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Ugandan initiative to provide aid, research

University awaits selection of partner village, develops related intellectual, charitable projects

By MARCELA BERRIOS
News Writer

Editor's note: This is the second story in a two-part series examining the goals of the Notre Dame Millennium Development Initiative in Uganda, the involvement of the University's administration, faculty and student body and the international organizations that will contribute to the project.

The Notre Dame community will soon be turning its talents in the classroom toward a cause that calls for real world, global application.

The Notre Dame Millennium Development Initiative (NDMDI) partners the University with a Ugandan village in an initial five-year venture that will attempt to build up every institution in the region — ranging from the healthcare and education systems to the HIV/AIDS prevention programs, to the water supply systems and the village's infrastructure.

The effort, say those involved, will require the work of the entire Notre Dame community.

"We will work with local institutions and villagers to

see UGANDA/page 6



Photo courtesy of Tim Lyden

Tim Lyden, assistant director of the NDMDI, stands with a group of secondary school children in Ruhira, Uganda.

Vigilance advised off campus

Students warned of potential for break-ins

By EVA BINDA
News Writer

As students prepare for finals and look forward to a month away from school, many are also taking preventive security measures to keep their property safe over break.

This year, several break-ins of off-campus cars and houses over the fall and Thanksgiving breaks have already been reported — and the Christmas holiday is usually the time when most break-ins occur, according to the South Bend Police Department.

On Dec. 4, Notre Dame Security/Police sent an e-mail to the Notre Dame student body with advice about security before and during break.

"We often experience an increase in thefts just before breaks, especially from Library study areas and the dining halls," the e-mail read.

Students were encouraged to participate in bike storage, follow the guidelines for keeping cars in D2 South "Lock-Up" and take advantage of Christmas Break storage.

"The first thing is the storage program. [Students,] bring over [to NDSP] anything valuable that could be stolen that you're not bringing home," said Cappy Gagnon, manager of event security and student employment at NDSP.

Students who reside off campus face increased security problems, and are most often the victims of theft.

see SECURITY/page 9

SMC, ND see increase in abroad apps

Hundreds from the College show desire study internationally

By KATIE KOHLER
News Writer

With more than 200 Saint Mary's students heading overseas to study every year, graduates of the College — 48 percent of whom will have gone abroad — can call the world their classroom.

Elaine Meyer-Lee, director of the Center for Women's InterCultural Leadership (CWIL) at the College is proud of the numbers Saint Mary's boasts, but sees an opportunity for them to rise even higher.

"When you have that many participating [in abroad programs], it internationalizes the home campus as well," she said.

see SMC/page 4



KATE FENLON/The Observer

SMC senior Zanna Afanasjeva, right, looks at the display of the study abroad photo contest with coordinator Dana Carr.

University notes rise of student interest in less popular locations

By KATIE MCDONNELL
News Writer

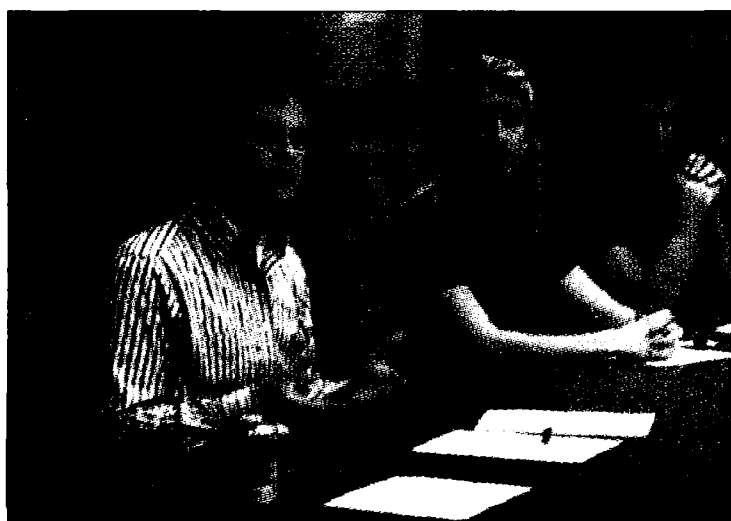
With 938 applicants applying to 27 programs spanning the globe, Notre Dame is poised to continue its climb among top universities for study abroad programs in the 2007-08 school year, after being ranked sixth in the nation for participation percentage by the Institute for International Education.

Down only slightly from the 959 who applied to study abroad this academic year, next year's number of applicants is typical in the trend that finds 50 percent of Notre Dame students spending either a summer, semester or year overseas (or in

see ABROAD/page 9

COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Group debates bowl ticket policy



CHRISTIAN SAGARDIA/The Observer
Student Union Board manager Pat Vassel, who discussed football ticket policies this week, speaks during a November meeting of COR.

By SONIA RAO
News Writer

The media frenzy surrounding the BCS selections found its way into LaFortune, where the Council of Representatives (COR) discussed student ticket privileges for football games during its meeting Tuesday night.

Members brought forth student concerns about the lottery for Sugar Bowl tickets, expressing the apprehension that with a "one ticket per I.D." policy, it is possible for a student to win tickets, but not his friends.

see COR/page 6

TC, Castle Point warn residents differently

By EILEEN DUFFY AND
BECKY HOGAN

News Writers

Since an amendment to the South Bend disorderly house ordinance passed in the summer of 2005, designed to crack down on off-campus housing violations, some apartment complexes have changed their policies regarding eviction of residents.

Before the ordinance was amended, tenants were allowed three reported noise violations before the city of South Bend could send them a notice to abate. Now, the ordinance allows the city to send a notice to abate after just one reported noise violation.

The city also sends a notice to abate to area landlords, who have mixed reactions to this stipulation in particular: if the noise violation reoccurs, both the landlord and the tenants get fined — unless the landlord evicts the tenants within 30 days of the receipt of notice of the prohibited conduct.

Francie Schmuhl, community manager of Turtle Creek Apartments, said once Turtle Creek receives a notice from the city that someone has received a letter of abatement, its legal team then sends a letter to the resident.

Since the 86-citation raid at Turtle Creek on Sept. 1, Schmuhl said there have been no violations

see WARNINGS/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

A final word. Or two.

Self-righteous rant begins ... now. I first realized I was talented in high school, when I was already using college-ruled paper. Since that day, I calmly bided my time to step into the lime-light of the only independent news source for the Notre Dame community, and in my freshman year I met a person that would irrevocably change my next four years. After I dumped her, I met Erik Powers.

Alec White

Comic Illustrator

My first conversation with Erik was a lewd joke with the punch line "a skunk killed with an axe." A bit of wit and fortuitously inappropriate last names propelled us into candidacy for the presidency of Our Lady's student body. Five-hundred five votes and several children's drawing books later, Erik and I were cartoonists with a knack for the unnecessary.

Causing controversy was never our main goal, but it sure found us. Editors, Coach Weis, some girl Annie, maybe Jesus and of course Saint Mary's all let us know that we were doing something right. I understand that each complaint may have contained some validity, and I have learned from them some valuable lessons. After all, stereotypes are not representative of individuals, but they are, quite often, hilarious.

This past semester I have enjoyed the opportunity to skewer my own Notre Dame experience. I thank everyone that has taken time to read Jocular, even if they were really just stumped by the Jumble or Crossword, and I thank Erik Powers for unknowingly taking the blame for my bad work.

For over a year-and-a-half I have spent more time with Microsoft Paint than my family, friends or school-work. I mostly learned that the undo button will only work three times, and that my roommates would chuckle at Guernica if it got me to shut up, but I would do every bit of it over again.

Over break, Erik and I will work on a book of every strip ever published or censored, and maybe you will find a laugh or two in it. For now it is time to leave the daily Notre Dame world and focus on a career that doesn't involve panhandling from my parents. I cannot be thankful enough for having had the opportunity to have a daily voice here on campus.

When I first arrived on campus, my rector challenged me to leave a mark on this campus. He probably meant something less heretical, but what can you expect from a self-proclaimed high Anglican?

I hope that the comic strip has enhanced your Notre Dame experience because the opportunity to share it with this whole community (including Saint Mary's) has certainly made mine.

... And buy the book in case I can't get a job.

Contact Alec White at awhite4@nd.edu

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

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?



Jim Bochnowski
junior
Fisher



Mike Ball
grad student
off campus



Nate Barbera
senior
off campus



Anne Barbera
freshman
Lewis



R.J. Kornhaas
senior
off campus



Katie Crawford
junior
Welsh Fam

"World peace.
No, just kidding.
Revenge on my
enemies."

"Parole."

"A rhinoceros."

"Lots of snow
and R.J."

"A Sugar Bowl
victory."

"I want wassail
juice."



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Several members of Lyons Hall sing a short Christmas concert in the dorm's chapel Tuesday before heading to South Quad for a night of Christmas caroling.

IN BRIEF

Today is the last day of classes for Notre Dame students. Study days are Thursday and Friday. Finals week begins Monday.

Jeff Jackson, the head coach of Notre Dame's hockey team, will discuss the first part of the season and upcoming games at noon today at Legends.

The Notre Dame's women's basketball team will play Purdue tonight at 7 p.m. in the Joyce Center.

Christmas at the CoMo Benefit Concert by the ND Celebration Choir is tonight at 7:30 p.m. in the first floor Coleman Morse student lounge. International students will provide reflections of Christmas in their home countries. There is no admission charge, but a freewill offering will be sent to St. Jude's Primary School, Jinja, Uganda.

All full-time faculty and staff are invited to a Christmas open house Thursday by University President Father John Jenkins and officers of the University. The event lasts from 2:30 to 5 p.m. and will be held on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors of the Main Building.

The Notre Dame Glee Club will perform its Christmas Concert Friday from 9 to 10:30 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

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

OFFBEAT

Flatulence forces plane to land

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — It is considered polite to light a match after passing gas. Not while on a plane.

An American Airlines flight was forced to make an emergency landing Monday morning after a passenger lit a match to disguise the scent of flatulence, authorities said.

The Dallas-bound flight was diverted to Nashville after several passengers reported smelling burning sulfur from the matches, said Lynne Lowrance, spokeswoman for the Nashville International Airport Authority. All 99 passengers

and five crew members were taken off and screened while the plane was searched and luggage was screened.

The FBI questioned a passenger who admitted she struck the matches in an attempt to conceal a "body odor," Lowrance said. She had an unspecified medical condition, authorities said.

Officers keep record of beautiful women

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Two Swedish border control officers risk disciplinary action for keeping a photo collection of "exceptionally beautiful" women that passed through their checkpoint,

police officials said Tuesday.

The officers, who were working at a ferry terminal near Stockholm, made photocopies of the women's passport photos and placed them in a binder. They also noted the date of birth next to each entry, the Stockholm police department said.

The binder contained instructions on how to compile the collection, and orders to make backup copies in case the binder would go missing or be confiscated by "evil-minded bores," police said.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 32 LOW 18	HIGH 22 LOW 18	HIGH 28 LOW 18	HIGH 34 LOW 20	HIGH 37 LOW 27	HIGH 39 LOW 30

Atlanta 58 / 32 Boston 45 / 26 Chicago 29 / 24 Denver 42 / 20 Houston 67 / 41 Los Angeles 74 / 49 Minneapolis 22 / 11 New York 46 / 31 Philadelphia 46 / 28 Phoenix 74 / 45 Seattle 50 / 36 St. Louis 40 / 29 Tampa 76 / 55 Washington 49 / 28

Service group discontinued

Indiana chapter of Holy Cross Associates program ends after 27 years

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

At its triennial meeting in June of 2006, the Indiana chapter of the Congregation of Holy Cross decided to discontinue its lay service organization — the Holy Cross Associates (HCA) — after 27 years of existence.

Father Gary Chamberland, Holy Cross task force director and a visiting professor of theology at Notre Dame, says the HCA was discontinued for practical reasons.

"We have concerns over the program's financial balance and its appeal," he said.

Chamberland cited the program's limited number of applicants — only 12 to the domestic program by the March deadline for the HCA's report to the chapter — as a sign that it possibly has run its course.

HCA Acting Director Steve Holte — who made it clear that it was the Congregation's decision to suspend the HCA, not his — disagrees.

"What Father Chamberland said might be true about the Chile program, but it's not true about the domestic program."

Holte acknowledged that financial balance is always hard to achieve in a volunteer program, but he disputed Chamberland's claim that the HCA has limited appeal.

"We can always take more associates," he said. Currently, Holte said, there are 14 domestic associates in the HCA.

According to Holte, the primary reason for the discontinuation — which he called temporary — by the HCA was a need for "closer ties to the ministry and mission of the Holy Cross."

"I can't speak for the Holy Cross, but we're under the assumption that they want to renew ties with us and reenergize their interactions with the associates," Holte said.

Holte insisted, however, that "everything is tied to the Holy Cross community."

The HCA is primarily connected to the greater

Congregation of Holy Cross through its "co-facilitators" — a Holy Cross priest and a lay alumna of the program. These co-facilitators attend one dinner each week at the associate

house and help associates "draw personal meaning from their daily activities," according to Holte.

Associate houses are located in local communities that have a strong Holy Cross presence, and Associates are encouraged to get involved in the local Holy Cross parish as lectors, Eucharistic ministers and cantors.

Despite the decision, Chamberland believes there is a future for lay service in the Congregation of Holy Cross.

"We're viewing the HCA as going on a one-year hiatus after this year. We've discontinued the program with the hope that something that encourages lay service will get resurrected," he said. "Most probable is that we'll have some sort of one-year service program, like it has been, but re-envisioned."

Both Holte and Chamberland agreed that the pending discontinuation of the HCA does not invalidate the past 27 years of work that the program has done.

"We praise the efforts of the HCA and we believe there are good things in place, but it's time to assess the program's direction," Chamberland said.

The Associate program, which attracts participants in their first few years out of college, focuses on four basic "pillars" of community, service, spirituality and simple living. These pillars shape the daily experience of the associates during their year-long commitment as active members of the program.

Despite the arrest of long-term commitment from the Congregation of the Holy Cross, Holte expects current commitment to remain.

"Our level of support to associates in the field won't change, and I hope that the Holy Cross' level of support to us won't change either," he said.

The associate community is still unsure of the direction that the Holy Cross will take to continue its commitment to lay service.

"We're still just trying to figure out what exactly the chapter wants from us," Holte said.

Chamberland, who served as an associate from 1984 to 1985, wants to see a Holy Cross lay service program continue in some form.

"My time as an associate was one of the strongest periods of formation in my life," he said.

Contact John Tierney at jtierne1@nd.edu

"We have concerns over the program's financial balance and its appeal."

Father Gary Chamberland
director
Holy Cross task force

"We are viewing the HCA as going on a one-year hiatus after this year. We've discontinued the program with the hope that something that encourages lay service will get resurrected."

Father Gary Chamberland
director
Holy Cross task force

Campus Ministry plans ND Prayercast project

By AARON STEINER
News Writer

Religious organizations across the nation continue to integrate communications technology with faith to reach increasingly savvy congregations — and Notre Dame's Campus Ministry is no exception to the trend.

Following the spread of worship into television, radio and the Internet, Campus Ministry offers several opportunities for spirituality outside of traditional settings. The Basilica of the Sacred Heart continues to broadcast a weekly mass on the Hallmark channel, and next semester, Campus Ministry hopes to kick off a new project called ND Prayercast — the University's answer to the growing popularity of what some call "Godcasting."

"Godcasting," a term coined by the San Diego-based Godcast Network, describes the use of video and audio technology to share sermons, scripture and other forms of worship in both private and public settings. Its name comes from the type of Internet broadcast known as a "podcast," through which users can make a digital recording available for public downloading.

Steven Warner, director of the Notre Dame Folk Choir and Liturgical Resources for Campus Ministry, said the new ND Prayercast project — his brainchild — is intended to reach college-age students and recent college graduates, both at Notre Dame and beyond.

"It's a way for them to link into Notre Dame spirituality, and to encourage them to remain active in the Church," he said.

he said.

The project is still in the "seedling stage," according to Warner, with the launch date anticipated as this coming Mardi Gras. At this point, Warner said, the project will consist of 20-minute weekly podcasts featuring song, scripture, reflections, intentions, psalms and more.

Anyone with a computer will have access to the podcast and those with mp3 players or iPods will be able to download the material from ndprayercast.org, according to Warner.

He suggested the commute to work, a walk around campus or a workout in the gym as great opportunities to listen to the podcast and "be inspired."

While Warner and Basilica rector Father Peter Rocca agreed that both the Basilica's broadcast and the upcoming ND Prayercast project have "wonderful" benefits, they also warned of some dangers.

"It would be a bad thing if people substituted gathering to worship (with the televised broadcast or Prayercast)," Rocca said. "The danger ... is that religion could become a privatized affair."

"Liturgy has always implied involvement," Warner added, explaining that the Prayercast should be used to supplement traditional worship.

Warner said he saw the Prayercast as an opportunity to spread the faith in a world dependent on technology.

"This is a medium we'd better be [using], at least on the ground level," he said, "to cultivate a spiritual life so that any person listening decides to go deeper."

Contact Aaron Steiner at asteiner@nd.edu

"It's a way for them to link into Notre Dame spirituality, and to encourage them to remain active in the Church."

Steven Warner
director
Liturgical Resources

Boys of the Lough

A Celtic Christmas

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SMC

continued from page 1

Referring to a study done by the University of Minnesota, Meyer-Lee said the primary reasons students opt not to study abroad are the four F's: family, fear, finances and faculty (or curricular challenges).

After surveying students at Saint Mary's, the most prevalent obstacle for students nationally—fear—does not seem to be an issue.

"Although there are very occasional questions after highly publicized security concerns, our participation does not seem to have been dampened at all by general fear," Meyer-Lee said.

CWIL also makes a conscious effort to give financial support, as not to hinder students from their potential experience.

While certain majors are not as flexible for studying abroad, most students can work around those obstacles if they begin planning early.

"The factor that was mentioned to us that did not come up in the [University of Minnesota study] analysis at all was such a high level of involvement in the Saint Mary's on-campus community that [students] don't want to leave it," she said.

Students can choose between 17 international programs, the most popular being Rome, Seville and Maynooth, Ireland. Students can also travel to more obscure places like South Africa and Austria, for example.

"Our menu is quite varied for a school of our size, yet all of our programs still retain the very close faculty and administrative

oversight and quality that our students expect from Saint Mary's," Meyer-Lee said.

CWIL, along with other administrative leaders at the College, encourages the growth of the international studies program.

"Our administration is fortunately very supportive of international study as an integral part of an excellent liberal arts education, and therefore our participation has very steadily grown over the past four years," Meyer-Lee said.

She said she attributes the program growth to a long and strong commitment to maintain and expand them, beginning with the Rome Program founded 37 years ago. This program attracts nearly 100 students annually and is the most popular location to study.

Peter Checca, Italian professor and counselor for the Rome Program, has noticed a significant increase in his program since 2002.

"The number of participants [in the Rome Program] has grown by about 20 percent [since 2002]," he said. "We expect further growth since, beginning this year, the department of modern languages will offer a major in Italian."

Typically, between 55 and 65 students participate in the Rome Program in the fall and between 35 and 45 in the spring. This year's numbers are slightly lower, with 97 participants versus 108 last year.

While the Rome Program attracts the largest pool of applicants, programs in Spain and Ireland are also popular.

Karen Chambers, psychology professor and director of the Ireland Program, sees steady

numbers heading into the program's 30th year at the college.

Each year, about 20 students are selected to participate. This year, 16 students are studying for the whole academic year, five only for the fall and six only for the spring.

Students typically live with three or four Irish roommates on the National University of Ireland (NUI) Maynooth campus.

Seville, Spain is another popular program at the college. This year, seven Saint Mary's students and 10 Notre Dame students are studying through this program. There is also the option of a three- or seven-week session during the summer in Seville.

Jennifer Zachman, Modern Languages professor and Spanish foreign study advisor, recognized the increasing interest in the program.

"In a recent meeting for those interested in studying in Seville next year, there were over 30 attendees," she said. "As more and more students see the importance of doing cultural and language immersions and the benefits of a Spanish major or minor, more and more students elect to study abroad."

Saint Mary's students, Meyer-Lee said, continue to recognize the benefit of international studies.

"Students will learn academic content in the very best context, gain competence in intercultural relating, become a global citizen, grow as an individual, acquire valuable career skills and experience their own adventures," Meyer-Lee said.

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohle01@saintmarys.edu

Warnings

continued from page 1

and no evictions at the apartment complex.

At Castle Point, the enforcement is different. Because the Castle Point Apartments are outside the South Bend city limit and therefore not under its ordinances, property manager Judy Logan deals with housing violations in her own way.

"I don't think [the South Bend disorderly house ordinance] is fair," Logan said. "I think people should be put on notice, especially if they're not harming another human being. Just a gathering of people for a party does not."

At Castle Point, she first sends a letter of warning to the apartment residents if a neighbor or a night watchman brings a situation to her attention.

"If I have to write a second letter of warning, then that letter goes to the co-signer the second time, because they're responsible for what occurs to that apartment also, so I let them know," Logan said. "For students, more often than not it's their parents. And that, more often than not, nips it in the bud."

Logan said the third letter sent to a disruptive Castle Point resident asks them to leave.

Logan said she has not had to evict anybody for a "partying type" of violation this year.

Ann-Carol Nash, assistant city attorney for South Bend, said there's often confusion surrounding the disorderly house ordinance.

"If conduct which is prohibited by the ordinance takes place and is verified by the police department, then I send a notice to abate to the

occupant and the owner," she said.

At the first offense, she said, the decision to evict is left up to the landlord.

"I think there are some misconceptions [about the disorderly housing ordinance]," she said. "The landlord doesn't have to evict tenants, but [the landlord] may be taking a risk if the offense is repeated."

Nash said once a student repeatedly violates the disorderly house ordinance, the city has the option to file a lawsuit against both the landlord and the resident, asking the court to impose a monetary fine on both parties.

"I really haven't had to file any lawsuits [this semester], although I have sent letters to abate," Nash said. "I've been pleased I haven't had a lot of repeat actions [by students]."

For Schmuhl, the most common student offenses include failing to make payments on rent and utilities and violating the disorderly house ordinance.

"Ever since this school year, I believe that I have the best students living here," she said. "We have had no serious problems."

Schmuhl said she believes Turtle Creek's policy of encouraging "a community environment built on principles of mutual respect," in combination with the South Bend ordinance, allow residents to quietly enjoy their homes.

"This has always been our policy and I would anticipate that other housing organizations, including other managers, the city of South Bend and even the University, would have the same expectations of their residents" Schmuhl said.

Contact Becky Hogan at rhogan2@nd.edu and Eileen Duffy at eduffy1@nd.edu



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Poisoning suspects safe in Russia

MOSCOW — The chief prosecutor said Tuesday Russia would not allow the extradition of possible suspects in the poisoning of a former KGB agent in Britain and he dismissed as "nonsense" allegations by another ex-security officer of a death squad for Kremlin critics.

Prosecutor General Yuri Chaika also confirmed that a potential central witness in the case, another former agent who met with Alexander Litvinenko in London on Nov. 1, the day Litvinenko believed he was poisoned, had been hospitalized.

Litvinenko, 43, died Nov. 23 in London, and doctors found the radioactive isotope polonium-210 in his body. In a deathbed statement, he blamed President Vladimir Putin for the poisoning. The Kremlin has vehemently denied the accusations.

Chaika said Russian prosecutors would fully cooperate with Scotland Yard, which has sent a team of British investigators to Moscow.

India asked to cut Kashmir loose

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — President Gen. Pervez Musharraf said Tuesday that Pakistan is willing to give up its claim to Kashmir if India reciprocates and agrees to self-governance in the disputed Himalayan region that they have fought over for decades.

The comments, in an interview aired by India's NDTV network, were among Musharraf's strongest yet to encourage a settlement in the bitter, 58-year dispute since the South Asian rivals began peace talks nearly three years ago.

There was no immediate reaction from India's government, and Musharraf's spokesman accused NDTV of "twisting" the president's comments to suggest that Pakistan was making a unilateral offer to give up its claim to Kashmir.

NATIONAL NEWS

Hunt continues for missing father

MERLIN, Ore. — Searchers scoured a narrow canyon in Oregon's snowy Coast Range on Tuesday for a man missing for more than a week in the rugged area while his wife and two young children, rescued just the day before, recovered in a hospital.

A helicopter with heat-sensing equipment joined other helicopters, snowmobiles and foot patrols Tuesday in the hunt for 35-year-old James Kim of San Francisco. Trained dogs and horse patrols were on standby to help in the search. Trackers had followed his footprints until dark Monday night.

Officials said it appeared that Kim was within five miles of the car he'd left Saturday morning in search of help.

WWII camps to remain as a warning

WASHINGTON — Notorious internment camps where Japanese-Americans were kept behind barbed wire during World War II will be preserved as stark reminders of how the United States turned on some of its citizens in a time of fear.

As one of its last acts, the Republican-led Congress on Tuesday sent President Bush legislation establishing a \$38 million program of National Park Service grants to restore and pay for research at 10 camps where the government sent people of Japanese descent after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

LOCAL NEWS

Library picks up pieces after fire

WILLIAMSPORT, Ind. — Demolition work has started on the town's fire-damaged library building as the library's staff tries to regroup in its temporary home.

The Williamsport-Washington Township Public Library opened Monday its temporary location at an American Legion post, although library Director Chris Brown said it would be a couple weeks before it is able to circulate books again.

In the meantime, the library is now accepting books and other materials that were checked out before the Oct. 8 fire that destroyed its 4-year-old building and nearly everything that was inside.

Gates seeks new Iraq approach

New defense secretary says military winning, but stabilization a major challenge

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Robert Gates, the White House choice to be the next defense secretary, conceded Tuesday that the United States is not winning the war in Iraq and warned that if that country is not stabilized in the next year or two it could lead to a "regional conflagration."

At a Senate confirmation hearing that was long on praise for Gates and short on criticism, the man President Bush chose to replace Donald H. Rumsfeld said he is open to new ideas about correcting the U.S. course in Iraq. He said the war would be his highest priority if confirmed as expected.

Gates, 63, said he believes Bush wants to see Iraq improve to the point where it can govern and defend itself, while seeking a new approach. "What we are now doing is not satisfactory," Gates said.

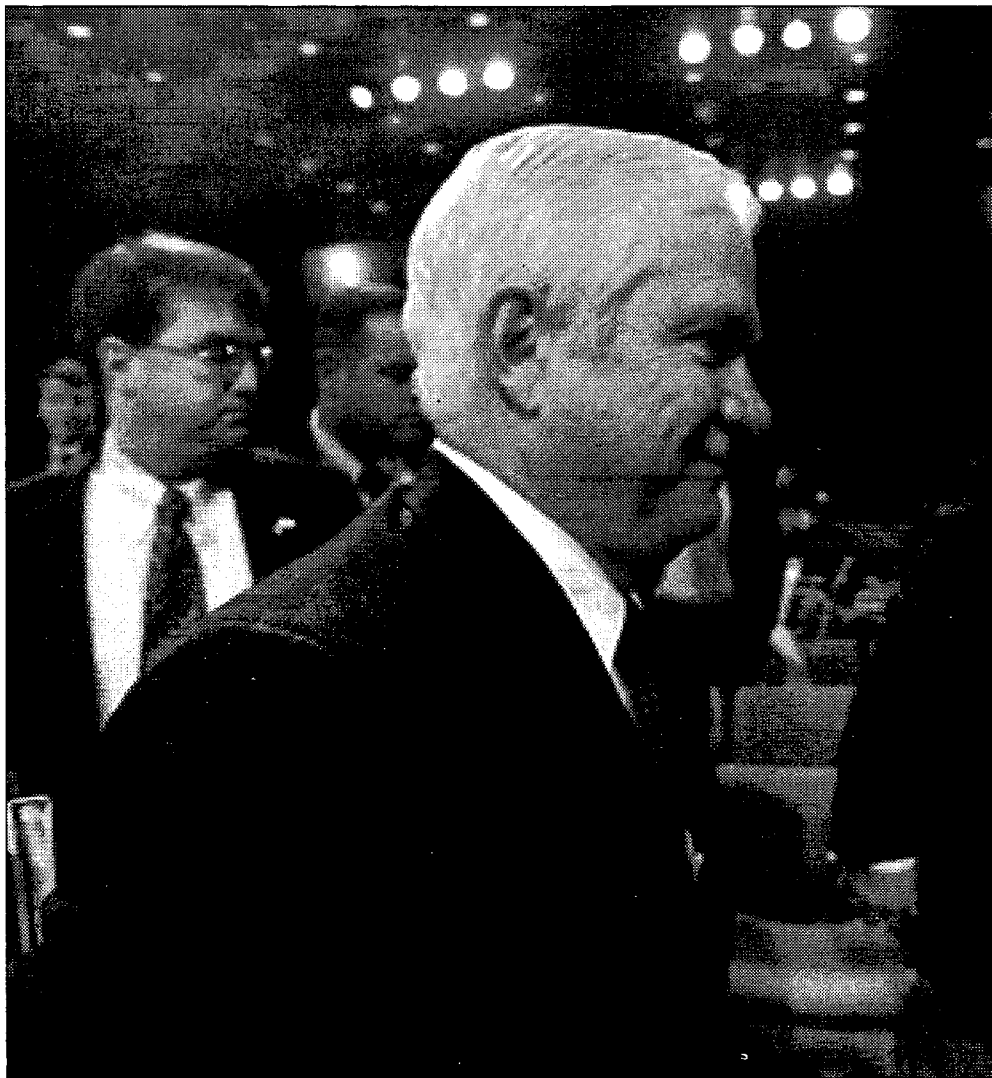
"In my view, all options are on the table, in terms of how we address this problem in Iraq," he added. He did not commit to favoring any specific new course, saying he would consult first with commanders and others.

Asked point-blank by Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., whether the U.S. is winning in Iraq, Gates replied, "No, sir." He later said he believes the United States is neither winning nor losing, "at this point."

At the outset of an afternoon session of questions about Iraq and other subjects, Gates began by telling the committee he wanted to amplify on his remark about not winning in Iraq. He did not withdraw the remark but said, "I want to make clear that that pertains to the situation in Iraq as a whole."

He said he did not want U.S. troops to think he believes they are being unsuccessful in their assigned missions.

"Our military wins the



Defense Secretary-designate Robert Gates leaves his confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington Tuesday.

battles that we fight," Gates said. "Where we're having our challenges, frankly, are in the areas of stabilization and political developments and so on."

At the White House, press secretary Tony Snow was pressed by reporters about Gates' answer that the U.S. is not winning in Iraq — one that seemed to be in conflict with the president's own position.

Snow said that Gates' testimony, taken in its entirety, shows he shares Bush's view that the U.S. must help Iraq govern and defend itself.

"I know you want to pit a fight between Bob Gates and the president, it doesn't exist," Snow told reporters.

"If you want to try get a nuanced and full understanding of where Bob Gates stands on these issues with regard to the president and his policies and the definition of what it is to win and Iraq and what it takes, then I think you're going to find he agrees" with Bush, Snow said.

The spokesman rejected any notion that Gates' assessment of the war would be demoralizing to U.S. troops. "What I think is demoralizing is a constant effort to portray this as a losing mission," Snow said.

Gates was noncommittal on questions about whether and when to begin a U.S. troop withdrawal, saying it

"depends on the conditions on the ground." He also said that if confirmed he would go to Iraq soon to consult with U.S. commanders.

Asked later whether announcing a specific troop withdrawal timetable would send a signal of U.S. weakness, Gates said it "would essentially tell (the insurgents) how long they have to wait until we're gone."

The hearing was nonconfrontational, with occasional hints of humor from Gates. Much of the questioning from panel members was focused on whether Gates would provide independent advice to Bush, and the former CIA director assured the committee that he would not shirk from that duty.

FRANCE

Big 6 talk about punishing Iran

Associated Press

PARIS — Six world powers gathered for talks Tuesday, divided on how to punish Iran's defiance of U.N. demands to halt its nuclear program and facing a new threat from Tehran of retaliation if they opt for sanctions.

The United States, joining France, expressed hoped the closed-door talks in Paris would secure agreement for imposing sanctions against Iran. But Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said imposing wide-ranging sanctions would be "irresponsible."

The talks at the French Foreign

Ministry brought together diplomats from the United States, Britain, China, France and Russia — the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — as well as Germany and a representative of European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana.

"We all want to cut off Iran's ability to seek support for its enrichment program," said Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns, the U.S. participant at the discussions. Asked when he expected Russia and China to join the others in supporting a Security Council resolution, Burns replied: "This afternoon would be a good time."

But Lavrov suggested Russia was not ready to support broad sanctions.

"We believe that to impose these kind of sanctions would be ... disproportionate to the real situation. We will achieve the opposite results," Lavrov said in Brussels, Belgium.

"We believe this is wrong. We will work in a more responsible way."

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad ratcheted up pressure by vowing Tuesday to stick by the nuclear program and issuing a new threat to downgrade relations with the 25-nation EU if European negotiators opted for tough U.N. sanctions.

COR

continued from page 1

"I know for my friends we've had a lot of concerns like [what to do if] only one of us gets tickets," said Judicial Council president Liz Kozlow.

However, Hall Presidents' Council co-chair Brian Lowery argued that the policy for obtaining bowl tickets prevents students from buying more than one ticket and selling them to non-Notre Dame students.

"With large numbers of people entering the lottery and the chance that a second ticket might go to a friend or family member rather than a student, then it might be beneficial to only have a one ticket policy," he said.

Student Union Board Manager Patrick Vassel agreed, recalling that "last year a lot of students [were saying] 'yeah I'll buy one [ticket] and sell one.' I think we'd be hard-pressed to say we haven't heard of people selling tickets even at face value."

The decrease in the number of home football tickets available for parents was also discussed. Next year, only two tickets will be available to parents for only one football game, as opposed to the previously offered four tickets to two football games. Student body president Lizzi Shappell said some students have expressed the sentiment that "limiting family tickets to two tickets is going to limit how many of their family members will be able to come in for student weekend and parent weekends."

Lowery suggested a correlation between restricted availability family tickets and the availability of season tickets.

"It's interesting that the parent tickets are being reduced at the same time that they are implementing season tickets," he said.

Vassel agreed, remarking that "thirty-some years [have passed] since there's been season tickets available ... it doesn't seem to be a fair correlation — at least for students."

In other COR news:

Club Coordination Council president Kerry Kilbourn highlighted various activities and responsibilities of the CCC as it was the organization spotlight for the week. Kilbourn said the CCC focuses primarily on allotting money to various student clubs. Last year, club requests totaled \$550,000, later brought down to \$480,000. Kilbourn said the CCC is automatically guaranteed 33 percent of the annual Student Union budget to divide among various organizations.

Shappell asked for any follow-up on last week's discussion about promoting more student awareness and involvement in student government. Several suggestions revolved around Web sites, including putting a link to student government on the Notre Dame's homepage.

Though there are plans to revamp the school's Web site, student body vice president Bill Andrichik said "the Web group that is in charge of developing [Notre Dame's webpage] wanted to keep the homepage pretty simplified, so I doubt there would be a direct link on the homepage."

Contact Sonia Rao at srao1@nd.edu

Uganda

continued from page 1

increase agricultural productivity, connect [the Ugandan] people to information and markets, eradicate preventable diseases and expand access to basic healthcare and education," NDMDI director Father Robert Dowd said.

Funded by the contributions of University Trustee Ray Chambers, the NDMDI will work with constructive intervention strategies previously used in the Ugandan village of Ruhira, southwest of the capital city Kampala.

NDMDI assistant director Tim Lyden, a 2002 Notre Dame graduate, said he expected Notre Dame to be assigned to an exact village later this month, as the selection committee of Ugandan representatives and United Nations consultants was still in the process of choosing the University's partner village.

He said he knew the village would be located in the Mpigi district of the country, west of Kampala and close to the city of Nkozi, home of Uganda Martyrs University — the nation's premier Catholic university.

Lyden said Notre Dame contacted Uganda Martyrs to establish a relationship of cooperation and solidarity that will allow NDMDI participants to utilize the local university's resources and knowledge of the region's community development needs.

"Uganda Martyrs University has strong programs in agriculture, public health, development studies and business, and Notre Dame has strengths in civil engineering, the biological sciences, the social sciences and business as well," Lyden said. "Together, the strengths of our two universities align with the key spheres of investment of the Millennium Villages Project."

Lyden said he thought the assets of both institutions would facilitate collaborative research projects and the study of the results of the project, as observed in the village once the partnership and the intervention model are determined and implemented.

"It is the goal of this initiative to provide faculty and students, both graduate and undergraduate, with research and internship opportunities that contribute to human development," Dowd said.

"We have been contacted by dozens of students that have not only expressed interest and enthusiasm for the project but want to get involved and furthermore have proposed concrete ideas for fundraising, campus activities, independent research study projects and advocacy options," he added.

One of the students that contacted Dowd and Lyden — and did become involved in the NDMDI — was sophomore Tess Bone, whose independent research project will examine the organization, mobilization and implementation of the NDMDI in Uganda.

"As this is the first time a university has undertaken such a responsibility, I think it is essential to understand the process," she said. "I hope to better understand [the steps of this process] and to study them to produce a thoughtful analysis that could be helpful as it applies to this project, but may also serve as a reference for other universities considering a similar endeavor."

or."

Bone said Dowd and Lyden allowed her to observe the activities and organizational meetings of the NDMDI's Student Advisory Council, which contributed considerably to her understanding of the project's progression on campus.

She also said the University has supported her desire to research African development and poverty alleviation, offering research grants, encouragement and academic avenues that provided the opportunity to pursue these interests — and to travel to the selected partner village in January with Dowd, Lyden and University President Father John Jenkins, among other Notre Dame representatives.

"I'm very grateful for this opportunity, and I think that Notre Dame students need to make Africa a priority as well

because of the real ability to help that we have as a university," Bone said. "Our financial, intellectual and numerical base has great potential."

She said students should keep their eyes open next semester for the various opportunities to help Africa that will be available through different campus organizations, including Amnesty International, the Africa Faith and Justice Network and the MDG Task Force, among many other organizations.

The task force recently collected money for bed nets to prevent malaria mosquito bites in Africa.

If not through active involvement in these organizations or donations, Dowd said students could still join the NDMDI project simply by "attending discussion groups, learning more about the situation and informing others about it."


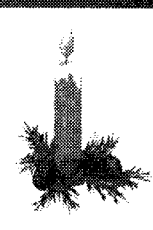
He encouraged representa-

tives on the Student Advisory Council to inform their electorates of the NDMDI's goals through presentations and discussions across campus and in the residence halls.

"Notre Dame can only be the Catholic university it strives to be if it devotes its time, talent and treasure to solving real world problems, problems that are dehumanizing and that prevent people from realizing their God-given potential, problems that are essentially the result of ignorance, indifference and injustice," Dowd said.

He and Lyden are working on the official NDMDI proposals that will be submitted to Jenkins and Chambers, and finalizing the details of the January excursion to the University's partner village.

Contact Marcela Berrios at aberrios@nd.edu

Christmas at the CoMo
Benefit Concert for

St. Jude's Primary School, Jinja, Uganda
with the

ND Celebration Choir
and Christmas reflections by ND International students

Wed., Dec 6th, 7:30 pm

First floor Coleman Morse lounge
Free Admission, but an offering will be taken.



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Fischer O'Hara-Grace
Graduate Residences
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316 Main Building

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or go to
<http://osa.nd.edu>
for eligibility requirements
and to download the application

Completed applications must be
submitted by February 16, 2007

MARKET RECAP

Stocks			
Dow Jones	12,331.60	+47.75	
Up: 2,038	Same: 175	Down: 1,212	Composite Volume: 2,755,702,210
AMEX	2,082.80	+7.02	
NASDAQ	2,452.38	+3.95	
NYSE	9,064.93	+45.90	
S&P 500	1,414.76	+5.64	
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	16,283.46	+16.79	
FTSE 100(London)	6,086.40	+36.00	
COMPANY %CHANGE \$GAIN PRICE			
NASDAQ 100 TR (QQQQ)	+0.36	+0.16	44.45
INTEL CP (INTC)	-0.47	-0.10	21.12
SUN MICROSYS (SUNW)	-2.83	-0.16	5.45
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-0.68	-0.20	29.11

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	+0.20	+0.009	4.44
13-WEEK BILL	-0.41	-0.020	4.85
30-YEAR BOND	+0.44	+0.020	4.56
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.05	+0.002	4.38

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+0.30		63.41
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-2.30		650.60
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+0.45		91.98

Exchange Rates			
YEN			114.8450
EURO			0.7500
POUND			0.5065
CANADIAN \$			1.1432

IN BRIEF

Big Apple clamps down on trans fats

NEW YORK — New York on Tuesday became the first city in the nation to ban artery-clogging trans fats at restaurants, leading the charge to limit consumption of an ingredient linked to heart disease and used in everything from french fries to pizza dough to pancake mix.

In a city where eating out is a major form of activity — either for fun or out of hectic necessity — many New Yorkers were all for the ban, saying that health concerns were more important than fears of Big Brother supervising their stomachs.

"I don't care about what might be politically correct and what's not," said Murray Bader, nursing a cup of coffee at Dunkin' Donuts on Tuesday morning. "I want to live longer!"

The 72-year-old Manhattan resident called the ban a "wakeup call" for a public often unaware of the risks of artificial fats. "This stuff clogs up your vessels," he said. "When it comes to health, we only have one life."

Toni Lewis, catching a quick dinner at McDonalds before her child's piano lesson on the eve of the vote, acknowledged that yes, it might be going too far for the city to tell people what they can and can't put into their stomachs. But, she added: "I welcome the intrusion."

"This is New York," she said. "People eat out a lot. We don't have a choice. We need someone to make it a healthier proposition."

Myspace gives sex offenders the boot

NEW YORK — The popular online hangout MySpace said Tuesday it will develop technologies to help block convicted sex offenders, the site's latest attempt to address complaints about sexual predators and other dangers to teens.

MySpace is partnering with Sentinel Tech Holding Corp. to build and deploy within 30 days a database that will contain the names and physical descriptions of convicted sex offenders in the United States. An automated system will search for matches between the database and MySpace user profiles. Employees will then delete any profiles that match.

Parents, school administrators and law-enforcement authorities have grown increasingly worried that teens are at risk on MySpace and other social-networking sites, which provide tools for messaging, sharing photos and creating personal pages.

Stocks rise as pressures relieved

Market gains as wages and benefits show sluggish increase, service sector up

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street rallied for a second straight session Tuesday after easing wage pressures and stronger-than-expected service sector activity raised prospects that the economy could cool gradually and leave room for the Federal Reserve to lower interest rates next year.

Investors applauded Labor Department figures showing wages and benefits increased at a much slower pace in the third quarter than had been estimated. Recent concerns about inflation had eroded some hopes that the Federal Reserve would start lowering interest rates next year. The central bank has said inflation remains its primary concern.

Meanwhile, the Institute for Supply Management, a trade group, found activity in the nation's services sector rose at a faster rate in November, giving a further boost to investor sentiment. An index reading of 58.9 was above the 55.5 that had been expected and the 57.1 seen in October.

"Certainly that ISM number was a nice surprise to the upside but for me the numbers that were more important were the unit labor costs and the productivity number" from the Labor Department, said Scott Wren, senior equity strategist for A.G. Edwards & Sons. "You're not getting as big a kicker off this data as you might have six months ago because the market is pretty fairly valued."

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 47.75, or 0.39 percent, to 12,331.60. A 2.5 percent increase from Coca-Cola Co. and a 2.3 percent rise from Walt Disney Co. helped the blue chip average.

Broader stock indicators also rose. The Standard & Poor's 500 index gained 5.64, or 0.40 percent, to 1,414.76. The index hit a six-year high of 1,415.27. The Nasdaq composite index was up 3.99, or 0.16 percent, at 2,452.38.



People gather on New York's Broad Street for the lighting of the New York Stock Exchange 83rd annual Christmas Tree Monday.

The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies climbed 1.57, or 0.20 percent, to a new closing high of 797.42. The index also passed the 800 mark for the first time Tuesday, moving as high as 801.01.

Bonds fell, with the yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rising to 4.45 percent from 4.43 percent from late Monday. The dollar firmed against other major currencies, while gold prices fell.

Light, sweet crude settled down 1 cent at \$62.43 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

The Labor Department report found costs of wages and benefits per unit of output increased at the annual rate of 2.3 percent in the

third quarter, a hefty drop from the 3.8 percent rate the agency reported a month ago. Also, growth in worker productivity slowed to an annual rate of 0.2 percent, though the increase still topped an earlier estimate that had productivity as unchanged.

"I think more and more we've seen inflation start to roll over," Wren said, noting many investors have been concerned recently that growth would slow too quickly. He believes investors should remain cautious. "It is a little worrisome that more people aren't calling for a recession out there because I hate to see when everyone is thinking the same way."

Wren's call for vigilance

comes on the 10th anniversary of remarks by former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan in which he famously asked how investors were to know when "irrational exuberance" had unduly escalated asset values.

Christopher Piros, director of investment strategy and portfolio management for Prudential Investments, contends valuations are "still quite reasonable" and notes that earnings have held up well. However, he believes many investors are downplaying the risk of a pronounced economic slowing.

"I don't see a recession coming but I think there is some risk that the slowdown is deeper than some investors have factored in."

Productivity falls as orders plunge

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Growth in worker productivity slowed sharply in the summer while wages and benefits rose at a rate that was far below a previous estimate, a development likely to ease inflation worries at the Federal Reserve.

Productivity edged up at a 0.2 percent annual rate in the July-September quarter, the Commerce Department said Tuesday. That was slightly better than the zero change reported a month ago.

Wages and benefits per unit of output increased at an annual rate of 2.3 percent in the third quarter, much slower than the 3.8 percent advance previously estimated.

Analysts said this downward revision should ease fears at the Fed that wage pressures were threatening to send inflation sharply higher.

"Based on these numbers, the Fed can rest easy about the threat of inflation," said Nariman Behravesh, chief economist at Global Insight, a private forecasting firm. "The only debate now seems to be about when the Fed will cut" interest rates.

Behravesh said if inflation remains benign and the overall economy continues to show weakness, the central bank might move as soon as March to start cutting rates.

After raising rates for two years to make sure inflation did not get out of hand, the Federal Reserve has left them

unchanged since the summer with analysts expecting the Fed to remain on hold next week at its last meeting of the year.

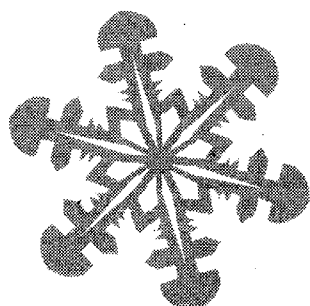
The good news on inflation helped Wall Street rally for a second straight session. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 47.75 points to close at 12,331.60.

In other economic news, the Commerce Department said that orders to U.S. factories plunged 4.7 percent in October, the third decline in the past four months, and the biggest drop in more than six years. The manufacturing sector is starting to experience the adverse impact from this year's slowdown in the overall economy with auto sales and home construction suffering.



winter career and fair internship & diversity reception

thursday
february 1



12:00 – 2:30 pm

diversity reception

a networking opportunity for students
and organizations embracing diversity

monogram room, joyce center

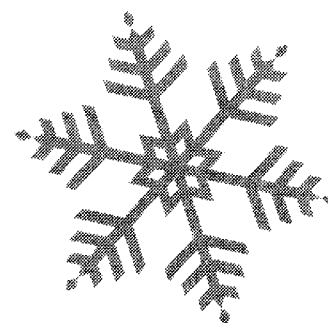
all are welcome to attend

4:00 – 8:00 pm

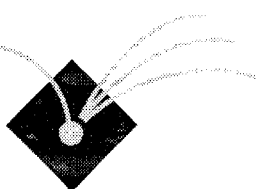
career & internship fair

joyce center fieldhouse

student ID required



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Abroad

continued from page 1

Washington D.C), according to Peggy Weber, assistant director of operations for off-campus programs.

Three hundred forty-eight applicants listed London as their first-choice destination — the most popular program. But London is also the largest program, hosting 130 students each semester.

Julia Douthwaite, assistant provost for international studies, named Oxford as the most competitive program because students must be invited to apply and the numbers are very limited. Rome, Toledo and Dublin are also in high demand, she said.

Each July, the department of international studies plans to predict student interest in each of its programs.

"We try to predict interest," Douthwaite said, "but it's always unpredictable."

Other than in London, where the number of students is fixed by the facilities available, the budgeted number of available spaces for most programs is up for negotiation. Spaces remain consistent for both fall and spring semesters, as rooms in dorms or with host families need be filled for the entire academic year.

Students more commonly list the spring semester as their first choice — a trend Douthwaite considers "a new phenomenon in the past couple years."

A competitive program like Toledo received 23 fall applicants and 52 for the spring — a disparity which Douthwaite deemed "unfortunate for those students" because "it will be more of a challenge for them to

be accepted in the spring than in the fall."

Combining the program at University College Dublin and the other option at Trinity College, Notre Dame's Dublin program has 79 applicants for the spring semester and can only accept around 40. Douthwaite said the department often invites students turned down by their first choice to consider studying in the fall, an offer students "would be wise to accept if they had chosen a program as oversubscribed as Dublin."

The 2007-08 applications saw surprising increases in the programs in Kampala (Uganda), both Chinese programs and Cairo, Douthwaite said.

While the "policy is to do the utmost best to get students into their first choice program," she said, the budget allocations will not allow all students to be placed in these relatively newer and less traditional choices.

Douthwaite named this fall's academic forum and the Kroc Institute's emphasis on bringing noteworthy speakers to campus as reasons for increased interest in the new study abroad program in Uganda.

"Undergrads want to do something to help change the world and they're curious about Africa," she said. "I really credit our student body with the number ready to go to these challenging locals."

Cooperation with the Center for Asian Studies and the Asian language and literature department may have helped recruit students for the East Asian programs, which include Beijing, Shanghai and Tokyo, she said.

The only program with more spaces than applicants was the yearlong opportunity for five fluent Italian speakers to study Bologna, Douthwaite said. She also expressed

disappointment in that only two students applied for the same number of openings in the Paris program that offers students a year at the Science Po, "the Harvard of France," Douthwaite said.

"I'm disappointed about that — two elite programs for the very fluent language learner should have sparked more interest," she said.

Students who have submitted applications for the 2007-08 school year will receive notification letters sometime in February.

"Our policy is to let every student get their first choice if at all possible first," Douthwaite said, and added that those who are not immediately admitted will be notified of their position on a waiting list.

"There is a complicated and energetic process," Douthwaite explained, as students confirm spaces in programs and other students are offered open spaces after the initial round of acceptance letters. She pointed out that a student could be dropped from the program any time before departure if his or her academic record fails to live up to the program's standards.

While the number of applicants may seem daunting, Douthwaite said her office has a desire to accommodate as many students as possible. A price cannot be affixed to the experiences gained by studying abroad, she said.

"The opportunity to learn in a totally new way, to have the opportunity to walk through the streets of the city that you're learning about, to read the newspapers, to be immersed in the cultural environment is just incalculable," she said. "We don't have the smells and the tastes and the sounds of these cultural locations here on campus."

Contact Kathleen McDonnell at kmcdonn3@nd.edu

Security

continued from page 1

During Thanksgiving break, senior Mike Hennig and his roommate, who live on Washington Street, were the victims of burglary.

"We got home and our door had been broken open. There was dirt on the floor. Both of our computers, my printer, stereo, TV... it was all gone," Hennig said.

Though they called the police and filed a report, nothing has been recovered and they have heard nothing from the police.

"This is not the first time this kind of thing has happened. We've had five or six cars broken into this semester," Hennig said. "iPods, stereos ... they've all been stolen. We've called the police and sometimes they don't even send somebody. They just take the report over the phone."

Hennig did mention that his home security alarm was malfunctioning and that it has since been fixed.

"Our neighbors had a security alarm and were not broken into," he said. "It's required to have a security alarm or you're going to get robbed."

Gagnon said he believes there are several reasons why off-campus students are so vulnerable to break-ins — one of which is the mindset of Notre Dame students.

"Truthfully, our students are very trusting, which is great, but it's not a good thing out in

the cruel world," Gagnon said. "When you live on campus, you don't see the impact of crime outside of campus. When you move off campus, you might not be prepared."

The neighborhoods that students live in also attribute to their vulnerability.

"Unfortunately our students live in neighborhoods at risk, due to the low rent," Gagnon said.

Gagnon said burglars, who often target young people, know which homes student residences and when those students will be away. He said students should "maintain good relations with neighbors" and let them know when the house will be empty so they can report anything suspicious to the police. Students should also let their landlord know when they are leaving and returning.

Students can also call the SBPD to request a "vacation home watch" while they're away, Gagnon added.

He also suggested that students make sure doors are dead-bolted, windows are locked and there is no shrubbery blocking the windows where burglars could hide. It is also a good idea to buy an inexpensive timer light, he said. Anything that makes the house look occupied lessens the chance of a break-in.

If students have any questions, they should call NDSP at (574) 631-5555.

The South Bend Police Department did not return calls for comment.

Contact Eva Binda at jbinda@nd.edu

La Alianza presents...

ACE goes Latin



A Latin dance party with free food and fun!

Wednesday, December 6th

Legends

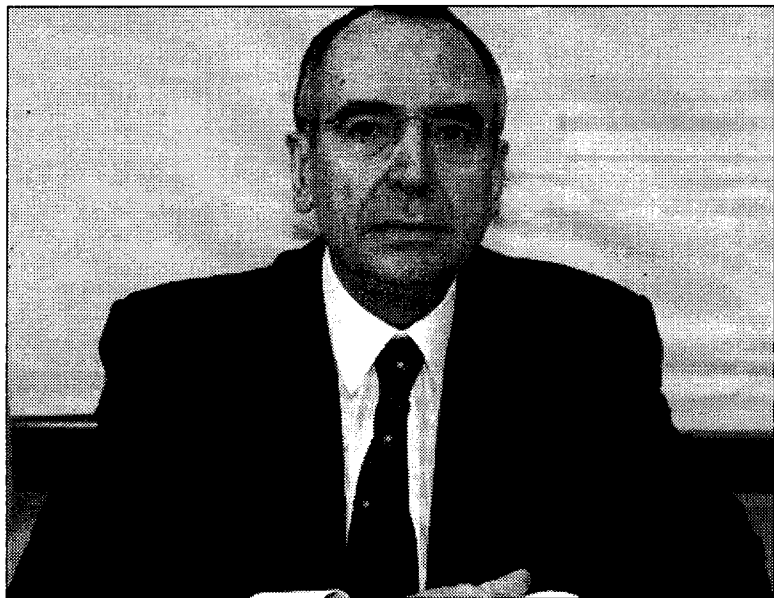
9pm-12am

Free T-shirts to first 200 students

Enseñar es tocar vidas por siempre

ITALY

Indictments sought in CIA kidnapping



Former head of SISMI Italian Military intelligence Nicolò Pollari listens at a hearing about the alleged CIA kidnapping in Rome in July.

Associated Press

MILAN, Italy — An Italian prosecutor on Tuesday requested the indictment of 26 Americans and five Italian secret service officials in the 2003 kidnapping of an Egyptian cleric in Milan — a case that continues to be an irritant to U.S.-Italian relations.

Prosecutor Armando Spataro said the indictment request is aimed at CIA agents and the former head of Italian military intelligence, Nicolò Pollari, for alleged involvement in the kidnapping.

Prosecutors have identified all but one of the Americans as CIA agents, including former station chiefs in Rome and Milan, and the 26th as a U.S. Air Force officer stationed at the time at Aviano air base near Venice.

Last month, Spataro asked the center-left government of Romano Prodi to request the Americans' extradition; he has not received a response.

The operation was believed to be part of an alleged CIA "extraordinary rendition" program in which terrorism suspects are transferred to third countries where some allegedly are tortured. It is the first known prosecution of alleged participants in such operations, which have come under growing criticism by America's allies in Europe.

The United States and Italy have an extradition treaty, although it was not likely that CIA agents would be turned over for trial abroad. In some instances, only the aliases of the agents are known.

The previous government of conservative Silvio Berlusconi had refused to request the Americans' extradition, and contended his government and Italian secret services were not informed about the operation and did not take part.

Berlusconi, one of the United States' staunchest allies in the war against terrorism and the invasion of Iraq, expressed support for Pollari.

"Gen. Pollari was one of the few to fight terrorism in the front lines, with the result that he came under the scrutiny of all Italians. Let's ask the government how it intends to protect those like Pollari who go up against terrorists, and the good name of our intelligence and Italy's reputation abroad," Berlusconi said.

Pollari was replaced last month as part of a purge that also included the heads of the civilian secret service agencies. Pollari, 63, had long resisted calls for his resignation that only intensified with the abduction case. He took over SISMI, the Italian military intelligence agency, in 2001 after holding key posts with Italy's financial police and civilian secret service agency.

Besides Pollari, the request also names his former deputy Marco Mancini, and three other secret service officials.

Pollari has insisted in questioning before parliamentary committees that Italian intelligence had no role in the cleric's disappearance, while Mancini, who was arrested this summer, is said by his lawyers to be cooperating with prosecutors in implicating his boss.

Osama Moustafa Hassan Nasr, an Egyptian cleric and terrorist suspect, also known as Abu Omar, was allegedly abducted from a Milan street in February 2003 and flown out of Italy from Aviano.

Among the Americans named in the request are Robert Seldon Lady, a former station chief in Milan, and Jeffrey Castelli, identified as a former CIA chief in Rome.

Spataro also is seeking indictments on charges of aiding and abetting against two other secret service officials and the deputy director of the newspaper Libero, Renato Farina. Four others — three secret service officials and a reporter for Libero — were dropped from the investigation.

From the outset, U.S. officials have declined comment. A lawyer for Lady, the only American who was living in Italy when arrest warrants were issued, said she was surprised by the indictment request.

"Even the documents of the prosecution show that he was not an organizer. If anything, he was someone who obeyed orders," lawyer Daria Pesce said.

Lady left the country before the warrant was served. Pesce said he lives in the United States, but declined to say where.

Prosecutors raided Lady's home near Turin last year, collecting a central piece of evidence — a picture of Nasr taken in January 2003 on the street where he was allegedly abducted a month later.

Investigator increases interaction

Klimczak's revamped position aids Saint Mary's security director

By LAURA BAUMGARTNER
News Writer

In an effort to encourage student interaction and increase campus safety, Saint Mary's has expanded its security department by adding an assistant director. Stan Klimczak was promoted to this role last month after joining the security department in March.

Klimczak said the assistant director position will cover many duties that were previously performed by the investigator/programmer. He said the new role is essentially "an expansion of the investigator/programmer position."

"The position was created to enhance the security department to make it more efficient and to give the director more help with some of the things he needed assistance with," he said.

Director of Security David Garipey echoed Klimczak's description of the role of the assistant director.

"The assistant director is not actually a new position," he said. "It is a position which used to be called investigator, but has new and expanded responsibilities. The assistant director will continue with investigative responsibilities, but will be more heavily involved with training of officers and creating informational programs for staff and students."

Garipey also said the assistant director will serve as the director of security in his absence.

"My hope is that through the expanded duties of the assistant director, we, as a security

department, will be better able, through training, to provide for a safer and more secure campus," Garipey said.

Klimczak said he will face several challenges as he adjusts to his new job, beginning with the task of defining exactly what his role as assistant director will be.

Increasing student involvement and attendance is one of Klimczak's primary goals. He said the College currently has programs to educate students on domestic violence, alcohol abuse and drug abuse.

"The same basic programs that pretty much everyone has because those are the main things that are a threat or concern," he said.

However, Klimczak said he would like to change the way this information is relayed to the student body.

"Instead of dictating from the top down, saying you do this, I'd like to work with students and have involvement to create ways to present those programs," he said. "I guess some of the classes and programs haven't been well attended and we want to increase attendance. I think the way to do that is to increase interest and involvement and make it more relevant to students."

Klimczak said he will be meeting with Vice President of Student Affairs Karen Johnson next week to discuss ways to encourage student interest and participation.

Changes to the current system could include the creation of committees within each residence hall that would interact with security to generate programs for smaller groups within their hall.

"I think you get more across in the smaller group than the discussion where you try to concentrate everyone in a large group at the same time," Klimczak said.

Another area Klimczak said he would like to focus on is training for security personnel.

"One of the goals of myself and the director is to work on officer training in the security department," he said. "We want to provide more and better training to make them more efficient and to better serve the community. We are always looking to upgrade and improve ourselves."


Garipey also stressed the importance of the College community and the security department working together to ensure the department continues to fulfill the community's needs.

"The assistant director and I share a common desire to promote safe habits by students, to provide timely information and tips to [the College] community and to foster a desire by all to help in the effort to make the campus a safer, healthier environment for all to prosper," he said.

Prior to his employment at the College, Klimczak served as an officer for nearly 33 years in the LaPorte County Police Department, where he was the assistant chief for the past two-and-a-half years.

After retirement from the force, Klimczak said he was "looking for another challenge. So that's why I came here," he said. "A second career I guess."

Contact Laura Baumgartner at lbaumg01@saintmarys.edu



STUDY TIME

DeBartolo Hall

STUDY DATES AND TIMES:

December 7: 7am to 3:00am Midnight Snacks!

December 8: 7am to 3:00am

December 9: 7am to 3:00am

December 10: 7am to 3:00am

Finals Week: December 11-14 Rooms available except when scheduled by the Registrar's office.

December 15 DeBartolo Hall closes 30 minutes after last exam scheduled by the Registrar's Office.

Midnight Snacks available during Study days.

See Building Support Personnel if you have specific needs: Room 103, 104.

Coleman-Morse: December 7-December 14.

1st Floor: 7:00am-4:00am

2nd floor: 7:00am-3:00am

3rd Floor: 7:00am-12am

See Building Support Person if you have specific needs: Room 101

O'Shaughnessy: Rooms available for open study except when scheduled by the Registrar's office.

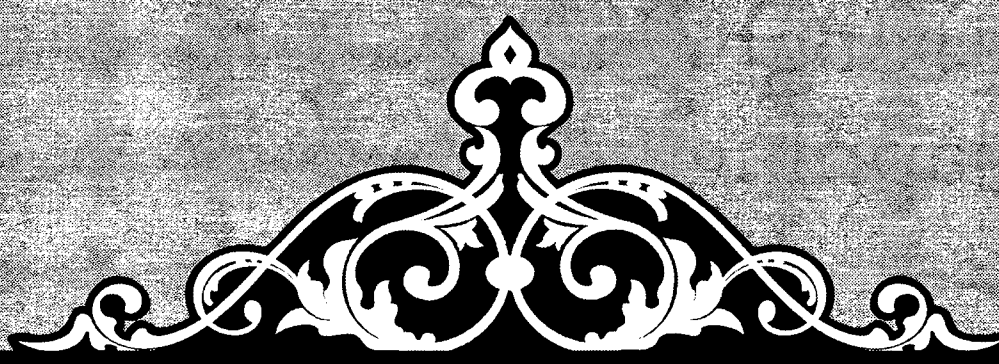
December 7 & 8: 8:00am to 1:00am

December 9-12: 8:00am to 3:00am

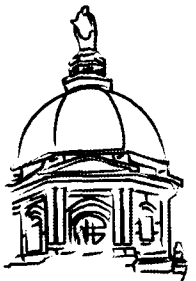

December 13 & 14: 8:00am to 1:00am

Rooms: 106, 107, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 206, 207, 208, 209.

Good Luck with Finals



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The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor in Chief, Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editors and department editors. Commentaries, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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.

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Mike Gilloon.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A pharmacist's right to religion

According to the fourth Indiana Senate Bill:
No person shall be required, as a condition of training, employment, pay, promotion, or privileges, to do any of the following:

- (1) Agree to perform or participate in the performing of abortions.
- (2) Dispense:
 - (A) a medical device or drug that may result in, or that is intended to result in, an abortion; or
 - (B) a birth control device or medication.

Because birth control is often a religious issue, as is the case in Roman Catholicism, a pharmacist's first amendment right to free exercise of religion must be protected. A pharmacist should not be forced to aid in an immoral act, the use of birth control or even worse, the use of possible abortifacients that prevent fertilized eggs from implanting in the endometrium. Numerous states across the nation have justly passed laws similar to Indiana's with regards to pharmacists and the distribution of birth control, but several states have failed to protect a pharmacist's rights.

Obviously there is more to take into consideration than the pharmacist's rights; each time a pharmacist refuses to fill a prescription, a patient has been denied legally prescribed medication. According to the Supreme Court, as seen in *Griswold v. Connecticut* and *Eisenstadt v. Baird*, a woman's right to access contraceptives is protected by her right to privacy. A woman's right to access contraceptives is not a right specified by the constitution whereas the right to free exercise of religion is. It only makes sense that a clearly stated first amendment right, the free exercise of religion, trumps a right drawn in the penumbra of the amendments, the right to privacy, in the pharmacist situation.

Furthermore, I live in Indiana and have not heard of any patient that was unable to attain her birth control medication. It is unreasonable to force a pharmacist to act against his or her religion in a matter so important as life or death — especially when practicing his or her religion does not truly infringe on another person's rights.

Nicholas Lynch
freshman
St. Edward's Hall
Dec. 4

A dying history

Across the nation, military history is gasping its last breath. Fewer military historians are hired as professors and even fewer schools offer courses which study the conduct of war. Sadly, Notre Dame is among the universities leading a quiet crusade against military history. We have over 30 full-time history faculty members, but not one is a military historian. Even in their self-described interests, not a single professor lists "war" of any era, although half list religious, gender, and race relations. We are fortunate enough to have Lieutenant Colonel Jordan, but he teaches here for Army ROTC, not because the history department hired him.

A casual observer might point to certain courses, such as "America in the Civil War," and claim that wars are still studied by Notre Dame students. The hard truth is that classes like "America in the Civil War" discuss everything from war widows to draft riots — everything, that is, except the war itself. In fact, a look at the syllabus for Notre Dame's course on the Civil War reveals that not a single day of class focuses on any battle.

If you are a professor reading this article, you are likely pulling out your hair, screaming that battlefield tactics have no place in an academic classroom. But is "guns'n'generals" history really not relevant, or do academics simply not want it to be? Integrating battlefield history back into our coursework is not only possible, it is essential.

Take, for example, the Battle of the Crater. We already read about the Emancipation Proclamation and runaway slaves joining the Union army. By shunning military history, however, we do not read about the black soldiers specially trained to spearhead the Union assault at Petersburg. At the last minute General Meade lost his confidence in the blacks and replaced them with white soldiers who had not been trained for the assault. The result: over 5,000 Union soldiers massacred.

Ignoring the tactical details of battles like Petersburg only weakens our history curriculum. Why did Meade lose faith in the black soldiers? Was this decision a question of prejudice, a loss of confidence in his sub-commanders, or perhaps a matter of political ramifications? These are provocative historical questions-but sadly, questions our students will never have to ask or answer.

Maybe instead of pondering those questions we should start by asking why our history department has not hired a professional military historian since Robert Kerby, in the 1970s? His classes were among the most popular in the history department, so why is it that after retiring he was never replaced? Or, in terms that General Meade might understand, why have Notre Dame and other top universities lost faith in the relevance of military history?

Greg Wagman
junior
Keough Hall
Nov. 29

EDITORIAL CARTOON



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Ninety percent of everything is crap."

Theodore Sturgeon
American author

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Dignity consists not in possessing honors, but in the consciousness that we deserve them."

Aristotle
Greek philosopher

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Controlling animalistic impulses

Asking the wrong question

The Viewpoint has been host to numerous disputes and controversies in its time, yet the question of whether or not human beings are animals caught me by surprise. Dan Amiri, in his Nov. 21 Letter to the Editor ("Encourage chastity, not 'free talk'") attempted to make the point, among others, that human beings are more than animals. He was trying to emphasize the fact that unlike animals, we have reason and free will, and we can use these to decide to go against what our baser passions sometimes tell us to do. When an animal's instinct tells it to have sex, it cannot disobey, because it has no higher reason or will to tell it otherwise. Humans, because we are rational animals with a free will, can disobey this desire. In fact this very mastery over our baser passions is a mark of our humanity.

In a discussion of premarital sex on campus (Joey Falco, Nov. 20, "Disloyal fathers"), perhaps this point needs to be raised. While it's true that some, perhaps even many, students are having sex outside of marriage, does the frequency of the practice make it morally defensible? Falco and others are right to bring our attention the problems of sexual assault, rape, venereal diseases and unplanned pregnancies, which often go unnoticed at Notre Dame and other campuses. Plays and movements such as "Loyal Daughters" and "The Vagina Monologues" seek to make people aware of these devastatingly painful realities. Yet one must realize that they are the consequences of a larger problem, one which the very proponents of these plays often serve to exacerbate.

A culture of sexual "liberation," without definition of sex's proper place within society or one's life, will necessarily lead to a climate of sexual unrestraint. Amiri sought to remind us that we can rise above our animalistic instincts and choose to restrain our sexual impulses for a greater good. The question, then, is not if man is an animal, but whether we as a society can truly live up to our humanity.

Chris Spellman
senior
off campus
Dec. 5

Choosing virtue

I would like to respond to many recent letters concerning whether or not humans are animals. Humans are indeed animals, but we are animals with rational and volitional capacities; that is, we can think and we can choose. Our most fundamental choice is to be rational or not, to think or to follow animalistic instinct. Our proper mode is to be free and rational persons choosing to act in accordance with reason and nature. Sure, we are able to act like brute animals, for this is part of the freedom of choice proper to us. But our perfection is found elsewhere.

In the words of Aristotle, "Man, when perfected, is the best of animals, but when separated from law and justice, he is the worst of all." What do I mean by "acting in accord with nature?" Nature in this sense is not wild. On the contrary, acting in accordance with nature requires that we act in a way which is best suited to our happiness as rational animals. How do we best achieve happiness? Anyone who has pursued wealth, pleasure, fame, or power to excess knows that they are empty and do not provide consistent or true happiness. Specifically with regard to pleasure-seeking, many students find themselves enslaved to their passions and unable to act freely — each week their need for sexual satisfaction increases. Indulging in the passions and allowing them to rule us turns us into brute animals. We become enslaved, irrational and out of control.

Happiness is ultimately found in virtue. The above things are good and must be seen as such. But virtue truly frees us and allows us to follow the lead of our intellect. The above things, when subordinated to and governed by reason, are truly good. Only when we seek the good freely and rationally are we able to achieve our final end: happiness. And for us to be able to do that, we must first be trained in virtue.

But humans are not at first perfectly and independently free to choose virtue. We naturally tend toward following our passions and instincts, toward animalistic behavior. This does not mean that we are not free to choose virtue, but that it requires external help. Anyone who has ever raised a child knows that humans must be trained

in virtue, trained to be free. In the words of St. Thomas, "Man is free insofar as he is rational." Our freedom cannot be achieved apart from reason. For our will to be strong enough to follow the dictates of reason, we must be trained in virtue so that the passions are rightly ordered.

With regard to the more recent letter citing Pope John Paul II: all humans have "higher capacities," but they may not be actively manifest in a particular human. Just because the rational and volitional capacities of the unborn are not yet manifest, does not mean that they lack dignity as persons. The late Pontiff was not making the claim that all particular humans are rational or spiritually free to choose virtue. He instead was saying that even if a given human behaves like a brute, by choice or by chance, he nevertheless has dignity as a human person. So, I would argue that in our culture and on college campuses in particular we lack the very "external help" which is so necessary for the development of virtue.

Let's not be deceived: in no way is the "dog," your average college student, under control, to use Dan Amiri's analogy ("Encourage chastity, not 'free talk,'" Nov. 21). We tend to be enslaved to our passions. We need to choose to behave rightly, but we are not yet completely able to do this on our own. To succeed in choosing virtue, we need, in part, to be disciplined and trained in virtue externally, in addition to internal conversion.

We are able to choose virtue, but not without help. I humbly remind anyone in authority, either in families, in the Church, or at this university, that true leadership is found neither in completely muzzling wild dogs nor in letting them run free. Rather, a misbehaving and untrained dog must be trained through active and systematic discipline. We can be separated from law and justice by our own choice or by the failure of our leaders. In either case the result is the same: we become the worst animals of all.

Jon Buttaci
sophomore
Morrissey
Dec. 2

EDITORIAL CARTOON



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Alums deserve tickets too

I am writing this letter to respond to the request of Mr. Mueller (Dec. 4, "Parents deserve tickets") to give parents more football tickets. While I could not agree more that parents make a football weekend complete, I have to say that I think maybe Mueller does not realize how few tickets even alumni receive. The fact is that while I enjoy watching our team even when we aren't the best, everyone (including me) is going to be more interested when the team is in the top 10. There are only so many tickets to go around. I got shafted this year, so did my friends. In fact I think most alumni under the age of 30 got shafted. You have to put in your dues before you can expect tickets. And, it is true that money talks to the administration. But, when you graduate and try to compare Notre Dame to other universities you'll find there is no basis. Notre Dame can continue to up my minimum annual donation necessary to obtain tickets because I'll pay it and you, the current student, will benefit. Give the guys in the dome a break — they are trying to keep Notre Dame on top.

Carrie Graf
alumna
Class of 2005
Dec. 4



JEFF ALBERT | Observer Graphic

MOVIE REVIEW

By RAMA GOTTUMUKKALA
Scene Writer

A tribesman is brutally captured and this noble son is sold into bondage, his life forfeit. Tormented by his instinctual need for freedom, he makes a last gasp at freedom.

The nearest emotional predecessor to Mel Gibson's "Apocalypto," an epic fable set amongst the fall of a crumbling Mayan civilization, isn't even a film at all. It's an acclaimed television series from the late 1970s — Alex Haley's "Roots."

The similarities between the two are numerous, not the least of which is their ability to burrow into the mind and gnaw at your conscience. With shocking imagery that bruises the senses, it's hard to ignore what's being said. The only difference is that "Apocalypto" comes with the kind of baggage that would sink a lesser film.

The tagline to "Apocalypto" — "No one can outrun their destiny." — applies just as aptly to Kunta Kinte, the emotional center of Haley's generational masterpiece, as it does to Jaguar Paw, the lead of Gibson's tale. Kunta's destiny is sealed as soon as he's sold to a slave ship heading for America. But when

Jaguar Paw manages to flee his captors, a magnificent chase begins.

The world of "Apocalypto" is one of primal, almost unearthly beauty. Jaguar Paw (Rudy Youngblood) lives amongst his family and friends, a proud member of a tribe that has hunted the surrounding jungle for generations. But Jaguar Paw's tranquil life is shattered when he and his brethren are captured and sold to Mayan rulers.

Sitting atop thrones of opulent splendor, these monarchs demand human sacrifice to appease the gods and seek blessings for their flagging crops. Jaguar Paw's end is one of hundreds freely offered to suit their ignoble means. As he mounts a fateful escape, Jaguar Paw races towards his family and a life he hopes to preserve for his sons and their sons after them.

Billed as a period piece by a director who has stamped his name on two of the most profitable enterprises from that genre, "Apocalypto" is a further evolution of Gibson's craft. "Braveheart" and "The

Passion of the Christ" were unmitigated successes. The former won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 1996 and granted Gibson

Best Director honors, and the latter drew in over \$610 million worldwide. But with a

July arrest for drunk driving and a subsequent anti-Semitic tirade still fresh media fodder, Gibson's latest passion project has drawn the public's eye for all the wrong reasons. Thankfully, "Apocalypto" is a film that rises above the storm clouds that surround Gibson, offering an experience unlike any other in recent years.

In an October interview with ComingSoon.net, Gibson cited his desire to make a chase movie as the principal motivation behind the film's genesis.

"And I thought, well, there's all kinds of chases. There's train chases, car chases, horse chases. I thought, a foot chase! ... That's as minimum and as primal as it gets: it's just feet, just running," Gibson said. "So of course then you start searching for an environment in which that could have happened."

Primal is the most apt description for Gibson's fight or flight thrill ride. The environment Gibson chose — the jungles of Mexico — is the perfect staging ground for a film that packs more adrenaline than a handful of Hollywood blockbusters. With foot races away from panthers and hurdles over jungle ravines, "Apocalypto" is a rush to behold, a picture that hinges on pure sensation rather than a deeper meaning — which is both its greatest

strength and its harshest weakness.

Over its course, "Apocalypto" takes a sharp detour from the deep feeling and quiet poignancy that pervades its first half hour. Though Gibson settled on authentic Yucatec Maya to communicate the film's deep sentiments, there's nothing foreign in the profound love shared by husbands and wives, fathers and sons and extended families. When this harmony is broken, the ensuing bloodletting is vicious and unsettling, violence that spirals through to the very edge of the film's conclusion. And perhaps that's the point here — the heavy price of freedom.

Supported by lush cinematography and moving performances, this film is another demonstration of Gibson's undeniable talent behind the camera. When the dust settles, will "Apocalypto" stand the test of time? "Roots" has. Sadly, "Apocalypto" hinges the fate of an entire civilization on the turmoil of one man's life — a lofty goal, but one that's ultimately short sighted.

By film's end, it's hard to shake the feeling that Gibson's purest reason for conceiving the film was realized — that all he made was a chase film, and nothing more.

Contact Rama Gottumukkala at rgottumu@nd.edu

THE PASSION OF MEL GIBSON

If you've seen the trailer for Mel Gibson's "Apocalypto," you were no doubt intrigued. But what makes this film different from other Hollywood box-office-busters? The answer lies in the controversies surrounding director Mel Gibson.

Laura Miller

Although many people have trouble accepting the ethical decisions of Hollywood's rich and famous, it rarely keeps them from attending films. But the controversy surrounding Gibson indicates that he might be an exception to this trend. Here are a few things to consider before going seeing Gibson's newest flick:

Scene Writer

If you, like most, are annoyed by Hollywood's constant trouble with the law, consider that Gibson has been arrested twice for drunk driving, and has a long history of drug and alcohol abuse. The first was in Canada, where he was fined \$400.

The second occurred in the United States, where he received three years probation.

A more politically oriented person might wish to consider that Gibson is actively against: stem cell research, abortion, withdrawal of life support (as in the case of Terri Schiavo), and gay and lesbian equal rights. He is for the death penalty. Despite his general pro-life stance, consider how Gibson reacts to a critic. He says of an unauthorized author of a biography, "I don't think God will put him in my path. He deserves death."

For those who are socially aware, know that in 2005, Gibson raked in a heaping \$185 million. Publicly announced donations (that could be easily located) amassed to a mere \$11 million, about 6 percent of his total income. Oprah Winfrey donated 22 percent of her annual income in the same year, coming to a total of more than \$50 million. Most devout Christians, Jews and Muslims consider an appropriate tithe to be about 10 percent.

Many Catholics show concern for Gibson's religious ideologies, but his stances are potentially even more offensive to non-Catholics. Gibson's version of Catholicism is one of the most striking aspects of his personal life. He is a part of the Catholic Traditional Movement (CTM), which concludes an official statement of their origins in a quote from St. Pope Pius V (1570), "And if anyone could...ever dare to attempt any action contrary to this order of ours...let him know that he has incurred the wrath of Almighty God and of the apostles Peter and Paul."

The CTM considers most of the documents of Vatican II to be heretical, believes that under no circumstance should anything ever be changed in the structure of the Catholic Mass, that all Masses should be conducted in Latin, and that every pope since 1960 has been "spurious."

CTM also believes that Mary is equal to Jesus in her status of mediator and redeemer. In order to support this move-

ment, Gibson has founded his own church called "The Church of the Holy Family." Membership is exclusive.

This is not an attempt to start a boycott, but a call for people to spend their money carefully. If you are upset about paying your taxes because you don't like what they are paying for, how is buying a movie ticket much different? Buying a movie ticket is a statement of support for the actors and directors of a particular film. Viewers are handing over their money to consequently be enraged by how it is being used. And then viewers spend even more money pushing their old money through the court systems of California. More than ever, it is time to weigh entertainment and ethics against each other. In some movies, they can't both win.

Contact Laura Miller at lmiller8@nd.edu
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Mayan warriors wait in the jungle for their human prey in "Apocalypto." The film marks the directorial return for Mel Gibson after his drunk driving arrest in July.



Photo courtesy of movieweb.com

Mayan warriors Jaguar Paw (Rudy Youngblood), center, and his father, Flint Sky (Morris Birdyellowhead), converse before a hunt in Mel Gibson's "Apocalypto."

The Observer's Christmas Gift Guide by The Scene Staff

Books:

"I Like You: Hospitality Under the Influence" by Amy Sedaris

Actress and comedian Amy Sedaris dishes out her own humorous guide to hospitality complete with recipes and crafts. Chapters include "A Rich Uncle Comes to Visit" and "Lumberjack Lunch."

"The Audrey Hepburn Treasures" foreword by Sean Hepburn Ferrer

A must-have for any Audrey Hepburn fan, "Treasures" serves as a pseudo-scrapbook of Hepburn's life. It includes reproductions of her birth certificate as well as letters she sent to friends and family.

"Treasure of Khan" by Clive Cussler and Dirk Cussler

The popular Dirk Pitt series returns in this latest Cussler book, where Pitt and friends must stop a murderous tycoon's plans for world domination. The action ranges from Hawaii to Mongolia and Siberia in this adventure thriller.

"Thirteen Moons: A Novel" by Charles Frazier

"Cold Mountain" author Charles Frazier returns with "Thirteen Moons," the story of Will Cooper, a man whose remarkable life stretches from the great battles of the Civil War to the invention of the telephone.

Gadgets:

iRiverClix

An alternative to the iPod Nano, the iRiverClix includes features like a built-in FM radio tuner, voice recorder and alarm clock. It can also be integrated with both Windows Media Player 11 and MTV Urge.

iPod Nano

Now in a 4 GB size, the new Nanos can store more in a variety of colors. Rather than simply white, black or silver, the Nano can be green, pink or even red.

DVDs:

"Pirates of the Caribbean – Dead Man's Chest"

Captain Jack Sparrow sails the biggest film of the summer into stores on a special-features loaded DVD. Fans can swashbuckle with the whole "Pirates" crew in anticipation of next summer's third film.

"Saturday Night Live: The Complete First Season"

Finally, an entire season of "SNL" is on DVD and it comes in the form of the groundbreaking first season with the series' original Not-Ready-For-Primetime Players. Included are all 24 episodes with original music and cast member screen tests.

"The Complete Superman Collection"

Finally, the male answer to the "Sex and the City" DVD collection — the ultimate grouping of Superman films brings Clark Kent back to life in stunningly redone visual splendor.

"An Inconvenient Truth"

With a package made from 100 percent post-recyclable materials, Al Gore's environmental documentary features a captivating slide show that not only makes the viewer believe in the reality of global warming, but also in the reality of Gore's coolness.

Music:

"Dreamgirls: Music from the Motion Picture"

The soundtrack of the much-anticipated, Oscar-buzzworthy musical "Dreamgirls" features the vocal talent of Beyonce and the powerhouse voice of Jennifer Hudson. Look for Hudson to steal the picture and the soundtrack.

"Eminem Presents: The Re-Up"

The latest project from Eminem features new artists Ca\$his, Stat Quo and Bobby Creakwater. The album is compiled in a mix-tape fashion in order to promote its up and coming artists.

Video Gaming:

Wii: Officially the most unique and creative gaming system of the season, the Nintendo Wii has finally arrived. What makes the Wii so interesting is its wireless, motion-sensitive remote.

"Gears of War"

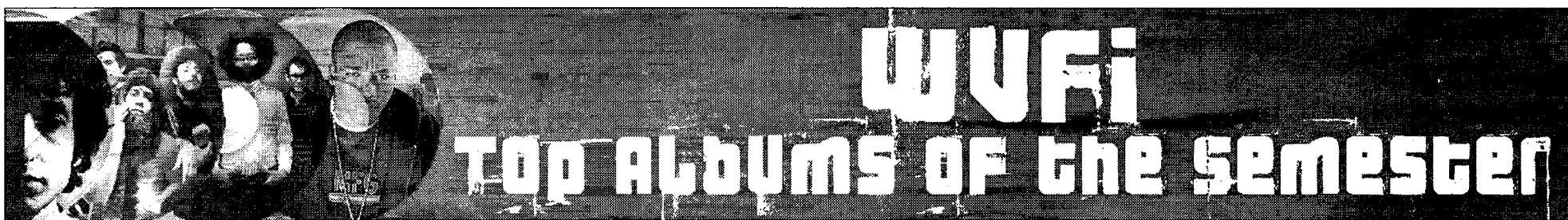
A great new title for the Xbox 360 gaming system, "Gears of War" uses cutting edge graphics to profile the quest of humankind to fight a monstrous race known as the Locust Horde.

"NCAA Football 2007"

With interactive elements such as living the life of a student athlete and maintaining a high GPA and also better football intelligence and gameplay, NCAA Football 2007 is the latest and most in-depth video game in the EA series.

"Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six: Vegas"

The newest in a popular first-person shooter series, the sin-city version has received high rankings for its detailed graphics and realistic gameplay. The game takes full advantage of any next-generation console and is a must have for any gamer.



JEFF ALBERT | Observer Graphic

By JOHN SIEGEL
Scene Writer

WVFI Music Director John Siegel compiled a list of the top albums of the past semester. Individual opinions from members of the WVFI staff and the weekly charts from the past semester are the basis for the list.

There are new releases by old favorites from both the independent and mainstream music scenes. Many independent artists transitioned to mainstream record labels and began new chapters of their careers. Some new faces also made big splashes this past semester and left a last impression on listeners.

The Hold Steady: "Boys and Girls in America"

The Hold Steady's first release for Vagrant Records builds off of the high points of their previous albums "Separation Sunday" and "Almost Killed Me." Front man Craig Finn continues telling tales of love, faith and the odd characters that inhabit Finn's Minneapolis.

Guitar riffs run wild, but the band also knows how to slow things down on tracks like "First Night" and "Citrus." The album also highlights Finn's improvement as a singer. His gruff voice balances the right amount of edge and melody to cement The Hold Steady's status as the best bar band in America.

Brand New: "The Devil and God are Raging Inside of Me"

Brand New returned from their self-imposed exile from the world of emo with a confident and intense follow up to 2003's "Deja Entendu." Primary songwriter Jesse Lacey approaches the songs with the same struggle between arrogance and insecurity that "Deja Entendu" displayed. However, Brand New shows how much they have grown as musicians and artists, using more complex instrumentation and producing sometimes soothing and sometimes chaotic music.

Bob Dylan: "Modern Times"

Dylan's 31st studio album debuted to both critical acclaim and wild success. "Modern Times" proves that Bob Dylan is still making relevant and thought-provoking music. The music on "Modern Times" falls somewhere between more traditional country and folk, but Dylan's artistry overcomes any reservations lis-



Photo courtesy of lustrucos.com

A young Bob Dylan walks with a tire in this famous 1963 photo. His new album, "Modern Times," which blends country and folk in a traditional Dylan way, is his first in five years.

teners might have about either country or folk.

Ben Kweller: "Ben Kweller"

Ben Kweller has mellowed in his mid-20s and his latest album showcases his newfound musical and personal maturity. Kweller's third release gains from its clear production, which removes the harsher elements of Kweller's early releases.

The songs on "Ben Kweller" center on piano melodies and acoustic accompaniment, but Kweller is a gifted songwriter who can add emotion and energy to simple arrangements. Kweller also looks into himself, recalling his past on the intimate track "Thirteen." Kweller's latest is a credit to his songwriting and a preview of his potential as a top-notch musician.

TV on the Radio: "Return to Cookie Mountain"

Fans may have been apprehensive of TV on the Radio moving to a major label, but "Return to Cookie Mountain" shows that any fears are unfounded. TV on the Radio delighted both critics and fans with a more straightforward approach and energetic songs like the single "Wolf Like Me." TV on the Radio fan and Classic Rock legend David Bowie guests on the track "Province."

Joanna Newsom: "Ys"

The track list of Joanna Newsom's latest album is only five songs long. However, Newsom's second album contains almost an hour's worth of music. Newsom composes longer and more ornate songs on "Ys." Newsom's voice still stays in the foreground with its elegant soaring and charming chirping. A full orchestra accompanies her unique voice and signature harp. The orchestra adds interesting layers to each song and enhances the Newsom's lyrical tales.

Cold War Kids: "Robbers and Cowards"

Cold War Kids are one of the year's indie rock success stories, having built up hype with a series of EP's and tours over the past year. Eventually, they released their full length album "Robbers and Cowards" in October. The album highlights the blues-influenced vocal and piano talents of Nathan Willett. The band backs Willett up with a quirky mix of guitars drowned in echo, overdriven bass guitars and loose drumming. Willett's voice is filled with enthusiasm and a soul not often found in today's rock music. "Robbers and Cowards" opener "We Used to Vacation" contemplates a family man's struggles to deal with his despair and his family. Cold War Kids approach the song with

optimism singing, "Still things could be much worse. We still got our health, my paycheck in the mail."

Malajube: "Trompe-l'oeil"

In recent years, Montreal has established itself as one of the most interesting and successful music scenes in recent years. The Arcade Fire, Wolf Parade and Islands all started in Montreal. All three bands also have enjoyed breakout success outside of Canada. Malajube is another one of these bands from Montreal, and employ the same elements that make other Montreal bands interesting and successful. Their musical talent overcomes a potential barrier given their French lyrics. "Trompe-l'oeil" is full of fun pop songs. The rollicking "Montréal -40°C" is an energetic and enjoyable jumble of keyboards, drums and loud guitars.

The Decemberists: "The Crane Wife"

"The Crane Wife" was one of the most highly anticipated releases of 2006. The Decemberists produce 12 tracks, weaving their way through Japanese folk tales and stories of family feuds. Lead singer Colin Meloy's slightly nasal voice gives "The Crane Wife" a charming and personal quality. The Decemberists show that they are able to run the gamut of songs, from the love ballad "O Valencia!" to the epic and wandering "The Island." The band gets a little help from Death Cab for Cutie's Chris Walla. In the end, The Decemberists make a great album that balances the epic, the earthly and the odd.

Lupe Fiasco: "Food and Liquor"

In recent years, many hip-hop artists out of Chicago have found success nationwide. Lupe Fiasco is the next in the line of Chicago rappers to have done this. Taking cues from Kanye West, Fiasco produced his debut album to completely take over the creative direction of his music. The result is a mix of Fiasco's personal experience and his observations of life. The lead single "Kick, Push" discusses the problems of some of his friends, but emphasizes skateboarding as a way to escape everyday problems.

Contact John Siegel at jsiegel1@nd.edu



Photo courtesy of malajube.com

The Canadian pop-rock band Malajube strikes poses as unique and creative as its music. Its album "Trompe-l'oeil," all in French lyrics, embodies local Canadian tunes.



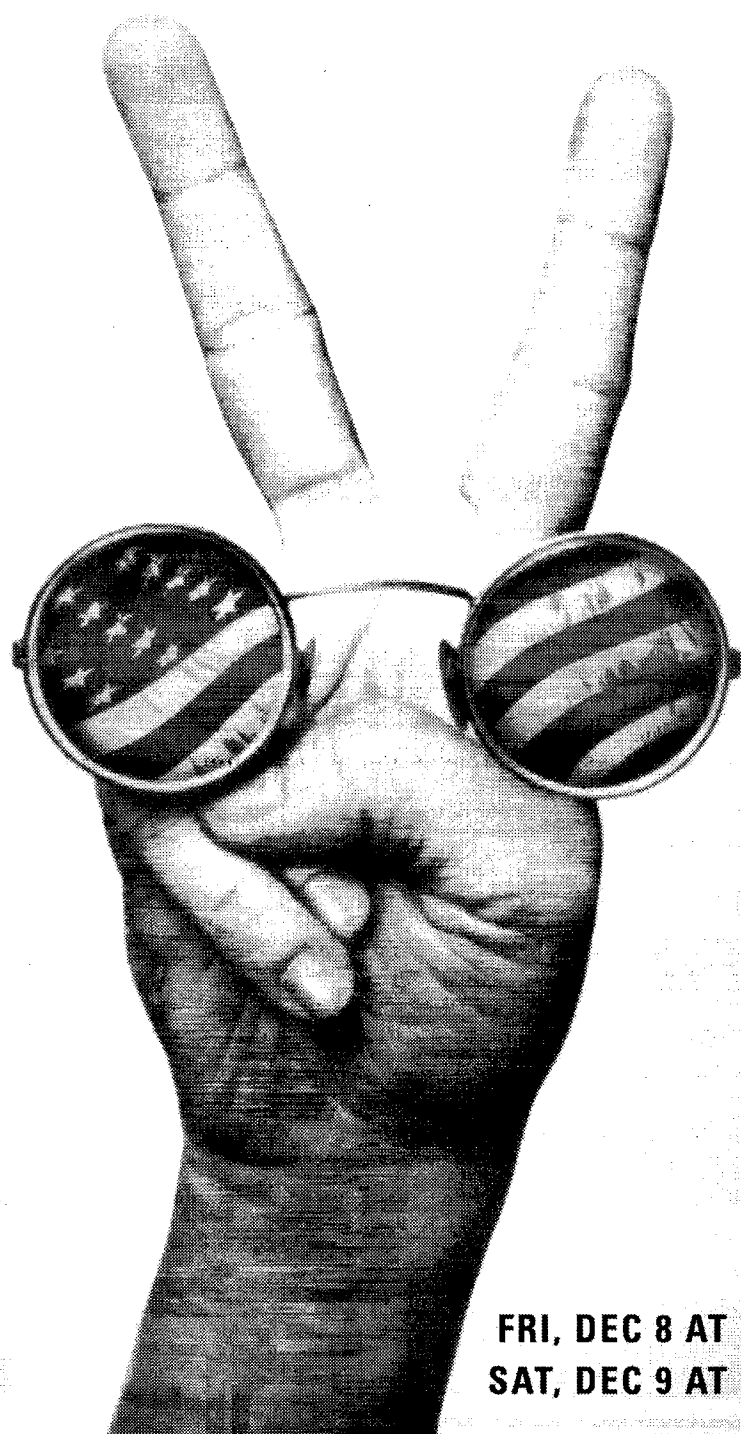
Photo courtesy of bluegrass.com

The Decemberists form an indie rock group that uses a wide range of instruments in its progressive rock. "The Crane Wife" cracked the Billboard Top 40 list.

FROM THE STUDIO THAT BROUGHT YOU *FAHRENHEIT 9/11*

THE U.S. vs. JOHN LENNON

ARTIST. HUMANITARIAN. NATIONAL THREAT.



DIRECTED BY
DAVID LEAF

FRI, DEC 8 AT 7 PM AND 10 PM
SAT, DEC 9 AT 7 PM AND 10 PM

ALL YOU NEED IS A GIRL AND A GUN: Pre'68 Cinema of Jean-Luc Godard

Pierrot Le Fou (1965)
Thu, Dec 14 at 7:00 pm
Sat, Dec 16 at 3:00 pm

Alphaville (1965)
Fri, Dec 15 at 7:00 pm

Le Petit Soldat (1963)
Sat, Dec 16 at 7:00 pm

Les Carabiniers (1963)
Sun, Dec 17 at 4:00 pm

Special thanks to **Tom Yoshokami** from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, for initiating this project, and **Francois Leloup-Collet** from the French Embassy in New York.

COMING TO THE DPAC NEXT SEMESTER

Chris Thile and Edgar Meyer
Friday, January 19, 2007, at 8:00 pm
Tickets: \$30, \$25 faculty/staff, \$25 seniors, and \$15 all students
Bass legend Edgar Meyer returns to DPAC, performing an evening of bluegrass with the help of Nickel Creek's mandolin player Chris Thile.

New Orleans Jazz Orchestra
Saturday, February 3, 2007, at 8:00 pm
Tickets: \$36, \$30 faculty/staff, \$30 seniors, and \$15 all students
NOJO – the ensemble that defines and celebrates America's own native musical form, jazz – presents "New Orleans: Then and Now," directed by trumpeter Irvin Mayfield.

Hungarian State Folk Ensemble
Tuesday, February 13, 2007, at 7:30 pm
Tickets: \$36, \$30 faculty/staff, \$30 seniors, and \$15 all students
The Hungarian State Folk Ensemble performs a rich, colorful program of traditional Hungarian and Gypsy folk dances.

BROWNING CINEMA

The U.S. vs. John Lennon (2006)
Directed by David Leaf
PG-13, 96 minutes
35mm print
Fri, Dec 8 at 7:00 and 10:00 pm
Sat, Dec 9 at 7:00 and 10:00 pm

Double Indemnity (1944)
PAC Classic 100
Directed by Billy Wilder
Not Rated, 107 minutes
35mm print
Sat, Dec 9 at 3:00 pm

Pierrot Le Fou (1965)
All You Need is a Girl and a Gun:
Pre-1968 Cinema of Jean-Luc Godard
Directed by Jean-Luc Godard
NR, 110 minutes
French Language with English subtitles
35mm print
Thu, Dec 14 at 7:00 pm
Sat, Dec 16 at 3:00 pm

Alphaville (1965)
All You Need is a Girl and a Gun:
Pre-1968 Cinema of Jean-Luc Godard
Directed by Jean-Luc Godard
NR, 99 minutes
French Language with English subtitles
35mm print
Friday, December 15, 2006, at 7:00 pm

Le Petit Soldat (1963)
All You Need is a Girl and a Gun:
Pre-1968 Cinema of Jean-Luc Godard
Directed by Jean-Luc Godard
NR, 88 minutes
French Language with English subtitles
35mm print
Sat, Dec 16 at 7:00 pm

Les Carabiniers (1963)
All You Need is a Girl and a Gun:
Pre-1968 Cinema of Jean-Luc Godard
Directed by Jean-Luc Godard
NR, 83 minutes
French Language with English subtitles
35mm print
Sun, Dec 17 at 4:00 pm

FILM LINE: 631-FILM

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You can buy your tickets online, or call the DPAC Ticket Office at 631-2800.

NBA

Nowitzki, Mavericks get back to winning ways

Randolph ensures that return trip to Michigan is a happy one as his 31 points, 13 rebounds lead Portland over Detroit

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The Dallas Mavericks weren't too happy about losing their 12-game winning streak, and the struggling New Jersey Nets wound up paying for it.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 26 points and Josh Howard added 23 to lead Dallas past New Jersey 92-75 Tuesday night.

In its 106-97 loss to the Wizards on Monday, Dallas played lethargically until late in the game and at one point trailed by 31 points before rallying in the fourth quarter.

Coach Avery Johnson detected a somber mood on the trip north.

"We were really embarrassed," he said. "The plane was quiet, the bus was quiet. Usually some guys are playing games, but there were no games being played. That's a good sign. We don't take losing well."

The Mavericks never trailed against the Nets, built a 17-point lead in the third quarter and held off a New Jersey rally early in the fourth. Howard attributed the fast start to the way the Mavericks ended Monday's game.

"We did an excellent job in the fourth quarter and it carried over to tonight," he said. "We knew what we needed to do."

Howard has developed into the perfect complement to Nowitzki, and the fourth-year swingman had led or co-led Dallas in scoring in three of the last four games. On Tuesday, he and Nowitzki scored all of the Mavericks' points in a 13-4 run midway through the fourth quarter that gave them an 88-71 lead with 3:10 left.

With Nowitzki scoring a quiet 10 points in the first half, Howard picked up the slack with 15 points on 7-for-10 shooting.

"He has the ability to contribute when he's not scoring, and he's keeping the right level of concentration for longer stretches," Johnson said of Howard.

Vince Carter scored 20 points for New Jersey, which has lost seven of its last nine games but is still tied with Toronto atop the Atlantic Division at 7-10. Even with the league's hottest team in town, the Nets couldn't match the Mavericks' energy on either end of the floor.

"It just seemed like Dallas had a great sense of urgency and we weren't able to meet it," Nets coach Lawrence Frank said. "We just didn't seem, for whatever reason, to have a great deal of pep in our step."

Portland 88, Detroit 85

Detroit basketball fans have fond memories of Zach Randolph's days at Michigan State.

They aren't enjoying his pro career quite as much.

Randolph had 31 points and 13 rebounds Tuesday night, including a go-ahead basket with 21.6 seconds to go, and the Portland Trail Blazers snapped a five-game losing streak with a win over Detroit.

"This is a big win," he said. "You can't do better than this — starting a road trip by beating one of the best teams in the league."

Randolph had a career-high 37 points in his last trip to the Palace, a 93-89 loss on Dec. 20, 2005.

"I love playing in Detroit," he said. "I went to college around here, and I love coming back."

Richard Hamilton had 25 for Detroit, which lost its second straight after an eight-game winning streak.

"This was a horrible loss for us," said Chauncey Billups, who kept the Pistons close with eight points in the final 4 minutes. "These are the kind of games that can haunt you late in the season."

Detroit also lost Sunday in Charlotte. The Trail Blazers and Bobcats are a combined 12-24.

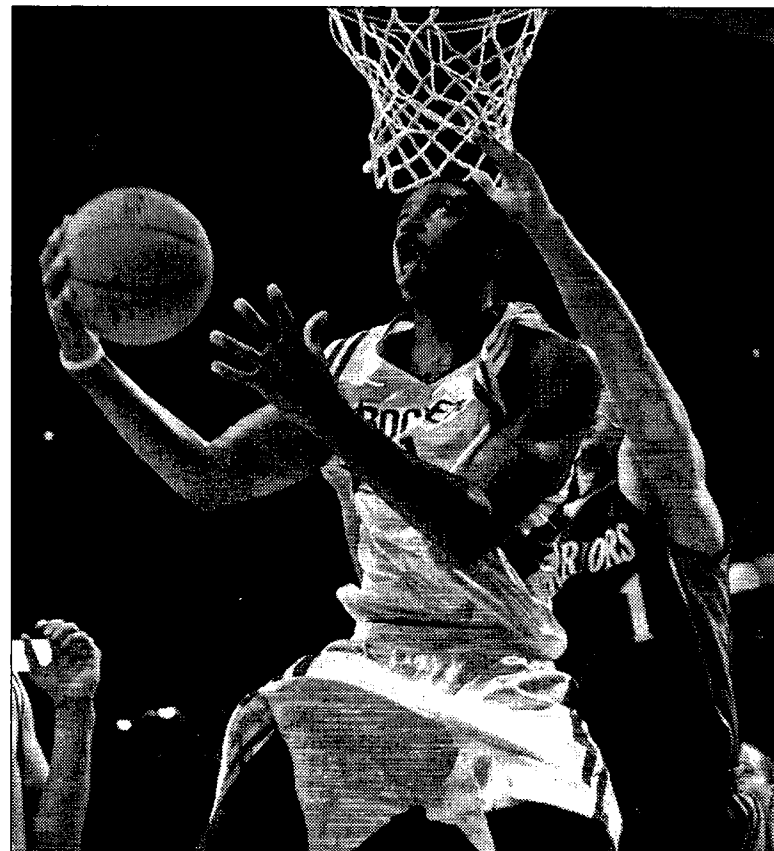
"We haven't had a sense of urgency in the last two games," Pistons coach Flip Saunders said. "When you win eight in a row, you start maybe feeling too good about yourself."

Juan Dixon's jumper broke an 80-all tie with 2:13 left, and after Billups made a technical-foul free throw, Jarrett Jack hit two shots from the line to give the Trail Blazers an 84-81 lead.

Rasheed Wallace's layup made it a one-point game, and Dixon missed a long jumper before Billups gave the Pistons the lead with a 22-footer. Randolph answered with a driving jumper over Tayshaun Prince, putting Portland ahead 86-85.

Hamilton missed twice at the other end and Jack increased the margin to three with a pair of free throws with 2 seconds to play. Hamilton shot an air-ball at the buzzer.

"I'm happy," Portland coach Nate McMillan said. "We just beat an unbelievable team on the road after some disappointing losses at home."



Houston guard Tracy McGrady elevates for a layup as Golden State forward and ex-Irish star Troy Murphy goes for the block.

Houston 118, Golden State 90

The game in hand, Tracy McGrady used the third quarter against Golden State on Tuesday night to polish his repertoire.

McGrady scored 13 of his 31 points in the quarter as the Houston Rockets routed the Warriors.

"I was trying to do some explosive things that I haven't been doing all year," said McGrady, who hit 13 of 25 shots and dished out seven assists. "This was a great opportunity to go out and try that because we had a comfortable lead. I'm just trying to take it to another level now."

McGrady showed no effects from the concussion he suffered after taking an elbow from teammate Dikembe Mutombo in Saturday's win over Cleveland. In a 30-second sequence in the third quarter, McGrady picked off a steal, drove for a break-away layup, then hit a 3-pointer from the top of the key.

"I surprised myself tonight with some of the things I did," he said.

Yao Ming added 27 points and grabbed eight rebounds for the Rockets, who've won six of their last seven games and six in a row at the Toyota Center.

Chuck Hayes grabbed a career-high 15 rebounds and Juwan Howard added 11 points and 11 rebounds for the Rockets, who shot 54 percent (45-of-84) against the NBA's worst defense.

Yao manhandled Golden State's big men, making 12 of 17 shots, most of them dunks and layups.

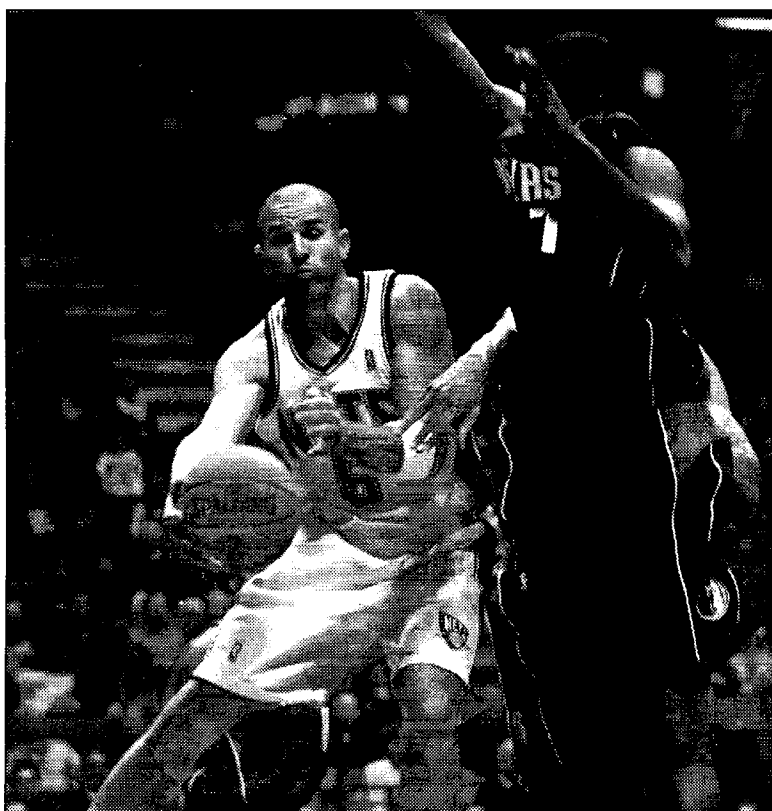
"This is my job, man," Yao said. "They put single coverage on me. So all I had to do was catch the ball and go."

Houston was the fourth straight opponent to reach at least 108 points against Golden State. The Warriors came in allowing an NBA-worst 106 points per game.

Monta Ellis scored 19 and Baron Davis added 18 points for the Warriors, who've lost four in a row since coach Don Nelson earned his 1,199th career victory. Nelson is trying to join Lenny Wilkens as the only coaches to reach the 1,200-win plateau.

Nelson was in no mood to talk about the elusive milestone after the game.

"We didn't play well offensively or pass or move the ball or execute our game plan," he said. "We proved we are not ready to play the best teams in the NBA."



New Jersey guard Jason Kidd, left, looks to pass the ball around Dallas center DeSagana Diop. Dallas won 92-75 Tuesday night.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

LOST AND FOUND

LOST: Spiral notebook, teal cover with angels with trumpets on the cover. Call Tom 631-9806.

FOUND: winter hat near Engineering Bldg. Call Tom 631-9806 to identify.

WANTED

WANTED: 1990 or 91 The Shirt. \$100 for quality shirt. Call Dan at 712-251-0930.

Need diving coach part time 2-3 afternoons/wk.

Girls & boys teams.

Call Washington High School Athletic Dept.

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BABYSITTER NEEDED. Local family is seeking babysitter for 1-1/2 year-old boy. Flexible hours, Tues/Thurs. preferred. Must have references. 574-271-0747.

Seeking babysitter for 2 & 4 yr old girls, approx 10 hrs/wk. Prefer afternoons. Contact sbaer@nd.edu

FOR RENT

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PERSONAL

Merry Christmas, everyone.

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Bowl Game Projections: Notre Dame - 31, LSU - 28 Ohio State - 41, Florida - 24 Michigan - 27, USC - 14 the other two BCS games do not merit predictions

AROUND THE NATION

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 19

NBA

Eastern Conference, Atlantic

team	record	perc.	last 10
New Jersey	7-10	.412	3-7
Toronto	7-10	.412	5-5
New York	7-13	.350	3-7
Boston	5-11	.312	4-6
Philadelphia	5-11	.312	2-8

Eastern Conference, Central

team	record	perc.	last 10
Detroit	11-7	.611	8-2
Cleveland	10-7	.588	5-5
Indiana	9-10	.474	5-5
Chicago	8-9	.471	5-5
Milwaukee	6-11	.353	4-6

Eastern Conference, Southeast

team	record	perc.	last 10
Orlando	14-5	.737	8-2
Atlanta	7-8	.467	3-7
Miami	7-9	.438	4-6
Washington	7-10	.412	4-6
Charlotte	5-12	.294	4-6

Western Conference, Southwest

team	record	perc.	last 10
Dallas	13-5	.722	9-1
San Antonio	13-5	.722	7-3
Houston	12-5	.706	7-3
New Orleans	8-8	.500	4-6
Memphis	4-13	.235	3-7

Western Conference, Northwest

team	record	perc.	last 10
Utah	15-4	.789	7-3
Denver	10-5	.667	8-2
Minnesota	7-9	.438	5-5
Seattle	7-11	.389	3-7
Portland	7-12	.368	3-7

Western Conference, Pacific

team	record	perc.	last 10
L.A. Lakers	12-5	.706	8-2
Phoenix	10-6	.625	9-1
L.A. Clippers	8-8	.500	3-7
Golden State	9-10	.474	3-7
Sacramento	8-9	.471	3-7

AP Top 25 Men's Basketball

team	record	points
1 UCLA	6-0	1781
2 Pittsburgh	8-0	1713
3 North Carolina	6-1	1619
4 Alabama	7-0	1550
5 Ohio State	7-1	1510
6 Texas A&M	7-0	1385
7 Duke	7-1	1168
8 Florida	7-2	1168
9 LSU	4-1	1099
10 Wichita State	6-0	1016
11 Wisconsin	7-1	996
12 Kansas	6-2	947
13 Washington	6-0	908
14 Arizona	5-1	850
15 Butler	9-0	817
16 Memphis	5-1	816
17 Marquette	8-1	731
18 Gonzaga	8-1	703
19 Connecticut	7-0	694
20 Nevada	7-0	461
21 Syracuse	7-1	374
22 Oklahoma State	9-0	157
23 Maryland	8-1	135
24 Xavier	6-1	123
25 Georgia Tech	6-2	120

around the dial

NCAA BASKETBALL

Villanova at Oklahoma

7 p.m., ESPN

Memphis at Dayton

9 p.m., ESPN

NHL



The Blues retire former right wing Brett Hull's number Tuesday as his father Bobby, far right, looks on. Hull, who was traded to St. Louis during the 1987 season and stayed until 1998, also had a street named after him.

Blues honor Hull by retiring jersey

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS —The Blues didn't stop at retiring Brett Hull's No. 16 jersey on Tuesday night. They also arranged to name a street after him.

Just the jersey would have been plenty for Hull, who thanked his enforcers for taking good care of him, admitted to his old coaches that he knew he could be a handful, and even thanked the media while bragging that his exploits certainly made their job easier.

"To have an organization think that much of you is more than one guy

can ask," Hull said.

Hull's nickname, "Golden Brett" was a takeoff of father Bobby Hull's moniker, "Golden Jet." The pair are the only father-son combination to each score 600 goals and 1,000 points, and now they're the only father and son to have their jerseys retired in any sport.

The banner with Hull's number was slowly raised to the rafters to a Neil Young rock song with appropriate lyrics: "Old man take a look at my life, I'm a lot like you."

The team also arranged to call the street that bor-

ders their arena "Brett Hull Way."

Hull outscored his dad, 741-610. Bobby Hull's No. 9 was retired by the Chicago Blackhawks in 1983.

Adam Oates was among the 20 former teammates who attended the ceremonies before the Blues-Red Wings game. The present Blues players all wore No. 16 during warmups, just as they all wore No. 2 during Al MacInnis' jersey retirement ceremony last April.

"Brett, nothing compares to the three years I got to play with you," Oates said. "It was the

highlight of my career."

Chairman David Checketts made honoring Hull a top priority when his ownership group took over last summer. He was hopeful that the occasion, which prompted the first sellout crowd of the season for a struggling franchise often playing to half-capacity or less, would spur the beginning of a revival.

Hull recalled a fiery dressing-down from Brian Sutter, his first coach with the Blues, as pivotal in his career. The rookie said he thought Sutter was going to tell him, "Boy, am I lucky to be coaching you."

IN BRIEF

Ten finalists named for baseball Hall of Fame's broadcast award

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — Dizzy Dean, Ken Harrelson and Joe Nuxhall are among 10 finalists for the 2007 Ford C. Frick Award, presented by the baseball Hall of Fame for major contributions to broadcasting.

Denny Matthews, Bill King, Tom Cheek, Tony Kubek, France Laux, Graham McNamee, and Dave Niehaus also were candidates announced Tuesday. Harrelson, Matthews and Niehaus are the only ones still active.

Fans cast more than 75,000 votes in November at the Hall of Fame's Web site, with King (11,943), Nuxhall (8,049), and Harrelson (6,795) being selected for the ballot. The other seven broadcasters were chosen by a research committee from the museum.

Voters based selections on longevity, continuity with a club, honors, including national assignments such as the World Series and All-Star Game, and popularity with fans.

NASCAR to air on DirecTV in 2007 season, will debut at Daytona 500

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The sport that already offers unprecedented fan access is going one step further in 2007, allowing DirecTV viewers to watch an entire NASCAR race from behind the wheel.

NASCAR HotPass will debut on DirecTV at the Daytona 500 in February and offer fans at home the opportunity to watch a race from a driver's vantage point. Subscribers will have access to five channels dedicated to individual drivers, who will change every week.

Each channel will have up to six cameras and two isolated announcers focusing solely on one driver for an entire race. Viewers will have access to in-car audio communication, real-time statistics and cameras covering every angle from inside the race car to the pit box and all around the track.

HotPass is the brainchild of Fox Sports chairman David Hill.

New video system allows college athletes to attend classes digitally

INDIANAPOLIS — Former St. John's basketball coach Mike Jarvis has seen college athletes struggle to balance class work with a team's schedule.

Now he's offering a virtual solution to help those players succeed.

Jarvis has teamed up with VBrick Systems on a product aimed at helping athletes improve their academic performance by attending classes through a digital video system that can be played on computers, cell phones or iPods. A presentation on it is expected at this week's Intercollegiate Athletic Forum in New York City.

"The first solution is improving attendance. You and I know that if you're not there, it's hard to do your job well," Jarvis told The Associated Press. "The other part is retention. ... This gives youngsters the opportunity to repeat classes over and over."

NFL

Young leads Titans from rebuilding to red hot

Rookie quarterback has coach, teammates excited about future

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — It's as close to "I told you so" as Tennessee Titans coach Jeff Fisher will ever get.

Fans wanted him fired. His owner wouldn't give him a vote of confidence. And the once-dominant franchise turned doormat hit its lowest point with suspensions and off-field issues to complement an 0-5 start.

And now?

The Titans (5-7) are one of the NFL's hottest teams, winners of five of seven, with the last two featuring riveting comebacks. The playoffs, which seemed at least two years away, suddenly are a mathematical possibility, and Fisher's job couldn't be more secure.

"I said a long time ago that these guys are working hard, and they trust each other," Fisher said. "When you have those combinations of good things going on, things eventually will turn around."

Like this?

The Titans tied for the second-best comeback in NFL history in the final 10 minutes with 24

unanswered points against the New York Giants on Nov. 26. They then rallied from 0-14 in beating two-time NFL MVP Peyton Manning and the Colts with Rob Bironas' 60-yard field goal in the final seconds.

"It is almost like a statement to let people in our division and people around the league know that we are almost back to where we were," linebacker Keith Bulluck said. "So they know what happens when we start rolling."

Credit for the franchise's dramatic turnaround goes to Fisher, the coach other teams wish they could steal, and Vince Young, the rookie quarterback the Titans chose to rebuild around.

The franchise that had four playoff berths in five seasons slumped to nine wins combined the past two years, mired in a salary cap mess and forced to build through the draft. Steve McNair, the quarterback for 11 seasons, was too expensive and too old to do the extra work needed, and the Titans botched his departure in their worst move since deciding to play a season in Memphis.

Wanting to save money on a \$23.46 million salary cap hit, they had a trainer tell McNair he couldn't work out in their building anymore and fought his grievance through arbitration. They let his agent negotiate with Baltimore after they drafted his successor in Young, then held off



Titans quarterback Vince Young evades Colts linebacker Cato June. Tennessee won Sunday's game 20-17.

trading McNair until June, infuriating fans.

Publicly, Fisher said McNair gave them the best chance to win. Fisher already had Norm Chow at offensive coordinator, a coach known for developing quarterbacks.

But it was Fisher, only the 12th man in NFL history to coach 200 games with the same team, who changed some of his ways. He

took the Titans away from training camp, moved up practice times and pointed out every positive. No bashing that might crush young spirits.

And Fisher started Young in the fourth game; the rookie has responded beyond anyone's expectations. He is 5-4 as a starter and became the first rookie quarterback in NFL history to lead his team from 14-points down to victory thanks to uncanny poise under pressure.

"Guys just started to believe," running back Travis Henry said.

That doesn't include a rally in the Titans' first victory this season after trailing 14-3 at Washington before winning 25-22, or a pair of one-point losses: 14-13 at Indianapolis and 27-26 to Baltimore after blowing a 19-point lead. Young put them in position to win against the Ravens before a blocked 43-yard field goal.



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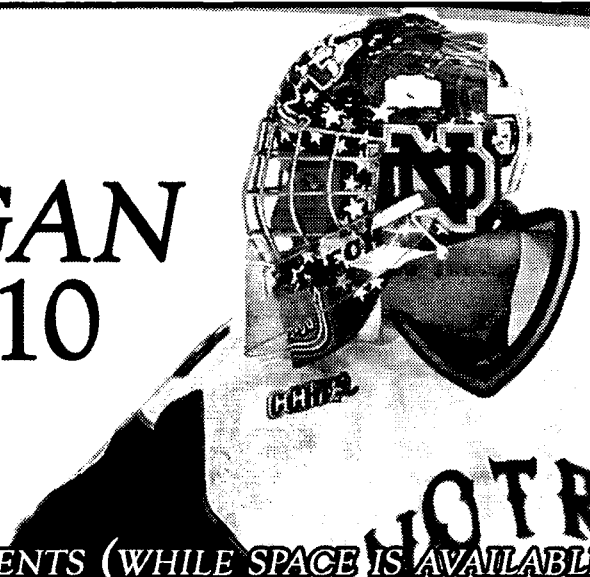
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NFL

Mediocre NFC is a log jam

Philadelphia, Atlanta, New York and Carolina all alive with .500 records

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Going .500 gets fans upset, coaches in trouble and players released.

Except in this year's NFC, where a break-even mark is looking playoff-worthy. And a winning record makes you a Super Bowl contender.

When the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Carolina Panthers on Monday night, it created a four-way logjam for the two NFC wild-card berths between those teams, the New York Giants and Atlanta — all at 6-6.

So while teams possibly headed for 10 wins in the AFC are wondering if it will be enough to get them into the Super Bowl chase, mediocrity — not parity — in the other conference might well be rewarded with a trip to the postseason.

"Well, it's a crazy year, so anything is possible," Eagles coach Andy Reid said. "We're just taking it one week at a time; we're not going to worry too much about getting into the playoffs or anything else."

History usually hasn't been kind to .500 teams. Since the NFL went to a 16-game schedule in 1978, seven 8-8 clubs reached the postseason, with the 1985 Cleveland Browns actually winning the AFC Central. The other six were wild cards.

But recent history has been more positive for such posers, with two 8-8s making it in 1999 (Dallas and Detroit) and two more in 2004 (Minnesota

and St. Louis). Indeed, even a 7-9 finish could be good enough in the NFC, which brings St. Louis, San Francisco and Minnesota — all 5-7 and all decidedly average or worse — into the equation.

Which raises the question whether the lack of artistry on the field by these teams is offset by the excitement created in cities where next April's draft would, by now, be the main NFL topic.

"That's the way the NFC is this year, and because of that every game is like a playoff game," said Philadelphia kicker David Akers, whose 25-yard field goal beat Carolina on Monday night and created the four-way tie at 6-6.

"It was a playoff atmosphere out there," Akers said. "Next week is going to be the same thing, because each game is so critical to win going down the stretch. You never can tell and if you don't give up, maybe good things will happen for you."

Really good things, such as division championships and byes, definitely will happen to teams with more wins than losses in the NFC. The Bears are 10-2, own the North title and could clinch home-field advantage throughout the conference playoffs this weekend.

Dallas, New Orleans and Seattle all are 8-4 and, with wins Sunday, could secure at least wild-card spots. Of course, the Cowboys host the Saints, so one of them won't get that prize right away.

But as long as they get

another victory, they all should be playing in January.

Of the 6-6 teams, who has the edge — even if they wind up 8-8?

Maybe nobody. All four teams play each other twice. Atlanta finishes by hosting Carolina and visiting Philly. The Panthers are home for the Giants this Sunday. New York follows that by hosting the Eagles, and Philadelphia finishes at home against the Falcons after three straight road games.

All are struggling — that's how you get to 6-6, after all — and show few signs of putting together a winning streak this month.

Carolina (four) and New York (five) already have had such strings, but the Panthers also have had three two-game losing streaks and the Giants are mired in a four-game skid. At least the Panthers don't have the turmoil on and off the field that has plagued the Giants.

Nor does Carolina have the string of injuries plaguing New York, Philadelphia and Atlanta.

"We're still in there, but it makes it harder for us," Panthers defensive end Mike Rucker said of the 6-6 gridlock. "We have to play lights out now. We've been here before and that's what we have to get across to the younger guys and let them know there's a sense of urgency."

Not to mention a sense of mediocrity.

NCAA FOOTBALL COMMENTARY

While Carr steams, Meyer rises to top

Give Urban Meyer some credit. At least he didn't beg. Whined a bit, yes. Got everyone's attention, sure.

Did everything, in fact, that Lloyd Carr had a chance to do to

Tim Dahlberg

AP Sports Columnist

impress both his coaching brethren and whoever the voters are in that other poll the BCS uses to determine who plays for its mythical national championship.

The difference then was that Meyer got it, and Carr didn't. The difference now is that Michigan is going to the Rose Bowl and Florida is playing for the national championship.

The BCS system may be flawed, but there was no great outcry outside of Ann Arbor, Mich., when the genie popped out of the bottle Sunday night and decreed that Florida would play for the national college crown.

Michigan really had little to complain about anyway. The school, after all, is part of the cabal put together to ensure that big schools will long rule college football and not have to split the millions of dollars they pocket annually with their poorer cousins.

That didn't stop Carr from pouting before Florida was selected about how Meyer had the audacity to campaign for his team's right to be in the game.

What wasn't mentioned, of course, was that by doing so Carr was indirectly making a case for his own team to be in the title tilt.

Carr thought it was beneath his dignity to have to campaign for his team. Results on the field were supposed to be the only thing that counted.

Must have slipped his mind that there's no playoff in college football. Without one, the job of any good coach expands to not only winning games but to manipulating the system.

Think figure skating, if you will. Get judges to believe you deserve to be No. 2 before you get on the ice, and there's a good chance you'll end up at No. 2 when you get off the ice.

That's why you've got to admire how Meyer, proving to be every bit as much a politician as a football coach, gradually built his case for another team to play Ohio State in the days after the Buckeyes beat Michigan in the final regular-season game of the year for both teams.

"The system was flawed," Meyer said. "There should be a playoff in college football."

Besides, who wants to see two teams that just played each other play each other again?

"It was a discussion about the system and how they select who plays for the national championship," Meyer said. "That's all it was. You can spin that all you like.

The answer is it was directed at the system."

It wasn't, of course. It was directed at his fellow coaches and the people at something called the Harris Interactive poll who decided this thing. They decided because the computer was fed so much information it regurgitated it all and incredibly decided the two teams were dead even.

Did Meyer's words matter? Hard to say, because Florida built a pretty good case of its own on the field and won arguably the toughest conference in the country.

It also helped that the team that plays last has the last chance to make a good impression and Florida played two games after Michigan put the pads away. And there wasn't a great appetite to see Michigan and Ohio State in a rematch.

Call it insurance then, even though Carr and the fans at Michigan were calling it something else.

"Inappropriate," Carr huffed before learning his team's fate. "That certainly is going to stir a controversy and who knows what that's going to lead to."

Yeah, who knows where that leads. Mass rioting? Global warming? Horrors, maybe even a national playoff.

The interesting thing is, that while Carr was busy tending to his X's and O's a few years ago, Meyer was learning all he could about the BCS system. His inter-

est was piqued in 2004, the same year his Utah team burst into the BCS and Auburn was passed over for the title game even though it went undefeated.

That was also the same year another coach did something no one had done before — talked his way into a Rose Bowl.

That would have been Mack Brown of Texas, who practically begged members of the media — this was before The Associated Press removed its poll from the process — to move his team up in the standings ahead of the University of California, which desperately wanted a Rose Bowl berth itself.

"If you've got a vote, vote for us," Brown said. "I'm asking you to do that and I'm asking everyone across the nation. This team deserves to be in the BCS. They deserve to go more than some teams that are being talked about."

Brown got his votes, and Texas got its bowl. Meyer, meanwhile, got a lesson he tucked away just in case he ever needed it.

Because he was smart enough to use it, Florida will be playing for the national championship.

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

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NCAA FOOTBALL

Amid heavy criticism, Bowden vows to return

FSU coach says he still has passion to win a national title

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Bobby Bowden took some shots in his 31st season at Florida State.

His Seminoles went 6-6. His son, Jeff, resigned as Florida State's offensive coordinator after six years of being a lightning rod for criticism.

The 77-year-old Bowden called it his most "trying season." Don't think for a second it'll be his last.

"I could step out so easily," he said Tuesday, hours before he was to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame. "Go retire and have a good time. I don't want to do that. It's like a fighter. A fighter always thinks he's got one more good fight."

"As a coach, I still want to win a national championship."

Bowden and 13 players, including Emmitt Smith, Bruce Smith and Heisman Trophy winners Charlie Ward and Mike Rozier, were elected to the Hall of Fame in May, along with Penn State coach Joe Paterno.

Paterno was also to be inducted Tuesday night at the National Football Foundation awards banquet in New York, but he's still recovering from leg surgery. His formal induction was delayed until next year. Paterno broke his leg and injured his knee when two players crashed into him on the sideline during a game against Wisconsin on Nov. 4.

Paterno cracked that he didn't want his wheelchair to get in the way at the ceremony.

"He's afraid it'll bump my walker," Bowden replied.

"I'd right rather have him be here," Bowden added. "I feel like it's kind of been a Bobby and Joe show and without him it feels like something is missing."

The other players inducted into the Hall of Fame were Colorado running back Bobby Anderson, Miami defensive back Bennie Blades, Minnesota defensive lineman Carl Eller,

Washington defensive lineman Steve Emtman, Baylor safety Thomas Everett, Air Force defensive lineman Chad Hennings, Tennessee offensive lineman Chip Kell, Purdue quarterback Mike Phipps and Stanford linebacker Jeff Siemon.

They'll be enshrined at the Hall in South Bend, Ind., next summer.

Bowden and Paterno, the winningest coaches in major college football, were also this year's winners of the NFF's Gold Medal. Previous recipients include seven U.S. presidents, Baseball Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson and actor John Wayne.

Florida International coach Howard Schnellenberger, the former Miami coach who along with Bowden helped turn Miami-Florida State into one of college football's premier rivalries, said no teams were tougher to prepare for than Bowden's.

"His teams have always been the same. They been top-notch from a preparation standpoint. Top-notch conditioningwise. They've always been enthusiastic and aggressive," Schnellenberger said. "We're fortunate we have a 50-50 percentage him. Three out of five at Miami and 0-1 at Louisville."

Florida State fell on hard times this season. The 'Noles were the defending Atlantic Coast Conference champion and picked to reach the ACC title game again. But the Seminoles were hit by injuries, forced to play numerous freshman, and never found consistency on offense. Florida State tries to avoid its first losing season since 1976, Bowden's first in Tallahassee, in the Emerald Bowl against UCLA on Dec. 27.

Since Jeff Bowden began running his father's offense six seasons ago, the Seminoles haven't been their old explosive selves. Jeff had taken much of the blame for the problems. Finally, last month, he stepped down.

"It was strictly his move," Bobby said. "I would never have forced him out. Blood's thicker than water. I'd get myself out first."



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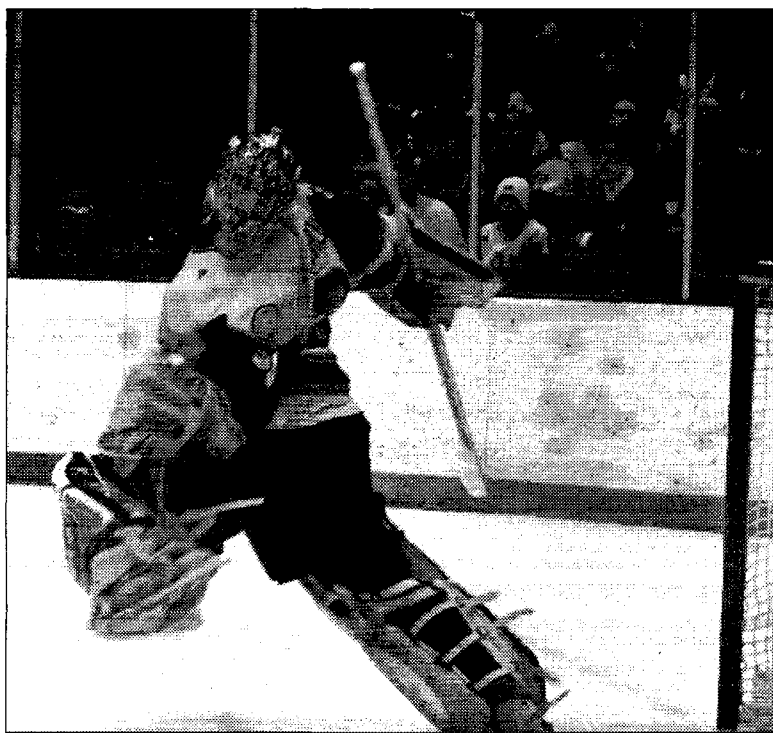
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IRISH DANCER



LAURIE HUNT/The Observer

Notre Dame goaltender Dave Brown jumps to make a save against Alaska in a 3-1 Irish win Dec. 2.

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University of Notre Dame Press

NHL

Bouchard wins game with little brother's move

Wild right wing's backhander in shootout snaps a four-game skid for Minnesota, gets 22-year-old out of coach's doghouse



Minnesota right wing Pierre-Marc Bouchard slides the puck backhanded past Blackhawks goalie Nikolai Khabibulin in a shootout Tuesday to win the game for the Wild 3-2. Bouchard learned the move from his younger brother, Francois, who plays in the Quebec Major Junior league.

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Already in his coach's doghouse, Wild forward Pierre-Marc Bouchard needed a new trick to work his way out.

Marc-Bouchard scored the winning goal in a shootout to carry the Wild to a 3-2 victory over the Blackhawks on Tuesday night, snapping a four-game losing streak.

Bouchard scored the winner in the shootout, stuffing a backhander into the net past Blackhawks goalie Nikolai Khabibulin while falling down.

"I have to give credit to my younger brother for teaching me that one," Marc-Bouchard said. "He taught me that move in the summer and I figured now was a good time to bring it out."

Added Blackhawks coach Denis Savard: "It was a just a great move. Obviously it works."

Bouchard's brother Francois plays Major Junior hockey in Quebec. The elder Marc-

Bouchard needed the shootout goal to avoid further irritating Wild coach Jacques Lemaire.

"I asked (Bouchard) to back check a few times in the third period and he wouldn't so I sat him down," Lemaire said.

Brian Rolston and Todd White also scored for the Wild and goalie Manny Fernandez stopped 27 shots for his first victory since Nov. 11.

The loss ended Chicago's three-game winning streak and prevented Savard from becoming the first Blackhawks coach to win his first four games.

Savard replaced Trent Yawney as head coach last week and was rewarded for his strong start with a contract extension through the 2007-08 season earlier in the day.

Brandon Bochenski scored his first goal of the season and Bryan Smolinski added a short-handed goal for Chicago.

"You'd like to get two points in a game like this, but our overall effort was great," Savard said.

"We knew they'd play well tonight."

Bochenski sneaked a wrist shot past Fernandez to give Chicago a 1-0 lead in the first period. White tied it eight minutes later before Smolinski snuck away with the puck and notched a short-handed goal at the end of the first to make it 2-1 in favor of Chicago.

Rolston took a pass from Wyatt Smith and tied the game with a breakaway goal early in the second period.

Fernandez, who has played poorly during the last month, stopped two Chicago shots in the game's final seconds to help send the game into overtime. He also received an ovation from the sellout crowd after stopping a Patrick Sharp wrist shot with 1:20 to play in overtime.

"(Fernandez) is enjoying the game again," Lemaire said. "The first part of the season he was happy and really enjoyed playing. He looked like that again tonight."

Khabibulin stopped 35 shots.

"We had some chances in overtime," Khabibulin said. "Hopefully next time they'll go in."

The Wild have played without Marian Gaborik for 20 games, Pavol Demitra for seven and Wes Walz for 11. All three players have skated with the team in recent days, but it is unclear when any of the three will return.

Blue Jackets 3, Avalanche 0

Fredrik Norrena got his second straight shutout and the Columbus Blue Jackets won in Denver for the first time in franchise history, a victory over the Colorado Avalanche on Tuesday night.

Norrena finished with 42 saves, including 21 in a barrage in the second period. Norrena stopped 21 shots in a 4-0 win over Edmonton on Saturday night.

Fredrik Modin scored his seventh goal of the season with 4.3

seconds left in the second period.

Jason Chimera and Anson Carter staked Columbus to an early lead with goals within 2:38 of each other in the first period.

The Blue Jackets entered the game with a 1-19-1-1 all-time mark against the Avalanche, their lone win being a 5-4 overtime victory in Columbus on Feb. 28, 2004. They had never won at the Pepsi Center (0-9-0-1).

Peter Budaj stopped 18 shots. He posted a shutout the last time he faced Columbus on Nov. 17, stopping 25 shots in a 3-0 win.

Budaj was stepping in for Jose Theodore, who sat out with a hip flexor injury.

Columbus has now killed 21 straight power plays over the last five games. The Blue Jackets killed four on Tuesday night.

Modin's goal came on a pass from Manny Malhotra, who was on his knees and falling toward the ice when he sent the puck across the goal crease to Modin.

Chimera scored his fourth of the season when he tipped a shot by Budaj, and Carter added his fifth of the season after picking up a loose puck near the goal and directing it in.

The game was Colorado's 1,000th since moving to Denver in 1995-96. The Avalanche debut in Denver was a 3-2 win over Detroit on Oct. 6, 1995.

Sabres 4, Lightning 1

Daniel Briere needed 429 games for his first NHL hat trick. It was worth the wait.

Briere had three goals, including two during a three-goal first period, as the Eastern Conference-leading Buffalo Sabres beat the Tampa Bay Lightning on Tuesday night.

"400 something games, I don't know why," Briere said. "I don't know how to explain it. It's a great feeling to finally get one."

Briere completed the hat trick from in-close with 7:39 left to play. He has 143 career goals, including 13 this season.

"When nights like this happen, it's just not about yourself," Briere said. "I have to give my linemates a lot of credit because of the plays they made."

Buffalo also got a goal from Chris Drury, who has a four-game goal-scoring streak. The Sabres, coming off a 7-4 defeat to Washington on Saturday, have not lost consecutive games this season.

"It was a game that we wanted to take a lot of pride in, in trying to win and stay away from losing two in a row," Buffalo coach Lindy Ruff said.

Vincent Lecavalier scored for the Lightning, who have lost four in a row. He has a goal in four straight games.

"We played OK at times," Lightning coach John Tortorella said. "You have to score goals. You're not going to win if you don't score goals."

After Lecavalier scored 53 seconds into the game, Briere tied it at 1-1 at 7:17. Drury put the Sabres ahead at 10:34 before Briere made it 3-1 with 2:45 left in the first.

Drury's goal during a 3-on-1 came after Buffalo goalie Ryan Miller stopped an in-close chance by Brad Richards. Briere's second goal in the first was set up by Jochen Hecht, who stole the puck from Richards in the Lightning zone.

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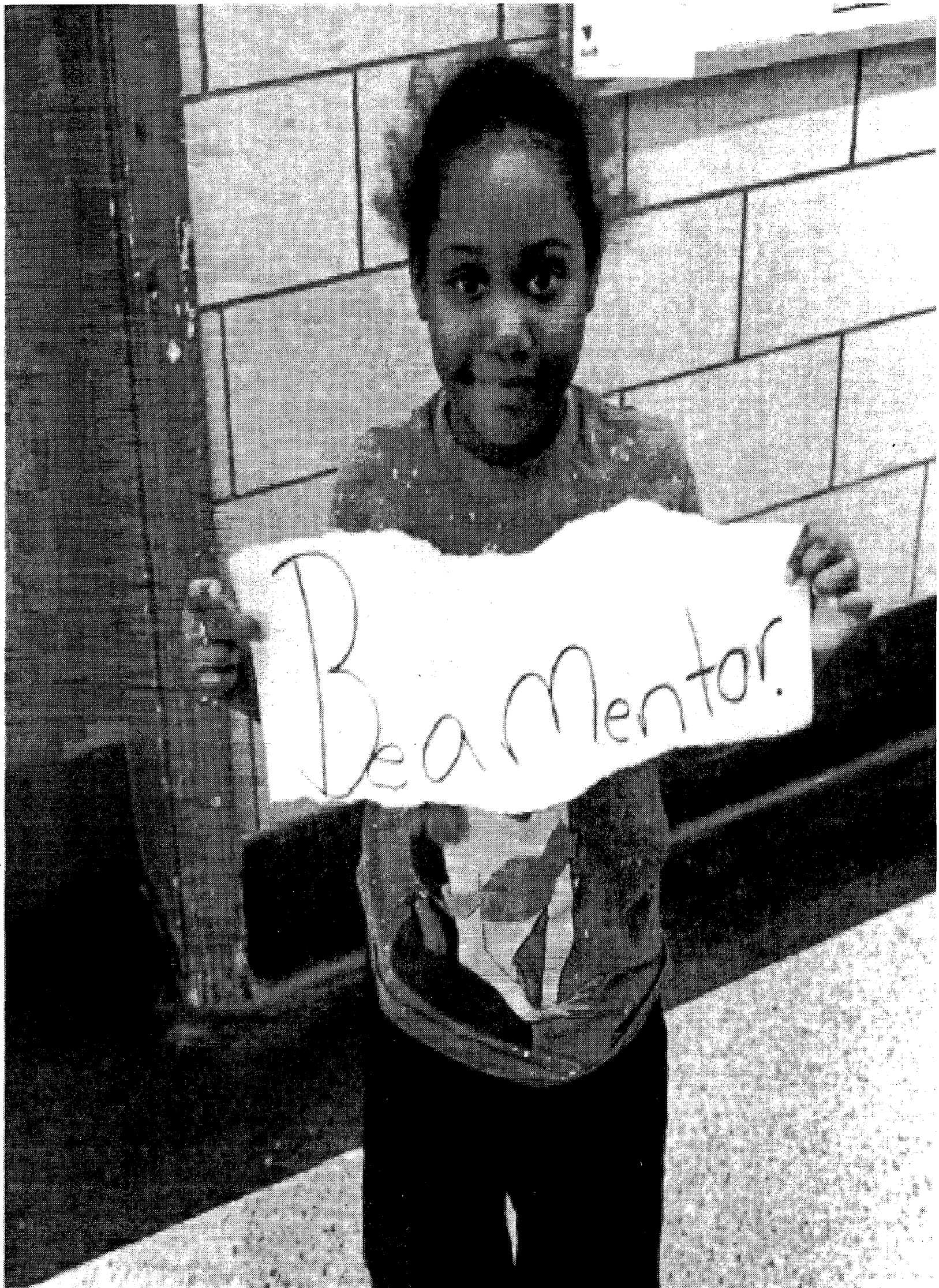
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Teamwork for Tomorrow

Michigan

continued from page 28

the Notre Dame defense is giving up to entire teams (1.35 goals per game).

Hensick is joined on the same line with senior David Rohlf's and junior Kevin Porter, who have 10 and 13 goals respectively. All three have been drafted to play in the NHL.

"The problem with Michigan is that you defend on Hensick, and Porter scores. You defend on [Andrew] Cogliano, and [Chad] Kolaric scores," Jackson said. "They have too many weapons to focus on one guy."

The Irish defense added another aspect to its game this past weekend from freshman Kyle Lawson, who scored his first collegiate goal on a shot from the point in Saturday's 6-2 win over Alaska. Lawson also tallied an assist in the game for his eighth point of the year, tying senior Noah Babin for the most points on the team by a defenseman.

Lawson also found out this weekend that he was selected to play for the U.S. National

Team in the 2007 IIHF Junior World Championship in Leksand, Sweden over winter break.

"It's just an honor to be a part of [the national team] and hopefully we can go and win a gold medal," he said.

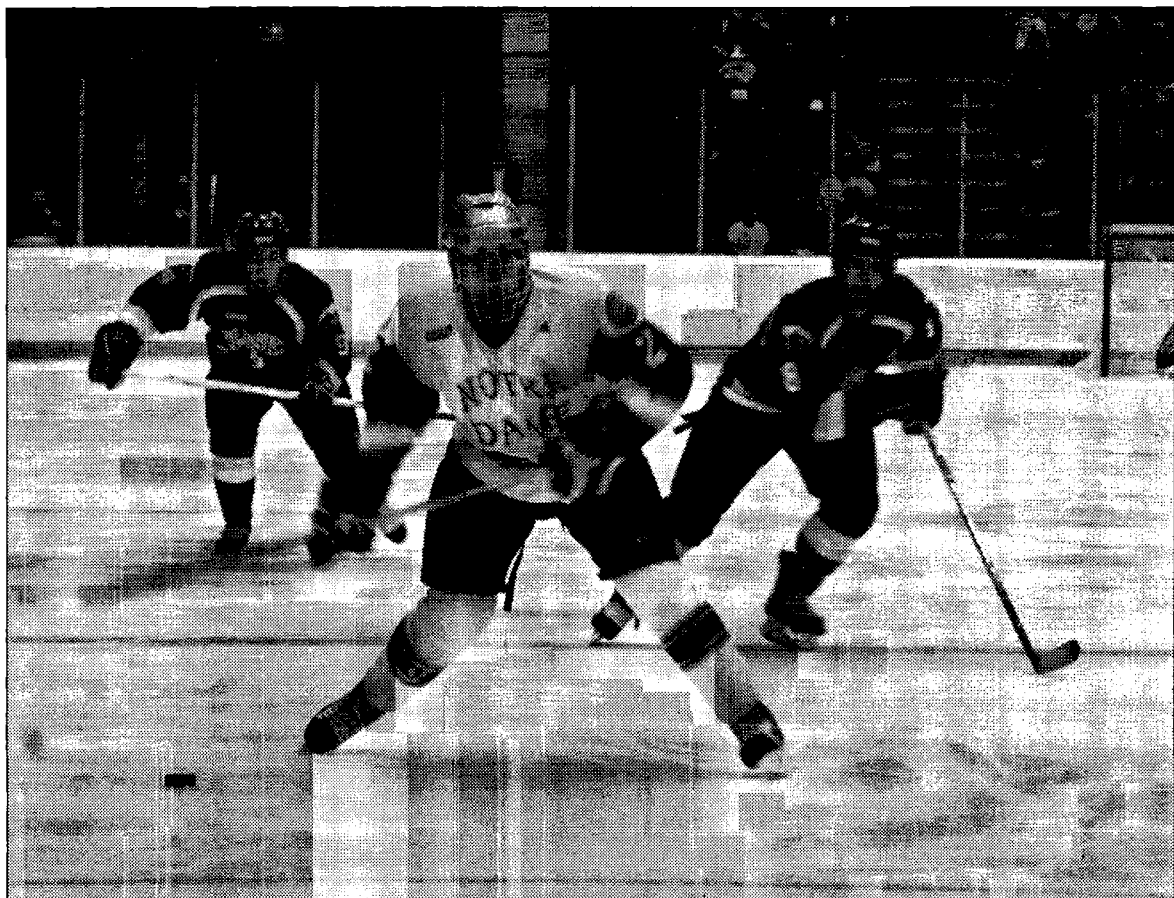
The New Hudson, Mich., native becomes the 10th Irish player to be named to the national roster. The last two players to make the cut were Rob Globke and Brett Lebda — current NHL players — in 2001.

"That's a real plus for him, we'll miss him at Christmas time, but it's a good opportunity and a good sign for our program" Jackson said.

The tournament starts Dec. 26 and continues until the championship game Jan. 5. Lawson will miss a two-game conference series with Northern Michigan and possibly a Jan. 5 matchup with Robert Morris.

Notre Dame will then finish off its winter break schedule with a Jan. 24-25 series against Lake Superior State.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu



LAURIE HUNT/The Observer

Irish defenseman Kyle Lawson winds up for a slapshot during a 3-1 Irish win over Alaska Dec. 2. Lawson was selected Tuesday to the U.S. National Team that will play in the IIHF Junior World Championship in Sweden.

Florida

continued from page 28

practice that's not South Bend," associate coach Matt Tallman said.

Notre Dame will have little time to bask in the Florida sunshine, as the team will train vigorously over the two-week period.

"We mostly do two-a-days for the time we are down there," Tallman said. "It's a better atmosphere mentally. We'll be outdoors in the

sun."

Welsh said the team uses this opportunity to get in shape for its meet against Northwestern (currently No. 9 in the CSCAA poll) and the Big East meet Feb. 14-17.

"There's no time to get in shape once school starts again," he said. "You have to already be in shape."

After completing their training, the Irish will face Oakland in a dual meet Jan. 12. Notre Dame previously bested Oakland by 106 points in the Dennis Stark Relays Oct. 6. It will then head to

Cleveland State to take on Duquesne and Xavier the following day.

"Oakland has improved much over the last few years," Welsh said.

Notre Dame is off to a fast start this season, winning the Stark Relays, posting a 4-0 record in dual meet competition — including its first win over Purdue in 19 years — and finishing third in The Ohio State Invitational last weekend.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

Bulldogs

continued from page 28

"You tell her, 'Take it to the hole, make something happen,'" Henley said. "She has the ability to draw contact and is strong enough to take contact."

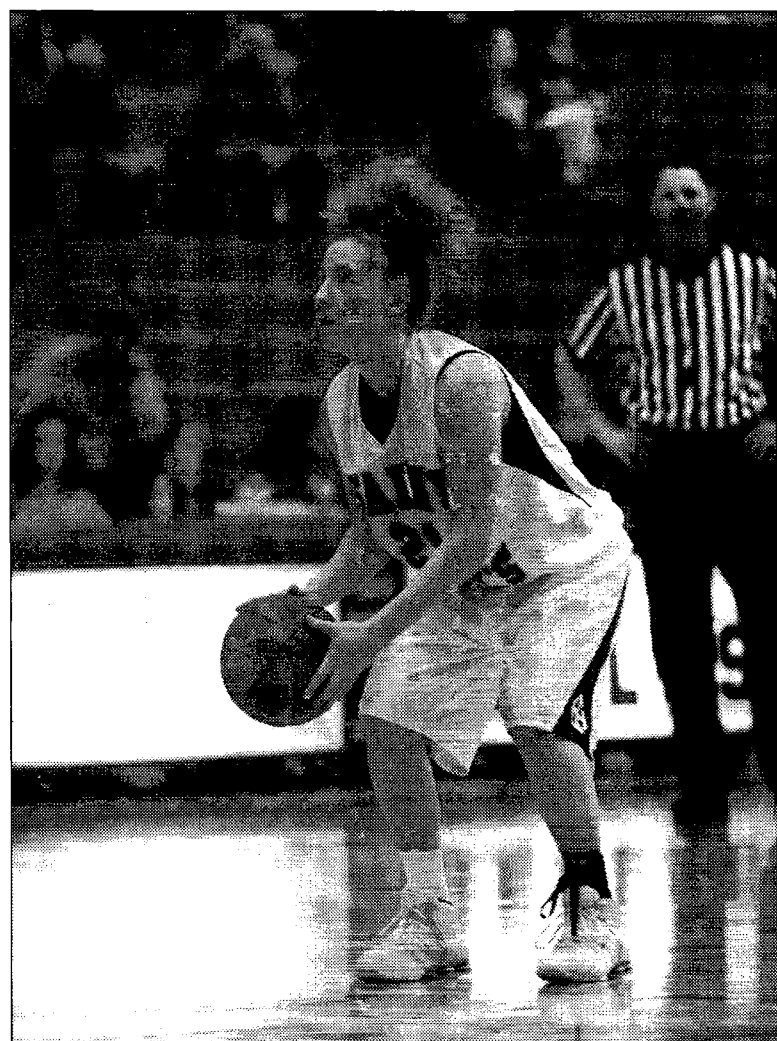
The team, however, struggles in the rebounding and turnover department. Saint Mary's has been out-rebounded in six of its seven games this season and turns the ball over 1.4 more times per game than its opponents.

A resolution on both issues may be imminent, however. Against Carthage, the Belles scored 18 points off turnovers while holding Carthage to 15. And freshman Anna Kamrath has appeared as a bona fide glass player, averaging 11.3 rebounds per game in the past three games.

"Kamrath is stepping up, doing what we asked her to do," Henley said.

The Bulldogs are currently 3-1 (1-0 in the MIAA). Although without individual stars, the team averages 72 points per game and holds its opponents to 59 points per game. Freshman forward Kim Olech leads the Bulldogs with 11.3 points per game and 7.3 rebounds per game, shooting 55 percent from the field. Junior guard Nichole Roose sinks a blistering 63 percent of her 3-point attempts.

"I've got to stress the



Observer File Photo

Saint Mary's guard Bridget Lipke readies to shoot Feb. 11 against Kalamazoo. Lipke has 73 points in seven starts for the Belles.

importance of team defense, keeping people off outside the paint, and locating shooters in transition defense," Henley said. "They're young and scrappy, they're playing a lot of different players and they have

a lot of kids who can step up and knock it down. It comes back again to rebounding and our pressure defense forcing turnovers."

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Tide

continued from page 28

guard Kyle McAlarney said.

A win over the Crimson Tide would give Notre Dame (6-1) a major quality victory, which will help the Irish if they are on the NCAA Tournament bubble.

"Our resume looks so great if we beat Maryland and Alabama," McAlarney said. "They're a great team, one of the best in the nation, so it's going to be a tough test for us. But they're coming to our house, so they should be the underdogs, and we expect to win."

A win, which would be Notre Dame's sixth in a row, would also catapult the Irish into a stretch of five Christmas break games against mid-major teams while they warm up for their Big East opener Jan. 3 against Louisville.

"If we win this basketball game, we put ourselves in a really good situation to finish out our non-conference schedule and head into the Big East," Irish forward Rob Kurz said. "It gives us a few marquee wins for sure."

The Crimson Tide (7-0) has defeated its opponents by an average of 17 points. The trip to the Joyce Center will be Alabama's first true road game, however.

The Tide beat Middle

Tennessee, Xavier and Iowa in the Paradise Jam tournament in the Virgin Islands, during its only trip away from Tuscaloosa.

"They're similar to Maryland in that they've got big, long, athletic guys up front, and they got skilled guys at the guard and wing positions," Notre Dame guard Colin Falls said of the Crimson Tide. "It's gonna be the same focus for us as far as we have to protect the paint, and we have to rebound the basketball. If we can do those two things on the defensive end, I think we'll give ourselves a shot."

Forward Jermareo Davidson, averaging 15.3 points per game, leads the Crimson Tide offensively. But he isn't the only scoring threat.

"[Davidson's] a great player," said Kurz, who will probably have the task of guarding Alabama's leading scorer on Thursday. "It will be a challenge for all of our forwards."

All five Alabama starters are averaging double figure points.

One of those five is All-America point guard Ronald Steele. Steele missed two games earlier this year due to injury, but is expected to play against Notre Dame.

"He's one of the best players in the country," Falls said. "He makes them go."

Steele will be matched

against McAlarney, who scored 18 points Sunday in the win over the Terrapins.

"I think that will be the matchup," McAlarney said. "But I think we'll probably play a little zone too. ... It's a

challenge, but I'm not backing down at all, so it's going to be fun."

Notes:

♦ Irish coach Mike Brey has requested that fans wear

black to Thursday night's game. Notre Dame wore black uniforms in Sunday's win over Maryland.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu



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Purdue

continued from page 28

Huskies.

"This is obviously the best team we've played this year," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "We've really got to make it just a great game to make it a game."

Notre Dame struggled from the field Sunday, shooting just 34.1 percent from the floor including a dismal 1-for-14 performance from beyond the 3-point line.

Still, McGraw plans to continue shooting the long-range jumpers.

"What we're working on is making more 15-footers, to get our touch, then moving out to the 3-point line," she said. "We're still going to shoot threes."

Charel Allen will look to spark the Irish offense. The junior guard is averaging 15.9 points per game to lead the team. She is also pulling down 5.1 rebounds per contest, currently third on the team behind freshman guard Ashley Barlow and center Erica Williamson.

Allen was named to the Big East honor roll following her performance last week, where she averaged 18 points, six rebounds and two steals per game in three contests.

"I think she's playing really well," McGraw said. "She's been our most consistent [player], and I think she's doing everything we need her to do."

Barlow will also likely figure prominently into the Irish offense. She has averaged 10.4 rebounds and 5.4 rebounds — both second on the team — coming off the bench this season.

The Boilermakers will be

headed up by senior guard Katie Gearlds, who leads the team with 16.5 points per game. Gearlds is one of four Purdue players averaging double figures, and McGraw anticipates that she could cause problems.

"She can shoot from long range, she can put the ball on the floor, she can pass," McGraw said. "She's such a complete offensive player there's not a lot of ways to stop her, especially when there's the other ones out there that you have to guard."

Gearlds, who, according to McGraw, is dealing with foot problems, has been slumping as of late. In her past two games, she has shot just 5-of-30 from the floor.

Forward Lindsay Wisdom-Hylton, who averages 14.6 rebounds and 9.3 assists, has been there to pick up the slack for Purdue. Wisdom-Hylton scored 21 points and blocked five shots against Gonzaga.

"They have great balance," McGraw said. "You can't key on any one person because really any of the five of their starters can beat you."

Notes:

♦ Sophomore forward Chandrica Smith will not play tonight. She missed the last three games with an inflammation in her foot, McGraw said.

"It just hurts when she puts pressure on it, jumps [or] runs," McGraw said. "That's kind of [an] important part of the game."

♦ Notre Dame's Jan. 23 game at Marquette has been pushed forward an hour. The game will now take place at 7 p.m. in Milwaukee.

Contact Eric Retter at eretter@nd.edu

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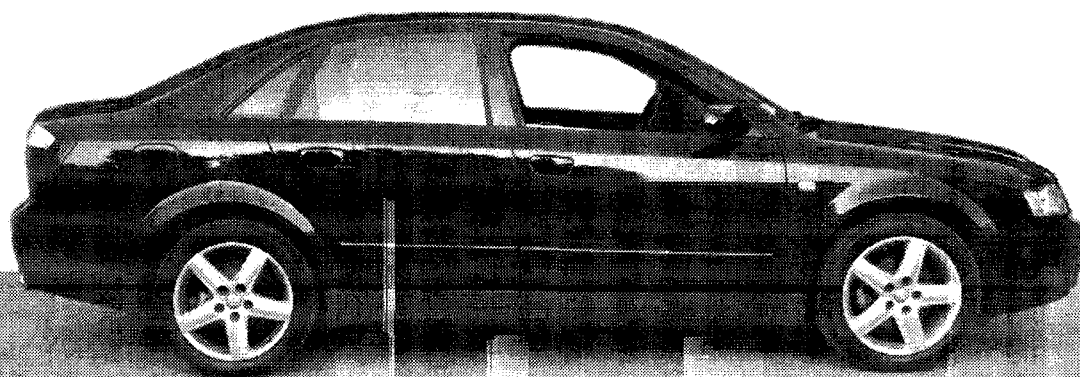
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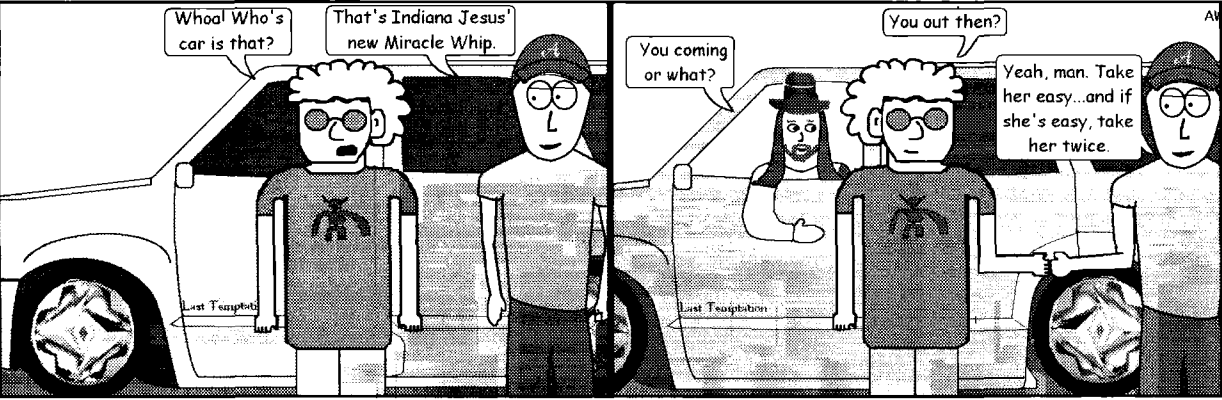
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Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KOBOR
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SUTOM
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Saturday's Jumbles: NOVEL IMBUE WOEFUL MOTIVE
Answer: What they needed to listen to the book on tape – VOLUME VOLUME



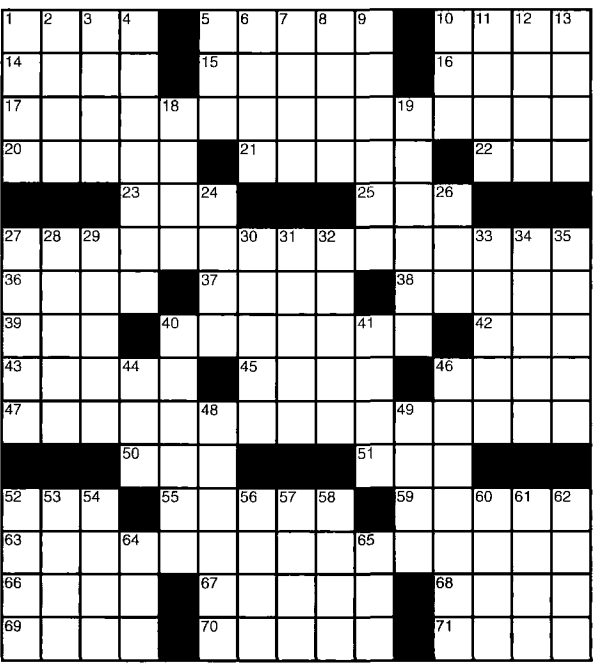
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Kind of pit at a rock club
 - 5 Locks up
 - 10 Epsilon follower
 - 14 On the subject of
 - 15 Make sense
 - 16 U2's Bono, e.g.
 - 17 Start of a quip from a returning vacationer
 - 20 Animal with a snout
 - 21 Rumble, e.g.
 - 22 Some hosp. cases
 - 23 Mai ____
 - 25 New Haven student
 - 27 Quip, part 2
 - 36 Site of tiny orbits
 - 37 Norwegian saint
 - 38 1960 Everly Brothers hit
 - 39 Ferdinand, e.g.
 - 40 Whines
 - 42 Hospital room staples
 - 43 Ending with aero-
 - 45 Lifesaver, maybe
 - 46 "Spare me!," e.g.
 - 47 Quip, part 3
 - 50 Sound during shearing
 - 51 Smog control grp.
 - 52 Scenery
 - 55 London institution since 1785, with "The"
 - 59 Egypt's Sadat
 - 63 End of the quip
 - 66 Competent
 - 67 Poly- follower
 - 68 1950's British P.M.
 - 69 Stag party attendee
 - 70 It's not good to do this at the sun
 - 71 Bottom
- DOWN**
- 1 Longtime name on "Today"
 - 2 Workers' protection org.
 - 3 Rung
 - 4 Brisk seller
 - 5 Part of a dinosaur find
 - 6 Sugary drinks
 - 7 Lay off
 - 8 Libertine's feeling
 - 9 Gets back at angrily
 - 10 Promgoer's woe
 - 11 "Hey!" ... "Hey!" ... "Hey!" ... "Hey!"
 - 12 Kenneth Grahame's ____ Hall
 - 13 Marchers in single file
 - 18 Kind of tradition
 - 19 "Good riddance"
 - 24 Lottery player's happy shout
 - 26 Nigerian language
 - 27 Croc's head or tail?
 - 28 New Mexico county
 - 29 "What's it ____?"
 - 30 Root of diplomacy
 - 31 Four-star reviews
 - 32 Turn inside out
 - 33 Carpet fiber



Puzzle by Adam G. Perl

- 34 It may be within a judge's grasp
- 35 Start of hazarding a guess
- 40 Put under
- 41 Ear part
- 44 Diamond org.
- 46 Gambols
- 48 Common Spanish boys' names
- 49 Give ____ on the back
- 52 Ripoff
- 53 Isle of exile
- 54 Usage fee
- 56 Faddish 1990's computer game
- 57 "Cómo ____ usted?"
- 58 Litigant
- 60 Hall-of-Famer Boggs
- 61 Sailing
- 62 Monthly check
- 64 "Understand?"
- 65 Wrath

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$34.95 a year). Share tips: nytimes.com/puzzleforum. Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Frankie Muniz, 21; Julie Khaner, 49; Morgan Brittany, 55; Little Richard, 74

Happy Birthday: You will have to go about your business quietly this year to avoid attracting too much attention and possible opposition. Keeping things simple and on track will be the most important thing. Stay focused and intent on reaching your goals. Excess will be your enemy and being frugal your friend. Your numbers are 13, 17, 22, 29, 37, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): It's time to take a little spin down memory lane. Once you do, you will know exactly how to clear up loose ends so you can move forward without any baggage. Love relationships are looking good. This is a fabulous day for talks and to get things happening. 5 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Use your talents to benefit you instead of letting upset, disappointment or anger get the better of you. Today is all about the way you handle others and the way you handle money. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Just hold things together and don't appear fickle and you will have everyone eating out of your hand. You will be high on life and love and can make some major headway in both your personal and professional life today. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you can keep a secret, you will be successful. You need to use your head, your wisdom and your know-how to get your way. An older or more experienced individual will help you see things clearer. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Everything is looking like fun and games for you. A challenge will put you in a better position. Emotions will be close to the surface, allowing you to get answers and clear the air. 4 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a close look at what everyone else is doing before you volunteer your services. Make sure you don't take advantage of others or let them take advantage of you. This is a good time to reflect and to make self-improvements. 2 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Stop procrastinating when you have so much going for you. Talk about your plans and you will stir up interest. Love is on the rise and you will feel much more stable in your efforts to succeed. 5 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Everything that you have been working so hard to achieve is finally starting to fall into place. Talk to people who can make a difference to your future. Sharing at this point will give you the added momentum you need. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can blow situations out of proportion at an emotional level or you can turn this into a highly progressive and passionate day. It's up to you. Stop and think about the end result and consequences before you make your move. 3 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A serious look at your investments will reveal what you have to do in the future to ensure financial security. A creative look at the way you make your money will help you pick and choose a little more wisely in the future. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take a stab at doing something you are good at and you will find a way to make some extra cash. A legitimate attempt to help others who may have fallen into a similar trap that you have experienced should be what you strive to do. 5 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): This is no time to share your thoughts. Stick close to home and keep your mind on the things you have to get done. Take care of matters that have absolutely nothing to do with your personal life. 2 stars

Birthday Baby: You are insightful and secretive yet outgoing and domineering. You are a master magician and a willing and able competitor. You know your path and will follow it.

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

THE OBSERVER

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HOCKEY

Irish trek to Wolverines' unfriendly Yost for grudge match

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will face its third top-10 opponent of the year when it heads to Ann Arbor Friday night to take on Michigan at Yost Arena.

The No. 5 Irish (12-3-1, 7-2-1 CCHA) will play a home-and-

home series with the No. 7 Wolverines (12-5, 8-3 CCHA) that finishes Sunday at 3:05 p.m. in the Joyce Center. Just one victory this weekend would be enough to match the team's win total from last season.

"I knew we would be better this year, but I didn't think we would be this much better," Irish coach Jeff Jackson said.

A pair of victories this weekend would also catapult Notre Dame over Michigan into second place in the CCHA standings, and the team could surpass Miami for the overall lead, depending on how the RedHawks fare against Ohio State.

Jackson's team will need to continue to play well in its own

zone — the Irish lead the nation in team defense — in order to get by the explosive Wolverine offense. The Wolverines have scored 79 goals in the first half of the season — the third best mark in the country, behind No. 1 Minnesota and No. 2 New Hampshire.

"We have played some pretty big offensive powerhouses, so

we just have to keep doing what we've been doing," Irish goaltender Dave Brown said.

Senior T.J. Hensick leads the team — and the NCAA — in scoring with seven goals and 26 assists through 17 games. He creates more offense individually (1.92 points per game) than

see MICHIGAN/page 25

ND BASKETBALL

National spotlight

Men to roll with No. 4 Alabama at the Joyce

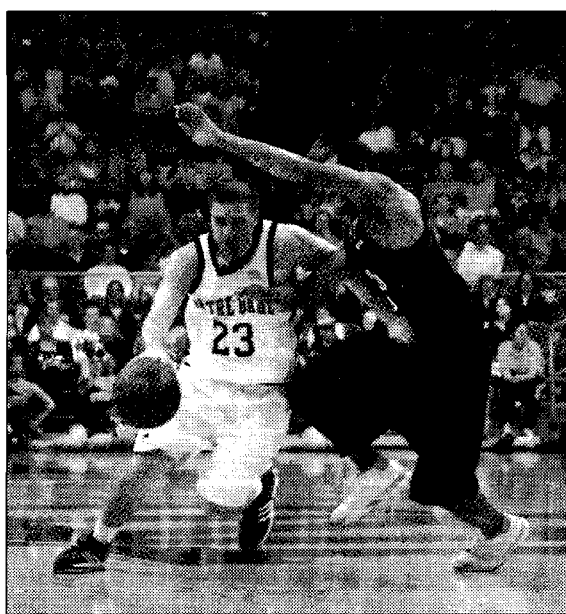
By CHRIS KHOREY
Associate Sports Editor

After upsetting Maryland in Washington, D.C. Sunday, Notre Dame has to turn around and play one of its most important games of the season.

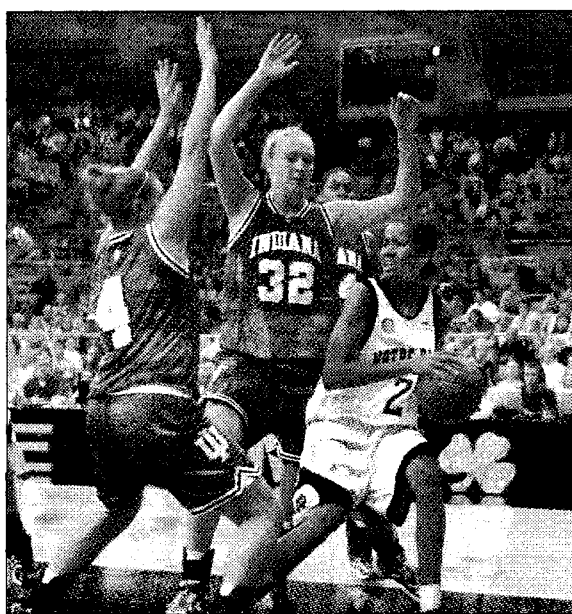
No. 4 Alabama comes to the Joyce Center Thursday in a game that will be crucial for the Irish come March.

"That definitely makes us probably the hottest team in the country if we beat Alabama, and I think if we do win, that definitely will bump us into the top 25," point

see TIDE/page 26



Left, Irish guard Kyle McAlarney fights off a defender in a 90-45 win over Winston-Salem State Nov. 29. Right, guard Charel Allen drives against the Indiana defense Sunday during the 54-51 Irish loss.



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Women host No. 9 Purdue tonight

By ERIC RETTER
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame will face its toughest challenge of the season tonight at 7 as it tips off against No. 9/10 Purdue at the Joyce Center.

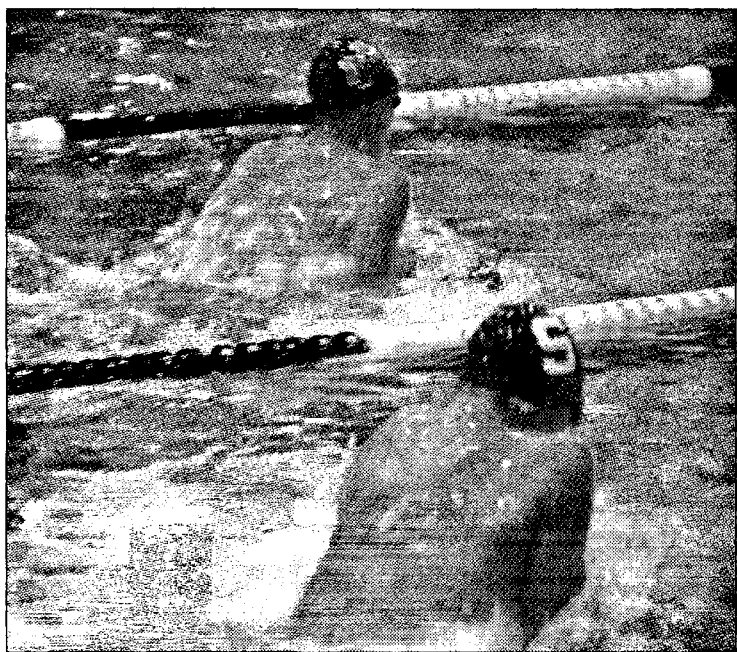
The Irish (5-3) are coming off a 54-51 loss to Indiana at home Sunday, only their fifth non-conference loss at the Joyce Center in the past 12 seasons.

The Boilermakers (7-1) last played Saturday when they beat Gonzaga 69-44. They also played No. 7 Connecticut last week, falling 66-55 to the

see PURDUE/page 26

MEN'S SWIMMING

Warmer waters await ND



MEGAN SOTAK/The Observer

An Irish swimmer competes in the breaststroke at a meet Nov. 10 against Michigan State.

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

The No. 16 Irish will be hard at work over Christmas break, going on their annual training trip to Boca Raton, Fla., from Dec. 28-Jan. 10 before taking on Oakland Jan. 12 and Cleveland State Jan. 13.

"This is all about getting ready for February," Irish head coach Tim Welsh said. "It's a very hard work period for us."

The team will stay in hotels near the campus of St. Andrew's Prep School and take advantage of the school's outdoor facilities and weight rooms during its two weeks of training.

"Essentially it's a place to

see FLORIDA/page 25

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles hope third time the charm with Adrian

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's came close in the past two games, but wasn't able to pull out a win. It'll have one more shot tonight against Adrian College before returning to South Bend.

The Belles (1-6) have lost their last two games by only six points, but they're only shooting 36 percent from the floor in that span.

"We're not being patient on offense, and we're not working for the best shot," Saint Mary's coach Jennifer Henley said.

Henley attributed some of the offensive struggles to

opposing defenses focused more on stopping junior guard Alison Kessler — the Belles' leading scorer, with 17.9 points per game.

"We're playing Alison a lot more minutes, so it's hard to get her a break," Henley said. "Other teams are gunning after her as well, and she has to work harder on offense because she's so successful."

But opposing defenses are unable to stop Kessler once she gets to the free-throw line. Kessler shoots 82.4 percent from the line in an offense designed to create situations where she can draw fouls.

see BULLDOGS/page 25

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

NHL

Wild 3 Blackhawks 2

Wild center Pierre-Marc Bouchard's shootout goal wins game for Minnesota.

page 23

NCAA FOOTBALL

Despite criticism from alumni and boosters, Florida State coach Bobby Bowden refuses to call it quits.

page 21

NFL

The mediocrity of the NFC has left wild card spots up for grabs.

page 21

NFL

Titans quarterback Vince Young strives to lead Tennessee back to prominence.

page 20

NBA

Trail Blazers 88 Pistons 85

Portland upends Detroit with a last-minute shot by Zach Randolph.

page 18

NBA

Mavericks 92 Nets 75

Dallas gets back to its winning ways with victory over New Jersey.

page 18