THE OBSERVER

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University remembers Rabbi Signer

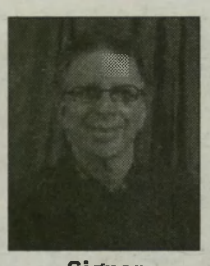
Theology prof., who died Jan. 10, studied relationship between Judiasm and Catholicism

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
Assistant News Editor

Friends, students and colleagues commemorated the life of Rabbi Michael Signer, the Abrams Professor of Jewish Thought and Culture at Notre Dame who died Saturday Jan. 10, at a memorial service Monday.

Many speakers remembered Signer's spirited personality and lauded his work studying the Christian and Jewish faiths and its impact on the University and the wider community.

"You acquired an empathy for all things Catholic, even though you were not Catholic," Theology Department Chair John Cavadini said in a eulogy for Signer.



Signer

Although the two disagreed on the fundamental beliefs of their religions, Cavadini said he always felt comfortable engaging in theological discussions with Signer. Signer considered others beliefs with respect, even if he did not agree, he said.

"Even though you did not believe in it, you gave affectionate statements of disagreement," he said. "That was the greatness of your soul."

Cavadini joked that Signer spoke many languages, and one of them was Catholic.

"You knew the difference between Jesuits and Dominicans," he said.

Signer studied the complicated relationship between Catholicism and Judaism and inspired positive dialogue about the differences, Cavadini said. He said when Signer was hired, he knew Notre Dame was not only getting a scholar, but also a teacher.

University President Fr. John Jenkins said the University was lucky to have Signer as a faculty member.

"He allowed us to build bridges both spiritually and intellectually between the great Jewish religion and this Catholic University," he said.

Jenkins said Signer made the school a richer and better place and participated fully in Notre Dame life.

"In his robust, generous way, he was completely part of the community," he said "We will always remember him in gratitude. I give thanks for his life."

Theology professor Fr. Richard McBrien said bringing

see SIGNER/page 4

College examines poverty

By MEGAN LONEY
News Writer

Linda Wolfson, a member of the Community Forum for Economic Development, put poverty in concrete perspective at Saint Mary's Human Rights Panel discussion on Monday.

"Poverty is not a statistic," she said. "It is not an amount of money you have to make over the line or under the line. It's people."

Students and staff spent part of their lunch hour listening to a discussion sponsored by the Saint Mary's College Justice Education Program and the Office for Civic and Social Engagement in Stapleton Lounge Monday from 12 to 1 p.m.

As the second part of a spring lecture series commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the panel focused on the right to live free from the hardship of poverty.

The discussion featured panelists who have experience living in poverty, four of whom were guests from Hope Ministries and the Center for the Homeless in South Bend. For privacy reasons, the panelists requested that The Observer not use their last names.

A guest from Hope Ministries who identified herself as Rose described

see PANEL/page 6

CAMPUS LIFE COUNCIL

Medical amnesty policy discussed

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Writer

Members of Campus Life Council (CLC) proposed a plan to use surveys to learn more about students' views on the Medical Amnesty Policy and about the transition process for multicultural and international students at their Monday meeting.

Chief Executive Assistant Karen Koski, said questions regarding the Medical Amnesty Policy, which would protect students who have been drinking from getting in trouble while helping an intoxicated friend who is hurt or sick, will be included in student government's survey over Spring Break.

Questions like "Do you feel like you know how to handle a case of severe alcohol poisoning effectively?" and "Who do you turn to first when there is a problem while drinking?" will be included in the survey, according to Koski.

"Hopefully, this will shed some light on the actual issue at hand," she said.

Koski also said her task force will meet with a representative from the Office of Alcohol and Drug Education and four resident assistants to "get a few more opinions on this and how they see

see CLC/page 6

Mendoza climbs in rankings

BusinessWeek names ND business program No. 2 in nation

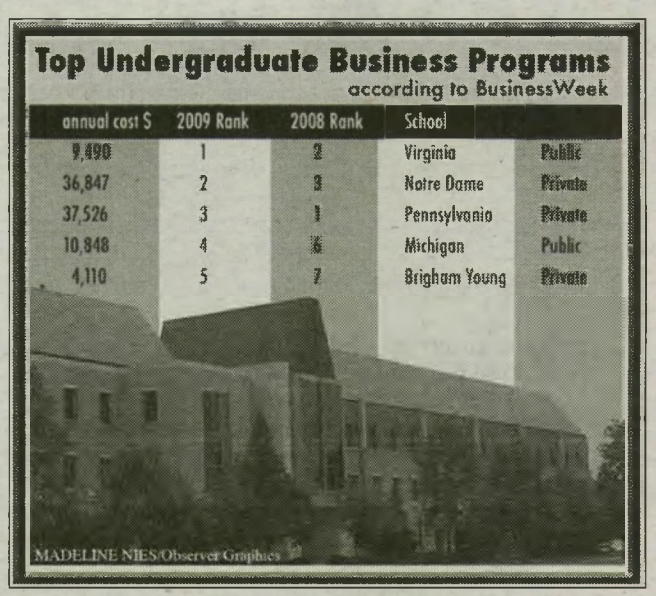
By AARON STEINER
Assistant News Editor

The Mendoza College of Business moved up one spot in BusinessWeek's annual survey of undergraduate business programs, according to the rankings in the latest edition of the magazine available on newsstands yesterday.

Now second only to the University of Virginia, Notre Dame's program was ranked third last year, seventh in 2007 and third in 2006.

Since being ranked third, the College of Business adopt-

see RANK/page 4



Purcell talks faith, public service

DAN JACOBS/The Observer

Bill Purcell, director of Harvard's Institute of Politics, spoke on faith and public service Monday.

By LAURA McCRYSTAL
News Writer

Faith can provide guidance and support in works of public service and college students across the country are answering the call, Bill Purcell, former mayor of Nashville, Tenn. and current director of Harvard's Institute of Politics, said in a lecture to Notre Dame students Monday night.

"The great news about this moment in time is that, on this campus and on campuses all across the country, your hearts are right on this issue and your heads are right on this issue," he said. "[Notre Dame students] have been leading in this particular area for quite some time."

The lecture was titled "American Politics – Living Faithful Citizenship" and took place in the auditorium of the University's Eck Center.

Purcell cited a speech by President John F. Kennedy in 1963, which stated that educated citizens are obligated to serve the public. This call to public service, Purcell said, is still relevant today.

Purcell, who has worked in public service for more

see PURCELL/page 6

Inside Column

Don't Panic

Jim McGuire

Scene Writer

I'm dedicating this column to all the seniors who don't quite have their schedules settled after May 17. For those who have jobs or graduate school already figured out, I am truly happy and excited for you. However, you don't need any help, so I'll see you at Fever on Thursday.

For the rest of you (the majority), things are starting to get a little crazy.

If you are like me, you have had some interviews, filled out dozens of maddeningly inefficient online applications, and felt generally demoralized a few times in the process.

With the recession still going strong and corporate layoffs affecting just about every major industry, it's hard out there for a second semester senior who wants a chance to prove himself or herself.

It isn't just Arts & Letters students having a hard time either. The big financial services outfits can't afford to pay those big signing bonuses like they used to, and even some engineers have been left scratching their heads because of the slowdown. The Career Center does a great job, but they can't fix the job market for you (though I am sure they would if they could).

At this point sitting in a corner and sobbing might seem like a sensible option, but it won't make you feel any better or help you get that awesome first job you want. So what are seniors in limbo supposed to do?

First, don't panic. There is still time to look and weigh options. Did you apply to grad school as a "backup" to finding a job? Well, graduate school is hardly a "back-up," it's a way to improve your skill set, get some more real-world experience, and continue hitting the bars every night during the week (come on, Master of Divinity students, don't think I don't know what happens at Fischer-Grace every night).

But, if you feel that you have gotten as much higher education as you will ever need, remember not to limit yourself and look at multiple openings where you can use your various skills. You shouldn't necessarily take a really undesirable job just because it's there but realize that if you are willing to put in some effort and really work the heck out of that job, you can and will move on to bigger and better things.

Also, remember that you go to Notre Dame and that still means something (although I can't tell you exactly what that something is). Employers might not lay out the red carpet for you right away but just use that little extra something that got you in here and you'll go far.

While my meandering thoughts might not help you get that job you want, just think about all the advantages you have had over the past four years and know that you have a whole campus that wants you to succeed, even if it is just so you can one day pay for a new, fancy building on campus with your name on it.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Jim McGuire at jmcguir2@nd.edu

Corrections

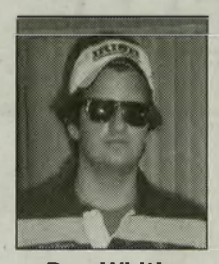
The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we will make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

Question of the Day: *If you could morph any two animals together, what would they be?*

Alica Carroll

freshman
Le Mans

"A sasquatch and a chinchilla."



Don Whitley

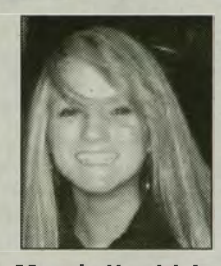
junior
Stanford

"A ferret and a duck."

Sam Tulisiak

freshman
Le Mans

"A chipmunk and a nightingale."



Maggie Kendzicky

freshman
Holy Cross

"A hippo and platypus."

Lizzy Maltby

freshman
Le Mans

"A shitzu and a bulldog."

ALISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Andrian Dantly, center, former Notre Dame basketball standout and member of Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame, was honored for his service to the program Monday night.

Offbeat

Neb. deputies claim man stuffed cat inside bong

OMAHA — A man who tried to cool out his hyper cat by stuffing her into a boxlike homemade bong faces cruelty charges — and catcalls from animal lovers. Lancaster County sheriff's deputies responding to a domestic disturbance call Sunday alleged they saw 20-year-old Acea Schomaker smoking marijuana through a piece of garden hose attached to a duct-taped, plastic glass box in which the cat had been stuffed.

"This cat was just dazed," Sgt. Andy Stebbing said. "She was on the front seat of the cop car, wrapped in a blanket, and never moved all the way to the humane society."

Schomaker told deputies 6-month-old Shadow was hyper and he was trying to calm her down. The contraption she had been stuffed inside was 12 inches by 6 inches. Shadow was timid but in good condition Monday at the Capital Humane Society, executive director Bob Downey said.

Police: Man used fake money to buy fake drugs

ERWIN, Tenn. — A man was been arrested after police said he used counterfeit money to purchase fake OxyContin pills from an undercover officer. Unicoi County Sheriff's deputies arrested a 21-year-old man on Tuesday and charged him with criminal conspiracy with schedule II drugs, forgery and criminal simulation.

Investigator Frank Rogers said the officer met with several people at a mobile home park and arranged for the suspect and another man to come to Unicoi to buy 76 OxyContin pills for $4,875.

Officers said it was "obviously bad money" with some bills printed on just one side.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

In Brief

A lecture titled **"Environment and Revolution in 20th-century Mexico: A Historical Case Study of Agrarian Reform and its Implications for the New Left of Latin America Today"** will take place **today** at **12:30 p.m.** in **Room C103 of the Hesburgh Center.**

The film **"Slumdog Millionaire"** will be shown at the **DeBartolo Performing Arts Center today** at **8 p.m.**, **Thursday** at **6:30 p.m.** and **9:30 p.m.**, **Friday** at **6:30 p.m.** and **9:30 p.m.**, and **Saturday** at **6:30 p.m.** and **9:30 p.m.**

Xabier Agirre Aranburu, senior analyst, Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in the Netherlands, is being honored with the **Kroc Institute's 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award** in the **Hesburgh Auditorium today** at **4:15 p.m** during a lecture called **"Make Law, Not War: On the Power of Truth, Law, and Justice."**

The Notre Dame Chamber Players are holding a **concert** to benefit the South Bend Community School Corporation. All proceeds will go to the purchase of musical instruments for various schools in the district. Sponsored by the Department of Music, the concert will take place **Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.** at **Leighton Concert Hall** in the **DeBartolo Performing Arts Center**. Tickets are **$8 faculty/staff** and **$3 for all students.**

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

Local Weather

	TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
HIGH	29	23	40	50	51	50
LOW	20	16	29	39	38	31

Atlanta 74 / 62 **Boston** 70 / 49 **Chicago** 64 / 48 **Denver** 65 / 42 **Houston** 83 / 67 **Los Angeles** 78 / 72 **Minneapolis** 80 / 62
New York 70 / 49 **Philadelphia** 75 / 48 **Phoenix** 56 / 40 **Seattle** 61 / 48 **St. Louis** 71 / 58 **Tampa** 88 / 68 **Washington** 75 / 49

Coffee at the Como

For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Questioning Students at Notre Dame

Tuesday, March 3
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
316 Coleman Morse

The Core Council invites gay, lesbian, bisexual & questioning members of the Notre Dame family, along with their friends and allys, to an informal gathering at the Co-Mo.

Everyone is Welcome and Confidentiality is Assured

Coffee and Refreshments Will Be Served

CORE COUNCIL
FOR GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & QUESTIONING STUDENTS

Graduate School dean passes away

Special to The Observer

Terrence J. Akai, senior associate dean of the Graduate School, died Saturday in his home. He was 59 years old.

A native of Guyana, South America, Akai joined the Notre Dame faculty in 1976 as a research associate in aerospace and mechanical engineering who specialized in fluid mechanics. Holding concurrent appointments in that department, computer science and engineering, and mathematics, Akai taught some 15 courses during his career, including a popular mathematics course based on a seminal and widely adopted textbook of which he was the author, "Applied Numerical Methods for Engineers." He had received every possible teaching award at Notre Dame by the time he was appointed assistant dean of the Graduate School in 1994. As senior associate dean, Akai was principally responsible for graduate admissions, administering thousands of applications each year.

"Terry Akai was both colleague and friend to countless people at Notre Dame," said Gregory Sterling, dean of the Graduate School. "His death is as much a personal as a professional loss for the graduate school and the University as a whole, and we join our sorrow, thoughts and prayers with those of the Akai family."

Universally praised by his former students for his conspicuous commitment to their success inside and outside the classroom, Akai once described his teaching method as intended "to dispel myths and to develop appropriate attitudes and approaches to problems — to develop a style of thinking."

Akai's own style of thinking, to the delight of the many colleagues, students, staff members and visitors encountering him in the corridors and entrances of Notre Dame's Main Building, was droll and gregarious. Along with a remarkable administrative efficiency, he always had time for an anecdote or a joke.

A visitation will be held from 3 to 8 p.m. Wednesday in the Palmer Funeral Home-River Park, where a funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Thursday. A reception for Akai's family, friends and colleagues will be held from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Thursday in McKenna Hall.

A memorial Mass for the Notre Dame community will be held on March 16, at 3:30 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Student Affairs
is now accepting nominations for the

Denny Moore Award For Excellence in Journalism

Candidates must be seniors who exemplify the qualities for which Denny Moore was known, including personal integrity and character, commitment to Notre Dame, and writing ability.

Candidates may be nominated by faculty, staff, or fellow students.

For a nomination form, please visit our website at:
http://osa.nd.edu/get-involved/student-activities-and-awards/denny-moore-award/
Nominations are due by Thursday, March 5, 2009.

Initiative to focus on faculty diversity

Special to The Observer

In response to recommendations from two committees, Notre Dame will pursue a series of initiatives designed to enhance support for a diverse faculty.

The initiatives were detailed in a letter sent this week to faculty by University President, Fr. John Jenkins, and provost, Thomas G. Burish. They are based upon reports prepared last year by the University Committee on Diversity and the University Committee on Women Faculty and Students.

"The intellectual interchange that is essential to a university requires, and is enriched by, the presence and voices of diverse scholars and students," Jenkins said. "Beyond the benefits diversity brings to all universities, we hold this commitment also because Notre Dame is a Catholic university."

Burish added: "We reaffirm that cultivating a diverse intellectual community makes us a better university. Successfully recruiting, hiring, developing and retaining women faculty and faculty of color are fundamental to this aim."

Notre Dame has realized significant increases in the number of women and minority students in the past two decades. Since 1989, the percentage of women in the student body has grown from 34 percent to 47 percent, and the percentage of minority students has increased from 12 percent to 21 percent.

The committee reports acknowledged that the University also has made progress increasing the number of women faculty and faculty of color but made it clear that "more progress is required," particularly in the recruitment and retention of senior women faculty and faculty of color at all levels.

To that end, the initiatives announced in the letter from Notre Dame's top two officers include:

Don Pope-Davis, vice president, associate provost and professor of psychology,will direct University efforts related to faculty of color. Susan Ohmer, William T. and Helen Kuhn Carey Associate Professor of Modern Communication, has been appointed assistant provost and will coordinate oversight efforts relating to women faculty. Pope-Davis and Ohmer will work closely with deans, department chairs and others involved in faculty recruitment, hiring, retention, mentoring and development.

The University has provided funding for and begun discussions about a postdoctoral program designed to help young scholars from under-represented groups advance their careers and possibly attract some to positions at Notre Dame.

The Dual Career Assistance Program, which has helped the spouses of recently hired full-time faculty and staff identify potential employment opportunities in the area or at Notre Dame, now will be made available to spouses of current faculty.

Please recycle The Observer.

Circle K serves Holy Cross Sisters

40 students dedicate time to organize events at Saint Mary's Convent

By MOLLY MADDEN
News Writer

A group of Notre Dame students have been making a difference in the community by spending time with a group of retired Sisters of the Holy Cross.

"These kids are just phenomenal," Lee Ann Moore, director of activities and volunteer services at the Saint Mary's Convent, said. "They are just so much a part of us."

Circle K, a service club at Notre Dame, dedicates a few hours of their week to assist the sisters at the Convent.

The Circle K group became involved with the Convent six years ago when former Notre Dame student and Circle K President Jake Teitgen approached Moore about working with the sisters.

Teitgen performed community service at the convent for a class requirement, Moore said.

"He liked it so much, he asked me if his club, Circle K, could start volunteering on a regular basis," she said. "I happily agreed."

About 40 students from Circle K come twice a week to volunteer at the Convent. The students help in many different ways, from decorating to organizing games to just enjoying the sisters' company.

"The sisters enjoy talking to them and look forward to their visits immensely."

Lee Ann Moore
director of activities and volunteer services
Saint Mary's Convent

"Whatever event we have going on here, they get involved in it and make themselves a part of it," Moore said.

The students have put together elaborate events for the sisters to enjoy, Moore said.

Moore said they have organized parties to watch Notre Dame football games and planned carnivals and Christmas concerts. Last year, according to Moore, they even recreated New Orleans' Bourbon Street to celebrate Mardi Gras — including the parade floats.

The efforts by the students do not go unnoticed by the retired sisters, Moore said.

"They bring a liveliness to us," she said. "We're somewhat of a quiet place around here but from the time they're here, you can hear the sisters' laughter in the halls."

Moore said the sisters appreciate the students' generosity and take an interest in their lives.

"The sisters enjoy talking to them and look forward to their visits immensely," she said. "The sisters worry about them. They're always concerned about their studies and their health. They offer up their prayers for these kids all the time."

Moore said despite the fact that the seniors graduate every year, the club continues to grow.

"This group is just so dedicated," Moore said. "It can be absolutely freezing outside and they will still come over and bring such happiness, youth and spirit to us. They really are unsung heroes."

Contact Molly Madden at mmadden@hcc-nd.edu

Signer

continued from page 1

Signer to Notre Dame was one his "final and finest" achievements when he was head of the theology department. Signer was a professor, director of the Notre Dame Holocaust project and a fellow in the University's Medieval Institute, he said.

But McBrien also remembered casual conversations with Signer in addition to his intellectual legacy.

"Michael and I had a common interest in film," he said. "We would give our personal reviews and recommendations to each other."

Fort Wayne-South Bend Bishop Fr. John D'Arcy said Signer will be missed by both the wider community and Notre Dame in a letter that was read at the service.

"The presence of such a distinguished Jewish scholar at Notre Dame ...is among the highest significance," D'Arcy said.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Rank

continued from page 1

ed the slogan "No. 3. We're not done yet." Now, Dean Carolyn Woo said the phrase changes slightly.

"Our new statement is ... 'Now No. 2, still not through,'" she said. Woo said that while she can appreciate the rankings, "we're not actually striving for No. 1."

"Our new statement is ... 'Now No. 2, still not through.'"

Carolyn Woo
Mendoza College of Business

"It's about striving for excellence," she said. "It's about challenging our students."

The new rankings reflect the uncertainty many students feel in the job market, according the BusinessWeek report.

The article stated that 54 percent of seniors surveyed did not have a job offer as of January, and schools that excelled in the rankings — including Notre Dame — put strong emphasis on job placement.

At Notre Dame, according to the report, "administrators tap the school's well-connected alumni network to scout jobs and offer advice to students."

Woo said while the ranking only applies to the College of Business, she credits the entire University with the College's success, specifically noting services provided by the Career Center.

"It's all of these areas that allow us to successful and I'm grateful," Woo said.

The report also said Notre Dame scored better on the student survey this year, which counts for 30 percent of the final ranking. The College received an "A+" grade in the three areas of Teaching Quality, Facilities and Service and Job Placement.

The report — and the BusinessWeek reports of previous years — lists "a focus on ethics" as a unique feature of a Notre Dame business education.

Woo cautioned that just because the College is consistently recognized for this focus, "it doesn't mean that we should pat ourselves on the back."

"We have to step up and live our values, not just know them," Woo said.

Woo credited the students in the College of Business as being a primary reason for the College's success in the rankings.

"It's by their hard work and the reputation they earn us we succeed," she said.

She did offer one bit of advice to students.

"Be humble," she said. "I think that everybody should be pleased and proud, but know that the journey never ends."

This is the fourth year BusinessWeek has compiled rankings.

The magazine uses nine measures to determine the rankings, including surveys, senior business majors and recruiters, median starting salaries for graduates, SAT scores, student-faculty ratios, class size, the percentage of students with internships and the number of hours students devote to class work.

Contact Aaron Steiner at asteiner@nd.edu

ResNet offers tips for virus protection

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
News Writer

A functioning computer is a prized possession on a college campus. Kathy Hausmann, Coordinator of Student Computing at Saint Mary's College, explained ways to protect them from malicious software at the Computer Security Awareness lecture in Vander Vennet Monday evening.

Hausmann discussed threats such as viruses, trojans, spyware and malware, phishing and spam as well as topics like file sharing, passwords, physical security, backing up data and Facebook.

Trojans, a type of malware that appears to execute a desirable function but in reality performs malicious functions, are especially dangerous because they are difficult to detect and both Macs and PCs are susceptible to them, Hausmann said.

"If you have a trojan, whoever designed that trojan has complete access to your machine, including your passwords and credit card information," Hausmann said.

"If you have a trojan, whoever designed that trojan has complete access to your machine, including your passwords and credit card information"

Kathy Hausmann
coordinator
Student Computing

Viruses can infiltrate your e-mail and program your outbox to spread the bug to thousands of recipients, Hausmann said.

She gave tips on how protecting your computer from trojans and viruses, such as ensuring your anti-virus software is up-to-date. This software is available to faculty, students and staff free of charge on the the ResNet Web site.

She also said to be cautious of certain e-mails.

"If you receive an e-mail, if it's not personalized, don't click on the links. Don't click on the attachments. They are probably viral," Hausmann said.

Sites offering free items or downloads can also be dangerous to use.

"If a free copy of software, music or video sounds too good to be true, it probably is," Hausmann said.

There are programs that can be downloaded onto computers to prevent viruses, trojans and malware. McAfee, Spyware Blaster, Anti-Malware and Ad-Aware are all available on the ResNet Web site for download, including instructions on how to use them, she said.

Hausmann also discussed recent phishing scams discovered on campus that attempt to collect personal information.

Hausmann emphasized the importance of calling the companies that send out the e-mails asking for information. Legitimate companies rarely, if ever, ask for such sensitive information over e-mail, Hausmann said.

Another problem on the Saint Mary's campus, as well as other campuses across the country, is file sharing of copyrighted material. Illegal downloading is grounds for being removed from the network, Hausmann said.

"If [students] come into the office with file sharing software on their computers then we will remove it before we do anything else," she said.

If an outside agency informs the College that students have been file sharing copyrighted material, their computers will be locked out of the network until the problem is resolved. If Saint Mary's receives a subpoena from the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), then it is required to release the names of the students involved, Hausmann said.

The physical security of a student's computer can also be an issue. Recently, a laptop was stolen on campus, Hausmann said. She suggested students get laptop locks for their computers when they are in a public place.

Hausmann also discussed backing up data on your computer. External hard drives and flash drives are helpful tools in keeping your files safe, she said.

"Schedule backups weekly, use your calendar if you have to," Hausmann said.

She addressed Facebook and the privacy issues involved with the popular networking Web site. She recommended that users remove their Facebook pages from Google, protect their wall posts and pictures with privacy features and choose their friends carefully.

Hausmann warned students "once it's up on Facebook, once it's on the Internet, it is permanently on the Internet."

If Saint Mary's faculty, students or staff do have issues with their computers they can visit the ResNet office located in 102 Haggar College Center, she said.

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn01@saintmarys.edu

Want to write news? E-mail obsnews@nd.edu

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Citizens desire cease-fire, not money

RAFAH, Gaza Strip — As top diplomats pledged billions of dollars for war-ravaged Gaza on Monday, ordinary people here — from merchants to housewives — said they'd rather have open borders than handouts.

Even some tunnel smugglers who profit from Gaza's blockaded borders say they'd rather import legally through open crossings than risk Israeli bombing raids and shaft collapses.

"I want a cease-fire and open borders. Crossings are better than tunnels," said 22-year-old smuggler Abu Mahmoud, leaning over a shaft as workers tried to clear a 300-foot stretch of tunnel that had collapsed under an Israeli airstrike.

Bidder reveals auction fraud

BEIJING — A Chinese art collector revealed himself Monday as the man behind the winning bids for two imperial bronzes auctioned at Christie's over Beijing's objections, then announced he had no intention of paying the $36 million.

The audacious act of commercial sabotage exposes the tensions China and other countries, such as Greece and Egypt, face in trying to recover cultural objects plundered in war or stolen. One overseas expert in looted relics called the fake bids "brilliant" — a ploy likely to be copied in future disputed sales.

The bogus bids were the latest attempt by both the Chinese government and private citizens to block the sale of the pieces, which disappeared when French and British forces sacked and burned the imperial Summer Palace outside Beijing in 1860 at the end of the second Opium War. Chinese view the devastation of the palace as a national humiliation.

NATIONAL NEWS

Former reality star to face charges

MIAMI — On top of the world a few months ago, Brazilian race car driver and "Dancing with the Stars" champ Helio Castroneves faces possible prison time if convicted at a tax evasion trial that began Monday with selection of a jury.

An ethnically diverse panel of five men and seven women was chosen to hear the case, with attorneys' opening statements set for Tuesday.

Castroneves, a two-time winner of the Indianapolis 500, smiled broadly as he entered Miami's downtown federal courthouse. Prosecutors say Castroneves, his business-manager sister Katiucia and Michigan attorney Alan R. Miller conspired to hide about $5.5 million in income from the Internal Revenue Service using offshore accounts.

Anthony trial date set for October

ORLANDO — A central Florida mother will go on trial in October on a charge of murdering her 2-year-old daughter.

Casey Anthony's first-degree murder trial has been tentatively set for Oct. 12.

She is accused of killing her daughter, Caylee, whose remains were found in the woods in Orlando last December, six months after she disappeared.

Circuit Judge Stan Strickland also agreed to temporarily stop the public release of a jailhouse video of Casey Anthony reacting to news that Caylee's remains had been found until her defense attorney can view the video.

LOCAL NEWS

Ind. prisoners receive more funding

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana has three adults on parole or probation for every one in prison or jail, but the state invests only two cents in programs for them for every $1 it spends on incarceration, a new report says.

The report by the Pew Center on the States said one in 35 Indiana adults is on parole or probation — the eighth highest rate among states — but the state has poured far more money into prison and jail cells than it has into programs for ex-cons who have been released.

Powerful storm blankets East Coast

Large snowfall causes widespread school cancellations and travel delays

Associated Press

AP

Cadets at the U.S. Coast Guard Acadamy enjoy a game of football after their classes were canceled after a large winter storm swept the Eastern Seaboard Monday.

NEW YORK — A ferocious storm packing freezing rain, heavy snow and furious wind gusts paralyzed most of the East Coast on Monday, sending dozens of cars careening into ditches, grounding hundreds of flights and closing school for millions of kids.

The devastating effects of the storm were seen up and down the coast. A crash caused a 15-mile traffic jam in North Carolina, forcing police and the Red Cross to go car-to-car to check on stranded drivers. The storm was blamed for 350 crashes in New Jersey, and a Maryland official counted about 50 cars in the ditch on one stretch of highway.

By Monday, the storm had moved north into New England, and most areas in the storm's wake expected to see at least eight to 12 inches of snow. The weather contributed to four deaths on roads in Massachusetts, Rhode Island and on Long Island.

Diane Lugo, of Yonkers, N.Y., got a ride with her husband to avoid walking 10 minutes in the slush to her bus stop. "Getting out of the driveway was pure hell," Lugo said. "He got to work late. I'm obviously late."

The South was especially hard hit, dealing with record snowfalls, thick ice and hundreds of thousands of power outages in a region not accustomed to such vicious weather.

In North Carolina, Raleigh got more than three inches of snow; the March snowfall for the city has exceeded three inches only 11 times in the last 122 years. The Weather Service said parts of Tennessee received the biggest snowfall since 1968.

The 15-mile traffic jam in North Carolina caused no serious problems and authorities were able to get traffic moving again.

Travelers were stranded everywhere, with about 950 flights canceled at the three main airports in the New York area and nearly 300 flights canceled in Philadelphia. Boston's Logan International Airport had to shut down for about 40 minutes to clear a runway, and hundreds of flights were canceled there.

Philadelphia declared a Code Blue weather emergency, which gives officials the authority to bring homeless people into shelters because the weather poses a threat of serious harm or death.

Dozens of schools across North Carolina, South Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey and Maine gave children a snow day. Schools in Philadelphia, Boston and New York City did the same. It was the first time in more than five years that New York City called off classes for its 1.1 million public school students.

Some New York parents complained that the city waited until 5:40 a.m. to call off classes, saying they didn't have enough notice. Mayor Michael Bloomberg brushed off the criticism and praised the city's storm response, which included dispatching 2,000 workers and 1,400 plows to work around the clock to clean New York's 6,000 miles of streets.

"It's like plowing from here to Los Angeles and back," Bloomberg said at a news conference, standing in front of an orange snow plow at a garage. Central Park recorded 7 inches of snow, and more than a foot was reported on parts of Long Island, where high winds caused 2-foot drifts on highways in the Hamptons.

The storm offered a hint of irony in a couple of cities. People had to brave the snow and cold to attend the annual Philadelphia Flower Show, an indoor exhibition that provided a fragrant, spring-like glimpse of yellow daffodils, crimson azaleas and white tulips. In the nation's capital, hundreds of protesters gathered on Capitol Hill to protest a power plant and global warming during one of the worst storms of the year.

Castro shakes up Cuban government

Associated Press

HAVANA — President Raul Castro abruptly ousted some of Cuba's most powerful officials Monday, remaking the government in the biggest shakeup since he took over from his ailing brother Fidel Castro a year ago.

The changes replaced some key Fidel loyalists, including the longtime foreign minister, with men closer to Raul. They also reduced the enormous powers of a vice president credited with saving Cuba's economy after the fall of the Soviet Union.

But analysts saw no immediate indication that the changes are related to hopes for closer U.S.-Cuban ties now that both countries have new presidents.

Several ministries were consolidated in response to President Raul Castro's calls for a "more compact and functional structure" for the often unwieldy communist bureaucracy that oversees nearly all public activity on the island.

The most sweeping leadership shakeup in years was dropped on Cubans almost as an afterthought — at the end of the midday news, following the weather and sports.

The most prominent of those ousted, Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque, was the youngest of Cuba's top leaders and had been widely mentioned as a possible future president.

Perez Roque, 43, had been Fidel Castro's personal secretary before becoming foreign minister almost a decade ago, and he delighted in blustery, Fidel-like denunciations of U.S. policy.

"He was someone who was very close to Fidel Castro and built his career working directly for Fidel Castro," said Phil Peters, a Cuba specialist at the Lexington Institute near Washington.

Perez Roque was replaced by his own deputy, Bruno Rodriguez, who once served as Cuba's ambassador to the United Nations. Officials announced no new post for Perez Roque.

The surprise shake-up did not sit well with some Cubans, including Carmen Elizondo, 45, a housewife with three children who said she heard the announcement on the news.

"Ay! It left me feeling cold," Elizondo said. "I don't understand. Why make these changes, more than anything, Felipe? I had a lot of confidence in Felipe. I don't know any of those they put in place."

Panel

continued from page 1

how the Center has helped her to escape a life on the streets.

"I had hit rock bottom," she said. "I lost my kids, everything. Hope is helping her get them back slowly but surely."

With the help of Hope Ministries, Rose said she has been able to improve her education, grow closer to God and take care of her 10-month old daughter, who also resides at Hope Ministries.

"It's my home," she said of Hope Ministries. "It's my family. They made me feel welcome and accepted me and my daughter from the moment we arrived."

Another guest from Hope Ministries who identified herself as May shared her story of homelessness. Unlike some stereotypes of homeless people, she did not find herself on the streets because of alcoholism or drug abuse. Her medical condition caused her to lose her job, she said.

According to May, Hope Ministries helped her to fill out applications for disability pay, which she earned. May said she can now "have hope again."

A guest from the Center for the Homeless who identified himself as Andrew spoke about his past as a functioning drug addict who checked into the Center after losing his job in Chicago. With the help of the Center, he has had surgery to replace both of his knees and the opportunity to pursue his education.

Andrew said entering the Center has helped him to mend a strained relationship with his family.

A man who identified himself as Marcus was forced to return to the Center for the Homeless for a second time when the recession hit and he lost his job. He is currently searching for another job.

Wolfson focused on the problem of poverty in St. Joseph County.

"In 2007, 23.3 percent of families in St. Joseph County were in poverty," she said. "I am sure this number has increased now that we are in a recession."

One way to fight poverty is to increase the minimum wage, according to Wolfson. The current national minimum wage is $6.55 an hour a figure that will rise to $7.25 in July, she said.

Although President Barack Obama has a plan to eventually raise the national minimum wage to $9.50, recent statistics show this is not enough, she said.

According to Wolfson, for someone to be self-sufficient in St. Joseph County, they need an hourly wage of $12.90 full time.

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Purcell

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than 30 years, served as majority leader in the Tennessee House of Representatives before he became the mayor of Nashville for eight years.

Although public service is important, some people believe it has become more difficult than ever, Purcell said.

"It's important to remember it's always been hard," he said. "The fact that it's been hard ought not to discourage you."

Faith allows public servants to overcome hardships because it gives direction to convictions, Purcell said.

"It's the thing that carries you though," he said about faith. "It's the thing that holds you up. It's the thing that gets you up and allows you to do more."

Purcell cited scripture passages that have inspired his faith and his work in public service.

"Romans says that public servants are but God's servants for the protection of the people," he said.

He also explained how faith guided his decisions as mayor of Nashville.

In 2007, he said that the city of Nashville passed legislation making English the only language of the Nashville government. Yet the city wanted to welcome international businesses and people from other cultures, and this law could deter them. When Purcell vetoed the legislation, he said a Catholic Bishop as well as Protestant and Jewish leaders joined him in City Hall.

"It's important to remember it's always been hard. ... The fact that it's hard out not to discourage you."

Bill Purcell
director
Harvard Institute of Politics

Purcell said that according to polls conducted by Notre Dame and Harvard, college students are eager to become active in public service.

"This is exactly the time that you should feel this way," he said. "The opportunities will be there and you will have the opportunity to move faster ... than any group of young people that lived before."

He said his visit to Notre Dame has given him hope for the future of public service.

"You are engaged," he told students. "As you do community service, as you do public service, as you're out there lifting people up, what will that mean? I don't know. But I can't believe it won't have an effect."

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Fallon debuts as 'Late Night' host

Comedian replaces Conan O'Brien, gets flack from Letterman

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Almost a year after Jimmy Fallon was named new host of NBC's "Late Night," and 10 days after predecessor Conan O'Brien departed, Fallon made his debut Monday.

Fallon's opening-night guests included Robert De Niro and Justin Timberlake, with Van Morrison as his musical guest.

An hour earlier on CBS, "Late Show with David Letterman" was kicking off some musical excitement of its own: the first of a full week of performances by the superstar band U2. In an unprecedented weeklong booking by "Late Show", U2 is promoting its new album, "No Line on the Horizon."

"It will be interesting to see if they can make it past Wednesday night," Letterman said on Monday's show.

U2's four members also pitched in for some comedy. Letterman said viewers shouldn't get the impression that these are pretty-boy rock 'n' rollers — they're willing to lend a hand if someone needs some help. Then the camera switched to a shot of U2 shoveling snow outside the Ed Sullivan Theater.

Larry Mullen shoveled while smoking a cigarette, which Letterman noted.

"I think there's very little danger of them overdoing it," he cracked.

Later in the show, U2 performed its new song "Breathe."

In his debut monologue, Fallon joked about opening-night jitters with a reference to the weather.

"New York City was hit with a huge snow storm," he noted, "and I woke up this morning and said, 'Please, let it be a snow day!'"

Fallon, a former cast member of "Saturday Night Live" with several films to his credit, has tapped a longtime "SNL" hand, Michael Shoemaker, to be his producer. A co-producer is Gavin Purcell, who ran "Attack of the Show," the daily Net-centric news hour on cable's G4 channel.

Lorne Michaels — who used to be Fallon's boss on "SNL" — continues as "Late Night" executive producer.

Other than excerpts from its monologue, the New York-based show, taped Monday afternoon, was not made available to critics before airtime.

But details and glimpses of the Fallon era "Late Night" have been shared with viewers on the show's Web site for weeks.

"I know I'm gonna get reviewed off the first show, as opposed to the first couple of months," Fallon predicted in a recent interview. "'He's no Conan,' or 'He's no Letterman' — I just want that to be said, and put out there. Then viewers can relax and watch and enjoy."

Fallon's on-air arrival sets in motion a carefully arranged shift by NBC. O'Brien, who took over "Late Night" from its original host, Letterman, in 1993, is now devoting full time to readying his version of the Los Angeles-based "Tonight" show, where he will land in June.

CLC

continued from page 1

it affecting the more practical side of the policy, [like] the disciplinary procedure and ... the student psyche."

Diversity Council Representative Brigitte Githinji said her task force, which focuses on how multicultural and international students adjust to campus life, plans to send out a survey over Spring Break to find out how to improve the transition to Notre Dame for these students.

"[We are] trying to figure out if there is a divide within the students," Githinji said.

"We talked about the fact that international students seem to be sectored off into social groups and we wanted to figure out if that is by choice," she said.

"The big thing that we spent a lot of time on is a calendaring system," said Corry Colonna, rector of Zahm Hall, who reported for the task force on technology and study spaces.

Colonna said the task force is attempting to meet with agenda.nd.edu to discuss ways of improving the University's calendar system.

"We looked at other colleges and universities' calendars to see what we wanted," he said.

Colonna said his group decided they would like to include a search bar and to make the calendar aesthetically pleasing.

Student body president Bob Reish said the task force on off-campus student relations met with a representative from the Office of Residence Life and Housing (ORLH).

"ResLife doesn't typically deal with off-campus students ... There's a very low number of students who go there" for off-campus information, according to Reish.

Reish said his task force is looking at the off-campus services offered by other universities. Some of these schools include Boston College, Princeton University and Marquette University, he said.

"So far a lot of the universities we are looking at do have some sort of off-campus services," Reish said.

Fr. Jim Lewis, rector of Carroll Hall, pointed out that it is hard to make a comparison between Notre Dame and other schools.

"Notre Dame is, if not unique, nearly so, in terms of our on-campus housing," Lewis said.

Reish ended the meeting by announcing there are only four more CLC meetings scheduled for the rest of the semester. He suggested it may be necessary to schedule more meetings.

"I want to encourage all of us to work really efficiently," he said. "We just have to make sure we're meeting our mark here."

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Bush terror memos released by Obama

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration threw open the curtain on years of Bush-era secrets Monday, revealing anti-terror memos that claimed exceptional search-and-seizure powers and divulging that the CIA destroyed nearly 100 videotapes of interrogations and other treatment of terror suspects.

The Justice Department released nine legal opinions showing that, following the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the Bush administration determined that certain constitutional rights would not apply during the coming fight. Within two weeks, government lawyers were already discussing ways to wiretap U.S. conversations without warrants.

The Bush administration eventually abandoned many of the legal conclusions, but the documents themselves had been closely held. By releasing them, President Barack Obama continued a house-cleaning of the previous administration's most contentious policies.

"Too often over the past decade, the fight against terrorism has been viewed as a zero-sum battle with our civil liberties," Attorney General Eric Holder said in a speech a few hours before the documents were released. "Not only is that school of thought misguided, I fear that in actuality it does more harm than good."

The Obama administration also acknowledged in court documents Monday that the CIA destroyed 92 videos involving terror suspects, including interrogations — far more than had been known. Congressional Democrats and other critics have charged that some of the harsh interrogation techniques amounted to torture, a contention President George W. Bush and other Bush officials rejected.

The new administration pledged on Monday to begin turning over documents related to the videos to a federal judge and to make as much information public as possible.

The legal memos written by the Bush administration's Office of Legal Counsel show a government grappling with how to wage war on terrorism in a fast-changing world. The conclusion, reiterated in page after page of documents, was that the president had broad authority to set aside constitutional rights.

Fourth Amendment protections against unwarranted search and seizure, for instance, did not apply in the United States as long as the president was combatting terrorism, the Justice Department said in an Oct. 23, 2001, memo.

MARKET RECAP

Stocks		
Dow Jones	6,763.29	-299.64

Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:
323	59	3,544	405,840,308

AMEX	1,260.75	-71.67
NASDAQ	1,322.85	-54.99
NYSE	4,360.98	-256.05
S&P 500	700.82	-34.27
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	7,204.89	-75.26
FTSE 100 (London)	3,625.83	-204.26

COMPANY	%CHANGE	$GAIN	PRICE
CITIGROUP INC (C)	-20.00	-0.30	1.20
BK OF AMERICA (BAC)	-8.10	-0.32	3.63
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	-4.50	-3.33	70.60
GEN ELECTRIC CO (GE)	-10.69	-0.91	7.60
Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	-4.01	-0.122	2.919
13-WEEK BILL	-8.00	-0.020	0.230
30-YEAR BOND	-1.96	-0.073	3.649
5-YEAR NOTE	-7.92	-0.160	1.860
Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE ($/bbl.)		-4.61	40.15
GOLD ($/Troy oz.)		-2.50	940.00
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)		-0.73	79.10
Exchange Rates			
YEN			97.3350
EURO			1.2594
CANADIAN DOLLAR			1.2887
BRITISH POUND			1.4054

IN BRIEF

Insurance giant reveals large losses

WASHINGTON — A new definition of desperate times: Even as the government threw a stunning new $30 billion lifeline to American International Group on Monday, the beleaguered insurance giant confirmed it had lost more than twice that much, $62 billion, in a single three-month period.

And many more billions of federal dollars are almost sure to be shoveled into the company for a simple reason: Officials fear its collapse would cripple financial markets in the U.S. and around the world.

The source of trouble for AIG, which has 74 million customers worldwide and operations in more than 130 countries, is its business insuring mortgage-backed securities and other debt against default. That business imploded once the credit crisis struck with force.

Analysts: Rebound still months away

WASHINGTON — Consumer spending and incomes rose more than expected at the start of the year, but the gains were seen as fleeting in light of the recession and the waves of layoffs battering Americans.

Two other reports Monday on manufacturing and construction also showed little reason for optimism. Analysts said any start to an economic rebound is at best months away, with the most pessimistic predicting a sustained recovery won't begin until next year.

Wall Street plunged anew after a sobering earnings report from American International Group showed the insurance giant lost $61.7 billion in the fourth quarter, the biggest quarterly loss in U.S. corporate history. In response, the government unveiled a revamped rescue package that will provide AIG with another $30 billion in taxpayer money if needed.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell below 7,000 for the first time in 11 years. The credit crisis and recession have slashed more than half of the Dow's value since it hit a record-high over 14,000 in October 2007. The Dow lost nearly 300 points to 6,763.29.

Dow plummets to finish below 7,000

Monday's finish at 6,763 the lowest since May 1997; S&P hovers near 700

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A relentless sell-off in the stock market Monday blew through barriers that would have been unthinkable just weeks ago, and investors warned there was no reason to believe buyers will return anytime soon.

The Dow Jones industrial average plummeted below 7,000 at the opening bell and kept driving lower all day, finishing at 6,763 — a loss of nearly 300 points. Each of the 30 stocks in the index lost value for the day.

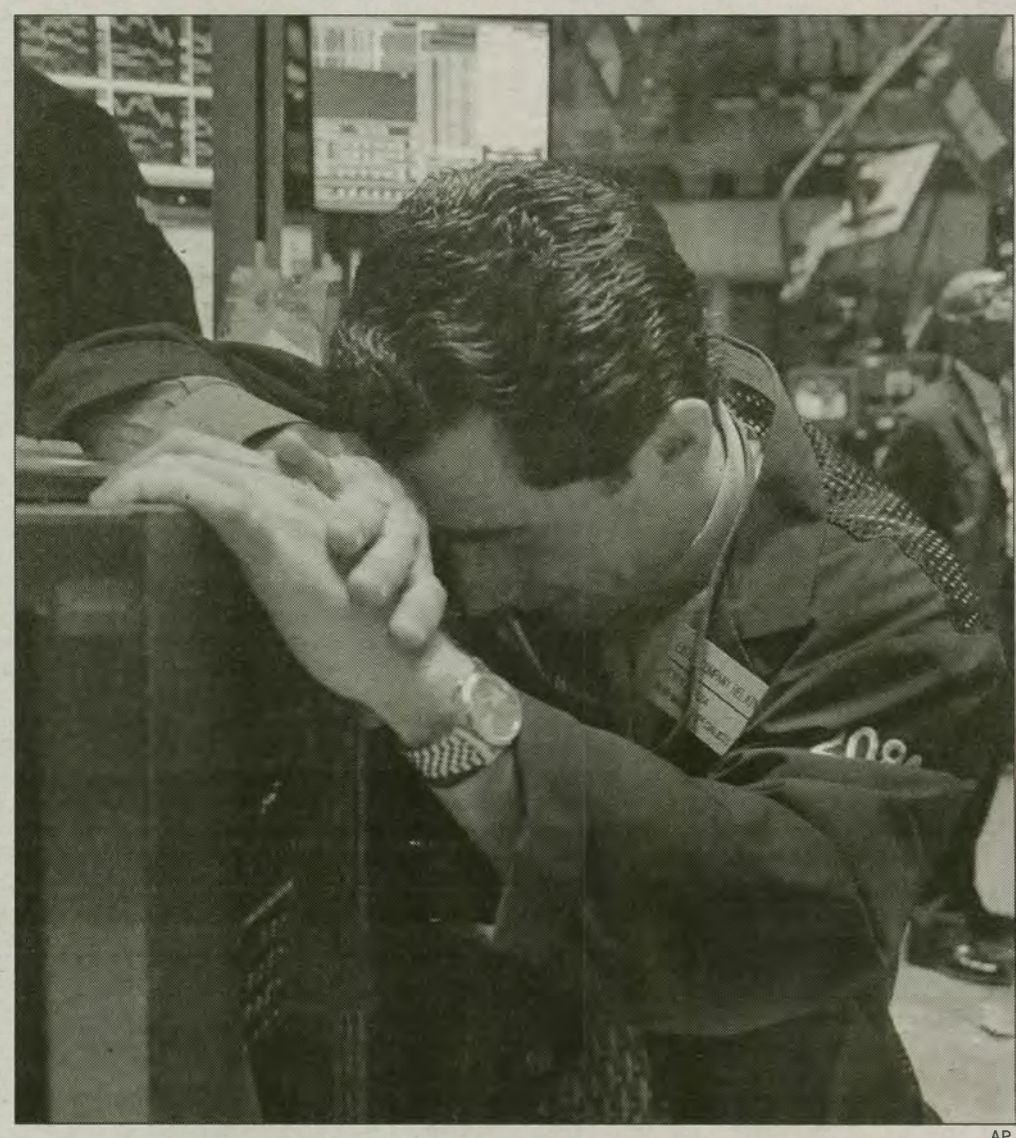
And the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index, a much broader measure of the market's health, dipped below the psychologically important 700 level before closing just above it. It hadn't traded below 700 since October 1996.

Investors were worried anew about the stability of the financial system after insurer American International Group posted a staggering $62 billion loss for the fourth quarter, the biggest in U.S. corporate history — and accepted an expanded bailout from the government.

But beyond daily headlines, Wall Street seems to have given up the search for a reason to believe that the worst is over and the time is ripe to buy again.

"As bad as things are, they can still get worse, and get a lot worse," said Bill Strazzullo, chief market strategist for Bell Curve Trading, who said he believes the Dow might fall to 5,000 and the S&P to 500.

The Dow's descent has been breathtaking. It took only 14 trading sessions for the average to fall from above 8,000 to below 7,000. For the year, the Dow has lost 23 percent of its value.



AP

A frustrated investor hangs his head at the New York Stock Exchange after the Dow Jones closed at 6,763 points, its lowest posting in amost 12 years.

Its last close below 7,000 was May 1, 1997 — a time when the market was barreling to one record high after another because of the boom in technology stocks, but often suffered big drops as investors worried about inflation and rising interest rates.

This time around, Wall Street analysts seem to believe that a stock market recovery will first require signs of health among financial companies, and on Monday those signs seemed further away than ever.

AIG, whose reach is so vast that the government warns letting it fail would cripple the very world financial system, will get another $30 billion in loans on top of the $150 billion already invested by the government.

HSBC PLC, Europe's largest bank by market value, said it needs to raise about $18 billion, reported a 70 percent drop in earnings for last year, and announced plans to scale back U.S. lending and cut 6,100 jobs.

The banking sector helped drive the market lower. Citigroup stock lost 20 percent of its value and fell to a paltry $1.20 per share. HSBC lost 19 percent. Bank of America lost 8 percent.

While the root of the problem for the financial firms is the bad bets they made on mortgages and mortgage-backed securities, now the recession is exacerbating their problems, forcing job cuts.

"The economy definitely has deteriorated since November," said Sean Simko, head of fixed income management at SEI Investments. "It's just the fact that we haven't seen signs of improving or stabilizing, per se, which is adding to the morass of the market."

Madoff looks to keep millions in assets

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bernard Madoff is seeking to keep a $7 million Manhattan penthouse and an additional $62 million in assets, saying they are unrelated to the fraud that authorities say cost victims more than $50 billion.

In court papers filed Monday in U.S. District Court in Manhattan, Madoff and his lawyer claim the apartment, $45 million in municipal bonds and $17 million more in a separate account all belong to Madoff's wife, Ruth.

The bonds in an account held by Ruth Madoff at COHMAD Securities Corp. and about $17 million held by her in a Wachovia Bank account "are unrelated to the alleged Madoff fraud and only Ruth Madoff has a beneficial interest in these assets," Bernard Madoff and lawyer Ira Sorkin said, according to the papers.

Sorkin declined to comment Monday.

A court-appointed trustee overseeing the liquidation of Madoff's assets has said the apartment and other property used to secure bail was off limits for now. But if there's a conviction, those assets and possibly property of Madoff "insiders" could be seized to help pay claims by alleged victims, which so far total about $1 billion.

"We are looking at every member of the Madoff family," David Sheen, an attorney representing the trustee, said recently regarding the personal property.

The information was contained in an order of consent asking a judge to grant the federal government authority to seek forfeiture of assets involved in any fraud. It was filed in a case brought by the SEC against Madoff.

Trustee Irving H. Picard has said that nearly $950 million in cash and securities has been recovered for investors so far.

The 70-year-old former Nasdaq chairman has been confined to the Manhattan apartment, purchased in 1984, under house arrest since early December.

He was arrested and charged with securities fraud after authorities said in court papers that he confessed to his sons that he had carried out a giant Ponzi scheme for years, using new money from investors to pay off early investors while bogus statements claimed consistent investment gains."They're going to have to cut their budgets significantly," said Mark Vitner, senior economist and managing director at Wachovia.

THE OBSERVER

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POLICIES

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A nation of cowards

Christie Pesavento
Right Winging It

"Though this nation has proudly thought of itself as an ethnic melting pot, in things racial we have always been and continue to be, in too many ways, essentially a nation of cowards ... if we are to make progress in this area we must feel comfortable enough with one another, and tolerant enough of each other, to have frank conversations about the racial matters that continue to divide us."

These words were spoken by our first black attorney general, Eric Holder, who was nominated for the position by our first black president, Barack Obama.

That same day, a cartoon was published in the New York Post in reference to the recent mauling of a Connecticut woman by her friend's pet chimpanzee, which was shot and killed by the police. The cartoon depicts two police officers, one of whom is holding a smoking gun over a dead chimpanzee while the other states, "They'll have to find someone else to write the next stimulus bill."

Immediately Al Sharpton, flanked by his Political Correctness Task Force in the guise of a swarm of outraged protestors, demanded an apology from the Post for publishing the inflammatory cartoon. Why? Because according to Sharpton's warped logic, the artist had leveled a racist attack on Obama by comparing him to a crazed chimpanzee. Sharpton alluded to the historic practice of using references to chimpanzees as racial epithets against blacks, as well as the assertion that the stimulus bill represents Obama's first legislative victory and has thus become "synonymous" with him, in order to draw this connection.

First of all, as anyone who is familiar with our government's legislative process (the number of which I'm beginning to believe is infinitely small) knows, congressmen are the only ones who have the authority to write legislation. Secondly, former President George W. Bush was compared to a chimp countless times during and after his tenure in office, and Sharpton didn't bother to come to his defense. Of course this was because Bush is not black, but clearly there is a double standard at work here.

Now I recognize insults toward black Americans involving monkeys and apes are particularly degrading and hurtful given their historical connotation. If Sean Delonas (the Post's cartoonist) had meant to characterize blacks or Obama as chimpanzees, I could sympathize with those who might take offense (even though I might also be tempted to tell them to chill out, since I have personally found that taking offense to insulting accusations only adds credit to them). But given the lack of racist intent, in addition to the fact the president cannot author legislation, I believe that Sharpton's rhetoric is patently absurd. Furthermore, I believe his hypersensitivity to alleged racism and the victim mentality it fosters among black Americans in this country lie at the heart of our attorney general's accusations.

As a citizen of this great "Cowardly Nation," I would like to say I agree with Holder's claim: We are a nation of cowards. But not for the same reasons he would suggest.

Since the end of the Civil War, our nation has freed thousands of black slaves, recognized a person's right to vote regardless of color and abolished racial segregation. We have embraced black culture in countless ways. We have recognized the vital contributions of black musicians, black scientists, black athletes, black authors and black religious leaders. We have elected black congressmen, black senators and black governors; we have nominated black cabinet members and a black Supreme Court justice; and this past year, we have elected a black man to lead our country as president. In light of these actions, we have not been a nation of cowards.

Yet since the dawning of the era of political correctness in the 1990s, America has been forced to become a nation of cowards. We are afraid to speak frankly about our views on race in fear of being labeled a racist. We are afraid to associate with those of the other race because we don't want to be called a race-traitor (especially people on the political right. Think of Condoleeza Rice and Michael Steele). We cannot be comfortable around one another because people like Sharpton may come knocking down our doors, demanding an apology for something we never meant to be offensive.

If we are to return to the days before cowardice became king, Sharpton and his followers must be willing to move beyond the temptation to use the victim card whenever the conversation turns to race. More importantly, we must view one another, not simply as members of a certain group or race, but as individual human beings.

Attorney General Holder, in spite of my alleged cowardice, I am publishing these views regardless of what accusations of racism and bigotry may be hurled my way. I hope this instills you with faith in the capacity of Americans to break through the boundaries of political correctness that have stifled conversation in the past two decades and take part in open, honest discussions of race.

Christie Pesavento is spending this semester in Washington, D.C. She can be reached at cpesaven@nd.edu.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON

OBSERVER POLL

What are you doing for Spring Break?

Going home
Staying here
Partying somewhere safe
Taking my chances in Mexico

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

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The worst – perhaps the only sin – passion can commit, is to be joyless."

Dorothy L. Sayers
English mystery writer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time really is now

In Dr. Greene's thought-provoking article published on Wednesday, he listed a number of abominations affecting African- Americans since the beginning of our country. The list is, unfortunately, quite long and humiliating. But I think that Dr. Greene's letter forgot the most humiliating abhorrence to ever disgrace the history of race in America. The thing he forgets took 14 million African American lives, averaging out to be 1,200 per day. It's an event that goes against everything that Dr. Greene holds to be true about the American ideal – opportunity for all and equality. It's a perversion that U.S. presidents from Johnson to Obama "condoned and supported – even if they only looked the other way." And it's still happening.

I'm not sure if Dr. Greene forgot that 1,200 African Americans are taken daily by abortion, or if that fact was edited out of his article. I hope the latter, but suspect the former. If he wants to speak honestly about race, let's talk about how today, according to the CDC (where all of these facts have been gathered), for every 100 live African American births, there are 49.5 aborted African American children. Let's talk about how more abortion clinics exist in minority areas than in white areas. The slave trade was a despicable example of human beings becoming commodities. But the abortion industry today, which nets a profit of many hundreds of millions of dollars per year, does exactly that. Taking the average price of an abortion at $300, $4.2 billion has been gained by the abortion of African Americans since 1971.

With this information, I must ask, what is the bigger abomination? Predatory lending? Limited numbers of blacks getting GI bills? Or genocide for profit? Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, once stated, "Colored people are like human weeds and are to be exterminated." Is it any coincidence, then, that Planned Parenthood (a large recipient of government funds) alone performs 482,000 abortions on blacks per year? Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi stated in an interview just one month ago that "if we can rapidly reduce the number of poor people through abortion, that's a net gain for federal and state budgets, and a fast track to economic recovery. Every poor baby prevented is like money in the bank." Considering that minorities make up disproportionate numbers of the poor, are we really going to condone a system which reduces the number of the poor just so our state budgets have more money? Genocide should never be a piece of national policy. Minorities and minority rights are being sold for money, in a far more heinous and hidden system than slave traders created.

And so yes, Dr. Greene, we "cannot distance ourselves from a history of slavery of a different name." When will we have an honest conversation about race? When will we all face the fact that our government agencies have been complicit in creating inequality and injustice in not just housing, education, and health care, but existence as well? The time is now, indeed.

Nathan Loyd
senior
Keough
Mar. 2

Festival not dead

In 2004, I was among a small group of faculty, students and alumni who founded the first Notre Dame Queer Film Festival. Personally, I pitched the Festival to five academic departments and had one-on-one meetings with then-University President Fr. Edward "Monk" Malloy, then-provost Dr. Nathan Hatch and Fr. Mark Poorman. By the end of the Festival, Fr. Theodore Hesburgh gave us his blessing. For the following two years, I continued to be one of the Festival organizers and helped program the films and guests. Currently, I am the secretary of the Gay and Lesbian Alumni of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College (GALA ND/SMC).

Tom O'Neil's Feb. 16th letter titled "How Notre Dame sneakily killed off the Queer Film Festival" gave an apt description of University President Fr. John Jenkin's efforts to "contain" and limit the Queer Film Festival. Mainly, the Jenkins team sought to improve the University's public relations by not shutting down the Film Festival, just putting a lot of red tape around it. In turn, this would satisfy disgruntled alumni (and bishops) while at the same time not making the front page of The New York Times for being discriminatory. Ironically, his first move — to make us remove the word "queer" from the title — stripped the Festival of its academic merit. This is because "queer" is what Academia calls gay and lesbian studies. Colleges that provide degrees in this discipline include Yale University, the University of Maryland, University of California, Berkeley, UCLA, California State University Northridge and DePaul University, to name a few.

Throughout all this, however, it is important to note that several key people continued to try to make the Film Festival continue. The department of Film, Television, and Theater, for instance, remained supportive and helpful despite intense pressure from the administration to do otherwise. And, while there is red tape around the Queer Film Festival, its coffin is far from being nailed shut. The Festival was not shut down. That is worth repeating: the Festival was not shut down.

Because of this, the real power remains in all of you — the student body. And you can do it, because Father Jenkins gave you permission to in his 2006 ruling, saying that he was "very determined that we not suppress speech on this campus." How can such an endeavor be accomplished again? We put together the first Queer Film Festival by working within the parameters of the University. The first step is to work with the departments to construct a mission statement that is both pragmatic and inspirational. Use that as your springboard to move forward. GALA ND/SMC is here to help along the way. Just remember: the festival can happen again, but only by your initiatives. Back in 1978, Harvey Milk said: "I hope that every professional gay will say 'enough', come forward and tell everybody, wear a sign, let the world know. Maybe that will help." If the Notre Dame community took Milk's advice to heart, just imagine how many signs there would be inside and surrounding the Golden Dome.

Liam Dacey
alum
class of '04
Feb. 25

Don't starve Grandma

I disagree with Mr. Hagan's interpretation of the 2007 CDF statement on artificial nutrition and hydration. He states in his Feb. 16 article titled "Health care purpose" that the denial of nutrition and hydration is permissible if a patient has reached the terminal stage of an illness where treatment is ineffective. "Treatment" in these cases refers to extraordinary care (such as chemotherapy), which any patient may refuse, terminal or otherwise. The CDF document asserts that people in persistent vegetative states must receive nutrition and hydration (ordinary care) precisely because they are people with fundamental human dignity. Unless the terminally ill lack fundamental human dignity (they don't), this implies that they, too, must receive nutrition and hydration, and denial thereof is euthanasia. The only exception stated or implied in this document is in the case where this care does not "accomplish its proper finality," or in other words, the body cannot absorb the nourishment. In this case (as Professor Rice notes), the removal of artificial nourishment is not the cause of death. This is a stark contrast to the starvation of a patient who has received a terminal diagnosis and would continue to live for months or years with nutrition and hydration.

Phillip Little
grad student
O'Hara Grace
Feb. 16

A misunderstanding, indeed

In response to Tommy Maranges' not-so-recent Viewpoint "A Clear Misunderstanding" (Feb. 19), I must offer some words of advice to Mr. Maranges. One who prides himself on the ability to fashion language (superfluous though it may be) into logical arguments — as Mr. Maranges appears to be — should know that an argument's closing remark is supposed to be the proverbial "nail in the coffin," a verbal stab that erases all doubt of the argument's validity from the audience. Instead of adhering to this rule, however, Mr. Maranges exposed a gaping hole in his thought process by saying that "we don't need to 'balance the Catholic nature of this institution' with anything. Catholic is a designation from which everything else should flow, not one against which everything else must balance."

While Catholicism is a characteristic inseparable from the University of Notre Dame itself, it is certainly not the only one that warrants attention. In fact, one of these other aspects is revealed simply by examining the name of this institution: we are at a site of education. This education is not to be limited to memorizing theorems from math textbooks and studying classic works of literature, but must extend to learning from our fellow Irish.

Coming from a high school community that prides itself on strong relationships between culturally diverse groups, I have been witness to this on a very personal level. The greatest lessons I learned in high school were not taught by professors and could not be tested by The College Board. My moments of greatest learning were in being able to understand and relate to others whose lifestyles I had not (and likely would never) experienced firsthand.

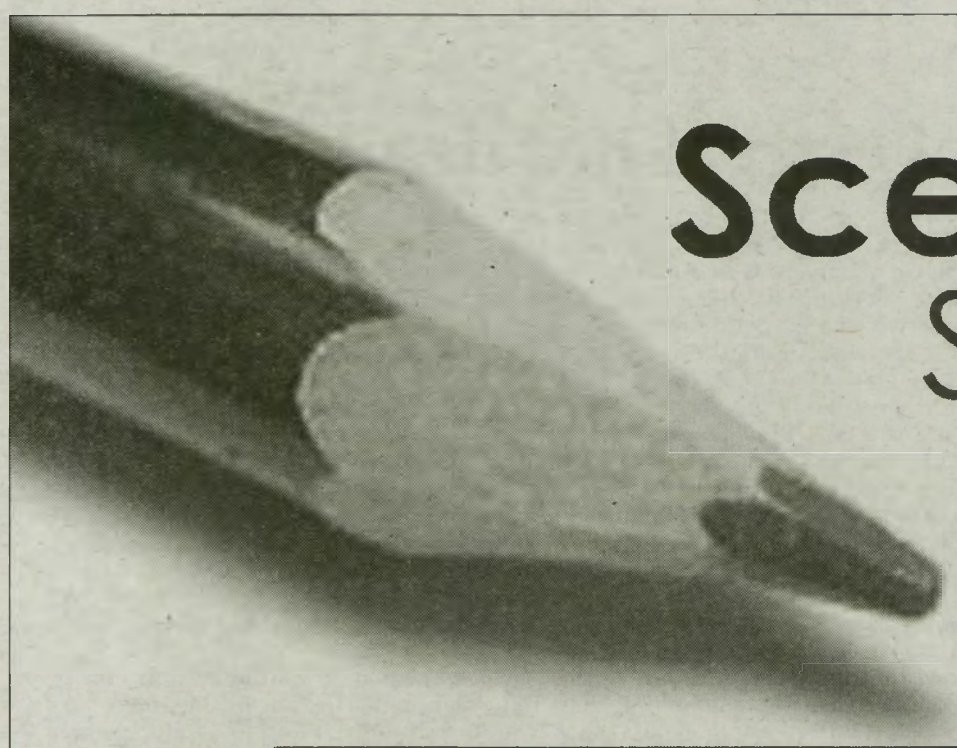
I agree with Mr. Maranges on one point. We don't need to balance the Catholic nature of this institution. This University would not exist if its founders did not believe that education and Catholicism could interact harmoniously. However, this is as much an institution of education as it is a vessel of Catholicism. Since one of the most important forms of learning comes from being able to interact with those about whom you know very little, by depriving its students of the opportunity to experience homosexual culture in a way that they probably haven't before, the University is failing to provide us a true education, thus not fulfilling one of its greatest obligations.

There is more than enough prejudice and ignorance in the world. We don't need more to arise from failing to recognize that Catholic schools are not simply glorified monasteries, but institutions of a human education

Jeremy Lamb
freshman
Knott
Feb. 26

I write something of interest down here.
You write something of interest up there.

Got it?



Scene Senior Sage Advice...

By SZYMON RYZNER
Scene Writer

After two strenuous semesters of devout contribution to The Observer's Scene section, I have been tasked with providing some short advice on things related to pop culture and nostalgic college experiences. This edition of Scene and Heard is going to be about how not to ruin Notre Dame for yourself. Without further ado, I present an arbitrary list in no particular order:

1. Never become a senior. This is very important, which is why I've put it first. If you never become a senior, then you can't graduate and you will have successfully avoided all the responsibilities associated with living a productive life in society. Equally important, don't stay longer than four years. South Bend slowly drains your soul away.

2. Go to the DPAC. It's a rather classy building brimming with art of every variety. The tickets are always cheap for students and the shows that go on in there are of the highest caliber. Weird foreign movies, student productions and world famous orchestras: they all come to the DPAC. Get cultured!

3. Travel abroad. It very well could actually manifest as the life-changing event some make it out to be, but more importantly it will be easy. You will travel, make new friendships and sample all sorts of fantastic food — most notably spicy lamb shawarma.

4. We are all children of the 90s (especially those that weren't even alive in the 80s), so know the pop culture that shaped you! N'Sync, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, O.J. Simpson — all essential parts of the experience — know it, love it, buy a white Ford Bronco.

5. Know your Internet humor. The Internet seems to be a greater source of comedy than most films have been in recent memory. This is what makes our generation unique to the ones that came before it. It's not a trap.

6.That's what she said.

7. Watch "Arrested Development." It launched the careers of Michael Cera and Will Arnett and its episodes provide more jokes per minute than any other show I have encountered. "30 Rock" is also quickly developing into a humor powerhouse, so don't you dare miss another episode. You get bonus points for making it a social event, or a party, with chocolate covered bananas so it doesn't feel like "watching T.V."

8.Pick a major you actually like, not one you think you should have. Except for incredibly rare scenarios, the major you have after freshman year should not be the one you graduate with.

9.Be secretly nerdy, or overtly nerdy. People should know how many Cylon models there are. The previous statement perhaps dooms me to an overtly nerdy existence.

10.Engage in a Viewpoint war. Please. They're generally fantastic and a highlight of The Observer. I have been waiting all year for the annual Saint Mary's/Notre Dame Viewpoint, yet here we are without any substantial animosity on either side. Let me be the first to say: Saint Mary's sucks.

11.Don't pick at it, or it will never heal.

Perhaps I could go on, but I have to go do work for the major that I wonder about selecting quite frequently. My time at Notre Dame has been excellent, and I hope you do whatever you can to live interestingly. I wish you all many mistakes from which to learn, and remember that you will never be around as many different, unique and interesting people as you will have been in college. Take advantage of that.

Contact Szymon Rzyner at srzyner@nd.edu

By MICHELLE FORDICE
Assistant Scene Editor

I walked into The Observer office as a freshman on a whim; I hadn't worked for the paper at my high school and was simply trying it on for size. Four years later, working for Scene definitely numbers among some of best parts of my Notre Dame experience — chiefly when it comes to writing my beloved Dining Hall Dish column.

Still, I am going to surmise that most of you out there are at best vaguely interested in my good-byes. So I will combine my adieus and reminiscences with something more proactive. Recorded below are the best parts about being part of The Observer — and especially the Scene — staff. Hopefully all of you out there who aren't graduating along with me will consider joining the team.

Anyone who works at The Observer gains certain benefits. First, there is the knowledge that a lot of the campus is actually reading what you write. That Observer lying on a dining hall table or stacked in LaFortune is going out with a little bit of you in it. Every weekday you get the chance to let everyone at the University know what is going on, or at least entertain them for awhile. There is even that feeling that the audience out there might actually care. Trust me: However trivial it might seem there is nothing like the first time you make it onto the top-five most-popular articles on The Observer Web site or get your first e-mail — negative or positive — in response to something you wrote. (Even sweeter? A Viewpoint letter or, dare I say it, a Viewpoint controversy.)

Beyond that, then there is that special Observer family you come to know. The only people who understand what it means to write an article at the last minute, or be up to far too early finishing the layout for the next morning. You're among the few that associate South Dining Hall with something other than food and are all more than a bit proud to see that freshly printed Observer as you walk to class.

Now, why is Scene so special? Well first, it's all about what you get to cover. How would you like it to have an official, productive excuse to sit in a movie theater or watch T.V.? Or get that special VIP feeling when you show up at the DPAC to pick up your complimentary tickets? Nowhere else on campus can you wax poetic about pop culture with such legitimacy.

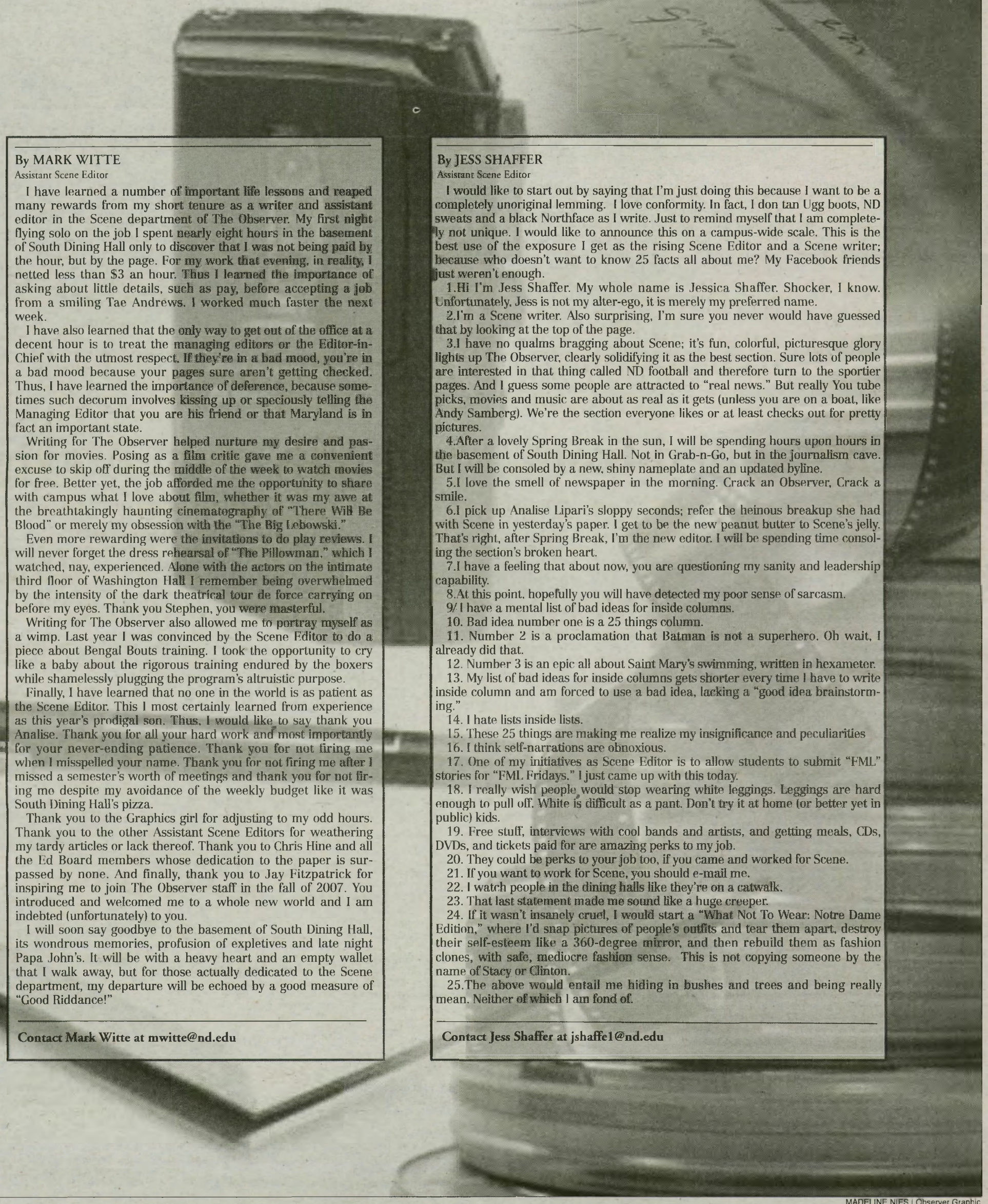
Above all, Scene gives you the most opportunities to be creative. I've had to come up with articles about everything from politics, to the Wii, to Russian ballet companies, to how to survive a South Bend winter. Or best yet, how to survive the dining hall. I've reviewed plays in a language I don't know a word of and gotten to peruse the best of the promotional material the entertainment industry decides to send us. Working for Scene gives you a glimpse into the way creativity and art influence our culture.

So I hope this has inspired you to think about joining The Observer. Come polish up your writing, find the best excuse in the world to do something other than homework and, above all, have fun.

Contact Michelle Fordice at mfordice@nd.edu

MADELINE NIES I Observer Graphic

and Staff Sarcasm



By MARK WITTE
Assistant Scene Editor

I have learned a number of important life lessons and reaped many rewards from my short tenure as a writer and assistant editor in the Scene department of The Observer. My first night flying solo on the job I spent nearly eight hours in the basement of South Dining Hall only to discover that I was not being paid by the hour, but by the page. For my work that evening, in reality, I netted less than $3 an hour. Thus I learned the importance of asking about little details, such as pay, before accepting a job from a smiling Tae Andrews. I worked much faster the next week.

I have also learned that the only way to get out of the office at a decent hour is to treat the managing editors or the Editor-in-Chief with the utmost respect. If they're in a bad mood, you're in a bad mood because your pages sure aren't getting checked. Thus, I have learned the importance of deference, because sometimes such decorum involves kissing up or speciously telling the Managing Editor that you are his friend or that Maryland is in fact an important state.

Writing for The Observer helped nurture my desire and passion for movies. Posing as a film critic gave me a convenient excuse to skip off during the middle of the week to watch movies for free. Better yet, the job afforded me the opportunity to share with campus what I love about film, whether it was my awe at the breathtakingly haunting cinematography of "There Will Be Blood" or merely my obsession with the "The Big Lebowski."

Even more rewarding were the invitations to do play reviews. I will never forget the dress rehearsal of "The Pillowman," which I watched, nay, experienced. Alone with the actors on the intimate third floor of Washington Hall I remember being overwhelmed by the intensity of the dark theatrical tour de force carrying on before my eyes. Thank you Stephen, you were masterful.

Writing for The Observer also allowed me to portray myself as a wimp. Last year I was convinced by the Scene Editor to do a piece about Bengal Bouts training. I took the opportunity to cry like a baby about the rigorous training endured by the boxers while shamelessly plugging the program's altruistic purpose.

Finally, I have learned that no one in the world is as patient as the Scene Editor. This I most certainly learned from experience as this year's prodigal son. Thus, I would like to say thank you Analise. Thank you for all your hard work and most importantly for your never-ending patience. Thank you for not firing me when I misspelled your name. Thank you for not firing me after I missed a semester's worth of meetings and thank you for not firing mo despite my avoidance of the weekly budget like it was South Dining Hall's pizza.

Thank you to the Graphics girl for adjusting to my odd hours. Thank you to the other Assistant Scene Editors for weathering my tardy articles or lack thereof. Thank you to Chris Hine and all the Ed Board members whose dedication to the paper is surpassed by none. And finally, thank you to Jay Fitzpatrick for inspiring me to join The Observer staff in the fall of 2007. You introduced and welcomed me to a whole new world and I am indebted (unfortunately) to you.

I will soon say goodbye to the basement of South Dining Hall, its wondrous memories, profusion of expletives and late night Papa John's. It will be with a heavy heart and an empty wallet that I walk away, but for those actually dedicated to the Scene department, my departure will be echoed by a good measure of "Good Riddance!"

Contact Mark Witte at mwitte@nd.edu

By JESS SHAFFER
Assistant Scene Editor

I would like to start out by saying that I'm just doing this because I want to be a completely unoriginal lemming. I love conformity. In fact, I don tan Ugg boots, ND sweats and a black Northface as I write. Just to remind myself that I am completely not unique. I would like to announce this on a campus-wide scale. This is the best use of the exposure I get as the rising Scene Editor and a Scene writer; because who doesn't want to know 25 facts all about me? My Facebook friends just weren't enough.

1.Hi I'm Jess Shaffer. My whole name is Jessica Shaffer. Shocker, I know. Unfortunately, Jess is not my alter-ego, it is merely my preferred name.

2.I'm a Scene writer. Also surprising, I'm sure you never would have guessed that by looking at the top of the page.

3.I have no qualms bragging about Scene; it's fun, colorful, picturesque glory lights up The Observer, clearly solidifying it as the best section. Sure lots of people are interested in that thing called ND football and therefore turn to the sportier pages. And I guess some people are attracted to "real news." But really You tube picks, movies and music are about as real as it gets (unless you are on a boat, like Andy Samberg). We're the section everyone likes or at least checks out for pretty pictures.

4.After a lovely Spring Break in the sun, I will be spending hours upon hours in the basement of South Dining Hall. Not in Grab-n-Go, but in the journalism cave. But I will be consoled by a new, shiny nameplate and an updated byline.

5.I love the smell of newspaper in the morning. Crack an Observer, Crack a smile.

6.I pick up Analise Lipari's sloppy seconds; refer the heinous breakup she had with Scene in yesterday's paper. I get to be the new peanut butter to Scene's jelly. That's right, after Spring Break, I'm the new editor. I will be spending time consoling the section's broken heart.

7.I have a feeling that about now, you are questioning my sanity and leadership capability.

8.At this point, hopefully you will have detected my poor sense of sarcasm.

9/ I have a mental list of bad ideas for inside columns.

10. Bad idea number one is a 25 things column.

11. Number 2 is a proclamation that Batman is not a superhero. Oh wait, I already did that.

12. Number 3 is an epic all about Saint Mary's swimming, written in hexameter.

13. My list of bad ideas for inside columns gets shorter every time I have to write inside column and am forced to use a bad idea, lacking a "good idea brainstorming."

14. I hate lists inside lists.

15. These 25 things are making me realize my insignificance and peculiarities

16. I think self-narrations are obnoxious.

17. One of my initiatives as Scene Editor is to allow students to submit "FML" stories for "FML Fridays." I just came up with this today.

18. I really wish people would stop wearing white leggings. Leggings are hard enough to pull off. White is difficult as a pant. Don't try it at home (or better yet in public) kids.

19. Free stuff, interviews with cool bands and artists, and getting meals, CDs, DVDs, and tickets paid for are amazing perks to my job.

20. They could be perks to your job too, if you came and worked for Scene.

21. If you want to work for Scene, you should e-mail me.

22. I watch people in the dining halls like they're on a catwalk.

23. That last statement made me sound like a huge creeper.

24. If it wasn't insanely cruel, I would start a "What Not To Wear: Notre Dame Edition," where I'd snap pictures of people's outfits and tear them apart, destroy their self-esteem like a 360-degree mirror, and then rebuild them as fashion clones, with safe, mediocre fashion sense. This is not copying someone by the name of Stacy or Clinton.

25.The above would entail me hiding in bushes and trees and being really mean. Neither of which I am fond of.

Contact Jess Shaffer at jshaffe1@nd.edu

MADELINE NIES | Observer Graphic

MLB

A-Rod meets with MLB officials, moves forward

Discusses 2001-03 positive drug tests in meeting, focuses on the World Baseball Classic with Dominican Republic

Associated Press

JUPITER, Fla. — Alex Rodriguez says he's happy to put behind him a meeting with baseball officials about his use of steroids more than five years ago.

The New York Yankees slugger reported to the Dominican Republic team Monday and took part in its first workout in preparation for the World Baseball Classic. The practice came a day after Rodriguez met for two hours with Major League Baseball officials about his positive drug tests in 2001-03 while with the Texas Rangers.

"For me, now the focus is the WBC,"

Alex Rodriguez
New York Yankees

"It's really good to get yesterday behind me — another one of the big steps," Rodriguez said. "For me, now the focus is the WBC."

Rodriguez declined to say what happened at the meeting, or what he expects regarding any follow-up.

He found a way to take advantage of all the photographers following him, though, posing for pictures with his two daughters before taking the field with his Dominican teammates. The children arrived at the practice with Rodriguez's ex-wife, Cynthia.

He said he sees his children at least once a week.

"I wish they were around every day," he said.

Rodriguez nuzzled 4-year-old Natasha and 10-month-old Ella as cameras clicked and Cynthia watched. She filed for divorce last July, and the sides reached a settlement in September.

The Dominican team worked out at the spring training complex used by the St. Louis Cardinals and will play its first exhibition game Tuesday against Florida.

Rodriguez arrived 3½ hours before the early-afternoon practice. He emerged from a Maybach — an elite German car that sells for $350,000 — driven by his brother and carried a New York Yankees equipment bag into the clubhouse. When a handful of fans standing beyond the parking lot gate cheered for him, he pumped his fist.

When his former wife and children arrived shortly before the workout, Rodriguez greeted them in the parking lot.

The Cardinals stretched on a practice field as the Dominican team gathered. St. Louis manager Tony La Russa said he enjoyed watching the parade of Dominican stars.

"I'm a baseball fan," La Russa said. "Pedro Martinez in our clubhouse — that's neat stuff."

The team also includes David Ortiz, Miguel Tejada, Hanley Ramirez and Jose Reyes. But the biggest star was Rodriguez, whose celebrity has intensified since news of his positive drug tests surfaced last month.

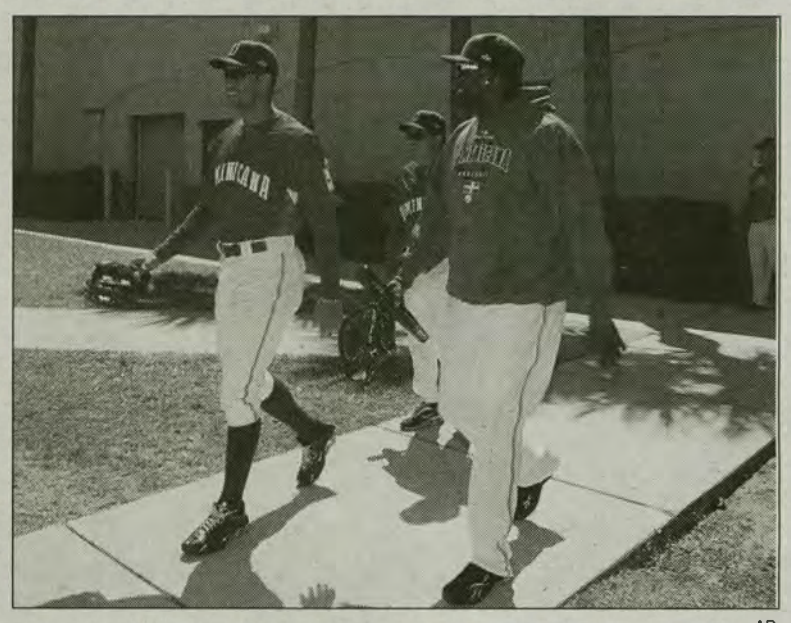
Martinez said the media have made too much of the story.

"You guys focus on the bad stuff," he said. "I believe that there are a lot of positive things that you can look at through baseball. You're focusing on the wrong thing. Let go of the other stuff. Come on. Let's play baseball. That's what we're here for."

The commissioner's office said Rodriguez was "cooperative" in his interview Sunday with baseball's Department of Investigations and Labor Relations Department. No further details were revealed.

When asked Monday if he's in an image-mending mode, Rodriguez chuckled.

"I've put myself behind the eight ball, that's for sure," he said. "I've made mistakes. I feel bad about them. But I'm also looking forward to doing good things — not only playing good baseball, but perhaps being a messenger of the right message for kids in the future to not make the same mistake I made."



AP

Yankees' Alex Rodriguez, left, and Red Sox's David Ortiz walk out from practice Monday in Jupiter, Fla., with the Dominican Republic team.

Rodriguez was accompanied at the Tampa meeting by lawyers Jay Reisinger and James E. Sharp. Also present were union general counsel Michael Weiner, MLB vice president of investigations Dan Mullin, MLB executive vice president for labor relations Rob Manfred and senior vice president and general counsel for labor Dan Halem, according to a person familiar with the meeting.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because he wasn't authorized to discuss details.

MLB wanted to learn about security issues involving a trainer from the Dominican Republic and the cousin the three-time MVP said injected him with a banned substance called "boli."

Rodriguez and the Dominican Republic will play three pre-tournament games against major league teams this week.

High School Football

Coach banned from joining in team prayer

Supreme Court ruling on New Jersey case may add restrictions on religious expressions in other schools

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Coach Marcus Borden used to bow his head and drop to one knee when his football team prayed. But the Supreme Court on Monday ended the practice when it refused to hear the high school coach's appeal of a school district ban on employees joining a student-led prayer.

The decision on the case from New Jersey could add another restriction on prayer in schools, advocates said.

"We've become so politically correct in terms of how we deal with religion that it's being pretty severely limited in schools right now, and individuals suffer," said John W. Whitehead, president of The Rutherford Institute, a civil liberties organization that focuses on First Amendment and religious freedom issues.

But Barry W. Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, said some parents had complained about Borden leading prayers before the East Brunswick, N.J., school district ordered him to stop and banned all staff members from joining in student-led prayer.

"The bottom line is people in positions of authority, like a coach, have to be extremely careful about trying to promote their ideas, or implying that if you don't pray, you may not play," Lynn said.

The high court without comment refused to reconsider the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals' decision upholding the ban.

The district established the ban in 2005 after parents complained about Borden, coach at East Brunswick High School since 1983, sometimes leading prayers at the Friday afternoon team pasta dinner or in the locker room before games. Borden said he wanted to show respect for the students engaged in prayer by bowing his head silently and dropping to one knee.

The district, Borden argued, was violating his free-speech rights by ordering him to stop action he called secular signs of respect. After the ban, the coach stood at attention for the remainder of the season while the students prayed.

Judge D. Michael Fisher, writing for the Philadelphia appeals court, said Borden's past action of leading the prayers made his head-bowing seem inappropriate. "A reasonable observer would conclude that he is continuing to endorse religion when he bows his head during the pre-meal grace and takes a knee with his team in the locker room while they pray," Fisher said.

Messages left for Borden and lawyer Ronald Riccio were not immediately returned Monday.

"With teachers and students, individual expressions are being limited. There's just a concept out there that religion doesn't belong in schools," said Whitehead, whose group acted as co-counsel for Borden. He said he does not know what Borden would do now.

Classifieds

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

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

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

NCAA Men's Basketball AP Top 25

	team	points	record
1	Connecticut (67)	1,792	27-2
2	North Carolina (3)	1,678	25-3
3	Pittsburgh (1)	1,612	26-3
4	Oklahoma	1,576	26-3
5	Memphis (1)	1,543	26-3
6	Louisville	1,462	23-5
7	Duke	1,340	24-5
8	Michigan State	1,302	23-5
9	Kansas	1,190	24-5
10	Wake Forest	1,158	22-5
11	Villanova	913	23-6
12	LSU	894	25-4
13	Marquette	860	23-6
14	Gonzaga	837	23-5
15	Missouri	795	24-5
16	Washington	704	22-7
17	Xavier	629	23-5
18	Clemson	564	22-6
19	Purdue	545	22-7
20	UCLA	497	22-7
21	Arizona State	347	21-7
22	Butler	302	25-4
23	Illinois	287	23-7
24	Flordia State	272	22-7
25	Syracuse	99	21-8

NCAA Women's Basketball AP Top 25

	team	points	record
1	Connecticut (45)	1125	29-0
2	Stanford	1043	24-4
3	Oklahoma	999	25-2
4	Maryland	971	25-4
5	Baylor	927	23-4
6	Auburn	915	27-2
7	Louisville	887	26-3
8	Duke	806	24-4
9	California	743	23-4
10	Texas A&M	731	22-5
11	North Carolina	710	25-5
12	Florida State	603	24-6
12	Ohio State	603	24-5
14	Pittsburgh	434	21-6
15	Texas	408	20-8
16	Xavier	363	25-5
17	South Dakota State	324	27-2
18	Arizona State	307	22-6
19	Tennessee	302	20-9
20	NOTRE DAME	291	21-7
21	Florida	268	23-6
22	Vanderbilt	217	21-8
23	Iowa State	212	21-7
24	Virginia	194	22-8
25	Bowling Green	74	25-2

Nike/Inside Lacrosse Men's Media Poll

	team	record
1	Virginia (13)	5-0
2	Syracuse	2-1
3	North Carolina	5-0
4	Cornell	2-0
5	Princeton	2-0
6	Maryland	3-1
7	NOTRE DAME	3-0
8	UMBC	3-0
9	Johns Hopkins	1-1
10	Hofstra	2-0
11	Georgetown	1-1
12	Harvard	2-0

around the dial

NCAA Basketball
No. 8 Michigan State at Indiana
7 p.m., ESPN

NHL
Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay
7:30 p.m., Versus

NFL

AP

U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Timothy M. Close, center, answers questions during a news conference Monday. Current NFL players Marquis Cooper and Corey Smithare missing after their finishing boat capsized off the Florida coast Sunday.

Still searching for NFL players

Associated Press

CLEARWATER, Fla. — The Coast Guard on Monday narrowed the search area for two NFL players and a third man missing since a weekend fishing trip off the Florida Gulf Coast after crews rescued a fourth man clinging to their capsized boat.

Survivor Nick Schuyler, a former University of South Florida player, told rescuers that the boat the four friends were aboard was anchored when it flipped Saturday evening in rough seas, said Coast Guard Capt. Timothy M. Close. Since then, Schuyler, who was wearing a life vest, had been hanging onto the boat found by a Coast Guard cutter 35 miles off Clearwater.

Schuyler said the other three men got separated from the boat. The 21-footer belongs to Oakland Raiders linebacker Marquis Cooper, who, along with free-agent defensive lineman Corey Smith and former South Florida player William Bleakley, remained missing.

Schuyler was conscious but appeared weak as he was being taken off a helicopter at Tampa General Hospital and placed on a stretcher. His father said his son was in serious but stable condition and that he "looks OK."

"He's got some cuts and bruises. He's dehydrated," said Stuart Schuyler.

Schuyler's mother, Marsha Schuyler, said her son told her that he survived by thinking about how he didn't want her to go to his funeral.

The family's joy at him being found alive was tempered by the search for his friends.

"We still have three men missing, and we're not going to talk too much until we find these guys," said his father, Stuart Schuyler. "We're all praying for them. These guys are all very close friends."

Coast Guard photos showed Schuyler wearing a yellow jacket and orange life vest and sitting on the hull of the capsized boat as a rescue cutter approached. A helicopter lowered a basket to haul him aboard. The search area is now "substantially smaller," based on where they found the boat and Schuyler, Close said. Searchers had previously covered 16,000 square miles of ocean.

Smith's family planned to drive to Florida from Richmond, Va., Tuesday, after the snowy weather in the East made getting a flight impossible.

IN BRIEF

Redskins release former 'Dancing' star Taylor

WASHINGTON — Jason Taylor will have plenty of time to dance on TV this year.

The former NFL defensive player of the year's disappointing turn in the nation's capital came to an end Monday when he was cut by the Washington Redskins for refusing to commit to the team's offseason workout program.

The Redskins wanted to add a workout clause to Taylor's hefty contract, but the 34-year-old defensive end declined. The clause would have required Taylor to take part in 25 days of offseason workouts.

The flap is reminiscent of last year, when Taylor clashed with the Miami Dolphins for competing in "Dancing With the Stars" rather than working out with the team in the offseason. Taylor finished second to Kristi Yamaguchi on the reality television show.

Lawyer appeal delays Bonds perjury trial until July

SAN FRANCISCO — The perjury trial of Barry Bonds has been delayed at least through July and likely beyond, as an appeal filed by prosecutors over key evidence for the trial winds through the legal system.

Federal court officials on Monday set a schedule for prosecutors and Bonds' lawyers to submit legal written arguments to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals debating the admissibility of three positive drug tests, so-called doping calendars and other evidence allegedly linking Bonds to steroids use.

Jury selection for Bonds' trial had been scheduled to start Monday, but was delayed last week after federal prosecutors announced they would appeal U.S. District Court Judge Susan Illston's ruling barring them from showing that evidence to a jury.

Denver receiver Marshall faces possible suspension

DENVER — Denver Broncos star receiver Brandon Marshall faces a possible suspension even though a disorderly conduct charge stemming from a fight with his fiance was dismissed in an Atlanta court Monday.

Municipal Judge Clinton Deveaux dismissed the case after Marshall and his fiance, Michi Leshase Nogami-Campbell, both of whom were charged with disorderly conduct, refused to testify against each other.

Despite being in the clear from a legal standpoint, the Pro Bowl receiver might still be disciplined for repeated violations of the league's personal conduct code, which gives commissioner Roger Goodell the authority to punish players.

"We will (still) look into it," league spokesman Greg Aiello told The Associated Press on Monday after the case against Marshall was dropped.

NBA

Cavaliers' late comeback leads to win over Heat

Thunder take down Mavericks without team leaders Durant and Green, Westbrook gets first triple-double

Associated Press

MIAMI — This time, the Miami Heat were witnesses, not winners, because of a fourth-quarter comeback.

LeBron James scored 42 points, Mo Williams got 17 of his 30 in the fourth quarter, and the Cleveland Cavaliers rallied from an 11-point deficit in the final minutes to beat the Heat 107-100 on Monday night.

Dwyane Wade had 41 points, nine assists and seven rebounds for Miami, strongly following up his 46-point effort two nights earlier against the New York Knicks, when the Heat rallied from 15 points down in the last 9 minutes.

That was enough to win. This effort wasn't.

Williams got the comeback going with two huge 3-pointers to spark a 12-0 run that erased what seemed like a comfortable lead midway through the final period. And James sealed it with 42.7 seconds left, blowing past Jamario Moon for a fierce right-handed slam to put the Cavs up 100-95.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas scored 12 points and had 15 rebounds for Cleveland, which moved a full game ahead of idle Boston for the top spot in the Eastern Conference.

Jermaine O'Neal scored 16 points, Mario Chalmers added 15 and Moon had 11 for Miami, which shot 2-for-17 with four turnovers in the final 5½ minutes to waste what was a 91-80 lead. Not to mention wasting the second straight 40-plus scoring effort by Wade, who pulled off that feat for the second time in his career.

Cleveland was 11-for-17 from 3-point range — James was 6-for-7 — while Miami was a mere 5-for-18.

Cleveland won in Atlanta on Sunday night, then boarded what was supposed to be a quick 90-minute flight to Miami. By the time the Cavaliers got to South Florida, the sun was coming up and it was time for breakfast.

Terrible weather kept the Cavaliers' plane on an Atlanta runway for 3½ hours, and the team didn't get to its hotel until 7 a.m.

"We slept all day," Cleveland coach Mike Brown said.

Sure enough, the Cavaliers didn't look the least bit tired.

By the time the game was 10 minutes old, Cleveland had a 10-point lead. Delonte West created a five-point early swing by himself, intercepting a pass from Moon to deny Wade an easy transition dunk and then finding James open for a 3-pointer — part of a 14-point first quarter by the Cavs star.

Cleveland led 58-55 at the half after another 3-pointer by James a few seconds before the horn. Then Wade really got going.

He scored 15 points in the third quarter, three less than the Cavaliers managed, and Miami held Cleveland to 33 percent shooting in the period to build a cushion. Miami outscored the Cavs 17-5 over the final 5½ minutes of the quarter, Wade blocked a dunk try by J.J. Hickson with 18.8 seconds left, and the Heat took an 82-76 edge into the fourth period.

James and Wade seemed like they were having a personal slam-dunk contest in the opening minutes of the final period.

James had a steal and two-handed windmill offering to get Cleveland within seven; Wade came back shortly thereafter with a steal and double-clutch reverse for an 91-80 Miami edge.

Over?

Not even close.

Cleveland ran off 12 straight points — the first eight coming in a span of 1:23, with Williams getting a pair of 3-pointers to quickly snap the Cavs right back into the game. And his leaning layup with 4:07 left not only gave Cleveland the lead, it had a crowd that spent most of the night chanting "M-V-P" at Wade actually booing for the first time.

They didn't have much to cheer the rest of the way, either.<

Notes:@ Wade and James — close friends — inadvertently hugged each other to end the third quarter. Moon fired a pass down the left sideline, the two MVP candidates got entangled, then wrapped arms around each other to keep themselves from falling into the front row of seats. ... Brown was chosen the Eastern Conference's coach of the month, crediting his team. "I haven't played a second all season," he said. ... James was fouled twice on 3-pointers in the first half, making all six free throws. ... Cavs F Sasha Pavlovic checked in with 36.2 seconds left in the third period; he hadn't played since Feb. 8 because of a high ankle sprain. ... The teams play again Saturday in Cleveland.

Thunder 96, Mavericks 87

With franchise cornerstones Kevin Durant and Jeff Green out with injuries, Russell Westbrook and the last-place Oklahoma City Thunder could easily have been overlooked by any team.

The Dallas Mavericks might not be so quick to dismiss their neighbors to the north the next time.

Westbrook had his first triple-double of his rookie season with 17 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists, and midseason pickup Nenad Krstic added a season-high 26 points as the undermanned Thunder beat Dallas 96-87 Monday night despite playing without their two leading scorers.

"I think we've got to prove something every night, honestly, and tonight I think we did a good job of coming out and playing as a team," said Westbrook, the franchise's first player with a triple-double since it moved from Seattle in the offseason. There were 13 others who had triple-doubles when the team was known as the SuperSonics, most recently Earl Watson (23 points, 10 rebounds, 10 assists) on Feb. 6, 2008, at Sacramento.

Dirk Nowitzki led Dallas' charge back from a 23-point deficit, and his 3-pointer from the right wing got the Mavericks back within 88-84 with 4:13 to play. Those were the last of his 28 points, and Dallas didn't score again for 4 minutes.

Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle was upset the Mavericks were down that much in the first place, perhaps because they underestimated a Thunder squad without Durant (sprained ankle) and Green (back spasms).

"I just thought that the first three quarters were just a pitiful display for a team that has aspirations to be in the playoffs and try to move up in the standings," Carlisle said. "We've seen this before, too many times.

"We (mess) around for two to three quarters and then we want Jason Kidd to bail us out with steals and hustle plays and fast-break opportunities. It's just too much to ask."

Kyle Weaver , who answered Nowitzki's final 3-pointer and then added a runner to help Oklahoma City stop the comeback, finished with a career-high 18 points and Thabo Sefolosha added 15 points.

Jason Terry scored 20 points for Dallas in his second game back after surgery on an injured finger. The Mavericks played the second half without Josh Howard , their third-leading scorer, after a troublesome left ankle flared up again. He missed 11 games earlier this season because of the injured ankle.

"His ankle was bothering him at halftime, so he couldn't go any more. That was that," Carlisle said.

With Howard out, the Thunder's makeshift lineup put together an 18-3 run early in the second half and went up 68-49 when Krstic put back Westbrook's missed 3-pointer with 5:43 left in the period. A technical foul against Carlisle allowed Oklahoma City to push the lead to 20 for the first time, and the Thunder led by as much as 79-56 when Damien Wilkins hit a 3-pointer in the last minute of the third quarter.

It looked like the Thunder would hardly miss Durant, who wore a walking boot on his right foot, or Green, who remained in the training room at the arena.

"A lot of guys stepped up, not really taking their place, but just stepped up doing what they needed to do," Westbrook said.

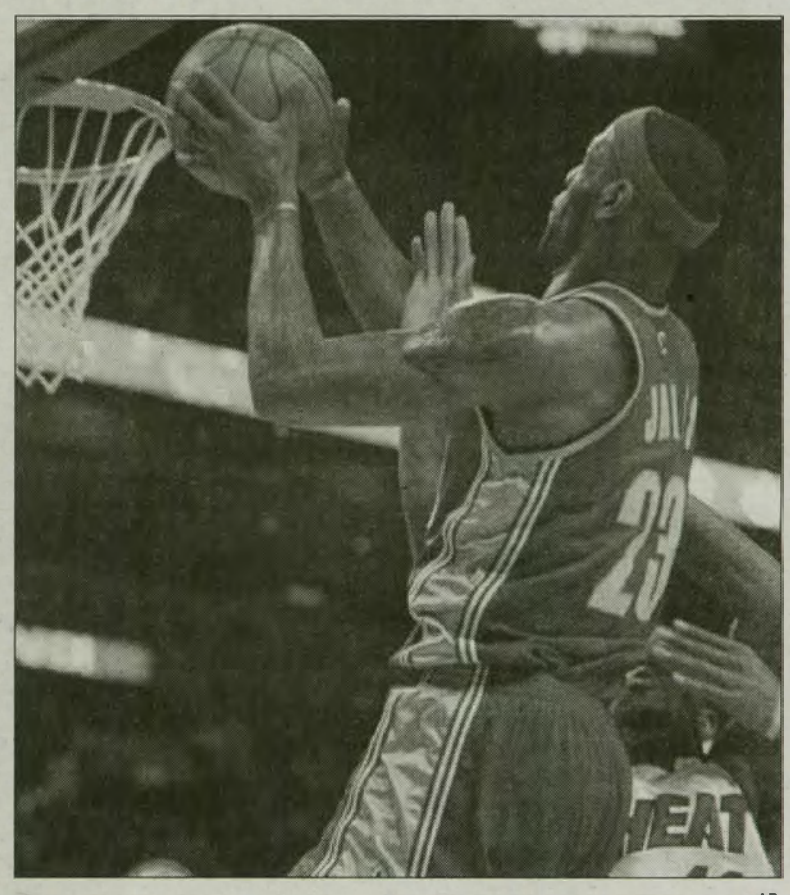
Krstic had his highest scoring game since December 2006, when he was in his third season with the New Jersey Nets . An injury helped spell the end of his run with the Nets, and he wound up in Europe, where the Thunder found him and signed him as a restricted free agent in December.

"Without Jeff and Kevin, it was a great opportunity not just for me but for everybody else," Krstic said. "It was a good win for us."

Terry finished the third quarter with a 3-pointer, and that started Dallas' comeback.

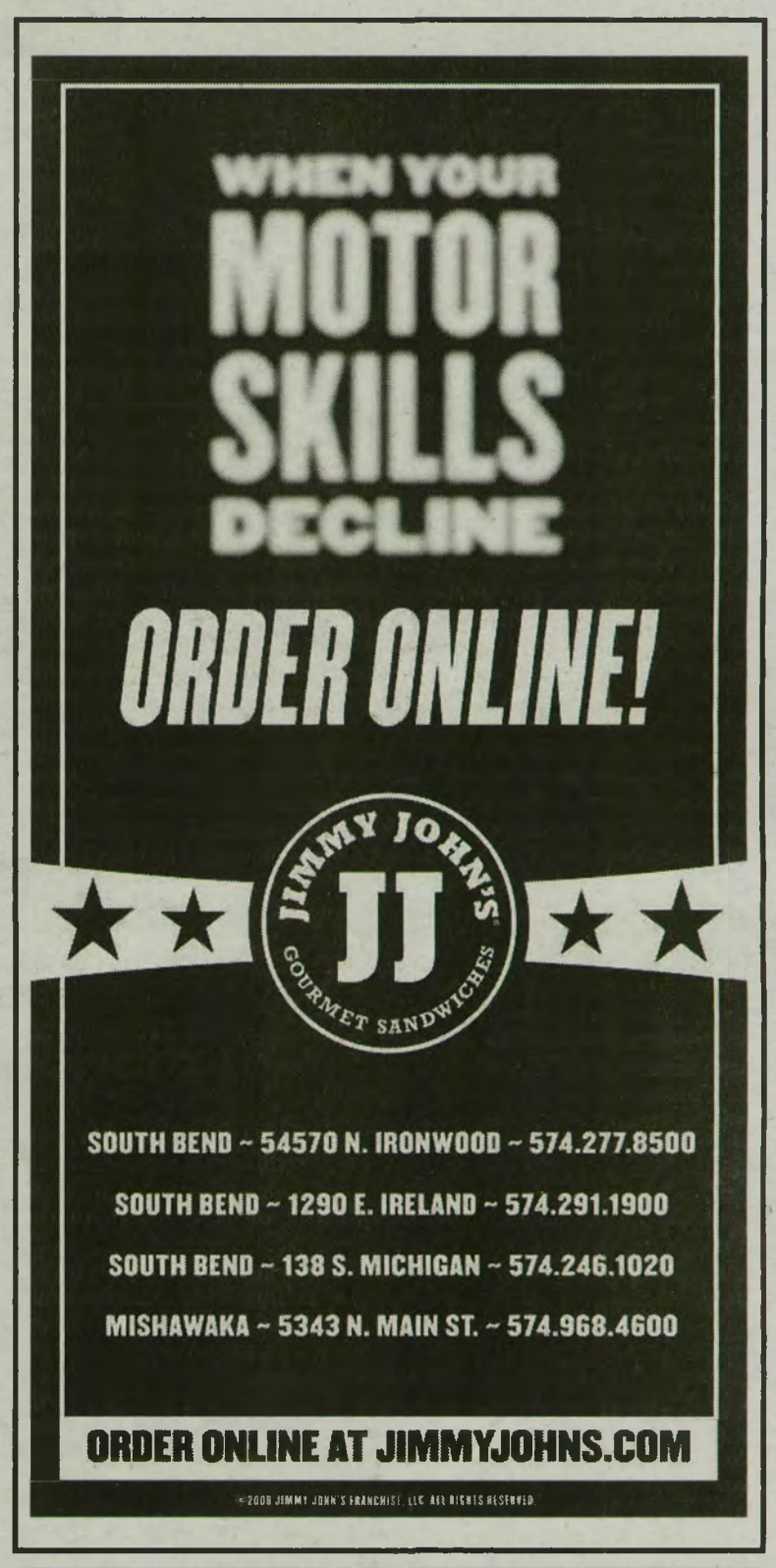
Nowitzki, who had two of his four 40-point games this season against the Thunder, scored 16 points in the fourth quarter to make it close. He missed a 3-pointer that would have again closed the deficit to four after Weaver's 3-pointer, and then committed two fouls in frustration in the final 3 minutes.

Playing against Kidd - the NBA's modern triple-double master - Westbrook needed a strong final flurry to get his 10th rebound and assist.



AP

Cavaliers forward LeBron James (23) shoots in the first quarter Monday while being defended by Heat forward Udonis Haslem.



Recycle The Observer.

NBA

West leads Hornets to 98-91 win over 76ers

Hawks take down Wizards as Jamison scores 23 points; Pistons take down Celtics, Pierce scores 26 points

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA - David West decided it was his turn to lead New Orleans.

He's playing his best basketball of the season, and, not coincidentally, so are the Hornets.

West scored 30 points with 10 rebounds to lead the Hornets to their season-high fifth straight win, 98-91 over the Philadelphia 76ers on Monday night.

''I've just been trying to go out and make the initiative," he said. ''I feel like if I play well, it gives us a better chance to win games."

West was chosen the Western Conference player of the week only hours earlier on the strength of his 28.5 points and 10.5 rebounds in four Hornets' victories. The new week brought more of the same stellar production. West scored the Hornets' first 12 points as they raced to a 13-point lead.

Chris Paul bounced back from a two-point first half to finish with 16 points and 12 assists. His 3-pointer with 70 seconds left made it 95-89 and the Sixers could not recover.

Led by West, the Hornets won for the seventh time in nine games since the All-Star break.

''We really haven't played our best basketball in the last five games, but we just keep finding ways to win games," coach Byron Scott said. ''I think we have some confidence in ourselves that when the game is on the line, we are able to get things done to win the game."

West has 30-plus points and 10-plus rebounds in three of the last four games and is averaging a cool 30.0 points in the last four games.

The Sixers lost for the sixth time in eight games since the All-Star break and continue to slide down the Eastern Conference standings. Their 14-4 run last month had them in the hunt for the fourth seed and now they're closer to eighth.

Andre Iguodala scored a season-high 30 points and Andre Miller had 28 for Philadelphia.

''We are going to work on the little things that will put us up," Sixers coach Tony DiLeo said.

Iguodala swished a 20-footer to bring Philadelphia within one early in the fourth period. Paul assisted on two straight baskets for some breathing room and West made a short jumper to give him 30 points and New Orleans an 84-75 lead.

Rasual Butler , who had 16 points and 10 rebounds, hit the Hornets' eighth 3 of the game and they were back ahead by double digits.

The Sixers don't play again until Saturday and need the break to figure out how to start winning again. But they did have some fight in them, coming back from 13 down to tie the score at 25 in the second quarter.

''The main thing we need to do is take focus," Iguodala said. ''It'll be a couple of days before we have a game, so we mainly just need to get ourselves ready and prepare for the next game. We've been having tough losses, and I think we've had a learning experience in those close losses."

They could have done more to stop West.

West, who scored 32 points in Sunday's win at New Jersey, shouldered the offensive load early when he made six of his first seven shots. When he scored his ninth basket midway through the second quarter, a Sixers fan yelled out: ''Will you double-team him, please?!" He scored 22 points in the half to help New Orleans lead 46-45 at halftime.

"With Paul penetrating and probing, we've got guys who can make shots," West said. "That's what's been happening."

Hawks 98, Wizards 89

Al Horford watched two DVDs of ''Desperate Housewives," took a nap, woke up and played cards with some teammates.

And the plane was still on the tarmac.

''Just sitting there," the Atlanta Hawks center said. ''I was going crazy."

Some four or five hours late, after waiting in a long line to be de-iced because of an East Coast storm, the Atlanta Hawks plane finally took off for the nation's capital. The team didn't check into its hotel until 6 a.m. or so, hardly the ideal itinerary for a slumping squad in need of a break after a disheartening one-point loss at home.

The break the Hawks got was that they were playing the worst team in the Eastern Conference. Atlanta let the Washington Wizards , who were more undermanned than usual, hang around for 2 1/2 quarters before pulling away for a 98-89 victory Monday night.

''We really had to create our own energy early in the game," Horford said. ''It showed toughness from our guys."

Marvin Williams scored 28 points, Horford added 16, and Joe Johnson had 16 points and 13 rebounds as the Hawks completed a 4-0 season sweep of the Wizards. Atlanta was in need of a slump-busting win, having lost five of seven after Sunday night's 88-87 loss to the Cleveland Cavaliers , a game decided on a free throw by LeBron James with 1.6 seconds left.

For the record, the Hawks dispatched the Wizards in a brisk 2 hours, 3 minutes-or about half of the time they spent sitting on the plane going nowhere.

''That's life on the road in the NBA," coach Mike Woodson said. ''It happens sometimes. I tip my hat to our locker room because they bounced back from a tough loss last night. Good teams have got to do that."

Antawn Jamison scored 23 points for the Wizards, whose talent level took another plunge when Caron Butler was scratched with tightness in his left hamstring. Washington fell to 0-13 against the Southeast Division, just three games away from becoming the first NBA team to go winless within its division.

''Sometimes you hit upon the inexplicable," Wizards interim coach Ed Tapscott said. ''I thought we should have been the team with more energy tonight, considering they played a tough game against Cleveland, got in late. I guess that's what happens when you have a terrific player like Joe Johnson , he tends to bail you out."

Meanwhile, in the locker room, Jamison's repetitive use of the phrase ''Groundhog Day" to describe the Wizards' season is becoming to feel like, well, ''Groundhog Day."

''It's frustrating. We can't get a win, period. It's pretty much how it's been going all year," Jamison said. ''Tap brought it to our attention, I think it's never happened in history, a team not getting a win against it's division - that's the least of our worries right now. I think eventually we'll get it done, but it's 'Groundhog Day' once again."

The score was 61-61 when Williams hit a jumper that started a 20-6 run and gave Atlanta the lead for good. Dunks by Zaza Pachulia and Flip Murray closed out the third quarter, and Williams got eight of the first 10 Hawks points of the fourth, including a three-point play that made the score 81-67. The Wizards didn't get within single digits again until the final two minutes.

Pistons 105, Celtics 95

The Detroit Pistons are back to their old mainstays and back to their old, winning ways.

Richard Hamilton had 25 points, Tayshaun Prince scored 15 and each hit a 3-pointer in the final 80 seconds to help the Pistons beat the Celtics 105-95 on Sunday. Hamilton also had nine assists in his second straight start since Allen Iverson returned to Detroit because of a stiff back.

"You can tell they're playing the system they played before Iverson got there," said Celtics forward Paul Pierce , who scored 26. ''When Iverson is out there they're still trying to figure out how to use each other, how to all be successful. But that group that's out there is definitely comfortable because they've played together for years."

Detroit had lost five straight regular season games to the Celtics - 9-of-11 including a six-game Eastern Conference final that sent Boston on its way to a record 17th NBA title. The Pistons had lost eight in a row before snapping the skid on Friday night, when Hamilton scored 31 against Orlando.

''We played our type of basketball," he said. ''That's the thing for me with Tayshaun, Rasheed (Wallace) and (Antonio) McDyess, I always know they're going to be at all times."

The Pistons acquired Iverson from Denver two games into the season for former point guard Chauncey Billups , who led the Pistons to the conference finals last year and won the finals MVP when they won the NBA title in 2004. But they began a freefall on Feb. 8 that didn't stop until Iverson was injured.

Pistons coach Michael Curry said he didn't think Iverson was the problem.

''It was nothing against the way Allen played," Curry said. ''We just have to play the same way, and he has to play that way."

Glen ''Big Baby" Davis, starting in place of the injured Kevin Garnett , scored 18 and Pierce played all but 18 seconds as Boston lost to an Eastern Conference opponent at home for the first time this season.

Detroit made a season-high 34 free throws, in 40 attempts.

"This is the old Pistons we're playing now," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. ''The ball is hopping. They're playing together."

Boston led 85-81 when Wallace hit a 3-pointer with 7:04 left to start a 13-4 run that left the Pistons ahead 94-89. They led 95-91 when Davis dived and took out Prince's feet on a breakaway, drawing a clear-path-to-the-basket foul; Prince hit one free throw, then Rodney Stuckey missed both.

But after Pierce missed one of two free throws, Prince hit a 3-pointer from the corner to put the Pistons up eight. Hamilton added a 3 with 50 seconds left to make it 103-94.

The Core Council for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Questioning Students Seeks New Undergrad Student Members For 2009-2010

We welcome "allies" and gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or questioning students.

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or can be picked up from:
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316 Main Building
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Completed Applications are due Friday, March 20 by 5pm in the Office of Student Affairs Attn: Sr. Sue Dunn, OP

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NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UConn women have 30-0 season

Top-ranked Huskies looking ahead to the Big East tournament

Associated Press

PISCATAWAY, N.J. - Unbeaten and still unimpressed. Only at Connecticut.

Even after beating Rutgers for their first undefeated regular season in six years, the top-ranked Huskies were all business and thinking about the next step: the Big East tournament.

"Being 30-0 is fantastic if you're able to finish it off down the road," Connecticut coach Geno Auriemma said. "For better or worse, I've created an environment no matter how great we are or how wonderful we are that the real story is if we don't win the national championship."

Renee Montgomery scored 23 points and top-ranked Connecticut beat Rutgers 69-59 on Monday night to finish off the fifth undefeated regular season in program history.

"In our league to win every game that's pretty good," Auriemma said. "I'm proud of the fact that for the most part our guys show up every night and played and competed."

UConn (30-0, 16-0 Big East) last went unbeaten in the regular season in 2002-03. The Huskies finished that year with their second straight national championship after losing to Villanova in the Big East tournament. Monday's win also marked the seventh time UConn has run through the conference unbeaten.

"It means a lot. I've never been able to do it the whole time I've been here," Montgomery said. "Especially since we wanted to do. It was one of our goals. It gives you more motivation."

Tina Charles added 14 points for the Huskies, who will next play in the quarterfinals of the Big East tournament Sunday. Rutgers (18-11, 9-7) will be the seventh seed and play Saturday in the second round of the tournament.

"It's a new chapter," said Kia Vaughn, who scored a season-high 24 points. "Coach stresses it a lot: Start a new beginning. Everyone knows what the whole team is capable of doing. Hopefully we go out and play hard and not have any sluggish games."

Epiphanny Prince added 11 to lead the Scarlet Knights, who had won four straight by an average of 16 points before Monday's loss.

"Rutgers is a lot better than their record," Auriemma said. "Sometimes they find ways to lose. Doesn't mean they are a bad team or don't have the talent to win games."

UConn, which became the first team since Duke in 2006-07 to finish the regular season unblemished, had run through its opponents this season winning by an average of 28 points. No team has been able to come within single digits of the Huskies all season - although they needed some last-second free throws from Maya Moore to continue that streak.

Leading 36-20 at the half, UConn looked as if it was on its way to another rout. The teams traded baskets over the first 4 minutes of the second half and Connecticut led 43-26 before getting sloppy with the ball.

The Huskies turned it over on five of six possessions as Rutgers went on a 12-3 run over the next 5 minutes to cut the deficit to 47-38 on Nikki Speed's jumper.

Rutgers trailed 51-42 and had the ball, but Prince missed a layup and Vaughn couldn't convert the follow.

Montgomery drilled a 3-pointer - her seventh of the game - on the other end to start a 7-0 run and restore the double-digit lead. Rutgers wasn't finished, closing to 62-54 with 1:29 left after Auriemma was given a technical foul for arguing a call.

Rutgers came within 65-59 on Vaughn's layup with 22 seconds left, but ran out of time as UConn hit seven of eight free throws in the last few minutes.

The Scarlet Knights got some confidence from the close loss.

"We just played the No. 1 team in the nation and we outrebounded them and forced them to 23 turnovers," Prince said. "If we hit our shots, we would have won."

UConn has won 30-plus games in four straight years and 15 of the past 17 seasons. The only times they didn't do it were in 1998-99 and 2004-05.

The Huskies raced out to a 21-5 lead 8 1/2 minutes into the contest. That early spurt quieted the sellout crowd of just over 8,000. Montgomery scored the first 11 points of the game hitting three 3-pointers and a jumper.

"When Renee makes her first couple, it's lights out," Auriemma said.

Heather Zurich finally got the Scarlet Knights on the board with a 3-pointer. Another 3 by Montgomery and two baskets by Charles and the Huskies were up by 16.

UConn, which has won 112 straight games against non-ranked opponents, shot 55 percent from the field. It marked the first time an opponent has made over half its shots against Rutgers in 69 games.

The Scarlet Knights honored seniors Vaughn and Zurich before the game. Vaughn is the fourth player in school history to have at least 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds. With her seven rebounds Monday night she moved past Regina Howard into second place on Rutgers' career list.

MLB

Cabrera working out deal with A's

Associated Press

PHOENIX — The Oakland Athletics are close to signing free agent Orlando Cabrera to a $4 million, one-year contract, likely ending former AL Rookie of the Year Bobby Crosby's disappointing tenure as the team's starting shortstop.

The Athletics said there would not be an announcement Monday. The deal is contingent on the 34-year-old Cabrera's passing a physical.

Cabrera, a two-time Gold Glove winner, hit .281 with eight home runs and 57 RBIs in 161 games with the Chicago White Sox last season.

He's also played for the Montreal Expos, Boston Red Sox, Los Angeles Angels over a 12-year career.

Crosby, the 2004 AL Rookie of the Year, came to camp as the A's incumbent shortstop, but it was widely know the A's were looking elsewhere.

Crosby, who has a lifetime batting average of .239 and has missed considerable time to injury, spent six weeks during the offseason working with former major leaguer Mark McGwire.

"I want to get better," Crosby said recently. "I know I haven't played as well as I can. I'm changing my approach, my stance. For the most part I think there's always something I can improve upon. I know I have the support of the guys. I take the attitude I'll go out and play."

Crosby finished with an on-base percentage under .300 in each of the past three years. He has cut down on his strikeouts but he has also cut down on his walks, and he hits into too many double plays.

A's manager Bob Geren told the media earlier in the spring that Crosby "is going to be in the lineup and he's going to play."

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MLB

Nationals search for GM

Jim Bowden resigns, team president Stan Kasten in charge

Associated Press

VIERA, Fla. - Five weeks before the start of the regular season, Jim Bowden resigned as the Washington Nationals' general manager. So exactly who is calling the shots on personnel moves until a successor is chosen?

For now, it's team president Stan Kasten.

"I'm in charge. ... I've done this before," Kasten said Monday after meeting with Washington's front-office team. "I'm doing what we need to do to keep the franchise moving forward."

Multitasking is familiar territory for Kasten, who in 1999 simultaneously served as president of baseball's Atlanta Braves, the NBA's Atlanta Hawks and the NHL's Atlanta Thrashers.

At 27, Kasten became the youngest GM in NBA history with the Hawks, holding the position from 1979-1990 while concurrently serving as Hawks president from 1986-1990.

When Bowden stepped down Sunday after four years at the Nationals' helm, Kasten promised that the team wouldn't miss a beat. After regrouping Monday morning, he reiterated that it would be "later this week" before any replacement -- interim or otherwise -- would be picked.

A cloud has hung over the Nationals since last summer because of an FBI investigation into bonuses skimmed from Latin American prospects, and the scandal cost Bowden and special assistant Jose Rijo their jobs.

But that's hardly the only challenge facing a team that lost a major league-worst 102 games last season.

Bowden leaves a team overstocked with corner outfielders, a logjam at first base and a need for arms to fortify the bullpen. Those personnel decisions were to have played out under Bowden as spring training progressed. Now the Nationals have to decide who will be managing the inevitable roster shuffle.

"We have exhorted people to step up. We expect them to step up. I need them to step up," Kasten said. "We have a deep bench and that's not an accident. It was a philosophy of Jim's and it's a philosophy of mine."

If Washington wants to look in-house for a replacement, Mike Rizzo remains among Bowden's former lieutenants. Promoting Rizzo, an assistant general manager and vice president of baseball operations since July 2006, wouldn't require Washington to request a waiver from Major League Baseball, which usually requires teams to interview minority candidates for such front-office vacancies.

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McGraw

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alleviate the scoring drought; when fouls allow, she'll sub in both a veteran and a freshman. Freshman Natalie Novosel will replace junior Melissa Lechlitner, but senior Lindsay Schrader will replace freshman Kellie Watson. Against West Virginia, junior Erica Williamson would exchange spots with freshman Erica Solomon until Solomon got into foul trouble.

Solomon scored five points and had three rebounds and Watson had four points, including a 3-pointer, and three assists. Novosel finished with one point.

Despite the trouble the freshmen had today, McGraw was more optimistic about their performance than she had been in previous games.

"Today we had the most bench points we have had in a long time. Our bench has not scored much lately," McGraw said in a press conference after Monday's game. "I was excited that Kellie made a three. That has to make her feel good. And Erica was going to have a good game before she got in foul trouble. I thought the bench played better today than they have all year."

It's understandable a freshman going deep into the Big East season may burn out their first time through, so it's not fair to criticize the girls too heavily. They have their talents. Watson can shoot the three and had a few open looks Monday but chose to pump fake and dish instead. Solomon's athleticism allows her to score and rebound in the paint, and once she learns to keep out of foul trouble she'll be a great complement to Becca Bruszewsk and Williamson down low.

Novosel has great ability to draw contact in the paint and make off-balance layups, and her midrange jump shot, while not as potent as Lindsay Schrader's or Melissa Lechlitner's, forces defenses to respect it and can hurt them when they don't.

So this conundrum requires to two things.

First, the frosh have to summon their talents. Come conference tournament time this weekend, the team will need their contributions. Watson has to take those threes. Novosel has to drive the lane, or fake it, pull up and shoot. Solomon needs to box out and attempt layups in the paint.

Second, the veterans need to realize the bench production likely won't reach its previous levels and adapt. To keep up with the competition, they need to make some changes.

The team threw the ball away because of miscommunication Monday. That can't happen.

Players messed up switching off screens and lost players while on defense. Can't happen.

Some veterans took hasty shots rather than setting up an offense when the freshmen were on the court. Won't work.

"We kind of escaped today. I wanted to win the game and look good doing it," McGraw said. "I'm not really frustrated, it's just a little disappointing."

Monday's game wasn't pretty. Increased freshmen contribution and veteran adaptation to the new level of contribution may not make future games prettier, but it will make them balanced and give Notre Dame back the edge it used to have.

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Belles

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son for me is to watch how this team has improved since October," she said.

The Belles will lose four seniors from this year's runner up team: Meghan Conaty, Katie Rashid, Newsom, and Beier.

"I am very proud of our four seniors," Henley said. "They took ownership of this team early on and are a big reason for the success we had."

The Belles will now look to build on their young talent for next year. But Henley isn't quite sure who will be able to fill the big shoes that Newsom, Beier, Conaty, and Rashid will leave behind.

"It's hard to say who will fill the roles that are seniors had this year," she said. "Each season brings a new identity."

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NHL

Parker, Spurs storm past Clips

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Tony Parker had 26 points and 10 assists, and the San Antonio Spurs pulled away in the third quarter with four 3-pointers from Michael Finley to beat the Los Angeles Clippers 106-78 on Monday night.

Tim Duncan , playing his second game after missing the previous three with a sore right knee, had 18 points, 12 rebounds and six assists before sitting out the fourth quarter. The 11-time All-Star needs 18 points to overtake Scottie Pippen for 44th place on the career scoring list.

Finley and Matt Bonner each had 14 points for the Southwest Division leaders, who avoided their first three-game losing streak since starting the season 0-3.

Manu Ginobili , the NBA's sixth man of the year last season, missed his eighth straight game because of an ankle injury. He is expected to miss at least another week.

Al Thornton and Fred Jones each had 14 points for the Clippers, who have lost 11 straight against San Antonio and 19 of the last 20 meetings. Thornton missed 10 of his first 11 shots and finished 5-for-19.

The Spurs, the league's second-best 3-point shooting team, missed 10 of 11 attempts from behind the arc in the first half before Michael Finley heated up. His fourth 3-pointer in a 5:08 span capped a 23-10 run that helped increase San Antonio's 13-point halftime lead to 74-48 with 5:22 left in the third.

The Clippers got as close as 16 points on Baron Davis' layup with 6:48 remaining, but Parker responded with a 17-footer, a three-point play and a 3-point shot to seal the victory.

Los Angeles used its 26th different starting lineup, with 3-point specialist Steve Novak making his second start of the season at small forward and rookie Mike Taylor starting his second game at shooting guard.

Oklahoma City 96, Dallas 87

With franchise cornerstones Kevin Durant and Jeff Green out with injuries, Russell Westbrook and the last-place Oklahoma City Thunder could easily have been overlooked by any team.

The Dallas Mavericks might not be so quick to dismiss their neighbors to the north the next time.

Westbrook had his first triple-double of his rookie season with 17 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists, and midseason pickup Nenad Krstic added a season-high 26 points as the undermanned Thunder beat Dallas 96-87 Monday night despite playing without their two leading scorers.

"I think we've got to prove something every night, honestly, and tonight I think we did a good job of coming out and playing as a team," said Westbrook, the franchise's first player with a triple-double since it moved from Seattle in the offseason. There were 13 others who had triple-doubles when the team was known as the SuperSonics, most recently Earl Watson (23 points, 10 rebounds, 10 assists) on Feb. 6, 2008, at Sacramento.

NFL

Warner visits with 49ers, enters talks with team

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Kurt Warner is being courted by an eager division rival of the Arizona Cardinals.

The San Francisco 49ers sent a private jet Monday for the two-time MVP quarterback, who traveled from Phoenix to the team's training complex for a physical exam and a meeting with top brass.

Warner led the Cardinals to the Super Bowl last season, but became a free agent when he didn't re-sign with the club. Arizona has offered a two-year, $20 million contract to Warner, who will be 38 years old when training camp opens.

But Warner is seeking a deal worth at least $14 million per season, and the former St. Louis Rams star seems willing to leave Arizona, his home for the past four seasons, for the right offer.

NFC West rival San Francisco finished just two games behind the Cardinals in second place last season, and the club has enough cap room to accommodate Warner's salary wishes. With no established starting quarterback on the 49ers' roster, the club rolled out its red-and-gold carpet to entice Warner.

After flying into Silicon Valley, Warner arrived at the 49ers' training complex by limousine shortly before lunchtime with his wife, Brenda. He had lunch and a meeting with general manager Scot McCloughan, coach Mike Singletary and likely owner Jed York before traveling to Stanford Hospital for his exam.

Warner returned to the complex in a Cadillac driven by 49ers athletic trainer Jeff Ferguson at about 4 p.m. Warner mouthed the words "I'm not talking" through the window to reporters as they drove through a security gate.

The Warners were expected to fly home Monday night.

Warner proved he's still at the top of his talents last season. After claiming the Cardinals' starting job from Matt Leinart, Warner passed for 4,583 yards and 30 touchdowns, leading the franchise to its first division title since 1975. He also starred in four playoff games, completing 68 percent of his passes for 1,147 yards and 11 TDs.

Singletary has been unwilling to designate veteran Shaun Hill as his starter for next season even after Hill led San Francisco to five wins in its final seven games and a 7-9 record that knocked the interim tag off Singletary's title.

Alex Smith, the injury-plagued former No. 1 draft pick, is working on restructuring his contract to stay with the 49ers, who'll release him if they can't reach a deal with a much lower base salary than the $9 million in his current contract.

AP

Ex-Cardinals quarterback Kurt Warner throws a pass during last season's NFC championship game against the Philadelphia Eagles. Arizona won the game 32-25 advancing to the Super Bowl.

The 49ers might not be the ideal fit for Warner, who would leave a lineup with star receivers Larry Fitzgerald and Anquan Boldin to join a run-based offense with no proven pass-catchers — although Warner's arrival might persuade longtime Rams teammate Isaac Bruce to put off retirement for another season.

San Francisco's biggest signing Monday also pointed to another reason Warner might not be perfectly suited for the Niners. Fullback Moran Norris signed a three-year contract to return to the 49ers, who have repeatedly said they plan to build a run-first offense around running back Frank Gore and new coordinator Jimmy Raye.

'Nova

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are frustrated and disappointed."

No moment could have been more frustrating for Brey and his team than a second half stretch in which a close game quickly got out of hand.

With 11:02 remaining, Ryan Ayers hit a 3-pointer to bring Notre Dame within one at 51-50. The Irish would score only one point over the next 6:53 as Villanova went on a 16-1 run putting the game out of reach.

During that stretch, Notre Dame turned the ball over four times. Those miscues were part of a larger theme for the night as the Irish turned the ball over 15 times in total — well above their NCAA-leading season average of 9.6

"They made us play faster than we're used to," point guard Tory Jackson said of the Wildcats' defense. "Defensively, they get right up in you, touching you. They're very scrappy. At first we were in a rhythm, but they took us right out of it."

"They got up in us, denied some passing angles," Irish forward Ryan Ayers said. "They got their hands on the ball, forced some turnovers. They made us feel uncomfortable."

All night Notre Dame seemed bothered by the Wildcats' defensive quickness. With no starter taller than 6-foot-8, Villanova played a switching, fluid defense that kept the Irish from getting comfortable on their favorite spots on the perimeter.

No Irish player felt the defensive pressure more than guard Kyle McAlarney. After hitting a 3-pointer 19 seconds into the game, McAlarney wouldn't score again until there was only 2:42 remaining in the game. McAlarney, who entered Monday averaging 12.9 shots per game, took only seven shots on the evening.

"That was our best defensive game we played all year," Wildcats coach Jay Wright said. "They are an outstanding team and preparing for them is so difficult. For us to defend them like that is the best performance we have had in a long time defensively."

Offensively, Monday was the Scottie Reynolds show for Villanova. The senior point guard was deadly accurate all night hitting six-of-seven three-point attempts finishing with 23 points. Reynolds also finished with five assists to go along with only one turnover.

"I think we were up by four in the second half, and then Reynolds gets going," Brey said. "The two threes he hit [early in the second half] really jumpstarted them. Overall, they were difficult for us to guard. Their speed was difficult for us to guard in the second half."

One bright spot for Notre Dame was the play of sophomore forward Ty Nash. Making his first start of the season, Nash led the team in rebounds grabbing 11 in 25 minutes of action. Monday marked the second consecutive game that Nash has led the Irish in rebounding.

Notes

◆Notre Dame forward Zach Hillesland dressed for Monday's game but didn't enter the contest due to a bruised sternum suffered Saturday at Connecticut. Brey said that he hopes to have Hillesland available for Senior Night on Friday when the Irish take on St. John's.

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N.I.T.

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"[It's disappointing] just in the sense that we kind of knew what was on the line," senior forward Ryan Ayers said. "We've been playing pretty well, especially coming off a good fight at Connecticut."

What went wrong Monday?

"More than any team in the league, we really need all of our parts kind of working well together," Irish coach Mike Brey said.

As happened all too often this season, those parts couldn't get in sync.

Notre Dame's formerly potent offense managed just 60 points against a hard-working, disciplined Villanova defense that used its speed to force 15 Notre Dame turnovers and get the Irish out of their offensive rhythm.

"That was the best defensive game we played all year," Villanova coach Jay Wright said. "They are an outstanding offensive team and preparing for them is so difficult."

Funny, because Villanova and a lot of Notre Dame's opponents haven't made it seem too difficult.

Villanova's defense did what those other teams did successfully against the Irish — shut down senior guard Kyle McAlarney.

"It's the old Big East scouting report," Brey said of the Wildcats strategy against McAlarney. "Quickness, up on a guy, hugging him, following him, all over him."

Big East opponents all year have been content with allowing Harangody to score in double figures, but have focused their efforts on shutting down the rest of Notre Dame, especially McAlarney.

On Monday, Harangody pitched in 18, and Ryan Ayers had a great offensive game with 25 points, but after that, Notre Dame scored just 17 combined points. Junior guard Tory Jackson, coming off two of his best offensive games this season, managed just four points. McAlarney finished with just five points.

That output wasn't a case of McAlarney getting open looks and failing to hit them. McAlarney just couldn't get open. Villanova had the speed to hound him all around the perimeter.

The Wildcats played a lot of switching man-to-man, which made it hard for McAlarney to get open around screens. His teammates, except for Ayers, were unable to capitalize from any confusion or mismatches that may have resulted from those switches.

McAlarney shot just seven shots. After draining the game's first bucket, he had just two points the rest of the way — a layup with 2:42 left. Against many elite teams in the Big East this season, McAlarney couldn't get open — and his teammates couldn't find ways to get him open.

"I felt we really didn't do a good job of screening for him and getting him open and getting some easy looks," Ayers said.

One of the ways Notre Dame gets McAlarney open looks is in transition, but getting out in transition requires getting defensive stops, another thing that eluded Notre Dame in the second half, as it has at other points this season.

The Irish were up four with 14:39 left, when Wildcats guard Scottie Reynolds hit two 3-pointers. Then forward Dante Cunningham scored Villanova's next eight points. During this critical stretch of the game, Villanova scored on eight of 11 offensive possessions to take an 8-point lead with 8:18 left in game. Notre Dame, meanwhile, managed just three field goals over the same stretch of time and didn't hit a field goal again until 4:08 left to play, when an Ayers' 3-pointer made it 67-54.

That was the ballgame and probably Notre Dame's season.

So what's left for the Irish? Pride, for one. Notre Dame plays its final home game Friday against St. John's and has a chance to honor its four seniors — Ayers, McAlarney, Luke Zeller and Zach Hillesland — with a win. And these four deserve a win, after helping reshape Notre Dame basketball the past three years.

But to finish their careers with another trip to the NCAA Tournament, Notre Dame needs to go on a hot streak in the Big East tournament next week and have a week similar to Syracuse in 2006, when the Orange, who came in as the No. 9 seed, won four games in a row to win the title and secure a Tournament berth.

"We're going to stick to what we've been doing and try to change things and get better," Ayers said.

But Notre Dame has had all season and a plethora of losses to address its problems. Given Monday's performance, why would next week be any different?

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WVU

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started to claw their way back into the game through a combination of poor Irish free-throw shooting and making their own 3-pointers — a longtime sore spot for the Irish.

"I thought we got complacent. We let them have a couple 3s right back to back. We didn't follow our game plan defensively," McGraw said.

The free throws were more of a surprise for McGraw. The Irish on the season shoot just under 70 percent from the line, but Monday afternoon they were only 14-of-24, or 58.3 percent.

McGraw said the free throws were mostly about a lack of focus.

"I think that's what free throws are mostly, focus and repetition. And Ashley Barlow, a great free throw shooter, she missed a few — front ends of 1-and-1's," McGraw said.

Forward Becca Bruszewski finally made the shots the Irish needed when she stepped up and nailed two from the charity stripe to push the lead back to seven points.

"I thought Becca's two free throws were really key. That was really important. When she made those I thought that made a real difference in the game," McGraw said.

The game against the Mountaineers posed two strange circumstances for the Irish. The first was the tip-off, which was at 3:30 p.m., the only weekday matinee for the squad this season. The game time changed the schedule for the Irish, forcing some to miss the ends of classes to make the team meal and shoot-around.

"It's definitely a different set of circumstances," McGraw said of the start-time. "I was happy to play in the afternoon to get the game over with. A veteran team you expect to come out better."

McGraw added that she never wanted to play a 3:30 game again.

The other odd situation for the Irish against West Virginia was the Mountaineer lineup, which injuries this season have limited to only seven players.

"It's very frustrating. We lose our point guard because she's sick today, so she doesn't play and all of the sudden we have to move everybody out of position and it's very frustrating," Mountaineers coach Mike Carey said.

Irish guard Lindsay Schrader said she didn't see any difference in the Mountaineers' intensity or hustle during the game despite their small numbers.

"At the start of the game when we lined up for the national anthem I was like, alright, we're going to run them out. They're a tough team, they're a running team," she said.

The game puts the Irish at 10-6 in the Big East, tied with DePaul and Villanova for fourth place.

Notes:

◆Schrader's 14 points and 11 rebounds gives her three double-doubles in her last five games and six on the season. That ties the Notre Dame record for double-doubles in a season by a guard, set by Danielle Green in 1998-1999.

"That is really a difficult accomplishment. She's been doing a great job on the boards and has been our leading rebounder all year long," McGraw said. "She's somebody we really count on to get a big rebound at the end of the game, and she's been able to do that. She's been working the offensive boards pretty well, and I thought she did another good job of that today."

◆Monday's game was senior night for the Irish, who don't have any graduating seniors on the roster. Schrader, who tore her ACL during the 2006-07 season, will petition for a fifth-year of eligibility. The team did recognize senior managers Brad Lenoir and Caitlin Madden before the game.

◆There was a moment of silence before the game to honor longtime South Bend Tribune writer and women's basketball beat writer Forrest "Woody" Miller, who passed away on Saturday.

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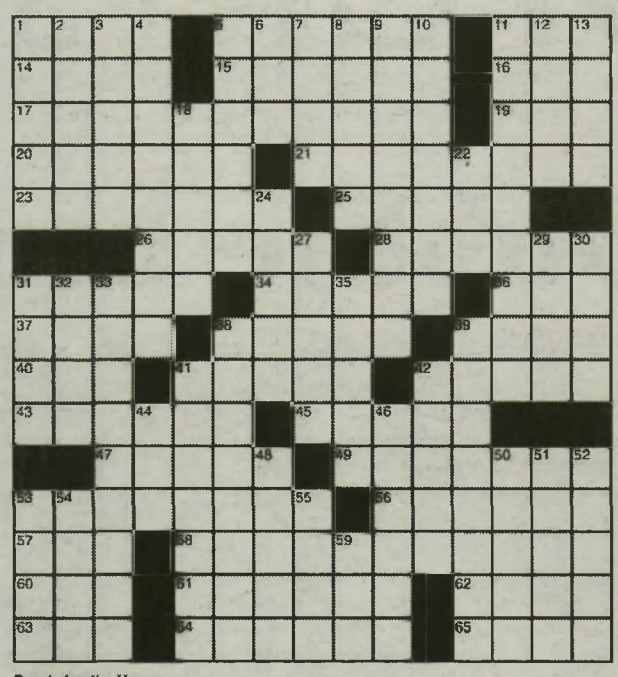
40 AOL alternative
41 Nation once known as Dahomey
42 Horses' locks
43 Like newly laid lawns
45 Alternative to a station wagon or convertible
47 Contradict
49 Convertibles, informally
53 Cop's cruiser
56 Check out of a library, e.g.
57 Place for a plug
58 Robert Ludlum protagonist
60 Ugly as ___
61 Former British P.M. Clement ___
62 Larry who won the 1987 Masters
63 Poem of Sappho
64 Start over with, as a lawn
65 Salon sound

Down

1 Bar soap brand
2 Flared dress
3 Oompah band tune
4 Exert one's superiority
5 Typewriter formatting feature
6 Prefix with system or sphere
7 Gillette razor
8 Braga of film
9 Vigorous feelings
10 Lab personnel
11 Heir to a throne, typically
12 Eyelid woe
13 Tech's customer
18 ___-weensy
22 "I'll take that as ___"
24 Dunkin' Donuts order
27 Harold of "Ghostbusters"
29 Depression-era migrant



Puzzle by Jim Hyres

30 Recipe amts.
31 G.O.P. rivals
32 Guesstimate phrase
33 Like the dust in a dust storm
35 Asocial sort
38 Devote wholly
39 Rugrats' outbursts
41 Sylvia Plath novel, with "The"
42 Myopic Mr.
44 Mountain ___ (soda)
46 Applied gently
48 Some bridge seats
50 Sen. Hatch of Utah
51 ___ scheme (investment scam)
52 Remove dust bunnies
53 Colombian cash
54 Drug bust, e.g.
55 58-Across, for Matt Damon
59 Bridal bio word

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

N	A	G	A	T		O	N	T	V		N	A	D	A
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I	D	I	D	N	T	H	E	A	R	T	H	A	T	
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E	S	T	A		E	L	S	E		O	N	E	A	L
S	H	A	G		R	E	E	D		P	E	S	K	Y

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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chris Martin, 32; Jon Bon Jovi, 47; Lou Reed, 67; Jennifer Jones, 90

Happy Birthday: Put more emphasis on your career or your next phase in life. Consider upgrading your skills or getting involved in something to help you enjoy your life more. You can secure your future by making conservative but well-thought-out moves this year. It's action that is required. Your numbers are 3, 8, 15, 24, 32, 34, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't get emotionally involved in things that don't concern you. You will make a far greater impact if you concentrate on hooking up with people who can help you get ahead. Partnerships and new projects are highlighted. A love relationship will improve with nurture. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will be emotional about issues over which you have little control. Travel, work, education or rethinking your basic life philosophy will help you make the right choices. Sometimes an adjustment is all that's required. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Set your sights high and go after what you want. Don't let emotional matters or anyone who is wrapped up in a melodrama drag you into his or her ordeal. Someone from your past will help you out. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Experience something a little different. You will find different ways to make your life easier. Working toward greater security is fine but not at the expense of activities and events that offer you knowledge and wisdom. 4 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your mind should be on following as creative a venue as possible. Entertain the idea of a partnership if it will be conducive to making one of your goals or dreams come true. Now is a great time for love. 2 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Sudden changes will turn out to be in your favor, so don't shudder at the first mention of something new. Traveling will give you a broader view of the possibilities that exist. Don't be tricked into doing something for someone when it's not your responsibility. 5 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Focus on fun, romance and relationships. You can reconnect with old friends and discover a lot about who you are. Self-improvement projects will cost a lot but, in the end, will be worth it. Try to stay within your means. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll be torn between what you should do and what you want to do. Before you make up your mind, consider the consequences. It's a no-win situation but you may have to put someone else's best interests first this time. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't listen to what others want you to do. Follow your own instincts. A new direction may be necessary but don't rule out utilizing some of your old skills, ideas or projects. The timing is probably much better now. 3 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't waste time trying to explain your actions when you have done exactly what was required of you. Put some effort into your personal life and home. A residential move or making some alterations to your current situation will help you feel better about your future. 5 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't give in to emotional manipulation. There are always more options and time is on your side. Take a wait-and-see approach. Joining a group or organization that interests you will bring you greater confidence. 2 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): An unexpected change will result if you are unreasonable regarding a proposition or proposal being offered. There are underlying details of which you are probably unaware. Be smart and read between the lines. 4 stars

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative and adaptable. You are a humanitarian and an emotional and sensitive individual. You have an enlightened view of life, love and happiness.

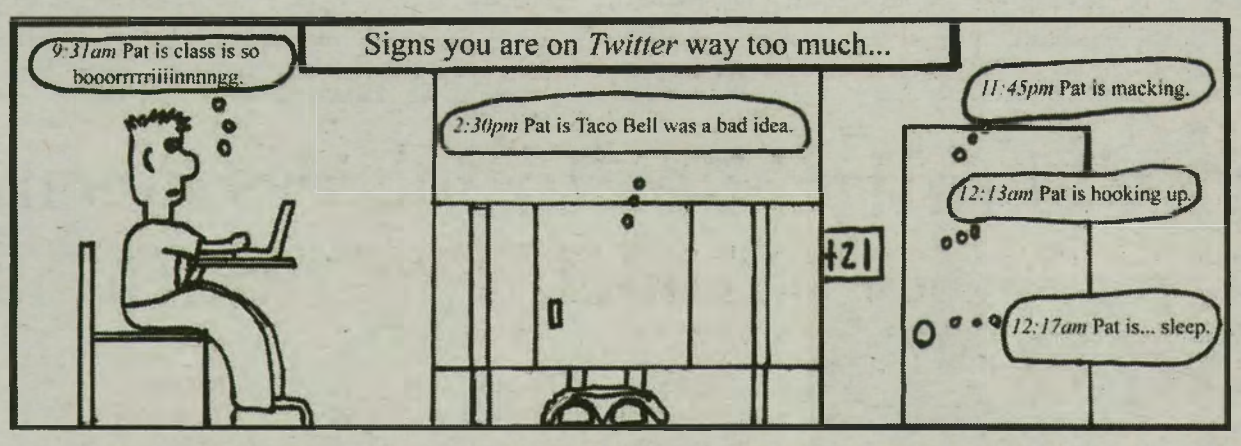
Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations. myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

WWW.BLACKDOGCOMIC.COM

MICHAEL MIKUSKA

THE FORBIDDEN DOUGHNUT

PAT GARTLAND



JUMBLE

MIKE ARGIRION
JEFF KNUREK

JUMBLE

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

DENIK

RIVOS

TOXICE

ZAMONA

NEW JUMBLE NINTENDO www.jumble.com/ds

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THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

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

Answer here: ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) " ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) "

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: HOVEL CHAFE ASTHMA DAINTY
Answer: What he did with the gardening tools when the ball game started — "SHED" THEM

THE OBSERVER

Published Monday through Friday, The Observer is a vital source of information on people and events in the Notre Dame and Saint Mary's Community.

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THE OBSERVER
SPORTS

Tuesday, March 3, 2009

MEN'S BASKETBALL

The bubble bursts

Irish devastated at home by Villanova

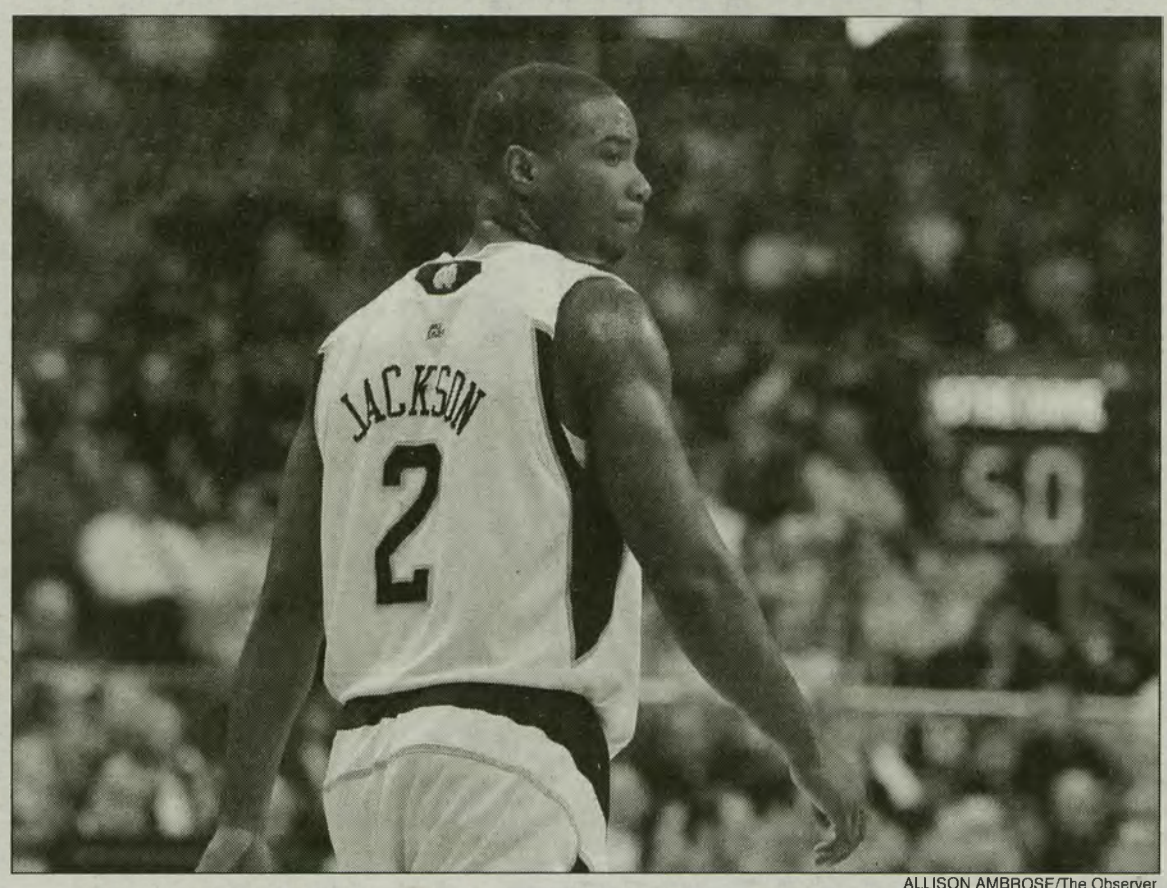
By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

With 1:41 remaining in Monday's game, Villanova's Dwayne Anderson picked up a loose ball and threw down a thunderous dunk sending Irish fans streaming for the exits. The play was an exclamation point on the fact that the Irish let Monday's game, and most likely their NCAA Tournament hopes, slip from their grasp.

After nearly pulling off a season-defining upset Saturday against Connecticut, Notre Dame was humbled 77-60 by Villanova leaving the Irish wondering what postseason plans await them.

"I would say it is frustrating because you had two opportunities here Saturday and Monday to get a real quality win, and we couldn't get it," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "The disappointing thing is we played really well on Saturday. We didn't play as well tonight. I know our guys

see 'NOVA/page 18



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish junior guard Tory Jackson walks off the court disgusted during Notre Dame's 77-60 loss against Villanova Monday night at the Joyce Center.

Irish hopes dwindle with crushing defeat

If Notre Dame's season is doomed to end in the N.I.T this year, which is the likely scenario after its loss to Villanova, Monday night was an appropriate swan song.

Chris Hine

Senior Sports Writer

Notre Dame had one final chance against No. 16 Villanova in the regular season to show it's worthy of being in the NCAA Tournament. But the Irish lost. And they lost in a way that encapsulated everything that has gone wrong in a frustrating season. Some players said it was the most disappointing loss in a season that had no shortage of candidates vying for that award.

see N.I.T./page 18

SMC BASKETBALL

Senior-laden Belles team enjoys record-setting season

By ALEX WEST
Sports Writer

The final chapter in Saint Mary's basketball season came to an abrupt end at the MIAA Championship on Saturday. Although the story didn't have the pristine ending they had hoped for, the Belles' journey to the Championship is something they can be proud of.

"It means a lot to reach the MIAA championship game." Belles coach Jennifer Henley said. "Every team in this conference strives to get there."

With a 17-10 record overall, 13-3 in the conference, Saint Mary's eclipsed the school's previous record for wins in each category. The Belles also reached the championship game of the MIAA conference tournament for the first time in school history.

Saint Mary's biggest win of the season came at home on Jan. 2 against top-ranked Hope College, the same team that ousted them in the championship game.

Several Belle players earned post-season honors, led by All-MIAA First Team selection senior forward Erin Newsom. Senior forward Nicole Beier earned Second Team honors while sophomore guard Liz Wade was named MIAA defensive Player of the Year.

Newsom finished her senior campaign second in scoring with an average of 14.3 points per game and third in rebounds pulling down an average of 8.6 boards a game.

Beier averaged 10.2 points a game and committed only 18 turnovers in a 27 game season.

Wade led the conference in steals with 86 total, averaging just over three per game. She also finished second in the conference in assists.

Coach Henley said she was impressed with the improvement she witnessed in her team throughout the season.

"One of the best parts of this sea-

see BELLES/page 17

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish outlast late WVU rally

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame had five players in double figures and managed to hold off West Virginia 72-66 in the teams' regular season finale Monday afternoon at the Joyce Center.

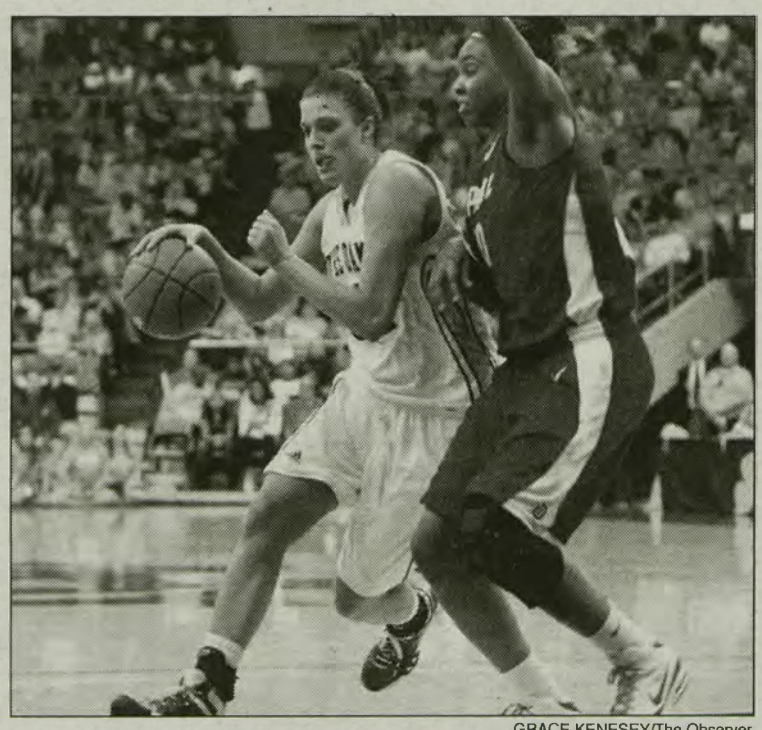
Despite the win, Irish coach Muffet McGraw was slightly disappointed with her team's performance in their final game before heading into the conference tournament this weekend.

"I think we're a lot better. We want to go in on a high to the Big East tournament," she said.

The Irish led the entire way, but pulled ahead midway through the second half and expanded their lead to 14 points with 12:07 to play.

After that, West Virginia

see WVU/page 18



GRACE KENESEY/The Observer

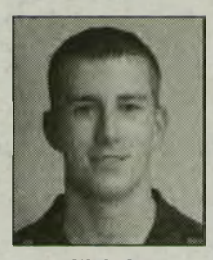
Senior forward Becca Bruszewski drives to the basket against a Syracuse defender in their game Feb. 24 at the Joyce Center.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COMMENTARY

Key to success lies in bench contributions

West Virginia knows the struggle of playing without help from the bench.

After injuries took out some of the players, sickness kept the team's starting point guard out during No. 23 Notre Dame's 72-66 win Monday.



Bill Brink

Sports Editor

"We just gotta suck it up," West Virginia senior guard Takisha Granberry said in a press conference after Monday's game.

Notre Dame hasn't experienced this problem much this season, but Monday and in the past few games, it could probably sympathize with West Virginia's predicament.

In a 10-game stretch from Jan. 10 to Feb. 17, the Irish bench chipped in 16.5 points per game. In the last four, the bench has scored 7.5 points per game.

Where did the points go?

Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw has said in recent weeks that the freshmen are burnt out. Unfortunately for the Irish, the freshmen are all they have off the bench because sophomore guard Brittany Mallory and sophomore forward Devereaux Peters tore their s and are out for the remainder of the season.

McGraw tries to keep veterans on the floor with the freshman to

see MCGRAW/page 17