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Gas leak causes seven evacuations

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Associate News Editor

Students, faculty and staff were evacuated from seven buildings Monday afternoon as the smell of gas filtered through the air from a leak near the Hesburgh Library.

The gas leak occurred at 1:40 p.m. on St. Joseph's Drive near the Library when a crew on the road repairing a broken water line struck a 4-inch gas line with a backhoe. The gas moved in a south-western direction and at approximately 2 p.m., Stepan Chemistry Hall, O'Shaughnessy Hall, Nieuwland Science Hall, the

Radiation Laboratory, Malloy Hall, the Riley Hall of Arts and Design and Decio Hall were all evacuated.

The water line break was discovered Monday morning, said Director of Utilities Paul Kempf. After lunchtime, a crew arrived to fix the break and while they were attempting to fix it, hit a gas line.

"The gas main was not where it was purported to be," Kempf said, according to the preparatory evaluation the crew made of the area. When the gas line was punctured, University officials immediately called the Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIP-

see GAS LEAK/page 4



QUENTIN STENGER/The Observer

Workers stand near a gas leak that occurred Monday near the Hesburgh Library. Seven nearby buildings were evacuated.

Athletics topic for Malloy

Former president appears on Web cast

By MARCELA BERRIOS
Assistant News Editor

University President Emeritus Father Edward Malloy flew to the University of Virginia Friday to participate in a forum on college athletics, drawing from his experiences at Notre Dame to discuss racial integration in recent decades, the academic integrity of student athletes and the roles of the news media and the federal government in shaping the future of athletic programs.

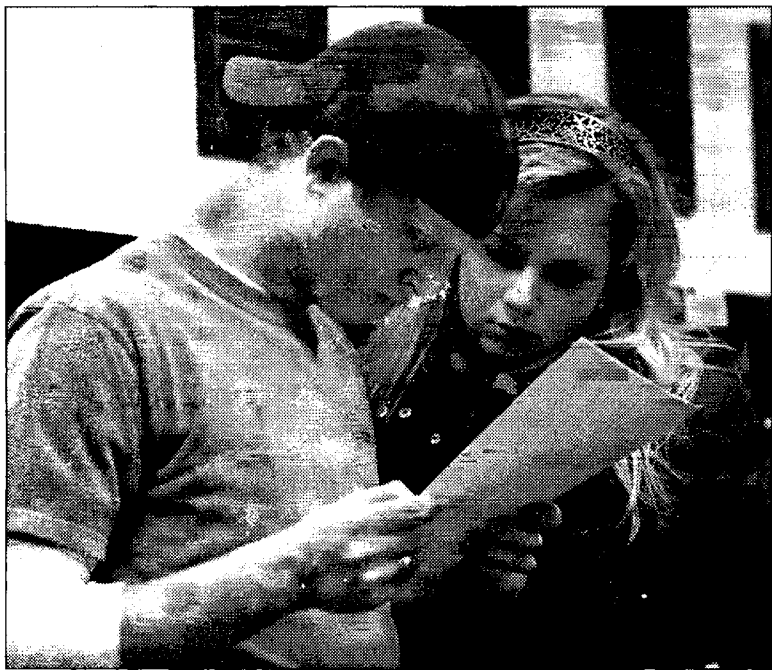
The "Intercollegiate Athletics: Their Role, their Status, their Future" discussion, hosted by the Miller Center of Public Affairs, was cybercast live and might be aired by the PBS affiliates that regularly televise the centers' trademark forums.

Malloy said in an interview with The Observer Monday that the Miller Center studies American presidencies and public policy issues — and that its interest in intercollegiate athletics, though seemingly unrelated to the center's field, is actually warranted.

"It was appropriate for a center focused on the American presidency and public policy to talk about intercollegiate athletics

see MALLOY/page 4

Election results in run-off for two tickets



DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

Candidates Danny Smith and Ashley Weiss examine the results after learning they will advance to Thursday's run-off election.

By SONIA RAO
News Writer

The student body election results were revealed Monday night, but with no ticket obtaining a majority of the votes, frontrunners Brown-Braun and Smith-Weiss will proceed to a run-off election on Thursday.

Judicial Council president Liz Kozlow announced that Liz Brown and Maris Braun received 45.8 percent of student votes and Danny Smith and Ashley Weiss received 38.3 percent. Since candidates need to obtain a "50 percent plus one majority," the top two tickets will compete in a run-off for the position on Thursday, Kozlow said.

see ELECTION/page 6

With what she described as two strong platforms, Brown said she was not surprised by the results.

"I think Maris and I were expecting a run-off," she said. "We had some pretty strong tickets."

A total of 3,492 votes were cast Monday, which was not quite up to Kozlow's expectations.

"I think we were hoping [voting turnout] would be a little bit higher," she said.

Allowing students to vote online and at various voting stations around campus, however, was an effective way to encourage participation, she said.

"We tried hard to encourage voting," Kozlow said. "We had some great results."

Move not welcomed by Club

By AARON STEINER
News Writer

Notre Dame unveiled plans last week for a \$69.4 million engineering building to be built on land occupied by the University Club, so for manager Debbie Colley — along with more than 40 employees, members and a board of directors — the news means preparing to say goodbye.

University officials notified the privately owned Club and its board of directors in a Jan. 9 letter they would need to vacate the building by Aug. 31 to make room for the new Stinson-Remick Engineering Hall.

The demolition will be a loss to Notre Dame and the



QUENTIN STENGER/The Observer

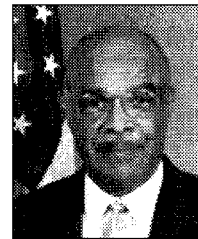
The University Club will be torn down to make room for the new Stinson-Remick Engineering Hall in fall 2007.

see CLUB/page 6

Paige speaks on No Child Left Behind

By KATE MCCLELLAND
News Writer

When Lyndon Johnson signed the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 into law, he declared it was the dawn of the "century of the educated person," but in 2007 the same proportion of children — two-thirds — are still not reading at grade level. Former Secretary of Education Dr. Rod Paige spoke at Notre Dame Monday and said he felt



Paige

that it his responsibility to change that statistic.

Paige, the keynote speaker for Black History Month, described the achievement gap between ethnicities in today's schools as "the most important civil rights issue of our time."

Paige described his own experience growing up in Mississippi, where schools were segregated and minority students received inferior school supplies and facilities. Paige said he started actively working to change that situation in college. He received a master's degree and a doctorate from Indiana University and was eventually named

see PAIGE/page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

Keep it simple, lovers

This Valentine's Day, KISS. Hold it, horny same-side sitters at South Dining Hall. I didn't write that in all caps to encourage you locking lips over your spicy sea nuggets. KISS just happens to be an acronym for Keep It Simple, Stupid — an adage my high school English teacher pounded into us long-winded essay writers. Hold it again, horny same-side sitters: don't zoom right over to the Question of the Day. This isn't a column about writing. It's a column for lovebirds. UR A QT. Yes, you. Aww. Did you smile a little bit? Now imagine that simple message stamped onto a tiny, chalky, heart-shaped candy. Even sweeter. Necco's candy conversation hearts are the archetype of simplicity, a sort of KISS Shangri-La, if you will. (I should admit here that "if you will" is the ultimate un-KISS, however. What does that phrase mean, anyway? And why do professors use it, and that other pretentious expression, "as it were," every three sentences? "As it were," you say? As what was? Where, and when? Please, professors, tomorrow is Valentine's Day. KISS.)

Adorned with sweet nothings from BE MINE to TRUE LOVE to the latest addition E-MAIL ME (say, those folks over at Necco sure are hip to the technology groove), the .28 square inch gems pack a romantic punch.

For example, back in third grade, each student was required to give a valentine to every student in the class, if he was giving them at all.

(Or wait ... was this just true of my overly sensitive, feelings-obsessed Catholic grammar school? That may be the case, as this was the same institution that required us to wear index cards on yarn around our necks for three months proclaiming IALAC: I Am Loving And Caring. Now, I'm all for acronyms, but Ms. Perez the art teacher shouldn't be growling at third graders, "Either go back to your room and get your IALAC card, or I'm making you watch the Renaissance Art video again.")

Anyway, when a fellow third-grader offered me a Power Rangers card with a lavender DREAM GIRL heart scotch-taped to the top, I just about IALACed him right then and there. Imagine my horror when, as I was calculating our love potential through a game of M.A.S.H., a classmate showed me the conversation heart he'd given her: MARRY ME. Suddenly, the lavender residue on the back of my tongue didn't taste as sweet.

I'm telling you, these things pack a punch. Someone once criticized me for the one-liners I graffiti on friends' Facebook walls. Of him I ask, how would the following look on a .28 square inch heart?

Since the dawn of time, man has loved woman; so, too, does my heart burn for yours with the fiery passion of a hundred burning suns. Blue as the sea are your eyes; like spun gold is your hair; redder than the sweetest cherry are your lips. It would give me the greatest of pleasure if you would be so kind as to bestow upon me the honor of your valentine-ship, as it were.

Huh? Just KISS. And okay, horny same-side sitters — if you want, kiss.

Contact Eileen Duffy at eduffy1@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 NEW MAJOR SHOULD NOTRE DAME CREATE?



Annie Pugel
senior
off campus

"Cooking and Baking."



David Sonderman
junior
Stanford

"How to Win a Bowl Game."



Jimmy Bettcher
senior
St. Edward's

"ATF: Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms."



Joel Thielen
sophomore
Keenan

"Procrastinating."



Marc Campbell
senior
off campus

"Chilling."



Seniors Kristin Schwarz, left, and Serena Leahy dress up as Honest Abe to commemorate Abraham Lincoln's birthday Monday.

OFFBEAT

Coatimundi taken away from owner

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — An exotic animal with a long snout, bear-like claws and a tail like a raccoon scared the heck out of some narcotics investigators searching a home for drugs.

Riverside County sheriff's investigators said the "strange looking," "sloth-like" animal emerged from its hiding place in the Lakeland Village home on Saturday.

It was eventually identified as a coatimundi, usually found in the forests of Central and South

America.

Possessing a coatimundi is illegal in California without a license, and fish and game official Kyle Chang said the animal's owner, 29-year-old Norman James Vollan, will have to give it up to a zoo or to someone with an exotic animal license. In the meantime, the animal was taken to an undisclosed animal sanctuary.

Dog gets lost at airport

MADRID, Spain — Snowy the terrier knows all about the hassle of airport security. The brown-and-white pooch spent 11

days in a sensitive outdoor area of Madrid's international airport — one of Europe's busiest air hubs — scurrying about with a dog's eye view of landing planes.

He managed to dodge security personnel until he was finally captured Sunday, after authorities called in dogcatchers.

The Jack Russell terrier became lost at the airport on Jan. 31 after arriving on an Iberia cargo plane from Britain.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The Hungarian State Folk Ensemble will perform tonight at 7:30 in the Leighton Concert Hall at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$36 for the general public, \$30 for faculty/staff/seniors and \$15 for students.

Dale Recinella, a Notre Dame graduate, will speak Wednesday at 7 p.m. in room c-103 of the Hesburgh Center about his career as a lay chaplain to prisoners on death row.

The student body presidential election run-off debate will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the Main Lounge of LaFortune.

The Ballroom Dance Club is hosting a Valentine's Day ball Wednesday from 8 p.m.-10:30 in the LaFortune ball room. The cost is \$4 for the night.

The student body president run-off election will take place Thursday. Students can vote online between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. at the Judicial Council Web site or by clicking on a link in an e-mail from the Council.

The men's basketball team will play Providence College Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Joyce Center.

Junior Parent's Weekend will commence Friday with the Opening Gala and will end Sunday with the Closing Brunch.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 17 LOW 2	HIGH 7 LOW 0	HIGH 15 LOW -2	HIGH 14 LOW 5	HIGH 22 LOW 9	HIGH 25 LOW 10

Atlanta 60 / 36 Boston 35 / 23 Chicago 28 / 19 Denver 38 / 22 Houston 68 / 53 Los Angeles 65 / 51 Minneapolis 18 / 8 New York 39 / 23 Philadelphia 38 / 23 Phoenix 70 / 53 Seattle 50 / 41 St. Louis 37 / 30 Tampa 74 / 56 Washington 43 / 25

BOARD OF GOVERNANCE

Group considers new wage hikes

By LIZ HARTER
News Writer

Saint Mary's senior Chelsea Gulling visited the Board of Governance (BOG) to discuss the living wage campaign and how it pertains to Saint Mary's hourly wage workers Monday night.

The issue of increasing the hourly wage at Saint Mary's will be discussed at the February Board of Trustees meeting. Gulling wanted to present her research to BOG so it could endorse the increase.

"In 2006, Saint Joseph's County did a survey of wages and figured out where people fall in the continuum," Gulling said. "Hourly wage workers are in the lowest twenty percent."

If the Board of Trustees were to vote to implement a plan to raise wages over a three-year period, it would put Saint Mary's workers in the 40th percentile and employees who have worked at Saint Mary's for 25 years would be in a higher percentile.

Gulling did not know details of Saint Mary's wage plans or the specifics of the Board of Trustees vote.

"Basically, just to summarize, we're looking for student support," student body president Susan McIlduff said.

The group voted to table the issue until further information is gathered on the subject.

BOG also voted to award a \$500 co-sponsorship to the Saint Mary's theater department to help finance its upcoming trip to New York City.

In Other BOG News:

♦ Little Siblings weekend is Feb. 24-25. Registration has ended and over 350 siblings are attending — 50 more than last year.

♦ The Diverse Student Leadership Conference will take place March 1-3. Registration forms are on the Student Diversity Board Website.

♦ Student Academic Council is requesting nominations for the Women Honoring Women banquet. Students are asked to nominate female faculty and staff members by typing one paragraph describing why they are good leaders. Nominations can be sent to SAC@saintmarys.edu

Contact Liz Harter at
charte01@saintmarys.edu

Reporter talks about Iraq war, Katrina

Sarah Childress advises students on finding journalism internships

By EMMA DRISCOLL
News Writer

When Sarah Childress began her freshman year at Notre Dame, she had no plans to pursue journalism. But she started writing for Scholastic, and since graduating in 2003, Childress has covered both the war in Iraq and Hurricane Katrina for Newsweek magazine.

Childress returned to campus Monday to speak to journalism students about her experiences and gave advice about breaking into the profession.

As a national affairs reporter for Newsweek, Childress described her job as "exciting," because she can walk into work Monday morning and be assigned a story that may take her to another state the next day.

Besides traveling across the country, Childress completed several reporting stints in Iraq — an opportunity she said she never thought she'd receive.

"I had always really wanted to go cover the war, but it just seemed like something that would be impossible for a reporter so young and with less experience," Childress said.

But when Newsweek needed more correspondents, Childress volunteered for the assignment.

A year passed before she actually went to Iraq, Childress said, because she had to undergo preparations to enter the war-torn country, including a week-

long training camp on surviving hostile environments.

Newsweek is the only news organization that has a house in Iraq's green zone, Childress said, but "it is so dangerous right now that you don't leave the house."

That confinement, she said, makes reporting "very frustrating."

Most of the interviewing has to be done by Newsweek's Iraqi staff members because many Iraqis are afraid to talk to Westerners. To get its reporting done, the Newsweek team gives its Iraqi staffers a list of questions and sends them off — a difficult process, Childress said, since they aren't trained journalists.

Staff members often fail to ask follow-up questions and are not persistent in contacting sources. To make up for this, Childress said she has to provide a very specific list of questions for the interviewers.

Childress was most surprised by the real — and random — dangers that she saw in Iraq.

"I was really surprised by how bad it actually is," Childress said. "You know the risk. You know the danger when you go over there, but it's impossible to actually understand until you're over there. It's kind of the randomness of the violence. War isn't constant attacks. It's a little more intermittent."

Childress also left New York for New Orleans to report on Hurricane Katrina.

"The assignment was just sort

of go and cover it. They didn't give us instructions," she said. "My job was to cover the people. Who was left? What was happening to them? How were they surviving?"

Without strict guidelines, "you kind of make it up as you go along," Childress said. "You find somewhere to start, pick up that thread, and you just follow that thread wherever it takes you."

During the question and answer portion of Childress' talk, students asked about journalism internships and the journalism profession.

"The hardest thing about getting into the business is getting your foot in the door," Childress said.

Childress called her local paper several times to pursue an internship when she was in college. "You really do need to be persistent. Take advantage of any contact that you have," said Childress, explaining that many journalism jobs are not posted on job boards.

"The best thing you can do is get exposure to other journalists and talk to them," she said.

While some may fear job cuts in the news and media profession, Childress said the news will always be necessary.

"People are always going to need a reliable news source," she said. "They need good, talented journalists who are ethical."

Contact Emma Driscoll at
edriscol@nd.edu

Saint Mary's Study Abroad Fair

Thursday, February 15th, 2007

5:00-6:00 p.m.

Saint Mary's Student Center

All Saint Mary's, Notre Dame, and Holy Cross Students Are Welcome!

Semester Programs

- Rome, Italy
- Dijon, France
- Maynooth, Ireland
- Semester Around the World
- Seville, Spain
- Innsbruck, Austria
- Fremantle, Australia
- Women's Studies in Europe
- Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

Spring Break Programs

- Poland to Prague
- Business in Mexico City

Summer Programs

- Environments of Ecuador
- Honduras Service Learning
- Internship in the European Union
- European Study Program
- Greece Study Tour
- Korean Culture Study



SAINT MARY'S STUDY ABROAD INFO SESSION

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2007

5:00—6:00pm, DEBARTOLO HALL

NOTRE DAME CAMPUS

SMC, ND, & HC STUDENTS ARE WELCOME!!



Saint Mary's Semester Programs	Debartolo Room #
Rome, Italy	204
Maynooth, Ireland	205
Semester Around the World	120
Seville, Spain	225
Pietermaritzburg, South Africa	223
Dijon, France	224
Women's Studies in Europe	240

Semester Programs:

Deadline for Applications — March 1st

If you are unable to attend an information session please contact
the Center for Women's InterCultural Leadership at SMC cwil@saintmarys.edu

Gas leak

continued from page 1

SCO) to repair it. The gas distribution system on campus belongs to NIPSCO, he said.

For about two hours, gas streamed up into the air in large amounts from a small area between Stepan Chemistry Hall, the Radiation Laboratory and the Hesburgh Library.

People inside were told to leave the buildings and then shortly afterward told to leave the area. Students in class and professors in their offices streamed out of the buildings and then walked away from the area that was soon blocked off with caution tape.

The buildings were evacuated as a precautionary measure, Kempf said.

"Just because you can smell the gas doesn't mean there is a great concentration of it, he said. "If we can smell the gas, we typically will evacuate people out."

Notre Dame Security/Police (NDSP) blocked off entry to the space between O'Shaughnessy, Malloy and Decio Halls and between the Radiation building and Stepan Chemistry Hall. They blocked off this area to keep

people out of spaces where the concentration of the gas may be higher, Kempf said.

In circumstances like this, said Associate Director Phil Johnson, NDSP evaluates the particular circumstances and then chooses a course of action.

"In an emergency response we take the measures that we think are necessary to protect the public safety," Johnson said.

While the buildings were being evacuated, NIPSCO could not find the valves to turn the gas off, so instead they exposed undamaged sections of the line and squeezed the gas line together to shut it off. It takes time

to do either method, so the amount of time it took NIPSCO to repair the leak was not unusual, Kempf said.

At 3:25 p.m. NIPSCO was able to put a clamp on the pipe and the leak "dissipated substantially

at that time," said Dennis Brown, assistant vice president for News and Information.

There were no injuries as a result of the incident. Notre Dame Associate Vice President for News and Information Don Wycliff said the gas was "not harmful" to anyone, but people were being evacuated from nearby buildings as a precautionary measure.

"This is natural gas, like you would use in your home. Outside, there are no harmful effects from breathing it, as long as we keep a safe distance away from the rupture. There have been no complaints of ill effects as of yet," he said.

Fire alarms were turned on to evacuate people from the buildings, including Stepan Chemistry Hall, where graduate student Brian Wilson was at the time of the leak.

"People went outside, but when the alarms stopped, we went back in," Wilson said. "Then we smelled the gas, and left the building again."

Faculty, staff and students who were in the buildings when they were evacuated were allowed to re-enter later in the afternoon to obtain items they had left behind. As of approximately 5 p.m., the seven buildings were available for use.

The buildings are expected to be fully re-open today. There should be no odor of gas remaining in the buildings, Kempf said. When the gas leak was occurring, the fans in the building were quickly turned off so outside air would not circulate in.

NIPSCO went through each building after the leak was contained and tested the air for traces of gas, Kempf said. Only Stepan Chemistry hall had very low traces at the time.

John-Paul Witt contributed to this report.

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu

Malloy

continued from page 1

because periodically Congress, and in rare cases the White House, have intervened to institute reforms when things aren't going in the right direction," he said.

He offered the 1906 creation of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) at the urging of President Theodore Roosevelt as an illustration of the role the federal government has played in intercollegiate athletics in the past.

Roosevelt was concerned by the levels of violence, serious injuries and deaths related to football in a given year and threatened to ban the sport if regulations and supervision were not immediately established, Malloy said.

"If things in intercollegiate athletics don't go well, presidents and people in Congress get interested."

He also noted throughout his lifetime the changing landscape of intercollegiate athletics in light of the gradual integration of women's programs and racial minorities over the last decades.

A former Notre Dame basketball player, Malloy recalled there was only one African-American player in the team during his years as an undergraduate student, and no African-American coaches in any school.

"The greatest changes in my lifetime in athletics have been racial integration and the opportunities for women," Malloy said. "And they both still need work done to be fully implemented."

He said he accepted the center's invitation to participate in the forum because he thought it was important to discuss these changes and the future of collegiate athletics, as they are an auxiliary unit of the university and affect the way people relate to the institution.

However, he was also driven to Virginia after he found out his friend and Chancellor of the

University of Mississippi, Robert Khayat, was the other guest speaker.

"I spoke at Robert [Khayat's] inauguration and we were on the NCAA foundation board for many years," Malloy said. "When we each heard the other one was the second speaker we both agreed to do it."

He said their experiences as former student athletes and leaders of their respective universities added weight to their arguments.

"When you're an insider you don't buy into the totally romanticized view that some people have about athletics or the utterly cynical view that other people have," he said. "You understand the pluses and the minuses because you've been through it yourself."

Some of those minuses include the scrutiny that young student athletes undergo under the lens of the rapidly proliferating sports media, Malloy said.

In recent years, specialty magazines and publications, T.V. stations and the Internet's chat rooms, blogs and Web sites have tracked student athletes and made them household names.

"This is a huge change in the reality of intercollegiate athletics because when student athletes come to Notre Dame, if you read all these materials, you know so much about them

before they set a foot on the campus," he said. "Or when an athlete gets into trouble it's instantaneously news around the country. That just never existed before."

When asked for his opinion regarding the proper disciplinary treatment

given to student athletes in the spotlight, Malloy only said that athletes should be subjected to the same rules and yardsticks as non-athletes.

He declined to comment on the recent controversy surrounding former Irish point guard Kyle McAlarney, saying he spoke at the forum about intercollegiate athletics in general and didn't address specific Notre Dame issues.

McAlarney's suspension following his arrest in December for possession of marijuana was considered excessive by some critics — a result, they said, that was directly related to the basketball player's celebrity.

However, disciplinary issues are not the only ones where student athletes are known to receive special considerations — to the advancement or detriment of the athlete's career.

During the forum, Malloy also raised the question of academic integrity for student athletes — a cause supported by NCAA President Myles Brand.

He said Brand's steps to guarantee every member institution in the NCAA protects the impartiality of its athletes' academics have echoed Notre Dame's own decision to demand from every student — athletes and non-athletes alike — the same academic performance.

Former NCAA president and Notre Dame athletic coordinator Gene Corrigan attended the forum, among 150 Virginia student athletes, students, faculty members and outside spectators.

Contact Marcella Berrios at aberrios@nd.edu

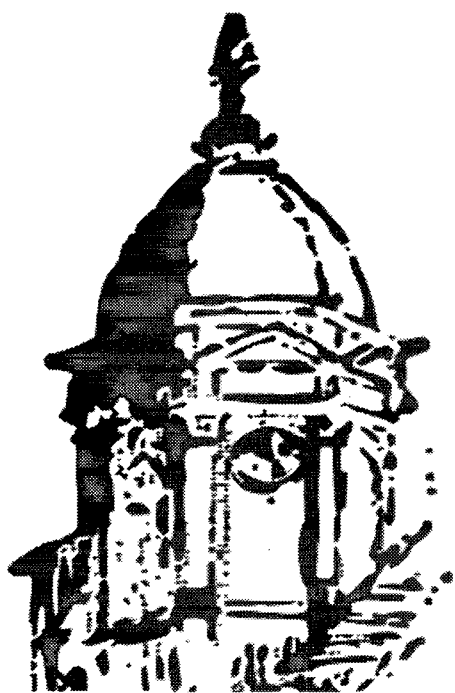
"In an emergency response we take the measures that we think are necessary to protect the public safety."

Phil Johnson
Associate Director
NDSP

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

China fails to meet environmental goals

BEIJING — China's environmental watchdog admitted Monday the country had failed to reach any of its pollution control goals for 2006 and had fallen further behind as the economy picked up speed.

The State Environmental Protection Agency said faster-than-expected economic growth meant that sulfur dioxide emissions increased by nearly 1.8 percent, or 463,000 tons, over the previous year, according to a report on its Web site.

Chemical oxygen demand, a water pollution index, rose by 1.2 percent, the report said.

China had set a goal of cutting the emission of major pollutants by 10 percent by 2010, with the two main pollutants to be reduced by 2 percent in 2006, the first year of the plan.

Sulfur dioxide emissions are chiefly caused by coal burning. China is the world's largest producer and consumer of coal, depending heavily on coal-fired plants for electricity.

Explosions occur near U.S. base

TOKYO — Japanese police were investigating a suspected extremist attack on the U.S. Army after two small explosions occurred outside a military base south of Tokyo, police said Tuesday.

There were no reports of injury or damage at Camp Zama or from nearby residents, Kanagawa prefectural police spokesman Hiroyoshi Ichikawa said.

Investigators found a pair of metal tubes planted in the ground at a nearby park. They were believed to be used as rocket launchers and pointed toward the base, Ichikawa said.

He said investigators suspect an attack by leftist extremists, but cannot rule out a possibility of a terrorist attack.

NATIONAL NEWS

Veterans' information missing

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — The Department of Veterans Affairs began notifying 1.8 million veterans and doctors Monday that their personal and business information could be on a portable hard drive that has been missing from an Alabama hospital for nearly three weeks.

The hard drive may have contained Social Security numbers and other personal information from about 535,000 individuals and billing information on 1.3 million doctors nationwide, the VA said. That's more than 37 times more people than authorities initially believed were affected.

An employee at the VA medical center in Birmingham reported the external hard drive missing on Jan. 22. The drive was used to back up information on the employee's office computer. It may have contained data from research projects, the department said.

Bush honors Black History Month

WASHINGTON — To honor black history, President Bush on Monday focused on people contributing today — those who are seizing opportunities gained at great price, he said.

"Our call and our need is to continue to remember the promise belongs to everybody," Bush said. "And our call for this country is never to rest until equality is real, opportunity is universal and every citizen can realize his or her dreams."

LOCAL NEWS

State braces for heavy snow storm

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana readied more than 300 snow plows to hit the highways and canceled state troopers' days off as a major winter storm bore down on much of the state.

About a dozen officials from the Department of Homeland Security and other state agencies hunkered down in the basement of the state government center in Indianapolis on Monday night to direct emergency operations as the storm swept into the state from the southwest.

"If the storm hits as predicted we know there will be problems but every resource state government has is ready to go," Gov. Mitch Daniels said in a prepared statement.

Layoffs at Chrysler imminent

Employees fear company's restructuring effort to cut 10,000 workers

Associated Press

DETROIT — Chrysler workers have taken to calling it the "Valentine's Day massacre."

They are referring to Wednesday's restructuring announcement from Chrysler, one that some analysts say could cost 10,000 production workers their jobs.

As workers await the news, rumors fly: Two plants to be shut down; buy-out or early retirement offers similar to what Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Corp. did to reduce their hourly work forces; flat-out layoffs.

"We hear they're going to call it the Valentine's Day massacre," said Steve Laube on Monday, as he and other laid-off workers reported to "jobs bank" duty, for which they'll get most of their pay to perform community service work or sometimes just hang around the union hall.

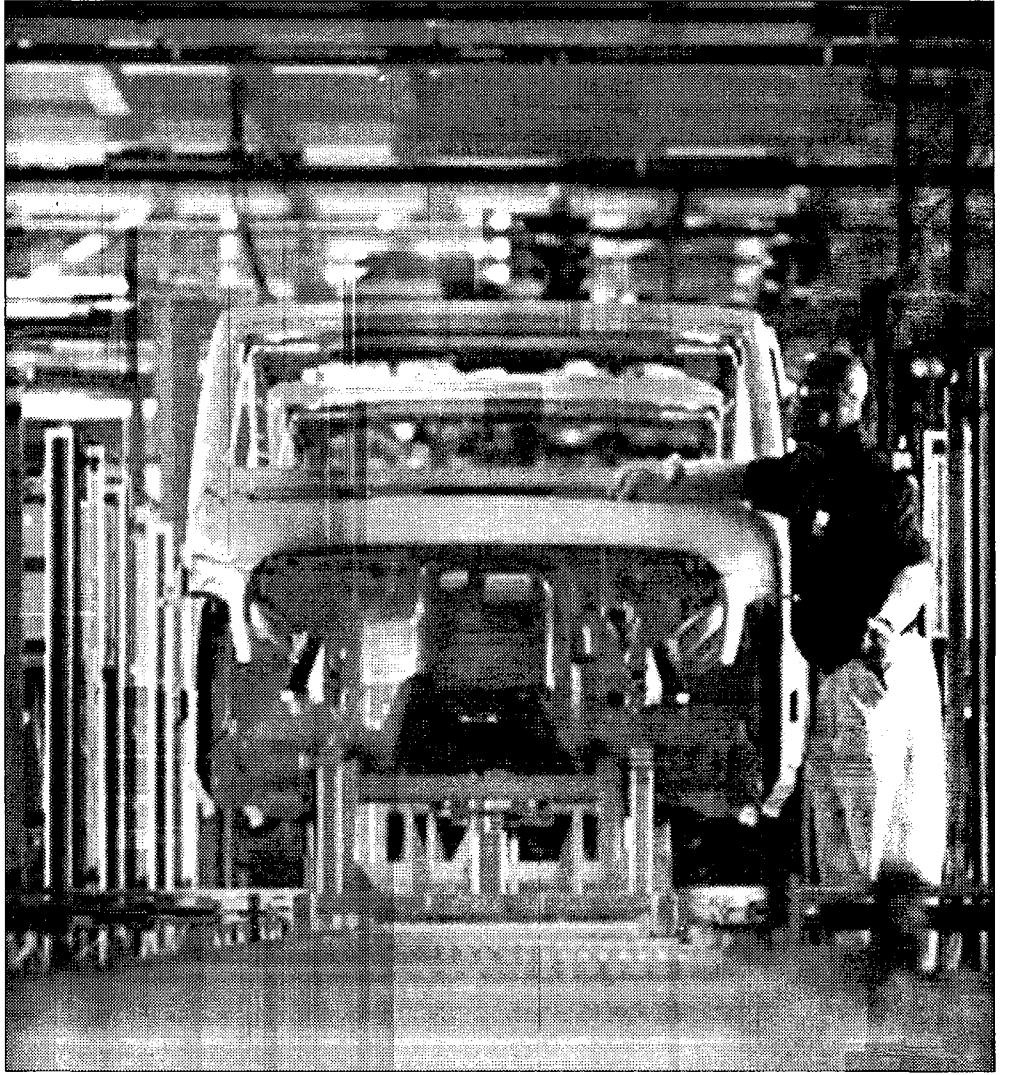
At 49, Laube has eight years in as an electrician at DaimlerChrysler AG's Jefferson North Assembly Plant in Detroit, but he's so low on the seniority list that he was laid off Jan. 1 due to slumping demand for the plant's Jeep Cherokees and Commanders.

"They don't clue us into anything," he said. "You just hear rumors, rumors, rumors."

Analysts predict another 1,000 to 1,500 salaried workers also could lose their jobs as Chrysler Group joins its two domestic rivals in trying to downsize factory capacity to match lower demand for its products.

Much of the shrinkage, analysts believe, will come at plants that make truck-based products, victims of the change in consumer tastes from sport utility vehicles and trucks to more fuel efficient car-based vehicles.

Chrysler lost \$1.5 billion in the third quarter of 2006, and its sales were down 7 percent last year. Trucks



A Chrysler worker inspects a jeep at the company's Daimler Chrysler Jeep plant in Toledo, Ohio on Aug. 28, 2006. Restructuring could cut 10,000 employees.

and bigger SUVs historically account for about 70 percent of the company's U.S. sales, more than any other manufacturer.

Kevin Reale, an industry analyst for AMR Research Inc., said Chrysler probably has 15 percent too much manufacturing capacity.

"They'll have to trim out some assembly facilities to bring their capacity to produce vehicles in line with demand," he said.

DaimlerChrysler has two large manufacturing complexes in Kokomo that employ nearly 7,000 people, including a plant that makes transmissions. The company also has said it is considering Kokomo for a new transmission plant that

would be part of a joint venture with Getrag Corporate Group of Germany.

Atop almost everyone's list for closure is the 2,100-worker plant in Newark, Del., that assembles the slow-selling Dodge Durango and Chrysler Aspen mid-sized SUVs. Analysts say the Mack Avenue Engine Plant 1 in Detroit, with about 530 employees, also is a possibility because it makes the 4.7-liter V-8 engines that go in slow-selling trucks.

Erich Merkle, an industry analyst with the auto consulting company IRN Inc. in Grand Rapids, said a 2,330-worker plant near St. Louis in Fenton, Mo., that makes Ram pickups also is on his list because Chrysler has

two other plants that make the Ram.

Chrysler won't say which plants are on the blocks. It says details will be released Wednesday morning in tandem with the company's 2006 earnings.

But most vulnerable are plants that make the mid-sized SUVs, which have fallen out of favor with buyers, said Catherine Madden, an auto industry analyst at the consulting company Global Insight Inc.

The Durango and Aspen underpinnings are exclusive to those vehicles, contrary to Chrysler's movement toward more flexible manufacturing plants that can build multiple vehicles on one platform, she said.

CHINA

North Korea closer to disarmament

Associated Press

BEIJING — Six countries reached a tentative agreement Tuesday on initial steps toward North Korea's nuclear disarmament that could usher in the first concrete progress after more than three years of talks marked by delays, deadlock and the communist country's first nuclear test explosion.

The U.S. envoy to the talks, Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill, emerged in the early morning hours of Tuesday looking weary after a marathon 16-hour negotiating session and announced that a tentative deal had been struck at the latest round of six-party talks on the North's nuclear

program.

The draft agreement contained commitments on disarmament and energy assistance along with "initial actions" to be taken by certain deadlines, Hill said. Working groups will be set up, hopefully in a month, laying out a framework for dealing with regional tensions, he added.

He declined to give further details of the draft.

The agreement could herald the first step toward disarmament since the talks began in 2003. The process reached its lowest point in October when North Korea conducted its first nuclear test explosion, alarming the world and triggering U.N. sanctions.

In the last few days, the talks had appeared to be on the verge of foundering and envoys made clear that their frustration was increasing and their patience growing thin. The current round was to conclude on Monday but as they progressed toward a deal, negotiators extended it late into the night and then into the early hours of Tuesday.

Hill said the draft agreement still must be reviewed by the home governments of the six countries at the talks, but he was upbeat about it. He said he was in "constant communication" with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

"We feel it's an excellent draft, I don't think we're the problem," he said.

Club

continued from page 1

surrounding community, said Paul Conway, a retired finance professor and the Club's current president.

"We consider that building to be a part of Notre Dame," he said, calling the Club a perfect example of Notre Dame culture.

While Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves stressed the necessity of the building plans, he acknowledged the difficulty of asking the University Club to relocate.

"It's not easy to change anything that people like," he told The Observer Monday.

Much consideration went into the new building's location, said Affleck-Graves, who tied the decision to Notre Dame's mission. Fulfilling an academic need is more important than preserving a social space, which can be relocated, he said.

Affleck-Graves said officials worked extensively with faculty and the dean of the Engineering School to find alternative sites for the new building, but none were appropriate.

University officials have proposed the Club relocate to Greenfield's International Café inside the Hesburgh Center. Notre Dame leases the current building to the Club, which operates independently of the University.

But Colley said the proposal to move to Greenfield's is not

feasible, given the size of the cafe and the different purposes each establishment serves.

"We were hoping for the Club to continue at another location, if that was a workable deal with the University, but the one that they've offered us isn't very workable," she said. "We feel that they want to get rid of us."

Conway said the suggested proposal had too many financial stumbling blocks for the Club to handle.

"We would go out of business in a short time [if we accepted]," he said.

Affleck-Graves said the University has discussed several options with the Club, in addition to the proposal to move to Greenfield's.

He did not disclose the other options, but said the Club must first make a decision how to proceed.

The board of directors is currently working on a

counter proposal to present to University officials, "to see if there is any possibility in [the University] changing their terms," Colley said.

"We can't imagine that the University of Notre Dame wouldn't have a University Club," she said.

Club employees — as well as employees of Greenfield's — did not find out about the relocation proposal until it was printed in the South Bend Tribune, Colley said.

"They kind of got a slap in the face, as well as us," said Vicki Lodyga, office manager at the Club for 14 years and one of the Club's 33 full-time employees.

Many of the Club employees — some who have worked there for more than two decades — are disappointed, she said. She said this wasn't an expected course for the building's future.

In 2004, University President Emeritus Father Edward Malloy appointed a committee to determine the future of the Club, according to documents on the Club's Web site. Affleck-Graves was named chair of the committee. The Club's members were notified of the University's intent to move the Club at that time.

In response, the Club formed the Committee for the Future of the University Club. The group produced a report stating the Club should remain "as it is, where it is," Conway said.

This committee gathered more than 400 signatures to petition against the relocation of the Club, including the signature of University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh.

In 2006, the Club was informed that they would need to vacate by June 2008. The board and Club employees were surprised when they received the Jan. 9 letter that moved the demolition date up to Aug. 2007, Colley said.

Conway said he is optimistic the Club will continue, even while a decision on new location is "still up in the air."

The Club was founded in 1958. The current building was donated by former Indiana governor Robert Gore and designed by Robert Schultz, a former architect with the School of Architecture. It serves faculty, staff, alumni and community members who pay a membership fee to gain access to the Club.

Contact Aaron Steiner at asteiner@nd.edu

Snow, ice result in falls at Saint Mary's

By MANDI STIRONE
News Writer

With sub-zero temperatures and heavy snow accumulation this winter, walking or driving around Saint Mary's campus has been particularly dangerous.

One College sophomore suffered a hairline fracture after she slipped on the ice.

Lisa Anderson was walking from the Student Center to LeMans last Thursday when she fell and hurt her arm. Anderson didn't go to Heath and Wellness until the next day, but went to a hospital over the weekend while she was home in Chicago.

Sophomore Beth Alexander said she also has had trouble walking down the sidewalks.

"I have to leave 15 minutes early so I don't fall in heels outside," she said.

Senior Ayslinn McGovern said she has to travel at a slower pace to avoid slipping on the snow and ice.

"It's dangerous to walk more than briskly," she said. "The steps are horrible because those are covered with ice."

College Grounds Supervisor Mark Kubacki is in charge of keeping all the sidewalks and entrances safe. There are five other people who help take care of the entrances and walkways, he said. Kubacki said he and his crew begin working at about 7 a.m.

every weekday — though sometimes an hour or two earlier — and continue to work around campus throughout the day.

The entranceways are shoveled by hand and then the walkways are done using the College's three plows — two ride-on plows and one that's pushed, he said.

Every entrance has its own container of de-icer, which is used as needed, but in sub-zero temperatures the de-icers don't work very well, Kubacki said. The crew also juggles between being environmentally conscious and being as safe as possible, he said.

After spending the day working on campus, the crew comes back in the evening around 8 p.m. or later to work on the sidewalks, especially for late night events, he said. They also always have at least one person working on Sunday.

Judith Johns, the executive director of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, said the sisters also hire a grounds crew to take care of the roadways and the parking lots. They arrive at various times, often around 2 and sometimes 4 a.m. to work on the main roadways and parking lots, she said. Johns also said that there is a priority list of what gets done first.

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Paige

continued from page 1

superintendent of the Houston Independent School District.

Paige said his mission was to improve public schools because doing so would "strengthen the social and economic fabric of the city." In

late 2000, Paige was asked by U.S. President George W. Bush to be the Secretary of Education in his administration. Bush was sworn in on a Saturday, and by Tuesday, Paige said he was already addressing the issue of "No Child Left Behind."

While Paige admitted that the No Child Left Behind Act is "not perfect," he said it has

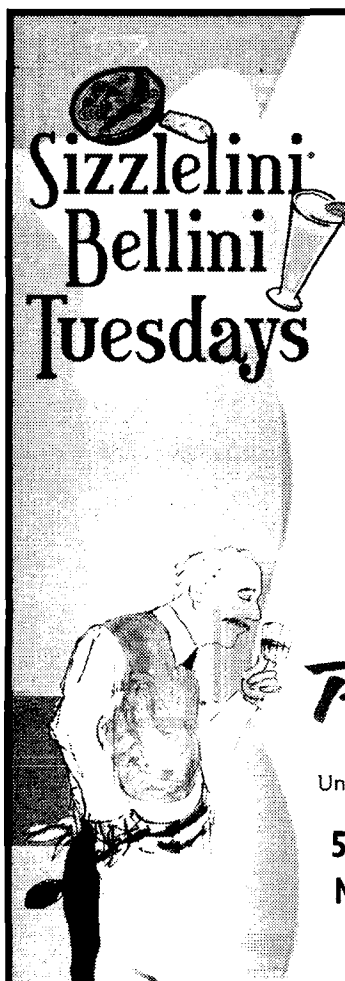
made huge advancements in holding schools accountable for making sure that children are at the appropriate grade level in their capabilities.

Paige defended the standardized testing by citing that learning deficits tend to accumulate, so they must be identified early and continually measured so that they can be properly fixed.

He also spoke about the importance of choice of school in regard to No Child Left Behind. If a given public school is not reaching the required standards after two years of testing or if the child is not receiving fair treatment and help at that school, parents have the option of moving their child to another public school, he said.

Every child must have access to a good education because it is their civil right, Paige said. He said a society cannot consider itself just if it does not provide equal educational opportunity for all of its citizens.

Contact Kate McClelland at mmcclell@nd.edu



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Reservations Accepted

Election

continued from page 1

The narrow majority of voters were freshmen. One thousand eighty-nine freshmen, 1,066 sophomores, 803 juniors, 533 seniors, and one fifth-year cast their ballots.

Each of the candidates received a comprehensive breakdown of votes by class and by dorm, in the main lounge of

which could be helpful in determining where candidates are lacking support, Brown said.

"Dorm breakdowns are very useful for us ... we will be using that in the next 48 hours left in the campaign and use those numbers to our advantage."

Liz Brown
candidate
student body president

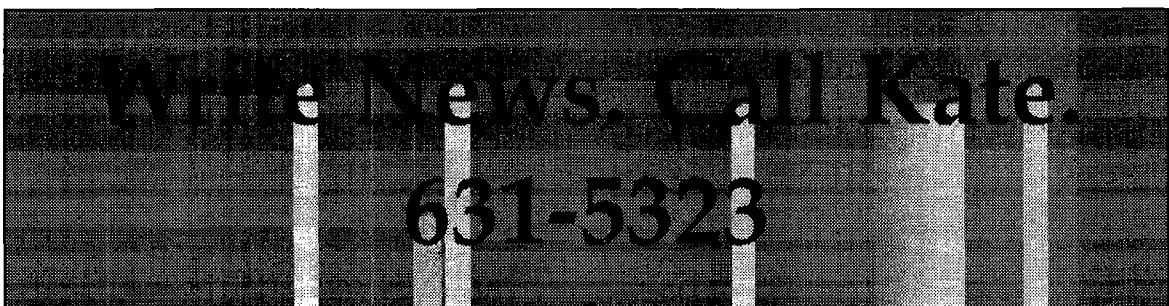
The run-off debate will take place at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday

LaFortune. The debate will have the same format as the one held last Wednesday, but the focus may shift to "more specific topics" in addition to a re-evaluation of each ticket's platform, Kozlow said. The run-off election is Thursday, with the same technology access as Monday's elections.

Like election protocol, the candidates seem to be sticking to the status quo when it comes to run-off strategy.

"I think we're just going to keep doing what we're doing," Brown said. "I think we have a lot to offer the student body."

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Wine News Call Kate

631-5323

MARKET RECAP

Stocks
Dow Jones 12,552.55 -28.28

Up: Same: Down: Composite Volume
1,001 134 2,263 2,952,295,790

AMEX 2,138.27 -14.79
NASDAQ 2,450.38 -9.44
NYSE 9,258.32 -33.33
S&P 500 1,433.37 -4.69
NIKKEI(Tokyo) 17,504.33 +211.85
FTSE 100(London) 6,382.80 +36.40

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 100 TR (QQQQ)	-0.32	-0.14	43.70
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	-0.34	-0.49	143.45
ONYX PHARM INC (ONXX)	+96.98	+11.89	24.15
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-0.14	-0.04	28.94

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	+0.42	+0.020	4.804
13-WEEK BILL	+0.10	+0.005	5.020
30-YEAR BOND	+0.43	+0.021	4.886
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.38	+0.018	4.796

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+0.18	59.89
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+9.50	672.30
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+1.23	104.80

Exchange Rates

YEN	121.4100
EURO	0.7715
POUND	0.5132
CANADIAN \$	1.1758

IN BRIEF

Bush advocates free-trade agreements

WASHINGTON — Free-trade policies that make it easier for U.S. companies to sell their products are important to the economy's vitality, President Bush said Monday as he projected a year of good — though somewhat slower — economic growth.

Bush, in his annual economic report to Congress, made a fresh pitch for breaking down trade barriers and energizing global trade talks. He also called on Congress to extend his authority to negotiate free-trade deals, a request likely to face an uphill battle in the Democratic-controlled Congress.

"This authority is essential to completing good trade agreements," Bush wrote in the introduction to the report. "The Congress must renew it if we are to improve our competitiveness in the global economy."

With the United States racking up record trade deficits and facing intense competition from rapidly growing China and India, global trade tensions have intensified.

Democrats blame Bush's free-trade policies for contributing to the trade deficit, costing U.S. jobs and exposing U.S. workers to unfair competition from low-wage countries.

House acts to install solar panels

WASHINGTON — Thirty years ago, Rep. Jim Oberstar testified in favor of legislation to install solar panels at federal buildings. Now, as chairman of the House Transportation Committee, he's able to make it happen — at least on a small scale.

On Monday, the House approved Oberstar's bill to create a solar energy system at the Energy Department building, with the hope that the project could serve as a model for all federal buildings.

"What better symbol than the Department of Energy itself, to operate on renewable energy?" Oberstar, D-Minn., asked in an interview. "Let's showcase this project. Let's show definitively this works."

Oberstar's new bill directs the General Service Administration to spend \$30 million to install solar panels on the south wall of the Energy Department headquarters.

Katrina insurance trial begins

Allstate confronted with allegations of delaying payments to hurricane victims

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — A homeowner who claims Allstate Indemnity Co. failed to properly or promptly pay his damage claim after Hurricane Katrina took the witness stand in federal court Monday, kicking off testimony in the first trial for one of the several thousand such Louisiana lawsuits.

Lawrence Tomlinson and his wife Elizabeth, accuse the Northbrook, Ill.-based company of bad faith and say the company underpaid them for wind damage that tore holes in their roof and let water rain into their home in the New Orleans suburb of Marrero.

The Tomlinsons also say Allstate didn't start adjusting their claim after the Aug. 29, 2005, storm until Nov. 28 — more than the 30 days allowed by law.

"The whole house was a mess," Tomlinson said, describing how water had pooled inside the home. "There was a lot of damage to everything."

Allstate disputes the extent of the wind damage to the Tomlinsons' home and accuses the couple of misrepresenting parts of their claim.

Jury selection was completed quickly Monday morning, despite U.S. District Judge Martin Feldman's early fears that there were potential problems in finding an unbiased panel in southeast Louisiana, where Katrina caused widespread death and destruction.

The seven-member jury first heard arguments from the Tomlinsons' lawyer, Christy Howley, who said the Tomlinsons paid their premiums in a timely manner but didn't get paid for their Katrina claims until after they sued in January 2006.

"And the one time they needed Allstate to step up to the plate, it didn't happen," Howley said.

Howley said Allstate ignored evidence of wide-



Boats remain piled up in the Municipal Yacht Harbor in New Orleans Thursday. It has been almost 18 months since Hurricane Katrina flooded the city.

spread damage to the Tomlinson home. She denied Allstate allegations that the couple tried to bill Allstate for renovation work not related to the storm.

Allstate attorney Judy Barrasso said Allstate already has paid \$151,133 to the couple.

"You're going to see that Allstate has paid them more than enough, but they want more," Barrasso said. She said the Tomlinsons misrepresented parts of their claim and that Allstate paid them more than \$30,000 for additional living expenses after they moved to office property that they already owned.

Tomlinson said they noti-

fied the company when they moved into his office building and misrepresented nothing.

Cross-examination of Tomlinson was scheduled to resume Tuesday morning and was expected to last several days.

Tulane Law School professor Ed Sherman said a victory for the Tomlinsons could embolden other homeowners to sue their insurers, but he downplayed the possible legal implications for the roughly 4,000 other Katrina lawsuits awaiting trials here in federal court.

"These are very personal, individual issues," he said.

The Tomlinsons are challenging the manner in

which Allstate adjusted and paid their claim, but not how the company interpreted its policy terms. In Mississippi, meanwhile, hundreds of homeowners have filed similar lawsuits challenging insurance companies' refusal to pay for damage from Katrina's storm surge.

The companies say their policies cover damage from a hurricane's wind but not rising water, including wind-driven surge. This wind versus water debate — a central issue for many of the roughly 350 federal lawsuits still pending in Mississippi — isn't a factor in the Tomlinsons' case because their home didn't flood.

Stocks fall, Nasdaq-LSE merger fails

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street extended its losses Monday as investors awaited a stream of key economic data this week and were left disappointed by the collapse of several closely watched acquisition deals.

The markets, which pulled back last week amid concern about inflation's impact on interest rates, traded cautiously with Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke set to testify about the economy before Congress on Wednesday. Government data due Friday should shed light on wholesale inflation and the state of the housing market.

Unlike recent Mondays, there was

a dearth of acquisition announcements to give the market a lift. Instead, investors had to deal with news that the Nasdaq Stock Market Inc. failed in its bid to buy the London Stock Exchange and that French drugmaker Sanofi-Aventis called off talks for a possible deal with Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.

Onyx Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Bayer AG advanced after the companies released data from a clinical trial that shows an experimental drug is effective in fighting liver cancer. Apple Inc. moved higher after being upgraded in anticipation of big product launches set this year.

Wall Street fell last week on concerns about higher oil prices and the

possibility that inflation could lead to higher interest rates. With fourth-quarter earnings reports nearly over, investors have traded hesitantly as they wait for some kind of catalyst to give them direction.

"With all the data coming out, and Bernanke possibly taking a more hawkish tone, this causes the markets to be very cautious and tentative," said Alan Gayle, senior investment strategist for Trusco Capital Management. "There's just been a lot of nervousness going into this week, and the weak start is a carryover from last week."

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 28.28, or 0.22 percent, to 12,552.55.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 8

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

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

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

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Saint Mary's — we need to talk

For anyone who has been in a relationship, the words "we need to talk" bring with them the possibility of arguments, insults, honest conversations and sometimes a reconciliation that can sustain the relationship well into the future. Uttering those dreaded four words is unpleasant, but it has to be done in order to move forward.

Notre Dame and Saint Mary's have enjoyed a special and often close relationship over the years. After all, Notre Dame was only 13 when Saint Mary's showed up across the street, and their young love strengthened as each school educated one half of a growing community. Many of us have parents from both schools, and we have all heard the legendary stories about students from both schools sneaking through the tunnels to get home after parietals. Notre Dame provided men with a Holy Cross education and Saint Mary's provided women with the same, and the relationship was one of mutual benefit, respect and affection.

By the late 1960s, many of Notre Dame's all-male peer universities began to go co-ed or merge with associated all-female universities. Notre Dame began to see the benefits of combining with Saint Mary's, and in May 1971, University President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh proposed a merger. A few departments began the merger process and a number of Saint Mary's students enrolled at Notre Dame and graduated with Notre Dame degrees.

However, in a 2002 Observer article, Hesburgh said, "I said to the sisters, 'You know, sisters, we're using all the metaphors of marriage, and I get the impression you're in favor of the marriage, but two things are missing. Number one, you don't want to take our

name, and number two, you don't want to live with us. That's not marriage.'" In 1971, frustrated with a lack of progress, Notre Dame broke off the merger. In 1972, Notre Dame went co-educational unilaterally and the historic first class of women enrolled at the University.

It has been more than 30 years since Notre Dame and Saint Mary's broke off their ephemeral engagement. Though the phrase was not in usage at the time, the best term to describe the current relationship is "friends with benefits." Unfortunately for the Notre Dame community, the vast majority of those benefits go to Saint Mary's. Saint Mary's students receive the ability to take classes at a top-20 undergraduate institution, access to job recruiters who come to Notre Dame, Notre Dame student section football tickets (which are often better than those of actual Notre Dame students) and participation in nearly all of Notre Dame's larger and more organized student organizations, including the University of Notre Dame Marching Band, student managers and the cheerleading squad. In exchange, Notre Dame students get to take excellent education classes, occasionally use O'Laughlin Auditorium and go on the Semester Around the World.

In October 2005, Saint Mary's student body president Kellye Mitros wrote a letter to The Observer entitled "Separate and Proud," extolling the continued independence of Saint Mary's. The theme was continued with this year's campaign for Saint Mary's student body president, as the Davis-Kennedy ticket "recogniz[ed] the need to maintain the College's deeply rooted tradition in the sometimes-uncertain future of Saint Mary's identity," according to the Observer endorsement.

I'm happy that Saint Mary's students are proud of their school, but in reality they aren't separate at all. Nothing exemplifies this fact to me more than a quote from Saint Mary's student Lauren Sheldon in an Observer article after the Army game last fall. "At my first Notre

Dame game before I was a student, I would watch them in fascination. Then when I got to be a part of that, it was amazing. I'll always remember when the leprechaun threw a Rice Krispie treat at me and when we gave James Aldridge push-ups last year when he was in the recruiting section." This sentiment is not a fluke. In a 2005 Letter to the Editor, Saint Mary's student Christine Herdman wrote, "That's what I love about those boys that make up our Notre Dame Football team." Students from a school whose leaders constantly assert their independence and separate identity also enthusiastically take part in Notre Dame activities that define our identity, and even claim that identity as their own. If that is not hypocritical, it is at least problematic.

If Saint Mary's wants to be part of Notre Dame, it should merge with the University, have equal standards for admission and tuition and contribute its fair share. If Saint Mary's says it is independent and proud of it, it shouldn't turn around and take advantage of Notre Dame's greater resources. Saint Mary's effective rejection of Notre Dame's offer ruined its "engagement" with Notre Dame 30 years ago and the College continues to display its indecisiveness through its students' words and deeds. Notre Dame now fulfills the mission of providing a Holy Cross education to both men and women, and Saint Mary's should choose whether it wants to be "separate and proud" or a part of Notre Dame. Unfortunately, it didn't do that in 1971 and it won't now. Why should they buy the cow when they can get the milk for free?

Jonathan Klingler is a senior management consulting major and president emeritus of the Notre Dame College Republicans. He currently resides in Keenan Hall and enjoys Tolstoy and Matlock. He can be contacted via e-mail at jklingl@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

What was the most important factor in your vote for student body president?

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

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"To wear your heart on your sleeve isn't a very good plan; you should wear it inside, where it functions best."

Margaret Thatcher
former prime minister

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Students urged to attend hockey playoffs

To the Notre Dame community, on behalf of the Notre Dame hockey team, I would like to thank you for your help in energizing Irish hockey this season. Your support, combined with the hard work of our players, has helped us earn a first round bye in the CCHA playoffs, a goal we set at the beginning of the year.

Our fans have a lot to do with our success this season. The atmosphere that you have created in the Joyce Center has carried us to a 9-0-2 league record at home. The Notre Dame hockey band has been phenomenal and the cheering of

JACCO's WACCos in section 6 has made our rink a feared place for opposing teams. As a result, the second round of the CCHA playoffs will be played at the Joyce Center March 9-11 and although we don't know our opponent, we know we will need our fans to be louder than ever.

I realize that many of you have been looking forward to that weekend because of spring break and the opportunity to leave campus for a few days. Your classmates on the hockey team and I are asking you to hold off on leaving so

quickly! The team has appreciated and thrived on your efforts all season long and they need you now more than ever. The hockey band will be there so please join them, wear gold and be loud! We would love to see a sea of gold cheering us on during this important playoff weekend. As with all of the games this season, admission is free to all Notre Dame, Saint Mary's and Holy Cross students with their ID as long as seats are available. As always, I'm sure there will be some great prizes and I can assure you there will be some great hockey.

In closing, this weekend we head to Alaska in pursuit of Notre Dame's first-ever regular season conference championship. Upon our return, we look forward to seeing you for our last home regular season series (including Senior Night on Feb. 24) versus Ferris State, and then again at our CCHA playoff games in March on our "Road to the Joe" and beyond. Go Irish!

Jeff Jackson

Notre Dame hockey head coach
Feb. 12

U-WIRE

Alternative Valentine's plans worthwhile

It is that time of year again, people. Valentine's Day, which I'm convinced was devised by a consortium of greedy chocolate and flower companies, is nearly upon us.

Conventional wisdom states that it is not a good feeling to be single on Valentine's Day. I disagree.

For me, Wednesday of this week is simply "the day before my dad's birthday," and that is the way I like it.

However, just because V-Day is a fundamentally stupid holiday that probably yields as many hurt feelings as it does happy nights doesn't mean that it serves no purpose.

Chris
Mueller

Daily
Collegian

This year, I suggest that all single guys and girls, instead of awkwardly calling last weekend's booty call in hopes of a date, try something novel for a change. Find that girl or guy who has always been there for you, because there certainly is one, and take them out. Maybe you've always wanted to date this person, and things just never worked out, or maybe you've only liked them "as a friend" or vice versa, but they probably deserve a nice night out. It's the least you can do after dragging your sorry rear end to them after making another bad life choice.

I've always felt that V-Day would be better spent enjoying the company of someone you can have a coherent conversation with as opposed to someone you

find about as interesting as a cement block.

Yet, in spite of the fact that I suspect many people share my feelings, people still go to the ends of the earth to please their dates, only to find that they don't really like them so much when they aren't drunker than Mel Gibson at traffic school.

Also, don't think that because I'm suggesting you take out a good friend for the night means you can skimp on them because your company is already gift enough.

When you're sitting down tonight trying to flesh out some plans for Wednesday, remember the girl or guy who you can pass out next to, the one you like more sober than drunk, the one you would step in front of traffic for. Think of the person

who makes you smile when you think about them, the person whose good looks are matched by their intelligence and sense of humor, the person who lights up your world when they come into your orbit, even if you never show it.

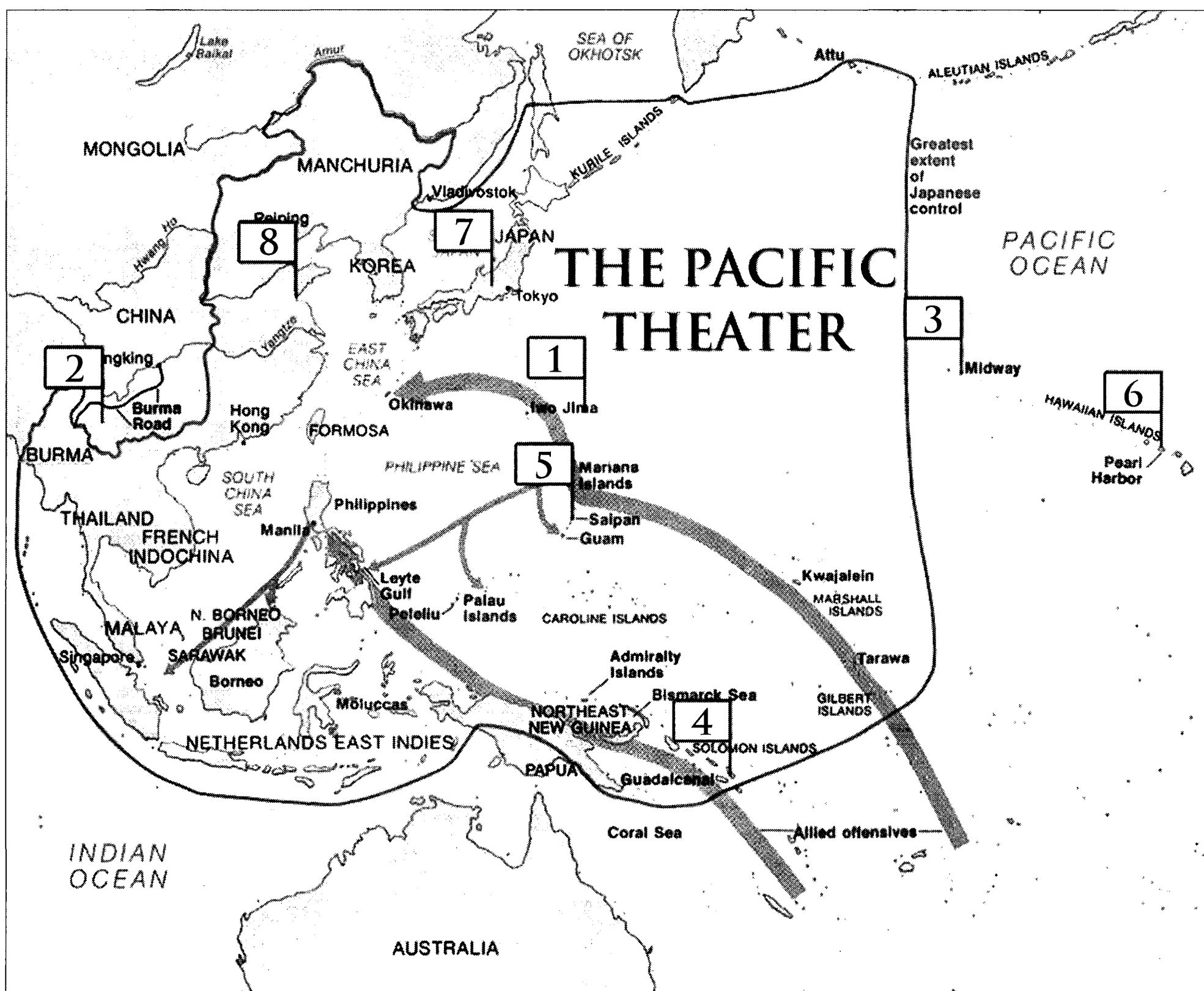
If you want this day to mean something for once, and you aren't already taken, make sure the person you're out with is the one who gets you where it counts, romantically or not — the heart.

This column originally appeared in the Feb. 12 edition of the Daily Collegian, the daily publication at Penn State University.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON





PACIFIC THEATER TAKES ITS TURN AT DOMINANCE

By BRIAN DOXTADER
Scene Editor

The European Theater tends to dominate cinema, but there are a handful of films that explore the Pacific Theater as well. Here are a few of the most memorable and most recent to grace the screen.

Iwo Jima

1. "Flags of Our Fathers/Letters From Iwo Jima" (2006): Like "Tora! Tora! Tora!," Eastwood's pair of films explore both sides of the conflict, with the American perspective in "Fathers" and the Japanese perspective in "Letters." "Letters" is considered the stronger picture, despite its "art-film" sensibilities, and has been nominated for the Best Picture Academy Award.

Burma

2. "The Bridge on the River Kwai" (1957): David Lean's classic Best Picture

winner follows a Japanese POW camp that forces British soldiers to build a bridge in Burma. Highlighted by a bravura performance from Alec Guinness, it explores the descent into madness that accompanies war.

Midway

3. "Midway" (1976): A star-studded cast led by Henry Fonda and Charlton Heston highlights this film about the Battle of Midway. Produced in the vein of "Tora! Tora! Tora!" it heavily features both sides of the conflict, though the soap opera dramatics tended to diffuse some of its impact.

Guadalcanal

4. "The Thin Red Line" (1998): Terrance Malick's ethereal meditation on war and nature is set against the backdrop of the Allied invasion of Guadalcanal. It received a mixed critical and commercial reception, partially due to the overwhelming popularity of Steven Spielberg's "Saving

Private Ryan," which was released around the same time.

Saipan

5. "Windtalkers" (2002): Directed by John Woo and starring Nicholas Cage, "Windtalkers" follows Navajo soldiers whose native language became a code used by the Allies. Less realistic than other modern war films, it was also considered less effective.

Hawaii

6. "From Here to Eternity" (1954)/"Tora! Tora! Tora!" (1970)/"Pearl Harbor" (2001): All three of these films explore the attack on Pearl Harbor in different ways, with varying emphasis on the battle itself. "From Here to Eternity" is a classic, with strong performances, especially from Montgomery Clift and Frank Sinatra. "Tora! Tora! Tora!" was a joint project between American and Japanese studios, which produced a complex, but inconsistent film.

Japan

7. "Grave of the Fireflies" (1988): A tragic look at the civilian side of the war, this moving anime, directed by Isao Takahata, follows two children struggling to survive alone in Japan during the waning days of World War II. Despite being animated, it is considered a classic, with mature approaches to adult themes.

Shanghai

8. "Empire of the Sun" (1987): Steven Spielberg's coming-of-age story is about a spoiled British boy (Christian Bale) living in Shanghai, who eventually becomes separated from his parents and winds up as a prisoner in a Japanese camp. Not a Spielberg classic, it is still a very good film, anchored by a surprisingly mature performance from a young Bale.

Contact Brian Doxtader at
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Eastwood's latest effort is an Academy favorite

By ERIN MCGINN
Assistant Scene Editor

Editor's Note: This is the second in a five-part series on the 2007 Oscar nominees for Best Picture.

In a rare filmmaking move, Clint Eastwood decided to make two movies centered around the battle at Iwo Jima during the second World War. "Flags of our Fathers" has an American point of view, while the companion film, "Letters from Iwo Jima" is from the perspective of Japanese soldiers. Although the two films are centered on the same battle, they each have a decidedly different focus and agenda.

The first film, "Flags of our Fathers" portrays not only the American side of the battle of Iwo Jima, but the stories of the three surviving flag-raisers in the famous photograph. After the photograph was published, and subsequently revitalized support for the war effort, Marines Franklin Sousley (Joseph Cross) and Rene Gagnon (Jesse Bradford) and Navy medic John "Doc" Bradley (Ryan Phillippe) are pulled from their units and sent back to the United States to help raise funds for the war effort. The film is told in a series of interviews and flashbacks to both their time in battle and during

the subsequent fundraising.

The film is based on the book by James Bradley (the son of "Doc" Bradley) and Ron Powers. Screenwriter Paul Haggis ("Crash") chose to structure the film around flashbacks, as opposed to the linear storyline that the book followed. He and Eastwood decided this structure would better allow for parallels to be drawn to the current war in Iraq as well as wartime hypocrisy and the manipulated propaganda.

The second film, "Letters from Iwo Jima," is based on the book "Picture Letters from Commander in Chief" by General Tadamichi Kuribayashi. The film follows various soldiers, including infantry soldier Saigo (Kazunari Ninomiya) and General Tadamichi Kuribayashi (Ken Watanabe) as they prepare for and subsequently fight in the battle to protect Iwo Jima. As they realize that they are outmanned and ill-prepared to fight, they begin to question why they are fighting and what they believe their own priorities are.

"Letters from Iwo Jima" is a nominee for an Academy Award for Best Picture, and has garnered nominations for director Eastwood and Original Screenplay.

Although the films can be watched independently of each other without any loss of understanding, they do serve as complimentary works.



Photo courtesy of warnerbros.com

Clint Eastwood's latest directorial effort, "Letters from Iwo Jima," is one of a few films that are considered favorites to win the "Best Picture" award.

Several scenes directly correlate with each other, and seeing one film deepens the level of understanding that comes from those scenes when the perspectives of both sides are taken into account. They also bring to light different aspects of war, and by focusing on the same battle these issues are brought to greater clarity. "Flags of our Fathers" questions the motives of propaganda and perception and the consequences of those actions, while "Letters from Iwo Jima" concentrates on decisions that are made in the situation of battle.

Both films serve to question the greater motivations behind war, as well as individual belief systems. In both films the characters make difficult decisions where they must choose to follow what they believe is important, regardless of what their government or others are saying. Even outside of the context of war, these are increasingly valuable questions to ask and are not only timeless, but timely with the current state of affairs in our world.

Contact Erin McGinn at emcginn@nd.edu



Trashy tabloid would be a welcome addition

Britain's The Sun is a daily newspaper with the world's highest circulation and more than three million copies sold a day.

This is for good reason, given its focus on sex, celebrities, sports, sex, politics and sensational crime. People in Britain are unashamed about reading tabloid newspapers — in fact, most people read little else. All of the top papers in the country are what Americans would consider just a notch above the National Enquirer.

Reading The Sun every morning over my healthy full English breakfast of eggs, beans, bacon, sausage, toast and Guinness, I've come to the conclusion that we need a tabloid at Notre Dame. Please — Scholastic's "The Gipper" is anonymous, usually obscure and lacking photos.

I know, I know. A tabloid would never fit in at Notre Dame. That's what Facebook is for, right? But since Domers seem to love trawling photo albums and wall posts every night for hours, I think they'd enjoy reading a scandalous newspaper at the dining hall next to their flank steak and stir-fry as much as any Brit.

Contrary to our commercials, we're not all smiley geeks from some suburb of Chicago interested only in God and our studies. I've seen many students browse the latest on Britney and Kevin at Meijer, and dining hall conversations rarely focus on class — much more on the previous Friday and Saturday (and Thursday).

I love The Observer, but no one is

really that interested in what happened at the latest Student Senate meeting anyway.

We want the juicy stuff: who is hooking up with who at TC, detailed coverage of quad snowball fights, tips for using Wikipedia on papers and the latest exploits of a certain football player.

Forget AP stories as well — we'll have columns on Anna Nicole-Smith, JT and Scarlett, and whether University President Father John Jenkins is preparing to adopt a baby with Madonna and the Pitts after his recent trip to Uganda.

Forget seeing racy photos of the tramp troika starring Lindsey Lohan, Paris Hilton and Britney Spears jumping out of cars in LA in next to nothing.

Under the Dome, we could feature our most noble triumvirate of Jenkins and former University Presidents Father Ted Hesburgh and Father Edward Malloy sneaking into Rocco's for a quiet dinner. Just imagine the banner headline — "Popped Collars: JJ, Ted and Monk spotted at spaghetti Yalta!" It would almost be too much for the boys over in Corby.

The Notre Dame Enquirer could cover Jimmy Clausen the way The Sun covers David Beckham. The big race would be to see what girl became his Posh.

The initial time someone spotted Jim Caviezel (star of the Passion of the Christ) it would be "tres cool," as Notre Dame Angers program alums would say. But eventually, students would get tired of this D-list actor showing up all the time on campus wearing the Rudy jacket. The headline? "Students: Why is Jesus still



Photo courtesy of hollywoodmag.com

David Beckham and wife Victoria are constant centers of the London press. Publications such as The Sun are known for their interest in celebrities

here?"

Let's also please leave out paparazzi photos of Charlie Weis at the beach. I think we'd all agree some things are better left unpublished.

For revenue, we could have the Bookstore advertise its fair and honest prices. Nothing prepared me better for the horrible British exchange rate than shopping at our Bookstore.

In Britain, every day a nice girl who lost her clothes is featured on Page 3 of The Sun. With our tab, we could have a new girl every day modeling the staple of every girl's wardrobe on campus — her favorite North Face fleece. Nothing too sexy, of course. It

is Notre Dame.

As you can tell by now, Notre Dame really is need of a tabloid to truly encompass our sometimes crazy student life beyond placid Student Activities stories and banal coverage of "that diplomat guy who spoke to your class. Something that is funny, inane and trashy.

Wait, we have the Irish Rover. Never mind.

Contact Bob Costa at rcosta1@nd.edu
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

NBA

Pistons top Clippers, claim seventh straight win

Carmelo Anthony hurts thigh as Denver bests Golden State

Associated Press

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — The Detroit Pistons got the Los Angeles Clippers at the right time, and they knew it.

Chris Webber had 19 points and nine rebounds and the Pistons beat the short-handed Clippers 92-74 Monday night for their seventh straight victory.

The Clippers staggered in for their last stop on a seven-game trip and fell to 8-19 on the road. They were missing Elton Brand, who was a late scratch with back spasms.

"We reminded our guys of all that this morning, before the game, during the game and after the game," Pistons coach Flip Saunders said. "We've been in that situation too — it isn't easy to be at the end of a trip like that, especially without Elton."

Saunders even got the weather he wanted — a chilly, snowy day with a winter storm about to roll in.

"The teams from the East go out west early in the season, and we literally get our heads beat in," Saunders said. "But it is even harder for the Western teams, because they come through here around the All-Star break, and they go from 75 degrees to 10-below, and all they

want to do is sit in their hotel rooms all day. That's just how we like it."

The Clippers, who haven't played a home game yet in February, went 2-5 on the marathon trip, and one of the victories came against the struggling Boston Celtics. Los Angeles hosts Atlanta on Wednesday.

"This is the longest trip of the year, and we wanted it to turn out better than it did," Clippers coach Mike Dunleavy said. "There were a couple games on the trip that we played against teams that we felt we could beat, but we didn't get the job done."

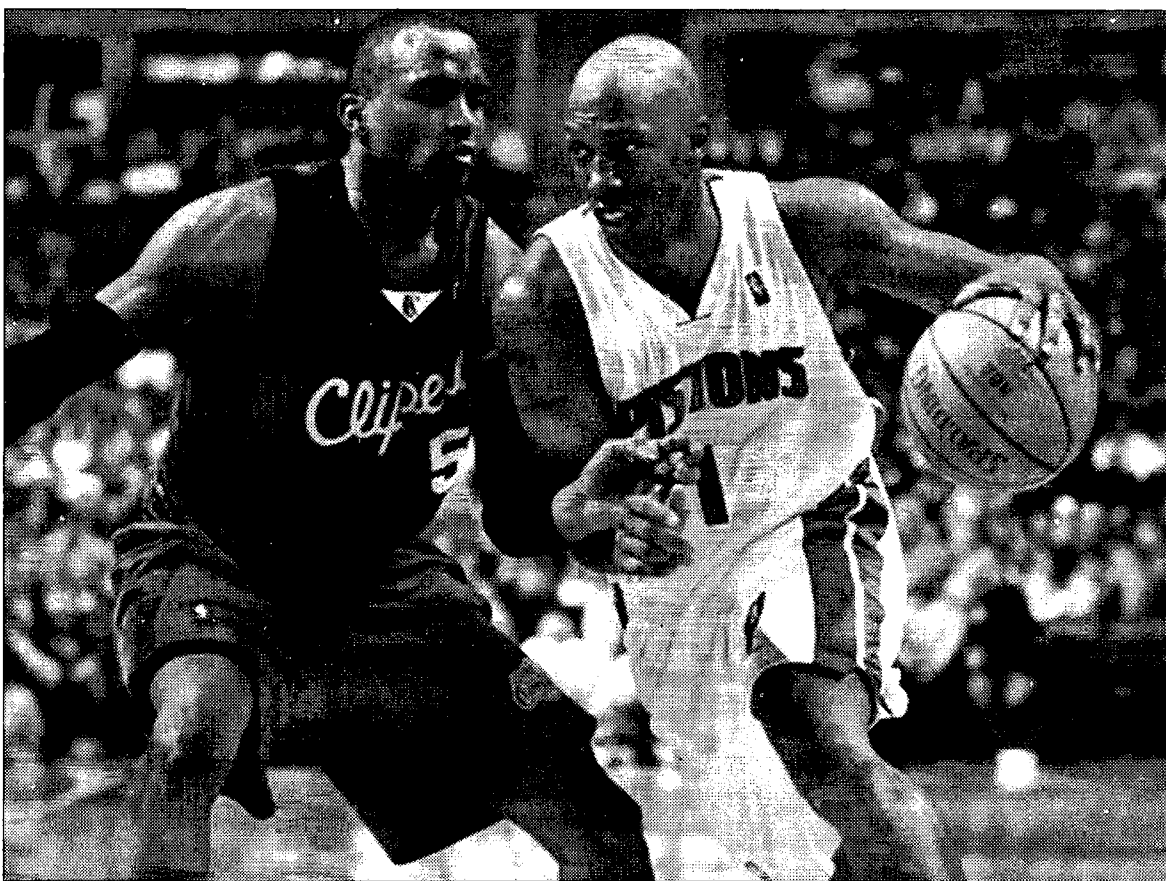
Detroit, which has beaten the Clippers eight straight times, improved to 11-2 since Webber joined the starting lineup.

"There was a period where Chris was just attacking the basket and making great plays," Tayshaun Prince said. "We caught the Clippers on the back end of a long road trip, where we knew they couldn't sustain for 40 minutes and we took advantage of it."

Richard Hamilton scored 15 points and Prince added 14 for Detroit, which had all of its starters score in double figures.

"They played team ball, and when you do that, you can wear a team down," Clippers guard Cuttino Mobley said. "Before we knew it, we were down 15 and they were keeping that lead."

Mobley led Los Angeles with 17 points, and Corey Maggette added 15. Chris Kaman had 13



Pistons guard Chauncey Billups, right, drives past Clippers guard Cuttino Mobley during Detroit's 92-74 win Monday at Detroit.



Warriors guard Stephen Jackson looks to pass the ball in the fourth quarter of Golden State's 123-111 loss to Denver.

points and nine rebounds before fouling out midway through the fourth.

The Pistons led 45-38 at the half, holding the Clippers to 34.2 percent shooting, and took over in the third quarter.

Webber had eight points and Hamilton scored five as Detroit opened the second half with a 13-3 run.

The Pistons led 71-56 after three. Sam Cassell started the fourth with a three-point play for the Clippers but Webber scored the next four points to put the game away.

"Webber gives them another dimension because he creates easy baskets," Dunleavy said. "That was a good pick up for them, and they are playing very well."

Jazz 102, Hawks 76

Mehmet Okur had 19 points and six rebounds before sitting out the fourth quarter and the Utah Jazz won their fifth in a row, beating the Atlanta Hawks Monday night.

Deron Williams added nine assists and Andrei Kirilenko had 11 points and four blocks for the Jazz, who are on their longest winning streak since eight in a row in November while opening the season 12-1.

The Hawks had won five straight on the road, beating the Warriors 106-105 Sunday night in Oakland, but they had very little left for the Jazz.

Atlanta was just 4-for-17 in

the opening quarter and was down by 12 before the end of the first period. By the fourth, it was just a battle of the reserves as the Jazz beat the Hawks for the ninth straight time.

Utah outrebounded Atlanta 52-32 and the Jazz went 32-for-36 from the foul line.

Marvin Williams led Atlanta with 15 points. Williams also got a bloody nose when he took a forearm by Utah's Rafael Araujo early in the fourth quarter, which resulted in Araujo getting ejected and Atlanta's Josh Smith getting a technical as Williams remained down in the lane.

After Araujo left to a standing ovation from the Jazz fans, both coaches pulled their starters before anybody else could get hurt or in trouble before the All-Star break.

Nuggets 123, Warriors 111

Carmelo Anthony and J.R. Smith scored 28 points apiece and the Denver Nuggets beat the Golden State Warriors Monday night.

Anthony sat out the much of the fourth quarter after his bruised right thigh, which he hurt in the first half, tightened up on him.

Warriors guard Stephen Jackson was late for the game after testifying in the trial in Indianapolis of a man who hit him with a car during a fight outside a strip club last fall. The man was convicted Monday in a ruling by a judge.

Jackson started the second half and quickly picked up a technical for arguing a call with official Jess Kersey. He finished with nine points.

Nene had 24 points for Denver and Marcus Camby had eight points and seven rebounds in his return from a four-game absence with a pulled groin and the flu. He looked like he hadn't missed a minute, playing loose and free and several times dishing the ball behind his back for big baskets before taking a seat when the game got out of hand.

Al Harrington, who started 24 hours after taking an elbow to the head from Hawks center Zaza Pachulia, led the Warriors with 24 points, and Kelenna Azubuike added 23.

Golden State was without its leading scorer, guard Baron Davis, who will undergo surgery on his left knee Tuesday, coach Don Nelson said.

"The surgery is to clean out some debris in his left knee. We won't know the length of time he'll be out until they go in there," Nelson said. "We won't make a roster move. We won't do anything until after the surgery."

The absences of Jackson and Davis didn't prevent the Warriors from running their high-octane offense in the first half, when they shot 59 percent only to trail 65-59 at the break when Smith and DerMarr Johnson hit back-to-back 3s in the closing seconds.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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U + Me = Us

Pitchers and Catchers report on Thursday!!!!

2007 MLB prediction you can take to the bank: the Cubs will not win the World Series

AROUND THE NATION

Tuesday, February 13, 2007

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 13

Men's Basketball

Associated Press Top 25

	team	record	points
1	Florida (72)	23-2	1800
2	Ohio State	22-3	1668
3	Wisconsin	24-2	1637
4	North Carolina	22-3	1604
5	UCLA	21-3	1465
6	Texas A&M	21-3	1462
7	Pittsburgh	22-3	1415
8	Memphis	21-3	1272
9	Kansas	21-4	1268
10	Washington State	21-4	1090
11	Nevada	22-2	1084
12	Marquette	21-5	916
13	Butler	23-3	831
14	Georgetown	18-5	782
15	Oregon	20-5	689
16	Southern Illinois	21-5	660
17	Air Force	21-4	538
18	Oklahoma State	19-5	503
19	Arizona	17-7	438
20	Kentucky	18-6	387
21	Boston College	18-6	325
22	USC	18-7	290
23	West Virginia	19-5	272
24	Indiana	17-6	223
25	Alabama	18-6	158

Men's Basketball

ESPN/USA Today Top 25

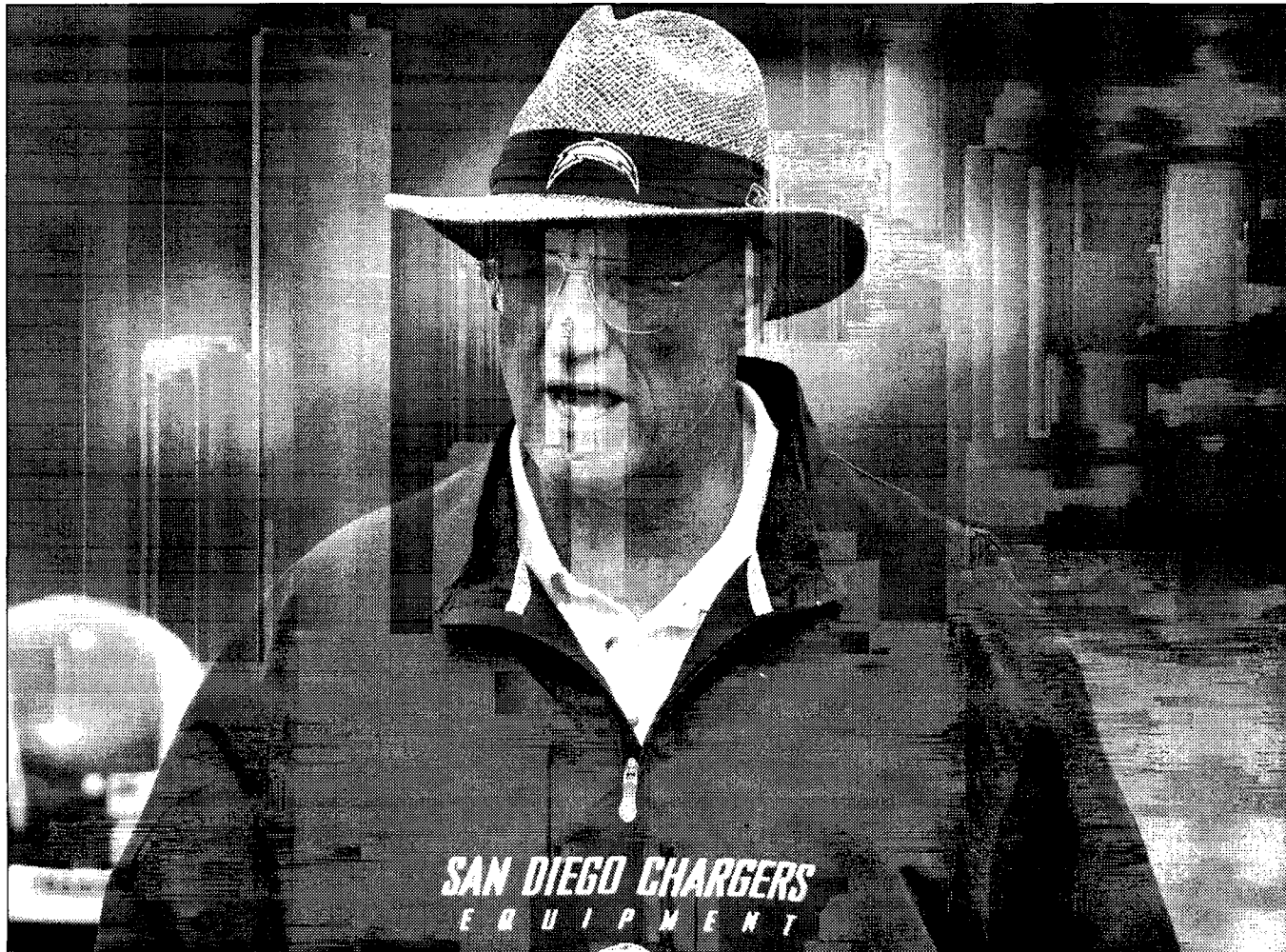
	team	record	points
1	Florida (31)	23-2	775
2	Ohio State	22-3	727
3	Wisconsin	24-2	698
4	North Carolina	22-3	664
5	Pittsburgh	22-3	642
6	Texas A&M	21-3	628
7	UCLA	21-3	622
8	Kansas	21-4	547
9	Memphis	21-3	531
10	Nevada	22-2	485
11	Washington State	21-4	466
12	Butler	23-3	400
13	Marquette	21-5	352
14	Air Force	21-4	338
15	Southern Illinois	21-5	272
16	Georgetown	18-5	271
17	Oregon	20-5	240
18	Kentucky	18-6	215
19	Indiana	17-6	184
20	Oklahoma State	19-5	151
21	Boston College	18-6	142
22	West Virginia	19-5	133
23	USC	18-7	109
24	Arizona	17-7	79
25	Virginia Tech	17-7	56

Men's Basketball

Big East Standings

	team	Big East record	overall record
1	Pittsburgh	10-2	22-4
2	Georgetown	8-2	18-5
3	Marquette	8-3	21-5
4	Louisville	8-4	18-8
5	West Virginia	7-4	19-5
6	NOTRE DAME	6-5	18-6
7	Syracuse	6-5	17-8
8	Villanova	5-5	17-7
9	Providence	5-5	15-8
10	DePaul	5-6	14-11
11	St. John's	5-7	14-11
12	Connecticut	4-6	15-9
13	Seton Hall	3-7	12-11
14	South Florida	3-8	12-13
15	Rutgers	3-9	10-15
16	Cincinnati	1-9	10-14

NFL



Former Chargers coach Marty Schottenheimer shouts instructions at practice in San Diego Jan. 12. The veteran coach was fired Monday as a result of a long-time feud with general manager A.J. Smith and a history of playoff failure.

Schottenheimer fired after 14-2 season

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Chargers coach Marty Schottenheimer was fired Monday night in a shocking move by team president Dean Spanos, who cited a "dysfunctional situation" between the coach and general manager A.J. Smith.

Less than a month after San Diego's NFL-best 14-2 season was wrecked in a home playoff loss to New England, Spanos cited the exodus of both coordinators and other assistants in firing Schottenheimer. The coach had a year left on his contract and will be owed more than \$3 mil-

lion.

"When I decided to move ahead with Marty Schottenheimer in mid-January, I did so with the expectation that the core of his fine coaching staff would remain intact," Spanos said in a statement. "Unfortunately, that did not prove to be the case, and the process of dealing with these coaching changes convinced me that we simply could not move forward with such dysfunction between our head coach and general manager."

"In short, this entire process over the last month convinced me beyond any doubt that I had to act to change this

untenable situation and create an environment."

The firing was first reported by ESPN.

Schottenheimer didn't immediately return messages left on his office and cell phones.

Defensive coordinator Wade Phillips was hired as head coach of the Dallas Cowboys on Thursday, following offensive coordinator Cam Cameron and two other assistants out of town for better jobs.

Although Schottenheimer said last week that change was inevitable, Smith sounded concerned, saying, "Both in the same year — Wow."

Tight ends coach Rob

Chudzinski became Cleveland's offensive coordinator, and linebackers coach Greg Manusky was hired as San Francisco's defensive coordinator.

Running backs coach Clarence Shelton, who's never been a coordinator, was promoted to replace Cameron. Shelton accepted only a one-year contract due to what had been Schottenheimer's lame-duck status.

Three days after the 24-21 playoff loss to New England, Schottenheimer declined the team's offer of a \$4.5 million, one-year extension through 2008, which came with a club-option \$1 million buyout.

IN BRIEF

Time Warner reaches deal to sell Braves to Liberty Media

NEW YORK — Time Warner Inc. reached a deal to sell the Atlanta Braves to Liberty Media Corp. after more than a year of negotiations. The Wall Street Journal reported Monday.

The agreement, which must still be approved by Major League Baseball owners, would involve Time Warner transferring the Braves, a group of craft magazines and \$1 billion in cash to Liberty in exchange for about 60 million shares of Time Warner, the Journal reported, citing an unidentified person familiar with the deal.

Based on the closing price of Time Warner's stock Monday, the market value of those shares would be about \$1.27 billion.

Liberty Media spokesman John Orr and Time Warner spokesman Ed Adler declined to comment on the report, which the Journal posted on its Web site Monday.

Underdog Yates Racing takes top pole places at Daytona

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — It seemed certain at times last season that Robert Yates Racing was going to close its doors.

The once-proud NASCAR team had hit rock bottom, and owners Robert and Doug Yates couldn't stand coming to the race track anymore.

But that seemed ages ago on Sunday after David Gilliland and Ricky Rudd put Yates cars on the front row for the Daytona 500.

"Robert has got a little bit of a bounce in his step again because he has a program that is working, it is clicking," Rudd said.

It was far from working last season, when Yates lost his drivers, a sponsor and both of his crew chiefs in a tumultuous year that featured the team collapsing to the point that Yates was convinced he was dying.

Man convicted of hitting Warriors' Jackson with car

INDIANAPOLIS — A man who hit former Indiana Pacers guard Stephen Jackson with a car during a fight outside a strip club last fall was convicted Monday in a ruling by a judge.

Deon Willford waived his right to a jury trial, allowing Marion Superior Court Judge Patricia Gifford to render a verdict. She found the 23-year-old man guilty of felony battery and failure to stop at a scene of an accident, a misdemeanor.

He will be sentenced Feb. 28. He faces two to eight years in prison for the felony and up to a year for the misdemeanor.

Jackson, who now plays for Golden State, left the courtroom to catch a flight to Denver, where the Warriors play Monday night.

"I leave everything in God's hands and continue to work on playing basketball," he said.

around the dial

NCAA BASKETBALL

Kentucky at Tennessee
7 p.m., ESPN

Michigan at Michigan State
9 p.m., ESPN

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Duke unranked after recent skid

Associated Press

Duke's Top 25 streak is over. Saddled by its first four-game losing skid in 11 years, Duke fell out of The Associated Press poll Monday for the first time since the end of the 1995-96 season. The Blue Devils had been in the media poll for 200 straight weeks — the second longest streak behind UCLA.

The Bruins' run lasted 221 weeks, from the 1966-67 pre-season poll to Jan. 8, 1980. North Carolina is third all-time with 172 straight weeks from the 1990-91 pre-season poll to Jan. 17, 2000.

"If you do it for a long period of time, it means you've been good that long," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said of his team's streak that began in the 1996-97 pre-season poll. "We never bring it up. It's a nice stat thing."

UCLA and Memphis are now tied for the longest active streak at 34 straight weeks in the Top 25.

Duke was No. 8 two weeks ago before losing in the final seconds to Virginia and Florida State. The Blue Devils lost to then-No. 5 North Carolina 79-73 on Wednesday and fell 72-60 at Maryland on Sunday for their first four-game losing streak since Jan. 3-13, 1996.

"We travel a narrow road between winning and losing," Krzyzewski said. "We were in a position to win, you have to make sure the kids know that. They are doing a lot of things to put themselves in a position to win."

Duke received 150 points, falling just eight short of No. 25 Alabama.

The Blue Devils will try to end their slide Wednesday against Atlantic Coast Conference leader Boston College. The Eagles (18-6, 9-2) are finally back in the poll at No. 21 after falling out in week 3.

Florida remained a unanimous No. 1 for the second straight week, garnering all 72 first place votes.

Florida beat Georgia 71-61 on Wednesday and won at then-No. 20 Kentucky 64-61 on Saturday in front of a raucous



Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski argues a call during Duke's 72-60 loss to Maryland Sunday.

record crowd of 24,465. It was the Gators' fifth straight victory over their rivals.

It had been 20 years since the Wildcats, college basketball's winningest program, lost five straight games to an opponent. Tennessee was the last to do it from 1975-77.

UCLA fell to fifth after splitting games this past week. The Bruins beat then-No. 19 Southern California 70-65 on Wednesday, but lost to West Virginia by the same score Saturday.

The Bruins had to fly across the country and play an early afternoon game. UCLA found itself down by 19 early in the second half before clawing back.

"I was really pleased with the way we fought back," UCLA coach Ben Howland said. "Obviously it's a long way to come to get beat."

With UCLA's loss, Ohio State moved up to No. 2 — its highest ranking since 1991.

Wisconsin and North Carolina also gained a spot, moving up to No. 3 and No. 4, respectively.

Texas A&M was No. 6, followed by Pittsburgh, Kansas, Memphis and Washington State.

The Cougars (21-4, 10-3 Pac-10) moved up four spots after

beating then-No. 25 Stanford and California. Washington State is only a half-game behind first-place UCLA as the Cougars chase their first league title.

Nevada was No. 11, followed by Marquette, Butler, Georgetown, Oregon, Southern Illinois, Air Force, Oklahoma State, Arizona and Kentucky.

Georgetown made the biggest jump, moving up eight spots to No. 14 after convincing wins over Louisville and then-No. 11 Marquette. The Hoyas have won seven straight.

"We're getting better, and our guys definitely have a comfort level with how we want to skin the cat, so to say," said Georgetown coach John Thompson III after Saturday's win over Marquette. "We're more poised. A lot of times early in the season teams would make a run, and we'd stand around looking starry eyed."

Oregon fell two spots after splitting games with Arizona State and then-No. 24 Arizona. Southern Illinois moved up five spots to No. 16.

Boston College was followed by Southern California, West Virginia, Indiana and Alabama.

Besides Duke, Vanderbilt and Stanford also dropped out of the rankings.

NFL

Andy Reid takes leave from Eagles

Coach takes time to address sons' problems

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Andy Reid is facing a crisis far tougher than a quarterback controversy or a disruptive player.

The Philadelphia Eagles coach will leave the team for a month to deal with developments that have rocked his family the past two weeks — one son tested positive for heroin, another was arraigned on drug and weapons charges.

The team said the leave will last until mid-March.

"He's not going to come into the office. His priorities will be his family for that period of time, but he will be available to have a couple of calls with us and collaborate and if he needed to be here for a

visit of a free agent," Eagles president Joe Banner said Monday. "He will retain final say over whatever we do."

Reid, who is also the team's head of football operations, will miss the NFL scouting combine and the start of free agency. Teams may begin voluntary offseason workouts March 19. Reid plans to attend the NFL owners' meetings in Arizona in late March, and will be back for the NFL draft April 28-29.

The Eagles have 11 unrestricted free agents, notably wide receiver Donte Stallworth and backup quarterback Jeff Garcia.

"Before any of this had happened, we had finalized our own plans as to what we're going to do and not do with

our own guys," Banner said. "We'd also put together our preliminary plan for the non-Eagle players that we could be interested in."

General manager Tom Heckert and the team's assistant coaches will handle the interviewing of players at the scouting combine in Indianapolis, though Reid might be able to meet with some players at another time.

Garrett Reid, 23, tested positive for heroin after he caused a traffic accident Jan. 30, police said. No charges have been filed, but prosecutors are looking at the case. Police have said he could be charged with driving under the influence of a controlled substance, a misdemeanor.

Britt Reid, 21, was arraigned on drug and weapons charges. He is accused of pointing a handgun at another driver following a dispute and faces a felony charge of carrying a firearm without a license as well as

misdemeanor charges of lying to authorities, simple assault, making terroristic threats and possession of a controlled substance.

Asked if this leave could lead to a longer one, Banner said: "No. I don't know if he's coming back on (March) 13th or the 17th or the 18th. That's why that's a little bit vague, but he will be returning in and around that time frame."

Reid has led the Eagles to the playoffs six times, including four trips to the NFC championship game and one Super Bowl, in eight seasons as head coach. He's dealt with several challenges the past two seasons from the Terrell Owens' soap opera and a series of key injuries in 2005 to losing five-time Pro Bowl quarterback Donovan McNabb in Week 11 this past season.

Despite McNabb's injury, the Eagles won their final five games behind Garcia, finished 10-6 to capture their fifth NFC East title in six years and reached the second round of the playoffs. Many considered it Reid's best coaching job in Philadelphia. Players credited his steady approach for helping them overcome a difficult midseason stretch and the season-ending injuries to McNabb and star defensive end Jevon Kearse.

"People deal with circumstances in life of all different kinds, some more serious, some less serious, some more preoccupied and less so, and are still able to carry on with their careers and their professions," Banner said. "I think that's the kind of guy that Andy is, that he'll both be able to have his priorities in the right place, do what he needs to do, do the right thing, and also be able to return as the head coach and do the same quality job he's always done."

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INTERNATIONAL ATHLETICS

Pound denounces IOC's reprimand

WADA head says he's not responsible to group for comments

Associated Press

LONDON — The head of the World Anti-Doping Agency said Monday the International Olympic Committee was wrong to reprimand him for criticizing Lance Armstrong last year.

"This has nothing to do with either the IOC ethics commission or the IOC board," Dick Pound told The Associated Press by telephone from Montreal. "Anything I do or say in relation to doping is done in my capacity with WADA."

"I'm responsible to WADA, not the IOC," he added. "Everything I've done has been in accordance with instructions or approval from WADA."

The IOC chastised Pound last week for comments about the seven-time Tour de France winner, suggesting he should be "a bit careful" with his words.

A frequent critic of cycling's doping record, Pound criticized a Dutch report last year that cleared the seven-time Tour de France winner of doping allegations. Pound said the report was prepared by a lawyer with no expertise in doping control and that WADA was considering legal action against him.

Armstrong then sent an eight-page letter to IOC president Jacques Rogge and the executive board last June 9 accusing Pound — a senior IOC member from Canada — of "reprehensible and indefensible" conduct. Armstrong asked that Pound be forced to step down as chairman of the doping agency.

The IOC said it reviewed the

report filed by Armstrong's lawyer.

"The executive board approved a recommendation of the ethics committee to remind Dick Pound to take care regarding his public declarations. He should be a bit careful concerning his declarations," IOC spokeswoman Emmanuelle Moreau said.

Pound said he felt the IOC misunderstood his role.

"I don't do anything in relation to doping for the IOC," he said. "All I've ever said is, 'Lance, if the analysis was right ... there may be a case to answer to.'"

Pound also said he will discuss the matter with the IOC.

"I'll tell them with the greatest of respect, 'I think you've got it wrong,'" Pound said. "People are going to wonder if the IOC is serious or not."

Armstrong said he appreciated some of Pound's efforts to clean up sports, but he thought the IOC had also sent

Pound an important message.

"It's been a long process," Armstrong said. "Considering the IOC rarely does something like this, it's a significant gesture and I appreciate it. I hope he learns his lesson."

The French sports newspaper L'Equipe reported in August 2004 that six of Armstrong's urine samples from the 1999 Tour de France tested positive for EPO. There was no reliable test for EPO at that time, but urine samples were preserved and analyzed later when improved testing technology was developed.

The International Cycling Union then appointed Emile Vrijman to investigate the handling of the samples by a French anti-doping lab. His report released on May 31 exonerated Armstrong "completely" of any doping infractions.

"All I've ever said is, 'Lance, if the analysis was right ... there may be a case to answer to.'"

Dick Pound
World Anti-Doping Agency

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Cardinals crush No. 7 Panthers

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — A young Louisville team has improved steadily all season and is in position for a first-round bye in the Big East tournament. Still, coach Rick Pitino couldn't believe what he was hearing about the Cardinals.

Nothing. No buzz. No hype — at least until now.

David Padgett and Derrick Caracter neutralized Aaron Gray inside while Louisville's 2-3 zone defense was taking away No. 7 Pittsburgh's outside shooting, and the Cardinals dominated both halves to rout the Panthers 66-53 Monday night.

The Panthers (22-4, 10-2 in Big East) sustained their worst loss since moving into the Petersen Events Center in 2002, where they had been 78-7. Their worst previous defeat there was 73-64 to Connecticut on Feb. 26, 2005. They hadn't lost by double figures at home since an 81-67 defeat to Georgetown on Feb. 5, 2001.

This one was never close, a stunningly easy romp for Louisville (18-8, 8-4) that tightened the Big East race. The Cardinals increased to a 13-2 lead that they raised to 33-14 late in the first half, partly because conference-leading Pitt had more turnovers than points for most of the half.

Pitt ended with 19 turnovers, 15 before halftime, as its Big East lead over Georgetown slipped to a half game. The No. 14 Hoyas beat No. 23 West Virginia 71-53 on Monday.

"I didn't recognize that team," coach Jamie Dixon said, referring to how sluggishly his team played at the start. "Some of the turnovers we were committing, I

didn't recognize."

What Pitino didn't recognize was the lack of attention for his Cardinals, who need to win only twice more to get to 20 wins.

"We had to play Pitt, or someone like Pitt, because everybody is talking about signature wins and not paying attention to us," Pitino said.

"We think that when we go to DePaul and South Florida and win in the fashion we win they're great wins, but nobody else does. As I watched TV, I realized I shouldn't coach or play anymore because we don't even get mentioned. The writers don't even mention us for the NCAAs."

Pitino told his team there was only one way to get that recognition. "I told the guys that if you want to dance (in the NCAAs), you've just had Christmas come early because you have to play Pitt _ and you have to beat them," Pitino said. "And that's the hard part because they are a great team."

The 6-foot-11 Padgett and 6-8 Caracter, effective together in the same game for the first time since early in the season, were too much for the 7-foot Gray to handle by himself inside. Gray drew his fourth foul with 14:06 remaining as Caracter scored inside to make it 42-27, and Gray wasn't a factor again.

"It was just a bad day. It's going to happen sometime," Gray said. "Maybe it's better it happened now rather than down the road. The true test is how we respond to this _ not what happened out there. I'm still very

confident in this team and this coaching staff. I don't foresee this happening again."

So much for comparative scores. Louisville lost to Dayton and Massachusetts, teams that Pitt easily beat.

"How we played is not indicative of this team," Gray said.

"But we're going to get past it. Maybe it's something we needed to show us how good we aren't."

Or maybe how good Louisville can be.

Padgett, who sprained a foot Saturday against

South Florida and was questionable to start, had 16 points and four blocked shots.

Caracter, a highly recruited freshman just off a six-game suspension for violating various team rules, played his second strong game in a row with eight points and four rebounds. He had 16 points and 10 rebounds in substantial playing time Saturday after Padgett was hurt.

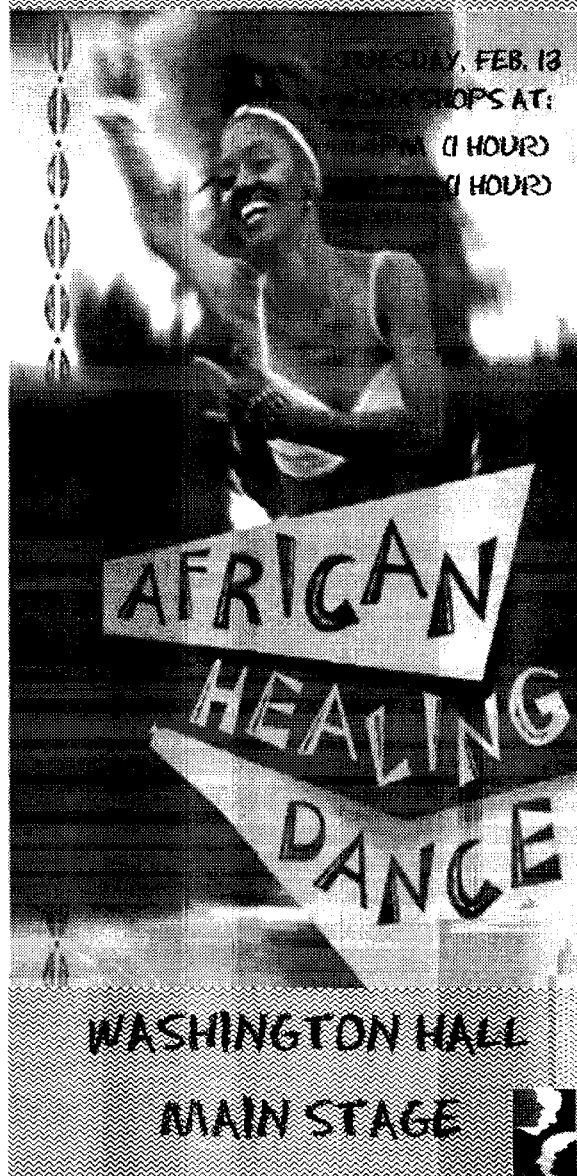
Pitt was similarly sloppy for much of its 74-68 victory Saturday over Providence, its fifth consecutive win and 12th in 13 games, but Gray bailed them out with 22 points and seven rebounds. He couldn't do so this time, finishing with 12 points and 10 rebounds, and Pitt had no success shooting long 3-pointers over Louisville's effective zone.

Pitt came into the game shooting a Big East-best 42.6 percent from 3-point range, but missed its first 13 shots from beyond the arc until Ronald Ramon hit one with about seven minutes remaining.

"I didn't recognize that team."

Jamie Dixon
Panthers coach

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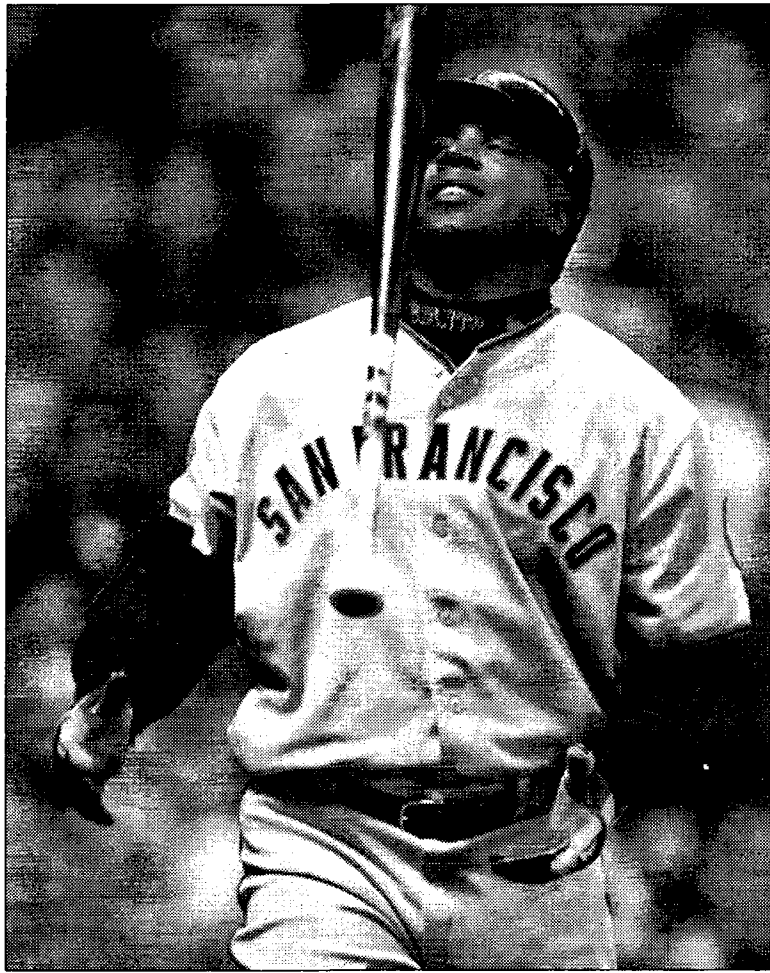
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MLB

Union asks for decision reversal



Giants slugger Barry Bonds, seen reacting to a call, was one of 10 players originally investigated by federal prosecutors in 2003.

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The Major League Baseball Players Association asked a federal appeals court late Monday to revisit its December decision to allow investigators probing steroids in sports to use the names and urine samples of more than 100 players who tested positive for performance enhancing drugs.

The 2-1 decision in December by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco overturned three lower court decisions and could help authorities pinpoint the source of steroids in baseball.

Investigators seized computer files containing the test results in 2004 during raids of labs involved in MLB's testing program. The samples were collected at baseball's direction the previous year as part of a survey to gauge the prevalence of steroid use. Players and owners agreed in their labor contract that the results would be confidential, and each player was assigned a code number to be matched with his name.

Quest Diagnostics of Teterboro, N.J., one of the largest drug-testing firms in the nation, analyzed more than 1,400 urine samples from players that season. Comprehensive Drug Testing of Long Beach, Calif., coordinated the collection of specimens and compiled the data. Comprehensive joined the players in their petition to the appeals court to rehear the case with 15 judges.

If the December decision survives, the players who tested positive could be called before a grand jury and asked how they obtained their steroids.

Federal investigators originally demanded to see the 2003 results for Barry Bonds, Gary Sheffield, who was recently traded by the New York Yankees to the Detroit Tigers, the Yankees' Jason Giambi and seven other players.

When they raided the testing labs for those 10 results, investigators also seized computer files containing the test results of nearly 100 other players not named in the government's subpoena and warrants.

"If the majority's decision is allowed to stand, it will create circuit law giving the government carte blanche to use a warrant for some piece of data on a computer as the pretext for seizing the entire computer and perusing its contents," attorneys for the union and lab wrote.

The testing was part of baseball's effort to determine whether a stricter drug-testing policy was needed. Because 5 percent or more of the tests for steroids came back positive, it automatically triggered the start of testing with penalties in 2004.

The lower courts had declared the use of the data beyond the original 10 names harassment and unreasonable.

There is no timeline for the court to decide whether to rehear the case.

The case is United States v. Comprehensive Drug Testing Inc., 05-10067.

"If the majority's decision is allowed to stand, it will create circuit law giving the government carte blanche to use a warrant for some piece of data on a computer as the pretext for seizing the entire computer."

MLBPA

NFL

Arrington released from Giants

Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The New York Giants released linebacker LaVar Arrington and two other starters Monday in the first major shake-up under new general manager Jerry Reese.

New York also cut linebacker Carlos Emmons and offensive tackle Luke Petitgout, both of whom were slowed by injuries over the last two seasons.

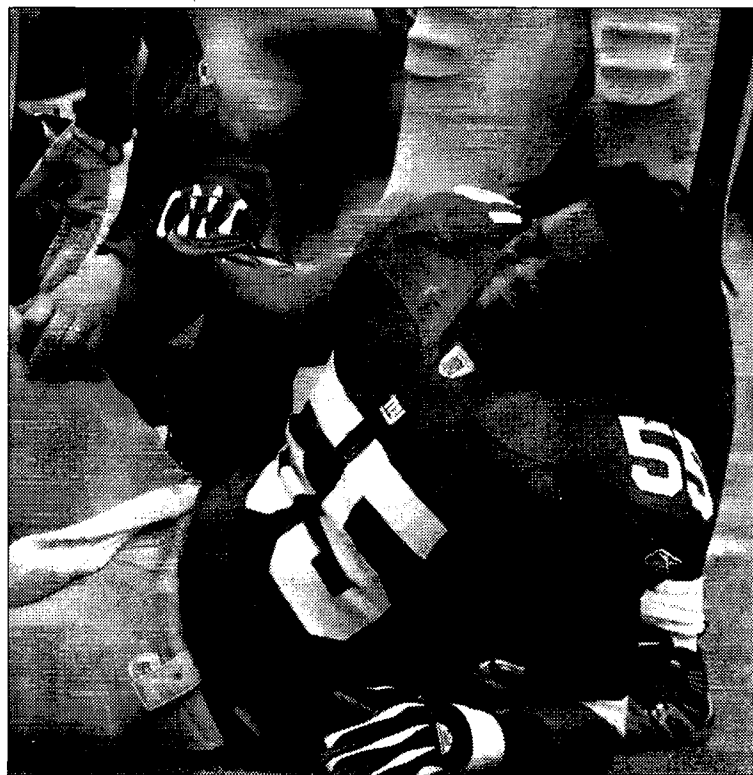
The release of Arrington ended a brief and unsatisfying tenure with the Giants for the former Pro Bowler, who was signed last year for \$49 million over seven years but suffered an Achilles injury against Dallas on Oct. 23 and played in only six games.

"LaVar's situation is unfortunate because he was just starting to really become a factor in our defense at the time of his injury," Reese said.

Reese, who last month replaced the retired Ernie Accorsi, served notice that he will not stand pat with a team that won the NFC East in 2005 but was humiliated in a first-round playoff loss to Carolina, then squeaked into the playoffs last season with an 8-8 record and again lost in the first round.

"These are difficult decisions," Giants head coach Tom Coughlin said. "But as Jerry and I looked at the roster, they are decisions we felt we had to make as we start to compose our team for the upcoming season."

Combined with the retirement of running back Tiki Barber, the Giants now have additional salary-cap space to



New York's Lavar Arrington writhes in pain after tearing his ACL Oct. 23 against Dallas. The linebacker was released Monday.

pursue free agents this offseason. Emmons had two years remaining on a five-year contract worth \$16.5 million and was to make \$2 million this year, and Petitgout had two years left on his contract and was due \$5 million for 2007.

Arrington, whose contract was filled with incentives, was scheduled to make \$900,000 next season.

Petitgout started 106 games at tackle and guard over eight seasons for the Giants, but broke his leg against Chicago on Nov. 12 and missed the Giants' final seven games. He

became expendable when guard David Diehl switched to left tackle and played well in his absence.

Dumping Petitgout's contract could give the Giants a better shot at re-signing free-agent center Shaun O'Hara.

Emmons, acquired from Philadelphia in 2004, played in 36 games in three seasons but missed a total of 11 games in the last two seasons with a pectoral injury.

Calls to the agents for all three players were not immediately returned Monday evening.

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Carter

continued from page 20

on strong note.

Notre Dame is currently sixth in the Big East standings, tied with Syracuse and half a game behind West Virginia. The Irish hold head-to-head tiebreakers with both the Mountaineers and Louisville, which is in fourth place at 8-4.

Experts at ESPN.com believe that the Big East would get six teams in and that the Irish would be slotted in the 7-10 seed range if the NCAA Tournament began today. A Big Dance bid would be the first for the Irish seniors.

But Carter said that he and his teammates are focused on more pressing matters.

"Getting there my senior year would be big since we haven't been there before," he said. "But that isn't what we're focusing on right now."

The Irish face Providence Thursday, DePaul Feb. 20 and Marquette Feb. 24 in games that will be tough but could also provide Notre Dame with more quality wins to impress the tournament committee.

Those games are also key in the race for a bye in the Big East tournament. Providence is just a half game behind the Irish at 5-5 and DePaul is a full game back at 5-6. Both teams would suddenly be contenders for a bye again with a win over Notre Dame.

"We're in contention for the fourth spot," Carter said. "We have to worry about our

next few games. They're going to be tough games."

The Irish also have trips to conference bottom-feeder Cincinnati (10-14, 1-9) Sunday and Rutgers (10-15, 3-9) March 3, both of whom would fall into the "bad loss" category if Notre Dame were to drop a game to either one. However, both games are on the road, where the Irish are just 3-6 this year.

Carter said that hard work will help the Irish win away from the Joyce Center, which will be important at neutral sites of the Big East and N C A A Tournament.

"There's always room for improvement," he said. "We need to improve as a team and as individuals to achieve our goals from the beginning of the season."

As for the teams competing with the Irish for the fourth first-round bye, the Orange have four games left before the conference tournament. They play at South Florida Wednesday, then host Connecticut Saturday. They have a week off, then a trip to Providence, and a finish with second place Georgetown.

The Mountaineers have only three games left. They also have a road game with the Friars, but they get to host Seton Hall, who is only 3-7 in conference. West Virginia finishes its season against first place Pittsburgh, who may have clinched the Big East title or at least a bye in the tournament by the time that game is played.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

"Getting there my senior year would be big since we haven't been there before."

Russell Carter
Irish guard

Banquet

continued from page 20

year's team has worked very hard to adjust to the new system he has instituted. "There are new coaches, new terms, new plays," Shrage said. "I'm really proud of these players. They've worked very hard."

Shrage, who coached at Northern Illinois and Northern Iowa before spending the last four seasons at Evansville, expressed enthusiasm for a season that is sure to include new faces in the Irish lineup card.

"Isn't it great to talk about baseball on a night when a winter storm's coming in?" he joked.

On a more serious note, the new coach outlined the major goals that he has for his players. He stated that he wants all of his players to graduate and win a championship ring. At the banquet, members of last year's team received Big East Championship rings. Shrage also said he wants his players to leave with a "great feeling in their heart about Notre Dame."

In their speeches, Leyland and Counsell touched on their experiences at many different levels of baseball. Leyland, 62, spoke about his eleven years as a coach in the minor leagues, as well as his fifteen seasons as a major league manager. Leyland, who was named the 2006 American League Manager of the Year, led the Detroit Tigers to the World Series last season after they had finished 30 games below .500 in 2005. "[The 2005 Tigers] had good players but they didn't have a good team," said Leyland. "It took a while to make them realize they were good."

Leyland also said he spoke to Irish baseball players



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Irish pitcher Brett Gaffy delivers to the plate last season. In 2006, the right-hander threw 26.2 innings while giving up 11 earned runs.

Monday afternoon before the banquet.

"I was telling them that they're good players but I want them to develop a confident swagger," he said.

Counsell, who captained the Irish to within a game of the College World Series in 1992, told the audience that he was honored to be back at his alma

mater. He applauded the state of the school's baseball program, saying that it had definitely progressed in the past several years.

"What I remember about being here is how hard we worked and how we wanted Notre Dame baseball to matter," Counsell said. "The program is obviously in great shape."


Shrage has adopted the motto "Tradition Never Graduates" for this year's team. He repeatedly stressed his high expectations for his players, including his first Irish recruiting class.

"There's a sense of responsibility that comes with putting on a baseball jersey at Notre Dame," he said. "These players have it."

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

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DePaul

continued from page 20

conference. The Wildcats dropped their last game against Seton Hall 56-51 in the final seconds, and they are just 3-7 on their home court. But they lost those nine games by an average of just 7.6 points, and five games were decided by 10 points or less.

"Villanova's always a tough game for us to play," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said Sunday after Notre Dame's win over DePaul.

The last six regular-season meetings between the teams have been decided by an average of 2.8 points per game. Notre Dame leads the overall series 13-8, but Villanova has won five of the last seven games.

McGraw was pleased with the Irish play against DePaul, but felt improvement was needed.

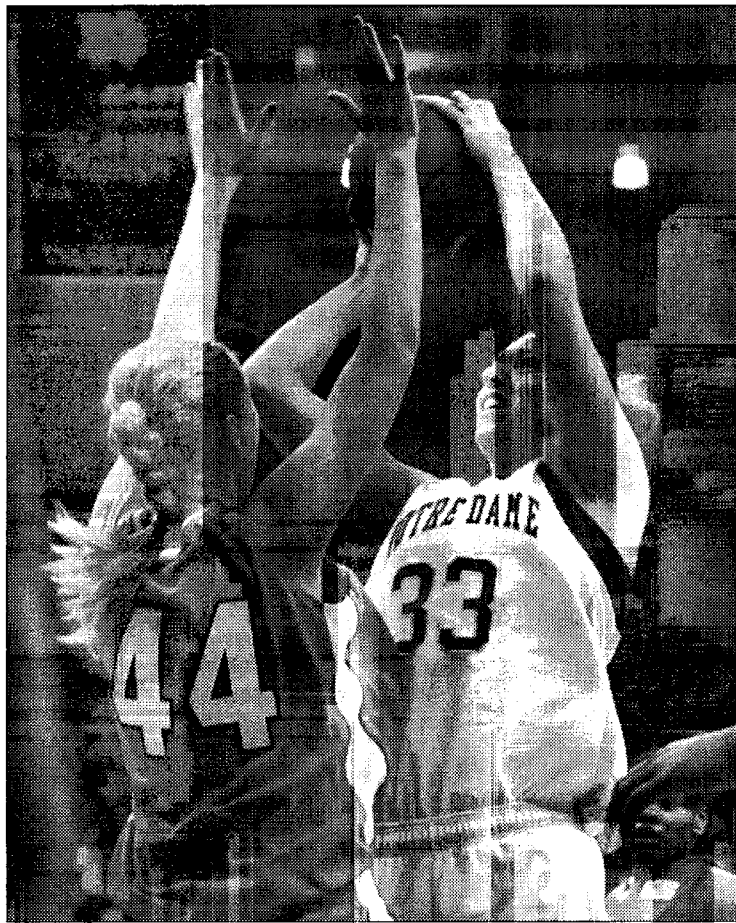
"I think we got to continue to work on our defense," she said. "We gave up 70 points tonight, and I don't know how many they scored in the last two minutes but it was way too many."

Recently, the Irish have greatly improved other facets of their game. Notre Dame out-rebounded its opponents 41 to 29.7 in the past three games, and it held Louisville, the top rebounding team in the Big East, to a season-low 29 boards.

"We're doing a much better job on the boards and we're doing a good job executing the offense," McGraw said.

Notre Dame's offense underwent a slight shift against DePaul, featuring a higher dose of freshmen guard Ashley Barlow in place of center Melissa D'Amico to offset the Blue Demons' smaller lineup.

"This is a group that we can play with at times during the game whether we start them or



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish center Melissa D'Amico elevates for a shot against Syracuse Jan. 20. Notre Dame faces Villanova tonight at 7:30.

not," McGraw said. "They've been pretty effective so far."

McGraw also acknowledged the need for stronger inside play.

"I think we need the post," she said. "We need the post scoring and we've got to be able to score on the block."

Villanova's frontcourt players all average in double figures and are led by forward Jackie Adamshick, who scores 13.8 points per game. Forward Stacie Witman averaged 17.5 points in her last six games and scored a career-high 26 points against Seton Hall. Witman has averaged 12 points per game on the season, up from four the

previous year.

Traditionally, the Irish play strong in February. The team is 68-17 in the month since joining the Big East in 1995.

With an Irish win and losses from both South Florida and Pittsburgh, Notre Dame could move into a tie for third place. It is currently tied for fifth in the Big East standings with five games to go before the tournament.

"Now we've got to win some games on the road," McGraw said. "It's always a tough stretch for us."

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

Surge

continued from page 20

and South Florida at 7-4. But in the top-heavy conference, the Irish sit only a game behind the Cardinals, Marquette and Rutgers, all of which are in a three-way tie for second.

"That's why every game is so important to keep our standing," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "And to be picked to finish eleventh and still have a chance at finishing second this late in the year I think talks about the resilience of this team."

After its toughest stretch of the season Jan. 23-31 — when it played three ranked teams and got steamrolled by all of them — Notre Dame has a relatively easy schedule to finish out its regular season.

The Irish begin this stretch tonight against Big East-bottom feeder Villanova. The Wildcats are 1-10 in the conference and have not won a game since beating the Mountaineers 70-64 Jan. 6. Villanova has lost its last nine games by an average of 7.8 points to stay cement their place in the Big East basement.

After the Wildcats, the Irish will travel to Providence Saturday for a game against the ninth-place Friars. Providence ended its own seven-game losing streak Saturday with a 93-77 win at St. John's for only its third Big East win this season.

Notre Dame will be playing some of the worst teams in the conference, but McGraw is not looking past either opponent.

"Now we've got to win some games on the road and it's going to be a tough stretch for us," McGraw said. "Villanova is always a tough game for us to play and is playing everybody close."

Even with a strong season so far, the Irish still have some work to do to ensure a good seeding in the NCAA

Tournament.

The most pressing issue for the Irish is to win their three remaining road games against Villanova, Providence and DePaul Feb. 26. Notre Dame is only 3-7 on the road, and none of its road wins are against a ranked team. The Irish will have to prove they can win away from the Joyce Center to impress the selection committee.

Notre Dame will also have to beat No. 23 Rutgers at home Feb. 24 to round out its home schedule. The Irish have seen success in the Joyce Center, including wins over Louisville, No. 18 Bowling Green and No. 16 Purdue, and their only loss came to Indiana Dec. 3.

But another big win over a ranked opponent would do nothing but help the Irish cause.

"It's important to take care of your home court when the NCAA selection committee starts looking at where they're going to seed us," McGraw said. "It's important to know that we've been able to do the job at home."

With seven conference wins and a relatively easy remaining schedule in the Big East, the Irish are almost a lock to make the NCAA Tournament. But, if it can round out its schedule with three road wins and a win over another ranked team, Notre Dame could be seeded as high as seventh come March.

Not bad for a team originally projected to barely make the Big East tournament.

But before the Irish can realize any pipe dreams about the Tournament, they have to stay focused on the game at hand and take care of business tonight in Philadelphia.

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

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

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ICE DANCING



LAURIE HUNT/The Observer

Irish center Kevin Deeth prances around Nebraska-Omaha defender Dan Charleston during Notre Dame's 4-2 win Feb. 9.

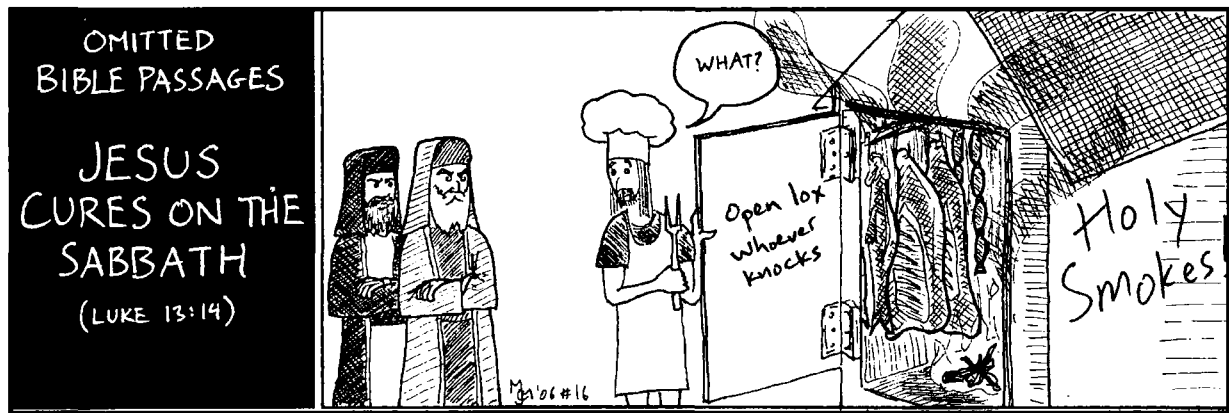
CROISSANTWORLD

ADAM FAIRHOLM



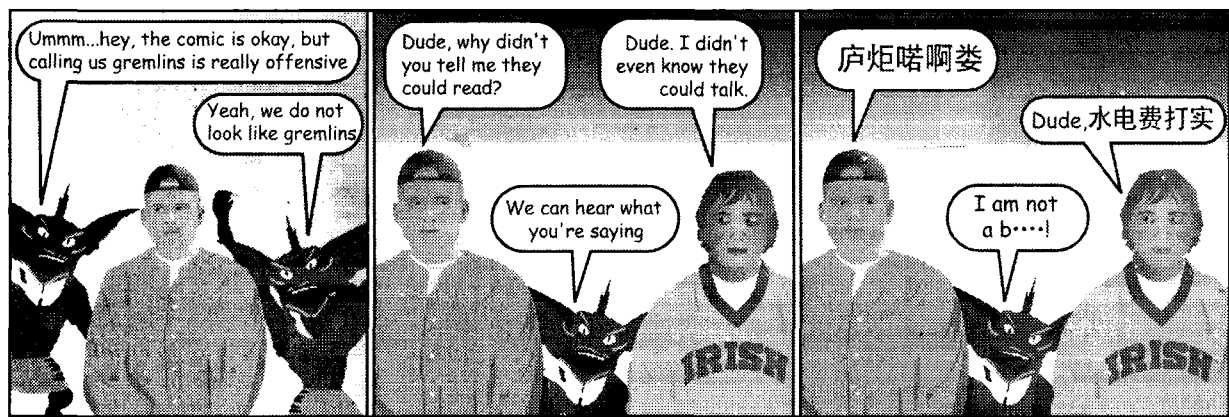
BLACK DOG

MICHAEL MIKUSKA



KALEIDOSCOPE McDANIELS

LIAM MORAN



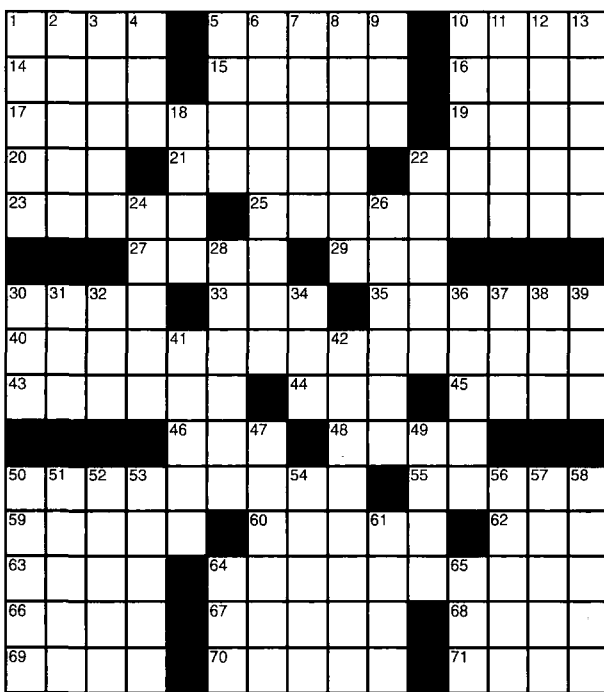
CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Water carrier
 - 5 Maybelline rival
 - 10 Hearty's partner
 - 14 Lex and Park, e.g., in N.Y.C.
 - 15 Head out
 - 16 Banned orchard spray
 - 17 Steinbeck classic
 - 19 It may be proper
 - 20 "The Atom Show" (1960's TV cartoon)
 - 21 Stunt cyclist, e.g.
 - 22 Pagoda sights
 - 23 A Judd
 - 25 Follows a healthy diet
 - 27 Like much music, today
 - 29 "Sprechen Deutsch?"
 - 30 Fascinated by
 - 33 The Beatles' "___ the Walrus"
 - 35 Sporty wheels
 - 40 Eighty-sixed wares of 1773
 - 43 Break away
 - 44 "A Chorus Line" number
 - 45 "C6mo ___?" (with a hint to this puzzle's theme)
 - 46 Ambulance letters
 - 48 Spider web, e.g.
 - 50 Indonesian condiment
 - 55 Get through to
 - 59 "Halt!" to a salt
 - 60 Kind of colony
 - 62 Agile deer
 - 63 Come together
 - 64 Upholstery protectors
 - 66 Angler's hope
 - 67 Champion skater Brian
 - 68 Rustic stopovers
 - 69 "Family Ties" son
 - 70 Waist-ful?
 - 71 Docket item
- DOWN**
- 1 Song of praise
 - 2 Ex of the Donald
 - 3 Pasta topper
 - 4 French direction
 - 5 Sporty Italian auto, for short
 - 6 Eyed wolfishly
 - 7 ___ mistake (blew it)
 - 8 Heads off
 - 9 Craving
 - 10 Ho Chi Minh's capital
 - 11 Go ___ (agree)
 - 12 Yuk it up
 - 13 Dadaist Max
 - 18 Valhalla chief
 - 22 Van Susteren of TV news
 - 24 Fraternal fellow
 - 26 "Alas" utterer
 - 28 Hollywood industry
 - 30 The "I" in F.W.I.W.
 - 31 Alumna bio word

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

C	O	R	A	R	A	C	K	S	H	I	R	E
I	H	O	P	E	L	L	A	P	U	R	E	E
V	A	S	T	B	O	O	B	E	M	A	I	L
I	R	E	C	O	T	T	O	N	C	A	N	D
C	A	G	I	E	R	B	E	I	N			
	A	T	O	N	A	L	R	E	E	S	E	S
P	A	R	I	S	G	O	A	T	S	U	V	A
O	L	D	S	B	O	W	L	S	A	G	E	S
L	I	E	R	A	G	E	S	U	R	A	L	S
K	A	N	S	A	S	R	O	U	T	E	R	
	A	N	T	S	P	A	S	S	U	P		
O	R	A	N	G	E	C	R	U	S	H	H	M
V	E	R	D	E	R	A	S	H	T	A	B	S
I	N	N	E	R	O	R	E	O	A	C	R	E
D	O	O	R	S	D	A	R	T	O	K	A	Y



Puzzle by Sarah Keller

- 32 Tic ___ (mint)
- 34 Conductance unit
- 36 Brunch offering
- 37 Crunched muscles
- 38 Raise a stink?
- 39 Spanish Mrs.
- 41 That is: Lat.
- 42 International pacts
- 47 Four-star
- 49 Singer Guthrie
- 50 Rio dance
- 51 Be of use
- 52 "Try this!"
- 53 Reo contemporary
- 54 Stop
- 56 Skybox locale
- 57 Woes for toes
- 58 "Siddhartha" writer
- 61 It may be a lot
- 64 Jack of "Barney Miller"
- 65 Singer Damone

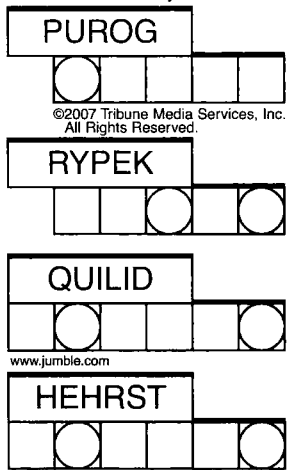
For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554. Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-ACROSS. Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 2,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$34.95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

JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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

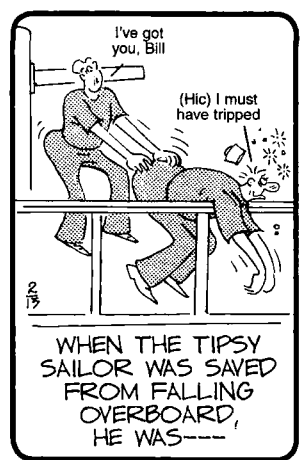


Answer here: [] [] [] [] AND [] [] [] [] (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ARRAY LIMIT COUPON BOUNCE
Answer: When the gardener spotted the dying shrub, he got to the — "ROOT" OF THE PROBLEM

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



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

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Christina Ricci, 27; Arsenio Hall, 52; Joanna Kerns, 54; Judy Blume, 69

Happy Birthday: It's what you do to help others that will get you ahead this year. Your actions will impress even your most critical observer. This isn't a year to make drastic changes but it is one to stabilize your current position, to solidify important relationships and to form good connections with people who can assist you when you need help. Your numbers are 11, 15, 19, 21, 33, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You could use a vacation or a change of scenery. If you can't afford to take a trip, switch your routine a bit. Talking to people with experience could lead you to a new hobby, vocation or circle of friends. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Someone may try to convince you to spend money or invest in something that will benefit him or her. Be strong and use your own power to make more money or to improve your health. Now is not the time to be wishy-washy. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can please some but you can't please everyone. With that in mind, make choices that help you fulfill your own goals. A partnership may turn sour if either one of you is trying to take advantage. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't trust someone to do a job for you. If you put in extra effort and go it alone, you will be the one to advance. A romantic opportunity is present but don't get involved with this person if it will affect your financial future. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't be fooled by someone who wants you to invest in his or her future. You can do far better looking out for your own interests. Networking and socializing with people on the same path will give you some great ideas. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take things one step at a time. Someone may try to ruin your plans. If you want an honest answer, ask precise questions. Your own relationship may be on shaky ground if you have neglected your responsibilities. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You should be able to make things happen if you aren't lazy, trying to get others to do things for you. Put in an all-out effort. A meeting with someone you consider to be knowledgeable will give you some new financial ideas. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll have the discipline to pull off a deal that you've been wanting to launch for some time now. Don't let anyone stand in your way. Emotional matters must not be allowed to interfere in your progress. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Reevaluate your motives and go about your business with integrity. Being underhanded will only come back to haunt you. A love connection is likely to cause you upset. Don't exaggerate. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Not everything will be out in the open. Don't get taken for a ride by someone painting a good sob story. Do your research and make your decision based on what's feasible. Anger will not solve any problems. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can affect people's decisions if you paint an honest picture of what you are trying to do. Someone you love may not be in total agreement with you. Listen to what this person has to say -- it may be valid. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stay calm and don't let emotional issues cloud what you know you must do. A problem with overindulgence will lead to arguments or, even worse, breakups. Look at things realistically: It can't always be the other person's fault. **

Birthday Baby: You are insightful and ready, willing and able to act fast. You are proud, worldly and a humanitarian. You are emotional, outgoing and totally unpredictable.

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

THE OBSERVER

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

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Clawing back

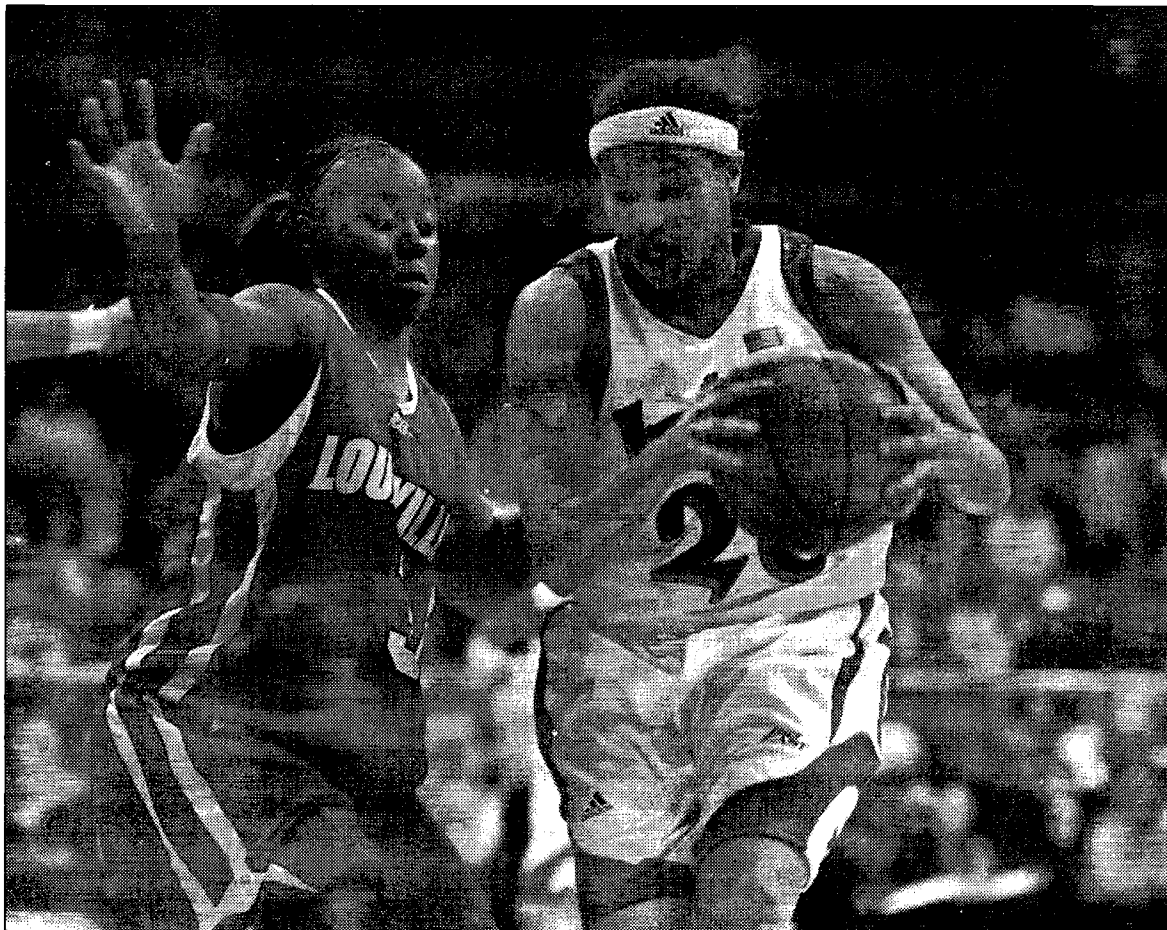
Notre Dame looks to halt road troubles in Philadelphia tonight

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

The Irish recovered from a three-game losing streak on the road by winning their last three home games, including Sunday's victory over DePaul. They will try to put an end to their away-game troubles tonight at Villanova.

Notre Dame's offense will be led by guard Charel Allen, who this week was named Big East Player of the Week for her play against Louisville and DePaul. Allen averaged 23 points and 10 rebounds per game in those two games while shooting 51.5 percent from field-goal range. Against DePaul, Allen dropped 25 points and grabbed 13 rebounds in the team's 78-70 win.

Villanova (7-17, 1-10 Big East) has sputtered of late, losing a school-record nine straight games to fall to last place in the



Irish guard Ashley Barlow drives around Louisville's Kala Faulkner during Notre Dame's 64-55 win over the Cardinals Feb. 7. Notre Dame will try to extend its winning streak to four tonight against last-place Villanova.

see VILLANOVA/page 18

Three game winning streak has Irish poised for postseason

On Jan. 31, the Irish season was on the verge of collapse. The team had lost three straight games to ranked opponents and was set to face a



Jay Fitzpatrick

Sports Writer

surging West Virginia team in the Joyce Center Feb. 4 in a game it had to win.

Notre Dame rose to the occasion.

The Irish won that game, and won again

against No. 17/16 Louisville three days later. Those wins, coupled with another home win against DePaul Sunday night, have Notre Dame's season back on track.

The Irish are tied for fifth in the Big East with Pittsburgh

see SURGE/page 18

BASEBALL

Questions abound at season-opening banquet

By FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writer

Despite the departure of the head coach who guided Notre Dame to Big East titles in each of the past five years, as well as 10 letterwinners from last season's team, first-year Irish coach Dave Schrage expressed high hopes for his new squad at the sixth-annual "Opening Night Dinner" in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse Monday night.



Counsel

"It's always tough when there's a transition," said Schrage, referring to the change that saw him replace Paul Mainieri as Irish head coach in the fall.

The squad will also have to adjust to the arrival of 15 new-

comers and three veterans who did not play last year.

At the banquet, where Detroit Tigers manager Jim Leyland and Milwaukee Brewers outfielder Craig Counsell also spoke to the crowd of about 1,500, Schrage talked about his adjustment to life at Notre Dame.

"I've only been here seven months but I'm honored to be your coach," he said.

Schrage, who led Evansville of the Missouri Valley Conference to a 43-22 record last season, also declared that he has "got the Notre Dame spirit."

Schrage, whose wife Jody passed away this January, introduced his two daughters to the crowd.

"I want to thank you all publicly for the support you've given us," he said. "When they say Notre Dame's a real community, they really mean it."

Schrage also said that this

see BANQUET/page 17

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Carter focuses on one goal

Irish senior has drive to play in NCAAs before leaving ND

By CHRIS KHOREY
Associate Sports Editor

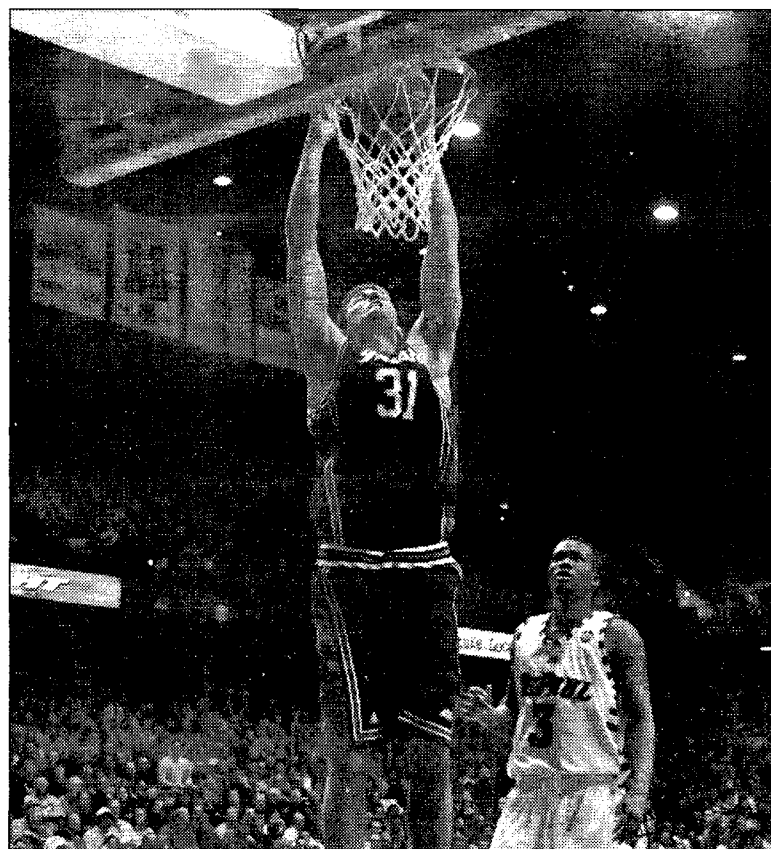
Notre Dame guard Russell Carter has just one goal for the last five regular season games of his senior year — "Five wins."

Carter and the Irish are riding a two game losing streak, which dropped them to 6-5 in the Big East and 18-6 overall.

Carter, who is averaging 17.3 points per game to lead the team, has had break out senior year. He has improved his scoring average by almost six points per game and is being looked at by NBA teams.

But none of that will matter to him if the Irish do not finish this season

see CARTER/page 17



ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

Irish forward Rob Kurz slams the ball home during Notre Dame's 67-66 loss at DePaul Feb. 8.

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

MEN'S BBALL

**Louisville 66
Pittsburgh 53**
Cardinals crush No. 7 Panthers in upset win.

page 15

WORLD ATHLETICS

World-Anti Doping Agency head Dick Pound denounces IOC reprimand for comments about Lance Armstrong.

page 15

MEN'S BBALL

Duke in danger of missing the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1996 after recent 4-game losing streak.

page 14

NBA

**Nuggets 123
Warriors 111**
Carmelo Anthony bruises thigh in 4th quarter of Denver's victory.

page 12

NBA

**Jazz 102
Hawks 76**
Atlanta's 5-game road winning streak comes to a halt in Utah.

page 12

NBA

**Pistons 92
Clippers 74**
Chris Webber scores 19 as Detroit tops Los Angeles.

page 12