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University clarifies absence policy

Provost: Students not allowed 3 unexcused cuts; ND extends Thanksgiving break

By BECKY HOGAN
News Writer

Attendance policies may grow stricter this semester following a letter from University Provost Thomas Burish reminding professors that students are not allowed three unexcused absences.

"Contrary to common student lore, there is no University policy permitting students ... three unexcused absences from class

without consequences," Burish said in the letter, which was sent to professors near the end of winter break.

The letter also outlined a schedule change for fall semester: Students will now have the Wednesday before Thanksgiving off, but will have one fewer study day before winter final examinations.

"Most" faculty members that were surveyed supported this change, the letter said, providing "a strong and clear statement be

sent to students and faculty alike reiterating the University policy that classes must be held on all scheduled class days, including the days before and after holidays, and that class attendance was expected."

Executive Assistant to the Provost Brandon Roach said the letter was sent out primarily to clear up any confusion about attendance policies.

But English professor Noreen Deane-Moran said she wasn't sure why students and professors

believed Notre Dame allowed each student three unexcused cuts.

"Some people have strict attendance policies and some do not. But there was no University allowance of three cuts or that every teacher had to let students take them," Deane-Moran said. "I don't know where that idea got started."

University academic policy states that instructors are

see ABSENCES/page 4

Local kids treated to Pitt game

Unknown benefactor gives away 100 tickets

By THERESA CIVANTOS
News Writer

Thanks to an anonymous donor, 100 children in the South Bend area have free tickets to see Notre Dame's women's basketball team play Pittsburgh on Feb. 10.

Three quarters of the 100 tickets went to area children involved in Lead-ND, the campus organization that takes Notre Dame volunteers to different schools across South Bend to help the children develop leadership skills. The other 25 tickets were distributed through Children's Campus, which treats severely emotionally disturbed children.

And the children will get to see an important game for the Irish.

Pittsburgh is ranked No. 14 in the country and is an important Big East opponent for the Irish. The game will be broadcast nationally on ESPN2.

"It just happened by chance," said junior John Wanek, an executive board member for Lead-ND. "We've done these trips before and I called the ticket office with this beautiful desperate speech to ask for tickets. But it turned out it didn't even matter what I said. They told me that some donor had bought 100 tickets and he wanted them to be used for kids. It just kind of fell into our laps."

see TICKETS/page 4

NDtv airs revamped programs

First-ever female host takes over 'Late Night'

By ELIZABETH KELLY
News Writer

Students can look forward to seeing all of their favorite shows return to NDtv for another season, with a few tweaks and the possibility of added programming.

NDtv, the student-run TV station that airs 24 hours on channel 53 on Notre Dame's on-campus cable system, launched its 2007-08 lineup — featuring seven original shows — in September. Returning from the winter break hiatus, all of NDtv's fall programs will air new episodes this spring, said the station's executive director, sophomore Nick Andert.

Fans of some shows, however, will notice certain changes.

NDtv's late night variety show, "Late Night ND," aired its semester premiere Monday night with a new host and head writer, junior Elise Yahner. As the first female host in the station's history, Yahner says that the jokes and overall tone of the show might be a little different from previous seasons.

But fans of "Late Night ND" shouldn't expect female-centric humor.

"It's not going to be 'The Girlie Show,'" she said with a laugh.

Yahner said she intends to take the show in the same direction it was headed last semester under host Joe Kwaczala.

"My only worry is that people don't think girls are funny," Yahner said.

see NDTV/page 4

Juniors win SMC election

Gruscinski, Falvey named student body president, vice president

By LIZ HARTER
Assistant News Editor

Juniors Mickey Gruscinski and Sarah Falvey were elected the next Saint Mary's student body president and vice president Monday after running an unopposed campaign.

The pair received more than 50 percent of the vote, according to an e-mail the Board of Governance sent to the student body Tuesday. The e-mail did not specify how many students voted, or what percentage of students voted abstain.

"We decided to run because it seemed like a great way to get involved on campus and meet students," Falvey said. "Though we took our campaign seriously, we had a lot of fun with it."

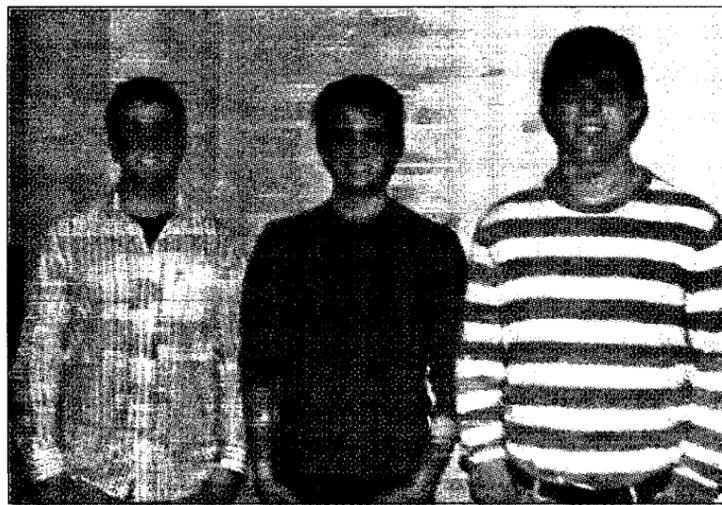
The pair campaigned extensively last week, even though they ran unopposed. Gruscinski and Falvey visited all of the residence halls,

see ELECTION/page 6



Photo courtesy of Sarah Falvey
Juniors Mickey Gruscinski, left, and Sarah Falvey campaign at the "Meet the Candidates" event in the Student Center Jan 24.

Popular 'E-club' attracts variety of majors



JOSEPH McMAHON/The Observer
The E-club's membership — including, from left, Michael Streit, Don Whitley and Bob Huguélet — has skyrocketed this year.

By JOSEPH McMAHON
Assistant News Editor

Since its inception a mere 15 months ago, the Entrepreneurship Club has seen its membership skyrocket to become one of the fastest-growing and most active undergraduate organizations on campus.

The Entrepreneurship Club — or "E-Club," as its members call it — attracts students from a wide variety of disciplines — and that may be one of the reasons why it has seen its membership rise to 70 in the last year, co-president Mark Bennett said. The group is proud that its

operations board includes a biology major, a political science major and a finance major, among several other disciplines.

"The Entrepreneurship Club ... provides a professional business outlook that is applicable to every major on campus," vice president of operations Don Whitley said. "Unlike other clubs, which may try to train you to become an employee, the E-Club will provide you with meaningful team interactions and networking experiences which will help you develop the marketable skill-set of a leader and differenti-

see E-CLUB/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

National security

In her anti-utopian novel *The Giver*, Lois Lowry presents a superficially ideal world that is later revealed to be fatally flawed.

One key dialogue occurs when the eponymous Giver describes one of this society's choices.

Joey King

Viewpoint Editor

"We gained control of many things. But we had to let go of others."

The 12-year-old protagonist, Jonas, immediately replies, "We shouldn't have."

The Giver is surprised that Jonas is so quick to realize this truth: that more was lost than was gained by the trade-off their society elected to make. Unfortunately, many decisions we make as a nation fall into the "shouldn't have" category — like the state department's denial of Muslim scholar Tariq Ramadan's entrance into the United States, where he was to teach Islamic ethics in a new, tenured position at the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies.

Ramadan is currently teaching at Oxford. Yes, that Oxford. Because he donated \$1,336 to a Swiss charity later designated as a terrorist group, the United States didn't want him teaching here.

We're big on national security threats in America — sometimes a little too big. I don't think anyone feels that it was our attitude toward communists in the 1950s that was responsible for bringing us out of the Cold War as capitalists. It makes sense that national security is a top priority, but we need to look at the big picture in terms of cost and benefit.

Even if we assume that Ramadan's \$1,336 bought a tailfin of one of Hamas' rockets, we have to at least admit the possibility that his perspective could enlighten us as to what exactly is motivating terrorism in the first place. We need to realize that perspectives outside of the Patriot Act have value — even when it comes to fighting security threats.

As a small illustration of the importance of putting human capital high among national priorities, one of the first actions of Hitler's administration was to remove Jewish university professors from their jobs. Einstein had seen this coming and left for the U.S. just in time. Cal Tech, Princeton and the U.S. reaped the benefits. Germany, not so much.

America's policy at the time wasn't much better. J. Robert Oppenheimer headed up the development project for the first nuclear weapon. At the time, Oppenheimer was regarded as a security risk for what were perceived as radically leftward political leanings.

Long story short, the U.S. put its suspicions on hold and let him build the bomb. But after his bomb-making days, the same left-leaning political connections that had been pushed under the rug earlier led Oppenheimer to be considered a security risk (he had also begun warning against a U.S. and Soviet arms race). After refusing to resign, his security clearance was revoked in a public hearing.

Our priorities on national security continue to be too militaristic. We'd rather bar entry, period, than try to learn something, unless of course that something were even more militaristic. Were Ramadan an engineer offering a terrorist-killer-o-matic™ instead of a theologian offering intellectual insight, we'd probably ignore his past transgressions and let him in. But insight is not as immediately understandable as an advantage, so it goes to Oxford.

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

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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: WHICH TEAM SHOULD WIN THE SUPER BOWL?



Alex Stuckey
sophomore
Morrissey

"The Giants. My mom is a Manning fan."



John Baty
sophomore
Morrissey

"The Patriots. They're the best team right now."



Chelsea Smith
freshman
Lewis

"The Patriots because my roommate is from Boston."



Meghan Huffman
freshman
Lewis

"The Giants. The Patriots are too cocky."



Guillermo Pi
freshman
Siegfried

"The Patriots. Brady is friends with George Bush."



COLEMAN COLLINS/The Observer

Freshmen Justin Schneider, left, and Paul Springer warm up with the track team Tuesday before their invitational this weekend.

IN BRIEF

Prints from the Snite Museum of Art's collection that focus on artistic subjects from the 17th century will be displayed today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The exhibit, "Rembrandt and the Art of Printmaking in Holland," will highlight the golden age of Dutch art.

The Winter Career Fair and Diversity Reception will be held today at the Joyce Center. The Diversity Reception will be held from 12 p.m. to 2:30. The Career Fair will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Further information can be found online at the Career Center Web site.

The SugarTone Brass Band, New York's premier New Orleans-style brass band, will perform tonight at 7:30 in the Leighton Concert Hall of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

Women's basketball will play Providence tonight at 7 in the Joyce Center arena.

The film "In July" will be shown at 7 p.m. and again at 10 p.m. Thursday in the Browning Cinema in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets will cost \$3 for students, \$5 for faculty and staff, and \$6 for general admission.

Men's basketball will play Providence on Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Joyce Center arena.

Men's hockey will play the U.S. Under-18 Team Friday at 7:35 p.m. at the Joyce Center ice rink in an exhibition.

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

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

OFFBEAT

Man sets station on fire over playlist

AUSTIN, Texas — A volunteer at a community radio station set fire to the station because he was upset that his song selections for an overnight Internet broadcast were changed, police said.

Paul Webster Feinstein, 24, has been charged with second-degree felony arson for the Jan. 5 fire that caused \$300,000 damage to the studios of 91.7 FM KOOP. He faces from two to 20 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine if convicted.

Feinstein told investigators that he was "very

unhappy" about the changes to his playlist, said Austin Fire Department Battalion Chief Greg Nye. The songs were intended for an Internet broadcast that occurs when the station is off the air.

Man wins, then loses, then wins lottery

SYDNEY, Australia — An Australian retiree won a \$1.8 million lottery prize, then lost it, and then won it again Wednesday through a court ruling.

Werner Reinhold bought the lottery ticket at a newsstand in Australia's largest city of Sydney on Sept. 19,

1995. His original ticket did not print correctly, so he asked for a new one, which turned out to be the winner.

But when Reinhold, now 73, went back to claim the \$1.8 million jackpot, he discovered that the replacement ticket had been canceled, not the misprinted original, and was unable to claim the prize.

He sued NSW Lotteries, which oversees lottery tickets in New South Wales state, and the newsstand which sold him the ticket.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 22 LOW 12	HIGH 17 LOW 8	HIGH 30 LOW 23	HIGH 30 LOW 12	HIGH 29 LOW 20	HIGH 35 LOW 23

Atlanta 47 / 36 Boston 45 / 35 Chicago 20 / 1 Denver 34 / 9 Houston 60 / 41 Los Angeles 61 / 45 Minneapolis 5 / -9 New York 47 / 40 Philadelphia 47 / 39 Phoenix 58 / 43 Seattle 40 / 34 St. Louis 35 / 14 Tampa 72 / 58 Washington 47 / 39

BOARD OF GOVERNANCE

Marathon planners request funds

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
News Writer

Pauline Kistka and Francesca Johnson, Saint Mary's dance marathon organizers, attended the Board of Governance's (BOG) meeting Tuesday asking for funding for the upcoming event, which has raised more than \$68,000 in two years for Riley's Children Hospital.

In its third year, organizers are looking to finance the marathon without resorting to money collected from registrants so far this year.

"We feel it is our responsibility to raise the money without dipping into the money we have raised for the hospital," Kistka said.

The marathon, which has a staff of about 75, was recently voted the "Best New Dance Marathon" in the country by the Children's Miracle Network. Participants pay a \$12 registra-

tion fee and provide the addresses of people they believe might donate money. Event organizers then send a letter to each address asking for a contribution.

The dance will be held from 8 p.m. on April 4 to 8 a.m. on April 5 in the Angela Athletic Facility at Saint Mary's. More than 150 dancers have already registered, and organizers are hoping to get as many as 400.

After their presentation, Kistka and Johnson submitted a proposal to BOG requesting funds for the marathon. Board members did not discuss the proposal during Tuesday's meeting.

In other BOG news:

◆ Elections commissioner Maggie Siefert confirmed that juniors Mickey Gruscinski and Sarah Falvey were elected the 2008-09 student body president and vice president, respectively.

◆ Sophomore parents weekend will be held Feb. 15-17, sophomore class president Camille Gilbert said.

◆ Athletics commissioner Noreen Sherrard said the first — and only — home swim meet for the Belles will take place at 6 p.m. on Feb. 1 in the Rolfs Aquatic Center at Notre Dame.

◆ Cassie Quaglia, president of the Residence Hall Association, said Little Sibs Weekend will be held Feb. 22-24.

◆ The all-school formal will be held this Saturday at the Palais Royale, Quaglia said. There will be a bus to drive attendees to and from the dance.

◆ The new Heritage wall will be unveiled Thursday at 2:15 p.m. in the basement of the Student Center, missions commissioner Mary Frantz said.

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn01@saintmarys.edu

Notre Dame turns to locally produced food

Food Services aids community, environment by purchasing crops from neighboring states

By DENNIS SLATER
News Writer

In an effort to give a boost to the economic and environmental life of local communities, many people across the nation have turned to locally grown foods to fill their shopping carts — and Notre Dame is no exception.

Jim Yarbrough, the senior associate director of Food Services and chairman of its social responsibility committee, said that last year, Notre Dame spent more than \$2,243,000 on local products. Any state that borders Indiana is considered local, and the food was predominantly purchased from Michigan and Wisconsin, he said.

"We can get to Wisconsin faster and more efficiently than we can get to Bloomington, [Ind.] so we consider that to be local," Yarbrough said.

He said more than \$600,000 was spent on Michigan and Wisconsin cheese, milk and dairy products, and another \$400,000 on local meat products. Approximately \$48,328 was used to buy Michigan and Wisconsin apples, and \$27,675 for Indiana tomatoes.

Resorting to local products, he said, cuts down on expensive fossil fuels that would be needed to transport the products. It also limits — and in some cases eliminates — the need for chemical preservatives that could be detrimental to a person's health, Yarbrough said.

Last year's local foods purchases were part of a regional effort a coalition of Indiana colleges began five years ago to drive up the demand for organically produced foods, he said.

Food Services strives to benefit the community in other ways.

"Usable leftover food is sent to the Hope Rescue Mission or the Center for the Homeless," Yarbrough said. "There is an energy conservation program within our staff to reduce food waste, conserve electricity, natural gas and water."

The Food Services staff members involved in this program examine the campus, making sure to replace incandescent light bulbs, which produce more heat and waste more electricity, with fluorescent light bulbs, which are more efficient and produce less heat.

In addition to the conservation program, Yarbrough is also responsible for maintaining a campus-wide recycling effort that has been in place for more than 18 years.

Yarbrough and his crew have placed a multitude of recycling receptacles to make more students aware of how easy it is to recycle. Educating students to recycle their newspapers is a top priority for Yarbrough.

"We have placed the blue recycling bins across campus and especially at the dining halls to discourage students from leaving their newspapers on their trays and tables or throwing them in the garbage," he said.

Food Services, for its part, uses compactors to dispose of any cardboard boxes to make sure they can be reused.

And these are not processes or programs that are ending anytime soon. It is an ongoing agenda exemplified by the weekly meetings to brainstorm ideas and maintain a greener Notre Dame, Yarbrough said.

"Our staff is committed to purchasing locally grown foods and staying environmentally friendly," he said. "This is a continuing process and we are happy to be educating our students about recycling and the benefits of local food purchase and consumption."

Contact Dennis Slater at dslater@nd.edu

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imagination at work

NDtv

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She will have a chance to disprove that theory with the new comedy segment — similar to skit portion of "Saturday Night Live" — that she plans to add to the program. In one such skit, one of last season's recurring characters, the flamboyant and opinionated hairdresser André, appeared on Monday's premier episode to offer Yahner some makeover advice for a new on-air look.

Yahner is also looking to have more musical and performance guests.

Beside the changes at "Late Night ND," some of the

station's other shows are also being updated and improved, Andert said.

"On Campus," NDTV's first sitcom, which chronicles the fictitious adventures of Sarah, a freshman at Notre Dame, premiered in September and quickly became one of the station's most popular shows.

In the fall, the series had a new plotline in each episode, but this semester the show will incorporate a season-long storyline to keep viewers engaged, he said.

Andert attributed some of the sitcom's success to NDTV's Web site, which features an "On Demand" section that allows viewers to watch full episodes of some of the station's shows at any

time. For many viewers, he said, watching videos online is "the easiest way to catch a new show."

He said he hopes to put as many of the station's shows as possible on the Web site in order to generate more student interest online.

NDTV's studio, located in the basement of Washington Hall, is undergoing renovations that will be completed by mid-semester. The plans include updated lighting and other technical equipment as well as new furniture and backdrops that will improve the look of various sets, especially those of "Late Night ND" and "NDTV News," the station's hour-long news program, Andert said.

And he also hopes to add a new show to the station's current lineup by mid-semester. While the new program is under development, NDTV will continue to focus on its current shows, which include debate show "Talk it Out," movie review program "Final Cut," improvisational comedy "Humor Artists" and interview show "Office Hours."

And Yahner said the station's staff is excited and optimistic about it hopes what will be a fun season with lots of new talent.

"We're a fun bunch," she said. "We make each other laugh."

Contact Elizabeth Kelly at ekelly7@nd.edu

Tickets

continued from page 1

Lead-ND consistently relies on donations to fund its programs.

"We acquire all our funds through different grants and donations. We really work off what people give us," Wanek said.

Random acts of generosity like this donation are really not that rare at Notre Dame, said Stephanie Menio, the director of operations for women's basketball.

"Things like this actually happen quite often," Menio said. "We have a 'Take a Kid to a Game' Day where fans donate tickets to under-privileged kids. We work with the Girls' and Boys' Clubs and Big Brother, Big Sister. Any place that's in need of tickets and can't really afford them, that's who we target."

This season alone, Menio said, over 200 donors have provided more than 3,000 tickets to youths in need of them.

As for the Lead-ND kids, the trip to see the women's team play in the Joyce Center is one of several they've enjoyed — including a visit to the mayor of South Bend — but this one is just for fun.

"We do field trips throughout the year. They usually incorporate service or learning," said senior Antoinette Bronesky, a Lead-ND volunteer. "This one is purely for fun but it is intended to show students what a college environment is like and where the volunteers spend their time. We hope it gives them something to aspire to."

And the children are excited about this particular field trip, Bronesky said.

"The kids love the Notre Dame athletes. To them, they're like gods," she said.

Lead-ND works to inspire under-privileged students to become leaders themselves, rather than merely give them aid.

"We're trying to equip the kids with leadership skills so they can help out in their community," Wanek said. "We're helping the kids to be leaders in South Bend."

Contact Theresa Civantos tcivanto@nd.edu

Absences

continued from page 1

responsible for stipulating attendance policies at the beginning of a semester. They may also, at their discretion, fail students for excessive absences. Before this happens, however, instructors must warn students in writing.

A class's attendance policy can depend on the degree of importance its professor gives to in-class participation. For Deane-Moran, participation is a significant part of a student's grade.

"I'll count class participation as part of the grade and if a student is not in class, he or she can't very well be participating. So my policy is that everyone should be

there for every class," she said.

Roach said the University expects all faculty members to hold regularly scheduled classes — and students to regularly attend them.

"Interaction between the faculty and students in the classroom is an integral part of the educational experience and when classes are held, students should attend," he said.

But that concept seemed to be overlooked around breaks and long weekends, Roach said.

Holly Goodson, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, said the letter clarified the University's stance on students that cut class the day before a break begins.

"I think that there have been some faculty who have cancelled class before major holidays, and I

think that part of the purpose of the letter is to remind faculty that they are expected to hold class when it is scheduled," she said.

Goodson, who teaches a chemistry class with more than 350 students, explained that class size affects attendance policy.

"In a class such as a seminar, class participation is an important part of the learning process itself," she said. "In my large [chemistry] class, issues such as the number of classes missed by a given student are basically irrelevant. Student grades are determined by performance on exams and problem sets. Students who miss lots of classes are unlikely to do well on these."

Sophomore Bill Warren said he felt it was warranted for professors to take attendance — espe-

cially if it can help students boost their grade.

"In smaller classes, professors should at least take a mental note of who is there," Warren said. "If someone is trying really hard in class, class attendance should [be reflected in the student's grade]."

But students like freshman Brian Cook believe that attending class should be left to the student's discretion.

"I've always felt that since we are paying money [to attend the University], it should really be up to the student to choose to go to class. You're not going to get as much out of it [if you don't go], but that's your choice," Cook said.

Contact Becky Hogan at rhogan2@nd.edu

E-club

continued from page 1

ate you in the business world, regardless of what profession you decide to go into."

In order to market the club to undergraduates, the members have been handing out key chains and ping-pong balls stamped with the club's logo.

"We just completed a huge marketing push," vice president of management Jaime Urquijo said. "We really think it's a great club and now a lot of people know about it."

In a brief presentation to potential E-club members on Monday, Bennett said the purpose of the club was to "educate, inspire, network ... in the context of entrepreneurial leadership."

Bennett gave several examples of successful entrepreneurs, including Bill Gates, Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg and the CEO and founder of Virgin, Richard Branson.

And given the students that Notre Dame normally attracts,

he said, he believes the University is the perfect place for an E-club.

"Under the Golden Dome are some of the most intelligent people," he said. "[Notre Dame students] have an opportunity to become a leader in any field [they] go into."

Following Bennett's pitch, vice president of projects Bob Huguelet, Urquijo and two Operations board members, Kate von Hoffmann and Mark Streit, presented a case study of Branson.

Branson built the multi-billion dollar Virgin group out of a mail-order record company

he started in 1970. The club's officers analyzed the history, strengths, weaknesses and future ventures of Branson's group. According to Urquijo, one of the major things E-club members can learn from Branson is to "always work towards a goal, not necessarily to make money."

Modeling their club after similar organizations at Oxford, Stanford and Harvard, the E-Club officers put on a variety of events, including the opportunity to work on case studies on specific entrepreneurs.

The club also hosts a CEO speaker and dinner series

where members get to meet leaders — two of whom were Sherry Barrett, president and CEO of the Fortune 500 company Northern Trust, and Jaime Zobel de Ayala, CEO of Ayala Corporation and Harvard Business School's 2006 Management Man of the Year. In addition, the E-Club coordinates several service projects in the South Bend area.

"I think the most important question we have is what have we done for each other," Bennett said.

Contact Joseph McMahon at jmcmah06@nd.edu

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Battle for Mosul will be difficult, slow

MOSUL, Iraq — The top U.S. commanders in northern Iraq predicted Tuesday the battle to oust al-Qaida in Iraq from its last urban stronghold will not be a swift strike, but rather a grinding campaign for Mosul that will require more firepower from both the Pentagon and Iraqi allies.

The statements appeared to discount suggestions by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki that Iraqi forces were gathering for a "decisive" attack as soon as all reinforcements are in place.

"It is not going to be this climactic battle. It's going to be probably a slow process," said Maj. Gen. Mark P. Hertling, commander of U.S. forces in northern Iraq.

In a telephone interview from his headquarters in Tikrit, Hertling described the strategy for Mosul — Iraq's third-largest city — as the same step-by-step tactics used in the U.S.-led troop offensives in Baghdad: win control of a district and keep troops there to hold it.

Men caught after taking hostages in bank

ALTAGRACIA DE ORITUCO, Venezuela — Gunmen who held more than 30 hostages inside a Venezuelan bank for over 24 hours fled in an ambulance and were caught Tuesday along a roadside, where they surrendered and freed their last five captives.

The gunmen first let three hostages go and then negotiated with police while holding on to the last two, Guarico state Gov. Eduardo Manuitt said.

"This nightmare is over," Manuitt told state television.

NATIONAL NEWS

Study: Afghanistan may be forgotten

WASHINGTON — Afghanistan risks sliding into a failed state and becoming the "forgotten war" because of deteriorating international support and a growing violent insurgency, according to an independent study.

The assessment, co-chaired by retired Marine Corps Gen. James Jones and former U.N. Ambassador Thomas Pickering, serves as a warning to the Bush administration at a time military and congressional officials are debating how best to juggle stretched warfighting resources.

The administration wants to re-energize anti-terrorism efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan, where al-Qaida is regenerating. But the U.S. still remains heavily invested in Iraq, and officials are sending strong signals that troop reductions there will slow or stop altogether this summer.

Iraq troop reductions to end this summer

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration is sending strong signals that U.S. troop reductions in Iraq will slow or stop altogether this summer, a move that would jeopardize hopes of relieving strain on the Army and Marine Corps and revive debate over an open-ended U.S. commitment in Iraq.

The indications of a likely slowdown reflect concern by U.S. commanders that the improvement in security in Iraq since June — to a degree few had predicted when President Bush ordered five more Army brigades to Iraq a year ago — is tenuous and could be reversed if the extra troops come out too soon.

LOCAL NEWS

Hate crime bill will stall in House

INDIANAPOLIS — A bill that would create a hate crimes law in Indiana would die in the House before a key deadline this week, its author said, and he did not expect it to be revived this session.

Democratic Rep. Greg Porter of Indianapolis said Tuesday he was not going to call his bill down for consideration of changes before a deadline this week for bills to advance past the amendment stage. Bills that do not clear the amendment stage would not be eligible for votes before this week's deadline set for bills to clear their house of origin.

Porter said a couple of amendments filed on his bill by Republicans in the Democrat-controlled chamber would give them a chance to attach political statements to his bill, not ones based on good public policy.

McCain edges Romney in Florida

Clinton wins on the Democratic side, but delegates will not be seated at convention

Associated Press

MIAMI — Sen. John McCain won a breakthrough triumph in the Florida Republican primary Tuesday night, edging past former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney and seizing precious campaign momentum for next week's string of contests across 21 states.

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani was running third, and headed for the exits. Officials familiar with events said his aides were in discussions with McCain's advisers on a possible endorsement later in the week.

"It shows one thing. I'm the conservative leader who can unite the party," McCain said in a brief interview with The Associated Press.

"It's a very significant boost but I think we've got a tough week ahead and a lot of states to come."

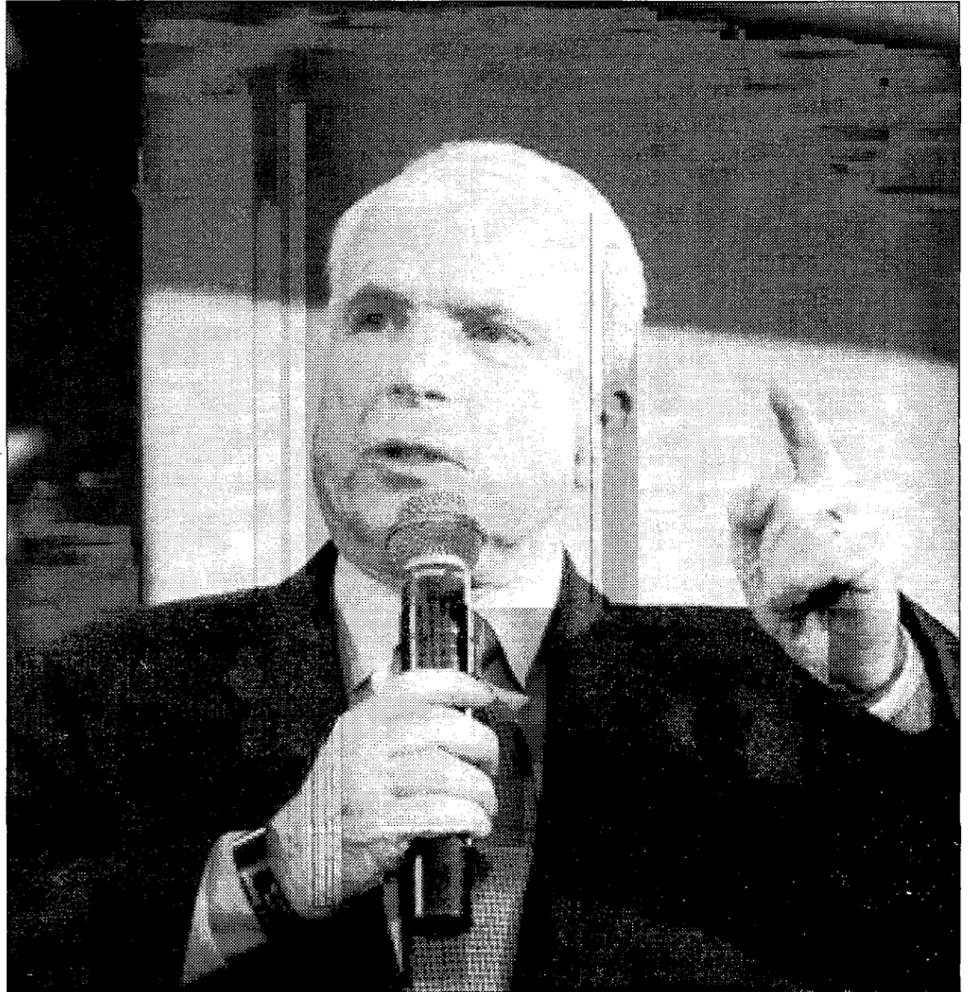
The victory was worth 57 national convention delegates for McCain, a winner-take-all's haul and the largest single prize to date in the race.

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee trailed, but told supporters he would campaign on. Texas Rep. Ron Paul was fifth, and last.

Returns from 64 percent of the state's precincts showed McCain, the Arizona senator, with 36 percent of the vote and Romney, the former governor of Massachusetts, with 31 percent.

McCain's victory was his first-ever primary win in a state that allowed only Republicans to vote. His previous victories, in New Hampshire and South Carolina this year, and in two states in 2000 came in elections open to independents. He campaigned with the support of the state's two top Republican elected officials, Gov. Charlie Crist and Sen. Mel Martinez.

Romney's only primary win so far was in Michigan, a state where he grew up and claimed a home-field advantage. He also has caucus victories to his credit in



Arizona Senator John McCain speaks during a campaign rally in Florida Monday. McCain won the state's 57 delegates in the Republican primary election Tuesday.

Wyoming and Nevada.

A survey of voters as they left their polling places showed the economy was the top issue for nearly half the Republican electorate. McCain led his rival among those voters, blunting Romney's weeklong effort to persuade Floridians that his background as a businessman made him best-suited for heading off a recession.

McCain also was benefiting from the support of self-described moderates, as well as older voters and Hispanics. Giuliani ran second among Latino voters, according to preliminary exit poll data.

Romney was favored by voters opposed to abortion and to easing the path to citi-

zenship for illegal immigrants.

About 40 percent of self-described conservatives supported him, as well, compared to about 25 percent for McCain.

The poll was conducted by Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International for The Associated Press and the television networks.

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton won the Democratic race, an event that drew no campaigning by any of the contenders — and awarded no delegates to the winner.

The Democratic primary was controversial by its very existence, an act of defiance against national party officials who wanted it held later in the year.

Even so, Clinton sought to emphasize her performance in the state, holding a rally as the polls were closing.

She challenged Barack Obama to agree to seat the delegates on the basis of the night's vote, but he demurred, saying he would abide by an agreement all Democratic candidates had made months ago.

"Those decisions will be made after the nomination, not before," Obama told reporters Tuesday on a plane from Washington to Kansas. "Obviously, I care a lot about the people in Michigan and a lot about the people in Florida. And I want their votes in the general election. We'll be actively campaigning for them."

KENYA

Violence continues in once-stable nation

Associated Press

NAIROBI — Kenya, once a leader in the region, is following neighbors like Somalia down a path of disintegration, with no solution in sight as burning slums and thousands fleeing in fear alter the nation's ethnic map — perhaps forever.

Police in helicopters on Tuesday fired to turn back mobs. Gunmen killed opposition legislator Mugabe Were, and slums where a tense peace had held for days exploded with machete-wielding gangs setting fire to homes and businesses owned by President Mwai Kibaki's Kikuyu people.

Sabat Abdullah, a slum resident, said a gang dragged a Kikuyu doctor from his clinic "and then cut and cut until

his head was off."

The international community is pressuring Kibaki and his chief rival Raila Odinga — who is a member of the Luo tribe — to share power to end the crisis over the disputed presidential election.

Former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan is negotiating, but says it will take a year just to settle on a plan for resolving the deep-rooted problems that caused anger over the election to turn to murderous hate between neighbors of decades.

Barack Obama, the Democratic presidential candidate whose father was Kenyan, made a plea for peace Tuesday, saying "Kenya has come too far to throw away decades of progress in a storm of violence and political

unrest."

"We must not look back years from now and wonder how and why things were permitted to go so horribly wrong," Obama said in a statement he read on Capital FM radio.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called the violence "deeply concerning," saying, "We are currently asking everyone to maintain calm."

Political disputes in Kenya often mushroom into ethnic clashes, but never before with the ferocity that has left more than 800 people dead since the Dec. 27 election that the international community and many Kenyans agree had a rigged vote tally.

It was only the second free election in Kenya, which suffered decades under one-party and authoritarian rule.

Election

continued from page 1

knocking on doors, posting flyers in restrooms and hallways and asking their fellow students to vote on Saint Mary's PRISM Web site Monday.

"Even though there is only one ticket, they are working just as hard as if there were five tickets," executive director of elections Maggie Siefert said last Thursday.

Gruscinski said she thought the pair's efforts "really helped voter turnout."

The BOG also tried to increase voter turnout by setting up a booth-like station in the Student Center where students could cast their votes.

Placing the booth in the atrium, Siefert said, helped "to recruit more voters and to create a better awareness of the politics of the Saint Mary's student government."

Siefert, who was stationed at the booth, said she had seen a "very good" turnout.

Falvey said she was happy with the number of students that participated in the elections this year.

If a majority of students abstained, it would have been a first in school history — and Gruscinski and Falvey would have not been able to take office next year.

Siefert said she was unsure how that situation would have been handled since there is no precedent for such a scenario.

But those questions didn't bother Gruscinski and Falvey. Instead, they focused on the coming year.

"It's surreal right now, since I'm just getting used to the feeling, but it is a very good feeling," Gruscinski said.

Falvey agreed, saying she's "a bit in shock" and eager to start working on the goals that made up their platform during the campaign.

Those ideas include extending the Student Center hours of operation and improving the wireless Internet connection.

"I think I'd like to work on getting wireless Internet in all the dorms. It's probably going to take a lot of work, so the sooner we can get started the better," Falvey said. "We also have some ideas under wraps that we want to get the ball rolling on."

Contact Liz Harter
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IRAQ

Insurgents blast U.S. patrol with roadside bomb

Five American soldiers killed in explosion, raising Pentagon's January death count to 36

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — In a daring ambush, insurgents blasted a U.S. patrol with a roadside bomb Monday and showered survivors with gunfire from a mosque in increasingly lawless Mosul. Five American soldiers were killed in the explosion — even as Iraqi troops moved into the northern city to challenge al-Qaida in Iraq.

Iraqi reinforcements, along with helicopters, tanks and armored vehicles, converged on Mosul for what Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki pledged would be a decisive battle against al-Qaida in its last major urban stronghold.

The attack on the U.S. patrol — the deadliest on American forces since six soldiers perished Jan. 9 in a booby-trapped house north of Baghdad — raised the Pentagon's January death count to at least 36.

The toll so far is 56 percent higher than December's 23 U.S.

military deaths and marks the first monthly increase since August. But the figures remain well below monthly death tolls of more than 100 last spring.

Tensions in Mosul, Iraq's third largest city, have spiked after the explosion last week in an abandoned apartment that authorities say was used to stash insurgents' weapons and bombs. As many as 60 were killed and 200 injured.

The unrest in Mosul stands in sharp relief to a significant decline in bloodshed most elsewhere in Iraq in recent months. The relative calm has been credited to a U.S.-led security crackdown — along with a Sunni revolt against al-Qaida in Iraq and a cease-fire order by radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr for his powerful Mahdi Army militia.

But influential members of al-Sadr's movement said Monday they have urged the anti-U.S. cleric to call off the six-month cease-fire when it expires in

February — a move that could jeopardize the security gains.

In Mosul, the attackers struck in the southeastern Sumar neighborhood, a middle-class district popular with former officers in Saddam Hussein's military and now a suspected hotbed for the insurgency.

After the roadside bomb blew apart the American vehicle — killing the five soldiers — gunmen opened fire from a mosque. A fierce gunbattle erupted as U.S. and Iraqi soldiers secured the area, the military said. Iraqi troops entered the mosque but the insurgents had already fled, according to a statement.

"The insurgents are willing to desecrate a place of worship by using it to attack soldiers to further their agenda," said Maj. Peggy Kageleiry, a U.S. military spokeswoman in northern Iraq.

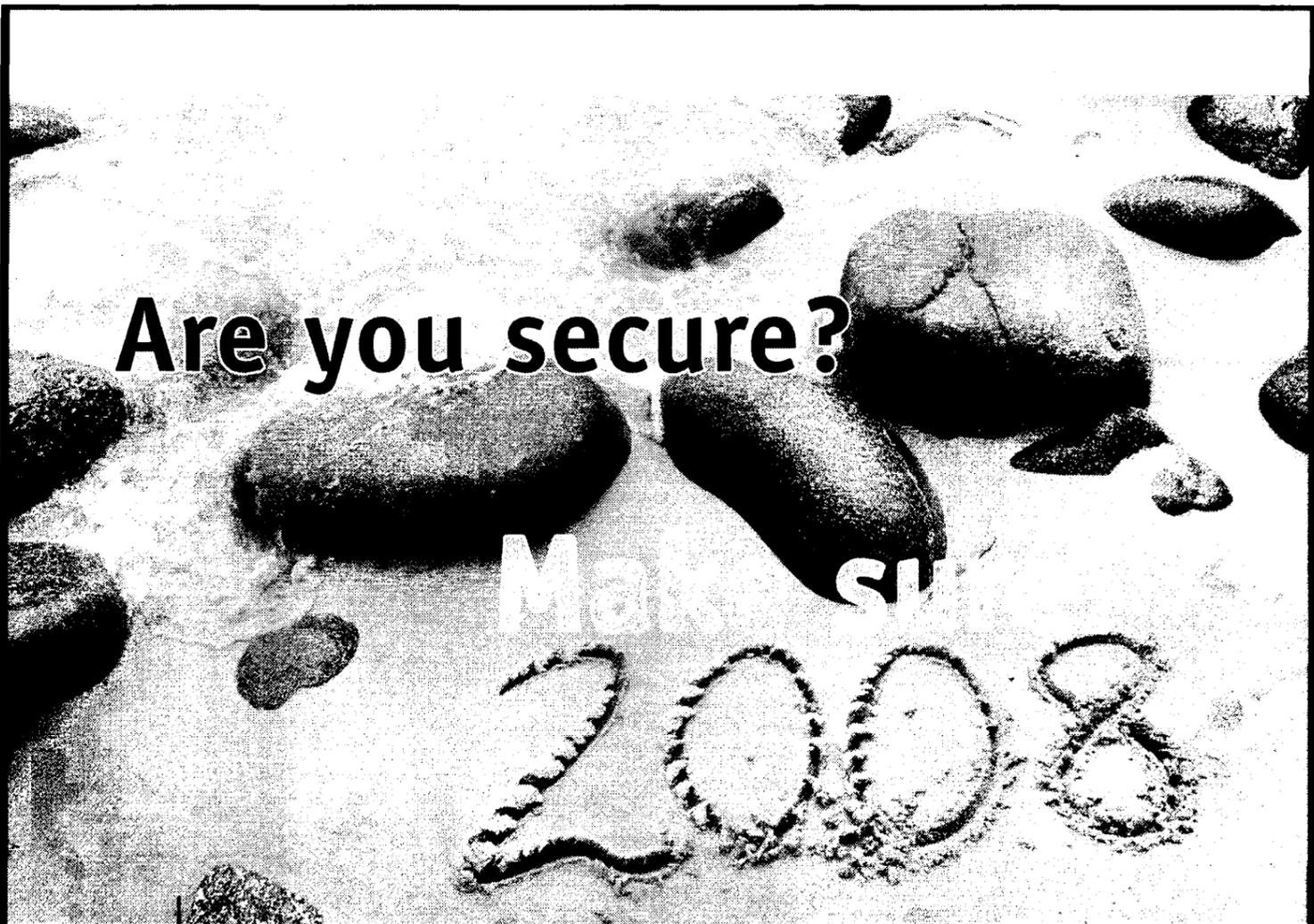
There was other fighting in the neighborhood. An Iraqi officer, speaking on condition of

anonymity because he was not authorized to release the information, said three civilians were wounded and helicopters bombed buildings in the district, the scene of frequent attacks on U.S. and Iraqi forces.

Also Monday, insurgents attacked four policemen heading home from work south of Mosul, killing two and wounding the other two, Nineveh provincial police said.

U.S. commanders have described Mosul as the last major Iraqi city with a significant al-Qaida presence, although they have warned that insurgents remain a potent force in rural areas south and northeast of Baghdad.

But the military has said Iraqi security forces will take the lead in the city — a major test of Washington's plans to someday shrink the American force and leave it as backup for Iraqi security forces.



New Year's Resolutions for 2008

1. I will download and run ND's free antivirus and antispyware software.
2. I won't share my password with anyone.
3. I will dispose of bank statements and credit card bills/offers using a crosscut shredder.

Visit secure.nd.edu for more information.

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones 12,480.30 +96.41

Up: 2,243 Same: 108 Down: 1,071 Composite Volume: 4,235,698,887

AMEX	2,214.81	+16.39
NASDAQ	2,358.06	+8.15
NYSE	9,046.02	+67.61
S&P 500	1,362.60	+8.33
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	13,439.63	+39.23
FTSE 100 (London)	5,885.20	-96.30

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
S&P DEP RECIEPTS (SPY)	+0.50	+0.67	135.91
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	+0.18	+0.08	44.41
FINANCIAL SEL SPDR (XLF)	+1.53	+0.43	28.58
CITIGROUP INC (C)	+0.94	+0.26	27.91

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	+2.01	+0.072	3.658
13-WEEK BILL	-0.45	-0.010	2.205
30-YEAR BOND	+1.26	+0.054	4.336
5-YEAR NOTE	+2.84	+0.079	2.857

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+0.65	91.64
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-2.00	930.80
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+2.60	90.85

Exchange Rates

YEN	106.7900
EURO	0.6773
CANADIAN DOLLAR	0.9988
BRITISH POUND	0.5023

IN BRIEF

FBI, SEC target 14 companies for fraud

WASHINGTON — The Federal Bureau of Investigation on Tuesday said it is investigating 14 companies for possible fraud or insider trading violations in connection with loans made to risky borrowers, and investments spun off of those loans.

Agency officials did not identify the companies under investigation but said the wide-ranging probe, which began in spring 2007, involves companies across the industry, from mortgage lenders to financial firms that bundle home loans into securities sold to investors.

The FBI is working in conjunction with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Neil Power, chief of the FBI's economic crimes unit in Washington, said during a briefing with reporters.

The development comes as authorities in New York and Connecticut investigate whether Wall Street banks hid crucial information about high-risk loans bundled into securities that were sold to investors.

Power said federal authorities are looking into the practices of so-called subprime lenders, as well as potential accounting fraud committed by financial firms that hold subprime loans on their books or securitize them and sell them to other investors.

Oversight of Microsoft continues

WASHINGTON — Federal oversight of Microsoft Corp.'s market power, which began in 2002 after a landmark antitrust settlement, has been extended by 18 months.

The court's ruling "should not be viewed as a sanction against Microsoft," U.S. District Court Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly said late Tuesday. She said her decision was based on delays by Microsoft in filing technical documents related to the licensing of its software.

Ten states, led by New York and California, urged the court last year to extend its oversight until 2012. The Bush administration did not join the states' request. The Justice Department said Microsoft had complied with the settlement and it should be allowed to expire.

Microsoft's shares fell 8 cents to \$32.52 in after-hours trading, after dropping 12 cents to close at \$32.60.

House easily passes tax rebate bill

Passage in Senate is less certain; Democrats, Republicans eye possible modifications

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House voted Tuesday to rush rebates of \$600-\$1,200 to most taxpayers, but a partisan battle brewed in the Senate over Democrats' efforts to add jobless aid and help for the poor to the economic stimulus package.

The House plan, approved 385-35 after little debate, would send rebates to some 111 million families and give tax breaks to businesses, costing \$161 billion over two years.

President Bush and House leaders urged the Senate to take the bipartisan agreement and pass it quickly. Sen. Max Baucus, the Senate Finance Committee chairman, planned a Wednesday vote in his panel on a \$196 billion package that could face a slower path to passage.

"The temptation is going to be for the Senate to load it up," Bush said in the Oval Office. "My concern is that we need to get this bill out of the Senate and on my desk."

Baucus' measure adds \$35 billion for senior citizens and the unemployed, and shrinks the rebate to \$500 for individuals and \$1,000 for couples. It would deliver checks even to the richest taxpayers, who are disqualified under the House-passed measure.

Congressional leaders are aiming to send the package to Bush by Feb. 15. The goal was to start mailing out rebate checks in May and to have most of them to taxpayers by July so that people would spend the money and kick-start a slumping economy. But the



House Speaker Nancy Pelosi speaks at a news conference Tuesday following the passage of the economic stimulus bill that gives rebates of \$600-\$1200 to most taxpayers.

divergent plans — and bids by Senate Democrats and some Republicans to enlarge the package with more add-ons — could drag out that schedule.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said she hoped the Senate would "take this bill and run with it."

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said that was unlikely in the freewheeling Senate, where members in both parties have elaborate wish-lists for adding to the bill, including food stamps,

Medicaid and heating assistance for low-income people and spending on infrastructure projects, among other things.

"I think that there's 51 Democratic senators without exception who believe this package can be made better," Reid said, adding that he also expected to have substantial GOP support for changes.

Sen. Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., the minority leader, signaled he would try to block Baucus' measure and prevent senators from adding items.

"This is a time to show we can rise above partisanship, do something important and do it quickly," McConnell said. "The only way to achieve that would be to take up and pass the House-passed bill."

The House plan brought together Democrats and Republicans, both of whom surrendered cherished proposals to reach a deal.

Pelosi cautioned against adding items that could hinder an economic recovery or scuttle the bipartisan agreement.

Market up as interest rate cut looms

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street advanced sharply Tuesday as the Federal Reserve opened a two-day meeting expected to bring another interest rate cut to revitalize the U.S. economy.

The Fed's rate decision is clearly the market's focus this week, and trading has been marked by investors' conjectures about policymakers' thoughts on the weak economy and crunched financial industry. With an announcement not expected until Wednesday afternoon, the market in the meantime digested data on earnings, consumer spending and durable goods.

Investors did get some encouragement about the economy after the Commerce Department said orders for big-ticket items rose 5.2 percent in December, the widest jump in five months. In addition, the Conference Board reported consumer confidence fell in January — pretty much as expected.

Economic data will continue to be scrutinized as investors try to determine what the Fed's take is on the economy. Investors are angling for a half-point cut following an emergency three-quarter-point cut last week.

"The market is just in a holding pattern," said Todd Leone, managing director of equity trading at Cowen & Co. "It seems we've hit a short-term bottom, and the market has been stabilizing as we wait to hear what the Fed says."

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 96.41, or 0.78 percent, to 12,480.30. The blue chip index closed near its high of the day.

Broader indexes also rose. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 8.34, or 0.62 percent, to 1,362.30, and the Nasdaq composite advanced 8.15, or 0.35 percent, to 2,358.06.

Government bond prices fell as stocks rose, indicating that investors feel less need for the safety of Treasuries. The 10-year Treasury note's yield, which moves opposite its price, was at 3.66

percent, up from 3.58 percent late Monday, and rose to 3.68 percent in after-hours trading.

The dollar was mixed against most major currencies, and gold prices fell.

Oil prices moved higher as traders waited to see what the Fed's next move will be. A barrel of light sweet crude rose 65 cents to \$91.64 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Wall Street has been extremely volatile in recent weeks amid fears of a U.S. recession and further write-downs in the financial sector. However, that has given way to a more quiet tone this week as investors looked for their second-straight day of gains before the Fed's decision.

Central bankers are widely expected to lower its key rate, now at 3.5 percent, by as much as one-half percentage point to 3 percent when policymakers wrap up on Wednesday. This will be the last meeting for seven weeks, but that doesn't rule out another emergency cut in the meantime.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Wednesday, January 30, 2008

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Consumer social responsibility

Big business has gotten a bad rap. No doubt some of it is well deserved. From the Enron and WorldCom scandals in the early part of this decade to the recent trend of rewarding failing CEOs with absurd severance packages, Americans have good reason to feel a profound distrust for many of our largest corporations. However, some of our vitriol seems to be directed at the wrong companies for the wrong reasons. It's popular to bemoan the profits and tactics of Big Oil, the auto industry, Wal-Mart or Starbucks, because these companies are large and seemingly indomitable. But what are we really complaining about?

Is it the fault of the oil companies that we are destroying our environment? Can we blame Starbucks for putting all or our independent coffeehouses out of business? Businesses are dictated by profit margins, and the bottom line is largely determined by consumers. Most businesses are merely providing the products and services demanded by the average American. Instead of blaming big business for all of our evils, perhaps we should be reassessing our own consumer habits.

We are blessed to live in a country that has relatively little business and consumer regulation. By and large, we are free to purchase whatever we want from whomever we want. But as the old saying goes, "with freedom comes responsibility." Since we are free to choose, we have the responsi-

bility to make wise consumer choices. Many of us blame all the evils in the world on large corporations because that's a lot easier than coming to grips with our personal responsibility as consumers. We blame the oil companies for gouging us at the pump, yet few of us make any effort to reduce our fuel consumption. We still drive solo to work and are reluctant to trade in our SUV for a compact car. Or we blame Wal-Mart for contributing to an evil consumer culture, yet most of us still shop there because we know it has the best prices. Corporations are criticized for only caring about profit and trying to nickel and dime their operations, yet our consumer spending habits are no different from the business habits of these corporations. We often buy the cheapest good without regard to the social repercussions of our purchase. We talk a lot about corporate social responsibility, but very little is said about consumer social responsibility.

As consumers, and as drivers of the bottom line, our spending habits affect the business practices of corporations. For example, many companies are making more efforts at sustainability due to increased demand from consumers for "green" products. Consumer boycotts can also be effective tools to affect social change. Life Decisions International has been successful in organizing boycotts of corporate contributors to Planned Parenthood, forcing many corporations to give up this "charitable" funding practice. When Don Imus made his racially charged remarks last year, it

wasn't the FCC that booted him off the air. Rather, firms withdrew their advertising from CBS Radio after sponsors were threatened with a boycott. And the decisions of Taco Bell and McDonald's to increase wages for tomato pickers did not come about through government regulations. It occurred because thousands of Americans protested and threatened to spend their money elsewhere. When consumers show corporations that we won't tolerate environmental destruction, racism, low wages or abortion, and if we act accordingly, then corporations will change to meet our standards.

In addition to our responsibility as consumers, we also have a responsibility as prospective employees. As many of you prepare for the Career Fair this afternoon, I urge you to consider the type of firm you want to work for. In addition to asking recruiters about your opportunities for advancement, ask them how their firm gives back to the community. Assess their business practices using your own values and don't be too tempted to accept a job just because it has a high compensation. Many of us will have to freedom to choose to work for multiple different firms. With freedom comes responsibility.

Zach Einterz is a senior majoring in economics and environmental sciences. Contact him at zeinterz@nd.edu

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

Are you more excited about the Notre Dame men's basketball camouflage night or blackout night?

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

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Clothes make the man. Naked people have little or no influence on society"

Mark Twain
Author

Save the 'knuckle children'

In a recent edition of our fine student paper, *The Observer*, the Viewpoint contained an editorial on behalf of the March for Life, written by our esteemed professor emeritus Charles Rice ("Embrace Life," Jan. 23). In this editorial,

Brooks Smith

Guest Columnist

Professor Rice explained the moral and theological evils inherent in what he termed "the contraceptive ethic" in general, and the legalization of abortion in particular. The article as a whole is a beacon of holy light in a country currently shrouded in secular darkness, and an important step in the right direction. However, as much as I admire Professor Rice's courage in standing up for the rights of the millions of unborn who are aborted every year — those who are "nonpersons" as seen through the distorted lenses worn by our cynical, worldly lawmakers and judges — I feel that he does not go far enough in defending the rights of the unborn.

Although he recognizes that "Contraception ... affirms that ... man [of both sexes], rather than God, is the arbiter of whether and when human life shall begin. If you claim the right to decide when life begins you will predictably claim the right to decide when it ends," he fails to see that his own focus on the evils of abortion and abortifacients is itself a delineator of "when life begins" — according to him, at conception. In this error, he is joined by most of the Catholic Church. I would argue that this is too late: that life, or its potential,

begins far earlier than conception — at the creation of sperm and eggs in the testes and ovaries.

Each of these tiny little cells has the potential for jointure and the creation of life. The importance of making sure that these cells carry out their mission is made clear in the Bible, where in Deuteronomy we see God strike down a man named Onan for the crime of "spilling his seed upon the ground." But abstinence, no less than masturbation, is a moral failing as well, for it does not recognize the intrinsic value of every human life — potential, conceived or born — instead subjecting gametes to death for the sake of social acceptance.

Clearly the moral attitudes of the vast majority of the United States are intrinsically disordered with respect to the unconceived millions, the potential populace. The girls who menstruate away their fertile ova, the boys who thoughtlessly fire off knuckle children without even considering donating their unwanted semen to a sperm bank, the adults and doctors who encourage them to use condoms and IUDs — all perform a separation far more sinister than the separation of the unitive and procreative purposes of sex: the separation of the very ingredients of life. The genocide for there is no other word for murder on such an enormous scale — that results from such attitudes is simply horrifying: the wasted gametes that one 13-year-old boy expels in a month would make enough people to colonize and terraform the Moon, and send a sizable expedition to Mars besides.

I also rebuke our social scientists:

their focus on such evils as "war" and "poverty" leaves no room for the more important problem of uniting the men of the world with the women. If all the sperm and all the eggs were paired off as God intended, the loss of a few hundred thousand or a few million in this war or that natural disaster would be as a drop in the ocean of happy, healthy, fruitfully multiplying people who would cover the planet as thickly as the stars in the skies.

But while it pains me to say it, the Catholic Church offers no solutions, only problems, to the conundrum of the unborn. Their stance on masturbation, bolstered by their conclusive scientific research proving that frequent self-abuse leads to headaches, loss of eyesight, excess hair on the palms, and poor study habits, is laudable; but they offer no better direction for the young men and women of America than abstinence — an equally poor line of action, and one which will likely lead to legions more of the unconceived perishing.

Also, theologians of all denominations fail to address an important point: what happens to the souls of the unconceived? Do they go to heaven? Are they doomed to hell? Does eternal limbo await them, these sinless little sperm and eggs? Or is there another spiritual locale entirely, known only to God and the cherubs and seraphs, where these poor halfings pass their dreary eternities? No religion yet established, as far as I know, addresses these essential questions.

I recognize that, as a sexually abstinent young man, I am no less guilty than others of this crime against the potential

people. Untold millions of spermatozoa live and die within the confines of my gonads every month. How many Einsteins, how many Jeffersons and Franklins, how many Platons and Aristotles pass into oblivion through my selfish lack of sexual activity? What might this world be if I had sowed my wild oats like a good boy, instead of keeping my struggling seed imprisoned within my testicles to preserve our confused and immoral society's good opinion of myself?

There is only one remedy I can see for this terrible state of affairs. Starting tomorrow, I will go around to each of the 13 girls' dorms on campus. I will take down names on clipboards, painstakingly penciling each one in for a particular time slot; and when that time comes, I will do my best to create a new life in each one of these hitherto barren wombs. I will accept no thanks for this heavy chore, for it is but my holy vocation to atone for the unconceived babies I slew. It is my sincere hope that the females of Notre Dame, and later, of St. Mary's, will find it in their hearts to accept this extraordinary task, laid upon each one of us by the Lord in Heaven; and that my fellow male students will also do their part to stamp out the scourge of abstinence from our fair campus.

Brooks Smith is a math major and a member of the Class of 2011. He can be reached at bsmith26@nd.edu.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dismantle hate

I was shocked to read the e-mail sent by Father Jenkins on Friday afternoon. As an African American student and person it was devastating to know that such hateful letters were sent to residence halls on campus. They tried to shirk off the remarks contained in the letters, but I couldn't.

I thought about the letters all weekend and how they insinuated the inferiority of African Americans. You could say that this attitude, this comment belongs in the 1950s and 1960s when racial debate was at the forefront of our national agenda. The truth is that this type of destructive hate still persists in our world and gains power in the minds of individuals simply by reading these remarks.

As much as I know that African Americans are not inferior to other races, the preposterous idea rolled around in my head throughout the weekend; I realized how powerful words are because they enter your mind and become a point of reference whether or not they are true.

We as a Notre Dame community can try to believe that racism does not exist, that the letters can be discarded, that the e-mail last Friday can be

deleted, but that does not begin to rectify the harsh reality of hate.

As a member of the African American community, racism is part of my history and the history of the United States. It is part of the reality of my life everyday. It is a disparaging force because not only does it manifest in the form of vicious actions, but it becomes a mentality from which people view the world.

In a couple of days Black History Month will begin. My hope is that during the month of February we as a Notre Dame community celebrate the achievements of African Americans and do not allow hate to dampen this time. The words written in those letters were powerful in the sense that they sparked an awareness of a view of African Americans.

I hope that we can regain that power in constructive conversations about understanding and dismantle the hate the continues to cloud discussions about race.

Lauren Lyman
 sophomore
 Howard Hall
 Jan. 29

The DL on NFP

Robert McKeon erred greatly in his January 23rd letter ("Contraception doesn't equal abortion") by equating artificial and natural family planning methods (NFP).

There are stark differences between the two. NFP poses no health threats, while artificial contraception can double women's risk of depression, increase risk of breast cancer, blood clots, bone density loss, weight gain, nausea and decreased sex drive.

NFP, while challenging, leads to the development of virtue in marriage and deepened respect for one's spouse's total gift of self, fertility and all. Contraception can lead to use of one's spouse as an object of pleasure and children can be seen as optional rather than the natural fruit of a healthy marriage.

Most importantly, these methods differ morally. Man and woman fully image God in the total gift of themselves to each other in marriage. The sexual act is the outward sign and consummation of the marital vows. Because the nature of love is to overflow (in God, who is love, the bond of the Father and the Son overflows in the third person of the Trinity), the love of a husband and wife is designed to overflow in

the form of children.

Thus the sexual act has two inseparable purposes: bonding and babies. To separate them artificially is intrinsically wrong as it violates the divinely ordained nature and purpose of the act. When an act is intrinsically wrong, no good intention can justify it.

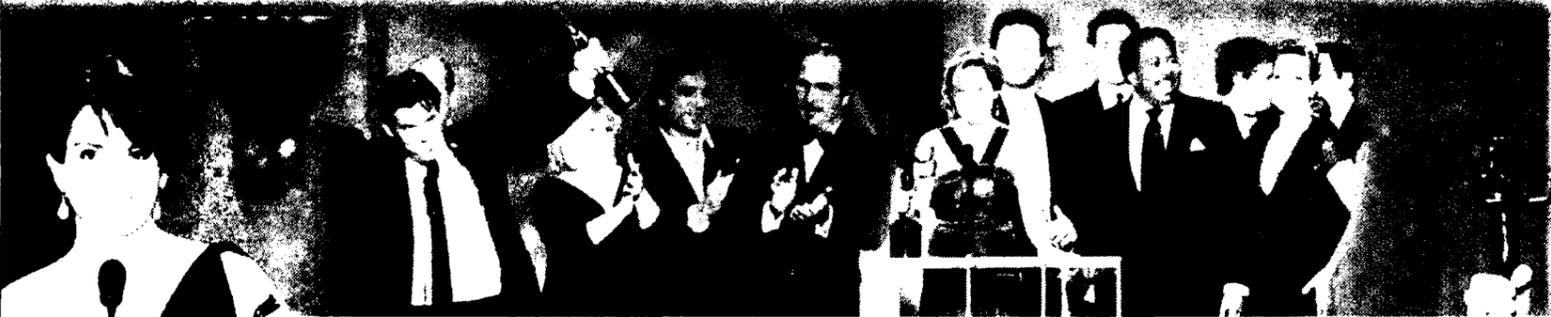
Catholic teaching does not mandate a couple to unite with each other at a given frequency and abstinence does not artificially separate these two purposes. Thus, as *Humanae Vitae* states, it is licit for couples to use NFP for "serious reasons." If NFP is used for arbitrary reasons with an anti-life, anti-children attitude, it is morally wrong.

The Church opposes contraception because it attacks the heart of God's plan for the world — that man and woman share in his love by imaging Him through joyful, fruitful union. The Church does not desire to "deprive us of our sexual being," but to guide us to the full enjoyment of our sexuality by living in the freedom of the Truth.

Caitlin Shaughnessy Dwyer
 alumna
 Class of 2006
 Jan. 29

Please remember to recycle *The Observer*.

SAG ceremony boosts flagging awards season



With no Golden Globes awards ceremony to showcase designer gowns on the red carpet, the stars of movies and television brought as much glitz and glamour as they could muster to Sunday night's Screen Actors Guild Awards. But even though the guild was celebrating its 75th anniversary, its 14th annual awards ceremony was underwhelming.

**Cassandra
Claire Belek**

*Scene &
Heard*

There were few surprises on the TV side of the awards. Edie Falco and James Gandolfini both won lead acting awards for their roles on "The Sopranos," a fitting end to a television award season that has shut out the two actors. "The Sopranos" won Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Drama Series, even though "Mad Men" took home the Golden Globe for best drama series. But the win for the mob drama still came as no surprise after the wins for Falco and Gandolfini — and after the series' win at the Emmys in September.

Alec Baldwin and Tina Fey won top acting awards for their hilarious work on "30 Rock," but in an unexpected win, "The Office" took home the award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a

Comedy Series. "30 Rock" won the Emmy for best comedy series and has since been picking up the momentum that "The Office" had been losing before the writers' strike.

Even though the evening offered few surprises, the awards show locked down four Oscar races. Daniel Day-Lewis ("There Will Be Blood") won Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Leading Role, Julie Christie ("Away From Her") won Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Leading Role, Javier Bardem ("No Country for Old Men") won Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Supporting Role and "No Country for Old Men" won Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture. The three actors are almost guaranteed Oscar wins, and the momentum behind "No Country for Old Men" is nearly unstoppable.

One of the few Oscar races still wide open is Best Supporting Actress. While Ruby Dee ("American Gangster") took home the SAG award, Cate Blanchett ("I'm Not There") won the Golden Globe, and Amy Ryan ("Gone Baby Gone") won the Critics Choice Award and awards from multiple cities' critic associations.

The evening's acceptance speeches were more touching than humorous. The exception was Tina Fey, who said, "If you've seen me on the show with Alec Baldwin, then you know it's sort of like watching Fred Astaire dance with a hat rack. And after a while, you're like, 'Oh, that hat rack is pretty good, too.' So, you've given an award to the hat rack, and I thank you."

In the most emotional moment of the evening, Day-Lewis, who had previously spoken out about the death of Heath Ledger on "The Oprah Winfrey Show," dedicated

"If you've seen me on the show with Alec Baldwin, then you know it's sort of like watching Fred Astaire dance with a hat rack. And after a while, you're like, 'Oh, that hat rack is pretty good, too.' So, you've given an award to the hat rack, and I thank you."

**Tina Fey
"30 Rock"**

his award to the deceased young actor who he never knew. "It's always been the work of other actors, and there are many actors in this room tonight, including my fellow nominees who have given that sense of regeneration, and Heath Ledger gave it to me," he said. Day-Lewis praised Ledger's performance in "Monster's Ball" and said he was "perfect" in "Brokeback Mountain." He added, "And that scene in the trailer at the end of the film is as moving as anything that I think I've ever seen."

The ceremony also had to add Ledger to the deceased tribute at the last moment. At the end of the evening, the SAG Awards remained little more than an entertaining diversion and a chance to see Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt on the carpet. The upsets were sparse, but the awards show cemented the Oscar dreams of a few hopefuls. And unless the Oscars are saved from cancellation, the SAG Awards may have been the last celebratory event of the award season.

Contact Cassandra Claire Belek at cbelek@nd.edu

The views expressed in Scene and Heard are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

"It's always been the work of other actors, and there are many actors in this room tonight, including my fellow nominees who have given that sense of regeneration, and Heath Ledger gave it to me."

**Daniel Day-Lewis
"There Will Be Blood"**



"Sticks and Stones" leaves fans wanting

By BOB COSTA
Scene Writer

For music groups lumped into the "jam-band" category, studio albums are usually an afterthought. It is the live show that is crucial for groups such as Dave Matthews Band and the Grateful Dead. A band is judged in the jam-band community not by how well it mixes its tracks in some cramped New York City studio, but how innovative it can be on stage with guitar solos and melodic syncopation, night after night.

For moe. — Yes, that's the correct spelling for the uninitiated — being a great jam-band comes easy. Since forming at the University of Buffalo in 1990, moe. has released live and studio albums on its own independent label. The band has developed a national fan base and has become a favorite at music festivals like Bonnaroo and Vegoose.

Last week, moe. released "Sticks and Stones," a new studio album that features eight songs from the band that have never been performed live and two previously unreleased songs. On its previous albums, moe. released compilation albums of live material and fan-favorites played on the road. Albums such as "The Conch" (2007) and "Wormwood"

(2003) were stellar examples of the group's instrumental prowess, but it is "Sticks and Stones" that finally shows the band's ability to make magic happen outside of a live stage.

For "Sticks and Stones," moe. recruited producer John Siket, who is well-known for his skilled production work on previous albums by Phish, Dave Matthews Band and Dispatch. Siket also worked with moe. on its previous records, including stand-out album "Dither," released in 2001. "Sticks and Stones" was recorded in three-weeks in an old New England church house. The effect of the setting is heard on the first track, "Cathedral," which has epic guitar melodies interspersed with a dynamic rhythm section.

Various overdubs and final mixing were done at the world-renowned Allaire Studios in the Catskill Mountains. Mastering was handled by the legendary, Grammy Award-winning Bob Ludwig (Led Zeppelin, The Rolling Stones, Beck, Pearl Jam). This is an album where the production has enhanced the band's music — giving resonance to tunes such as "Queen of Everything" that capture moe. at its best, evoking both the Dead and classic rock bands from the 1970s.

"The material differs quite a bit from 'The Conch' and 'Wormwood,'" guitarist Al Schnier told the press in November during production. "[Those albums] which were largely cultivated from songs nurtured through live improvisation." Schnier added that "the songs that comprise 'Sticks and Stones' are much straighter, like many classic songs in the moe. canon, and have a roots rock quality to them, as opposed to the more progressive rock element of 'The Conch.'"

The group does not let itself get carried away on "Sticks and Stones," clocking the album at under 40 minutes and sticking to concise songwriting over the ambiguous but colorful live music for which they are known. Undoubtedly, the music from this album will be fleshed out in a live setting this spring and summer to the delight of the band's enthusiastic fans. But for first-time listeners to this New England jam-band, "Sticks and Stones" is a tasty appetizer.

Although the band has been around for close to eighteen years, its sound is truly coming into its own with "Sticks and Stones," with the band's new songs having an accessibility and maturity that hasn't revealed itself on every past moe. album. "All Roads Lead To Home" is a wonderful pop-rock track that showcases moe.'s songwriting ability. Another great tune is "Raise A Glass," which shows the band loves to have some fun, blending Celtic grooves with good-natured vocal harmonies.

The band is an independent band that releases its material on its own label, shunning any guidance from a major-label. Still, "Sticks and Stone" has a professional gloss that actually benefits the at times disorganized jam-band sound of moe.

Over the years the band has developed a reputation as down-to-earth and eager to collaborate within the jam-band community. Guest musicians on "Sticks and Stones" include Cornmeal's Allie Kral playing violin and viola on "Cathedral," "Conviction Song," "September" and "Raise A Glass". Emilio China also played violin on "Cathedral." Notre Dame alumni and fellow-jam band Umphrey's McGee added backing vocals to "Raise A Glass," and Nadine Lafond lends additional vocals on several songs.

Contact Bob Costa at rcosta1@nd.edu

Sticks and Stones

moe.

Released by: Fatboy Records

Recommended Tracks: "Cathedral," "All Roads Lead to Home" & "Raise a Glass"



NBA

Without Garnett and Allen, Celts still win big

Nets end 9-game skid against Milwaukee; Jamison leads Wizards to OT victory over Bosh, Raptors

Associated Press

MIAMI — Ray Allen arrived at halftime, a white sweat jacket over his flu-riddled head, and took a glimpse toward the scoreboard.

He probably felt much better. Boston's 'Big 3' were almost silent, and the Celtics still put a big beating on the hapless Miami Heat.

Leon Powe scored a career-high 25 points, Rajon Rondo tied a career-high with 23 points and Tony Allen matched a season-best with 20 points as the NBA-best Celtics rolled to a 117-87 victory Tuesday night over the Heat — who followed the win that snapped their 15-game losing streak with an absolute clunker.

"I'm embarrassed by the effort," Heat coach Pat Riley said.

The Celtics played without Kevin Garnett (strained abdominal muscle) and Ray Allen (flu), and the third member of their star triumvirate, Paul Pierce, was scoreless for most of the first half and finished with only seven points.

Didn't matter.

Boston led by 17 after one quarter, 31 in the second before

settling for a 22-point edge at intermission, and when Dwyane Wade checked out for good with 4:41 left in the third quarter the Celtics were up 88-53.

"One of the things that we talked about before the game is that no one before the game is that no one was going to be Ray Allen and no one is going to be Kevin Garnett," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "But all of them could do a little extra."

They were listening.

These numbers — 51-36 — told the story. That was Boston's edge in shooting percentage and rebounding. Former Heat guard Eddie House added 20 points for the Celtics, who improved to 35-8.

"We got stops, we shared the ball and guys made plays," said former Heat forward James Posey, as he pulled his 2006 NBA championship ring out of his left pants pocket and fumbled with his specially-made cuff links — exact replicas of that ring. "If you do that on any team, you can have spurts like that."

Mark Blount scored 20 points for Miami (9-34), which only matched its worst loss of the season, thanks to Earl Barron's jumper with 4.8 seconds remain-

ing. Luke Jackson scored 14 for the Heat.

"It's almost as though the ending of the losing streak pulled the plug," Riley said. "Because we didn't bring anything."

Wade finished with seven points on 1-for-9 shooting, and departed after the third quarter with flu-like symptoms. The Heat lost Udonis Haslem, who was the only Miami player to start all 43 games, with a sprained left ankle in the second quarter.

Haslem left in a protective boot and will not play Wednesday night at Orlando. Wade's status for the game against the Magic won't be known until Wednesday morning.

By the end, there wasn't much booing.

Nets 87, Bucks 80

Jason Kidd refused to say whether he wants out of New Jersey. First, he showed off the Nets won't just give him away.

Kidd scored seven of his nine points in the final 1:42 and added 11 assists as the Nets snapped a nine-game losing streak with a victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Tuesday night.

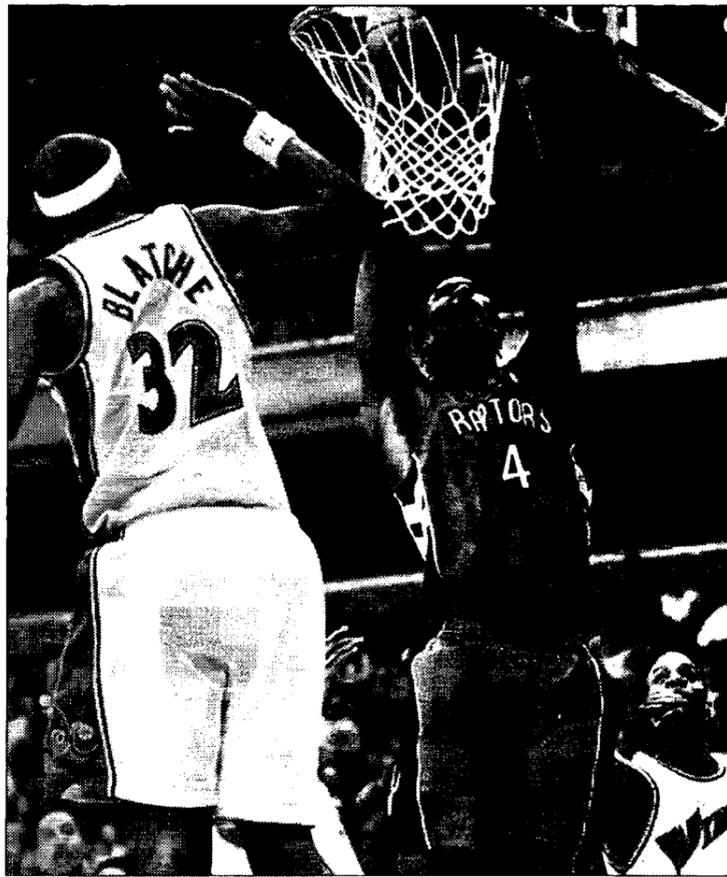
Ignoring the distractions Kidd created a day earlier with his comments encouraging a trade, the Nets held the Bucks to 37.5 percent shooting and avoided their first double-digit skid since dropping their final 11 games of the 1999-00 season.

"The guy has an unbelievable ability to just focus and that's a large part of who he is," Nets coach Lawrence Frank said. "We expected nothing less from him and he obviously hit a big shot and made big free throws."

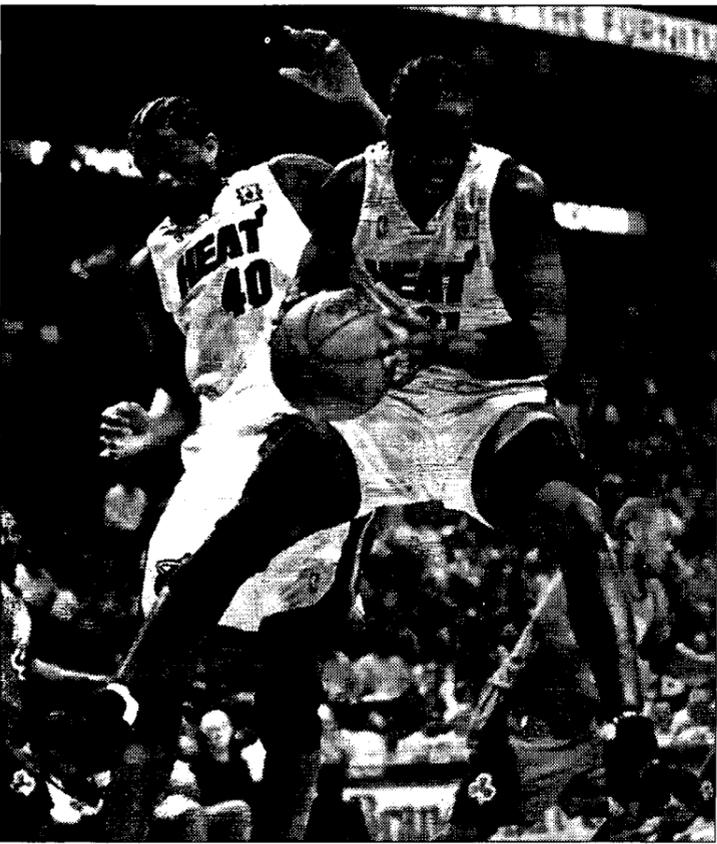
Kidd has been frustrated with the Nets' disappointing play and finally acknowledged Monday in a story on ESPN.com that it might be best to trade him, saying: "It used to be if I got a triple-double, that was an automatic win. That's just not the case now. We tried to make this work. We've found out it doesn't. It's time for us all to move on."

The Nets aren't ready to do that just yet — especially if it means making a bad deal. Even with their skid, which included six losses on a Western Conference road trip, they are in eighth place in the East.

Kidd wouldn't answer any questions about his trade wishes, but showed why Nets fans — who cheered him before the game despite the comments — would hate to see the point guard



Raptor forward Chris Bosh dunks Tuesday against the Wizards. Bosh scored 37 in Toronto's 108-104 overtime loss.



Heat forward Ricky Davis pulls down a rebound in the second quarter of Miami's 117-87 loss to the Celtics Tuesday night.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

FOR SALE

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Kristi Ryan,
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PERSONAL

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UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? Do not go it alone.

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For more information, visit our website at: <http://osa.nd.edu/departments/pregnant.shtml> or see our bi-weekly ad in The Observer.

If you or someone you care about has been sexually assaulted, visit <http://osa.nd.edu/departments/rape.shtml>

ADOPTION - Catholic family will provide your baby with a life of unconditional love, opportunity & security. Exp paid, Atty involved. 1-888-833-8230.

Happy Birthday Julia! Now that you are back from Brazil. I can't wait to meet you at Ruth's Chris for a SPECIAL Birthday treat... Beijos pra voce, minha gatinha maravilhosa

I read your article at 11:47 p.m., before the end of the day, just like I promised. Good job, by the way.

I know it isn't very easy, when you find yourself out on your own. No it isn't very easy

The Siegfried-Alumni hockey game Tuesday night was the most poorly officiated game in the long, sad history of RecSports officiating.

Thanks for the hat, Joel

AROUND THE NATION

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Wednesday, January 30, 2008

page 13

NBA

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Boston	34-8	.810	5-5	-
Toronto	24-19	.558	7-3	10.5
New Jersey	18-26	.409	1-9	17
Philadelphia	17-28	.378	3-7	18.5
New York	14-29	.326	5-5	20.5

Eastern Conference, Central Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Detroit	31-13	.705	5-5	-
Cleveland	24-19	.558	8-2	6.5
Indiana	19-26	.422	3-7	12.5
Milwaukee	18-27	.400	3-7	13.5
Chicago	17-26	.395	4-6	13.5

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Orlando	28-18	.609	6-4	-
Washington	23-19	.548	6-4	3
Atlanta	18-22	.450	4-6	7
Charlotte	18-27	.400	5-5	9.5
Miami	9-33	.214	1-9	17

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Utah	27-18	.600	9-1	-
Portland	23-19	.591	5-5	3
Denver	26-18	.591	5-5	7
Seattle	9-35	.205	0-10	9.5
Minnesota	8-35	.186	4-6	17

Western Conference, Southwest Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
New Orleans	32-12	.727	9-1	-
Dallas	31-13	.705	8-2	1
San Antonio	28-15	.651	5-5	3.5
Houston	24-20	.545	7-3	8
Memphis	13-32	.289	3-7	19.5

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Phoenix	32-13	.711	7-3	-
LA Lakers	27-15	.643	6-4	3.5
Golden State	27-18	.600	7-3	5
Sacramento	19-24	.442	6-4	12
LA Clippers	13-28	.317	3-7	17

Men's Hockey

CCHA Conference Standings

team	conference	overall
1 Miami	17-3-0	25-3-0
2 Michigan	15-2-1	22-3-1
3 Michigan State	13-2-3	17-5-5
4 NOTRE DAME	13-6-1	20-9-1
5 Nebraska-Omaha	8-9-3	11-12-3
6 Bowling Green	9-9-0	12-12-0
7 Ferris State	7-9-2	10-11-3
8 Northern Michigan	7-11-0	10-15-1
9 Alaska	5-12-3	5-15-4
10 Ohio State	4-13-1	8-18-2
11 Lake Superior	2-13-3	4-16-4
12 Western Michigan	3-14-1	7-17-2

MLB



Former Twin Johan Santana pitches against the New York Yankees in the first inning during a July 2007 game. A tentative agreement was reached Tuesday to trade Santana to the New York Mets.

Twins trade pitching ace Santana to Mets

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Johan Santana is a contract extension and physical on going to the New York Mets.

After months of deliberation, the Twins reached a tentative agreement Tuesday to part with the two-time Cy Young Award winner for outfielder Carlos Gomez, and pitchers Phil Humber, Deolis Guerra and Kevin Mulvey, two people familiar with the deal said, speaking on condition of anonymity because no announcement had been made.

"If it's true, obviously, you're getting arguably the best pitcher in the

game," Mets third baseman David Wright said.

The next step is for the Mets to negotiate a contract extension with Santana, who is eligible for free agency after this season. The three-time All-Star is owed \$13.25 million this year and likely will seek an extension of five-to-seven years worth at least \$20 million annually.

New York and Santana have until 5 p.m. EST Friday to reach an agreement, a baseball official told The Associated Press, also on condition of anonymity. If the Mets and Santana strike a deal, the players would have to pass physicals

and the pitcher would have to formally waive his no-trade clause.

The Mets emerged as the top candidate for a trade after the winter meetings, when the New York Yankees withdrew their offer, which included pitchers Phil Hughes and Ian Kennedy, and the Red Sox refused to improve their proposals, which would have sent pitcher Jon Lester or outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury to the Twins along with prospects.

Minnesota general manager Bill Smith called teams last weekend and asked them to make their best offers. Smith informed the Mets on

Tuesday that he was accepting their proposal, which included their Nos. 2, 3, 4 and 7 prospects,

according to Baseball America's ranking. New York did not include its top farmhand, outfielder Fernando Martinez.

A left-hander who turns 29 in March, Santana gives the Mets a replacement for Tom Glavine, who left New York to return to the Atlanta Braves. New York, trying to bounce back from a record-setting September collapse last season, has a projected rotation that also includes Pedro Martinez, John Maine, Orlando Hernandez and Oliver Perez.

IN BRIEF

Point guard Kidd tells Nets he wants to 'move on'

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Jason Kidd says he wants to be traded from the slumping New Jersey Nets.

"We tried to make this work. We've found out it doesn't," Kidd told ESPN The Magazine on Monday. "It's time for us all to move on."

The Nets, losers of nine in a row, were scheduled to play the Milwaukee Bucks at home Tuesday night. Kidd attended the team's morning shootaround but did not talk to reporters.

Nets president Rod Thorn said he hadn't talked to Kidd on Tuesday, and declined to discuss which teams have expressed an interest in the nine-time All-Star. He said he wouldn't be forced into making a deal.

60-year-old Crennel signs 2-year deal with Browns

CLEVELAND — Willie McGinest always believed Romeo Crennel would turn the Cleveland Browns into winners.

For a long time, though, it seemed like the veteran linebacker was about the only who did.

"There was a lot of prejudice about Romeo," said McGinest, who played for Crennel in New England. "And it was really unfair. It takes time. It takes players, and it takes a coach to do that."

Crennel did it. The 60-year-old former defensive assistant, whose future in Cleveland was shaky after two forgettable seasons, signed a two-year contract extension on Tuesday with the Browns, who won 10 games in Crennel's third season and finally appear repaired.

Mizzou basketball players suspended by coach

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Missouri coach Mike Anderson suspended five players indefinitely Tuesday after a weekend brawl left his top scorer with a broken jaw.

In a statement from the university, Anderson declined to indicate the reason for the discipline, calling the infractions a violation of team rules. But the move comes as Columbia police confirmed that several teammates were with senior guard Steffon Hannah when he was attacked outside the downtown nightclub Athena early Sunday morning. The injury could cause Hannah to miss the rest of the season.

Hannah, who returned home to Chicago following surgery, senior guard Jason Horton and forwards Marshall Brown, Darryl Butterfield and Leo Lyons were suspended. Each is either a starter or a key reserve.

around the dial

NBA BASKETBALL
Cavaliers at Trail Blazers
9 p.m., ESPN

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Virginia at Maryland
7 p.m., ESPN
Cincinnati at West Virginia
7 p.m., ESPN2
Texas at Texas A&M
9 p.m. ESPN2

HORSE RACING

Barbaro to be interred at Churchill Downs

Euthanized Derby winner's clinching stride will be immortalized with bronze statue at entrance to track

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The image of Barbaro blazing down the stretch at Churchill Downs, all four hooves off the ground as the powerful bay colt crushed the field in the 2006 Kentucky Derby, is seared in Roy Jackson's memory.

It's the way Jackson prefers to think of Barbaro, whose thunderous surge left a field of 19 fellow 3-year-olds in his wake and whose courage after a breakdown at the Preakness two weeks later made him an icon.

When it came time to decide how best to honor the horse, who was euthanized on Jan. 29, 2007 from complications of the breakdown, there was only one place Roy Jackson and wife Gretchen felt Barbaro would feel at home: a short gallop from the site of his greatest triumph.

Barbaro's ashes and a bronze statue will be placed in front of an entrance gate at Churchill Downs sometime in 2009. The Jacksons announced plans for the memorial on the one-year anniversary of Barbaro's death, a day they called one of the most difficult of their lives.

Yet there was no sadness on Tuesday, only relief and joy.

The Jacksons agonized for months on where to place his ashes, which are currently in a closet in the family's Pennsylvania home. Ultimately, they chose a place where the public that inundated Barbaro's stall at the New Bolton Center in Kennett Square, Pa., with get-well cards, candy and gifts during his rehabilitation could pay tribute whenever they wanted.

"After the Derby and then when he got injured, he really became America's horse," Roy Jackson said. "We sort of felt an obligation that his remains and statue be erected some place where the general public could pay their respects."

As spectacular as the colt's career was — his 6 1/2-length win in the Derby was the widest margin of victory in 60 years — it was Barbaro's battle to survive following the breakdown that made him an emotional touchstone for so many.

"His accomplishments as a racehorse are certainly rivaled by the courage and resolve he displayed after his injury," Churchill Downs president Steve Sexton said.

The Jacksons say they continue to be amazed at the outpouring of support for Barbaro, much of it from non-racing fans who were captivated by images of him wincing on the track at Pimlico Race Course following the injury and his heroic attempts to deal with the myriad of setbacks that ultimately proved too much.

"I don't think any of us know how widespread the interest was," Roy Jackson said. "We've gotten a tremendous amount of response and we continue on almost a daily basis to get some correspondence and very articulate art on what he meant."

As painful as Barbaro's battle was, the Jacksons say it was not in vain. His plight drew attention to the laminitis, an often-fatal hoof disease that Barbaro contracted in both rear hooves before his death.

More than \$2.7 million has been raised for the Laminitis Research Fund. The laminitis initiative will foster training programs and studies for new treatments of

equine diseases. The fund includes a \$7,000 donation received Monday from the Fans of Barbaro, a group of people spread across the country who met over the Internet in support of the colt.

It's a fund that grows a little bit each day. Jennifer Campbell of Louisville stuffed \$20 into a donation box for the fund on Tuesday while the Jacksons autographed pictures of jockey Edgar Prado urging Barbaro across the finish line at the Derby.

"You just see how they persevered under those circumstances, and how the horse persevered," said Campbell, who was wearing a green Barbaro hat. "He's an inspiration and I think it's great that they chose to share him with us."

The Jacksons have also helped raise \$1.3 million for the Barbaro Fund at New Bolton. The money will go toward expansion of the

George D. Widener Large Animal Hospital, and the purchase of equipment like a new operating table and recovery raft.

Tuesday, however, was about remembering the horse who captivated the nation.

Pictures of Barbaro from both his racing career and his rehabilitation at the large animal hospital at New Bolton flashed above a stage before the Jacksons spoke. The Jacksons smiled while watching a short film featuring local schoolchildren talking about Barbaro and showing pictures they drew of the horse following his injury.

Barbaro will be the first Kentucky Derby winner to be buried on the grounds at Churchill Downs. Four previous winners — Sunny's Halo, Carry Back, Swaps and Broker's Tip — are interred at the Kentucky Derby Museum, which is adjacent to the track.



Barbaro wins the Kentucky Derby at Churchill Downs in May 2006. The horse's ashes will be interred at legendary track.

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MLB

Pettitte HGH meeting delayed until Monday

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — New York Yankees pitcher Andy Pettitte's meeting with a congressional committee investigating drug use in baseball was postponed until Monday.

He originally was slated to appear for a deposition or transcribed interview Wednesday.

But the date was changed Tuesday by the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. It's the latest in a series of switches to the schedule of witnesses' meetings with staff members before testifying at a Feb. 13 hearing.

"Just a mutually agreeable postponement," said Keith Ausbrook, Republican general counsel for the committee. "It give us a little more time to prepare and gives him a little more time to prepare."

Also asked to appear at next month's hearing are seven-time Cy Young Award winner Roger Clemens, his former personal trainer Brian McNamee, his former teammate Chuck Knoblauch, and former New York Mets clubhouse employee Kirk Radomski.

Pettitte and Clemens have been teammates and workout partners; Pettitte also has trained with McNamee.

"Mr. Pettitte is cooperating voluntarily with the committee, and we look forward to his testimony on Monday," panel chairman Henry Waxman and ranking Republican Tom Davis said in a joint statement. "We appreciate Mr. Pettitte's willingness to assist the committee."

In last month's Mitchell Report on the use of performance-enhancing substances in baseball, McNamee said he injected Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone, accusations Clemens has denied repeatedly.

Two days after the report was released, Pettitte acknowledged receiving two HGH injections in 2002 to help recover from an elbow injury.

Pettitte is being represented by Jay Reisinger, a lawyer who represented Sammy Sosa when he testified before the same committee alongside Mark McGwire and Rafael Palmeiro in March 2005.

Knoblauch now is scheduled for Friday and would be the first of the five Feb. 13 witnesses to provide a deposition or transcribed interview. He agreed to appear after a subpoena was issued.

Clemens is to follow Feb. 5, with McNamee down for Feb. 7, and Radomski on Feb. 12 — pending further changes to a repeatedly shuffled schedule.

Letters sent by Waxman and Davis to Clemens, Pettitte and Knoblauch on Jan. 16, requesting their appearances both at the hearing and a pre-hearing meeting, said: "The committee asks that you provide testimony about allegations in Senator George Mitchell's report ... that you and other Major League Baseball players used performance enhancing drugs during your professional baseball career."

Clemens, Pettitte and Knoblauch were among more than 80 players named in the Mitchell Report.

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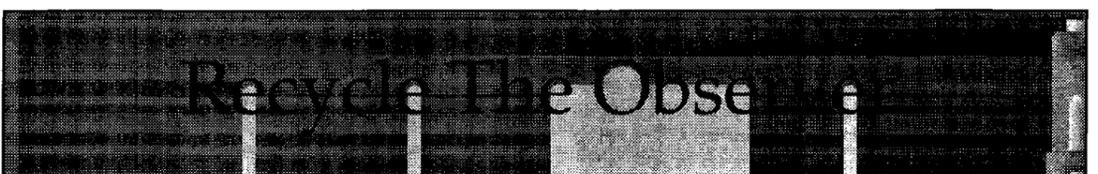
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NCAA BASKETBALL

Vols shooting downs Bama

Lofton, Smith nail threes to seal game

Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — With the game in doubt, No. 7 Tennessee turned to its shooters.

Chris Lofton and JaJuan Smith delivered by both hitting three 3-pointers over the final 11 minutes to bail the Volunteers out of serious trouble and secure a 93-86 victory over Alabama on Tuesday night.

Lofton had five 3-pointers and 23 points for Tennessee (18-2, 5-1 Southeastern Conference) while Smith added four 3s and 22 points.

Smith's final shot from beyond the arc with just under 3 minutes left turned back the Crimson Tide's final attempt at a comeback.

Vols coach Bruce Pearl called it "a dagger shot." Alabama's Mikhail Torrance had another description: "The back crusher."

"You've got to make those shots to win ball games," Pearl said. "You love it when it comes from a senior."

The Vols blew most of a 10-point lead but went 9-of-12 from 3-point range and shot 69 percent in the second half.

The Tide (12-9, 1-5) managed to pull within two points five times in the final 7 minutes, but never grabbed the lead.

Richard Hendrix's inside basket made it 83-81 with 1:45 left. But Smith drained his fourth 3-pointer off a pass from Lofton and Lofton added two

free throws with 59 seconds left for an 88-81 lead.

Alabama never found an answer for that duo.

"JaJuan Smith and Chris Lofton just started knocking down 3s," Tide guard Brandon Hollinger said. "We were contesting shots and they just kept knocking them down."

"We were contesting shots and they just kept knocking them down."

Brandon Hollinger
Crimson Tide guard

The Vols, who lost at Kentucky last week and dropped from No. 3 in the rankings, overcame a season-high 23 turnovers.

The Vols had lost 16 of their last 17 trips to Coleman Coliseum and hadn't won in Tuscaloosa since 1998.

"The big motivator is I'd never won here before," Lofton said.

Offense

continued from page 20

game.

"I feel our rebounding has improved all season and we need to continue those efforts," Henley said. "Our goals continue to be to

improve our defense and keep points out of the paint."

Olivet (5-3 MIAA, 7-9 overall) comes home after a three-game road winning streak. Freshman forward Ameina Ross led her team in scoring the last two games and is averaging 9.5 points per game this season.

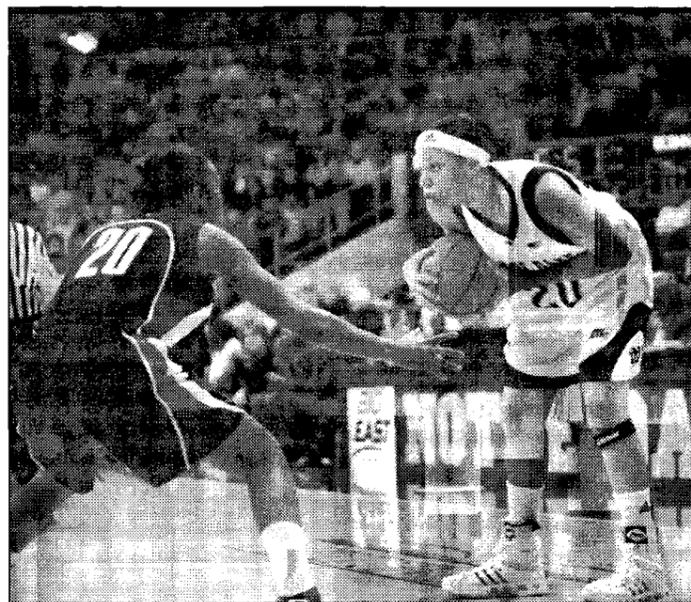
Henley called Olivet a "strong" team with "a lot of

fresh faces."

Olivet's new coach, Heather Bateman, served as assistant coach for the Comets for the past six seasons.

"They are a solid team," Henley said. "I am anticipating another great game."

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@saintmarys.edu



WU YUE/The Observer

Sophomore guard Ashley Barlow waits to set the offense during Notre Dame's 81-64 loss to Connecticut Sunday.

Defense

continued from page 20

better at our defense so I'm hoping that just continues to improve," McGraw said. "We executed our game plan much better [against Connecticut]. When we went to our triangle-and-two, we really did what we needed to do; we worked on it for three days and I thought it looked good, so to be able to carry out the game plan like that is really encouraging."

The Friars have had troubles of their own. They stand at 11-8 overall and only 1-5 in the Big East. Despite the numbers, the Irish will still need to bring their best defense against a tall Friars squad — freshman guard Mi-Khida Hankins is 6-foot-1 and junior forward Shantee Darrian is 6-foot-2.

McGraw recognizes that the majority of her starters are on the smaller side and that the Friars are likely to try and post up Notre Dame's guards, but that isn't likely to change the team's game plan.

"We are not going to try and do anything different," McGraw said. "We really just want to work on containing the ball and get back to the fundamentals: box out, out-rebound them."

Notre Dame's rebounding against Connecticut is evidence of its focus on getting back to

the basics. On offense, the Irish have their four leading scorers and a guiding voice in senior guard Tulyah Gaines to drive their offensive game.

"[Gaines'] job is to really run the team," McGraw said. "I think the offense is coming from [sophomore guard Ashley] Barlow, [junior guard Lindsay] Schrader, [senior guard] Charel [Allen], and [freshman forward] Devereaux [Peters.] We've got four people who are going to score so I don't think we need that from her as much. I think she is doing a great job of running the team and she's playing great defense and that's what we need her to do."

With the combination of an improving defense and a consistent offense, the Irish will look to pick up a win over Providence tonight, even if they have to jump a little higher.

Note:

♦ Allen was named to the 2008 Naismith Trophy midseason candidates list. Allen is one of 31 players to make the list for the trophy, which is presented annually to the nation's top collegiate women's basketball player. Allen currently leads the Irish and ranks 14th in the Big East in scoring (14.3 ppg.) and 10th in free throw percentage (.817).

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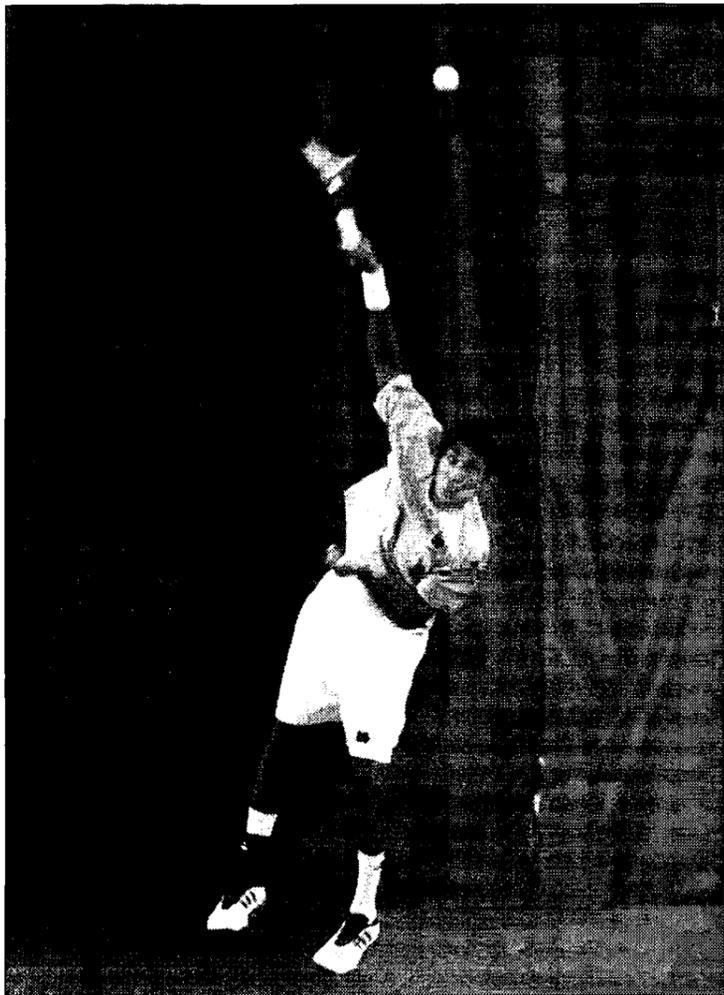
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Senior Sheeva Parbhu serves during his 6-4, 6-4 No. 2 singles win over Penn State's Adam Slagter on Jan. 20.

Spartans

continued from page 20

With only three freshmen on the Michigan State roster, the Spartans boast more experience than the Irish. Bayliss thinks that it will be a good test for the young Irish squad, which features six freshmen.

"We will need to win the doubles point," Bayliss said. "They are very strong at one and two doubles, and we will need to win the matches that we have a slight advantage in."

Michigan State senior Nick Rinks is 6-0 and has defeated all his opponents in straight sets. In the fall, Rinks teamed up with junior Alex Forger to defeat Irish freshmen Stephen Havens and Tyler Davis at the Tom Fallon Invitational.

"Rinks is able to beat just about anybody in the country," Bayliss said. "We normally rely very heavily on our top two singles spots, but we can't count on those tomorrow. Rinks split sets with Stephen Bass two years ago."

Against Virginia, Notre Dame's own senior leader, Sheeva Parbhu, put his name in an elite group, easily handling the Cavaliers' Dominic Inglot Sunday. Inglot was ranked No. 3 in the country

before the match, making him the highest-ranked player Parbhu has defeated.

"Sheeva was a lot quicker than Inglot," assistant coach Ryan Sachire said. "If Inglot doesn't overpower you, he's out of his game plan."

Parbhu played relentless tennis and stayed mentally tough in every point. He played quality points, and made Inglot grind out the points, Sachire said.

Havens has been another bright spot for the Irish this year. He earned the other singles point for the Irish Sunday, winning his match in three sets.

"Havens made a lot of extra balls," Sachire said. "Both players were fairly close in ability level, and that was apparent in the last two sets."

Sachire also said that Havens was conservative when on defense but finished points well.

The Spartans and Irish know each other well. Michigan State head coach Gene Orlando has been coaching there for 17 years, and Bayliss has been at Notre Dame for 20. Bayliss and the Irish have won 18 in a row over the Spartans. The head-to-head meetings date back to 1926.

Contact Kate Grabarek at kgrab01@saintmarys.edu

Playoffs

continued from page 20

two games at home against Michigan on Feb. 8 and 9, a series that will be critical in CCHA playoff positioning.

Michigan, 31 pts.

After a 10-game winning streak culminating in a two-game sweep of Notre Dame on Jan. 18 and 19, Michigan (15-2-1 CCHA) looked to have a clear path to a CCHA title, but a loss and tie against Michigan State this weekend may cause some concern for the Maize and Blue.

Seniors Kevin Porter and Chad Kolarik make up the highest scoring duo in the country, combining for 72 total points on the season, while netminder Billy Sauer has posted a 1.68 GAA.

While Michigan is still the favorite to win the CCHA, it has by far the toughest remaining schedule of any contender, with two games at Miami and a road/neutral series against the Spartans on Feb. 22 and 23.

Michigan State, 29 pts.

The Spartans (13-2-3) went a long way toward helping their CCHA title hopes with four points against Michigan this weekend. Michigan State must continue to rely on its blistering power play, which has scored on 26.9 percent of its chances in CCHA play so far this season — over three percent more than any other team in the CCHA. Junior Tim Kennedy has netted 13 goals overall, seven of them coming with the man advantage.

Because the Spartans have two games at hand on the leading RedHawks, a good result this weekend against Nebraska-Omaha could propel them into second place in the CCHA. The late-season rematch against the rival Wolverines looms in the future and will certainly have a large effect on both team's title hopes.

Notre Dame, 27 pts.

The Irish (13-6-1) rebounded from a 2-5-1 Christmas break slump with 6-1 and 4-1 wins over Bowling Green this weekend and seem almost assured of a top-four seed because of their easy remaining schedule.

To avoid any upsets, though, Notre Dame must add life to a power play that has scored on only 14.2 percent of its chances in CCHA play this season, 10th in the conference.

But with the top three teams playing each other a total of six times, somebody ahead of Notre Dame is



Senior Brock Sheehan and junior Jordan Pearce celebrate after Notre Dame's 5-4 win over Nebraska-Omaha on Nov. 30.

bound to drop points, and with a little bit of luck, the Irish can slide into the top spot.

Nebraska-Omaha, 19 pts.

With Notre Dame seemingly back on track, the Mavericks' (8-9-3) hopes of gaining a top-four seed and first-round bye in the CCHA playoffs took a serious hit.

UNO must now hope to hold on to a tenuous one-point lead over Bowling Green, with the Falcons having played two fewer games. A Feb. 15 and 16 matchup between the two teams will likely determine the No. 5 seed in the conference tournament.

Bowling Green, 18 pts.

The Falcons (9-9-0) hope to rebound from two losses to Notre Dame in their next four games against bottom-dwellers Alaska and Ohio State. Bowling Green still has a shot at a top-four seed; a sweep this weekend would bring the Falcons within five points of the Irish. The Falcons still need help, though, to get a first-round bye.

Ferris State, 16 pts.

With two games at hand against current fifth-place UNO, the Bulldogs (7-9-2) still have a strong chance to move

up in the standings. It would take their best hockey of the season, though, with two games each against Notre Dame, Michigan and Miami.

Northern Michigan, 14 pts.

The Wildcats (7-11-0) will have to rebound from losing four of their last five if they want to improve their playoff positioning, but it will be no easy task with two games each against Michigan and Michigan State.

Alaska, 13 pts.

Given Northern Michigan's difficult schedule, the Nanooks (5-12-3) have a definite chance to improve their standing for the playoffs. A Feb. 15 and 16 trip to Notre Dame is the only overly difficult game remaining on their schedule.

Ohio State, 9 pts. Lake Superior State, 7 pts. Western Michigan, 7 pts.

Recent poor play, combined with difficult remaining schedules, give little hope to the Buckeyes (4-13-1), Lakers (2-13-3) and Broncos (3-14-1). Though anything can happen in the remaining games, first-round playoff exits appear likely.

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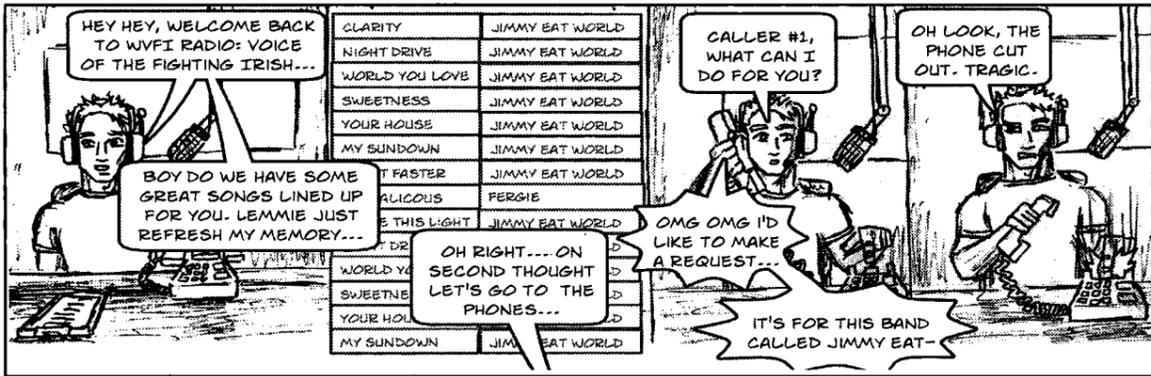
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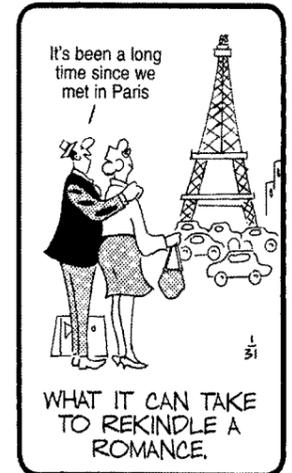
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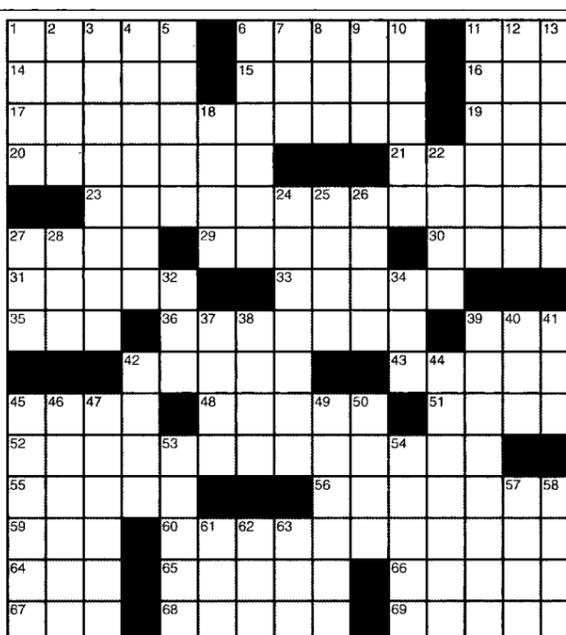
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CROSSWORD

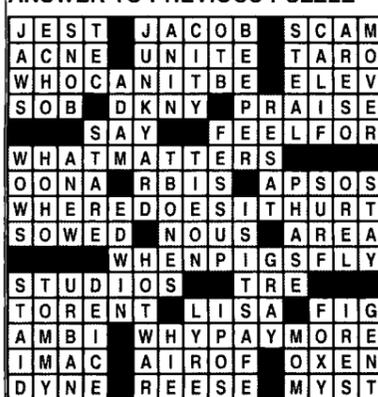
WILL SHORTZ

- Across: 1 '___ Eat Cake' (1930s musical), 6 H'wood type, 11 Familiar sitcom figure, 14 Massey of old movies, 15 Embassy figure, 16 Stir, 17 Guy ready to sing the national anthem?, 19 Eggy concoction, 20 Meditation goal, 21 Making the most of, 23 Era ended by Vesuvius?, 27 Cold one, so to speak, 29 March (through), 30 'If all ___ fails...', 31 Author Calvino, 33 Kind of acid, 35 Churl, 36 What shall be first ... or words that can precede 17-, 23-, 52- and 60-Across, 39 Vote against, 42 Maker of the game Combat, 43 Piece in the game go, 45 Pear type, 48 Martini's partner, 51 European erupter, 52 Belonging to a Hudson Valley tribe?, 55 Colgate alternative, 56 Sinews, 59 Janis ___, with the 1975 hit 'At Seventeen', 60 Museum exhibit?, 64 D.D.E.'s purview in W.W. II, 65 Convertible driver's option, 66 Cache, 67 Div., 68 Christmases, 69 Funny Fields, Down: 1 V.I.P.'s ride, 2 Pizazz, 3 Unable to hit a pitch?, 4 Tangle up, 5 Brit's buddy, 6 Bleep out, 7 Football lineman, 8 Mid first-century year, 9 Years and years and years, 10 'Dang!', 11 Title brother in a 1973 Elton John hit, 12 Mr. Gorgeous, 13 Little canine, 18 Mgr.'s helper, 22 Project detail, for short, 24 Daft, 25 Negri of silent films, 26 Reveals, in verse, 27 Brief life?, 28 J.F.K. guess, 32 Baseball's Little Giant, 34 '___ a go!', 37 Detriment, 38 Suffix with smack, 39 Less than wonderful



- 40 Former Texas governor Richards, 41 Vote for, 42 Liniment target, 44 Takes care of, 45 Unidentified planes, 46 Recently, 47 Court worker, for short, 49 Gym class exercises, 50 Patisserie employee, 53 Bottle ready to be recycled, 54 'For every Bird ___': Emily Dickinson, 57 'Me neither', 58 ___' Pea, 61 Payment pledge, 62 Lance ___ (U.S.M.C. rank), 63 Night that 'Happy Days' was on: Abbr.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jonny Lang, 27; Heather Graham, 38; Oprah Winfrey, 54; Tom Selleck, 63

Happy Birthday: This year, you must stabilize your home, family and financial situation and also find something to do that makes you happy. Try a hobby or a form of entertainment that doesn't cost too much but will help you relax. You will find it easier to concentrate and thus accomplish the goals you set. Your numbers are 1, 8, 15, 22, 36

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get things done, especially if it will influence your reputation. You can't leave anything to chance or take anything or anyone for granted today. It is important to choose your words wisely when communicating about personal matters. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can make a life-changing, professional move. Look for the perfect position. This is not the day to sell yourself short but instead the time to be bold and very confident. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put time and money into your place of residence. Check over your investments and look at any long-term contracts and agreements. You can cut costs if you renegotiate your position. A settlement can be finalized. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you can see your way to accept change, you will end up in a far better position by the end of the day. Concentrate on love and you will score big with someone you meet or with the person you are currently engaged with. 5 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Today you may have to spill the beans and give in to the questions being asked. If you don't, your evasiveness will work against you, making you look bad. Be honest and straightforward. 2 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get in the mood to enjoy and have fun because love is in the stars and you won't want to miss out on an enjoyable and entertaining time. Make plans to do something special with your partner or attend an event where you can meet a new partner if you are single. 4 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't waste time trying to fix problems you have with family or the people you live with. Nothing will be resolved and arguments will lead to more trouble. Instead, get out and do something you enjoy and you'll meet new friends. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Nothing will go right at home if you are pushy. Focus on working to make things more comfortable or livable but not at the expense of arguing with someone you care about. Put your efforts into what will please the people you care most about. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may be fooling the people around you but it's time you stopped fooling yourself. Decide if your present course is really what you want. A new direction will lead to an interesting connection. 4 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You've got everyone's attention so explain how you see things unfolding. You can make good financial decisions that will help your money grow. You can close deals, take care of any issues concerning loved ones and sign or formulate contracts with ease. 4 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't be too trusting of anyone who wants to help you take care of your cash. You are far better off keeping tabs on what is spent and what is invested. A personal matter may confuse you if you don't ask the right questions. 2 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Being argumentative will work against you but taking action and showing what you can do will be proof you have what it takes. You'll leave an impression that will lead to success. 5 stars

Birthday Baby: You are a good friend and helper and will always do your best to please those around you. You will never stand by watching -- you are a participant.

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

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MEN'S TENNIS

ND, MSU will fight to rebound

Spartans play their third straight road match

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

Both Notre Dame and Michigan State have a chance to rebound after losses when the Spartans visit the Irish today at 4 p.m.

On Sunday, Notre Dame lost to No. 1 Virginia, and Michigan State lost to Vanderbilt. Still, the Spartans are off to one of their best starts, heading into the contest against the Irish with a record of 5-1.

"They came very close to beating Vanderbilt this past weekend," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said.

Michigan State sophomore Tyler Sauerbrey had a 5-4 lead in the third set of what turned out to be the deciding point of the Vanderbilt match, but lost the set 7-5, and Vanderbilt claimed victory.

"They served for the match at 5-4 but couldn't hang on to the lead," Bayliss said. "We have beat them soundly in the past, but we're young and they returned just about everybody."

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ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Defying Providence



Senior guard Charel Allen drives past a defender during Connecticut's 81-64 win over Notre Dame Sunday at the Joyce Center. The Irish face Providence at home tonight at 7.

WU YUE/The Observer

McGraw pleased with team's focus on improving its defense

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

Even though the outcome of the past two games says otherwise, Irish coach Muffet McGraw thinks her team is headed for a turnaround.

"I feel like we are on the upswing," McGraw said. "I feel like we did a lot of good things against [Connecticut] that we can really build on and I'm anxious to get back out there and play somebody."

No. 20 Notre Dame heads into tonight's match at home against Providence with a 15-5 record, but dropped its last two games — 81-80 to DePaul and 81-64 to No. 1 Connecticut.

Thanks to its improving defense, however, Notre Dame boasted an impressive showing against Connecticut on the boards. The Irish outrebounded the Huskies 41 to 38 — the first time all season any team outrebounded Connecticut.

Even though the Irish failed to walk away with a win, McGraw said she was happy with the way the team performed against the Huskies. As a team that has struggled since last season with its defense, the Irish finally started to show prowess against the Huskies Sunday.

"We are finally starting to get

see DEFENSE/page 17

HOCKEY

Playoff scenarios uncertain

Notre Dame still has chance at top spot in CCHA tournament

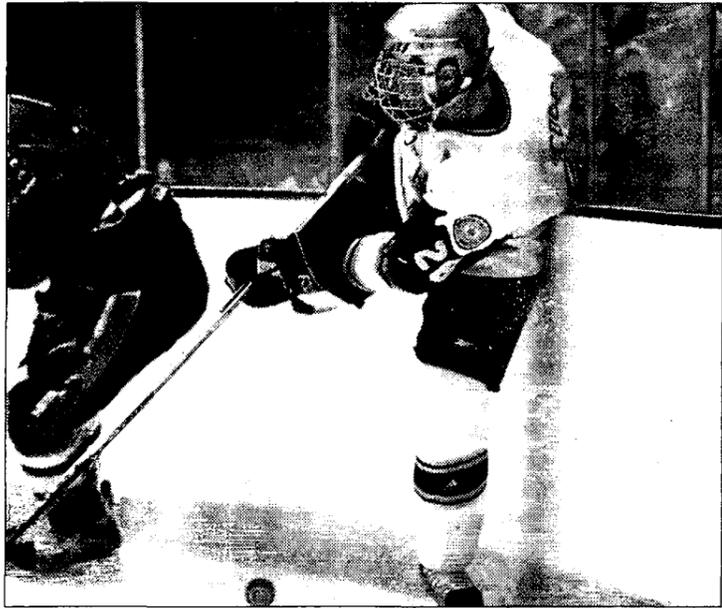
By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

After an exhibition matchup this weekend against the U.S. Under-18 National Team, the Irish will have only eight games left to solidify their CCHA playoff position. All 12 teams in the conference make the CCHA tournament. The top four teams in the conference get a first-round bye, and the teams are reseeded after each round. Here's a look at each team, along with its prospects for the CCHA tournament.

Miami (Ohio), 34 pts.

The RedHawks (17-3-0 CCHA) regained the national No. 1 ranking, as well as first place in the CCHA this weekend, beating Alaska twice and receiving help from previous No. 1 Michigan, who failed to defeat Michigan State last weekend.

Miami has won seven straight, outscoring opponents 35-9 over that span. Junior goaltender Jeff Zatkoff has played himself into Hobey



Irish freshman defenseman Ian Cole clears the puck during Notre Dame's 6-1 win over Bowling Green on Jan. 26.

IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Baker contention, leading the CCHA with a 1.50 goals against average and a .937 save percentage.

Though Miami currently has a three-point lead on

Michigan, it has played two more games than the Wolverines. The RedHawks are idle until they face off for

see PLAYOFFS/page 18

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles head to Olivet, try to slow Comets

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

The Comets have a full head of steam, and it's up to Saint Mary's to slow them down.

The Belles travel to Olivet, which has won its last three games by a combined 58 points, to face the Comets tonight at 7:30.

Saint Mary's (4-5 MIAA, 8-9 overall) managed to hold its own Saturday against Hope (9-0 MIAA, 17-0 overall), leading 33-30 at the half. But Hope's leading scorer Jordyn Boles hit 18 points in the first 10 minutes of the second half to give her team a lead Saint Mary's couldn't overcome. The Belles lost 82-73.

"I thought our team played very well all last week, despite two losses," Saint Mary's coach Jennifer Henley said. "If we can keep that same type of focus and intensity throughout the rest of the

season, we will have a strong finish."

Regardless of the loss, Saint Mary's put up some impressive numbers. Senior guard Alison Kessler, who leads the MIAA in scoring, scored a team-high 21 points. The Belles shot 40.3 percent from the floor and 81.8 percent from the free-throw line with four players scoring in double digits.

Kessler, however, isn't the only scoring force on the Belles. Juniors Erin Newsom and Katie Rashid average 10.8 and 9.4 points per game, respectively. Sophomore Anna Kamrath holds her own in this group of upperclassmen with 9.9 points per game this season.

Throughout the season, the Belles have worked on their rebounding — and they are starting to see results. Saint Mary's outrebounded Hope this weekend 38-37 and has averaged 41.4 rebounds per

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