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Willingham addresses firing with class

Third-year coach disappointed he didn't meet own expectations

By MATT LOZAR
News Writer

Tyrone Willingham walked to the microphone in the Joyce Center interview room Wednesday afternoon, with one thing standing out from his outfit of a gold blazer and black collarless shirt.

Unlike past press conferences, Willingham wasn't wearing any Notre Dame apparel.

In his standard calm and collected manner, Willingham talked with the media for more than 15 minutes only one day after being fired as Notre Dame football coach.

"To say I am disappointed, I think that very much hits the mark, but at the same time, I understand that I didn't meet the expectations or standards that I set for myself in this program, and when you don't meet your own expectations, you make yourself vulnerable to the will of others," Willingham said. "My goals have always been to inspire people to be the best they could be, on and off the field. I believe that I have been true to that in my time here at Notre Dame and appreciative of the opportunity and appreciative of what we have done, and I am disappointed with what I didn't do more

than anything else."

Willingham said he became aware of conversations about his job security occurring Sunday afternoon, but was surprised at the Tuesday firing.

Even though he was surprised, Willingham knows every coaching job doesn't come with a long-term guarantee for holding that post.

"Forgive me, but as a football coach — I think I said this at some point — there is no security," he said. "It doesn't exist. It's not there."

Willingham also understood the expectations at Notre

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CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Former Notre Dame football coach Tyrone Willingham speaks to reporters at a press conference Wednesday afternoon.

University monitors donations

Office of Stewardship keeps donors informed

By EILEEN DUFFY
News Writer

University of Southern California has had one. Yale and Princeton have had a few. Notre Dame? Zero.

And for once, be glad. The aforementioned universities have dealt with a number of lawsuits in recent years from alumni contending their donations were not being used for the designated purposes, according to an article in the New York Times Saturday.

"In my 21 years here, the University has not had to deal with that," said Dan Reagan, associate vice president for university relations. "We try to be extremely careful in stewarding the contributions."

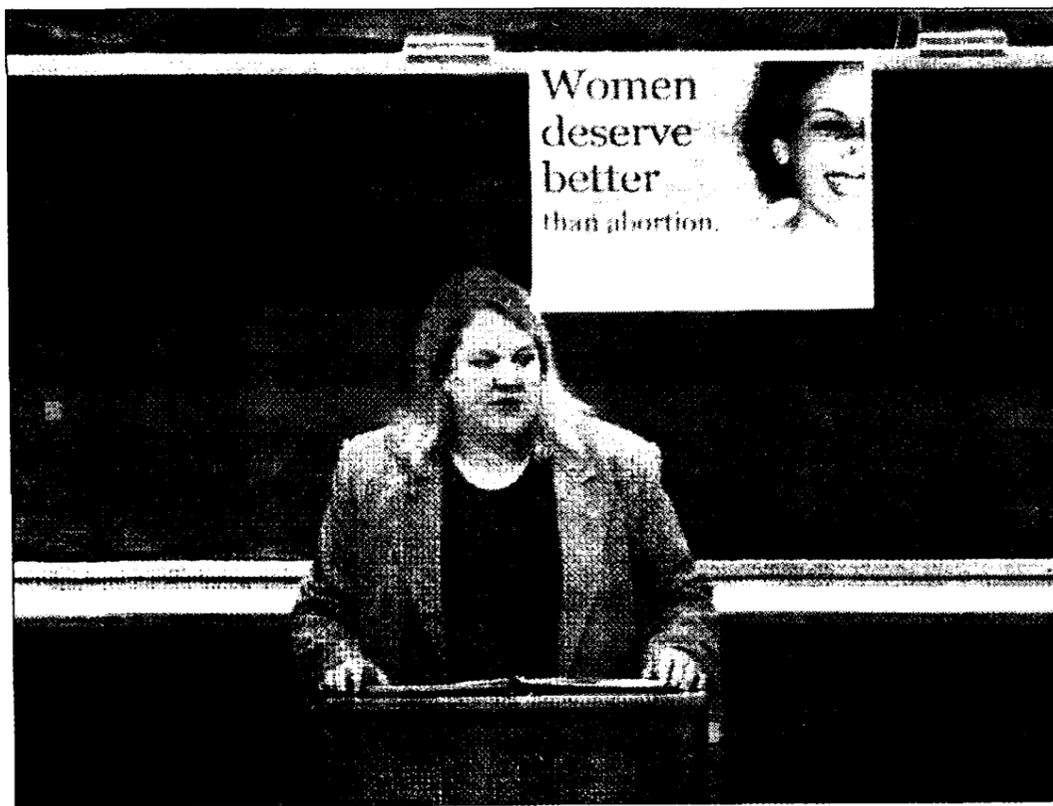
Stewarding is the process of keeping the donor informed of the effects his or her contribution is having on the University — and Notre Dame has established an Office of Stewardship within its Development Office for such purposes.

"The Office of Stewardship works day in and day out," said Reagan, who served 13 years as the executive director of development. "With good stewardship, fewer conflicts arise over the usage of a contribution."

Since alumni contribute nearly half of all yearly donations, the Office of Stewardship has plenty of responsibility. All involved in stewarding at the University are

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Campus addresses abortion, women's rights



CLEMENT SUHENDRA/The Observer

Feminists for Life of America vice president Sally Winn spoke Wednesday night on being a feminist while maintaining a pro-life stance on abortion.

Winn speaks on being pro-life and feminist

By MARY KATE MALONE
News Writer

With a sense of humor and the wisdom that comes from personal experience, Sally A. Winn spoke in DeBartolo Wednesday night about abortion's negative effect on the power of feminism.

Winn, a graduate of Indiana University and vice president of Feminists for Life of America, was brought to the University by Notre Dame Right to Life.

Winn recognized the difficulty of being pro-life in today's culture.

"It is hard to stand up on campus and be pro-life," she said. "The environment is generally hostile altogether. But through dialogue, we can get something done."

Winn spoke to her audience about the historical roots of the pro-life movement. Despite the common conception that femi-

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Lecture brings pros and cons of issue to light at Notre Dame

By MICHAEL BUSK
News Writer

Long before a Quad strewn with broken white crosses, long before Catholics were a swing vote demographic, Notre Dame has been stirred up by the issue of abortion.

Law Professor Emeritus Charles Rice was active on the pro-life legal team during the Roe vs. Wade trial that legalized abortion nationally, and after the Supreme Court handed down its opinion on January 22, 1973, he was one

of the most vocal supporters for a constitutional amendment banning abortion.

Nor was Rice the lone Domer to fight against the Roe vs. Wade decision. Supported by other Law School faculty, Thomas Schaffer, then Dean of the Law School, sent a letter to University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh, calling for an effort "to make every attempt to bring about a constitutional amendment overruling the decisions of the court."

Although such an amendment was never passed, Notre

Dame as an institution remained unquestionably pro-life, always having banned groups such as NARAL, the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League.

In 1984, more than a decade after the Roe v. Wade decision, Mario Cuomo, then governor of New York, came to Notre Dame and gave a now-famous speech defending the support of pro-choice legislation by Catholic politicians. Cuomo said a politician's private religious beliefs should not influence his or her decisions with

regard to public policy, a position that has since become the default stance of pro-choice Catholic politicians, including, most recently, John Kerry.

Perhaps the most dramatic campus event connected to the abortion issue occurred in March 1993, sparked by a pro-life protest by CALL, Collegians Activated to Liberate Life, outside a South Bend abortion clinic.

In response, members of the National Organization for Women, joined by Saint Mary's

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INSIDE COLUMN

The rules of AIM

We're all addicted to AIM. It's a given. It's an easy way to make plans or take your mind off homework. Away message checking is the root of so much procrastination. The funny thing is that over half the people on your buddy list you never even talk to — they are solely there so you can check their away message. The idea of the away message is so ingenious that people are starting to use their white boards in the dorm as away message boards. I don't really agree with this.

Hillary Thornton

Photographer

The white board is neither the time nor the place. It is for other people to leave you messages — a mailbox of sorts. Putting up an away message on a white board is like sending yourself mail. No one does that.

If we follow certain etiquette when actually conversing with people don't you think that there should be some online etiquette as well? Me and my friends certainly do.

The No. 1 rule people should follow is avoid AIM ADD. The most annoying thing a person can do is IM you and then just leave and not respond. I absolutely hate when people do this. Why even IM you in the first place? Along with that, if you IM someone first, it's your responsibility to carry the conversation. There is no excuse for saying, "Hey, what's up?" and nothing else. And one word responses are never polite.

Second, it's really rude to put up an away message when you're having a conversation with someone without saying goodbye. It takes very little effort to type the three letters: B-Y-E. It's pretty much a given that LOL and hahaha are overused. I hate that. People just use that because they are lazy and don't know what else to type. Additionally, I think everyone agrees that the AIM ba-ding sound is incredibly irritating. I don't even know why people keep the sound on. The absolute worst is when your roommate has the sound on. You wouldn't just talk on the phone when someone is trying to concentrate or sleep, so why would you leave that annoying sound effect on?

Also, if someone leaves you a message when you are away, it is only polite to IM them back when you get back, even if they have an away message up. To not acknowledge their message is like not waving when someone waves to you while passing. And everyone knows how embarrassing that can be.

Additionally, there are some things that are inappropriate away message content. I hate when people write their whole day's schedule on their away message. Nobody really cares that you have "class, class, lunch, class, meeting, tutor, gym" and that you're going to be back around "11ish."

Also, it's annoying to read how much someone misses and loves their girlfriend/boyfriend. If that's the way you feel tell the actual person not the rest of the world. It's like AIM PDA. I also find it kind of strange when people write "call me" and leave their cell phone number. Honestly, the people you actually want to talk to probably already have your number. No need to beg people to call you.

No matter what though, nothing is worse than the default away messages.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Hillary Thornton at hthornt1@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: HOW MANY PAPERS AND TESTS DO YOU HAVE THIS WEEK?



Will Jourdan
sophomore
Siegfried

"Four quizzes, three papers, two tests and a partridge in a pear tree."



Diana Dolinsky
sophomore
Pangborn

"More than I want to think about."



Brandon Burke
sophomore
Siegfried

"A history paper, an anthro paper and an orgo test."



Liz Sarb
sophomore
Pangborn

"Three papers and zero tests."



Maggie Lero
junior
McGlinn

"More than I've had all semester."



Shane Larson
junior
Alumni

"Less than this girl."



CLEMENT SUHENDRA/The Observer

Not wanting to miss out in the winter weather, a squirrel attempts to make a miniature snowball Tuesday on South Quad. Snowfall this season continues to be below normal averages in South Bend. As of Tuesday, only 6 inches of snow has fallen compared to the average 10 inches.

OFFBEAT

New York hotel offers \$10,000 martini

NEW YORK — Drinkers might want to keep a clear head when ordering a martini at New York's historic Algonquin Hotel or they might pay \$10,000 for that cold sip.

The landmark hotel, where famed wit Dorothy Parker and fellow literary lights at the Round Table imbibed, offers a \$10,000 martini, complete with a loose diamond at the bottom.

No one has ordered one yet, in the martini's first week on the menu, but the hotel hopes some romantic

soul will buy one any day now.

"We haven't had any buyers yet, but a lot of people are talking about it," said Anthony Melchiorri, the hotel's general manager, on Wednesday.

Message man: Teen text-messaging king

PROVO, Utah — Ben Cook's fingers can communicate at warp speed.

Cook, 17, used his cellular phone key pads to type a string of words with 160 characters in 57.75 seconds Tuesday, bidding to become the world's text-messaging king.

The message was: "The razor-toothed piranhas of the genera Serrasalmus and Pygocentrus are the most ferocious freshwater fish in the world. In reality they seldom attack a human."

Cook competed against a friend, Dave Stoddard, and others in a televised text-off. Cook improved on his early performances, which took him about four minutes to type out the standard Guinness World Record sentences.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The lecture "The Transition Process: A Closer Look at the Peruvian Truth Commission," will be given by 2004 Notre Dame Prize Recipient Sofia Macher in C-103 Hesburgh Center today at 4:15 p.m.

The Notre Dame women's basketball team will take on Michigan State tonight at 7 p.m. in the Joyce Center Arena.

The Notre Dame Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will perform Handel's "Messiah" tonight and Friday at 8 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall in the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.

The film "Amen" will be shown tonight in the Browning Theatre of the DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts tonight at 7 and 10 p.m.

AcoustiCafe and the Student Union Board will sponsor "AcoustiChristmas" today from 10 p.m. until 12 a.m. in the basement of the LaFortune Student Center.

The sophomore class will sponsor a dinner and "The OC" watch tonight from 7 to 9 p.m. in the LaFortune Student Center ballroom.

The 32nd annual Christmas Madrigal Dinner will take place Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m. in the Regina North Lounge at Saint Mary's College.

The Notre Dame hockey team will take on Michigan Saturday at 7:05 p.m. in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 40 LOW 26	HIGH 26 LOW 19	HIGH 38 LOW 30	HIGH 42 LOW 30	HIGH 46 LOW 35	HIGH 47 LOW 36

SENATE

Members make decisions as semester ends

By AMANDA MICHAELS
Associate News Editor

The Student Senate passed a flurry of resolutions at Wednesday night's meeting, quickening the pace as the semester draws to a close, and finally approved a constitutional amendment regarding elections after three weeks of extended debate.

Discussion of the amendment, first introduced at the group's Nov. 10 meeting, took almost an hour as senators worked against a deadline. Because the electoral process had to be solidified before the introductory candidates meeting held later Wednesday night, the amendment had to pass if there was to be any kind of reform for this year's election.

The three main points of change are an increased petition signature requirement for write-in candidate approval, the removal of the abstention option from the run-off election ballot and the inclusion of a free-choice vote for senators in the case of an exact vote tie in the run-off.

On the first point there was no

contention, but the other two sparked a debate.

Student body president Adam Istvan supported the removal of the abstention option, citing research of election policies at seven of Notre Dame's peer institutions that showed the majority of schools fail to provide the option to abstain even in the primary.

Those senators opposed to the change cited the principle behind abstaining, saying that students lose the chance to make their opinion known if it is removed from the run-off ballot.

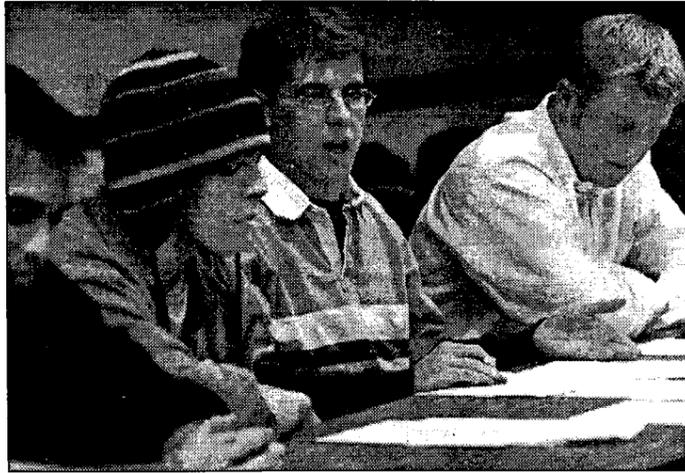
Zahn senator Mike McGinley — a leading voice in the opposition camp — proposed a change to the amendment wording that satisfied both sides.

"If the ideal situation is that everyone will follow the vote of their dorm if given the choice, let's cut out the 'ideal' part."

Josh Pasquesi
Morrissey senator

The run-off ballot will retain the abstention choice, but to ensure that one of the two candidates gains the mandate of a majority, the abstentions will not be factored into total vote percentage calculations.

The decision to give the senators the power to vote as they please and not by how the majority of the dorm voted in the case of a perfect run-off tie was reversed, returning the original constitutional language.



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Senate members continued discussion about the removal of the abstention option from the ballot at Wednesday's meeting.

"If the ideal situation is that everyone will follow the vote of their dorm if given the choice, let's cut out the 'ideal' part," Morrissey senator Josh Pasquesi said.

It was repeatedly noted that the chances of an exact-vote tie are extremely low, so odds are against this section of the constitution coming into play.

A round of applause accompanied the amendment's approval.

The Committee for Academic Affairs introduced a proposal to change the way the class registration times are schedule. It suggests the Registrar's Office alternate students' times between the first and second day of their class' registration times,

so that a person who gets a time on the first day one semester will automatically get a time on the second day the next semester, and vice versa. The proposal was approved and will be used as a negotiating position with the Registrar.

The final two resolutions of the evening created a new hall commissioner position as liaison between the University Counseling Center and the dorm, and extending thanks to the stadium ushers for allowing seniors extra time to leave after the final home game. Both were passed unanimously.

Contact Amanda Michaels at amichael@nd.edu

Donations

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careful about balancing the University's needs with the benefactor's wishes, said Katherine Rosswurm, senior director of development marketing, communication and stewardship.

"We are absolutely committed to accountability," she said. "We make sure that we are honoring the intentions of the benefactors."

Rosswurm also touched on the importance of regional directors of Development, who work with benefactors one-on-one at the time of the donation, to find the best fit.

"If a benefactor wanted to donate a \$100,000 scholarship fund," she said, "the University will go in with a general purpose, and maybe the benefactor will say, 'I'd like this to be for students from New Mexico.'"

But there are times to draw the line, explained Rosswurm.

"The benefactor couldn't specify, 'The student must be from New Mexico and have one green eye,'" she said with a laugh. "We wouldn't want a restriction we wouldn't be able to follow through with."

Notre Dame is meticulous in handling alumni donations, because they are so valuable to the University.

"We have a fabulously loyal alumni constituency," Reagan said. "And as a result, Notre Dame has been able to make great progress through financial support."

Contact Eileen Duffy at eduffy1@nd.edu

THIS WEEKEND @ LEGENDS

Thursday December 2
senior night

Brew & View
midnight
FIGHT CLUB

Zambonie



Saturday
December 4

2 great
Up &
Coming
Chicago Indie Rock Bands...



The
Stag Party

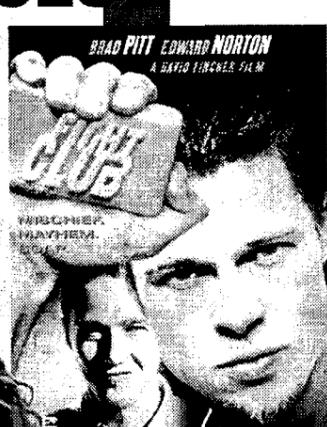
Legends Nightclub w/Live DJ
Friday & Saturday

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 3 10PM

THIS FIESTY REDHEAD
WILL HAVE YOU
LAUGHING ALL NIGHT!

STAND-UP COMEDIAN

Maria Borgia



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OF NOTRE DAME

ND, SMC, HCC ID required | No Cover | www.legendsofnotredame.org

Abortion

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students and faculty as well as Notre Dame Law students, set up a pro-choice counter-demonstration at the clinic.

A few hours later, over a hundred members of CALL, including a number of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students, left their protest at the clinic and marched to University President Father Edward Malloy's office in the Main Building, where they demanded to speak with him and then knelt down and began to pray the Rosary.

Finally, after more than seven hours, Malloy agreed to meet with the group's leaders on the condition that their protesters leave the building.

In the meeting, the leaders of the group requested Malloy join them to pray at the clinic, but he declined, commending them for their support of the pro-life cause but telling them he would express his views in his own way.

The debate about abortion continued at Notre Dame in this past election cycle. In October, Mark Roche, Dean of Arts and Letters, wrote an op-ed to the New York Times defending Catholics who would choose to vote for a Democratic, pro-choice candidate. He argued that while the Republican position on abortion is more in line with Church teaching than that of Democrats, "the Democrats are closer to the Catholic position on the death penalty, universal health care and environmental protection."

Although Roche declared abortion an evil comparable to

slavery, he said the most successful way to keep abortion rates low would be to keep a Democratic "social safety net" under the nation's poor, those statistically more likely to obtain an abortion.

The day after Roche's article appeared in the Times, Law Professor Gerald Bradley wrote a response in National Review Online. Bradley said that the 1.3 million abortions that occur every year in the United States demand a response with a degree of urgency far outweighing that of the death penalty, health care, or the war in Iraq.

Bradley agreed with Roche that abortion was as grave an evil as slavery, but then compared Roche's argument that abortion should be kept rare rather than outlawed to that of 19th-century abolitionists who recommended economic policies to reduce the demand for slaves rather than work to legalize slavery altogether.

Less than a month after the two articles were printed, President Bush won re-election, claiming more than half the Catholic vote. Some political commentators have said that the President, who is already feeling pressure from conservative Catholics and evangelicals, might use the retirement of certain Supreme Court Justices as an opportunity to populate the Court with conservatives eager to overturn Roe v. Wade.

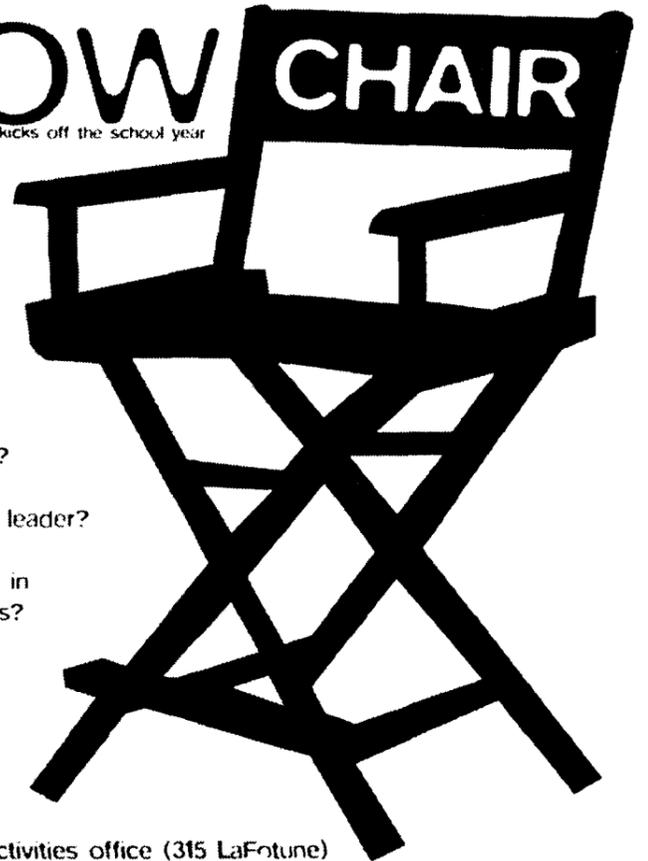
Whether he does or not, there will be no lack of passionate students and faculty at Notre Dame who will argue about abortion for years to come.

Contact Michael Busk at mbusk@nd.edu

Applications for the 2005

SHOW CHAIR

the annual campus-wide concert that kicks off the school year



Do you like music?

Are you a student leader?

Are you interested in concert promotions?

available in the Student Activities office (315 LaFolune)
available at www.nd.edu/~theshow

due Friday, December 3rd



Have Questions?
email theshow@nd.edu



Effective December 1st, college / university students can take advantage of the savings offered by TRANSPPO's 31 Day Student Pass.

Show your valid school ID when using the 31 Day Student Pass. Unlimited rides for 31 days, all for \$25. Call for Pass sales locations, or visit us online at www.sbtranspo.com



TRANSPPO

Convenient bus routes serving campus, taking you to the shopping, restaurants, and desintations you need go. For more information Monday-Saturday please call: **233-2131**



Wherever Life Takes You

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Napoleon's anniversary marked

PARIS — For France, those were the days. The French aren't pining for the return of their 19th-century empire, but the 200th anniversary Thursday of Napoleon Bonaparte's crowning as emperor is a reminder of their country's former glory.

The Corsican, whose diminutive size belied his continental ambitions, is back in the news for the bicentennial — and the timing couldn't have been more telling for a country facing an identity crisis and searching for its role in a 25-member European Union and a wider world led by the United States.

"History has been a little hard on the French lately," said Steven Englund, an American award-winning biographer of Napoleon. "And I think they're looking for reasons to celebrate their own history."

The Napoleon nostalgia underscores France's obsession with retaining its influence as a self-appointed EU leader and creating a "multipolar" world — its buzzword for a counterweight to U.S. hegemony.

Rwandan force suspected in Congo

GOMA, Congo — U.N. observers encountered what they believed to be about 100 Rwandan troops in eastern Congo, a U.N. official said Wednesday, marking the first reported U.N. sightings since Rwanda threatened to send in its forces against Rwanda Hutu rebels sheltering here.

The renewed invasion warnings by Rwanda have raised fears of a reigniting of the devastating, five-year, six-nation war in Congo, Africa's third-largest nation.

The suspected Rwandan forces withdrew toward Rwanda after Tuesday's encounter, said M'hand Ladjouzi, head of the U.N. mission at Goma. He spoke at a news conference in Goma, the largest city of the east.

NATIONAL NEWS

Priest sentenced in child rape case

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — A Roman Catholic priest was sentenced Wednesday to 4 1/2 to 5 years in prison for repeatedly raping an altar boy in the 1980s.

The Rev. Robert Gale pleaded guilty Tuesday to four counts of raping a child just as jury selection was set to begin for his trial.

Prosecutors had asked for a sentence of 10 to 12 years, but the judge settled on the shorter prison term, to be followed by 25 years of probation.

The sexual assaults took place at St. Jude's parish in Waltham between 1980 and 1985 when the victim, now 34, was between 10 and 15 years old. Prosecutors said the boy was sexually abused by Gale about twice a month.

Oklahoma introduces alcohol ban

NORMAN, Okla. — Drinking will be banned at University of Oklahoma fraternities and residence halls under new policies announced Wednesday, two months after a 19-year-old student died of alcohol poisoning.

University of Oklahoma President Dan Boren said the rules will go into effect Jan. 18 at the start of the new semester. Three violations will end in a student's suspension for one semester.

The university also will set up a hot line for students to report violations, and will expand alcohol education programs.

LOCAL NEWS

Group asks legislature for change

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana's governor and legislators must make bold changes if they want schools, universities and state government to operate smoother and cheaper, a government efficiency panel told lawmakers Wednesday.

"There are going to be some hard choices — some very hard choices — to straighten things out, and these are going to be politically unpopular," John Hillenbrand, co-chairman of the Government Efficiency Commission said.

Ebersol speaks about plane crash

Plane only lifted 20 feet off ground before falling back to runway, NBC exec says

Associated Press

MONTROSE, Colo. — NBC Sports executive Dick Ebersol told investigators his chartered jet struggled just 20 feet into the air before it fell back to the runway and broke apart, aviation officials said Wednesday.

Ebersol's 14-year-old son Edward "Teddy" and two crew members were killed when the twin-engine CL-601 Challenger crashed in light snow, fog and freezing temperatures at Montrose Regional Airport on Sunday.

National Transportation Safety Board investigators said the plane had not de-iced before attempting takeoff.

"I would say right now we're looking at environmental factors and (aircraft) performance factors," NTSB lead investigator Arnold Scott said Wednesday.

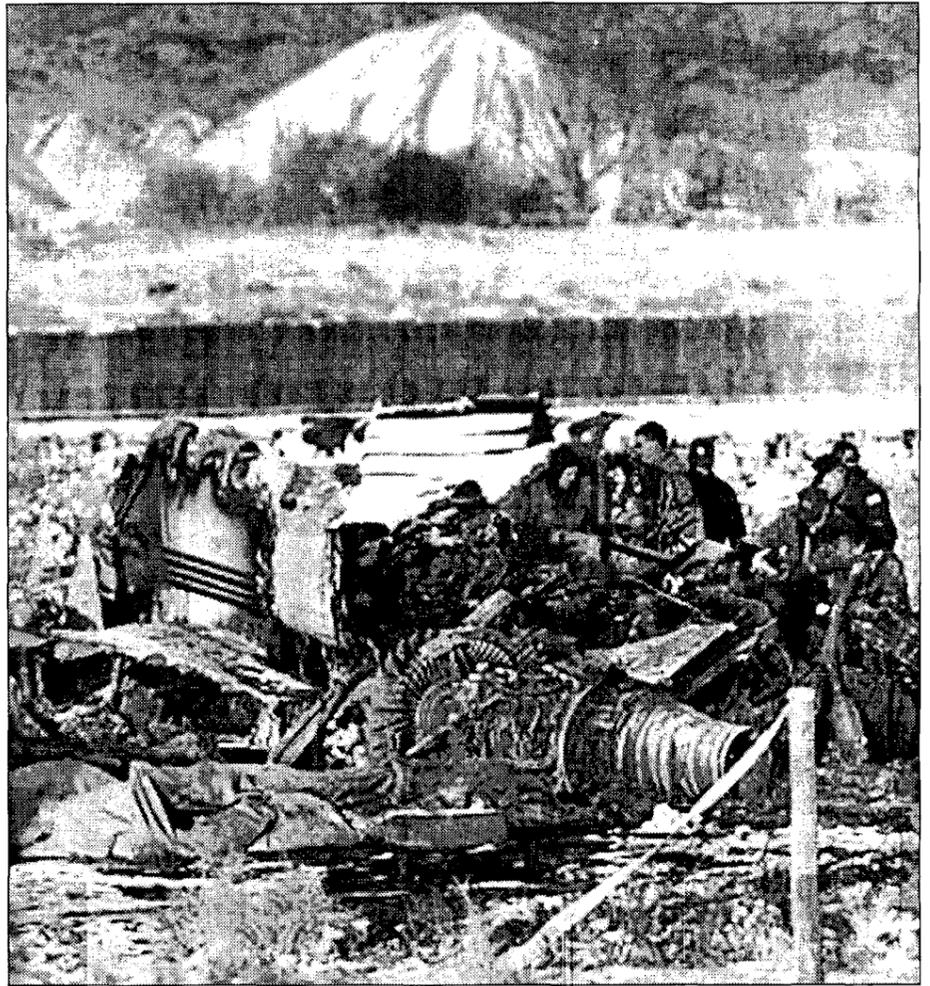
Scott said investigators do not believe engine failure was a factor because the roar of the jets can be heard on a cockpit voice recorder. He also said the plane did not break apart in the air.

Ebersol, 57, and another son, Charlie, 21, remained hospitalized in Grand Junction but were expected to make a full recovery, NBC said. Dick Ebersol reportedly suffered broken ribs, a broken sternum and had fluid in his lungs, while Charlie suffered a broken hand and had a sore back.

The co-pilot, identified by Denver newspapers as Eric Wicksell, 30, of Daytona Beach, Fla., was in critical condition at a burn unit in Denver.

The NTSB had not interviewed Wicksell. "We don't interview people who are fighting for their life," Scott said.

Charles Eastlake, a professor at Embry-Riddle



Workers continue to clean up the wreckage from a charter jet that crashed Sunday. NBC Sports executive Dick Ebersol, an accident survivor, spoke to investigators Wednesday.

Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Fla., said the evidence seemed to point toward ice on the plane as a factor in the crash.

"The behavior of the aircraft makes it more likely that de-icing is an issue," he said.

NTSB spokesman Keith Holloway said investigators want to compare Sunday's crash with a deadly January 2002 crash in England of a CL600 Challenger that tried to take off in freezing temperatures without de-icing.

"We will look at it and see if there are similarities other than that," he

said.

The pilot of the Ebersols plane, 50-year-old Luis Alberto Polanco of the Dominican Republic, and flight attendant Warren T. Richardson III, 36, of Coral Gables, Fla., were also killed. The Federal Aviation Administration will conduct toxicology tests, Young said.

Teddy Ebersol, the youngest son of Ebersol and "Kate and Allie" actress Susan St. James, died after being ejected from the plane and crushed by the wreckage, Montrose County Coroner Mark Young said. Dental records flown from Connecticut were used to

positively identify the boy.

Scott said there was no indication Teddy was wearing a seat belt. Charlie was not wearing a seat belt, but Polanco was, he said.

Neither St. James, 58, nor another son was on the plane.

Scott's team wrapped up its field investigation Wednesday and prepared to return to Washington. The debris will be moved to a hangar in Greeley where it may be examined again, he said.

Details of the cockpit voice recording may not be available for months, after the recording is transcribed, he said.

HAITI

Powell condemns political violence

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Heavy gunfire rang out near Haiti's presidential palace Wednesday as Secretary of State Colin Powell prepared to meet with the country's interim leaders. He denounced the violence as the work of thugs.

Powell said international peacekeeping troops need to come down hard on street toughs and those who carry out political violence in Haiti.

"They have to forcefully take on those armed individuals of the kind who were firing this morning," Powell said after meetings at the National Palace with President Boniface Alexandre, Prime Minister Gerard

Latortue and other political leaders.

Haiti is still beset with violence and political infighting as the one-year anniversary of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's ouster approaches in February. The country's caretaker government has pledged open elections next fall, a goal Powell said Haiti can meet with outside help.

"The only outcome that will satisfy the U.S. is an election next year that is free and fair, ... that is not fraudulent and stolen," Powell said later in his one-day trip to shore up democratic efforts in the desperately poor country.

The United States, and Powell in particular, have been instrumental in

Haiti's chaotic power shifts over the past decade. Powell was once an Aristide supporter but helped arrange Aristide's exile this year.

"I'm deeply saddened the opportunity that was given to Mr. Aristide a decade ago was wasted," Powell said Wednesday. "But the Haitian people have a new opportunity."

Aristide and others claim the Bush administration coerced him to leave. Aristide's followers say Powell signed onto a plan to remove Aristide because he was viewed as a troublemaker whose unpopularity could destabilize Haiti and cause a tide of refugees to head for U.S. shores.

The administration says Aristide departed voluntarily.

Lecture

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nists are pro-choice advocates, a look into the history of the women's rights movement reveals otherwise.

"Believe it or not, pro-life feminism is not an oxymoron," Winn said. "It is entirely congruent with the fundamental feminist principles that brought about the women's rights movement."

In fact, many early American feminists were opposed to abortion. Winn cited such famous figures as Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Blackwell as being highly vocal critics of abortion.

Citing alarming statistics of the frequency of abortions, Winn challenged her audience to question why the procedures are so common in our culture.

"Today, there are 1.3 million surgical abortions every year," she said. "Every 37 seconds, your sister, your girlfriend, your daughter, your best friend, is laying down her body for an abortion. Why?"

According to the research arm of Planned Parenthood, the top two reasons why women resort to abortion are lack of financial resources and lack of emotional support. This is a telling fact according to Winn.

"What it comes down to is that women are being coerced by well-meaning friends and family to have abortions," Winn said. "Or by the boyfriend who says, 'Oh honey we can't afford a baby'. Oh, like he wasn't in the room?"

In her speech, Winn focused on the need for society to provide resources and support for college women who are pregnant. The lack of support, coupled with the social stigma of an unwed mother on a college campus, are responsible for the fact that one in five abortions are performed on college age women.

"Women are not men. We have children so get over it, don't make us fit into a male model," Winn said. "Why should we have to sacrifice our bodies for our career goals?"

As a woman who has had first-hand experience of being pregnant in college, Winn referred to the overwhelming lack of support universities provide for pregnant women.

"One in 10 women will become pregnant this year. Where do they go? They drop out or have abor-

tions because there is usually no place to live for undergraduates, no day care, and no maternal coverage in student health care."

Since universities generally do not provide resources for pregnant women, they leave many women with no choice but to have an abortion, she said.

"Yale University will pay for three abortions in the student health care package," Winn said. "How much for prenatal care delivery? None. Tell me, where is my free choice?"

Immensely grateful that she chose not to have an abortion as a junior at Indiana University, Winn described her experience as thoroughly challenging, but not in the least regrettable.

"It is not an easy road, but it is so gratifying," she said. "My daughter is the love of my life."

Still the need for change at college campuses nationwide has never been greater.

"It is so obvious that something needs to be done," she said. "Pro-life and Pro-choice advocates need to stop screaming at each other and be a catalyst for change."

To do this, panels should be created on campuses, comprised of powerful decision makers who are willing to ask themselves why they are not providing for their pregnant students, she said.

Referring to the success of a new day care program at Georgetown University, Winn said if goals are set and people are willing to come together, women will benefit greatly.

Winn closed her speech by emphasizing the need to maintain the power of being feminine. Pregnancy is part of womanhood, and a gift that must be treasured, she said.

"We have spent the last 30 years proving we can make it in a man's world," Winn said. Now we have to concentrate on being ourselves."

Contact Mary Kate Malone at mmalone@nd.edu

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Happy Birthday to Sociable British



Love, Katie, Feeney, Lally and Amy

Official clears up misunderstanding

By MATT LOZAR
News Writer

A University official clarified on Wednesday reports in many media publications that the decision to fire Tyrone Willingham was made at an emergency meeting involving Notre Dame's Board of Trustees.

"The idea that there was an emergency meeting of the Board of Trustees on Monday night, I wanted to clarify that was not true," the official said. "There were seven people

involved in the decision process. They met on Monday night and met again Tuesday morning."

The official went on to identify the seven people as University President Father Edward Malloy, University President-elect Father John Jenkins, University Provost Nathan Hatch, executive vice president John Affleck-Graves, athletic director Kevin White, chairman of the Board of Trustees Patrick McCartan and Philip Purcell, the chair of the Board's athletic committee.

"We have 58 trustees. There

was no emergency meeting of the Board of Trustees involved in this. It was just this group," the official said. "I wanted to clarify because it has gotten out in so many accounts that there was an emergency [meeting]. ... It's not our term. We never said anything about it."

The Observer reported in Wednesday's edition that sources said a Board of Trustees meeting was held Monday night.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

Ty

continued from page 1

Dame — realistic or not — are as demanding as anywhere in college football.

"I don't get into what's fair and what's not fair. I am an optimist by nature, but I am also a realist, and that makes you deal with the events as they occur," he said. "So I will deal with the events."

Throughout everything Willingham has done as head coach of the Irish — from talking in students' dorms to answering the media's questions about his goals — he always talked of one on-the-field goal. Willingham acknowledged Wednesday he didn't do that one thing enough.

"There's only one thing. Win. That's it," he said. "That's the bottom line. Win."

In the beginning, Willingham won at Notre Dame. He got off to an 8-0 start in 2002. The 13-15 record in the 28 games since that start, coupled with eight losses by more than three touchdowns, was a major factor in why Willingham was fired.

"We had some success. We didn't have enough success," Willingham said. "That is, I think, the bottom line. We didn't reach the level that I wanted to reach."

When the topic of being given three years was fair or not, Willingham answered those questions quickly, even cutting off one reporter who was asking about that.

"I'm not going there," Willingham said.

Later, he explained the abrupt answer.

"Forgive me, there is not any anger associated with that, it's just that is the truth," Willingham said. "Someone else holds the answers."

On another controversial topic regarding Willingham's firing, he said plenty needs to be said about his feelings regarding the Black Coaches Association, but not at this time.

Willingham didn't think it was necessary to discuss whether or not he was asked to make any staff changes.

As for his successor in South Bend, Willingham paused for a while when asked what one piece of advice he would give to the next coach of the Irish.

"It would be 'Be yourself,'" Willingham said. "That's always what's important."

After answering the questions, Willingham closed the press conference by wishing whoever

takes over the program good fortunes.

"My wish will be that this program has great success in the future, and that whoever the coach is that he comes in and does a great job because I believe there's some great young men in this program," Willingham said.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones 10,590.22 +162.20

Up: 2,336 Same: 136 Down: 1,026 Composite Volume: 1,784,019,840

AMEX	1,407.85	-0.93
NASDAQ	2,138.23	+41.42
NYSE	7,097.32	+91.60
S&P 500	1,191.37	+17.55
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	10,949.27	+165.02
FTSE 100(London)	4,735.70	+32.50

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
SIRIUS SAT RADI (SIRI)	+5.28	+0.35	6.89
NASDAQ 100 (QQQQ)	+2.04	+0.798	39.92
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	+1.64	+0.44	27.25
INTEL CORP (INTC)	+3.22	+0.72	23.10
CISCO SYSTEMS (CSCO)	+2.13	+0.40	19.15

Treasuries

30-YEAR BOND	+0.30	+0.15	50.27
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.39	+0.17	43.75
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.30	+0.11	37.12
3-MONTH BILL	-0.46	-0.10	21.72

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl)	-3.61	45.49
GOLD (\$/Troy oz)	+2.70	453.20
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb)	-1.65	100.10

Exchange Rates

YEN	102.4000
EURO	0.7484
POUND	0.5170
CANADIAN \$	1.1828

IN BRIEF

Southeast airlines ceases operations

LARGO, Fla. — Southeast Airlines, a Florida-based discount airline serving seven destinations along the Atlantic seaboard and Midwest, announced that it has ceased operations.

The company said in a statement posted on its Web site that it "has made its final landing and has ceased airline operations. We apologize for the inconvenience this will cause to our customers."

The airline said the decision was due in part to high fuel costs. There was no answer at its Tampa Bay area corporate office early Wednesday and a company official could not immediately be reached for comment.

WTSP-TV in Tampa/St. Petersburg reported on its Web site that employees were called to the airline's corporate headquarters Tuesday night, given their last paychecks and told they no longer had jobs.

The airline served Allentown/Bethlehem, Pa., Newburgh, N.Y., Gary, Ind., Columbus, Ohio, and three Florida locations: Fort Lauderdale, St. Petersburg/Clearwater, and Orlando.

Dollar hits new low versus pound

LONDON — The dollar fell to a 12-year low against the British pound Wednesday as signs of strength in the British economy raised expectations of interest rate rise. Gold prices rose.

The British pound was quoted at \$1.9270 in European trading, up from \$1.9114 late Tuesday. Later, in midday trading in New York, the pound was worth \$1.9290.

The last time the pound was that high was in September 1992, the year sterling was ejected from the European exchange rate mechanism — a system designed to maintain stability among European currencies — and tumbled sharply.

A report Tuesday by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development forecast that the base interest rate in Britain could rise from the current 4.75 percent to 5.5 percent next year.

The Bank of England, however, takes a contrary view. Bank officials told a Parliamentary committee Tuesday that there has been little sign of inflation being stoked by strong fourth-quarter economic data.

Consumer spending boosts stocks

Increased energy supply, purchases cited for rise in Dow Jones industrials

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stocks soared Wednesday, with the Dow Jones industrials rising more than 120 points, as a large buildup in the nation's energy inventories and increased consumer spending sent buyers back to the market.

The Energy Department reported an increase in distillate reserves — heating oil and other derivative products — of 2.3 million barrels, far higher than Wall Street expected. Gasoline and crude inventories also rose substantially.

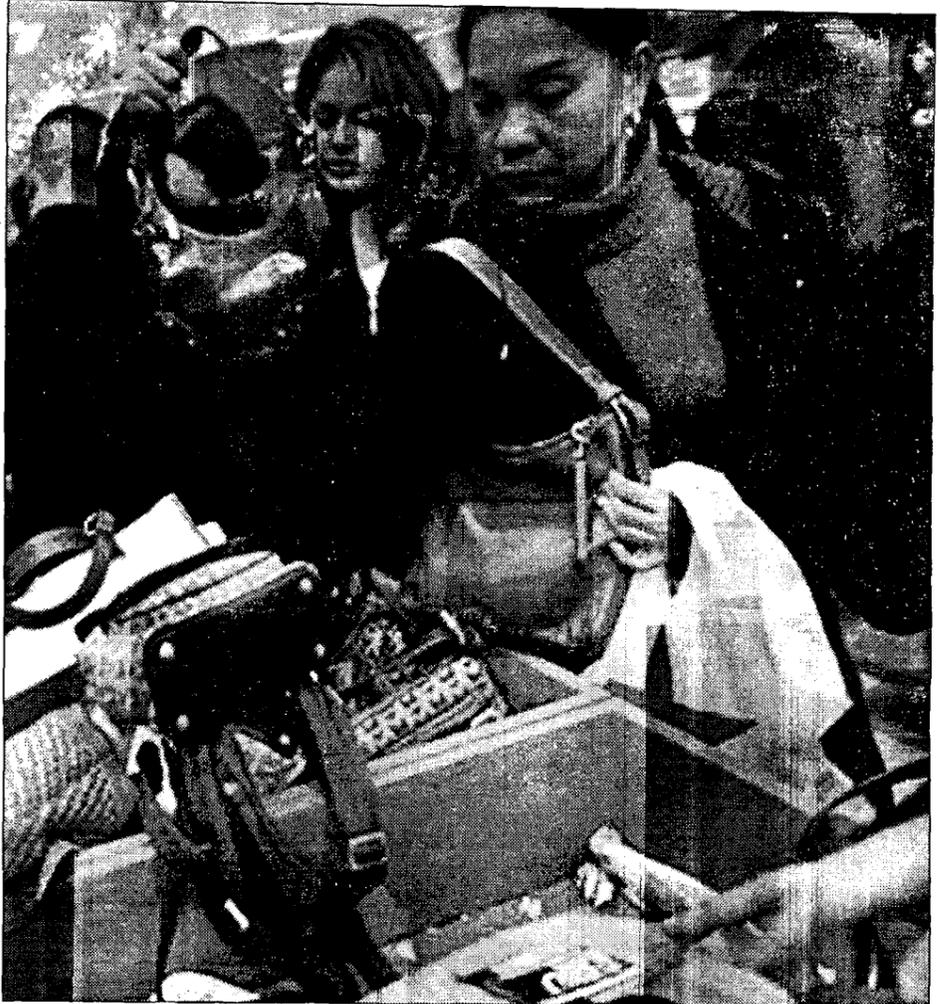
The impact on crude futures was immediate — a barrel of light crude was quoted at \$47.30, down \$1.83, on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

"Oil futures go down, stocks go up. I think that'll be a pattern for a long time, and the good news is that if we keep getting inventory reports like this, oil prices will be ready for a big correction downward," said Brian Belski, market strategist at Piper Jaffray. "Overall, this market has clearly turned to a growth mode over the past few months, and should continue to grow."

At midday, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 120.30, or 1.2 percent, at 10,548.32.

Broader stock indicators were sharply higher. The Standard & Poor's 500 index was up 12.31, or 1 percent, at 1,186.13, and the Nasdaq composite index gained 30.33, or 1.4 percent, to 2,127.14.

The good news on oil built on earlier economic reports, which showed an 0.7 percent rise in consumer spending in October, a better-than-expected showing and welcome news after a mediocre start to the holiday shopping season. The Commerce Department also reported an 0.6 percent rise in consumer incomes — considered a key barometer of future spending.



Shoppers sort through handbags at Macy's in San Francisco. On Wednesday, the Commerce Department reported that the final quarter of 2004 is starting well.

Wall Street was also happy with the latest reading of the Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing index for November, which measures the nation's industrial activity. The index came in at 57.8, up from 56.8 in October and better than the 57 reading Wall Street expected. November marked the 18th straight month of growth for industrial activity.

The dollar was once again a concern, but was generally overlooked by investors in favor of the strong economic data. The dollar fell to a 12-year low against the British pound, while the euro continued its record-setting gains against the greenback.

Merger activity dominated company news, with Wellpoint Health Networks Inc. successfully completing its \$16.5 billion merger with Anthem Inc., creating the nation's largest health insurer. Shares of the merged company, which will go by the name Wellpoint Inc. and trade under the ticker symbol WLP, were up \$4.61 at \$105.94.

Blockbuster Inc. rose 35 cents to \$8.83 after it said it was willing to raise its takeover bid for rival video rental chain Hollywood Entertainment Corp. above its original \$11.50 per share offer. Hollywood gained 23 cents to \$12.92 on the news.

Dow component Pfizer

Inc. climbed 54 cents to \$28.31 after it said it would meet its 2004 profit targets, but stood to lose \$14 billion in revenues over the next three years as patents on some of its products expire.

Cigna Inc. also issued projections for future profits, saying better-than-expected results in its health care business allowed the insurer to raise its profit targets for 2004 and 2005. Cigna surged \$5.93 to \$75.95.

Advancing issues outnumbered decliners by more than 2 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 742.39 million shares, compared with 577.17 million at the same point on Tuesday.

Lag in health care spending may be over

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The slowdown in the growth of health care spending leveled off earlier this year after two years of declines, a new study found, with the cost of treating a privately insured American rising 7.5 percent in the first half of 2004 — virtually the same as the 7.6 increase in 2003.

Paul B. Ginsburg, co-author of the study, worries that the flat spot could be a pause before the rate of spending increases will once again start to grow as programs designed to contain costs are failing to have a significant impact. Even if the rate of increase doesn't jump dramatically, he said, it is still at a dangerous level which outpaces inflation

and could eventually lead to more employers dropping health coverage.

"We have leveled off at a place that is problematic," said Ginsburg, president of the Center for Studying Health System Change, which conducted the study with the Employee Benefit Research Institute. "There is just not much optimism that we know how to control costs."

Health care spending growth slowed in both 2002 and 2003 after reaching 10 percent in 2001. Ginsburg said the surge in 2001 was partially a reflection of the end of strident managed care policies which kept costs in check. Programs and policies that shift a greater burden of the health care costs to employees helped moderate spending growth in 2002 and 2003. But Ginsburg said cost shifting can

only accomplish so much because employees will drop coverage if they can't bear the expense.

Unlike other studies, this one measures what is paid to providers such as hospitals and doctors instead of health care premiums paid by employers to purchase coverage. Some studies measuring premiums have showed a continued decline in the growth rate.

For instance, a study released last month by Mercer Human Resource Consulting found that this year the average premium rose 7.5 percent, down from last year's 10.1 percent increase. Employers expect premiums to rise 7 percent next year — if they make some changes in the plans they offer. If not, they anticipate a 10 percent increase.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 8

Thursday, December 2, 2004

THE OBSERVER

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THE
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POLICIES

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Viewpoint space is available to all readers. The free expression of all opinions through letters is encouraged. Letters to the Editor must be signed and must include contact information.

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Political authority comes from God

Is Christmas a political event? Yes, in two ways. First, American Civil Liberties Union lawyers can be counted on to rush to court, at the first sign of Christmas, to force communities to remove Nativity creches from public places, to silence

Charles E. Rice

Right or Wrong?

Christmas carols in schools and to prevent public use even of the word, "Christmas," from corrupting the "Holiday Season." They commonly argue that public recognition of Christmas is politically divisive, although the controversies usually arise only upon the filing of their own lawsuits.

In a second and more basic way, Christmas is a political event. When the second person of the Trinity became man, he entered the world as a subject of the Roman Empire which recognized no moral limit to the absolute power of its law. Some philosophers, such as the Roman statesman, Cicero, had argued that law was "the distinction between things just and unjust, made in agreement with ... Nature." But the general rule before Christ was that objective justice had nothing to do with the validity of law and therefore that there was no moral limit to what the state could do. The incarnation of the divine person as man, manifested at Christmas, affirmed instead that the power of earthly rulers is subject to the law of God. As Peter told the Sanhedrin, "We must obey God rather than men." Acts 5:29. The Christian era began with civil disobedience when the Magi, at divine direction, disobeyed the state in the person of Herod and "went back to their country by another way." Matthew 2:12. And Joseph and Mary rejected the authority of the state when they fled into Egypt with the child to escape from Herod. Matthew 2:13-15.

With the entry of the divine person, Christ, into the world, the absolute claim of the state met a new kind of challenge. Herod tried to kill the child because he

wrongly saw him as a contender for political power. Pontius Pilate could not understand why Christ would not make a deal. He asked, "What is truth?" John 18:38, unaware that Truth, with a capital T, was the person standing in front of him.

Are there moral limits to what the state can do? The answer given by the Soviet Union, Nazi Germany and many regimes in history was: No. The question remains today. The people of California voted last month to fund the creation of human beings for the purpose of killing them and using their parts for the benefit of others. This was an extension of Roe v. Wade, in which the Supreme Court decreed that unborn human beings are nonpersons subject to execution at the discretion of others. That power of the state to depersonalize the innocent had been the legal premise of the Nazi depersonalization and extermination of the Jews. It was also the premise of the Dred Scott case which declared that slaves were property rather than persons.

The reigning jurisprudence today is legal positivism, in which none of those deadly decrees can be said to be unjust because no one can know what is just. "Truth," said Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, "is the majority vote of the nation that could lick all others." For Holmes, "the sacredness of human life is a purely municipal ideal of no validity outside the jurisdiction." As Hans Kelsen, the leading legal positivist of the 20th century, put it, "justice is an irrational ideal." Any law is valid if enacted according to the prescribed procedures. Kelsen admitted that the Nazi extermination laws were "valid law" according to positivist theory in the world

of positivist jurisprudence, there is no room for Martin Luther King's conclusion, in accord with Thomas Aquinas, that a law is unjust and void if it "is not rooted in eternal law and natural law." This is not a merely Christian concept. But the natural law makes ultimate sense only if we identify its Lawgiver. The political impact of Christmas arises from its assertion that the infant Christ is that Lawgiver and that his law controls.

Today, when politicians and judges from the Pontius Pilate school of jurisprudence seek to liberate the state from the moral law, they are trying to relitigate an issue that was explicitly settled by the highest authority two millennia ago. Every state has a god, an ultimate authority it recognizes. What Christmas tells us is that, whether they like it or not, political leaders derive their rightful authority from the real God and they

must exercise that authority in accord with his law. That is why the state can never have authority to legalize murder, to wage war unjustly, to sanction economic, racial or other oppression, or otherwise to violate the higher law.

The courts this year will do their best to extirpate Christmas from public life during

the "Happy Holidays." From the standpoint of the positivist state that makes sense. That baby in the crib is a threat. Merry Christmas.

"Today, when politicians and judges from the Pontius Pilate school of jurisprudence seek to liberate the state from the moral law, they are trying to relitigate an issue that was explicitly settled by the highest authority two millennia ago."

Prof. Emeritus Rice is on the Law School Faculty. His column appears every other Thursday. He can be contacted at plaweck.1@nd.edu.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Fans will support a winning or losing team

This is Notre Dame. It was more than a slogan that attracted me to Notre Dame. I was attracted to what that slogan stood for. Notre Dame was a place that fostered integrity and character. However, yesterday's actions by the administration indicate that Notre Dame has lost some of its luster.

When I arrived on campus as a student in the fall of 1999, I was introduced to the Notre Dame Family. There was a common bond that linked everyone associated with the University. As you walked around, you could feel the camaraderie and spirit that filled the campus. And when the football team took the field on Saturday afternoons, they had more than 80,000 family members supporting them and cheering them on.

That was Notre Dame. The adminis-

tration decided to take action and restore the football program to the glory of old. However, in doing so, the administration has risked losing Notre Dame's defining characteristics: integrity and character.

A recent study indicated that Notre Dame is the most popular football team in the country. One would think that our less-than-stellar performance on the football field would turn fans away, yet they keep coming back. What is it that draws fans all across the country to root for Notre Dame? It can't be our winning record because surely there have been more successful teams over the last few years. So what is it? What makes Notre Dame different?

Before yesterday it was Notre Dame's integrity and character that separated it from every other pro-

gram. It was that common bond, the Notre Dame Family. Our actions toward Coach Willingham were not actions of integrity and character. They were actions of arrogance and impatience. The administration fired one of Notre Dame's most zealous advocates of integrity and character. Apparently the chance at earning a BCS birth and the money that comes with it has swayed the administration.

I still believe Notre Dame is a special place, and could once again become a football powerhouse. However, over the coming weeks, as the search for a new coach begins, let us not lose sight of what made Notre Dame so great.

Michael Zingale
alumnus
class of 2002
Dec. 1

OBSERVER POLL

Should Notre Dame have accepted the Insight Bowl bid?

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly."

Robert Francis Kennedy
U.S. senator

Save the tunnels

It is January at Saint Mary's. It's about 25 degrees outside, and you have just stepped out of the shower and your friends are waiting to go to dinner. Clearly it would not be smart to go to the dining hall with wet hair. Instead you compromise with the girls, throw on some shorts and flip-flops and take the tunnels to Haggar for dinner.

Molly Acker

Nobody likes a dumb blonde

Or let's say it is 1 a.m. on a snowy night in February. Your girlfriend in Le Mans has just gotten the ax from her boyfriend, and she needs a shoulder to cry on. You don't want to walk outside in the cold by yourself so late at night, and so you run over in the tunnels.

If you go or went to Saint Mary's, I am sure that you have been in a similar predicament, and have first-hand knowledge that our tunnels can really come through in a pinch. They are a simple luxury that generations of Saint Mary's women have used and appreciated.

I recall that during freshman orientation we were taken on a complete tour

of campus, and we were then shown how to navigate the tunnels. Little did I know how often they would come in handy over the next two years. Sure, they always feel like they are about a hundred degrees. And, yes, the pipes are kind of old and often leaking. Nevertheless, the tunnels of Saint Mary's are an institution of convenience that has been in place for nearly a century.

On Nov. 22 we were informed that the tunnels would be shut down for pedestrian use on Dec. 18. This has raised a lot of questions and many complaints among the students. Not only does it seem like an inopportune time to close the existing tunnels (what with the onset of winter and the inevitable rash of pre-Valentine's Day break-ups that will require consoling), but the school has also just constructed a new tunnel to connect Le Mans with the new student center.

The letter addressed to the Saint Mary's community stated that the steam lines, electric power, water lines, communications and other systems that run through the tunnels are old and no

longer meet restrictive code requirements. They fear that the pipes are potentially hazardous to those using the tunnels, should something happen.

It seems to me that if these pipes are so dangerous, then they should be repaired rather than just shut off from pedestrian access. Judith Johns, CEO of the Holy Cross Services Corporation, also reported that Saint Mary's College does not own the pipes. Instead, they are owned by the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. While the Congregation may not have sufficient funds to pay for the necessary repairs, there are others who do.

I spoke with Barbara Wade, the Director of Communications of the Order, about how much it would cost to make the necessary upgrades. She said, "The issue is not a matter of simply upgrading the existing utility tunnels but rather one of building a completely new and separate tunnel system designed for pedestrian use. The logistics, not to mention the expense, of mapping out such a separate system amid present building and construction on campus, indicated the prohibitive

nature of such a project. For this reason no estimates were solicited." This may be true, but after speaking with many alumni and current students I have learned that there are many members of the Saint Mary's community who would be willing to donate money to save the tunnels.

The tunnels may not seem like they should be that important, but if you have ever been a student at Saint Mary's then you probably felt a little sad and maybe a bit angry when you heard they are to be closed. Ladies, let's not let them take our tunnels away from us or from future SMC Chicks. Even if it takes years before they are able re-open, let's pass the hat around and champion the cause of saving our tunnels!

Molly Acker is a junior communications and humanistic studies double major at Saint Mary's. Her column appears every other Thursday. She can be contacted at acke6785@saintmarys.edu.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Community responds to Willingham's departure

Ty 'couldn't get it done;' deserved to be fired

Unbelievable.

Notre Dame realizes after three years of mediocrity that it doesn't have the coach that can get the program where it needs to be so it fires him. All of a sudden, according to all the so-called NCAAF experts, Notre Dame "panicked," Notre Dame "didn't give him a chance," the firing was "racially motivated," Notre Dame was exposed as "no different than all the other football factories."

That's reflective of the number one issue in America today — no one wants anyone to be held accountable for their actions or results (much less themselves). Poor performance is always someone else's fault, or can be blamed on one's abusive parents, broken home or ethnicity.

Coach Tyrone Willingham knew going in exactly what

the job entailed and exactly what was expected ... put a consistent winner on the field. If he didn't think he could do it, he shouldn't have taken the job. Neither should Urban Meyer or anyone else take the job now and claim three, five or 20 years from now that the coaching environment at Notre Dame is brutal. Brutal schedule, brutal academic requirements, crappy weather, demanding alumni, etc., blah, blah, blah. If you aren't up to the challenge, don't take the job. If you are going to whine about the situation, don't take the job.

Unfortunately, Willingham was not doing the things that needed to be done to achieve the abovementioned objective (put a consistent winner on the field). He was getting blown out of games at an unprecedented rate. He wasn't recruiting enough impact freshmen. He couldn't win over the hearts of the alumni, students,

etc. He lost to teams he clearly should have beaten. Worst of all, there was no momentum in the program ... no success trajectory ... things were not obviously getting better. Willingham was fired for the same reasons everyday Americans in challenging jobs get fired — not because he is a bad person, not because he is black, not because he can't be successful somewhere else. Because he couldn't get it done at Notre Dame and there was no convincing evidence that things were improving.

Go Irish!

Bill Lewis
 alumnus
 class of 1976
 Dec. 1

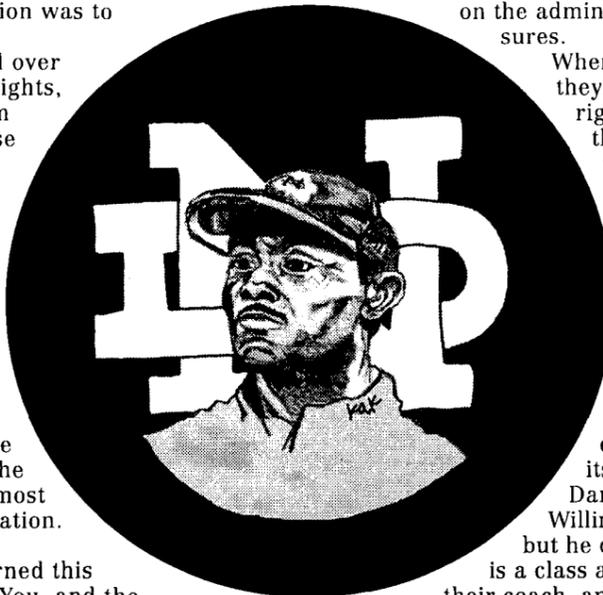
Notre Dame's reputation tarnished

As an alum who was often frustrated in her Notre Dame days by the apathy on campus, I was thrilled to hear from a fellow alum and read on the internet that a large demonstration was being organized on the steps of the Dome for Tuesday night. My joy quickly turned to horror when I learned the demonstration was to call for Ty Willingham's ouster as head football coach.

When you think of all the campus protests that have occurred over the years — against wars, against violence, in support of civil rights, to name just a very few — the state of the school's football team starkly pales in comparison, and makes the University and those responsible for the planning look ridiculous. Maybe this stands out as such an embarrassment because what these students were advocating, firing Willingham before his contract expired, stands out as one of the most shameful, classless acts ever perpetrated by the University. Of course losing (especially to Boston College) stinks, but having a team you can be proud of, who take academics and character as seriously as football, means something too.

It also used to mean something to be different, to not just be another football factory school but one with pride and class to go with the wins. By sacrificing Willingham to the demands of some unrealistic and impatient alums and students, Notre Dame has forevered tarnished that reputation and cast itself among the Floridas, Alabamas and other schools where winning isn't the most important thing, it's the only thing. Congratulations, administration. I'm glad to see Father Malloy going out on such a high note.

However, true congratulations to those students who later turned this "demonstration" into a show of support for Coach Willingham. You, and the players who remain silent, are the only class acts in this shameful episode.



Megan McGrath
 alumna
 class of 1996
 Dec. 1

Values count more than football

Mike Celezik of MSNBC's article regarding the firing of Ty Willingham sums up the situation well: "It may be a good day for Notre Dame football. But it's a bad day for Notre Dame." Shame on the administration for caving to alumni and student pressures.

When students demanded the return of the SYR did they listen? Of course not. They told us it was the right thing to do to prevent alcohol abuse. Now that money is involved in the equation (and while I'm at it, shame on alumni who donate only to get tickets when the team is doing well), we see what the administration's real decision driver is.

Don't let anyone tell you that Notre Dame is about football — because it's not. Notre Dame is about producing individuals with the highest of moral standards that know how to leave the safety of our campus and go out in this world and do what is right. Sadly it appears that the administration does not embody the same qualities it seeks to instill in its graduates. For the first time in history, Notre Dame has broken its bond with a coach. Ty Willingham may not have had a spectacular record,

but he deserved a chance to finish out his contract. He is a class act that any university should be proud to call their coach, and I am proud of the way he represented my Alma Mater where it really counts — off the field.

Erich Stuntebeck
 alumnus
 Class of 2004
 Dec. 1

ALBUM REVIEWS

U2 produces another classic

By BECCA SAUNDERS
Assistant Scene Editor

There are few newly-released albums that can be called "a classic" in this era of music. Often groups are "revolutionary" or "ground-breaking" and are noted for that, but few musical performers are able to take the genre of rock and roll, rich in history and influence, and make an album that is truly great. Bono, the Edge, Adam Clayton and Larry Mullen Jr. accomplish this feat in the latest U2 album "How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb."

U2 has taken a genre that it has heavily influenced and created an album with a strong U2 character, yet one that is still new and distinct, and all this has been done without letting a single bad song slip onto the album.

Early rumors of "How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb" had it donned by Bono himself as U2's first rock album. While the two truly rock songs on the album, "Vertigo" and "Love and Peace or Else," are great songs, they are the only two songs

that have a heavy rock beat behind them. The rest of the album is composed of what U2 does best: the rock ballad. The remaining nine songs on "How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb" are all songs that are better than most rock bands' singles. Songs with terrific melodies, strong music composition and moving lyrics seem to be average fair for U2 on this album.

U2 has been around for awhile, and thus it is not entirely surprising that its songs are not composed of lyrics concerning anything less than enlightening. The song "Miracle Drug," which has been misinterpreted by many as a song about AIDS, is in fact about a man from the high school the members of U2 attended. This boy was completely paralyzed, but his mother would still talk to him out of her love for him. Eventually he began taking a drug that gave him the ability to blink his eye and through this ability he conveyed moving poems to his mother that had been stored up in his head. This man experienced a whole new world because of his mother's dedication to him. Bono sings of his newfound free-



Photo courtesy of mlv.com

U2's latest release is on par with their hit albums, "Achtung Baby" and "All That You Can't Leave Behind."

dom in one of the best lyrics on the album: "Freedom has a scent / Like the top of a new born baby's head." The song is about the powerful love the mother had for her son, "I am you and you are mine / Love makes no sense of space / And time." This song covers much more than your average rock song.

In that same spirit, "Sometimes You Can't Make it on Your Own" is a beautiful acoustic sounding slow song that sounds like a song about a couple, but Bono wrote about it his father. Another terrific song, "One Step Closer," is also about Bono's father, who died a couple of years ago. It was inspired by a conversation with one of the Gallagher brothers of the band Oasis about Bono's father. Gallagher had asked if his father died a believer, and Bono told him that he was not sure, and Gallagher responded that at least now he was one step closer to knowing. Bono claims to have known at that moment he was going to write that into a song. As the main lyricist throughout the majority of the album, Bono exercises his immense talent in writing songs that

are powerfully personal, yet at the same time immensely universal. There is hardly a line in the album that is not poignant and memorable.

While not all the songs on "How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb" are terrific, they are generally pretty close. "City of Blinding Lights," written about U2's first visit to New York City has an introduction rivaling the moving intro to the classic, "Where the Streets Have No Name." There is something to be said for and about every song on the album, and that is a novel occurrence.

"How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb" may very well turn out to be one of U2's best albums in regards to almost every song being really spectacular. It definitely at least holds its own in the ranks among "Achtung Baby" and "All That You Can't Leave Behind." U2 fan or not, it would be hard not to at least appreciate the pure experience and ingenuity that shines through on every track of "How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb."

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How to Dismantle an Atomic Bomb

U2

Interscope



Free Yourself winds up disappointing

By BRODERICK HENRY
Scene Music Critic

Fantasia Barrino proved to be an amazing live performer. Armed with the vocal stylings of a woman far greater in age and life experiences, the American Idol winner delivered some of the best musical displays in the three-year history of the television contest. As a result of such performances Fantasia has drawn a number of comparisons to R&B soul diva Mary J. Blige. Some have even crowned her the new face of

R&B. Yet, there still remains one question surrounding Barrino: are audiences really interested in hearing her sing?

If record sales of Fantasia's first single, "I Believe," are any indicator then the answer is no. In its first week of release the song sold 142,000 copies which is pale in comparison to the sales of the first Idol winner Kelly Clarkson or even last year's Idol runner-up Clay Aiken. Many critics assert the poor reception of "I Believe" can be directly attributed to Fantasia's over singing. Both onstage and while recording she has the tendency to scream and shout notes rather than actually sing them.

Although television audiences may have been able to stomach and even enjoy the two-minute outbursts, it remains to be seen whether record buyers have the wherewithal to listen to the same outbursts in heavy rotation.

Yet, with her debut album, "Free Yourself," Fantasia does little to quiet the critics. The 13-track album, which is relatively short by R&B standards, suffers from a number of debilitating ailments. Most noticeably, Barrino, without fail, sings every song in the shrillest yet raspy octave imaginable. But the shouting is often to the detriment of the songs. For the antics provide neither soul nor inspiration, but rather distractions for listeners.

In order to compensate for Barrino's shortcomings, Clive Davis, the album's executive producer must have had one intention — appeal to as many segments of music buyers as possible. Therefore any producer who has made a hit record in the last five years was invited to assist on the project. Missy Elliott, Jermaine Dupri, and Rodney Jerkins all lend a helping hand to the album. Yet, with so many cooks preparing the meal, "Free Yourself," just ends up sounding like a compilation. I doubt the Gershwin Broadway classic "Summertime" juxtaposed to "Baby Mama", a song saluting young single mothers, will rest well with most listeners.

For their sake the album should be renamed, "Now! Songs That Will Never Sound Good Together."

Even with its many missteps "Free Yourself" does have a couple of standout tracks. One track in particular, "Good Lovin'" finds Barrino praising the love she receives daily from her "man": "What a sunny, sunny morning/ when my man is right by my side/Held me so closely so close I felt love inside." The aforementioned Elliot even finds a way to mildly contain the Idol star's wailing. Accompanied by a bass-heavy track, the song sounds like a 70s classic.

Overall, "Good Lovin'" illustrates the greatest disappointment surrounding Fantasia. It is obvious she has a great deal of talent. But it appears she is more intent on relaying her vocal prowess rather than delivering beautiful occasionally well-written songs in the manner in which they were intended. Luckily, much has been invested in the young star, and she will definitely get the chance to make another album. Let us hope Fantasia matures in the art of singing before she embarks on that endeavor. In the meantime, free yourself from the disappointment and leave this album on the shelf.

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Free Yourself

Fantasia

J-Records



ALBUM REVIEWS

Beatles' U.S. albums finally released

By JULIE BENDER
Scene Music Critic

By 1963 the Beatles were an established act in the United Kingdom, inciting hysteria wherever its Beatle boots tread and selling records faster than hot cakes off the griddle. Despite this phenomenon, miles across the Atlantic, the band was a hard sell. Ingrained with the attitude that nothing "British" would sell in the U.S. — especially nothing noisy with long hair. Major American record labels systematically refused to sign the Beatles. Producer George Martin managed to convince the tiny gospel and R&B label, VeeJay, to take a chance on the band, but its first U.S. release, "Introducing The Beatles," was a flop, and the group was quickly dropped. Meanwhile, back in England, the Beatles continued to meet with astounding success, and Beatlemania hummed along in full force.

After several more months, Capitol Records, a label who had rejected the Beatles four times prior, could no longer deny the band's potential and quickly snapped up its songs for release in early 1964. Capitol, however, did not release the same albums the British public had seen. Instead, the label took the liberty of changing the song order and cutting the album length down by several songs. Instead of "Please Please Me" and "With the Beatles," American fans got "Meet the Beatles," "The Beatles' Second Album" and other U.S. releases like "Something New and Beatles '65" in place of the British counterparts.

In 1988, things changed when the Beatles catalog was transferred to CD, and in this process the American album versions all but disappeared. Only the original British albums were released on CD, leaving the U.S. albums almost a non-existent part of history.

Until now.



Photo courtesy of mtv.com

Capitol Records recently released the first four American Beatles albums in CD format for the first time ever.

In what some call a natural, albeit late, move and others a strategic moneymaking ploy, Capitol has finally released the first four American Beatle albums in box-set form, titled, "The Capitol Albums Volume I." For the first time, Beatles fans can possess and listen to "Meet the Beatles," "The Beatles' Second Album," "Something New and Beatles '65" in CD format. For original U.S. fans, this is a chance to hear the Beatles exactly how they heard them the first time around in 1964. For fans a generation removed, this is a chance to own a bit of Beatles history.

Some complaints have been aired about this release, and rightfully so. "The Capitol Albums" is listed at close to \$70, and, after all, these American releases contain no new music. For the fan that already has the British Beatle albums, this is money spent for songs already owned.

For a real Beatle's fan, however, this package is a dream come true. The quality of music is undeniable, and the four CD set

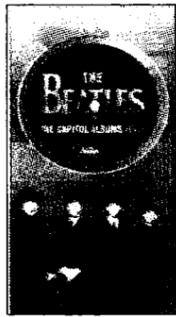
comes with a 48-page booklet and the original album cover art. There are the classic songs like "All My Loving" and "She Loves You," and the lesser known, but equally good songs like "No Reply," "I'm A Loser" and "This Boy." Included is even the German version of "I Want to Hold Your Hand," "Komm, Gib Mir Deine Hand." Even more, each album contains twice the amount of songs, with each song appearing in both the mono and stereo versions. A true Beatles ear will be able to detect the sound differences and delight in both variations. And, with several other U.S. albums still unreleased, there is promise that these songs won't be the last notes heard from the band.

Whether "The Capitol Albums" is a money scam or enticing package, the Beatles unquestionably remain the masters of rock 'n' roll. No matter how it is boxed up, wrapped up or sold, the band and its music will always be priceless.

Contact Julie Bender at jbender@nd.edu

The Capital Albums, Vol. 1 The Beatles

Capitol



Mos Def rusty after long hiatus

By KENYATTA STORIN
Assistant Scene Editor

Mos Def fans beware — this is not the same Mos Def of five years ago.

Back in the late 90s, Mos Def came out with "Black Star" (with Talib Kweli) and his solo debut "Black on Both Sides," and immediately became one of hip-hop's top up-and-coming artists. A gifted and socially conscious rapper, he provided an intellectual alternative to gangsta rap, much like rap groups De La Soul, Brand Nubian and A Tribe Called Quest. However, after the release of "Black on Both Sides," Mos Def decided to pursue other endeavors, acquiring several acting roles ("The Italian Job," "Monster's Ball"), appearing on Broadway ("Topdog/Underdog") and starting the rock band, Black Jack Johnson. After this long hiatus, Mos Def has finally come out with his second solo release, "The New Danger," but unfortunately he has lost

much of the magic that once made him great.

On the album, Mos Def brings in a number of music genres aside from hip-hop, including rock, soul and blues. Unfortunately, the result is a messy musical montage, with awkward transitions between tracks. Furthermore, Mos Def's attempts at some of these genres are pedestrian at best. On tracks like "The Panties" and "Modern Marvel" he puts his singing at the forefront, and while he is a better singer than most rappers, he still is not good enough to carry songs with his voice. His attempt at blues on "Blue Black Jack" is also nothing special.

Black Jack Johnson, is featured on several tracks, and after one listen it becomes quickly apparent why the band does not have its own album yet. The group's guitar riffs and grooves are listenable, but ultimately basic and uninspiring. For the most part, the band seems out of place on the album, showing Mos Def likely included it for the sole purpose of giving his band publicity.



Photo courtesy of mtv.com

"The New Danger" is only Mos Def's second solo release. He came out with his solo debut, "Black on Both Sides," in 1999.

Not surprisingly, Mos Def is at his best when he sticks to rapping. Aside from Kanye West, the album has no big-name producers, but the beats, while not stellar, are generally pretty effective. If there is any track that would make a good single, it would be "Sex, Love & Money," which has a simple, but effective flute and bass beat. "Sunshine" and "Grown Man Business" are also quality hip-hop tracks.

But as one would expect from a five-year hiatus, Mos Def's flow is more flawed than it was before the new millennium. For instance, there are several instances where Mos Def rhymes the same word twice: "Layin the cut like they not gon' know/

Cuz if I gotta make a move dawg they not gonna know." Also, he often falls into repetitive rapping patterns, rhyming the same sounds over and over: "Like, Hail Mary, full of grace / [people] come in and shoot up the place / And make you pull up your face / The deck, I'm a pull out the ace."

But his biggest area of decline is his song content. While there are glimpses of social

commentary, it is a far cry from the provocative lines he used to flow. This is exhibited best by one the album's worst cuts, "The Rape Over," an attack on the hip-hop industry that remakes Jay-Z's song, "Takeover." On it, he ends with the lame line, "Quasi-homosexuals is running this rap s—," something he never would have said before. Even worse, the song abruptly ends shortly after this line, with Mos Def simply muttering, "that's it," which makes one wonder exactly how much effort Mos Def put into the album.

For a man of Mos Def's talents, it is hard to call "The New Danger" anything but a disappointment. It still has its moments here and there, but it is nowhere near the quality of "Black on Both Sides" and "Black Star." Clearly, Mos Def has lost the drive he once had in his music. Hopefully, he finds something to inspire him again for his next album, and will once again resemble the groundbreaking emcee he once was.

Contact Kenyatta Storin at kstorin@nd.edu

The New Danger

Mos Def

Geffen



NCAA FOOTBALL

Cutcliffe fired after six seasons at Ole Miss

Associated Press

OXFORD, Miss. — David Cutcliffe struggled to replace Eli Manning and refused to make major changes after his first losing season in six years as coach of Mississippi.

Those two issues cost him his job.

Cutcliffe was fired Wednesday, following the Rebels' worst season in 10 years.

The usually stoic Cutcliffe fought through tears several times while speaking regretfully about his final season in Oxford.

"Things just haven't been good in 2004," he said.

He declined to discuss specifics of his dismissal, which came after two days of meetings with athletic director Pete Boone and chancellor



Cutcliffe

Robert Khayat.

"We just couldn't come to an agreement," Cutcliffe said. "We couldn't get everything on the same page."

Boone said Cutcliffe refused to submit a written plan to fix problems within the program, including improving a defense that consistently ranked among the Southeastern Conference's worst.

"He preferred the status quo, keeping things how they are," Boone said. "I didn't hear a plan to make that better."

Assistant coaches will remain employed until the new coach decides whether to retain them, Boone said.

Boone and Khayat will lead the search for a new coach. Boone is looking for a high-energy coach with previous experience and reputations for having aggressive defenses and creative offenses.

Under Cutcliffe, "we had peaks and valleys of emotional levels by the players," Boone said. "Sometimes they're moti-

vated, sometimes they're not."

Cutcliffe was 44-29 in six seasons at Ole Miss, 25-23 in the SEC, and just a season removed from going 10-3 and finishing tied for first in the West with Manning at quarterback.

But without Manning, the first pick in the NFL draft, Ole Miss went just 4-7 this year. The Rebels were 3-5 in the SEC and lost four games by a total of 19 points.

Manning, now the starter for the New York Giants, said he was disappointed by the firing.

"Coach Cutcliffe and I had a great run and great relationship, and I think he's a great coach and a great person," Manning said. "He definitely left Ole Miss a better place than when he came in. I know he'll be fine."

Cutcliffe, the former offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach at Tennessee, had been criticized for his handling of the quarterback position this season.

Micheal Spurlock was the starter at the beginning of the season, but was benched midway through the second game for Ethan Flatt.

Flatt started the Rebels' next nine games. Midway through the season, Cutcliffe switched to a three-quarterback rotation with redshirt freshman Robert Lane entering the mix.

After a win over then-No. 25 South Carolina, the Rebels lost four straight — three to ranked teams.

"It's essential that the football program be competitive. It's not now-and-then competitive. It's every-year competitive," chancellor Robert Khayat said. "We expect our program to be outstanding, to be moving forward. We will not accept ... mediocrity."

Boone said he had five candidates in mind, but declined to identify them. Speculation has already surfaced around Tommy West of Memphis, Dan Hawkins of Boise State and Tyrone Willingham, who was

fired by Notre Dame on Tuesday.

"We can make up a lot of ground if we get in the right people," Boone said.

Cutcliffe was hired by Boone's predecessor, John Shafer, to replace Tommy Tuberville after the 1998 regular season.

Cutcliffe met with Khayat and Boone earlier this week after the Rebels completed the season by beating rival Mississippi State 20-3 last Saturday.

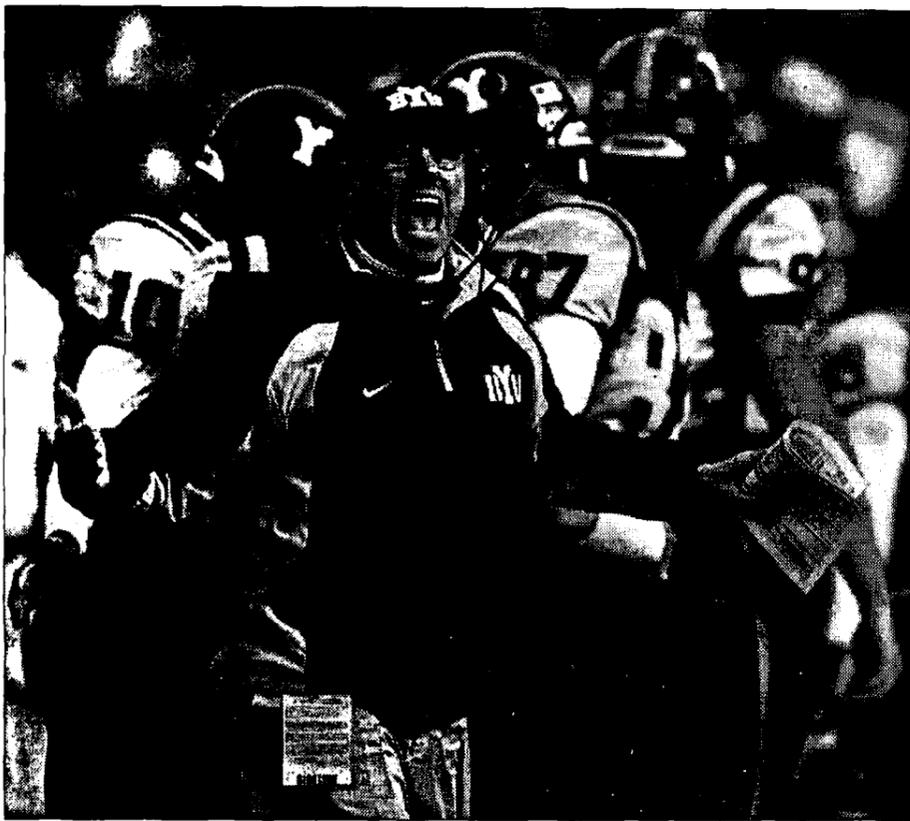
"We had a different view of what was required to move the program up," Khayat said.

Cutcliffe was the only coach in school history to win at least seven games in his first five years.

After last season's success, his contract was extended. He has three years remaining on a deal that pays about \$1.2 million annually, including perks and bonuses.

Khayat declined to discuss Cutcliffe's contract situation.

Crowton resigns after third straight losing season at BYU



Brigham Young head football coach Gary Crowton yells to his players in the first quarter on Nov. 13, in Provo, Utah. After a dismal season, Crowton said Wednesday he was stepping aside to pursue other job opportunities.

Associated Press

PROVO, Utah — BYU coach Gary Crowton agreed to resign Wednesday, ending a four-year stint with the Cougars that began with 12 victories and finished with three straight losing seasons.

BYU finished 5-6 this season and went 14-21 over the last three, the school's worst three-year run since the early 1960s.

BYU athletic director Tom Holmoe said at a news conference with Crowton that the coach was asked for his resignation.

"At this time I feel like it's time for me to step down and let the football program move on in a different direction," Crowton said.

He replaced LaVell Edwards, who turned BYU into one of the most successful and entertaining programs in the country before retiring after 29 years as Cougars coach.

"When I took the job, following LaVell Edwards was the biggest challenge," Crowton said.

Holmoe, a former NFL assistant and coach at California, said he is not a candidate to take over as coach.

"There will be no coach who applies for this job who will think there will not be pressure," he said.

Crowton is a former Cougars assistant who was working as offensive coordinator with the Chicago Bears, when he was tapped by BYU after the 2000 season.

Crowton returned to Provo with a wide-open offense that was prolific his first season and brought back memories of BYU at its best, with Edwards guiding quarterbacks such as Steve Young, Jim McMahon and Ty Detmer.

The Cougars started 12-0 under Crowton, making a run at breaking into the Bowl Championship Series before losing their final two games. Crowton could never duplicate that success.

The 2003 season was BYU's worst in 30 years. The Cougars went 4-8, won only one home game and ended the season with a 3-0 loss to rival Utah that snapped a 28-year run of not being shut out.

This season started out well with BYU beating Notre Dame 20-17. The Cougars also came within a missed last-second field goal of beating Boise State. They were 5-4 going into their final two games.

Trying to become bowl eligible, the Utes lost 21-14 at home to New Mexico and ended the season with a 52-21 loss to the Utes in Salt Lake City.

Crowton lost a strong supporter in the program when athletic director Val Hale, a former high school teammate of Crowton's in Orem, was fired Sept. 8.

Crowton said he wants to get back into coaching and would pursue other job opportunities.

"I wish I would had gotten more wins. In this business, that's what it's about — getting wins," he said before leaving the news conference.

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 3 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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Why are there so many songs about rainbows, and what's on the other side?

Q. What's brown and sticky? A. A stick.

NFL

McNair considering retirement after completing season

Titans quarterback cites health concerns, family responsibilities as reasons to potentially walk away from football

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee Titans quarterback Steve McNair isn't backing away from his talk that he will consider retirement after this season, and said Wednesday his health and spending more time with his children are his top concerns.

"It's frustrating when you've got a 6-year-old boy (who) asks you to go play catch, and you've got to tell him no because you're

injured. That's kind of frustrating," McNair said. "That frustrates you mentally because you can't do things as a father that you need to do."

"I want to be able to play catch. I want to be able to go out and do the things with my kids that a normal father would do. I can't do it banged up. That's the biggest consideration right now."

The 2003 co-MVP originally said Sunday he would evaluate his football future immediately

after a 31-21 loss to the Houston Texans in which McNair turned the ball over three times. Coach Jeff Fisher talked with his quarterback that night and again Monday and said McNair was frustrated over the loss.

Given a chance to back off his own comments, McNair refused on Wednesday.

"It's nothing to do with this football team or what position we are in right now. It's all about my health. This year has been

one of the worse as far as me not being on the field," he said. "I've been doing that for a long time, and my body right now, it's saying one thing and my mind is saying another."

McNair aggravated his bruised sternum in last weekend's loss, an injury that put him in the hospital for two nights in September and kept him out of three games completely. Twice, he was knocked out of games.

That's the most playing time he has missed since 1999, when he sat out five games because of surgery to repair a disc in his lower back.

But the man who has played through at least 24 separate injuries and six operations or procedures before this season is used to pain. His misery stems from what he can't do at home.

"Nobody understands but me and probably a couple other

people how hard it is for me after a game to get out of my bed or go out and play toss with my little boy," he said. "And that's the frustrating part about it — not being able to do the things I normally would do if I was healthy."

McNair only watched practice Wednesday, and Fisher said the quarterback likely won't do anything on Thursday either.

Titans owner Bud Adams told Houston television station KRIV on Monday that it's important that McNair keep playing. The franchise is 77-48 when McNair starts, but Adams said any decision McNair makes will not be based on money.

"He is a real conservative guy. He's hung on to his money and has a lot of it in the bank. If he wanted to hang 'em up, he would be fixed for the rest of his life," Adams said.

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NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

No. 3 Illinois defeats No. 1 Demon Deacons

Associated Press

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. — Top-ranked teams might want to think twice about visiting Assembly Hall.

Roger Powell Jr. scored 19 points, Dee Brown and Luther Head added 16 each and No. 5 Illinois made No. 1 Wake Forest look more like a nonconference patsy in a 91-73 rout Wednesday night. The Illini led by double-digits for the last 28-plus minutes of the game, and were up by as much as 32 in the second half.

With 8:34 still to play, the "Orange Krush" student section broke into chants of "OVERRATED!" In the final minutes of the game, there were chants of "WE'RE No. 1."

The Illini have now beaten both No. 1 teams that visited

Assembly Hall. They beat then-No. 1 Michigan State 57-55 in 1979 — though if it's any consolation to the Demon Deacons, the Spartans still went on to win the national championship that year.

Illinois (5-0) has now won 35 straight at home against non-conference opponents, a streak that dates back to Nov. 17, 1998. The Illini are 67-3 overall at Assembly Hall since the 2000-01 season.

Wake Forest (5-1) opened the season 5-0 and climbed to No. 1 for the first time in school history. Though the Demon Deacons had impressive spurts on their way to winning the preseason NIT last weekend at Madison Square Garden, they also looked at times like a team still trying to find its rhythm, getting tested by both Providence and then-No. 18 Arizona.

But the Illini are a cut above Providence and Arizona, and the Demon Deacons were no match for them. Especially not on "Paint the Hall Orange" night, when the 16,500-seat Assembly Hall was sold out with almost all of the fans in bright orange. Even Illini coach Bruce Weber was sporting a dayglo orange blazer, so loud even Wake Forest coach Skip Prosser had to chuckle when they shook hands before the game.

That was about all that made Prosser and the Deacons laugh. The Demon Deacons were held to 39 percent shooting, and two of their best players were never a factor. Chris Paul, the leading vote-getter on the AP's preseason All-America team, had just 10 while Justin Gray, MVP of the preseason NIT, had 11.

Eric Williams, the other member of Wake Forest's big three, had 18 on 7-of-13 shooting.

Though the Demon Deacons had a definite size advantage inside, Illinois never let them use it, harassing and badgering them anytime they tried to get close to the basket. And Wake had no answer for Illinois' speed — or its smoothness.

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AROUND THE NATION

page 14

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Thursday, December 2, 2004

AP Women's Basketball Poll

team	record	points
1 LSU (42)	7-0	1,098
2 North Carolina (1)	5-0	996
3 NOTRE DAME	6-0	948
4 Tennessee	4-1	923
5 Stanford	5-0	919
6 Georgia	4-1	857
7 Texas (1)	2-2	840
8 Connecticut	1-1	805
9 Baylor	3-1	777
10 Duke	5-1	726
11 Ohio State	5-1	669
12 Texas Tech	1-1	529
13 Vanderbilt	4-0	527
14 Purdue	3-0	496
15 Michigan State	4-1	493
16 Rutgers	4-0	395
17 DePaul	4-0	388
18 Minnesota	4-1	364
19 Kansas State	3-1	306
20 Boston College	3-1	294
21 Louisiana Tech	2-0	188
22 Maryland	3-1	169
23 TCU	5-1	147
24 Villanova	3-1	90
25 UCLA	3-1	88

College Football Polls

Coaches		AP	
team		team	
1 USC (48)		USC	1
2 Oklahoma (6)		Oklahoma	2
3 Auburn (7)		Auburn	3
4 California		California	4
5 Texas		Utah	5
6 Utah		Texas	6
7 Georgia		Louisville	7
8 Louisville		Georgia	8
9 Miami		Miami	9
10 Boise State		Virginia Tech	10
11 Virginia Tech		Boise State	11
12 LSU		Iowa	12
13 Michigan		LSU	13
14 Iowa		Michigan	14
15 Tennessee		Tennessee	15
16 Florida State		Florida State	16
17 Wisconsin		Wisconsin	17
18 Virginia		Virginia	18
19 Florida		Pittsburgh	19
20 Texas Tech		Florida	20
21 Pittsburgh		Arizona State	21
22 Ohio State		Texas A&M	22
23 Arizona State		Boston College	23
24 West Virginia		Texas Tech	24
25 Texas A&M		Ohio State	25

CUSCHO Division I Hockey Poll

team	record	points
1 Minnesota	10-3-0	596
2 Boston College	6-2-2	527
3 Colorado College	10-2-0	512
4 Wisconsin	10-4-0	503
5 Michigan	9-4-1	440
6 North Dakota	9-5-5	353
7 Denver	8-5-0	309
8 New Hampshire	8-3-2	307
9 Ohio State	9-4-1	282
10 Maine	9-6-1	267
11 Vermont	8-4-3	202
12 Cornell	5-2-2	151
13 Colgate	10-4-0	100
14 Minnesota-Duluth	7-5-2	93
15 Northern Michigan	6-4-2	56

around the dial

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Nebraska vs. UAB 9:30 p.m., ESPN2

NCAA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Duke vs. Tennessee 7:30 p.m., ESPN2

NCAA FOOTBALL

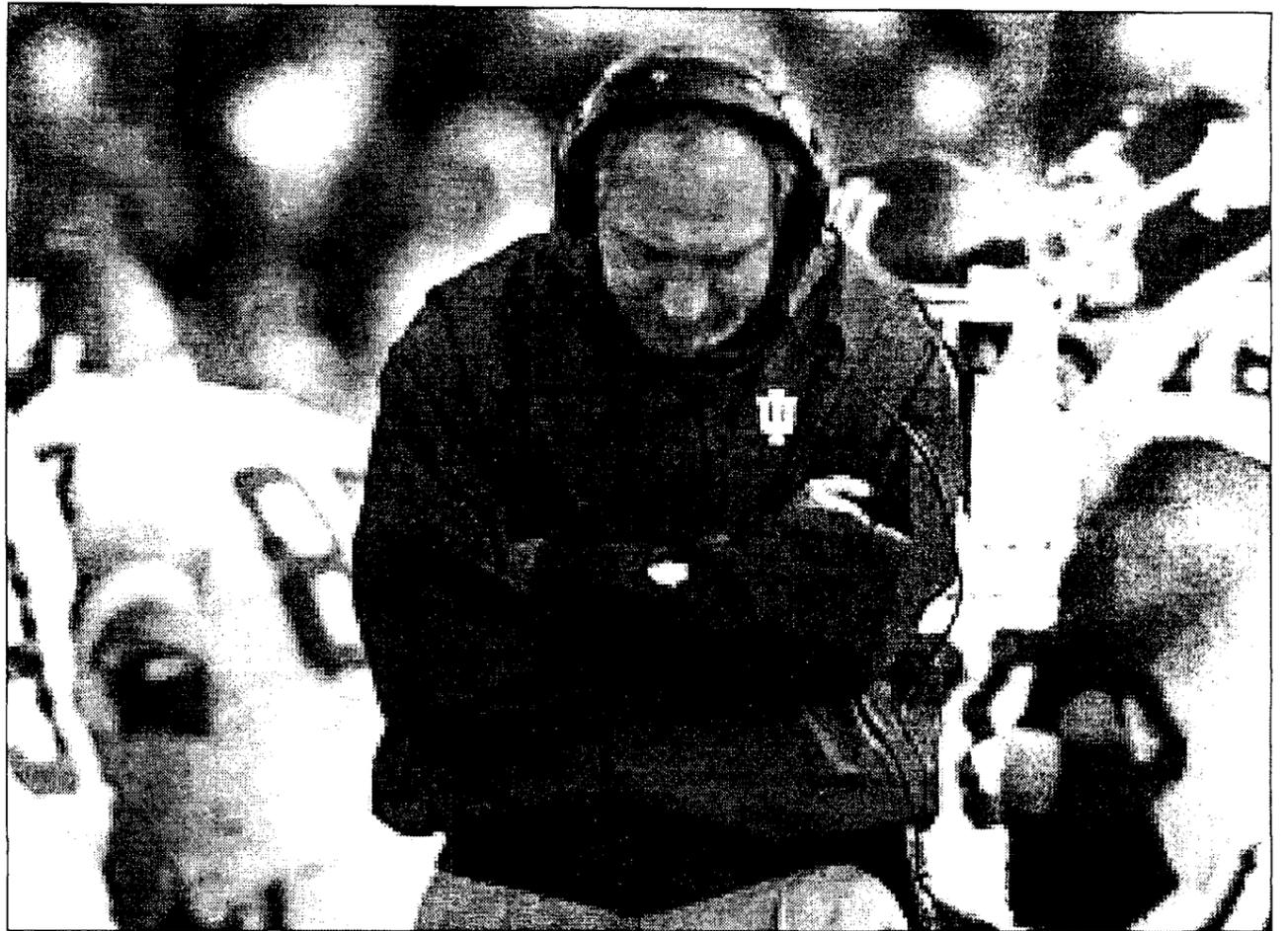
Toledo vs. Miami (Ohio) 7:30 p.m. ESPN

NBA

Houston vs. Dallas 8 p.m., TNT

Cleveland vs. Denver 10:30 p.m., TNT

NCAA FOOTBALL



Indiana head coach Gerry DiNardo hangs his head as he paces the sideline during their 52-7 loss to Penn State in State College, Pa., in this Nov. 15, 2003 photo. DiNardo was dismissed as Indiana's football coach Wednesday.

Indiana fires DiNardo as football coach

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Gerry DiNardo is now the latest coach to have failed to reverse the fortunes of the long-ailing Indiana football program.

DiNardo's firing was announced Wednesday, 11 days after the Hoosiers ended a 3-8 season with a 63-24 loss to Purdue, their seventh loss in eight years in the Old Oaken Bucket game. It was his third losing season.

The firing is the first major coaching change by athletic director Rick Greenspan since he was hired in September as the

school's fourth AD in a little more than three years.

Greenspan said Wednesday there was a "sense of urgency" for turning around a football program that has not had a winning season since going 7-4 in 1994 — the 11th of Bill Mallory's 13 seasons as coach.

"The goal for us is to build a viable program," Greenspan said. "We're going to have some urgency."

A telephone message seeking comment from DiNardo, who replaced Cam Cameron after the 2001 season, was left Wednesday at his home.

DiNardo had an 8-27 record in three seasons. Freed Eichhorn, president of the school's Board of Trustees, said that record and declining attendance at games were factors in the decision to fire DiNardo.

"If you've got a problem, you don't continue the problem," Eichhorn said.

The team will start next season with its third head coach in five seasons.

Greenspan said none of DiNardo's assistant coaches have been fired and that he hoped some of them would be retained by the new coach. He said he planned to conduct a wide search for DiNardo's replacement,

looking at both the college and professional ranks.

Greenspan would not say, however, whether DiNardo's three-year tenure was a sign that the new coach needed to produce quick improvements on the field.

"I don't believe in quick fixes," he said. "I do believe in looking at trends and patterns."

One of those patterns is declining attendance. Crowds averaged about 28,400 this season in Indiana's 52,000-seat Memorial Stadium — down from about 35,000 the year before and the 12th straight year attendance averaged less than 40,000.

IN BRIEF

Pistons ban two fans from Palace after brawl

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Two men were banned from events at The Palace for what the Detroit Pistons say is their involvement in last month's brawl during an NBA game.

John Green and Charlie Haddad have been sent letters informing them of the ban, which also includes events at DTE Energy Music Theatre in Clarkston, Pistons spokesman Matt Dobek said Wednesday. The Clarkston location is another holding of the Palace Sports and Entertainment organization.

Green, of Oakland County's West Bloomfield Township, is accused of lobbing a cup at Indiana Pacers forward Ron Artest on Nov. 19, sparking the brawl. Haddad, of Burt, ran onto the court that night, Dobek said.

The brawl spilled into the stands and led to three Indiana players being suspended for 25 or more games — including a season-long penalty for Artest.

"That's ridiculous. Are they going to ban Artest and the other Pacers who ran into the stands and beat up on our fans and the people that live in this community," Shawn Smith, Green's attorney, said Wednesday. "They're completely picking on the little guy. ... It's not fair."

Baker resigns as IHSAA sports information director

INDIANAPOLIS — Jerry Baker, longtime broadcaster and member of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, is leaving the staff of the Indiana High School Athletic Association after three years as sports information director.

Baker's resignation, announced Wednesday by IHSAA Commissioner Blake Ress, is effective Jan. 31.

"During my tenure with the IHSAA, I have learned a great deal about the inner workings of the organization. ... I had no concept of just how complicated it is for such an organization to facilitate the needs and demands of nearly 400 member schools," he said.

Baker, former radio voice of the Indiana Pacers and TV announcer for IHSAA championship events since 1978, said he plans to continue his broadcasting career. He currently is a part of the broadcast team for the Indy Racing League.

Pacers sign Haislip to help replenish roster

INDIANAPOLIS — The short-handed Indiana Pacers signed former Milwaukee Bucks forward Marcus Haislip on Wednesday.

Haislip, a 2002 draft pick out of Tennessee, was waived by the Bucks when they signed Marcus Fizer last month. In 70 games for the Bucks over the last two seasons, the 6-foot-10, 230-pound Haislip averaged 3.6 points and 1.5 rebounds.

The Pacers' roster has been depleted by injuries and suspensions. Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson, Jermaine O'Neal and Anthony Johnson were suspended for fighting with Detroit fans, and Jeff Foster, Reggie Miller and Jonathan Bender are injured.

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles blow halftime lead in loss

By: CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writer

At halftime, it looked as if St. Mary's would continue its winning streak.

The Belles led 37-32 and had dominated much of the first half action, building a lead as large as 11 points. However, the team fell apart in the second half and lost to the Albion Britons 71-62 Wednesday night at Kresge Gymnasium in Albion, Mich.

Bridget Boyce led the Belles with 22 points, 15 coming in the first half, but got little help from her teammates. The team's only other double figure scorer was Emily Creachbaum, who chipped in 10 points down low.

On the bright side for Saint Mary's, eight players scored at least two points, showing that coach Suzanne Bellina has depth to bring off the bench.

Guard Sarah Caskey led the Britons with 20 points, including several key free throws to ice the game in the final minutes. Forward Jessica Babcock came off the bench to score 11 points, and forward Ruth Sventicus dominated the low

post in the second half to finish with 14.

The Belles looked sharp to start the game, as Katie Boyce, Bridget's sister, scored two quick fast break layups on steals. Albion countered and the game swung back and forth for much of the first few minutes.

Then, after a Babcock jump-shot brought the Britons to within 15-14, the Belles won on a 13-5 run led by two 3-pointers by Bridge Boyce.

The Belles continued to extend their lead and led 37-26 with only two minutes left in the first half. However, a 3-point shot by substitute Christine Mathew and an old-fashioned three-point play by Caskey reduced the halftime lead to five.

In the second half, both teams started cold but Saint Mary's was able to extend its lead to 46-39. It was there, however, that the game started sliding away from the Belles.

Guard Vanessa Thompson made two 3-pointers to pull the Britons within one and Sventicus scored inside to give Albion its first lead since early in the first half at 52-51.

All in all, the Belles found

themselves on the wrong end of a 23-4 run and suddenly faced a 10-point deficit. Baskets by Bridget Boyce and Bridget Lipke brought the game back to 63-56, but the Belles could not get any closer.

ALBION 71, SAINT MARY'S 62 at the KRESGE GYMNASIUM

SAINT MARY'S (3-3, 0-1)
Boyce, K. 2-5 2-2 6, Lipke 3-5 1-2 8, Kessler 2-5 0-1 4, Broderick 1-2 0-1 2, Mullen 1-2 1-2 3, Boyce, B 9-14 0-2 22, Bush 3-4 0-0 7, Creachbaum 5-8 0-0 10.

ALBION (4-1, 1-0)
Fornett 1-4 0-0 2, Matthew 1-1 0-0 3, Glynn 0-5 0-0 0, Marcuz 2-3 2-4 7, Guimond 2-3 1-2 6, Thompson 3-10 0-0 8, Babcock 5-8 1-3 11, Caskey 6-12 7-9 20 Meyer 0-2 0-0 4, Sventicus 6-11 2-2 14.

	1st	2nd	Total
SAINT MARY'S	37	25	62
ALBION	32	39	71

3-point goals: Saint Mary's 6-14 (Boyce, K. 0-1, Lipke, B. 1-2, Kessler 0-1, Broderick 0-1, Boyce, B. 4-7, Bush 1-1, Creachbaum 0-1), Albion 7-20 (Matthew 1-1, Glynn 0-3, Marcuz 1-1, Guimond 1-2, Thomson 2-5, Babcock 1-5). Fouled out: None. Rebounds: Saint Mary's 21 (Lipke, 5), Albion 39 (Caskey 9). Assists: Saint Mary's 18 (Lipke, Boyce, K. 5), Albion 16 (Caskey, Thompson, Sventicus, 3). Total fouls: Saint Mary's 17, Albion 15.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

ND MEN'S SWIMMING

Team to host Notre Dame Invitational

Swimmers looks to improve race times

By: ANN LOUGHERY
Sports Writer

For the No. 21 Irish (6-1), this weekend's Notre Dame Invitational isn't solely a matter of winning and losing.

"This is the half-time report," coach Tim Welsh said. "Excellence of time and excellence of place is what we're looking for, but [placing high] without good times will not be satisfying."

Ten men's teams and 12 women's teams will travel from all over the country to compete in the three day invitational, which begins this morning at 10 a.m. Welsh said he expects to see impressive performances from West Virginia, Columbia, and Truman State among others.

West Virginia (3-3) is hoping to redeem itself after losing to Western Kentucky 102-138 on Nov. 13. Freshman Pablo Marmolejo looks to be a tough competitor this weekend after leading the Mountaineers with wins in the 100 free (9:56.90) and 200 free (1:54.34).

After winning their home opener Nov. 22, Columbia's team will be looking to build on its success. Columbia (1-1) defeated Fordham 168-131.

Sophomore Tobin White fell just short of breaking a pool record, clocking 50.89 seconds in the 50 free behind Gered Doherty's pool record of 50.7 seconds. White also helped bolster the 200 medley and 200 free relays to victories.

While Truman State's last competition featured impressive performances by junior

Josh Otis and sophomore Robert Fletcher, the Bulldogs (2-3) lost to Missouri-Rolla 124-81 on Nov. 13. Otis won the 200 IM finishing with 1:56.92, while Fletcher cruised to first place in the 200-yard backstroke with 1:55.99.

Notre Dame is looking to surpass the team's season-

al best times and measure its progress after the Irish overwhelmed Louisville on Nov. 21 242-117.

Senior Frank Krakowski exemplified the team's talent and potential, as he won both the 100 fly and 100 free, while also helping the 200 medley relay to a first place finish.

Welsh said that he expects a similarly outstanding performance from the team this weekend.

"Everyone is clear on what the goals are," Welsh said. "We just have to be focused and intense from the moment the gun goes off."

"Excellence of time and excellence of place is what we're looking for, but [placing high] without good times will not be satisfying."

Tim Welsh
Irish coach

"Everyone is clear on what the goals are."

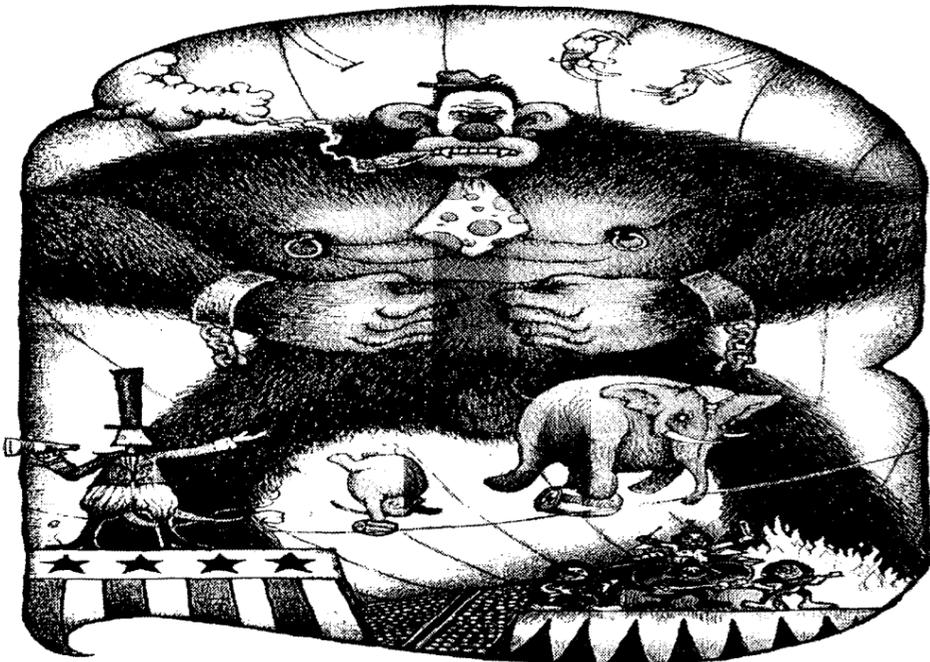
Tim Welsh
Irish coach

Contact Ann Loughery at alougher@nd.edu

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ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Swimmers and divers split up this weekend

By ERIC RETTER
Sports Writer

Like couples in all long-term relationships, the No. 21 Irish swimming and diving teams are taking a weekend apart to follow their own paths.

The swimmers will travel to Athens, Ga., to compete in the Georgia Invitation-al. The prestigious event, which will feature top-ranked Georgia and top-10 power California, will be the Irish's biggest-measuring stick to date.

"It will go as the culmination of what we've been doing this fall," coach Bailey Weathers said.

The team will be led by freshman Caroline Johnson and sophomores Jessica Stephens and Ellen Johnson, all of whom have had excellent seasons. Caroline Johnson leads the swimmers with 12 overall victories, with Stephens and Ellen Johnson close behind with 10 and nine, respectively.

While many of the team's top swimmers will be in the pool this weekend, however, the Irish will be without some of their leaders. Seniors Katie Eckholt and Brooke Taylor will not trav-

el with the team, staying in South Bend because of LSAT testing.

"It will definitely take points out of the meets, but that's how it is right now," Weathers said.

The team will also be missing a few swimmers because of injury, but Weathers declined to comment on the nature of those injuries.

On the other hand, the divers will stay in South Bend and play host to the Notre Dame Invitation-al, facing off against Denver and Truman State, among other teams. While these teams will bring both swimmers and divers, Rolfs Aquatic Center will only be defended by the Irish divers.

Senior Meghan Perry-Eaton, who is a 2004 All-American and owns 11 victories out of the 12 events she has competed in, will lead the divers.

Weathers is pleased she will be able to compete in a bigger event against more people.

"The competition will be good for her, the diving is as good or better than the swimming," he said.

"It will go as the culmination of what we've been doing this fall."

**Bailey Weathers
Irish Coach**

Contact Eric Retter at eretter@nd.edu

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish come home to face Mich. St.



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Irish guard Meghan Duffy drives to the basket against USC on Nov. 26. Duffy and her teammates face Michigan State tonight.

By JOE HETTLER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame returns to the Joyce Center tonight — where it has won 24 straight games — to face its third ranked opponent of the early-season schedule, this time against No. 15 Michigan State at 7 p.m.

The Spartans (4-1) are looking to rebound after their first loss of the season — an 80-75 defeat to Texas Christian Sunday. Meanwhile, the No. 3 Irish (7-0) haven't played at home since facing Colorado State Nov. 22.

"They're just a really good team," Notre Dame head coach Muffet McGraw said of Michigan State. "They have a great inside and outside game. They play great defense and they present a lot of match-up problems for us."

Lindsay Bowen, a second-team All-Big Ten selection who poured in 33 points against TCU including 6-of-11 3-pointers, is one of the leaders of the Spartans.

Center Kellie Roehrig also gives Michigan State a strong inside presence. She was third all-time in career field goal percentage entering the 2004-05 season.

"They're very balanced," Irish guard Meghan Duffy said. "They have great guards that can score and they distribute the ball. Their post players are very physical — a typical Big Ten team."

Last season, Michigan State pummeled Notre Dame 92-63 in East Lansing. The Irish hope to return the favor this season.

"Just from watching the film from last year's game we were extremely disappointed with our effort," Duffy said. "That's the biggest key for [this year's game], just to come out and have intensity and shut them down defensively."

Duffy scored 20 points in Notre Dame's 69-59 victory against Valparaiso Tuesday. All-American forward Jacqueline Batteast scored 25 points and grabbed 10 rebounds.

Batteast tweaked her ankle during practice Wednesday, but should be ready for tonight's game.

The Irish may be without the services of forward Courtney LaVere, who injured herself during the second half of the Southern California game Friday. Assistant sports information director Chris Masters said LaVere is a game-time decision.

After two straight road games, McGraw said Notre Dame is excited to be playing again at the Joyce Center.

"We're just a lot more comfortable playing at home in front of our home fans," McGraw said.

After tonight's game, the Irish have a much-needed week off before facing Dayton on December 9.

Contact Joe Hettler at jhettler@nd.edu

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FOOTBALL

Irish decide to attend Insight Bowl

Baer will serve as interim coach at game

By JUSTIN SCHUVER
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame players agreed Wednesday to continue with the team's commitment to participate in the Insight Bowl in Tempe, Ariz., on Dec. 28, despite the firing of head coach Tyrone Willingham Tuesday.



Baer

Kent Baer, Willingham's defensive coordinator, will take over interim head coaching duties for the game at Bank One Ballpark.

White met with a group of seniors early Tuesday to discuss the bowl situation, and then a smaller group of seniors met Tuesday night to discuss the matter as well. A full endorsement didn't come until Wednesday afternoon, when the team announced it would participate in the Insight Bowl with the understanding that Baer would be the coach.

"I just look it as an opportunity to go out there and perform. I think if you're a competitor and you really love this game, that's what you want to do," Irish linebacker Brandon Hoyte said.

Baer is in his third season as Irish defensive coordinator, after previously spending nine years on the football staff at Utah State, one at Idaho, five at California, three at Arizona State and seven at Stanford.

"[Baer] was referred by the coaches, and he has said to us, he would be excited to take that challenge and coach us in the bowl game," Irish offensive lineman Ryan Harris said.

The rest of the coaching staff is expected to continue in its roles through the preparation for the bowl game and the game itself.

Notre Dame will face one of four Pac-10 teams — either Arizona State, Oregon State or UCLA. The official announcement will be made by the Insight Bowl on Dec. 5.

Contact Justin Schuver at jschuver@nd.edu

Washington informally contacted Willingham

Recently-fired coach isn't sure yet what his future plans will be

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Editor

Former Irish football coach Tyrone Willingham, fired by the University Tuesday, said Wednesday he has had informal contact with the University of Washington regarding that school's vacant head coaching position.

When asked what his future plans were, Willingham said that he was planning to think about things.

"I will take a step back," Willingham said. "I will relax for a moment. I do not know how long that moment will be, but a moment could be a week. Then I will reflect on what I need to do, and I will make that decision."

The Washington position opened up after Keith Gilbertson resigned under pressure in early November after two years as Huskies' head coach. Washington finished this season 1-10 and 0-8 in the Pac-10 Conference, including a 38-3 loss at Notre Dame. Gilbertson was 7-13 in his two years as Washington's head coach. It was Washington's first losing season since 1976.

Willingham addressed

reports that he was interested in the job Wednesday.

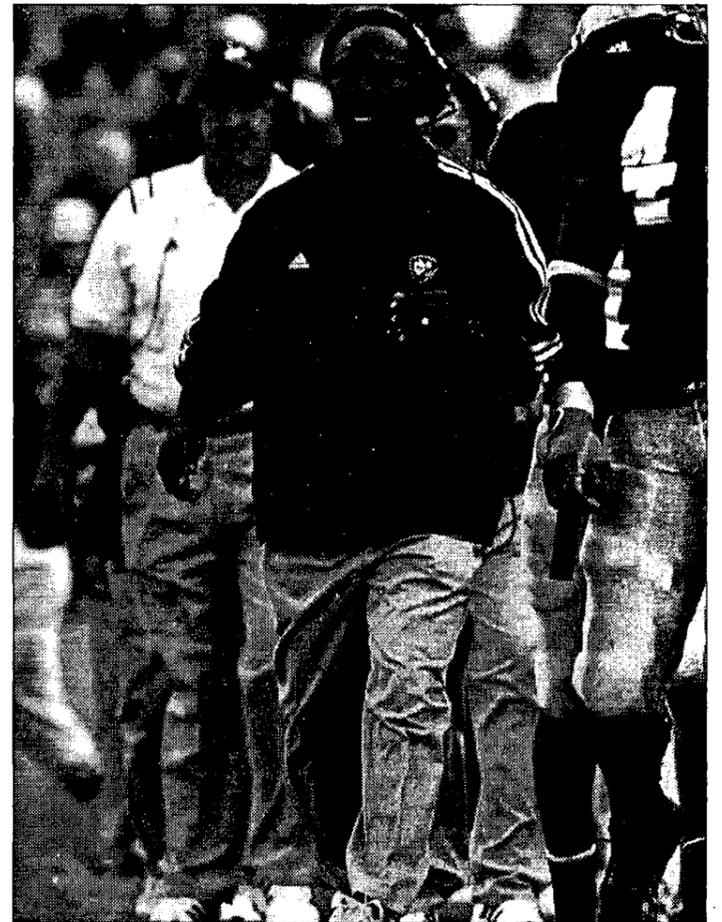
"Of course, today there is much speculation, I think, what is already taking place, and I was somewhat surprised by what I saw," Willingham said. "Two weeks ago I was contacted by the University of Washington. There was unofficial contact with the University of Washington. [In] any contact with anyone, my position would have been very simply straightforward — 'I am the Notre Dame football coach. I came to do this job and only this job.'"

Washington athletic director Todd Turner said after the announcement of Gilbertson's resignation the school was committed to finding the right coach for the Husky program.

"Budget aside, I think it's most important that we have the right person in place and our leadership is committed to that and we'll figure it out," Turner said in a Nov. 1 press conference.

Should Willingham be offered a job at Washington and accept, he would face the Irish in Notre Dame's fourth game of the season, Sept. 24 at Washington.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu



CHUY BENITEZ/The Observer

Notre Dame coach Tyrone Willingham, who was fired Tuesday, paces the sidelines against Washington Sept. 25. Willingham said Wednesday he has had informal contact with Washington concerning its vacant coaching position.

84th annual ND football banquet cancelled

Major event's absence could affect team's recruiting efforts

By PAT LEONARD
Associate Sports Editor

Due to the firing of head coach Tyrone Willingham, Notre Dame cancelled its 84th annual football banquet scheduled for Friday night.

Irish players agreed to modify the banquet staff and their families to the banquet to a private dinner.

The banquet is normally open to the public, with tickets sold for a dinner and the presence of a prominent guest speaker.

Notre Dame athletic director Kevin White said as early as Tuesday's press conference that closing the banquet to the public was a distinct possibility.

"The football banquet will proceed," White said. "We are in conversation about making the banquet a players, family and coaches banquet only. We'll have an announcement about that here shortly."

The weekend of the banquet also serves as an important recruiting window for

Irish coaches.

On the weekend of Jan. 16, 2003, Willingham welcomed 10 recruits to a banquet that helped secure the coach's best recruiting class in his tenure as head coach.

Last winter, Bryant Kramer, Ronald Talley and John Kadous were the only three recruits to visit on the weekend of the banquet.

Kramer (who signed with Illinois) was the only player not to commit to Notre Dame.

"I've talked to a number of the guys that were supposed to be in," Mike Frank of IrishEyes.com said. "For the most part, most of these guys are taking a wait-and-see approach to what's going on with the coaching staff."

Frank said two recruits in particular, Dan Doering (Barrington, Ill.) and Raymond Henderson (Oak Creek, Wisc.), could slip out of Irish hands.

"I think Notre Dame might be hurt on a couple guys because the players want to make an early decision," Frank said.

"The problem is Notre Dame doesn't have an actual recruiting weekend until January."

By then, Frank said, many recruits will have made verbal commitments.

A number of players announce their intentions in early January at the U.S. Army All-Star game on national television.

"In all reality, if they really want to go to Notre Dame, they're going to wait and see who the coach is, develop a relationship and see if they still want to go," Frank said.

Former Irish Heisman Trophy-winner Raghob "Rocket" Ismail was scheduled to speak Friday.

Former Notre Dame quarterback Joe Montana spoke at the 83rd annual banquet on Dec. 12, 2003.

The Notre Dame ticket office staff is contacting members of the general public who bought tickets to provide automatic refunds via the initial payment mode.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

Gruden officially states he has no interest in ND job

By MATT LOZAR
Sports Writer

The man who was on top of many people's wish lists in 2001 to replace departed coach Bob Davie has said he isn't in the running to replace recently fired Irish coach Tyrone Willingham.

Jon Gruden addressed the media Wednesday afternoon after the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' practice about the Notre Dame coaching situation.

"I love Notre Dame. I went to that job." high school there. My dad When asked

coached Joe Montana and Vagas Ferguson there," Gruden said. "I'm not a candidate for that job. I've got the best job in football, and I've got to work hard to keep it. I wish Notre Dame well,

I'll always be a big fan, but I guarantee I'm not candidate for

"I guarantee I'm not a candidate for [the Notre Dame] job."

Jon Gruden
Buccaneers coach

about the recent ups and downs at Notre Dame," Gruden said. "But I'm here to talk about the Bucs, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers."

ask Tim Brown or Sean Mahan. They know a little bit more

about the recent ups and downs at Notre Dame," Gruden said. "But I'm here to talk about the Bucs, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers."

Gruden has a career 66-48 record and is in his third season in Tampa Bay. He was a head coach for four seasons with the Oakland Raiders.

In his first year in Tampa Bay, Gruden led the Buccaneers to a Super Bowl title.

Contact Matt Lozar at mlozar@nd.edu



Tampa Bay coach Jon Gruden has said he is not interested.

DILBERT

SCOTT ADAMS



PEANUTS

CHARLES SCHULZ



JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

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

TOSOP
 ROPAN
 LEMDEY
 HOKOUN



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

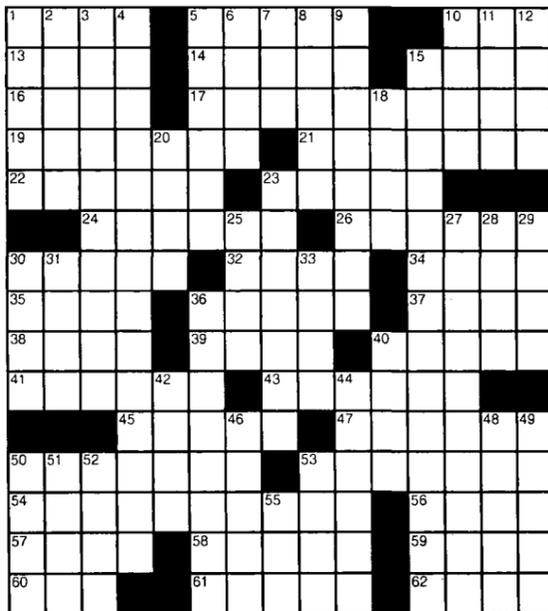
Answer here: "O O O O O O O O" IT

Yesterday's Jumbles: WOMEN QUEST ENSIGN ICEBOX
 Answer: She went on a diet because she was — "BIG" ON SWEETS

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Locks
 - 5 Cut taker
 - 10 Knock off
 - 13 High in the Andes
 - 14 Book before Nahum
 - 15 Like some lips
 - 16 Sports Illustrated's 1998 co-Sportsman of the Year
 - 17 Case builder
 - 19 Sought transport digitally
 - 21 Red-faced
 - 22 Less taxing
 - 23 Deeply piled
 - 24 Take to one's heart
 - 26 Didn't just grumble
 - 30 Applies powder
 - 32 Singing brother's surname
 - 34 1951 Peter Ustinov role
 - 35 Olive genus
 - 36 Scottish Highlanders
 - 37 Not fooled by
 - 38 Drops in the air
 - 39 Bones, to an anatomist
 - 40 Cry from the bench
 - 41 An ecclesiastic
 - 43 Rap sheet data
 - 45 Earthen containers
 - 47 Whiz kid's musical key?
 - 50 Ranch alternative
 - 53 Land on the Gulf of Finland
 - 54 Chance to explain
- DOWN**
- 1 Dispatch
 - 2 ___ shirt (colorful garment)
 - 3 "Don't even bother trying"
 - 4 With 23-Down, travelin' fathers?
 - 5 Current amount
 - 6 Encircle
 - 7 Prefix with conscious
 - 8 Kind of spray
 - 9 1989 Tom Hanks film
 - 10 Buzzi of "Laugh-In"
 - 11 Penetrating reed
 - 12 Polar-izing figure?
 - 15 With 23-Down, hurryin' fathers?
 - 18 Julio's home
 - 20 Flower sites
 - 23 See 4- and 15-Down
 - 25 Old Turkish titles
 - 27 Listens
 - 28 Artist's name formed phonetically from his initials
 - 29 It may get into a jamb
 - 30 Archaeological site
 - 31 Others, to Octavius
 - 33 Lackluster
 - 36 Succeed in life
 - 40 "The Bells ___ Mary's"
 - 42 Big corporation in copper alloys
 - 44 Hunt time
 - 46 Aimee of "La Dolce Vita"
 - 48 Cowboy's rope
 - 49 Garden bloom
 - 50 March day
 - 51 Picker-upper
 - 52 They're pros
 - 53 Northwestern-most Pennsylvania county
 - 55 Where: Lat.



Puzzle by Harvey Estes

- 28 Artist's name formed phonetically from his initials
- 29 It may get into a jamb
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For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Carol Alt, Brad Delson, Bette Midler, Woody Allen

Happy Birthday: This is the time to lay your cards on the table and let everyone know what you intend to do. There is strength in numbers and, once you collect the support needed, it will be hard to hold you back. This year, get out there and do it. Your numbers are 1, 5, 12, 20, 31, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your options are looking good. Jump at the chance to make the changes that will lead to your future success. The ball's in your court. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Prepare to get the lowdown on how someone really feels about you and the way you've been treating him or her. You may have to make some changes. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Relationships are going through a high cycle, but that doesn't guarantee things will run smoothly. If you are interested in more than one person, make a choice before you lose out. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can make money, but you appear to be spending it rapidly as well. You are usually such a spendthrift. It's time to set a stricter budget for you and your loved ones. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll be on top of the world, but don't let it go to your head. Trust a friend to keep you in line and lead you in the right direction. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Someone may be waiting for an opportunity to take you down or prove you wrong. Don't trust anyone with your personal thoughts or secrets. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Relationship opportunities are present, and a chance to do something nice for someone will make you look good. Don't let your generosity affect your job. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Think twice about how you are spending your money and in whom you are confiding. A trip planned or taken today will end up costing you emotionally and financially. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be sitting in a good position today. Whatever you do, you will impress others as well as attract interest in yourself and your ideas. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Money matters must be cleared up before year-end and today is a perfect day to start. Don't let anyone talk you into a deal that you aren't convinced is right for you. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Love is in the picture and if you haven't been telling your partner how much you care, it's time to do so. If you are single and looking for a relationship, now is the time to express yourself. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It may be hard to convince others that your ideas, though unusual, can work. Don't waste too much time on those who lack vision. Consider going it alone. ***

Birthday Baby: You are bright, cheery and always making people smile. You have a strong will and a determined nature, but you also know how to get your way by using finesse and diplomacy.

Check out Eugenia's Web sites at astroadvice.com and eugenialast.com.

THE OBSERVER

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Players react

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Editor

The e-mail was sent at 12:30 Tuesday afternoon — there was a meeting at 1 p.m.

Most thought it was about the Insight Bowl, others weren't quite so sure.

But according to Irish players Wednesday, none expected the announcement of the firing of head coach Tyrone Willingham at that meeting.

"As players, we didn't know what was going to happen," offensive lineman Ryan Harris said. "We knew there would be some measures taken, but I believe that if you would have asked any of the players here, no one would have thought that coach Willingham would not be the coach any longer."

Notre Dame athletic director Kevin White told the team at Tuesday's meeting that Willingham would no longer be their head coach.

Shortly after, the team was able to meet with Willingham to talk with him about the decision made.

"I was completely shocked," Irish quarterback Brady Quinn said. "It really went from talking about the bowl game to that. I had no idea. I had no idea that was coming. It was just shocking."

Wednesday, Irish players expressed both shock and disappointment that Willingham would no longer coach them.

"I just have a heavy head, a heavy heart," Irish tight end Anthony Fasano said. "There's whispers all the time around here about coaching changes. Especially at the time it happened — no one on the team ever thought it would really happen."

Irish linebacker Brandon Hoyte, who said he wished he had the character of Willingham, said the team was emotional upon hearing the news.

"It was definitely very emotional," Hoyte said. "Anger was definitely something that played into it. It was hard, overall, just hard."

Most of the players blamed their performance as a team for one of the reasons Willingham was fired. These comments came a day after White said Notre Dame wasn't getting it done on Saturdays.

"We as players don't feel we did enough to help coach out," Harris said. "That's not for me to answer if he got a fair shot, but there is a sentiment among players that we should have done more, we could have performed at a higher level for coach."

The Irish finished the regular season with 6-5 record, and last season finished 5-7. They were 21-15 during Willingham's three-year tenure. However, after winning

their first eight games with Willingham at the helm, they finished 13-15.

"Everybody on this team is responsible for our performance the last two years, and it's a shame he gets blamed for it," Fasano said. "It's really not him. It's our team, it's our coaches and that's really what it comes down to."

Players commented on Willingham's character and leadership abilities. Most said they were sad to see him go.

"First off, we're losing a great leader," Quinn said. "He's someone who, without a doubt, leads a life that, I think as a person, many people should try to imitate."

Also, as a leader and a coach, he's someone who I was always able to confide in, talk to and get a little extra something from."

When asked if he thought Willingham had enough time to show what he could do at Notre Dame, Quinn said the coach should have been given more time.

Willingham was the first Irish coach to be fired before his initial contract expired.

"If you think about it, that's not even allowing one of his recruiting classes to get all the way through," Quinn said.

Quinn also said that if asked to look for a new head coach, he'd want someone similar to Willingham.

"For me, [I would want] someone like coach Willingham," he said. "So, if he's got a twin or someone out there he doesn't know about..."

The Irish quarterback, who started as a true freshman last season, also expressed his gratitude for Willingham's support throughout the past two years and the ups and downs.

"I can't thank him enough just for the opportunity he's given me, and for the man he's made me these past two years," Quinn said.

The Irish team now turns to each other for support and to move on. But Quinn said it will be no easy task to achieve that goal.

"Anytime you don't have closure on an issue, especially one where a lot of emotions play a big part, it can be hard for a lot of people to get through something like this," Quinn said. "Right now, I think what we need to do as a team is rally together and use this time to get closer."

So as the coaching search begins, the Irish find themselves unsure of what the future holds, both for the team and the head coaching position.

"It's a tough situation," Fasano said. "You think about a lot of things, and you really just worry about your teammates, yourself and the future of what is going to happen."

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu

"There's a large discussion about African-Americans and what this means. But coach Willingham has never, ever, in any speech, or in any statement to the team, brought race into the equation."

Ryan Harris
Irish offensive lineman

"I think the bottom line is, unfortunately, to a certain extent, you gotta move on. And I think that one of the greatest things about playing for coach Willingham is being able to face adversity and be able to come out of it stronger."

Brandon Hoyte
Irish linebacker

"It was shocking. It wasn't really expected, to be completely honest. Going into the meeting, it was the farthest thing from my mind."

Bob Morton
Irish offensive lineman

"I've never experienced anything like this in my life. This is brand new to me, and I'm still trying to get used to the whole situation and deal with it."

Victor Ablamiri
Irish defensive lineman

"I was completely speechless. I'm not even sure how to react."

Brady Quinn
Irish quarterback

"It's just unfortunate the situation he was in. We all loved playing for him. He was a great coach. I don't think a lot of people knew what kind of guy he was. I'm sorry to see him go."

Anthony Fasano
Irish tight end

"For me [I would want] someone like coach Willingham."

Brady Quinn
Irish quarterback

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