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D'Arcy criticizes Jenkins' decision

Bishop again decries president's approval of 'Vagina Monologues' performances on campus

By BILL BRINK
News Editor

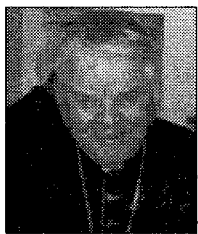
As he did in 2006, Fort Wayne-South Bend Bishop John D'Arcy has condemned University President Father John Jenkins' decision to allow "The Vagina Monologues" to be performed on campus and said he hopes Jenkins rethinks his choice.

In a six-page statement released Wednesday, D'Arcy said he "publicly and respectfully disagree[s]" with Jenkins' decision to allow the play, which will be held from March 26-28, to be performed on campus.

"I am convinced that per-

mitting performances of [the "Monologues"] is not consistent with the identity of a Catholic university," D'Arcy said.

Jenkins said in a two-page statement Monday that universities, including Notre Dame, are responsible for openly discussing controversial issues and finding academic platforms for those issues and so the play could be performed on campus. D'Arcy disagreed and said



D'Arcy

permitting performance of the play was "not consistent with the identity of a Catholic university."

"... Because it depicts and endorses sinful sexual acts in direct opposition to Church teaching, I believe its performance to be pornographic and spiritually harmful," D'Arcy said.

The Eve Ensler play, which was performed on campus for six of the past seven years, has continually generated controversy at Notre Dame. Jenkins said he would allow performance of the "Monologues" after finding the student proposal to perform the play consistent with guidelines he established in

2006, which, among other stipulations, said the play must be discussed within a Catholic context.

An academic panel discussion will follow each performance, and at least one panel member will discuss the play's relation to Catholic beliefs.

D'Arcy called for the University to denounce the play.

"Otherwise, the University appears to endorse it as in some way good and the impression is given that Catholic teaching is one option competing among many," D'Arcy said.

see BISHOP/page 3

STUDENT SENATE

Group commends University

Resolution lauds ND's environmental efforts

By CLAIRE REISING
News Writer

The Student Senate applauded the University's increased attention to environmental issues in a unanimously passed resolution at their meeting Wednesday.

In the past year, Notre Dame raised its grade from a D- to a C on the College Sustainability Report Card, the resolution stated.

According to the Sustainable Endowments Institute's Web site, the College Sustainability Report Card evaluates the sustainability of United States universities with the nation's top 200 endowments.

The Senate's resolution listed some efforts Notre Dame took to increase campus sustainability, such as decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, serving some locally grown food products and strengthening its recycling program.

With these initiatives, the University was one of 13 universities to improve by a full letter grade on the report card.

"I thought it was appropriate to commend them for what they've done and encourage them to do more," said Fisher senator Stephen Bant, who drafted the resolution.

The senators also discussed

see SENATE/page 4

Tampons sold for charity at SMC

Students raise funds to purchase feminine hygiene products for African girls who can't afford them



Photo courtesy of ProtectingFutures.com

Young African women sing on their way to school in an advertisement from Tampax's "Protecting Futures" campaign.

By MANDI STIRONE
News Writer

As part of Women's Appreciation Week (WAW) at Saint Mary's College, students have the opportunity to purchase sanitary napkins and tampons for a \$1 donation to charity. Co-chair of WAW, freshman Karen Borja said.

Senior Adriana Rodriguez, freshman Maricruz Cardenas, and Borja planned the event and began selling the pads and tampons Monday at lunch and dinner outside of the Noble Family Dining Hall in the Student Center Atrium and will

continue selling them the week, Borja said.

The donations from the sanitary napkins and tampons sales will be given to Protecting Futures, a project that provides pads to young women in Africa, so that women don't miss school because of their periods, according to the program's Web site.

The three organizers of the drive decided it was a worthwhile endeavor after seeing a television commercial for the program, Borja said.

After deciding to take part in the program, Borja, Cardenas

see TAMPONS/page 4

'Live As You Are' focuses on eating disorders

Counseling Center offers support, treatment for men and women

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

Last year, just over one in every 10 students to visit the University Counseling Center was treated for an eating disorder, but today Valerie Staples will present ways the University can lower that number.

Staples, the coordinator for Eating Disorder Services in the Counseling Center, will speak to faculty and staff today about how they can impact the positive body image of students.

Her department recently ran a program to educate rectors and RAs about recognizing and helping students with eating disorders and this week the Counseling Center worked in conjunction with other depart-

see STAPLES/page 6



ABIGAIL WILKINS/The Observer

Orthopedic nurse practitioner Dr. Mary Rodts spoke Wednesday about eating disorders in her speech "Physiological effects of eating disorders."

Nurse warns of physiological effects of anorexia, bulimia

By BRIAN MCKENZIE
News Writer

Dr. Mary Rodts, an orthopedic nurse practitioner with over 30 years of experience, delivered a lecture Wednesday on the effects of eating disorders on the bones and body structure as a part of the "Live As You Are" health and body image conference ending today at Notre Dame.

According to a Harvard study, more than 40 percent of primary school students wanted to be thinner and most 10-year-olds had dieted, Rodts said. This weight-consciousness causes three percent of women and one percent of men to suffer from an eating disorder at some point in their lifetime.

see LECTURE/page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

9/11 stairs should stay

Recently, a staircase from the World Trade Center in New York was moved 200 feet to make way for construction of the new Freedom Tower on the site of the former twin towers.

Stairs aren't usually such a big cause for concern, but this case is different. That staircase was the only above-ground remnant of the World Trade Center left standing after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. It was used by many of the survivors of the attacks to escape the buildings and represents in the most literal sense the tragedy New York and the United States felt that day.



Jay Fitzpatrick

Managing Editor

The stairs were whittled away and removed from their concrete base in order to make moving them possible. They ruined what should have been a national landmark, just like any other site. The USS Arizona still rests in the waters in Pearl Harbor to remind the world of the tragedy of that attack.

What makes the stairs different is their location. Situated in downtown Manhattan, this staircase was occupying prime real estate that, according to the Powers That Be, needed to be filled as soon as possible. So by creating a memorial and building a symbolic "Freedom Tower," the event could be remembered better.

Think about that.

The 9/11 memorial group is getting rid of the actual site and rebuilding an artificial Ground Zero nearby. They are destroying history to make room for progress.

What is even more outrageous is the attempts to rationalize this decision. Joe Daniels, president of the memorial foundation, told the Associated Press that, even though the stairs are being moved, they are maintaining "the essence of the stairs."

What a load of crap.

Those stairs are only different from any other stairs in the entire world for one simple reason: their location. They stayed standing. They helped people escape. The only reason those stairs mattered is because people could look at them and think: "that is where it happened."

I would bet that every student at Notre Dame could tell you exactly where they were and what they were doing when they found out about the attacks. It is our generation's Kennedy assassination. Socially and politically, it has been the most important event in the world during the first few years of the 21st century. And some suits in New York are ruining that memory just to make a buck.

By moving these stairs, they are doing a lot more than clearing room for a new skyscraper. They are inherently tarnishing the memory and sacrifices of those who died in the attacks.

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

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@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: DO YOU THINK SPRING IS HERE?



Erin Rogozinski

senior
Lyons

"Spring started the party, but winter is crashing it."



Hannah Ha

freshman
Welsh Fam

"If it isn't, I'll bring it with flip-flops and neon."



Luke Stavole

freshman
Fisher

"I'm wearing shorts and a t-shirt, so yeah."



Sarah Angle

freshman
Howard

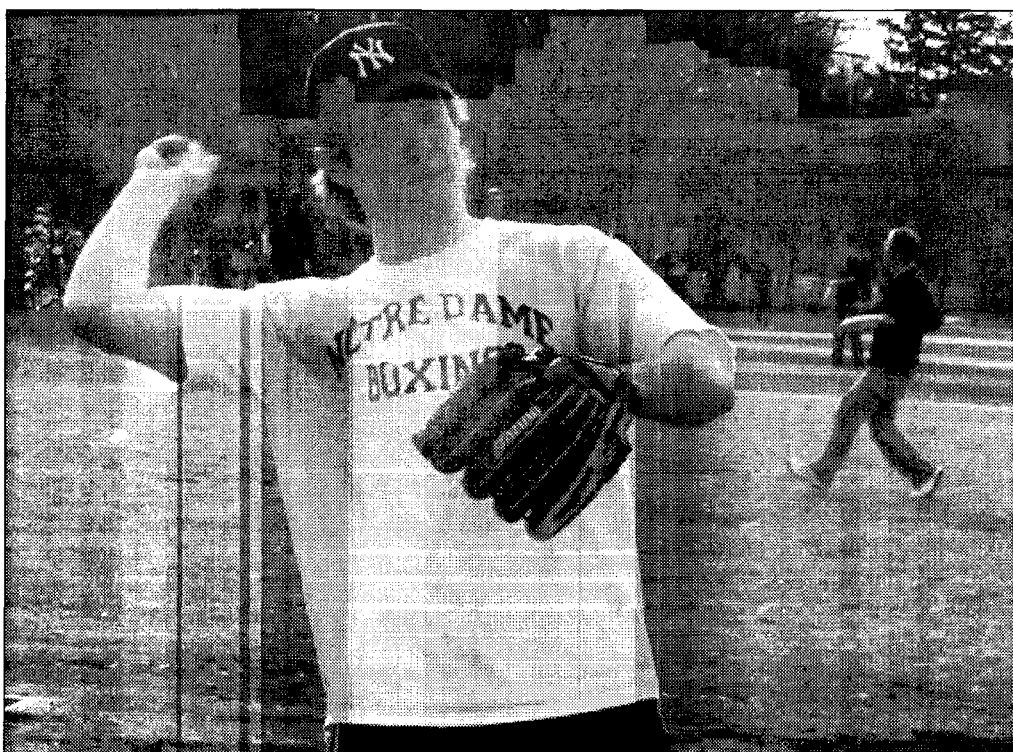
"The Spring state of mind is here, but not the sustained warm temperatures."



Xiao Liu

freshman
Stanford

"It is for now."



ABIGAIL WILKINS/The Observer

Brett Berceau plays catch on South Quad with his friends on Wednesday. The warmer weather coaxed many students out of doors.

IN BRIEF

The Notre Dame women's lacrosse team will play Delaware at 3 p.m. Thursday on Moose Krause Field.

The film "I'm Not There," which tells the story of legendary singer Bob Dylan at different stages of his life and with different actors in the lead role, will be shown at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center on tonight at 7 p.m.

George J. Borjas will deliver his lecture entitled "Immigration and African-American Employment Opportunities: The Response of Wages, Employment, and Incarceration to Labor Supply Shocks" tonight at 4:15 in C-103 of the Hesburgh Center.

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.

The Project Pink Fashion Show, a fundraiser for breast cancer and survivors, will be held Friday at 8 p.m. in the LaFortune Ballroom.

Flipside will host an Easter egg hunt Saturday from 10 p.m. to midnight on Bond Quad. Participants will receive flashlights and will search for colored plastic Easter eggs containing candy.

Circle K will host an Ice Cream Social Sunday from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Notre Dame Room of the LaFortune Student Center.

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

OFFBEAT

Man decorates car like "Transformers" police car

LAS VEGAS, N.M. — Jessie Vigil's black-and-white car sports a red-and-blue emergency bar across the top and the word "police" painted on the doors. Vigil, however, isn't a cop. Law enforcement agencies say what he's done with his car isn't illegal as long as he doesn't act like a police officer.

He started decorating his 2007 Ford Mustang last summer to look like the police cruiser in the "Transformers" movie because his 7-year-old son,

Thomas, was fond of the film.

"My intent was to re-create the movie car," said Vigil, a 35-year-old disabled veteran from the war in Iraq. "When I came back from Iraq, I tried to spoil him. I wasn't the best dad before."

Student's candy purchase results in suspension

NEW HAVEN — Contraband candy has led to big trouble for an eighth-grade honors student in Connecticut.

Michael Sheridan was stripped of his title as class

vice president, barred from attending an honors student dinner and suspended for a day after buying a bag of Skittles from a classmate.

School spokeswoman Catherine Sullivan-DeCarlo says the New Haven school system banned candy sales in 2003 as part of a districtwide school wellness policy.

Michael's suspension has been reduced from three days to one, but he has not been reinstated as class vice president.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

LOCAL WEATHER

	TODAY	TONIGHT	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
HIGH	50	40	45	36	40	55
LOW	38	25	28	23	35	43

Atlanta 72 / 47 Boston 42 / 26 Chicago 52 / 33 Denver 56 / 31 Houston 75 / 55 Los Angeles 74 / 55 Minneapolis 41 / 29 New York 48 / 30 Philadelphia 54 / 36 Phoenix 84 / 54 Seattle 49 / 39 St. Louis 60 / 46 Tampa 76 / 55 Washington 57 / 35

Bishop

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D'Arcy created a hypothetical situation to illustrate his concerns with allowing anti-Catholic teaching promoted in the play from a conversation with Jenkins about Nazi literature.

He imagined the University was in Nazi Germany in 1938 and that some faculty and students were Nazi sympathizers. He imagined there was a national movement where schools showed films advocating Nazi propaganda.

"Would not the showing of such a film at Notre Dame involve the University in providing a platform for Nazi propaganda and entail some level of cooperation with the evil of Nazism?" D'Arcy said.

D'Arcy released statements disagreeing with Jenkins' decision to allow performance of the play on campus in 2006 and said he had been in contact with Jenkins about the decision and refuted Jenkins' arguments in his own statement. And in February, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops moved its conference from its planned conference at Notre Dame to a convent in Mishawaka.

Dennis Brown, assistant vice president for News and Information, said the University would defer to Jenkins' original statement when asked about the ability to perform the play on campus.

"We think Father Jenkins' statement stands on its own

and speaks for itself," Brown said.

D'Arcy said Jenkins was incorrect to say that allowing the play was analogous to allowing students to read and discuss authors such as Nietzsche, Gibbon, Luther and Joyce, whose writings D'Arcy said are contrary to Catholic teachings.

"[Those authors] have written serious philosophical, theological and literary works, which have influenced Western thought," D'Arcy said. "As such, their work has academic merit and is worthy of serious discussion and critique in a classroom setting ... How can one put such a play, which many consider pornographic, on the level of serious works such as the writings of Gibbon and Luther?" he said.

The medium of the play also led D'Arcy to object to its performance.

Students reading a book in a classroom setting, he said, discuss and critique the work. After a play, students leave and they are not required to stay for the panel discussions, Panel discussions, he said, are not consistent with watching a play.

D'Arcy also took issue with the play's involvement in the

National V-Day campaign, an organization to stop violence against women that "promotes creative events to increase awareness, raise money and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations," according to its Web site. The organization was created in 1998 in response to the "Monologues" and helps organize production of the "Monologues" around the country to raise money for anti-violence causes.

D'Arcy also disagreed with showing the play because of the sins inherent to it. The depiction of sins such as female masturbation and adult-child relations, D'Arcy said, "violates standards of decency and morality."

"The sexual sin, which the play depicts in several scenes, describes women just as much as, if not more deeply than, sexual violence," he said.

D'Arcy concluded his statement by calling for Jenkins to reconsider his decision.

"I remain hopeful that Father Jenkins will reconsider his decision for this year and future years," he said.

Contact Bill Brink at wbrink@nd.edu

"I am convinced that permitting performances of [the 'Monologues'] is not consistent with the identity of a Catholic university."

John D'Arcy
Bishop of Ft. Wayne-South Bend

Institute recognized for contributions

University earns "Blessed are the Peacemakers" award from the Catholic Theological Union

Special to The Observer

Notre Dame's Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies has received the 2008 "Blessed are the Peacemakers" Award from the Catholic Theological Union (CTU), the largest Catholic graduate school of theology in North America.

The award is offered each year to an institution or individual "whose accomplishments and commitments reflect the values of our own mission, particularly in the areas of reconciliation, justice, and peacemaking," according to the award letter from CTU.

Rev. Donald Senior, C.P., president of CTU, wrote that the board of trustees wished to "honor the Institute for the extraordinary contribution it has made in preparing graduate students and in promoting research and study on issues of peace-making. CTU feels a deep affinity with the mission and spirit of the Institute ... At a precarious time in world history, we believe that honoring peacemakers is itself an important witness."

Past award recipients include Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., president emeritus of Notre Dame; Lea Rabin, widow of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzak Rabin; Sargent and Eunice

Shriver; Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah of Jerusalem; Queen Nabor of Jordan; Nobel Laureate John Hume of Northern Ireland; Cardinal Walter Kasper, head of the Vatican Office for Ecumenism; Steven Spielberg, for his establishment of the Shoah Visual History Foundation; the One Voice Movement for Peace in Israel and Palestine; Jean Vanier, the founder of the L'Arche community for mentally disabled adults; the Council of Religious Leaders for Metropolitan Chicago; and Sen. John Danforth, former ambassador to the United Nations.

Kroc Institute director R. Scott Appleby will accept the award on April 29 in Chicago at a dinner attended by more than 800 of Chicago's religious, civic and business leaders.

Appleby said the Kroc Institute is "deeply honored to be recognized by CTU and to be in the company of so many extraordinary organizations and individuals who have received this award in the past. We are also very pleased that the award shines a spotlight on the important role that academic research and education play in advancing peace worldwide and supporting the Church's efforts in peacebuilding."

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Senate

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another resolution supporting an increase in off-campus senators, which failed after debate over the effectiveness of having more off-campus representation and the resolution's statement that there should be one male and one female off-campus senator.

Keenan senator Gus Gari, drafted the resolution, said an increase in off-campus senators would improve communication between student government and off-campus residents, who constitute about 20 percent of the student body.

If passed, the resolution potentially would have led to an amendment of the Student Body Constitution, increasing the off-campus membership from one to two senators.

Gari said that if the off-campus students were proportionally represented in the Senate, they would require four senators. However, dorms currently do not have proportional representation in the Senate, so he recommended one male and one female senator to address both genders' off-campus issues.

"Since it's the only coed constituency ... you can say that because the women off-campus didn't have a female representative, a lot of their issues weren't really well represented this year," Gari said. "In that case, they have been disenfranchised in some way."

Some senators disagreed with the resolution's recommendation, saying it would lead to

unfair elections when unequal numbers of male and female senators run for office.

"It's an elected official," Dillon senator Jim Murphy said. "I'm worried about appointments or forcing someone in due to the fact that there's a lack of, not necessarily interest, but just one year, nobody from one gender running."

Sorin senator George Chamberlain proposed to amend the resolution and remove the requirement to have both genders represented.

Other senators disagreed. "There are already more boys' dorms than girls' dorms," Pangborn senator Denise Barons aid. "With the addition of Duncan, there [will be] two more boys' dorms than girls' dorms. I think that there's an effort, a precedent within senate to keep a gender balance."

Besides the gender issue, senators debated the necessity of an additional off-campus member. "As the off-campus senator, I don't really see a need for this," senior Andrew Troia said. "The problem is not so much communication, just that most of what we do in Senate is geared towards the undergraduates living on campus."

Additionally, off-campus senators do not have as many resources to relay campus news to other students, such as Hall Council meetings or posters in the dorms.

"I'm just worried about what foreseeable change it will produce. Being off campus, there's no group meeting at Turtle Creek [or] Hall Council," Murphy said. "I just don't know if more is necessarily better."

Even though off-campus stu-

dents may have less access to campus news and events, student body president Liz Brown, who lives off campus, said some students still like to remain involved with the Notre Dame community.

"I don't think you're moving off-campus with the [intention] to get disconnected," she said. "I think that there is definitely a disconnect in communication."

In other Senate news:

♦The Senate passed a resolution amending the Student Body Constitution. This amendment stated that the Student Body President will nominate Senate Committee Chairs, and two-thirds of the Senate must approve the nominations.

♦Faculty Senate liaison Professor Thomas Noble said the Faculty Senate passed a resolution supporting clocks in all classrooms. This resolution will be implemented, since a previous Student Senate resolution also supported the issue.

♦The next student-faculty debate will address global warming, according to Callie Pogge, chair of the University Affairs Committee. It will take place next Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Dooley Room of LaFortune.

♦Academic Affairs Committee chair Carol Hendrickson said her committee discussed the future use of online teacher-course evaluations, which will allow students to read others' comments about their classes.

Contact Claire Reising at creisin2@nd.edu

Tampons

continued from page 1

and Rodriguez thought of ways to raise money.

They first wanted to put jars around campus for people to donate loose change but then decided they wanted to do something more tangible as well.

"Girls would feel like they were actually making an impact if they got something physical," Borja said. "It's more symbolic if you have something than if you're just making a donation."

Borja said the drive was something Saint Mary's students in particular would be able to relate to.

"We all get our periods every month," she said. "... [This issue] is something women across campus will be able to sympathize with."

Having feminine products readily available for use is "something we take for granted," Borja said.

The tampon and sanitary napkin sales are working with the HERO program, a United Nations

Association of the United States of America (UNA-USA) Campaign which works with Southern African schools, according to the Protecting Futures Web site.

The Web site said the HERO program promotes "an awareness building and fundraising initiative dedicated to providing comprehensive, school-based support to orphans and vulnerable children living in HIV/AIDS affected communities in Africa."

The donations from the tampon and sanitary napkin drive will be sent directly to the HERO program, Borja said.

Whatever donations Saint Mary's students make will be matched by the Student Diversity Board (SDB), Borja said. WAW is part of Saint Mary's celebration and recognition of Women's

History Month in March, she said.

"We're hoping to get at least \$500 so the SDB can match that," she said.

Contact Mandi Stirone at astiro01@saintmarys.edu

"Girls would feel like they were actually making an impact if they got something physical."

Karen Borjas
Women's Appreciation
Week
co-chair

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Flu outbreak closes Hong Kong schools

HONG KONG — Hong Kong ordered more than half a million primary and kindergarten students Wednesday to stay home for two weeks because of a flu outbreak in one of the world's most densely populated cities.

The government also asked one of its top scientists to investigate the deaths of three children. But the World Health Organization said only two of the children tested positive for the flu, and both had other diseases as well.

The outbreak has not been linked to bird flu, which was detected in birds in Hong Kong. Bird flu remains difficult for humans to catch, but scientists fear the virus that causes it could eventually mutate into a form that spreads easily among humans.

The government has ordered all kindergartens, primary and special education schools closed for two weeks starting Thursday, Health Secretary York Chow said. School children — along with teachers and parents — wore masks Wednesday as they walked outside.

Detainee wants to boycott his trial

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba — An Afghan detainee said Wednesday that he wants to boycott his trial at Guantanamo Bay and railed against the proceedings as unfair and illegal.

Mohammed Jawad, who is accused of throwing a grenade that wounded two U.S. soldiers, initially refused to attend his first pretrial hearing, delaying its start. After he appeared in the courtroom, the judge, Marine Col. Ralph Kohlmann, warned Jawad that if he does not attend future sessions he could still be tried, convicted and sentenced in absentia.

NATIONAL NEWS

Suspects charged in student's murder

HILLSBOROUGH, N.C. — Two suspects were charged Wednesday with first-degree murder in the killing of the University of North Carolina's student body president, though one remains at large.

Demario James Atwater, 21, of Durham, was arrested and ordered held without bond. Police said they are still searching for the second suspect, 17-year-old Lawrence Alvin Lovett Jr.

Chapel Hill Police Chief Brian would not say which of the suspects shot and killed Eve Carson, 22, of Athens, Ga., who was found a week ago lying on a street about a mile from campus. The biology and political science major had been shot several times, including once in the right temple.

Space shuttle undergoes construction

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Space shuttle Endeavour closed in on the international space station on Wednesday for a late-night linkup that will kick off almost two weeks of demanding construction work.

Before the docking, though, Endeavour's commander, Dominic Gorie, was set to guide the shuttle through a 360-degree backflip to allow for full photographic surveillance.

It's one of the many safety-related procedures put in place following the Columbia tragedy in 2003.

The space station crew got out cameras with high-powered zoom lenses to photograph every square foot of Endeavour from nose to tail, especially all the thermal tiles on its belly.

LOCAL NEWS

Tax relief plan sees late progress

INDIANAPOLIS — Two top lawmakers said some progress was being made to reach a compromise on property tax relief and reform as a midnight Friday deadline for adjourning the session loomed.

Gov. Mitch Daniels has warned lawmakers that he would call them into special session if the Democrat-controlled House and Republican-ruled Senate do not pass a plan acceptable to him on time.

Senate Tax Chairman Luke Kenley said negotiators had "good conversations" Wednesday morning.

"We're getting down to trying to wrap this up," the Noblesville Republican said early Wednesday afternoon. "There are several points to work out, but we're making pretty good progress."

"Yesterday was a pretty tough day, and so I think that the end of the session is near and people are starting to have the will to just kind of settle their differences, but it looks good."

Sex scandal forces Spitzer to resign

N.Y. politician could face federal charges, state's first black governor will succeed him

Associated Press

NEW YORK — In a startlingly swift fall from grace, Gov. Eliot Spitzer resigned Wednesday after getting caught in a call-girl scandal that made a mockery of his straight-arrow image and left him facing the prospect of criminal charges and perhaps disbarment.

"I cannot allow my private failings to disrupt the people's work," Spitzer said, his weary-looking wife, Silda, standing at his side, again, as the corruption-fighting politician once known as Mr. Clean answered for his actions for the second time in three days.

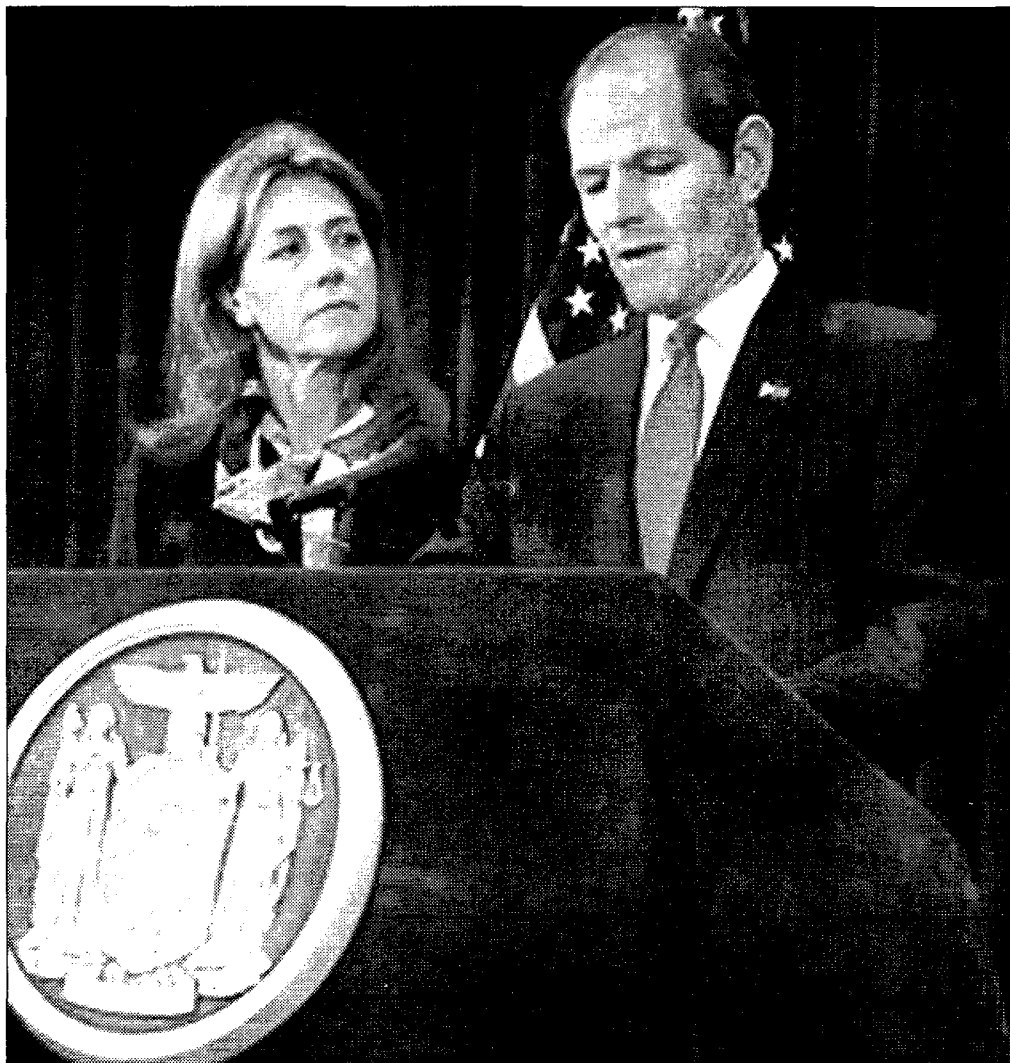
He made the announcement without securing a plea bargain with federal prosecutors, though a law enforcement official said the former governor was still believed to be negotiating one. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the case.

Spitzer will be succeeded on Monday by Lt. Gov. David Paterson, a fellow Democrat who becomes New York's first black governor and the nation's first legally blind chief executive.

The resignation brought the curtain down on a riveting three-day drama — played out, sometimes, as farce — that made Spitzer an instant punchline on late-night TV and fascinated Americans with the spectacle of a crusading politician exposed as a hypocrite.

His dizzying downfall was met with glee and the popping of champagne corks among many on Wall Street, where Spitzer was seen as a sanctimonious bully for attacking big salaries and abusive practices in the financial industry when he was New York attorney general. And his resignation brought relief at the state Capitol in Albany after days of excruciating tension and uncertainty.

"Some rules can't be bro-



New York Gov. Elliot Spitzer announces his resignation amid a prostitution scandal as his wife, Silda, looks on Wednesday at his office in New York City.

ken, and when they are broken there are consequences," said state Assemblyman John McEneny, a Democrat. "In this case, one of the most promising careers I've seen in a generation."

The scandal erupted Monday after federal law enforcement officials disclosed that a wiretap had caught the 48-year-old father of three teenage daughters spending thousands of dollars on a call girl at a fancy Washington hotel on the night before Valentine's Day.

Investigators said he had arranged for a prostitute named Kristen to take the train down from New York while he was in the nation's

capital to testify before a congressional subcommittee about the bond industry.

With every development, it became increasingly clear that Spitzer, politically, was finished.

Law enforcement officials said the governor — the millionaire heir to a New York real estate fortune — had hired prostitutes several times before and had spent tens of thousands of dollars, and perhaps as much as \$80,000, on the high-priced escort service Emperors Club VIP, whose women charge as much as \$5,500 an hour.

Senior Spitzer aides, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter, said

Spitzer had been informed Friday by federal prosecutors that he was linked to the prostitution ring.

They said he had kept it to himself through Saturday night, when he attended the annual dinner of the Gridiron Club in Washington. That night a reporter kept calling cell phones of Spitzer aides.

Spitzer first shared the news Sunday with his wife at their Manhattan apartment, and after several excruciating hours they told their daughters, the aides said. By Sunday evening Spitzer had called top advisers, personal friends and loyalists. The little band huddled in the apartment until midnight.

IRAQ

Baghdad feeling effects of increased violence

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — In just a week, Baghdad has seen a spate of suicide bombings that have killed scores of Iraqis and five U.S. soldiers — among 12 Americans who have fallen in the line of duty during the past three days in Iraq.

Suddenly, the city is feeling the unease of the period before violence eased partly as a result of the U.S. troop buildup, which is now coming to a close.

"Violence has increased dramatically" over the past few days, said Haitham Ismael, a 33-year-old father of three living in western Baghdad.

After five years of war, Iraqis interviewed said they were not necessarily

changing their daily routines. But all said the growing bloodshed was present in their minds, clouding what had until recently been a more hopeful time.

Some fear that the rampant violence of one year ago may be coming back, especially as the 30,000 soldiers sent to Baghdad last summer to help end a sectarian war begin returning home.

The key goal of the U.S. "surge" was to secure the capital, giving Iraq's politicians breathing room to cut deals that would bring minority Sunni Arabs into the government and thereby weaken or end the insurgency.

Violence in the capital has indeed diminished, thanks also to a maze of

walls and barriers that divide Shiite from Sunni neighborhoods, a key Shiite militia's cease-fire and the decision by many Sunnis to turn against al-Qaida in Iraq. As a result, street life and even nightlife have returned to many districts, particularly Shiite.

But Iraqi politicians are still gridlocked over sharing power, and citizens appear to have little hope that Iraqi forces could control al-Qaida in Iraq and renegade Shiite militias on their own.

"I'm 100 percent certain that if the U.S. forces leave now, the situation will become very explosive," said Najj Hassan Yassin, a 55-year-old math teacher and father of three from the capital's Amariyah neighborhood, once controlled by al-Qaida in Iraq.

Staples

continued from page 1

ments to hold campus-wide events for National Eating Disorder Awareness week.

Staples said Notre Dame students present a unique set of issues to consider in the treatment of a disorder.

"On campus, there are circumstances that might fuel the disorders differently," she said. "This is a place where there is a lot of exercise going on and there is a competitive component to that. These are students who are pretty driven, whether it be about good grades or looking perfect."

The Counseling Center stresses a collaborative approach to treating students with eating disorders, Staples said.

"If someone meets the criteria for an eating disorder, we approach it with a comprehensive team," she said.

"Students meet with a counselor, dietician and the physician at the health center. We are looking at all aspects of the disorder."

The first step of the treatment program is completing paperwork that will screen for the severity of the disease, Staples said.

Certain students will need to meet with a therapist, but do not have a severe enough condition that requires regular meetings with a dietician and physician she said.

Students with a severe form of an eating disorder meet regularly with the therapist, dietician, and doctor. In those cases, the eating disorder "would be at a point where the behaviors and thoughts about body weight and eating start to affect other aspects of life such as self-esteem, relationships, and concentration," Staples said.

Staples also leads group meetings for affected students to talk about their problems with each other.

The Counseling Center treats many forms of eating disorders every year, but the most prevalent forms treated

are anorexia nervosa and bulimia, Staples said.

The center also treats students who purge calories by over-exercising, and a few students who are binge eaters, but do not purge the calories through vomiting or exercise, Staples said.

In the past few years, the Counseling Center has seen a slight increase in the number of men seeking help for eating disorders. Although the students treated are predominantly women, Staples said the increased awareness over the years has helped propel men to get the help they need.

"It is difficult for men because there is still a lot of stigma that [eating disorders] are a woman's disease," she said. "We are trying to get away from that."

Recently, Staples attended a conference at Duke University for campus treatment providers. She said she was able to gain insight into the treatment programs of other similar universities such as Cornell, NYU, and Brown.

"In listening to them, I think we are pretty comparable in terms of issues and number of students with eating disorders, and I was really pleased in listening to other people in terms of our program," Staples said.

"I think with our collaborative relationships we are further ahead than some."

Staples is optimistic about the strength of Notre Dame's approach to eating disorders.

"I feel really good about the progress we have made in terms of providing a team approach. We have a good collaborative relationship, which transfers to good continuity of care for students. I think most students would say that they have found it to be helpful," she said. "Eating disorders are very serious, and it can be a very lengthy treatment process but people do get better."

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

Lecture

continued from page 1

"One of the most serious of these eating disorders is anorexia," she said.

"Those who suffer from anorexia struggle with an intense fear of gaining weight," Rodts said. "They spend 70 percent or more of their time thinking about food, dieting or calories."

Mary Rodts
orthopedic nurse
practitioner

Anorexia, unlike some other eating disorders, is usually identified by extreme weight-loss. Other physical symptoms include fainting, fatigue and overall weakness. Long-term sufferers might develop an irregular heart rhythm or heart failure, she said.

In contrast to anorexia, bulimia does not usually entail significant weight-loss.

"These patients eat large amounts of food over short periods and then induce vomiting or take laxatives," Rodts said. "Because the patients eat, they may maintain their weight better."

Since bulimic patients don't necessarily lose a lot of weight it is often hard for others to recognize that they may have a problem. Rodts said her niece dealt with bulimia personally and the nurse did not recognize the warning signs.

"In my niece's situation, we did not see it, we did not know it was going on," she said.

Rodts said that sometimes one of the only ways you can recognize a patient dealing with bulimia is by looking for the other symptoms.

"One initial sign is that the teeth are stained and corroded, particularly in the back, because of the repeated vomiting," she said.

The patient's hands and knuckles may also be cut "because the hands are often used as an instrument to induce

purging," she said. The third eating disorder Rodts discussed was binge eating. She said it is similar to bulimia except the patient does not purge or fast.

"[Patients] may feel deprived by dieting and they often find friendship with food," she said.

"These behaviors are usually associated with weight gain and possibly obesity. These patients might eat, instead of a single donut, an entire box of Krispy Kremes."

Patients suffering from binge-eating often develop high blood pressure, cholesterol problems and type 2 diabetes, Rodts said. Generally, she said, eating

disorders can cause serious problems by interfering with the body's supply of nutrients, electrolytes and calcium.

They are especially dangerous for women because they deplete a reserve of bone strength women need later in life because they lose bone mass much more rapidly than males as they age, Rodts said.

"Acting [by getting help] is necessary to prevent lifelong disabilities," she said. "Eating disorders can affect your well-being 30 to 40 years down the road," she said.

Junior Sarah Ponto said that she found the portion of Rodts' lecture which spoke specifically to women particularly informative.

"Even though I'm a pre-med, there was a lot I didn't know about the electrolyte balance and the range of physiological effects of eating disorders," she said.

"It's not just the heart, or any one system, it's everything," Ponto said. She thought the most important element was that Rodts provided statistics about the extent of eating disorders for males and females.

"A lot of people assume that eating disorders only affect females," Ponto said. "I think that we're doing a disservice to our patients if we assume that."

Contact Brian McKenzie at bmckenzi@nd.edu

"[Patients] may feel deprived by dieting and they often find friendship with food."

Mary Rodts
orthopedic nurse
practitioner

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MARKET RECAP

Stocks				
Dow Jones	12,110.24	-39.77		
Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:	
2,795	56	574	1,34,116,329	
AMEX	2,306.40	+7.01		
NASDAQ	2,243.87	-11.89		
NYSE	8,781.23	-61.45		
S&P 500	1,308.77	-11.88		
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	12,699.32	-161.81		
FTSE 100 (London)	5,776.04	+86.00		
COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE	
S&P DEP RECIEPTS (SPY)	-0.94	-1.24	131.36	
FINANCIAL SEL SPDR (XLF)	-1.67	-0.42	24.76	
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	-0.28	-0.12	42.71	
CITIGROUP INC (C)	-1.30	-0.28	21.21	
Treasuries				
10-YEAR NOTE	-3.14	-0.113	3.483	
13-WEEK BILL	0.00	0.000	1.440	
30-YEAR BOND	-2.65	-0.120	4.410	
5-YEAR NOTE	-4.55	-0.119	2.494	
Commodities				
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)		+1.17	109.92	
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)		+4.70	976.00	
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)		+0.40	81.50	
Exchange Rates				
YEN			101.6600	
EURO			0.6430	
CANADIAN DOLLAR			0.9898	
BRITISH POUND			0.4934	

IN BRIEF

Bush pushes for Colombian trade deal

WASHINGTON — President Bush warned Congress on Wednesday that failing to approve a trade deal with Colombia would fuel the anti-American regime of Venezuela's Hugo Chavez and cast the United States as untrustworthy and impotent across South America.

The intensity of Bush's rhetoric reflected the importance of the deal to him — and the fact that he's fast running out of time to get it done. Democrats have objected that Colombia's government has not done enough to halt violence, protect labor activists and demobilize paramilitary organizations.

"If Congress were to reject the agreement with Colombia, we would validate antagonists in Latin America, who would say that America cannot be trusted to stand by its friends," Bush said in a speech to the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

"We would cripple our influence in the region, and make other nations less likely to cooperate with us in the future," the president said. "We would betray one of our closest friends in our own backyard."

Airline cancels flights for inspections

DALLAS — Southwest Airlines Co. canceled flights Wednesday and temporarily grounded 43 planes to examine if they were sound enough to carry passengers, the latest twist in the low-cost carrier's saga of missed safety inspections and civil penalties.

The groundings affected about 8 percent of Southwest's fleet, and came as the airline faces a \$10.2 million civil penalty for continuing to fly nearly 50 planes that hadn't been inspected for cracks in their fuselages.

Southwest shares fell more than 9 percent before closing down 7.3 percent.

Since the Federal Aviation Administration announced the penalty last week, Southwest has endured a steady drip of bad publicity, which is unusual for the nation's most consistently profitable carrier and one that has never had an accident that killed passengers or crew members.

Capitol Hill begins budget debate

Democrats, Republicans seek political points while tackling fiscal plans

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrats in the House and Senate trumpeted surplus-producing fiscal plans Wednesday as their GOP rivals seized on looming tax increases in the Democratic budget outlines as a potent issue for the presidential campaign.

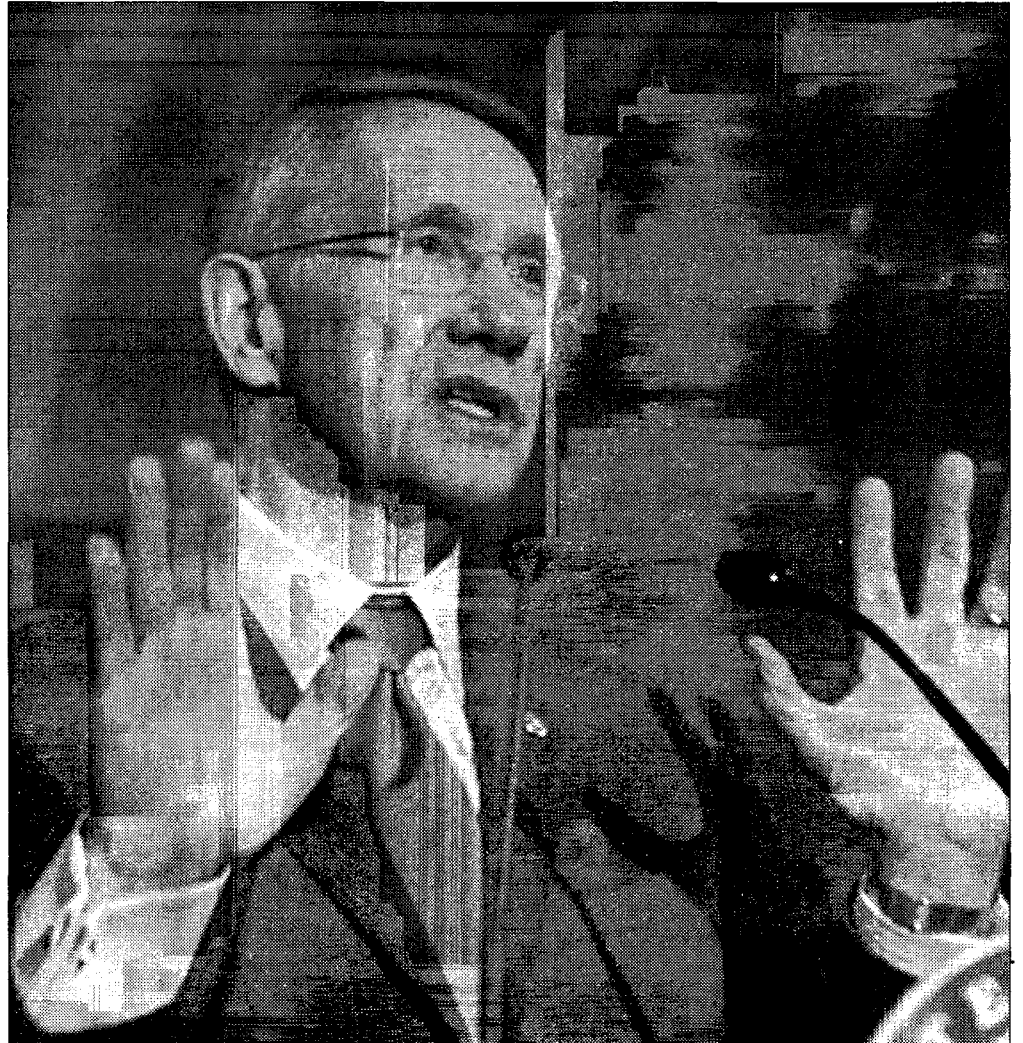
Democrats are backing twin \$3 trillion budgets for 2009 that would produce sizable surpluses in a few years and provide generous increases for many domestic programs, but only by assuming major tax increases when President Bush's tax cuts expire in about three years.

All three major presidential candidates planned to be on hand Thursday in the Senate for votes on taxes, a one-year ban on lawmakers' pet projects and a vote to pass the measure late in the day. The House also votes on Thursday.

House debate began Wednesday, as Republicans pressed an alternative income to preserve Bush's estate tax rate cuts and tax breaks for married couples, people with children, on investments and for those inheriting multimillion-dollar estates.

But the price for such generosity is harsh: unrealistic cuts in Medicare, housing, community development, and the Medicaid health care program for the poor and disabled.

The rival budget plans display the difficult trade-offs facing the next president, who must weigh tax cuts that expire at the end of 2010 against popular spending programs like



Senate majority leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) speaks at a news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington Tuesday. The Senate and House began budget debates Wednesday.

education, highway construction and Medicare. Simply put, it's impossible, under current estimates, to have it all and still being able to produce a balanced budget in a few years. The White House forecasts the deficit for the current year at \$410 billion, a near-record.

Republicans blasted the measures for assuming the 2001 and 2003 cuts in taxes on income, investments, parents with children and married couples will expire at the end of 2010.

"The child tax credit gets cut in half," said Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, the top Republican on the House Budget Committee. "The marriage penalty comes back. ... It requires that income tax rates are raised across the board."

Democrats countered that their nonbinding plan puts the budget back in surplus while also making investments in infrastructure, education, community development, clean energy and other programs. They say it also avoids \$196 billion worth

of Bush-proposed cuts to Medicare and the Medicaid health care program for the poor and disabled.

"The Democratic budget restores fiscal responsibility," said Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass. "It rejects the president's harmful cuts to basic services, and invests in proven programs that boost economic growth, create jobs and make America safer."

Some Democrats, especially in the Senate, are nervous on taxes.

Fed's plan causes stocks to retreat

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wall Street's euphoria over a \$200 billion plan from the Federal Reserve turned to caution Wednesday, leading stocks to retreat a day after their biggest rally in more than five years.

Investors largely regard the plan the Fed announced Tuesday to lend Treasuries in exchange for debt tied to mortgages as an innovative means of bringing some relief to the tight credit markets. But they are hesitant to pour more money into stocks without signs that the decision will help turn around the economy — particularly with data on retail sales and consumer prices scheduled to arrive later this week.

"Does it address the main concern, and that's weaker housing? That has not been resolved just yet," said Steven Goldman, chief market strategist at Weeden & Co. "If we are in the midst of a recession, and only a couple

months into the recession, we might need a couple more months to plod our way through this."

After shooting higher Tuesday, most bank stocks declined again Wednesday. Even if the credit markets ease up a bit, banks and other lenders still face a deteriorating climate for consumer credit and many are low on cash.

"We're still in a great deal of flux here. The fact that the Fed has gone from lender of last resort to lender of first resort worries me," said John O'Donoghue, co-head of equities at Cowen & Co.

Volatile energy prices added to the market's anxiety. Oil prices initially fell after the Energy Department said crude and gasoline supplies rose by unexpectedly large amounts last week, but then they returned on their record-setting streak to briefly surpass \$110 a barrel. If oil keeps hitting record levels, inflation pressures could rise and limit the Federal Reserve's ability to reduce

interest rates further and boost lending efforts to spur the economy.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 46.57, or 0.38 percent, to 12,110.24. It initially dipped, shot up more than 140 points, then dropped again. On Tuesday, the Dow surged 416 points, the blue chips' biggest one-day point gain since 2002.

Broader stock indicators also finished lower after a seesaw day. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 11.88, or 0.90 percent, to 1,308.77, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 11.89, or 0.53 percent, to 2,243.87.

Treasury prices rose as stocks pulled back. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite its price, fell to 3.44 percent from 3.59 percent late Tuesday.

The dollar fell against most other major currencies, and sank to another record low against the euro. Gold prices rose, while crude finished at a record settlement of \$109.92 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Sen. Clinton apologizes for husband

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton did something Wednesday night that she almost never does.

She apologized. And once she started, she didn't seem able to stop.

The New York senator, who is in a tight race with Illinois Sen. Barack Obama for the Democratic presidential nomination, struck several sorry notes at an evening forum sponsored by the National Newspaper Publishers Association, a group of more than 200 black community newspapers across the country.

Her biggest apology came in response to a question about comments by her husband, Bill Clinton, after the South Carolina primary, which Obama won handily. Bill Clinton said Jesse Jackson also won South Carolina when he ran for president in 1984 and 1988, a comment many viewed as belittling Obama's success.

"I want to put that in context. You know I am sorry if anyone was offended. It was certainly not meant in any way to be offensive," Hillary Clinton said. "We can be proud of both Jesse Jackson and Senator Obama."

"Anyone who has followed my husband's public life or my public life know very well where we have stood and what we have stood for and who we have stood with," she said, acknowledging that whoever wins the nomination will have to heal the wounds of a bruising, historic contest.

"Once one of us has the nomination there will be a great effort to unify the Democratic party and we will do so, because, remember I have a lot of supporters who have voted for me in very large numbers and I would expect them to support Senator Obama if he were the nominee," she said.

The Clintons long have enjoyed overwhelming support from black voters, but that has been eclipsed during the primaries and caucuses by enthusiasm and support for Obama, who has pulled huge margins among black voters. Arguments over the role of race and gender have flared up repeatedly throughout the contest between Obama, who would be the nation's first black president, and Clinton, who would be its first female one.

Earlier in the day, Hillary Clinton supporter and fundraiser Geraldine Ferraro gave up her honorary position with Clinton's campaign after she said in an interview last week that Obama would not have made it this far if he were white. Obama said Ferraro's remarks were "ridiculous" and "wrong-headed."

Of Ferraro's comment, Hillary Clinton told her audience: "I certainly do repudiate it and I regret deeply that it was said. Obviously she doesn't speak for the campaign, she doesn't speak for any of my positions, and she has resigned from being a member of my very large finance committee."

Cuban athletes disappear in Florida

Associated Press

TAMPA — Five Cuban soccer players went missing Tuesday night after the under-23 team played a key match against the United States, a team official said Wednesday.

The missing men had not yet reported to authorities.

Zachary Mann, a spokesman for Customs and Border Protection, said it's unlikely the agency will learn the men's whereabouts until they come forward.

Under the United States' "wet foot, dry foot" policy, Cubans who reach U.S. soil are allowed to remain in the country and apply for U.S. residency after one year.

The Cuban team is in Tampa to play in qualifying games for the Beijing Olympics this

August, sponsored by the Confederation of North, Central American and Caribbean Association Football, or CONCACAF.

A CONCACAF spokesman declined comment, saying only that the situation is under review.

The five men, including a goalie and team captain who helped Cuba tie the United States 1-1 Tuesday, are expected to be in Miami by this weekend, said Marcos Omatia, a spokesman with professional soccer team Miami FC.

He said he had not spoken

with the players and did not know their whereabouts, but said he had spoken with someone who told him to expect the players.

CONCACAF and team officials did not identify the five missing players. But looking at players' jerseys Wednesday's practice revealed those who were absent: Jose Manuel Miranda, 21; Erlys Garcia Baro, Yenier Bermudez, Yordany Alvarez and Loanni Prieto, all listed as 22-year-olds.

Tampa police spokeswoman Andrea Davis said the agency had not received any missing persons reports from the team, and officers were not called to the team's hotel to investigate the disappearances.

A Cuban team leader would not discuss details and said he was most concerned about Thursday's match against Honduras.

"Tomorrow we have a very important game ... and we are concentrating on that," said Luis Hernandez, president of the Soccer Association of Cuba and the only team official to address the media.

When asked what the team planned to do without the players, Hernandez said, "Win — with the five, without the five — win."

"Tomorrow we have a very important game ... and we are concentrating on that."

Luis Hernandez
Soccer Association of Cuba president

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Dogs rescued from Ariz. house

Over 800 animals taken from overwhelmed owners and put in area shelters

Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — About 800 small dogs, including Chihuahuas, terriers and Pomeranians, were seized from a triple-wide mobile home whose occupants were overwhelmed trying to care for the animals, authorities said Wednesday.

Pima County sheriff's deputies and animal welfare officials who removed the dogs also found 82 caged parrots in the home in a rural area northwest of Tucson.

Some dogs were pregnant and giving birth as they were taken to shelters in Tucson, said Jenny Rose, a spokeswoman for the Humane Society

of Southern Arizona. Ninety-six dogs were taken from the house Monday and another 700 on Wednesday, she said.

"The home was definitely in very bad condition, urine and feces all over the home, in the kitchen and bedroom, with a very strong odor," she said. "Obviously, 800 dogs in a triple-wide mobile home, they were packed in there. That being said, they were in pretty good shape."

The elderly owners, who have not been identified, were apparently overwhelmed but have cooperated with authorities, sheriff's Sgt. James Ogden said. No charges have been filed, but authorities continue to investigate.

The animals appeared to have had enough food, but a few were missing paws — some from having been attacked by other animals, others apparently having caught their feet in fencing outside, Rose said.

The breeds included Chinese crested and Lhasa apsos. The owners were breeding and offering the dogs for sale, Rose said, but she described it as a hoarding case, in which elderly people sometimes feel no one else can give their animals a good home and won't part with them.

Deputies were alerted this month after a woman who bought a Chihuahua at the home reported the conditions, Ogden said.

Boys, mom survive fall on highway

Associated Press

DALLAS — Driving to her job at a landscaping company on Interstate 30, Sondra Plunk saw a young boy fall from an overpass and land in the lane next to her.

"I saw his face," she said. "I saw the fear in his face."

The boy and his brother were tossed from the overpass east of downtown Dallas on Wednesday, allegedly by their mother, who then made the two-story jump herself. Somehow, all of them survived dropping into the fast lane of morning rush hour

traffic.

Plunk said the boy she saw fall ended up in the path of a van, which fishtailed as its driver slammed the brakes and swerved. Plunk was unsure if the van struck the boy.

The boy landed on his side and immediately popped up onto his hands and knees, staring into the van's headlights.

"He rolled to all fours," said Plunk, 44. "Knowing he was still alive, knowing he was still conscious and he had the presence of mind to think, 'My God, I have to get out of here.'"

Police said the boys, ages 6 and 8, were in stable condition, but hospital officials declined to comment later Wednesday. Their mother, Khandi Busby, was in fair condition at another hospital, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Police said they believe the traffic, which Plunk estimated had been traveling 35 to 40 mph, hit Busby and they 8-year-old but managed to avoid the younger boy. All three were able to speak with investigators, although the 8-year-old may have suffered internal injuries.

"It was really miraculous that we didn't have some fatalities with this incident," Dallas police spokesman Sgt. Gil Cerda said.

Busby, 27, had not been arrested as of Wednesday but could face two charges of attempted capital murder, Cerda said.

"The why remains a mystery to us," police Lt. C.L. Williams said. "If you try to apply logic to these incidents, they totally defy any logical explanation."

Shortly before 6:30 a.m. Wednesday, Busby and her sons walked away from her father, who had stopped for gas while driving them to a friend's house. Police do not know why Busby left with her children.

"She was not fleeing for her safety," Cerda said. "She just threw them over and decided to throw herself over."

Her father tried to follow the three in the car but was unable to get to them before they reached the overpass.

Police said each boy struggled with Busby as she picked him up and threw him onto the far left lane of the freeway, where cars swerved to avoid them.


Dr. Dave Milzman, a member of the American College of Emergency Physicians, said that if someone lands feet first their odds of surviving a fall from 22 feet are good.

"As long as they landed kind of upright, it's not that unusual not to injure themselves severely," Milzman said.

Busby has a criminal record, including convictions for assault and criminal trespass of a habitation. Child Protective Services had intervened with her on at least three occasions for incidents that police described as relatively minor.

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If Lent were spring training, I'd be in jail

Honestly now — how many times have you broken your Lenten promise so far? I promised to spend 20 to 30 minutes in quiet prayer each morning this Lent, but know of at least five days when that has not happened, three days when I didn't reach the finish line, and at least five more when my prayer was so distracted it could hardly count as prayer.

Today is the 32nd day of Lent, and that's thirteen whiffs. If Lent was a baseball game, my .600 average would have someone checking me for steroids. God, however, has not yet knocked on the door with a random drug test, so the numbers don't seem to impress Him much. Has God ever tried to hit a baseball? It's not that easy...

The days when we break our Lenten promises can be the most important of the 40 days of Lent. By reminding us of our seemingly unshakeable inability to keep even simple commitments to God bring with them a whole battery of interior reactions that are rich with the possibility of deeper self-knowledge, and a deeper knowledge of God. I have learned some of my most enduring spiritual lessons while swinging and missing in Lent.

Most importantly, I have discovered that, if I put my mind to it, I am capable of endlessly frustrating myself. I have never made it through a flawless forty days of Lent, and the prospects for next year don't look great either. I am pretty sure I am incapable of pulling off a perfect Lent. And once I

start thinking outside of Lent to the challenges that confront me the other 320 days, it's a wonder I get up in the morning. It'd be easier and safer if I just stayed in Dillon with the door locked.

Of course, this spiritual depression — born of a spiritual perfectionism — is a helpful conclusion to reach precisely for its absurdity. Lent reminds me precisely of the certainty that moral and spiritual perfection is an impossibility for me. Yet, an overwhelming sense of discouragement at my failings hardly helps us build up of the Kingdom, which I personally and definitely can't do locked in my room at Dillon — no offense to the guys at Dillon.

My search for a more helpful response sends my mind through the Scriptures, and an almost daily reminder of the collection of sinners with whom Jesus spent his days.

Times of spiritual discouragement, or realizations of our weakness, are extremely rich times to read Jesus' encounter with the town thief Zacchaeus, or Jesus' calling of Matthew the tax collector. I nearly cry each third Sunday of Lent as I hear Jesus speak in utter compassion to the adulterous Samaritan woman sitting at the well: "You are thirsting after water that will make you thirsty again. But I can give you water so that you will thirst no more."

These are people of moral imperfection, and what strikes me to the heart is not so much that Jesus forgives them (though of course he does) but that he seems to seek out, and then remains in, their company.

Reading these passages, and seeing myself in them, are some of the most intimate moments with God that I experience all year.

While they don't justify my sins and shortcomings, they do speak to them — and the words are ones of mercy, love, and a renewed call to conversion and true freedom and relationship with God. My Lenten failings are invitations not into discouragement, but into a deeper understanding of the depth of God's mercy and love.

Perhaps, I shouldn't be so content with imperfection, but — truth be told — I kind of like hitting .600 during Lent. Recognition of our limitations, and recognition of our thirst to transcend them — even if that recognition some days manifests itself only as frustration with ourselves — is a time-tested gateway to a more vibrant and real relationship with Christ.

Our limitations make us one with most of the Gospel characters whom Jesus goes out of his way to encounter. Jesus seeks for us with such persistent compassion despite, I indeed because of, our sin, failures, and imperfections.

So .600 it is this Lent, with eight days to go. Hey, it's hard to hit a baseball with perfect regularity, and besides, you don't want to be at the peak of your game in spring training.

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

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



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OBSERVER POLL

How far will Men's Basketball go in the Big East tournament?

Lose in quarterfinals
Lose in semifinals
Lose in finals
Win it all

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

"Man is not made for defeat. A man can be destroyed but not defeated."

Ernest Hemmingway
author

Viewpoint letter fun! Fill in the blanks

How to Play:

To complete the Observer letters to the editor below, fill in the blanks by selecting from the three options in each of the parenthesis. Enjoy!

To the Editor:

I disagree with the March 10 Letter to the Editor, entitled

("St. Mary's Is Only Here for Sex and Demeaning Cartoons," "Golden Dome for Everyone: Homosexuality at Notre Dame," "Vagina Monologues Should Be Performed Under Dome").

Notre Dame must remain a paragon of our beautiful Lady's spirit. And, as _____ (Genesis 1:1, 2 Kings 2:24-look it up, trust me, John 3:16) reminds us, the Bible, our beautiful Lady's beautiful book, explicitly forbids the "Vagina Monologues" from being performed on Catholic campuses not named _____ (Georgetown, Boston College, Saint Louis).

Unfortunately, the liberal minority that is _____ (The Observer, the English Department, the Society of Women Engineers) seem to want to turn our Lady's University into _____ (a socialist state, a Godless Hell, an abortion clinic housed in that cool looking power plant with the glass façade near North Quad).

First, _____ (the forces of evil, the anti-God cabal, Fr. McBrien) tried to force us to _____ (watch the Vagina Monologues, support Barack Obama, pay a living wage).

Next, they wanted this Catholic university to _____ (hire more non-Catholic faculty, eliminate parietals, start a Native American Studies minor).

Finally, they insisted we _____ (support a Queer Film Festival, support a Queer, support a Film Festival).

What's next? _____ (Birth control in LaFortune?, Tariq Ramadan?, GreenD?).

Luckily, there is still one paragon of Fr. Sorin's vision of this great University: _____ (the Irish Rover, Fr. Hesburgh, Golden Tate). With this guidance and strength, Notre Dame can once again look all critics in the eye and say

_____ ("Never again will we dream a dream too small," "See, we still deserve your money, conservative-Catholic donors," "Suck it, Trojans").

In the name of _____ (the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit), D. Mahon

_____ (Freshman, Grad Student, Alum)

_____ (Old College, Off Campus, Class of 1957)

To the Editor:

As the _____ (chairman, chairwoman, gender-neutral chairperson) of this year's VoCP-Vaginas on Campus Project-I want to commend the University for allowing the performance of the "Vagina Monologues."

As _____ (Shakespeare, Ibsen, Garcia Lorca) can attest, great plays often encounter stiff opposition amid cries of immorality. D. Mahon's March 11 letter fits the

pattern. Mr. Mahon betrays a _____ (offensiveness, ignorance, penis-first chauvinism) typical of the writings of a _____ (freshman, grad student, 1957 alumnus).

Mr. Mahon, I want to teach you a lesson. A lesson about Jesus. This is a man — do we even know he's a man, Mr. Mahon? — who gave voice to a prostitute. But you seem to think he would not grant the same voice to _____ (a woman with an "angry vagina?," a woman who was "a moaner?," a man who "liked to look at it?"). Jesus was about empowering the oppressed — and who is more oppressed than _____ (a woman in the Catholic Church, a white 21-year-old woman from a lakefront Wilmette mansion, a woman who has been unable to share her feelings about her vagina with a scholarly audience).

As such, it seems clear that the Vagina Monologues ought to sit alongside _____ (Fr. Sorin's diaries, the Bible, DuLac) in the Notre Dame canon.

But our respect for females and their genitalia must go beyond a few days of performance in March. Each day, we must _____ (denounce female genital mutilation in Africa, yell the c-word on South Quad before our 9:35 class, respect St. Mary's).

Such an act will ensure academic freedom in the truest sense. After all, how are women supposed to express themselves in the classroom if they can't _____ (walk around naked ... errr, liberated?, shave their heads but not their armpits?, perform spontaneous vagina-related skits in the Basilica?)

Second, we must fire Charlie Weis and hire _____ (Pat Summitt, C. Vivian Stringer, Ty Willingham).

But perhaps most importantly, Notre Dame and St. Mary's women must band together to

_____ (reject those who continue to imply through words and actions that women are inferior, make female sexuality as acceptable as male sexuality on campus, vote for Hillary Clinton). We can only do this in one way: by

_____ (working together!, requiring students to read The Pussy Ranch, Diablo Cody's blog, every day!, smoking. A lot!).

With the help of VoCP, and the performance of the "Vagina Monologues," I hope Notre Dame can educate ignorant Catholics like Mr. Mahon. Women of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's: we must stand together and support academic freedom.

After all, _____ (this is a university founded on the legacy of a woman!, nothing says liberation like a play in 101 DeBartolo!, a woman divided cannot stand!)

In the name of (Our Lady, Our Lady, Our Lady),

Katherine P.

_____ (Sophomore, Junior, Senior)

_____ (BP, McCandless, Kampala, Uganda)

Andrew Nesi is a junior American Studies major from Fairfield, Conn. In between viewings of "Juno" over spring break, he found six full-length gray hairs on his 21-year-old head. It was depressing. He can be reached at anesi@nd.edu.

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



Andrew Nesi

*Spicy Sea
Nuggets*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A realistic view of sexuality

This letter is in response to Brother Bill Mewes' letter ("Real issues," Mar. 11) in which several points made personally disturbed me.

The first was his offer of congratulations to Greg Yatarola, the 30-something year old alumnus who consistently writes serious yet inane letters to The Observer. I feel safe in saying that Greg should not be lauded for his writings, as being an older man he a) should have something better to do with his time than write to his alma mater's newspaper, and b) he is too out of touch with the college-student mentality to be taken seriously.

Second: Brother Mewes demonizes students' desires to be free of classes on the weekends by blindly stating we all want to get drunk and have sex. I live in a quad with three young, hormone-driven males, and I feel confident in saying that all we are interested in (any time of the week) is sex — if by sex you mean Zelda, Super Smash Bros, and guitar. And one of my roommates has a girlfriend.

Third: He states that this semester is the first in five years where an article has been written to counter the wanton sexual content in today's society. However, last year I wrote a letter decrying the prevalence of porn in the media ("Disrespectful mentality needs to go," Oct. 17, 2007).

Fourth: When a college student asked him how to be chaste and pure, Brother Mewes writes a suggestion to observe heartily the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist, and prayer.

Although these are all praiseworthy acts, these suggestions just show how out of touch he is with college-age students. I suggest a more practical way to keep guys out of girls' pants, and though it may keep you chaste, it sure won't keep you pure.

Ryan Slaney
sophomore
Carroll Hall
Mar. 12

'Monologues' a disgrace

I attended Notre Dame from 1965-68. The university was in the early throes of modernization and it seems upon reflection that it wasn't quite clear who was really in charge — the priests or the trustees. A bit of drift was evident. I don't pay much attention to Notre Dame these days. But it was made known to me today that the "Vagina Monologues" will be performed at Notre Dame. I was kind of rebellious during my college years. But I still considered myself a Catholic. This is why I am disgusted; that this play is going to be performed at Notre Dame. Being a Catholic used to mean something. I guess it doesn't mean much at Notre Dame, not if standing up for a moral code might offend the hip on the Left. I see nothing much has changed at Notre Dame since I left 40 years ago. Still adrift. Not sure who, if anyone, is in charge. My dad, class of '28, would throw up if he heard what is going on at the institution he devoted his life to.

Shame on you, Fr. Jenkins.

Jack Lavelle
alumnus
Class of 1968
Mar. 11

Eating disorder discourse crucial

I would like to commend both Tara Gilbride and The Observer for acknowledging the significant issue of eating disorders on the Notre Dame campus. As the article mentioned, eating disorders are not uncommon; however they often serve to isolate and consume the men and women struggling.

Eating disorders, like other mental illnesses, are real, organic disorders — and like any other serious disease, they are not a choice or an individual failing. As a survivor, not only can I attest to the devastation eating disorders cause, but I can also assure that treatment is effective and recovery is possible.

Thank you, Tara, for courageously sharing your story, and for giving a voice to those silenced by these serious disorders. I encourage the Notre Dame community to continue this important discourse by attending the Health and Body Image Conference, and by reaching out to those who are in need of help and support. And for those of you struggling, please know that you are not alone.

Allison Wishon
alumnus
Class of 2007
Mar. 12

Be the envy of all your friends!
Become a Viewpoint columnist
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MATT HUDSON | Observer Graphic

By RYAN RAFFIN
Assistant Scene Editor

The Mars Volta wants to blow your mind. Since its inception in 2001 from the ashes of the late, great, "At the Drive-In," the California group has never ceased pushing musical boundaries.

Defying genre classification as well as traditional song structure, the closest term that could be used to describe its music is simply "forward-thinking." There are hints of punk, salsa, metal and jazz sprinkled throughout each of its

four albums. The partnership central to the group, vocalist Cedric Bixler-Zavala and guitarist Omar A. Rodriguez-Lopez, must have the most diverse collection of music on their iPods the world has ever seen.

The group's most recent album, "The Bedlam in Goliath," is a definite step up from its previous effort, 2006's meandering "Amputecthture." It is almost as linear and straightforward an album as the band's 2003 debut "Deloused in the Comatorium." Of course, words like "linear" and "straightforward" are relative, in this case being code words for "no songs over 10 minutes in length." Gone are the half hour multi-movement excursions of yesteryear. Instead, we get the furious two-and-a-half minute burst of "Wax Simulacra."

There are 12 songs, and increase from previous efforts, and despite the album's overarching concept, these are the least prog-rock songs the Mars Volta has written in years. Which isn't to say it's become Maroon 5; this record is still more

esoteric and flat-out bizarre than nearly anything else out today. The fact of the matter is that when compared to Mars Volta previous body of work, which sounds like it was written 100 years in the future by aliens who sing in Spanish, English and made-up words, the melodic hooks of "Bedlam" seem fairly tame.

At the same time, this is the Mars Volta's heaviest and loudest offering yet. Complexity and length were dialed back, if only slightly, in exchange for brute force. The band is rocking harder than it ever has. Songs like "Goliath", "Metatron" and opener "Aberinkula" leave an impact right away, with Bixler-Zavala's voice complementing Rodriguez-Lopez's wailing guitars and Thomas Pridgen's pounding drums. The extended ambient intros are gone, a common feature from its previous albums. After the snooze-fest that was "Amputecthture," it's relieving to see the group become more concise in its playing, yet maintain its experimental nature.

The other short song, "Tourniquet Man", is a head turner. Far and away the softest and slowest song of the dozen, it is a brief respite from the fury heard on every other song. Minimal guitars and keyboard effects back up the vocals on this bizarre love song.

For all the strides made in streamlining its music, the Mars Volta still have not matched the genius of its second album "Frances the Mute." While that album was gloriously excessive, it still seemed like every second was essential, something that can't be said for "Bedlam." The 76-minute runtime is far too long — at least two of the songs on the second half of "Goliath" should have been cut out, as they all sound basically the same. Shorter songs don't count for much when the back half album is loaded with sound-a-likes. Filler is filler, no matter the song length.

The Mars Volta should be commended for its new approach, but the group still has something to learn about restraint. After pushing its sound to the absolute limit, it realized that sometimes a slightly more head-on approach works just as well. The problem lies in not going far enough from what it knows. Maybe the band should try making a record less than 70 minutes long. There are some very strong songs on "The Bedlam in Goliath," and the good stuff far outweighs the bad. It just so happens that the best songs are the shortest and most different from its normal style. Funny how that works.

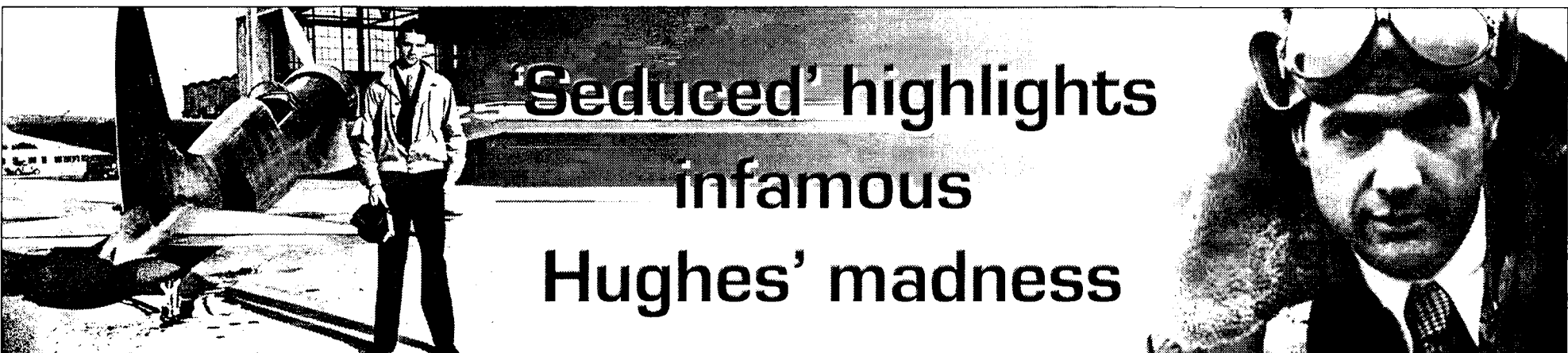
Contact Ryan Raffin at rraffin@nd.edu

"The Bedlam in Goliath"

The Mars Volta

Released by: Universal

Recommended Tracks: "Wax Simulacra," "Tourniquet Man" and "Goliath"



MATT HUDSON | Observer Graphic

By TAE ANDREWS
Scene Editor

Elizabeth "Biz" Lohmuller describes putting on the play "Seduced" as "just plain crazy."

However, as the director and the woman behind the scenes responsible for the method behind the madness, she has embraced the challenge of putting on a play based on the final years of Howard Hughes' life, as he descended into madness and kept himself in seclusion from the rest of the world.

"Howard Hughes is basically nuts," she said. "His life story is so out there it's literally unbelievable that someone could live like that. He gets sucked into his desire for money, prestige and control and loses his true identity in the process by becoming a millionaire monster. He is constantly imprisoned by the identity he and society have created for him, which is a false identity. So that in itself creates fantastic material for a play because we all love to see insane stories which are true."

In order to keep her sanity while running the show, Lohmuller said she

adopted a team-oriented approach.

"Developing an overall understanding about what the show means and then putting that into each line took a lot of time," she said. "The way I overcame it was to talk about it a lot with my actors, who were amazing in helping me put it all together. We figured it all out collaboratively and I think we came up with a pretty good concept."

That concept owes much to the collective efforts of the small, but talented cast of "Seduced," which has navigated hectic schedules and late nights in the pursuit of thespian excellence.

"I've given up assignments, other activities and sleep for this show," Connor Kobeski said, "but I know it will all be worth it on opening night."

Kobeski plays Raul, Henry Hackamore's butler.

To prepare for her role, Sarah Muscarella, who portrays the character of

Luna in the play, said she did some research on Hughes by watching the biopic film "The Aviator," which follows much of his life.

"My character is loosely based on Katharine Hepburn as I understand her," Sarah Muscarella said. "Luna is straight out of 'Fabulous Life of the Rich

and Famous.' While many of the other women may not have fully understood Henry's strange intricacies, Luna does and at one time even loved Henry. She returns to his deathbed upon his request but not without some reservations."

"I had to figure out what the relationship between Hughes and Hepburn is and thus the relationship between Henry and Luna."

In terms of the set, Lohmuller decided to keep things simple, using a single room to stress the intimacy of the play. She also said she shied away from anything which would tie the show to a distinct era, opting instead to focus on the play's enduring relevancy.

"The time period is intentionally ambiguous because I wanted to show that, while this is technically set during the time of Howard Hughes, the themes apply to us today as well," she said. "They are concepts which are true throughout all time periods."

Some of those concepts include the pursuit of fame, fortune and power, as

seen through the life and times of Hughes. In the play, the character "Henry Hackamore" represents Hughes and is played by Carl MacMichael.

Lohmuller also believes that watching Hughes' demise can give insight for college students preparing to enter the real world.

"Henry is like a warning to us," she said. "He is at the end of his life looking back, realizing he completely sold himself out to getting more power. We can take that message to heart, especially at Notre

Dame, where it's all about being in the right major to get the right job at the right company so we can get the most money. Whether it's the freshman getting pressure from their parents to enter a certain major, or a senior deciding on which jobs to apply for — the one they want or the one that pays, we are all faced with the seduction of power. This play highlights this issue and shows that by selling ourselves we are losing ourselves and it's just not worth it."

Contact Tae Andrews at tandrew1@nd.edu

"Seduced"
by Sam Shepherd
Washington Hall
Tonight, Friday and
Saturday, 7:30
Tickets \$5

"The time period is intentionally ambiguous because I wanted to show that, while this is technically set during the time of Howard Hughes, the themes apply to us today as well."

Elizabeth "Biz" Lohmuller
"Seduced" director

Scene & Heard:



MATT HUDSON | Observer Graphic

Newest pop culture obsessions

Every once in a while one of my interests will turn into obsession, and no where is this more frequent than in the realm of pop culture. Let's face it, I don't do my homework. I read magazines and blogs and watch TV and movies all day long. How else would I get myself through the long, cold months until spring? Some of my pop culture obsessions are constant — "General Hospital," Entertainment Weekly, "30 Rock," any and all celebrity gossip. But here are a few new items I'm obsessing over:

Cassie Belek
Assistant
Scene Editor

Election coverage

I love election time because it makes me feel like a real political science student. During break, I found myself completely captivated by the Iowa caucuses and each primary after that. But my obsession is more specific. I'm particularly drawn to MSNBC's coverage of the campaigns and primaries, partly because NBC is my favorite television network, but mainly because I have a platonic old man crush on Tom Brokaw.

Although Tom retired from his usual nightly news job, he'll pop up every once in a while on NBC or MSNBC. These moments are unpredictable, but they usually occur on primary nights. I have a strange obsession with Tom Brokaw that creeps out my friends, but I think they're just jealous of our secret love.

"Touch My Body" by Mariah Carey

About a week before Mariah debuted her new single, a friend and I agreed that we were going through Mariah withdrawal. Imagine our surprise when a trusty blog sent us to her website to get a sneak peek of "Touch My Body." Let's just say that I'm counting down the days until April 15 when she drops her new album. I have to say that I like the video even more than the song because I love a diva who can bring the funny. With help from co-star Jack McBrayer ("30 Rock") and director Brett Ratner (say what?), Mariah shows us her sense of humor again and looks fabulous. I could never see Beyoncé doing a video like this, and that's why Mimi will always be queen bee.

"All My Children"

I keep up with "AMC" off and on, but it takes quite a bit to get me to start watching religiously again. All it took for me to add a series recording of "AMC" to my DVR this time was an old-fashioned amnesia storyline and the return of daytime's first African-American supercouple — Jesse and Angie. "AMC" decided to give Ryan amnesia (Maria had it a few years back) and I'm hooked watching how each character reacts to his ordeal. Ryan has forgotten the last four years of his life so he thinks that he is still in love and engaged to Kendall (who is now happily married to Zach) even though he is currently married to Annie.

Meanwhile, Jesse and Angie are back together after it was believed that Jesse had been dead for the past 20 years. It's a general rule that no one ever really dies in soap operas. Even if we see you as a ghost (which we did with Jesse in 2001), there's a way to keep you alive. So it's been heartwarming to see this couple together (since I was just a baby the first time around), and viewers have been treated to retrospective clips to get us caught up on the love story. Supercouples are few and far between these days so it's always refreshing when an old one comes back.

"Rock of Love 2"

I have an excuse for this one. I met Ambre. She is my cousin's friend's husband's best friend from graduate school. Meeting her wasn't as complicated as describing my connection to her. But let's just say that I have some juicy "Rock of Love" gossip and a few hints about what's going to happen in future episodes. Not only does having background knowledge enhance my viewing of the show, but it also gives me someone to genuinely root for. Ambre seems too smart and normal to be picked by Bret, but at least she has already gained minor celebrity status in Chicago. That's really all you need in life. You're only hassled for a few autographs, you get to throw parties with vodka sponsors at bars and you're forever a member of the VH-1 family (which includes endless opportunities to capitalize on that connection).

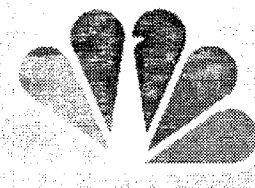
Contact Cassie Belek at cbelek@nd.edu
The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.



Photo courtesy of allmychildren.about.com

The reunion of supercouple Angie and the presumed dead Jesse has one long-time soap fan obsessing over "All My Children" again.

Best of 'SNL': Post-strike edition



3 A.M. Phone Call



Vote for Hillary. She can solve national emergencies, like fixing the heat in the White House.

Penelope - Traffic School



She can do anything better than you. She even has a condo on Jupiter.

Tina Fey on Update



Fey expresses how great it is to be a lady in America right now, and defends Hillary once and for all.

Annuale



Do not take Annuale if you plan to ever become pregnant, as it may turn your baby into a firemonster.

MATT HUDSON | Observer Graphic

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

'Nova upends 'Cuse, helps NCAA Tourney chances

Alexander's 22 points, stifling defense lead West Virginia to a first round victory over Providence

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jay Wright has another uncomfortable night ahead of him, looking forward to Villanova's second-round game in the Big East tournament.

Jim Boeheim can rest a little bit easier, but for all the wrong reasons.

Scottie Reynolds scored 22 points and Villanova rode some hot shooting in the second half to knock off Syracuse 82-63 Wednesday, and dramatically help its cause in what amounted to an NCAA tournament elimination game.

The teams split their regular-season meetings and each came into the conference tournament needing a couple of wins to breathe easier on Selection Sunday.

By the time Reynolds curled in consecutive 3-pointers with less than 7 minutes left to extend the lead to double figures, Wright and the Wildcats could exhale ever so slightly.

"I hope it's enough, but I know I have no say in it," Wright said. "We get to play another day. That's all we're interested in, getting to play another day."

Eighth-seeded Villanova advanced to play the top seed, No. 9 Georgetown, in a rematch of a second-round game won last year by the Hoyas. A victory against a team they've never beaten in four conference tournament games would almost surely be enough for the Wildcats.

"We're just going to go out and play the game," Villanova freshman Corey Stokes said. "Me and my teammates have been really looking forward to this game."

Unlike last season, when Syracuse was left out of the NCAA tournament despite winning 22 games, Boeheim glumly acknowledged there won't be much Sunday drama this time around.

"After last year, we probably had to win two or three games," he said. "We had to keep winning and I don't think one win would have been enough. ... In my mind and their mind, if they're not in the NCAA tournament it's not a good year."

Stokes hit four 3-pointers and finished with 18 points for Villanova, which made 11 3-pointers against Syracuse, including a blistering 8 of 10 in the second half. The Wildcats improved to 14-1 this season when hitting at least eight 3-pointers in a game.

"In the second half, we just didn't do a good job of reacting to where Reynolds and Stokes were," Boeheim said. "The open looks from the 3-point line, I thought, were the difference today."

Dwayne Anderson added 14 points, Dante Cunningham 13 and Shane Clark 11 for Villanova, which gave up several inches at most positions but still managed to rebound Syracuse 40-27 and grab 14 offensive rebounds.

Donte Greene and Jonny Flynn, the nation's second-highest scoring freshman duo, did their part for Syracuse. Green finished with 17 points and Flynn had 16, but aside from 13 points from Paul Harris, they got little help.

The Orange (19-13) led throughout the first half and early in the second, when their inability to grab a rebound or hold onto the ball finally did them in.

Stokes hit a deep 3-pointer with 12:26 left to make it 44-41 — giving Villanova a 19-0 advantage in points off the bench to that point — and Syracuse went more than 4 minutes without a basket while the Wildcats pulled away.

Anderson's 3-pointer with 8:35 left seemed to demoralize Syracuse, and a pair of 3s by Reynolds on Villanova's next two possessions made it 61-47 and left Boeheim standing stone still, arms crossed in frustration.

The Wildcats continued to pour it on, the lead increasing to 20 when Arinze Onuaku fouled out with 4:32 left and Cunningham made good on a pair of free throws.

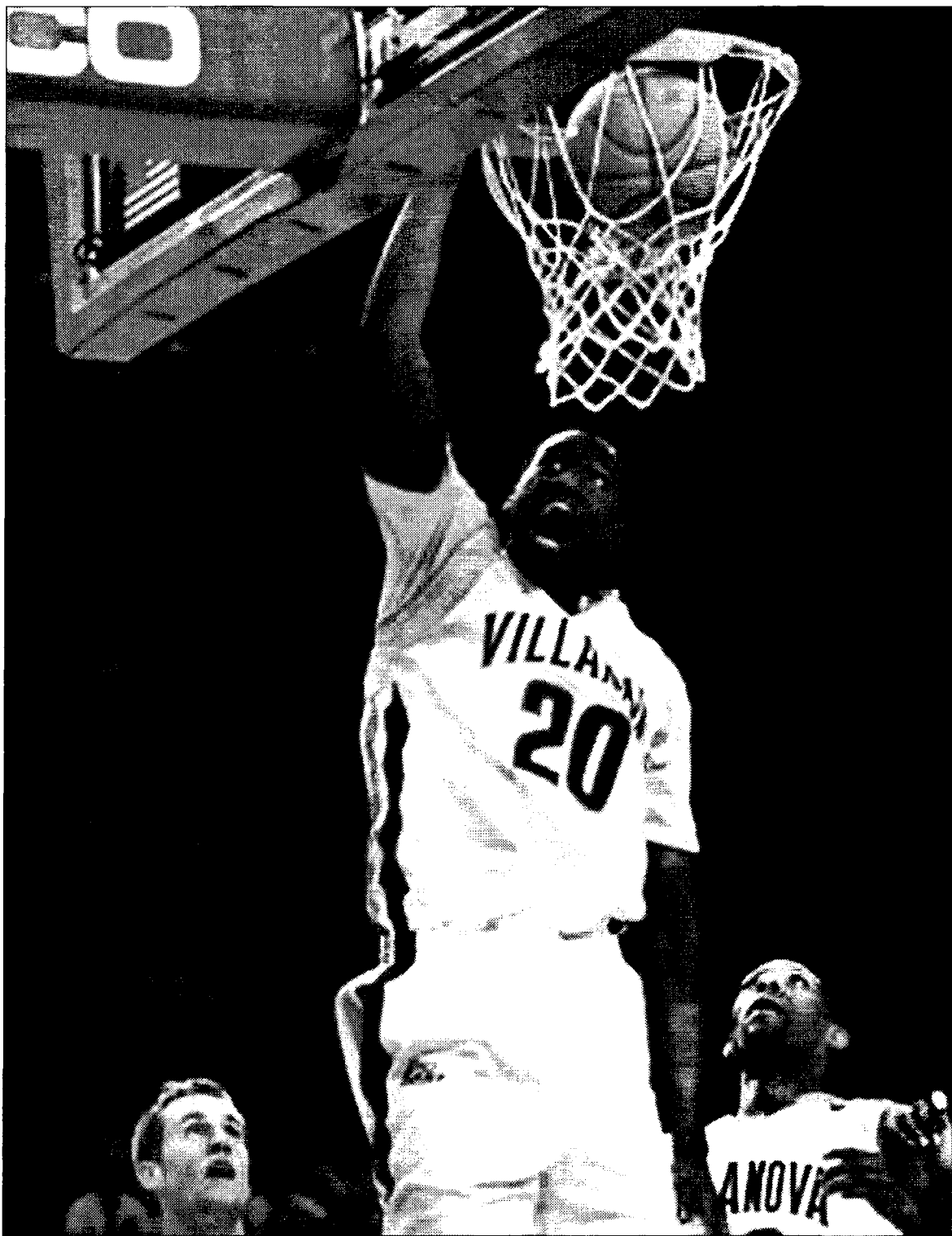
West Virginia 58, Providence 53

NEW YORK — Bob Huggins was just being honest with his West Virginia team during the final minutes of its Big East tournament opener.

"We were just trying to tell our guys that we've worked this hard, let's just go get a stop. Let's go do what we're supposed to do," the first-year coach with 613 wins said. "I thought we made them take hard shots."

Joe Alexander scored 22 points and West Virginia held Providence to two field goals over the final 7 minutes of the victory Wednesday.

The fifth-seeded Mountaineers (23-9) advanced to Thursday's quarterfinals, where they will face fourth-seeded and 15th-ranked Connecticut. The Huskies beat West Virginia 79-71 in the



Wildcats forward Shane Clark, center, slams home a dunk as teammate Dwayne Anderson, right, and Syracuse forward Kristof Ongenaet look on during Villanova's 82-63 win in the first round of the Big East tournament.

teams' only meeting on March 1.

"They're good and they're playing at real high level right now," Huggins said of Connecticut. "We played pretty well for one half up there. We'd go in the locker room down 16 or 17 and came out in the second half and played a whole lot better and actually got back in the game."

Alexander had averaged 31 points over the last three games and he had a hand in West

Virginia's last six points against Providence (15-16).

Da'Sean Butler had 17 points for the Mountaineers, including consecutive baskets on offensive rebounds that started West Virginia's game-closing 11-5 run.

"At the end of the game we got them to miss a couple of times and they got up on the offensive glass at big points in the game," Providence coach Tim Welsh said. "They got offensive

rebounds and put them in. We got a couple of drives where we put the ball in and they called a walk. We fought. We challenged. We stuck to our game plan as good as any night this year. The shots just didn't go down at times but we battled, scrapped and clawed."

Weyinmi Efejuku had 12 points to lead the Friars, who dropped to 1-6 in their last seven Big East tournament games.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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

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AROUND THE NATION

Thursday, March 13, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 15

USILA Men's Lacrosse

Top 20 Rankings

rank	team	record
1	Duke	5-0
2	Virginia	6-0
3	North Carolina	4-0
4	Johns Hopkins	3-1
5	Syracuse	4-1
6	Maryland	4-1
7	Delaware	5-0
8	NOTRE DAME	4-1
9	Cornell	2-1
10	Hofstra	2-1
11	Navy	4-1
12	Georgetown	1-2
13	Princeton	1-2
14	Drexel	4-1
15	Bucknell	3-1
16	Fairfield	3-0
17	Loyola (Md.)	2-2
18	Army	2-2
19	Ohio State	2-2
20	UMBC	1-3

IWLCA Women's Lacrosse

Top 20 Rankings

rank	team	record
1	Northwestern	3-0
2	Virginia	3-0
3	Duke	5-0
4	Syracuse	2-1
5	Maryland	2-1
6	Penn	2-0
7	Princeton	1-0
8	North Carolina	4-1
9	Georgetown	4-0
10	Yale	2-0
11	Vanderbilt	4-0
12	Johns Hopkins	1-2
13	NOTRE DAME	3-1
14	Denver	2-3
15	George Mason	2-1
16	James Madison	0-2
17	Boston U.	1-0
18	Dartmouth	2-1
19	Penn State	1-1
20	Stanford	4-2

MIAA Women's Softball Conference Standings

rank	team	league	overall
1	Tri-State	0-0	9-1
2	SAINT MARYS	0-0	8-2
3	Albion	0-0	4-2
4	Hope	0-0	3-1
5	Alma	0-0	6-5
6	Kalamazoo	0-0	0-0
7	Calvin	0-0	2-4
8	Olivet	0-0	2-4
9	Adrian	0-0	3-6

MIAA Women's Tennis Conference Standings

rank	team	league	overall
1	Albion	1-0	4-0
2	Kalamazoo	1-0	3-3
3	Alma	0-0	7-2
4	Calvin	0-0	5-1
5	Hope	0-0	1-2
6	SAINT MARYS	0-0	4-3
7	Tri-State	0-0	2-2
8	Adrian	0-1	2-5
9	Olivet	0-1	0-4

around the dial

BIG EAST MEN'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Villanova vs. Georgetown
12 p.m., ESPN

West Virginia vs. Connecticut
2 p.m., ESPN

Pittsburgh vs. Louisville
7 p.m., ESPN

MLB



Oakland Athletics third baseman Eric Chavez has left the team's spring training facility to have a doctor check on his ailing back. Chavez hit .240 with 15 home runs and 46 RBI in an injury-shortened 2007.

Injured Chavez hopes to travel with A's

Associated Press

PHOENIX — Oakland third baseman Eric Chavez flew to Los Angeles on Wednesday to have a follow-up examination on his back.

He had an appointment with Dr. Robert Watkins, who operated on Chavez last Oct. 9. Chavez was due back in Arizona later Wednesday.

The six-time Gold Glove winner still hopes to join the Athletics for their opening trip to Japan to play the World Series champion Boston Red Sox on March 25-26. He is even willing to go and be the designated hitter, or

serve as an ambassador to promote the series.

Whether the A's decide that's a good idea — with the long flight and all — isn't yet clear. They leave the desert in a week.

"He just has to get healthy," manager Bob Geren said Wednesday before the A's hosted the Arizona Diamondbacks. "When he gets in these games down here is more of a medical question."

The 30-year-old Chavez also had offseason operations on both shoulders. He received an injection in his back Feb. 29 to ease inflammation.

He had back spasms last year that landed him on

the disabled list for the final two months of the 2007 season.

"I want to move this along. Do I want to play (in Japan)? Yeah, I do," Chavez said. "I don't know what will happen or should or shouldn't happen. If they want me to be there, no doubt I'll show up."

A's athletic trainer Steve Sayles has said he would like to see Chavez running the bases first and then fielding consistently before giving him medical clearance. The bending over to field the ball has bothered Chavez's back in the past.

Chavez had three plate appearances in a simulate

game Tuesday: a walk, a fly ball to right that was dropped for an error and a single off the wall in left. He saw 10 pitches and took three swings, and he is eager to DH in a game soon.

He isn't as concerned with running the bases as getting his timing at third.

"I really don't have to test that right now," he said of running. "It's such a question mark right now. I'm running at 60-70 percent and I'm going to have to do that for a while. I'm really here to play, but that's my problem. I could easily say, 'I'm a month out' and ease into it, but that's not my style."

IN BRIEF

No more discipline for players in Mitchell Report

NEW YORK — Major League Baseball has taken no steps to discipline players mentioned in the Mitchell Report since the detailed account of drug use was released three months ago. That makes it increasingly unlikely players will be punished before opening day.

No players have been called in for investigatory interviews since Cleveland pitcher Paul Byrd spoke with baseball lawyers Dec. 17, several attorneys with knowledge of the disciplinary process said Wednesday. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

The interviews are the first step in baseball's disciplinary process.

In addition, no hearing dates have been scheduled for the grievance filed by the players' union on behalf of Kansas City outfielder Jose Guillen, who was suspended for the first 15 days of the season.

Butler ready to return to lineup for Washington

WASHINGTON — All-Star forward Caron Butler appears set to celebrate his birthday with a return to the lineup Thursday for the Washington Wizards.

"Caron is going to be probable, so we add a little 'Tough Juice' to the lineup," said coach Eddie Jordan, referring to Butler's nickname. "And we'll see how it goes."

Butler has missed 16 straight games and 19 of the last 21 because of a hip injury. He was originally diagnosed with a strained hip flexor, but an MRI discovered a small labral tear of the left hip joint. The injury also caused Butler to miss the All-Star game.

The Wizards host LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers on Thursday, which happens to be the day Butler turns 28. Jordan said Butler will start if able to play.

Atlanta re-signs Harrington after cutting him

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Falcons re-signed Joey Harrington on Wednesday, one week after cutting the six-year veteran quarterback.

General manager Thomas Dimitroff, who also has re-signed Chris Redman to a two-year deal, has said the team will take a quarterback in next month's NFL draft.

The 29-year-old Harrington started 10 games last season, but he returns as a probable backup — the role he would have played before Michael Vick's legal troubles.

Also returning with Harrington and Redman is D.J. Shockley, who missed last season with a knee injury.

Though the names of the quarterbacks haven't changed, they presumably will be listed in a different order than at the beginning of last season, when Harrington was the starter.

NBA

Rockets win 20 straight, tie 30-year NBA record

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Houston Rockets' 20th straight win was far from pretty, but coach Rick Adelman was still impressed with his team.

The Rockets were held to their lowest first-half total of the season but pulled away late to become the third team in NBA history to win 20 consecutive games, tying for the league's second-longest winning streak with an 83-75 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Wednesday night.

"It may be the ugliest thing we've done, but it might have been the best one," Adelman said, "the way we fought through it."

The Rockets joined the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers (33 straight) and 1970-71 Milwaukee Bucks (20) as the only teams to win 20 or more in a row.

"We did enough to win," Adelman said.

Tracy McGrady scored 21 of his 28 points in the second half for Houston, which led only 71-70 with 5 minutes remaining. McGrady then scored five points in Houston's 10-0 run to take control.

"We're really happy with this win because we didn't play well in the first half," McGrady said. "This is a pretty ugly game tonight. We didn't shoot well and it was one of those games that our defense really had to win for us."

The Rockets are 20-0 since their last loss on Jan. 27 against Utah, including 7-0 since losing Yao Ming to a foot injury on Feb. 26. The Hawks have 16 losses in that same period.

A basket by Atlanta's Marvin Williams with 5 seconds left in the game ended the Rockets' streak of 10 straight wins by 10 or more points. Joe Johnson led the Hawks with 28 points, and Josh Smith had 16 points and a career-high 22 rebounds.

The Rockets pulled within one game of the Lakers for the best record in the Western Conference. Even so, many observers continue to focus on the Lakers and Spurs and other teams in the conference.

That's OK with Houston.

"It's unbelievable," McGrady said. "For me to be on this team that has accomplished 20 straight wins, that has got to be

right up there with the most gratifying things I've accomplished in this league. ... You look at the Bulls that were 72-10, they didn't even do it. So this is pretty remarkable."

Added Adelman: "You could see the guys, it really means something to get this and just keep not only the streak going, but keep moving in the right direction."

Shane Battier had 15 points as Houston struggled to pre-

serve its winning streak despite trailing 33-32 at halftime.

"Houston makes you play that way," Johnson said. "They are not a fast-paced team."

Houston led 59-57 at the end of the third quarter, but Atlanta's Zaza Pachulia opened the fourth with two free throws. Minutes later, he was called for a technical foul after arguing an offensive foul. Battier made the free throw to give the Rockets a 66-62 lead.

Atlanta closed to 71-70 when Chuck Hayes and Luis Scola scored on back-to-back baskets.

After Smith was denied inside, McGrady stretched the lead to 77-70 with a jumper which bounced twice on the rim before falling through the net. McGrady added a 3-pointer with 1:53 left for an 81-70 lead to cap the 10-0 run.

The Hawks have lost six of seven, but remain in contention to end the league's longest

streak without a playoff appearance. They fell one-half game behind New Jersey for the eighth spot in the Eastern Conference.

"It's been tough," Johnson said. "Everytime we get in a position to move up, we take a step back."

Houston allowed only 89.3 points per game during its 19 straight wins and set a low scoring pace against the Hawks.



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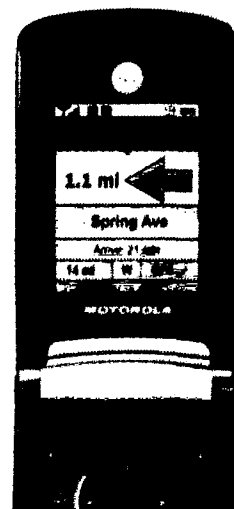
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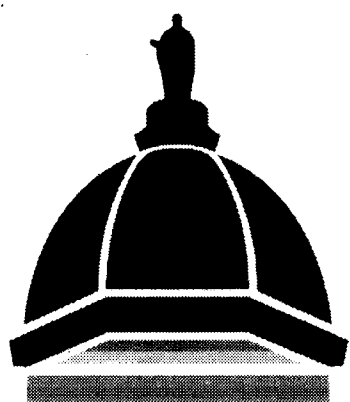
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The Core Council for Gay and Lesbian Students

(Information, education, and resources)

Contact: Sr. Sue Dunn, OP, 1-5550, or Melanie (Mel) Bautista, Baustista.5@nd.edu

Office of Campus Ministry

(Annual retreat for gay/lesbian/questioning students and their friends; pertinent library resources in 304 Co-Mo; discussion and support)

Contact: Fr. Joe Carey, CSC, at 1-7800

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(Individual counseling)

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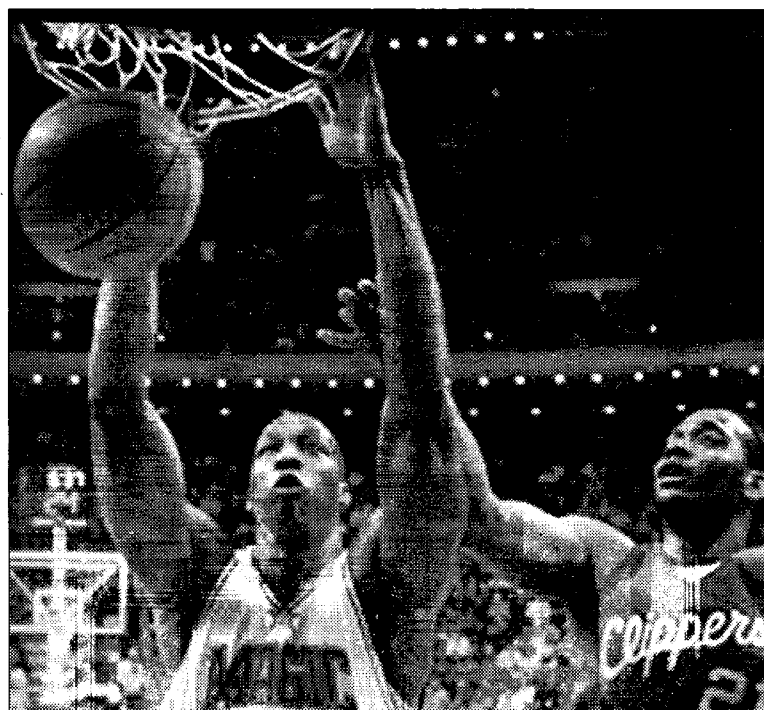
The Core Council invites gay, lesbian, and bisexual members of the Notre Dame family, their friends, and supporters to an informal gathering at the Co-Mo.

Everyone is welcome and confidentiality is assured.



NBA

Magic dominate struggling Clippers



Magic center Dwight Howard dunks over Clippers forward Josh Powell in Orlando's 110-88 victory Wednesday.

ORLANDO, Fla. — The Orlando Magic have a list of late-season goals written on the blackboard in their locker room. They were able to erase the one at the top Wednesday night.

Dwight Howard had 22 points and 13 rebounds to help the Magic beat the Los Angeles Clippers 110-86, securing their first winning season since the 2002-03 season.

"We've got some guys in our locker room who have never had a winning season and I think you've got to appreciate some of the things you accomplish during a season," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said. "The next goal is to wrap up a playoff spot and then win our division and secure home-court for the playoffs."

Howard, playing on a winning team for the first time in his four-year career, got his league-high 57th double-double this season. He also had plenty of help.

Rashard Lewis had 19 points and nine rebounds and Hedo Turkoglu added 17 points for the Magic, who put all five starters in double figures by the end of the third quarter. Carlos Arroyo had 13 points off the bench.

"It feels good to have a winning season, but we're not satisfied," Howard said. "We've got a lot of stuff to work on for the playoffs. We want to be great so you've got to push to get better."

The Magic's other noteworthy accomplishment was hitting 11 3-pointers to give them a league-leading 622 this season, which ties a club record for a single season.

Seven of the 3s came in the third period, including four straight when the Clippers had pulled within nine points. Hedo

Turkoglu hit three 3-pointers in that run as the Magic lead grew to 19 and they coasted home from there.

"They were staying back in the paint and leaving us wide open so you've got to take those shots," Van Gundy said. "We usually hit a stretch where enough of them drop and we're in pretty good shape."

The Clippers got 22 points from Corey Maggette and 17 apiece from Cuttino Mobley and Al Thornton, but were hampered by the absence of center Chris Kaman. He missed his second straight game with a sore back.

"I knew it was going to be a pretty long night against Dwight [Howard] without Chris," Los Angeles coach Mike Dunleavy said. "Dwight was just a nightmare matchup for us. We had to collapse and double team him and they have too many good shooters. Sooner or later someone is going to catch fire."

Trailing by 15 at halftime, the Clippers pulled to 69-60 with 7:48 to play in the third quarter. However, Jameer Nelson hit a 3-pointer and Turkoglu added three straight 3s to spark a 14-4 run that pushed the Magic's lead to 83-64.

Howard had 14 points and nine rebounds in the first quarter against the outmanned Clippers. His

slam dunk gave the Magic a 13-2 lead with 6:36 left in the quarter and Orlando never trailed again.

Lewis and Arroyo had eight points apiece in the second quarter when the Magic shot 61 percent from the field and opened up a 63-48 halftime advantage. Maggette had 20 points in the first half, including 10 of 12 from the free throw line, but there was little help as the rest of the Clippers hit only 11 of 33 shots.

"Dwight [Howard] was just a nightmare matchup for us. We had to collapse and double team him and they have too many good shooters."

Mike Dunleavy
Clippers coach

Recycle The Observer.

MLB

Duncan's hard slide sparks Rays -Yankees brawl

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — So much for the notion that the New York Yankees and Tampa Bay Rays could settle a gripe without fighting.

Meeting only days after New York manager Joe Girardi complained about Tampa Bay's aggressive play in spring training after one of his players was injured in a home-plate collision, the Yankees brought some attitude of their own into a testy rematch Wednesday.

Shelley Duncan's hard slide into second base with his spikes raised sparked a bench-clearing scum that resulted in two players and two coaches being ejected during the second inning of Tampa Bay's 7-6 victory.

Duncan, who had hinted at the prospect of retaliating for the Rays' Elliot Johnson barreling over New York catcher

Francisco Cervelli last Saturday, spiked second baseman Akinori Iwamura in the right thigh and was immediately tossed.

Tampa Bay's Jonny Gomes was ejected, too, after racing in from right field and ramming into Duncan as other players poured onto the field.

Girardi called the home-plate collision in the first game between the AL East rivals unnecessary. This time it was Tampa Bay manager Joe Maddon's turn to denounce rough play not normally associated with exhibition games.

"In Tampa, that play you saw at home plate was a good, hard baseball play. What you saw today was the definition of a dirty play," Maddon said. "There's no room for that in our game. It's contemptible. It's wrong. It's borderline criminal, and I could not believe they did that."

Among New York players, Duncan was the most vocal in his criticism of the collision that broke Cervelli's right wrist, sidelining the Yankees prospect for eight to 10 weeks and triggering a debate over what's fair play in spring training.

The Yankees first baseman insisted he was not trying to injure Iwamura.

"I'm pretty sure the spikes

weren't that high. They were pretty much going straight at the glove," Duncan said. "I've done it before. Never had a reaction like that."

Duncan's hard grounder glanced off third baseman Evan Longoria's glove for an error and rolled up the line in foul territory. Duncan rounded first and hesitated before taking off for second — a move the Rays perceived as conclusive evi-

dence he had ill intentions.

Longoria's throw to Iwamura beat the runner by at least 10 feet, but Duncan went into the bag hard anyway.

"No question that was a blatant attempt to hurt Aki," Maddon said. "It was set up. It was planned. It was premeditated. It's all the above. I don't know what the difference is between that and a high stick in hockey. But it was that bad."

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NASCAR

Frustrated Stewart continues Goodyear criticism

Associated Press

MARTINSVILLE, Va. — Tony Stewart defended his harsh criticism of the tires Goodyear brought to Atlanta last weekend and said that it was time to

speak out after years of closed door meetings failed to produce a solution.

"You finally get to the point where, if you get frustrated enough, now it's gone from doing things in a nice, calm

manner to I want to make sure I get somebody's attention about this," Stewart said Wednesday. He had called the tires "the most pathetic racing tire I've ever been on in my professional career."

Some of Stewart's critics dismissed the remarks, saying Stewart was just being his usual outspoken self. But many drivers have agreed that the tires were subpar, including former champions Jeff Gordon and Dale Jarrett.

"I think we are all pretty frustrated. Tony took it to the fullest," Kevin Harvick said. "But he's definitely right in the way the tire stuff has worked out. None of us really enjoy the way that we had to race."

Stewart said all the drivers were fed up with the hard tires at Atlanta, and he just drew the most attention because he was the most outspoken in his criticism.

"Everybody talked about [it]," he said. "Just nobody got real vocal about it until after the race. When you're stuck in a car for 3-4 hours and it drives like crap, you're going to be upset about it."

"Guys are screaming at their crew chiefs that it was the worst car they've ever driven. Well, it wasn't the crew chief's fault. It wasn't the team's fault. These guys spend millions of dollars to build these cars. It was the tire we were running and tires should never, ever be the deciding factor in a race."

Stewart also said his comments were not directed at the people that make the tires or the ones that mount them on rims at the track, but at the designing engineers.

"Think about it. Every year we've blown tires. It's like, how many years have they been doing this? At this stage of the game, how do you not figure it

out? How could you have not figured out how to not blow tires and build a competitive tire?" he said.

Stewart said the tire company that has exclusive rights to NASCAR needs to understand that those rights bring responsibility, among them listening to the thoughts of drivers and taking them into account.

"They have to understand that we're the ones that drive them, we're the ones that have to give them the feedback. They need to start listening to us more," he said.

Harvick, who attended a Philadelphia Flyers game on Wednesday night, said Goodyear "flat out didn't do a very good job," with the tires in Atlanta.

"I think they could do a better job with the way that they approach the testing and things like that," he said. "As the sport has advanced, it seems like the tires haven't advanced as much as the rest of the sport."

During a question and answer session with members of the Martinsville-Henry County Chamber of Commerce, Stewart said it was quickly apparent his message had been received.

Even before NASCAR president Mike Helton summoned him into the NASCAR hauler, he said, Helton had already heard from a top executive with Goodyear who wasn't happy.

On Monday, Goodyear issued a statement that said it was satisfied with the performance of its tires at Atlanta, and that it had no safety issues in the race, but promised to re-evaluate before returning to Atlanta in October.

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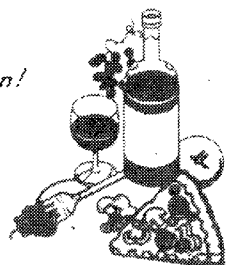
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Buckeyes

continued from page 24

2004. This weekend might feature a close competition between the two teams with mutual respect — and hostility — toward each other.

Both Ohio State and Notre Dame are skilled in every weapon, but the two squads have different strengths. For the Buckeyes to win, their top fencers must win or at least make the finals in many of the events. For the Irish to win, they must use their unparalleled depth to score a large number of points from all 12 competitors.

That dichotomy was on display March 2 in Detroit at the NCAA Midwest Regional. Ohio State won five of six individual titles, but Notre Dame captured 11 medal positions, compared to the Buckeyes' seven.

"Ohio State is a very strong team," Bednarski said. "Probably by names, it's the best."

The competition begins today with women's pool bouts. The women's final pool bouts and direct-elimination championship bracket

matchups will be held Friday. The men will have a similar schedule Saturday and Sunday.

Notre Dame had a light and unstructured practice Monday at the Langford Gymnasium in the Joyce Center before leaving for the competition on Tuesday. Irish assistant coach G i a Kvaratskhelia said from Columbus Wednesday that only a few members of the team were lightly exercising during the allotted training session.

Kvaratskhelia said the most important physical preparation for the Irish would be probably to "hydrate and get in bed on time."

"We trained all year for that, all year to develop the strength and endurance," he said.

Sophomore Kelley Hurley took the silver in epee last season, and junior Adi Nott finished third in foil.

"She's pretty confident," Kvaratskhelia said of Nott, who he coaches as the foil instructor. "I think she's hit the peak of the performance the last two weeks and this week."

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

"Ohio State is a very strong team. Probably by names, it's the best."

Janusz Bednarski
Irish coach

"We've trained all year for that, all year to develop the strength and endurance."

Gia Kvaratskhelia
Irish assistant coach

Youngsters

continued from page 24

(Sarah Borrmann and Eileen Hassett) and both Irish men's foilists (Steve Kubik and Zach Schirtz) are freshmen. Ewa Nelip will join Hurley in women's epee, Hayley Reese will compete with Nott in the foil and Barron Nydam will join Thanouser in the sabre.

In fact, Notre Dame could have had eight freshmen in the national event, but senior Greg Howard barely edged out freshman Greg Schoolcraft for Notre Dame's second men's epee spot. Howard won the silver-medal bout at the NCAA Midwest Regional in Detroit, and Irish

junior Karol Kostka topped Schoolcraft in the final. Had Howard lost the bronze medal bout or had Schoolcraft beaten Kostka, Schoolcraft would have earned the final epee spot over the three-time national competitor Howard.

Irish coach Janusz Bednarski said having a freshman-laden team is worrisome because the young fencers are not accustomed to the mental and physical rigors of the two days of bouts for each the men and women.

Of course, he also hopes that this appearance in the national championships is the first of four for the super seven.

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HILLESLAND DRIVES HARD



Junior forward Zach Hillesland drives to the hoop during Notre Dame's 68-55 win over Saint John's on March 5.

IAN GAVLIK/The Observer

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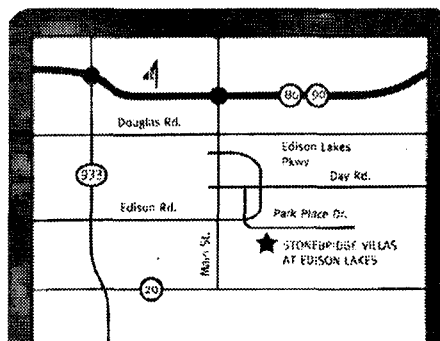
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SMC SOFTBALL

Belles start home season against Manchester

By LAURA MYERS
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's, who won eight of 10 games over its spring break trip in Ft. Myers, Fla., will look to add two more wins to its record as the Belles host Manchester today in a doubleheader, Saint Mary's home opener.

"We don't plan on making any changes," head coach Erin Sullivan said. "We will approach Manchester the same way we approach every game, by coming out with intensity."

Sullivan said her team's has good mental toughness and enthusiasm headed into the matchup with Manchester. She said this mentality is helped by an oft-repeated phrase — "win every inning."

Junior pitcher Calli Davison will start the first game of the doubleheader. Davison (5-2) won every game she started in Florida, and pitched shutouts in three of the games. Sullivan said Davison continues to improve every year.

"[Davison's] hard work this summer, especially on her rise ball, has paid off," she said. "She has really become a great No. 1 pitcher for our team. She is going to have a great season for us."

Saint Mary's is known for its explosive offense, which has so far outscored opponents 76-26.

Highlighting this offense are sophomores Ashley Peterson and Maureen Healy, junior Ashley Fusaro, and senior McKenna Corrigan. Corrigan also serves as the team's second starting pitcher.

The team is continuing to improve in several offensive areas. In practice, the Belles are becoming more aggressive on the bases and have worked on hitting outside pitches. Sullivan looks to implement these skills against Manchester.

Sullivan sees an advantage in playing at home.

"We tend to do very well at home, so we would like to start strong again this season," she said. "I think it's important to have the mindset of winning every game, whether it's home or away."

Manchester is the first of three non-conference teams the Belles will play before beginning conference play. Saint Mary's, a member of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association, plays its first conference game March 29 against Calvin.

During the 2007 season, the Belles finished third in the MIAA.

"[Today] is just another test before we start playing conference games," Sullivan said.

Contact Laura Myers at
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WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Notre Dame to play Blue Hens

By ANDY ZICCARELLI
Sports Writer

Notre Dame returns home from a spring break road trip in California where Irish coach Tracy Coyne said the Irish approached the games as though they were on vacation, and was disappointed in their mental preparation.

The No. 12 Irish went 1-2 on the trip, beating California and losing to Stanford and Oregon.

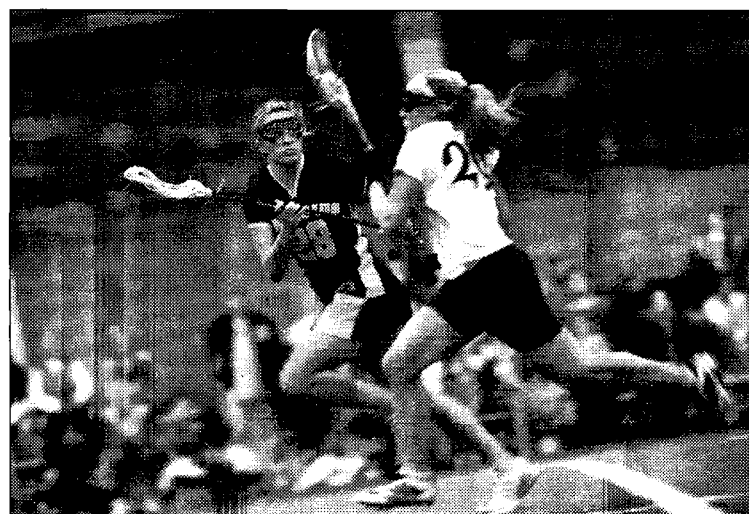
"We didn't give Stanford the respect that they deserved, which resulted in a lackluster performance," Coyne said.

Coyne said she hopes to see the team improve mentally, an important aspect she said her team was lacking in California.

"We had costly mistakes that were pretty much self-imposed," she said. "It was more of our own mental errors that led to the loss."

Given last week's performance, it is easy to forget how talented this team can be. Jillian Byers leads the Irish with 30 goals this season. In addition to Byers' top performance, six other Notre Dame players have earned 10 or more points on the season — senior

midfielder/attack Caitlin McKinney and freshman midfielder/attack Shaylyn Blaney have each scored over 10 goals this season. The Irish also recorded a school record 22



WU YUE/The Observer

Freshman midfielder/attack Shaylyn Blaney runs down field during Notre Dame's 22-10 win over Canisius on Feb. 15.

goals in their season opening win over Canisius. Coyne said her team's performance is a matter of everything coming together at once.

"I think we are a very good team. When we are on our game, I think we are very difficult to beat," Coyne said. "It's just a matter of going out there and implementing the game-plan."

So far, the team's greatest strength has been its offense. The Irish are currently averaging 15.33 goals per game, second in the Big East.

"I think that we have multiple people that can score," Coyne said. "We have good team speed

and I think we can move the ball well."

The Irish kick off their three-game stand on Thursday against the Delaware Blue Hens. Delaware comes in with a 3-1 record, riding a two-game win streak. Coyne expects a very scrappy, physical game from the Blue Hens. But when asked what would make her happy with the homestand, Coyne was frank.

"I'd like to go undefeated on the homestand," she said.

The Irish face the Blue Hens at 3 p.m. today.

Contact Andy Zicarelli at
azicare@nd.edu

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Marquette

continued from page 24

to show, but you're not showing a lot of stuff now."

Earlier this week, Brey downplayed the fact that his team wouldn't know its opponent until 24 hours before tip off.

"At this point in the year, I don't know how much scouting really does [matter]," he said. "I think the focus is on your group and how you play and you have prepared quickly so many times at a walk through and shoot-around on Thursday, you can get mentally ready to go."

Instead, Brey, who was awarded Big East coach of the year Tuesday, said the extra rest will help his team after playing three games in seven days last week.

"[Last week] was a grueling week because we had to play three games, but not playing until Thursday allows us to get our rest," Brey said.

The Irish have won six of their last seven games dating back to February 17, with only a 90-85 loss to Louisville at Freedom Hall Feb. 28 blemishing that mark.

"I think we have great energy and great momentum," Brey said. "This group is really excited. We're going in with a lot of juice."

For the second time this season, Irish junior guard Kyle McAlarney will play in front of friends and family at Madison Square Garden. McAlarney, who grew up in Staten Island, scored 18 points in Notre Dame's last game in New York, a 68-59 win over Kansas State Dec. 4.

In that game, McAlarney hit a 3-pointer with just over a

minute remaining to give the Irish a five-point lead they would not relinquish.

Notre Dame sophomore forward Luke Harangody will play his first game as reigning Big East Player of the Year Thursday. Harangody is the conference's leading scorer and rebounder with 23.3 points and 11.3 rebounds per game in conference play.

In the loss to Marquette Jan. 12, Harangody scored 29 points and pulled down 14 rebounds. In Notre Dame's win over the Golden Eagles a month later, he recorded another double-double, scoring 18 points and grabbing 11 rebounds.

In other Big East tournament action Wednesday, Villanova likely put an end to Syracuse's NCAA tournament hopes with an 82-63 drubbing. The No. 8-seeded Wildcats advance to play No. 1 seed Georgetown today.

No. 5 seed West Virginia survived a scare from No. 12 seed Providence, pulling away in the final minute to win 58-53. The Mountaineers will take on No. 4 seed Connecticut today.

No. 7 seed Pittsburgh beat No. 10 seed Cincinnati 70-64 despite 30 points from Bearcats guard Deonta Vaughn. The Panthers move on to face Louisville today.

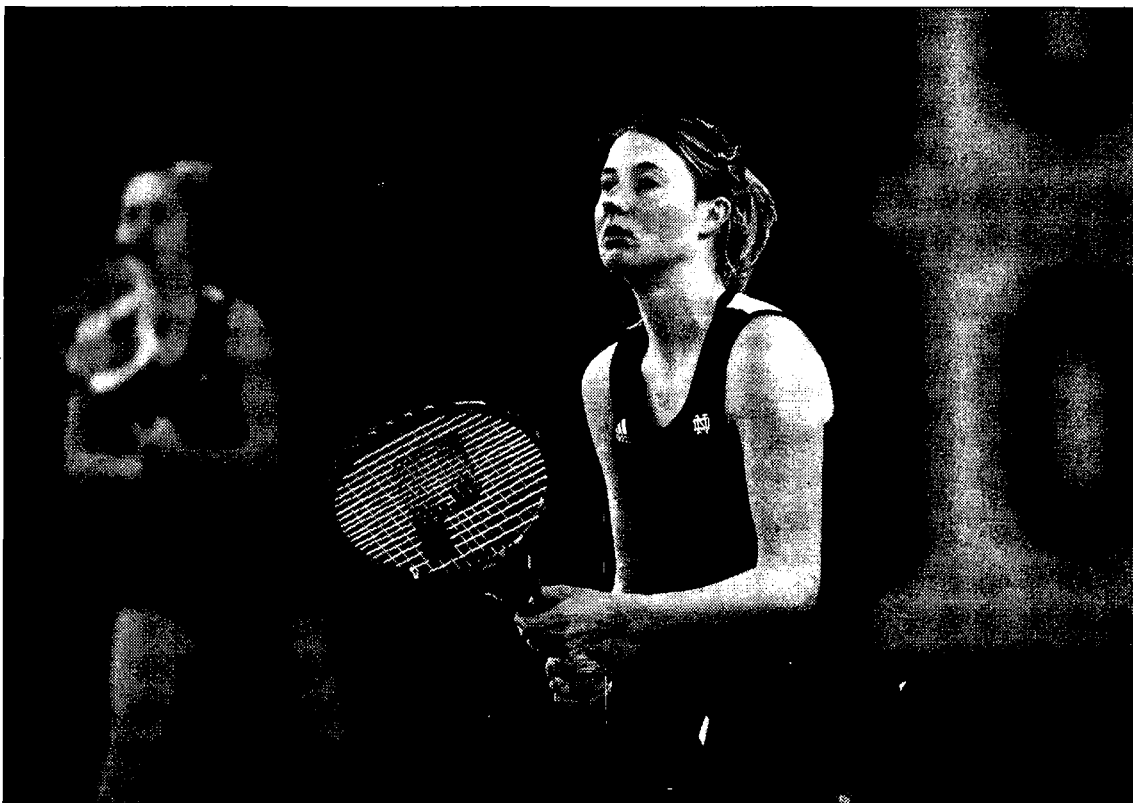
The winner of the game between the Cardinals and Panthers will take on the winner of the Notre Dame-Marquette game Friday at 9 p.m.

Chris Hine also contributed to this report.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

"This group is really excited. We're going in with a lot of juice."

Mike Brey
Irish coach



IAN GAVLIK/The Observer

Sophomore Colleen Rielly awaits a volley during doubles play against Ohio State on Feb. 14. The Irish defeated the Buckeyes 5-2.

Illini

continued from page 24

lead.

Junior Kelcy Tefft and senior Brook Buck completed the doubles sweep as the No. 1 pair in the nation finished off their opponents, 8-6.

In singles play, the Irish started strong. Junior Katie Potts battled through a tough first set against Illinois' sophomore Kristina Minor. After starting 3-3, Potts took over the match, winning 6-4 in the first set. She carried her momentum to a 6-0 shutout in the second set to take the match.

Ciobanu was firing on all cylinders for her match. After winning the first set 6-1, Ciobanu overcame a brief mid-set rally from junior Shivani Dave in the second and finished her match with a 6-2 victory.

No. 39 Tefft kept her opponent and one of Illinois' best

singles players, freshman Leigh Finnegan, on the ropes all match long. She cruised to a 6-2, 6-1 win to clinch the match for Notre Dame.

The final three matches went back-and-forth with the momentum changing sides throughout.

Even with the win in hand, No. 113 Krisik made sure the Irish finished strong. In a very even matchup, Krisik fought through a tough first set and outlasted senior Momei Qu in the second to win 7-5, 6-4.

Rielly jumped out to a 3-0 lead in dominant fashion and won the first set 6-1. However, Illinois' freshman Marisa Labropoulos bounced back and played steady through the second set before putting Rielly away to win the match 6-4.

Since the overall match was decided, the two played a tiebreak in place of a third set to decide their match. Labropoulos took the abbreviated set 10-7, but her victory was

the only point for Illinois.

The toughest match of the day was between Notre Dame's Brook Buck and Illinois' sophomore Megan Fudge. Up 6-5, Buck was one game away from winning the first set, but a series of long rallies and deuces ended up in Fudge's favor forcing a tiebreaker.

Buck refocused and elevated her game to take the tiebreak 7-1. She won the second set 6-3 to make the final score for the match 6-1 in favor of the Irish.

The match was a combination of tough, grind-it-out wins and convincing, dominant victories for Notre Dame. They continued their dominance of doubles play and for the second straight match, dominated singles play as well.

The two-game home stand for the Irish concludes with a match against Eastern Michigan on Friday at 4 p.m.

Contact Dan Masterton at dmastert@nd.edu

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Brey's players face Golden Eagles again

ND battles Marquette for third time this season

By CHRIS KHOREY
Senior Sports Writer

NEW YORK — No. 14 Notre Dame has been in New York since Monday, but it finally found out Wednesday who its Big East Tournament quarterfinal opponent will be.

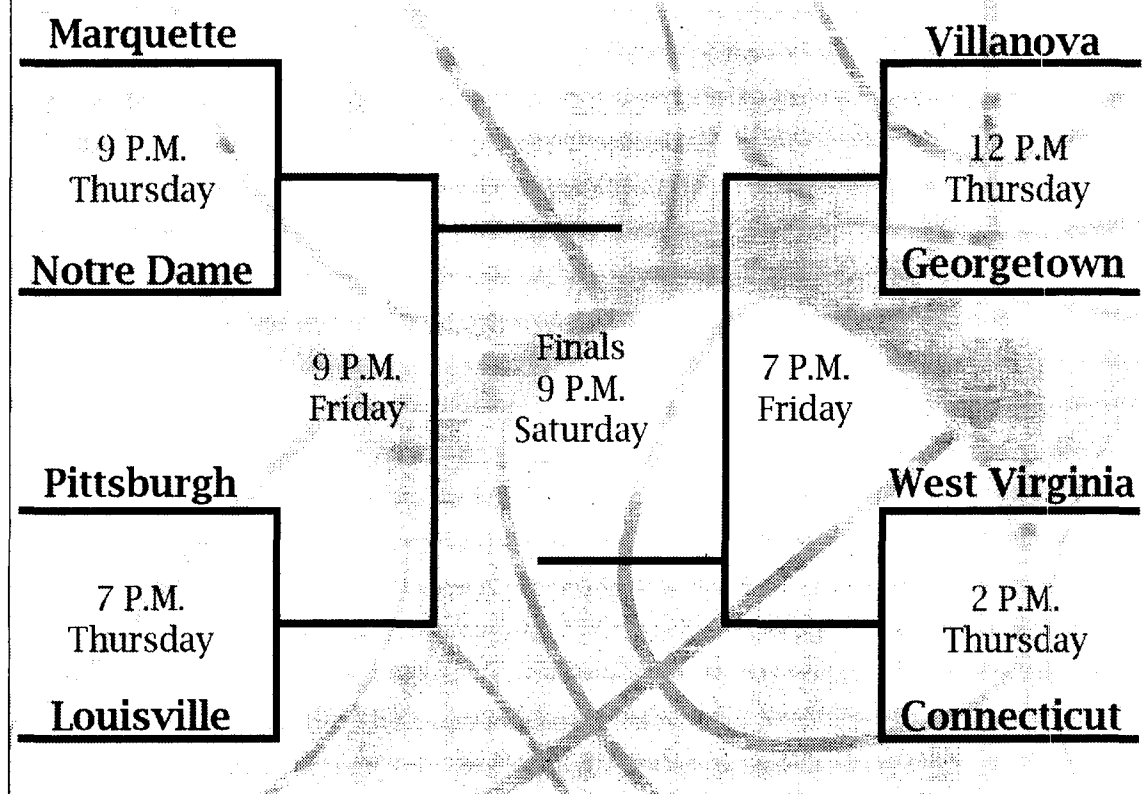
No. 6 seed Marquette defeated No. 11 seed Hall 67-54 Wednesday night at Madison Square Garden to advance to play the No. 3-seeded Irish. Notre Dame earned a bye to the quarterfinals, tonight at 9 p.m.

Notre Dame split with Marquette during the regular season, falling 92-66 in Milwaukee Jan. 12 and winning 86-83 at the Joyce Center Feb. 9.

"With Marquette we've played them twice," Irish coach Mike Brey said Sunday. "You have some good stuff, you have some horrible stuff

see MARQUETTE/page 22

2008 Big East men's basketball tournament



MATT HUDSON/Observer Graphic

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Irish clobber Illinois

By DAN MASTERTON
Sports Writer

Notre Dame won its second match in a row with a dominant 6-1 victory over Illinois.

The No. 61 Illini (5-5) came out swinging in doubles action. Illinois kept pace with No. 23 Notre Dame's (9-7) strong doubles pairs as all three matches began in a 4-4 tie.

However, the Irish extinguished the Illini's hot start. Notre Dame's No. 3 pair of sophomores Cosmina Ciobanu and Colleen Rielley took four of the final five games en route to an 8-5 win, improving their record to 10-1 in the dual season.

Sophomore Kali Krisik and freshman Kristen Rafael sewed up the doubles point for Notre Dame by sweeping the final four games of their match. Their 8-4 win made the score 1-0, and the Irish would not relinquish the

see ILLINI/page 22

FENCING

No. 2 Irish prepare to compete in NCAA Championships

Both squads send two fencers per weapon

By KEN FOWLER
Senior Sports Writer

Ohio State has everything going for it — a full set of qualifiers, the aura of the presumptive favorites and, perhaps most importantly, home-strip advantage.

That's what Notre Dame faces beginning today in the NCAA Championships in Columbus, Ohio, where the fearsome Buckeyes look to prove the coaches who vote in the polls right and collect the national title.

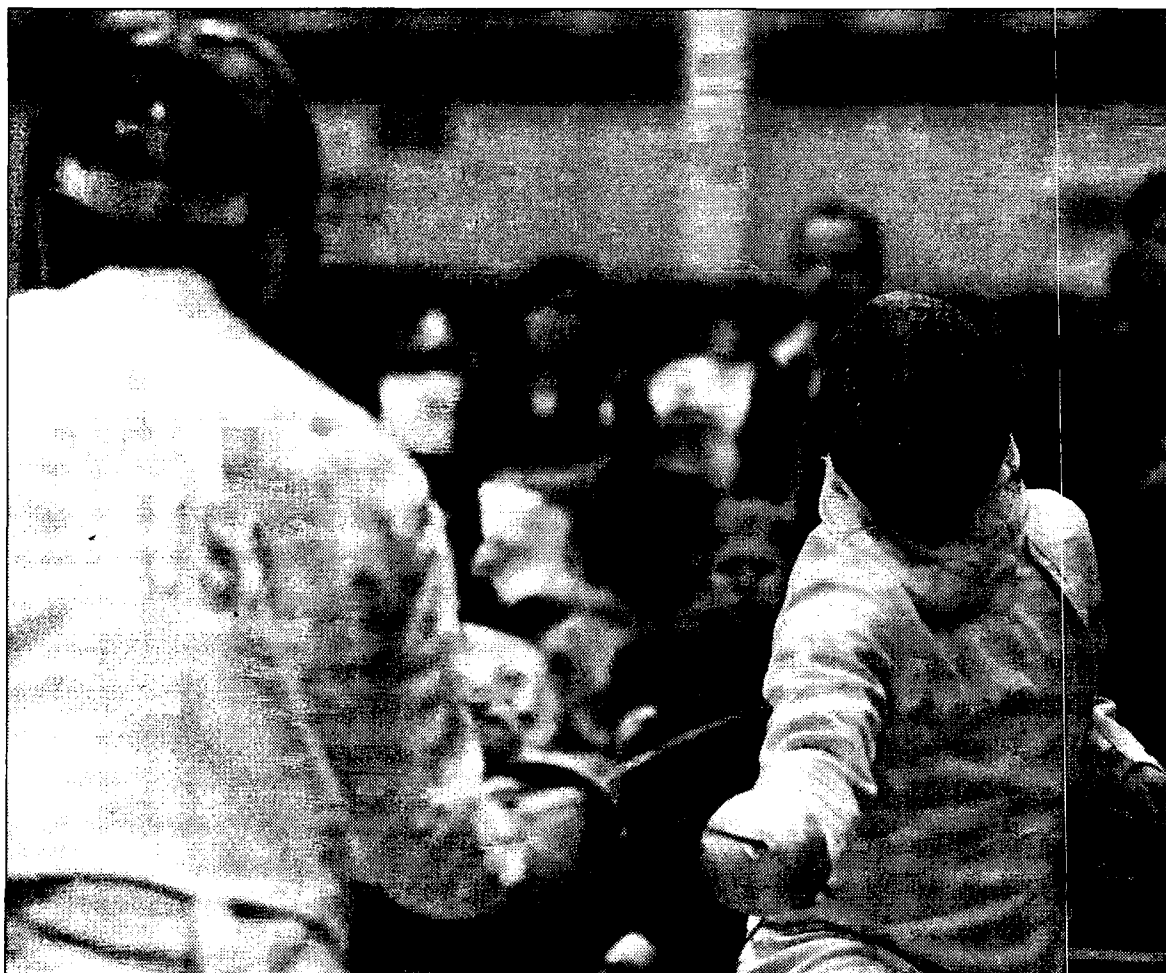
"If they handle this [and win], that's normal," Irish head coach Janusz Bednarski said of the Buckeyes. "But there are three other teams that are trying to deter them. Among them, I am happy we are part of that group."

Ohio State, ranked No. 1 on the women's side and No. 2 among men, and Notre Dame are two of four teams to qualify the maximum 12 fencers — two fencers per sex per weapon. The other two teams with the maximum fencers are Columbia and St. John's.

Penn State, the defending champions, qualified 11 fencers, and 2006 champion Harvard qualified 10.

Notre Dame captured NCAA titles in 2003 and 2005; Ohio State won in

see BUCKEYES/page 20



Junior epeeist Karol Kostka, right, competes during the Midwest Fencing Conference Championships on Feb. 24.

	Ohio State	Notre Dame	Columbia	St. John's	Penn State
Fencers	12	12	12	12	11
Freshmen	2	7	3	3	0

MATT HUDSON/Observer Graphic

Youngsters take over top spots on team

By KEN FOWLER
Senior Sports Writer

To call it a youth movement would be something of an understatement.

To call it a revival would be terribly misleading.

To ignore it would be utterly ridiculous.

Something in-between must describe the role of Notre Dame's freshman fencing class. Seven of the 12 Irish fencers are set to compete this weekend's NCAA Championships, hosted by Midwest nemesis Ohio State.

The strange part of the preponderance of Irish rookies is that Notre Dame didn't appear in a position that necessitated a major influx of talented fencers. A season ago, Notre Dame finished fourth in the national event, and two of the team's four first-team All-Americans — epeeist Kelley Hurley and foilist Adi Nott — would return for multiple future seasons.

Meanwhile, six other fencers who made it to the national event — sabreists Bill Thanhouser and Ashley Serrette, epeeists Greg Howard and Karol Kostka, and foilists Mark Kubik and Jakub Jedrkowiak — all returned.

But the Irish got reinforcements anyway.

Both Irish women's sabreists

see YOUNGSTERS/page 20