentleman of the court
- 28 "Deal!"
- 30 Troop group
- 31 Kind of daisy
- 33 Eternities
- 35 Starting point
- 38 Efface, with "off"
- 40 One of the men waiting in "Waiting for Godot"
- 43 Like some eyes
- 46 Mortgagor, e.g.
- 48 Canadian native
- 51 At hand, in poems
- 53 Optional phrase
- 55 Belt-hole makers
- 56 Nose: Prefix
- 57 Reef dwellers
- 59 Button on an iPod
- 60 Sinclair alternative
- 62 Part of una semana

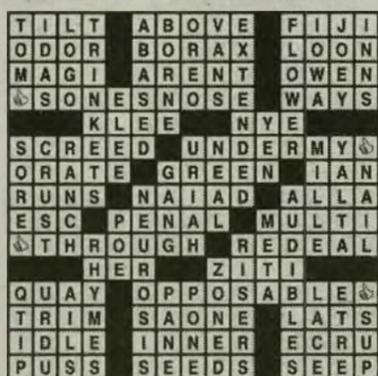
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Steffani Brass, 17; John McEnroe, 50; Ice-T, 51; Levar Burton, 52

Happy Birthday: Making personal changes to your lifestyle, your appearance and the people you hang out with will help you achieve your goals. Strength of character and mind will be required to follow your own dreams. Don't give in to emotional blackmail or meddling; it's important for you to stand up for what you want this year. Your numbers are 2, 9, 14, 24, 27, 35, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't let emotional troubles interfere with what you need to do. Keeping busy will lead to your success. Not everyone will see things your way but, if you are willing to do the work yourself, you will prove how valuable you are and have good results. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone will take advantage of you if you aren't careful. Do not volunteer for something without knowing the full extent of what's being asked of you. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A good idea that someone has will help you out as well. This is a great time to ask for a raise or to make a professional change but make sure you have a better job to go to before you quit your current position. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A positive change is within your reach. Talk to whoever is in charge and let him or her know what you want to do. Don't take no for an answer and be prepared to use your own money and ideas to get what you want. 5 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be attracted to someone who motivates you. Make sure you keep things simple. Complicating your personal life by mixing business with pleasure will not bring good results. Separate your emotions from the equation. 2 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Change is upon you. Someone you least expect will utilize one of your old ideas for his or her own benefit. Don't let anyone take credit for your contributions. 4 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You've got everything going your way so don't let laziness stop you from getting what you deserve. You have to push forward and take action. Force shouldn't be necessary -- use intelligence coupled with a little hard work. 4 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Be careful how you handle friends, relatives and your lover. Poor communication will lead to misunderstandings and false information will lead to a change of plans. Protect your assets. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may think everything is going well but, behind closed doors, someone is doing you an injustice. Be careful how you present any information you have, especially if it can influence your position. Be upfront about your intentions. 3 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): An emotional attachment to someone may deter you from seeing what this person is actually up to and how it can hurt you in the end. Don't be fooled by compliments or gestures of friendliness. Get the facts and act on them. 4 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotional deception may lead to a poor decision regarding a past partner. Keep your distance and don't make any moves that you may regret. Your options are greater than you realize. Don't let loneliness be your guide. 2 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may know what you want but underlying factors may stand in your way. You have to be straight about your wants and needs if you expect to gain respect and be able to follow through with your plans. 5 stars

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MICHAEL MIKUSKA



THE FORBIDDEN DOUGHNUT

PATRICK GARTLAND

The Observer apologizes for the absence of The Forbidden Doughnut. It will return in Thursday's newspaper.

JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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

NYSAP

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RUFTUE

www.jumble.com

GHOTUB

Answer: " [] [] [] [] " [] [] [] []

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



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

Yesterday's Jumbles: SUEDE TRAIT DAHLIA NETHER
Answer: How the farmer knew the cows were ready for milking -- HE HEARD THE HERD

THE OBSERVER

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FOOTBALL

Bryant Young among new coaches brought in by Weis

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Editor

Notre Dame head coach Charlie Weis held a press conference last Friday to hand out some new coaching titles.

Corwin Brown, Rob Ianello, Jon Tenuta and newcomer Frank Verducci were among those that received promotions. Weis also took the

opportunity to formally introduce new running backs coach Tony Alford and new graduate assistant Bryant Young.

Verducci, who was hired as an offensive line coach last month, was named the running game coordinator. Ianello and Tenuta are now the assistant head coaches of offense and defense, respectively, and Brown was promoted to associate head coach.

"We're trying to do everything we can to get this program to where it needs to be," Brown said. "Anything I can do to help our program get there, I'm going to do."

Weis said he made the changes because he will take over as offensive coordinator now that Mike Haywood has moved on to the head-coaching job at Miami (Ohio).

Alford was hired to take

over Haywood's role as running backs coach. He will be a big part of trying to turn around a running game that averaged just 3.3 yards per carry in 2008.

"I think we need to sit down as a staff, evaluate what we want to do and just get work," Alford said.

Weis said he intends to concentrate on improving the running game as the new

coordinator.

"I thought the best chance for us to win this year would be to make me the offensive coordinator," Weis said. "What that's done, though, is it's caused a trickle-down effect in configuration of our staff."

The promotions also make it possible for Weis to coach from the press box while

see COACHES/page 20

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Running with the Bulls

ND will try to tame South Florida's potent 3-point game

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

With the regular season starting to wind down, each game becomes increasingly important — especially when you haven't been playing at your best.

The Irish have gone 3-5 over the last month, something Irish coach Muffet McGraw said she wants to change tonight at South Florida. But in order to do that, she said she is going to need to make sure her squad is focused on the task at hand.

"I just want to have a sense of urgency about this

see BULLS/page 20



Left, Irish sophomore forward Becca Bruszewski dribbles during Notre Dame's 62-59 win over DePaul on Feb. 8. Right, junior guard Ashley Barlow drives during a 78-72 Irish victory over Michigan State on Nov. 29. The Irish will travel to Tampa to take on South Florida tonight.

ALLISON AMBROSE and IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

MEN'S BASKETBALL ANALYSIS

Irish preserve NCAA hopes

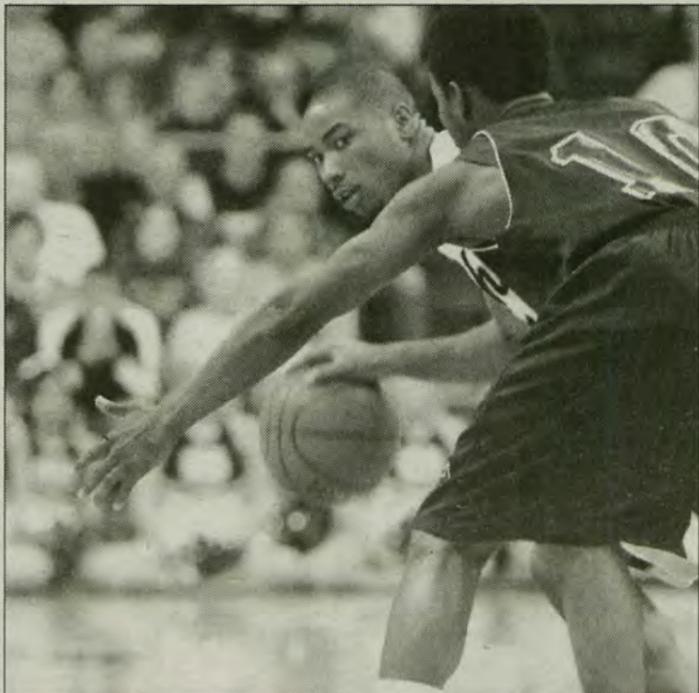
Squad will probably have to win four of remaining six games

Hope is a wonderful thing. For Notre Dame and its fans, hope means being able to make statements like the following: If we can just manage to win four out of our last six games, we'll have a shot at a bye in the Big East Tournament and a slot in the NCAA Tournament.

Greg Arbogast
Sports Writer

Four wins would put the Irish at 18-12 overall and 9-9 in Big East play. That would put them on the bubble for both a top-eight Big East seed and an NCAA Tournament spot, meaning

see HOPE/page 21



Irish junior point guard Tory Jackson and his teammates are looking ahead to their final six regular-season games.

WU YUE/The Observer

HOCKEY

Elite program deserves stellar free-standing rink

I never did get to write that angry column.

All year it seems like my fellow beat writers and I have been alluding to the hockey program's desperate need for a facility upgrade, and we each promised — in prior columns, blog entries and casual conversations — to write a piece detailing the condition of the team's current rink and the status of a potential renovation.

But, as associate athletic director Tom Nevala said



Matt Gamber
Associate Sports Editor

Thursday, "It's like that old proverb — good things come to those who wait."

Thursday's announcement that the University will begin construction on a free-standing ice arena next spring might be a few years overdue, but the important thing is the administration finally got it right. No college hockey program has won more games than Notre Dame since the start of the 2006-07 season, and the best deserve the best.

In that angry column, I would have explained how, despite the fact that "hockey has arrived at Notre Dame," as coach Jeff Jackson proclaimed Thursday, the Irish continue to play in the conference's — and potentially the nation's — worst facility.

I would have bemoaned the

see RINK/page 21