

THE OBSERVER

The Independent Newspaper Serving Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

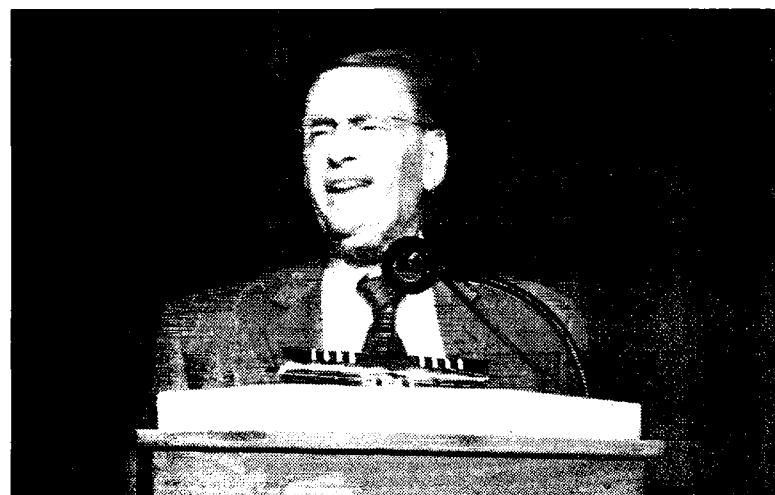
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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2008

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

MLB commissioner speaks at JACC

Bud Selig headlines Opening Night Dinner, says baseball thriving despite steroid scandals



CHRIS MASSAD/The Observer
MLB commissioner Bud Selig addresses attendees at the baseball Opening Night Dinner in the Joyce Center Tuesday.

By JAY FITZPATRICK
News Writer

Despite the ongoing use of performance-enhancing drugs, Major League Baseball (MLB) Commissioner Allan "Bud" Selig told attendees at Tuesday's annual baseball Opening Night Dinner he believes this is the "golden age" of baseball.

"We're in the midst of an amazing renaissance of baseball. The sport's never been this popular, the sport's never done this well," he told his audience in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse.

The commissioner cited increased attendance and competitive balance to try to support

his claim.

Last season, the 30 MLB teams drew a combined 79.5 million fans, and an average attendance of nearly 33,000 per game. Selig projects the MLB will break that record with 80 million fans.

Selig also stressed the importance of competitive balance, or parity, in the League. During the 2007 season, no team had a winning percentage above .600 or below .400 — and that balance came only four years after Detroit lost 119 games (the second most all-time) and six years since Seattle tied an MLB-record with 116 wins in 2001.

After the New York Yankees

see BASEBALL/page 4

Annual DSLC kicks off

Saint Mary's explores diversity in conference

By KATIE KOHLER
Saint Mary's Editor

Diversity will be in focus again as Saint Mary's kicks off the third Annual Diverse Student Leadership Conference (DSLC) today.

The conference is organized by the Student Diversity Board (SDB) and targets area college and high school students. The free three-day workshops will continue through Friday, highlighting the diversity in education at Saint Mary's and its social and professional impact. The DSLC includes workshops, a diversity showcase, career exposition and keynote addresses.

The mission of the DSLC is "to inform participants of the adversities and benefits within diverse academic, social and professional settings," SDB vice president and conference organizer Adriana Lopez said.

"As a senior getting ready to graduate, I believe that the main purpose of an education is to learn to become responsible citizens and better professionals in the workforce," Lopez said. "I think it is very important for students to attend the conference because it provides an opportunity for them to learn about a reality that they are going to encounter in life."

The conference opens tonight at 7 when Gwendolyn Dungy delivers the first keynote address in the Student Center Lounge. Dungy has been the executive director of the National Association of Student Professional Administrators

see DSLC/page 4

Like weather, snow days unpredictable

ND hasn't canceled classes since 2000; no formal policy exists to determine closures

By BECKY HOGAN
News Writer

In the past 90 years, Notre Dame has closed the campus due to severe winter weather conditions only eight times — and the decision about whether to cancel classes can be as unpredictable as South Bend weather patterns.

Vice President of Business Operations James Lyphout, who plays a central role in the decision to cancel classes due to inclement weather, said there is no criteria or policy used to decide when to call snow days.

"There's no set amount of

snow or specific temperature. Each situation is evaluated on its own circumstances. There are no specific parameters for which we would cancel classes," he said.

Lyphout also said the decision to close campus due to weather is not dependent on what other schools and businesses in the area are doing.

"We really make independent evaluations of road and weather conditions," he said. "We have our own people do assessments of parking lots, roads and the surrounding community in the early morning hours."

see SNOW/page 6

Snow-related closures at Notre Dame

Dec. 13, 2000: University closed. Final exams postponed.

Jan. 4, 1999: University closed. No classes affected because it happened during winter break.

March 9 and 10, 1998: University closed at 3 p.m. on March 9 and all day March 10. No classes affected because it happened during spring break.

Jan. 16, 1997: Employees left at noon. Afternoon classes remained in session

Feb. 23, 1993: University closed.

Jan 26, 27 and 30, 1978: University closed.

Jan. 28, 1977: University closed.

Late November / early December 1918: No date available; University closed.

Information courtesy of the Office of News and Information
MADELINE NIES/Observer graphic

Electoral ethics examined

Professor calls campaigns 'fistfights,' discusses voter responsibility

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

Presidential campaigns are "a fistfight in business suits," American Studies professor Robert Schmuhl said during a lecture about ethical voting Tuesday.

"Anything goes, figuratively speaking. Brass knuckles, switch blades, and sucker punches are commonly used political techniques," Schmuhl said of the competitive — and oftentimes vicious nature — of the race to win the White House.



DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

American Studies professor Robert Schmuhl discusses ethics within presidential campaigns in a lecture Tuesday.

see POLITICS/page 4

Ethernet usage could boost wireless speed

By KATE MCCLELLAND
News Writer

Though wireless is the Internet connection of choice for many students on campus, the Office of Information Technology (OIT) says using an Ethernet cable will help speed up the network.

Every dorm room on campus is equipped with an Ethernet outlet and if students made more use of them, there wouldn't be as much traffic in the wireless network, said Dewitt Latimer, chief technology officer.

"It's like the old-fashioned party line that telephones used to be connected to — the more people on the line, the worse the connection becomes," Latimer said.

However, he said OIT ultimately recommends using the connection that is appropriate to what you are trying to accomplish online.

"If you're trying to download and play a two gigabyte movie, then you should be using the wired connection for the best results," Latimer said. "But if you're watching TV with your friends and IM-ing or checking your e-mail at the same time, the wireless connection is what is best for you."

For students on the run, the higher navigation speeds may be the dealbreaker.

"I usually get on the Internet before class and I try to use the

see WIRELESS/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

Save the good ol' Frosh-O

I don't know about you, but I loved Frosh-O.

Who wouldn't love that wonderful weekend where freshmen are forced to endure 72 hours of solid awkwardness and where all manner of comfortable conversation goes to die?

Griffin Dassatti

Sports Wire Editor

I had to sit in the scorching hot basement of Pangborn eating stale pancakes and making painful small talk with God-only-knows how many girls I'd never remember. I had to crack an egg on my head as part of some perverted version of Duck-Duck Goose. On the plus side, I got to run into DomerFest drenched in sweat and wearing the coolest-looking orange beanie ever. (Can you say chick magnet?)

I've heard a rumor that whoever's in charge of this incredibly important (albeit uncomfortable) staple of a freshman's year wants to make some changes. Now, if these changes included requiring everyone to wear a nametag including their name, hometown, and intended major, I'd be all for them. These proposed adjustments, however, are much more drastic (not to mention much less convenient).

The first proposal I've heard is that RAs should be in charge of Frosh-O. According to these rumors, there would still be a Frosh-O staff of sophomores and they would still organize interhall events — but these events would be attended and run by RAs.

As a result, the number of sophomores on each dorm's Frosh-O staff would likely be cut in half. I have no real evidence to prove this. It's just that I'm a freshman this year and I want the opportunity to do to next year's rookies the same things that were done to me. People tell me I have anger management issues.

The second rumor I heard was the one that really annoyed me. Apparently, the people in charge of Frosh-O think it's a good idea to cut the amount of time allotted for events in half so freshmen can spend more time with their parents while they're on campus.

As my fellow Observer staffer Katie Peralta said in a moment of sophomore wisdom, "Baby bird's gotta fly." Does any more really need to be said? Considering I still have about a hundred words of space to fill, yes, more does need to be said.

Don't worry, reader, it'll all be over soon.

My major problem with this proposal is that freshmen have had 18 years to spend time with their parents, not to mention an entire summer to prepare for their move to college. Frosh-O is a time when freshmen need to learn a little self-sufficiency, and the key to this is to maximize their time away from their parents.

It's not about meeting fellow Domers from around campus (because honestly, who remembers more than a handful of people they met during Frosh-O?). It's about being able to walk into classes a few days later, and not just sitting there, awkwardly staring at your perfectly arranged set of pencils, but turning to the person next to you and introducing yourself.

So if the powers-that-be really want to welcome freshmen to Notre Dame, they should do it in the most painful and awkward way possible.

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

Contact Griffin Dassatti at gdassatt@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHICH CANDIDATE — OBAMA OR CLINTON — HAS THE BEST CARD TO PLAY?



Amanda Spiegelberg

freshman
Walsh

"Obama because no one's sure if Clinton is really a woman."



Katie Dorociak

freshman
Pangborn

"Bob and Grant because their posters are everywhere."



George Kiamos

sophomore
Keough

"Hillary. There is something about she-males that gets to people."



Jacqueline Collins

senior
Pasquerilla East

"Why does it have to be about cards? Why can't it be about chess or backgammon?"



Caitlin Lambert

junior
Pasquerilla East

"Obama because Hillary is a witch."



Paul Porto

junior
Knott

"Hillary because Caitlin is a witch."



A packed student audience awaits the arrival of singer Ben Lee at Legends Saturday night.

BRITT BURGESSON/The Observer

OFFBEAT

Man charged in staged sympathy shooting

DOTHAN, Ala. — A Hartford man has been charged with two misdemeanors for allegedly staging his own shooting, which put him in the hospital, to get sympathy from family members.

Charles Gregory Hatcher was indicted by a Geneva County grand jury on charges of obstruction of justice and giving false information to law enforcement officers, both Class A misdemeanors. He turned himself into the Geneva County Jail last week and

was released on \$1,500 bond.

Police found Hatcher in a cotton field with a bullet wound on his back and another on the back of his leg on Dec. 3. He spent several days in the hospital.

Hartford Police chose not to prosecute the case, but the grand jury indicted him anyway, Geneva County District Attorney Kirke Adams said.

Meth deposited in ATM, woman jailed

BREMERTON, Wash. — Credit unions accept deposits — just not of

methamphetamine. A woman who allegedly dropped an envelope containing money and a bag of meth at a Kitsap Credit Union was arrested and charged with drug possession, according to court documents.

A bank employee reported the deposit to police, who contacted the 18-year-old customer. Officers said she might have mistakenly included the bag when she got money out of her pocket for the deposit.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

As part of Ethics Week, Richard "Digger" Phelps will present a lecture entitled "Community Service: An Ethical Imperative" today at 12:30 p.m. at the Mendoza College of Business.

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

Women's tennis will play Ohio State Thursday at 3:30 p.m. at the Eck Tennis Pavilion. Admission is free.

The film "9 Star hotel" will be playing at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center Thursday at 7 p.m. as part of the "Immigration: A Notre Dame Perspective" film series.

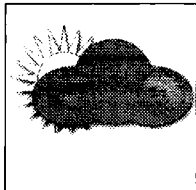
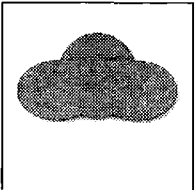
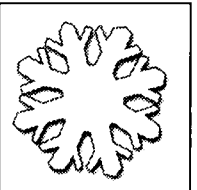
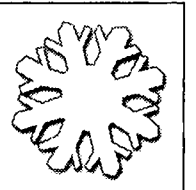
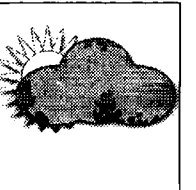
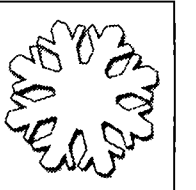
There will be Stations of the Cross Friday at 7:15 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Stations will be held each Friday during Lent.

The Kellogg Institute for International Studies is hosting a lecture entitled "Unsettling Accounts: Neither Truth nor Reconciliation in Confessions of State Violence" Thursdays at 4:15 p.m. in the Hesburgh Center.

The Black Cultural Arts Council is hosting its annual Black Coffeehouse Friday at 7 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom. Tickets cost \$6.

The Notre Dame women's lacrosse team will play against Canisius Friday at 5 p.m. in the Loftus Center.

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

LOCAL WEATHER	TODAY		TONIGHT		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
												
HIGH	22		17		34		22		26		28	
LOW	17		12		19		10		23		21	

Atlanta 63 / 40 Boston 32 / 16 Chicago 21 / 18 Denver 46 / 22 Houston 63 / 59 Los Angeles 69 / 49 Minneapolis 17 / 14 New York 40 / 22 Philadelphia 40 / 21 Phoenix 78 / 51 Seattle 47 / 41 St. Louis 31 / 24 Tampa 74 / 48 Washington 50 / 29

Senior class sponsors series

Weekly events aimed at preparing students for life after college

By LINDSAY SENA
News Writer

As seniors finish their final semester, they are forced to look toward the real, sometimes intimidating world after college.

To help ease the transition, the Senior Class Council is hosting "What's Next Wednesdays," a series of seminars co-sponsored by the Alumni Association, the Annual Fund, Career Center and Center for Social Concerns.

The Senior Class Council hosts several senior-specific events throughout the year, senior class president Bridget Keating said.

"We're hoping to celebrate our last year together and look ahead and prepare for life beyond Notre Dame," she said.

The series, which will be held the next four academic Wednesdays at 5 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom, will feature the following topics: "Staying Out of the Red: Personal Budgeting," "Beyond the First Job: Developing a Career Plan," "Real Estate in the Real World: Finding Your First Place" and "Turning Paychecks into Nest Eggs: Investing for the Long-term."

The Senior Class Council and the Career Center have collaborated in the past to host senior transition seminars, Keating said. At the start of the 2007 academic year, however, they decided to collaborate with the Alumni Association, Annual Fund and Center for Social Concerns.

"We saw an alignment of interests among our co-sponsors," Keating said, "so we looked to expand this program for seniors and

bring as many resources to the table as possible." To determine which topics are most pressing to seniors, the Senior Class Council "sent out a survey in the fall semester to gauge interest in various events to see what we could offer to seniors to make our last year the best possible," Keating said.

"When we suggested senior transition seminars, these topics generated great interest and students really wanted to hear about real world issues they'll be facing

in a few months."

The seminars, whose themes were discussed and agreed upon by each of the sponsoring organizations, will feature guest speakers ranging from Notre Dame professors to local experts, Keating said.

The upcoming seminar on personal budgeting will be relatively "hands on," Keating said.

"It will definitely be an open, casual forum with the speaker presenting his or her material and then plenty of room for questions and answers."

Food and prizes will be offered at each of the four seminars. Students will be entered in a lottery for a pair of tickets to the first home football game of the 2008 season for each seminar they attend.

"We're excited about the collaboration and serving the senior class," Keating said. Although the topics are geared toward seniors, they are open to all students.

Contact Lindsay Sena at lsena@nd.edu

"We're hoping to celebrate our last year together and look ahead and prepare for life beyond Notre Dame."

Bridget Keating
senior class president

BOARD OF GOVERNANCE

Leaders discuss DSLC schedule, 'Monologues'

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY
News Writer

Abigail Hinchey, president of the Student Diversity Board, reminded the Board of Governance during its meeting Tuesday that the Diverse Student Leadership Conference (DSLC) will begin today and run through Friday.

Gwendolyn Dungy, executive director of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), will deliver the keynote address at 7 tonight in the Student Center Lounge. The president emeritus of Spelman College, Johnetta Cole, will deliver the conference's closing remarks at 12:30 p.m. Friday, Hinchey said.

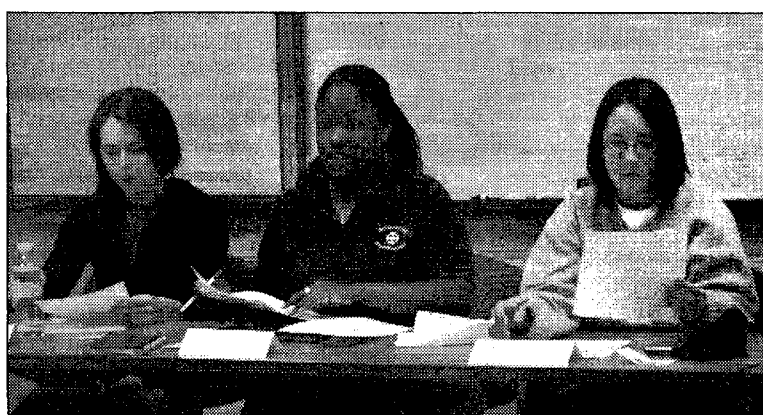
Renee Woodward, the Women's Issues commissioner, said that "SMC Monologues" will be held this Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Carroll Auditorium.

"There will a lot of new people and old favorites," Woodward said.

Long sleeve T-shirts with the "Monologues" logo will be sold after the performances.

The First Year class board is also selling T-shirts at the Student Center that say "Class is something more than you attend" across the back. There are several colors to choose from, and the shirts are selling for \$10 each.

Contact Ashley Charnley at acharn01@saintmarys.edu



KATE FENLON/The Observer

From left, BOG members Courtney Kennedy, Kim Hodges and Kelly Payne discuss the Diverse Student Leadership Conference Tuesday.

Looking for solid business and accounting experience to put on your resume?

The Observer is accepting applications for a 2008-09 Business Manager and Controller. Responsibilities include preparing a yearly budget and handling payroll for a 200-person staff.

Since the Controller will take over as the 2009-10 Business Manager, Controller applicants should be sophomores, or juniors staying for a fifth year.

Both positions are salaried, about six to 10 hours a week.

Please contact Maddie Hanna at mhanna1@nd.edu or

Kyle West at kwest1@nd.edu if interested.

Baseball

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won three consecutive World Series from 1998-2000, there were six different champions over the next six seasons. Boston's win last season marked the first time a team won a second title in the 21st century, but Selig noted the other teams playing in the 2007 postseason to try to show competitive balance in the sport.

Excluding the Red Sox, the three other teams playing in the two league championship series were in the bottom third of the league in terms of revenue. (Cleveland ranked 23rd at \$61 million, Colorado was 25th at \$54 million and Arizona was 26th at \$52 million.)

Selig said competitive balance like this has given more fans than ever "hope and faith" that their team has a legitimate shot at making a postseason run.

"I've been studying the division races, and I really like what I see," Selig said. "I think every race is going to have multiple teams that are going to look at themselves and say, 'Hey, I've got a chance to win.'"

Selig also addressed the ways in which Major League Baseball has addressed the growing problem of performance-enhancing substances over the last few years.

After an initial Congressional hearing in March 2005, Selig asked former Sen. George Mitchell to conduct a thorough, comprehensive investigation into the use of performance-enhancing substances in the sport. The result, the 409-page Mitchell Report, gave baseball what Selig called "a road map for the future" in how the steroids era began and how steroids were distributed throughout Major League Baseball.

Selig said he is proud of the results of the Mitchell Report and would "do it again tomorrow" in order to prove that baseball has nothing to hide.

The commissioner also said he thinks the report and the implementation of many of Mitchell's recommendations are a way to show fans that baseball is doing everything in its power to clean up the sport.

"Our fans realize we've done something about this. We have the toughest steroid program in sports, we've banned amphetamines," he said. "We're funding a study for a human growth hormone test with at UCLA with Dr. [Don] Catlin with the National Football League. And people forget that our minor league pro-

gram is in its eighth year."

One of the most important facets of Major League Baseball's steroids policy, Selig said, is the increasing independence and transparency of the testing.

Currently, Major League Baseball uses Bryan Smith, a doctor employed by the MLB, as its primary doctor for steroids test, instead of turning to an outside, third party as Mitchell recommended in his report. Selig said he is committed to Smith, but wants to increase his independence.

"The things we're doing, we're trying to increase the independence and I want to increase transparency. ... I think we can have a third party and I think he can be independent, but [Smith] understands our sport and he understands our nuances," Selig said. "People compare our sport to the Olympics in terms of penalties and it's just not fair because we play every year."

Selig said baseball is using the best available science to combat steroids use, including the Olympic labs in UCLA and Montreal.

The commissioner also responded to former Atlanta Braves pitcher John Rocker's allegations that he knew Rocker was on steroids in 2000. Selig called Rocker's claims "inaccurate" and said there was no way he could have known Rocker was on steroids since there was no drug policy in 2000 and Rocker's tests would have been protected by doctor-patient confidentiality.

After a winter of steroids investigations and Congressional hearings (former New York Yankees pitcher Roger Clemens is slated to testify today), Selig said the focus this week should be on the return of baseball itself. Pitchers and catchers report this week in Arizona and Florida for the beginning of Spring Training.

"My best days are the ones where I can concentrate on baseball," Selig said.

The former owner of the Milwaukee Brewers, Selig was elected acting commissioner in 1994 before being named to the position permanently in 2000.

Notre Dame baseball coach Dave Schrage and former Notre Dame shortstop Greg Lopez also spoke at the event.

Notre Dame baseball's home opener will be March 17 against Central Michigan. Schrage said Tuesday that he wants to make this date a new tradition for the team, and the Irish will continue to open on St. Patrick's Day for at least the next three seasons.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

Wireless

continued from page 1

Ethernet connection in my room because it seems to be faster and more reliable," sophomore Jim Healy said.

But for students who enjoy the mobility that the wireless connection gives them, the Ethernet option is too constraining.

"I'm not even sure when I usually go on the Internet — I just check my e-mail whenever I sit down at my desk. And I just use the wireless network, because it's more convenient than dealing with the Ethernet cord," sophomore Jen Valencia said.

Sophomore Eileen Walsh said she uses the wireless connection simply because of the way her furniture is arranged.

"Right now my desk isn't near the Ethernet outlet so I use the wireless network but last year I used my Ethernet connection all of the time," Walsh said.

According to OIT, student computer usage peaks between the hours of 5 P.M. and 3 A.M. each day. During that time, there is an average of 1,400 simultaneous Ethernet connections and 3,400 simultaneous wireless connections.

"I usually use the Internet in the early evening — I'll check my mail before and after dinner," Walsh said.

While OIT's system registers every connection — Ethernet or wireless — it does not distinguish between users who use both the wired and the wireless connections, so it is possible for a user to be counted twice, Latimer said.

The average network throughput on the ResNet wired network is 300 megabytes per second while the Nomad wireless network rate is only 150, so the wired connection will be significantly faster if you are downloading a large file, he said.

Contact Kate McClelland at mmcclell@nd.edu

DSL

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(NASPA) since 1995 and has more than 30 years of experience in higher education.

Johnnetta Cole, president emerita of both Spelman and Bennett College for Women — the only two all-black historical colleges for women in the country — will deliver the closing keynote address. She will deliver her lecture — titled "Are Diversity and Inclusion on Your Agenda?" — at 12:30 p.m. Friday in the Little Theater.

The speakers were chosen largely by the input of the students, Lopez said.

"The DSLC committee wanted to know about students' concerns and bring topics to the conference that they felt needed to be addressed," she said. "So the speakers were chosen based on their expertise on a specific area, but most importantly, we wanted speakers that can fit the mission of the conference and continue to contribute to social justice."

Lopez expects a large turnout, thanks to advertising and pre-registration options.

"Our committee in general has done an amazing job of getting the word out, not only to Saint Mary's, but other campuses around the area as well," she said. "I think that because this is the third annual DSLC, a lot more people are familiar with it and know that it is a very professional event."

Lopez hopes this year will be as successful as the first two, and she wants it to show the Saint Mary's community the daily importance of diversity.

"We live in a world that is so interconnected and part of our job is to figure out how to navigate it and be appreciative of what it is," she said. "As a Saint Mary's student I would hope that my school would be able to give me the necessary tools to do that, and the DSLC will do that."

Contact Katie Kohler at kkohle01@saintmarys.edu

Politics

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Political Communication in Electing a President," Schumhl's lecture focused on the role of ethics in campaigning and picking a candidate.

While it's expected that some candidates will play dirty, the constant scrutiny of the Internet and the media shines a spotlight on the ethical

— or unethical — behaviors of key players, Schumhl said.

"Today, a countless array of outlets in print, online and broadcast creates this 24/7 environment," he said.

The constant stream of information can both help and hinder voters' decision making. Quick access to information is a plus, but separating truth from opinion can be difficult for many people, he said.

"To a certain degree and somewhat paradoxically, it is easier to know more about a candidate and a campaign, but it is more challenging to acquire the necessary knowledge to judge the candidate," Schumhl said. "Every candidate has a Web site where one can find more than you would ever want to know, but much of this, what we now label 'spin,' is information with a bias or slant."

Schumhl said voters have an obligation to sift through biased information and make an informed voting decision "before conferring the power of the presidency on someone."

"We the people have the power of holding the candidate accountable," he said.

Schumhl then recommended several Web sites to help voters do that. One of those Web sites, FactChecker.com, can be found on the Washington Post home page. FactChecker evaluates different statements

from politicians and uses a "Pinocchio" rating system in which analysts rate the veracity of claims on a scale of one to three Pinocchios.

The system, which gives

slightly erroneous claims a single Pinocchio and significantly erroneous ones three, can help voters learn more about the ethical behaviors of certain candidates.

"In pursuing the truth, you as a voter learn [which candidates] are conducting themselves ethically," Schumhl said.

And while the excessive media coverage of political figures can be confusing, Schumhl said it is still an advantage for the public.

"There is so much coverage of one kind or another," he said, "that now there is a sense that whatever a political figure says becomes [fair game for scrutiny]."

So it's up to the general public to scrutinize.

"Voters have the political and moral duty to investigate candidates and their aims," he said.

The Center for Ethics and Culture sponsored Schumhl's lecture as part of Ethics Week.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

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WORLD & NATION

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Pakistani groups may form coalition

ISLAMABAD — Leaders of Pakistan's two main opposition parties said Tuesday they would form a coalition government if — as expected — their groups win the biggest share of votes in next week's parliamentary elections.

The hour-long meeting of Benazir Bhutto's widowed husband, Asif Ali Zardari, and former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif came one day after a survey by a U.S. government-funded organization predicted the opposition would score a landslide victory in the Feb. 18 ballot.

Zardari told reporters his Pakistan People's Party would invite Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-N as well as "other democratic forces" to join a governing coalition even if Bhutto's group won enough legislative seats to rule on its own.

Peace talks give hope to Kenyans

NAIROBI — Peace talks to end postelection bloodshed in Kenya moved to a secret location Tuesday for a final push. Negotiators said the opposition has proposed sharing power with the government for two years and then holding new elections.

Progress at the talks has given a sense of hope to many Kenyans, who have seen more than 1,000 people die and some 600,000 flee their homes in violence that followed the Dec. 27 election. Much of the upheaval has pitted ethnic groups linked to politicians against one another.

NATIONAL NEWS

Astronaut recovers for spacewalk

CAPE CANAVERAL — The German astronaut who was too sick to perform a spacewalk refused to say what ailed him, but insisted he's feeling great — albeit a little anxious — for Wednesday's outing.

Hans Schlegel will float outside the linked space shuttle Atlantis and international space station two days after sitting out the flight's first spacewalk, which involved installing Europe's new Columbus science lab.

Schlegel said he backed NASA's decision to pull him off the first spacewalk because of his illness and delay Columbus' hookup by a day, even though it was a bitter pill.

"Nobody could have been happier than me when we finished [Monday's spacewalk] with the major objectives all done," he said in a series of broadcast interviews Tuesday. "So that's all I want to say because medical issues are private."

Schlegel, 56, pointed out that he helped coordinate Monday's spacewalk from inside.

Junior high boy shot, wounded

OXNARD, Calif. — A 15-year-old boy was shot and wounded in a junior high school computer lab Tuesday and another eighth-grader was taken into custody, authorities said.

Worried parents gathered outside the 1,150-student E.O. Green Junior High School, which was locked down. Students were released classroom by classroom.

The wounded boy had improved since arriving at St. John's Regional Medical Center in extremely serious condition, police spokesman David Keith said. "We are guardedly optimistic he will make a recovery," he said.

LOCAL NEWS

Bill calls on Hoosiers to save water

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana House overwhelmingly approved a Senate bill Tuesday that calls on Indiana to join a regional compact intended to prevent water-hungry states from tapping into the Great Lakes' waters.

The bill, which was approved on a vote of 91-8 with no amendments, now goes to Gov. Mitch Daniels, who has 10 days to sign the legislation.

Erin Crofton, a resource specialist with the Michigan City-based Save the Dunes Council, said the bill's passage is a "great accomplishment for Indiana."

"We are neck to neck right now with New York to get the Compact adopted. Indiana could be the first state to pass both the legislation and implementing language together," she said.

Obama, McCain sweep Potomac

Clinton falls behind for the first time after losing D.C., Maryland, Virginia primaries

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Barack Obama powered past Hillary Rodham Clinton in the race for Democratic convention delegates Tuesday on a night of triumph sweetened with outsized primary victories in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

"Tonight we're on our way," Obama told cheering supporters in Madison, Wis. "But we know how much further we have to go," he added, celebrating eight straight victories over Clinton, the former first lady now struggling in a race she once commanded.

The Associated Press count of delegates showed Obama with 1,210. Clinton had 1,188, falling behind for the first time since the campaign began. Neither was close to the 2,025 needed to win the nomination.

His victories were by large margins — he was gaining about 75 percent of the vote in the nation's capital and nearly two-thirds in Virginia. In Maryland, he was winning close to 60 percent.

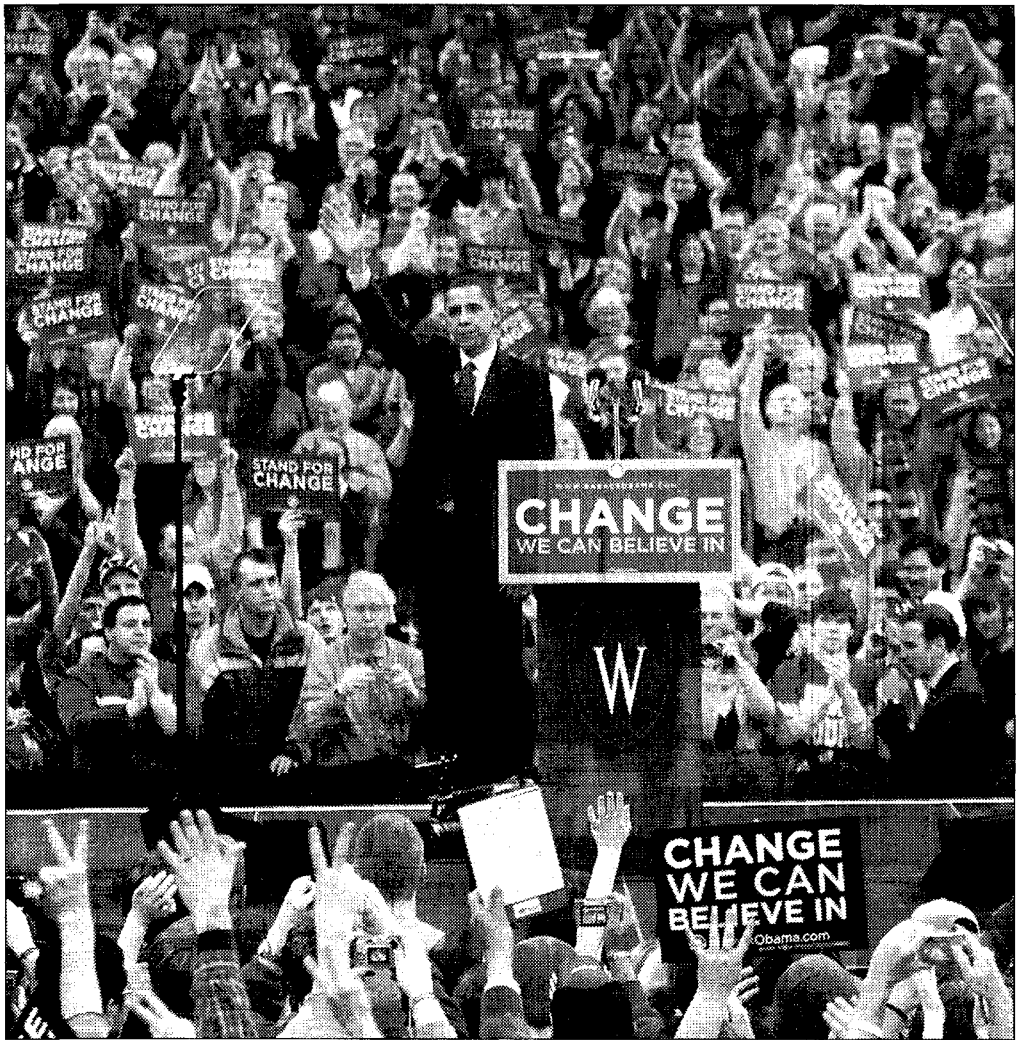
By contrast, Clinton was attempting to retool her campaign in the midst of a losing streak. Her deputy campaign manager resigned, the second high-level departure in as many days.

Campaigning in Texas, where she hopes to triumph on March 4, she said she was looking ahead, not back.

"I'm tested, I'm ready. Now let's make it happen," she said.

Republican front-runner John McCain won all three GOP primaries, adding to his insurmountable lead in delegates for the Republican nomination. He congratulated Mike Huckabee, his sole remaining major rival and a potential vice presidential running mate, then turned his focus on the Democrats.

"We know where either of their candidates will lead this country, and we dare not let them," he told supporters in Alexandria, Va. "They will paint a picture of the world in which America's mistakes



Democratic presidential hopeful Senator Barack Obama waves to supporters after speaking at a campaign rally Tuesday in Madison, Wis.

are a greater threat to our security than the malevolent intentions of an enemy that despises us and our ideals."

Interviews with voters leaving the polls showed Obama narrowly defeated Clinton among white voters in Virginia, 52 percent to 47 percent, the first time he has done that in a Southern state and only the fourth time he has done so in a competitive primary this year. Clinton won the white vote by 10 percentage points in Maryland. He won 90 percent of the black vote in Virginia and almost as much in Maryland. She won a majority of white women in both states, though by less than she is accustomed to. He won among white men in Virginia, and they split that vote in Maryland.

In all, there were 168 Democratic delegates at stake Tuesday.

Obama moved past Clinton in the delegate chase on the basis of the day's primaries and newly released results from last Saturday's Washington caucuses. Additional delegates still to be allocated from his new victories were certain to add to his lead.

McCain's victory in Virginia was a relatively close one, the result of an outpouring of religious conservatives who backed Huckabee.

Four in 10 Republican voters said they were born again or evangelical Christians — twice as many as called themselves members of the religious right in 2000 — and nearly 70 percent of them supported

Huckabee, an ordained Baptist minister.

Virginia voters could vote in either primary in their state. In a twist, Huckabee was running slightly ahead of McCain among independents, who cast about a fifth of the Republican votes there.

There were 113 delegates at stake in the three GOP races.

The AP count showed McCain with 789 delegates. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, who dropped out of the race last week, had 288. Huckabee had 241 and Texas Rep. Ron Paul had 14.

It takes 1,191 delegates to clinch the Republican nomination, and McCain appears to be on track to reach the target by late April.

AUSTRALIA

Parliament apologizes to Aborigines

Associated Press

CANBERRA — Aborigines organized breakfast barbecues in the Outback, giant TV screens went up in state capitals, and schools allowed students to watch the telecast of Australia's apology Wednesday for policies that degraded its indigenous people.

In a historic parliamentary vote that supporters said would open a new chapter in race relations, lawmakers unanimously adopted Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's motion to on behalf of all Australians.

"We apologize for the laws and policies of successive parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on

these our fellow Australians," Rudd said in Parliament, reading from the motion.

Aborigines remain the country's poorest and most disadvantaged group, and Rudd has made improving their lives one of his government's top priorities.

As part of that campaign, Aborigines were invited for the first time to give a traditional welcome Tuesday at the official opening of the Parliament session — symbolic recognition that the land on which the capital was built was taken from Aborigines without compensation.

The apology is directed at tens of thousands of Aborigines who were forcibly taken from their families as

children under now abandoned assimilation policies.

"We apologize for the laws and policies of successive parliaments and governments that have inflicted profound grief, suffering and loss on these our fellow Australians," the apology motion says.

"To the mothers and the fathers, the brothers and the sisters, for the breaking up of families and communities, we say sorry."

"And for the indignity and degradation thus inflicted on a proud people and a proud culture, we say sorry."

The apology ends years of divisive debate and a decade of refusals by the previous conservative government that lost November's elections.

Snow

continued from page 1

The assessments test whether roads are safely passable and parking lots can be adequately cleared, he said.

Lyphout and Saint Mary's security director David Garipey said conditions that have merited canceling classes in the past include very heavy snowfall with high winds that may cause drifting.

Any class canceled due to weather conditions would be rescheduled at the discretion of individual professors, Lyphout said.

Of the eight weather-related closures, five resulted in class cancellations.

The last campus closure occurred in December 2000 during final exams week.

According to Vice President of News and Information Dennis Brown, exams were rescheduled during the evenings of the three remaining exam days.

Since Saint Mary's is a residential

campus, snow days are rare, Garipey said. He could not say how many snow days have occurred in the College's history, but remembered only one in the past 17 years.

"Most students are residents on campus, so for the most part students are here," he said. "The decision basically comes down to watching weather conditions and road conditions as well as recommendations made by local government entities."

In contrast, Indiana University-South Bend has cancelled classes three times this semester due to weather conditions, according to the South Bend Tribune.

Garipey also said that if roads in the College's vicinity remain open, Saint Mary's usually bases its decisions on whether Notre Dame decides to close.

If the University were to cancel class, Lyphout said, the decision would be a collaboration between him, Provost Tom Burish and Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves.

The campuses would be notified about canceled classes and closures through e-mails and voicemails, Lyphout and Garipey said.

University snow-clearing operations are crucial in keeping campus roads and walkways open.

Bill Thistlethwaite, superintendent of Notre Dame's Landscape Services

Department, said that while snow-clearing technologies have improved over the years, most of the machinery has remained the same.

"The [technologies] have just gotten more efficient ... and we have better pieces of machinery, but in the end a plow is a plow," Thistlethwaite said. "We've also introduced brooms and an environmentally safe liquid in the last 10 to 12 years."

The liquid helps prevent ice from building up on the campus walkways.

Other equipment used includes Bobcat machines with buckets, pick-up trucks with plows and small dump trucks with plows.

Thistlethwaite said weather-related closures sometimes depend on whether his crews can keep up with the snow and ice.

"This winter has been really unusual with torrential

downpours of rain and big spikes in temperatures," he said. "We get rains, and then the temperature will fall and ice everything up at night

which has made it really difficult."

Thistlethwaite said more employees have worked this winter in order to keep up with the weather conditions.

"The way we run our crews has changed a lot to make [plowing] more efficient," he said.

It takes about 23 people from the University's Landscape Services crew to clear snowy paths each night, including four people on the night shift and three people on the early morning shift.

Thistlethwaite said the walks and campus roads are first priority for clearing snow, followed by faculty, staff and commuting-student parking lots. Other student lots are the Landscape Services' last priority.

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Director quits Olympic project

Stars urge Chinese gov't to take responsibility in Sudan conflict

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Film director Steven Spielberg and actress Mia Farrow joined activists worldwide Tuesday in using the Olympics as a backdrop to address human rights concerns, urging Beijing to exert political leverage on Sudan's government to help end the crisis in Darfur.

Spielberg announced he would no longer act as an artistic adviser for the opening and closing ceremonies, saying he could not reconcile working on the Olympics while China and other nations were not doing enough to ease the suffering.

"Sudan's government bears the bulk of the responsibility for these ongoing crimes but the international community, and particularly China, should be doing more," Spielberg said in a statement. "China's economic, military and diplomatic ties to the government of Sudan continue to provide it with the opportunity and obligation to press for change."

Farrow joined former Olympic swimmers Shannon Shakespeare and Nikki Dryden in delivering an open letter addressed to Chinese President Hu Jintao at the Chinese Mission to the United Nations, condemning Beijing's support of the Sudanese government.

The letter was part of a "Global Day of Action" that focused on Darfur, where more than 200,000 have died and an estimated 2.5 million have been displaced since 2003.

"We are all aware of the tremendous potential for China to help bring an end to the conflict in Darfur," said the letter, signed by Nobel Peace Prize laureates, celebrities and 13 former Olympians.

Farrow suggested China use its influence to disarm the janjaweed, the government-backed Arab militia, demand the Khartoum regime halt bombings and ground attacks on civilians, and use its eco-



Actress Mia Farrow speaks in New York Tuesday. Celebrities have urged China to take action in the conflict in Sudan.

nomie clout to force the government to ensure safety for U.N. peacekeepers.

China buys two-thirds of Sudan's oil exports. In turn, China sells weapons to the Sudanese government and has defended Khartoum in the U.N. Security Council.

"How can Beijing host the Olympic Games at home and underwrite genocide?" said Farrow, a U.N. goodwill ambassador, shivering in freezing weather outside the Chinese Mission. "Time is running out for the people of Darfur."

Another letter signed by 120 lawmakers also called on Hu to use his "significant influence" to help with peacekeeping and humanitarian efforts.

Olympic speedskating gold medalist Joey Cheek, who co-founded the Team Darfur athletes coalition, joined activists in Washington. Rallies also were scheduled for Los Angeles, San Francisco, Houston and Chicago and for 10 other countries, including France, Germany and Egypt.

Farrow and several humanitarian groups had been critical of Spielberg for continuing to work on the games, even as the Sudanese military said it bombed three towns in West

Darfur last week.

Spielberg, who sent a letter to Hu in April urging China to take a stronger stance against Sudan, still hopes to attend the Olympics. But he said his conscience is pointing him toward spending his time and energy on the relief effort instead of the ceremonies.

"The situation has never been more precarious," he said. "While China's representatives have conveyed to me that they are working to end the terrible tragedy in Darfur, the grim realities of the suffering continue unabated."

Several nations have put their athletes in a precarious position if they feel compelled to use the games as a platform for discussing Darfur.

On Monday, the British Olympic Association acknowledged that its team agreement appeared to go beyond rules laid out by the International Olympic Committee barring any "demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda" at an Olympic venue or area.

The U.S. Olympic Committee plans to ask American athletes to comply with IOC rules, but won't impose additional measures.

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NYSE	8,965.35	+97.07
S&P 500	1,348.86	+9.73
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	13,021.96	0.00
FTSE 100 (London)	5,910.00	+202.30

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
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FINANCIAL SEL SPDR (XLF)	+2.75	+0.73	27.25
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	-0.57	-0.25	43.82
CITIGROUP INC (C)	+1.55	+0.40	26.21

Treasuries

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13-WEEK BILL	+2.74	+0.060	2.250
30-YEAR BOND	+1.34	+0.059	4.464
5-YEAR NOTE	+2.41	+0.064	2.721

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-0.81	92.78
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-15.60	911.10
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Exchange Rates

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CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.0014

IN BRIEF

RIM investigates Blackberry outage

SAN JOSE — The company that makes the ubiquitous, addictive BlackBerry smart phones said Tuesday it was still looking into what caused the second widespread service disruption in less than a year.

Research in Motion Ltd. said customers in the United States and Canada "experienced intermittent delays" for about three hours Monday beginning about 3:30 p.m. EST. RIM said no messages were lost, and voice and text messaging services were unaffected.

"It is too early to determine root cause at this time, but RIM does have a team addressing this issue in order to define the problem and prevent it in the future," the company said in a statement.

The BlackBerry service, which lets users check e-mail and access other data, has become a lifeline for many business executives and is increasingly popular among consumers with smart phones like the BlackBerry Pearl.

Outages have been rare in the BlackBerry's nine-year history, but when they do hit, subscribers who have become addicted to the gadgets are quick to unleash their fury.

Venezuela ends deal with Exxon

CARACAS — Venezuela's state oil company said Tuesday that it has stopped selling crude to Exxon Mobil Corp. in response to the U.S. oil company's drive to use the courts to seize billions of dollars in Venezuelan assets.

Exxon Mobil is locked in a dispute over the nationalization of its oil ventures in Venezuela that has led President Hugo Chavez to threaten to cut off all Venezuelan oil supplies to the United States. Venezuela is currently the United States' fourth largest oil supplier.

Tuesday's announcement by state-run Petroleos de Venezuela SA, or PDVSA, was limited to Exxon Mobil, which PDVSA accused of "judicial-economic harassment" for its efforts in U.S. and European courts.

PDVSA said it "has paralyzed sales of crude to Exxon Mobil" and suspended commercial relations with the Irving, Texas-based company.

General Motors hits another bump

Company ends year with record \$38.7 billion loss, announces further buyouts

Associated Press

DETROIT — General Motors' new Chevrolet Malibu sedan is so popular dealers can barely keep it in stock.

Even with boosted production, it will likely be April or May before demand is met.

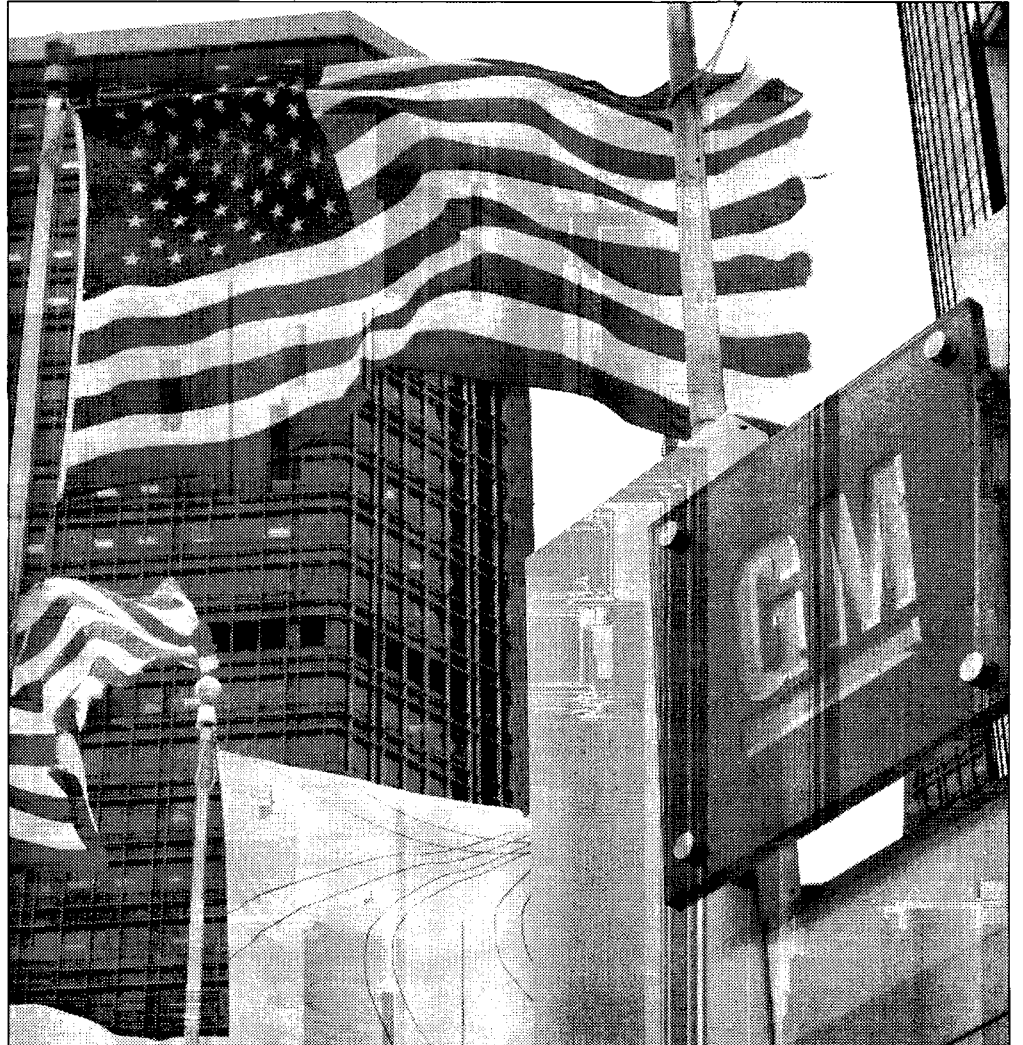
"I hope we're never there," Mark LaNeve, GM's sales and marketing chief, joked last week at the Chicago Auto Show. "Those are good problems."

But for every good problem at the world's largest automaker, there are a host of bad ones. GM is being pummeled by the economy, fierce competition, government regulations and gas prices. Even as it enjoyed near-record sales in 2007, outpacing rival Toyota Motor Corp., it ended the year with a record \$38.7 billion loss and announced further buyouts Tuesday to cut costs.

GM wouldn't say how many of its 74,000 UAW-represented hourly U.S. workers it hopes to shed or how much it expects to spend on the buyouts. But under its new contract with the UAW, it will be able to replace up to 16,000 workers doing non-assembly jobs with new employees who will be paid half the old wage of \$28 per hour.

Chief Financial Officer Fritz Henderson said the buyouts would help GM's bottom line as early as this fall, and the company is confident that results will improve in 2008 despite sagging U.S. demand.

For one thing, nearly 60 percent of its sales come from overseas, and GM was profitable in every region outside North



General Motors, headquartered in Detroit, reported a \$38.7 billion annual loss Tuesday. The company also announced buyouts.

America in 2007. Henderson also said GM is expecting U.S. sales to improve in the second half of the year as pent-up demand begins to spill into the market.

"We see more risks than upsides in '08 for the U.S. industry," Henderson said. "But we're not conceding '08, because certainly on a global basis we think we can actually improve from '07."

Still, Henderson said it will likely be 2010 or 2011 before GM sees "significant earnings increases"

— after it reduces its work force and labor costs, transfers its retiree health care costs to a new trust run by the United Auto Workers and ends a costly tie-up with Delphi Corp., its former parts supplier, which is expected to emerge from bankruptcy soon.

"We need to get all the structural costs down," Henderson said. "We need to step on the gas in terms of how we're performing in the market as well."

New products also are helping to bring more buy-

ers into GM's showrooms. GM bucked the industry in January, posting a 3 percent increase in sales when every other major automaker was down. Sales of its Cadillac CTS rose 95 percent in January. LaNeve said GM is scrambling to meet demand for the new Buick Enclave crossover.

Analysts were disappointed with the fourth-quarter results, particularly in North America, and shares in GM fell 52 cents, or 1.9 percent, to close at \$26.60.

Foreclosures account for home sales

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A growing share of home sales are from foreclosures, especially in states hardest hit by the housing bust. In some parts of California lately, nearly 50 percent of home sales come from foreclosed houses.

The trend, which is putting additional downward pressure on home prices, is most notable there and in Nevada, Colorado, Tennessee and Michigan, but is also evident in Ohio, Georgia, Florida and Arizona, according to an Associated Press comparison of 2007 sales and foreclosure data. In Nevada, for example, 17.5 percent of home sales were from foreclosures, more than quadruple the number in 2006.

The growing proportion of foreclosure sales is both a symptom and cause of worsening conditions in the weakest housing markets, real estate experts say. Homeowners who aren't on a deadline to sell are

yanking their properties off the market, and this means the remaining inventory is increasingly held by banks eager to unload foreclosed properties at fire-sale prices rather than carry the costs on their books.

Property values and local tax revenues are suffering as a result, consumer advocates say, especially in neighborhoods with lots of minority residents for whom lending standards were weakest.

"There is a real complacency, or an under-appreciation of how bad this is," said Ramsey Su, an investor and former real estate broker in San Diego who regularly combs through the local sales database to assess the impact of foreclosure sales.

Reacting to such concerns, the Bush Administration and lenders including Bank of America Corp. and Citigroup Inc. unveiled a plan Tuesday to give seriously delinquent borrowers a 30-day break from foreclosure while lenders try to work out a way to make the mort-

gage more affordable.

The AP's foreclosure analysis compared the annual rate of existing home sales in the third quarter of 2007 — the most recent quarter available from the National Association of Realtors — with foreclosure sales data provided by RealtyTrac Inc. of Irvine, Calif. The analysis found:

In Colorado, foreclosure sales accounted for 15.6 percent of home sales in 2007, up from 10 percent in 2006.

In California, the number jumped to 11.3 percent from 3.7 percent.

In Tennessee, it rose to 10.6 percent from 5.2 percent, and in Michigan it climbed to 9.3 percent from 4.9 percent.

Nationwide, including Washington, D.C., foreclosure sales grew to 4.7 percent of existing home sales, up from 3.3 percent in 2006. Comparable data were not available for South Dakota and New Hampshire.

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Economic stimulus misguided

Last Thursday, Congress passed an "economic stimulus package" worth \$167 billion. Under the plan, Americans earning between \$3,000 and \$75,000 would get \$300 to \$600 plus \$300 per child. Those earning between \$75,000 and \$150,000 would get a \$1,200 rebate. The IRS will have the checks out by the end of the summer. Congress hopes that the plan will ward off the recession clearly emerging, despite the Republican front-runner's statements that the American economy is fundamentally solid.

Listening to the triumphant and self-congratulating tone of the major players in both parties, one would think that Congress might have found a cure for cancer, or at least have done something useful for a change. "There were no winners or losers in this except the American people, who saw us rise above any differences we might have had and work to agreement on what is the No. 1 issue, and that is our slowing economy," said Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell. Senate majority leader Harry Reid hailed the plan as an "example of how government is supposed to work." Unfortunately, this is an example of how government does work.

Neither party seems willing to talk about where this \$167 billion rebate is going to come from. In 2007, the U.S.

federal budget was approximately \$2.8 trillion. However, the U.S. government only collected \$2.4 trillion. Total expenditures exceeded revenues by an incredible \$400 billion. The U.S. government simply doesn't have the money to afford such a rebate, but Congress really just doesn't care. What's another \$167 billion, anyways?

Government doesn't produce any wealth of its own. Nearly everything it gets, it takes from the private sector. It can only get wealth in three ways. First, it can forcefully take it from individuals in the form of a tax whether they like it or not. Second, it can inflate the currency, essentially printing money out of thin air, which leads to poor investment decisions, inflation and eventually a bust as the American public is now witnessing. Finally, it can borrow by selling bonds to investors.

Usually when there is a deficit, the Treasury sells government bonds to investors. The Treasury uses this money to meet the shortfall between what it wants to spend (always too much) and what it collected in the form of taxes (also too much, but not enough to cover expenditures). The U.S. government promises to pay interest on these bonds to the bondholders over the life of the bond, finally paying back the face value of the bond at the maturity date. Last year, the U.S. government paid \$243 billion just on the interest on its debt.

Supporters of the stimulus bill hail it as a plan to partially remove the heavy burden of taxation off the back of the American taxpayer. The fact is that the bill merely shifts the burden rather than remove it. When a government reduces taxes without reducing spending, it leads to even larger

deficits, more government borrowing, increased future expenditure in the form of interest on the debt and therefore saddling future generations with higher future taxes.

Supporters also claim it will stimulate the economy because more money in the pockets of taxpayers will lead to higher spending and thus, more jobs. This completely ignores what the bondholders would have done with their dollars had they not bought the government bonds. The investors would have either invested in the American economy, saved the money in a bank which the bank could then loan out to others, or spent it, all of which are good things.

The most amusing part of this whole episode is that both parties agree on the need for lower taxes in order to improve the American economy. The largely bipartisan stimulus package is indeed an admission taxes do act as a drag on the American economy, however fiscally irresponsible it is. For once, it seems that Congress is correct. But what is puzzling is that if taxes are bad for the economy, then why should Congress wait until a recession hits to cut taxes? If letting Americans keep what is rightfully theirs is a good thing, then why doesn't Congress make this a permanent policy? It's too bad that Congress lacks the courage to cut both taxes and spending.

Mark Poyar is a senior finance major and vice president of the College Libertarians. Their Web site is <http://ndlibertarians.blogspot.com>. He can be contacted at mpoyar@nd.edu

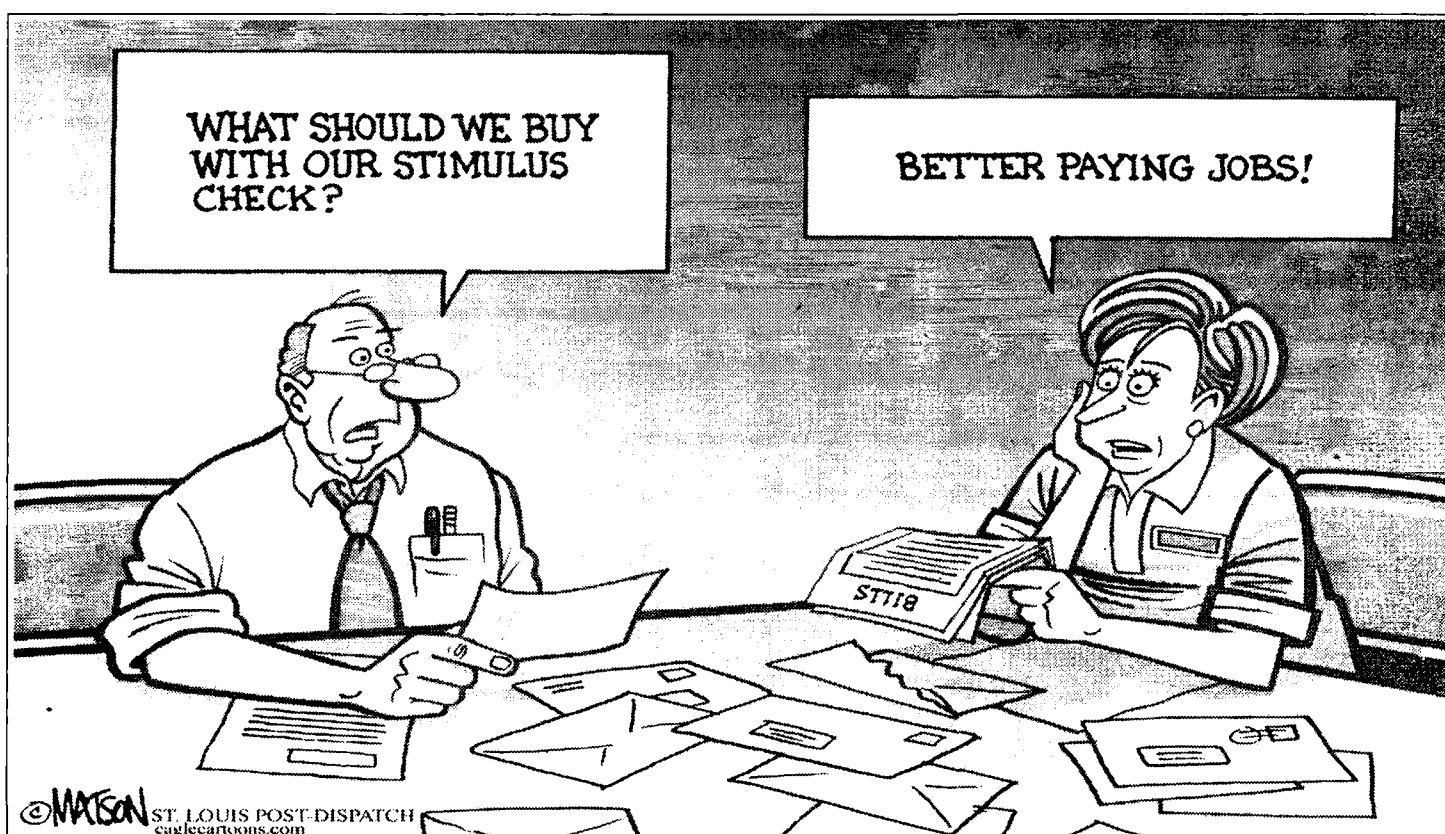
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Mark Poyar

Bulletproof
Ideas

EDITORIAL CARTOON



OBSERVER POLL

How long will the Notre Dame men's basketball home win streak last?
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March 5, St. John's
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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I know very well that one must fight, for one is often in contradiction to the spirit of the age."

Auguste Rodin
sculptor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Monologues' promote discussion

Monday marked the 150th anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady to St. Bernadette at Lourdes. In honor of the occasion University President Emeritus Father Hesburgh delivered the homily for the Basilica's evening mass service. This beautiful sermon, which celebrated the miracles associated with Notre Dame — particularly Father Sorin's naming a (then) mere log cabin the University of Our Lady, the university's rebuilding after a devastating fire, and the creation of the Golden Dome — served as the reconciling capstone to the controversies that have afflicted the University recently.

I was deeply disturbed to hear that the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops had retreated from its original intention to hold its seminar on the Notre Dame campus because the timing of the event might look like support for Eve Ensler's "Monologues." I understand the Conference of Catholic Bishops' seminar is a private event and that those who objected to holding it at Notre Dame were not doing so to reflect adversely on the university, but a conference in February does not indicate

endorsement of a production in March. Our Lady is loved and protected by the Father and nothing that human beings do can stain her, as some have claimed on-campus performances of the Monologues would do. What can be stained are human institutions like universities — but not by a sincere search for the truth, wherever that search leads us. Notre Dame is a Catholic university. Love and pursuit of truth, as a Catholic institution and as a university, is its absolute mission and staging the "Monologues," in an appropriate academic forum, is consistent with that mission.

The "Monologues" is not in line with Catholic doctrine. They were not meant to be. They were written from a secular perspective to explore women's identities and to acknowledge women's value as whole persons. Personally, I think the way the various skits articulate women's value is mostly (though not entirely) wrong and would be greatly enhanced by including Catholic perspectives (as Notre Dame's Loyal Sons and Daughters does). But this does not destroy the fact that the production attempts,

however wrongly, to acknowledge women's experience. What remains is for Catholics to take this attempt in the right direction, not to discourage an open discussion of what the characters in each skit are trying to convey about women's experience of suffering, joy, pleasure — and the devastation that abused sexuality causes. Father Jenkins made the right decision in balancing the demands of academic freedom with those of Notre Dame's Catholic identity. His decision has been misrepresented by the national media and he has not received much support from those on either side of the controversy.

Father Hesburgh's sermon crystallized for me why I had felt this to be a particularly pernicious injustice. Father Hesburgh spoke about the reverence that Father Sorin had for Our Lady — that it was his particular love for her that channeled his faith in God into the creation of this university. The miracles that Father Hesburgh mentioned are visible signs of Our Lady's intercession, but they are not the only miracles. The repentance of hardened sinners, the healing of bodies broken by illness or sin, and the

redemption of humanity by Our Lord's suffering — these are miracles. And if faith is the belief in things not seen, then faith can find Christ in the experiences described in the "Monologues." The faculty discussion panels that Father Jenkins' policy requires to be part of any on-campus production of the "Monologues" are the academic response to Christ's directive, "Seek and ye shall find." Catholic faculty and students have a duty to participate in these panels and discussions actively and wholeheartedly. We are at Notre Dame to find the

Truth: let's seek it with courage and charity, trusting that God will not mislead us. Father Jenkins is continuing the faithful leadership of Father Sorin, Father Hesburgh (the first Notre Dame President to admit women to the university of Our Lady), and Catholic leaders who, trusting in God's goodness, take on the burden of turning a mustard seed into a flourishing university. Good for Notre Dame.

Sam Cahill

English Ph.D. candidate
off campus
Feb. 11

Firearms solve problems

In response to Andrea Laidman's article ("The unwell, unregulated militia," Feb. 11) Ms. Laidman writes that officials in Washington, D.C. worry about lifting the city's handgun ban and "respond that lifting the ban will only make violence worse." However, she does not stop to ask an even more obvious question: Is it possible that Washington's harsh and restrictive gun laws caused the high level of violence in the first place?

The facts seem to indicate yes. England has much more restrictive laws than America and a higher rate of violent crime than the United States (in 1996, a 25 percent higher rate of robbery in England, as seen in the study "Crime and Justice in the United States and in England and Wales, 1981-1996" by U.S. Department of Justice.) One very plausible explanation for this is that criminals in places with accessible firearm laws are deterred from some crimes by the prospect of being injured by law-abiding citizens who keep and bear arms, while in places with harsh and unconstitutional firearm laws, criminals lack this fear.

Laidman points to acts of violence involving firearms: killing police officers, children, and parents. This is not the sign of a firearm-initiated problem, this is a sign of grave and serious family and community problems.

Finally, Laidman claims that precedent is on the side of those who wish to ban handguns. But this is incorrect, for hunting, target shooting, and self-defense have been an American tradition (and precedent) since 1776. And the part of the Second Amendment that says "the right of the people to keep and bear arms" could not be more clear. Furthermore, even George Washington said that a "free people ... ought to be armed."

Michael Baznik
sophomore
Zahn Hall
Feb. 12

'Monologues' help reclaim sexuality

Christina Holmstrom ("Monologues encourage mistreatment of women," Feb. 11) raises an interesting point; she claims that discussing the Vagina Monologues as an issue of Academic Freedom is to "woefully miss the mark." In this, I believe Holmstrom to be correct. I would, however, come to a vastly different conclusion regarding the fate of the "Monologues." "The Vagina Monologues" seeks to reclaim the sense of what it means to be a woman, to stop women from being ashamed of their sexuality and to raise awareness regarding violence perpetrated against women.

These goals are perfectly in keeping with the Catholic Church's teaching on sex and sexuality. The Church does not speak of sex as evil or morally wrong provided it is exercised in the right way. Rather, the Church teaches that "sexuality is a source of joy and pleasure" (Catechism, 2362). Do the monologues present an inappropriate use of sexuality? The answer may well be yes.

The play may present acts that are not well ordered to good relationships with God and others. The general ethos of the Monologues is, however, edifying to those who attend the play, provided they understand something about the feminist movement and approach the play with a critical eye.

Further, and this point is clear, "Monologues"

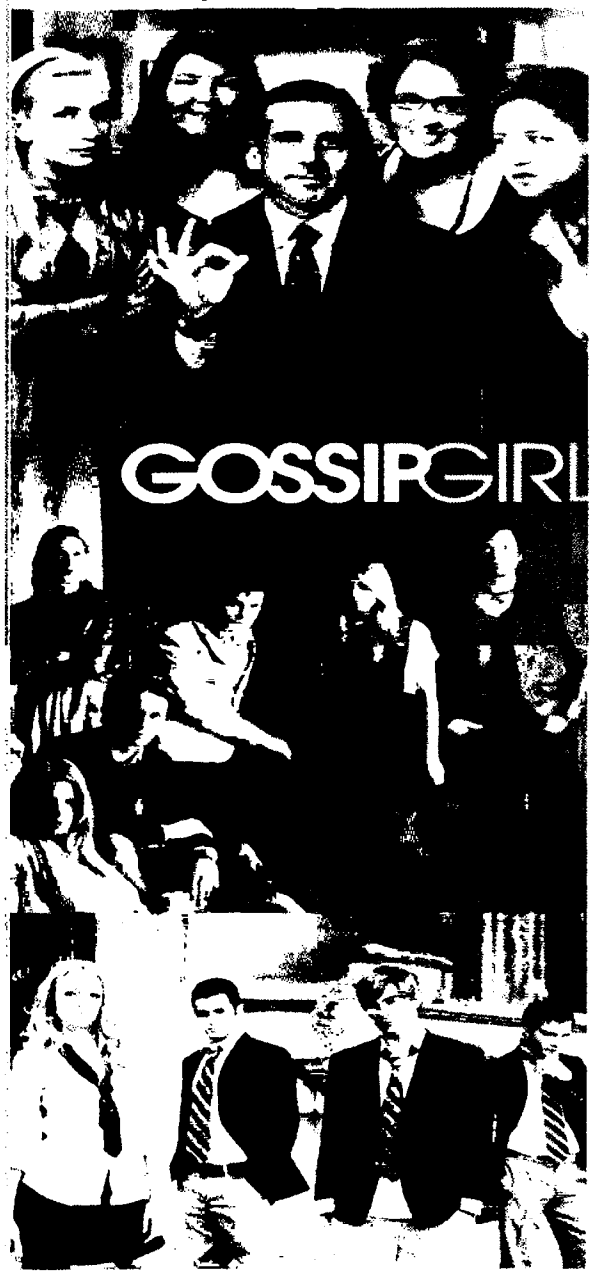
raises important questions. How do we reclaim our sexuality? What is the correct way to express that sexuality? When sexual violence has been perpetrated against a woman (or a man) how do we heal? Our esteemed President Emeritus Father Theodore Hesburgh once said: "The University is where the Church does its thinking." Our theology department is grounded in this philosophy; I would argue that it is not simply academic theologians who are to do the thinking of the Church. Rather we are all called to engage in this discussion.

The presence of "The Vagina Monologues" on campus is not a question of academic freedom. It is, however, necessarily tied to our Catholic character. As the premier Catholic university in this country, it is our duty to perform these monologues. Where else, if not at Notre Dame can we have this discussion? Where else can the Church do this thinking? I urge Dean Roche, Father Jenkins and you, the students, to join me in this dialogue: Approach the monologues with a critical eye and engage in the thinking of the Church.

Meli Barber
senior
McGlenn Hall
Feb. 12

Please recycle The Observer.

Fans look forward to writers' strike resolution



FAVORITE SHOWS TO RETURN SOON

I was OK until they took away "30 Rock." Then I finally realized how my older brother must have felt during the 1994 Major League Baseball strike. How was I going to survive a writers' strike that had no end in sight?

Cassie Belek

Scene & Heard

In the beginning, it wasn't that bad. With the exception of "The Office," most of my favorite shows still had a handful of episodes left to air. But with each passing week, I felt new episodes slipping away from me. Some of my favorite series even ran out of episodes before Christmas break.

In desperation for new TV of any variety, I began counting down the days until "American Idol" and "Rock of Love 2." I became even more dependent on my favorite soap opera, "General Hospital." In the past, I would let a few episodes at a time accumulate on my DVR, but now I found myself more excited than ever to check in on the residents of Port Charles every day.

I turned to TV on DVD as well. Season 1 of "Felicity" and Season 2 of "The Wire" comforted me, as did my brother's "Family Guy" DVDs. I even started re-watching "Arrested Development" for the 20th time.

I think most people can agree that it got easier when late night returned. How glorious was Conan O'Brien's flaming red strike beard? I think I could watch that man spin his wedding ring on his desk forever. Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert were back on the air also, and I think that Colbert proved once and for all that he is the funnier of the two Comedy Central stars.

I must say, though, that the cancellation of the Golden Globes nearly killed my soul. I'm always so sad when Christmas is over, but then I realize that it is award season and I will soon be treated to red carpet fashion and the occa-

sional inspired acceptance speech. I was given Billy Bush and Nancy O'Dell instead.

But how exciting was the presidential race during this whole strike? Why go out with friends over Christmas break when the Iowa caucuses are on? Oh, you want me to go to a movie? Well, there's a Democratic debate that I don't want to miss. Going to Corby's for Mardi Gras? No, it's Super Duper Tuesday, fools! I will always remember this election year for saving my sanity when "How I Met Your Mother" and "Gossip Girl" ran dry.

Despite my many complaints about TV abandoning me, I have stood behind the writers. Did the WGA make some mistakes during the strike? Yes. Why spend so much time lashing out at Ellen DeGeneres and Jay Leno when you've got bigger fish to fry? However, the writers still deserved to get compensated for all their work.

Unfortunately, it took a \$2 billion hit to the L.A. economy for producers to officially recognize the potential of new media. The Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation estimates that \$1.3 billion of that loss was from businesses outside of the studios — caterers, florists, costume shops, restaurants and hotels that were secondary losers. It's time for the industry and its city to get back on their feet.

And when production does start back up and my television viewing habits are back to normal, I can return to obsessing over "30 Rock" and crossing my fingers that "Friday Night Lights" doesn't get canceled. And, I can figure out whether I'm only watching "Eli Stone" because of the strike or because I actually enjoy it.

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

Contact Cassie Belek at cbelek@nd.edu

RETURN BRINGS NEW APPRECIATION

Finally, the writers' strike is coming to an end. The weekly worship of my television set will return.

On Saturday morning, while e-mails were zipping back and forth between the east and west coast guilds, I was dancing around my room,

Stephanie DePrez

Scene & Heard

announcing to my roommates (asleep until that moment) that our favorite shows — "House," "Grey's Anatomy" and "Gossip Girl" — will be returning. Tears glistened in my eyes as I read the words: "We're telling everyone to come in on Monday." All I can say is that it's about time. I don't think I can take another re-run.

The cause for celebration is not only that "The Office" is coming back, but also that the writers successfully brought about the change they were looking for.

They will be compensated for their work being viewed on what is called "new media" (basically the Internet). But even though Hollywood is going back to work this week, it is the first time in months that TV shows will be in production, and this means that we may not get new shows for weeks. My biggest fear is that some shows will be discontinued for the season.

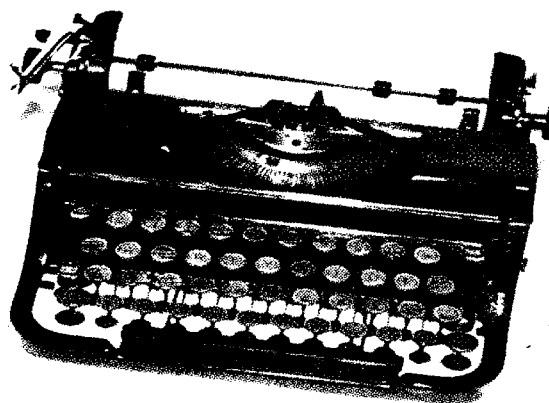
These past few months throw into sharp relief just how much television is integrated into my life. Even though it may not be my sole reason for living — though that is still up for debate — not having a new "House" on Tuesday nights was painful. It was like having a friend go abroad. I knew the show would come back, but it was irksome to think that we wouldn't have any rapport for a while.

My section would gather to watch "Gossip Girl" on Wednesday nights, but once it ran out of new episodes, our weekly gatherings stopped. Television in the dorm is a social thing for me, and the lack of new episodes meant that I saw less of the people I live with.

I only realized what television



ation



MADELINE NIES | Observer Graphic

ATION OF TELEVISION

The Writers' Guild of America announced a proposal Saturday with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers. It will grant writers compensation for reuse of their work in new media, including dual payment.

Terms of the agreement include the following:

1.2 percent of the studio's gross goes to the writer every time a show or movie is downloaded for limited

About one third of one percent of the studio's gross goes to the writer every time a show or movie is downloaded for permanent use and downloaded.

If a clip of a show or movie is downloaded on the Internet, and it's not part of a promotion, the writer gets compensation.

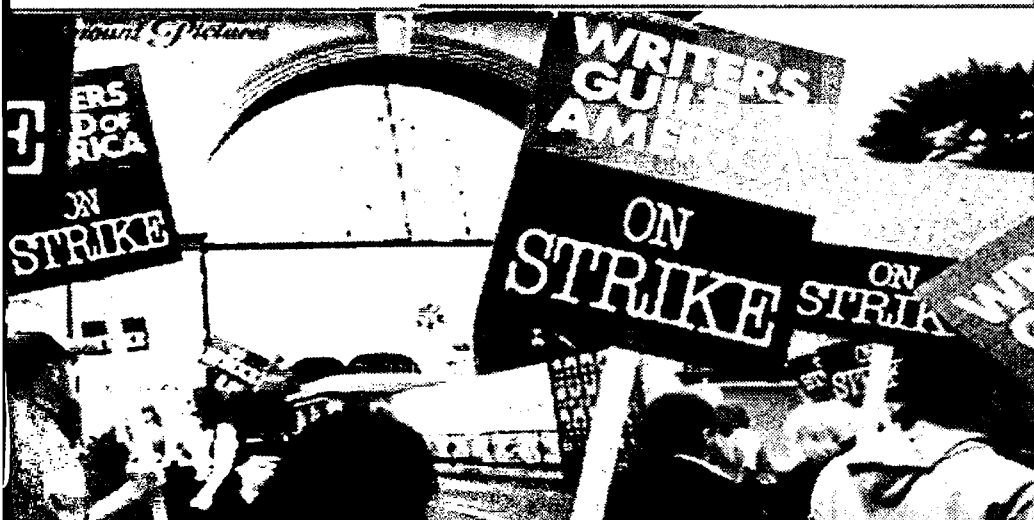
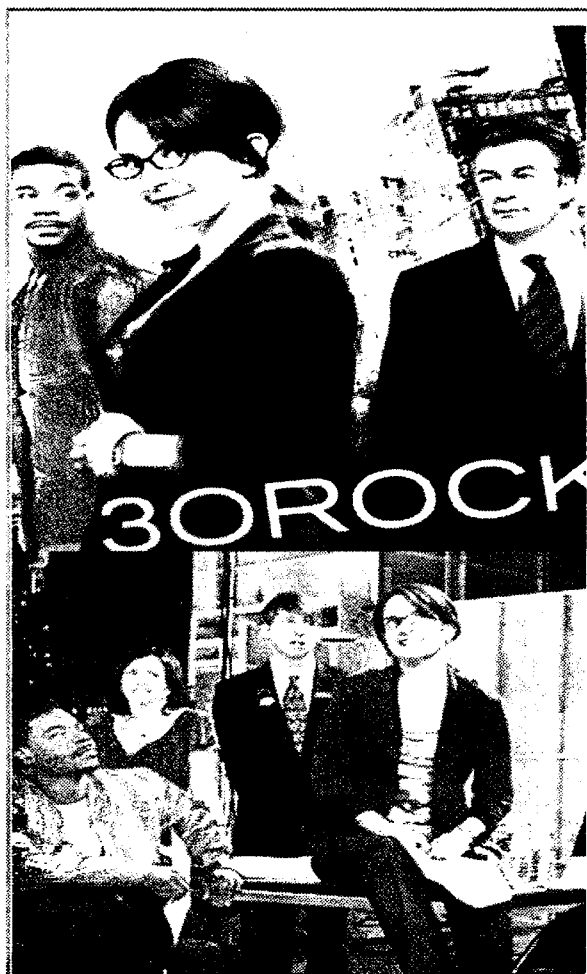
The Guild will have jurisdiction over all work created specifically for the Internet.

Writers will receive compensation for shows that are shown online free if they are being supported by ads (like downloads of "House" on the Fox website).

It's not like I disappeared for a while. The bombardment of reality TV that I have experienced is enough to make me swear off VH1. The thin amusement of "I Love New York" just isn't that great when I can't balance it out with the overwhelming sap of "Grey's Anatomy." Comedy is a part of my life, a subtle way of entertainment that winds in and out of my life. Movies are a one-two-punch, but television is a steady stream.

It's awkward when I don't get to be in someone else's life. So I use thee, WGA, for bringing this to a conclusion. May the Lord bless you with unpredictable plot lines and unexpected twists for many years to come.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Stephanie DePrez at sdeprez@nd.edu



Valentine's Day brings petal power to campus

By TAE ANDREWS
Scene Editor

Irish Gardens general manager Ann Marie Szymanski says she enjoys watching romance bloom on campus almost as much as she loves flowers. "Every employee has a cute story from Irish Gardens," she said. "It's kind of the beauty of working there."

Tales from the shop, located in the basement of LaFortune Student Center, range from feel-good affairs to romantic comedy.

One such story occurred one day when a graduate student walked into Irish Gardens around closing time and purchased seven red roses. When Szymanski inquired as to why he bought seven, an unusual number in the floral industry, the man answered that he was giving the odd number of flowers to his wife to commemorate his baby daughter having slept through the night for the first time since she was born. The infant slept seven hours in a row.

On another occasion, a man entered the store and asked Szymanski, "Which types of flowers say that you're sorry?" With her advice, the man settled on five Casablanca lilies in a vase. Within the next half hour the same man returned and began plucking more flowers for purchase. After Szymanski asked him what had happened, the man replied only, "I've made someone else mad."

Stories such as these, Szymanski said, have made her three-year career at Irish Gardens worthwhile.

As general manager, her responsibilities include overseeing the accounting of the shop, ordering the necessary supplies and flowers, designing and procuring advertisement and putting together bouquets. Financial manager Megan Julien and products manager Sarah Snyder round out the Irish Gardens management trio. "They are both a huge help to me," Szymanski said. Julien and Snyder assist in accounting, ordering flowers and designing bouquets. Like Szymanski, Julien has worked at Irish Gardens for the past three years, while Snyder has worked for Irish Gardens for two years.

Szymanski said Irish Gardens normally pulls in around \$100 a day. The student-run business anticipates a \$6,000 take for the four weekdays through Valentine's Day on Thursday.

"That is what it has been around in the past," she said. On Monday alone, Valentine's Day pre-orders amounted to \$2,000 dollars, more than 20 times the typical take on an average day. In preparation for the big day, Szymanski said the company ordered over 3,000 roses, 400 carnations, 350 Gerber daisies and more than 400 other types of flowers.

Three flower arrangements have separated themselves from the rest of the field as Irish Gardens' most popular bouquets. Szymanski describes "The Whole Twelve Yards" as "your classic dozen roses in any color you choose." Petal purchasers can choose from red, orange, peach, white, hot pink, light pink, lavender, yellow and "fire and ice" as their colors. "The Girl Next Door" features five large Gerber daisies in bright colors. "The Classic Romantic" bouquet includes a stargazer lily, stock, roses and spray roses. "It's a very elegant bouquet," she said, while noting that "Romantic" is her favorite arrangement.

During her time at Irish Gardens, Szymanski has noticed a pattern among male customers. The stereotypical "nervous male," as she calls him, will approach the cases of flowers inside Irish Gardens' shop in the basement of the LaFortune Student Center, stare at them for a couple of minutes and then turn "with a look of panic in [his] eyes seeking help."

"This is when our employees swoop in with tons of suggestions," she said.

"Most boys just know that red roses demonstrate too much commitment and that they are definitely looking for something more tentative," she said. For this reason, the Irish Gardens staff created a suggestion booklet offering a list of 11 pre-designed bouquets to "remove a lot of the guesswork."

For young men trying to "say it with flowers," Irish Gardens offers a plethora of flora with which potential suitors can express themselves, including Gerber daisies, yellow roses and alstromeria. These flowers are tailor-made for situations "where the boy likes the girl but doesn't know exactly how to show it," Szymanski said.

Bouquet business figures to remain busy between today and tomorrow for the one-stop flower shop.

"Most boys just know that red roses demonstrate too much commitment and that they are definitely looking for something more tentative."

Ann Marie Szymanski
general manager
Irish Gardens

Contact Tae Andrews at
tandrew1@nd.edu



Photo courtesy of thehive.modbee.com

Flowers such as these Gerber daisies figure to be popular items today and tomorrow as Valentine's Day shoppers buy bouquets for would-be significant others.

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Hummel's career night propels Purdue upset

No. 9 Butler needs overtime to take down Wisconsin-Milwaukee; No. 22 Pittsburgh handles Providence with stifling defense

Associated Press

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Robbie Hummel scored a career-high 24 points and No. 19 Purdue beat No. 10 Michigan State 60-54 Tuesday night.

Hummel, a freshman, also grabbed 11 rebounds and made 4 of 7 3-pointers.

E'Twaun Moore scored 12 points and Keaton Grant added 11 for Purdue, which won its 10th straight game to remain alone in first place in the Big Ten. The Boilermakers (20-5, 11-1 Big Ten) have won at least 20 games for the second straight year.

Freshman guard Kalin Lucas scored a career-high 20 points for Michigan State, and Raymar Morgan scored all 12 of his points in the second half for the Spartans (20-4, 8-3).

Michigan State guard Drew Neitzel, the team's second-leading scorer, was held scoreless in the first half and finished with six points.

It was Purdue's second straight win over a Top 25 team — the Boilermakers won at Wisconsin on Saturday. Purdue's last loss was at Michigan State on Jan. 8.

The Boilermakers took a 40-30 lead early in the second half on a dunk by Marcus Green, but the Spartans responded with a 7-0 run that cut their deficit to 40-37 and forced Purdue to call a timeout.

Purdue kept the lead throughout the second half, though Michigan State cut its deficit to one point three times.

Purdue led 56-52 in the final minute before Hummel made a long 2-point jumper as the shot clock wound down to make it 58-52 with 42 seconds to play.

Neitzel missed a 3-pointer, and Grant made two free throws at the other end to put the game out of reach.

Purdue set the tone defensively by forcing two shot-clock violations in the first 2 minutes of the game. The Boilermakers went on an 11-0 run and held Michigan State scoreless for more than 4 minutes to take a 20-10 lead.

Purdue closed the half on a 12-2 run that included two 3-pointers and eight points by Hummel to take a 34-18 lead.

Purdue forced 14 turnovers and held Michigan State to 37 percent shooting before the break.

Butler 83, Wisconsin-Milwaukee 75

Mike Green scored 10 of his 24 points in overtime and had 13 rebounds and eight assists despite spraining his right ankle to help No. 9 Butler rally to beat Wisconsin-Milwaukee on Tuesday night.

Butler (22-2, 11-2 Horizon League) came in with its highest ranking in school history in the midst of four games in eight days. But the Bulldogs came out flat, trailing by as many as 12 in the first half and seven in the second before Green took over as Butler took the lead from the start of overtime and didn't relinquish it.

Milwaukee (12-11, 7-6) squandered its big lead after too many turnovers, but Ricky Franklin, who had missed his previous four 3-point attempts, tied the game at 67 with 0.8 seconds left the game when he made an off-balance shot with Green's hand in his face.

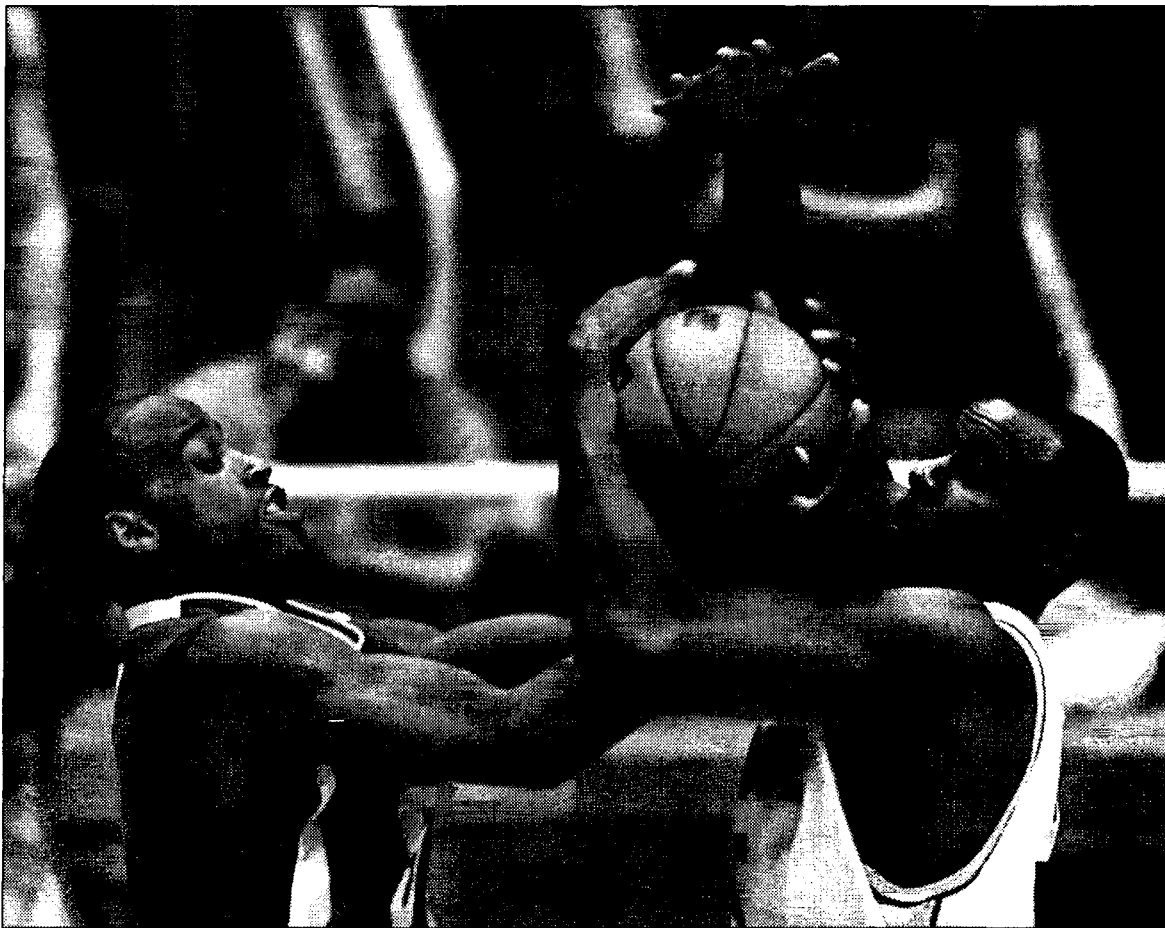
That barely deterred Green, who took over in overtime with a pair of slashing, circus layups and six free throws as the Bulldogs pulled away. Green finished 10-of-10 from the line.

Green's senior backcourt mate, A.J. Graves had an off-game scoring just 11 points on 2-for-14 shooting. Pete Campbell and Willie Veasley added 12 points each for the Bulldogs.

Milwaukee's Marcus Skinner had a career-high 25 points and 10 rebounds and Allan Hanson added 18 points on 5 of 7 shooting from 3-point range.

Trailing by as many as seven in a stretch where Green was whistled for a technical for arguing with the officials, Butler came back, taking a slim lead before Green got hurt driving to the basket when he appeared to sprain his right ankle with just under 5 minutes to play.

Playing with just four on defense while Green limped on the other end, Skinner's slam made gave Milwaukee a 61-58 lead. Milwaukee led 64-58 after Skinner converted a three-point play, but Milwaukee couldn't hold it as Butler scored the next seven in a row.



Purdue guard Keaton Grant pulls the ball away from Michigan State guard Travis Walton as both players battle for a loose rebound in a 60-54 Boilermakers upset Tuesday.

Green, meanwhile, left the bench and went into a concourse to walk off the injury.

When he returned, he again sparked the Bulldogs with a 7-0 run and grabbed his 11th rebound with 5.3 seconds remaining after Deonte Roberts missed a driving shot and Skinner couldn't get his hand on the loose ball.

Green hit both free throws before Franklin's desperation 3 tied the game.

The Bulldogs started 4-of-21 from the field, and 1-of-12 from 3-point range after going 6 1/2 minutes without a field goal. Milwaukee, playing in its first game in 10 days, hit its first six shots and led by as many as 12.

Butler got back into it after little-used sub freshman Zach Hahn hit three 3s after failing to score in more than a month.

Pittsburgh 82, Providence 63

Sam Young scored 22 points and No. 22 Pittsburgh limited Providence to six points in the

opening 11 minutes of the second half, allowing the Panthers to pull away for an victory Tuesday night.

Ronald Ramon, coming off a game-winning 3-pointer at the buzzer against West Virginia, hit five 3-pointers while scoring 15 points and physical freshman DeJuan Blair proved a difficult matchup inside for Providence with 15 points and seven rebounds.

Pitt (19-5, 7-4 Big East) alternated wins and losses over its previous seven games before putting away the slumping Friars (13-11, 4-8), who lost their sixth in seven games and are winless in their last eight against the Panthers. The Friars haven't beaten Pitt since January 2001 and haven't won in Pittsburgh since December 1998.

Providence, 1-7 on the road, stayed close for a half, leading 28-27 late in the first half after Jeff Xavier hit three 3-pointers in the opening four minutes. The

Friars trailed by only three, 42-39, in the opening minute of the first half.

But the Friars, despite getting 15 points from Marshon Brooks and 14 from Xavier, suddenly lost their offense as Pitt went on runs of 8-0 and 13-0 over the next nine-plus minutes to seize a 63-41 lead.

Blair's basket finished off the 8-0 run that gave Pitt its first double-figure lead at 50-39. Ramon hit a 3-pointer and Benjamin scored consecutive hoops on drives to the basket as Pitt took a 63-41 lead by scoring 21 of the first 25 points of the half.

Keith Benjamin added 10 points for Pitt, which took advantage of frequent Friars defensive lapses for its highest-scoring game since beating Seton Hall 84-70 on Jan. 12. Pitt was held to 69 points or fewer in six of its first 10 conference games. Providence has allowed an average of 75 points over its last seven games.

CLASSIFIEDS

The Observer accepts classifieds every business day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Notre Dame office, 204 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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"It seems like yesterday But it was long ago Janey was lovely, she was the queen of my nights There in the darkness with the radio playing low And the secrets that we shared The mountains that we moved Caught like a wildfire out of control Till there was nothing left to burn and nothing left to prove

And I remember what she said to me How she swore that it never would end I remember how she held me oh so tight Wish I didnt know now what I didnt know then

Against the wind We were runnin against the wind We were young and strong, we were runnin Against the wind"

AROUND THE NATION

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 13

AP Top 25 Women's Basketball Poll

rank	team	record	points
1	Tennessee (45)	22-1	1,245
2	Connecticut (5)	22-1	1,174
3	North Carolina	22-2	1,154
4	Maryland	25-2	1,077
5	Rutgers	19-4	1,061
6	Stanford	22-3	1,019
7	LSU	20-3	946
8	Baylor	21-2	885
9	California	21-3	819
10	Oklahoma	17-4	804
11	West Virginia	19-3	736
12	Duke	18-6	689
13	Old Dominion	20-3	670
14	George Washington	19-4	572
15	Oklahoma State	19-3	537
16	NOTRE DAME	18-5	513
17	Kansas State	16-6	426
18	Pittsburgh	18-5	361
19	Utah	20-3	283
20	Texas A&M	17-6	252
21	Syracuse	18-4	205
22	Wyoming	19-3	188
23	Ohio State	18-6	172
24	UTEP	19-2	112
25	Vanderbilt	18-6	97

USA Today/ESPN Top 25 Women's Basketball Poll

rank	team	record	points
1	Tennessee (27)	22-1	769
2	Connecticut (3)	22-1	734
3	North Carolina	22-2	707
4	Rutgers (1)	19-4	669
5	Maryland	25-2	662
6	Stanford	22-3	626
7	LSU	20-3	583
8	Baylor	21-2	567
9	California	21-3	518
10	Oklahoma	17-4	498
11	West Virginia	19-3	475
12	Duke	18-6	411
13	George Washington	19-4	364
14	Old Dominion	20-3	359
15	Oklahoma State	19-3	331
16	NOTRE DAME	18-5	283
17	Kansas State	16-6	248
18	Pittsburgh	18-5	223
19	Texas A&M	17-6	195
20	Utah	20-3	151
21	Wyoming	19-3	126
22	Ohio State	18-6	114
23	Syracuse	18-4	100
24	Georgia	17-7	93
25	Marist	23-2	56

MIAA Women's Basketball Conference Standings

rank	team	conference	overall
1	Hope	12-0	20-0
2	Albion	10-3	17-4
3	Calvin	8-5	12-8
4	Adrian	6-6	8-12
5	Olivet	6-6	8-12
6	Alma	5-7	7-11
7	SAINT MARY'S	5-8	9-12
8	Tri-State	3-10	6-15
9	Kalamazoo	1-11	4-16

around the dial

NCAA BASKETBALL

Maryland at Duke
7 p.m., ESPN

St. John's at Cincinnati
7 p.m., ESPN2

Kansas State at Texas
9 p.m., ESPN

MLB



Former pitcher Roger Clemens, right, accompanied by attorneys Lanny Breuer, center, and Rusty Hardin, arrives at the office of Rep. Danny Davis, D-Ill., in Washington on Feb. 8. Clemens will testify before Congress today.

Congress to quiz Clemens, McNamee

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Roger Clemens and his accuser, Brian McNamee, will be the main witnesses at a House hearing on the Mitchell Report after New York Yankees pitcher Andy Pettitte and two others were dropped Monday night.

Former Clemens teammate Chuck Knoblauch and convicted steroids distributor Kirk Radomski also were taken off the witness list for Wednesday's public session. One new witness was added Monday night: a lawyer who worked with former Senate

majority leader George Mitchell to produce December's report on drugs in baseball.

But all attention will be focused on Clemens, a seven-time Cy Young Award winner, and McNamee, his former personal trainer, who alleged he injected the pitcher with performance-enhancing drugs.

"I guess it's showtime, isn't it?" Clemens' lead lawyer, Rusty Hardin, said in a telephone interview.

Earl Ward, McNamee's lead lawyer, declined to comment on the changes.

McNamee said in the Mitchell Report that he

injected Clemens — who ranks eighth in major league history with 354 wins — with steroids and human growth hormone at least 16 times in 1998, 2000 and 2001. Clemens' denials of those allegations drew the attention of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

McNamee also accused Pettitte of using HGH — Pettitte acknowledged he did so for two days in 2002 to deal with an elbow injury. Before Pettitte spoke to committee lawyers under oath last week, Ward said he thought Pettitte would tell Congress he dis-

cussed HGH with Clemens between the 2001 and 2002 seasons.

With Monday's decision, Pettitte was spared the potentially difficult situation of having to deliver public testimony that could hurt the position of Clemens, a friend, past teammate and former workout partner. Portions of Pettitte's sworn deposition, though, may be read aloud at the hearing. And the committee's ranking Republican, Tom Davis of Virginia, said in an interview with Newsday that Pettitte's account matches McNamee's in most details.

IN BRIEF

Source says Vikings' Udeze diagnosed with leukemia

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Minnesota Vikings defensive end Kenechi Udeze has a form of leukemia, which is cancer of the blood and bone marrow, a person with the team confirmed Tuesday.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the information. The Vikings declined to comment, but they issued a statement from coach Brad Childress that didn't specifically address Udeze's condition.

"We respect the privacy of Kenechi. The thoughts and prayers of the entire Minnesota Vikings organization are with Kenechi and his family," the statement read.

Two Twin Cities television stations first reported the news on Monday night. KSTP-TV, without citing a source, reported that the 24-year-old Udeze was undergoing tests to determine the severity of the disease. Ethan Lock, Udeze's agent, declined to comment.

NASCAR puts Busch, Stewart on probation for six races

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — It began with crunched fenders, harsh words and maybe even a punch in the face. But the final result was just a slap on the wrist from NASCAR: a six-race probation for Tony Stewart and Kurt Busch.

Heading into Sunday's Daytona 500, it's beginning to look like NASCAR officials were serious when they said they will cut drivers some slack on their bad behavior this year.

"We're still working into letting the drivers develop and vent in proper ways, but we're giving them some more latitude," NASCAR vice president of competition Robin Pemberton said Tuesday. "We said in the offseason we would do that and I think this is another step to letting you know what we mean."

Twins sign Hernandez to replace Santana

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Twins added some seasoning to their suddenly raw rotation.

Right-hander Livan Hernandez agreed Tuesday to a \$5 million, one-year contract with the team that could earn him an additional \$2 million in performance bonuses, raising the average age for a group ransacked by the departures of Johan Santana and Carlos Silva.

Santana was traded to the New York Mets, and Silva signed with the Seattle Mariners. Another starter from last season, Matt Garza, was dealt to the Tampa Bay Rays.

"If we could find the right guy, we were going to add that," general manager Bill Smith said. "We certainly weren't afraid to go in without veteran starters, but it's going to be give those young players someone to look to."

NBA

New-look Heat fall to Nuggets in overtime

J.R. Smith shoots career-high eight 3-pointers in 114-113 win; Billups' big fourth quarter pushes Pistons past Hawks

Associated Press

MIAMI — J.R. Smith made a career-best eight 3-pointers and scored 28 points, Kenyon Martin added 24, and the Denver Nuggets edged the Miami Heat 114-113 in overtime Tuesday night.

Carmelo Anthony scored six of his 22 points in overtime for Denver, which has won three straight.

Dwyane Wade scored a game-high 29 points, but missed a 22-footer at the buzzer for Miami — which has lost eight straight and 23 of its last 24 games.

Wade — who also had 10 assists — made a 3-pointer with 2:36 left in overtime to tie the game at 110, then dove over the first row of seats in a futile effort to grab a loose ball a minute later. On that possession, Anthony Carter made two free throws, putting the Nuggets up by two with 1:26 left.

Anthony added two more free throws with 54.1 seconds to play, and Ricky Davis' 3-pointer with 33.6 seconds left got Miami within a point. Anthony missed with about 10 seconds remaining, Miami controlled the rebound and Wade dribbled up the left side of the floor to one of his favorite spots.

But the shot rimmed out, and Miami left frustrated once again.

"I know it's been a tough year," Wade told fans before the game, as he thanked them for helping vote him onto the Eastern Conference All-Star team. "But it won't last forever."

It only seems that way.

Shawn Marion scored 23 points and added a Heat season-best 18 rebounds. Dorell Wright scored 19 points and Mark Blount finished with 18 points and 13 rebounds.

Allen Iverson scored 16 points on 5-for-20 shooting for Denver, and Marcus Camby ended up with 12 points and 16 rebounds.

Neither team led by more than four points at any time in the last 16:18 of the game.

Smith scored a career-high 37 points against the Heat on Dec. 8, 2006, and did similar damage to Miami on Tuesday.

He sparked a big Denver run from a 14-point deficit in the first half, and in the fourth quarter, he simply torched Miami with four 3-pointers in the first 5:07 of the final period — answering Miami baskets with three of those long jumpers.

But despite Smith's best efforts, the game remained close throughout the fourth, with neither team ever leading by more than four. Iverson's jumper with 1:41 remaining gave the Nuggets a 102-98 edge, before Wade's layup cut the lead in half and Blount's jumper from the left baseline with 17.5 seconds left tied it.

Wright blocked Iverson's potential game-winner with 0.4 seconds left, sending the game to overtime.

Wright, who didn't attempt a 3-pointer in 22 games between Dec. 15 and Feb. 7 — was 2-for-2 from beyond the arc in the first quarter, helping stake Miami to a 32-23 lead.

When Marion took a nifty bounce pass in the lane from former Phoenix teammate Marcus Banks and dunked with 8:17 left in the half, the Heat led 42-28 — their biggest edge in

any game since leading Utah by 16 points on Dec. 22.

But of course, in this Miami season, prosperity didn't last.

Denver scored the next 10 points, sparked by Smith. He scored 13 points in a 4-minute span after Marion's dunk, and the Nuggets were within 63-57 after a wild half where Miami shot 61 percent from the floor and held a 22-14 rebounding edge, yet still couldn't pull away.

And in the third quarter, the Heat got caught.

Iverson missed 11 of his first 13 shots before driving for an acrobatic layup while getting fouled with 3:21 left in the third, pulling Denver within 76-72. It was part of a 15-2 period-ending run by the Nuggets, who took their first lead since the opening minutes when Iverson made a six-footer with 1:51 left, and wound up extending the cushion to 84-78 entering the fourth.

Pistons 94, Hawks 90

Chauncey Billups missed every shot he tried through the first three quarters.

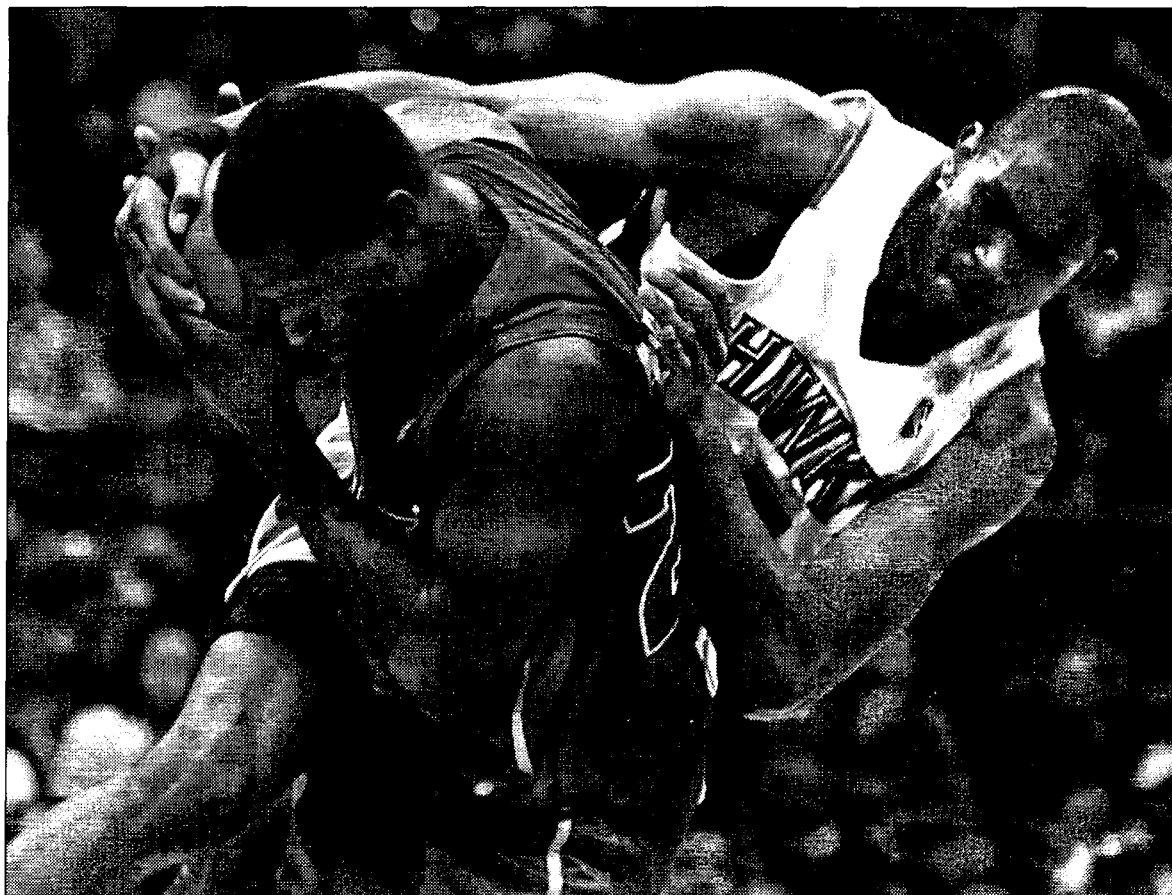
Not to worry. The fourth is his time.

Living up to the nickname "Mr. Big Shot," Billups scored 12 of his 16 points in the final period to rally the Detroit Pistons to their ninth win in a row, 94-90 over the Atlanta Hawks on Tuesday night.

"You know me, man, you know me," Billups said. "Late in games, if I have an opportunity I'm going to take advantage of that, whether I'm hot or not. I always feel like that fourth quarter is a different game."

Rasheed Wallace carried the load in the early going, scoring 15 straight points for the Pistons in the first quarter on his way to a 21-point night. The Hawks lost their third in a row despite 30 points from Josh Smith.

Billups went into the final quarter at 0-for-8 from the field, but that didn't keep him from putting up some more. He ripped off 10 straight points for Detroit, including a couple of 3s,



Hawks forward Al Horford fouls Pistons forward Antonio McDyess as both players battle for a rebound in a 94-90 Detroit win Tuesday. Despite the loss, Horford finished with a game-high 16 rebounds.

to turn a three-point deficit into an 89-86 lead with 2:25 remaining.

"It was like a lid was on the basket most of the game," Billups said. "Some of those shots [in the fourth] were the same shots I shot early in the game. I just couldn't stick them."

Appropriately, he finished off with the biggest shot of the game, a jumper over Anthony Johnson with 22 seconds remaining for a 92-89 lead.

"That's what type of player he is," Smith moaned. "His nickname is 'Mr. Big Shot.' In the clutch, everybody knows he's going to take the shot."

After Billups' final basket, Smith was fouled but made only one free throw. Richard Hamilton did what Smith couldn't, hitting both foul shots with 14 seconds left to seal the win.

The Hawks were held to 3-of-19 shooting in the fourth by the gritty Pistons, who let an early 15-point lead slip away but rebounded at the end.

"We had good looks," Atlanta coach Mike Woodson said. "We just couldn't get the ball to go down."

Wallace got off to a brilliant start, hitting his first six shots — including three 3-pointers. Detroit twice led by 15 in the second quarter before the Hawks responded.

Atlanta closed to 55-48 by halftime, and kept up the momentum in the third as the visitors turned cold.

"If we had played the whole game like we did in the second half, things would have been different," said rookie Al Horford, who had 16 rebounds to lead the Hawks to a 47-34 lead on the

boards.

The Pistons went nearly 6 minutes without a field goal, allowing the Hawks to surge ahead on Horford's three-point play midway through the third. The rookie pumped his fist after being fouled, then stepped to the line and swished the free throw.

The Hawks led 76-74 after a frenetic final minute to the period. Arron Afflalo came up with a steal and was going in for a layup, but Smith soared out of nowhere for the block.

Atlanta took off the other way and Marvin Williams went in for a dunk, but the ball rimmed out. The Pistons tried to start a fast break of their own, but the Hawks stole it away near mid-court and Williams got another shot at the dunk. This time he didn't miss, sending the crowd into a frenzy.



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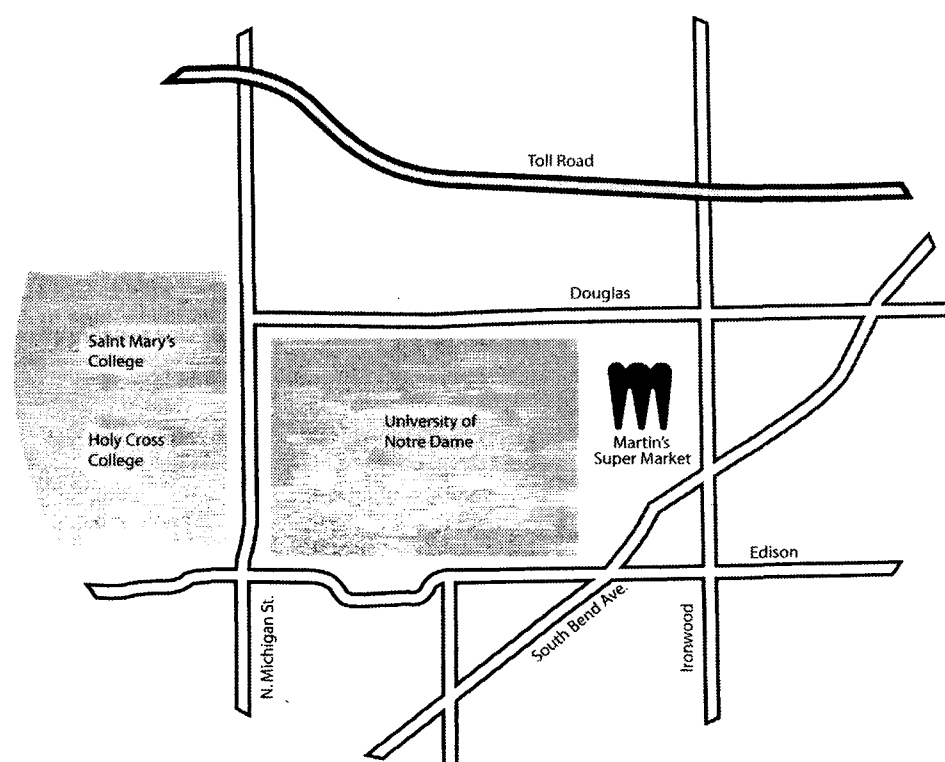
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NHL

Islanders fire season-best 47 shots in victory

Trent Hunter picks up a goal, two assists in 4-3 win over Flyers; Hurricanes move into first place in Southeast Division

Associated Press

UNIONDALE, N.Y. — It was still 2007 the last time home felt like an advantage to the New York Islanders.

That changed Tuesday when Trent Hunter broke out of his offensive funk and paced the Islanders' most productive night in quite some time.

Hunter scored a goal and set up two others for New York, which broke a pair of seven-game skids with a 4-3 victory over the slumping Philadelphia Flyers on Tuesday night.

The Islanders did it with a season-best 47 shots.

"It was a nice to get that win and it gives us something to build on," said Hunter, who hadn't scored since Jan. 11. "We can't relax. We have to focus, and we've got a big job ahead of us."

New York hadn't won at home since beating New Jersey on Dec. 29 (0-5-2). The Islanders also didn't have a victory anywhere since a 6-3 win at Carolina on Jan. 22.

Jeff Tambellini and Sean Bergenheim added goals in the second period for the Islanders, who are tied for 12th in the Eastern Conference, and beat the Flyers for the first time in four meetings this season.

Ruslan Fedotenko scored with 5:58 to restore the Islanders' two-goal lead, before Joffrey Lupul cut it to 4-3 with 59.6 seconds remaining. New York killed Fedotenko's roughing penalty in the final minute to preserve the victory.

"We have been struggling a little bit at home and that was a big win for us, especially against a division team," Fedotenko said. "It's really important, especially at this time of the year."

Rick DiPietro made 26 saves to win for the first time since Jan. 16 and send the injury-riddled Flyers to their fourth straight regulation loss.

Danny Briere and Scott Hartnell also scored for Philadelphia, missing forwards Simon Gagne and Scottie Upshall, and defenseman Braydon Coburn. Antero Niittymaki stopped 43 shots.

"Before Christmas, it seemed like we were carrying most of the games," said forward Mike Richards, who failed on a second-period breakaway. "Now, we're falling behind and then showing urgency at the end. We need to play a full 60 minutes."

The late-arriving crowd, delayed by a snowstorm, was entertained by the second-period offense and a fashion show featuring wives of Islanders players on "Hockey and Heels" night.

Hunter broke the scoreless deadlock with 2:18 left in the first, netting his eighth overall and first in 14 games.

"We've been saying for the past week or so to get bodies to the net. Just get pucks there and cause traffic," Hunter said. "You never know where pucks are going to bounce."

New York racked up 17 shots in the period and faced only 11, despite giving Philadelphia two power plays without owning any.

One was doubly costly to the Islanders, who lost top defenseman Brendan Witt after a knee-to-knee collision with Hartnell in the neutral zone just past the 9-minute mark. Witt was whistled

for tripping and then sidelined by a bruised knee.

Philadelphia needed only 50 seconds of its fourth power play to get even. Briere put a rebound past a sprawled DiPietro for his 21st goal 1:05 into the second.

The rest of the period belonged to New York.

DiPietro kept it tied when Richards raced in on a short-handed breakaway, forcing him to miss wide left about 3 minutes into the period.

"I thought I had him beat if I could have kept control of the puck," Richards said. "It goes in, and we're in the lead. Instead, they took the lead right after that. You have to expect to score, not hope to score."

Tambellini made it 2-1 at 5:27 when he intercepted a pass from Flyers captain Jason Smith and wristed a shot under Niittymaki's right arm. It was the first NHL goal this season in 12 games for Tambellini, who leads the AHL with 28 goals.

"You don't want to go too long without putting the puck in," he said.

New York nearly stretched its lead just past the midway mark of the period, but Smith went from defenseman to goalie after Niittymaki was out of position and blocked Tambellini's shot while on his side in front of the net.

He couldn't do anything about Bergenheim's breakaway goal after another turnover. Hunter sent a pass from New York's end to Bergenheim, who raced in front of defenseman Kimmo Timonen and bore down on Niittymaki.

Timonen hooked down Bergenheim, but the Islanders forward slung in a shot to make it 3-1 with 6:19 left.

"We were better the last two games, but we still need to win," Briere said. "We had a long meeting to talk about it. We're close, but close is not good enough."

Hurricanes 3, Bruins 2

Andrew Ladd's two-goal spurt set the tone for the game.

Shawn Thornton's two-goal spurt came too late to make a difference.

"Fortunately, we were able to prevail — even though it got a little interesting," Hurricanes goalie Cam Ward said Tuesday night after Carolina took a shutout into the final six minutes and held on to beat the Boston Bruins.

"That (first) goal gave them life," Ward added. "They were able to come on and put some pressure on."

Ladd scored twice in the first 6:33, and former Bruins first-round draft choice Sergei Samsonov gave the Hurricanes a 3-0 lead with 1:31 left in the second period. Ward protected the shutout until Thornton had two goals in a 27-second span with around five minutes left.

"We got our first goal a little late, but you saw the momentum that it built and the energy that it gave our team," Bruins coach Claude Julien said. "If only we could have gotten that earlier in the game."

Rod Brind'Amour assisted on both of Ladd's goals to help the Hurricanes improve to 2-3 on their five-game road trip. With the win, Carolina moved into first place in the Southeast Division, ahead of Washington and Atlanta, who play Wednesday night.

"We're battling for a playoff spot," Samsonov said. "For us, it's almost a playoff game."

Boston trailed 3-0 when Thornton's shot from the right side went off the top of Ward's glove and into the net with 5:10 left in the game. The Bruins made it 3-2 with 4:43 left when Ward made a save that trickled between his pads and stopped in the crease behind him; Thornton came by to swat the idle puck into the net.

Boston made a furious charge in the last four minutes, pulling goalie Alex Auld but failing to get the game-tying goal.

Ward stopped 32 shots, and Auld made 20 saves for Boston.

Thornton's goals were his first of the season, giving him his first two-goal game of his career.



Islanders goalie Rick DiPietro blocks a shot from Flyers right wing Mike Knuble in a 4-3 New York win Tuesday.

They also deprived Ward of his second consecutive shutout against the Bruins; he also shut out Boston on Jan. 8 and hasn't allowed a goal to the Bruins since the third period of Carolina's 4-3 victory on Dec. 28.

The Bruins lost their second consecutive game, their fourth in five tries and their third in a row to Carolina. They now embark on a five-game trip of their own to clear the new Boston Garden

for Disney's High School Musical: The Ice Tour.

Ladd gave the Hurricanes a 1-0 lead when Brind'Amour split two defenders and pushed the puck up to Ladd just 3:01 in. Ladd made it 2-0 when he kicked the puck past Auld at the 6:33 mark of the first.

"I just turned my foot. It was more of a reaction more than anything else," Ladd said. "I just turned my foot, and it went in."

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NHL

Zednik moved out of ICU after neck laceration

Associated Press

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla. — Upon hearing Richard Zednik's recovery from a life-threatening neck laceration could last six to eight weeks, Olli Jokinen checked his calendar.

That would be playoff time in the NHL.

And suddenly, the Florida Panthers have a huge source of postseason motivation.

Zednik continued what some termed a remarkable recovery Tuesday, when his condition was upgraded to good and he was moved out of the intensive care unit at Buffalo General Hospital. That was just two days after Jokinen's razor-sharp skate blade sliced

the 32-year-old forward's neck, cutting his carotid artery and stopping just shy of his jugular vein.

As Zednik recovers, so do the Panthers, who returned to the ice Tuesday, albeit still somber and shaken, yet somewhat uplifted by the continued good reports about their teammate.

"We've got 24 games to go," Jokinen said. "If we do our jobs, there is a possibility Richard's going to play with us and join the team in the playoffs. The doctors say six to eight weeks ... there's a possibility he could play this year. So every game now, it's going to be big, big for us."

Zednik playing again this season is a real long shot.

Doctors in Buffalo have already told him next year is the realistic return target, and on Tuesday, Dr. Sonya Noor — who operated on the forward Sunday night — said she's recommending he not resume strenuous activity for three months.

Still, the notion just might be enough of a reason for the playoff-starved Panthers to have some hope.

"We have to set it aside now and play hockey," said Florida defenseman Jassen Cullimore, who helped Zednik off the ice. "That's what we do."

The Panthers hope Zednik can travel home to South Florida by the weekend.

He has a photo of his 4-year-old daughter at his hos-

pital bedside, and NHL commissioner Gary Bettman has phoned to check on Zednik's condition and progress.

"He is awake and in good spirits," Noor said. "He has minimal neck swelling, or discomfort. He is speaking quite well. His voice is not hoarse. He's hungry. He wanted eggs for breakfast."

Noor said Zednik will be asked to sit up and walk a few steps over the next couple days, and if he can do those things, a discharge plan will be discussed.

Knowing that Zednik — who can talk and is alert — is doing as well can be expected, the Panthers also felt a sense of relief. Zednik isn't believed to have suffered any

long-term brain or nerve damage, and one surgeon described him as "very lucky."

"It's a sign of how good medicine can be and how good medical people can be," Panthers coach Jacques Martin said.

The accident remains the dominant topic in the NHL, and to Clint Malarchuk — a goaltender whose neck was slashed in a similar incident in a game at Buffalo in 1989 — it resonated deeply. He won't watch the Zednik incident, but has offered to meet with Zednik to talk about anything that's on his mind.

"For any players who are traumatized like this, it's pretty gruesome," Malarchuk said.

When Jokinen's skate hit Zednik's neck, a significant amount of blood immediately began pouring from a 1½-inch wound, leaving a wide red trail on the ice. Zednik skated to the Panthers' bench. His carotid artery — which carries blood to the brain — was nearly severed and emergency surgery that night at Buffalo General probably saved his life.

"Shows how tough the guy is," Jokinen said. "He was able to skate to the bench, with the cut in his throat, losing blood like that. It was pretty amazing, you know?"

Zednik never lost consciousness. He actually complained that Sabres' orthopedic surgeon Dr. Les Bisson was applying too much pressure to his neck in an effort to stop the bleeding.

By the time he reached the hospital, Zednik needed five units (roughly five pints) of blood, a figure that suggests he had lost one-third of the blood in his body.

"I think he will come back someday and play if that's what he chooses to do," Noor said.

Practice seemed normal Tuesday for the Panthers, who had a team meeting before the 60-minute workout, filled with all the usual skating and puck handling and shooting drills. Rob Globke, who was called up from Florida's AHL affiliate in Rochester to fill Zednik's roster spot, was with the team for the session.

A 12-year veteran, Zednik had 15 goals and 11 assists in 54 games this season, his first with the Panthers.

He didn't manage a single point over 16 games between Dec. 28 and Feb. 1. But he had six goals and three assists in the four games that preceded Sunday's game in Buffalo, giving the Panthers a clear boost as the team tries to make the playoffs for the first time since 2000.

"It's not like he wasn't having some scoring chances," Martin said. "They just weren't going in. Suddenly they started going in, and there's no doubt that the last two weeks that line had been very productive for our hockey team."

The Panthers entered Tuesday in fourth place in the Southeast Division, two points behind Washington for first place and the No. 3 spot in the Eastern Conference playoff standings.

Montreal visits Florida on Wednesday night.

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Huskies

continued from page 20

revenge in tonight's game, which will be broadcast on ESPNU.

Despite a flu breakout within the team, the Irish held off No. 25 Marquette Saturday for a 86-83 win. Senior captain Rob Kurz played sparingly after contracting the virus, and forwards Luke Harangody and Zach Hillesland vomited before the game.

Coach Mike Brey said his team is healthy for its trip east, however.

"It didn't run through the whole team," Brey said. "We're back to normal and it didn't cost us."

Connecticut stepped out of conference Saturday and took down ACC opponent Georgia Tech 80-68 at home. Center Hashem Thabeet led the Huskies with 24 points and 15 rebounds. During its winning streak, Connecticut has knocked off Indiana, Pittsburgh, Syracuse and Louisville.

Thabeet, who stands 7-foot-3, is also a defensive force in the paint. In the first meeting with Notre Dame, he held Big East player of the year candidate Luke

Harangody — who is only 6-foot-8 — to 14 points on 5-for-23 shooting from the floor.

Harangody, who has a wider body and is quicker than Thabeet, said he will try to use those advantages to negate the Connecticut center's size.

"If I can be more physical and get into his body more, then I can get my shot up and over him," Harangody said.

The sophomore also said that he can do things without the ball to pull Thabeet away from the basket and open things up for other Irish players, including guards Tory Jackson and Kyle McAlarney.

"There's some things I can do like ball screening for Kyle and Tory, too," Harangody said. "That will bring him out."

Kurz, Harangody's front-court mate, said if he spends more time away from the hoop, it will draw Huskies' forward Jeff Adrian out as well, allowing Harangody to work on Thabeet one-on-one.

"The thing that I try to do is space the floor and give him a lit-

tle room to operate," Kurz said. "[In the last meeting,] I was able to make some jump shots, which pulled Adrian away from the basket so he wasn't able to double L u k e [Harangody]."

Notre Dame has not played in Gampell Pavilion during Brey's tenure in South Bend. Each time the Irish had visited the Huskies, the games were played at the larger Hartford Civic Center, now known as the XL Center.

Kurz said the smaller, on-campus arena will be louder than the Hartford venue, but after road wins over Villanova and Seton Hall, the squad has confidence away from the Joyce Center.

"On-campus arenas are more intimate. Sometimes they're a little bit louder because they're small and people are packed in," he said. "But we're used to playing in tough places on the road."

The Huskies are one game back of the Irish in the Big East standings, but also trail third-place Louisville, which is half a game ahead of them at 8-3. Georgetown remains first in the conference at 10-2 after its win over Villanova Monday.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

"The thing I try to do is space the floor and give [Harangody] a little room to operate."

Rob Kurz
Irish forward

"If I can be more physical and get into [Thabeet's] body more, then I can get my shot up and over him."

Luke Harangody
Irish forward

Big East

continued from page 20

meet is of the utmost importance for the team. The competition represents a culmination of all the practices, workouts, dual meets and invitationals that have led up to this point.

"The Big East meet is our biggest and fastest meet of the year," Lytle said. "And we are all excited to see our hard work from the season pay off."

On the diving side, the Irish could get some important con-

tributions from multiple competitors. Junior diver Michael Bullfin, who ended the regular season with school record-breaking performances in the final two meets, will lead a confident group into the event.

"Diving is going to play a big role in this meet," Bullfin said. "The diving team has the potential to give the swimmers a very large lead to work with and aid them in bringing the Big East championship home. We've been practicing well, and all the guys are pretty confident and ready to head to New York."

The divers' confidence is well founded. Irish divers dominated their Big East foes throughout the regular season.

Confidence alone, however, will not be enough to bring home the title.

"It is not a meet we are going to be able to walk away with unless everyone is swimming and diving well," Bullfin said. "So we've been making the necessary steps in practice to get us prepared to win another Big East championship."

Contact Chris Doyen at cdoyen@nd.edu

Stadium

continued from page 20

February 2006 in front of 40,000 fans.

Last time I checked, Notre Dame Stadium held just over 80,000 people. That would set the world record for most people to ever watch a hockey game, knocking off Notre Dame's northern state school neighbors. And who wouldn't want another way to beat Michigan State and Michigan?

Unfortunately, this is where the logistics of an outdoor game get in the way of the icy dream. But the biggest obstacle to the Irish lacing up their skates inside the stadium isn't what you would think.

It's not building the rink while preserving the stadium turf. It's not the amount of money it would take to build an outdoor rink. And it's not the supposed tradition of having nothing but football in Notre Dame Stadium.

It's parking.

Associate Athletic Director Tom Nevala said Notre Dame during the winter can't handle the number of vehicles an outdoor game would create. The University uses extensive amount of grass field parking to accommodate vehicles for fall football games, and that parking wouldn't be accessible during the snowed-in winter

months.

The idea of an outdoor Notre Dame game has been tossed around, however, Nevala said.

"If we were going to host it, a place like Soldier Field [in Chicago] would make sense," he said.

It also isn't possible, Nevala said, for a hockey game to be played in the fall when the parking lots aren't covered in snow and the football team is on the road. The amount of time needed to build the rink, he said, wouldn't make it possible to fit a hockey game in around the football schedule.

But I have a solution.

If the snow-covered lots make a game in the winter impossible and football (who cares about Notre Dame football really?) takes precedence in the fall, there is an alternative. From Oct. 4 to Oct. 31 next season, Notre Dame football doesn't play at home. Excluding the one week of fall break smack in the middle of that stretch, there is a large amount of time where a rink can be built and an opponent like Michigan can be lined up to spar in the stadium.

If that stretch doesn't work, from Nov. 2 to Nov. 22 next sea-

son, the football team also doesn't play a game at Notre Dame Stadium. Those are two huge breaks where a rink can be constructed and the money can be raised through ticket sales to pay for the construction.

When Michigan State played

Michigan at Spartan Stadium in 2001, the game was played during a road weekend for State's football team.

If Michigan State can do it, why can't we?

There are people who specialize in constructing

rinks inside, outside or wherever, and there are always long breaks in the home football schedule. Put these two things together, add in a strong dash of the increasing amount of interest in hockey at Notre Dame and, voila, we have an outdoor game.

Plus, who doesn't love the thought of beating Michigan two times in the same year in the stadium?

I'm drooling.

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

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu

Plus, who doesn't love the thought of beating Michigan two times in the same year in the stadium?

Eagles

continued from page 20

ment (ACL) in her left knee.

Peters played a dynamic role in Notre Dame's full-court press, but Irish coach Muffet McGraw said Tuesday she still feels confident in her defense.

"Really we don't have to change anything that we're doing," McGraw said. "It's just a question of who's going to get more playing time. So it's a great opportunity for Brittney [Mallory], for B e c c a [Bruszkewski] and for Mel [D'Amico]."

McGraw also believes the injury might be a blessing in disguise — an opportunity for the freshman to learn from observing.

"I think it can be a real positive for a player and I think she will learn a lot from watching and listening," McGraw said.

The Irish defense looked like a renewed squad against Pittsburgh as it managed to defend the three better and keep the Panthers to 31 percent shooting from the field.

Despite dramatic improvements on defense, the Irish allowed the Panthers to grab 30 offensive rebounds. However, McGraw said her team should perform well against Marquette.

"After playing so well against Pitt, I think our defense is much better," McGraw said. "We still

need to work on rebounding, but at least we are guarding the 3-point line better."

Bruszkewski will likely see more playing time. The freshman took over when Peters left the court Sunday and added 10 points for the Irish. Melissa Lechlitner also had a big game against the Panthers, finishing with 12 points.

Even though the Irish defense is looking strong, McGraw realizes her team can't take the youthful Marquette lightly. Junior guard Krystal Ellis and freshman guard Angel Robinson will combine to form a forcible

threat for the Golden Eagles. But that isn't the Golden Eagles' only strength; the Irish recognize Marquette as a well-rounded team.

"[Ellis is] one of the best players in the league, so you always have to know where she is," McGraw said. "But I think that their team, they're all capable of, on any given night, any of them having a big game. They've got some really good young players. I think they're really starting to gel as a team."

The Irish and the Golden Eagles have a storied history and the two teams will face off for the 33rd time tonight — the longest running series in the Notre Dame program's history. Notre Dame leads the series 27-5.

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

"Really we don't have to change anything that we're doing."

Muffet McGraw
Irish coach



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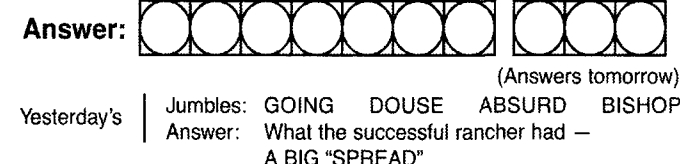
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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Something's got to give

Big East Leading Scorers

Conference only

	Pts.	Reb.	Assists
1. Luke Harangody - ND	23.5	11.7	1.8
2. Deonta Vaughn - Cinci	20.4	2.3	3.1
3. Kentrell Gransberry - USF	18.5	10.7	1.5
4. Sam Young - Pitt	18.3	6.2	1.6
5. Scottie Reynolds - Villanova	17.6	2.8	2.5

MADELINE NIES/Observer Graphic

Two of the Big East's hottest teams square off

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Editor

18-4 versus 18-5.
No. 18 in the USA Today poll versus No. 17.

No. 2 in the Big East versus No. 4.

Notre Dame and Connecticut have nearly mirrored each other this season, and both are on a roll heading into the showdown at 7 tonight in Storrs, Conn.

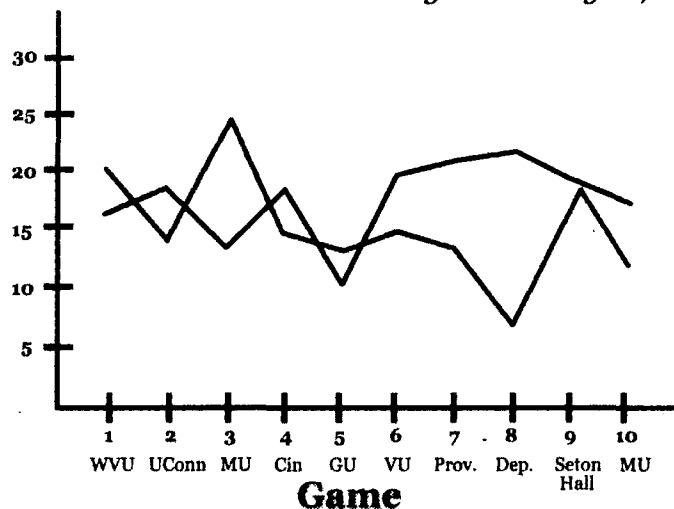
The No. 18 Irish (18-4, 8-2 Big East), winners of five straight, will invade Gampell Pavillion to take on the No. 17 Huskies (18-5, 7-3 Big East), who have won seven games in a row.

Notre Dame beat Connecticut 73-67 in the teams' early-conference meeting on Jan. 5. The Huskies will be looking for

see HUSKIES/page 18

Assists & Turnovers

Big East Play '07-'08



At 1.14, Notre Dame ranks 5th in conference play in assists to turnovers ratio.

— ND Turnovers
— ND Assists

MADELINE NIES/Observer Graphic

HOCKEY COMMENTARY

Time for the icers to march through the tunnel

This may be an exercise in futility, but it sounds too damn cool not to put it out there.

Imagine instead of lounging around in your dorm room on a Saturday afternoon in February, kicking the crumpled Natty cans off your coffee table to make room for a Sbarro's pizza, you could be tailgating outside Notre Dame Stadium for a game.

Obviously the football team isn't



Kyle Cassily
Sports Writer

going to be playing a mid-winter bowl in South Bend ever (or a post-December one for that matter, it seems).

But the hockey team could play there.

College hockey teams have played two separate games in football stadiums (CCHA teams, all) before, and the NHL has played two outdoor games as well. All of them drew huge crowds, were great to watch and put hockey under a spotlight it rarely receives.

A hockey game against Michigan in Notre Dame Stadium makes me drool. It makes me want to bundle up, grab a case from Belmont, throw down a lawn chair in C lot and wait for the gates to open.

The wondrous South Bend winters and city life keep us students bundled up in our dorms, apartments and houses all winter. The only interaction we get is when we jam ourselves up in the sweatbox of a house party or bar.

That kind of thing is fun and all, but our student body lacks any opportunities to get together as a whole like we can on football Saturdays. An outdoor hockey game, in addition to being a hell of a sight, would do that.

Michigan played Michigan State at Spartan Stadium in October 2001 in front of 75,000 fans, the largest crowd to ever watch a hockey game. Wisconsin and Ohio State played at Lambeau Field in

see STADIUM/page 18



WU YUE/The Observer

Irish center Christian Hanson checks forward David Wohlberg in Notre Dame's 2-1 win over the U.S. Under-18 team on Feb. 1.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish play first game sans Peters

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

With changes in Notre Dame's lineup, tonight's game against Marquette at 7 in the Joyce Center will give younger Irish players the opportunity to prove they deserve playing time.

No. 16 Notre Dame's 81-66 win over No. 15 Pittsburgh showed improvement in Notre Dame's defense, but it came at a heavy price. Early in the second half, freshman Devereaux Peters collapsed to the court, shaking in pain. According to MRI results released Monday the freshman tore the anterior cruciate liga-



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Irish guard Lindsay Schrader looks to pass in Notre Dame's 81-66 win over Pittsburgh on Sunday.

see EAGLES/page 21

MEN'S SWIMMING

Long layoff before Big East title meet

By CHRIS DOYEN
Sports Writer

With 32 days in between the regular season-ending Shamrock Invitational and the Big East championships, it takes some dedication to stay focused — and, more importantly, to stay fast.

With most of that downtime now behind the team, Notre Dame is looking to capitalize on the work it has done by staying sharp and making sure no one is worn out for the

event in East Meadow, N.Y., on Feb. 20.

Sophomore John Lytle, who has consistently scored points for the Irish in freestyle events this season, said preparation involves more than just the physical side of practice.

"We are slowly decreasing our workout intensity in order to be physically ready to race," Lytle said. "But at the same time we are mentally preparing ourselves more each day."

Preparation for the Big East

see BIG EAST/page 18