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Candidates vie for support in debates

Six tickets discuss primary goals for next year; some highlight experience, others innovation

By JOSEPH McMAHON
Assistant News Editor

The candidates for Notre Dame student body president and vice president discussed the issues most important to their campaigns Wednesday in a debate sponsored by the Judicial Council.

Maris Braun and George Chamberlain, Bill Ehrlich, Rick Hollowood and Alex Tomala, Cooper Howes and Daniel Rimkus, Peter Kelly and John Poelhuis, and Robert Reish and Grant Schmidt were all present at the debate, held in the main lounge of LaFortune. Ehrlich's vice presidential candidate, Michael Roscitt, was not able to attend because of a job inter-

view. Judicial Council president Ashley Weiss and vice president of elections Danny Smith moderated.

Each ticket was allowed to give an opening statement, followed by a round of three questions from the Judicial Council and then three questions from audience members. Afterward, the candidates were allowed to give a closing statement.

Opening statements

In their opening statement, Knott sophomores Hollowood and Tomala stressed their signature issue — getting better toilet paper. The pair said the poor toilet paper in place now

see DEBATE/page 6



Student body presidential candidate Bill Ehrlich speaks to students at the debate held in LaFortune on Wednesday night.

Influenza illnesses on the rise

Health Services reports increasing cases at ND

By LINDSAY SENA
News Writer

A significant number of students have been spending more time at Health Services and less time in the classroom as influenza spreads through campus, Health Services physician Rebecca Moskwinski said.

"Basically, every other student who has sought medical services [in the past three weeks] has had the flu," she said Tuesday.

In recent years, flu symptoms have run rampant for one week before subsiding, Moskwinski said. But this year, she said, has been "pretty bad."

"A lot of times it's one week and then it's over, but now this is the third week and we're still seeing a lot of cases," Moskwinski said.

More surprising than the quantity of students infected is that many had received the flu vaccine.

"Some of the [flu type] that we're seeing wasn't covered on the flu shot this year," Moskwinski said.

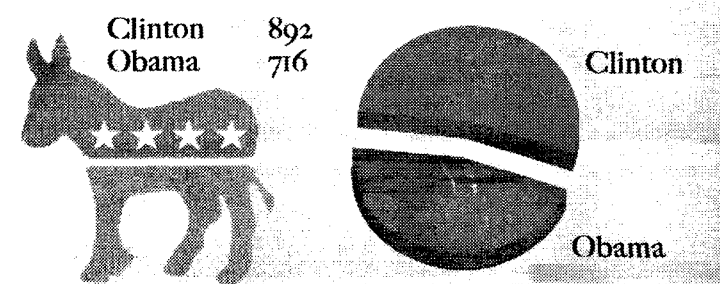
Symptoms for the most prevalent flu type on campus include cough, sore throat, aches, fatigue and a high fever. If a student develops these symptoms and visits Health Services within 48 hours, an antiviral may be prescribed, which will shorten the duration of the illness, Moskwinski said.

As for how many classes to miss, it depends mostly on the fever.

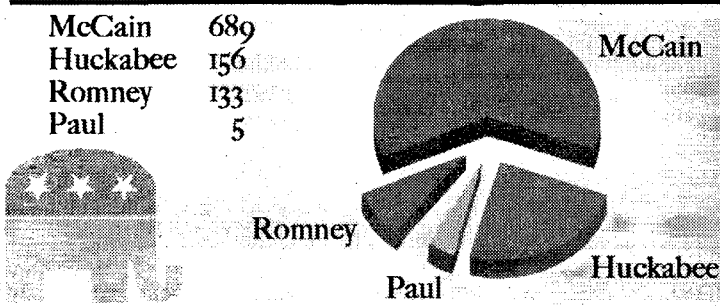
see FLU/page 4

Panel analyzes Super Tuesday results

Democratic pledge delegate count



Republican pledge delegate count



Source: The New York Times

Graphic by Madeline Nies/The Observer

By BRIAN McKENZIE
News Writer

Three political experts drew a crowd of approximately 60 students to an analysis and discussion of Super Tuesday results in the Coleman-Morse Lounge Wednesday night.

Journalism professor Jack Colwell, also a political columnist for the South Bend Tribune, said 24 states held caucuses or primaries for at least one party on Super Tuesday.

On the Republican side, "Tuesday really was super for [Republican candidate John] McCain," he said. "Barring something unforeseen, like a health scare, I don't see any way he won't be the nominee."

McCain's victories on Super Tuesday provided him a "tremendous margin that I don't think [Republican candidate Mitt] Romney can overcome," he said. "Losing

California was the final blow for Romney," he said.

The Democratic contest "was basically a tie," he said. "The Democratic race could go on for some time now. It's possible that this thing may not be decided before May 6 [the date of the Indiana primary]."

Political science professor Dianne Pinderhughes, the President of the American Political Science Association, examined the role of race and gender in the Democratic contest.

"I was surprised to the extent that identity politics is playing a role," she said. "In exit polls, there is a significant variation among voters based on whether they are black or white or male or female," she said.

"In a number of states, white males strongly backed [Democratic candidate Barack]

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STUDENT SENATE

Faculty members attend meeting, discuss Catholic recruiting

Senators pass resolutions on University academic advising, iTunes U

By CLAIRE REISING
News Writer

History professor Father Robert Sullivan and chemistry professor Seth Brown spoke about possible effects of recruiting Catholic faculty at Wednesday's Student Senate meeting. They also stressed the importance of student involvement in the issue.

"Since about 25 percent of

the American population is Catholic, having a faculty composed of 50 percent Catholics is a reasonable goal," Brown said.

Although Notre Dame may attract prominent Catholic scholars, Brown said professors consider more than their religion when choosing a university.

"Choosing where one goes to teach and do research is a professional decision," Brown said. "In many cases

[with] scholars, Catholic or otherwise, their professional research has little to do with Catholicism."

This is especially an issue in the College of Science, where some fields have a minority of Catholic scholars, Sullivan said.

"A field like biology is completely secular," Sullivan said. "There are very few religious biologists at the top

see SENATE/page 4



Chemistry professor Seth Brown speaks on hiring more Catholic professors at Wednesday's Student Senate meeting.

INSIDE COLUMN

Political correctness

"I'm a little Indian. I do big war dance for you."
Apparently, that's how I used to entertain my mother at the age of four.
I recently discovered this best-forgotten factoid after unearthing some highly embarrassing home movies over Christmas.

Kara King

Viewpoint Copy Editor

Using our coffee table as a makeshift stage, I belted out my newly-learned phrase, complete with what I can only imagine was supposed to be the aforementioned "big war dance." Watching it, I was embarrassed. Needless to say, such a spectacle would never be taught to today's pre-kindergarten youth.
Indeed, such a song today would be met with endless criticisms and ultimately changed to something more politically correct, something more socially acceptable, something along the lines of, "I'm an average-sized Native American, and, if asked nicely, I will perform one of the traditional dances of my people in an effort to keep our culture alive."

Maybe it's just me, but I think we have gone a little overboard with this whole political correctness thing. I understand not wanting to hurt people's feelings, but we've taken it to a whole new extreme. Anything that can potentially be deemed minutely offensive to anyone is almost immediately censored.

We are a country that is supposedly built around the freedoms of the individual and freedom of speech is a constitutional right on which we pride ourselves. Yet we seem to be restricting our ability to speak our mind as the population continues to need everything sugar coated. And the funniest part is the majority of those defining the direction this quest for political correctness takes are white, upper-middle class politicians, unlikely to be offended but afraid to be cast in a bad light.

I understand that our right freedom of speech is limited. People, especially those in a position of power, are responsible for what they say, and I fully believed Don Imus deserved the repercussions of his ill-founded comments about the Rutgers basketball team. But how can we claim to offer freedom of expression when everyone — from PTA moms to public figures to students — is afraid of similar falling outs, albeit on a lesser scale, if their comments are misconstrued?

Political correctness has had that effect, whether or not we acknowledge it. Celebrities such as Imus, and, more recently Kelly Tilghman, have become the poster children for what can happen if we don't politically correct-ize our comments. I'm not saying we should teach our children to mimic Native American tribal dances, but I don't think I should feel so embarrassed about it years later. We have to find the happy medium where we can express our beliefs without fear of offending those who overhear. Or at least find a way to appreciate my four-year-old antics, without reading into the political incorrectness of it all.

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

Contact Kara King at kking5@nd.edu

CORRECTION

A story in the Feb. 6 edition of The Observer incorrectly indicated that "The Vagina Monologues" definitely will be performed on the Notre Dame campus later this semester. According to the procedures established two years ago, a formal proposal for this event must be made to the dean of the College of Arts and Letters. Approval may be given if all guidelines have been met — including sponsorship by academic departments and the incorporation of Catholic teaching on the subject in panel presentations following the performances.

To date, no formal proposal has been received by the dean from the student organizers and sponsoring academic units, and, as such, approval has not been granted.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: Who would you like to see win the student body elections and why?



Paul Macias

junior
St. Ed's

"Paul Macias because I want to go to the St. Ed's Yacht Dance with him."



Brandon Sparks

junior
St. Ed's

"Peter Kelly because he loves children."



Katie Teitgen

sophomore
Pasquerilla East

"Bob [Reish] and Grant [Schmidt] because of their awesome Web site, bobandgrant.com."



Cynthia Weber

freshman
Pasquerilla West

"Bob [Reish] and Grant [Schmidt] because they're the perfect balance between experience and fresh perspective."



Lindsay Johnson

sophomore
Farley

"May the best pair win."



Students at St. Peter Claver in New Orleans, La., welcomed U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings Jan. 31 for Catholic Schools' Week. Alliance for Catholic Education teachers work at the school.

Photo courtesy of Rachel Pleis

OFFBEAT

Man arrested for break-in, counterfeiting

GOLDONNA, La. — A man was arrested for allegedly breaking into a home and trying to use the computer there to make counterfeit money.

Charles Chase Nobles, 28, was booked Tuesday into the Natchitoches Parish Detention Center on one count each of counterfeiting, unauthorized entry of an inhabited dwelling and probation violation, according to a press release from Natchitoches Parish Sheriff Victor Jones Jr.

Goldonna Police Chief Kenneth Martin and Natchitoches sheriff's deputies made the arrest after getting a call at about 1 p.m. Tuesday from a citizen who reported seeing a suspicious vehicle parked in woods behind a Goldonna residence.

Martin and the deputies found Nobles inside. The computer was seized as a part of the ongoing investigation.

Court: Mom can't sue over circumcision

ST. PAUL — The Minnesota Court of

Appeals has ruled that a mother who didn't like the way her baby's circumcision looked cannot sue a Fridley hospital for medical malpractice.

Dawn Nelson sued Unity Hospital and Dr. Steven Berestka, claiming the doctor removed "the most erogenous tissue" after the boy was born on Jan. 21, 2000 — without consulting either parent. Nelson and the boy's father, David Nelson, were unhappy with the result.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Father Diego Irarrazaval, the director of Formation for the Holy Cross District of Chile, will deliver the lecture "Culture and Religion in Latin American Theology" today at 4:15 p.m. in room C-103 of the Hesburgh Center.

The film "Into the Wild" will be playing tonight at 7 in Performing Cinema, DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Student tickets are \$3.

The Mayo Invitational men's and women's indoor track meet will be Friday at 5 p.m. in Loftus Sports Center. Admission is free.

There will be Stations of the Cross Friday at 7:15 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Stations will be held each Friday during Lent.

The Pasquerilla East Musical Company (PEMCo) will present "Kiss Me, Kate" Friday at 7:30 p.m. Student tickets are \$6. The show will also be playing Feb. 8, 9, 15 and 16.

The hockey team will play Ferris State Friday at 7:35 p.m. in the Joyce Center.

Men's and women's fencing will compete in the Notre Dame Duels Saturday at 8 a.m. in the Joyce Center. Admission is free.

Men's basketball will play Marquette Saturday at noon in the Joyce Center. Television coverage is on ESPN.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 35 LOW 22	HIGH 25 LOW 12	HIGH 33 LOW 25	HIGH 28 LOW 10	HIGH 18 LOW 5	HIGH 18 LOW 15

Atlanta 55 / 33 Boston 34 / 30 Chicago 29 / 26 Denver 31 / 13 Houston 75 / 67 Los Angeles 68 / 43 Minneapolis 23 / 12 New York 62 / 52 Philadelphia 63 / 41 Phoenix 57 / 39 Seattle 43 / 37 St. Louis 50 / 47 Tampa 82 / 65 Washington 67 / 54

ND grad to perform with marionettes

By LIZ HARTER
Assistant News Editor

Joe Cashore, a 1971 Notre Dame alumnus, will take the stage tonight at Saint Mary's Little Theater to showcase his life's work in a marionette performance titled "Simple Gifts."

The event will feature Cashore manipulating his marionette puppets to music.

"The original vignettes presented in 'Simple Gifts,' through a combination of virtuoso manipulation, beautiful music, theatrical illusion, and artistic insight,

provide a sensitive vision of what it is to be human," said Cindy Laughlin, director of artistic services at Baylin Artist Management, the group that manages the marionettes.

"The performance spans the range of emotions with characters and actions that are amazingly convincing," she said.

Cashore, who graduated from Notre Dame with a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts, has been creating marionettes since he was 11 years old. He began performing with his creations, which can have as many as 42 strings attached, in

1990.

The marionettes, their clothing and all of the props were made entirely by Cashore. He does not speak during the performance.

The marionettes performed at Saint Mary's once before, about 11 years ago, said Richard Baxter,

director of the Office of Special Events.

"Each year I try and bring in a performance that would be appropriate for family audiences and this seemed like a good opportunity," Baxter said.

The performance is part of the College's Performing Arts Series for the

2007-2008 school year sponsored by the Office of Special Events.

Cashore has performed in Europe, the Far East and various locations in North America such as the Kennedy Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

The performance will feature music by composers such as Vivaldi, Strauss, Beethoven and Copeland.

The show will be at 7:30 tonight in the Little Theater. Student tickets are \$5.

Contact Liz Harter at
charte01@saintmarys.edu

"The performance spans the range of emotions with characters and actions that are amazingly convincing."

Cindy Laughlin
Baylin Artist
Management

Show to benefit Building Together

By ELIZABETH KELLY
News Writer

Through the partnership between Notre Dame's Africa Faith and Justice Network (AFJN), the African Student Association and ND-8, Artists for Africa will perform a benefit performance tonight and Friday.

This year's Artists for Africa benefit will showcase student musicians, a cappella groups and dance groups. Featured acts include Project Fresh, Notre Dame's urban dance crew, Halftime, a campus co-ed a cappella group, The Dance Company of Notre Dame and First Class Steppers, Notre Dame's stepping troupe.

The benefit will also include student solo artists Michael Rose and Simon Chun, as well as local band Half Pint Jones.

All of the proceeds from the benefit concert will go toward Building Tomorrow, a non-profit organization supported mostly by colleges across the nation. The organization encourages young people to promote awareness and raise funds for educating children in sub-Saharan Africa.

Sophomore Barbara Ho, who is organizing this year's Artists For Africa benefit, said she is looking forward to collaborating with campus groups to raise money for Building Tomorrow.

"I've always wanted to do some kind of benefit concert," Ho said. "It's a nice way to showcase groups on campus for

a really good cause."

ND-8 partnered with Building Tomorrow when planning Artists for Africa. ND-8 is a student-run organization on campus that promotes the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals for improving social justice around the world. These eight goals include combating poverty, improving the environment and providing universal education. ND-8's education subcommittee, which focuses on the development goal of universal education, has been working closely with Building Tomorrow by raising money for the project through fundraisers since fall 2007.

Ho first heard about Building Tomorrow when the organization's founder, George Srour, delivered a lecture at Notre Dame last spring during Millennium Development Goals Week.

In his lecture, Srour spoke about how he started Building Tomorrow after visiting Kampala, Uganda, as an intern for the UN. While there, he saw suffering children who lacked a decent education.

"It was really inspirational," Ho said. "He's pretty young and has already started this non-profit organization."

After hearing Srour speak, Ho and the other committee members at ND-8 started working with Building Tomorrow to raise \$35,000 in order to build a new school in Uganda for 350 local children. The money raised went toward the con-

struction costs attached to building the school.

"The local community actually helps build the school," Ho said. "And the government sustains it."

ND-8 worked on several fundraising projects last semester, such as a T-shirt sale, a paper bricks fundraiser, and an ornament sale at Christmas to raise money for the school. Through these fundraisers, ND-8 has raised \$24,000 toward their \$35,000 goal.

As soon as the monetary goal is reached, construction on the school will begin, Ho said. She hopes that Artists for Africa will bring them even closer to their goal, which they hope to reach by the end of the semester.

"From this event, it would be nice to get a couple thousand [dollars]," Ho said. "That's aiming high, but we have high hopes for this event."

Artists for Africa will take place tonight and Friday at 9 p.m. at Legends. Admission to the event is free, but a \$10 donation to Building Tomorrow is encouraged. T-shirts will also be sold for \$10 during the event. Profits will go toward the \$35,000 goal for Building Tomorrow's school project in Uganda.

Ho is pleased with the collaborative efforts between student groups planning the event.

"We're really proud of the way campus is working together," she said.

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4th Annual Holy Cross Mission Lecture at Notre Dame

Obstacles and Choices in Christian Mission

7pm, Sunday, February 10th
Moreau Seminary Auditorium

Diego Irarrazaval, CSC
Universidad Catolica Silva Henriquez
Santiago, Chile

Discussion and Reception to Follow



Sponsored by Holy Cross Mission Center

Co-Sponsors: Moreau Seminary, Campus Ministry, Sisters of the Holy Cross, Center for Social Concerns, Helen Kellagay Institute for International Studies, Department of Theology, Institute for Church Life

Tuesday

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Obama, but white women have been drawn to [Democratic candidate Hillary] Clinton," she said. Clinton's share of white women beat Obama's by 15 to 20 percentage points, she said.

Obama's strongest supporters were blacks, particularly black males, and exit polls are suggesting that upcoming primaries will be favorable ground for Obama, Pinderhughes said. "The District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia have very significant black populations," she said.

Political science professor

Darren Davis spoke about the shortcomings of polling information.

"We're seeing an increasingly biased media, one that pays selective attention to polling information and tries to equate polls. But not all polls are alike," he said. "You have internet polls, polls of likely voters, state-wide polls, national polls."

"Polls can be awfully misleading," he said.

Davis drew on the idea that voters are "pressured" to vote for a black candidate in this election.

"Social pressure leads voters to want to vote for a black candidate, but when they're in a private voting booth, they frequently vote for someone else or not at all," he said.

Political scientists call that phenomenon the Bradley Effect, he said.

Freshman Chris Rhodenbaugh said Davis' analysis of polling shortcomings stuck with him the most. "It's interesting to hear people trying to inform us rather than CNN pundits getting us to watch the program," he said.

Senior Mike McKenna, the NDVotes'08 student coordinator, recognized the importance of political competency in national elections.

"The focus is political competency, not just being consumers but analyzers of political news," he said.

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Flu

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"Generally, if you have a fever you should be in bed and not go into class," Moskwinski said.

Students have experienced various degrees of infection. Senior Colin Ethier missed only two classes when he contracted the flu.

"I had a bad cough and my chest was really tight. ... I was extremely tired and my body ached for about four days," he said.

However, sophomore Kara Coyle's flu included a 103 temperature, inability to sleep more than two hours

at a time, hot and cold flashes, nausea, a bad cough and extreme fatigue. She missed an entire week of school, leading her to turn in three papers late.

"Most of my teachers were understanding since it seemed to be a campus epidemic, but I don't think my note from Health Services gave me an excuse for more than one day, which seems pretty unfair," Coyle said.

According to CBSNews.com, the flu infects up to 20 percent of the population, causes the hospitalization of 200,000 and kills 36,000 each year.

Contact Lindsay Sena at lesna@nd.edu

Senate

continued from page 1

ranks of any kind."

One concern, Brown said, is that the University would have a "stained glass ceiling" and that non-Catholic faculty could feel undervalued for their work.

"It's hard to feel that the University values your efforts if the University is pouring resources and time into hiring faculty merely because of the fact that they're Catholic," he said.

Brown added that religion is not always a factor in how professors teach. Non-Catholic professors, such as those who study the history

or philosophy of religion, can also contribute to the Catholic character of Notre Dame, Brown said.

"We also have faculty who are not Catholic and make enormous contributions to the University's Catholic mission," he said.

Professor Thomas Noble, student affairs chair of the Faculty Senate who attends weekly Senate meetings, said students must become educated about the issue.

"Don't think that what you have to do is choose one faculty position or another. Arrive at your own view," Noble said. "I think it's lot more important for the whole process if you decide what you think, and we find various ways to bring that for-

ward."

Student body vice president Maris Braun said there will be a Town Hall meeting Feb. 18 for students to discuss this issue. The meeting will take place at 7 p.m. in 101 DeBartolo Hall. Senators also plan on hosting sessions within their dorms before the meeting.

In other Senate news:

♦ The Senate unanimously passed a resolution on improving the academic advisory structure. The resolution stated that students are "often unaware of whom their advisor is after their freshman year." Therefore, the Senate proposed that freshmen should be notified about whom they should con-

tact for questions about classes and majors. Also, the resolution said, colleges should have mandatory meetings, followed by breakout sessions within majors. The resolution also recommended an increase in the number of advisors in the Mendoza College of Business and permanent advisors in department offices.

♦ In addition to the academic advisory resolution, the Senate unanimously passed a resolution supporting iTunes U. Residential Life Committee Chair Marianna Montes said the University did not show concern that iTunes U, which allows students to upload lectures, would enable students to miss class.

However, the University is concerned about legal issues surrounding academic property, she said.

♦ Majors night will be held tonight in the JAAC from 6 to 8 p.m.

♦ Judicial Council President Ashley Weiss said voting instructions for the student body presidential election will be e-mailed to students on Friday. Voting will take place Feb. 11 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

♦ Gender Relations Committee Chair Brenna Doyle reminded students about the Health and Body Image Conference, which will take place March 11-13.

Contact Claire Reising at creisin2@nd.edu

MIDNIGHT AT LEGENDS

NO COVER. ND, SMC, HCC ID REQUIRED. LEGENDS.ND.EDU

THURSDAY (2/7)

FRIDAY (2/8)

SATURDAY (2/9)

Brew & View

EURODANCE
NIGHTCLUB

dj tanner

Salsa
Nightclub

FREE SHISHKABOBS

while supplies last

WIN A FREE COPY

Sonido Del Rio

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Ecuador's Tungurahua volcano erupts

QUITO — Ecuador's Tungurahua volcano shot columns of ash miles into the air on Wednesday, as officials ordered the evacuation of 3,000 villagers living near its slopes.

Some 1,000 villagers from the western flanks of the 16,575-foot volcano fled their homes for shelters at dawn, said Mauro Rodriguez, director of Civil Defense. He said 11 families who refused to leave, fearing looters, were removed by force.

"We've taken all of the precautions possible," President Rafael Correa told reporters on Wednesday, adding that a state of emergency already in place in the area will be extended for 60 days.

Juan Salazar, the mayor of the nearby village of Penipe, said 3,000 people needed to be evacuated — a figure that included the 1,000 villagers who had already fled.

Palestinian rocket wounds two girls

JERUSALEM — Hamas militants fired a rocket into an Israeli border village, wounding two young sisters as they played outside their home. The attack followed Israel airstrikes against Gaza militants and threats of an "all-front" war on the Islamic group.

The rapid-fire events threatened to escalate into large scale combat that could bury U.S.-led Mideast peace efforts.

Hamas stepped up its rocket barrages at southern Israel for a second day, retaliating for an Israeli strike that killed seven of its police officers. More than a dozen rockets rained down, one exploding at Kibbutz Beeri, a communal village about four miles from the border fence.

NATIONAL NEWS

Ohio prepares for more flooding

TOLEDO, Ohio — The threat of worsened flooding stretched across Ohio Wednesday, where two days of rain and melting snow left water covering busy roads and pushed rain-swollen rivers and creeks past their breaking points.

In northwest Ohio, city leaders in Findlay hoped to avoid another major flood just months after the city was swamped by historic flooding.

The Blanchard River, which runs through the city, was rising about 5 inches an hour during heavy rains Tuesday afternoon and was predicted to hit 4 feet above flood stage by Wednesday night, according to the National Weather Service.

Billionaire sued for sexual assault

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — A woman filed suit Wednesday accusing a New York billionaire of sexually assaulting her when she was underage.

The unidentified woman said she was 16 when she was brought to Jeffrey Epstein's Palm Beach mansion and paid \$200 to give the money manager a massage. Instead, she claims he abused her.

The suit seeks more than \$50 million in damages from the billionaire money manager.

Epstein's attorney, Guy Lewis, said the lawsuit is defamatory and the allegations are false.

LOCAL NEWS

Thousands apply for state health plan

INDIANAPOLIS — Pent-up demand for affordable health care has produced 21,101 applications for a new health plan for low-income adults, but key lawmakers said the state must find ways to cover people not currently eligible.

Secretary Mitch Roob of the Family and Social Services Administration told a joint meeting of the state Senate and House health committees that his agency has had to more than double the staff of the Healthy Indiana Plan because of the volume of applications.

"We're thrilled with the number of people who've applied, and the breadth," Roob said, noting the plan has drawn applications from each of the state's 92 counties.

Lawmakers commended Roob on his agency's efforts in putting the plan in place and winning federal approval since the General Assembly approved it last spring.

CUBA

Military confirms secret lockups

Guantanamo commanders verify existence of 'Camp 7' for key alleged terrorists

Associated Press

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE — Somewhere amid the cactus-studded hills on this sprawling Navy base, separate from the cells where hundreds of men suspected of links to al-Qaida and the Taliban have been locked up for years, is a place even more closely guarded — a jailhouse so protected that its very location is top secret.

For the first time, the top commander of detention operations at Guantanamo has confirmed the existence of the mysterious Camp 7. In an interview with The Associated Press, Rear Adm. Mark Buzby also provided a few details about the maximum-security lockup.

Guantanamo commanders said Camp 7 is for key alleged al-Qaida members, who must be kept apart from other prisoners to prevent them from retaliating against long-term detainees who have talked to interrogators. They also want the location kept secret for fear of terrorist attack.

Many operations have been classified since the detention center opened in January 2002 in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. More than four years passed before the military released even the names of detainees held on this 45-square-mile base in south-east Cuba — and it did so only after the AP filed a Freedom of Information Act request.

Detainees have been held in Camp Echo and Camps 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Journalists cleared by the military have been allowed to tour some of these lockups, where 260 men are held, but aren't allowed to speak to detainees. Some lawmakers and other VIPs have passed through, and the International Red Cross has access, but doesn't divulge details of visits with prisoners.

Camp 7, where 15 "high-value detainees" are held, is



U.S. Navy Rear Admiral Mark Buzby, center, speaks to peers before a January Savannah Council Navy League meeting in Savannah, Ga. Buzby spoke to the AP about Camp 7.

so secret that its very existence was not publicly known until it was mentioned in December by attorneys for Majid Khan, a former Baltimore resident who allegedly plotted to bomb gas stations in the United States. Previously, many observers believed the 15 were being held in Camps 5 or 6, which are maximum-security facilities.

"Under the gag order ... we are prohibited from saying anything more about their camp," lawyer Gitanjali Gutierrez, who met with Khan in October, said Tuesday. Most of the lawyers' notes and memos have been stamped "top secret" by the government.

Buzby told the AP he is

sharply limiting to a "very few" the number of people who know Camp 7's whereabouts.

He described it as a maximum security facility that was already built when President Bush announced in September 2006 that 14 high-value terrorism suspects had been transferred from CIA secret detention facilities to Guantanamo. An additional detainee, Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi, arrived last April.

"They went straight into that facility," Buzby said.

Buzby, who heads all military detention operations on Guantanamo, said he controls Camp 7, but would not discuss whether the CIA might still be talking with the

high-value detainees.

Paul Rester, the military's chief interrogator at Guantanamo, told AP he has been interviewing one of the Camp 7 detainees and that others may be interrogated, depending on intelligence needs.

But other key military commanders on the base have been told to leave Camp 7 to others.

"Not everybody, even within the Joint Task Force, has access or even knowledge of where Camp 7 is," said Army Col. Bruce Vargo. As commander of the military's Joint Detention Group at Guantanamo, Vargo is responsible for the camps holding 260 detainees. But not for Camp 7.

Ledger's death ruled accidental overdose

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The actor Heath Ledger died from an accidental overdose of six different drugs — painkillers and sedatives — the medical examiner said Wednesday, leading doctors to warn of the dangers of mixing prescription drugs.

The 28-year-old film star died "of acute intoxication" from the combination of two strong painkillers, two anti-anxiety medicines and two sleeping aids, according to the medical examiner's office.

Among the drugs found in his body were oxycodone, a painkiller sold as OxyContin and used in other pain relievers such as Percodan and Percocet. Others included drugs

sold as anti-anxiety pills Valium and Xanax, which are sedatives.

The medical examiner and police wouldn't identify the medications Ledger had in his apartment when his body was discovered on Jan. 22, nor would they discuss who had prescribed them. It also wasn't known why he had the drugs; he said in a newspaper interview last year that he needed sleeping pills after two stressful acting jobs.

The Drug Enforcement Administration is investigating how Ledger got the medications. It's common for investigators to review prescriptions when so many drugs are involved in an overdose death, said spokesman Rusty Payne.

Doctors not connected with the

case said it would be unlikely for one doctor to order all the drugs. However, they said it's not unusual for people to be prescribed both painkillers and sedatives, and overdoses are not uncommon.

"This is not rock star wretched excess," said Cindy Kuhn, a pharmacology professor at Duke University. "This is a situation that could happen to plenty of people with prescriptions for these kind of drugs."

Kuhn said some of the drugs are long-lasting and Ledger could have taken them over a period of several days. The medical examiner's office wouldn't say what concentrations of each drug were found in Ledger's blood.

Debate

continued from page 1

reflects the current state of student government. "Student government is broken," Hollowood said. "It's not doing the things the student body really wants."

They were followed by junior class president Reish and sophomore class president Schmidt, who said their campaign has been focused on "bridging the gap" between students and student government. "We saw one major problem — a lack of communication between student government and the student body," Reish said.

Kelly, who was previously president of St. Edward's Hall, and junior Poelhuis also focused on a single issue — the implementation of a shuttle bus to off-campus locations, which they feel will seriously improve student life. "The reason we want to run is because we want to do something for the student body," Poelhuis said.

Braun, student body vice president and former Breen-Phillips senator and Chamberlain, the Sorin senator, stressed their experience and their desire to implement policies that will impact the student body on a "day-to-day basis." "When George and I are asked to describe what our platform is all about, we say student life improvement," Braun said.

Although his running mate was not present, Ehrlich, a junior from Stanford Hall, said their platform was made up of fun ideas that are also feasible, including adding a tetherball pole to North and South Quads. "We always want to ask, 'Is it possible?'" Ehrlich said.

Wearing shiny gold pants, Zahn freshmen Howes and Rimkus argued their lack of experience is made up for with their interesting ideas, including an embargo on all British goods. "Our names don't matter, our issues matter," Howes said. "The only thing louder than these pants should be the voice of the student body."

Questions

Weiss first asked candidates to explain their campaign's most important idea.

Hollowood said getting better toilet paper is most important. "There should be warning labels on this stuff," he said, while holding up a piece of the current toilet paper being used on campus.

Reish and Grant said they have done extensive research talking to other Midwest schools, and they believe getting student discounts off-campus is very important. "It is one of the biggest issues that really affect student life," Schmidt said.

Emphasizing their signature issue, Kelly and Poelhuis said they, too, had looked at other schools, and they both felt a shuttle bus service would greatly improve student life. "If other schools can do it, why not at Notre Dame?" Kelly said.

Braun and Chamberlain said they had three issues they feel would most benefit students — increasing Grab-N-Go points and selection, implementing a book delivery service to the dorms and increasing off-campus security.

Braun said she and Chamberlain are working to "find what students want."

Ehrlich said getting tetherball poles on campus would be a very positive addition, and would also help students get more exercise. "I'm focused on getting students outside and excited," he said. "I see a lot of freshmen and they're always inside playing Rockband."

Much of Howes and Rimkus' platform derives from the Nickelodeon show "Legends of the Hidden Temple," and includes using Temple Guards to protect against parietals. However, Rimkus said one should not worry if they are caught, "because just like in the show, you can tag team your partner to finish the job."

Weiss then asked the candidates to explain what distinguishes their ticket from the others.

"We saw one major problem — a lack of communication between student government and the student body."

Robert Reish
presidential candidate

Both Reish and Schmidt and Braun and Chamberlain said their prior experience in student government coupled with the research they've been doing should attract voters to their side. "I think the biggest thing I bring to the table

is the fact that I'm vice president right now," said Braun. "There really is no substitute for experience."

Although the other tickets have little or no student government experience, they are hoping their ideas appeal to voters. "We have no experience and we don't know how to run a bureaucracy," said Hollowood of himself and Tomala. "We just want to get better toilet paper."

Ehrlich echoed these sentiments, saying what he lacks in experience he makes up for in enthusiasm. "I wanted to see someone who is running a good campaign but not taking themselves too seriously," he said. "It's not mutually exclusive being serious and fun."

The final question from the Judicial Council asked how candidates would make student government more accessible to their constituency.

Most candidates responded that they would ask students what they want through surveys and personal interaction. "We want to create transparency in student government," said Reish, whose Web site, bobandgrant.com, includes a student census section asking for input for their platform. "We want to get students on the second floor of LaFortune."

Ehrlich said he believes student government is very accessible; however, people don't feel that it is necessary to interact with it until a concerning issue arises.

Student input

One audience member asked how the candidates plan to help the environment. All said they thought it was an important issue, and they supported the efforts of GreenND.

Kelly and Poelhuis said they support giving students incentives to reduce their waste, such as rewarding the dorm that cuts down most on energy use. "I think the vast majority of students are apathetic about the environment," Kelly said. "You need to give people incentives to get them to cut down."

Another audience member asked how candidates plan to improve diversity.

Reish and Schmidt said they believe multicultural issues are very important. "We want to have courses related to multicultural issues," Schmidt said.

Ehrlich, who is the only candidate to openly advocate a University-recognized Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender (GLBT) club, said Notre Dame's current diversity policies are failing, and the University needs to reflect on its current record. "I feel very concerned about diversity," he said.

"Along the surface there may be diversity, but we are all from the same socio-economic background. Notre Dame likes to talk about diversity but it needs to hold a mirror to itself."

The final question asked was whether they would sacrifice their candidacy in return for Notre Dame winning a National Championship, to which all of the candidates responded yes.

"It's been a long time since Notre Dame has seen a

National Championship," said Braun. "If George and I never get to see the light of the second floor of LaFortune in return, that's OK."

In their closing statements, the candidates reiterated the issues most important to them and asked the audience for support.

Voting will take place Feb. 11 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.



Contact Joseph McMahon at jmcmaho6@nd.edu

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Stocks

Dow Jones 12,200.10 -65.03

Up: 637 Same: 77 Down: 2,710 Composite Volume: 26,812,286

AMEX	2,212.73	+2.43
NASDAQ	2,278.75	-30.82
NYSE	8,818.11	-56.39
S&P 500	1,326.45	-10.19
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	13,092.75	-6.49
FTSE 100 (London)	5,875.40	+7.40

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
S&P DEP RECIEPTS (SPY)	-0.81	-1.08	133.05
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	-1.97	-0.86	43.81
CISCO SYS INC (CSCO)	-0.77	-0.77	23.08
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-1.89	-1.89	28.52

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	+0.75	+0.027	3.614
13-WEEK BILL	-4.90	-0.105	2.040
30-YEAR BOND	+0.74	+0.032	4.374
5-YEAR NOTE	+0.38	+0.010	2.674

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-1.27	87.14
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+14.70	905.00
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+2.18	95.18

Exchange Rates

YEN	106.4000
EURO	0.6835
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.0054
BRITISH POUND	0.5098

IN BRIEF

Wheat prices soar to record high

NEW YORK — Wheat futures reached a new record high Wednesday as investors bet that tightening U.S. supplies and poor harvests around the globe will push grain prices higher — worsening food inflation.

Other agriculture commodities spiked on the rally, with soybean and corn futures both hitting records. Precious metals rose broadly, while energy futures fell.

Wheat prices have trekked relentlessly higher as global supplies have shrunk. Smaller-than-expected harvests around the world, due partly to dry weather, have left stockpiles depleted even as demand continues unabated. That's brought an increasing number of foreign buyers to the U.S. market seeking dwindling supplies of milling-quality wheat used in bread, pasta and other foods.

U.S. wheat exporters have sold more than 15 million bushels a week in seven of the last 11 weeks, well above the U.S. Department of Agriculture's weekly target of about 1 million bushels a week.

Eli Lilly's Taurel receives millions

INDIANAPOLIS — Eli Lilly and Co.'s chairman and chief executive officer, Sidney Taurel, who has announced that he's stepping down in March, received total compensation valued at \$11.3 million in 2007, an 18 percent increase from 2006, according to regulatory filings.

The drug maker gave Taurel a \$1.72 million salary last year. His pay package also included \$4.04 million in non-equity incentive plan compensation and \$215,044 in miscellaneous compensation, which included \$107,105 for use of the corporate jet, according to a preliminary proxy statement filed Wednesday with the Security and Exchange Commission.

In addition, he was awarded restricted stock valued at \$5.3 million.

The company said it based Taurel's 2007 compensation on Lilly's 2006 performance. It noted that Lilly exceeded earnings targets that year, strengthened diversity programs and "enhanced its brand image and reputation."

Lilly spokesman Phil Belt said the company aims "to be competitive in the upper half of compensation packages among peer companies."

Republicans block rebate bill

Democrats' bid to add \$44 billion to House-passed measure divides Senate

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The fate of \$600-\$1,200 rebate checks for more than 100 million Americans is in limbo after Senate Republicans blocked a bid by Democrats to add \$44 billion in help for the elderly, disabled veterans, the unemployed and businesses to the House-passed economic aid package.

GOP senators banded together Wednesday to thwart the \$205 billion plan, leaving Democrats with a difficult choice either to quickly accept a House bill they have said is inadequate or risk being blamed for delaying a measure designed as a swift shot in the arm for the lagging economy.

The tally was 58-41 to end debate on the Senate measure, just short of the 60 votes Democrats would have needed to scale procedural hurdles and move the bill to a final vote. In a suspenseful showdown vote that capped days of partisan infighting and procedural jockeying, eight Republicans — four of them up for re-election this year — joined Democrats to back the plan, bucking GOP leaders and President Bush, who objected to the costly add-ons.

Democrats choreographed the vote for maximum political advantage, presenting their aid proposal as a take-it-or-leave-it proposition for Republicans and calling back their presidential candidates to make a show of party unity behind their stimulus plan. They calculated that Republicans would pay a steep price for opposing rebates for older Americans and disabled veterans, as well as heating aid for the poor, unemployment benefits and a much larger collection of business tax breaks than the House



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., talks to reporters in Washington Wednesday after a vote on an economic stimulus package failed to pass.

approved.

Even after their effort fell short Wednesday, Democrats seemed determined to keep the pressure on Republicans to accept the measure, threatening to hold more votes on it in the coming days.

Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., is "going to give Republicans a chance to reconsider their vote against efforts to strengthen the economy by helping those who need it most," his spokesman, Jim Manley, said Wednesday night.

Republicans said they

were ready to accept rebates for seniors and disabled veterans and accused Democrats of delaying the stimulus plan for political gain and loading it down with special-interest extras.

"Our constituents will look at us as the folks that slowed it down (and) added a bunch of spending to it," said Sen. Jon Kyl of Arizona, the Republican whip, who called the measure "a Christmas tree package."

The White House, which has carefully avoided issuing threats about the package despite Bush's opposition to

the add-ons, urged the Senate to move fast to approve a stimulus plan.

"To be effective, this economic growth package must be timely, so it is crucial that the Senate now move quickly to pass a bill that will deliver relief to our economy," press secretary Dana Perino said in a statement after the vote.

Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton of New York and Barack Obama of Illinois flew to Washington for the vote. GOP front-runner John McCain of Arizona did not vote.

Congress acts to end telemarketing calls

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Politicians have finally found an issue they all can agree on: Telemarketers calling at dinnertime are a scourge that must be repulsed.

Congress on Wednesday sent to President Bush two bills that would make permanent a program to protect consumers from unwanted phone calls from telemarketers. Its hallmark is the national "do not call" list.

"This initiative has proven to be one of the most popular laws in history," said Rep. G.K. Butterfield, D-N.C. Extending the program was necessary "to avoid the wrath of millions of angry constituents."

The Do Not Call Registry, initiated in 2003, has been widely acclaimed for allowing Americans to eat their suppers in peace. Some 150 million people have listed their phones on the registry, which prohibits calls

from telemarketers.

"I remember times we just used to take our phones off the hook," said Rep. Mike Doyle, D-Pa., a leader on the issue, recalling pre-registry days.

"Consumers without exception hate the annoyance of intrusive telemarketer calls at dinnertime," said Chris Murray, senior counsel for Consumers Union. "When nearly every American household has taken the time to register, that says something really strong."

Rep. Michael Burgess, R-Texas, put it in political terms: "With a 10 percent approval rating it is incumbent upon us to continue to pass legislation that is indeed popular."

The House passed by voice vote and sent to the president a bill to make permanent the authority of the Federal Trade Commission to collect fees to run the program. "My legislation keeps the program free, simple and effective for consumers," said Sen. Mark Pryor, D-Ark., sponsor of

the Senate bill.

Telemarketers pay annual fees of up to \$17,050 and must search the registry every month and drop from call lists the phone numbers of consumers who have registered.

The Congressional Budget Office said the fees will bring in \$107 million over the next five years. Consumers can remove their numbers from the list at any time.

The Senate later approved by a voice vote and sent to the White House a bill, promoted by Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., to make the list permanent, overturning an FTC rule that people re-register their phone numbers every five years. The FTC reasoned that re-registering would update the list to account for people who move and switch their phone numbers. Critics argued that the list is already scrubbed each month of numbers that have been disconnected and reassigned to new customers.

Alaskan villages are short on local police

Remote, poor towns cannot afford adequate law enforcement; state troopers lack enough manpower to be effective

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE — In the four hours it took Alaska State Troopers to arrive at the Eskimo village of Nunam Iqua, a man choked and raped his 13-year-old stepdaughter in front of three younger children. He had already beaten his wife with a shotgun and pistol-whipped a friend after an evening drinking home brew.

Across the remote, frozen reaches of Alaska, scores of native villages have no full-fledged police officers at all. And help in an emergency can be a long way off.

"We're just trying to hang in there," said Edward Adams, mayor of Nunam Iqua.

Alaska's villages are often desperately poor, with people subsisting on hunting and fishing. Many communities cannot afford police forces. At the same time, the Alaska State Troopers don't have the manpower to put officers on patrol in every village.

As a result, when serious crimes are committed, many villages must rely on troopers based in towns far away. And it can take days for help to arrive

if the weather is bad or troopers have more pressing cases.

During the attack in Nunam Iqua more than two years ago, locals in the village of 200 had to call troopers in Bethel, 155 miles away. But the troopers' aircraft was being serviced. So they had to charter a plane to get to the community on Alaska's western coast.

Since then, tribal leaders in the village have hired a single public safety officer. But she has no law enforcement training and is unarmed.

Nunam Iqua and many other villages are also eligible to tap into the state-funded Village Public Safety Officer program and hire what is known as a VPSO, a brown-uniformed peace officer who receives up to 10 weeks of training from the state troopers and carries pepper spray and a Taser, though no gun.

But the turnover rate among VPSOs has been high as 40 percent, because the job is stressful, with low pay and little backup. And many villages can't attract good applicants because of inadequate housing, the low wages and the astronomical cost of liv-

ing in Alaska's remote communities. Nunam Iqua, for example, has no housing to offer a VPSO.

The mayor said there have been several burglaries in the village in recent months and a suspicious fire that badly damaged the tribal office. Those cases have not been solved. Adams said having a VPSO would at least be a deterrent to crime.

"We never have anyone patrolling, and that encourages

young people to steal," he said. "Enforcing the law would be a lot of help."

VPSOs function as all-around emergency responders in remote communities, answering calls about family disputes, drownings, suicides, fires and search and rescues, and protecting crime scenes until troopers arrive. Most VPSOs are natives themselves.

A state task force has taken a long, hard look at the VPSO pro-

gram, created in 1979. The panel released its recommendations last week, calling for hefty raises from the current base pay of \$16.55 an hour to \$21, a boosting of the force from 51 officers to 111 over the next four years, and help in developing housing for them.

Every village with more than 150 residents would get one VPSO. Communities with more than 500 residents would get two.

Across South, tornadoes create mass destruction

Associated Press

LAFAYETTE, Tenn. — One man pulled a couch over his head. Bank employees rushed into the vault. A woman trembled in her bathroom, clinging to her dogs. College students huddled in dormitories.

Tornado warnings had been broadcast for hours, and when the sirens finally announced that the twisters had arrived, many people across the South took shelter and saved their lives. But others simply had nowhere safe to go, or the storms proved too powerful, too numerous, too unpredictable.

At least 54 people were killed and hundreds destroyed Tuesday and Wednesday by dozens of tornadoes that plowed across Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama. It was the nation's deadliest barrage of twisters in almost 23 years.

"We had a beautiful neighborhood. Now it's hell," said Bonnie Brawner, 80, who lives in Hartsville, a community about an hour from Nashville where a natural gas plant that was struck by a twister erupted in spectacular flames up to 400 feet high.

The storms flattened entire streets, smashed warehouses and sent tractor-trailers flying. Houses were reduced to splintered piles of lumber. Some looked like life-size dollhouses, their walls sheared away. Crews going door-to-door to search for bodies had to contend with downed power lines, snapped trees and flipped-over cars. Cattle wandered through the debris near hard-hit Lafayette (pronounced lah-FAY-et). At least 12 people died in and around the town.

"It looks like the Lord took a Brillo pad and scrubbed the ground," said Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen, who surveyed the

damage from a helicopter.

Hundreds of houses were damaged or destroyed. Authorities had no immediate cost estimate of the damage.

President Bush gave assurances his administration stood ready to help. Teams from the Federal Emergency Management Agency were sent to the region and activated an emergency center in Georgia.

"Loss of life, loss of property — prayers can help and so can the government," Bush said. "I do want the people in those states to know the American people are standing with them."

Students took cover in dormitory bathrooms as the storms closed in on Union University in Jackson, Tenn. More than 20 students at the Southern Baptist school were trapped behind wreckage and jammed doors after the dormitories came down around them.

Danny Song was pinned for an hour and a half until rescuers dug him from the rubble.

"We looked up and saw the funnel coming in. We started running and then glass just exploded," he said. "I hit the floor and a couch was shoved up against me, which may have saved my life because the roof fell on top of it."

With five minutes' warning from TV news reports, Nova and Ray Story huddled inside their home outside Lafayette and came out unscathed. But nearby, their uncle, Bill Clark, was injured in his toppled mobile home.

They put him in the bed of their pickup to take him to a hospital, and neighbors with chain saws tried to clear a path. What normally would have been a 30-minute drive to the hospital took well more than two hours because the roads were clogged with debris. Clark died on the way.



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Major League Baseball
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Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 2:15-3:15p.m.

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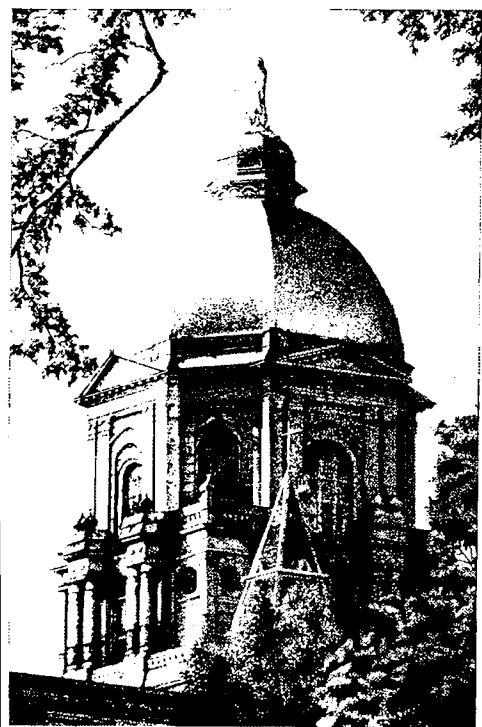
For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Questioning Students at Notre Dame

Thursday, February 7
7:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
316 Coleman-Morse

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

Everyone is welcome and confidentiality is assured.

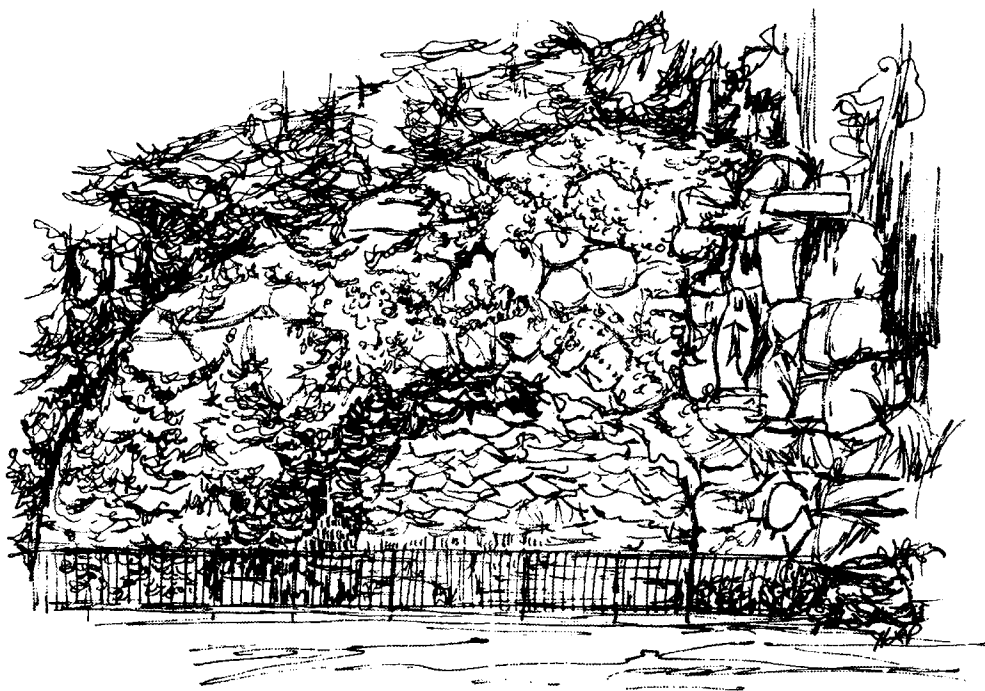




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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8 - WE HONOR THE PATRONESS OF NOTRE DAME

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9 - WE HONOR THE PATRONESS OF OUR COUNTRY

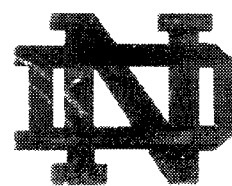
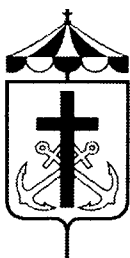


MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11 AT 5:15 PM

**SPECIAL MASS ON THE OCCASION OF
THE SESQUICENTENNIAL
OF THE APPEARANCE OF OUR LADY AT LOURDES**

*FATHER PETER D. ROCCA, C.S.C., PRESIDER
FATHER THEODORE M. HESBURGH, C.S.C., HOMILIST*

“And our hearts forever, love thee Notre Dame”



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

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Maddie Hanna.

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Lighten up, student government

I don't think I've met Bob Reish, Grant Schmidt or George Chamberlain. And the only time I ever met Maris Braun was drunkenly spending my Domer Dollars on a brat at the Stadium, appropriately. She seemed very friendly.

I have nothing against any of them in particular — and, to be honest, I don't think that a vote for one over another will make a substantive difference on my senior year.

But each year, we hit this point of the student government elections and the cult of student government opens its doors to the rest of us and imagines we care to enter. I don't want to repeat the tired argument that student government doesn't matter. That argument has become so tired that campaigns have started to acknowledge it with a superficial distance, as if they aren't part of the sometimes laughably self-contained irrelevance that student groups — the student government, The Observer, the Society of Women Engineers — all suffer.

My critique of student government isn't that simple. It's not that I think that student government can't make a difference — it can, for sure. It's the painful seriousness with which most candidates seem to take themselves.

It's an easy mistake to make, and one of which I am guilty too. I'm so self-important that I feel compelled to publish my thoughts every other week. There are times when I approach this column the same way our candidates approach this election, as if my choice of words about Hillary Clinton, Larry Craig, or Father Jenkins (now there's a threesome) consistently matter to people besides my mom and whichever person on campus has a vested interest in the column. I try to rectify that with an ironic self-awareness (and, apparently, a self-awareness about that

self-awareness).

(And now I'm so caught up in myself that I spent an entire paragraph — heck, an entire column — suggesting that I have the solution).

There are two serious pairs of candidates this year — I'll give Giants-over-the-Pats odds (note: this paragraph was written before Sunday evening) to anybody who bets on anybody besides Maris and George or Bob and Grant. But both campaigns — especially Bob and Grant's — border on self-parody.

Maris Braun and George Chamberlain can take us "from tradition to innovation-exceeding expectations." Please.

And their Web site: "We come to you today with a simple goal of exceeding the expectations, needs, and desires of this student body because, quite frankly, most of the issues that affect a freshman in Carol, a senior in Zahm, a sophomore in PW, or a 5th year architect student off-campus affect us, too."

Maris and George, representative of the Notre Dame student body, know that they can best represent "Carol" (yes, Carol) Hall. They can also represent Dylan. And Louis.

But Bob and Grant are the worst offenders. From everything I've heard, Bob Reish is a really nice kid. He's a really nice kid who really wants to be student body president. He's a really nice kid who really wants to be student body president and apparently doesn't understand that his campaign makes it shamelessly look like he really wants to be student body president. He and his running mate, Grant Schmidt, created bobandgrant.com (also registered under reishandschmidt.com). One of my friends who drinks gallons of the student government Kool-Aid thought it was a great idea — a catchy Web site that everybody remembers "better than squiggly mbraun3 or whatever."

Bobandgrant.com makes me want to vomit, and I haven't even had any Kool-Aid. Just by investing in "bobandgrant.com," they've gone above and beyond what anybody reasonably thinks you should for a student government election.

Rudy Giuliani didn't even invest in RudyGiuliani.com when he was running for a somewhat more important presidential position.

But Bob and Grant didn't stop there. Look at bobandgrant.com. First, you go through the entry screen, which (if you haven't been lucky enough to see it) somewhat resembles the sort of "Click Here to Enter" image that you might see on the Web site of the Bellagio. But it gets worse.

After you Click There to Enter, you're greeted with a large picture of Bob and Grant together, in shirts and ties, with their arms folded like Stephen Colbert might mockingly do in the intro to the Colbert Report. And the background for the picture? Amber and gold leaves. This picture was probably taken before fall break.

That's right, their self-named Web site reveals that they were planning their student government campaign in September or so. Ugh.

The campaign's slogan is "bridging the gap." Catchy, yes. Nonsensical, too. Bridging the gap between what? This year's student government leadership and next year's? More campaigns like this a year from now?

GrantandInsertSophomoreHere.com?

That appearance of self-importance is what makes things like last year's difference-making votes for "Abstain" funny—it allows outsiders to make fun of the insiders, to beat them at their own game and undermine it.

But Bob, Grant, Maris and George, don't overreact to this. To do so would be symptomatic of what I just described. After all, this is just a column in The Observer. Nobody really cares.

Andrew Nesi is a junior American Studies major from Fairfield, Conn. In his younger and more foolish years, he convinced one of his friends to drink a single-serving container of maple syrup for a dollar. He can be reached at anesi@nd.edu.

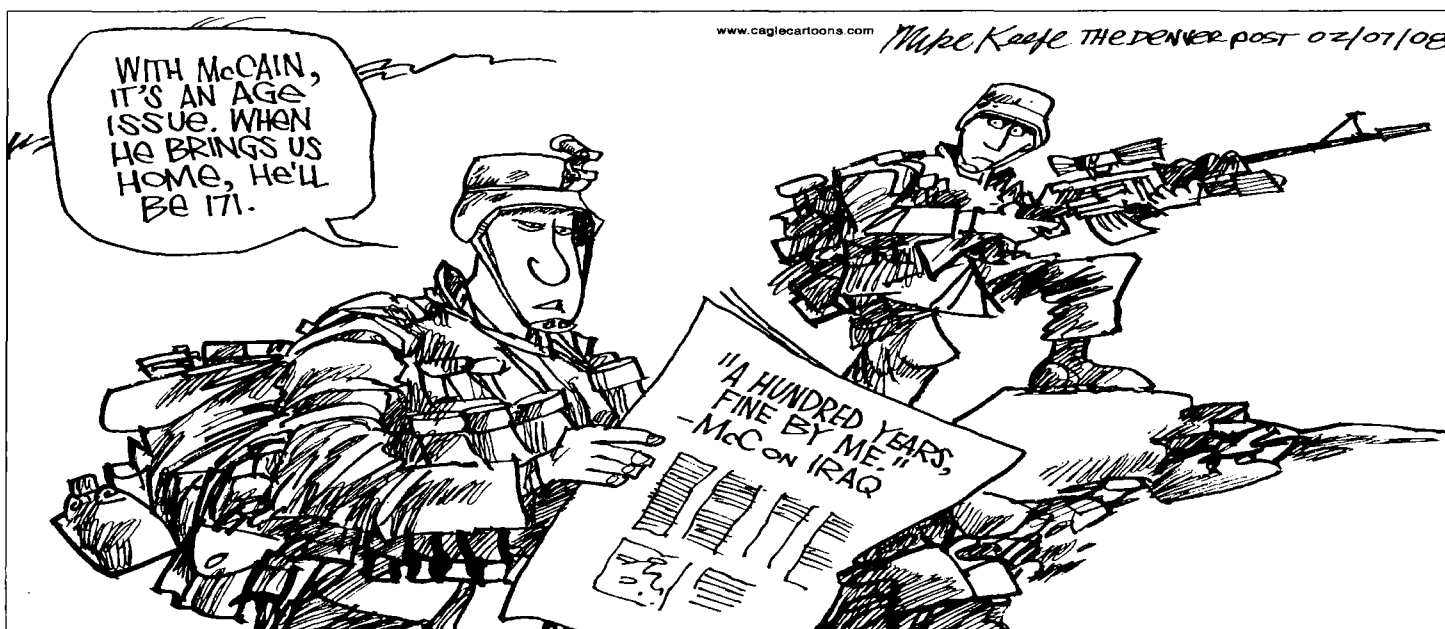
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Andrew Nesi

Spicy Sea
Nuggets

EDITORIAL CARTOON



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OBSERVER POLL

What was your favorite Super Bowl commercial?
Budweiser Clydesdales
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Bridgestone Squirrel

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m. at
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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"No man is justified in doing evil on the grounds of expediency."

Theodore Roosevelt
president

If Lent is the answer, what was the question?

It is a Gospel scene made for prime-time TV — the confrontation between Jesus and Satan in the desert, which serves as the climax of Jesus' forty days of preparation before beginning his public ministry. It is the Scriptural basis of our season of Lent. But the story actually begins much earlier....

Fr. Lou DeFra

Faithpoint

Our Lenten story begins in Eden — in Paradise, where everything is perfect. Plenty of food, animals like each other, Adam and Eve have no quarrels or jealousy, and all live in peace.

Then, an apple later — and Paradise is suddenly lost. How did it end? If Lent is part of the solution, then what was the problem? If we are to live Lent well, it is good to understand the reality it is helping us respond to.

This is what the beginning of Genesis tries to teach us. There is an evil force in the world — symbolized by the Serpent — that leads Adam and Eve out of Paradise. It is the force responsible for what we call temptation — and Lent is a response to the challenge of temptation.

So how were Adam and Eve tempted? The first temptation is simply this: the serpent says to Adam and Eve, "Look how nice that apple looks! Wouldn't you feel better, more full of life, if you just had that apple?"

As a human being, you wish we had gotten thrown off by something a little more complicated — a real twisted plot that the serpent had to plan late into the night. But

no — just "Hey, check out the apple. Wouldn't it feel good to eat that apple? It's so much energy to resist the apple. Wouldn't it be easier to just eat it and get it over with? If God didn't want you to eat that apple, why would he have made it look so good in the first place? And why would he have given you this desire to eat it? If you desire it, then it's yours."

It's not difficult to see why a lot of commentators on Genesis describe the first sin as a sexual sin — because the first thing the serpent uses to divert us is our appetites, our human desires. But, it seems to me, the heart of the sin wasn't sexual. Really, it was thinking that just because we want something, it's therefore our right to have it. That is, the sin seems to be thinking that the world was created just for me.

There's an apple. I want the apple. Therefore, the apple's mine. That's the first temptation.

The second and third temptations then follow from this first one. In the second temptation, the Serpent says to Adam and Eve, "If you eat this apple, you will become like God." And the third is, "If you eat it, you will know what is good and what is evil." That is to say, "If you eat it, you become the one who makes the rules for how the world is ordered. You become God."

What is it that has led us human beings off the right road? What is it that messes up our Paradise? As I read Genesis, it is this: replacing God's will with our will. Or, as St. Augustine wrote, "The root of all sin is pride" — removing God from the center of the universe, and placing ourselves

there.

Well, it all seems pretty depressing — if only because it all seems only too familiar. In many ways, we succumb to this temptation all the time.

And yet, there is a way out. There is cause for hope.

The Gospels announce the birth of Jesus. Then, immediately, Jesus is grown, and follows the Spirit into the desert, where he encounters the Serpent. And where Adam failed, Jesus triumphs.

As the story unfolds, it is not surprising to see that the Serpent hasn't changed much. He tempts Jesus with the same three temptations. He begins with our appetites, our most basic human desires. "Take these stones and turn them into bread. Relieve your hunger. Use what's in the world for what you want, for satisfaction."

But Jesus refuses: "We do not live by bread alone, but on the Word of God. We do not live merely according to our human desires, but according to a much deeper desire to hear God's will for our lives, and to follow it."

A second time, Satan says, "Cast yourself down and let the angels save you." It is the serpent in the garden, whispering in our ear, "Become like God. Do what you wish. You are God. You are at the center of the universe. Everything will reconfigure itself according to what you want. Be petty. Use others. Everything and everybody else will rearrange themselves to accommodate you." That's temptation.

And in the third temptation, Satan comes clean. No more hiding his intent: "Worship

me and the whole universe is yours." It is the Serpent again: "Eat this apple, and all the secrets of the universe are yours."

Jesus' answer: "The Lord alone is God. God alone shall you serve." It is a simple, yet powerful assertion, a profession of faith, that God is at the center of the Universe, ordering and guiding all things. True happiness — the restoration of Paradise — comes in allowing our will to be aligned with God's.

Of course, this is sometimes hard to fulfill. In fact, only one human has ever accomplished it totally. So we ought not try this at home on our own!

Rather, let Christ live within us. Stay faithful to Christ. As St. Paul writes, "In the sin of Adam, we have all become lost. But in the righteousness of Christ, we have all been saved."

Lent is about far more than what we give up, although that often seems to attract most of our attention. In Lent, we fast and sacrifice for a reason — to try, in the midst of our human shortcomings and sometimes overeager attachments, to enter more fully and freely into a living relationship with Christ. This Lent, give up what you will — but do so that you might be freer to put on Christ. He is the way back to Paradise. He is the answer to the deepest questions of our life.

Father Lou DeFra is the director of Bible studies in the Office of Campus Ministry. He can be reached at delfra.2@nd.edu.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The passing of a true legend

Amidst the excitement and hubbub of the Super Bowl, Super Tuesday, and even National Letter of Intent Day, Notre Dame lost one of its quiet giants on Monday morning, with the passing of Father Arthur S. Harvey, at the ripe old age of 97.

Father Harvey, or "Father Art" as he was known to thousands of his students, passed away peacefully at Holy Cross House, where he spent some tough final years of his life both bed ridden and unable to eat solid food. And yet, his spirit was lively to the end, and his legacy as one of the great priests of Notre Dame will forever remain.

Father Art spent over 60 years of his life at Notre Dame, and is largely responsible for the acclaim and prestige that the theater department enjoys today. His productions in Washington Hall were reviewed the world over, and his close friendships with Broadway legend Helen Hayes, Notre Dame alumnus Phil Donahue and others are well known. He even came out of retirement one last time in 1989 to direct a revival of his most acclaimed production, Arthur Miller's "Death of a Salesman."

Several years ago the University Fathers honored Father Art by creating the Arthur S. Harvey award for Theater Excellence. It was something of which he was especially proud in his final years, as he would mentor up and coming theater students and priests right from his bed. But more than just awards, Father Harvey will be, and should be remembered, as the very embodiment of a priest — a counselor, a mentor, a friend, and an instructor. His legions of theater students, many going on to great acclaim on stage and screen, would tell you of his insistence on getting the best of his people, his unbending demands for excellence, and his encouragement and guidance, that for most people, lasted well beyond their four years at Notre Dame.

I was lucky enough to know another side of Father Harvey — that of a family friend as well. His "halftime" Masses, given in our kitchen and living room during Notre Dame football games, became legendary around our house and among my visiting friends and roommates. But it was a prayer that he always prayed aloud during the list of intentions that has stuck with me all these years, and tells you most about the man: "Father," he would intercede, "we add our prayers for one person, somewhere, who needs your help more than anything right now. Someone who is alone, who is struggling, and who doesn't know where to turn. Only you know who that person is. We ask you to be with that person right now, and give them your comfort and blessings, and have them know that you are with them." That was Father Harvey.

His funeral Mass will be held in the Basilica next Monday afternoon. If you are walking by, to or from class, and hear the bells toll, be happy, for we will be inside celebrating the wonderful life of a true Notre Dame man.

Godspeed Father Harvey!

Guy Weismantel

alumnus

Class of 1990

Feb. 6

Stop the climate change propaganda

Professor Darcia Narvaez makes a statement in her column ("A call to conserve," Feb. 5) that manmade global climate change will be "profoundly affecting the survival of most if not all planetary life forms" if immediate action is not taken to stabilize emissions of greenhouse gas equivalent. That climate change could cause the extinction of most or all species on the planet is a very frightening prospect, to be sure, but is it grounded in fact?

A cursory survey of available evidence from previous climatic shifts, 20th century warming and studies on the effects of warming on species reveal that the professor's statement is actually nothing more than fearmongering.

First, consider the observations from the 20th century. If climate change will cause unprecedented extinctions across all variations of life, then one would expect that the 0.7 degrees Celsius of warming observed empirically in the 20th century would have definitively caused at least a few extinctions.

However, a Chris D. Thomas survey in 2004 found that global climatic shifts have caused one extinction (that of the Golden Toad of Costa Rica). That global warming should be implicated in so few extinctions is surprising, especially when one considers that Thomas' survey actively sought to implicate global warming in extinctions.

Furthermore, some evidence suggests that even that estimate may have been an overestimate. If warming has caused at maximum one extinction in the 20th century, claims that warming this century will threaten all life on Earth are highly suspect.

Secondly, to state that manmade

warming will threaten the very existence life on the planet is inconsistent with historical data. Most species extant today have existed for at least one million years, and during this period species had to endure climate events ranging from the Holocene Climate Optimum (with temperatures warmer than IPCC estimates for 2100) to the ice ages to the shutdown of the Gulf Stream.

To claim that modern species that adapted to past climate changes will suddenly become completely unable to adapt to modern changes is absurd. A wide body of evidence suggests that the net effect of warming on biodiversity is not negative.

Surveys of many plants, animals and fungi find that warming overall expands their ranges of livable habitats, as the Northern boundary expands and the Southern boundary remains more or less constant. This growth in habitat predicted by warming should, if anything, expand biodiversity, not destroy all life on earth.

In conclusion, based on a wide range of evidence (some not mentioned in this letter due to length), Professor Narvaez's claim that CO2-induced warming will threaten life on the planet is nothing more than fearmongering.

I do not disagree with the professor's endorsements of alternative energy investment or individual energy conservation, as both produce long-term and short-term benefits, but her use of wildly exaggerated fear-driven claims is unacceptable.

Matt Gore

sophomore

Stanford Hall

Feb. 5

Disastrous deal brings Shaq Daddy to the desert

SCENE AND HEARD

By T. EDWARD ANDREWS
Scene Editor

One of my roommates has a large Chevy Suburban with about 200,000 miles on it. It's a gas-guzzling monstrosity which barely gets around and frequently breaks down. Just the other day it suffered a flat tire and is currently out of commission. Simply put, the Suburban is on its last legs.

According to ESPN.com, the Phoenix Suns have agreed to a deal with the Miami Heat in which they would trade forward Shawn Marion and guard Marcus Banks for one Shaquille O'Neal. The only thing holding up the swap is the completion of the necessary paperwork and for O'Neal to complete a requisite physical.

Sounds like a good deal for the Suns, right? Pair the star power of incumbent point guard Steve Nash with the man known as Shaq Daddy, then sit back, enjoy the show and fit everyone for rings come June, right?

Not so fast. Here's where the Suburban comes in: the 2008 version of Shaq is not the slam-dunking, chest-thumping world beater of yore. He's a banged-up sloppy jalopy with a lot of mileage on the odometer (turns 36 in March; 14 seasons) and a cash-guzzling contract. He's already missed 14 games this season due to injury. How many miles does the Diesel have left in his size-21 tires?

The Suns may think they're getting a supernova, but they're really just getting a dying dwarf star. Shaq has been imploding during his recent years on the Miami Heat, his once-prodigious numbers shrinking to a shell of their former self while his waistline expands. They're not getting a superstar, they're getting a planet of a center with the mass of Jupiter and an even larger contract (two years, \$40 million left on the deal after this season).

And good luck running a fun 'n' gun offense based on fast break points and hustle and bustle with O'Neal in the middle. It's safe to say that no one has ever mistaken Shaq for a fitness freak, and unless he has been keeping up a secret midnight regimen of running windsprints, it would appear the Nash and company will leave him sucking wind and eating dust in the desert. You might as well force Steve Nash to play with ankle weights. Having Shaq on the Suns is the equivalent of my roommate selling the Suburban

to Vin Diesel for use in the potential sequel "The Fast and the Furious: 4 Sure."

Whatever you may think of his hideous shooting form, there can be no denying that Shawn Marion made for a perfect fit with the Suns' high-octane, fast-paced brand of basketball. He fit with Coach Mike D'Antoni's style of play. Shaq doesn't.

At 34-14, the Suns have the best record. Whatever happened to if it ain't broke, don't fix it?

More than anything else, the trade may reflect a philosophical change in the Phoenix Suns. With two-time MVP Steve Nash running the show, the Suns of the 21st century have put on an up-tempo scoring show, known for furious fast breaks and the quick-strike scoring of "small ball." However, despite the presence of the Great White North American Hope (Steve Nash hails from Canada), Leandro Barbosa (the 2006-07 NBA Sixth Man of the Year) and All-Stars Marion and Amare Stoudemire, the small-balling Suns haven't managed to find a way to break through against the stifling defense of the four-time San Antonio Spurs, led by Hall of Fame power forward Tim Duncan.

After whiffing on an opportunity to pick up Kevin Garnett last off-season (and seeing his subsequent success with the Boston Celtics), perhaps Phoenix is trying to pick up Shaq to use as the anti-Duncan and other giants out west. Phoenix president of basketball operations and general manager Steve Kerr played on two championship teams with the Spurs, so perhaps the trade is a concession on Phoenix's part that the Suns will have to focus on defense and interior post play in order to get past the Western Conference Finals so they can beat the snot out of whoever comes out of the East in the championship round. If you can't beat 'em, join 'em — or at least try to imitate their brand of basketball.

Of course, Shaq might slim down, shape up and reinvent the artist formerly known as Shaq Fu as a svelte gazelle running the floor for easy buckets off Steve Nash dimes. It just doesn't seem likely. As a player, Steve Kerr was known for his smooth outside shooting stroke. As a general manager, it looks like he bricked this one.

Contact T. Edward Andrews at tandrew1@nd.edu

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

PHOENIX

SUNS



MATT HUDSON | Observer Graphic

IRISH INSIDER

Thursday, February 7, 2008

THE
OBSERVER



HELP ON THE WAY

Despite a 3-9 season,
Charlie Weis signs one
of the nation's top
recruiting classes.

COMMENTARY

ND, Weis back on the right track — for now

Notre Dame coach Charlie Weis showed up at his National Signing Day press conference with ashes on his forehead, but he has already had his 40 days of suffering — 13 weeks, to be more accurate.

Ash Wednesday must have felt more like Easter for Weis — a rebirth of his team after last year's 3-9 campaign. The coaches

and players drew criticism from the media and the fans throughout last season, and, even though he would never admit it, Weis had to feel that pressure: allegations that he wasted the summer on the wrong quarterback, that he was too conservative offensively, that the spark that got him the honorific "offensive genius" had somehow fizzled out.

After Wednesday, Weis has the chance to silence all his critics.

Now he has the chance to create his football team in his image. One excuse Weis sympathizers used last season is that Weis had to make do with "Ty's Guys" and that his recruits were too young and inexperienced to make an immediate impact.

That won't be the case in 2008, with the roster now almost completely filled with players Weis recruited.

Weis said he felt this recruiting class was perfect in filling the holes he thought his team had.

"If you had told me the number

was 23, how many of each position you want, that was the most significant part, to not only bring in good players but to fill a bunch of holes," Weis said.

What this means is simple: Notre Dame had better be good next year.

The true fans paid their dues and then some during last year's embarrassment (by anyone's standards, and especially at a place with as much history as Notre Dame) and deserve to be rewarded with a good season next fall. The 2008 season should bring a rejuvenated offense and a much better defense — in no small part thanks to the recruits.

The general theme of Wednesday's news conference was versatility. Corners who can hit like safeties. Defensive ends who are fast enough to play linebacker. Offensive linemen who can play all five spots.

More so than filling specific holes, Weis needed to use this recruiting class to adapt Notre Dame to his offensive scheme and especially defensive coordinator Corwin Brown's 3-4 defense.

Last season, a lot of players had to switch positions and adapt to the 3-4 with mixed results. Defensive end Trevor Laws dominated on the strong side and Maurice Crum and Joe Brockington looked very comfortable as the inside linebackers.

But Notre Dame was completely devoid of a solid outside linebacking corps for most of the season. Anthony Vernaglia and John Ryan finished some games without a single tackle despite playing a significant number of



Photo courtesy of Marian Catholic Central High School
Notre Dame defensive line recruit Sean Cwynar, left, knocks an opponent to the ground during a game last fall for Marian Catholic Central High School in Woodstock, Ill.

downs and Kerry Neal and Brian Smith were too inexperienced to make a real impact until late in the season.

But with guys like Darius Fleming at outside linebacker and Brandon Newman as a true nose tackle, the defense should considerably improve.

Offensively, Notre Dame plugged a lot of holes on the offensive line, notably center and guard. Trevor Robinson towered over high school defensive line-

men, abusing them on every down. Soon, Weis hopes he will be able to do that in college.

Center Braxton Cave can both snap and block, a combination that was missing for most of last season.

Added weapons at receiver (Michael Floyd and John Goodman) and running back (Jonas Gray) should make the offense more potent while Dayne Crist might force Jimmy Clausen to get better this spring or lose

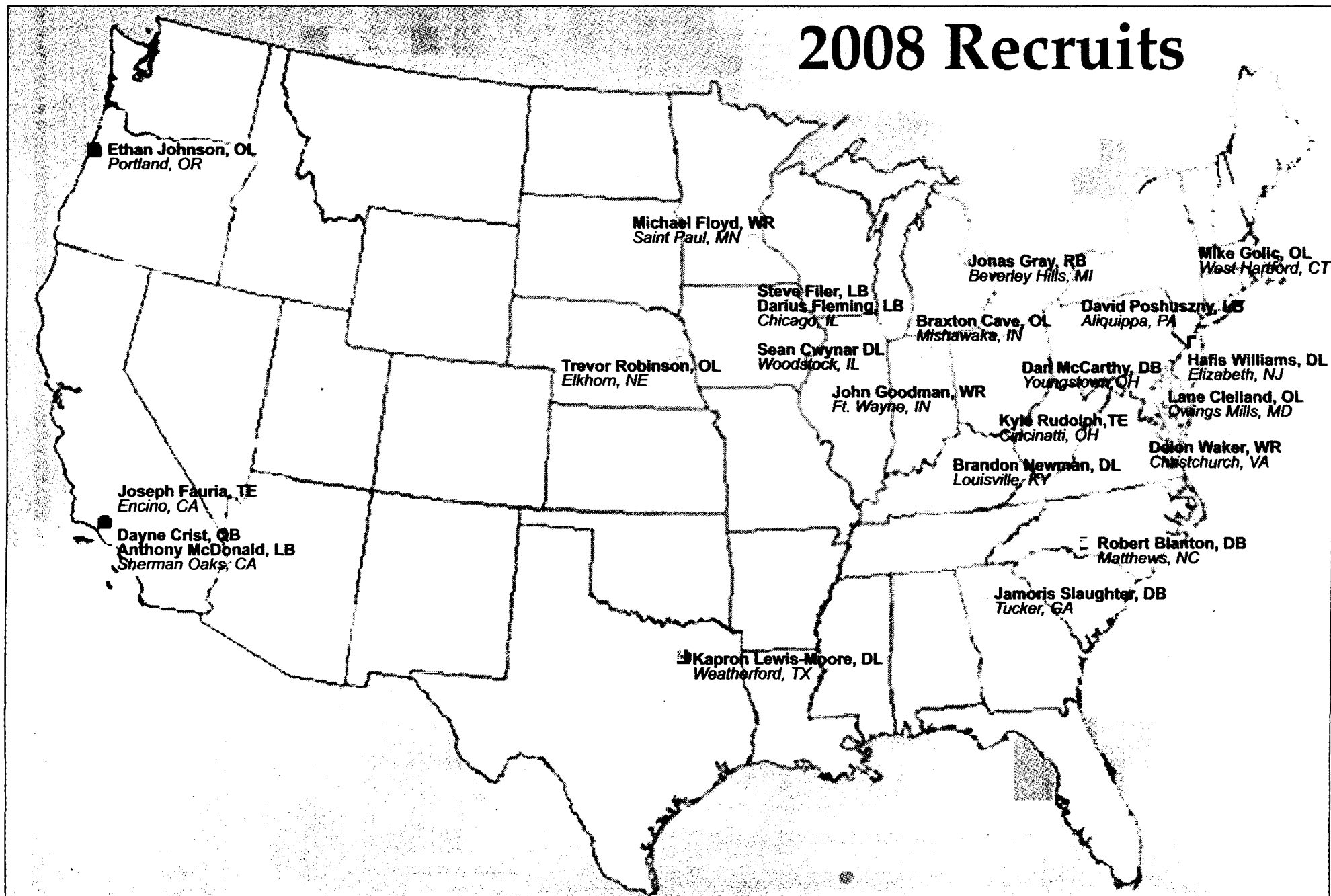
his job — and will almost certainly hold down the quarterback position after 2010.

These added recruits have changed the makeup of the Irish roster. Now let's see if they can change the results.

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

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2008 Recruits



Cavalry arrives

Irish rebuilding process continues with 23 signees; Weis concentrates on filling holes at defensive line, linebacker

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Editor

On the field, Notre Dame's 2007 season was a disaster. But experts say Charlie Weis' recruiting haul, which was finalized Wednesday, was a major success.

Twenty-three players faxed their national letters of intent to Weis Wednesday morning — 11 on offense and 12 on defense.

The Irish filled holes in their depth chart, especially at defensive line, linebacker and tight end, and took another step toward replenishing a roster that, until two years ago, had been decimated by sub-par recruiting and attrition.

"These guys really understood or bought into Notre Dame and what Notre Dame is all about, what we were representing and what we're trying to get done," Weis said at his press conference Wednesday to announce the class.

Weis hit the recruiting trail hard last spring. By August, he had 18 recruits verbally committed. Seventeen of those players signed with the Irish Wednesday.

"I think that you've got to give a lot of credit to these young men for the intestinal fortitude that they've showed, because as we know, our performance on the field this year was far below expectations and far below average," Weis said. "And try being those guys that are walking into their school and walking into the grocery stores in their hometowns, and everyone says, 'You're going to Notre Dame? Why are you going to Notre Dame?'"

Notre Dame signed at least one player in every major offensive and defensive category, but it did not sign any kickers.

Quarterback

With rising sophomore Jimmy Clausen and rising senior Evan Sharpley on the roster with starting experience, quarterback was not a major position of need for the Irish. But Weis still went after one of the nation's best, signing

Dayne Crist out of Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks, Calif.

In his senior season, Crist threw for more than 2,100 yards and 16 touchdowns with just one interception.

But Weis said the best thing about Crist was his intangibles.

"One of the biggest things is that special leadership that he can show on or off the field," the coach said.

Weis said Crist was one of the main reasons the recruiting class held together despite the bad season. Before even setting foot on campus, the players rallied around their quarterback.

"He did a great job of keeping everyone else along for the ride," Weis said.

Running back

Running back is one of Notre Dame's deepest positions right now, with three backs — rising sophomore Robert Hughes, rising sophomore Armando Allen and rising junior James Aldridge — with starting experience from last season.

Weis signed one more back to go with this trio: Jonas Gray out of Detroit Country Day High School in Beverly Hills, Mich.

Gray rushed for more than 2,600 yards in his senior season at Country Day.

"They kept feeding it to him and he'd keep on producing," Weis said.

Wide receiver

Notre Dame lacked big plays from its wide receiver corps in 2007. Its longest pass play of the season was just 25 yards. To remedy this, Weis brought in three wide receivers in the 2008 class.

The coach compared John Goodman, out of Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne, Ind., to former Irish All-American wide receiver Jeff Samardzija.

"He has a lot of the same man-nerisms," Weis said.

Michael Floyd, out of Cretin-Durham Hall High School in Saint Paul, Minn., is already a budding

Notre Dame star after catching a long touchdown pass from Crist in the U.S. Army All-American Bowl all-star game in San Antonio, Texas.

In the ensuing celebration, Floyd and Crist yelled "Notre Dame baby! Get used to it!" into NBC's cameras.

Deion Walker, from the Christchurch School in Christchurch, Va., was rumored to be having trouble deciding between Notre Dame and Penn State as recently as Tuesday night. But he faxed in his letter of intent Wednesday morning as planned.

Tight ends

With the suspension of rising junior Will Yeatman, Notre Dame is extremely thin at the tight end position. Rising sophomore Mike Ragone is the only scholarship player left at this position.

Into the void step two new players from the 2008 recruiting class: Kyle Rudolph of Elder High School in Cincinnati and Steve Fauria of Crespi Carmelite High School in Encino, Calif.

Rudolph is ranked the No. 1 tight end in the country by Scout.com. He had 37 catches for 673 yards and 11 touchdowns his senior season.

Fauria is the nephew of NFL tight end Christian Fauria, who played for Weis with the New England Patriots. The younger Fauria stands 6-foot-7 and weighs 250 pounds.

"This is one big muchacho," Weis said.

Offensive line

Notre Dame returns all five offensive line starters from its wins over Duke and Stanford to end last season, but the front wall performed poorly for much of last year. To bolster this unit, Weis signed four players.

Mike Golic Jr. the son of former Irish defensive lineman and current ESPN personality Mike Golic, was the first player to commit to the 2008 class. At 6-foot-5, 265 pounds, he will have to gain weight to contribute as a full-time lineman, but his long-snapping skills will give him an opportunity to start on special teams immediately.

Braxton Cave, from Penn High School in Mishawaka, Ind., is rated the No. 1 center prospect in the country by Scout.com. Like Crist, the 6-foot-3, 292-pounder was influential in keeping the class together through the 3-9 season.

Cave, who grew up just minutes from Notre Dame, repeatedly hosted other recruits at his home.

"His mom, I don't know how many pasta dinners she's made, but it seems like every time everyone comes in town, they're all hanging at Braxton's house," Weis said. "His parents have been great. They've opened their doors."

Weis said that Lane Clelland, out of McDonough High School in Owings Mills, Md., is slated as an offensive tackle. Clelland is currently undersized at 6-foot-5, 270 pounds, but Weis said weight gain should not be a problem.

"He has to stay under 275 pounds because over 275 they don't let you wrestle, so it's kind of kept his weight down," Weis said. "I don't think you have to worry about him being a big man, because he will be."

Trevor Robinson, out of Elkhorn High School in Elkhorn, Neb., has already enrolled at

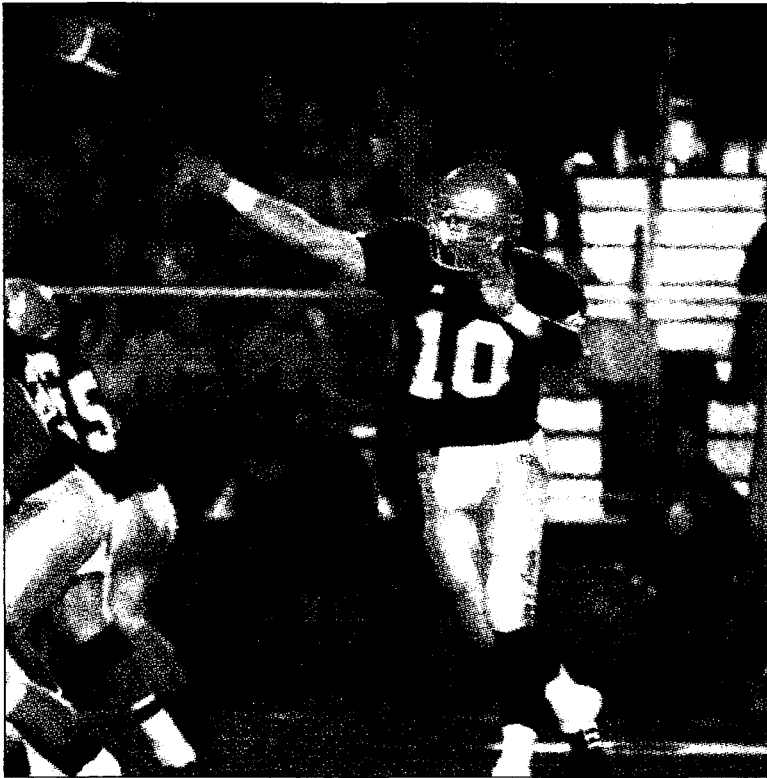


Photo Courtesy Notre Dame High School
Notre Dame quarterback recruit Dayne Crist lets a pass fly during a game for Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks, Calif.

Notre Dame. At 6-foot-5, 304 pounds, he has the size to contribute right away.

"He's a big man when you see him," Weis said. "He doesn't look like a freshman when you see him walking around."

Defensive linemen

The defensive line was Weis' No. 1 priority in recruiting this year. Even though defensive coordinator Corwin Brown's system only calls for three defensive linemen on the field at a time, Notre Dame will struggle to field even that many for the spring game. That will all change next fall, when five highly regarded freshmen suit up.

Although Ethan Johnson, of Lincoln High School in Portland, Ore., missed most of his senior year with an injury, he was still rated a 5-star prospect by Scout.com.

Kapron Lewis-Moore, out of Weatherford High School in Weatherford, Texas, was the last player to commit to Weis and the Irish. Most sources had him headed to Texas A&M, but Wednesday morning he officially switched to Notre Dame and sent in his letter of intent.

At the defensive end position, Notre Dame signed three players. Sean Cwynar, out of Marian Central Catholic High School in Woodstock, Ill., was named Mr. Football in his home state his senior year.

"He's really a versatile player who I see who can play as an inside player because he's big enough," Weis said. "He's also an outside player, because he's strong enough and athletic enough."

Hafis Williams, of Elizabeth High School in Elizabeth, N.J., and Brandon Newman of Pleasure Ridge Park High School in Louisville, Ky., will fill a position that Notre Dame is in desperate need of — nose guard.

When Notre Dame switched to the 3-4 at the beginning of the 2007 season, it only had one true nose guard on the roster, freshman Ian Williams.

Junior Pat Kuntz filled the position despite a less-than-ideal weight, but his status for next year is uncertain, making Williams and Newman even more important.

Linebackers

Linebacker was another posi-

tion of need for Notre Dame in this class. The Irish signed four — two middle linebackers, one outside linebacker, and one who could play either.

Anthony McDonald, a high school teammate of Crist's, and David Posluszny, of Hopewell High School in Aliquippa, Penn., will play in the middle.

Weis managed to pull both of them away from family favorites. Posluszny's older brother, Paul, was a standout at Penn State, while McDonald's father played at Southern California.

Darius Fleming, of Saint Rita High School in Chicago, will play on the outside in Brown's 3-4. In addition to football, Fleming was a varsity bowler in high school and once bowled a 300 game, Weis said.

Steve Filer, of Mount Carmel High School in Chicago, could play either inside or out, Weis said.

"This was one of the guys we earmarked back when he was a sophomore, and we've been working on this for quite some time, and we're happy to have him," the coach said.

Defensive backs

Notre Dame's pass defense was one of the few bright spots last season, but Weis still targeted several defensive backs, landing three.

Robert Blanton, of Butler High School in Matthews, N.C., and Jamoris Slaughter, of Tucker High School in Tucker, Ga., can play either cornerback or safety, versatility that Weis said he was looking for in this year's secondary recruits.

"We were looking for some safety types that had that corner cover ability," Weis said.

Dan McCarthy, of Cardinal Mooney High School in Youngstown, Ohio, is a pure safety prospect. He is the brother of Irish rising senior safety Kyle McCarthy.

Weis said he would have no qualms about playing the brothers together if necessary.

"As I told him, there's two guys that play safety so there's no rule that says we couldn't have you out there at the same time," Weis said.




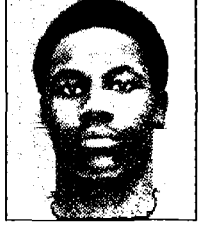






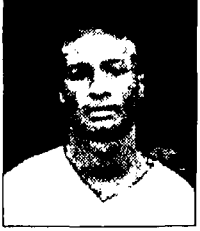


Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

Top 10 Recruiting Classes

According to Scout.com

School	# Recruits	Avg. star rating*
Alabama	32	3.56
Notre Dame	23	3.96
Miami (FL)	33	3.33
Georgia	23	3.70
LSU	26	3.50
Ohio State	19	3.84
Michigan	24	3.54
Florida State	26	3.42
UCLA	23	3.65
Clemson	26	3.35

* Out of a possible five stars per recruit

 <p>6'1" 175 lbs</p> <p>Butler HS Matthews, N.C.</p> <p>Robert Blanton <i>Defensive Back</i></p>	 <p>6'3" 292 lbs</p> <p>Penn HS Mishawaka, Ind.</p> <p>Braxton Cave <i>Offensive Line</i></p>	 <p>6'5" 265 lbs</p> <p>McDonough HS Owings Mills, Md.</p> <p>Lane Clelland <i>Offensive Line</i></p>	 <p>6'5" 225 lbs</p> <p>Notre Dame HS Sherman Oaks, Calif.</p> <p>Dayne Crist <i>Quarterback</i></p>
 <p>6'4" 283 lbs</p> <p>Marian Cath. HS Woodstock, Ill.</p> <p>Sean Cwynar <i>Defensive Line</i></p>	 <p>6'7" 250 lbs</p> <p>Crespi HS Encino, Calif.</p> <p>Joseph Fauria <i>Tight End</i></p>	 <p>6'4" 220 lbs</p> <p>Mt. Carmel HS Chicago, Ill.</p> <p>Steve Filer <i>Linebacker</i></p>	 <p>6'2" 230 lbs</p> <p>St. Rita HS Chicago, Ill.</p> <p>Darius Fleming <i>Linebacker</i></p>
 <p>6'3" 200 lbs</p> <p>Cretin-DH HS St. Paul, N.C.</p> <p>Michael Floyd <i>Wide Receiver</i></p>	 <p>6'5" 265 lbs</p> <p>NW Cath. HS W. Hartford, Conn.</p> <p>Mike Golic, Jr. <i>Offensive Line</i></p>	 <p>6'3" 186 lbs</p> <p>Dwenger HS Ft. Wayne, Ind.</p> <p>John Goodman <i>Wide Receiver</i></p>	 <p>5'11" 214 lbs</p> <p>Country Day HS Beverly Hills, Mich.</p> <p>Jonas Gray <i>Running Back</i></p>
 <p>6'4" 265 lbs</p> <p>Lincoln HS Portland, Ore.</p> <p>Ethan Johnson <i>Defensive Line</i></p>	 <p>6'4" 230 lbs</p> <p>Weatherford HS Weatherford, Texas</p> <p>Kapron Lewis-Moore <i>Defensive Line</i></p>	 <p>6'2" 190 lbs</p> <p>Mooney HS Youngstown, Ohio</p> <p>Dan McCarthy <i>Defensive Back</i></p>	 <p>6'3" 220 lbs</p> <p>Notre Dame HS Sherman Oaks, Calif.</p> <p>Anthony McDonald <i>Linebacker</i></p>
 <p>6'1" 305 lbs</p> <p>P.R.P. HS Louisville, Ky.</p> <p>Brandon Newman <i>Defensive Line</i></p>	 <p>6'2" 214 lbs</p> <p>Hopewell HS Aliquippa, Penn.</p> <p>David Posluszny <i>Linebacker</i></p>	 <p>6'5" 304 lbs</p> <p>Elkhorn HS Elkhorn, Neb.</p> <p>Trevor Robinson <i>Offensive Line</i></p>	 <p>6'7" 235 lbs</p> <p>Elder HS Cincinnati, Ohio</p> <p>Kyle Rudolph <i>Tight End</i></p>
 <p>6'1" 180 lbs</p> <p>Tucker HS Tucker, Ga.</p> <p>Jamoris Slaughter <i>Defensive Back</i></p>	 <p>6'3" 185 lbs</p> <p>Christchurch HS Christchurch, Va.</p> <p>Deion Walker <i>Wide Receiver</i></p>	 <p>6'4" 295 lbs</p> <p>Elizabeth HS Elizabeth, N.J.</p> <p>Hafis Williams <i>Defensive Line</i></p>	<p>Position Breakdown</p> <p>1 Quarterback 1 Running Back 2 Tight Ends 3 Wide Receivers 4 Offensive Linemen 5 Defensive Linemen 4 Linebackers 3 Defensive Backs</p>

'Sawdust' leftovers hold off hunger pangs

CD REVIEW

By JAMES COSTA
Assistant Scene Editor

Not quite the Killers' third album, "Sawdust" is a compilation of b-sides, covers and outtakes garnered from sessions recorded for the band's previous two albums — "Hot Fuss" and "Sam's Town."

Like the gesture of other bands who offer recordings that never saw the light of day on an official release, the record seems geared more toward the real fans of the band who've been waiting to hear tracks and demos ever since the smashing debut of "Hot Fuss."

Surprisingly, the CD holds up quite well on its own merits. While it does not have the flow or arch seen on "Hot Fuss" and especially on the epic, Western-themed "Sam's Town," it also makes no qualms about being concentrated far more on the individuality of the tracks. It's an approach that works, since the band has an all-original third

album in the works — which makes "Sawdust" a very hearty and satisfying appetizer to what is sure to be a deliciously innovative and forward-moving main course.

Early on, we get the track "Leave The Bourbon On The Shelf." Never before released in any capacity, it's a song that's

The band makes a few blunders by adding covers to the "Sawdust" mix.

already been acquiring an almost legendary significance to fans of the band who know that it is the lost, first "Murder Trilogy" Now released, it fills in ahead of "Jenny was a Friend of Mine" and then "Midnight Show." A supremely catchy and heavy rock number, it's a welcome and practically essential addition to the collection of any Killers fan, because the gaps get filled in the story.

Arguably the band's most popular album, "Hot Fuss" is extremely present on "Sawdust" with a bunch of tracks that didn't quite make the final cut. These include "Under the Gun," "Show You How," "Glamorous Indie Rock and Roll," "Who Let You Go" and "The Ballad of Michael Valentine." Indeed, it's almost enough for a "Hot Fuss EP."

"Under the Gun" is a particularly strong song, and it's hard to tell why it didn't make the first album. Armed with an infectious and rollicking chorus of "Kill me now, kill me now, kill me now," it's a subtle anthem to those moments when you can't be sure what's going on, but know it's bad.

The band makes a few blunders by adding covers to the "Sawdust" mix. It gets especially bad in its cover of Joy Division's "Shadowplay." The new version just isn't good and should not have been done in the first place — much less put on a CD for people to spend their hard earned money on.

It gets a little better on the cover of Dire Straits' "Romeo & Juliet." However, Brandon Flowers, lead singer of the Killers, doesn't bring anything new to the semi-classic song. The tune isn't bad, but it's nothing new either. At best, it'll introduce some new listeners to the brilliance of Dire Straits.

If anything, buy the album for "Tranquilize," the opening track, which is also a duet with Lou Reed.

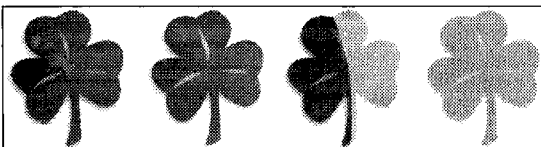
"Sawdust" is good. It's not "Sam's Town," and it's certainly not "Hot Fuss." But, it has its moments, and certainly will whet your appetite till Flowers and company drop the next real album.

Contact James Costa at jcosta1@nd.edu

Sawdust The Killers

Label: Island

Recommended Tracks: "Tranquilize" and "Leave the Bourbon on the Shelf"



NBA

Johnson's 28 points pace Hawks' upset of Lakers

Howard drops double-double in Magic's victory; Rondo nets career-high 24 points as Celtics top Clippers

Associated Press

ATLANTA — With the game on the line, Kobe Bryant was betrayed by his pinkie.

Give an assist to Joe Johnson's tight defense.

Johnson scored 28 points, including four free throws in the final 23 seconds, and he forced a key turnover by Bryant with 8 seconds left as the Atlanta Hawks beat the Los Angeles Lakers 98-95 on Wednesday night.

With Atlanta leading 95-93, Johnson guarded Bryant outside the 3-point line when Bryant suddenly lost control of the ball. Bryant was called for over-and-back when he regained possession past the midcourt line.

"I think the ball went off his leg," Johnson said. "I went at it and tried to hit it, but didn't. I think it hit off his leg again."

Bryant's pinkie finger on his right hand was dislocated in Tuesday night's win at New Jersey. After showing in shooting practice Wednesday he could play with the injury, he logged

37 minutes with the finger taped to the ring finger.

"It is what it is," said Bryant, who said the finger was "very swollen."

"I'll try to muscle through it over the next couple days," Bryant said, adding his finger didn't allow him to feel the ball properly on the late turnover.

"It bounced out of my hand," he said.

Bryant had 10 assists, but was only 4-of-16 for 11 points. He was scoreless in the second half before hitting a jumper with 1:41 left.

Josh Smith, who had 17 points, nine rebounds, nine assists and five blocks, hit one of two free throws with 7.1 seconds left to push the lead to three points. Sasha Vujacic answered with a layup for the Lakers with 3.7 seconds left.

The Lakers quickly fouled Johnson, who made two free throws to again push the lead to three. Derek Fisher missed a last-second 3-pointer for the Lakers.

The Hawks have won three

straight following four straight losses.

Hawks rookie center Al Horford had 15 points and a career-high 20 rebounds.

"Al Horford was tremendous tonight on the boards for us," Hawks coach Mike Woodson said. "From a team standpoint, we defended a team that can score points. To hold them to 95 points, that's huge for us."

The Hawks finished with a 50-32 advantage in the paint.

"They got more points in the paint, which I think was the difference in the game," Pau Gasol said. "We should protect the paint more and be more aware of that in the future. ... It was pretty tough going against Al Horford on the boards. He did a pretty good job going after us offensively. He was the difference-maker for them tonight."

Gasol, like Bryant, had shooting woes in his second game with the Lakers.

Gasol made only five of 14 shots for 12 points.

Lamar Odom led the Lakers with 19 points and 11 rebounds. Fisher added 17, and Vladimir Radmanovic had 13, all in the first half.

Magic 100, Nets 84

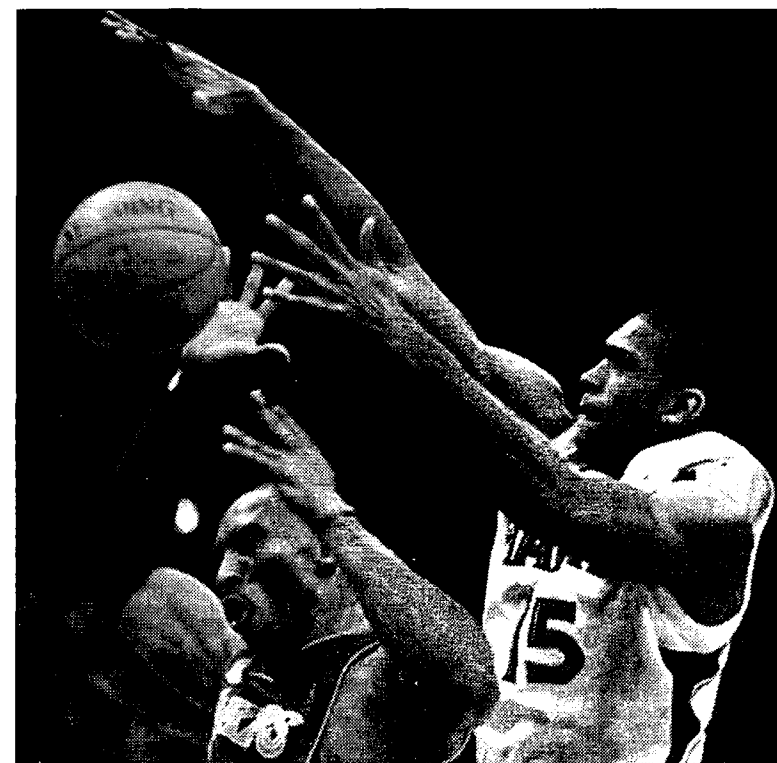
Dwight Howard had 21 points and 13 rebounds as the Orlando Magic avenged a one-point loss to the New Jersey Nets last month with a win Wednesday night.

Vince Carter led the Nets with 18 points, while Jason Kidd had 13 points and seven assists.

Six Magic players scored in double figures. Hedo Turkoglu and Rashard Lewis both scored 19, and Keyon Dooling, Brian Cook and Jameer Nelson each added 11.

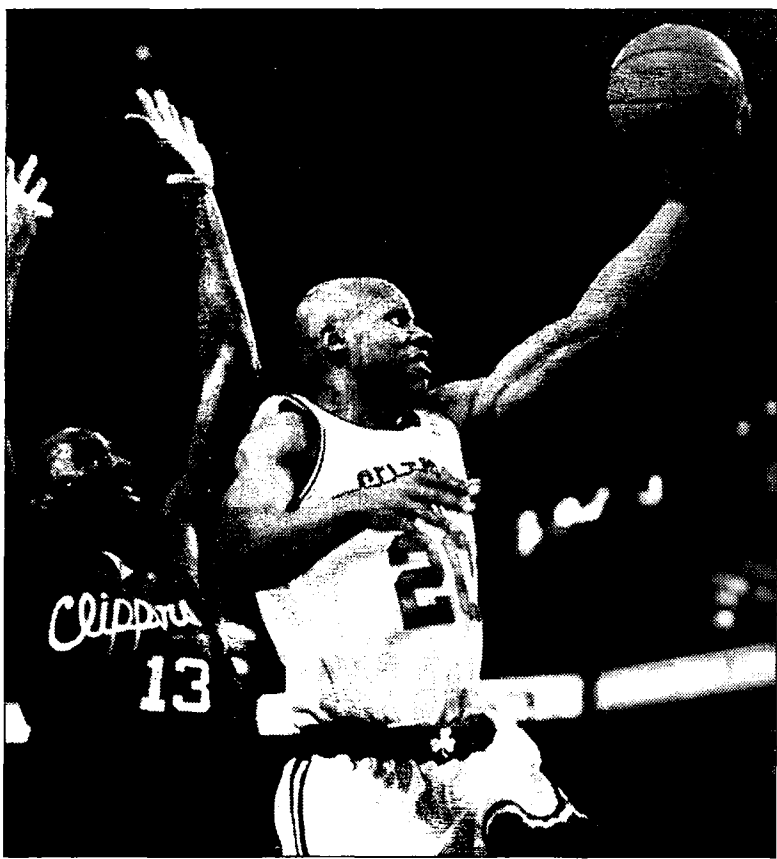
For the second straight game, Orlando dug itself into a double-digit hole in the first quarter. The Nets took a 15-4 lead within six minutes, punctuated by a reverse alley-oop from Kidd to Carter, plus the foul shot.

At that point, Magic coach Stan Van Gundy put in his reserves, and Dooling and Cook led Orlando on an 18-7 run to tie things at 22. Cook had all 11 of his points in the run, including three 3-pointers, while Dooling scored seven on a 3-point play,



AP

Hawks forward Al Horford, right, strips the ball from Lakers guard Kobe Bryant during Atlanta's 98-95 win Wednesday.



AP

Celtics guard Ray Allen, right, goes for a lay-up past Clippers defender Quinton Ross during Boston's 111-100 victory Wednesday.

two free throws and a jumper.

The Nets pushed the lead back to eight when the Magic failed to score the first 4:20 of the second quarter.

Orlando took it back, with emphasis, in the second quarter. Howard had back-to-back, back-board-shaking dunks, then Lewis dropped consecutive 3-pointers.

The Magic led 35-32 after a Turkoglu 3-pointer and never relinquished it.

Bostjan Nachbar scored 13 for New Jersey, Richard Jefferson added 11 and Josh Boone had 10 points.

Celtics 111, Clippers 100

Rajon Rondo scored a career-high 24 points to go with eight assists and five rebounds, coming back from a flagrant foul that knocked him to the floor to lead the Boston Celtics to a victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Wednesday night.

A night after losing by one point in overtime to Cleveland, the Celtics avoided a losing streak despite missing All-Star Kevin Garnett for the fifth straight game. The rest of Boston's starters got some time

off, too, sitting out all but the final minute of the fourth quarter while the reserves handled the Pacific Division-trailing Clippers.

Ray Allen scored 19 and Paul Pierce had 15, with reserve Leon Powe adding 13 points and 10 rebounds. Boston plays Minnesota — a.k.a. the Western Celtics — on Friday, likely without Garnett, the player obtained from the Timberwolves in the summer's blockbuster seven-for-one trade.

Corey Maggette had 33 points and eight rebounds and sub Cuttino Mobley scored 16 for the Clippers, who beat the New York Knicks on Monday night to snap a nine-game road losing streak. Los Angeles played the second half without Sam Cassell, who was ejected after flattening Rondo late in the first half.

Rondo was dominating Cassell on the floor — especially in the second quarter, when the Boston point guard scored 12 points. He stole the ball twice in a 60-second span, and that might have been going through Cassell's mind when Rondo drove to the basket with 2:54 left in the first half.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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Houses for rent for 08-09 close to campus. Ranging from 2 BR to 6 BR. Call 574-234-2436 or Kramerhouses.com

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TICKETS

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PERSONAL

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AROUND THE NATION

page 15

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Thursday, February 7, 2008

NBA

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Boston	36-9	.800	6-4	-
Toronto	26-21	.553	6-4	11
New Jersey	20-28	.417	2-8	17.5
Philadelphia	19-30	.388	4-6	19
New York	14-34	.292	2-8	23.5

Eastern Conference, Central Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Detroit	34-13	.723	6-4	-
Cleveland	27-20	.574	8-2	7
Chicago	19-28	.404	4-6	15
Milwaukee	19-30	.388	3-7	16
Indiana	19-30	.388	2-8	16

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Orlando	31-19	.620	7-3	-
Washington	24-23	.511	4-6	5.5
Atlanta	20-24	.455	3-7	8
Charlotte	18-31	.367	3-7	12.5
Miami	9-37	.196	1-9	20

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Utah	31-18	.633	9-1	-
Denver	29-18	.617	7-3	1
Portland	27-20	.574	4-6	3
Seattle	12-36	.250	3-7	18.5
Minnesota	10-37	.213	5-5	20

Western Conference, Southwest Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Dallas	32-15	.681	6-4	-
New Orleans	32-15	.681	7-3	-
San Antonio	30-16	.652	5-5	1.5
Houston	28-20	.583	8-2	4.5
Memphis	13-35	.213	3-7	19.5

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	perc.	last 10	GB
Phoenix	34-14	.708	8-2	-
LA Lakers	31-16	.660	5-5	2.5
Golden State	29-19	.604	7-3	5
Sacramento	22-24	.478	7-3	11
LA Clippers	15-30	.333	4-6	17.5

Men's Hockey

CCHA Conference Standings

	team	conference	overall
1	Miami	17-3-0	25-3-0
2	Michigan	15-2-3	22-3-3
3	Michigan State	14-3-3	18-6-5
4	NOTRE DAME	13-6-1	20-9-1
5	Nebraska-Omaha	9-10-3	12-13-3
6	Bowling Green	10-10-0	13-13-0
7	Ferris State	7-10-3	10-12-4
8	Alaska	7-12-3	7-15-4
9	Northern Michigan	7-11-2	10-15-3
10	Ohio State	5-14-1	9-19-2
11	Lake Superior	3-13-4	5-16-5
12	Western Michigan	3-16-1	7-19-2

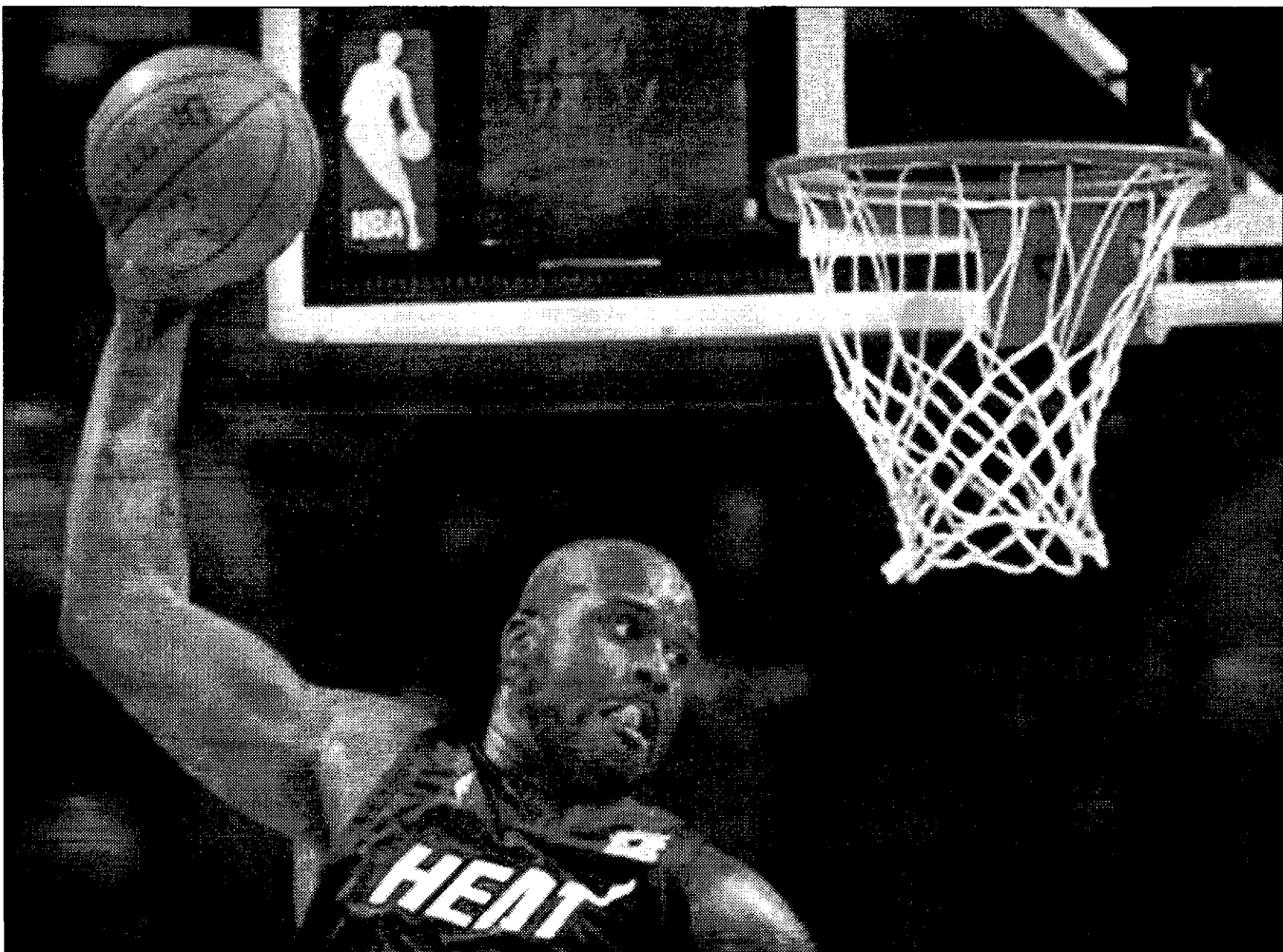
around the dial

NBA

Cavaliers at Rockets
8 p.m., TNT

COLLEGE BASKETBALL
West Virginia at Pittsburgh
7 p.m., ESPN
Clemson at Virginia
7 p.m., ESPN2
Indiana at Illinois
9 p.m. ESPN

NBA



Miami center Shaquille O'Neal goes up for a basket in a 91-76 loss to Charlotte on Nov. 13. The Phoenix Suns made a shocking move Wednesday, trading Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks for O'Neal.

Phoenix acquires Shaq in surprise trade

Associated Press

PHOENIX — The Phoenix Suns acquired Shaquille O'Neal in a stunning, blockbuster deal that sent four-time All-Star Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks to the Miami Heat.

The improbable pairing of the speedy Suns and the slow but once-mighty O'Neal became official when he cleared a physical exam Wednesday.

The trade, a dramatic move by first-year Phoenix general manager Steve Kerr, signals an unexpected change in philosophy for the Suns, adding a 7-foot-1, 325-pound center who has won four NBA championships but has been plagued by injuries

in recent years and turns 36 next month.

O'Neal has been out with a hip injury and underwent an MRI exam in Miami on Tuesday. He flew to Phoenix on Wednesday for the physical.

"I'm well aware that I'm on the line," Kerr told The Associated Press. "That's my job. That's why I'm sitting in this seat. I'm comfortable with the decision. I think it gives us a better chance to win, and a better chance to win in the playoffs."

The Suns' Amare Stoudemire is a friend of O'Neal and talked to him about his new team.

"He says he's ready to roll," Stoudemire said. "Whatever he needs to do he's going to

be down for it, and he wants to win a championship, so we're on the same page."

O'Neal was to be introduced at a news conference Thursday.

He has averaged 25.6 points and 11.5 rebounds in his 14-plus NBA seasons.

This season, plagued by injuries and going through a divorce, he's averaging 14.2 points. His 14-year streak as an All-Star choice came to an end this year.

He missed much of the 2006-07 season with a knee injury and finished that season with career-lows in games (40), scoring (17.3 points), rebounds (7.4), minutes (28.4) and free-throw percentage (.422).

"It was a very, very hard

decision for me. When Shaq came to the team four years ago, I always felt it was forever. We won a championship with him. We wish him nothing but the best," Riley said. "We have to move on with our team. We're rebuilding. This is not the most desirable place to be right now."

He denied that there was any lingering rift with O'Neal.

"I loved Shaq when I got him and I love him today," Riley said. "I've been coaching 25 years and there wasn't anything that went on between Shaq and I that caused this. We simply looked at the big picture, where we are today, and we need to build around Dwyane (Wade)."

IN BRIEF

Rangers name Hall of Famer Ryan as president

ARLINGTON, Texas — Nolan Ryan was hired Wednesday as president of the Texas Rangers, reuniting the Hall of Famer with the struggling team he pitched for at the end of his incredible career.

The Rangers introduced the 61-year-old Texas native with the fanfare of a major free-agent signing, bringing the career strikeout leader into a packed stadium hall that cheered after a highlight video trumpeted the return of The Ryan Express.

"I've known since I was a player that I'd like to be involved in the shaping of an organization," Ryan said. "This gives me that opportunity."

Ryan threw an unmatched seven no-hitters and won 324 games in a record 27 major league seasons. The last five of those came with the Rangers and included his final two no-hitters and 5,000th strikeout.

Topps includes celebrating Giuliani in Red Sox cards

NEW YORK — Rudy Giuliani, a Boston Red Sox fan?

When Topps baseball cards hit the stores this week it'll appear that way. About one in every 70 packs will include a picture of the former New York City mayor, fist raised in victory, celebrating with the Red Sox on the field after their World Series win.

Yankees fans need not worry, though. Giuliani, a self-professed, die-hard supporter of the Red Sox's chief rival wasn't really there.

But in October, the then-presidential candidate did alienate some New York fans by declaring he was rooting for Boston in the World Series — "I'm an American league fan," he said — and Topps ran with the idea.

"We took that and thought it would make for a funny card, since the Red Sox won," said Clay Luraschi, baseball brand manager for Topps.

Hamm to compete in first full meet since Athens

LAS VEGAS — After several months of training and tracking progress by his own standards, Paul Hamm finally gets to compete in front of a crowd and a scoreboard.

The reigning Olympic gold medalist will compete in his first full meet since Athens, starting Thursday at the Winter Cup Challenge, a preliminary event for the U.S. men's team in the buildup to the Beijing Olympics in August.

The two-day event concludes with finals Saturday. As much as winning, this is the 25-year-old gymnast's chance to see how the training, the new skills and his commitment to the comeback pay off on a real podium in a real competition.

"I don't think I'll be more nervous for Winter Cup," Hamm said. "I'm starting to feel comfortable with the routines I'm doing. I feel like a gymnast again. I'm back out there and I'm ready."

MLB

Lawyers present physical evidence on Clemens

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Brian McNamee's lawyers said Wednesday they gave federal prosecutors physical evidence backing the personal trainer's allegation that Roger Clemens used performance-enhancing drugs.

"I think this is a significant point in the case. We believe that this is significant corroboration," said McNamee's lead lawyer, Earl Ward.

McNamee's side turned over syringes with Clemens' blood to IRS Special Agent Jeff Novitzky in early January, a person familiar with the evidence said, speaking on condition of anonymity because McNamee's lawyers did not want to publicly discuss details. The syringes were used to inject Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone, the person said. A second person, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the evidence was from 2000 and 2001.

Lanny Breuer, one of Clemens' lawyers, immediately responded that McNamee "apparently has manufactured evidence" and called all the allegations "desperate smears."

"It is just not credible," Breuer said in a statement. "Who in their right mind does such a thing?"

In December's Mitchell Report on doping in baseball, McNamee said he injected Clemens with performance-enhancing drugs in 1998, 2000 and 2001.

Clemens, a seven-time Cy Young Award winner, gave a

five-hour sworn deposition Tuesday to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and said afterward that he again denied using performance-enhancing drugs. McNamee is to give a deposition to the same committee Thursday ahead of a public hearing on Feb. 13.

By denying under oath that he used performance-enhancing drugs, Clemens put himself at legal risk if prosecutors determine his testimony wasn't truthful.

Richard Emery, another of McNamee's lawyers, said the committee will be given a description of the evidence that was turned over to prosecutors.

"It does change the nature of the case from a he-said, she-said to something about physical evidence," Emery said.

He said he wouldn't discuss until Thursday why McNamee's legal team waited until after Clemens' deposition to go public with their discussion of physical evidence.

Keith Ausbrook, the committee's Republican general counsel, told The Associated Press the committee was not aware that such physical evidence existed.

"Unknown and unexpected evidence comes in at all times in any investigation," Ausbrook wrote in an e-mail. "We will still need to examine McNamee's evidence and hear what he has to say."

McNamee, the former personal trainer for Clemens and Yankees pitcher Andy Pettitte, also told former Senate majority leader George Mitchell that

he injected Pettitte with HGH. Pettitte confirmed in December that he used HGH for two days.

Emery said McNamee's legal team planned to hold a news conference following their client's deposition in Washington on Thursday and will discuss the evidence in greater detail then. Because the items were turned over several years after the events under discussion, Clemens' side could challenge whether it was tampered with.

"Brian McNamee is obviously a troubled man who is obsessed with doing everything possible to destroy Roger Clemens," Breuer said in a statement. "McNamee lied to the police who were investigating him for sexual assault, he lied to Senator Mitchell, he lied to the federal government, and now he apparently has manufactured evidence. He has changed his story repeatedly on this matter. He claims to love Roger Clemens, he says he modeled being a father on Roger Clemens, he said Roger treated him like family — but he now claims he kept blood, gauze, and needles from Roger Clemens for seven years. It defies all sensibility."

Emery said it was unnecessary for McNamee's side to persuade the Justice Department that the evidence was authentic.

"They'll decide themselves what they believe is the case and make their own decisions based on the facts as they have it. All we know is what we believe is the truth," Emery said.

McNamee's turning over of



Former Yankees pitcher Roger Clemens walks past reporters after giving a deposition about steroid use Tuesday.

the syringes first was reported by the New York Daily News on its Web site.

Clemens and McNamee are to testify before the committee next Wednesday along with Pettitte, former Yankees second baseman Chuck Knoblauch and Kirk Radomski, the former New York Mets clubhouse attendant who pleaded guilty in April to felony charges of distributing steroids and laun-

dering money. He is scheduled to be sentenced Friday in federal court in San Francisco.

"Roger is looking forward to testifying before Congress next week to set the record straight," Breuer said. "He will not waiver, nor will he shrink from this because he is telling the truth. We ask all fair-minded people to listen. It is time for Brian McNamee to be subject to the same scrutiny as Roger Clemens."



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NCAA BASKETBALL

Duke pulls away late to grab top spot in ACC

Top-ranked Memphis rolls over SMU to remain undefeated; No. 8 Wisconsin stays hot by edging host Iowa

Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Duke has spent the entire season erasing memories of last year's un-Duke-like struggles. Now, after an impressive win against their biggest rivals, the Blue Devils are starting to look like a team that fits right in with their storied tradition.

Greg Paulus scored 18 points and was one of six players in double figures in the second-ranked Blue Devils' 89-78 win over the third-ranked Tar Heels on Wednesday night, ending a three-game losing streak in the heated rivalry.

Jon Scheyer added 17 points for Duke (20-1, 8-0 Atlantic Coast Conference), which repeatedly knocked down 3-point shots to control the game almost the entire way. Duke led by as many as 11 points in the first half and never trailed after the break, beating the short-handed Tar Heels for the first time since the 2005-06 season.

Picked to finish second in the ACC, the Blue Devils figured to be too small up front to contend with the favored Tar Heels this year. Yet behind a spread-the-floor attack that creates matchup problems all over the court, Duke is alone atop the league and looking like a good bet to win the regular-season race.

"They're pretty special right now," Blue Devils coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "We know who we are. We're a very unconventional team. We're not a strong physical team, but we are strong team emotionally, a real together group."

"You have to hope you don't get killed by a team for a stretch by their strength. You have to find a way and because we have versatile players we've been able to do that so far."

Duke shot 46 percent and went 13-for-29 from 3-point range, with Paulus going 6-for-8 from behind the arc. That was just too much on the perimeter for the Tar Heels (21-2, 6-2),

who played without injured point guard Ty Lawson and seemed like they had to fight the entire way just to stay within reach.

"We definitely drove the ball and got a couple good penetrate and kicks," Paulus said. "I'm not sure what we shot, but it seemed like whenever we needed a 3, we had guys who took big shots and knocked them down."

Tyler Hansbrough had 28 points and 18 rebounds in what became virtually a one-man effort, but the Tar Heels looked a step off all night with Lawson watching from the bench after spraining his left ankle in the weekend win at Florida State.

North Carolina twice closed to within a point early in the second half, but Duke never wavered or looked flustered in a hostile environment.

"We're looking to take over this league," said Gerald Henderson, who had 12 points for the Blue Devils. "We hope that we can continue to play like this and win like this. ... We just want to continue to add in the left side of the column."

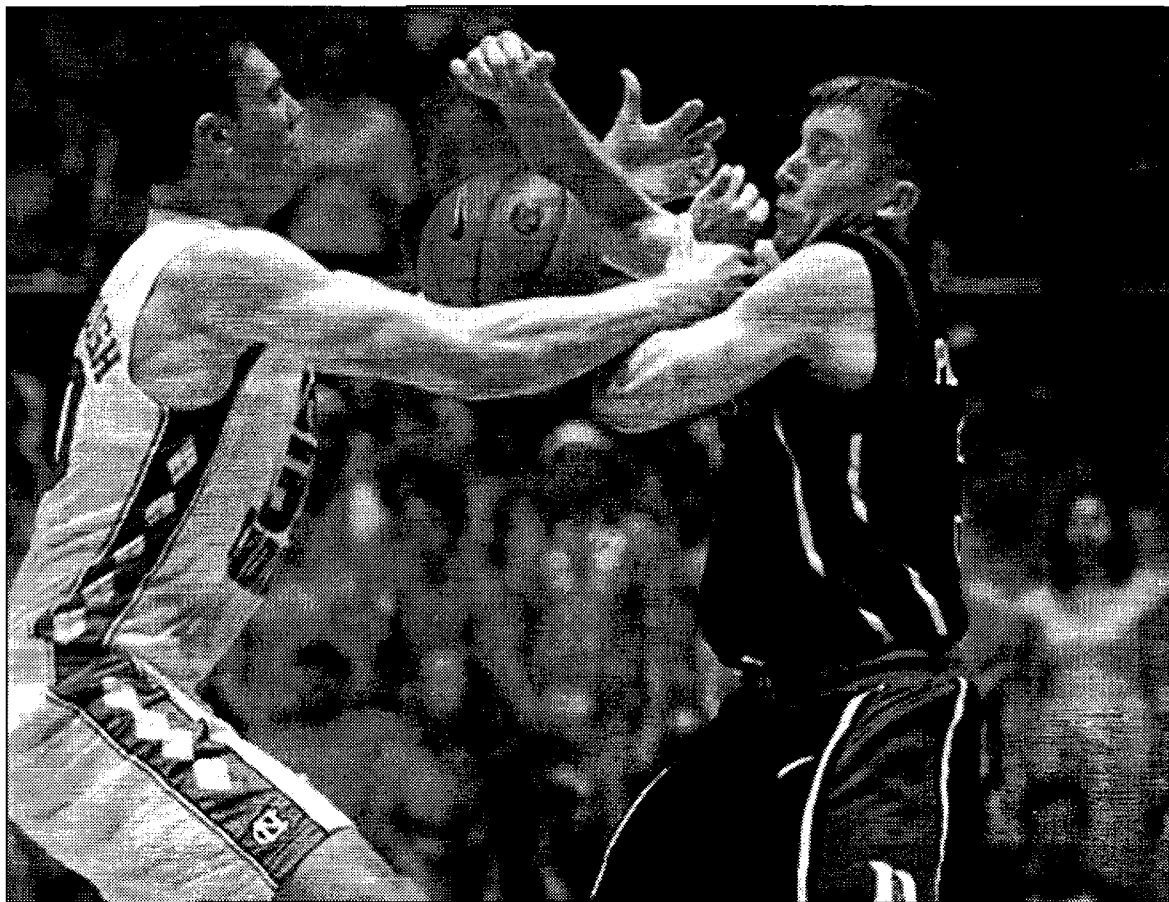
It was a surprisingly one-sided outcome in a rivalry that drew plenty of notable onlookers, including former Tar Heels basketball players Raymond Felton and Sean May, former Tar Heels football star Julius Peppers and even former Democratic presidential candidate John Edwards.

Tigers 77, Mustangs 48

Reserve guard Andre Allen scored a career-high 19 points, Joey Dorsey had 10 points and 14 rebounds and top-ranked Memphis beat SMU on Wednesday night.

Memphis (22-0, 8-0 Conference USA) extended the nation's longest home-court winning streak to 45 games.

The Tigers led 40-18 at the half, shot 43.3 percent and committed only seven turnovers in the game, including one in the first half.



North Carolina center Tyler Hansbrough, left, battles for the ball with Duke point guard Greg Paulus during the Blue Devils' 89-78 road victory Wednesday night.

Bamba Fall and Jon Killen scored 12 points apiece for SMU (7-13, 1-6).

Tigers coach John Calipari benched forward Robert Dozier and didn't start center Dorsey, both of whom had started the team's first 19 games.

The Tigers struggled in the game's opening minutes with the new look, missing seven of their first eight shots and falling behind 7-3 after Fall's left-handed hook fell.

Calipari eventually got a spark from Allen, who fueled a 14-3 run with two 3-pointers and a driving layup. The Tigers followed that run with another, scoring 15 of the game's next 17 points on their way to 40-18 halftime lead.

Allen had another 3-pointer during the second run.

Allen had 11 points at the half and Willie Kemp, another reserve guard, scored seven.

In the second half, the Tigers stretched their lead to 40 points.

SMU has lost eight of its last nine games.

Badgers 60, Hawkeyes 54

Marcus Landry scored 16 points, Brian Butch added 12 and No. 8 Wisconsin held off Iowa on Wednesday night for its 13th victory in 14 games.

Joe Krabbenhoft had eight points and eight rebounds to help the Badgers (19-3, 9-1 Big Ten) pull into a tie for first place in the Big Ten with surprising Purdue.

Iowa didn't make it easy on Wisconsin, staying within one score for most of the second half, but the Badgers hit 10

straight free throws in the final 3:29 to seal their 10th win in 11 meetings with the Hawkeyes (11-13, 4-7).

With Iowa down 54-51 with 59 seconds left, Wisconsin's Marcus Landry blocked Tony Freeman's layup, giving possession back to the Badgers. Jason Bohannon hit two free throws, but Iowa's Jeff Peterson answered with a 3 with 25.6 seconds left.

Krabbenhoft hit another pair from the line to make it 58-54. Justin Johnson then missed a 3, and Landry finished things off with two free throws.

Freeman led Iowa with 18 points, 12 of which came in the first half. Cryus Tate added 15 points and eight boards. The game featured 13 lead changes and seven ties.

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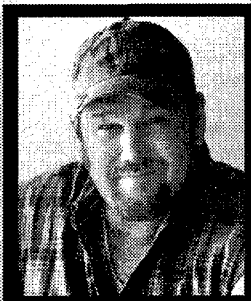
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NHL

Shootout victory gives Sabres' fifth win in six tries

Ovechkin nets league-best 46th goal in Capitals victory; Blackhawks continue to slide with loss to Oilers

Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Buffalo Sabres finally found a way to skate away with a full two points against the New Jersey Devils.

Losing the previous three meetings with the Devils this season in shootouts, the Sabres used consecutive goals by Drew Stafford and Henrik Tallinder in tiebreaker No. 4 between the two teams to win 3-2 on Wednesday night.

Stafford beat Martin Brodeur with a wrist shot in the first round of the shootout, and Tallinder followed with a nifty deke. Buffalo goalie Ryan Miller denied Brian Gionta's wrist shot in the second round to give the Sabres their second straight win.

It wasn't unexpected that this game was decided by a shootout. What was surprising was Tallinder's first-ever shootout goal coming against a future Hall of Fame netminder. Tallinder was able to elude Brodeur's poke-check to deliver the win for a surging Sabres team that moved to within two points of idle Boston for the eighth playoff slot in the Eastern Conference.

"[Assistant coach] James Patrick told me yesterday to be ready," Tallinder said. "I got the call, so I'm happy."

Tallinder came in slowly before Brodeur lunged forward with his stick and then calmly moved the puck from his backhand to his forehand, to slide it into the empty net.

"I know what guys usually do, and when you get a defenseman it's usually pretty rare," Brodeur said. "It makes it a little harder when they come on you."

Michael Ryan and Jason Pominville scored in regulation for the Sabres, who won for the fifth time in six games.

"It was huge for us to get that extra point," Stafford said. "We're desperate for them right now. We stuck with it, and it

shows that we're hungry."

The Devils trailed 2-0 midway through the second period and nearly pulled off another stirring comeback. New Jersey defeated Pittsburgh on Monday in overtime after being down a pair of goals in the third period.

But ultimately, they squandered an opportunity to move into a tie for first-place in the Atlantic Division with Philadelphia, which lost to Washington on Wednesday.

"I didn't think we played that bad," said Brodeur, who finished with 20 saves. "For the most part they didn't get a lot of great chances."

Karel Rachunek and Mike Mottau scored for the Devils, who had their two-game winning streak snapped. New Jersey also lost for the first time in four games on the road.

Miller finished with 24 saves and hasn't allowed more than two goals in his last six starts.

Capitals 4, Flyers 3

There's no telling where the Washington Capitals would be in the standings if Bruce Boudreau started the season as head coach.

Matt Bradley and Viktor Kozlov scored 64 seconds apart early in the third period to lead Washington over the Philadelphia Flyers on Wednesday night.

NHL scoring leader Alexander Ovechkin got his league-best 46th goal and Brooks Laich also scored for the Capitals, who moved into first place in the mediocre Southeast Division.

Since Boudreau replaced Glen Hanlon 21 games in, Washington has gone 20-10-4 to move all the way up from last place.

"We believe we're a real good team now," Boudreau said. "Individually, I think they believe they're a hard team to beat and that when they go on the ice they can win any game they play."

Mike Knuble, Sami Kapanen and Randy Jones scored for



Devils goalie Martin Brodeur, right, stuffs a shot in front of Buffalo left wing Daniel Paille. The Sabres edged New Jersey 3-2 in a shootout Wednesday.

Philly. The Atlantic Division-leading Flyers lost for only the fourth time in regulation in 19 games since they were in last place on Christmas.

Oilers 4, Blackhawks 1

Joni Pitkanen had a goal and an assist, and the Edmonton Oilers defeated the Chicago Blackhawks Wednesday night for their second straight win.

Jarret Stoll, Dustin Penner and Ethan Moreau also scored for the Oilers, who moved within five points of eighth place in the Western Conference.

Patrick Sharp had the only goal for the Blackhawks, who have lost five in a row.

Edmonton broke a 1-1 tie 8 minutes into the middle period on the power play as Penner

tipped Sam Gagner's shot over Chicago goalie Patrick Lalime's shoulder.

The Oilers extended the lead 34 seconds later as Moreau outmuscled Cameron Barker in front of the net and redirected Ladislav Smid's shot past Lalime. Pitkanen closed the scoring in the first minute of the third period as he skated to the top of the faceoff circle.

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MLB

Mets hope Santana signing will erase late collapse

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Johan Santana arrived at Shea Stadium on Wednesday, put on his No. 57 New York Mets jersey for the first time and said he anticipated little difficulty in adjusting to pitching before some of baseball's most demanding fans.

"I think the game is the same," he said. "I'm not going to let that affect what I do on the field."

The Mets introduced Santana with a choreographed news conference, one that began with video highlights and Latin music. After an extended period for still and video cameras and a brief statement by Santana, the Mets turned up the house lights of Shea Stadium's Diamond Club for questions.

Santana answered many with cliches, speaking how he would take things one day at a time, that success was a team effort and that he will have to make adjustments to pitching in the National League. He understands that Mets fans demand a World Series championship — or at least an NL pennant — immediately following last year's September collapse.

"Of course, it has to be this year and beyond," he said as his wife and father looked on.

Santana walked in past a gift shop already stocked with replicas of his new jersey in

home pinstripes and black, as well as in children's sizes.

Mets general manager Omar Minaya introduced Santana, who agreed last Friday to a \$137.5 million, six-year contract that allowed his trade from the Minnesota Twins to be finalized the following day. Minaya pronounced it was the start of "a great era of Mets baseball."

"Welcome to the city of baseball," Minaya said.

Manager Willie Randolph, having acquired an ace for his

staff, looked on from his front-row seat.

"You should be happy, Willie," Minaya said.

Ten days before the first spring training workout for pitchers and catchers in Port St. Lucie, Fla., Santana's teammates were excited.

"Somewhat it allows us to officially, kind of completely shut the book on '07," Mets third baseman David Wright said Tuesday. "It kind of takes away from, I guess, kind of the aura of what happened at the end of last year. We can kind of put that behind us. And when your superstars have a fresh attitude, looking ahead rather than behind, I think that that rubs off on the rest of the team."

Santana, a two-time AL Cy Young Award winner, was just 15-13 last year and lost seven of his last 11 decisions as his

ERA rose from 2.60 to 3.33 ERA, his highest since 2001. He allowed a career-high 33 homers — the most in the AL.

"I don't know, man. It's part of the game. You're going to have slumps, I guess," he said. "I don't really have an answer for it."

His agent, Peter Greenberg, revealed that the deadline for the Twins to make a trade was mutually agreed to with Minnesota general manager Bill Smith around Jan. 22. The initial deadline was Jan. 28, but the sides agreed to push it back a day because executives of some of the interested teams weren't available.

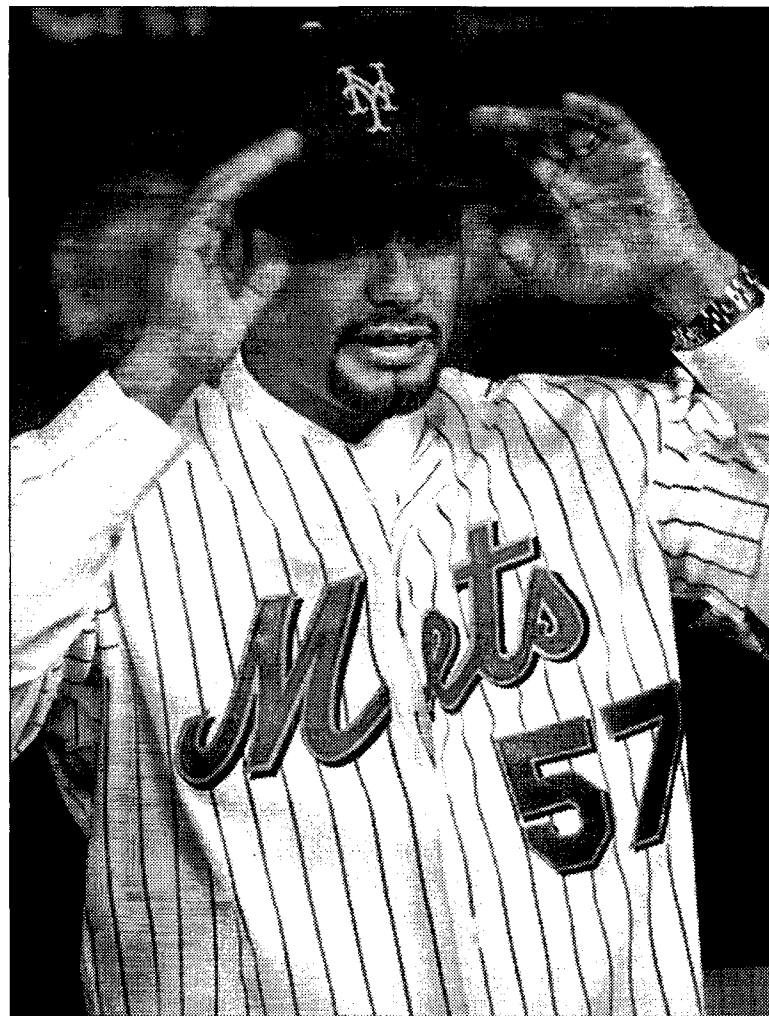
Santana had a full-no trade clause, which meant he could control his destination. Greenberg said the Mets were Santana's first choice but that all three bidders were acceptable.

"I think he would have been perfectly happy if he had went to Yankees. I think he would have been perfectly happy if he had went to the Red Sox," Greenberg said.

The Mets were not the only team to add an ace this offseason.

The NL West champion Arizona Diamondbacks acquired Dan Haren from Oakland, giving them a nasty 1-2 punch of right-handers in their prime. Haren and Brandon Webb, the 2006 NL Cy Young Award winner, should win enough games all by themselves to at least make the young Diamondbacks contenders again.

Just imagine if 44-year-old Randy Johnson and his creaky back are healthy, too.



Newly acquired Mets pitcher Johan Santana tells reporters Wednesday he expects a smooth transition to his new club.

There's Jake Peavy, Chris Young and Greg Maddux in San Diego, plus All-Star closer Trevor Hoffman. Philadelphia boasts blossoming lefty Cole Hamels, and the Chicago Cubs have two bulldogs in Carlos Zambrano and Ted Lilly.

Atlanta's projected rotation includes four former 20-game winners: John Smoltz, Tim Hudson, Tom Glavine and Mike Hampton — if he can finally stay off the disabled list.

And that doesn't even include the Colorado Rockies. They surged all the way to the World Series last season behind 17-game winner Jeff Francis and several electric young arms that only figure to get better.

Even with Santana, the Mets don't have a monopoly on

pitching in the National League.

"I've said it all along, the team to beat in my eyes is the team that won last year," Wright said at the 28th annual Thurman Munson Awards

Dinner. "Philadelphia took care of us last year, they took care of business within the division and I think that going into this year we have to fight to take control again of the National League East."

"It's not about making bold predictions. It's not about verbally saying who's the team to beat. It's about going out there and showing it," he added. "Philadelphia did both last year. They made the predictions and they went out and backed it up."

"It's not about verbally saying who's the team to beat. It's about going out there and showing it."

David Wright
Mets third baseman

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NFL

Goodell to pursue Spygate

Associated Press

HONOLULU — NFL commissioner Roger Goodell is willing to pursue any believable information in the Spygate case.

Goodell said Wednesday the league has been in touch with representatives of former New England Patriots assistant coach Matt Walsh, now a golf pro in Maui. Walsh, who did video work for the Patriots when they won their first Super Bowl after the 2001 season, was not interviewed as part of the NFL's investigation into New England illegally taping opposing coaches in the last two years.

"If there is new information that is credible, new material that could be credible that would help us," Goodell said, "yes, we'll look at it."

"We've had people come to us over the last six months with material that we pursued and it didn't lead to anything."

Goodell said he didn't know if there might be more information available.

Sen. Arlen Specter, with whom Goodell said he expects to meet in the next week or so, questioned the thoroughness of the NFL's investigation that led to a



NFL commissioner Roger Goodell, left, talks with New England owner Bob Kraft Sunday before Super Bowl XLII in Glendale, Ariz.

\$500,000 fine for coach Bill Belichick, a \$250,000 fine for the Patriots organization, and the loss of this year's first-round draft pick. Specter also wondered why Goodell had the six tapes turned over by the Patriots destroyed, along with notes the team gave

Goodell.

Walsh, who did not return phone messages and an e-mail from The Associated Press, reportedly videotaped the St. Louis Rams' walk-through the day before the February 2002 Super Bowl against New England.

TENNIS

Dementieva, Szavay advance to quarterfinals

Associated Press

PARIS — Elena Dementieva of Russia and Agnes Szavay of Hungary overcame resistance from unseeded opponents Wednesday to reach the quarterfinals of the Open Gaz de France.

The fourth-seeded Dementieva defeated Petra Kvitova 7-6 (7), 6-2 while No. 7 Szavay beat Tathiana Garbin 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.

Kvitova traded two breaks of serve with Dementieva, forcing a tiebreaker where two unforced errors cost the Czech qualifier the first set.

"During the tiebreaker, it was so close," Dementieva said. "I knew I had to go for the winner. Otherwise, she was going to kill the ball. She was going for the winner all the time. I didn't want to play defensive today."

Kvitova had opportunities again in the second set, but wasted five break points to let Dementieva finish with a return winner.

"I knew it was going to be a tough match for me because she won four matches here," Dementieva said. "She was playing really well today. She's serving very hard and she has a very powerful play. It was not an easy first round for me."

Meanwhile, Szavay earned an

early break in the third set and completed her victory on her second match point when Garbin netted a ground stroke.

Szavay broke Garbin at 3-3 and won the first set when Garbin double-faulted. But the Italian saved three break points at 5-4 in the second and rallied to square the match.

Dementieva will take on either Yuliana Fedak or Kateryna Bondarenko, both of Ukraine, while Szavay will meet the winner of Thursday's match between second-seeded Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia and Katarina Srebotnik of Slovenia.

Earlier on Wednesday, Frenchwomen Virginie Razzano, Nathalie Dechy and Alize Cornet advanced to the second round.

Razzano outlasted eighth-seeded Alona Bondarenko of Ukraine 6-2, 4-6, 7-5 to face Cornet, who beat Klara Zakopalova 4-6, 6-2, 6-1. Dechy edged Peng Shuai 6-4, 7-6 (8) and will next play top-seeded Anna Chakvetadze of Russia.

"I could have lost today against Alona," Razzano said. "Two days ago, I could barely walk at the airport after arriving from China."

She, Dechy, and Cornet were on the French team eliminated by China in the first round of the Fed Cup last weekend.

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Barlow

continued from page 24

led the Irish in scoring in four straight games, starting against Villanova on Jan. 16 and ending against No. 1 Connecticut on Jan. 27. In Notre Dame's 104-86 win at Georgetown on Jan. 19, she scored 21 points, one shy of her career high, on 7-of-9 shooting. She then reset that career mark against DePaul on Jan. 22, dropping 23 and going 8-of-12 from the field.

Since opposing defenses sometimes key on senior guard Charel Allen, Barlow, "almost in a quiet way, will get 20 points," McGraw said.

"Generally she just scores out of the offense," McGraw said. "She offensive rebounds, she scores on the break, but I think she has felt she's taken a little more of an aggressive approach to the offense."

Barlow said when her shot is falling, she feels more comfortable shooting the 3.

"But when it's not," she said, "I would more than love to get to the basket and shoot layups all day."

On the season, Barlow averages 12.9 points per game and shoots 48.5 percent from the field. During that four-game streak, she averaged 18.8 points per game and hit 57 percent of her field goals. Her shot, which she's been working on all summer, came through for her at the right time, Barlow said.

"I think my shot was just falling for me, and I was getting to the basket and getting some foul shots up too," she said. "The more repetitions I have, the better it will continue to get."

Barlow learned the game when she was young. Her father David was a referee, and Barlow would attend his games as a kid. She said she always had a ball in her hand.

"I think it just came from me being a gym rat, just

being in the gym all the time," Barlow said.

It wasn't just her father who was involved with athletics. Her cousin, Ken, played forward for the Notre Dame men's basketball team from 1982-86, and her brother David was an all-conference point guard at IUPUI from 2003-07. Her uncle, Ron, played fullback for Kansas State in 1963-64 and was chosen by the New York Jets in the 1965 American Football League redshirt draft.

When a family has that type of athletic background, McGraw said, the support is often stronger, and family members understand the pressures and difficulties of collegiate sports.

"I think you see people who understand that it's going to be hard, and you really have to be ready," she said. "There's a responsibility and accountability from the player. They get it. They understand what it's like."

Still, Barlow said she never felt pressure because of her family's athletic pedigree. Her affinity for basketball came from "just being there, just because," she said.

Barlow put her gym time to good use when she played for The Family, a highly ranked AAU team, the summer before her senior year at Pike High School in Indianapolis. The Family went 40-1 that summer and won four of the five tournaments in which it played. McGraw attributed The Family's success to Barlow's play.

"Their only successful year was when Ashley played for them," McGraw said. "In terms of national success, she elevated their program. They won a lot more tournaments than they ever had before. She really made a huge difference in how they progressed."

Barlow enjoyed the travel associated with AAU ball as well as the chance to meet people, both teammates and

opponents — she played against Connecticut's Tina Charles and Lorin Dixon, among others. The speed of the game and the high level of her opponents, Barlow said, mirrored collegiate competition.

"It was the same fast pace, it was athletic people," she said. "It was pretty much the same as this."

At a time when the Irish (17-5, 5-3 Big East) have lost four of their last nine after opening the season 12-1, and with eight games remaining until the conference tournament, Barlow knows she and her team can improve.

"We need to pick up on the defensive end, all of us do, but me in particular," she said. "Getting out to the three-point line, containing the ball, all that. Rebounding hasn't been as good as it was last year."

Preaching improved defense and rebounding, Barlow sounded like a true McGraw student. McGraw laughed at the correlation and said Barlow was a good defender, but still could improve.

"I felt that she would be a great defender. She has the ability to be a good defender, but she could get a little bit better at that," McGraw said. "I think because offensively she's playing pretty well, she doesn't have to work on that as much, so she can always get better defensively."

McGraw summarized Barlow's importance to the team not in terms of her scoring ability or defensive play, but by describing her attitude.

"She's smart, she's just really determined. She hates to lose," McGraw said. "She's competitive, she's going to do anything she can — whether it's taking a charge, or tracking down a loose ball, or diving for something or shooting. She's a great teammate and a great team player."

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Irish forward Rob Kurz attempts a shot during Notre Dame's 81-74 win over Providence on Jan. 31.

Kurz

continued from page 24

up a typical line of 17 points and 10 boards against Seton Hall Wednesday night.

He has recorded 10 double-digit rebound games and has scored more than 10 points in 15 of Notre Dame's 21 contests.

Pretty steady.

And speaking of steady, remember those season averages of 13 and 8.1 that were previously stated? He finished last season with averages of 12.6 and 8.

When asked if he cares about the lack of attention paid to his production, Kurz shrugs the question off.

"I just try to go out and do my thing," Kurz said. "I'm always just worried about the team getting a win, and as long as we're doing that, I'm satisfied."

Kurz said he simply tries to

help his younger teammates concentrate on achieving their goals.

"I just have to make sure everyone comes to work every day," he said. "We just have to focus, just prepare for every game."

So "afterthought" is certainly the wrong word to describe Kurz, who is clearly an integral part of Notre Dame's success. His play may often go unnoticed but that is due more to his workmanlike approach than people's ignorance of his impact.

Maybe Kurz's statistics are not mentioned because his consistency renders them almost boring. In other words, a double-double is not considered anything special.

Well, at least not for Kurz.

It seems like he reaches that milestone virtually every game.

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

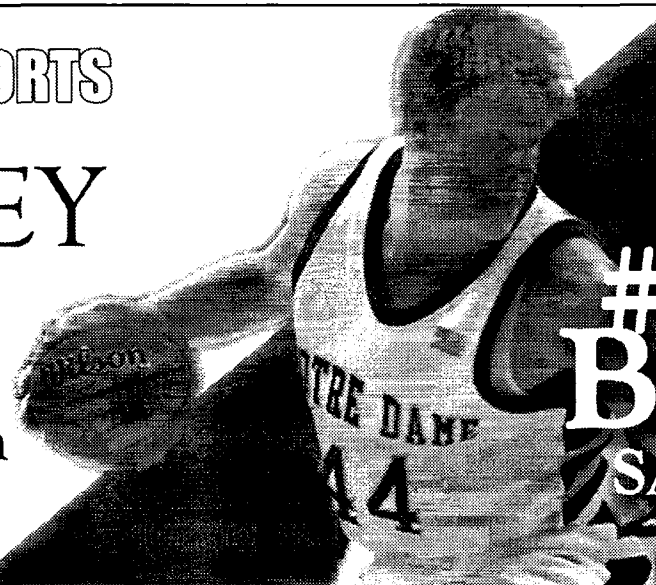
THIS WEEK IN IRISH SPORTS

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MEYO INVITATIONAL TRACK AND FIELD

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MEYO MILE: SAT @ 2:30PM, FINALS TO FOLLOW



GOLD GAME



Madison

continued from page 24

upon its momentum after its 4-3 win against Brigham Young earlier this week. Despite two early losses, Louderback feels his team improved, and is feeling confident.

The Irish were able to oust BYU thanks in part to the aggressive doubles play of senior Brook Buck and junior Kelcy Tefft and sophomores Cosmina Ciobanu and Colleen Rielley.

"We're feeling good," Louderback said. "We played much better in our doubles sets so we're feeling good about that. [BYU's] No. 2 doubles team in the nation hadn't lost up to that point, and we were able to take them down. It really helped set the tone for the rest of the match. Although

"And when you play some of the best teams in the nation, you're going to have some great games and experiences."

Jay Louderback
Irish coach

we lost a couple of sets that we should have won, we pulled together and won the match."

However, the Irish must look past their home victory against the Cougars and focus on the top-10 Bulldogs.

Georgia is currently 3-0 in dual match play this season, a great deal of which can be attributed to standout freshman Cameron Ellis, who is riding a 10-game winning streak to an overall record of 19-3. In terms of doubles play, however, Georgia looks to be a tough opponent. The No. 36 duo of junior Monika Dancevic and senior Kelly Hyndman stand at 10-1 on the season, while No. 30 tandem of sophomores Naoko

"We're playing the top teams in the nation so they will have their hands full."

Jay Louderback
Irish coach

Ueshima and Yvette Hyndman stand at 9-1 on the year.

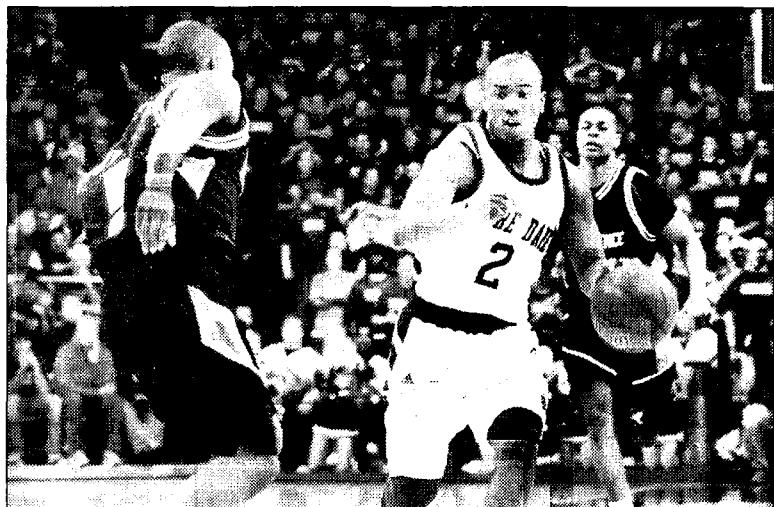
Coach Louderback views the first round of the tournament as an excellent opportunity to defeat an evenly matched squad.

"I think they're a very good team," he said. "We match up very well with them. We've played them before and it was a great match so we're looking forward to it."

The winner of the first round will face the victor of the match between No. 75 Wisconsin and No. 4 Georgia Tech.

"It won't be hard to keep them focused," Louderback said. "We're playing the top teams in the nation so they will have their hands full. Also, it's great preparation for the NCAA finals because we play four matches in five days."

Contact Lorenzo Reyes at lreyes@nd.edu



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Irish guard Tory Jackson dribbles upcourt during Notre Dame's 81-74 overtime win over Providence on Jan. 31.

Pirates

continued from page 24

to 67-50.

But the Irish responded with an 11-3 run to quiet the home crowd and strengthen their hold on second place in the Big East. The win was Notre Dame's second straight on the road after it lost its first two of the conference season.

"I think we've really improved and learned from our mistakes," Kurz said. "We've gotten a lot better since the first two games."

The run was one of many for the Irish, who outscored Seton Hall 18-3 during one stretch in the first half. That spurt was punctuated by a McAlarney 3-pointer with 7:19 remaining in the stanza.

Kurz, Notre Dame's captain, said the team's ability to score in bunches is what makes it danger-

ous.

"We got in a flow early and really showed what we could do," he said.

McAlarney finished with 19 points and helped the Irish shoot 45 percent from behind the arc.

Harangody finished above his season scoring average of 20.4 and also displayed a new facet of his game as he spontaneously ran the point for the Irish. After a Seton Hall missed shot early in the second half, Harangody ripped down the rebound and dribbled the ball the length of the floor before finding Ryan Ayers for a 3-pointer.

Kurz added 17 points and 10 boards in the win, Notre Dame's eighth in its last nine games against Seton Hall.

Jeremy Hazell led the Pirates with 26 points on 8-of-14 shooting.

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles-Scots game postponed

Special to The Observer

Saint Mary's game Wednesday night against Alma was canceled due to

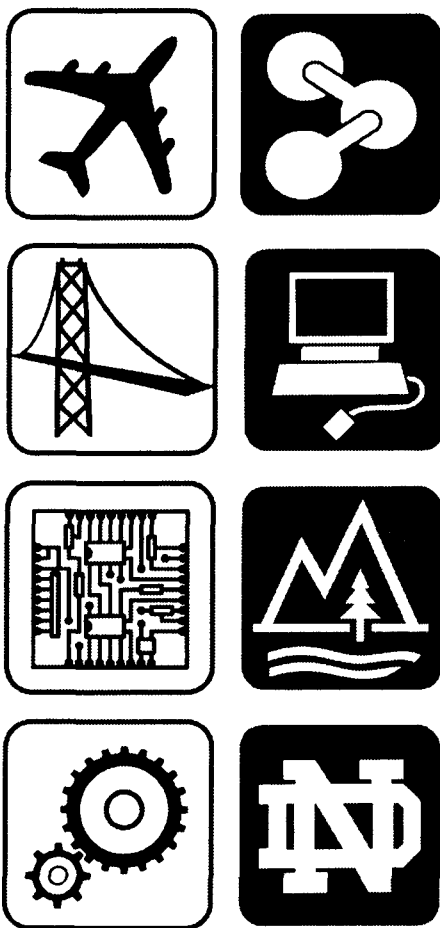
inclement weather.

The game has been rescheduled for tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Angela Athletic Center at Saint

Mary's.

The Belles are 9-10 overall and hold a 5-6 record in the MIAA. The Scots are 7-10 and 4-6 in conference play.

NOTRE DAME



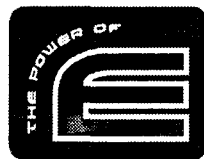
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Emily Battinelli
Peter Bradley
Danile Chapman
Matthew Cirillo
Kyle Collins
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Tim Daugherty
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Courtney Elder
Travis Evert
Samuel Fenker
Daniel Fletcher
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Michelle Fuhrman
Benjamin Fuja
Courtney Giannini
Ian Giles
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Edith Graham
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Robert Hamilton
Allison Hamman
Michael Hannigan
William Hoey
David Howdyshell
Michael Hughes, Jr.
Charles Janini
Melissa Kane
Brendan Keeler

Colin Keeler
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Kevin McNamara
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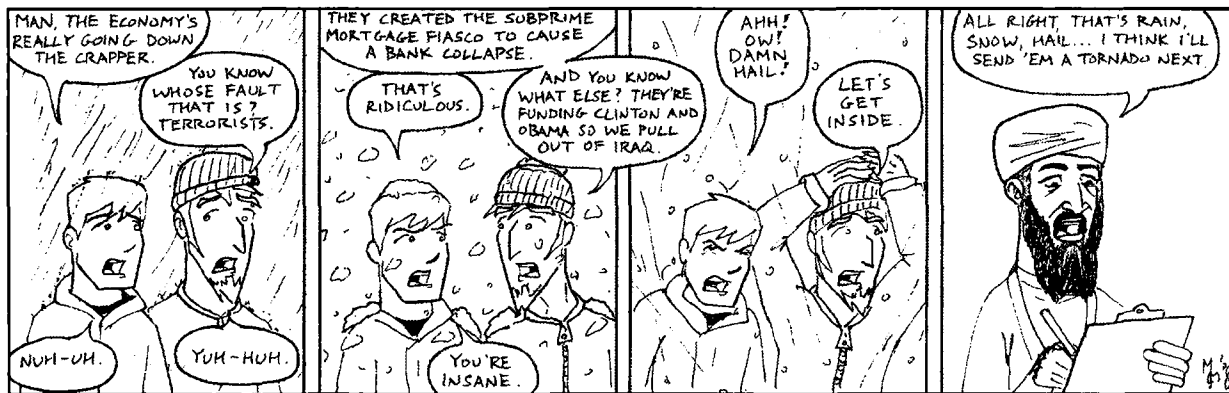
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BLACK DOG

MICHAEL MIKUSKA



TASTES LIKE FAILURE

RICH PROTIVA & ANDY SPANGLER



JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

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

JICUE
YONAN
GRAHNE
GRIFIN

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

A: THE

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AORTA KNIFE WALRUS HOOKED
Answer: When the spacecraft landed, the astronaut was — DOWN TO "EARTH"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

...I'm gonna rock around the...
Stop! That's awful!
HORROR! QUIET!

WHAT MOM WILL DO WHEN THE KIDS OBJECT TO DAD'S SHOWER SINGING.

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

Across

1 Pairs (off on)
5 Egyptian symbols of royalty
9 Casino equipment
14 "the Agent" (old comic strip)
15 Place
16 "If you..."
17 Certain marine biologist's test?
19 Gainsay
20 Kooser, former U.S. poet laureate
21 Cultural stuff
22 Tops
23 One way to get into a gang's headquarters?
26 Splits
28 F.D.R. agcy.
29 Wrinkly fruit
30 "Breaker Morant" people
32 Lived

Down

1 "Is that a...?"
2 Poulenc's "Sonata for and Piano"
3 Coos and hoots
4 Triton's realm
5 Red lights and flares
6 Musical interval
7 pudding (British dish)
8 Arithmetic exercise
9 Beef cut
10 Hebdomadally
11 Five-time Horse of the Year, 1960-64
12 Verdi aria
13 "What... thou?" (biblical query)
18 Word with bus or memory
22 Dried coconut meat
24 Poet who wrote "At night there is no such thing as an ugly woman"
25 Windblown deposit
26 Time-honored name
27 Expressionist Schiele
30 Thin pancakes
31 Let pass
32 Poisonous flower

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

AMISS CRAM FAZE
RECAP LONE URAL
ELITE OUTS NIPS
TONY CURTIS NASA
ENGR SOS KAY
MEX DISCHMAN
MAPPED SETPIECE
IDIOT NYC EDGED
CANNABIS KNEADS
ARGYLES BES
CSI SEE STOP
AQUA JOHNNY CAKE
BURR ITTOO MOLAR
LIST NOTI CROPS
ETAS GEST ANNIE

33 Western Hemisphere abbr.
34 Hot
36 Utmost distance from the eye at which an image is clear
37 Triton's realm
38 Not be resolved
43 Kind of gland
44 Like most adages: Abbr.
45 finalis (purpose, in law)
46 Massive, very hot celestial orb
47 French frigate that carried the Statue of Liberty to the U.S.
48 Nautical acronym
49 Who has won an Oscar for Best Actor three times
50 "Fiddler on the Roof" role
54 Carrier of a bow and arrows
55 Stamina
57 Climax
58 Financial paper: Abbr.

Puzzle by Jim Leeds

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.
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HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kathleen Kinmont, 43; Morgan Fairchild, 58; Blythe Danner, 65; Fran Tarkenton, 68

Happy Birthday: You have a host of things you want to do this year but, the more you focus on what's really important, the better you will do. Set your priorities and stick to them. Emotional issues can be resolved and partnerships dealt with. Your numbers are 12, 14, 20, 24, 32, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep things a secret today. The less you share with others, the less opposition you will face. You can get a lot accomplished if you work quietly on your own behind the scenes. 2 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't listen to what others say or think that what is promised will actually be honored. Count on yourself. It's you who will excel because you are dedicated, determined and a doer. 5 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A geographical change can turn a mediocre life into a spectacular one. Money is in the picture and a chance to try your hand at something creative, innovative and right up your alley is evident. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do something that will enhance your personal life. Get involved in a deep conversation about your future plans and intentions and you will get help achieving your goals. The timing is right for changes. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can make a difference if you are serious about a cause. Get involved and take action and you will impress the people you encounter and make new friends and possible partners for future endeavors. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Involvement with others will be to your benefit and should lead to a special kind of relationship. Love is in the stars -- plan a good time for yourself and someone special. 5 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Get over whatever is being thrown at you personally by the people you live with. You have to branch out and discover what else is available to you. A new hobby or pastime will do wonders for your ego and confidence. 2 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): The more time you spend at home or idle, the more difficult your day will become. Keep busy and engage in outings that will bring about good conversation with experienced individuals who aren't critical. 4 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Emotional reactions will backfire, so think before you do something you may regret. Spend time researching something you want to pursue. Attend a class or visit someone who can help you find your way. 3 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Have some fun and you will discover a new way to do something that will be beneficial to you financially, professionally or even physically. Follow through with some of your thoughts and ambitions. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can make some personal changes that will wow the people you live closest to. Do something special for yourself and you will feel more confident and enthusiastic about pursuing your goals. 3 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be a Good Samaritan and you will meet others just like yourself. Love is in the picture and the opportunity to build new friendships is looking positive. The influence that the new people in your life make will give you needed strength and courage. 4 stars

Birthday Baby: You are knowledgeable, insightful, determined and industrious. You are true to your beliefs and are willing to go the distance to accomplish your goals.

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

THE OBSERVER

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Pirates plundered

Notre Dame blows out Seton Hall in first half

By FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writer

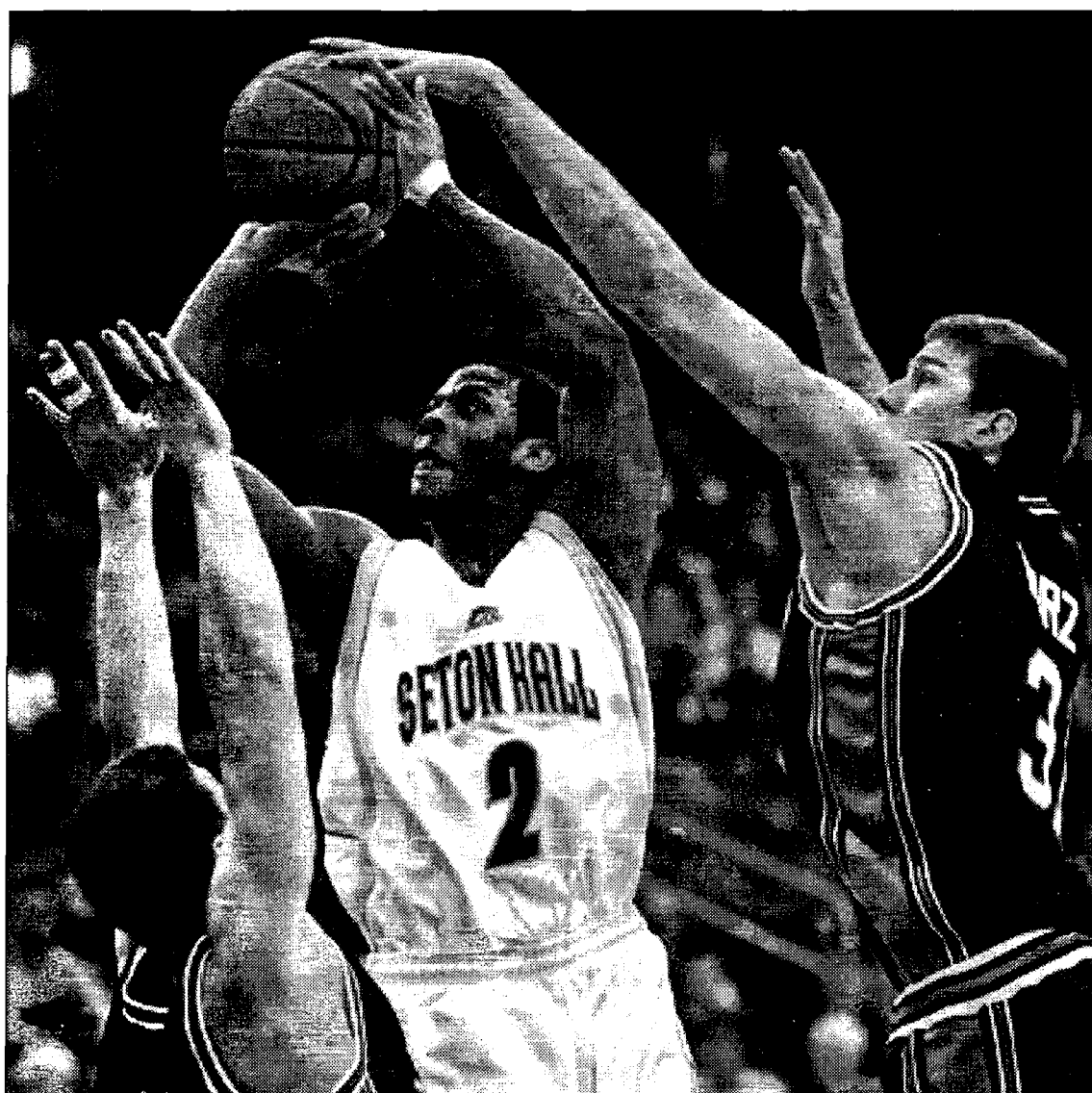
Notre Dame came out firing in the first half and blew Seton Hall out before the halftime buzzer even sounded. The No. 22 Irish cruised to a 95-69 win and improved to 17-4 overall and 7-2 in Big East play.

"It was a great win for us," senior forward Rob Kurz said. "We knew this would be a big game and we had to come to play."

Each team made 6-of-12 3-pointers in the first half but the Irish hit 20-of-37 shots overall and forced 12 turnovers in the period to take a 47-27 lead into the locker room.

The Irish were sloppy at times during the second half but it didn't matter as Luke Harangody finished with 22 points and 13 rebounds to lead his squad to the victory.

After Irish guard Kyle McAlarney hit a 3-pointer to put Notre Dame on top 65-41, Seton Hall put together its only real rally of the game. Senior guard Brian Laing made a basket then the Pirates picked up a steal and another hoop. After a Notre Dame timeout, Seton Hall forced yet another turnover and Laing hit a 3-pointer to cut the deficit



Irish forward Rob Kurz, right, blocks a shot from Pirates guard Jamar Nutter during Notre Dame's 95-69 win over Seton Hall Wednesday night in Newark, N.J.

see PIRATES/page 22

**MEN'S BASKETBALL
ANALYSIS**

Kurz plays steady role in offense

By FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writer

After Notre Dame's 89-80 win over DePaul last Thursday, Blue Demons coach Jerry Wainwright had plenty to talk about. He could have talked about how Notre Dame drilled clutch shot after clutch shot down the stretch.

But in his postgame press conference, Wainwright emphasized that Irish forward Rob Kurz is the "most under-appreciated player" in the Big East.

In his chat with the media soon after, Irish coach Mike Brey emphatically agreed.

And how could he not?

Kurz — the team's lone senior — is averaging 13 points and 8.1 rebounds per game. But with Kurz's frontcourt-mate Luke Harangody on the short list of Big East player of the year candidates and junior Kyle McAlarney sporadically erupting for 30-plus points, Kurz is rarely even mentioned.

Maybe he warrants attention so infrequently because his numbers are usually pretty constant. For instance, he put

see KURZ/page 21

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Barlow has basketball in her blood

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

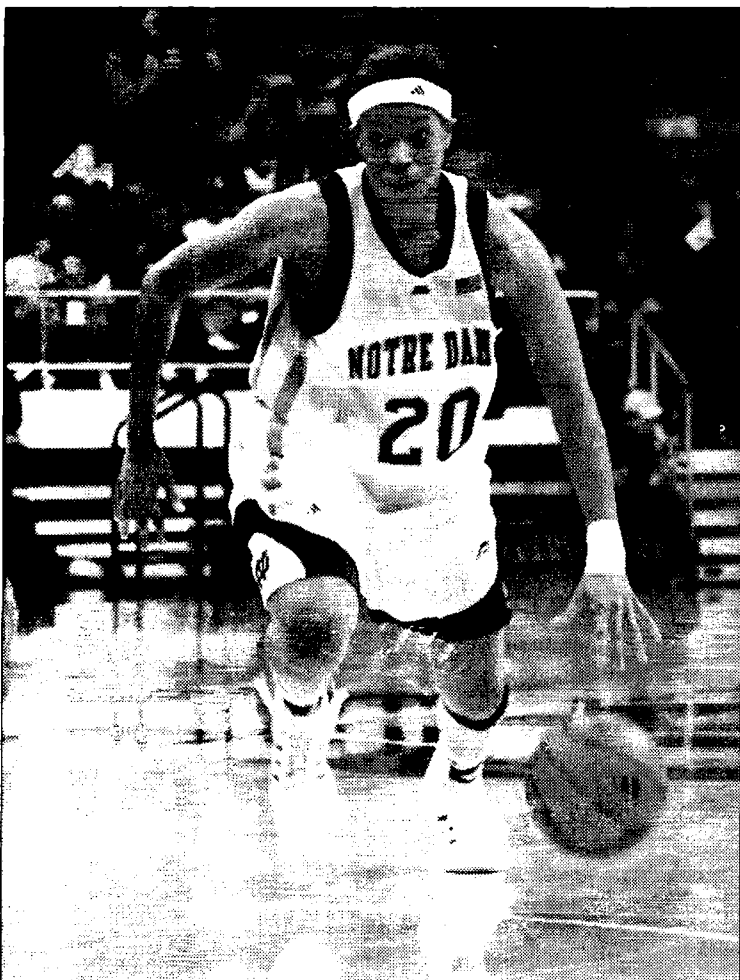
All college athletes run short on time, and Ashley Barlow was no exception. She had an interview followed by a film study session, but her priorities were elsewhere: First, she had to make a shot.

The sophomore guard air-balled two from half-court — she swears she made one earlier, on her first shot of the day — before settling for the 3-point line. She missed three or four, fixing each errant shot with a stare as if the ball had disobeyed her instructions by veering away from the hoop. After knocking one down from near the top of the key, she could finally talk.

Her perseverance wouldn't have surprised Irish coach Muffet McGraw.

"I think she's just the most determined player I've ever had," McGraw said. "That's the single word that always comes to mind when I look at her."

It was unusual to see Barlow miss that many consecutive shots. She recently



Irish guard Ashley Barlow dribbles up the floor during Notre Dame's 78-59 win over Western Kentucky on Nov. 13.

ALLISON AMBROSE/The Observer

see BARLOW/page 21

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Squad prepares for top-ranked teams

Weather delays ND's arrival to tournament

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

Notre Dame head coach Jay Louderback has a routine that he expects his team to follow before tournaments. Usually, he will stress the squad's mistakes from previous matches and focus on hitting to prepare for the contest.

This time around, however, Mother Nature wasn't cooperating with his program.

En route to the ITA National Women's Team Indoor Championship in Madison, Wisc., the Irish faced some inclement weather. Unable to continue to Madison, they were forced to stay the night at a motel between South Bend and Madison.

"We're stuck in the middle of Wisconsin," Louderback said. "We were lucky to get a room actually. There was a pretty bad traffic accident, and with all the

snow, we decided to call it a night, and head over there tomorrow morning."

Fortunately for the Irish, they aren't scheduled to play No. 6 Georgia in the first round of the tournament until 4:30 p.m. today at the Nielsen Stadium in Madison.

The team lost to Georgia Tech in the championship game of this tournament last season.

A total of 16 teams await the No. 16 Irish when they make it to Madison, including No. 1 Stanford, No. 2 UCLA, No. 3 Northwestern, No. 4 and defending champions Georgia Tech, as well as No. 7 California.

Coach Louderback believes the tournament is an excellent way for his team to gain experience playing some of the best competition in the nation.

"We're guaranteed at least three matches this weekend," Louderback said. "And when you play some of the best teams in the nation, you're going to have some great games and experiences."

Notre Dame is looking to build

see MADISON/page 22