

THE OBSERVER

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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

University switches to Common App

Office of Admissions will accept standardized format next year with supplemental portion

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

Prospective students will apply to Notre Dame through the Common Application next year as the Office of Admissions abandons its custom application for the first time.

The change was made to ease the rigorous admissions process for high school seniors, said Dan Saracino, director of the Office of Admissions.

Students will be able to access the Common Application on July 1.

The Common Application originated in 1975 when 15 private universities agreed to accept a single, standardized

application for admission. More than 300 universities and colleges in the United States are now members of the Common Application.

The Common Application is designed to let admissions officers evaluate all aspects of a candidate's record, Saracino said.

"You, as an institution, have to be committed to viewing application files holistically — not just looking at numbers — and be committed to diversity," he said.

Though Notre Dame has been asked to join the Common Application several times, the University said joining before this year "didn't seem necessary."

The Common Application was once considered new and

experimental, Saracino said.

"Now they have gotten all the kinks out of it," he said. "I have heard nothing but good things about it recently. Students and colleges are happy with it."

Now that the Common Application is completely online and supported by strong software, its use will allow elimination of paper waste and confusion from written applications, Saracino said.

"It will be much more efficient," he said.

The Common Application will also simplify the admissions process for students who can use the same form for the majority of their applications, he said.

"Virtually all of the schools

that our students also apply to are members of the Common Application," he said. "We know the schools our students also apply to. If a student applies to Northwestern, or Stanford, let them for convenience sake, be able to apply to Notre Dame the same way."

Northwestern and Stanford, along with the University of Chicago, are among a number of schools that recently joined the Common Application, Saracino said.

"Joining just seemed like the right thing to do," he said.

Notre Dame's Common Application will have a supplemental application, which

see ADMISSION/page 4

The Shirt to fund scholars

Proposal to remember seven ND students

By JOSEPH McMAHON
Assistant News Editor

The Financial Management Board is moving to create seven new scholarships in memory of students who died while attending Notre Dame, Student Union Board treasurer Kededia Gaines said.

If the initiative succeeds, funds from The Shirt Charity Fund will be used to create scholarships with a \$25,000 endowment, Gaines said.

The Fund will reach \$1 million for the first time this year, she said.

Gaines said she hopes to establish the scholarships before the end of the academic year.

Students who would be memorialized include Timothy Aher and Connor McGrath, both of whom died in unrelated incidents Feb. 17, Ryan Rudd who died in 2007, Caitlin Brann who died in 2006, Daniel Kish who died in 2005 and Chad Sharon, who went missing in December 2002 and was found dead in February 2003.

"The scholarships would serve as a great way to not only benefit the Notre Dame community in the name of the deceased student in question, but also a way to forever immortalize each student and the impact they have had on our community," she said.

This is not the first time money from The Fund was used to create an endowed scholarship memorializing a student.

see SHIRT/page 4

Wabruda events honor black history

Weekend conference features guest speakers, trip to Underground Railroad landmarks



Photo courtesy of William David Williams
William David Williams, president of Wabruda, stands in front of an Underground Railroad statue in Battle Creek, Mich., on Sunday.

By KATIE PERALTA
News Writer

This weekend's inaugural Black History Conference underscored the importance of remembering and celebrating black history through cultural immersion in a series of lectures on campus and a visit to Underground Railroad landmarks in southern Michigan.

The conference was sponsored by the Notre Dame student group Wabruda in honor of Black History Month. Wabruda, a group whose name means "brother" in Swahili, promotes brotherhood and leadership among

black men on campus.

Two-year Wabruda president, senior William David Williams, said he envisioned the Conference a year ago but began planning the event in December.

The Conference was designed to address black history and its effects on American society today, Williams said.

"I think that we commit cultural genocide by ignoring these issues," Williams said.

Presentations given by three speakers Saturday attracted about 100 students, faculty, staff and community members, he said.

see HISTORY/page 6

Fans flood JACC to cheer basketball wins

Arena sees high attendance levels during 36-game win streak over three seasons

By EMMA DRISCOLL
News Writer

Fans have been packing the Joyce Center all season and have helped the men's basketball team tally a 36-game home winning streak — the second longest streak in the nation.

Josh Berlo, assistant athletic director at the ticket office, said the games against DePaul, Marquette, Pittsburgh, and Syracuse sold out and the game against St. John's on March 5 has almost sold out.

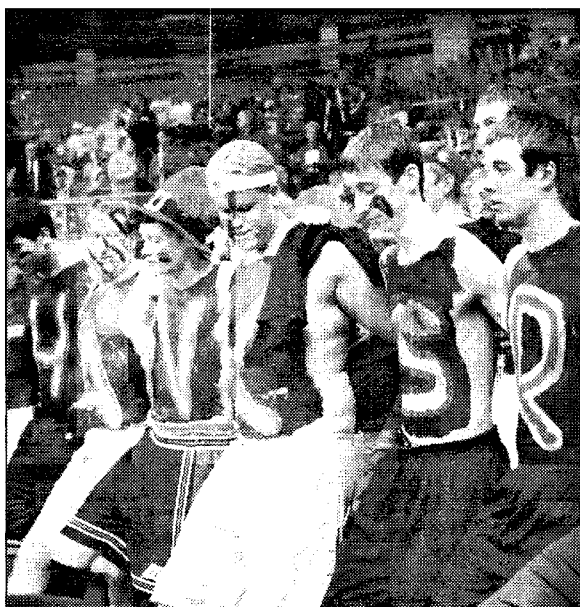
"We've been very pleased with our fan support, and in particular the student body this year," Berlo said. "We always want a full building."

When filled to capacity, the JACC holds 11,418 people.

"We want as much of a home court advantage as we can have, and we always want to have our student body behind us and with us along the way."

This season, ticket sales increased from last season, which saw only two

see FANS/page 4



WU YUE/The Observer
Fans cheer on the Irish at the game against Syracuse on Feb. 24 in the Joyce Center.

Student tickets will not be set aside for Big East tournament in New York City

By JOHN TIERNEY
News Writer

The Notre Dame men's basketball team, which has rode the passionate support of student fans to a 36-game home winning streak that started in 2006, can expect continued fan support throughout the Big East and NCAA Tournaments, said Josh Berlo, assistant athletic director for the Ticket Office.

Fans are able to acquire postseason tickets through the University.

Berlo said. He did not say how many tickets will be available through the Ticket Office.

Unlike ticket distribution for some away football games, there will be no Big East tournament tickets set aside specifically for students.

Students who are interested in acquiring tickets for the Big East tournament, which will be held March 12 through March 15 at Madison Square Garden in New York City, are encouraged to contact

see TICKETS/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

Campaign strategies

Every student by now has noticed the plethora of campaign posters canvassing the walls of their dorms, classroom buildings, and dining halls.

Everywhere we go, we've been reminded to vote for some generic ticket for class council in yesterday's election.

Joseph McMahon

Assistant News Editor

Most of the posters are exactly the same. They feature the four candidates in formal attire smiling, arms crossed and standing in front of some school landmark like the Dome or that giant granite ball in CoMo.

As someone who has seen both his parents run for election four times in the past eight years, I know how important it is to make yourself stand out to the voters.

Distinguishing yourself from the other candidates is one of the most important things you can do, and one of the best ways to do this is through effective, unique advertising.

The trend of smiling faces in front of some Notre Dame landmark has to stop. If you want to win, you have to do something that really reaches out to voters and makes them want to vote for you.

One of the major reasons Bob Reish and Grant Schmidt were so successful in their campaign for student body president and vice president was because of their Web site, bobandgrant.com. This was easy for students to remember, and Reish and Schmidt won their election by more than 1,000 votes.

However, most tickets for both junior and sophomore class councils have failed to learn from this example. There is one — the sophomore class council ticket of Zach Reuvers, Steven Ouyang, Melissa Truitt and Nicole Navas.

Through their Bob and Grant inspired Web site, zachandsteve.com, Reuvers and Ouyang have separated themselves from rest of the generic tickets.

However, it is their poster that really helps set them apart. Inspired by the Will Ferrell movie "Anchorman," the four candidates are set in front of a red background that features the words "News Team 11."

Ouyang, set to the far left, is wearing a cowboy hat while waving at the voters. Reuvers is in the center, flanked by Truitt and Navas and although he does have his arms crossed, his face conveys the joking-seriousness that Ferrell is best known for.

Steve Carell's character from the movie, Brick Tamland, is also featured standing in the right corner.

It is this type of poster that will really stick in students' minds and influence their voting. Besides, having Steve Carell in your poster is way cooler than that granite monstrosity in CoMo.

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

Contact Joseph McMahon at jmcma06@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: IF YOU COULD HAVE A LIFETIME SUPPLY OF ANYTHING, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?



Jen Padgett

*junior
McGlinn*

"Cupcakes because every day is delicious."



Sean Mallin

*junior
Keough*

"Spam — it doesn't need a reason."



Caitin Hildebrand

*junior
Lewis*

"Tommy Gruffi because he's a rock star."



Charles Ramsey

*junior
Morrissey*

"I'd like a lifetime supply of 'Hint of Lime' Tostitos — taste one and you'll know why."



Mark Lyons

*sophomore
Knott*

"Crispix ... duh."



Mary Beauclair

*sophomore
Pangborn*

"98 percent dark chocolate."



DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

Graduate student Ed Crago, left, and art professor Garrett Krueger, right, pour molten brass into molds in Riley Hall of Art & Design for a project by graduate student Emily Gustafson, standing in background.

OFFBEAT

German police dogs to wear shoes

BERLIN — Police dogs in the western city of Duesseldorf will no longer get their feet dirty when on patrol — the entire dog unit will soon be equipped with blue plastic fiber shoes, a police spokesman said Monday.

"All 20 of our police dogs — German and Belgian shepherds — are currently being trained to walk in these shoes," Andre Hartwich said. "I'm not sure they like it, but they'll have to get used to it."

The unusual footwear is

not a fashion statement, Hartwich said, but rather a necessity due to the high rate of paw injuries on duty. Especially in the city's historical old town — famous for both its pubs and drunken revelers — the dogs often step into broken beer bottles.

School bus driver claims to be a cop

ECONOMY, Pa. — A school bus driver in Beaver County said he told students he was an undercover officer so they wouldn't misbehave on the bus. They didn't.

But the real police said what William Dunn, 59, did was wrong and have charged him with impersonating a public servant. Police said Dunn flashed a badge and identified himself as an undercover officer to at least three people on Feb. 5.

Dunn said a fellow bus driver, who has asthma, had been harassed by students, and he was driving her route that day.

Dunn said he didn't mean any harm.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Jo Reger, associate professor of sociology at Oakland University, will speak on "Fashion & Feminism in the Contemporary U.S. Women's Movement" at 12:30 p.m. today in the auditorium of the Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

Former Senator Rick Santorum will present a lecture entitled "Gathering Storm of the 21st Century" today 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.

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

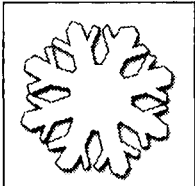
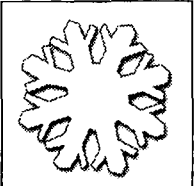
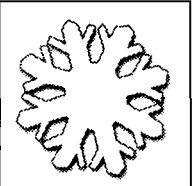
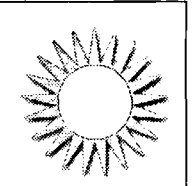
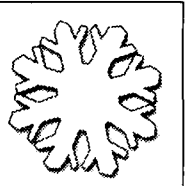
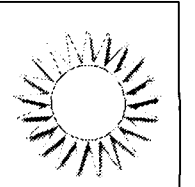
The Gender Relations Center is presenting a Notre Dating panel discussion Wednesday at 9 p.m. in the Coleman-Morse lounge. The discussion will address how competition and perfectionism affect gender relations at Notre Dame.

The Bengal Bouts quarterfinals will be held Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Joyce Center Fieldhouse. Tickets are available at the Ticket Office.

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

There will be Stations of the Cross on 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	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 27 LOW 20	HIGH 19 LOW 15	HIGH 20 LOW 8	HIGH 25 LOW 15	HIGH 28 LOW 20	HIGH 35 LOW 25

Atlanta 55 / 48 Boston 44 / 30 Chicago 29 / 26 Denver 46 / 18 Houston 61 / 53 Los Angeles 74 / 50 Minneapolis 24 / 17 New York 44 / 34 Philadelphia 50 / 32 Phoenix 78 / 50 Seattle 51 / 36 St. Louis 33 / 32 Tampa 78 / 65 Washington 51 / 37

Former prof. publishes religious education text

Special to The Observer

“Teaching and Learning in College Introductory Religion Courses: A Study of 533 Classrooms,” by Barbara E. Walvoord, fellow in the Institute for Educational Initiatives and professor emerita of English at Notre Dame, has been published by Blackwell Publishing.

The result of her study of 533 introductory religion courses and 66 successful teachers in public, nonsectarian private, and religiously affiliated institutions of higher education, Walvoord’s book examines student goals, student learning, and effective pedagogical methods.

Supported by Notre Dame, the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion, and Kansas State University’s IDEA Center, Walvoord’s research concerned the effects of courses on world religions, the nature of religion, theology, the Bible, and Christian formation on a wide variety of students, including self-professed Christians or adherents of other religions, as well as doubters, seekers, agnostics and atheists.

Surveying 12,463 students in 109 institutions, the study suggests the existence of a “great divide” between the desires of faculty members to encourage “critical thinking” and students’ desires for spiritual development, and examines the methods many faculty employ to address it.

According to one review by Raymond Brady Williams of Wabash College, Walvoord’s new book is “instructive, inspiring, practical. This is scholarship of teaching at its

best—careful analyses of students’ and teachers’ goals and evaluations along with detailed case studies of effective teaching. Every teacher can learn from this book how to become a better teacher.”

Other books by Walvoord include “Academic Departments: How They Flourish, How They Change,” “Assessment Clear and Simple: A Guide for Institutions, Departments, and General Education,” “Effective Grading: A Tool for Learning and Assessment,” and “Helping Students Write Well: A Guide for Teachers in All Disciplines.”

“This is scholarship of teaching at its best — careful analyses of students’ and teachers’ goals.”

Raymond Brady Williams
book reviewer

Model UN draws students

Members from Around the World club debate international issues

By DAVIS RHORER, Jr.
News Writer

While students at Saint Mary’s College have studied abroad for years, one student organization is bringing the themes of international diplomacy and cultural diversity back to campus.

This March, five members of the Around the World club, a group comprised of students interested in studying different cultures and foreign nations, will travel to the University of California-Berkeley to participate in a national collegiate model United Nations forum.

At the forum, the Saint Mary’s delegation will represent Costa Rica in debates about world issues.

The Around the World members are reviving an extracurricular tradition, as Saint Mary’s students participated in model UN events until the

activity fell out of practice 15 years ago.

“We’re expanding what our objectives and goals are” Meghan Ferrara, an Around the World member and participant in the upcoming model UN trip, said.

Ferrara cited the efforts of Saint Mary’s freshman Jingqiu Guan in reinstating the activity.

“I always wanted to participate in a model UN,” said Guan, whose high school did not offer the activity. When she found Saint Mary’s did not have a model UN, she decided to help create one.

Around the World sought College funding to help pay for the trip to California.

They received \$4,405 from the Center of Women’s Intercultural Leadership Office and \$300 from the Office of Multicultural

Affairs, Guan said. The group will also receive assistance from the Student Diversity Board.

In addition to representing their assigned nations, schools are also asked to contribute to various committees modeled after the different duties and services of the actual United Nations. At least one member of the Saint Mary’s delegation must participate in each of the committees, Guan said.

Committees include Disarmament and Security, Legal, World Trade Organization, Security Council and World Health Organization.

Guan expressed hope that the activity would become an annual tradition at Saint Mary’s.

Group leaders hope to create a one or two credit course around the activity through the political science department, said Around the World secretary Jeannie Choquehuanca.

“We’re expanding what our objectives and goals are.”

Meghan Ferrara
junior

“I always wanted to participate in model UN.”

Jingqiu Guan
freshman

Contact Davis Rhorer at drhorer@nd.edu

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 Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu or Kyle West at kwest1@nd.edu if interested.

Admission

continued from page 1

will contain "more information that we want."

For example, Saracino explained that the University is interested in the religious background of the applicants, but religion is left out of the Common Application. The supplement will also contain an additional essay question, he said.

The decision to join the Common Application was not made to increase the number of applicants, though that may occur.

"Universities always report that with the Common

Application, their number of applicants go up," Saracino said. "But we are not interested in more applications for the sake of it ... I am not interested in sending out any more 'no' letters to students," he said.

Although the Common Application may cause a rise in applicants, the overall profile of the student body is not expected to change significantly.

"[Admissions] is quietly getting more competitive, and the overall profile of incoming first year students will probably increase, but that has been happening anyways," said Saracino.

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Fans

continued from page 1

sellouts — Villanova and Marquette — according to Berlo. Student ticket booklets came close to selling out this season.

He attributed high sales to coaching and the way that the team plays, as well as its success this season.

"Coach Brey and the team have done a fabulous job of playing ... and of course riding a 36 [home] game winning streak," Berlo said.

Junior Troy Sustich, who has attended nearly every home game this season, agreed that the success of the team does encourage attendance. But, he said, the team itself attracts fans to games.

"I also think that Notre Dame basketball is going to draw a lot [of people] anyway," he said.

Sustich said he has noticed the size of the crowd increasing throughout the season.

"At the beginning of the year, there are a lot less people there because the opponents are a little lesser," he said.

Sustich said that now toward the end of the season, with games against Big East teams, there are "a lot more people there and the crowd is a lot more enthusiastic."

The atmosphere in the Joyce Center has been "pretty electric," he said.

"We have a great fan base, and even when the team is losing ... fans will get real into it and try to bring the team back into it," Sustich said. He added that Notre Dame fans are "very knowledgeable" about the game and "know what they

are talking about."

Sophomore Tommy DeGregoris, who purchased student tickets and has attended most home games, has also seen the size and liveliness of the fan base grow throughout the season.

"As the season goes on, other than the Marquette game — which was a huge spike — the student section has been getting bigger, but more than that, the energy of the section is getting better and better," DeGregoris said.

There was a particularly large number of fans at this weekend's Syracuse game, he said.

"It looked like the student section was sold out, it was pretty much packed, a lot of good energy," he said.

Both Sustich and DeGregoris enjoyed being

part of the enthusiastic crowd at games last year, but agreed that this year's crowd is even better.

"I'd say the energy level is even a little bit bigger than last year," DeGregoris said.

He added that last season was a great season to build on, as the team posted home wins over Villanova, Providence, DePaul and Marquette.

"I don't think [the crowd's energy] ever dropped off from [from last year to this year]," DeGregoris said. "I think it's getting bigger pretty much every game."

Berlo said the student section plays an important role at home games.

"Students contribute a lot of energy and excitement to the games," he said. "I know our season ticket holders appreciate and enjoy that."

"Everyone prefers it when the students are here for our games."

Contact Emma Driscoll at edriscoll@nd.edu

Shirt

continued from page 1

In 2001, a memorial scholarship was created in honor of Connor Murphy, a junior who died of leukemia, Gaines said.

The Fund's other function is to help students pay for medical expenses.

Gaines said the Financial Management Board will not proceed with individual scholarships before acquiring permission of the student's family. She has yet to approach the Aher and McGrath families, she said.

"I'd really like to respect the situation of the families and give them a little bit of time to themselves," she said. "Then I'd just like to let them know that this opportunity is out there to really honor their sons and keep them

immortalized within the school."

There are two main steps in creating the scholarship.

First, a minimum of \$25,000 must be deposited for the establishment of an endowed scholarship fund, Gaines said. The scholarships will rely on the Financial Management Board, which is responsible for approving all activities of The Fund, for the initial \$25,000, she said. Later, other dorm and class council groups may contribute to renewing the scholarships.

After the initial funds are allocated, representatives of The Fund will work with the student's family and friends in order to establish the criteria by which scholarship recipients would be selected.

"Normally, these criteria would reflect some aspect of the memorialized student," she said.

If the necessary \$25,000 is

acquired, Gaines said the scholarship would pay approximately \$500 per year to the student recipient from interest on the endowed sum. However, the scholarship can grow with donations from dorms and other on-campus organizations.

The scholarship for Mara Fox, a freshman struck by a car in 1993, has been funded by Fox's former dorm, Lyons Hall, through the Mara Fox Run.

"With [Fox's] dorm, they created an event that currently kicks money into this endowed memorial scholarship," Gaines said.

Gaines said she will be meeting with the Student Bar Association to discuss a scholarship for Aher and with representatives from Pasquerilla East Hall to discuss one for former resident Brann.

Contact Joseph McMahon at jmcmahol@nd.edu

Tickets

continued from page 1

the Ticket Office directly, Berlo said.

"Students are a top priority for any athletic event, including postseason men's basketball games," he said.

Student interest in the Big East tournament has been markedly low in past years, Berlo said last March.

While ticket information for the 12-team Big East tournament is available, NCAA ticket information will not be avail-

able until after March 16, when the Irish will know when and where their first, and possibly second, round games will be held.

"Details regarding the cost, quantity, availability and on-sale date are entirely dependent on the NCAA host site and will not be available until after the tournament field is determined," Berlo said.

Berlo said the Ticket Office and the Offices of Student Affairs work together to determine NCAA ticket availability for students.

"Historically, tickets have been made available to students if at all possible," he said.

The distance to the game site and the chances of miss-

ing class to attend are generally factored into decisions about whether some tickets will be allocated expressly to students or if general tickets will be promoted to student buyers.

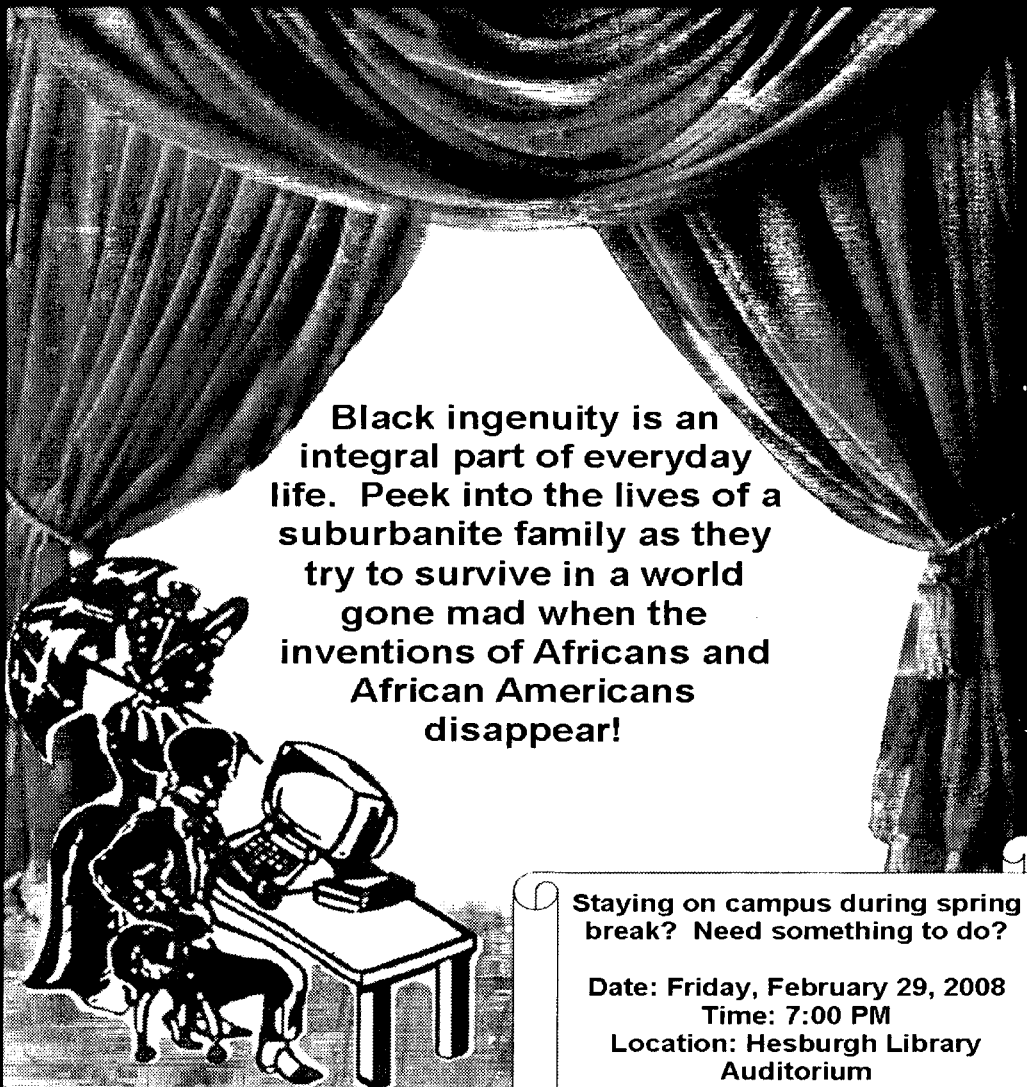
Council of Representative members requested a ticket lottery for the fall football game at Boston College last semester and were met with opposition from the University because it was said a two-day weekend wasn't enough time to make the trip to Boston and not miss class.

Berlo said, however, that student fans are considered important to the success of the teams.

"Whenever possible, the men's basketball team and Athletic Department want our student body cheering on and supporting their classmates on the court," he said.

Contact John Tierney at jtierne1@nd.edu

The University of Notre Dame
Multicultural Student Programs and Services
is proud to invite you to a theatrical production of



Black ingenuity is an integral part of everyday life. Peek into the lives of a suburbanite family as they try to survive in a world gone mad when the inventions of Africans and African Americans disappear!

Staying on campus during spring break? Need something to do?

Date: Friday, February 29, 2008
Time: 7:00 PM
Location: Hesburgh Library Auditorium

Brought to you by Multicultural Student Programs and Services
"Expanding the Crossroads of Learning Through Innovation and Discovery"

Please recycle
The Observer.

WORLD & NATION

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

N. Korea welcomes N.Y. Philharmonic

PYONGYANG, North Korea — Swirling dancers and musicians beating traditional drums welcomed the New York Philharmonic to North Korea Monday for a historic cultural exchange between countries that have been technically at war for more than a half-century.

In a burst of musical diplomacy notably devoid of propaganda glorifying leader Kim Jong Il or attacks on U.S. policy, North Korean dancers balanced water jars on their heads or twirled pink and green fans to entertain the celebrated American orchestra — which gave them a standing ovation.

The Philharmonic is the first major American cultural group to visit the isolated communist nation and the largest-ever delegation from the U.S. to visit its longtime foe.

Skull found in former children's home

LONDON — Police used dogs to search for more bodies Monday at a former children's home on the British island of Jersey after a child's skull was found under a concrete slab there.

The skull was found Saturday by a police dog in an investigation of the property, which was a home for orphaned and abandoned children until 1986. Forensic experts have determined the remains are at least 20 years old and that of a child.

Officials said that without dental records and a full list of who went missing from the home it may be difficult to determine the child's identity.

NATIONAL NEWS

NIU students struggle to return to normal

DEKALB, Ill. — Students carried backpacks stuffed with books, headed in and out of class, grabbed something to eat and plopped down in the library just like always.

But there was nothing normal about Northern Illinois University on Monday. Not with white crosses on a small knoll and television news trucks parked around campus. And not with crime scene tape strung in front of the auditorium where 11 days earlier a gunman wordlessly pumped bullets and buckshot into a crowded class, ending the lives of five students before taking his own.

"You've got to move on," said Jonathan Brock, a 25-year-old studying industrial management, who was clearly not quite ready to do that as he looked for a spot to add his thoughts to message boards on which students have expressed their grief, faith and anger.

Police shooting arouses suspicion

NEW YORK — Three undercover police detectives who fired 50 shots at an unarmed man on his wedding day, killing him, were reckless and trigger happy, prosecutors argued Monday at the opening of the officers' trial.

Sean Bell, 23, who had been at a bachelor party on the night before his wedding, was killed in a barrage of bullets outside a Queens strip club in the early hours of Nov. 25. Two of his friends were wounded.

The shooting sparked protests and debate over excessive force and police conduct in New York City.

Prosecutor Charles Testagrossa told the judge that once the evidence is heard, "It will be clear that what happened cannot be explained away as a mere accident or mistake. It can only be characterized as criminal."

LOCAL NEWS

Three boys drown in separate incidents

FORT WAYNE, Ind. — Two boys pulled from the St. Marys River near a downtown Fort Wayne apartment complex died early Monday, while crews searched in Elkhart for a boy presumed drowned in another river, authorities said.

The boys, ages 4 and 9, were pronounced dead shortly after midnight at Parkview Hospital, about five hours after they were pulled Sunday night from the frigid water, Indiana Conservation Officer Rodney Clear said.

He said the boys, who were unresponsive when they were found, never regained consciousness.

VENEZUELA

Leftists find refuge in Venezuela

Rebels fighting Columbia's U.S.-backed military receive weapons, food and medical treatment

Associated Press

EL CRUCE, Venezuela — Leftist rebels fighting Colombia's U.S.-backed military have increasingly found refuge in Venezuela, where they get weapons, food, medical treatment and a smuggling route for the cocaine that keeps them afloat.

Former rebels, local citizens and Colombian officials told The Associated Press that hundreds or even thousands of Colombian insurgents are in Venezuela at any given time.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who last month publicly recognized the rebels as "insurgent forces," denies directly supporting them. He blames Colombia for failing to police their 1,370-mile border.

But former rebels say the two main Colombian rebel groups, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, and the National Liberation Army, or ELN, buy protection from high-ranking Venezuelan National Guard and army officers, with whom they often also share a leftist ideology.

"Venezuela's army helps the guerrillas a lot," said Antonio, who spent 13 years with FARC. Now an informant for Colombia's military, he asked that his last name be omitted to protect relatives from reprisals.

Antonio was among two FARC and four ELN deserters interviewed by AP who said they moved freely across the frontier, a tangle of thick jungle, wild rivers and rugged mountains.

Well inside Venezuela, Colombian insurgents rest, train, buy arms and uniforms, recover from wounds and process cocaine, according to the rebel deserters, Venezuelan opposition politicians and Colombian officials.

Some top rebel commanders even raise families and educate their children in Venezuela, deserters told AP.

Colombian rebels were



A Venezuelan soldier checks a vehicle for contraband at the border between Venezuela and Colombia. The rebel groups are comprised of FARC and ELN soldiers.

buying weapons and seeking refuge in Venezuela long before Chavez came to power in 1999. But border zone residents say their presence and influence have grown under Venezuela's leftist leader, principally in the states of Zulia, Tachira, Apure and Chavez's home state of Barinas.

Inside Colombia, the rebel forces have been seriously weakened by a Colombian military fortified by U.S. training, weapons, satellite intelligence and communications intercepts.

Venezuela's safe haven has helped to keep their insurgencies alive, particularly because it enables the rebels to extract tons of Colombian cocaine for unhindered shipment to the

United States and Europe, according to U.S. and Colombian officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they said they didn't want to provoke Chavez.

In the dusty Zulia village of El Cruce, Venezuelan soldiers maintain nearby checkpoints but cede control of the town to Colombian rebels, residents say. Venezuelan officers also ferry rebels around in their vehicles, the deserters said.

"They are protected by a cloak that nobody touches," said Teofilo Duran, a Chavez foe who is mayor of the El Cruce district.

Roman, who quit FARC in January, said he broke his left thigh bone last year and had it repaired at the munic-

ipal hospital in Guasdalito, a town in Apure.

He said FARC paid for the operation and his monthlong recuperation at a private residence with seven other guerrillas.

"I was the only one who wasn't there for bullet wounds," he said. Roman, too, would only be identified by his first name.

No one interviewed by AP — including retired Gen. Raul Baduel, a former close ally who recently split with Chavez — alleged or provided evidence that Chavez is personally involved in sheltering or militarily backing Colombian rebels.

But there is little doubt senior rebel commanders have traveled freely and even lived in Venezuela.

Am. Airlines defends staff after in-flight death

Associated Press

NEW YORK — American Airlines defended its staff as professional and its equipment as sound Monday after a swift review of a passenger's in-flight death, despite her family's claims that the crew ignored her pleas until it was too late.

Carine Desir, 44, was pronounced dead Friday on a Haiti-to-New York flight by a pediatrician who said he tried to use the plane's defibrillator on her as she faded, but her pulse was already too weak for it to work.

The doctor, Joel Shulkin, was one of several medical professionals who stepped in after flight attendants asked if any were on board. Shulkin said through his attorney, Justin Nadeau, that two

emergency medical technicians performed CPR on Desir, a diabetic.

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

A few minutes later, Desir said she was having trouble breathing and asked for oxygen, Oliver said. "Don't let me die," he recalled her saying.

But a flight attendant twice refused her request, Oliver said.

Airline spokesman Charley Wilson said Desir's cousin flagged down a flight attendant and said Desir had diabetes

and needed oxygen. "The flight attendant responded, 'OK, but we usually don't need to treat diabetes with oxygen, but let me check anyway and get back to you,'" Wilson said.

The employee spoke with another flight attendant, and both went to Desir within three minutes, according to Wilson.

"By that time the situation was worsening, and they immediately began administering oxygen," he said.

Flight attendants are trained not to automatically give oxygen to every passenger who requests it but instead use airline criteria to judge when it's needed, said Leslie Mayo, a spokeswoman for the union representing American's attendants.

History

continued from page 1

A planned lecture by Reginald Robinson, a professor at Southern Illinois University, was prevented from reaching campus by bad weather. In his stead, James Ford, a graduate student at Notre Dame, discussed reconstructing the record of black history. Ford spoke of the need for black Americans to know and appreciate where they came from, a theme Williams said was central to the conference.

After Ford's talk, Verge Gillam, founder of the Association of African-American Role Models (AAARM), spoke about the Underground Railroad. Gillam discussed black history during the era of the Civil War and the impact of black migration northward.

Saturday's final presentation featured Bishop Gideon Adjei, founder of Crystal Horizons Investment and father of Notre Dame junior Alvin Adjei.

His lecture, called "Visions for Victory," focused on the number of different platforms on which people must focus in order not only to achieve equality in society, but also to better the world.

Adjei began by introducing himself as the descendent of Ghanaian slave traders. He apologized to the black community for his family's help in selling many blacks into slavery. He noted that his ancestors were unaware of the inhumane treatment that they were to receive upon arrival in the Americas.

"On behalf of the South Bend and Notre Dame communities, I accepted his apology," G. David Moss, assistant vice president with the Office of Student Affairs and advisor for Wabruda, said.

Moss said Adjei's public apology was one of the most profound aspects of the Conference for him.

"We can now look past this since we have reconciled and look at what we can do to move on," Moss said.

Adjei discussed a number of different areas, or "visions," on which to focus, from regaining spirituality to strengthening family relationships to taking care of education, which he said is "the key to success."

Adjei said there is a need for universal betterment of society, regardless of race, age or socioeconomic status.

"These visions for victory can be applied to anyone," Adjei said.

Saturday's events closed with a performance by spoken word artist Taalam Acey at Legends, where the Conference saw its highest attendance with more than 100 audience members, Williams said.

Sunday's activities took participants out of the classroom with an excursion into southern Michigan to view a number of important Underground Railroad sites, including a visit to the Underground Railroad Cemetery in Vandalia, Mich., a family farm in Paw Paw, Mich., and the Sojourner Truth

statue in Battle Creek, Mich.

Williams and Moss both said they were pleased with Sunday's turnout, particularly with the numbers of South Bend community members.

"It was a successful way of building the community between Notre Dame and South Bend," Moss said.

Many community members shared their personal histories of the Underground Railroad with the Wabruda members.

"The Conference

really aimed to create some dialogue," Moss said. "The more we can talk about these issues honestly, the more the Notre Dame community can move forward."

Contact Katie Peralta at kperalta@nd.edu

IRAQ

Civilians fear Turkish troops

Associated Press

AMADIYA — Turkey says it is not targeting civilians as it chases after separatist rebels in northern Iraq, but people in Iraq's semiautonomous Kurdish region say they have lived in fear since the incursion began.

Some residents of this area 18 miles from the Iraq-Turkey border thought they'd escaped to a safe haven, having abandoned homes closer to the border to avoid skirmishes between the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, and Turkish troops.

But with the Turks mounting their first confirmed ground operation in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion in 2003, some say they are fearful of getting caught in the deadly crossfire.

Already, the Turkish military says it has killed 153 rebels since fighting began last

Thursday. Turks fired barrage after barrage of artillery shells at rebels Monday, and its military said it had hit some 30 targets in the last 24 hours. The Turks have put their own death toll at 17; a funeral service for three troops was held Monday.

"Whenever the children hear the military operations, they feel frightened," said school headmaster Aoni Mashaghti. "Most of the women came to school to take their kids out. Whenever they hear any sound of bombardment, the school becomes empty."

Hawzan Hussein, who lives in a community of about 160 families, said people are worried because some of the Turkish targets are so close to their homes.

The explosions "have become a daily scene that frightened me with the possibility of hitting our house any time," the 25-year-old said.

Associated Press Television

News footage from the border area showed Turkish tanks dug into barren hillsides, with armored vehicles taking positions in towns.

The PKK wants autonomy for the predominantly Kurdish southeastern Turkey, and rebels have carried out attacks in Turkey from bases in Kurdish Iraq. The conflict started in 1984 and has killed up to 40,000 people.

Turkey has assured Iraq and the U.S. military that the operation would be limited to attacks on rebels. The U.S. and European Union consider the PKK a terrorist group.

Lt. Gen. Carter Ham, director of operations for the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters at the Pentagon on Monday that the United States has no indications that the Turks are straying from their original assurance to Washington that their incursion would be "limited in depth and in duration."

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.

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NASDAQ	2,327.48	+24.13
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S&P 500	1,371.80	+18.69
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	13,914.57	0.00
FTSE 100 (London)	5,999.50	+111.70

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	+1.26	+1.71	137.33
FINANCIAL SEL SPDR (XLF)	0.00	0.00	27.20
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	+0.50	+0.22	43.90
CITIGROUP INC (C)	-1.51	-0.38	24.74

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	+2.96	+0.112	3.902
13-WEEK BILL	-1.40	-0.030	2.110
30-YEAR BOND	+1.79	+0.082	4.664
5-YEAR NOTE	+5.21	+0.146	2.947

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GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-7.30	940.50
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BRITISH POUND	0.5082

IN BRIEF

Getty Images to sell for \$2.1 billion

SEATTLE — Getty Images Inc., the leading seller of stock photography and video footage, said Monday it has agreed to a \$2.1 billion buyout from the private equity group Hellman & Friedman LLC.

Ten-year-old Getty, whose nearest competitor is privately held Corbis Corp., put itself up for sale in January after taking a beating on Wall Street for two years.

After reaching a high above \$94 per share in November 2005, Getty's shares tumbled 77 percent to \$21.80 in Jan. 18 of this year, as higher costs ate away at profits. Four days later, the Seattle-based company said it would consider strategic alternatives to boost shareholder value.

Troy Mastin, an analyst at William Blair & Co., said Getty's core business of selling more-expensive photographs to newspapers and magazines had declined as those media struggled with the rise of Internet content. Sales to direct mail and brochure customers also cooled.

Visa IPO could raise nearly \$19 billion

NEW YORK — Stocks are shaky, credit is tight, the economy may be tipping into a recession. Not the best of times to be going to the markets for what could be the largest initial public offering in U.S. history.

That's the gamble Visa is taking as it gave details Monday about an IPO that could raise up to nearly \$19 billion: If it works, it could be an encouraging sign to the stock markets and may even help loosen the credit knot.

While Visa's IPO will have little direct effect on its cardholders, the banks that issue Visa cards are expected to see a total windfall of more than \$10 billion — which might keep them from pulling back credit lines further and pushing rates higher.

"That's a good thing for the banks, and a good thing for consumers. It might help ease the credit crisis a bit," said Ben Woolsey, marketing director at the card information Web site CreditCards.com.

Banks have suffered huge losses tied to defaults on subprime housing loans and are gearing up for more as consumer credit deteriorates. JPMorgan Chase & Co. — which has a 23 percent stake in Visa — stands to gain the most. The more cash-strapped Citigroup Inc. and Bank of America Corp. are also Visa stockholders.

Internet networks fight for rights

Questions raised about owners interfering with traffic flow on the Web

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Internet users should be free to surf where they want and download what they please. But shouldn't the owners of the networks that make the Internet possible also have rights?

That, in a nutshell, is the topic of debate at a special public meeting of the Federal Communications Commission at Harvard Law School on Monday.

Recent events involving Comcast Corp. and Verizon Wireless have raised questions about network owners interfering with customer traffic flow. The meeting also is expected to attract a rally on minority media ownership.

The session is the agency's most serious public discussion to date of the principle of "network neutrality." That is the idea that all Internet traffic should be treated equally.

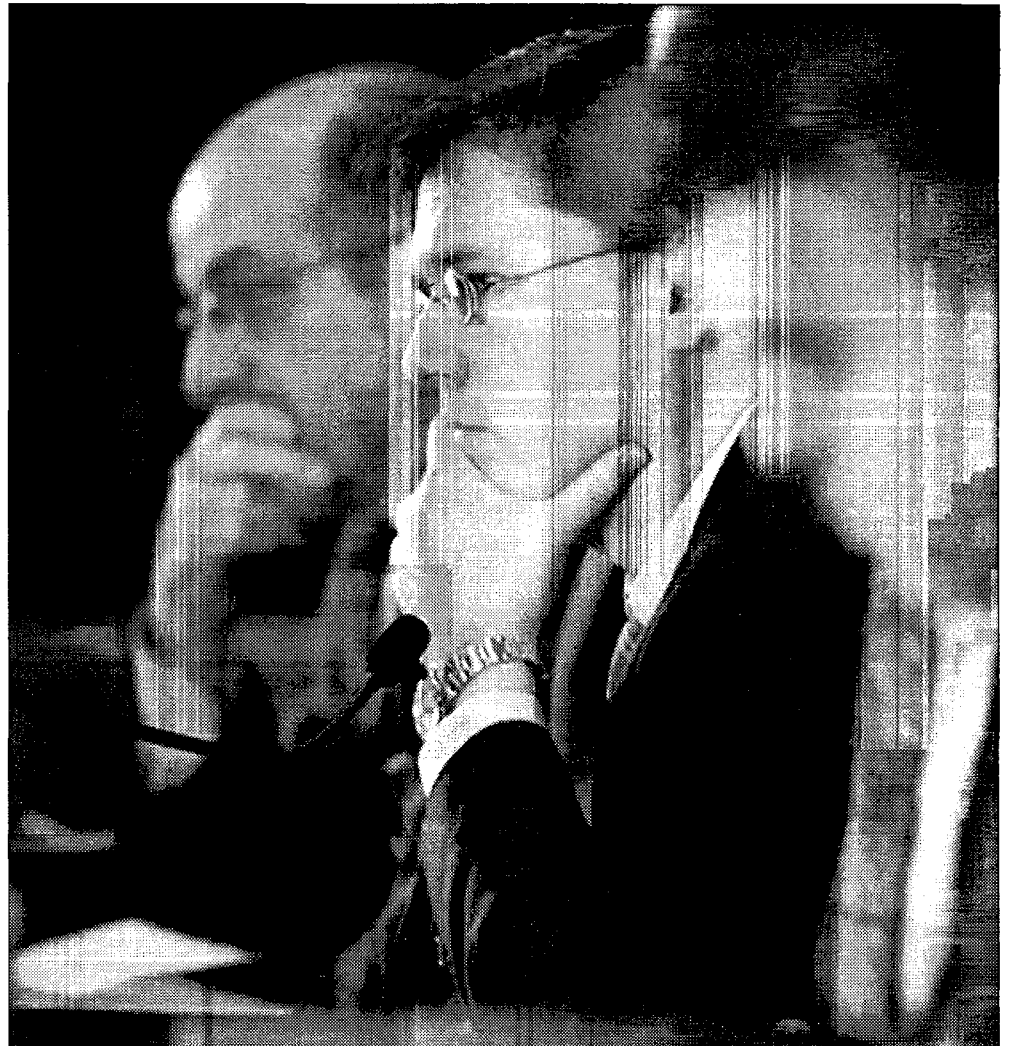
Among the speakers are the federal policy chiefs for Comcast and Verizon Communications Inc. as well as representatives from public interest groups and academia who have criticized the companies' practices.

Comcast is the subject of an FCC investigation regarding charges it has hampered traffic between users without notice. This practice was raised by an Associated Press story in October.

"I'm concerned about Comcast limiting the ability of people to go anywhere they want to on the free Internet," the commission chairman, Kevin Martin, told the AP on Friday. "And that's what the hearing is about."

The company is accused of violating the FCC's policy against Internet discrimination. Comcast has denied the allegations.

"To be clear, Comcast does not, has not, and will not block any Web sites or online



Federal Communications Commission chair Kevin J. Martin, center, listens to testimony during a public meeting of the FCC at Harvard Law School Monday.

applications, including peer-to-peer services, and no one has demonstrated otherwise," company spokeswoman Sena Fitzmaurice said.

The public meeting also will address Verizon Wireless' denial in late September of a request by an abortion rights group to use its mobile network for a text messaging program. The company has since said it was a mistake.

Congress is considering legislation by Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., that would require the FCC to conduct eight "broadband summits" around the country on the

network neutrality issue.

Markey, chairman of the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on telecommunications and the Internet said Friday his bill is an effort to "ensure that we do have a national broadband policy" and to make sure "consumer rights are protected" when it comes to broadband, or high-speed, services.

On the same day and location of the hearing, the Boston and Cambridge, Mass., branches of the NAACP plan to host a "take back our media" rally, according to a flier that was

circulated on the Internet.

The flier includes quotations from several civil rights groups criticizing Martin's policies on media ownership. The Rev. Jesse Jackson was quoted as claiming Martin supports a "massive new and unjustified welfare for the rich program."

But in a statement Friday, Jackson denied making such a comment and said it does not reflect his position or that of his Rainbow/PUSH Coalition. "We have always enjoyed a constructive relationship with the FCC and look forward to continuing it," the statement said.

Wall Street storms upward, revives hope

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street bolted higher Monday after Standard & Poor's affirmed its ratings for Ambac Financial Group Inc. and MBIA Inc., raising hopes that troubled bond insurers will emerge from the credit market crisis on solid footing. The Dow Jones industrials rallied nearly 190 points.

The news came as a relief to a market that has fallen sharply in recent months on any negative news about the insurers; investors feared that a downgrade of the insurers' credit ratings would lead to billions of dollars in write-downs of securities held by already troubled banks and investment firms. Rating agencies including S&P have been under pressure to downgrade the insurers after they weakened their financial positions by insuring subprime mortgage securities that later collapsed.

There has been speculation that Ambac might find sufficient capital early this week to hold onto the stellar "AAA" rating it needs to remain in the municipal bond business. Municipalities and companies use these insurers to back bonds, allowing them to get higher ratings and cheaper financing.

"This is essentially evidence that S&P has signed off any tentative deal," said Charlie Smith, chief investment officer at Fort Pitt Capital Group, of the rating agency's announcement.

Financial institutions have already suffered billions of dollars in losses from securities that lost value during the fourth quarter.

Chris Johnson, president of Johnson Research Group, said the market continues to look for any sign that financial stocks will make it through the credit crisis. Experts believe keeping bond insurers whole will spare greater losses for major global banks and brokerages.

"Even the smallest bit of positive news and the market takes off," he said. "Investors get excited if they sense a bottom in the financials because they've been the Achilles' heel of this market."

The Dow rose 189.20, or 1.53 percent, to 12,570.22.

Broader stock indexes also closed with a solid advance. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 18.69, or 1.38 percent, to 1,371.80; and the Nasdaq composite index added 24.13, or 1.05 percent, to 2,327.48.

Advancing issues outpaced decliners by about 2 to 1 on the New York Stock Exchange. Consolidated volume, which spiked after S&P affirmed the bond insurers, came to 3.71 billion shares from 3.46 billion on Friday.

Bond prices fell. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, rose to 3.90 percent from 3.80 percent late Friday. The yield edge up to 3.91 percent in after-hours trading.

Minister regains control of Muslim movement

Farrakhan recovers to lead Nation of Islam again

Associated Press

CHICAGO — A year after delivering what the Nation of Islam deemed its ailing leader's final public address, Minister Louis Farrakhan has regained control of the movement and his place in its spotlight, a top aide said.

Months before delivering the 2007 Saviours' Day speech in Detroit, Farrakhan had passed daily leadership of the Chicago-based religion to an executive board as he recuperated from serious complications from prostate cancer.

Some experts were quick to predict an inevitable fracturing of Nation of Islam leadership without Farrakhan, the organization's best-known leader and charismatic speaker.

But on Sunday, a healthy-looking Farrakhan returned for another Saviours' Day, delivering a two-hour speech in which the 74-year-old expressed his hopes for the presidential election and outlined his view of the Nation's future tone.

Minister Ishmael Muhammad, top assisting minister at the organization's Mosque Maryam on the city's South Side and who is widely

believed to be Farrakhan's successor, told The Associated Press that Farrakhan has quietly reassumed full responsibility for the Nation during the past year.

In fact, Farrakhan passed daily leadership duties to an executive board for only a few months before taking back the organization's reins, Muhammad said.

"God has spared his life and kept him here," Muhammad said. "He has work to do and complete."

In May, Farrakhan delivered a message of unity at St. Sabina Catholic Church on Chicago's South Side. In October, he addressed a crowd of about 5,000 in a commemoration of the 12th anniversary of the Million Man March. He has since produced a series of lectures for youth with titles like "Black Youth in Peril."

On Sunday, Farrakhan spoke for two hours to an estimated 20,000 people during his first major address in a year, pausing only to wipe sweat from his forehead.

He told followers his weight was up to a robust 192 pounds — up from a low of 158 pounds in late 2006 — and suggested that he may be ready to assume a more public profile.

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Recycle the Observer.

Ga. schools separate sexes

Associated Press

GREENSBORO, Ga. — Nearly four decades after this rural Georgia county stopped segregating its schools by race, it wants to divide students again — this time by sex.

Greene County is set to become the first school district in the nation to go entirely single-sex, with boys and girls in separate classrooms — a move born of desperation over years of poor test scores, soaring dropout rates and high numbers of teenage pregnancies.

"At the rate we're moving, we're never going to catch up," Superintendent Shawn McCollough told parents in an impassioned speech last week. "If we're going to take some steps, let's take some big steps."

This pine-shrouded county of about 14,400 people between Atlanta and Augusta has in recent years become a magnet for retirees moving into luxury developments along the shore of Lake Oconee. But the vast

majority of longtime residents — and most of the 2,000 students in the county's schools — are black and working class.

McCollough pointed to research showing that boys and girls learn differently, and said separating them will allow teachers to tailor their lessons. Also, boys won't misbehave as much because they will no longer be trying to impress the girls, and the girls will be more likely to speak up in class because they won't be afraid to look smart in front of the boys, he said.

The school board's move to radically overhaul the system next fall has angered parents, students and teachers, who say they weren't consulted. And one of the nation's foremost proponents of single-sex education warned that the board has gone too far.

The measure, approved two weeks ago, applies to the high school, the middle school and both elementary schools. It exempts only the preschool and a charter school, which is public but operates independently.

"I am outraged," said Tammi Freeman, who has two children at the high school. "I am disgusted. It's making our county look like our kids are trouble when they're not."

Leonard Sax, head of the National Association for Single Sex Public Education, said that while single-sex schools and classrooms are on the increase, he knows of no other community that has converted its entire school system. He called the move illegal.

Federal law allows single-sex classrooms or schools, but parents must also have the option of publicly funded coeducation for their children, Sax said.

"This is the worst kind of publicity for our movement," he said. "It misses the whole point. Our movement is about choice. One size does not fit all. Even a small school district needs to provide choice."

U.S. Education Department spokeswoman Samara Yudof said officials "do not have sufficient facts to determine if the district would be in compliance" with federal law.

AUSTRIA

Documents may reveal Iranian nuclear plans

Tehran may have developed arms after 2003

Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria — The U.N. nuclear monitoring agency presented documents Monday that diplomats said indicate Iran may have focused on a nuclear weapons program after 2003 — the year that a U.S. intelligence report says such work stopped.

Iran again denied ever trying to make such arms. Ali Ashgar Soltanieh, the chief Iranian delegate to the International Atomic Energy Agency, dismissed the information showcased by the body as "forgeries."

He and other diplomats, all linked to the IAEA, commented after a closed-door presentation to the agency's 35-nation board of intelligence findings from the U.S. and its allies and other information purporting to show Iranian attempts to make nuclear arms.

A summarized U.S. National Intelligence Estimate, made public late last year, also came to the conclusion that Tehran was conducting atomic weapons work. But it said the Iranians froze such work in 2003.

Asked whether board members were shown information indicating Tehran continued weapons-related activities after that time, Simon Smith, the chief British delegate to the IAEA, said: "Certainly some of the dates ... went beyond 2003."

He did not elaborate. But another diplomat at the presentation, who agreed to discuss the meeting only if not quoted by name, said some of the documentation focused on an Iranian report on nuclear activities that some experts have said could be related to weapons.

She said it was unclear whether the project was being actively worked on in 2004 or the report was a review of past activities. Still, any Iranian focus on nuclear weapons work in 2004 would at least indicate continued interest past the time-frame outlined in the U.S. intelligence estimate.

A senior diplomat who attended the IAEA meeting said that among the material shown was an Iranian video depicting mock-ups of a missile re-entry vehicle. He said IAEA Director General Oli Heinonen suggested the component — which brings missiles back from the stratosphere — was configured in a way that strongly suggests it was meant to carry a nuclear warhead.

Other documentation showed the Iranians experimenting with warheads and missile trajectories where "the height of the burst ... didn't make sense for conventional warheads," he said.

Smith and the senior diplomat both said the material shown to the board came from a variety of sources, including information gathered by the agency and intelligence provided by member nations.

"The assumption is this was not something that was being thought about or talked about, but the assumption is it was being practically worked on," Smith told reporters.

He said the IAEA presented a "fairly detailed set of illustrations and descriptions of how you would build a nuclear warhead, how you would fit it into a delivery vehicle, how you would expect it to perform."

The U.N. agency released a report last week saying that suspicions about most past Iranian nuclear activities had eased or been laid to rest. But the report also noted Iran had rejected documents linking it to missile and explosives experiments and other work connected to a possible nuclear weapons program, calling the information false and irrelevant.

The report called weaponization "the one major ... unsolved issue relevant to the nature of Iran's nuclear program."

Most of the material shown to Iran by the IAEA on alleged attempts to make nuclear arms came from Washington, though some was provided by U.S. allies, diplomats told the AP. The agency shared it with Tehran only after the nations gave their permission.

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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 10

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

THE OBSERVER

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Challenging male promiscuity

The old double-standard — promiscuous males are studs, promiscuous females are sluts. A perennial source of outrage, bewilderment or rejoicing.

It seems this double standard is rapidly vanishing, and that chastity is almost as stigmatized among younger women in particular as among men. But insofar as the double-standard still exists, it's usually challenged by women. Isn't that partly what "The Vagina Monologues" is about? I'll understand if some of you think "only at Notre Dame ..." as I challenge it from the men's side.

When I was little, a Bon Jovi song recalled being taken to a motel by some woman and being made by her into a man. There's probably few people on Earth with less knowledge of being or becoming a man than Jon Bon Jovi; it's common sense that one cannot give what one doesn't have, so the idea of a woman giving men their manhood is idiotic. But common sense wasn't my strength, and I was very interested in becoming a man, so the suggestion intrigued me.

I soon learned what was meant by it, but it wouldn't have mattered if I hadn't. The idea that being a man meant being unchaste was thrown at me countless times as I grew up — by teammates, upperclassmen, bosses, popular culture, sometimes even older relatives — and I still encounter it. I'd say it's part of our society's cultural wallpaper.

I find this attitude as bizarre as it is prevalent. Is it that sex itself makes one manlier? Our very instincts tell us no. There's a place in our psyche in which the Samson story rings true. It makes

sense to us intuitively for athletes to abstain from sexual activity before competition, as is customary. We know what Dietrich von Hildebrand meant when describing the perfumed, suffocating atmosphere of sex. And don't we have an innate respect for asceticism? Isn't their love of pleasure one reason we despise the French, and don't we suspect it's somehow connected with their lack of courage?

Okay, maybe "success" with women isn't the cause of one's manliness so much as its effect? Again I'd say no. On the contrary — aren't the guys who get lots of girls usually just a bit promiscuous? Maybe a lot promiscuous?

Well, so what? Am I just that annoyed by guys boasting about fornicating, or even going to strip clubs, as if it were some kind of heroic accomplishment? Yes, but that's not it. Having taught in Catholic schools, I've seen how hard it is to evangelize teenage boys. There's many reasons, including evangelizers like me, but one major obstacle is their perception of the faith as effeminate. The liturgy's one problem. Catholic moral teaching is another. Now, it's terribly wrong to reduce the faith to morality, or reduce Catholic morals to sexuality. But for many people, old and young alike, a salient feature of Catholicism is the Church's prohibitions about sex.

We need to present the Church's teachings differently. Saint Thomas Aquinas taught that a measure of wrath is necessary to protect one's purity. How stirring, and utterly unlike how the call to chastity is usually offered! Priests and teachers of the faith should explain the pursuit of chastity as more like joining the Marines, less like joining the Peace Corps.

There's aspects of the faith that can't be made attractive to men, like the commands to forgive enemies and turn the other cheek. Discipleship in Christ transcends the narrow category of masculinity. But there's lots about following

Our Lord that requires us to be as strong as we can.

The affirmation of chastity as a steep good must never degenerate into a crabbed hyper-stoicism. Nor must it nurture pride and self-righteousness, spiritually deadlier than all depravity. Least of all should it make us deny the surpassing goodness of true love of man for woman, the love that makes him want to lay down his life for her.

Popular recognition of chastity as a virtue in the true sense — an excellence, a perfection of man proper to his nature and an enhancement of his being — isn't going to happen. Outright physical cowardice will sooner be celebrated. So we must reach individual hearts. It's not enough to tell boys to be chaste out of respect for women's dignity, especially when so many of the women they see show no evidence whatsoever of any such dignity. At some point, cynical as this sounds, we, men, have to stop objectifying women not because of who they are, but because of who we ourselves are. And this might sound even worse, but it's also true that a chaste man can't be controlled.

In a previous article I implied that it takes manlier qualities to be altogether celibate than to be profligate. Judging by my inbox, that struck a nerve. When so many boys and young men are quite comfortable discussing even their pornography habits with each other, as if those habits could possibly be anything other than profoundly shameful, it's natural that there's resistance to the idea of a pure heart being brave and strong. But this is a big topic, and here might be a good place for a small mind to drop it.

Greg Yatarola is a 1999 alumnus. He hopes "The Vagina Monologues" might encourage more men to consider celibacy as a life choice.

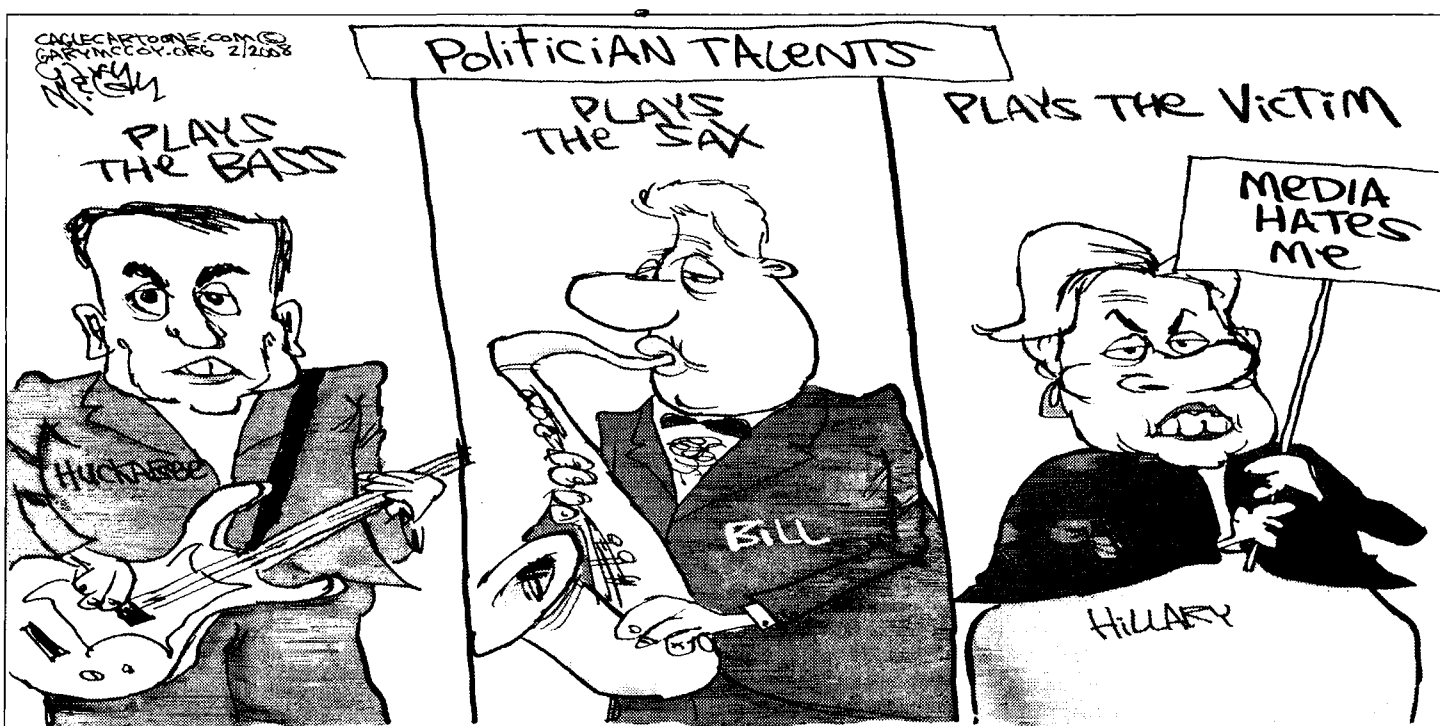
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Greg Yatarola

Dome and Domer

EDITORIAL CARTOON



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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The avoidance of taxes is the only intellectual pursuit that carries any reward."

John Maynard Keynes
English economist

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Acceptance, not tolerance

Racism is a reality that will never be completely extinguished as long as differences among people exist in society. What we can strive for, however, is acceptance through understanding. Acceptance, not tolerance. For to merely "tolerate" someone different carries the implication that we agree to live side-by-side without strife because it is "the right thing to do." But we must look beyond what we have been taught in the classroom about the ideal of equality and examine what it truly means to achieve this ideal.

Equality is not the status quo; it is an uncommon balanced state that is only achievable through combined effort and individual commitment. Each individual on this campus must care enough to question his or her subconscious prejudices, and reach out to learn about others outside of his or her comfort zone in small, but significant, ways on a daily basis. Sadness and anger are humane and important reactions of those who have been exposed to the depth, history and continuing reality of racism.

For instance, Irving Howe commended the novel "Native Son," because "Wright forced his readers to acknowledge his anger, and in that way, if none other, he wrested for himself a sense of dignity as a man. He forced his readers to confront the disease of our culture, and to one of its most terrifying symptoms he gave the name of Bigger Thomas." But anger is useless if it is not backed by the strength and conviction needed to accomplish change; and change doesn't always happen in loud movements. There is no reason to remain heartbroken, for as long as the students at Notre Dame really are the good-hearted and willing people that I have had the fortune to encounter in the past few months, there is every reason to believe that we can come closer to the delicate balance of equality, and remain distinct and true to our backgrounds in the process.

Melissa Harintho
freshman
McGlinn Hall
Feb. 25

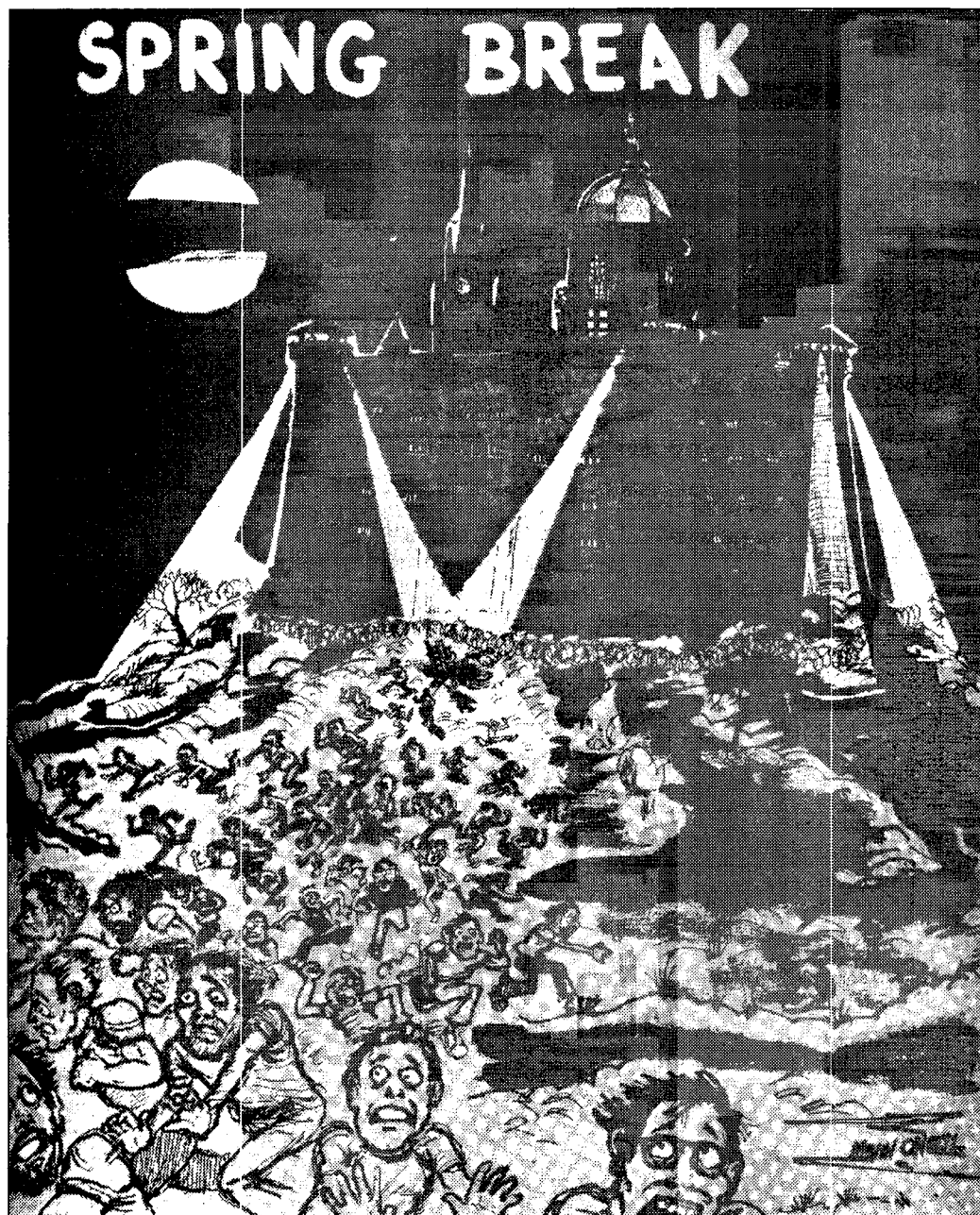
PERSPECTIVE: MARCH 9, 1967



NAPPY'S FRONT FOUR -- Four of Ara Parseghian's products have been temporarily traded to Dominic Napolitano's Bengal Bouters for the off-season. Going from left to right, soph back Tom Reynolds (183), senior guard and past heavyweight champ Angelo Schiralli, frosh center Larry Vuillemin (heavyweight) and junior All-Ameri can defensive back Tom Schoen (177), make like hard-guys for the camera. Nappy rates all four as top contenders in their class.

The above image first appeared in the March 9, 1967 edition of The Observer.

PERSPECTIVE: MARCH 20, 1972



The above image first appeared in the March 20, 1972 edition of The Observer.

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Writers and Stewart pull off Oscars

STRIKE-AFFECTED SHOW STILLS GARNERS SOME LAUGHS

For the record, I love the Oscars. Wait, that's an understatement. I'm obsessed with the Oscars. Which is why even though the Sunday night telecast was a tad underwhelming, I'm not going to say I was disappointed. Jon Stewart was much more at ease than last time, we had some wonderful victory speeches and the In Memoriam montage made me cry again.

Cassie Belek

Scene & Heard

In fact, everything that went wrong with the Oscars I'm going to blame on the fact that they only had 11 days to write the telecast due to the writers' strike. So kudos to writer Bruce Vilanch (that's right) and host Jon Stewart for making it happen.

I'll admit that I was a little harsh on Stewart two years ago, but he made me proud this time around. My favorite joke came when he was commenting on all the dark themes and psychopathic killers present in this year's nominations. He quipped, "All I can say is thank God for teen pregnancy." Adding that the country "needed that kind of light-hearted fare."

The ceremony was once again heavy on the montages, but since I love old movies so much I always enjoy those. Stewart gave us a taste of what an even more montage-heavy night would have been like if the writers' strike hadn't ended. We saw snippets of "Oscar's Salute to Binoculars and Periscopes" and "Bad Dreams: An Oscar Salute." Was I the only one who wanted to see more?

Stewart kept the jokes coming when he gave a little tribute to the acting skills of Cate Blanchett, saying that she had played a queen, a man and although it was a little known secret, the pitbull in "No Country for Old Men." The "Daily Show" anchor even played Wii on the giant screen with the 11-year-old girl who sang "Raise it Up," nominated for Best Song.

Speaking of Best Song, I have to admit that the performances from "Enchanted" were disappointing and awkward. Poor Amy Adams did a brilliant job singing "Happy Working Song," but it was just her, alone onstage. The song loses some of its charm when the CGI rats and cockroaches are missing.

But the classiest moment of the evening and of recent Oscar history came after "Falling Slowly" won the category. Glen Hansard got to give his thanks, but right as co-writer Marketa Irglova stepped to the microphone, the orchestra cut her off. Stewart saved the day when after the commercial break, he escorted Irglova onstage so she could have her Oscar moment. She said, "This is such a big deal, not only for us, but for all other independent musicians and artists that spend most of their time struggling, and this, the fact that we're standing here tonight, the fact that we're able to hold this, it's just to prove no matter how far out your dreams are, it's possible."

Unsurprisingly, the presenters didn't offer much entertainment this year. Jennifer Garner didn't slip this time and when presenting the award for Best Makeup, Katherine Heigl stated how nervous she was and said "I'm not very good at this." She could have fooled me since she's famous and everything for acting and being composed under pressure. Maybe she suddenly became aware of how heavy her bronzer was. Nevertheless "La Vie en Rose" won the category, and as soon as I saw the joy on Marion Cotillard's face, I wanted her to win Best Actress.

It was an unusual year for Oscar because all four acting awards went to Europeans. Javier Bardem (Spanish) won Best Supporting Actor for "No Country for Old Men," Tilda Swinton (British) won Best Supporting Actress for "Michael Clayton," Marion Cotillard (French) won Best Actress for "La Vie en Rose" and Daniel Day-Lewis (British) won Best Actor for "There Will Be

Blood."

I've got to say, though, that those Europeans sure do know how to give an acceptance speech. In his speech, Bardem joked, "Thank you to the Coens for being crazy enough to think that I could do that and put one of the most horrible haircuts in history over my head." He then spoke in his native tongue, dedicating his award to his mother, grandparents and Spain.

Swinton, who won in a category that was still wide-open by the time the awards began on Sunday, wished Oscar a happy birthday and said, "...and George Clooney, you know, the seriousness and the dedication to your art, seeing you climb into that rubber bat suit from 'Batman & Robin,' the one with the nipples, every morning under your costume, on the set, off the set, hanging upside-down at lunch, you rock, man."

Backstage, Swinton explained that she was just ribbing Clooney as usual. For me, it was nice seeing someone remind Clooney that however big he gets, he'll always be the guy who wore the nipple suit.

Cotillard became the Oscar sweetheart of the evening after sweethearts expected winner Julie Christie. The French actress in the much-debated fish-inspired dress beamed as she said, "Thank you life, thank you love, and it is true, there is some angels in this city." I personally think we need more people like Cotillard to remind us that sometimes, Hollywood is magical. She had me in tears.

Other awards on Sunday went to expected winners Diablo Cody for Best Original Screenplay for

So there you have it. Too spectacular, but not too terrible. We had no Gooding, Jr. moment streakers running across stage, but Oscar's birthday was still a go

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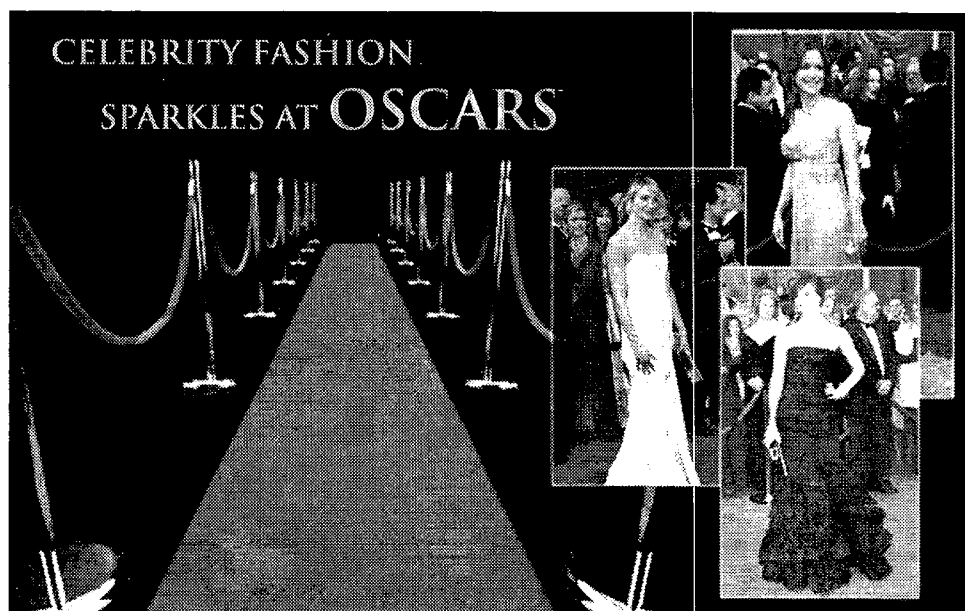
MATT HUDSON | Observer Graphic

part
s

and Joel and Ethan Coen
Best Adapted Screenplay for
Country for Old Men." When
oting the Oscar, Ethan simply
"We, uh...Thank you very
." Later, when the brothers
Best Director, Ethan joked, "I
have a lot to add to what I
earlier. Thank you."
Country for Old Men" took
the top prize of the evening,
ing up four total wins. "The
ne Ultimatum" ended up win-
three Oscars for Sound
ing, Sound Mixing and Film
ing. As happy as I was for the
n film that many believed
d have been in the Best
re category, my heart broke
f for poor Kevin O'Connell,
usan Lucci of the Oscars.
nell, nominated for sound
g for "Transformers," lost for
0th time on Sunday. Three
s after he lost last year for
ealpto," his mother passed
away. Then
backstage, the
winner for
"Dreamgirls"
insulted him. The
guy can't catch a
break, but here's
to next year
Kevin.
So there you
have it. Nothing
too spectacular,
but nothing too
terrible. We had
no Cuba Gooing,
Jr. moments or
streakers run-
across the stage, but Oscar's
birthday was still a good
It was a celebration of the
f the writers' strike, some-
that Stewart liked to call
eup sex." Sadly, the awards
n is over. Now let's get ready
ext year.

views expressed in Scene &
d are those of the author and
necessarily those of The
rver.

Contact Cassie Belek at
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MATT HUDSON | Observer Graphic

By KELLY O'SULLIVAN
Scene Writer

Although the Academy Awards would not have taken place without the great films of the past year, the fashions on the Red Carpet drew a large number of viewers before any statuettes were handed out. Whether audiences hoped to see elegant gowns or wanted to mock a fashion faux pas in real time, this year's pre-Oscars festivities did not disappoint.

There were several standouts in the early evening festivities: Cameron Diaz wore a pale pink Dior gown with clean architectural folds that fell into a nicely draped body and skirt while Jennifer Garner's Oscar de la Renta was another interesting design. Strapless at the top and fitted through the thigh, the gown featured a unique texture, with layers of black material that fell into larger ruffles at the bottom.

Kelly Preston strolled by the paparazzi on John Travolta's arm in a gown featuring a recently popular silhouette. What set Preston's look apart was the fresh and interesting marigold shade by Roberto Cavalli. Pregnant beauties Jessica Alba and Cate Blanchett glowed in richly colored gowns by Marchesa and Dries van Noten, respectively.

True to its name, the Red Carpet featured several dresses of the same color. Teen pop sensation Miley Cyrus wore an elegant, age-appropriate Valentino gown. Reminiscent of Old Hollywood glamour, Katherine Heigl showed off a vintage-inspired Escada gown, with an equally fitting hairstyle. The always classy Helen Mirren touted a deeply colored Georges Chakra gown with stunning Swarovski crystal sleeves.

Also in crimson, Heidi Klum's bold John Galiano gown was auctioned off after the big night to benefit The Heart Truth, an organization founded by the National Institute of Health to promote awareness

of women and heart disease throughout the country. The red dress is the national symbol of women and heart disease awareness, and Klum began her help promoting the cause when she wore a red Marc Jacobs creation on National Wear Red Day at the recent Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week.

The most debate-inspiring gown on the Red Carpet was certainly French actress Marion Cotillard's mermaid-esque gown by Jean Paul Gaultier. However, even skeptics of the design could not deny Cotillard's beauty when she stepped forward to accept her Oscar for Leading Actress for her role in "La Vie en Rose."

One of the biggest misses of the night was Tilda Swinton's shapeless and overly modest black washed silk-satin Lanvin gown that perplexed many. Rebecca Miller, wife of Daniel Day Lewis, topped the worst dressed list along with Swinton.

Miller's black frock featured large black gems on the bust and red ribbon bows as straps, along with long sleeves that appeared below her bare shoulders.

Further confusing the evening's audience were the simple shoes that Diablo Cody showed off to photographers. Cody was scheduled to wear a pair of million-dollar metallic T-strap heels designed by Stuart Weitzman that featured roses of Kwiat diamonds. In the days leading up to the ceremony, the writer of indie film "Juno" had made known her disappointment at being used as a stunt to publicize the shoes.

Despite the few exceptions, the ladies of Hollywood cleaned up nicely for the industry's most important night. However, even those gowns that impressed viewers the most still lacked a certain something that memorable gowns in recent years had brought to the table. Loyal Red Carpet fans will certainly be waiting for more noteworthy looks, from both the best and worst dressed, at next year's event.

Contact Kelly O'Sullivan at
kosulli2@nd.edu



Photo courtesy of oscar.com
Miley Ray Cyrus shone on the red carpet prior to the Academy Awards.



Photo courtesy of oscar.com
Swimsuit model Heidi Klum also dressed to impress Sunday night.

BENGAL BOUTS

Whalen wins unanimous decision over Zehrbach

Senior Grissinger defeats freshman Cray in third round; Gough knocks Gallic out of ring, wins by TKO in second

By MATT GAMBER, JARED JEDICK, PETE REISENAUER, SAM WERNER and LAURA MYERS

Sports Writers

166-pound division

Scott Whalen def. Nick "Jackhammer of Truth" Zehrbach

Whalen, a freshman, took advantage of his height early, knocking the senior Zehrbach down twice in the first round. The second round saw continued dominance from Whalen, as Zehrbach was forced to defend most of the round. Whalen continued to control the pace until the end, earning a unanimous victory.

Bryan Grissinger def. David Cray

Grissinger dictated the tempo of the bout by displaying a loose, confident swagger. Cray didn't back down, though, doing most of his damage in the second half of each round. Grissinger finally took a decided advantage by bloodying Cray's nose early in the third and then putting the fight away following a brief stoppage.

Charlie Gough def. Rob Gallic

Gough literally blew Gallic out of the ring in this fight, knocking him down and through the ropes early in the second round. Gallic landed several punches early in the first, but once Gough gained an advantage, he didn't relinquish it as the fight ended early by TKO.

Nazur Ahmed def. John Tierney

The contrast in styles was immediately evident, as Tierney stood straight up and looked for headshots while Ahmed's strategy was to stay lower than his taller opponent. The latter approach prevailed, and Ahmed dominated the final two rounds en route to victory by unanimous decision.

170-pound division

Mike Doran def. John Soltis

Doran displayed perhaps more emotion than any other fighter on the night, jumping out of his corner before every round, engaging the crowd and otherwise giving off an air of confidence unmatched during the preliminary rounds. In a split decision that truly went

down to the wire — an advantage wasn't clearly established until the final round, when Doran laid into the junior Soltis against the ropes before Soltis could only hold on for dear life — Doran, a freshman was able to advance.

Drew Whiting def. Brendan Collins

The sophomore Collins used a distinct height advantage to take an early lead, out-punching Whiting, a senior, nearly three to one throughout the first round. Whiting, his face covered in blood, wouldn't let his smaller stature hold him back, unloading several hooks that eventually gave him the momentum he needed to win by split decision. The fight appeared to be a deadlock after two rounds, but Whiting outlasted Collins, forcing him into the corner repeatedly in the final minute and winning the third round decisively because of his ability to land a series of jab-hook combos.

Christopher Jordan def. Charles Cossell

The senior Jordan's experience proved too much for Cossell, a sophomore, who was knocked down near the end of the first round. The officials stopped the fight after one round.

Eric Jones def. Matt Paletta

Jones, a junior, knocked down Paletta, a sophomore, who appeared to tweak something in his lower body. The officials were forced to stop the fight early in the first round.

Ben O'Brien def. Andrew Renz

O'Brien defeated Renz by unanimous decision to advance to the quarterfinals. Renz came out aggressively in each round, but O'Brien maintained his composure and leveled several series of jabs against his opponent. Renz got in some good body shots, but ended the fight bloodied and beaten.

Mike Cimino def. Scott Jarvie

Cimino, a senior, held off a late charge to beat freshman Jarvie by a split decision.

Jarvie came out with fists flying, getting in strong jabs in the first round, but Cimino blocked well and countered with some good series of his own. Both fighters tired late in the fight, and Jarvie got Cimino against the ropes late in the third

round. Unfortunately for Jarvie, though, the comeback was too little, too late.

Matt Gimlett def. Vincent Keneally

Gimlett easily defeated Keneally by a unanimous decision.

The fight started off with a quick pace, and Keneally appeared to tire late. By the end of second round, Gimlett was chasing Keneally around the ring, landing punch after punch to wear down his opponent.

Bernardo Garcia def. Patrick Martin

Garcia, a freshman, won over Martin, a junior, by unanimous decision. Martin had trouble protecting himself throughout the fight, and Garcia took advantage. Martin was able to land a few good series on the freshman, but a solid consistent jab allowed Garcia to advance to the quarterfinals with relative ease.

176-pound division

Mike Lee def. James Hassan

The fight went down to the wire, but Lee landed a good combination of body shots and jabs in the final round to take the fight. Both fighters adapted a somewhat defensive style early on, with each getting in a few good, calculated shots. Lee took control in the final round, though, and advanced to the next round by unanimous decision.

Pat Jackson def. Jonathan Parry

Pat Jackson didn't tire and managed to beat junior Jonathan Parry by unanimous decision. The fight was close for all three rounds, but Jackson was able to get in more consistent punches throughout the match. He put the nail in Parry's coffin in the third round, when he backed the junior against the ropes and landed a flurry of jabs and body shots.

Dominic Golab def. Richard Paulius

In a fight that was fast-paced from start to finish, Golab defeated Paulius by unanimous decision. Both fighters came out flying, and neither seemed to tire as the bout wore on. The intensity ramped up at the end of the second round when both fighters continued to

throw punches after the bell sounded. Golab proceeded to take control in the final round, landing several shots to his opponent's head and leaving him bloodied.

Mike Delach def. Ken Shamrell

Delach, a freshman, outlasted a tough contest from Shamrell to win by unanimous decision. Both fighters did a lot more punching than defending and with the fight close all the way through, both came out swinging in the third round. Delach was able to land a series of solid body shots and advanced to the quarterfinals.

Josh Von Schaumburg def. Daniel Glees

Glees came out more aggressive than Von Schaumburg, who may have focused on blocking Glees' attack instead of mounting his own in the first round. After getting knocked down in the first, Von Schaumburg turned the tide in the second, connecting on several jabs to the body and hooks to the face that knocked down Glees, a junior, in the second. It was more of the same in the third, as Von Schaumburg dominated the last two rounds en route to a victory by unanimous decision.

Matthew Belton def. Gavin Payne

Payne, a junior, dominated the first half of the opening round, immediately backing Belton into the corner and keeping him there long enough to land near a dozen solid jabs. Once Belton got out, though, it was a different story as he mixed in a few uppercuts to go along with an impressive arsenal of hooks and jabs. The start of the third looked much like the fight's beginning, with Payne able to get Belton in the corner once again. But once again, the senior Belton escaped and regained control, winning the fight by unanimous decision.

Jordan Smith def. Pat Allare

Smith was able to corner Allare several times, giving him plenty of opportunities to rack up the punches and points that gave him the victory by a unanimous decision. Allare mounted a substantial comeback in the final round by landing three or four uppercuts, but Smith's recovery ensured him the win.

Andres Villalba def. Barry Clark

Like many of the night's successful fighters, Villalba established himself by immediately controlling the tempo and putting his opponent on the defensive. Clark had to focus on blocking Villalba's repertoire of hooks and jabs — so much so that he could hardly fight back during Villalba's unanimous victory.

189-pound division

John Tchoula def. Bobby Hicks

Tchoula dominated this fight from start to finish — which was ended midway through the first round. He was simply too tall, strong, quick and aggressive for Hicks.

Kevin Carrier def. Daniel McDonald

Carrier charged at McDonald before the opening bell even finished ringing, immediately taking his opponent into the corner with a series of jabs before attempting several uppercuts. McDonald hardly had the opportunity to mount an attack of his own until the second round, but by then, Carrier had pulled too far ahead, guaranteeing him the unanimous decision.

Andrew Mrugala def. Kyle Kownacki

Despite being just a freshman, Mrugala came out showing no hesitation — the opening bell had to be re-sounded because he came out of the gate so quickly. A knockdown in the second round and a bevy of body shots in the third ensured Mrugala the unanimous victory over the senior Kownacki.

Xavier Burton def. Matthew Gray

Both fighters kept up the intensity for all three rounds, but Burton outlasted Gray, landing a consistent series of jabs in the first two rounds. Gray attempted to storm back in the third, but Burton fended off the attack, and effectively countered with his own flurry of punches. Burton won by unanimous decision.

Chris Hapak def. Thomas Smith

Hapak dominated Smith and beat the freshman by unanimous decision. Hapak was

see RING/page 16

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the next hour.

Coca-Cola translated from
Chinese means "to make
mouth happy"

Human jaw muscles can
generate a force of 200 pounds on
the molars.

AROUND THE NATION

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

NCAA Men's Basketball AP Top 25 Poll

		record	votes
1	Tennessee	25-2	1,797
2	Memphis	26-1	1,682
3	North Carolina	26-2	1,668
4	UCLA	24-3	1,593
5	Texas	23-4	1,478
6	Kansas	24-3	1,368
7	Duke	23-3	1,344
8	Stanford	22-4	1,264
9	Xavier	24-4	1,228
10	Wisconsin	23-4	1,175
11	Georgetown	22-4	1,101
12	Indiana	23-4	969
13	Louisville	22-6	828
14	Butler	25-3	752
15	Connecticut	21-6	688
16	Purdue	21-6	655
17	NOTRE DAME	21-5	630
18	Vanderbilt	23-4	627
19	Michigan State	22-5	625
20	Drake	24-3	621
21	Marquette	20-6	389
22	Washington State	21-6	364
23	Kent State	23-5	125
24	Gonzaga	21-6	94
25	Saint Mary's	23-4	77

NCAA Men's Basketball ESPN/USA Today Poll

		record	votes
1	Tennessee	25-2	775
2	North Carolina	26-2	726
3	Memphis	26-1	714
4	UCLA	24-3	669
5	Texas	23-4	635
6	Duke	23-3	590
7	Kansas	24-3	581
8	Stanford	22-4	546
9	Wisconsin	23-4	523
10	Georgetown	22-4	501
11	Xavier	24-4	475
12	Indiana	23-4	424
13	Butler	25-3	365
14	Vanderbilt	23-4	346
15	Michigan State	22-5	287
16	Connecticut	21-6	285
17	NOTRE DAME	21-5	272
18	Louisville	22-6	268
19	Purdue	21-6	263
20	Drake	24-3	259
21	Marquette	20-6	173
22	Washington State	21-6	138
23	Saint Mary's	23-4	89
24	Kent State	23-5	30
25	Brigham Young	21-6	27

MIAA Women's Basketball Standings

	team	league	overall
1	Hope	16-0	24-0
2	Albion	13-3	20-4
3	Calvin	11-5	15-8
4	SAINT MARY'S	8-8	12-12
5	Olivet	7-9	9-15
6	Adrian	7-9	9-15
7	Alma	6-10	9-14
8	Tri-State	3-10	6-18
9	Kalamazoo	1-15	4-20

NASCAR



Carl Edwards does a backflip off his car after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Auto Club 500 at the Auto Club Speedway in Fontana, Calif., Monday.

Edwards takes Sprint Cup despite rain delay

Associated Press

FONTANA, Calif. — For Carl Edwards, it's a signal. At least one NASCAR Sprint Cup team is ready to take on Hendrick Motorsports.

Edwards won the rain-delayed Auto Club 500 on Monday, finishing ahead of Jimmie Johnson and Jeff Gordon. In a race that resumed with the 88th of 250 laps, Edwards assumed the lead for good with 13 laps left.

"I hope it's an indication we've caught up with them," Edwards said after the eighth victory of his career. "They still were second and third and they were the guys to beat today. I hope this is a sign we're

up to their standards, to their level."

Johnson took the green flag for the final restart in the lead with 26 laps left, but Edwards surged from third. He then showed fine form on his traditional victory backflip after capturing the checkered flag in a race that ended under caution when Dale Jarrett spun on the final lap.

Edwards had it all but wrapped up at that point, driving his Roush Fenway No. 99 Ford to a lead of more than four seconds over Johnson. It was his first victory at Fontana but his seventh top-10 finish in eight starts at the track formerly known as California Speedway.

Gordon, who dominated Sunday's rain-interrupted racing, finished third. He was followed by Kyle Busch and Roush's Matt Kenseth, who had won the two previous February races at this track. Another Roush driver, Greg Biffle, won this event in 2005.

A year ago, Johnson and Gordon ended 1-2 in the season points. Johnson won his second straight Cup title and the team rolled up 18 victories in 36 races. The Hendrick contingent also won nine of the 16 races in which NASCAR's new Car of Tomorrow was raced.

The CoT is being used for the entire Sprint Cup schedule in 2008 and its debut on Auto Club Speedway's 2-

mile oval was a triumph for Edwards and Roush Fenway Racing.

"I know that last year I would not have traded my car in for one of theirs at any of the CoT races towards the end of the year," Edwards said. "I thought we had the best car. Everyone knows, all the drivers know for sure, it's what you're sitting in a lot of the times that makes a tiny little difference and I'm proud to be driving this car."

Team co-owner Jack Roush dragged his feet testing the bigger, boxier CoT a year ago. But Roush said that changed last May when he realized other teams were getting too far ahead.

IN BRIEF

Tennessee takes over No. 1 spot, Memphis falls to No. 2

Tennessee surged to the top of The Associated Press college basketball poll for the first time Monday on the strength of its victory over Memphis in a Nos. 1-vs.-2 matchup.

The football team at Tennessee has been ranked No. 1 during four seasons, including two national titles. The women's basketball program has been a regular atop that poll since 1977, winning seven national championships under coach Pat Summitt.

Now it's the men's turn.

The Volunteers (25-2) were a runaway choice, receiving 69 first-place votes and 1,797 points from the 72-member national media panel after a 66-62 victory at Memphis. Tennessee is the 53rd school to hold the No. 1 ranking since the poll began for the 1948-49 season.

Tampa Bay to pursue Barry Bonds

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The Tampa Bay Rays have had internal discussions about the prospect of pursuing Barry Bonds.

Manager Joe Maddon said Monday he knew "little" about what was going on, but acknowledged some thought has been given to the career home-run leader.

"A minor discussion was thrown out there a little bit, and it's really not gone any further than that," Maddon said after Monday's workout at the team's spring training facility. "That's all it is right now."

The St. Petersburg Times reported in Monday's editions that team officials have conferred among themselves about Bonds and other veteran unsigned free agents, such as Kenny Lofton and Mike Piazza. Andrew Friedman, Rays vice president of baseball operations, called the report a "non-story."

Forsberg to finish season in Colorado

DENVER — The Avalanche and Peter Forsberg have agreed on a deal to bring the NHL's 2003 MVP back to Colorado through the end of the season.

Forsberg will earn about \$1.1 million prorated from a one-year, \$5 million deal, since there are about six weeks left in the regular season.

Forsberg won two Stanley Cups in his nine seasons with the Avalanche and won the Hart Trophy in 2003 after scoring 29 goals and adding 77 assists.

But foot and ankle injuries have plagued him in recent years.

Until Monday's announcement, it appeared Forsberg wouldn't return to an NHL team this season. His agent, Don Baizley, informed teams last week that Forsberg didn't have enough confidence in the strength of his surgically repaired right foot to play.

around the dial

NCAA BASKETBALL
Ohio State at Indiana
8 p.m., ESPN

NCAA BASKETBALL
Tennessee at Vanderbilt
10 p.m., ESPN

Ring

continued from page 16

relentless, beating up on Smith from the moment the bell sounded. The freshman was unable to defend himself as he faced a barrage of jabs and swings. Smith improved as the fight went on but just couldn't stand up to the law student's onslaught.

Thomas Haan def. Ryan Landsberg

Haan took control in the second half of the fight, and defeated Ryan Landsberg by unanimous decision. Both fighters started off with a very defensive style, with each getting in only a few jabs in the first round. Haan landed a series of solid jabs to start of the second round and dominated for the remainder of the round. Haan's supremacy flowed into the final round, and he will advance to the quarter-finals.

Alexander Lough def. Fritz Schoenhut

Lough defeated Schoenhut easily, with the referee stopping the fight in the second round.

Both fighters came out tentatively, but Lough took control late in the first round, backing Schoenhut into a corner and attacking him with a barrage of jabs and uppercuts. The sophomore continued to rely on a strong uppercut in the second round to put Schoenhut on the defensive and cause the referee to end the fight.

206-pound division

James DiGiacomo def. Wil Henderson

DiGiacomo, a sophomore, landed one of the night's most thunderous blows, knocking out the MBA student, Henderson, with a haymaker midway through the first round.

Dex Cure def. Ryan Hawley

Cure more than made up for in quickness what he lacked in height in this battle of Siegfried residents. The fight was competitive for the first round and a half, but Cure connected on some big shots to eventually blow off balance and evened bloody his nose on the way to a unanimous decision.

Brent Coudron def. Reid Mahoney

Coudron used his southpaw stance to establish an early advantage and catch the freshman Mahoney off guard, taking it to him for the first 20 seconds. The fight's pace slowed considerably from there, as Coudron, a law student, forced Mahoney to come to him. Each fighter sporadically landed punches in the final two rounds, but Coudron's fast start proved to be enough to earn him a unanimous decision.

Tony Klausing def. Brian O'Connor

Klausing defeated O'Connor when the referee stopped the contest in the second round.

Klausing chased O'Connor around the ring from the beginning of the fight, at points sprinting after him to level a flurry of punches on the freshman. O'Connor never really appeared to have a chance, as he was unable to land solid punches on Klausing at any point in the fight. Klausing swung his arms wildly, but all his punches found

O'Connor's head, and the referee was forced to call the fight.

Heavyweight division

David Stedman def. Daniel Scime

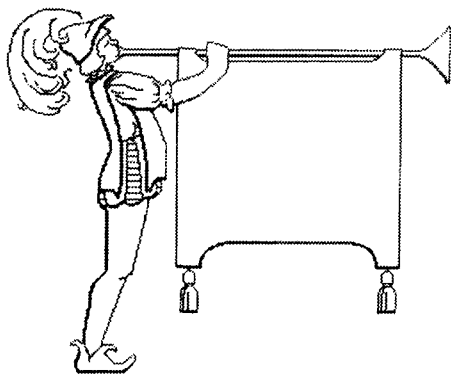
In the only heavyweight action of the night, Stedman beat Scime by unanimous decision.

Neither appeared to have an advantage early in the fight, but Scime landed a solid jab at the end of the first round to leave Stedman wobbling. Stedman landed several jabs and a strong right uppercut to start off the second round, but Scime countered with a strong left hook. At the end of the round, Scime backed his opponent onto the ropes and used a series of hooks to leave Stedman reeling. Stedman responded in the third round, landing a good series of body shots and uppercuts to take the fight.

Contact Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu, Jared Jedick at jjedick@nd.edu, Pete Reisenauer at preisena@nd.edu, Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu, and Laura Myers at lm Myers2@nd.edu



BRITT BURGESSON/The Observer
Junior Patrick Martin crouches over freshman Bernardo Garcia during the Bengal Bouts preliminaries in the JACC on Monday night. Garcia won an unanimous decision over Martin in the 170-pound division.



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

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Dakich faces OSU in first home game

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Dan Dakich passed his first test as Indiana's new coach Saturday night.

On Tuesday, the former Hoosiers player and Bob Knight assistant will fulfill his lifelong dream — being introduced to the home fans as the Hoosiers' new coach. To Dakich, who laments the circumstances surrounding Kelvin Sampson's resignation last week, it will be a bitter-sweet moment.

"I'm obviously thrilled to be sitting here, I'm not thrilled at the circumstances and I hope that's obvious, too," Dakich said Monday night on his first weekly radio show. "But I do want to thank a ton of people who sent me e-mails, text messages, letters and phone calls. The messages they left were unbelievable to me and my family. It tells me the magnitude of Indiana basketball, regardless of how things go, and it's just been an incredible thing for me personally."

For Dakich and the 12th-ranked Hoosiers (23-4, 12-2 Big Ten) it's been a tumultuous couple of weeks.

Since the university released an NCAA report accusing Sampson of five major rules violations Feb. 13, basketball

has taken a rare backseat to rumors, speculation, criticism and consternation.

Many fans questioned whether Sampson should have even been hired at a school that prides itself on not having committed a major NCAA violation since 1960. Some critics responded by booing Sampson during pregame introductions of the Hoosiers' last three home games even though the Hoosiers continued to chase their first outright Big Ten title since 1993.

Sampson's resignation Friday and Dakich's subsequent promotion were followed by a threatened players' boycott that never materialized Saturday at Northwestern. The result: An 85-82 victory that was more impressive in demonstrating the Hoosiers' resilience than their play.

Still uncertain is how fans might react to the players, six of whom skipped Dakich's first practice Friday. Dakich has repeatedly downplayed the supposed rift, reflecting on the hypothetical situation of how he would have acted in a similar predicament during his playing days.

"You don't miss practice, ever. But this isn't ever. This is extraordinary circumstances," he said.

MLB

New acquisitions give Angels depth for '08

Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — The Los Angeles Angels have been one of baseball's better teams over the past several years. They've won the AL West three of the past four seasons — and gone home frustrated in October.

"One of the things that I believe hurt us the last few years is depth. I think the real good teams have good, solid depth," said Arte Moreno, who bought the Angels in 2003, the year after they won their first — and only — World Series title.

Last fall, about half of the lineup was slowed or sidelined by injuries when Los Angeles was swept by Boston in the AL division series.

The way the Angels stack up this spring, depth shouldn't be a problem. There's a surplus of Angels in the outfield and starting rotation, with some other spots also deep in talent.

"You have to win your division first. You have to win your division outright," Moreno said. "Then you have to build for a short series. How do you match up? I'd like to think we're built for the playoffs."

Los Angeles has four outfielders with outstanding credentials after signing free-agent center fielder Torii Hunter in the off-season. Vladimir Guerrero is in right, Garret Anderson in left, and Gary Matthews Jr. is being shifted from center to some-

where. Manager Mike Scioscia intends to keep all four in the lineup, using some sort of rotation at DH.

Two other outfielders, Juan Rivera and Reggie Willits, will have to fight for playing time.

Rivera hit .310 with 23 homers and 85 RBIs and had an AL-high 13 outfield assists in 2006 but missed most of last season recuperating from a broken left leg. He has been working some at first base this spring, with Scioscia thinking he may be able to add depth there.

Willits, impressive during his rookie campaign last year despite being hampered by a gallbladder problem, batted .293 (430 at-bats) with 27 steals.

The mound is almost as crowded as the outfield.

With five starters seemingly set, the Angels added a sixth when they sent shortstop Orlando Cabrera to the Chicago White Sox for Jon Garland. His acquisition looks more significant now, since 18-game winner Kelvin Escobar is sidelined with a sore shoulder and may miss part of the season.

"A few years ago, if Kelvin Escobar went down, we'd have a problem," Moreno said, alluding to the added depth.

Not only do they have an abundance of proven players, the Angels have a number of highly regarded prospects in the pipeline.

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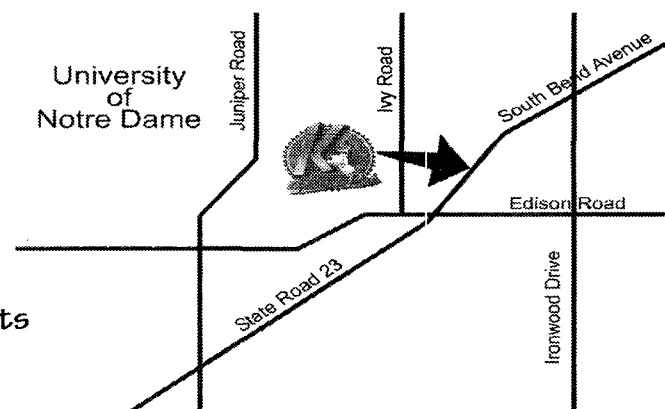


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Recycle The Observer.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Emotional Huskies return to court after tragedy

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Michael Patton heard the news and immediately grabbed his phone.

A gunman had just opened fire in a crowded lecture hall at Northern Illinois, and he wanted know where his brother was, so he tried to call.

No luck.

He tried again. And again.

Michael Patton was safe at basketball practice, but his brother was somewhere on campus.

Ricardo Patton was worried, too. On the way home from a recruiting trip, the Huskies' basketball coach knew one son was fine but the whereabouts of Ricardo Jr., a football player, were a mystery.

Cell calls were going nowhere, but finally, after nearly three hours, Michael's phone rang. His brother was on the other end, and the mystery was solved.

"We got lucky," Michael Patton said.

No one needs to remind him how lucky.

Northern Illinois will take another step toward normalcy when the Huskies host Western Michigan Tuesday in the first athletic event on campus since the shootings on Feb. 14.

Classes resumed Monday, but getting back to routine won't be easy.

Not when there are white crosses on a knoll. Not when there's crime scene tape outside the auditorium where the gunman opened fire, killing five students before taking his own life. Not when counselors are attending classes, offering to help students.

For a school determined to move on, a basketball game is just a small step. Or, maybe it is more than that.

"I think it's huge," coach Ricardo Patton said. "When you talk about trying to get over as best you can and move

forward after such a devastating tragedy, I think it's great to get back to some sense of normalcy as best you can."

No NIU athletes were among the killed or wounded, although a men's soccer player was in the class during the rampage.

The shootings stirred the elder Patton's memories of the Columbine High School massacre in 1999. He was the head coach at Colorado and one of his players, Josh Townsend, lost a sister. Patton took over 11 months ago at this rural school in DeKalb, Ill., about 65 miles from Chicago.

Senior Shaun Logan had film analysis class the day of the shootings in the lecture hall where they occurred.

"I was just in there that morning," said Logan, a forward.

"If this would have happened any earlier, I would have been in there. So it makes you feel kind of weird."

Michael Patton's friend was there during the shootings, but she escaped without injury. He has a theater class in that hall, but hasn't been by since then. His class got moved, as did Logan's.

"I don't know if I'd want to go by it, to be honest with you," said Michael Patton, a freshman. "For me, it's just kind of easier to stay away from the area. It makes me think about it a lot more. Hopefully, I won't have to go near that lecture hall."

There has been an outpouring of support from colleges and pro teams since the shootings. Coaches and administrators got calls from their counterparts at Virginia Tech, where a massacre last spring left 33 dead and dozens injured.

Closer to home, there were moments of silence at college and pro games. The Chicago Bulls wore NIU T-shirts during

pregame warmups, and the Chicago Blackhawks sported NIU decals on their helmets. The Chicago White Sox will autograph caps that they wear during Wednesday's exhibition opener against Colorado and ship them to NIU for an auction to benefit the university's February 14 Student Scholarship Fund. They will also auction an autographed NIU jersey and cap along with a White Sox bat and two other

signed items on their Web site next month, with the proceeds going toward the scholarship fund.

Western Michigan has been paying tribute, too, wearing NIU ribbons on its jerseys. And, of course, there will be tributes on Tuesday.

This was already a difficult season for the Huskies (6-17, 3-8

Mid-American Conference), even though their most recent game was their

best. Two days before the shootings, they beat Akron 88-78 and snapped the Zips' 22-game home winning streak. They were scheduled to host Western Michigan on Feb. 17, but NIU had closed down by then.

When the team returned to practice on Wednesday, the elder Patton noticed "a level of focus and excitement just getting back around one-another."

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Prelims

continued from page 24

ee to stop the fight about a minute in. Conti came out aggressively, knocking Camarda down 30 seconds in before landing the blow that ended the bout.

Sean McNichols def. Michael Perez

McNichols got off to a quick start and then outlasted Perez, as endurance wasn't a concern for the junior — who is also a marathon runner. McNichols landed his punches with a greater frequency as the fight wore on, and he eventually proved too much for Perez.

Andrew Mok def. Andrew Crecellus

Both boxers came out swinging from the get-go, with neither fighter allowing the other to dance away in the first minute. The pace slowed considerably from there as each got winded and settled down. Mok took advantage of Crecellus' over-aggressiveness, winning the fight by unanimous decision.

Matt Dobleman def. Daniel Rotar

The match started out close but Rotar tired quickly and Dobleman took over. He eventually threw a flurry of punches, which gave Rotar a bloody nose. Dobleman was given the victory when the referee suspended the match.

Patrick W. O'Brien def. Nicholas Abercrombie

At the close of the first round, O'Brien took control of the match with a couple of solid punches. The second round brought much of the same, with O'Brien throwing a punishing blow at the end of the round. O'Brien's size advantage was

evident throughout the match and he scored a knockout in the middle of the third round.

Christopher Schiraldi def. Nathan Serazin

In the first upset of the night, Schiraldi beat the favored Serazin by unanimous decision. Schiraldi came out with a strong first round against the highly-seeded Serazin. The second round was little bit closer, but it was clear that Schiraldi was still in control, getting the bigger punches in despite sustaining a bloody nose toward end the round. Serazin made a comeback attempt in the final round, but it was not enough.

138-pound division

Mike Howard def. John Thomson

In the weight class' opening bout, Howard dominated early in the first round. By the end of the first, though, Thomson made it interesting with a series of jabs. Thomson was able to avoid Howard's big punches in the second round, but Howard outlasted Thomson in the third to win by split decision.

Bobby Powers def. James Woods III

The fight opened up with a bang as both fighters threw huge punches quickly after the opening bell. The second round was stopped as Woods suffered a bloody nose, which persisted and became a major factor as the fight went on. Powers' ability to land thundering punches at Woods' already weakened nose won him the fight, which was ended by the referee in the middle of the third round.

John Biddle def. Nicholas Bock

In the first round, Bock threw a punishing body shot to Biddle, who came back with a hard shot to Bock's face. In the

middle of the second round, Biddle had Bock on the run, and the referee stopped the match for a standing eight-count. The count did not derail Biddle, who continued his strong round. Bock seemingly used all of his energy in the first round as Biddle kept control in the third round before the referee stopped the match and gave Biddle the win.

Chris Hartstein def. Chris Borchers

Hartstien came out with a series of punches that knocked Borchers back and led to a quick decision with Hartstein winning before the first round was even over. It was one of the most dominating performances of the night in either ring.

Chris Cugliari def. Kevin O'Brien

Both fighters came out aggressively, but Cugliari eventually landed several combos to the face that O'Brien couldn't block. Cugliari's quickness proved to be the difference in his win by unanimous decision.

Michael Johnston def. Thomas Blanchette

Blanchette resorted to grabbing Johnston whenever he could and was able to land several shots at Johnston's body before pinning him in the corner early in the third round. Johnston reestablished the momentum he held early, going on to win by unanimous decision.

Will Marra def. Soeren Palumbo

The more experienced Marra used a bevy of uppercuts to knock out Palumbo, who, like most of the young fighters participating in the Bouts, had never been exposed to punches like the ones the senior threw at him early and often. Palumbo was forced to go on the defensive from the opening

bell — and Marra took advantage, forcing the referee to stop the fight in the first round.

Brian Heath def. Anthony Dayritt

Despite Dayritt's late combos near the end of the closing round, Heath's early advantage in the back-and-forth contest proved too much, as the judges named the sophomore the victor by unanimous decision.

Thomas Schanzer def. Andy Ziccarelli

In a bout that pitted a pair of Dillon Hall residents against each other, Schanzer established control early by putting the freshman on the defensive. Schanzer's reach was helpful in the second round when he got a couple of hard punches in on Ziccarelli to close out the round. Ziccarelli tried to make a comeback in the last round, but it was just not enough as Schanzer's size advantage gave him a unanimous victory.

Mark Costanzo def. Andrew Balhoff

The first two rounds were pretty close as both fighters landed some solid punches. Costanzo took control early in the third round but Balhoff was able to make a comeback later in the round. But it was too little too late, and Costanzo was given the victory by unanimous decision.

Matthew Ireton def. Stephen Mattingly

Ireton came out hitting early and often, dominating the first round and putting Mattingly on the defensive. The second round was no different, with Ireton getting a couple huge body shots in on Mattingly, who was unable to use his long reach to his advantage. Ireton won the match by unanimous decision.

Mark Weber def. Sean Pennino

Weber showed why he's a junior captain, using his reach advantage to control the pace of the fight and force the officials to stop it in the second round. Pennino simply couldn't establish any momentum as Weber dictated the tempo by landing several big blows to the freshman's face and body.

Shawn McNeilly def. John Fullard

In a fight narrowly decided by split decision, McNeilly edged Fullard on the strength of a dominating third round. McNeilly got more aggressive as the fight wore on, and Fullard's ability to block his opponent's attack eventually deteriorated.

Tim Thayer def. Ryan McCargar

Thayer, who held a generous height advantage, crushed McCargar as the fight was stopped midway through the first round. Thayer's reach was too much for the freshman, who couldn't block an array of jabs and hooks.

Eric Arevalo def. Michael Bruns

In a fight that was stopped several times, Arevalo used an aggressive approach to top Bruns by unanimous decision. Both fighters needed assistance at some point during the fight, but Arevalo prevailed, outlasting his opponent despite the ailments.

149-pound division

Paul "The Punisher" Mower def. Brian "G-Loves" Nelb

Senior Paul Mower came out strong in first round, connecting on several combinations. Round two saw an early comeback from

sophomore Brian Nelb before Mower was able to retake command of the fight. The third round saw a furious frenzy from Nelb that was stopped by the sound technique and retaliation of Mower. The judges awarded Mower the win by unanimous decision.

Matt "Mullet" Posluszny def. Ryan "The Lion" Carey

The first round was mostly a dance with both fighters sizing each other up. Junior Posluszny's size and height advantage over Carey was key, allowing him to connect on numerous combinations, while keeping Carey at a distance too far to retaliate. Posluszny came away with a unanimous decision over the freshman Carey.

Bert Fitzgerald def. Nick "Gary" Severyn

The first round started out with even competition as both fighters exchanged jabs. The second round featured furious fighting with each boxer trying to find a weakness in the other's defense. Although Severyn connected on several combinations to the head in the third round, the graduate student Fitzgerald was able to secure the victory by split decision.

Lawrence Sullivan def. Marty Sandberg

Sandberg came out swinging, but the more patient Sullivan seemed to land nearly every punch he threw, especially in the early going. Sullivan showed his versatility by throwing punches from each side and every angle and his strength by pinning Sandberg against the ropes in all three rounds to win by unanimous decision.

Brian Koepsel def. James Heilbron

Koepsel knocked out Heilbron early in the first round. Koepsel's long reach connected, and Heilbron fell down and was unable to get himself back up to fight.

Daniel Iwanski def. Tomas Castillo

Castillo, a junior, defeated freshman Iwanski by unanimous decision.

The first two rounds were close, as the two traded blows with no decisive hits. However, Castillo came out strong in the third round, attacking at a ferocious speed.

Kristopher "El Azteca" Perez def. Marco Rosales

Perez, a junior and two-time defending champion, defeated freshman Rosales in a close match. The first round was even, but Perez came out strong in the second round, on his way to what looked like an easy victory. Rosales put up more of a fight in the third round, but his effort was not enough.

155-pound division

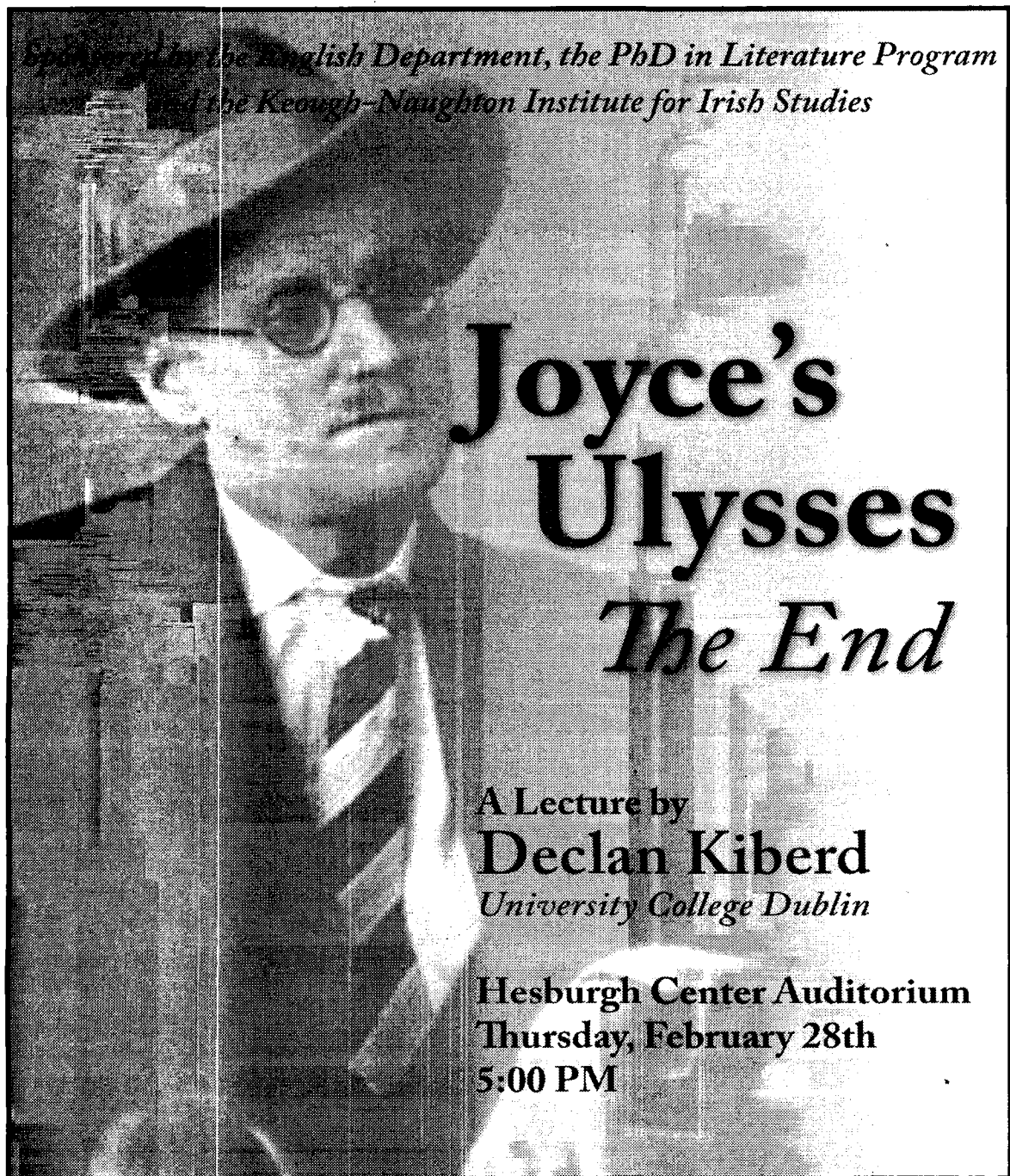
Dillon "Irish Car Bomb" Bailey def. Tim "Business Socks" Hronick

Dillon Bailey, a freshman, connected on several punishing blows to fellow freshman Hronick's head. Hronick rallied to make it a fight in the second round. Hronick took a lot of punishment in the third round and showed his heart, but Bailey came away with the unanimous victory.

Luciano Lara def. John "My Body is a Wonderland" Maier

Lara, a senior, didn't let his size disadvantage slow him

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Joyce's Ulysses

The End

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PGA TOUR

Tiger's hot start fuels thoughts of Grand Slam

Associated Press

MARANA, Ariz. — The closest anyone came to a perfect season on the PGA Tour was Ben Hogan.

He won every major championship he played in 1953, and every official tournament he entered except for the Seminole Pro-Am Invitational, where he tied for second. Then again, Hogan only played six times that year because of battered legs from a bus accident.

Tiger Woods will play no more than 17 events on the PGA Tour this year, so a 2-0 start might be a little early for anyone to get excited.

Even so, expectations were as high as the desert sun at noon when Woods left Arizona with yet another victory. It was his fourth in a row on tour since early September, all done in record fashion.

He set a 72-hole scoring record at Cog Hill outside Chicago and won by eight shots at the Tour Championship and the Buick Invitational, both record margins. On Sunday, he smoked Stewart Cink 8 and 7 in the Accenture Match Play Championship, the biggest blowout in the finals in 10 years of a tournament that Woods considers the toughest to win this side of a major.

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

Strong words — downright scary — considering that Woods won nine times, including three straight majors, in 2000 and that he won six consecutive PGA Tour events at the end of 2006, a streak that reached seven until losing in the Match Play the following year.

Woods, who also won in Dubai earlier this month, has never before started a season with three straight victories, and it is hard not to speculate how long he can keep winning given his history at some of the tournaments coming up.

Next is the Arnold Palmer Invitational March 13-16 at Bay Hill, where Woods won four straight times from 2000 to 2003. The week after that is the CA Championship at Doral, where he has won the last three years.

Then the Masters April 10-13.

"He just morphs his game into the courses," Cink said. "So I don't think there's a course that's going to present him with a real obstacle as far as him not being a favorite."

Woods did little to squash the notion of a perfect season when someone asked him if winning them all was within reason.

"That's my intent. That's why you play," Woods said after collecting his 63rd career tour victory and his 15th title in the World Golf Championships. "If you don't believe you can win an event, don't show up."

But it also is his intent to make every putt and hit every shot just how he wants. No one does that, of course. No one wins every tournament. Byron Nelson holds the record with 11 straight victories during a year in which he

won 18 times in 30 events. That means he lost 12 times that year.

A perfect season in golf? "I do find that laughable," Hal Sutton said Monday. "Anybody who knows golf knows that ain't going to happen. You can only own this game for a certain period of time. Even if your name is Tiger Woods, you don't own it forever."

Sutton was among those who beat Woods during a time when the world's No. 1 player looked

unbeatable, going head-to-head with him at The Players Championship in 2000 and winning by one shot.

He watched part of the championship match Sunday "until I got bored."

"Tiger is definitely more dominating," Sutton said.

Curtis Strange is among those who played in the prime years of Woods and Jack Nicklaus, and he said it is pointless to compare generations.

NFL

Bush skips deposition in illegal gifts lawsuit

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Reggie Bush failed to show up for a scheduled deposition on Monday, the latest twist in the civil lawsuit against the former Heisman Trophy winner who allegedly accepted cash and gifts from sports marketers during his sophomore and junior seasons at Southern California.

"He literally ran from his deposition," said Brian Watkins, the attorney for sports marketer Lloyd Lake, who is suing Bush.

Watkins said he received a fax from one of Bush's attorneys saying the New Orleans Saints' running back wouldn't be coming.

Bush's attorney, David Cornwell, declined to comment.

"I have nothing to provide for you," Cornwell said when reached on his cell phone.

Watkins requested that Bush bring extensive financial records, including those documenting the purchase of a car, as well as canceled rent checks for the suburban San Diego home where his parents lived and for a condo in Los Angeles.

Lake is seeking to recoup some \$291,000 in cash and gifts the star running back and his family allegedly accepted from Lake and his former partner, Michael Michaels, while Bush was at USC.

Lake claims he gave Bush cash to buy a car and that Michaels allowed Bush's parents to live rent-free in a San Diego-area home. Lake and Michaels were trying to attract Bush as a client for their marketing firm, New Era.

Michaels settled with Bush in 2007.

The latest development came 13 days after Lake and Watkins walked out of a deposition after a man accompanying Cornwell opened his jacket to expose a pistol.

Watkins said Bush's lawyers are trying to keep transcripts of Bush's deposition from being given to the NCAA.

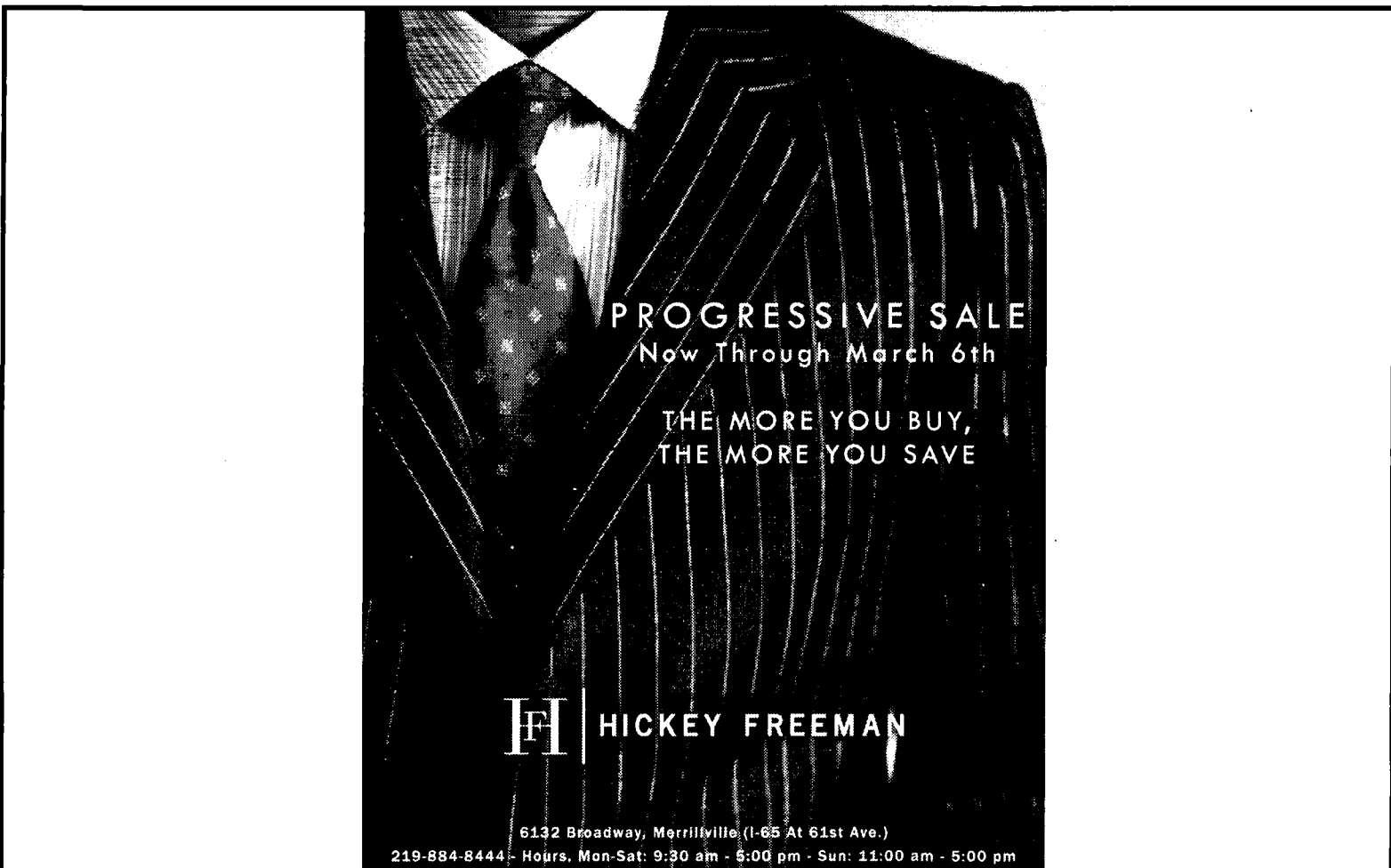
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MIAA

continued from page 24

One of our team goals was to be in the top four of the MIAA so that we could be at home."

Last season, Henley led the Belles to one of their best seasons in the program history with a record of 12-13, 10-6 MIAA. The squad reached the semifinals of the post-season tournament, where it lost 71-52 to Hope.

Olivet was knocked out of last year's tournament by Albion in the first round. The Belles hope to hand Olivet a similar fate tonight.

"If there is an advantage to playing Olivet on Tuesday, it would be that we are familiar with them," Henley said.

After being on the road for the early part of the season, Saint Mary's has played its last five games at home, going 3-2 in those contests.

Senior Alison Kessler has rewritten Saint Mary's history during this homestand, setting the career points record against Adrian on Feb. 20 to go with a record for career 3-pointers on Feb. 9. She now has 1581 points and 139 treys as a Belle.

Despite their current hot streak, the Belles know they have their work cut out for them as they begin the post-

season.

"The tournament week is always tough," Henley said. "You are seeing teams for the third time in a season and everyone should be playing their best basketball. There is not a lot of down time between games, so teams really have to be focused."

Tonight's winner will play Thursday against the winner of tonight's game between No. 8 Tri-State and No. 1 Hope. Hope bumped Saint Mary's out of the tournament last year, and has beaten the Belles twice this season. But the Belles are focused on Tuesday's game before looking ahead.

"We need to carry over the momentum we had from Saturday into [tonight's] game," Henley said.

"We need to improve on the boards and be sure to finish our shots in the paint. I thought we missed too many layups on Saturday."

Whatever the outcome of tonight's game, Henley said she is pleased with her team and its season.

"I think, overall, we have worked very hard to be in the top four of the conference," she said. "I am very proud of this team and its strong finish down the stretch."

Contact Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@saintmarys.edu

"One of our goals was to be in the top four of the MIAA so that we could be at home."

Jenn Henley
Belles coach

"We need to carry over the momentum we had from Saturday into [tonight's] game."

Jenn Henley
Belles coach

Cont.'d

continued from page 19

down, coming right at Maier. There was not much contact in round two, with both fighters feeling each other out for weaknesses. Maier, a sophomore, came alive in the third, finally taking advantage of his height advantage over Lara, but it would not be enough to defeat the scrappy Lara, who won by split decision.

Mark "Senor Marco" Bennett def. Hamilton Marx

There was heavy action right off the bat, as both fighters sought to overwhelm each other early. The senior Bennett knocked down Marx with a ferocious right hook in the second round, almost knocking him out of the ring. Marx, a senior, fell for a second time later in the round, causing the referee to stop the fight.

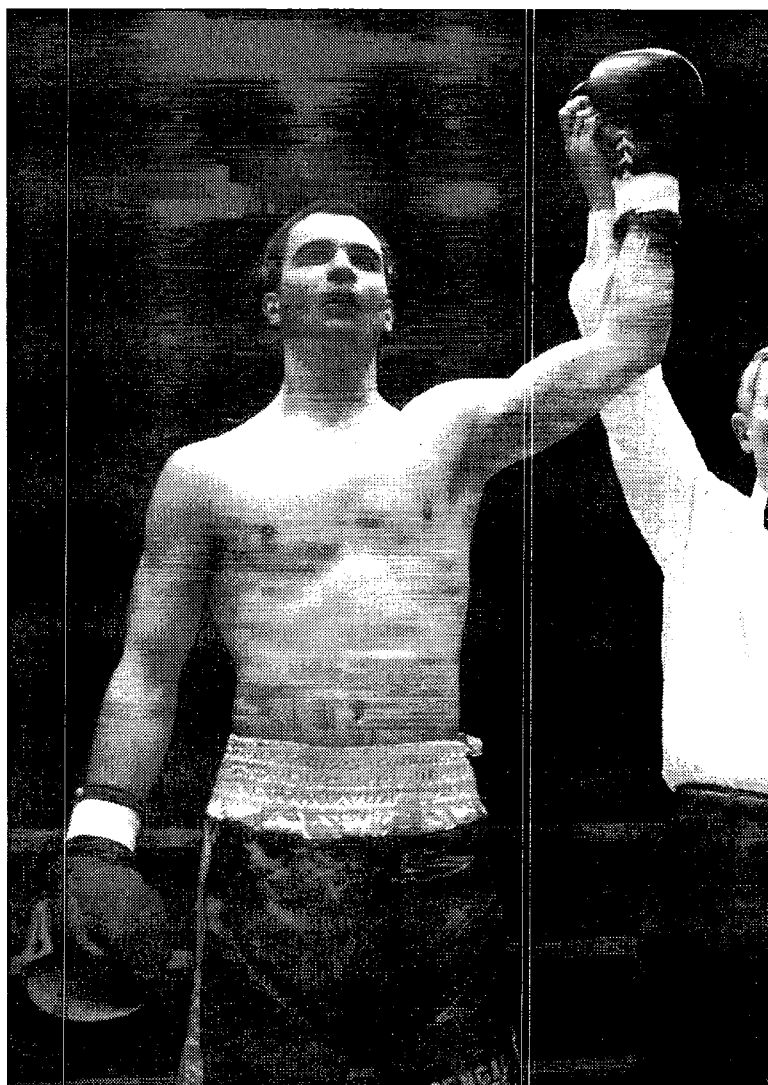
Pat "My Room is a 24-hour Space" O'Brien def. Michael "Wu Shack" Wu

Both fighters traded numerous body shots to start the first round. O'Brien, a senior, took control in the second round with repeated left-right combinations. The freshman Wu continued to back away, trying to keep in the fight. In the third round Wu took some serious punishment when O'Brien poured on the pressure. O'Brien was awarded the fight by unanimous decision.

161-pound division

Joe "The Roman Catholic" Church def. Colin "Oscar" Meyer

Church connected with several big punches early against Meyer, nearly knocking him down. Meyer kept pace with Church, but Church was able to keep the pressure on, probing for weaknesses in Meyer's defense. The



BRITT BURGESSON/The Observer

Freshman boxer Bernardo Garcia raises his fist after winning his fight in the Bengal Bouts preliminaries Monday.

third round brought much of the same, with both fighters blocking the other's attacks, but Church struck more often than Meyer. Church received the nod from the judges by unanimous decision.

Jason Miller def. Kevin "Just One More" Goodwin

Miller took advantage of his size, keeping Goodwin at a distance and connecting on several combinations. Goodwin couldn't get up to Miller's height, as Miller gradually wore him down. Goodwin made a spirited attack in the final round backing Miller down, but it was just not enough as Miller continued to assert himself. Miller won by unanimous decision.

Nick "The Ponz" Ponzio def. Jack "The Ripper" Peterson

In the first round Ponzio came right at Peterson, but Peterson made him pay the price for closing the distance. Ponzio was able to get some valuable blows in and

back Peterson up to the ropes. The fighters settled in after two rounds, answering combination for combination. Peterson began to use his size advantage in the third round, but Ponzio kept up the pressure in an inspired effort. Ponzio edged out Peterson in a split decision.

Ryan "Seoul-Man" Smith def. David Landry

Smith came right at Landry at the start of the fight, backing him across the ring. Landry looked lost as Smith landed blow after blow. The punishment continued in the third round, with Smith scoring a knockdown of Landry, causing the referee to call the fight.

Contact Peter Reisenauer at preisena@nd.edu, Laura Myers at lmyers02@nd.edu, Jared Jedick at jjedick@nd.edu, Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu and Matt Gamber at mgamber@nd.edu

Center for Applied Mathematics

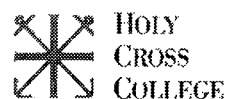
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Stretch

continued from page 24

beat No. 21 Syracuse in the Carrier Dome on Feb. 16 and outlasted DePaul on Sunday with a two-point win.

Notre Dame did slip up once on the road trip, a 57-51 loss at No. 4 Rutgers last Tuesday, but that loss is to be expected in the Big East.

Even though that loss did not sever Notre Dame's chances of a bye, it did expose an alarming trend for the Irish this season. Notre Dame has beaten inferior teams all season, but has struggled mightily against other ranked opponents. Other than Rutgers, the Irish played three teams currently ranked in the top five, and were blown out in two of them — both at the Joyce Center.

Notre Dame played No. 1 Connecticut on Jan. 27 and lost 81-64 and then lost to No. 3 Tennessee 87-63 on Jan. 5. The Irish also lost to No. 13 West Virginia in Morgantown 56-50, a remarkably close finish after the Irish managed only 11 first-half points.

Currently, only Connecticut (13-1), Rutgers (12-1) and West Virginia (11-2) sit ahead of the Irish (9-4) in the conference standings. But what makes the final three games so crucial for Notre Dame is the logjam behind it.

Syracuse, Louisville and Pittsburgh all sit one game back of the Irish at 8-5 and DePaul is 7-6, still within striking distance of the earning the bye.

One major factor in deciding the No. 4 seed in the Big East tournament is scheduling. The Irish have already faced their toughest conference tests this season in the Huskies and Scarlet Knights, and look to finish off the year against some of the dregs in the bottom of the standings.

The Orange still have to host the Mountaineers before traveling to Piscataway, N.J., on Saturday for a matchup with Rutgers, meaning they could conceivably finish the season

1-2. Louisville and Pittsburgh each have easier roads to the tournament; each plays West Virginia and two other schools that are in the bottom half of the league standings.

In its last three regular season games, Notre Dame will play host to South Florida (3-10) on Wednesday and Seton Hall (3-10) on Saturday before finishing with St. John's (4-9) on March 4.

On paper, those games look like they should be easy wins, but McGraw fears these games the most heading into the stretch run. This is the last season in which only 12 of the 16 Big East teams make the conference tournament, leaving the bottom four to start their off-seasons a week earlier than they would like to. Currently, the Red Storm occupy the No. 12 spot, but the Bulls and Pirates are only a game out. This means that Notre Dame, with its postseason spot all but guaranteed, will be playing teams that are in must-win situations from here on out.

McGraw is not the type of coach that will let her team slack off at the end of a season, so she needs tell her team to stay focused and to make sure it wins these next three games.

The worst thing that could happen for Notre Dame at this point is any kind of let-down. Last year, the Irish had a two-game home skid to end the regular season and then lost in the first round of the Big East tournament to DePaul. Even though the Irish still made the NCAA Tournament, they were a No. 8 seed and had to play No. 1 North Carolina in the second round — not the ideal situation for any team.

The best way for Notre Dame to make sure that they are the bully picking off middle-ranked teams in March is to finish with three solid wins that would impress the NCAA Selection Committee.

The Irish have a knack for winning games they are supposed to. They just need to do it three more times.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

Race

continued from page 24

onship can be shared between two or more teams, but only one can claim the No. 1 seed in New York.

Head-to-head record is the first tie-breaker, which Georgetown holds over Notre Dame. The winner of Notre Dame's game with Louisville would hold the tie-breaker between those two and Louisville holds the tie-breaker over Georgetown.

The second tie-breaker is record against common conference opponents, in order from best team to worst.

Chasing a bye

Until a 66-62 loss to Villanova Saturday, Connecticut (10-4) was one of the teams focusing on the conference title. But because of that loss and Marquette's wins over Rutgers and Villanova, the Huskies find themselves just one game ahead in the loss column of the 11-5 Golden Eagles for the final bye in the Big East tournament.

Connecticut has a pretty easy road ahead of it. Its only away games are at Rutgers and Providence, and they finish the season with slumping Cincinnati. West Virginia may provide a test, but that game is at home.

Marquette is almost the exact opposite of the Huskies. It has a huge game with Georgetown and has to travel to Syracuse on the last weekend of the season for what will probably be a must-win game for the Orange. They also step out of confer-

ence to play Florida Gulf Coast, a team the Golden Eagles figure to rout, but by playing an extra game they run the risk of injuries and fatigue.

On the bubble

The top five teams in the Big East are all considered locks for the NCAA Tournament, but right behind them is another group that is fighting for the final two or three spots the conference will earn in the Big Dance.

West Virginia (8-6) has been up and down all season, and it needs to finish on a high note to get a bid. A win over Connecticut would do wonders for the Mountaineers, and a win in their rivalry match-up with Pittsburgh on March 3 would both help their resume and hurt the Panthers.

They also have games against DePaul and Saint John's.

For its part, Pittsburgh missed two huge opportunities for resume-building wins this week-end by losing to Notre Dame and

Louisville. The Panthers started the season 11-0, including a win over Duke, but have been bitten by the injury bug and are just 7-7 in the Big East. Like the Mountaineers, the Panthers are looking forward to March 3. The rest of their games in conference — against Cincinnati, Syracuse, West Virginia, and DePaul — provides a chance for the Panthers to get back in the Tournament.

Villanova added a major resume-building win Saturday against Connecticut but fell short to Marquette Monday.

The Wildcats (7-8) were ranked for much of the early season but fell by the wayside with a five-game losing streak in late January. They get another shot at a big win on March 2 against Louisville.

Syracuse (7-8) is on life-support for a bid. The Orange have a big win over Georgetown, but have lost four

of their last five. They still have big games left against Pittsburgh and Marquette.

Cincinnati sits at 8-6 in conference play and will probably beat out some of the above

teams for Big East tournament seeding. However, the Bearcats had an ugly non-conference experience and are only 13-13 overall. They have a chance to play spoiler against Pittsburgh Wednesday and when they visit Connecticut in their regular season finale.

Hoping to get to New York

The top 10 teams in the conference all feel comfortable about their prospective trips to Madison Square Garden (although if Syracuse falls apart, it could be left out). However, there is a logjam in slots 10-14 and only two of those teams can get to the conference tournament.

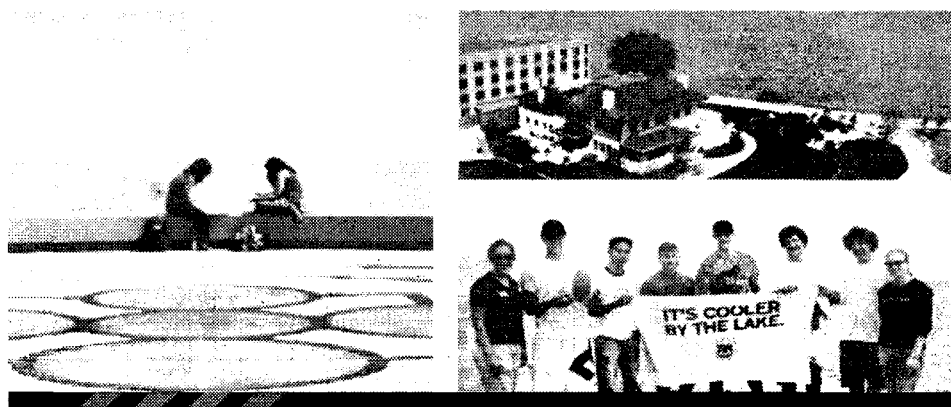
If the season ended today, Seton Hall (6-8) and DePaul (5-9) would be in, but hot on their heels are St. John's (4-10) and Providence (4-11).

South Florida (2-12) and Rutgers (2-13) need monumental collapses by the teams in front of them to make the conference tournament and are just hoping to stay out of the Big East cellar.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

The winner of Notre Dame's game with Louisville would hold the tie-breaker between those two.

The top five teams in the Big East are considered locks for the NCAA Tournament.



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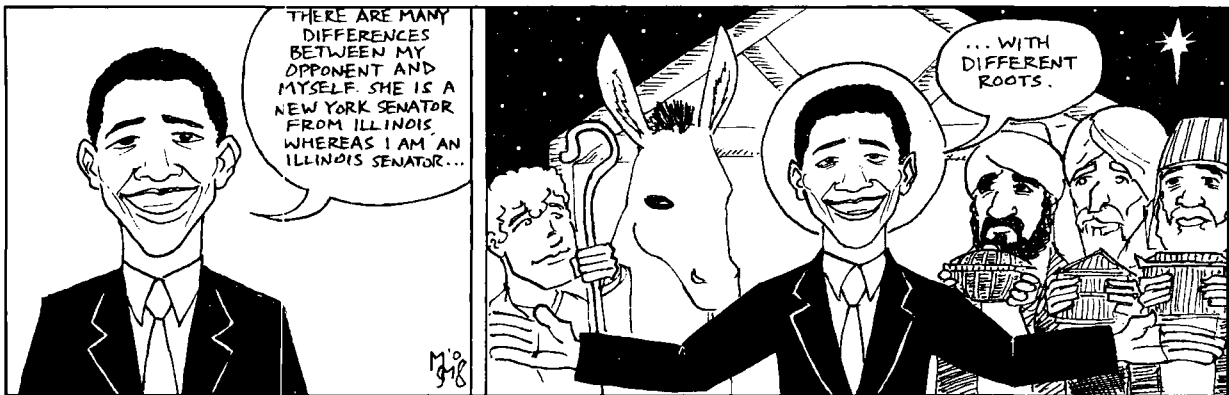
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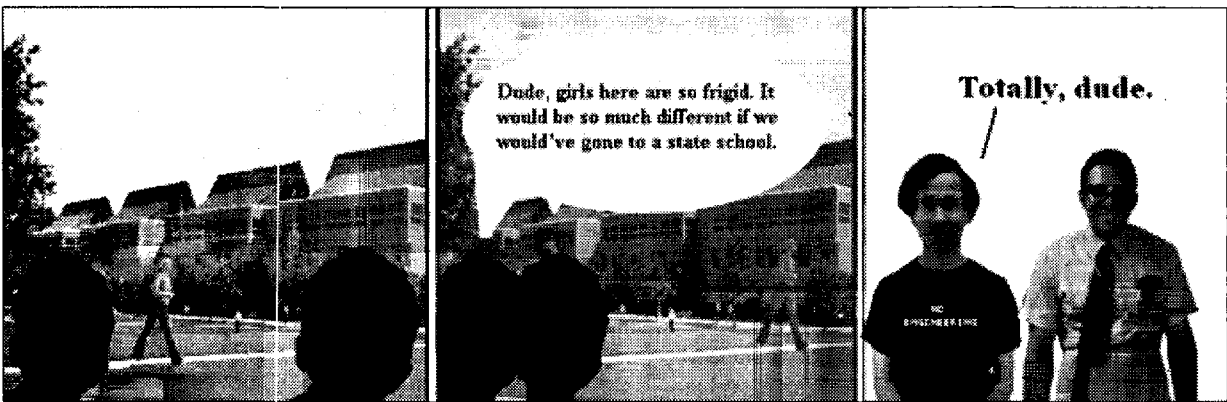
Black Dog

MICHAEL MIKUSKA



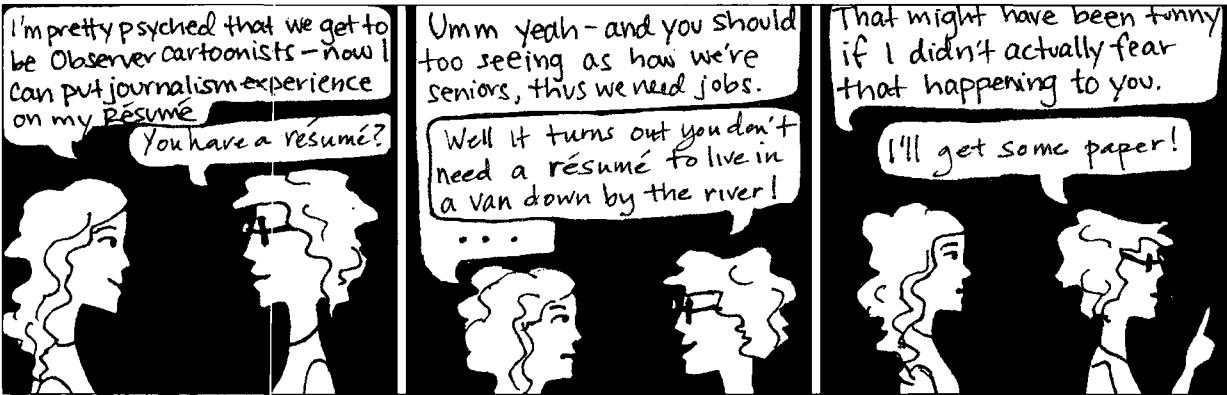
Lollerskates

DIDIER LEWIS



Another Unfunny Comic

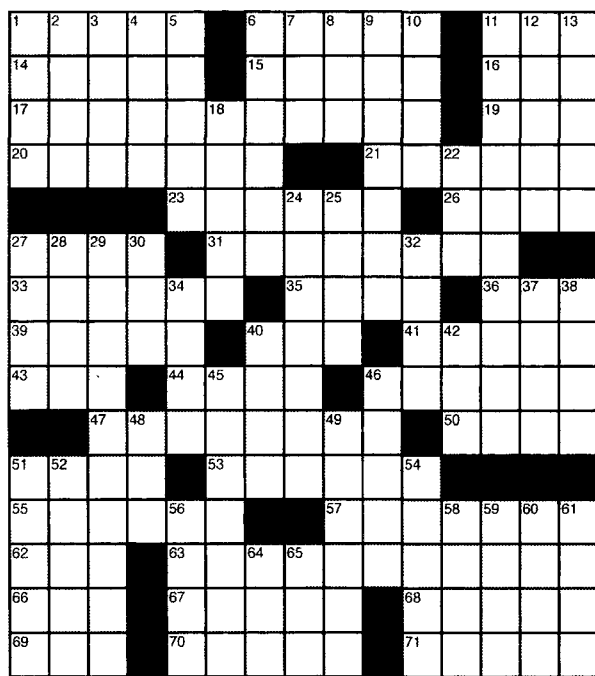
LIZ MURPHY and SARAH MUSCARELLA



Crossword

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
- 1 Some charity fund-raisers
 - 6 Outspoken
 - 11 Org. with a code
 - 14 Singer Davis with the 1998 hit "32 Flavors"
 - 15 Airplane seat choice
 - 16 Old ____ London theater
 - 17 Joie de vivre
 - 19 Lab eggs
 - 20 Accomplish
 - 21 Star-related
 - 23 Prank player
 - 26 "South Park" kid
 - 27 Preceder of Bell or shell
 - 31 Speed-happy driver
 - 33 Book in which the first Passover occurred
 - 35 Castle protector
 - 36 Middle-earth meanie
 - 39 Teacher's charge
 - 40 Paris's ____ Invalides
 - 41 Colder and windier
 - 43 "____ a Tramp" ("Lady and the Tramp" tune)
 - 44 Singer Pinza
 - 46 Popular setting for a wedding
 - 47 Fantastically wonderful
 - 50 Snare
 - 51 Daughter of Czar Nicholas I or II
 - 53 Arctic bird
 - 55 Newswoman Katie
 - 57 Diner sign filler
 - 62 ____-la-la
 - 63 Speaking manner
 - 66 Go wrong
 - 67 Proficient
 - 68 O.K.
 - 69 Newsmen Koppel
 - 70 Fix, as laces
 - 71 This puzzle's theme
- Down**
- 1 ____ Strip (much-fought-over area)
 - 2 Bright P.M. ____ Douglas-Home
 - 3 Whip
 - 4 Prefix with matter
 - 5 Like wearing a seat belt, e.g.
 - 6 Lombardy province or its capital
 - 7 De-squeak
 - 8 CBS forensic drama
 - 9 "Our Gang" kid
 - 10 Famous Virginia family
 - 11 Lofty place for an academic
 - 12 Pepsi vis-à-vis Coke
 - 13 Symbol of justice
 - 18 Racetracks
 - 22 Bout decision
 - 24 Didn't stay on
 - 25 Kerfuffles
 - 27 Part of M.I.T.: Abbr.
 - 28 Highway toll unit
 - 29 Its academy is in New London, Conn.
 - 30 Some E.R. cases
 - 32 ____ vez (again, in Spanish)



Puzzle by Stella Daly and Bruce Venzke

- 34 Preowned
- 37 Singer McEntire
- 38 Wheat, barley or beans
- 40 In ____ of
- 42 First drug approved to treat AIDS
- 45 90210, for Beverly Hills
- 46 Feeling of loss
- 48 Person obeying a coxswain
- 49 Significant
- 51 Four duos
- 52 Peter of "M"
- 54 Super stars
- 56 ____-Tass news agency
- 58 Court plea, informally
- 59 Tributary of the Colorado
- 60 Rent-____ (security person for hire)
- 61 Wraps (up)
- 64 Snare
- 65 Prefix with dermis

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



Jumble

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

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

SUPEA

RAXOB

SYMICT

GROCED

www.jumble.com

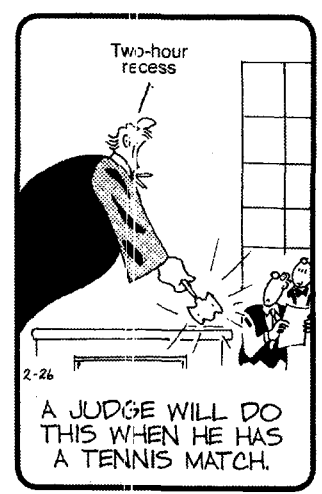
Answer here: TO

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: SUAVE FLUID NOODLE CABANA

Answer: When the sailor didn't tie the rope properly, it was — "BOUND" TO FAIL

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
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ARIES (March 21-April 19): You have lots to gain if you help others. Your ability to find solutions and match what anyone else can offer will enhance your chances of advancement. Changes made now will lead to greater stability. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Go after what you want and don't let anyone stand in your way. Someone you love may not agree with your behavior but, if it helps you get ahead, you have to follow through. Take advantage of career and learning opportunities. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will get a response regarding a position or an opening that interests you. A personal connection to someone you are working with will develop. Travel for education or business will pay off down the road. 5 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll make a big deal out of nothing. Contain your anger, enthusiasm and your actions so that you don't make a mistake you'll regret. An opportunity may be lost if you are too aggressive or stubborn. 2 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A few alterations at home will make things easier for you but someone may complain in the interim. Love may stress you out, especially if you are uncertain or have met someone new. Proceed with caution and don't make a commitment to anyone just yet. 2 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Your unique way of handling situations and other people will put you in the category of a hero. Keep up the good work and, although someone may be jealous, you'll be the one to come out on top. Your true friends will be happy for you. 4 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You don't have to overspend in order to impress someone. A trip will spur some creative ideas that can help you choose a new direction. Don't let your emotions get the better of you or you may reveal too much personal information. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Concentrate on work and doing a good job instead of pointless arguing. It's easy for someone else to criticize you but, if you take what's being said literally, you are likely to lose ground. Believe in yourself. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Getting involved is the first step to getting ahead. A trip will spur some creative ideas that can help you choose a new direction. A chance to meet someone who can boost your confidence and perhaps your income is in the stars. 4 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): By trying something new or visiting a destination to which you've never been, your eyes will be opened to a new way of doing things. A slight change of plans will lead to a more secure future. Do the unexpected. 2 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Things are looking up so don't hold back when there is so much to gain. A chance meeting with someone who can help you out financially will boost your morale. Be outgoing, creative and inventive. Money is heading your way. 5 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Think and do is the game plan. Stop waffling and start to turn your ideas into something tangible. Taking action doesn't have to cost a lot. Sharing your ideas will lead to support and a possible partnership. 3 stars

Birthday Baby: You are inventive, unique, versatile and a fearless trendsetter. You are hardworking and energetic, with great potential. You aren't afraid to go it alone.

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

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BENGAL BOUTS

Fists of fury

First day of tourney showcases 182 fighters

By PETE REISENAUER,
LAURA MYERS, JARED
JEDICK, SAM WERNER and
MATT GAMBER
Sports Writers

The 78th-annual Bengal Bouts boxing tournament began Tuesday with 91 fights between fighters of 13 weight classes.

130-pound division

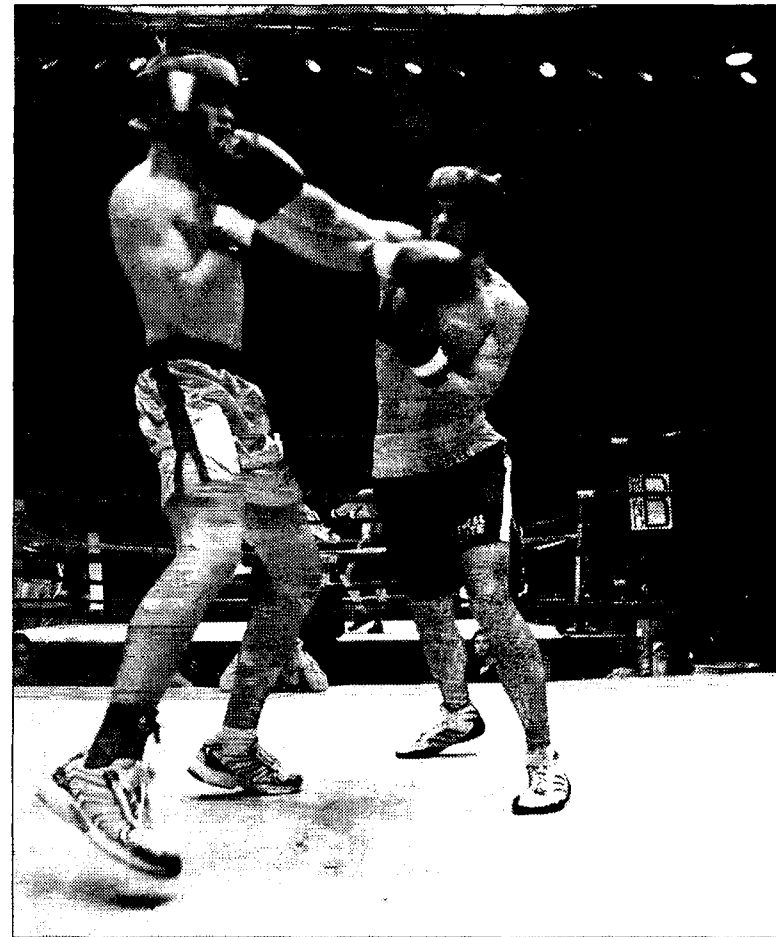
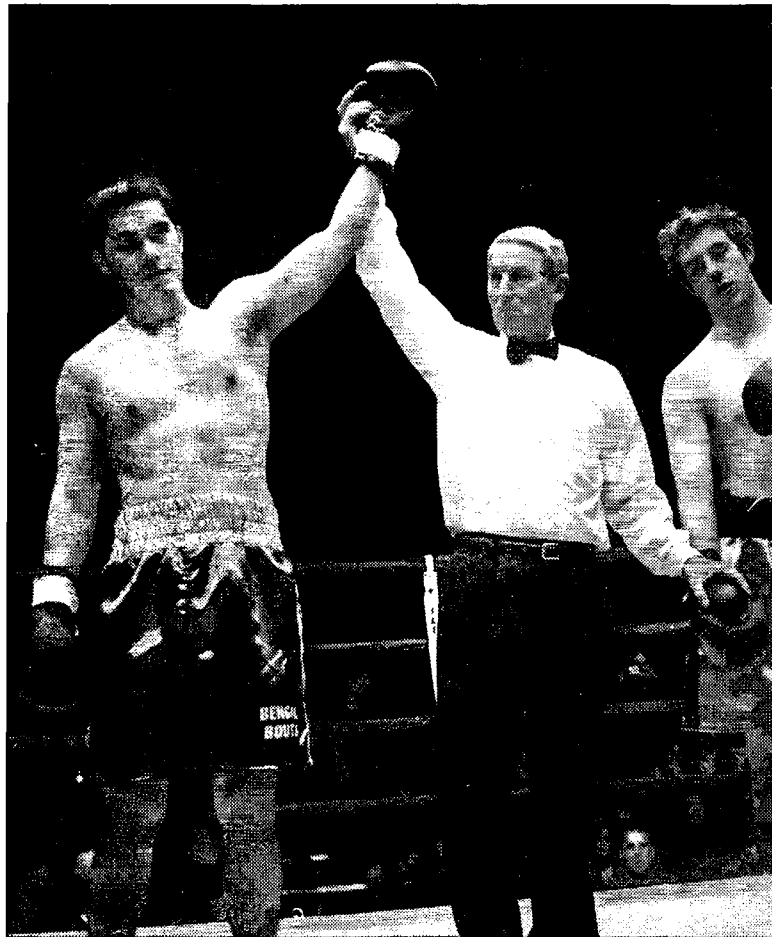
Jack Dillon def Daniel Brannon

In the night's opening bout, Dillon won a close fight that wasn't decided until the final round. Neither fighter established a definitive advantage until Dillon landed a couple of combos early in the third, earning him a unanimous victory.

Matt Conti def. Joe Camarda

Conti was able to knock Camarda down twice in the first round, causing the refer-

see PRELIMS/page 19



BRITT BURGESSON/The Observer

Left, senior Matt Decker raises his fist after winning his Bengal Bouts preliminary match against freshman Kevin Kray. Right, Bernardo Garcia and Patrick Martin trade punches. Garcia won by unanimous decision and advanced to the quarterfinals on Thursday.

MEN'S BASKETBALL ANALYSIS

First place up for grabs at top of Big East pack

After a murky beginning, the teams of the Big East are beginning to separate as the conference tourney draws near.

Most of the league has three games remaining, while some teams, like the Irish, have four. The top 12 teams in the 16-squad conference make the Big East tournament two

Chris Khorey
Sports Editor

weeks from now in New York, with the top four teams getting a bye.

Three teams — Georgetown, Louisville, and Notre Dame — are tied at the top in the loss column with three losses apiece, while Connecticut and Marquette loom beyond with four and five losses respectively.

Behind those top squads, several teams are trying desperately to get a few more wins to solidify their places

in the NCAA Tournament.

The Big Three

The Hoyas and Cardinals are tied at the top of the league at 12-3, with the Irish close on their heels at 11-3. All three are in good position to earn a bye in the first round of the conference tournament, but the main goal for these three is to win the regular season conference championship.

Georgetown started the conference season hot, winning nine of its first 10 league

games. Recently, however, the Hoyas have faltered, losing to Louisville and Syracuse.

Over the next two weeks, Georgetown has two more major tests — a visit to Milwaukee to play Marquette and a rematch with Louisville in Washington. The Hoyas finish up with a game against bottom-feeder St. John's.

Louisville might have the toughest road through the final stretch of the season. It faces Georgetown and a home match-up with the Irish. The

Cardinals will also play a home game against Villanova, which will be fighting for its NCAA Tournament life.

Despite having to play the Cardinals on Thursday, Notre Dame might have the easiest schedule of the three. After taking on Louisville, the Irish play DePaul, St. John's and South Florida, none of who have a winning record in conference play.

The conference champi-

see RACE/page 22

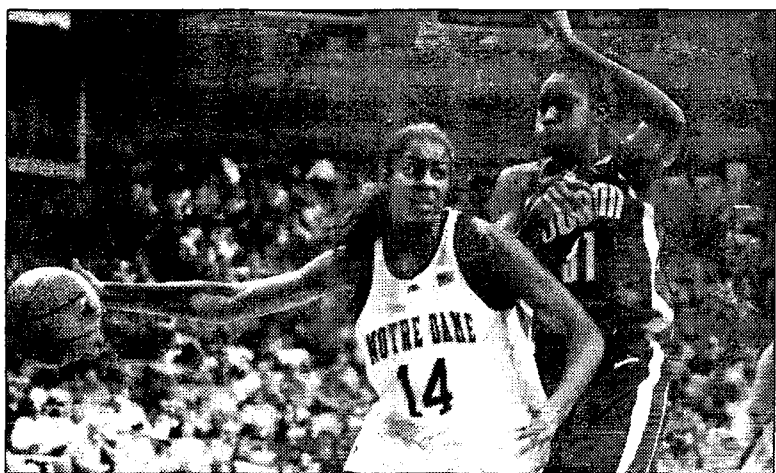
ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL ANALYSIS

Team attempts to earn bye

With six games left to play in Notre Dame's conference schedule, Irish coach Muffet McGraw said her team needed to go 4-2 if it wanted to secure a first-round bye in the Big East tournament. So far, everything is right on schedule.

The Irish come home on Wednesday after their three-game road trip — the longest in the Big East this season — having gone 2-1. Notre Dame

Jay Fitzpatrick
Associate
Sports Editor



WU YUE/The Observer

Irish freshman forward Devereaux Peters shields the ball from a Connecticut defender during an 81-64 Notre Dame loss on Jan. 27.

see STRETCH/page 22

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles set to take on Olivet in tournament

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's begins post-season play tonight at home at 7:30 as the Belles take on rival Olivet in the first round of the MIAA tournament.

The week-long tournament kicked off last night with a play-in game between No. 9 Kalamazoo and No. 8 Tri-State in which the Thunder knocked the Hornets out with an 80-70

victory.

The Belles (12-12, 8-8 MIAA) defeated Olivet 74-56 Saturday in their last regular season game — giving them a fourth-place finish in the regular season and earning them home-court advantage for tonight's contest.

"It's nice to host this part of the MIAA tournament," Belles coach Jenn Henley said. "We have been on the road so much this season."

see MIAA/page 21