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Bengal Bouts combats cyclone damage

Annual boxing tournament helps country still reeling from November natural disaster



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Chris Izagguira and Sagare Navarre spar in last year's Bengal Bouts tournament.

By BECKY HOGAN
News Writer

Last November, the fierce winds of Cyclone Sidr slammed much of the already poverty-stricken Bangladesh, and beginning tonight approximately 185 young men are fighting back — in the boxing ring.

Hunter Land, president of the Boxing Club, said Notre Dame's 78th annual Bengal Bouts tournament has even more meaning for its participants because the need for relief in Bangladesh is even greater this year.

"Our money is being put to good use over there ... this year it's not just going

to the missions, schools and hospitals, but also to a lot of the country that's in need [due to the cyclone]. We're excited about that," Land said.

Senior captain Patrick O'Brien said the aftermath of Cyclone Sidr gives the competitors more motivation.

"[The cyclone] makes it even more important to kick the fundraising into high gear, and it's also something tangible that the boxers can focus on," O'Brien said.

Since 1931, the proceeds earned from the Bengal Bouts tournament have

see BENGAL/page 6

Haircuts aid cancer patients

'Project Pink' helps Pantene charity

By ELIZABETH KELLY
News Writer

Students from Notre Dame and Saint Mary's lined up outside Mishawaka's Salon Nouveau Sunday to cut off their ponytails as part of Pangborn Hall's annual Project Pink.

Event coordinator Tricia Hughes described Project Pink as "a campaign to raise awareness about women's issues and celebrate women in society."

Project Pink will donate the ponytails they collected yesterday to Pantene Beautiful Lengths, a charity organization that turns donated ponytails into wigs for women with cancer who have lost their hair as a result of chemotherapy.

The Project Pink committee selected this charity last March because it fit with the event's theme of women in solidarity, said Hughes. But not enough girls had hair long enough to meet Pantene's requirement of eight inches.

"Last year we put up signs all over Pangborn that said 'Don't cut your hair!'" Hughes said.

Through advertising, the Project Pink committee was able to convince 25 students

see PINK/page 6

Saint Mary's hosts siblings on campus

Little Sibs Weekend features games, activities, as younger guests experience college life

By NIKKI TAYLOR
News Writer

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) sponsored Little Sibs Weekend, an event in which Saint Mary's encouraged students to invite their younger siblings or relatives last weekend on the College's campus.

"I like getting students and siblings involved because in college there isn't a lot of time," event co-chair Jill Swan said. "Also the siblings enjoy being college students, and that's a big part of it."

The event this year had a

luau theme, centered on the idea that "Ohana means family" — one inspired by Swan's little sister.

"Her second grade classroom had a luau," Swan said. "When I came home and told her that I was in charge of Little Sibs Weekend, which she had been to before, she told me it should be luau themed."

RHA provided games and activities for students to participate in with siblings of all ages, including an ice cream social, a movie showing, games and karaoke.

"We had a huge turnout at

see SIBS/page 4



Photo courtesy of Caitlin Morrison

Junior Caitlin Morrison has dinner with her sister Madeline at Nick's Patio on Saturday night.

Prof. examines Chinese protest

Stanford's Andrew Walder shows university impact in Cultural Revolution

By CLAIRE REISING
News Writer

The story of China's Cultural Revolution was a "political fiasco" that had a deep impact on the country's universities, Stanford sociology professor Andrew Walder said Friday at "The Beijing Red Guard Movement: China's Cultural Revolution in Retrospect."

"They didn't accomplish anything but destruction," he said.

Walder, who wrote "Fractured Crusade: The Beijing Red Guard

Movement," lectured about the student Red Guard movement at Chinese universities between 1966 and 1968. Though the Red Guards supported Mao Zedong, factionalism arose among the movement.

Instead of just purging government officials, Walder said, Mao originally sought the support of students and young workers to ensure that his policies and legacy would continue after his death.

"There's a real logic to what he did," he said. "If he would simply use a purge to get rid of the top officials, he felt he would-

n't have had a lasting impact on the country."

One of the Red Guards functions was to target officials they deemed anti-revolutionary at "struggle sessions," in which the accused would be publicly humiliated and often physically harmed. However, Walder said students disagreed about the rebellion's aim and which people to target.

In his research, Walder had expected to find that the factions originated from the students' social classes. However, he said

see CHINA/page 4

ND students, alumni assess third-world health

By BILL BRINK
News Writer

During a human development symposium Saturday, Notre Dame students and alumni said a lack of resources and knowledge are inhibiting health improvements both in America and third-world countries.

The Kellogg Institute for International Studies, the Ford Family Program in Human Development Studies and Solidarity, and the Center for Social Concerns co-hosted the event, "Solidarity in Pursuit of Authentic Human

Development," which took place in the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

The effectiveness of traditional medicine in third-world countries took center stage in the presentations. Sophomore Jeff Lakusta drew from his experiences in South Africa last summer researching the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

"There is \$230 billion in aid from the top 40 donors alone," he said. "The obvious question is how can \$230 billion not provide us more significant results?"

The stigma of HIV/AIDS

see HUMAN/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

Concerning my father

My father was the coach of my high school's basketball team for 33 years, but going into my senior year, the school informed him he would have to "retire" at the end of that season and my dad, not wanting to cause a stir, reluctantly went along.

Thirty-three years of loyalty and dedication meant nothing. The fact that he taught hundreds about basketball and life meant nothing, and the fact that he was the winningest active coach in the state of Pennsylvania meant nothing as well.



Chris Hine

Editor-in-Chief

Parents who had money to throw around took advantage of a .500 season our team had my junior year to say the game had "passed him by" and to push for his firing. Though only a handful of parents wanted him out, it didn't matter. They had money, and he was gone.

We won over 20 games my senior year, won the district title, lost in double overtime in the state quarterfinals, and my dad was named coach of the year in our conference. Still, he could not return for a 34th season. Aside from my sister's battle with Hodgkin's Disease, this was the most difficult time my family has ever faced. It's hard to give up something you've loved doing for 33 years and this isn't college where coaches make six or seven figures. We depended in part on money my dad brought in from coaching and running clinics.

But through that year, there were two people who helped ease the disappointment our family felt, and oddly enough, they were sports writers. One was Dave Konopki, now the sports editor for "The Times Leader" in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. Dave looked into the story of my dad getting fired. He got it, and was ready to print it and put the school in its place. But my dad did not want this story distracting our team in the middle of the season and so Dave didn't print it.

The other was the now-deceased Jerry Kellar. Kellar had one of the most widely-read columns in the area, and decided to devote a section of his column to my dad and the school, blasting them for firing him.

I've never seen my father sadder than during this ordeal, but the care these two writers had for his job made him feel a little better. They may not have completely taken away the pain he felt, but they offered him and the rest of my family temporary solace.

When I began working at The Observer as a sports writer in 2005, I tried to uphold the lessons Dave and Jerry taught me — to keep sports in its proper perspective, have sensitivity for the people you cover, investigate when the circumstances of a situation don't seem to match, and, most importantly, speak up when something isn't right.

My old high school did its best to keep the story about my father under wraps because they knew it would be damaging from a public-relations viewpoint. And at an image-conscious institution like Notre Dame, a lot of politicking and behind-the-scenes decision making gets swept under the rug and concealed. But when something does leak or we uncover something, I will do my best to make sure The Observer upholds the lessons I learned from Dave and Jerry. It won't be easy, and it will be stressful, but it is our duty to do it, because I've experienced the effect journalism can have and it is something I won't take for granted.

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

Contact Chris Hine at chine@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: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE OSCARS?



Eileen Hall

freshman
Welsh Fam

"The musical performances — especially when I sing along."



Nathan Payne

senior
Zahm

"The rich idiots that think they have style."



Johanna Kirsch

sophomore
McGlinn

"The dresses because they're shiny."



Kinzie Kiser

junior
Welsh Fam

"Sexy Regis."



Glynnis Garry

freshman
Cavanaugh

"The wrap-up music."



The Michigan State Jazz Orchestra performs as part of the 50th annual Collegiate Jazz Festival Saturday night in Washington Hall. The event featured performances by 12 different university bands.

OFFBEAT

Police bust snowmobile chop shop

BANGOR TOWNSHIP, Mich. — The determination of an angry snowmobile owner — plus miles and miles of tracks in the snow — have led police to a suspected chop shop for stolen snowmobiles.

Police say the man discovered Saturday that his snowmobile was missing from his home in Van Buren County's Arlington Township in southwest Michigan.

The man, whose name was not released, called police and set out on a borrowed snowmobile following tracks

in the snow for about 10 miles through fields and along roads.

Relatives and friends followed by car as he trailed the tracks to a home in Bangor Township.

Marlins searching for new husky mascots

MIAMI — The Florida Marlins are looking for some footloose fat men. The National League team is creating an all-male, plus-size cheerleading squad to be dubbed the Manatees. Tryouts were scheduled for Sunday.

The team hopes to recruit

seven to 10 tubby men to dance, cheer and jiggle during Friday and Saturday home games this season.

Real manatees, 1,200-pound mammals sometimes referred to as "sea cows," are not considered the most agile of creatures and often get caught in boat propellers.

The Marlins want their Manatees to have the same dimensions, but to be decidedly more agile. Men will be judged on how well they dance a choreographed routine.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The preliminaries for the Bengal Bouts boxing tournament will be held today at 6:30 in the Joyce Center Field House. Tickets cost \$10 and all proceeds go towards Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh.

Tim Power from the Latin American Centre at Oxford University will present a lecture entitled "Changing Evaluations of Brazilian Democracy" at the Hesburgh Center at 4:15 p.m. The event will be hosted by the Helen Kellogg Institute for International Studies.

Former Senator Rick Santorum will present a lecture entitled "Gathering Storm of the 21st Century" Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the McKenna Hall auditorium. The lecture is sponsored by the Intercollegiate Studies Institute and the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

Women's basketball will play South Florida Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Joyce Center.

The film "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" will be shown at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center Thursday at 7 p.m.

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.

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

	TODAY	TONIGHT	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 36 LOW 32	HIGH 33 LOW 29	HIGH 30 LOW 18	HIGH 22 LOW 12	HIGH 26 LOW 22	HIGH 32 LOW 22

Atlanta 63 / 49 Boston 44 / 28 Chicago 35 / 30 Denver 47 / 29 Houston 76 / 54 Los Angeles 65 / 48 Minneapolis 32 / 16 New York 46 / 33 Philadelphia 48 / 33 Phoenix 73 / 50 Seattle 56 / 40 St. Louis 51 / 34 Tampa 79 / 63 Washington 56 / 40

Vickers tabbed as first DPAC managing director

Special to The Observer

Jon Vickers, previously director of the Browning Cinema in the University of Notre Dame's DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts (DPAC), has been promoted to the new position of managing director of the center.

"Jon has excellent operational experience to bring to the position, is dedicated to making connections across the academy, and is a valued member of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center team," said Anna M. Thompson, the Judd and Mary Lou Leighton Director of Performing Arts.

As managing director, Vickers will oversee the daily operational activities of the center, ensuring that its academic, business, guest and technical services, as well as external relations, are aligned with the center's overall mission. Additionally, Vickers will be responsible for building partnerships with colleges, departments, institutes and other centers on campus in an effort to further the arts as a critically important part of the University. Vickers will continue to serve

as curator of the film series at the Browning Cinema and will collaborate with Thompson on programming themes for each season between the cinematic and performing arts.

Vickers and his wife, Jennifer, have for 12 years owned and operated the Vickers Theatre, an independent, art house theater located in Three Oaks, Mich. His education includes a degree in civil engineering from Michigan State University.

In Three Oaks, he is a founding member of Harbor Arts, Harbor Country Forum, the Sound of Silence Film Festival and Radio Harbor Country, of which he is the current chair. He also is chair of the Village of Three Oaks Downtown Development Authority.

The DeBartolo Center is presenting its fourth season of world-renowned performances, art film screenings, University department and faculty performances, and other programming. The facility includes five separate venues, including the Leighton Concert Hall, Decio Mainstage Theatre, Philbin Studio Theatre, THX-certified Browning Cinema, and the Reyes Organ and Choral Hall.

"Jon has excellent operational experience to bring to the position."

Anna Thompson
director of performing arts

Bush presses for intel bill

President criticizes Democrats for blocking legislation renewal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Democratic leaders came under criticism Saturday from President Bush who said they are blocking intelligence legislation so lawyers can sue telephone companies for helping the government eavesdrop on suspected terrorists.

Terrorists are plotting attacks "at this very moment," Bush said in his weekly radio address. He again urged the House to act on Senate-passed legislation needed to renew the intelligence law that expired last weekend.

The Senate bill provides retroactive protection for telecommunications companies that wiretapped U.S. phone and computer lines at the government's request, but without the permission of a secret court created 30 years ago to oversee such activities. The House version does not provide such immunity against lawsuits.

The Justice Department and Office of National Intelligence

said Saturday that telecommunication companies are now complying with existing surveillance warrants. The agencies' statement reversed their declaration late Friday that some companies had refused to initiate wiretaps against people covered by orders issued under the expired law.

The statement said new surveillance activities under existing warrants will resume "for now," but that the delay "impaired our ability to cover foreign intelligence targets, which resulted in missed intelligence information."

The statement also said companies may resist orders in the future if Congress does

not pass a law with retroactive immunity.

National Intelligence Director Mike McConnell predicted last week that the government's surveillance of terrorists would be harmed if the law were allowed to expire. He and Attorney General Michael Mukasey said that prediction had come true.

Later Friday, the companies — whom administration officials refused to name — reversed their opposition to expanding existing orders to cover new surveillance activities.

The law expired after Congress left on a 10-day recess before reconciling the House and Senate versions of its replacement.

"When Congress reconvenes on Monday, members of the House have a choice to make: They can empower the trial bar, or they can empower the intelligence community," Bush said in his Saturday radio address. "They can help class-action trial lawyers sue for billions of dollars, or they can help our intelligence officials protect millions of lives."

Bush has promised to veto any bill that does not protect the companies from suits that allege violations of privacy and wiretapping laws under the warrantless wiretapping program.

"It is unfair and unjust to threaten these companies with financial ruin only because they are believed to have done the right thing and helped their country," the president said.

"House leaders are blocking this legislation, and the reason can be summed up in three words: class-action lawsuits."

"[Congress] can help class-action trial lawyers sue for billions of dollars, or they can help our intelligence officials protect millions of lives."

George W. Bush
president

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.

Human

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sometimes prevents people from seeking medical attention, Lakusta said, and ill-placed faith in traditional healing methods prevents people from acquiring proper modern medical care.

"If you're at the education level where you think eating food or breathing air gives you the disease, of course they'll want to stay away," Lakusta said.

Senior Nathan Serazin addressed a similar issue with his research. Serazin worked for two summers in the town of Pedro Vicente Maldonado, Ecuador studying alternative medicine.

Serazin analyzed the medicines used by traditional healers and compiled a handbook detailing the similarities between modern medicines and those used by healers. In one case, he noted, a seed used by healers to treat sore throats contains menthol, a common ingredient in lozenges.

"This is the first line of

defense for most people," he said.

Junior Patricia Hughes, who conducted research in Baltimore, Md., said late stages of AIDS can be better managed in group homes that allow patients easier access to the care they need.

"If we look at HIV today, it's become a chronic, but manageable, condition," she said.

Lacey Hausman, a 2003 Notre Dame graduate, said refugee camps in northern Uganda presented a Catch-22. While the camps did provide medical services not available in the refugees' home villages, AIDS spreads quickly through the camps.

"If they go home, they're losing easy access to these services," Hausman said.

Hausman also said women in the camps do not receive proper prenatal care because the hospitals in the region are understaffed and don't have the necessary supplies to perform birthing procedures.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

China

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they actually formed as a result of students' experiences under the control of university-placed work teams, which monitored dissenting activity.

After work teams left the universities, students who did not clash with them formed a majority faction, but students who opposed the work teams and suffered under their control formed a minority faction. One goal of the minority faction was to have the negative political labels the work teams gave them removed.

In the following months, Walder said factions solidified into a "political gridlock" and became violent. Students set up barricades and attacked each other

with acid, bricks and hand grenades.

"Every school had two factions and was locked into this structure," he said.

However, Walder said when Mao realized the factionalism would not be successful, he brought in the military to end the fighting and control the schools.

Walder contrasted this with 1960s student political action in the United States, where students united to protest the Vietnam War, rather than fighting among themselves. In the United States, the worst consequences protesting students could face was jail or expulsion from their universities, but in China, consequences ranged from ruined careers to a loss of freedom.

"You didn't have that kind of kind of violence in the U.S., where students were barricading themselves on campus and fighting one another," he said.

Also, students could not escape from their situation because they were unable to simply transfer universities and leave their fac-

tions, Walder said.

Walder said researchers rely on interviews with former Red Guards and information from Red Guard pamphlets and newspapers to piece together the Cultural Revolution's history. However, he said that former Red Guards' testimony is not always reliable because it can contain "half-truths, evasions, inaccuracies."

"There was a lot of guesswork, a lot of filling in the blanks," he said. "You take hints from newspapers, editorials, comments, and you expand back, imagine what the social reality was behind the rhetoric."

Another component of research, Walder said, is discovering unanticipated information that challenges one's preconceptions.

"I find that just about every time I've done research on a topic I start with certain ideas, and the process of learning involves a great deal of unlearning," he said.

Contact Claire Reising at creisin2@nd.edu



Walder

Sibs

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all the events," Little Sibs co-chair Taylor Flaherty said. "We even had to set up extra tables at crafts, but I think that the games were everyone's favorite."

Each morning there was also a breakfast buffet in the residence halls for students and their siblings, Flaherty said.

Freshman Lauren Hartman enjoyed the time she spent with her 11-year-old cousin, Olivia.

"We went to the luau, and game night, and we also had girls' night in my room with popcorn and movies and facials," Hartman said. "Olivia said that she loved it and wants to come back next year."

Freshman Gina Storti also had a good experience with her little sister's visit as well.

"It was so nice to see my little sister and spend time with her and have her meet my friends," she said.

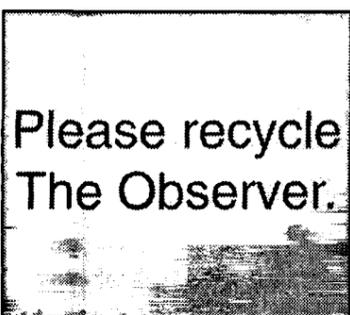
Swan said that the major goal of the weekend was to provide entertainment for the siblings.

"Anyone likes to say that their own event was a success, but the kids seemed to have fun, and if the kids are happy, then it was a success," Swan said.

Flaherty agreed and said she is looking forward to next year.

"It was a great weekend. I'm really glad everyone volunteered from RHA. Hopefully next year's will be great as well."

Contact Nikki Taylor at ntaylo01@saintmarys.edu



Attention Seniors!

Notre Dame's Office of Undergraduate Admissions anticipates hiring Admissions Counselors this spring!

As part of the Undergraduate Admissions staff, the counselor is expected to make an important contribution to the recruitment and selection of the first-year class by managing relations with the prospective applicants, their parents, high school personnel and alumni in an assigned geographic area.

Responsibilities include extensive planning, travel and communication within the geographic area, assessment and evaluation of applications and conducting group/individual information sessions. Additional responsibilities will be assigned by the Assistant Provost for Enrollment.

Among our candidates, we will specifically seek an **African American Recruitment Coordinator.**

Candidates should possess a bachelor's degree and strong familiarity with all aspects of student life at Notre Dame.

Essential qualities include strong communication and organizational skills, enthusiasm, diplomacy and the willingness to work long hours, including many evenings and Saturday mornings.

Please Note: Interviews will be scheduled after April 1.

Preferred start date is July 1, 2008.

**Please forward your resume to the
Office of Undergraduate Admissions
220 Main Building**

Attention: Alisa M. Fisher, Senior Associate Director

WORLD & NATION

Monday, February 25, 2008

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

N.Y. Philharmonic to visit North Korea

BEIJING — North Korea was tearing down anti-American posters that line the streets of Pyongyang in preparation for the New York Philharmonic's unprecedented visit, the ensemble's president said Sunday on the eve of departure.

The musicians said they hoped personal contacts with North Koreans could help bring the countries closer. But some also worried their performance Tuesday wouldn't change anything, and instead be misused for propaganda in the communist country that technically remains at war with the U.S.

The Philharmonic's president and executive director, Zarin Mehta, said North Korea had met the group's requests that the largest possible audience hear the concert. The performance will be staged in a larger hall and will be broadcast live on radio and TV.

Pakistani Taliban ready for dialogue

ISLAMABAD — Pakistani Taliban fighters said Sunday they are ready for dialogue with the winners of last week's election, and called on the new leadership to abandon President Pervez Musharraf's policies of waging war on terror.

"We hope after the government comes into power, they will not make the mistake of continuing the existing policies and will bring peace to the people of tribal areas," Taliban-e-Tehrik spokesman Maulvi Umar told The Associated Press by telephone. "We want peace and are looking for dialogue with those who got elected."

NATIONAL NEWS

American Airlines passenger dies in flight

NEW YORK — An American Airlines passenger died after a flight attendant told her he couldn't give her any oxygen and then tried to help her with faulty equipment, including an empty oxygen tank, a relative said.

The airline confirmed the flight death and said medical professionals had tried to save the passenger, Carine Desir, who was returning home to Brooklyn from Haiti.

Desir, who had heart disease, died of natural causes, medical examiner's office spokeswoman Ellen Borakove said Sunday.

Desir had complained of not feeling well and being very thirsty on the Friday flight from Port-au-Prince after she ate a meal, according to Antonio Oliver, a cousin who was traveling with her and her brother Joel Desir. A flight attendant gave her water, he said.

A few minutes later, Desir said she was having trouble breathing and asked for oxygen, but a flight attendant twice refused her request, Oliver said Sunday in a telephone interview.

Los Angeles has best municipal water

BERKELEY SPRINGS, W.Va. — Their air might bring pollution complaints, but residents of Los Angeles drink the nation's tastiest tap water, according to the judges of an international competition. More than 120 water sources competed in the 18th annual Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting, held Saturday.

A panel of 10 journalists and food critics sampled sparkling, tap and bottled water from 19 states and other countries, including New Zealand, Romania, Macedonia and the Philippines.

LOCAL NEWS

Police search for car window shooter

LAPORTE — LaPorte police might use undercover patrols to catch whoever is using a BB or pellet gun to shoot out car windows in the northern Indiana city.

Police say at least 65 vehicles have been hit, doing \$10,000 damage.

LaPorte Chief of Detectives Clyde Crass says investigators were mapping out where and when each vehicle was shot at early Thursday. He says police are considering different strategies to catch the shooters including covert patrols in the city about 30 miles west of South Bend.

A witness told police that occupants of a red SUV drove by and shot out windows in his two cars.

CUBA

Raul Castro becomes president

Officials name 77-year-old revolutionary leader Jose Ramon Machado for No. 2 position

Associated Press

HAVANA — Cuba's parliament named Raul Castro president on Sunday, ending nearly 50 years of rule by his brother Fidel but leaving the island's communist system unshaken.

In a surprise move, officials bypassed younger candidates to name a 77-year-old revolutionary leader, Jose Ramon Machado, to Cuba's No. 2 spot — apparently assuring the old guard that no significant political changes will be made soon.

Raul also proposed he would consult with the ailing, 81-year-old Fidel on all major decisions of state, and parliament approved the proposal.

Sunday's vote came five days after Fidel said he was retiring, capping a career in which he frustrated efforts by 10 U.S. presidents to oust him.

Though the succession was not likely to bring a major shift in the communist government policies that have put Cuba at odds with the United States, many Cubans were hoping it would open the door to modest economic reforms that might improve their daily lives.

In his first speech as president, Raul Castro suggested that the Communist Party as a whole would take over the role long held by Fidel Castro, who formally remains its leader.

The new president said the nation's sole legal party "is the directing and superior force of society and the state."

"This conviction has particular importance when because the founding and forging generation of the revolution is disappearing," Raul Castro added.

The U.S. has said the change from one Castro to another would not be



Raul Castro speaks after being named President of Cuba's Council of State by the new National Assembly in Havana Sunday.

significant, calling it a "transfer of authority and power from dictator to dictator light."

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Sunday Cubans have a right "to choose their leaders in democratic elections" and urged the government "to begin a process of peaceful, democratic change by releasing all political prisoners, respecting human rights, and creating a clear pathway towards free and fair elections."

Her statement, issued shortly before parliament met, called the developments a "significant moment in Cuba's history."

Cuba's parliament chose

a new 31-member ruling body known as the Council of State to lead the country. The council's president serves as the head of state and government.

The vote ended Castro's 49 years as head of the communist state in America's backyard. He retains his post as a lawmaker and as head of the Communist Party. But his power in government has eroded since July 31, 2006, when he announced he had undergone emergency intestinal surgery and was provisionally ceding his powers to Raul.

The younger Castro has headed Cuba's caretaker government in the 19

months since then, and Fidel Castro has not appeared in public.

In his final essay as president, Castro wrote that preparations for the parliament meeting "left me exhausted," and he said he did not regret his decision to step down.

"I slept better than ever," he wrote in the commentary published on Friday. "My conscience was clear and I promised myself a vacation."

In Old Havana, Maria Martinez, a 67-year-old retiree, watched the announcement on a Chinese-made television in her dark living room.

"He's a trustworthy man," she said. "He won't make mistakes."

Obama claims Clinton waffled on NAFTA

Associated Press

LORAIN, Ohio — Barack Obama accused Democratic presidential rival Hillary Rodham Clinton on Sunday of trying to walk away from a long record of support for NAFTA, the free trade agreement that he said has cost 50,000 jobs in Ohio, site of next week's primary.

At the same time, he said attempts to repeal the trade deal "would probably result in more job losses than job gains in the United States."

One day after Clinton angrily accused him of distorting her record on the North American Free Trade Agreement in mass mailings, the Illinois senator was eager to rekindle the long-distance

debate, using passages from the former first lady's book as well as her own words.

"Ten years after NAFTA passed, Senator Clinton said it was good for America," Obama said. "Well, I don't think NAFTA has been good for America — and I never have."

"The fact is, she was saying great things about NAFTA until she started running for president," Obama told an audience at a factory that makes wall board, located in a working class community west of Cleveland.

Later, at a rally in Toledo, he rebutted the former first lady's statement that her husband had merely inherited NAFTA when he won the White House from former President George H.W.

Bush.

President Clinton "championed NAFTA," passed it through Congress and signed it into law, Obama said.

A spokesman for Clinton, Phil Singer, said the former first lady was critical of NAFTA long before she ran for president. He cited remarks from March 2000 in which she said, "What happened to NAFTA I think was we inherited an agreement that we didn't get everything we should have got out of it in my opinion. I think the NAFTA agreement was flawed."

Singer also said that in 2004 in Illinois, Obama spoke positively of the trade agreement, saying the United States had "benefited enormously" from exports under NAFTA.

Bengal

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gone to the Holy Cross brothers in Bangladesh who work to establish elementary and secondary schools, provide shelter to low-income families and provide medical care and outreach programs to the poor.

Former football coach Knute Rockne brought boxing to the University in 1920, but it wasn't until 11 years later that coach Dominic Napolitano started using Bengal Bouts to raise funds for the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh.

According to Land, the club has already raised \$55,000 — not including ticket sales. Land also said that donations are still coming in, and the Bouts hopes to raise even more money than last year.

"We donated \$60,000 [to the Holy Cross missions] last year, and we'd love to donate more than that this year," he said.

After all expenses have been accounted for, the Holy Cross missions receive the check from the proceeds of the tournament during the summer, Land said.

Funds come from tickets sales, advertisements sold in the tournament program, and donations from alumni clubs and individual supporters.

"Every year we have Bengal Bouts alumni that come back because they just can't get enough of it," Land said.

O'Brien said the 185 contenders in this year's tournament make up the second largest group in the history of Bengal Bouts.

Boxers include both undergraduate and graduate students and the list of this year's competitors even includes a 39-year old, O'Brien said.

Training for new boxers began last fall in the novice season, and the 300 potential participants that originally showed up have been whittled down to 185 contenders.

"A lot of the boxers are training five months for one night," Land said.

O'Brien said what makes the Bouts so unique is that many of the participants train for five months only to fight for a few minutes.

In addition, practices from Bengal Bouts are held five times a week, and participants are only allowed to miss five practices during the regular season. Land said that most boxers would not participate if not for the charitable cause of the tournament.

"I think that the practices are so demanding that people would drop out more if it was just for them and not for someone else.

They stick it out and continue with training when they know it's for something besides themselves," Land said.

O'Brien said while the workout sessions are certainly beneficial, knowing that he was helping someone was even more rewarding.

"For most of us, it's the first time we've ever seen our ab muscles before. It's so rewarding because win or lose, you know that it was the hardest you ever worked," O'Brien said. "And even if you don't win, you can always look back at how hard you worked, and that it was for someone else."

Land said the intensity of

the boxers makes the tournament competitive year after year.

"The participants take [Bengal Bouts] really seri-

ously," Land said. "[Boxing] is the most pure sport — just two guys in the ring...nothing pays off more for boxing than hard work. They push

themselves as hard as they can."

Contact Becky Hogan at rhogan2@nd.edu

"They stick it out and continue training because when they know it's for something besides themselves."

Hunter Land
Boxing Club president

"[Boxing] is the most pure sport — just two guys in the ring ... nothing pays off more for boxing than hard work. They push themselves as hard as they can."

Hunter Land
Boxing Club president

Pink

continued from page 1

to grow their hair for the charity. The committee also received 15 additional ponytails from girls who had previously cut their hair, and Hughes estimates that Pantene Beautiful Lengths will be able to make seven wigs.

Stylists from Salon Nouveau also donated their services for the event, which they heard about from a customer who lives in Pangborn.

Hughes said some of the volunteers were uneasy about cutting their hair.

"The girls with the longest hair were the most nervous," she said. "But in the end nobody chickened out. We

were all there together for support."

Hughes was very pleased with her new hairstyle.

"I really like my new 'do'" Hughes said. "And now I can sleep later because it won't take long to dry my hair."

Yesterday's hair donation drive was the first portion of the hall's two-part event.

The second part of Project Pink, scheduled for March 14 in the La Fortune Ballroom, is a fashion show fundraiser featuring the residents of Pangborn in pink outfits.

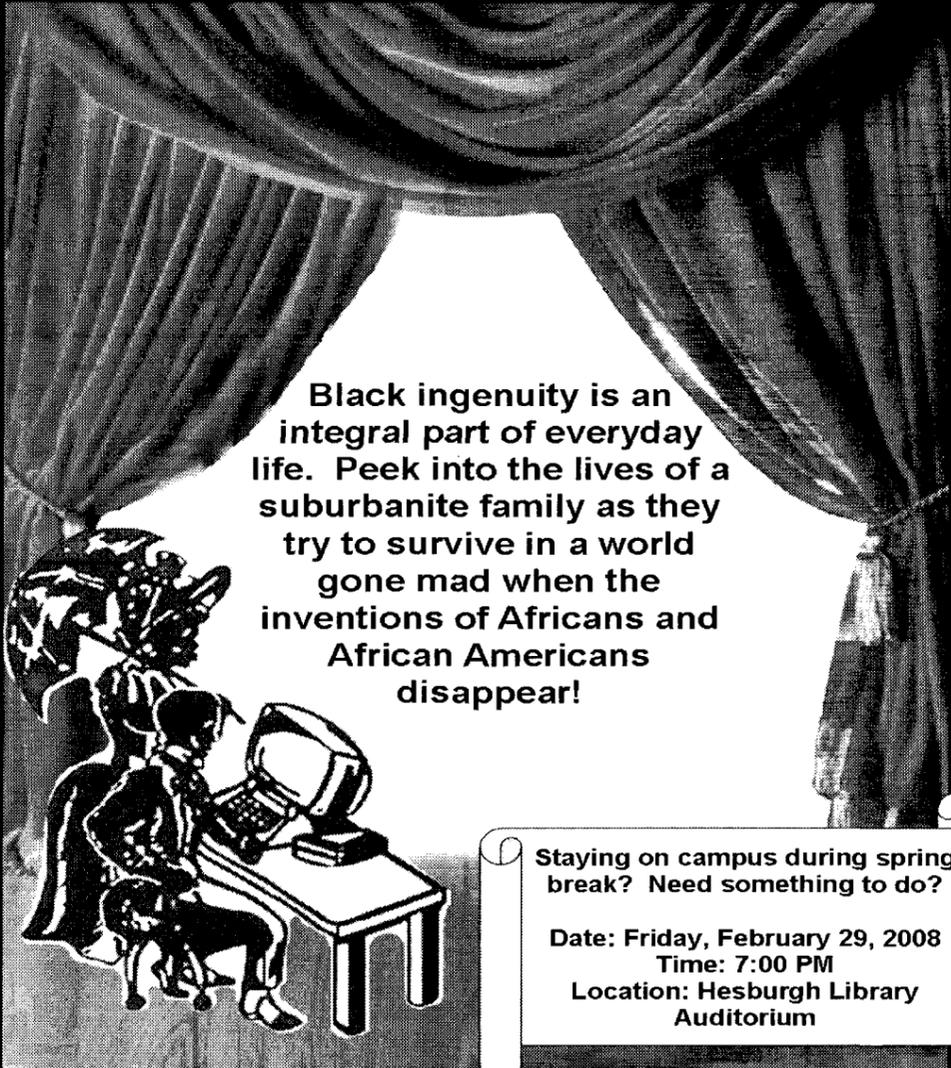
The event will also feature a before-and-after slideshow that showcases the new looks of the girls who participated in the hair donation drive.

Contact Elizabeth Kelly at ekelly7@nd.edu

"But in the end nobody chickened out. We were all there together for support."

Tricia Hughes
Project Pink event coordinator

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AMEX	2,277.90	+19.71
NASDAQ	2,303.35	+3.57
NYSE	9,064.83	+87.10
S&P 500	1,353.11	+10.58
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	13,777.32	+276.86
FTSE 100 (London)	5,888.50	-43.70

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
S&P DEP RECIEPTS (SPY)	+0.62	+0.83	135.62
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	+0.37	+0.16	43.68
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	-1.49	-0.42	27.68
LEVEL 3 COMM INC (LVLT)	+7.48	+0.16	2.30

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	+0.16	+0.16	3.790
13-WEEK BILL	0.00	0.00	2.140
30-YEAR BOND	+0.64	+0.64	4.582
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.21	-0.21	2.801

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	+0.58	98.81
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PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	+0.70	95.95

Exchange Rates

YEN	107.3450
EURO	0.6748
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.0118

IN BRIEF

States cope with sagging tax revenue

WASHINGTON — Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire should be celebrating her state's robust economy and record exports. Yet sagging tax collections are lowering an estimated budget surplus by \$400 million.

In this slow economy, states are struggling. People are spending less and state governments are taking in fewer dollars.

The financial bottom line is a top worry for many governors in discussions as their annual meeting about paying for public works and energy projects.

"Everything's been going great for us and now the national downturn has slowed us up," said Gregoire, a Democrat.

As many as 18 states have deficits, totaling \$14 billion in the current budget, and 20 forecast spending shortfalls for 2009 — \$34 billion when combined.

It is so bad that some governors are debating whether to pressure Congress for a second economic aid plan; this one would focus on upgrading roads, bridges and sewer systems.

"Stimulus that would focus upon infrastructure would be both great for jobs but also would really speak to a need that we're seeing around the country," Democratic Gov. Tim Kaine of Virginia said on "Fox News Sunday."

Early Microsoft leader donates \$65 million

SEATTLE — The estate of Ric Weiland, a high school classmate of Microsoft Corp. founders Bill Gates and Paul Allen and one of the first five people to work at the software giant, has left \$65 million to gay rights and HIV/AIDS organizations.

The bequests were announced Sunday by the Pride Foundation of Seattle, where Weiland was a board member for several years. The foundation called it the largest single bequest ever given to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender causes.

Gates and Allen hired Weiland in 1975, the year they founded Microsoft. He worked as a project leader for the Microsoft Works word processing and spreadsheet software, and was a lead programmer and developer for the company's BASIC and COBOL systems, two of the first personal computing interfaces. He left Microsoft in 1988.

Housing crisis still on agenda

Congress to examine additional remedies for consumers, investors

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress is set to examine another round of possible repairs for consumers and investors threatened by widening cracks in the housing market.

Proposals include easing bankruptcy rules, shielding banks from lawsuits and providing government assistance to homeowners facing foreclosure.

Lawmakers also plan this week to question several high-profile mortgage and banking executives about industrywide losses and lavish executive-compensation packages.

The housing proposals percolating on Capitol Hill, many of them designed by Democrats, are expected to face much tougher resistance than the recently approved economic stimulus package, which touched on the mortgage crisis in a limited way.

Some of these proposals have been kicked around in one form or another for months. Others are considered attempts to address perceived shortcomings in the Bush administration plan to freeze interest rates on a small percentage of loans made to high-risk borrowers.

A bill likely to be debated on the Senate floor Tuesday includes a proposed revision to the U.S. bankruptcy code that would allow judges to cut interest rates and reduce what's owed on troubled borrowers' mortgages. Currently, mortgage lenders can foreclose against a homeowner in default on a primary residence 90 days after a bankruptcy filing, and judges have no authority to order changes in mortgage terms.

"This week we have an opportunity to pass a housing bill that will help the



Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Chairwoman Sheila Blair testifies on Capitol Hill Thursday before a Senate Banking Committee hearing on foreclosures and preservation.

economy recover, help American families stay in their homes and change the law so this never happens again," said Sen. Richard Durbin of Illinois, the Senate's second-ranking Democrat and author of the proposal to ease bankruptcy rules.

The bankruptcy measure, a similar version of which has cleared a House committee, is fiercely opposed by lenders and many Republicans.

The Mortgage Bankers Association, which is lobbying against the measure, said it would end up hurting

many more borrowers in the long run by requiring "higher interest rates and larger down payments to offset the risk" of bankruptcy court intervention on behalf of some homeowners.

Consumer advocates, meanwhile, are pushing senators to approve the change.

Also included in the Senate legislation is a measure mandating \$200 million for foreclosure-prevention counseling services — a near doubling of funds already committed by Congress — and an

allowance for states to issue more tax-exempt bonds so that housing agencies could help homeowners refinance high-cost mortgages.

In the House, lawmakers are considering whether the federal government should shield banks from lawsuits brought by investors whose holdings of mortgage securities are negatively affected by changes in loan terms or other measures intended to help at-risk borrowers. The plan was first put forward by Rep. Mike Castle, R-Del., but appears to have attracted support from key House Democrats.

McDonald's redesigns using feng shui

Associated Press

HACIENDA HEIGHTS, Calif — The only familiar signs at the McDonald's in this large Asian community are the golden arches, the drive-through and the menu.

Gone are the plastic furniture, Ronald McDonald and the red and yellow palette that has defined the world's largest hamburger chain. Leather seats, earth tones, bamboo plants and water trickling down glass panels have taken their place.

The makeover elements are meant to help diners achieve happiness and fortune — whether they realize it or not.

That's because the restaurant was redesigned using the principles of feng shui, the ancient Chinese practice of arranging objects and numbers to promote health, harmony and prosperity.

The concept is an unlikely fit with

fast food. But the restaurant's owners say the designs are aimed at creating a soothing setting that will encourage diners to linger over their burgers and fries, and come back again.

The makeover is part of the attempt by McDonald's Corp. in recent years to remodel hundreds of its restaurants to attract more patrons with unique decor and amenities that might entice them stay awhile.

It also fits into McDonald's larger corporate practice of catering to local tastes, such as a fondue-wrapped burger in France or a pita-wrapped "McArabia" sandwich in the Middle East.

"We can't look too cookie cutter," Mark Brownstein, one of three owners of the restaurant, said about the new decor.

The basic principles of feng shui include placing strategic representations of five natural elements —

earth, water, fire, metal and wood — around the room to increase the flow of chi, or energy.

Feng shui (pronounced fung shway) has been employed in the designs of high-rises, banks, even zoo exhibits, and has been popularized by countless coffee table books and TV shows such as HGTV's "Fun Shui." It's also used in the designs of the Panda Express Chinese food chain.

The McDonald's in this Los Angeles suburb boasts wood ceiling, silver-coated chairs, plus red accents throughout the dining area to symbolize fire and "good luck, laughter and prosperity," said Brenda Clifford, who designed the dining area.

The textured walls patterned after ocean waves symbolize "life and relaxation — the balanced things that you want in your life," she said.

Customers are responding positively, whether or not they recognize the feng shui elements.

NIU holds memorial, classes resume today

Associated Press

DEKALB, Ill. — With many wearing ribbons in the school colors of black and red, community members and loved ones prepared Sunday to participate in a memorial for five Northern Illinois University students killed when a gunman opened fire inside a classroom.

Five bouquets of red and white flowers were placed on the stage of the Convocation Center to commemorate those shot in the Valentine's Day attack. Outside the arena, school officials posted a banner reading, "Forward, together forward."

Memorial organizers said they expected thousands of people to attend, and overflow viewing areas were set up around the campus, about 65 miles west of Chicago. The memorial was also to be simulcast to NIU gatherings across the country and in Iraq.

"Being together will help a lot, everybody in one place and being able to support each other," said Jennifer Hartleben, a 21-year-old business student who was waiting in line to enter the Convocation Center.

Classes are to be held Monday for the first time since the shooting, in which NIU graduate Steve Kazmierczak opened fire in a crowded lecture hall, killing five people and injuring 17 before

committing suicide.

Another member of the crowd waiting to enter the Convocation Center was Melissa Johnsen, who graduated from NIU in 2007.

"I find it important to pay my respects," she said. "I think this will always be a part of NIU now, but hopefully something we can learn from."

Among those scheduled to speak during the memorial service were NIU President John G. Peters, Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich and U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, an Illinois Democrat. Illinois' other senator, Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama, planned to attend, but his campaign staff said he would not make any remarks.

The school asked faculty and staff members to return last week for training in how to help students adjust to the changed atmosphere at NIU, which enrolls about 25,000 students.

In addition to about 550 counselors expected to staff each classroom, academic department and dormitory, the student counseling center is extending its hours indefinitely.

Plans for a permanent memorial to the victims are still in their infancy. No decision has been made on the future of Cole Hall, but it will be closed for the rest of the semester.

The Office of Student Affairs is now accepting nominations for the

Denny Moore Award For Excellence in Journalism

Candidates must be seniors who exemplify the qualities for which Denny Moore was known, including personal integrity and character, commitment to Notre Dame, and writing ability.

Candidates may be nominated by faculty, staff, or fellow students.

For a nomination form, please visit our website at:
<http://osa.nd.edu/programs-and-links/dennymooreaward.shtml>
Nominations are due by Tuesday, March 11, 2008.

Japanese businessman arrested in wife's murder

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A Japanese businessman's surprise arrest in his wife's killing in a Southern California parking lot a quarter-century ago dominated front pages in Tokyo on Sunday as authorities worked to bring him back to Los Angeles.

Kazuyoshi Miura was detained late Friday in Saipan, a U.S. commonwealth in the Pacific, and was being held on suspicion of the murder of his wife. The crime caused an international uproar, in part because he blamed the 1981 attack on robbers, reinforcing Japanese perceptions of America as a violent country.

Miura, 60, had already been convicted in Japan in 1994 of the murder of his wife, Kazumi Miura, but that verdict was overturned by the country's high courts 10 years ago.

"Why now?" the Mainichi newspaper asked in a headline. "His turbulent life entered a new phase."

The LAPD said Miura was awaiting extradition. The department did not provide further details, and it wasn't clear what led to the latest arrest.

"I think U.S. investigators have all along believed that they can make the case with the evidence they had already collected," Tsutomu Sakaguchi, a former Tokyo Metropolitan Police investigator at the time of the shooting, told TV Asahi in an interview Sunday. "If they have a new evidence, that could be a decisive step."

Miura, a clothing importer, and his 28-year-old wife were

visiting Los Angeles on Nov. 18, 1981, when they were shot in a downtown parking lot. She was shot in the head, went into a coma and died the following year in Japan.

Her mother said Sunday that she never gave up hope of a resolution to the case.

"I burned incense for my daughter and prayed at a family Buddhist altar, telling her that Americans will put an end to the case, so let's hold onto our hopes and wait," Yasuko Sasaki told Japan's public broadcaster NHK.

Daryl Gates, who was police chief at the time of the killing, said Saturday that Miura was a key suspect even then.

"I remember the case well. I think he killed his wife," Gates said. "We had Japanese police come over; they believed he was guilty, we believed he was guilty, but we couldn't prove it."

Miura was arrested in Japan in 1985 on suspicion of assaulting his wife with intent to kill her for insurance money in the hotel incident. He was convicted of attempted murder and while serving a six-year sentence was charged under Japanese law in 1988 with his wife's murder.

Miura was convicted of that charge in 1994 and sentenced to life in prison. Four years later, however, a Japanese high court overturned the sentence, throwing out a lower court's determination that Miura conspired with a friend in Los Angeles to kill his wife.

Miura's attorney, Junichiro Hironaka, told Japan's Fuji TV late Saturday that the latest arrest astonished him.

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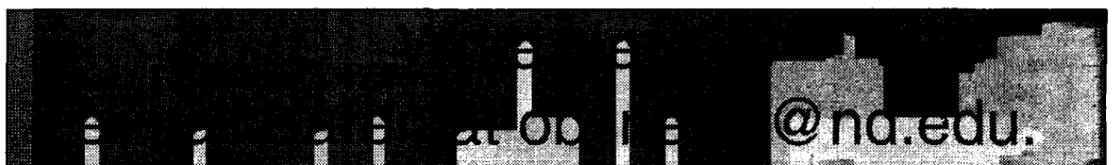
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Kosovo

Serbs protest Kosovo's split

Russia criticizes countries that recognized nation's independence

Associated Press

PRISTINA, Kosovo — Kosovo marked its first week of independence in quiet celebration Sunday, as angry Serbs protested in the fledgling nation's tense north and in capitals across Europe.

The Russian envoy to NATO, meanwhile, unleashed a torrent of criticism on countries that recognized Kosovo's split from ally Serbia, including the United States.

Up to 1,000 people protested peacefully in the ethnically divided northern town of Kosovska Mitrovica. Protesters at the demonstration — the smallest in seven days of rallies — listened to a Serbian rock band playing on a stage decorated with a poster of Russian President Vladimir Putin and a sign reading: "Russia Help!"

Russia has staunchly supported Serbia's resistance and has declared Kosovo's independence illegal. Putin's likely successor — First Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev — planned to visit the Serbian capital Belgrade on Monday.

The past two days of muted protests in Kosovska Mitrovica followed Thursday's rioting in Belgrade, where demonstrators stormed the U.S. Embassy and set part of it ablaze.

The U.S. ambassador in Belgrade demanded Serb leaders ensure there would be no future violence against diplomatic missions. "I'm very angry at what happened. It had better not happen again,"

Ambassador Cameron Munter told The Associated Press Sunday.

Ethnic Albanians in Kosovo remained jubilant with their new status.

"People keep celebrating every night," Artan Dedushaj said. "This is something that all Albanians have waited centuries for — and changes will come soon."

In the capital, Pristina, people gathered around a graffiti-covered sculpture of letters spelling out "NEWBORN." One person had scribbled in English: "We love you Kosovo!"

The vast majority of Kosovo's population is ethnic Albanian. Serbs represent just 10 percent of the region's 2 million people, but they view Kosovo as the cradle of their culture and of their Orthodox Christian faith.

The territory had remained a part of Serbia even though it has been administered by the U.N. and NATO since 1999, when NATO airstrikes ended former Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic's crackdown on ethnic Albanian separatists, which killed 10,000 people.

Thousands of Serbs held demonstrations in European capitals Sunday.

In Vienna, Austria, more than 5,000 protesters waved pro-Serbia banners, and a few burned, spit or stomped on American flags. Later, demonstrators across the city smashed bottles and the windows of a cafe. Two police officers were injured and four people were arrested, officials said.

In Geneva, up to 4,000 people gathered peacefully outside U.N. offices, and in Brussels, several hundred Serbs chanted "Kosovo is Serbia" outside EU offices.

Russia's ambassador to NATO said Sunday that Kosovo's independence bid was a result of an imperialistic American effort to "divide and rule," which would lead to Russia's boosting its military to ensure its own security.

"We are faced here with powerful hegemonism, imperialism on the part of the United States," Dmitry Rogozin said on Russia's state-run Vesti-24 television.

Western nations that recognize Kosovo's statehood were replacing international law with a system in which "there will be only one rule: he who has brute physical power is strong and is right," he said.

Russia will not go to arms over Kosovo, but instead will "use to the maximum our political and moral authority," he said.

Serbia's nationalist prime minister, Vojislav Kostunica, called on the U.S. to revoke its decision to recognize "the fake state of Kosovo" and allow the U.N. Security Council to "reaffirm" Kosovo as part of Serbian territory.

Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaci visited the grave of the late pacifist President Ibrahim Rugova — revered among ethnic Albanians for his drive for statehood — and reached out anew to Kosovo's Serb minority.

TURKEY

Helicopter crashes in cross-border operation

Associated Press

CUKURCA, Turkey — A Turkish helicopter crashed in Iraq and eight soldiers were killed during a cross-border ground operation against Kurdish rebels, who planted booby traps on the bodies of their slain comrades, Turkey's military said Sunday.

The guerrillas said they shot down a Turkish military helicopter near the Turkish-Iraqi border.

Turkey's military said technicians were inspecting the wreck to determine why the helicopter crashed near the border. It was not clear if any of the reported troop casualties were on board. Their deaths bring the Turkish toll since the start of the incursion Thursday to 15, the military said on its Web site.

Thirty-three rebels were killed in Sunday's fighting, bringing the rebel death toll since Thursday to 112, according to the armed forces.

The incursion is the first confirmed Turkish military ground operation in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003.

The rebels of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, are fighting for autonomy in predominantly Kurdish southeastern Turkey and have carried out attacks on Turkish targets from bases in the semiautonomous Kurdish region of northern Iraq. The

conflict started in 1984 and has claimed as many as 40,000 lives.

Turkey has assured that the operation would be limited to attacks on rebels. The United States and European Union consider the PKK a terrorist group.

"It is only an operation geared to cleansing the terrorist camps," Turkey's prime minister, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, said Sunday in an address to the youth branch of his ruling party. "Our Iraqi brothers, friends and civilians should know that they will never be targeted by the armed forces."

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Sunday while visiting Australia that it would take a broader approach to erode PKK support in northern Iraq.

"After a certain point people become inured to military attacks," he said, "and if you don't blend them with these kinds of nonmilitary initiatives, then at a certain point the military efforts become less and less effective."

Massoud Barzani, head of the regional Kurdish administration in northern Iraq, warned Turkey would face large-scale resistance if it targeted civilians in its incursion.

The Iraqi government said Saturday fewer than 1,000 Turkish troops had crossed the frontier. Turkish media reports put the number in the thousands.

ENGLAND

Virgin Atlantic flies first biofuel aircraft

Associated Press

LONDON — Virgin Atlantic carried out the world's first flight of a commercial aircraft powered with biofuel on Sunday in an effort to show it can produce less carbon dioxide than normal jet fuels.

Some analysts praised the jumbo jet test flight from London to Amsterdam as a potentially useful experiment. But others criticized it as a publicity stunt and noted scientists are questioning the environmental benefits of biofuels.

"This breakthrough will help Virgin Atlantic to fly its planes using clean fuel sooner than expected," Sir Richard Branson, the airline's president, said before the Boeing 747 flew from London's Heathrow Airport to Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport.

He said the flight would provide "crucial knowledge that we can use to dramatically reduce our carbon footprint," he said.

Sunday's flight was partially fueled with a biofuel mixture of coconut and babassu oil in one of its four

main fuel tanks. The jet carried pilots and several technicians, but no passengers.

Virgin Atlantic spokesman Paul Charles predicted this biofuel would produce much less CO₂ than regular jet fuel, but said it will take weeks to analyze the data from Sunday's flight.

"It's great that somebody like Richard is willing to put some of his billions into an experiment aimed at reducing the climate change impact of aviation," said James Halstead, an airline analyst at the London stockbroker Dawnay Day Lochart.

"But there are a lot of unanswered questions about the usefulness of biofuels in the battle against global warming," he said.

The flight is the latest example of how the world's airlines are jumping on the environmental bandwagon by trying to find ways of reducing aviation's carbon footprint.

These efforts have included finding alternative jet fuels, developing engines that burn existing fuels more slowly, and changing the way planes land.

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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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

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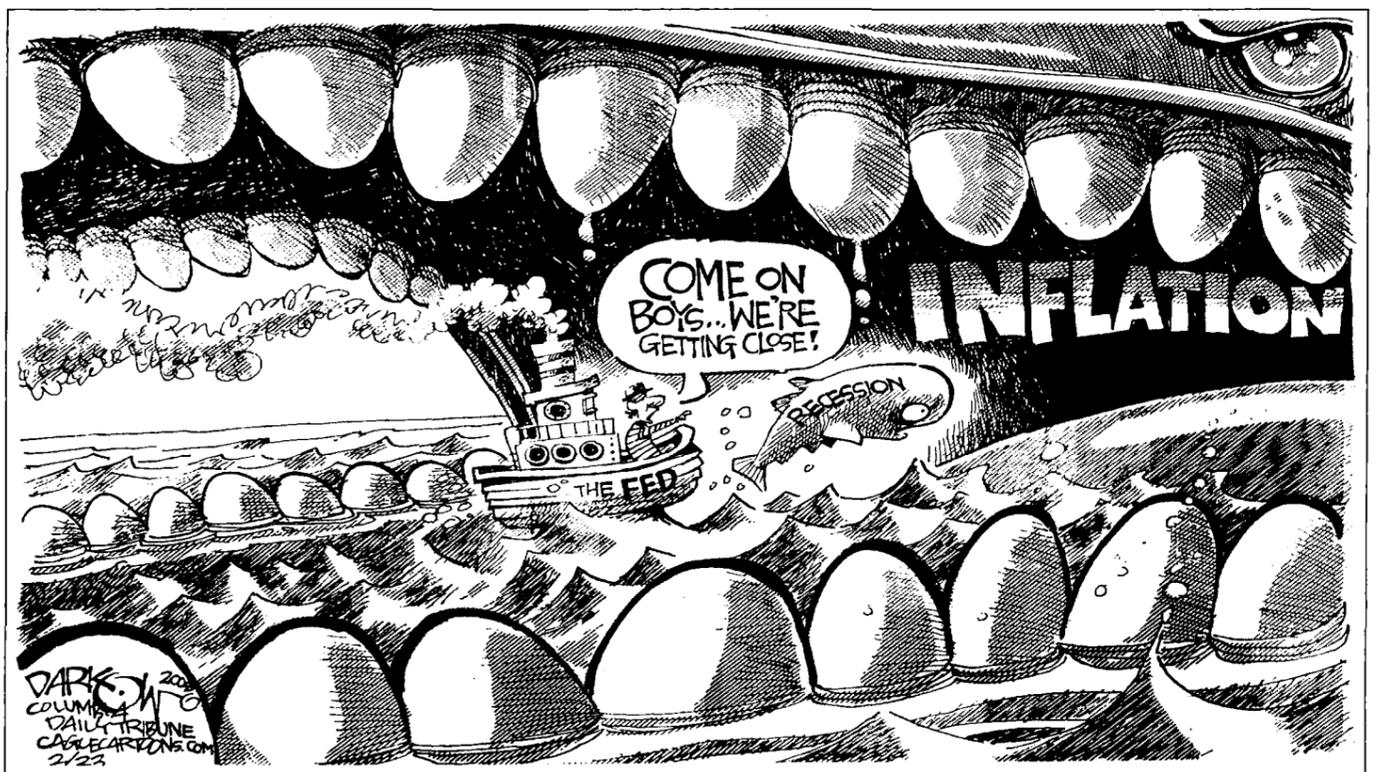
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EDITORIAL CARTOON



No subject left behind

Most people reading this, I assume, remember the college admissions process: Trying to write the perfect admissions essay, getting your teacher evaluations, worrying about your score on the PSAT, SAT, ACT, SAT II, AP, IB ... basically jumping through one academic hoop after another. This parade of standardized tests and statistics is more or less high school in miniature — an attempt to assess academic performance, which is a euphemism for “learning not to make mistakes.” By the time we start thinking beyond high school, we’ve had it drilled into our heads that the worst thing in the world is to make a mistake. Mistakes have dire consequences in high school: Missed points on tests, bad grades, parent-teacher conferences and, ultimately, not getting into the right college.

But there’s something profoundly dissatisfying about trying to boil someone’s intellectual capacity into a meaningful statistic, which is what these multi-hour standardized tests supposedly do. Granted, they show whether or not someone has mastered a basic skill set and on some level the mere fact that someone is taking them is a sign of motivation. But I defy anyone to honestly tell me that after they finished taking the SATs, they felt like the test had been a thorough and adequate assessment of their intellectual capacity.

And yet these tests shape the way secondary education takes place. Because they are supposed to be objective, each subject gets boiled down to whatever parts can be assessed quantitatively. It’s not a problem for disciplines like math, chemistry or physics,

where half the battle is knowing and applying the right formula, theorem or procedure. Humanities and social sciences, however, aren’t as skills-based or procedural. Knowing is simply a starting point that allows people to take part in the informed debate that is really the heart of any humanities discipline, and can’t really be tested via scantron. But because people have to teach to these tests, and because students’ enduring memory of history or English as a subject comes from how they are assessed, their view of humanities disciplines is distorted. No wonder some people think history is just a chronological assortment of trivia. And you can forget about the arts; self-expression and aesthetics are some of the least objective things imaginable.

Funnily enough, the curricula of most secondary schools prioritize math and science first, followed by the humanities and social sciences and the arts last. These subjects get money and classroom time in that order; as a result, history, English and philosophy sometimes get lumped into catch-all “Humanities” classes, and the arts more often than not are demoted to extracurriculars if they even exist in the first place. If someone becomes really passionate about music, English or history, not only do they get a distorted view of how each discipline really works, but they also learn that those subjects are really not considered important, which is why they’re underfunded or missing entirely from their school. These sorts of administrative decisions further reinforce the perception of high school graduates that the only two worthwhile activities are being objective and not making mistakes.

Objectivity and correctness aren’t

bad, of course, but to make them the whole of the educational experience leaves high school graduates unprepared for the real world, which is not black and white or always rational. There is more than one way to be correct, and not everyone claiming to be objective really is, but without the ability to think critically, we wouldn’t be able to figure out who is and who isn’t. Unfortunately, developing analytical thought and the creative impulse is hard to do and hard to measure, but most of all, it means that people need to be free to approach problems their own way. Even more anathema to the current practice of education, there is no guarantee that everyone will arrive at the same answer. The humanities and social sciences — which are essentially debates about the real world — are the subjects where students learn these skills; they deserve not to be demoted to second place in the educational hierarchy.

Pundits, politicians and teachers alike are as worried about the shortcomings of education and a growing sense of anti-intellectualism as ever, but they are trying to solve the deficiencies in teaching creative and analytical thinking by placing their faith in further tests and rubrics. Ironically, they are guilty of the same failure of imagination that they themselves are cultivating, and sacrificing more young minds on the twin altars of objectivity and correctness is not going to change the downward spiral of the American educational system.

Darryl Campbell is a first-year graduate student in history. He can be contacted at dcampbe6@nd.edu

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

OBSERVER POLL

What are you doing for spring break?
Service
Going somewhere warm
Going home
Staying on campus
Stuck at work

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

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to the Editor at
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QUOTE OF THE DAY

“You’ll never have a quiet world until you knock the patriotism out of the human race.”

George Bernard Shaw
Irish playwright

The ladies' man

On Feb. 5, Kimberle Crenshaw and Notre Dame favorite Eve Ensler published an important article on The Huffington Post, using the feminist mantra "Not in Our Name" to condemn "feminist ultimatums." They were referring to the controversial idea

Andrea Laidman

High Sounding Words

plaguing many women during this primary season: Vote for Hillary Clinton or compromise your feminist principles; endorse the first viable woman candidate for the White House, or face the fact that you've given in to the underlying misogyny in society and the media.

Young female supporters of Barack Obama are criticized by the feminist hardliners promoting this view (called "either/or feminists" by Crenshaw and Ensler) for forgetting the struggle of their feminist predecessors. Even worse, they are written off as victims of naiveté — swept into the Obama camp by an internal desire to win the approval and protection of men.

But an increasing number of feminist authors and female political commentators — as well as the voters themselves — point out that a vote for Obama is a vote for the more feminine campaign. In terms of management, campaign style and even policy, Obama strikes these women as more inclusive and more prone to discussion and dialogue than Clinton.

In early February, more than 100 New York feminist leaders joined in releasing a statement that endorsed Obama and criticized Hillary's record

and current approach. For these women, Clinton's early support for the war in Iraq was the leading cause of their disillusionment.

Ruth Rosen, a member of the women's movement from the 1960s onward and a signee of the "Feminists for Obama" statement (along with 1,000 other feminist leaders) recently wrote, "There is nothing I'd rather do than vote for the first female presidential candidate." But Rosen cites her own roots in the civil rights and anti-war movements of the 1960s as evidence that her endorsement of Obama is consistent with her long-term personal commitments.

This is a common explanation of feminist activists and scholars when accounting for their vote for Barack: Feminism is inclusive and stresses equality for all; feminism demands that the best candidate for not only women but also for the poor and for minorities is chosen. These concerns, write women who maintain that feminism evolves with the issues of the day, must be weighed with as much passion as the desire to elect a female president.

In her Feb. 24 piece, "¿Quién Es Less Macho?" New York Times op-ed columnist Maureen Dowd asserts a paradox of Clinton's campaign: "The first serious female candidate for president was rejected by voters drawn to the more feminine management style of her male rival."

Dowd argues that the last 16 years in Washington — divisive Congress-White House relations followed by a belligerent president and a war-without-end — have seeded a desire not only for peace

but for inclusivity and empathy, "a less autocratic leadership style."

Dowd writes, "Hillary was so busy trying to prove she could be one of the boys — getting on the Armed Services Committee, voting to let W. go to war in Iraq, strong-arming supporters and donors and trying to out-macho Obama — that she only belatedly realized that many Democratic and independent voters, especially women, were eager to move from hard-power locker-room tactics to a soft-power sewing circle approach."

The ultimate irony, and perhaps unfair reality, is that Hillary Clinton worked throughout her "35 years of experience" to dispel the nurturing yet incapable image of woman, and with great success. She re-defined the role of First Lady and took on policy challenges and substantive issues in a manner — however criticized — that was not seen before or since.

The tragedy for Clinton is that this may be the first time in political history when a woman need not "man up" to get ahead. The voters of the last 11 democratic primaries prove that the nation is indeed hungry for change and a new style of leadership.

No one reflects this shifting mindset more than the "Feminists for Obama," who would elect a man over a woman because of his personal and political record, his alternative experiences, his efforts and success in building a truly grassroots campaign — approaching one million donors nationwide — and his broad appeal among voters young and old. Obama epitomizes the coalition-for-change-and-equality which

feminists have sought for decades.

There is no doubt that this democratic primary race is a historic one, marking the first real chance to have a woman or African-American lead the nation.

The stakes are also high for feminism.

As Ensler and Crenshaw assert: "At issue is a profound difference in seeing feminism as intersectional and global rather than essentialist and insular. Women have grappled with these questions in every feminist wave, struggling to see feminism as something other than a 'me too' bid for power whether it be in the family, the party, the race or the state."

This is the real challenge facing women in the democratic presidential primary: To choose their candidate based on values, policies, leadership style and political record — and not based on gender alone. As long as these basic tenets of fairness are observed, feminism will only benefit from such a public and earnest effort to discern what is best for America during the 2008 bid for the White House.

Andrea Laidman is a senior political science and peace studies major. Her column's title recalls advice given to John Adams by his wife, Abigail: "We have too many high sounding words, and too few actions that correspond with them." She can be contacted at alaidman@nd.edu

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Racism still present

Some of you reading this right now might be thinking that we're not apathetic or ignorant of the socioeconomic issues on campus because this is Notre Dame, and for the most part, we all get along. And on the surface, yes, we do. We live side-by-side, play on the field together and sit in classes next to each other. So racism isn't a problem anymore? Others might agree that perhaps it does linger, not so much in the form of violence, but in more subtle ways: A joke, a careless remark, a misguided assumption. What I learned today from our conversation is that racism is not only still present here at Notre Dame — it never really left.

Did you know that this Saturday Wabruda, the campus organization of African-American males, hosted Notre Dame's first Black History conference? I was invited to take part by the president, senior William David Williams, who sought outside support from Sustained Dialogue, a group I am part of. Sustained Dialogue is devoted to conversation regarding diversity-related issues both at Notre Dame and beyond. At the conference, I was to help lead a small group discussion. However, there was a surplus of group leaders, and instead I ended up talking for an hour with a fellow SD member, senior Casey Bouskill, as well as with William David and Wabruda's vice president, senior Roosevelt Kelley.

I stood there and heard, for the first time, accounts of racist acts occurring in dorms. I also heard accounts of assumptions based on race made everywhere from the classroom to the dining hall (he's black and a male, ergo he is a football player — "Great job out there this weekend!" — and an African-American male student who is not a football player is wondering why his efforts on the field were just congratu-

lated). I learned how apathy toward challenging these stereotypes plagues our community. I hear the accounts of these young men who just got used to it and how they are forced into a terrible catch-22: Either ignore incidents of ignorance (because what's the point?), or take action and potentially perpetuate the stereotype of "the angry black man."

I'm not militant and I'm not accusing anyone of anything I won't admit to myself. But I am heartbroken. There has to be some middle ground between passive and hostile responses to racist and elitist remarks and actions. Wabruda's advisor, G. David Moss from Student Affairs, offered some insight into how to best effect change in a positive and meaningful way. He urges all of us to not let fear limit what we do. It is only through challenging ourselves that change occurs. We could start with acknowledging the problem and talking about it. Then move to action, which could be as simple as reaching out to the various communities on campus. One way to do this is to attend the various events hosted by groups celebrating their heritages. You did not need to be black or male to attend the Black History conference, in the same way that one does not need to be Asian to go to Asian Allure, or Latin to participate in Latin Expressions. It's about challenging assumptions, stereotypes and apathy.

When we say, "Oh well, that's just the way it is," we're making excuses instead of improvements. Let us dare not to be resigned. Let us dare to face our fears. Let us dare to try something new.

Jessica Peyton
 senior
 Farley Hall
 Feb. 24

Time to update National Anthem

When I hear the word "America," a few things come to mind. One is apple pie. Others include freedom, hot dogs, John Wayne, baseball, Journey and what is possibly the greatest song ever written since Beethoven penned his ninth symphony (and probably greater than that too): Don't Stop Believin'.

When I think of America, a few things don't come to mind. One is sushi. Another is ramparts. I'm not even sure what a rampart is. In fact, I don't think anyone actually knows what a rampart is. However, everyone knows what streetlights, people, city boys, small town girls and midnight trains are. Why, then, does our National Anthem mention ramparts while omitting streetlights and midnight trains?

"The Star Spangled Banner" was written by Francis Scott Key 194 years ago, and while it may have been awesome enough to be our national anthem then, today it is hopelessly outdated. No one even knows its last three verses. It no longer captures the essence of the contemporary American spirit, and as such, it ought to be replaced by a song that reflects the passions of our great nation and is known and loved by the entire country. I have seen Olympic athletes cry when they stand atop the podium, have a gold medal placed around their neck, and hear "The Star Spangled Banner" played in their honor. While some would say that these tears are inspired by feelings of immense joy and patriotism, I cannot help but believe that they are crying because our National Anthem is so bad. Have you ever seen people sing along to the National Anthem with any hint of enthusiasm? Most people I know don't even sing the words, but just wait impatiently until the song is over so that whatever sporting event they are about to watch can finally begin.

On the other hand, I have seen people climb atop tables in order to sing Don't Stop Believin'. I have seen incredible displays of air-guitar virtuoso to the tune of the song, and I have seen complete strangers become best friends, if only for a moment, as they together shout the chorus of Journey's magnum opus. America deserves a song like this.

While I know that our national anthem is unlikely to be changed anytime soon due to our culture's unfortunate aversion to change, that will not deter my efforts to give Journey's timeless anthem the place it rightly deserves in American culture. I have a dream that someday I will find myself at a baseball game. I have a dream that before the first pitch, I will hear a voice say, "Please rise for the National Anthem." And I have a dream that, accompanied by pyrotechnics and a low-flying jet, I will hear Journey. But until that day, my friends, don't stop believin', hold on to that feelin'.

Josh Mollner
 sophomore
 Stanford Hall
 Feb. 23

THE DECLINE OF THE ALBUM A TRAGEDY

The hit song is everything. In this day and age, the music industry has become increasingly oriented toward hit-singles. For example, you probably own an iPod. Do you have a lot of artists on your iPod?

**Stephanie
Deprez**

*Scene &
Heard*

But how many songs by each artist do you have, exactly? I'm sure you have a few full albums from your favorite bands in your plastic pack. But how many songs are there, on average, under each artist?

This is an issue that has become more pressing as the years have gone by. No longer is an artist appreciated for his or her album, but instead are more well known for their one or two song contribution to your mix. This is fine for the artists out there who really did blow their talent on one song, but for all the iPods I've spent shuffling through, I've come upon an artist I really like, picked it, and found there to be two songs available.

This is not only frustrating, but also unnerving. Are all great musical artists doomed to have only

their top two songs listened to?

It bothers me to scroll down and realize there is not one full album on a person's iPod. That's like taking survey classes all your life and never committing to a major. Albums are precious, a snapshot of an artist's life.

Songs are rarely written to stand on their own. They are usually part of a bigger work, and if one song presides over the others it's because that song is the calling card. To listen to an album is to experience the journey as a whole, to go start to finish with the singer or the band. Death Cab for Cutie's "Plans" is brilliant. And, even though

"I'll Follow You Into the Dark" is great on its own, it gains a new level of meaning when listened to as a part of the album.

An artist might release a Limited Play album, but when it's time to present the new body of work, it is usually longer and complete. Songs fit together for a reason, whether it is the lyrical story, the shift in sound or the order the artist determined them to

fall on the album.

Albums are more personal. One song can be shared by a group, listened to in the car or danced to at a party, but people rarely sit down and say, "Let's listen to this whole album together."

To really get at an album, you usually have to do it on your own time,

while doing homework or driving in the car alone. There may be certain songs that are more enjoyable or hold more weight for you personally, but their impact

To listen to an album is to experience the journey as a whole, to go start to finish with the singer or the band. Death Cab for Cutie's "Plans" is brilliant. And, even though "I'll Follow You Into the Dark" is great on its own, it gains a new level of meaning when listened to as a part of the album.

should be set against the backdrop of the rest of the album.

Next time you go to buy a song on iTunes, think about what it is you are not buying. Look at the rest of the songs on the album, and trust that there may be more to them than a 30-second snippet determined to be the "highlights" of the song. Take a chance on the album as a whole. You might just find that little gem of a song that rocks your world.

Contact Stephanie Deprez at sdeprez@nd.edu
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Look at the rest of the songs on the album, and trust that there may be more to them than a 30-second snippet determined to be the "highlights" of the song. Take a chance on the album as a whole.



BENGAL BOUTS

A GRUELING AND ENTERTAINING EXPERIENCE

At about 4 p.m., I really started to feel it.

It started earlier in the day as a low grumble in my stomach, one that repeated about every 45 minutes, but by the time my last class ended the grumbles were roaring every thirty seconds, and getting noticeably louder.

To take my mind off the fact that I would not be consuming lunch, I went to the Rock and pushed the stomach pains to the back of my mind with a few sets of push-ups and sit-ups.

But around 4 p.m., serious fatigue set in. I began to dose off at my desk, my head started pounding and my parched tongue began to scream for water. I longed for food.

My plight was not unlike that of many other boxers, starving and sweating in an attempt to shed a few pounds before weigh-ins on Tuesday and Wednesday. After months of intense training, involving countless hours of pushing their bodies to the utmost limit and just as many hits to the face, starvation was the last thing any of us wanted to do.

But as a friend casually remarked to me the night before, such starvation can be viewed as personal reminder of the season of Lent. Especially in light of the cause Bengal Bouts represents, a day of starvation is a small price to pay.

However, not everyone has to suffer.

Mark Witte

Scene & Heard

While the roughly 200 boxers train, sweat, punch and starve, they do so willingly so you can watch them beat the tar out of each other. For \$10 you can come see many of your friends, classmates and even enemies get socked in the face repeatedly. Campus entertainment does not get much better than this.

When a friend of mine purchased a ticket from me on Saturday she joked that \$10 was a great deal to watch me get punched in the face. But this motive is as good as any for coming out and supporting the 78th annual Bengal Bouts. And this year, for tonight's preliminaries and Thursday's quarterfinals, there will be two rings set up in the Joyce Center providing simultaneous beatdowns and knockouts.

But there is something more to the sport that, for the boxers, runs deeper than entertainment and the cause they fight for.

A couple weeks back my grandfather mailed me a story about the late Norman Mailer from "Esquire" magazine. The article, written by Chuck Klosterman, called Mailer the "last of a breed" of American writers who cared for the sport of boxing. Klosterman attributed this

decline in part to what he deemed as "social evolution that has more to do with technology than with typing of

punching." He states, "Adults are now so insulated by technology (and so protected by modernity) that the possibility of physical consequence for any action is a psychological non-factor."

Klosterman's point, though stated in more vulgar terms, was that boxers are the only people in today's world who actually get "hit for [messing] up."

This fear waits in the back of every boxer's mind. It is the

Last year the Bouts raised over \$80,000 for the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh, and this year it hopes to do the same.

knowledge that a missed punch can mean a jolt to the face. It is the knowledge that a drop of the hand can mean a black eye or a broken nose. It is the knowledge that in front of thousands of

screaming friends and classmates you can get knocked out. But it is this knowledge that nearly 200 fighters will carry with them tonight when they fight for pride and for the people of Bangladesh.

Last year the Bouts raised over \$80,000 for the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh, and this year it hopes to do the same. So whether your motive is cheering a friend to victory or hoping he gets knocked out, come out and support your fellow students tonight, because as far as entertainment goes, it's going to be a hell of a good time.

Contact Mark Witte at mwitte@nd.edu

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

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Louisville hands Pittsburgh its third straight loss

No. 10 Wisconsin beats Ohio State to remain tied for Big Ten lead; No. 12 Xavier wins 10th consecutive game

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Louisville couldn't be playing much better in February. The Cardinals can only hope it leads to a great March — and maybe, April, too.

David Padgett bounced back from a rare poor game to make three of four free throws in the final 32.1 seconds and Louisville (No. 23 ESPN/USA Today, No. 18 AP) moved back into a first-place tie in the Big East, holding on to beat Pittsburgh 75-73 Sunday for its seventh consecutive victory.

Padgett finished with 21 points and reserve Edgar Sosa had 15 of his 18 points in the first half as Louisville (22-6, 12-3) tied Georgetown (22-4, 12-3) for the conference lead and became the first visiting team to win twice at Pitt since the Petersen Events Center opened in 2002. Pitt is 94-10 there.

Sam Young and DeJuan Blair scored 20 points each for Pitt (19-8, 7-7), which once was 15-2 but has since skidded into an eighth-place tie in the Big East by losing three in a row and six of 10. Pitt had lost three straight only once previously in coach Jamie Dixon's six seasons, to Villanova, West Virginia and Connecticut in February 2005.

Louisville, positioning itself for a high seed in the Big East tournament, won its ninth in 10 games and improved to 8-2 on the road. The Cardinals have won their last 12 games in February, seven this month.

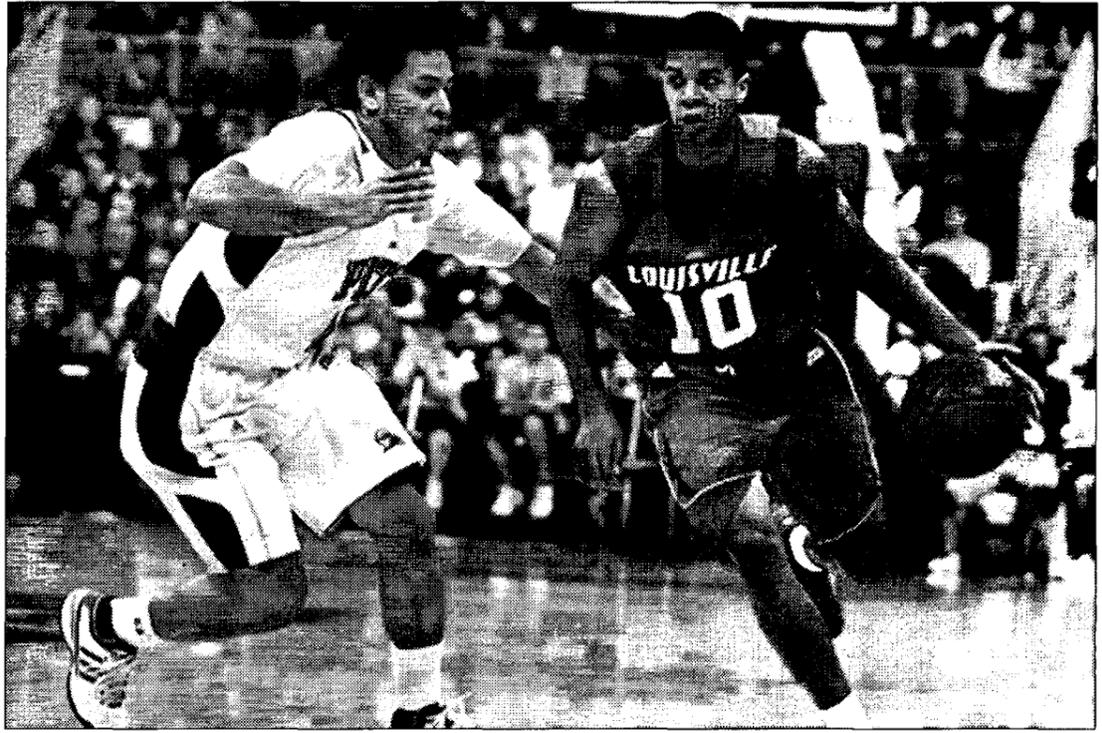
"I do," Louisville coach Rick Pitino said when asked if he thinks these Cardinals have a deep tournament run in them. "I think we have depth and we execute well, and that's the key. Padgett just helped everything offensive and defensively. He's like having a coach on the floor. Generally you don't see 7-footers do that, show that much leadership ability."

Last season, Louisville's 66-53 upset win over then-No. 7 Pitt propelled the Cardinals to a six-game winning streak to end the regular season and an NCAA tournament berth. The NCAA looks to be a lock for the Cardinals this season, but Padgett likes how they're playing well again when the games really count, especially on the road.

"This is a tough place to play and their crowd really seemed to be going today," Padgett said.

Padgett came back with a strong game — 9-of-13 shooting with six rebounds in 28 minutes — after being limited by foul problems to one shot and one point in 17 minutes during a 61-50 win over Syracuse on Monday. He averaged 16.3 points in the Cardinals' previous three games, after missing 10 games early in the season with a broken kneecap.

Pitt never led in the second half — the Cardinals led by as many as eight — but Blair got the Panthers back to within a point at 71-70 by making two free throws with 21.6 seconds remaining. After Padgett



Cardinals guard Edgar Sosa, right, looks for a teammate as Panthers guard Ronald Ramon defends during Louisville's 75-73 victory Sunday afternoon in Pittsburgh.

responded by making both ends of a 1-and-1, Blair tried to score inside and missed with 7 seconds left when Pitt needed a 3-pointer to force overtime.

Badgers 58, Buckeyes 53

They'll seldom win a slam-dunk contest or get featured on a SportsCenter highlight. Heck, most of them don't look like they could touch the rim.

About all that's impressive about the Wisconsin Badgers is how hard they play, particularly on that unglamorous half of the game known as defense.

Jason Bohannon came off the bench to score 16 points and the Badgers (No. 10 ESPN/USA Today, No. 11 AP) relied on their gritty defense to hold off Ohio State on Sunday.

"We played some great defense, especially down the stretch when they were trying to get the [tying] 3-pointer," Bohannon said. "They didn't really get a clean look at the hoop."

The Buckeyes didn't score over the last 3:15 and had only one field goal in the final 8 1/2 minutes. For much of that time, they were within a shot of catching the Badgers. But the Badgers weren't having any of that.

Part of that was due to the young Buckeyes' shot selection, but most of it was Wisconsin's physical, stifling defense, which allows just 55.4 points a game, second best in the nation.

"On defense, they locked up and we locked up," Wisconsin's Brian Butch said. "It was a typi-

cal Big Ten finish. We just happened to make a few more plays on the defensive end. It's not like we made a lot of plays on the offensive end, but it was plays at the defensive end that won that game for us."

The victory kept the Badgers (23-4, 13-2) tied with Purdue and Indiana for the Big Ten lead heading into the final two weeks of play.

Wisconsin used a late 9-0 run to take the lead and then put the clamps on Ohio State (17-10, 8-6).

Musketeers 57, Flyers 51

Drew Lavender was back to working full time Sunday, and Xavier (No. 12 ESPN/USA Today, No. 10 AP) needed every minute he could muster.

Lavender made four free throws in the final 35 seconds and Xavier beat Dayton.

After being limited to just 14 minutes in Xavier's win over Duquesne on Thursday because of a sprained left ankle, Lavender returned at point guard and played 33 minutes Sunday.

It was the Musketeers' 10th straight win and assured them of at least a share of the Atlantic 10 championship.

"I gave Drew full credit for playing while being hurt," Xavier coach Sean Miller said. "Drew could have said 'I'm taking a couple of games off', but he didn't. He really stepped up and set the tone for us."

Josh Duncan scored 14 points, and Lavender finished with nine for Xavier (24-4, 12-1

Atlantic 10).

"What makes our team special is that we have great balance and a bunch of players who can score," Miller said.

Brian Roberts led Dayton (17-9, 5-8) with 15 points.

Nobody else reached double figures, although Xavier went into the game with six players averaging 10 or more.

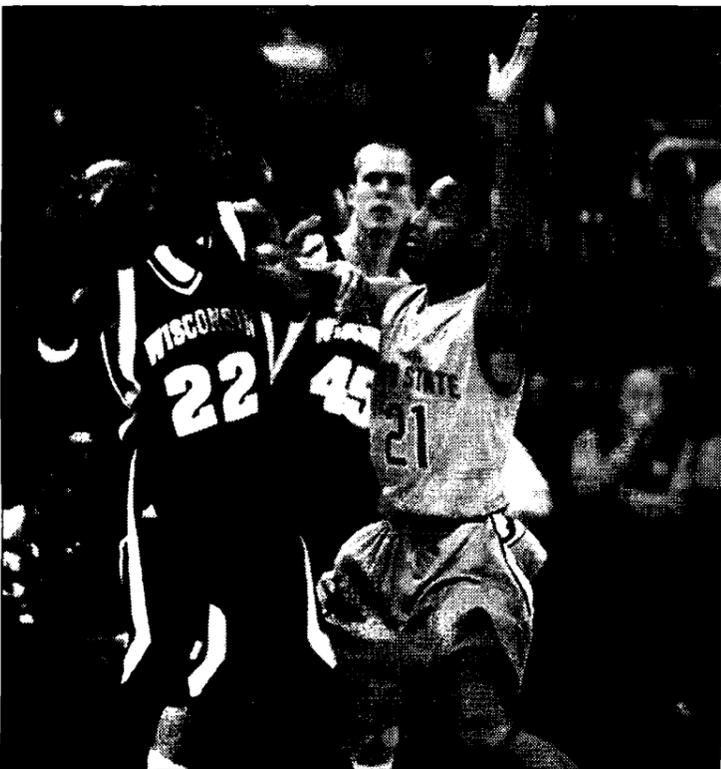
"They are a solid defensive team and they made it tough to get some shots," Roberts said. "We fought, we played hard and it was a battle throughout the whole game. They just came out on top."

Dayton tied the score five times in the first nine minutes but never led. The Flyers were 12-of-24 from the field in the first half and trailed 29-27 at halftime.

Dayton stayed close until a free throw by Duncan, a basket by Dante Jackson and a pair of free throws by Jason Love gave Xavier its biggest lead of the game, 41-31 with 12:44 to play.

"We did a lot of things today that we would have liked, it just was not enough," Dayton coach Brian Gregory said. "We were playing a high-quality team who has won every close game they've played in and you have to make certain plays down the stretch in the last five minutes."

"We wanted to be within striking distance within the last five minutes and we were. They made a couple of big plays and had a couple of offensive rebounds. When you play a team like Xavier, the margin for error is much smaller."



Badgers guard Michael Flowers, left, looks to pass around Buckeyes guard Evan Turner during Wisconsin's 58-53 victory Sunday.

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AROUND THE NATION

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Monday, February 25, 2008

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NHL Standings

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	pts.	GF	GA
New Jersey	37-21-5	79	170	148
Pittsburgh	35-21-7	77	186	171
NY Rangers	31-24-8	70	161	158
Philadelphia	30-25-7	67	188	179
NY Islanders	30-26-7	67	156	180

Eastern Conference, Northeast Division

team	record	pts.	GF	GA
Ottawa	36-20-6	78	210	183
Montreal	33-21-9	75	196	180
Boston	32-23-6	70	165	167
Buffalo	30-24-8	68	185	174
Toronto	26-28-9	61	172	200

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	pts.	GF	GA
Carolina	32-28-5	69	194	207
Washington	28-27-8	64	177	196
Florida	28-29-7	63	175	184
Atlanta	29-30-4	62	169	203
Tampa Bay	25-30-7	57	177	203

Western Conference, Central Division

team	record	pts.	GF	GA
Detroit	42-17-5	89	200	141
Nashville	32-24-8	72	186	181
Columbus	29-26-9	67	156	166
St. Louis	28-23-10	66	159	171
Chicago	29-26-6	64	175	174

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	pts.	GF	GA
Calgary	33-22-8	74	180	178
Minnesota	34-23-5	73	170	168
Vancouver	32-22-8	72	167	157
Colorado	31-25-6	68	170	171
Edmonton	27-30-5	59	166	188

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	pts.	GF	GA
Dallas	39-22-5	83	196	163
Anaheim	35-23-7	77	161	160
San Jose	33-21-8	74	161	151
Phoenix	31-26-5	67	171	171
Los Angeles	26-34-4	56	186	212

Men's Basketball Big East Conference Standings

rank	team	conf.	overall
1	Georgetown	12-3	22-4
2	Louisville	12-3	22-6
3	NOTRE DAME	11-3	21-5
4	Connecticut	10-4	21-6
5	Marquette	10-5	20-6
6	West Virginia	8-6	19-8
7	Cincinnati	8-6	13-13
8	Pittsburgh	7-7	19-8
9	Villanova	7-7	17-9
10	Syracuse	7-8	17-11

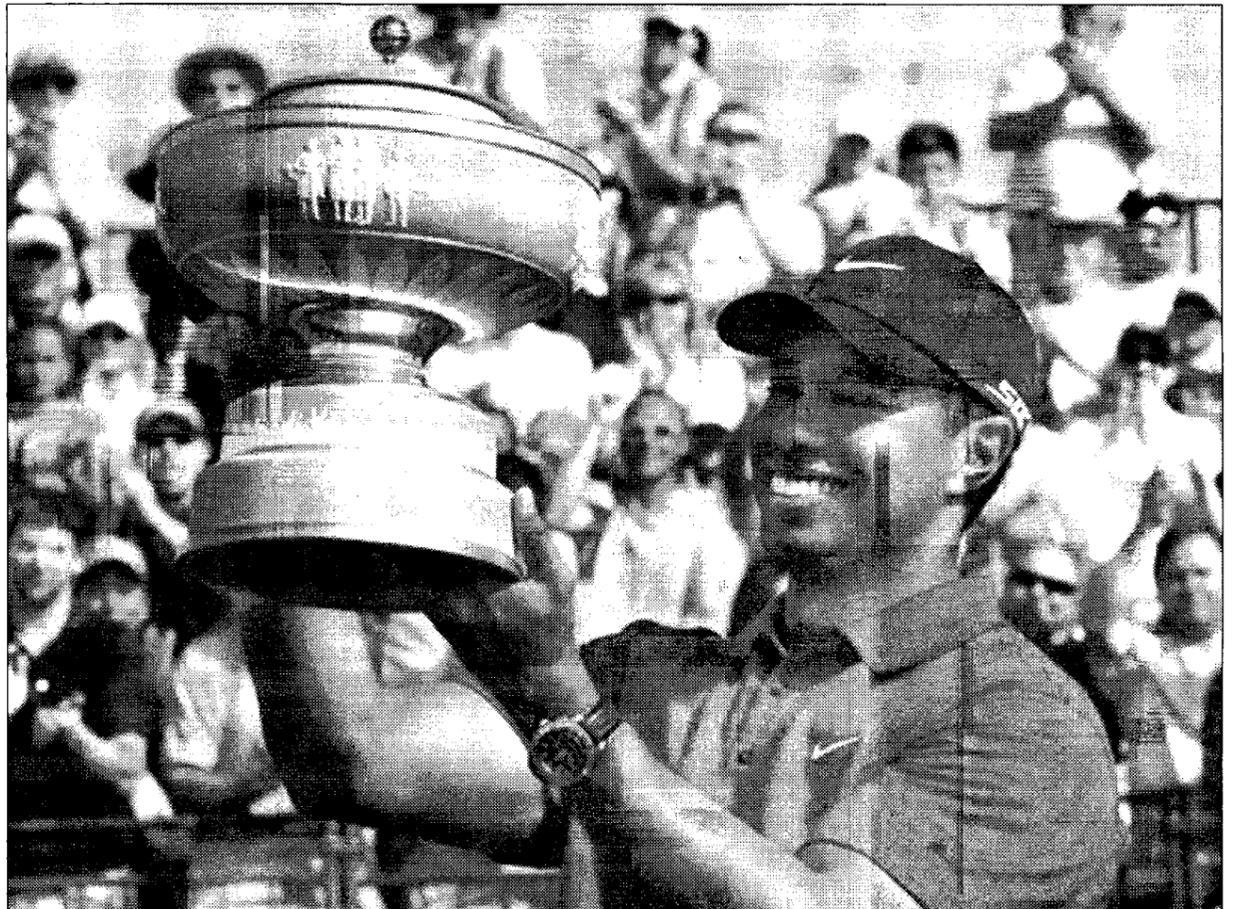
around the

NCAA BASKETBALL

Marquette at Villanova
7 p.m., ESPN

Texas at Kansas State
9 p.m., ESPN

PGA



Tiger Woods celebrates after defeating Stewart Cink to win the Accenture Match Play Championship Sunday in Marana, Arizona. This is Woods' fifth win in as many tournaments dating back to last season.

Woods cruises to fifth consecutive title

Associated Press

MARANA, Ariz. — Not even the most unpredictable tournament in golf could keep Tiger Woods from an inevitable victory.

There seems to be no stopping him.

Stewart Cink barely put up a fight Sunday in the Accenture Match Play Championship, where Woods broke a scoring record for the fourth straight tournament, collected his fifth straight victory worldwide and didn't so much as crack a smile when someone asked him if a perfect season was within reach.

"That's my intent," he said. "That's why you play. If you don't believe you can win an event, don't show up."

Relentless as ever, Woods made 14 birdies in 29 holes in the high desert of Dove Mountain to overwhelm Stewart Cink for an 8-and-7 victory, the largest margin in the final match in the 10-year history of his fickle event.

Woods captured his 15th World Golf Championship, holding all three world title for the first time.

And his 63rd career victory moved him past Arnold Palmer and into fourth place alone on the

PGA Tour's career list. His next victory will tie him with Ben Hogan.

Golf is not a fair fight at the moment.

"I think maybe we ought to slice him open to see what's inside," Cink said. "Maybe nuts and bolts."

Cink was only the latest victim in a winning streak that dates to Sept. 3, 2007, a date worth remembering.

Woods won the BMW Championship the following week at 262, breaking the tournament scoring record by five shots. He won the Tour Championship by a record eight shots, and the Buick Invitational by the same

margin, another tournament record.

This is the third time Woods has won at least four straight PGA Tour events. He also won in Dubai three weeks ago on the European tour by coming back from a four-shot deficit.

"I think this is the best stretch I've ever played," Woods said.

He has won six of his last seven PGA Tour events, 16 of his last 30 over the last two years.

The confidence in his game is so high that Woods started this season by saying the Grand Slam was "easily within reason."

IN BRIEF

Cubs' DeRosa released from hospital, to see cardiologist

MESA, Ariz. — Chicago Cubs second baseman Mark DeRosa was released from the hospital Sunday evening, the team said, one day after complaining of a rapid heartbeat during fielding drills.

Cubs spokesman Peter Chase announced DeRosa's release shortly after 5 p.m. Sunday. The team initially said DeRosa was released Saturday evening, but later said he was kept overnight at Banner Desert Medical Center in Mesa as a precaution.

DeRosa is expected to be examined by a cardiologist Monday and could be back on the field by the middle of the week, the Cubs said.

His irregular heartbeat was not life-threatening, according to the team. A woman who answered the phone at the hospital said she had no information about DeRosa.

Sharapova wins Qatar, remains unbeaten on season

DOHA, Qatar — Maria Sharapova defeated Vera Zvonareva 6-1, 2-6, 6-0 Sunday in the Qatar Open final, remaining unbeaten this season and earning her 18th career title.

The Australian Open champion is 14-0, including two wins in the Fed Cup for Russia this year. Sharapova is 9-0 in Doha, where she won in 2005.

"I played five matches in five days and that is not an easy thing to do," Sharapova said. "I think what I have done is just great."

Sharapova broke her opponent twice in the first set, but Zvonareva had two breaks of her own in the second before the fifth-ranked Russian swept the third

Phillies' Lidge to have knee surgery, could miss opener

CLEARWATER, Fla. — Phillies closer Brad Lidge is scheduled to have arthroscopic surgery on his right knee Monday and could miss the regular-season opener.

Lidge, Philadelphia's biggest offseason acquisition, limped off the field Saturday after injuring his knee when he caught a spike in the mound on his first pitch of batting practice. Doctors removed torn cartilage from the same knee in October.

The 31-year-old right-hander was expected to return to Philadelphia on Sunday for surgery Monday that would sideline him for three to six weeks. The Phillies open the season at home March 31 against Washington.

Phillies manager Charlie Manuel said setup man Tom Gordon would close if Lidge isn't ready for opening day.

FOOTBALL

Ten-year radio contract inked with ISP Sports

By CHRIS KHOREY and KEN FOWLER
Sports Writers

After nearly 40 years with Westwood One, Notre Dame football will have a new radio broadcast partner this fall.

Associate athletic director John Heisler said Friday Irish games will be carried by ISP Sports for the next ten seasons.

Westwood One had carried Notre Dame football since 1968.

Heisler said Notre Dame didn't seriously consider a shorter contract for its new partner, saying the athletic department was "extremely comfortable" with ISP Sports and the 10-year deal.

Heisler said that while it isn't clear how many and which stations will carry Notre Dame games in various markets, he's hoping that most affiliates from last season will continue to broadcast the Irish.

"One of the questions will be, when you just look at the affiliation aspect of it, I think there

would be a natural hope that a great number of the stations that have carried our games would continue to do that," he said.

Heisler also said he isn't sure who the announcing duo will be. Last season, Don Criqui and former Irish running back Allen Pinkett called the games for the Westwood One broadcasting network.

Heisler did say Notre Dame would have an "advisory role" in choosing the announcers.

"That's a decision that will be made down the road by ISP. I think our intention was for our role to be similar to what it was in Westwood One," he said.

ISP owns the broadcast rights for over 40 other schools, but Heisler said in a statement Friday that "Notre Dame remains the only college football program to have its games broadcast on a truly national radio network."

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu and Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles win big, clinch home-court advantage

By GRIFFIN DASSATI
Sports Writer

Forget what the schedule says, Saint Mary's just wasn't ready to close the doors of the Angela Athletic Center for the season.

Coming into Saturday's game against Olivet, the Belles (12-12, 8-8 MIAA) and Comets (9-15, 7-9 MIAA) were tied for fourth place in the MIAA. The winner would clinch home-court advantage for the first round of this week's tournament. Saint Mary's did so convincingly, beating the Comets 74-56 behind another stellar effort by senior guard Alison Kessler.

Kessler ended her regular season career with a bang, scoring 29 points on 9-for-22 shooting from the field and making 3-of-6 from 3-point range.

The contest went back and forth for the first half. At one point, Saint Mary's had a seven-point lead, but that was the furthest apart the two teams got as Olivet matched the Belles shot for shot for the remainder of the half. Still, Saint Mary's went into the locker room with a 28-25 lead.

At the half, Belles head coach Jennifer Henley told her team the one thing she knew would motivate them.

"At halftime, we talked about trying to get Alison one more home game for her senior year and that was really

all the motivation they needed," Henley said.

The second half began much the same as the first, with the first 10 minutes seeing six ties and neither team leading by more than four. Then, midway through the half, someone flipped a switch for Saint Mary's. The Belles went on a 12-0 run, putting the game out of reach.

Henley said the run happened because the Belles got back to the basis of their offense.

"I don't think it was anything in particular," Henley said. "We really wanted to go back to using our two-man game and try and getting some looks off of that and if

not trying to get to the foul line.

... Alison got hot, [junior guard] Katie Rashid got hot, and I just think that helped open things up a little bit."

Once again, the Belles' win was a result of a solid performance from the starting five.

Along with Kessler's outstanding individual line, junior forward Erin Newsom scored 16 points and pulled down 11 rebounds for her second straight double-double. Junior Katie Rashid contributed 14 points of her own.

With first-round home-court advantage in hand, the Belles will face Olivet again Tuesday in the first-round of the MIAA tournament.

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ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish salvage one win on trip

Team beats Wake Forest, falls to North Carolina for 1-1 weekend

By LORENZO REYES
Sports Writer

Following a tough loss to No. 8 Duke Thursday, No. 15 Notre Dame brought a 1-2 record back from its trip to Tobacco Road.

Notre Dame 4, Wake Forest 3

Many of the Demon Deacon faithful in attendance in Winston-Salem expected a win after Wake Forest picked up the first two singles matches, but the Irish had other plans on their mind.

After securing the doubles point, Notre Dame ran into some struggles, but eventually turned up the pressure when they needed to.

The No. 3 doubles tandem in the nation of junior Kelcy Tefft and senior Brook Buck earned their fourth consecutive doubles victory with an 8-4 win over the No. 28 pair of sophomore Sasha Kulikova and senior Alex Hirsch.

After freshman Kristen Rafael and sophomore Kali Krisik dropped their doubles match 8-0, sophomore tag-team Cosmina Ciobanu and Colleen Rielley took care of business with an 8-5 win over junior Sierra Poske and freshman Emilee Malvey, ensuring that the Irish would take the early lead.

In singles play, it appeared as though Tefft would have her hands full against Hirsch after the first set, which eventually went to a tiebreak in the junior's favor. In the second set, Tefft won the final four games to take the victory, 7-6, 6-2, improving her record to 11-1 in the dual match season.

With the match tied at 2-2, junior Katie Potts gave the Irish a lead with a 7-6, 6-2 win over Malvey. After taking the first set tiebreak, Potts won the first five games of the second set and cruised the rest of the way.

With the Irish up 3-2, one win was all Notre Dame needed to seal the deal. Krisik stepped up with her match-clinching 7-5, 6-4 win over freshman Katarina Reveche.

After taking the first set, Krisik built a 5-2 two lead in the second frame until she dropped consecutive games. The sophomore battled back and eventually won her eleventh match of the season.

Rielley dropped the last



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Sophomore Kali Krisik completes her serve during Notre Dame's 5-2 home victory over Ohio State on Feb. 14.

match, bringing the score to 4-3, but Notre Dame had already secured the victory.

North Carolina 6, Notre Dame 1

After losing to Notre Dame twice last year, North Carolina wanted revenge. A 6-1 victory over the Irish ensured just that.

Irish head coach Jay Louderback stressed the importance of doubles play the past couple of weeks to his team, and his squad responded, taking the doubles point in six straight matches. North Carolina, however, ended that streak Sunday, beating two of the three Irish pairs.

Buck and Tefft continued their impressive play, earning an 8-5 win over sophomore duo Sanaz Marand and Katrina Tsang and bringing the pair's winning streak to five consecutive matches. However, both groups of Ciobanu and Rielley and Rafael and Krisik could not overcome a Tar Heel charge,

giving North Carolina an early 1-0 lead.

Krisik got some redemption, picking up the only singles win and the only point Notre Dame would get in the match in a 6-4, 6-3 victory over junior Meg Fanjoy. With the win, Krisik ensured an undefeated road trip and, more importantly, brought the score to 3-1.

The Irish would drop the remainder of the singles matches, ending the road trip on a sour note. Notre Dame now returns home for what should be one of its most competitive opponents of the season.

Saturday at the Eck Tennis Pavilion, consensus No. 1 Georgia Tech comes into town in a match up of two squads that are quite familiar with each other. Last year, the Irish dropped two matches to the Yellow Jackets, both by a score of 4-2.

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MEN'S TRACK

Team takes second in Big East

By PAT STYNES
Sports Writer

The Irish finished second, 28 points behind Connecticut, in the Big East championship Sunday at the New Balance Track and Field Center in New York, NY.

Irish senior Kurt Benninger continued his record-breaking season by posting a 4:00.12 mile, which is the fastest time ever recorded at the Big East

championships. He was not the only Notre Dame standout in the mile, however, — senior Jake Watson finished third in the event with a time of 4:02.72.

Junior Patrick Smyth also had an impressive weekend, winning the 5000 with a time of 13:57 and finishing fifth in the 3000-meter run with a time of 8:14.74.

Sophomore Matt Schipper showed the depth of the Irish squad. In just his second year

on the team he pulled off a first place finish in pole vault. His teammate, junior Brian Mahon, followed him close behind, nabbing the third place spot.

Freshman Greg Davis finished fourth in the weight throw, and freshman Denes Veres was .46 meters away from winning the shot put, but fell just short with a second-place distance of 17.12 meters.

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FENCING

Nelip continues to dominate

Freshman takes top individual honors, leads team success at JACC

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame could have been left out of the gold medal ceremonies this weekend, but freshman epeeist Ewa Nelip would have none of that.

Nelip won the individual women's epee title at the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships Saturday at the Joyce Center, and then was the driving force for the women's epeeists Sunday in the team tournament.

With Notre Dame leading Northwestern 3-1 in the women's epee final, Nelip battled back from a 2-0 deficit for a crucial 5-4 victory over Wildcat Kayley French. Irish junior Kim Montoya then defeated Northwestern

senior Megan Ross to clinch Notre Dame's only team title of the weekend.

Senior Eleanor Leighton, a Mishawaka native, went 2-0 in Notre Dame's 5-1 win over the Wildcats.

"We wanted that victory more than any other," Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said. "We were very close in

women's sabre to getting the top. ... So at least the [epee] girls compensated."

That the women's epee final was the last competition of the weekend for Notre Dame alleviated the pain of an otherwise rough set of team results. Notre Dame's chief rival, the Buckeyes of Ohio State, captured five team crowns.

"Frankly speaking, we were losing to the teams who were higher ranked and after very good bouts and very close," Bednarski said. "So, it was optimistic for a very young team."

Nelip, the freshman, exemplified that. She topped Ohio State's Kaela Brendler 15-12 in the final bout of the individual bracket.

While Nelip's success was the continuation

of a dominant rookie season, junior Bill Ehrlich was Notre Dame's biggest surprise in the individual competition. The less-experienced epeeist went 4-2 in pool play before winning three straight bouts in the direct elimination competition. He lost to fellow Irish junior Karol Kostka in the

quarterfinals but, in the process, earned second-team all-conference honors — despite not earning a monogram for the year. Kostka finished third.

Still, the Irish finished with good, but not great, results most of the weekend. All-American senior epeeist Greg Howard failed to reach the quarterfinals in the individual competition. A low placing in pool play gave him a poor seed for the direct-elimination bracket, and sensation Jason Pryor, a junior from Ohio State, knocked Howard out of the tournament.

Howard said he simply didn't fence well Saturday.

Though Bednarski would have liked to see a better performance, he said he is turning his attention to the NCAA Midwest Regionals, which begin in two weeks in Detroit. In fact, he said he would "gladly trade in" a poor performance this weekend if he could qualify the maximum 12 fencers from the regional to the March 13-16 NCAA Championships in Columbus, Ohio.

"We have to improve tactical gains because obviously we should be a little bit smarter," Bednarski said.

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MEN'S TENNIS

Notre Dame shuts out visiting Boilermakers

By MIKE GOTIMER
Sports Writer

In its first match since last week's trip to Seattle, Wash., for the ITA National Indoor Championship, No. 12 Notre Dame shut out in state rival Purdue 7-0 at the Eck Tennis Pavilion Sunday.

The Irish victory was Notre Dame's 19th consecutive win over the Boilermakers.

Notre Dame took the doubles point from Purdue, but the Boilermakers did not go down easily.

The Irish No. 1 pair of senior Sheeva Parbhu and junior Brett Helgeson trailed 6-5 in their match against Purdue sophomore Branko Kuzmanovic and sophomore Slavko Bijelica, but came back to win in a tiebreaker, 9-8 (8-6).

The new pair of junior Andrew Roth and junior Santiago Montoya defeated Purdue junior P.J. Rosae and freshman Eric Ramos 8-6.

Freshmen Stephen Havens and Tyler Davis held off the Purdue pair of redshirt junior Jose Fuenmayor and junior Griffin Nienberg in another tightly contested 8-6 match to seal the doubles point.

The Irish dominated singles play — five of Notre Dame's six singles wins came in straight sets. National No. 32 Helgeson won the first Irish singles point over Kuzmanovic in

dominating fashion, winning 6-1, 6-1.

Helgeson improved his impressive singles record to 22-4 with the win. The Irish got their second singles point from Parbhu, who defeated Bijelica 6-2, 6-1. Parbhu's victory gave Notre Dame a 3-0 advantage.

Notre Dame's third singles win came from Roth, who snapped a six-match losing streak with the win. Roth defeated Rose 6-2, 6-2.

To round out singles competition, the Irish turned to three of their highly talented freshmen. Havens won the fourth point with a 7-6 (3), 7-6 (5) victory over Purdue's Ramos.

Notre Dame freshman David Anderson broke a four-match losing streak with a tiebreak victory over Nienberg, 7-5, 3-6, 1-0.

Irish freshman Dan Stahl continued his stellar singles play with a straight sets victory over Purdue sophomore Paul Foley, 6-2, 6-3. With the victory, Stahl improved to 19-5 on the year in singles play.

The Irish improved to 9-3 on the season with the victory over the Boilermakers. Notre Dame is on the road until March 28, when it faces No. 2 Ohio State.

The Irish travel to Champaign to face defending national runner-up Illinois Saturday.

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"We have to improve tactical gains because obviously we should be a little bit smarter."

Janusz Bednarski
Irish coach

Creative? Funny? Thought-provoking?

Submit your works of art and literature to

The Juggler

Notre Dame's student literary magazine

E-mail written submissions (poetry and short stories) to juggler@nd.edu by March 14.

There is no limit to the number of pieces you may submit, but no individual work can exceed 2500 words.

Works of art larger than 11x17 or 3-D pieces require slides. There is no limit to the number of pieces you may submit.

Submit art to Mary in 306 Riley or e-mail as a high-resolution (300+ dpi) image file to juggler@nd.edu.

<http://www.nd.edu/~juggler/>

ND SOFTBALL

Irish lose three of five games on Florida trip

By CHRIS DOYEN
Sports Writer

A busy weekend for the Irish ended with a 5-2 loss to No. 7 Florida in the championship game of the Aquafina Invitational in Gainesville, Fla.

Gators pitcher Stacey Nelson struck out 13 in her 11th win of the season. The Gators scored the first five runs of the day, with the final three coming on a home run by Francesca Enea.

Irish sophomore Heather Johnson drove in two runs with a single in the sixth inning, but that was as close as the Irish would get. Junior Brittany Bargar pitched six innings and allowed four earned runs on seven hits in the loss.

The Irish dropped their first contest, 3-2, Friday to Gardner-Webb. Freshman starting pitcher Jody Valdivia pitched 3 and 2/3 innings, struck out seven and allowed three earned runs. The three runs would prove to be all Gardner-Webb would need. Johnson and Christine Lux drove in freshman Katie Fleury and senior Katie Laing, respectively, in the sixth inning, but the two runs were all the offense could muster in a losing effort.

The Irish won a defensive battle over North Florida, 1-0, later Friday.

Bargar, who pitched 3 1/3 innings of shutout ball in relief against Gardner-Webb, started the next contest against North Florida and pitched seven shutout innings and struck out seven batters.

North Florida loaded the bases in the bottom of the third, but Bargar got two groundouts to retire the side. Notre Dame's only run came when sophomore Ashley Ellis scored from second on an RBI single from Fleury.

Valdivia earned her first win in an Irish uniform in a rematch with North Florida Saturday, another 1-0 victory. She pitched seven innings, issued only one walk, and struck out seven en route to the win. The lone run of the day came on an RBI from junior Linda Kohan that drove in senior Sarah Smith.

Bargar pitched well against the Gators in Saturday's second contest, but Florida came back to win, 3-2. The Irish got out to a 2-0 lead on two runs from freshman Sadie Pitzenberger, but could not hold it.

The 2-3 weekend record moves the team's overall record to 4-5. The Irish will be back in action when they face Pacific on March 1 to open the Worth Invitational in Fullerton, Calif.

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The Observer.

MEN'S LACROSSE

Dominating start helps to tame Nittany Lions

Hoff's six goals lead charge in home victory

By ELLYN MICHALAK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame's 6-0 domination of the first quarter gave it momentum on the way to its 15-9 win over Penn State Sunday at the Loftus Center.

Junior attack Ryan Hoff led all scorers with six goals — four of which came off assists from attack Alex Wharton. Junior attack Duncan Swezey aided the team's efforts with two goals, while senior attack Alex Wharton added one goal of his own.

"I thought we played very well at times," Irish coach Kevin Corrigan said. "Certainly we played a great first quarter. Offensively we were pretty sharp. We handled and shot the ball well and created opportunities."

Senior goaltender Joey Kemp also recorded ten saves for the Irish.

Senior midfielder Michael Podgajny started the Irish rally, scoring off the opening faceoff 37 seconds into the match. Swezey, sophomore attack Colin Igoe and sophomore attack Neal Hicks followed suit and gave the Irish a 4-0 lead. Hoff then scored twice on passes from Wharton and junior midfielder Dan Gibson.

The second quarter started off quickly, with two goals in 21 seconds. The Irish struck first when midfielder Grant Krebs took a pass from Igoe off the opening inbounds and found the back of the net at the 14:48 mark in the second quarter.

Attack Colby Rhodes retaliated just nine seconds later. Rhodes took the ball off the faceoff, made a swim move

past the defender and launched a shot from the right side of the goal into the back of the net.

The freshman's goal sparked a 3-0 Nittany Lions run that put Penn State back in the game.

With 3:25 left in the second period, the Irish made another run. Hoff first scored a goal on another assist from Wharton. Junior midfielder Davey Malera pushed the score to 9-3, and Hoff then scored again, giving the Irish a seven-point lead at the half.

Penn State junior attack Rob Forster scored his team's fourth goal with 7:13 in the third period, while junior midfielder Charley Henneghan and junior attack Max VanArsdale scored two more goals to cut the Irish lead down to five.

The Irish then rallied for a third time, scoring four consecutive goals. Hoff scored his last two goals of the day, and Swezey and freshman midfielder Zach Brenneman pushed the Irish lead to nine.

Penn State freshman attack Will Donley scored two of the game's last three goals, and sophomore attack Matt Loy scored the day's final point.

The Irish are now 2-0 and will host their second home match Saturday against No. 11 Albany at 1 p.m.

"Albany is a unique team," Corrigan said. "They are aggressive defensively, they play an extremely good transition game, and are a good offensive group. We have to get used to their style—fast paced and very dynamic—and go out and play really aggressively."

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"Offensively we were pretty sharp. We handled and shot the ball well and created opportunities."

Kevin Corrigan
Irish coach

ND WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Buckeyes rally falls short

Blaney, Byers each net six goals to secure win at Ohio State

By MATT GAMBER
Sports Writer

No. 11 Notre Dame got off to a quick start and then held off a late Ohio State surge to top the Buckeyes 14-11 in Columbus, Ohio Sunday.

Freshman Shaylyn Blaney and junior Jillian Byers each scored four goals for the Irish, who led 13-5 with less than 14 minutes to play before the Buckeyes scored six goals in a span of eight minutes.

"We let them get back into the game late," Irish coach Tracy Coyne said. "We need to focus on finishing strong ... [because] we lost a little bit of our momentum at the end there."

Blaney, who began her college career with a bang by scoring 10 goals through three games, got the Irish on the board by scoring three times in the game's first 10 minutes. Byers and freshman Kaitlin Keena added goals to put the Irish up 5-0 midway through the first half.

"We graduated some key players last year, and everyone has done a good job of stepping into new roles," said Byers, who leads the Irish with 15 goals through three games. "That's my role I guess, and I've been working really hard to be the person who can put the ball in the back of the net for us."

Kristen Slahor and Jessica Patane, who each scored three goals, got the Buckeyes on the board with 13 minutes to play in the half, cutting the Irish lead to 5-2. Byers added two more goals for the Irish before halftime, and senior captain Caitlin McKinney also got on the board with the first of her two goals, extending her school-record point streak to

42 games and giving Notre Dame an 8-3 lead heading into the intermission.

"All week we had focused on specific tactics to beat Ohio State," Coyne said. "It's been a rivalry since both programs began, and we knew it'd be a tough, physical game."

The Irish continued to dominate early in the second half, scoring four of the first five goals after the break to extend their lead to 12-4. The two teams traded goals to make it 13-5, and after a five-minute scoreless stretch, the Buckeyes went on a run that cut Notre Dame's comfortable advantage down to two.

Slahor, Patane and Maghan Beaudrault, who led the Ohio State attack with four goals on the day, each beat Irish goalie Erin Goodman (11 saves) twice during the 6-0 run, which

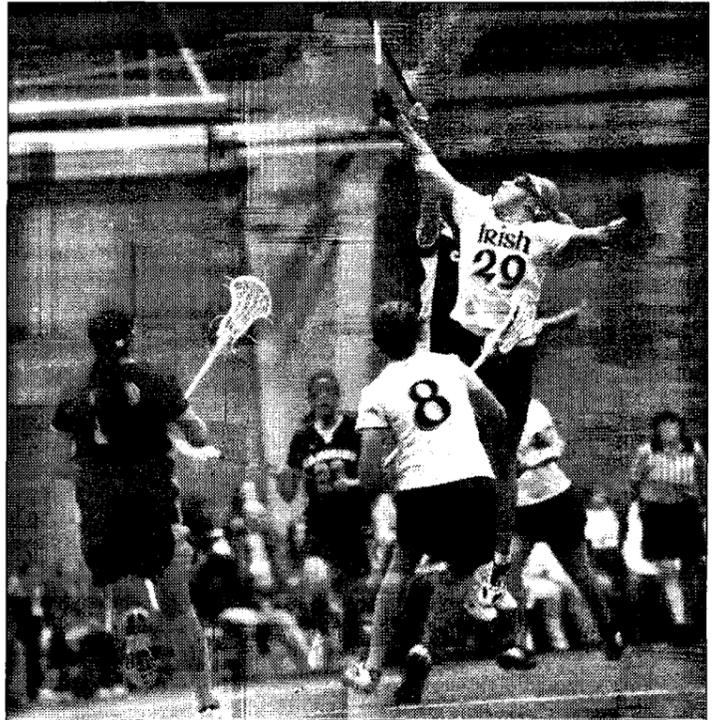
began with Slahor's goal at 8:56 and ended with Beaudrault's goal with 1:34 remaining.

Despite the near late-game collapse, the Irish were able to salvage a tough road victory — something not lost on the squad.

"It's good to get that first win on the road," Byers said. "Being away from home, not having your home fans, being away from the atmosphere you practice in every day, and the fact that it was really cold out and we had to play outside ... we faced a lot of adversity today and it was good to bring our record to 3-0."

The Irish will hit the road again next weekend when they travel to Palo Alto, Calif., to play Stanford at 1 p.m. Sunday.

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Freshman midfielder Shaylyn Bailey (29) fights for a loose ball with a Canisius defender during Notre Dame's 22-10 win on Feb. 22.

BASEBALL

Notre Dame drops two of three to start season

By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

Despite escaping South Bend for the weekend, the Irish still couldn't avoid gloomy weather — and gloomy results — in Clearwater, Fla.

After heavy rains at Jack Russell Stadium delayed play for nearly six hours Saturday, Notre Dame dropped two of three games at the Clearwater Classic.

The Irish opened their season with cold bats in a 6-2 loss to Liberty, managing just six hits against the Flames. Notre Dame struck first when senior Ross Brezovsky tripled, scoring shortstop Brett Lilley in the first inning, but the Irish would manage little offense after that.

Irish pitcher David Phelps gave up four runs to the Flames in the first inning. After Liberty loaded the bases with no outs, Flames third baseman David Giammaresi dou-

bled, and two runs scored to give Liberty the lead. Liberty expanded its lead to 4-1 after a successful squeeze play and a single from center fielder Tim Rotola.

The Flames roughed up Phelps for two additional runs in the fifth, prompting Irish coach Dave Schrage to go to sophomore reliever Eric Maust. The start was the first time Phelps failed to go five innings in 16 appearances.

The bullpen combination of Maust and sophomore Steven Mazur produced 4 and 1/3 innings of scoreless relief, but the Notre Dame offense failed to take advantage. The Irish added a late run in the eighth, but managed just one hit in the final three innings.

Righty Clarence Nicely picked up the win for Liberty, allowing just one run in six strong innings.

Notre Dame 14, Iowa 13
(10 innings)

Senior shortstop Brett Lilley deliv-

ered a clutch extra-inning win for Notre Dame against Iowa on Saturday, singling home the two winning runs with two outs in the tenth inning.

After the Hawkeyes scored two runs in the top of the tenth to take a 13-11 lead, the Irish came from behind for the fourth time in the game. Junior Evan Sharpley doubled home a run to cut the lead to one, setting the stage for Lilley's heroics.

In addition to his game-winning hit, Lilley also belted a three-run homer in the seventh. The senior went 3-for-4 on the day with three runs scored and 5 RBIs, and reached base five times.

Left fielder Ross Brezovsky added three RBIs for Notre Dame in the win.

The Irish offense took advantage of the Hawkeye's control issues, scoring off many of Iowa's eight walks.

After a back-and-forth start,

Notre Dame jumped out to a 7-3 lead with five runs in the bottom of the fourth. After the Irish added another run in the fifth to stretch the lead to five, Iowa responded with a seven-run inning. The Hawkeyes capitalized on four Irish walks and an error to take an 10-8 lead.

Notre Dame reliever Kyle Weiland picked up the win after pitching three innings in relief.

Albany 12, Notre Dame 4

The Great Danes pounded the Irish for 15 hits and 12 runs in the final game of the Clearwater Classic.

Freshman pitcher Brian Dupra struggled in his Notre Dame debut, giving up eight runs on nine hits in three innings.

Albany grabbed the lead in the bottom of the first with an unearned run after a Brett Lilley error. The Irish responded quickly, scoring two runs in the bottom of the inning

with RBI singles by junior Jeremy Barnes and senior Sean Gaston.

The Notre Dame lead was short-lived, however, as Albany lit up Dupra for five runs in the second inning. The Great Danes added three more runs in the fourth for an 8-2 lead.

The Irish offense generated a run in the bottom of the fourth, but a potential rally ended with sophomore A.J. Pollock's bases-loaded groundout.

Albany scored four more runs in the seventh, putting the game out of reach. Reliever Dave Noble pitched two innings of scoreless relief for the Danes and picked up the win. Brezovsky and freshman Golden Tate led the Irish offense with six hits apiece.

Notre Dame returns to action next weekend at the Papa John's Classic in West Palm Beach, Fla.

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MEN'S SWIMMING

Irish capture third Big East title in four years

Team dominates final day, sets several school records in championship meet that 'really began one year ago'

By CHRIS DOYEN and ELLYN MICHALAK
Sports Writers

Notre Dame captured its third Big East championship in four years this weekend at the Nassau Aquatic Center in East Meadow, N.J.

After a close loss in last season's conference championship, Irish coach Tim Welsh, who won his 30th league title, said the team was hungry for this meet since last year.



A. Deters

"Everyone who was at the meet last year knew what it felt like to be 4.5 points short," Welsh said. "We didn't want to have that feeling again. And so this year's meet really began one year ago."

Heading into Thursday's competition, the Irish trailed by six points (74-68) to Louisville, but Welsh was confident in his teams abilities.

"We were very happy with Wednesday," Welsh said. "There were only two relays, and Louisville was seeded first in both of them, and we won one of them. So our con-

fidence was high."

After Thursday's competition, the Irish sat in first place with over 300 points, in front of Louisville (222) and Pittsburgh (166.5). The diving squad secured two of the top three spots on the one-meter board to earn points for their team.

While Pittsburgh junior Alex Volovetski captured the title, Irish junior Michael Bulfin and freshman Eric Lex finished right behind.

"We didn't want to have [last year's] feeling again. And so this year's meet really began one year ago."

Tim Welsh
Irish coach

"The diving work was tremendous, and it gave us a big advantage," Welsh said.

Once again the Irish 200-meter freestyle relay team performed well, taking second place. Sophomore John Lytle, sophomore Andrew Hoffman, junior Sam Pendergast, and freshman Joshua Nosal clocked in at 1:21.94.

The Irish 400-medley placed third Friday and sophomore Andrew Deters and freshman Michael Sullivan grabbed fourth and

fifth place, respectively, in the 400-individual medley race. Other top 10 finishers included sophomore Mackenzie LeBlanc and freshman Patrick Augustyn in the 100 fly, Pendergast in the 100 breast, and senior Andrew McKay in the 100 back. Lytle and junior Danny Lutkus also captured second and third place in the 200 free.

At the end of the day, Notre Dame led Louisville 531-421. Although already leading by 110 points, the Irish proved they wanted to win big. By the end of the tournament, they accumulated 820 points. Louisville was the closest team behind them, with a score of 615.

The day began with Deters taking second place and setting a school record in the 1650 free with a time of (15:12.91). LeBlanc and sophomore Ross Moore took second and third in the 200 fly. LeBlanc, in fact, broke the school record for the event that was previously held by Moore.

Sullivan snagged fourth place honors in the 200-backstroke, while divers senior Sam Stoner and Bulfin dominated the three-meter board taking second and third place.

The 400-freestyle relay team also set a school record taking second place with a time of 2:59.05.

Welsh said the team's goal was to simply swim as fast as possible in all seven sessions — and the Irish did just that.

"We tried to look at the scoreboard as seldom as possible and focus on swimming faster than we had all year," Welsh said.

The day was a success for Welsh in another aspect as well — he was named the league's coach of the year for the fourth time in his career. Welsh was quick to point out that while the award might be called "coach of the year," it goes out to the entire staff, which consists of diving coach Caiming Xie, associate head coach Matt Tallman, assistant coach Josh Skube, along with Welsh.

"It's a sign that we're working together really well and that it's a good staff," Welsh said.

From here, some swimmers will turn toward preparation for their respective countries' Olympic trials, while the divers will focus on the upcoming NCAA zone diving meets. After that, training for next year will resume soon, Welsh said.

"Swimming is a year-round sport," Welsh said. "We won't resume training tonight, but it will be soon enough."

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ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Notre Dame brings home 12th straight crown

Nixon honored as conference's top coach for second consecutive season, watches her own school records fall

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

A perfect dozen — more than a motivational catch-phrase for the Irish this year — these words represented the making of history, as Notre Dame won its twelfth consecutive Big East title, a feat that has never been accomplished before in the Big East, Irish coach Carrie Nixon said.

Coming in with a final tally of 767 points, the Irish blew away the field with their highest Big East championship total ever. Second-place Louisville trailed by 239.5 points once the final day of racing was completed.

Head coach Carrie Nixon was named 2008 Big East coach of the year for the second consecutive year.

"It is a really special honor for me and my coaching staff," Nixon said. "It is done by peer voting, so that makes it a real honor."

Junior Christa Riggins was the standout performer for the Irish, earning titles in the 200-yard freestyle relay, 400-freestyle relay, and the 200-freestyle.

"Christa had the hands down best performance of the meet," Nixon said. "You could tell that she was going to swim fast just by the way she carried herself,



Riggins

and the other girls fed off of that."

Riggins' time of 1:44.89 in the 200-freestyle was good enough for an NCAA 'A' cut, meaning that she automatically qualified for the NCAA championships on March 20. She shaved off three seconds from her time in the event last year.

"That is an unheard of drop," Nixon said. "That is the type of performance that one gets to see only once in a blue moon."

Riggins also brought a lot of leadership to the team, participating in numerous relays in addition to her individual events, Nixon said.

"She is an incredible leader," Nixon said. "With such a young team, she had some big shoes to fill, and she did it with poise, confidence, and energy."

Irish freshman Amywren Miller also had an excellent meet, attacking some records

held by Nixon herself. Miller tied Nixon's record time of 22.39 in the 50-freestyle for the victory, and NCAA 'A' cut time, and surpassed Nixon's record in the 100-freestyle with a time of 49.10 to come in second place. Nixon was a 12-time All-American swimmer who graduated from the University in 2002.

"It was a dream of mine to see these girls beat some of my times," Nixon said. "And now I got to see Amywren do it."

Freshman Sam Maxwell achieved two NCAA 'A' qualifications in the 100-breaststroke and the 200-breaststroke with times of 1:02.68 and 2:12.76 respectively. These were both new Notre Dame records, and the 200-breaststroke bested the Big East record by nearly a second.

"Sam is such a competitor," Nixon said. "Especially coming

from a small high school program, her ability to perform at such a high level all the time is really incredible."

Finishing off the meet with a victory was freshman Katie Casey, winning the 200 butterfly with a time of 1:59.37.

Also performing well was an inspired diving team led by sophomore Natalie Stitt. Driven by the absence of hospitalized senior Laura Rings, the divers went on to lead the Irish.

"They were really our knights in shining armor," Nixon said. "They executed everything perfectly and really stepped up to fill Laura's shoes."

Holding together this outstanding young talent was a

team spirit the coaching staff has never seen before.

"I have never seen a team come together like this before ever since I have become a coach," Nixon said. "It is really inspiring to see them take advantage of the opportunity they were given."

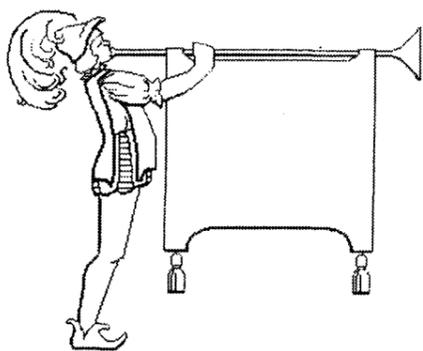
The Irish now need to prepare to send three to six girls to the N C A A Championship in Columbus, Ohio, on March 20.

"We want to show that we have arrived at the national level," Nixon said.

"It was a dream of mine to see these girls beat some of my times. And now I got to see Amywren do it."

Carrie Nixon
Irish coach

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Announcing the Year 2008 Annual Awards of the Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship

Thanks to a generous gift from the Albert Ravarino family, the Italian Studies Program is pleased to announce the year 2008 annual competition for travel in support of summer research and foreign study in Italy. Grants will be made in amounts not to exceed \$3,000, and will not normally cover all expenses. Notre Dame graduate and undergraduate students who are planning to pursue research or a formal program of summer study in Italy are invited to apply. Students must have completed at least one year of Italian language. The course work will normally be in Italian; will involve the study of Italian language, literature, and culture; and must be applicable to a student's degree program at the University of Notre Dame.

Recommended programs for foreign study include, but are not limited to: Loyola University in Rome, Boston University in Padua, UCLA in Pisa, Miami University in Urbino, Columbia University in Scandiano. Interested students are encouraged to consult the materials on Italian foreign study in the Department of Romance Languages, 343 O'Shaughnessy Hall.

Students are invited to submit a letter which should include:

- 1) an explanation of how the proposed research or foreign study will enhance their degree program at Notre Dame;
- 2) a personal statement indicating their background, interests, and long-term goals;
- 3) a description of the research project or the program they intend to follow;
- 4) a budget indicating the costs involved;
- 5) two letters of recommendation
- 6) a transcript showing all grades and courses completed
- 7) a list of other sources of funding (being sought or confirmed) for the same project (i.e. Office of International Studies, Nanovic Institute, etc.)

Application Deadline: Wednesday, February 27, 2008
Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship
 Program in Italian Studies
 343 O'Shaughnessy Hall
 University of Notre Dame

**Write
Sports.
Email
Chris at
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nd.edu**

Naughton

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Naughton's efforts to bring her team back.

Williamson hit two foul shots and senior guard Charel Allen hit a jumper to extend the lead to five, but Naughton's 3-pointer brought DePaul back within two. Allen was fouled, but hit only one of the shots, and Naughton made another shot to make the score 65-64 with 12 seconds left.

McGraw said her team did well controlling Naughton for most of the game.

"We left her wide open, accidentally," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said of Naughton's late 3-pointer. "And then she made the driving layup. But I thought we did a good job on her overall."

Allen was fouled on the inbounds play and again made only one of the free throws, but Notre Dame still held the lead.

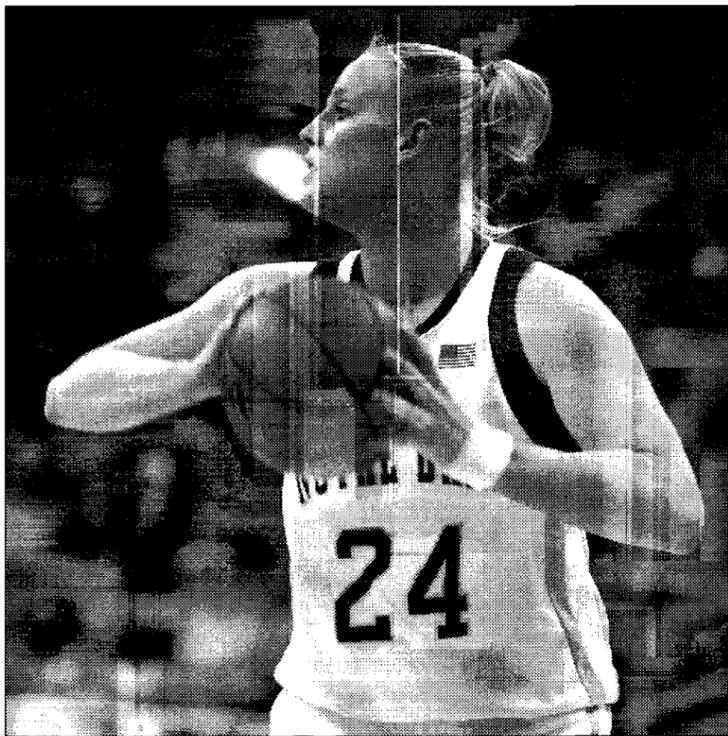
McGraw said she was not nervous about the team's foul shooting late in the game even though Allen missed two of her four.

"You saw us go right back to inbound to Charel," McGraw said. "We want her on the line."

Allen finished with 12 points, junior guard Lindsay Schrader had 11 and sophomore guard Ashley Barlow added 10.

Blue Demons senior guard Allie Quigley had 21 points on 7-of-17 shooting, Chester had 14 and Smith had 10.

Notre Dame led 39-32 at the half, but DePaul's 9-0 run after halftime made the score 41-39 until Williamson scored with 16:43 remaining.



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Irish junior guard Lindsay Schrader looks to pass during Notre Dame's 81-66 win over Pittsburgh on Feb. 10.

"We missed some shots, we turned the ball over a little bit," McGraw said. "The ball just slipped through our hands."

From there, the score would stay within five for the rest of the game.

DePaul took a 24-18 lead after Quigley made two free throws with 7:30 left in the first half, but the Irish went on a 19-6 run to end the half. In the final two minutes, Allen and freshman guard Brittany Mallory hit back-to-back 3-pointers to help widen the lead.

Note:

♦ Sophomore guard Melissa

Lechlitner got her first start of her collegiate career in place of Barlow, who missed practice this week after her grandfather's death. Barlow met the team in Chicago Sunday after spending time with her family.

"[Lechlitner] scored the first four points, got us off to a great start," McGraw said. "When she made those first shots, I was proud of her."

McGraw said Barlow played well given the circumstances and that she will probably regain her starting role.

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ND Women's Track

Irish take sixth place in conference tourney

By ANDY ZICCARRELLI
Sports Writer

With 62 points, Notre Dame finished sixth in the Big East championship this weekend.

Connecticut won the title with 103.5 points and Georgetown finished with 93.

One of the Irish highlights was the finals of the 500-meter dash. The Notre Dame duo of Cora Dayon and Natalie Johnson finished second and third, respectively. Dayon crossed the line in 1:12.13 and Johnson finished in 1:12.37.

Freshman Marissa Treece burst onto the conference scene, finishing sixth in the

3000-meter run with a time of 9:33.95.

"Marissa is a very talented young lady with a lot of desire and a strong work ethic; everything that she needs to be successful in this sport," Irish coach Tim Connelly said.

While the Big East Championships may be the end for some, the Irish will compete in the Alex Wilson Invitational, which is scheduled for March 7 at Notre Dame. The NCAA Indoor Championships will be the following weekend, on March 14 and 15.

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Bouts

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the fighters.

Taped to the door of the boxing room in the Joyce Center basement is an article reporting the immense damage inflicted upon Bangladesh after last fall's wave of natural disasters, with the number of death and casualties highlighted in yellow. It serves as a reminder to

every fighter who passes through those doors what cause they are fighting for.

"We think of the sacrifices that we make here, whether its time, academics or just effort," Land said. "We realize that those sacrifices are hopefully contributing to the sacrifices that people won't have to make half a world away."

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NBA

Six Pistons in double figures in win over Suns

Wallace scores 22 points in 26 minutes

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Detroit saves its best for the big ones, so the Pistons were more than ready for Shaquille O'Neal.

Rasheed Wallace scored 22 points in 26 minutes to lead six Detroit players in double figures, and the Pistons embarrassed O'Neal and the Phoenix Suns 116-86 Sunday.

Richard Hamilton had 18 points, Chauncey Billups 14 points and 11 assists, and Antonio McDyess 12 points and 13 rebounds. Jarvis Hayes added a season-high 18 as Detroit easily ended the Suns' 11-game winning streak against Eastern Conference foes with a nationally televised blowout.

"This was a big game for us," Billups said. "You know how we are, man, when we play against other elite teams, we lock in. We lock in big-time. I thought everybody played great today — everybody."

Phoenix lost to a team from the East for only the third time in 25 tries this season.

"They get juiced up a little bit," Detroit coach Flip Saunders said of his team's efforts against the other top teams. "I thought we were extremely focused both offensively and defensively."

The Pistons, opening a four-game road trip, built an 18-point halftime lead, then blew open a 36-point advantage in

the third quarter, the Suns' biggest deficit of the season.

"It's embarrassing, it's disappointing, it's everything," Suns point guard Steve Nash said. "It's tough, no matter who you play, to lose by 30 points."

Their most one-sided loss of the season left the Suns 1-2 since O'Neal started playing for Phoenix on Wednesday.

"Maybe we used all the adrenaline left these last two games," coach Mike D'Antoni said of the Suns' close loss to the Lakers on Wednesday, followed by a victory over Boston on Friday. "Emotionally, we've been on a high for the last three days and you wake up on Sunday at noon and we're not quite ready to play."

O'Neal, who turns 36 in two weeks, had seven points and 11 rebounds in 34 minutes and was 1-for-8 from the foul line.

"We still have to be realistic about things," he said. "I've only been here about eight days. This is only my third game with the guys, so we still have a lot of figuring out to do. If everyone just sticks with their role, we should be fine."

Amare Stoudemire scored 31 for Phoenix. Leandro Barbosa added 18. Nash was the only other Suns player in double figures with 11 points and just six assists.

Detroit dominated from the start, using a 7-0 spurt to go up 25-14 on Hamilton's 14-footer with 1:20 left in the first quarter. Phoenix shot 29 percent in the first quarter.

Hayes' 10-footer put the Pistons ahead 39-22 with 8:49 left in the half.

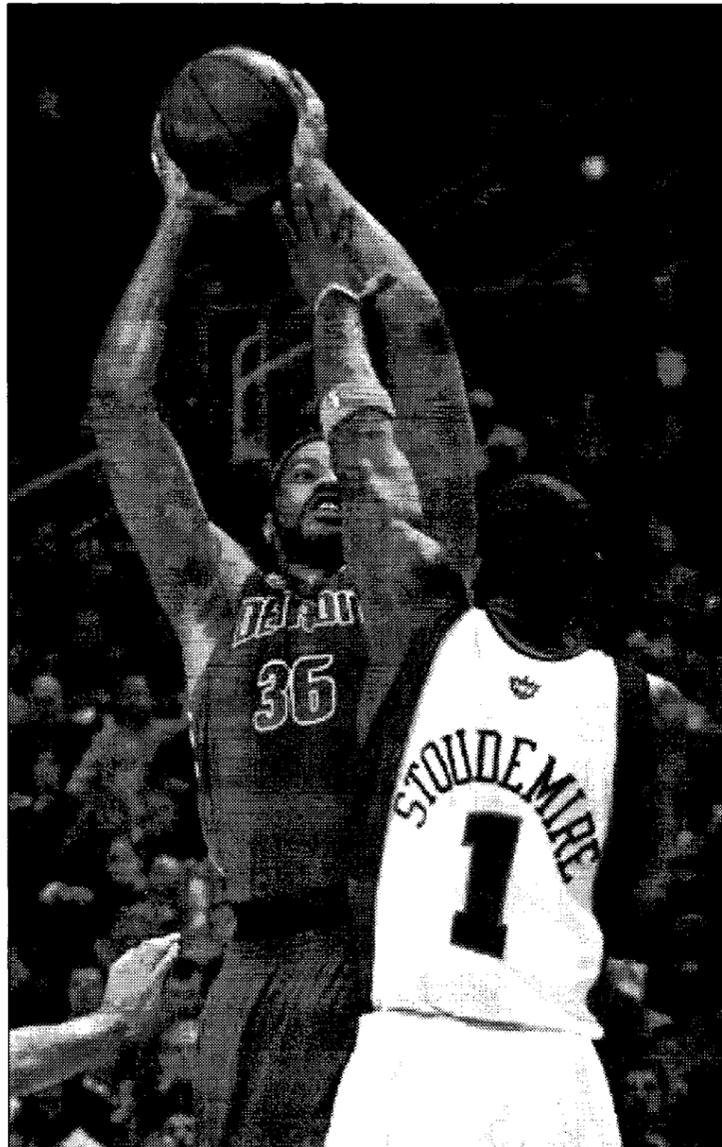
The Suns climbed back into it briefly with an 11-2 run to get within 45-39 on Stoudemire's 17-footer with 3:55 left in the half. But with O'Neal back in the Phoenix lineup, Detroit scored the last 12 points of the half to go up 59-41 at the break.

It got much worse for the home team after that. Hamilton's 22-footer capped a 25-6 outburst that buried the Suns 90-54 amid boos from Phoenix's 103rd consecutive sell-out home crowd with 56 seconds left in the third.

"The Pistons came out with a lot of energy, more energy than we did," O'Neal said. "And it seemed like they couldn't miss there. ... It was just one of those games. Everyone was flat, including myself."

Saunders said it's understandable that the Suns will struggle trying to adjust following the trade that brought O'Neal from Miami for Shawn Marion and Marcus Banks.

"They had an identity of how they played when they had Shawn," the Pistons coach said.



AP/The Observer

Pistons forward Rasheed Wallace shoots over Suns forward Amare Stoudemire during Detroit's 116-86 win Sunday.

Shooting

continued from page 24

chant for the 3-ball, hitting 14-of-25 from beyond the arc.

As Irish guard Kyle McAlarney hit 9-of-11 from deep, Jim Boeheim could not help but be reminded of former Orange guard Gerry McNamara, whose shooting lifted his teams to countless Tournament wins.

But the comparison between McAlarney and McNamara was an unsatisfactory one in Boeheim's eyes.

"He shot better than Gerry," Boeheim said of McAlarney.

If McAlarney catches fire like he did against the Orange, the Irish are capable of winning any game in March.

Despite being physically dominated by a very athletic Syracuse team, the Irish came out on top because of their dead-eye shooting. The team shot almost 55 percent from the floor and made 22-of-33 foul shots. Notre Dame's 74 percent free-throw shooting percentage leads the Big East. Points from the foul line have helped the Irish finish off many opponents and that will be an important factor in the post-season.

And even though Syracuse out-muscled the Irish on the boards, they have the best rebounding margin among Big East squads.

If the Irish can shoot like they did Sunday and rebound like they have throughout the season, they will be one of the most dangerous teams in the Tournament. Considering all of its weapons, there does not seem to be much of a ceiling on what Notre Dame can accom-

plish.

"There's no limit," Irish forward Luke Harangody said. "... I think everyone's real excited with where we're at right now."

The Irish are getting major production from players once thought of as minor contributors, leaving the squad with the depth and personnel to compete with the nation's best teams. Five players scored at least 10 points against Syracuse and reserves Ryan Ayers, Jonathan Peoples and Luke Zeller all played key minutes.

Ayers' confidence level appears to triple every game, as was evident in his monstrous two-handed dunk Sunday. After getting a steal near half-court, the Ryan Ayers of two months ago might have pulled the ball back to wait for his teammates.

Not any more. Instead, Ayers said he knew he wanted to dunk it as soon as he gained possession.

With such depth, the Irish will not be derailed by foul trouble. When starting point guard Tory Jackson was forced to sit after picking up a few early fouls Sunday, Peoples stepped in and dropped seven first-half points.

Notre Dame's top eight players can hold their own against any rotation in the country. And if the Irish get hot (correction — stay hot), they will do more than simply hold their own.

For early-round NCAA opponents, that could be dangerous.

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

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Orange

continued from page 24

"They're really an athletic group," Irish coach Mike Brey said. "They're hard to keep off the backboard and out of the lane."

Syracuse (17-11, 7-8) had 24 offensive rebounds and converted those into 22 second chance points.

But on Sunday, McAlarney's hot shooting kept Notre Dame from losing this one.

He began the day by scoring a quick seven points to lead his team to an 11-4 lead.

The Orange clawed back, getting to within two at 14-12, but Notre Dame extended and then kept its lead during a fast-paced first half, shooting 59.3 percent shooting from the field to take a 46-36 lead into the locker room.

The two teams traded baskets for the first six minutes of the second half, but with 13:51 left, Ryan Ayers stole the ball and took it coast to coast, dunking over a Syracuse defender and giving Notre Dame a 60-47 lead.

"I hope I can get a couple more of those," Ayers said. "The guys had been really on me, saying I can't dunk, but I'm sure they'll back off today."

Led by Ayers, who had 10

points, Notre Dame's bench scored 19 on the day. Sophomore guard Jonathan Peoples scored seven points and dished out an assist in extended playing time in the first half after starting point guard Tory Jackson got in foul trouble.

"Me, [forward] Luke [Zeller], and [Peoples] just want to be catalysts off the bench," Ayers said. "We're all three players that could be starters."

After Ayers' dunk, the Orange went on an 11-6 run over the next three minutes to cut the lead to single figures at 66-58 with 10:35 to play.

Then McAlarney went back to work, hitting two straight 3-pointers to extend the lead to 76-64 with 7:23 left.

The Orange had one last run in them, and a dunk by forward Arinze Onuaku brought them within six at 78-72 with four minutes left.

After a media timeout, the Irish responded with four straight points from Harangody, the second basket a dunk on a pass from junior forward Zach Hillesland.

Harangody had his eighth double-double in nine games with 14 points and 14

rebounds. Hillesland finished the game with six points, six assists and four rebounds.

Syracuse resorted to fouling with just under two minutes remaining and managed to close to within six at 93-87 with 15 seconds left, but that was as close as the Orange would get.

"The guys had been really on me, saying I can't dunk, but I'm sure they'll back off today."

Ryan Ayers
Irish forward

With the win, Notre Dame retained sole possession of third place in the Big East, half a game behind conference co-leaders Louisville and Georgetown and tied in the loss column.

The Irish take on Louisville Thursday at Freedom Hall in Louisville, Ky.

Notes:

◆ Former Irish guards Colin Falls (2003-07), Matt Carroll (1999-2003) and Keith Friel (1997-99) held the previous Notre Dame record for 3-pointers in a game with eight. Falls did it twice, once against Seton Hall on Feb. 18, 2006 and once against Pittsburgh on March 5, 2005.

"I'm going to call Colin up tonight and rub it in his face," McAlarney said.

◆ Notre Dame honored its 1978 Final Four team at halftime. Head coach Digger Phelps got a roaring ovation and a video was shown chronicling the 1977-78 season.

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Tourney

continued from page 24

Saturday end cap, Notre Dame continued to stumble in the second half of this season.

"I talked to our team about it three weeks ago. They know what's going on," Notre Dame coach Jeff Jackson said. "I think that that pressure has hurt us — I think the pressure of higher expectations and pressure of that Tournament situation."

Jackson said the goal for Notre Dame all along has been to return to the CCHA semifinals and finals at Joe Louis Arena, but the most important thing is getting there while playing good hockey. Because if they aren't playing great hockey, he said, they won't be hanging out in the Joe for long.

The Irish, however, clinched a first-round bye in the CCHA tournament with the tie and Bowling Green's 2-1 win over fifth-place Ferris State. Notre Dame locked up fourth place in the regular season, which will give them home ice in the second round of the tournament in mid-March.

The Buckeyes (11-21-4, 7-16-3) entered the weekend in 10th place in the CCHA, but played like they were an NCAA contender in front of goaltender Joseph Palmer, who made 58 saves in the two games. Palmer was aided by Notre Dame's

poor shot selection — the Irish tucked those shots that hit the net neatly into the sophomore's chest protector.

"We're off perimeter and we're missing the net a lot," left wing Dan Kissel said. "Coach always talks about how we're missing the net, so we gotta hit the net. We have great shooters on our team too, it's just a slump. We're snakebit right now."

The Irish scored only three goals in their 61 shots against the Buckeyes. Last weekend in a win and a tie against Alaska, Notre Dame potted three goals in 71 shots.

Ohio State, whose roster lists 15 freshmen, played more freshmen than any other class Saturday night, suiting up 10 rookies and eight non-freshmen.

Ohio State 3, Notre Dame 1

The Irish scored first, but the Buckeyes scored a last-second goal in the second period that proved to be the game-winner.

Buckeyes center Patrick Schafer backhanded the puck over the top of Irish goalie Jordan Pearce (20 saves) with six seconds remaining in the second period to give Ohio State the 2-1 lead. Schafer picked up the puck in the lower left circle after Pearce rejected a wrap-around from left wing Tom Fritsche.

"It's frustrating and disappointing for me because I have to watch them go through this," Jackson said. "I know it's not

that they're not trying, it's not that they're not listening. It's just a matter of right now everyone we're playing is playing tough."

Notre Dame scored with 19 seconds left in the first period to take the 1-0 lead when the puck bounced off the skate of right wing Evan Rankin in front of the net and past Palmer. The shot came from center Christian Hanson on the left side after he received a pass from left wing Dan Kissel.

The Irish, however, got only three shots on net in the second period and the Buckeyes capitalized with the tying and game-winning goals.

Buckeyes right wing Tommy Goebel tied the game at 1-1 when his soft wrist shot worked its way along the ice under the pads of Pearce at 16:37 of the second period.

In the third period, Notre Dame couldn't get many quality scoring chances past the Buckeyes defense. The Irish almost surrendered another goal when Pearce came out of the net and played the puck up the boards right to an Ohio State player. The shot was saved from the empty net by defenseman Ian Cole, who was in front to block it.

Ohio State added an empty-net goal to put the game out of reach at 3-1 with eight seconds left in the third after defenseman Brett Blatchford misplayed the puck along the blue line and let it get past him.

Notre Dame 2, Ohio State 2

Both teams traded goals in the first and second periods before skating to a scoreless third and overtime in a game that saw 27 penalties whistled for 54 minutes.

"If you had asked me at the beginning of the year that we'd finish in the top four, I would have been pretty pleased," Jackson said. "The big thing is we have three weeks to get ourselves ready for the playoffs and to me that's the most important thing."

Notre Dame struggled to generate offense in the first period in between man-down and power play situations. Ohio State capitalized, scoring a goal 12:30 into the period before it was disallowed for a high stick. But the Buckeyes struck on the power play four minutes later.

Irish defenseman Stewart Carlin whiffed on a puck in front of the Notre Dame net, and Ohio State left wing Todd

Rudasill backhanded it past Pearce for an easy goal and the 1-0 lead.

Notre Dame tied the game at 1-1 only 12 seconds into the second period when right wing Eric Condra put home a rebound off a shot from Cole on the power play.

"I was just trying to get passes up [to the forwards], letting them do whatever they do," Cole said. "It's trying to make simple plays and getting it to guys who can score goals."

The two teams then scored another goal apiece, Ohio State scoring four minutes after the Condra goal on a hard, top-shelf shot from left wing Sergio Somma. The Irish tied it at 2-2 when a Kissel slap shot from the left circle blasted past Palmer's blocker side 14:56 into the second.

The Irish increased their chances in the third period as the game became rougher. With three minutes left in the second period Irish defenseman Dan Venard had his helmet ripped off in a scrap with Rudasill. VeNard continued to try to fight the helmeted Rudasill with no head protection until the referee pried the senior assistant captain away from him.

Neither side could find the back of the net in the overtime period, the best chance coming on a shot from Hanson that was buried into Palmer's leg pads.

Note:

◆ Irish defenseman Kyle Lawson missed both games this weekend with an upper-body injury. It isn't clear whether he will return next weekend against Western Michigan.

Contact Kyle Cassily at kcassily@nd.edu

"I'm going to call Colin [Falls] up tonight and rub it in his face."

Kyle McAlarney
Irish guard

"It's trying to make simple plays and getting it to the guy who can score goals."

Ian Cole
Irish defenseman

"I know it's not that they're not trying, it's not that they're not listening. It's just a matter of everyone we're playing is playing tough."

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach

MEN'S BASKETBALL

En fuego

Guard's nine threes lead Irish to victory

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Editor

When he stood behind the arc, it seemed like Kyle McAlarney couldn't miss.

The Notre Dame junior nailed a school-record nine 3-pointers, some from well beyond the 3-point line, as the Irish won their 36th straight home game, 94-87 over Syracuse.

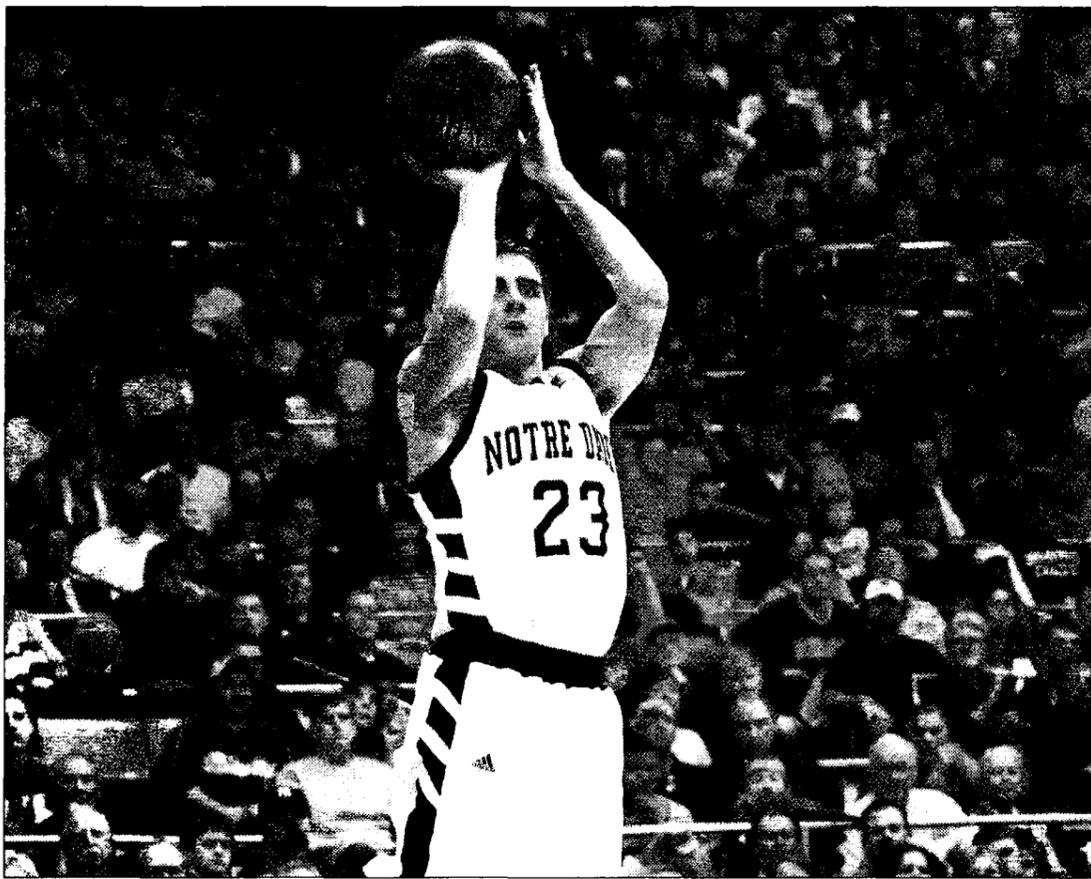
"He's the best shooter I've ever seen," junior forward Ryan Ayers said.

McAlarney scored 30 points on 9-of-13 shooting, with only two of those misses coming from 3-point range.

"I felt really confident tonight," McAlarney said. "Especially because they were in zone. I knew my teammates would get me the ball."

Notre Dame (21-5, 11-3 Big East) never trailed, despite being out-rebounded 51-33 by the Orange.

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WU YUE/The Observer

Irish guard Kyle McAlarney shoots a 3-pointer in Notre Dame's 94-87 win over Syracuse Sunday. McAlarney hit nine threes in the game, setting a Notre Dame record.

Team has keys for success in postseason

By FRAN TOLAN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame is a very dangerous team.

Now, the term dangerous is used pretty loosely this time of year to describe potential N C A A Tournament teams. But there are several traits that make a squad an obvious candidate to do damage in its bracket.



Fran Tolan

Sports Writer

Strong 3-point shooting, rebounding and foul shooting are the most significant factors that make the Irish a dark horse Final Four contender.

On Sunday against Syracuse, Notre Dame displayed its pen-

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BENGAL BOUTS

After months of training, boxers ready to fight

By ANDY ZICCARELLI
Sports Writer

The members of the Notre Dame Men's Boxing Club have done countless push-ups, sit-ups, jumping jacks and boxing drills since October for this week's 78th annual Bengal Bouts tournament which begins tonight at 6:30 in the Joyce Center Fieldhouse.

Men's Boxing Club President Hunter Land sees

a lot of potential in this year's crop of boxers.

"I'm so excited, we have a great group of fighters," Land said.

There are a number of returning finalists and champions from last year's tournament, Land said. But he also warned spectators not to count out the newcomers in this year's tournament.

"We have a great group of novices who look really talented," Land said. "They

have transformed since October from being athletes to becoming boxers now in February, and I am very excited to see what they are capable of here in the ring. I definitely wouldn't be surprised to see a bunch of novices come out and shock a lot of people."

Around 200 fighters will compete in 12 different weight classes. Fighters must make it through four rounds in order to become champions.

Because of the size of field, Bengal Bouts will make another bit of history tonight. For the first time, two rings will be used in the Fieldhouse for the preliminary rounds. They will accommodate the 91 matches that will take place, which is also a record number of fights for a single night.

The Bouts are a fundraiser used to benefit the Holy Cross missions in Bangladesh. Donations

raised and advertisements sold will aid the missions, as will the proceeds from each ticket sold for the tournament.

"We have grown to become the single largest benefactor for the missions. It's something we are really proud of," Land said.

The cause is something that makes the intense training so worthwhile to

see BOUTS/page 21

HOCKEY

Tourney hopes dwindling

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame continues to slip and slide its way farther away from the NCAA Tournament in the second half of the season after a strong first half created high expectations for the young team.

The No. 9 Irish (21-11-4, 14-8-4 CCHA) needed a sweep, or at least no losses, against Ohio State to maintain a grip on a spot in the NCAA tournament, but after a 3-1 loss Friday night and 2-2 tie in the

see TOURNEY/page 22



WU YUE/The Observer

Irish freshman Ian Cole takes a shot during Notre Dame's 2-2 tie against Ohio State Saturday.

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Revenge exacted for ND in win over DePaul

By BILL BRINK
Sports Writer

On Saturday, Notre Dame avenged its one-point loss to DePaul earlier this season — beating the Blue Demons in McGrath Arena for the first time in 17 years and grabbing a one-game lead over Syracuse for fourth place in the Big East standings.

Sophomore center Erica Williamson had 16 points and eight rebounds and No. 14 Notre. Dame beat DePaul 66-

64 Sunday in a tight finish. The Irish (21-6, 9-4 Big East) have won six of their last seven games. The loss dropped the Blue Demons to 18-8 (7-6 Big East).

The Irish led 60-55 with less than six minutes remaining, but freshman forward Felicia Chester and senior forward Caprice Smith each hit shots to bring the Blue Demons within one. From there, DePaul's fouls undid sophomore guard Deirdre

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