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NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Immigrant admission policy examined

Undocumented students could gain acceptance to University, but few actually apply

By BECKY HOGAN
News Writer

After last fall's campus-wide forum on immigration, senior Michael Kozak was left with questions about the University's role in the debate.

Kozak, who had completed a four-credit field study course on Mexican immigration last semester, was inspired to research the University admissions process for undocumented students. He wanted to find out if Notre Dame allowed undocumented citizens — a genteel euphemism for illegal immi-

grants — to apply and enroll.

"Once we began researching we started finding that it is entirely possible for undocumented students to be admitted [to the University]," Kozak said.

Assistant Provost for Enrollment Dan Saracino said while the University does not prohibit undocumented students from applying to Notre Dame, it does require that they apply as international students.

"We have no policy against admitting an undocumented student if the student is academically qualified," Saracino said.

However, few apply, and few

are admitted. Saracino said he wasn't certain the University had any undocumented students enroll in the past 10 years.

The applicant pool is so small in part because a limited amount of financial aid is available for international students.

According to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions Web site, the University "meets 100 percent of every student's demonstrated need," though it also requires international student applicants to submit a Certificate of Finances proving they can pick up the costs for their education.

Because undocumented students are treated like international students, they must "be able to show the University that they have the funds to pay for a four year experience at Notre Dame," Saracino said.

"A U.S. citizen and or a permanent resident is eligible for federal grant money and federal loans, and then we are capable of meeting the difference of what the federal programs provide," Saracino said. "We cannot afford to offer admission to undocumented students who can't afford to pick up the tab

see IMMIGRANT/page 4

Burglary cases may be linked

NDSP description matches Valpo suspect

By BILL BRINK
News Editor

Notre Dame Security/Police (NDSP) has received new information about burglaries in Lyons Hall last week that may identify a suspect and link him to similar crimes at Valparaiso University, NDSP director Phil Johnson said Monday in an e-mail to The Observer.

During the burglary, three laptops and two wallets were stolen from two unlocked rooms last Wednesday, NDSP assistant director Dave Chapman said last week.

Johnson said "several people" had seen the man NDSP considers to be a suspect. He was described as a black male, between 5-foot-8 and 5-foot-11, with a thin build, "frizzy, long, black hair" in a pony tail or braid, possibly bad or missing teeth and possibly facial stubble, Johnson said.

The man had a duffle-type bag, Johnson said, and entered unlocked rooms when students were present. When he saw the students, he asked for someone by name who did not live in the room, Johnson said.

NDSP learned from Valparaiso that similar robberies took place on its campus in recent months, and the

see LYONS/page 4

Columnist says era of religious right at an end

Dionne claims Christian voters have shifted party affiliation over past three decades

By CLAIRE REISING
News Writer

After over 20 years of association with right-wing conservatism, Christians are redefining their relationship with politics and moving away from the religious right to support the Democratic Party, Washington Post columnist E. J. Dionne Jr. said.

"The era of the religious right is over. The end of the religious right does not signal an end to conservative Christianity," Dionne said in a lecture Monday in Carey Auditorium. "It's a sign of a reformation among Christians who are disentangling their great religious movement from a political machine."

Christian conservatives have adopted "a broader definition of

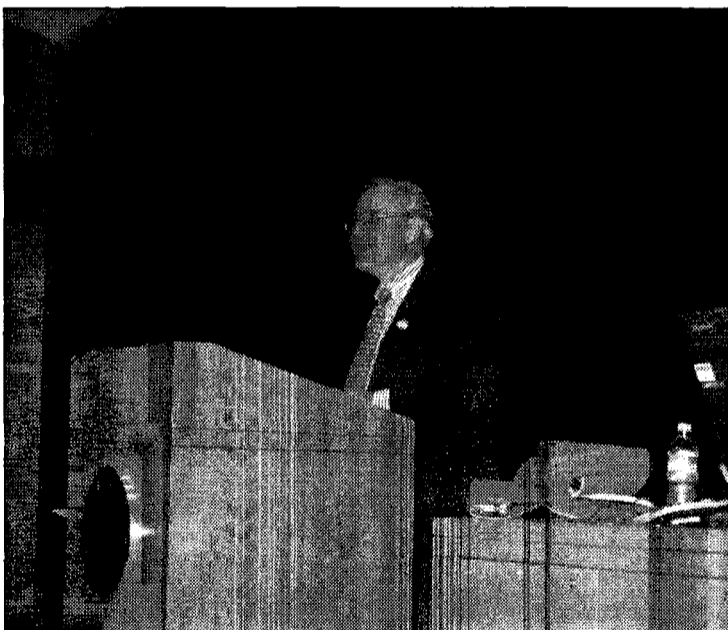
what it means to be a Christian in public life," he said.

Dionne said religion has traditionally been a conservative force but religious Americans are now focusing on other faith-influenced issues such as social justice and Jesus' emphasis on serving the poor.

"This is a change which is now underway, for liberals and conservatives alike, to abandon their sometimes narrow view about who real Americans are and what they believe," he said.

Voting trends among young people indicate this ideological shift, Dionne said when he compared Ronald Reagan's 1980 election with today's political climate. Voters under 30 voted three to two for Reagan, who was a Republican, but in 2006, young voters supported demo-

see DIONNE/page 3



DUSTIN MENNELLA/The Observer

Washington Post columnist E.J. Dionne Jr. explored the effect of faith-related issues on voter thinking Monday.

Maura Weis details family's struggle

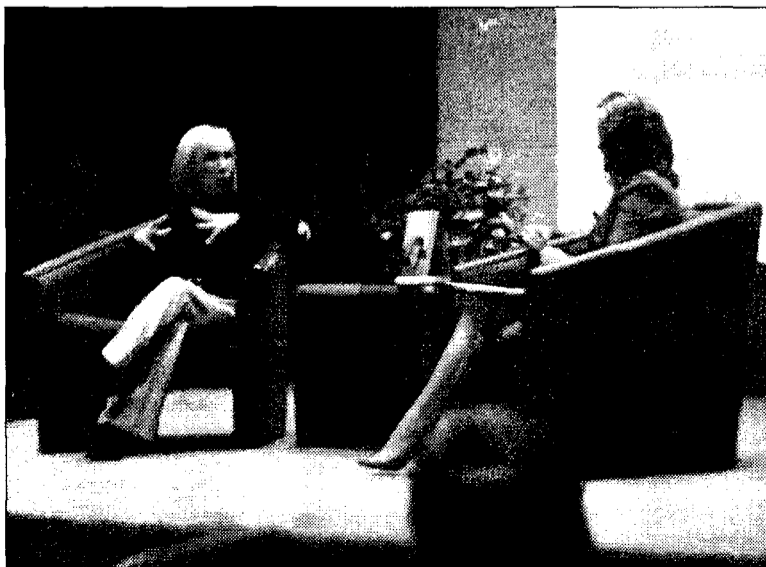
Husband, Charlie, leaves practice early to help promote wife's new book

By SARAH MAYER
News Writer

To introduce of his wife's book during a discussion and book signing in McKenna Hall, Notre Dame football coach Charlie Weis said Monday was the first occasion in coaching career that he has ever left a practice early.

"I told the guys this morning this is something important enough for me to leave practice for," Charlie said.

Maura Weis' book, "Miles From the Sidelines: A Mother's Journey With Her Special Needs Daughter," focuses on the tribulations



JESSICA LEE/The Observer

Maura Weis, left, discusses her book "Miles From the Sidelines: A Mother's Journey With Her Special Needs Daughter" Monday.

see WEIS/page 6

CAMPUS LIFE COUNCIL

Group discusses change to Orientation format

By KATIE PERALTA
Assistant News Editor

In its last meeting before the new administration takes office, the Campus Life Council (CLC) discussed improving the format of First Year Orientation (FYO) Monday.

Brian Coughlin, assistant vice president for Student Activities, presented a plan to update and improve the first three days a freshman experiences on campus.

"The programming [of FYO] seemed awkward and forced ... with some of the inter-gender socialization," Coughlin said,

referring to socializing activities between men's and women's dorms typically planned for students during the orientation days.

Coughlin said students have too little time to move into their rooms and say goodbye to their parents during the current FYO schedule and advocated free time for the students in his proposal.

He also said more in-dorm activities should be planned for the weekend to foster friendships among men and women in their respective dormitories.

"[We want to plan activities in

see CLC/page 4

INSIDE COLUMN

A guide for writing to Viewpoint

It's that time of the year again when Viewpoint becomes intensely 'Monologues' oriented.

So here it is, a shameless plea for letters. But not just any letters. Good letters. Articulate letters. Letters with a logical argument.

Kara King

Viewpoint Editor

Below are some helpful tips for letter-writing, guaranteed to increase your chance of publication.

1) Proofread — Don't just write a letter in anger and send it off. Remember that you are submitting this for publication. It is not just a friendly (or not-so-friendly) e-mail. If there are typos or basic grammatical mistakes, your letter won't be taken seriously. Have some pride in your work.

2) Sign your name — We have only printed one anonymous letter in our 42 year history. We are unlikely to do so again. If you are embarrassed by your opinions, perhaps you should reconsider sending it out there for the world (or at least the campus) to see. And sign your real name. We can't publish under pseudonyms.

3) Provide the necessary contact information — It's frustrating when we receive a well-written letter but cannot run it after we fail to get in touch with the author. If you're a student, give us your dorm and class year. If you're an alum, let us know when you graduated. And everyone should provide a phone number and valid e-mail address.

4) Don't make stuff up — If you quote facts or figures, cite your sources at the end of the letter.

5) Find something new to write about — This isn't necessarily a requirement, but it improves the section as a whole. You can literally write about whatever you want. Write about something you care about. A passionate letter is much more likely to run and draw readers and responses.

6) Keep it brief — I can't stress this one enough. Anything over 350 words, and you'll be losing readers. It's supposed to be a letter, not a manifesto. Be concise. You'll get your point across to more people if you can manage this one.

7) Don't be afraid to ask — If you have a time-sensitive topic, e-mail us ahead of time so we can do our best to accommodate the letter. If you're interested in writing a guest column, let us know. We are open to suggestions.

8) I do my best to print letters representative of what I receive, but I can't print everything that comes in. If yours doesn't quite make it, find a new topic and try again.

Viewpoint is representative of our community. If you find it boring, change it.

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

Contact Kara King at kking5@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

Due to a production error, the article entitled "SMC alum discusses NWP tactics" in Monday's issue of The Observer incorrectly attributed the reporting to Sarah Mayer. Katlyn Smith was the author of this article. The Observer regrets this error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: Do you participate in a campus sport, if so, which one?



Jason Briggs

junior
Zahm

"Varsity beer pong."



Julie Lambe

senior
off-campus

"I'm president of the ultimate team sport — men's rowing, because I like to boss guys around."



Meagan Conway

senior
off-campus

"I used to play flag football until my broken finger injury of 2005 — then I retired."



Michael Lutkus

senior
O'Neil

"Rowing: it's more than a sport. It's a way of life."



Avery Ambrose

junior
Keenan

"Water polo — best sport ever."



Liam Leyden

freshman
Keough

"I row for the illustrious men's crew team."



CHRISTIAN SAGARDIA/The Observer

Andrew McMahon, frontman of the band Jack's Mannequin, took the stage for a live concert at the Stepan Center Friday. The concert was sponsored by the Student Activities Office.

OFFBEAT

Police bust high school root beer kegger

WAUSAU, Wis. — Cars lining the street. A house full of young people. A keg and drinking games inside. Police thought they had an underage boozing party on their hands.

But though they made dozens of teens take breath tests, none tested positive for alcohol. That's because the keg contained root beer.

The party was held by a high school student who wanted to show that teens don't always drink alcohol at their parties. It has

gained fame on YouTube.com.

Dustin Zebro, 18, said he staged the party after friends at D.C. Everest High School got suspended from sports because of pictures showing them drinking from red cups.

Man shoots cat to 'get even' with wife

BOULDER, Colo. — Police say a man shot a cat with a rifle and sent e-mails to relatives to tell them he did it "to get even" with his wife.

Longmont police say they arrested 50-year-old

Paul John Vickers Wednesday after his wife's sister told police of the e-mail in which Vickers wrote about killing "Bootsie." Police Sergeant Tim Lewis says the married couple was involved in a long-running argument and Vickers was angry at his wife.

Police found the cat's body in a pond near where Vickers lives and say "Bootsie" was shot while in the couple's basement.

Information compiled by the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

The Notre Dame softball team will play Ball State at 5:00 tonight at Ivy Field.

The Notre Dame baseball team will play Western Michigan at 5:05 tonight at Eck Baseball Stadium.

The Saint Mary's Senior Gift and Quarters Campaigns will host an April Fool's Comedy Night tonight at 7:30 at Dalloway's Coffee House.

Breen-Phillips Hall will host a Pig Roast from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday on North Quad as a part of Beach Week.

The Notre Dame Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will perform in its Spring Concert featuring pianist Päivi Ekroth in the Leighton Concert Hall in the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center at 8 p.m. Wednesday.

The film "Blood Diamond," which tells the story of a the diamond trade in Sierra Leone, will be shown at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center on Thursday at 7 p.m.

The Notre Dame men's tennis team will play Ball State at 4:00 p.m. Friday at Eck Tennis Pavilion.

The third annual Saint Mary's Dance Marathon will take place from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. Friday in Angela Athletic Facility. Registration for dancers begins at 7 p.m. in the Noble Family Dining Hall.

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

LOCAL WEATHER	TODAY		TONIGHT		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
	45	25		35		50		52		52		55
				15		30		38		35		38

Atlanta 68 / 54 Boston 60 / 44 Chicago 41 / 36 Denver 43 / 22 Houston 84 / 69 Los Angeles 64 / 51 Minneapolis 36 / 25 New York 66 / 48 Philadelphia 70 / 50 Phoenix 84 / 56 Seattle 51 / 34 St. Louis 53 / 44 Tampa 81 / 64 Washington 67 / 49

Dionne

continued from page 1

cratic candidates three to two. Likewise, in the 2008 presidential primaries, young voters are showing the most support for "Obama-style progress," he said.

Dionne said Democratic politicians' greater openness to discussing religion's influence in politics and their personal religious lives might be an explanation for this shift. He said Barack Obama has created a "new public language" about religion, and Hillary Clinton discusses religion in a sophisticated, personal way.

Dionne said despite this move away from the religious right, there are still polarizing religious issues, like abortion.

Dionne also said the problem of abortion needs new solutions, since it has been legal for 35 years, and even if Roe v. Wade was reversed, he said most states would still allow early-term abortions, and women would obtain them illegally.

"Our rate is much higher than in other countries where abortion is legal," he said. "It seems to me the time has come for pro-choice people to acknowledge that abortion is a moral problem and to understand why right-to-lifers see abortion as a moral evil and for pro-lifers to say, 'Let us pursue a strategy that will substantially reduce the number of abortions in our nation.'"

Instead of arguing over issues like Roe v. Wade, which legalized abortion in the United States, Dionne proposed that both pro-life and pro-choice advocates should seek abortion-reducing policies, such programs that combine abstinence and contraceptive approaches to prevent unwanted pregnancy.

While some religious Americans are redefining their political priorities, Dionne said secularism and neo-atheism are on the rise on the American political scene.

In a study conducted by Pew Forum Religion and Public Life, 16 percent of Americans now claim no religious affiliation and 31 percent of that sample said Catholicism was their childhood religion, Dionne said. He offered several reasons for this trend, such as disputes over science and the notion that religion implies conservatism.

Dionne said although some atheists take belief seriously and engage in intellectual discourse, the neo-atheists can be as adamant in their right-wing conservative Christian views.

"They are operating in a tradition too," he said. "There's a sort of elitism in some of their line of argument, which I find no less troublesome than a right-wing Christian who votes differently than I do in every political contest."

Contact Claire Reising at creisin2@nd.edu

"The era of the religious right is over. The end of the religious right does not signal an end to conservative Christianity."

E.J. Dionne Jr.
Washington Post columnist

Scholar discusses sex in Shakespeare

Lecture examines sexuality in Elizabethan society, literature

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

Shakespeare scholar Stanley Wells used public records from Shakespeare's hometown Stratford-upon-Avon to understand the sexual behavior of Shakespeare and his contemporaries during his lecture "Sex and Literature in Shakespeare's Time" Monday.

Sexual misconduct was not blatant under the eye of Queen Elizabeth, who was often referred to as the Virgin Queen, and the church or the state did not tolerate adultery, incontinence or pre-marital sex, Wells said.

"Stratford records give record of prosecution for fornication," Wells said.

In spite of the danger of punishment, evidence shows that Shakespeare himself engaged in pre-marital sex, as his wife Anne Hathaway was already pregnant at the time of their marriage, Wells said. It seems as though he escaped prosecution for this and escaped "scot-free."

Shakespeare's personal

sexual experiences are reflected in his writing, Wells said. In Shakespeare's "As You Like It," Rosalind discusses pre-marital sex, and in his Sonnet 151, Shakespeare gives an "extraordinary description of an erection, detailing the rising and the falling of the penis," he said.

This frank discussion of sexual encounters gave Elizabethan theater a bad reputation, Wells said. There were some religious leaders

"It was a sexy business. Rumors circulated about the sexual conduct of the players."

Stanley Wells
Shakespeare scholar

who blamed the plague that spread throughout Europe on theatrical performances and Wells compared the players who dominated the Shakespearean stages to the current celebrity culture.

"It was a sexy business," he said. "Rumors circulated about the sexual misconduct of the players." Like actors now, players were scrutinized for more than their acting skills, Wells said.

While prostitution was also a component of Elizabethan society, it is left out of much literature of the time, Wells said. Although the practice did occur, public records are

scarce on the subject, he said. However, one prison record indicated the existence of a prostitute from Shakespeare's hometown. A woman by the name of Elizabeth Evans lived a colorful life as a prostitute until she was finally arrested for using a 5 year-old girl to earn money as a prostitute, Wells said.

Homoeroticism was another scandalous literature theme "in vogue" at the time of Shakespeare, he said.

Although sodomy was punishable by death, "male-to-male relationships were common," he said. Most famously, accounts detail the sexual exploits of Queen Elizabeth's successor, King James I, Wells said. His "fondness for handsome young men" is well documented, he said.

While homoerotic themes were popular in the literature of Shakespeare's contemporaries, and many believe that some of Shakespeare's work falls in the same category, Wells is skeptical that Shakespeare's writing can be classified as homoerotic.

"Shakespeare succeeds in writing verses that could be applied to homoeroticism," Wells said, "but ultimately, he simply captures the very essence of human love."

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

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Immigrant

continued from page 1

for the full four years."

Kozak is not satisfied with the University's claim that undocumented students are a financial burden.

"We're not talking about droves of undocumented students," Kozak said. "We're not dealing with huge numbers. Personally, I don't think that it's the burden [the University] is making it out be."

He thinks the University's policy of meeting 100 percent of students' demonstrated need unfairly prevents undocumented students from enrolling due to lack of financial aid.

Saracino said it's critical for students to have permanent residency, since that status makes them eligible for federal aid.

"But if an undocumented student applies to us and won't be a permanent resident, we can't offer them admission unless they have someone who can sponsor them [to help offset tuition costs]," he said.

Saracino mentioned a female applicant from California who is in the process of attaining permanent residency prior to joining the Class of 2012.

"We just sent a letter to California Senator [Dianne] Feinstein on behalf of the student asking her to do her best to expedite this process. ... We want that student to be able to start here in the fall," he said.

Saracino said there has been no discussion about changing the University's current policy toward undocumented immigrant applicants.

Kozak, however, said the policy should be changed to simplify the process of applying as an undocumented student or to receive a student visa.

"Undocumented immigrants have to physically go back their country [of origin] to get a visa ... getting an international student visa is extremely difficult in and of itself," Kozak said.

Kozak said reevaluating the current policy is part of the University's duty as part of its Catholic mission.

"In the same way that the University does not deny admission to poor people because of the additional burden they will place on financial aid, it ought not deny admission to undocumented immigrants based on financial ease alone," Kozak said.

"This is a moral decision and one that ought to reflect our Catholic sense of morality."

Michael Kozak
senior

"This is a moral decision and one that ought to reflect our Catholic sense of morality."

Kozak said it is imperative for the University to reevaluate the policy because there are public and private non-

Catholic colleges and universities that admit undocumented students and offer them aid to finance their education.

He said Harvard University and Princeton University are two of the non-Catholic, highly visible institutions that accept undocumented students and provide them with financial aid. Harvard had 10 undocumented students and Princeton had at least one in 2006, the most recent year for which figures are available.

Kozak said there are local institutions that accept undocumented students, like Saint Mary's.

Dan Meyer, vice president of enrollment management at Saint Mary's, said the College

evaluates undocumented immigrants just as they would any other applicant.

"We accept undocumented students because when we go through the admissions process we may or may not know if a student is undocumented," Meyer said. "The decision is just based on academic qualification. We do not want to penalize a student if she is undocumented."

When an undocumented student applies for financial aid at Saint Mary's, she is not guaranteed to receive full financial aid from the College since Saint Mary's does not guarantee meeting 100 percent of students' demonstrated need, Meyer said.

"She has to rely on her family and her extended family to finance her education," he said.

Unlike the University's policy, however, undocumented students are considered for scholarships from the College in the same way any other student would be considered.

"We also make a decision on the level of academic scholarship she qualifies for," Meyer said. "We apply the same standards across the entire applicant pool."

Saint Mary's did change the way undocumented students apply for aid this year. They are now required to complete a paper version of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The College uses this application to assess a student's eligibility for aid.

"This year the change in policy was carefully analyzed and reviewed. We feel it's consistent with our mission as a Catholic institution," Meyer said.

Although Meyer could not give an exact number, he said that there were less than a dozen undocumented students admitted last year.

Contact Becky Hogan at
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CLC

continued from page 1

the dorm that] talk about dorm traditions as well as the brotherhood and sisterhood of each dorm," Coughlin said. "We want to look at what makes each hall unique."

He said the new proposal introduces activities that "take some of the attention away from some of the running around and chanting" of current activities.

In the newly formatted FYO, there will be a divergence from other types of scheduled activities, such as anything that is physically demanding, which, Coughlin said, can alienate people.

"We want to keep this as organic as possible," he said.

Coughlin also advocated eliminating certain activities between men and women's halls, such as tie or shoe exchanges.

According to Coughlin, in the newly proposed schedule, first-year students will participate in more activities within the dorm for very specific reasons.

"[First-year students will] get to know their floor-mates, section-mates and dorm-mates before moving out into the greater campus in general," Coughlin said.

He said in order to implement the new proposal, Coughlin

plans to work with the rectors of each dorm and implement a formal University committee on orientation.

According to Coughlin, a junior or senior hall orientation coordinator will take the place of the current sophomore commissioners that have served each dormitory in previous years.

"We need someone with a little bit more experience before they become the coordinators of events," Coughlin said.

In Other CLC news:

Sheena Plamoottil, head of the Task Force on Campus Environment, announced a proposal to advocate proper serving sizes on dining hall trays was rejected.

Plamoottil said Notre Dame Food Services recently ordered around 15,000 new trays which nullifies the task force's plan to print the serving sizes of each food group on the trays.

"[The idea is] to focus on eating a balanced meal, not just showing what foods are healthy," Plamoottil said.

The group now is looking into getting plates made with portion sizes marked off.

"It will give a visual estimation of how much meat, dairy, vegetables, et cetera, that students should eat," Plamoottil said.

Contact Katie Peralta at
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Lyons

continued from page 1

suspect matched the description NDSP had, Johnson said.

"[The] suspect asked [for someone using the same fictitious name used at [Notre Dame] when confronted by students in the residence halls at Valparaiso," Johnson

said.

Chapman said last week the police assumed the two thefts, which took place between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. last Wednesday, were related.

Johnson asked students to contact NDSP at 574-631-5555 and to refrain from attempting to confront or detain the suspect.

Contact Bill Brink at
wbrink@nd.edu

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Clue #2:

Well you're tired of looking at Ed
The words by him staying unread
But don't give up yet
You'll find it I bet
Think hard and you'll get what I said

The Manor Medallion Hunt is a week long campus-wide search for a single three-inch medallion. The Medallion is located somewhere on the Notre Dame campus - not in a residence hall, church, or at the Grotto. A new riddle will appear daily in the Observer and at the Morrissey website:

www.nd.edu/~manor

Bring the medallion to Morrissey 001 between 9-10 PM to claim your \$300 prize!!

WORLD & NATION

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Mideast peace talks seem productive

AMMAN, Jordan — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Monday that Mideast peace talks are "moving in the right direction," although U.S. officials conceded it would be a hard slog to meet the goal of an Israeli-Palestinian deal in 2008.

Speaking after two days of talks in the region during which she wrung hard-fought but limited concessions from Israel to ease the economic isolation of Palestinians in the West Bank, Rice said more needed to be done, and singled out a halt to Israeli settlement as key.

"I think it's all moving in the right direction," she said at a news conference in the Jordanian capital after meeting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

New digging project at Stonehenge

LONDON — Some of England's most sacred soil was disturbed Monday for the first time in more than four decades as archaeologists worked to solve the enduring riddle of Stonehenge: When and why was the prehistoric monument built?

The excavation project, set to last until April 11, is designed to unearth materials that can be used to establish a firm date for when the first mysterious set of bluestones was put in place at Stonehenge, one of Britain's best known and least understood landmarks.

The World Heritage site, a favorite with visitors the world over, has become popular with Druids, neo-Pagans and New Agers who attach mystical significance to the strangely shaped circle of stones, but there remains great debate about the actual purpose of the structure.

NATIONAL NEWS

Family seeks to appeal MySpace suit

NEW ORLEANS — The family of a teenage girl who says she was sexually assaulted by a 19-year-old man she met on MySpace.com asked a federal appeals court Monday to revive their lawsuit against the social networking Web site.

A federal judge in Austin, Texas, dismissed the \$30 million suit in February 2007, rejecting the family's claim that MySpace has a legal duty to protect its young users from sexual predators.

U.S. District Judge Sam Sparks also ruled that interactive computer services like MySpace are immune from such lawsuits under the Communications Decency Act of 1996.

Ohio soldier's body finally recovered

BATAVIA, Ohio — The parents of Staff Sgt. Keith Matthew Maupin had vowed never to let the U.S. Army forget about finding their son.

Their efforts included trips to the Pentagon and even meeting with President Bush, but they ended in disappointment Sunday: An Army general told them the remains of Maupin, a soldier who had been listed as missing-captured in Iraq since 2004, had been found.

"My heart sinks, but I know they can't hurt him anymore," Keith Maupin said after receiving word about the remains of his son, who went by Matt.

On Monday, Defense Secretary Robert Gates expressed sympathy to Maupin's family.

LOCAL NEWS

Indiana toll road increases rates

HAMMOND, Ind. — Motorists who pay cash to drive on the Indiana Toll Road will see their rates increase starting Tuesday.

The highway's private operator is authorized under its contract with the state to increase tolls as it starts operating an electronic toll transponder system on the full length of the 157-mile highway.

The toll for the full length of the toll road will rise to \$8 from the current \$4.65 for car drivers paying cash. Drivers who use a transponder won't see a toll hike until 2016.

All drivers of vehicles with three axles or more automatically will pay toll increases, regardless of whether they use the electronic tolling system known as I-Zoom.

"The spirit of the toll freeze is for local users," said Matt Pierce, a spokesman for the Indiana Toll Road Concession Co., the highway operator.

HUD Secretary resigns from duty

Jackson steps down from post amid speculation of political favoritism

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — HUD Secretary Alphonso Jackson, his tenure tarnished by allegations of political favoritism and a criminal investigation, announced his resignation Monday amid the wreckage of the national housing crisis.

He leaves behind a trail of unanswered questions about whether he tilted the Department of Housing and Urban Development toward Republican contractors and cronies.

The move comes at a shaky time for the economy, with soaring mortgage foreclosures imperiling the nation's credit markets.

In announcing that his last day at HUD will be April 18, Jackson said only, "There comes a time when one must attend more diligently to personal and family matters."

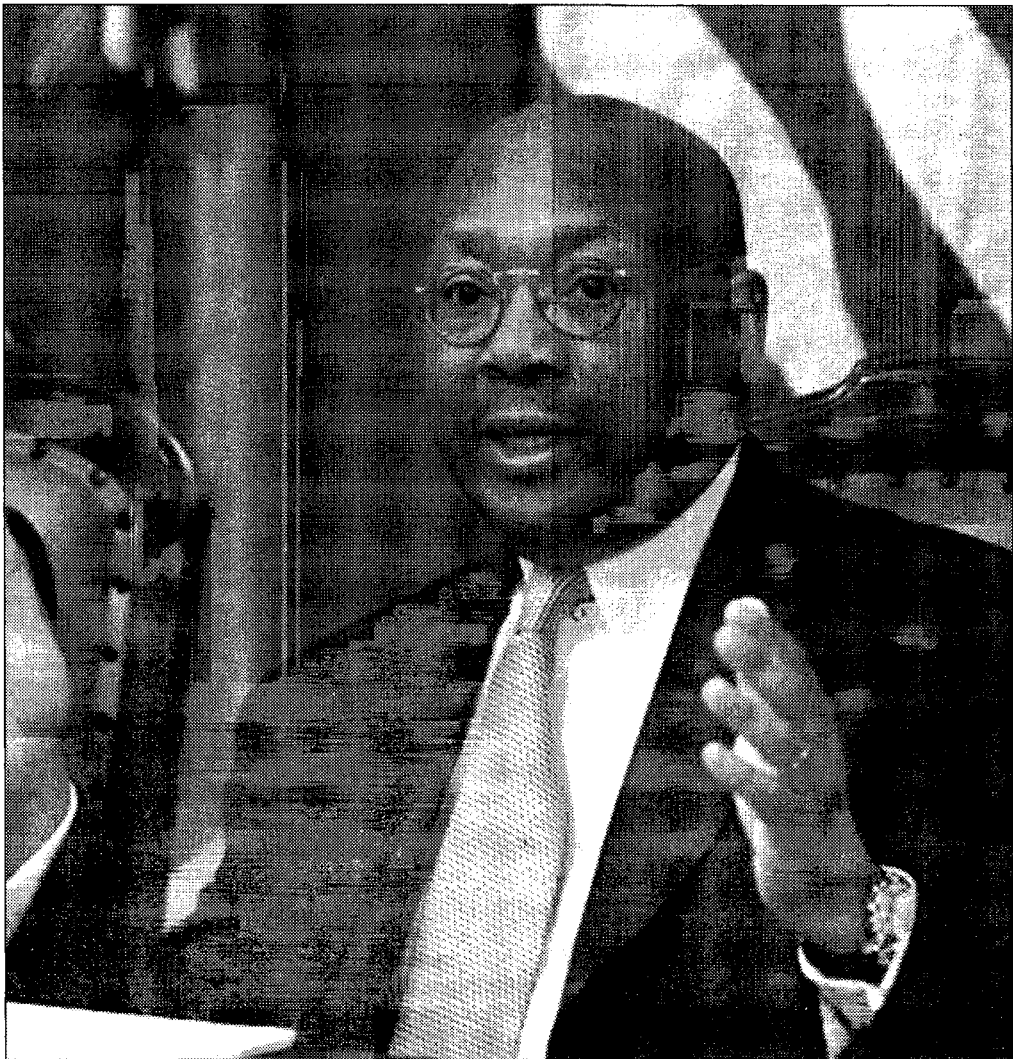
Some Congressional Democrats had pushed for him to leave.

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton said that while Jackson's resignation is "appropriate, it does nothing to address the Bush administration's wait-and-don't-see posture to our nation's housing crisis."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said HUD will be called on to work with Congress on assisting refinancing for borrowers faced with imminent foreclosure.

The ethical allegations against Jackson "meant that the Bush administration's ineffective housing policies were being burdened by an even more ineffective HUD Secretary," Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., said after Jackson's announcement.

President Bush called Jackson "a strong leader and a good man." Ties between the two men go back to the 1980s when they lived in the same Dallas neighborhood. It was Jackson's personal ties to Bush that brought him to Washington, where he displayed a forceful personal style at HUD for seven



Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson speaks at a meeting in Washington, D.C. in Sept., 2007. Jackson resigned Monday.

years, first as the agency's No. 2 official and since 2004 in the top slot.

Despite a strong commitment to housing for those in need, Jackson was capable of ill-advised public comments.

Last year, after the subprime mortgage crisis erupted, many policymakers underlined the disproportionate impact of the high-risk, high-cost mortgages on minorities and the elderly, who often are targets of predatory lending practices that lure people into loans they are incapable of repaying.

Asked about the problems with subprime mortgages last June, Jackson insisted that many such borrowers were not unsophisticated, low-income people but what he called "Yuppies, Buppies

and Guppies" — well-educated, young, black and gay upwardly mobile achievers — with expensive cars who bought \$400,000 homes with little or no money down.

In announcing his departure, Jackson said that in his time at HUD, "We have helped families keep their homes. We have transformed public housing. We have reduced chronic homelessness. And we have preserved affordable housing and increased minority homeownership."

Bush has been cool to the idea of a big federal housing rescue. "The temptation of Washington is to say that anything short of a massive government intervention in the housing market amounts to inaction," the president said recently. "I

strongly disagree with that sentiment."

On Monday on his way out of the country for a trip built around a NATO summit, Bush said he wants Congress to modernize HUD's Federal Housing Administration, allowing more struggling homeowners to refinance their mortgages.

In October, the National Journal first reported on the criminal investigation of Jackson. The FBI has been examining the ties between Jackson and a friend who was paid \$392,000 by Jackson's department as a construction manager in New Orleans. Jackson's friend got the job after Jackson asked a staff member to pass along his name to the Housing Authority of New Orleans.

CUBA

Resorts opened up to Cuban citizens

Associated Press

HAVANA — Raul Castro's government opened luxury hotels and resorts to all Cubans Monday, ending a ban despised across the island as "tourist apartheid" and taking another step toward the creation of a consumer economy in the socialist state.

Cuba has made a series of crowd-pleasing announcements in the past few days. Cubans with enough cash will be able to buy computers, DVD players and plasma televisions starting Tuesday, and soon they'll even be able to have their own cell phones — consumer goods only companies and

foreigners were previously permitted to buy.

But the latest surprise, allowing ordinary citizens into luxury hotels and resort beaches long reserved for rich foreigners, is a particularly symbolic victory for Cuba's everyman.

"I was born here and live here. I believe, as a Cuban, I have the right to it all," said Elizabeth Quintana, a Havana resident. "It's good. Really good."

While there was no official word from the government, hotel employees said Ministry of Tourism officials told them that as of Monday, Cubans can stay in hotels and resorts across the island, and pay to use gyms, hair

salons and other previously off-limit facilities. Cubans can even rent cars for the first time.

For now, few Cubans can afford a night at a hotel on a government salary, but that could change if Castro succeeds in increasing his citizens' spending power.

Meanwhile, the government is creating the kinds of consumer incentives any economy needs to thrive. For many years, Cubans haven't been able to buy certain electronic goods, lounge by the rooftop pool at the Hotel Capri or enjoy a drink at sunset on the grounds of the historic Hotel Nacional, no matter how much money they earned.

Weis

continued from page 1

Maura and her husband have encountered raising their autistic daughter, Hannah. All proceeds of the book go to the Weis' charity, Hannah & Friends, which helps children with special needs.

Charlie called the book "a heartfelt, sincere story of living the life of a parent with a special needs child" during his introduction.

He said any parent with a child that has special needs could have written the book but his wife was a good candidate because she has truly experienced what it is like.

After the introduction, W N D U ' s M a u r e e n M c F a d d e n interviewed Maura on both the book and her background as a parent of a special needs child.

Maura said she knew something was wrong with Hannah around the time she turned two.

"She used to want to be around people but suddenly she just wanted to be by herself," Maura said.

Hannah was diagnosed with autism and at age 10, she began to have seizures. Doctors were unable to find a

diagnosis for the seizures but she began receiving treatment. The family learned Friday the treatments Hannah received were successful and she should never have a seizure again.

Maura said the family has adapted to Hannah's wheat-free diet and she has had a positive impact on those she comes in contact with.

"Charlie Jr. has learned patience and tolerance and to love someone unconditionally [through Hannah]," Maura said.

Maura said Hannah has also impacted Charlie's life.

"Coach loves her, she is his little angel," Maura said. "My husband is a wonderful human being. He does not play golf or go out with his friends; being with his family is his hobby."

Maura admitted having a daughter with special needs has been a struggle.

"No one looked at us like; hey can I give you a hand," she said.

In spite of this, Maura said the South Bend community has been very supportive.

"OK, the weather's not great," she said. "But I wouldn't want to live anywhere else."

Contact Sarah Mayer at smayer01@saintmarys.edu

"[Hannah] used to want to be around people but suddenly she just wanted to be by herself."

Maura Weis
author

Judge warns of alcohol dangers

Magistrate takes courtroom to high school to show drunk-driving consequences

Associated Press

BELEN, N.M. — Marlene Chavez stood before a hushed courtroom, acknowledging the consequences of her second drunken-driving offense. Among the spectators were hundreds of teenagers who hung on her every word.

"I lost a lot of things," said Chavez, 43. "I left my vehicle in the impound so that I don't do drinking and driving after that. And I lost my house. I lost my kids to their father so that they can go stay with him because I had nowhere to go."

Chavez had already pleaded guilty. Now a judge gave her four days in jail and a \$500 fine. But her sentence came with an additional indignity: It happened in a high school auditorium, where 400 students stared as she lifted one leg, then the other, to let jailers shackle her feet. Guards also wrapped a chain around her waist and handcuffed her.

When the hearing ended, she was escorted out of Belen High School, about 30 miles south of Albuquerque, and locked up.

Magistrate Daniel Hawkes brought his courtroom to the school in hopes that the proceedings will show students the dangers of alcohol, espe-

cially in the weeks leading up to the prom and graduation.

Hawkes, whose program is unique in New Mexico, also sentenced two people at the school last year. He brings with him a plywood court bench emblazoned with a New Mexico Supreme Court seal. The makeshift courtroom also includes U.S. and New Mexico flags.

Ed Chavez, chief justice of the high court and no relation to Marlene Chavez, said he would like to see the program go statewide.

When the hearing began, 18-year-old Angel Mendez didn't realize the seriousness of the proceedings. But after watching Marlene Chavez and four other repeat offenders get sentenced, he changed his view.

"I thought it was pretty shocking just to see them like that. I didn't think they would have them in shackles," he said.

Elizabeth Sluder, 17, was initially skeptical, too, thinking the hearing was overly staged. But she also changed her mind by the end.

"You see your friends, you know, they're like, 'I'm going to go out to this party.' But you never see the consequences of them getting in trouble or getting in an accident, or any kind of consequence of driving drunk,"

she said. "But here, it's actually being brought to us. It does happen, there are consequences."

Michael A. Martone, a Michigan judge, started the first court-in-schools program in 1993, sentencing offenders who pleaded guilty to charges ranging from drunken-driving to assault and battery. He has held hearings at high schools and middle schools in Troy and Clawson, Mich.

In 2000, Martone's program became the model for the outreach program at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nev. Hawkes said he learned of the program while attending the judicial college.

Other touches he came up with himself, including his mobile courtroom, which is hauled around in a trailer that he bought for \$6,800. On the side of the trailer is: "Judicial Outreach Team. Courts are the crossroads of prevention. It's NOT KOOL to SKIP School. Stay in school."

Sluder was struck by the emotional impact of the sentencing and the statements from the defendants.

"I can't imagine how those people felt standing up and having to talk to all of us kids, especially because we can see them in the community," she said. "It just makes it real."

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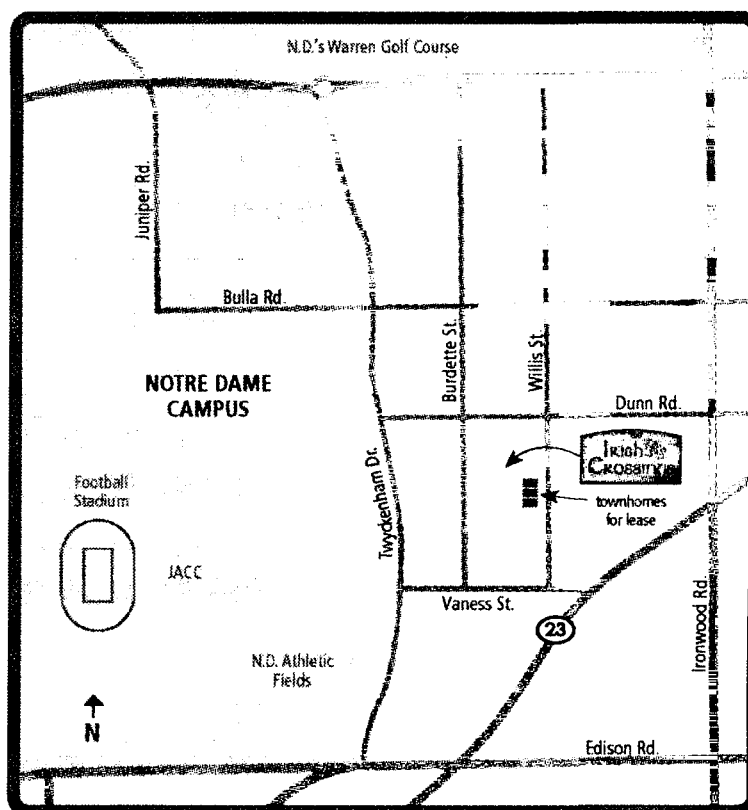
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MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones 12,262.89 +46.49

Up: 1,111 Same: 102 Down: 2,204 Composite Volume: 3,691,156,260

AMEX	2,231.83	+8.90
NASDAQ	2,279.10	+17.92
NYSE	8,797.29	+35.17
S&P 500	1,322.70	+7.48
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	12,525.54	0.00
FTSE 100 (London)	5,702.10	+9.20

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
SCHERING PLOUGH CP	-25.99	-5.06	14.41
S&P DEP RECIEPTS (SPY)	+0.35	+0.46	131.97
POWERSHARES (QQQQ)	+0.53	+0.23	43.72
CITIGROUP INC (C)	+2.83	+0.59	21.42

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	-0.98	-0.034	3.432
13-WEEK BILL	-5.56	-0.075	1.275
30-YEAR BOND	-0.90	-0.039	4.306
5-YEAR NOTE	-2.68	-0.068	2.467

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-4.04	101.58
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	-15.00	921.50
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-3.00	76.40

Exchange Rates

YEN	99.8550
EURO	0.6340
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.0217
BRITISH POUND	0.5038

IN BRIEF

Lehman Brothers filing suit for fraud

TOKYO — Lehman Brothers filed suit Monday against major Japanese trading company Marubeni, demanding \$350 million in damages in a case of alleged fraud.

Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. is seeking to recoup funding it provided to another Japanese company that the U.S. bank says employees of Marubeni Corp. helped secure.

The Tokyo District Court confirmed the lawsuit was filed. A Lehman Brothers official, who spoke on condition of anonymity citing policy, said the lawsuit demands \$350 million. Other details were not immediately available.

Marubeni, which has repeatedly denied wrongdoing, said it has not yet seen the lawsuit and could not comment. But it reiterated it has no obligation to repay the money, which was provided to a unit of LIT Bio-Pharma, a medical consulting company. The unit has since declared bankruptcy.

Vytorin's makers see drop in shares

NEW YORK — Shares of Merck & Co. and Schering-Plough Corp. fell to record lows Monday, as analysts warned new clinical data would cause sales of their blockbuster cholesterol drug Vytorin to fall further.

The companies market Vytorin through a joint venture, but earlier this year, partial results from a clinical study showed that it was no more effective at limiting plaque buildup than Merck's Zocor, a drug that is already available in generic form. Full results of that study were released Sunday.

Vytorin is a combination of Zocor and Schering-Plough's drug Zetia.

Schering-Plough shares plunged as low as \$14, touching their lowest levels since August 1996. Merck shares fell as low as \$36.82, their lowest since June 2006.

Leading physicians are now recommending the use of older drugs called statins before putting patients on Vytorin. Many physicians had prescribed Vytorin in lieu of higher doses of statins because of what some said was an undue fear of side effects.

"There was an irrationality to begin with," said Dr. John LaRosa, president of State University of New York Downstate Medical Center.

New economic strategy proposed

Federal Reserve overhaul will not ease current problems but help in the future

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It's a Herculean task: revamping a financial regulatory system dating back to the Civil War to deal with 21st century crises imperiling the country.

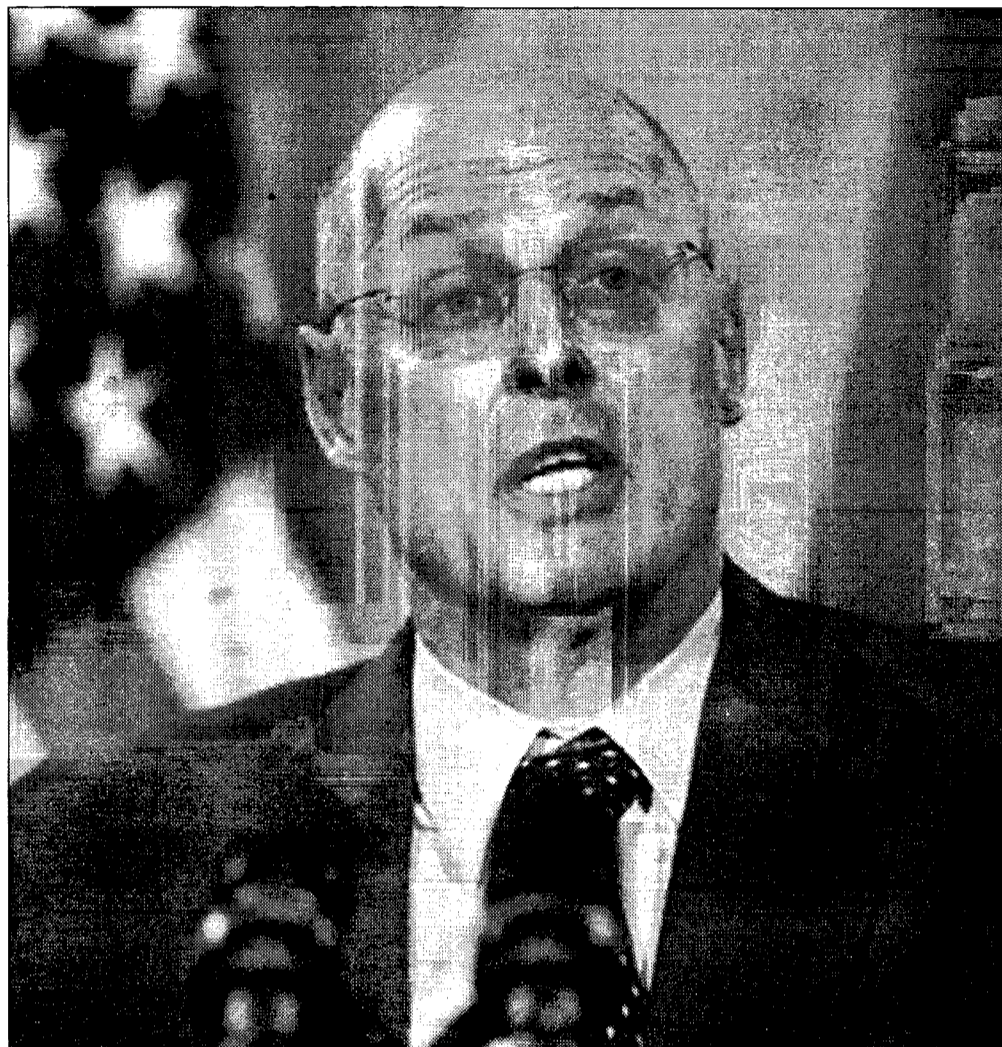
Under an ambitious Bush administration plan, the Federal Reserve would take on the unwieldy role of uber cop in charge of financial market stability. Other regulatory agencies could see their influence diminished.

The proposal won't fix the host of economic and financial problems that threatens to plunge the United States into a deep recession, but it might help guard against future troubles. It would take years and a lot of political wrangling — in Congress, on Wall Street, in statehouses and elsewhere — to implement all the changes envisioned.

Yet, the initiative, formally announced Monday, casts a fresh spotlight on the best way to protect the country from financial catastrophes in an intricate web of complex, often-changing financial products and the wide array of financial players using them in the United States and beyond. That debate probably will take center stage in the next president's administration.

Asked if President Bush's goal was to get the revamp approved before he leaves office, press secretary Dana Perino acknowledged the enormity of the plan. "We'll have to see. It is a big attempt," she said.

Democrats in Congress said the administration should be focusing its efforts on easing the country's current woes, including providing more relief



Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson announces the biggest overhaul of financial regulations since the Great Depression during a speech at the Treasury Department Monday.

for millions of distressed homeowners clobbered by the housing collapse and credit crunch. Foreclosures have hit record highs.

"We must take steps now to provide help to families who are hurting," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.

Senate Banking Committee Chairman Chris Dodd, D-Conn., called the administration's proposal a "wild pitch."

"It's not even close to the strike zone," Dodd said. "This is a very legitimate issue, but why bring this

up today when really this had nothing to do with the current problems we're facing?"

Democratic presidential contender Hillary Rodham Clinton was even more emphatic: "No amount of rearranging the deck chairs can hide the fact that our housing and credit markets are in crisis and they are sinking deeper every day."

Sen. John McCain, who has wrapped up the Republican nomination, welcomed Paulson's recommendations. "I think

consolidation of the various supervisory bureaucracies is very important recognition that we are in a global economy, and transparency and closer oversight is necessary," he said.

The plan would greatly expand the role of the Fed, created in 1913 after a series of bank panics, to oversee the stability of the entire financial system including commercial banks, investment banks, insurance companies, hedge funds, private-equity firms and others.

Smaller corn crop means higher prices

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — From chicken nuggets to corn flakes, food prices at grocery stores and dinner tables could be headed even higher as farmers cut back on the land they're planting in corn this spring.

Corn prices already are high, and a drop in supply should keep them rising. Combine that with the huge demand for corn-based ethanol fuel — and higher energy costs for transporting food — and consumers are likely to see their food bills going up and up.

Farmers are now expected to plant 86 million acres of corn this year, the Department of Agriculture predicted Monday, down 8 percent from last year, which was the highest since World War II.

Corn is almost everywhere you look in the U.S. food supply. Poultry, beef and pork companies use it to feed their animals. High fructose corn

syrup is used in soft drinks and many other foods, including lunch meats and salad dressings. Corn is often an ingredient in breads, peanut butter, oatmeal and potato chips.

Corn components are even used in many grocery store items that aren't edible — including disposable diapers and dry cell batteries.

When the corn that goes into those products goes up in price, increases eventually can be passed along to consumers.

And corn prices have skyrocketed in recent years, almost tripling since 2005. They have been pushed along by the burgeoning ethanol industry, which turns the crop into fuel, and by rising worldwide demand for food.

"People who are working families, just barely making it and already paying higher prices for gas and home heating oil are going to be shot in the pocket by higher food prices," said Carol Tucker-Forman of the Consumer Federation of America.

Richard Lobb of the National Chicken Council said recent increases in the cost of corn feed have been absorbed by larger chicken companies, such as Pilgrim's Pride Corp. or Tyson Foods Inc., that provide feed to poultry farmers. But that could change.

"At a certain point we have to readjust and get back to square one," Lobb said. "The only people who have money ultimately are consumers."

Tucker-Forman of the Consumer Federation of America and Scott Faber of the Grocery Manufacturers Association both say rising food prices could be stemmed if Congress would pull back subsidies for the ethanol industry.

The number of ethanol plants has almost tripled since 1999 and more are being built, according to the Renewable Fuels Association. Such plants could gobble up more than a quarter of the country's corn crop.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 8

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

THE OBSERVER

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THE
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The news is reported as accurately and objectively as possible. Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the majority of the Editor in Chief, Managing Editor, Assistant Managing Editors and department editors. Commentaries, letters and columns present the views of the authors and not necessarily those of The Observer.

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

Questions regarding Observer policies should be directed to Editor in Chief Chris Hine

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Back to the issues

This is no response to any specific Viewpoint article, but rather to the overflow of press coverage regarding Barack Obama's relationship with his church pastor, Rev. Jeremiah Wright. It occurred to me that the media has seemed to place an unfair weight on the relationship Obama has shared with Wright over the years. For anyone unaware of the issue, Wright is the pastor of Trinity Church and recently became famous for his controversial remarks regarding race in America. While I do not need to go into the specifics of his comments, they are seen as quite heated and contentious.

The media since then has been highly critical of Obama's relationship with his pastor, and rightly so. If we are to elect an individual to the highest public office in this country, are we not allowed to scrutinize their character? After all, a lot may be said by the people with whom we associate. However, the media has taken it too far.

Before I go on, I should state that I am not a Barack Obama supporter, nor am I a Clinton supporter. I simply want to see a fruitful debate among the Democratic

Party that is fair and worthy to produce a candidate to the general election. Obama recently answered questions regarding his relationship with Wright, and even went on to comment on racial divisions that still exist today.

I have to admit I was extremely impressed with the articulate Obama and can fully understand why he is such an attractive candidate to a lot of people. But even with his answers, the media did not let it go. They still ask the piercing questions concerning his character, almost as if to make up for previous lack of scrutiny.

All I ask is that we do not forget the issues. While it is easy to say that this upcoming election is a momentous one for the history of our country (every presidential election cycle says that), it does have importance. We are currently in a war that has passed its fifth anniversary. We have major issues with the continuation of social security. The economy appears to be in a slump. We have serious thinking to do in the coming years.

I want to know both where Obama stands and what he has done in the past

as a senator to affirm those beliefs. Sure, it is easy to go on his Web site and read about it, but I want to listen to him articulate it more. I want the media to foster debate about the issues. I want to know how Obama will manage to stabilize the Middle East with his steady withdrawal of American troops. I want more specifics on government-sponsored healthcare. Exactly how will it work? What are the consequences?

These are only a few of the many issues on which the media could focus, but instead their attention is elsewhere. Do I think scrutinizing character is unimportant? No. But I do believe the media has to do a better job balancing that with debate among the issues.

I do not support Obama, and I disagree with what I do know of his stance on issues. All I ask is give him an opportunity to make a case for what he believes in. Debate amongst the issues will better serve this country in the long run.

Patrick McDonnell

freshman

Fisher Hall

Mar. 19

'Monologues' refusal

I am a woman. I refuse to be objectified. I refuse to be mocked. I refuse to be trivialized. I refuse to be debased. I refuse to be used. I refuse to be stereotyped. I refuse to be violated. I refuse to be valued only for one part of my body, and for how I utilize that part of the whole that is myself — a woman. I especially refuse to do so under the guise of "empowerment." I refuse to support "The Vagina Monologues."

Morgan Cullen
Kimberly Stoddard
Agata Michalska
Ann Weber
Joanna Emilian
Elliott Marie Argue
Laura Lindsley
Natalie Rauch
Mary Forr
Rachel Miller
Esther Sims
Mary K Daly
Kelly Levis
Jacqueline Libaudais
Mary Liz Walter

students

Notre Dame

Mar. 28

Support academic freedom

While I personally wish the Vagina Monologues were not performed at Notre Dame (or anywhere for that matter), I fully support Fr. Jenkins' decision to allow the performance this year, consistent with the guidelines on academic freedom he articulated two years ago.

I have been criticized by fellow alumni in my local region for that support. One member of our alumni club removed me from her e-mail list, stating that Satan is clearly at work here because our friendship has been affected. I don't understand this. We have a different understanding of academic freedom; that in no way affects how I feel about her as a friend and fellow alum.

One thing keeps coming to mind that I wish she and Bishop D'Arcy and others

would realize. At Notre Dame, unlike most if not all other campuses, there are real choices. Such choices, it seems to me, are only to be expected in an environment where both Catholic character and true academic freedom are vibrant. In addition to the performance of "The Vagina Monologues," students at Notre Dame last weekend hosted the Edith Stein Conference for the third consecutive year. Notre Dame students have also developed a Notre Dame-specific alternative play. There are just so many examples of God's work on campus and among the alumni. Once again let it be said, "Only At Notre Dame."

Jack Freneau

alumnus

Class of 1971

Mar. 28



TODAY'S STAFF

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Nikki Taylor	Genie Alfonzo
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OBSERVER POLL

What are you most excited about for football season?

Jon Tenuta's arrival
Mike Haywood taking over play-calling duties
Jimmy Clausen's new haircut

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

Submit a Letter
to the Editor at
www.ndsmcobserver.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Fool me once, shame on... shame on you. Fool me... you can't get fooled again."

President George W. Bush

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Patriotic protest

As a senior leader in Army ROTC who faces the likely prospect of being sent to Iraq in the next year or two, I found the discussion about last week's protest interesting. I would like to offer my two cents and thank those who started and continued what I found to be a thoughtful and well-timed protest.

What are you supporting by supporting the war? The Army does not declare war, Congress does. A soldier takes no part in deciding whether or not to go to war; a soldier goes to war when he or she is told to by the government.

Since we are fortunate enough to be governed by a democracy, "the people" are essentially the ones who decide to go to war, and our support of the war means supporting the cause and the deployment of troops to realize that cause. If you do not support the war, you are simply opposing

a government decision, and the best way to support the troops in that case is to discourage the government from sending troops into harm's way (in a thoughtful manner, of course).

A soldier's mission is to support and defend the people of the United States and its Constitution; to support a soldier is to support this mission, not necessarily a particular war. Patriotism does not mean blindly following the dictates of the present administration; it means encouraging the course of action which is best for our nation and the whole world.

The recent protest, by provoking thought and discussion about that best course of action, was an act of patriotism.

Phillip Hicks
senior
Dillon Hall
Mar. 28

Impressionable youth

"The Vagina Monologues" have stirred up a lot of passion in many students at Notre Dame. This led students to a debate with each other and panelists, and as a result, I witnessed one of the most compelling and insightful conversations I have ever seen.

This exploration of sexuality strengthened my own ideas on the subject, which I would classify as conservative. Not changed, strengthened. Bishop D'Arcy has noted that college students are impressionable, and such a play could be dangerous to our Catholic understanding of sexuality.

There are many aspects of the world we live in that could be dangerous for a young Catholic to see. For example, The Keenan Revue portrays college boys who are open about their sex lives, scenes of masturbation, and scenes demeaning to women. Yet tickets to the Keenan Revue sell out within half an hour of availability.

Clearly, Notre Dame students are regularly exposed to "sexual revolu-

tion propaganda." "The Vagina Monologues" offered students an opportunity to discuss complex issues of female sexuality, and each panelist gave an alternative to the sexual revolution.

Is there a better place to be exposed to the sexual revolution than Notre Dame? I doubt that, had the play been held elsewhere, anyone would have cared to conduct such a respectable conversation as the debate on Friday night.

You cannot hide reality from us. It will hit us eventually. I thank Fr. Jenkins and the organizers of "The Vagina Monologues" for offering a dose of the reality of sexuality in the world today, and providing me with a remarkable and beautiful response that I probably would not have received anywhere else but Notre Dame.

Flannery Kearney
sophomore
Pangborn Hall
Mar. 29

Disability awareness not just for March

Disabilities are something that I'm sure many people on our campus do not think much about. I think about them every day.

I have a learning disability, and at the very beginning of my freshmen year, I felt like I was the only one on campus who did. That all changed when I was invited to get together with other students with disabilities to create a group. We started meeting every week and eventually called ourselves Perspectives. This came about because we feel that being a person with a disability at Notre Dame gives you a different perspective, but also because we want people with normal abilities to try and understand that.

Our goal is to offer support to each other and promote awareness and education about disabilities. Having a disability is not a necessary component to membership, just an interest in our goal. We worked hard to gain group status,

and I am very proud of the work we have done. We have had panels, simulations, and socials, and have worked with other groups such as Best Buddies and the Logan Center. It has been a very rewarding journey.

I write because March is Disability Awareness month. There have been many great events, but the promotion of disability awareness does not have to end. There is so much that you can do. You can be more understanding of people with disabilities all year and educate yourself.

I invite anyone who is interested in any of this to join Perspectives. It has been one of the best parts of my four years here at Notre Dame.

Molly Rivard
senior
Welsh Family Hall
Mar. 30

Revive the concert

Bored on a cold day, watching UCLA blow Xavier out of the water, I was listening to music on my computer to make the game go by faster. I was listening to Bruce Springsteen when I wondered, when was the last time Bruce played at Notre Dame?

Let's just go this far, most readers of the Observer weren't born yet. So I decided to look into the online archives of The Observer to find a mention of the Boss, and one completely blew me away.

Just over four years ago, on Feb. 9, 2004, there was an article labeled: "University rejects concert." I first thought, "they canceled a potential Bruce concert!" I then reasoned with myself that there probably wasn't enough money. I continued to search on, but upon returning to "University rejects concert," I discovered a horrible incident.

According to the article, Norte Dame SUB has planned potentially the greatest concert in Notre Dame history — even greater than the 2001 U2 concert. U2 and Bruce Springsteen in the Stadium.

Upon reading this, I choked on my Arizona Iced Tea and did a double take. I was shocked that SUB could pull something like this together, but once again I thought, "It must be a pipe dream and there is not enough funding." As I read on, I discovered that SUB had raised \$250,000 over the estimated \$1.25 million required for this show. Not only was money not a problem, but the reason for the concert was not just the pleasure of Notre Dame, St. Mary's, and Holy Cross students, but for a greater good: all proceeds from the concert were going to fund the AIDS effort in Africa.

After skimming it, I read deeper into

the article to find out why this epic endeavor was never carried out. I found it: University spokesman Matt Storin said the proposal was not approved by the administration. "Several university officers considered this proposal and decided that we did not have the resources or personnel to pull off an endeavor of this size within the necessary time frame," Storin said.

At this I became very upset. I mean, a university that has enough security, personnel, parking, and other resources to maintain order on the six to seven home game weekends each year can't provide enough for a one-time concert that would cater to far fewer patrons? Notre Dame had a chance to host one of the greatest concerts of the decade and the administration balks.

I also wonder what happened to SUB continuing to fight for this endeavor. At the end of the article there is a mention of how this idea will come to be, but there have been no echoes of it coming to fruition, not a mention in the rest of the Observer archives.

In the end, I can only stare back at the University's missed chance to host two musical talents that have combined to sell more than 200 million albums. The chance of a lifetime spurned.

I hope that SUB has great events in motion for the 2008-09 season, but I also hope this can get gears turning again because settling for one hit wonders and alternative rock shouldn't be the highlights of a year

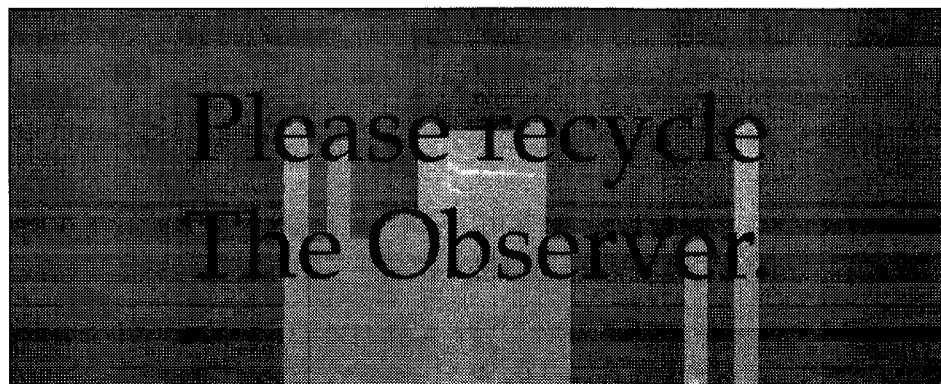
Tim Staub
sophomore
Dillon Hall
Mar. 30

PERSPECTIVES: APRIL 1, 1991



The mural on the Hesburgh Library, which was formerly of Jesus, now sports a new "politically correct" figure.

This Perspective was originally printed in the April 1, 1991, issue of The Observer.



explosions in the sky RICH and REAL

By MYCHAL STANLEY
Scene Writer

Since coming onto the scene in 1999, Explosions in the Sky has made some of the most intense, emotionally rich music in the genre of post-rock.

Put simply, post-rock is the use of rock instruments like guitars, drums, and bass to create musical styles that are not common to rock music. Most post-rock bands, including Explosions in the Sky, are purely instrumental.

The band creates beautifully layered textures and narrative guitar lines with their instruments, and uses this talent to grab the listener.

In 2000, they released their first album, "How Strange, Innocence". It was first released on just 300 CD-Rs, but they re-released it in 2005, and fans were able to see how they got their start.

In the debut album, their sound is more stripped down, but their ear for arrangements is apparent. Songs like "Snow and Lights" and "Glittering Blackness" show basic textures that are the beginnings of more thickly layered songs on their later albums.

The album "The Earth Is Not a Cold Dead Place" from 2003 presents a hopeful view of life. While the title says the Earth is not awful, one had to think it was initially to need that kind of assurance.

In "The Earth Is Not a Cold Dead Place," the band fully realizes everything they are trying to achieve. Intricate guitar lines, precise drum work and explosive crescendos lend to an emotional palette only Explosions in the Sky can create. The songs "Memorial" and "Your Hand in Mine" are perfect representations of what the band does best.

Finally, in 2007, they released "All of a Sudden I Miss



Photo courtesy of www.austin360.com.

Explosions in the Sky released their debut album in 2000, and just premiered their new album, "All of the Sudden I Miss Everyone."

Everyone." For the first time, the album did not show any measurable development in the band's sound, besides a small introduction of piano into their music. But this latest work still provides some solid songs.

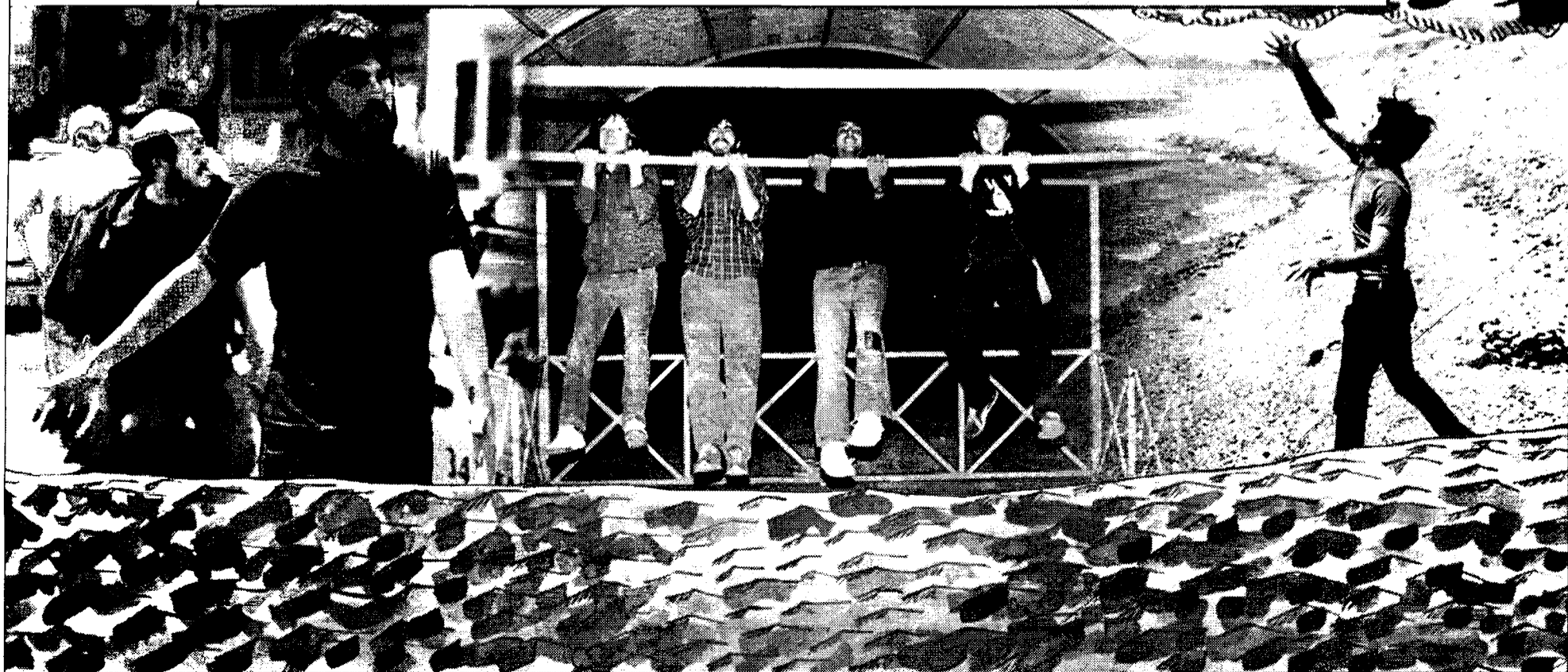
The band also released an EP entitled "The Rescue" in 2005, in which they wrote and recorded a song a day for eight consecutive days. In many ways, this is their most accessible due to the relatively short lengths of the songs. The band also did the entire soundtrack to the film "Friday Night Lights."

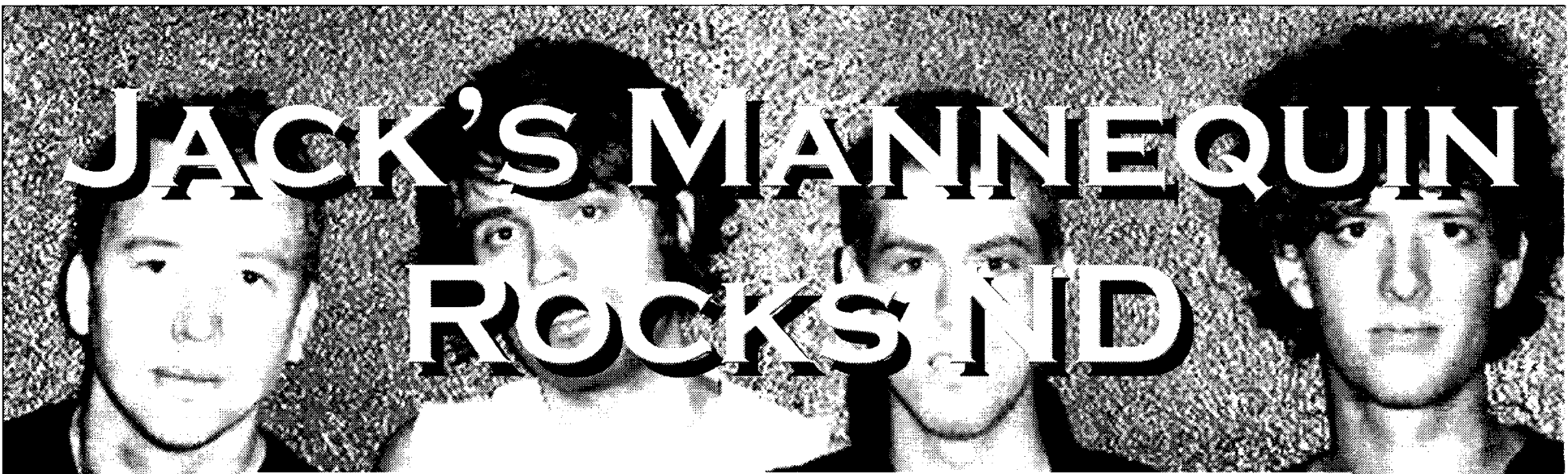
The music of Explosions in the Sky is some of the most explosive (no pun intended), rich, emotional, cathartic and beautiful music you will ever hear. The fact that they are able to draw so much out of basic rock instruments is incredible. The music of Explosions in the Sky is almost too epic, if only it didn't fit so well within our lives.

Contact Mychal Stanley at wstanley@nd.edu

Explosions in the Sky

Recommended Tracks: Memorial, Your Hand in Mine, Yasmin the Light, Day Two





By STEPHANIE DEPREZ
Assistant Scene Editor

Stepan Center is not exactly the ideal spot for a concert. Not only is it acoustically stifling, but also reminiscent of chemistry related events, including dreaded Organic Chemistry exams. Additionally, it takes a bit of a hike from civilization to reach the complex. Nonetheless, on Friday night the lights came up on Stepan Center when Jack's Mannequin took the stage.

Jack's Mannequin's Andy McMahon was a member of Something Corporate before writing his own songs while the band was taking a break. His songs from the hiatus became the first and only album of the newly formed Jack's Mannequin, "Everything in Transit." The album has slowly gained a wide following, and a new one is expected soon.

The real story behind Jack's Mannequin is unusual for a band riding the punk-pop wave. After the album was recorded in 2005, the band was ready to go on tour to promote it. Just before the tour, McMahon was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia. His little sister was the marrow donor, and he made a full recovery. They are now touring and will eventually end up on the Warp Tour circuit.

The set was typical, except for the large black grand piano center stage. No opening band in sight, Andy McMahon and his crew bounded onto the set at around 9:15. Bursting into the opening chords of "Dark Blue,"

the cacophonous ride of lights and sounds took off from there. Drums, bass, guitar and piano managed to create a sound full enough to elevate the crowd to euphoria.

The crowd stood on its feet the whole time as different people sang along with different snippets of songs. Though few people know the album by heart, many people have heard their songs and were able to get into it along with McMahon.

The artist spent the evening banging on the piano. He felt the music to the point that he appeared almost paralyzed at moments. McMahon never sat, but hunched over the keys and sang into the mic with his head turned toward the audience. It was almost existential to watch him completely living within the sound of his own music.

Most of the songs from "Everything in Transit" were performed. Near the end of the evening, McMahon sat calmly at his keys and played a more introspective song off the album yet to be released.

The band played for an hour and 20 minutes, including one encore. When they left the stage the second time they ignored the crowd's cry for another song, leaving the audience to mistakenly cheer the roadies as the lights came up. The evening was generally deemed a success by everyone. The energy that had been buzzing for an hour and a half was carried out into the night as students walked home under the stars.

Contact Stephanie DePrez at sdeprez@nd.edu



Photos courtesy of jaradreddekopp.blogspot.com and tryingtofindthewords.buzznet.com.

Jack's Mannequin's Andy McMahon charms Stepan Center audience. His high energy excited the crowd, who demanded longer performance, but to no avail.



CLUB SPORTS

Men's water polo hosts alumni tournament

Women's water polo wins Miami Invitation; Rugby beats Loyola 66-0; Rowers begin season at Lubbers Cup

Special to the Observer

Women's water polo

The nation's top-ranked club proved worthy of its status as Notre Dame captured the prestigious Miami Invitational in Oxford, Ohio this weekend. On Friday, the Irish opened play against the Pennsylvania, the No. 8 team in the country. The game was back-and-forth, with the Irish coming back from a two-goal deficit in the fourth quarter to tie it at 9-9. After Bridget O'Neil fouled out early in the fourth quarter with five goals, Kelly Horner took over in overtime, scoring a hat trick in the extra periods to lead the Irish to a 12-10 victory. Ali Durkin, Kristen Harchut and Cristina Romano each contributed a goal, while goalie Betsy O'Neill made 12 saves.

On Saturday, the Irish defeated Wisconsin 14-4. O'Neill and Romano led the squad with four goals apiece, and Horner added another three. Durkin, Emily Harig and Beth Nagel also each splashed one home for the Irish. Goalies O'Neill and Maggie Hyde split the cage, making a combined nine saves.

The Irish then defeated No. 6 Michigan 5-3 Saturday night.

In the championship game on Sunday, the Irish finally met No. 3 Cal Poly in a long-anticipated game that lived up to its expectations. In the end, the Irish came from behind to win 4-3. O'Neill hit a lob shot in the second quarter to tie the score 1-1 at the half. Poly opened the second half with two goals, taking a 3-1 lead at the end of the third quarter. But Notre Dame picked it up in the fourth quarter, scoring three unanswered goals. Romano hit a cross-cage shot on a man-up opportunity then Harig nailed one from outside. Finally, Kennifer muscled the winning goal by the keeper from set, as the Irish won by a final score of 4-3. O'Neill came up huge in the win, keeping the goal clear for two quarters while recording five saves.

Men's volleyball

In their final tune-up before nationals, the Irish traveled to Columbus, Ohio, to play in the annual MIVA tournament. The tournament brought together 30 teams from three of the most competitive conferences in the nation. With an incon-

sistent season thus far, the Irish looked to gain some stability and momentum going into nationals.

In the opening day, the Irish were placed in a six-team pool. Notre Dame played tough all day, but was unable to pull out any victories. The Irish dropped close contests to Minnesota, Indiana and Cincinnati, while defeating Bowling Green. The Irish went 1-3 on the day, losing five sets by a combined 11 points to put them in a deep hole for the second day. The Irish entered the single elimination bracket portion of the tournament with the No. 17-seed and plenty of difficult matches ahead of them.

Notre Dame's first opponent Sunday morning was Grand Valley State. The Irish came out flat in the first game, giving up several short runs that turned into a large deficit and a convincing 25-18 win for Grand Valley State. Aggressive serving by freshman Jason Healy kept the Irish in the second game, which was close until the end. A strong defensive push tipped the score in the favor of Notre Dame as they closed out a squeaker, 25-22. The momentum carried into the third set as the Irish dominated, 15-8.

The next match pitted the Irish against conference rival Marquette, a team that defeated Notre Dame twice during the season. But the Irish played their most inspired volleyball of the day as they burst out of the gates. Outside hitting by Mark Iandolo carried the Irish to the end as they took the first set easily. But the Golden Eagles did not go down easily as they responded with a strong 17-25 win that sent the match into a third game. Middle blocker Mike Nejedly fueled Notre Dame's early push with phenomenal attacking, giving the Irish an early lead they never relinquished on their way to the match victory, 15-11 in the third game.

In the quarterfinals, Notre Dame defeated Dayton 25-17, 26-24.

For the right to play in the championship, Notre Dame faced No. 4 Lakeland College. Despite forceful hitting by outside hitter Dan Zibton, who was also named all-conference, the Irish looked as if the seven previous matches had taken their toll. The Muskies

took control and didn't relent, beating Notre Dame in consecutive sets and sending the Irish home with a third-place finish.

Rugby

Notre Dame swept Loyola College in a pair of dominating victories on Saturday in Skokie, Ill. The A-side opened play with a convincing 66-0 win marked by Chris Harrington's three tries. Patrick Toole and Bob Huguelet each added a pair of tries, while Ben Frost, Andy Mullen and Chris Brown scored one apiece. Don Greiwe was 8-of-10 on two-point conversions. The Irish preserved their 28-0 halftime lead with a three-minute goal line stand to close the half.

Dan Blakely also scored three tries for the Irish in the B-side's 55-0 whitewashing of Loyola.

Men's rowing

Notre Dame opened its spring season with a trip to Grand Rapids, Mich., where the team raced in the Lubber's Cup Regatta. The Irish raced in fours and eights in a fast current and unusually warm regatta conditions. Notre Dame faced some of the best crews in the northern Indiana and Michigan area, along with the University of Rochester from New York.

The Irish novice boats were the highlight of the Notre Dame performance as they took home a total of 16 medals and one trophy. In the eights, the novice first boat had a dominating performance. The crew won the race with open water on the next boat and brought the large, golden cup trophy back to Notre Dame. The second novice boat took second in its race. In the fours, the Irish novice continued to show powerful performances, winning both the novice A race and the novice B race. The third novice four took fourth place in the B race as well.

Cycling

The Irish resumed competition at Michigan State and Michigan with racers in every category but men's B. The road race consisted of a 4.7-mile loop with a 1.25-mile section of dirt road. The men's C had an all-star line-up looking to win the race, while the B entry women's squad was seeking more experience. With

numerous break away attempts from rookie Kirk Post, the pace of the race was fast. But the rest of the pack worked against Post and kept him on a short leash. The Irish benefited, though, with Nate Farley netting fifth place and Josh Johnson finishing eighth. Post came in just behind in 12th place.

Laura Simons and Caitlin Sullivan competed in the women's B race and finished 18th and 22nd. Veterans Jenn Perricone and Meghan Johnson flew the argyle in the women's A 45-mile race. The soft and difficult dirt section took its toll on the field. Perricone came in 10th behind an old and experienced field with Johnson taking 13th.

The men's A race consisted of 35 riders, including Tim Campbell and Mike Lavery. The 55-mile race started off pretty tame, but the attacks started the third lap of the race. Campbell finished slightly behind the dwindled main field in 13th place.

The D men, who started right after the A men, had a short 20-mile race. The entire field was on the attack, but it was Irish riders John McDunough and Adam Bee that joined another rider the make the 3-man break of the day. McDunough drilled the pace hard and consequently dropped back from the group to rejoin the pack, finishing 13th. Bee went on to win the sprint for first place, giving the Irish their first win of the season. John Dailey and Mike O'Connor also finished with the pack and did not place.

Sunday's races started with a twilight D men's criterium on the University of Michigan campus. The D men had a short but furious 20 minute race. All four Irish riders drilled the pace on the course and caused mass suffering in the peloton. McDunough pulled in front in as he went for the victory, but his push was reeled back in. This set up Bee once again as Bee won the group sprint. Dailey took fourth place and O'Connor came in slightly out of the placing.

Men's water polo

The Irish hosted their annual Alumni Tournament at Rolfs Aquatics. The event featured Purdue, Mercyhurst, Monmouth, and

the Notre Dame Alumni team. In addition, a Notre Dame B squad competed. The team was comprised mostly of the club's large freshmen class.

In Notre Dame's first game, against Monmouth on Saturday morning, the club came out strong to take a quick 4-0 lead in the first quarter before winning 15-3.

In their second game, the Irish faced a much tougher opponent in Mercyhurst, a division II varsity team with several All-American players. The Irish fell 12-6. Notre Dame came out fired up and managed to hit the back of the net five times in the first half as Fordonski and Dunn each scored twice and senior Zhan-Wei Khaw netted one to forge a 5-5 tie at the half.

But the Irish were unable to keep up the pace in the second half and began to seriously tire in the third quarter. Mercyhurst quickly pulled ahead by five goals and the Irish were only able to respond with one by Connors. The game slowed in the fourth quarter as Mercyhurst scored two more unanswered goals for the easy victory.

The last game of the day for the Irish A team was against the ND Alumni team. The two squads kept the score neck-and-neck for the entire game before the Irish pulled out an 11-10 victory.

The final game of the weekend against Purdue was also a nail-biter, with the Irish squeaking out a 10-9 win. Connors lit up the goal in the first quarter, scoring three right off the bat before Dunn added one to make it 4-1 the end of the quarter. Purdue bounced back in the third quarter to tie it up, and the two teams battled it out in the fourth with Connors, Dunn, and Fordonski scoring one goal each. Purdue answered with an additional three goals to knot the score at 7-7. The game ended in a shootout as goalie Jon Kelly performed spectacularly for the Irish, blocking three Purdue shots. Damian Sharratt, Sebastian Andres-Testero, and Fordonski all scored in the shootout to give Notre Dame the victory.

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.

WANTED

\$14.25 BASE-APPT. STUDENT WORK flexible, no experience needed, customer sales/service, conditions apply, ages 18+, 574-273-3835.

www.workforstudents.com
Notre Dame Staff member seeks house sitting/furnished rental through July 31 while home is being built. Call 574-360-6919.

Child Care: Occasional evenings and weekends for our twin daughters, age 7. Looking for someone who is responsible, energetic and enjoys kids. Good pay. Contact

Paul at weithman.1@nd.edu or Maura at ryan.61@nd.edu

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Newly remodeled 3 bed 1 bth home for rent walking distance to college. Call 847-507-7444.

Large house available for 2009-2010. Full renovations completed 2007. Close to campus. 4,000+ square feet, 5 bathrooms. MacSwain@gmail.com
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MISCELLANEOUS

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AROUND THE NATION

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 13

NCAA Men's Baseball USA Today/ESPN Poll

rank	team	record	prev
1	Arizona State	25-1	1
2	Miami FL	21-2	3
2	Florida State	23-3	2
4	North Carolina	21-5	4
5	UC Irvine	19-3	7
6	South Carolina	18-7	9
7	Missouri	20-5	6
8	Vanderbilt	18-6	13
9	Long Beach St	17-7	5
10	Nebraska	21-4-1	17
11	Wichita St.	20-3	11
12	California	18-5-1	19
13	Florida	20-6	18
14	Texas	18-8	10
15	Virginia	23-5	15
16	Rice	19-9	12
17	Kentucky	22-4	14
18	Arizona	14-9	8
19	Texas A&M	21-6	22
20	Stanford	12-7	21
21	Georgia Tech	22-5	NR
22	Coastal California	21-6	20
23	(tie) Ole Miss	16-11	16
23	(tie) CS Fullerton	15-9	25
25	San Diego	19-10	23

NCAA Women's Softball Top 25

rank	team	record	prev
1	UCLA	26-3	1
2	Arizona State	34-2	2
3	Alabama	27-3	3
4	Florida	35-2	4
5	Stanford	31-2	5
6	Michigan	25-3	8
7	Texas A&M	31-6	9
8	LSU	27-4	6
9	Tennessee	28-5	8
10	Arizona	21-8	10
11	Houston	28-4	11
12	Fresno State	30-5	13
13	Oklahoma	27-8	22
14	Long Beach State	24-9	12
15	Louisiana-Lafayette	20-8	14
16	Northwestern	13-9	16
17	Hawai'i	24-10	17
18	Georgia	30-8	18
19	Baylor	18-8	24
20	North Carolina	27-6-1	15
21	Mississippi State	26-9	19
22	San Diego State	27-10	20
23	California	29-10	23
24	DePaul	19-9	25
25	Washington	21-9-1	NR

Women's Softball Big East Standings

team	record	streak
USF	4-0	W5
Louisville	4-0	W6
Pittsburgh	3-1	L1
Syracuse	3-1	L1
DePaul	1-1	L1
NOTRE DAME	1-1	W1
Providence	1-1	W2
Connecticut	1-1	W1
St. John's	2-4	L4
Villanova	1-3	W1
Rutgers	1-3	W1
Seton Hall	0-6	L5

NCAA



Tar Heels forward Tyler Hansbrough scores a basket during North Carolina's 83-73 win the NCAA Regional Championship game over Louisville. Hansbrough and Kansas State's Michael Beasley were top picks for the All-America team.

AP selects younger All-Americans

Associated Press

North Carolina's Tyler Hansbrough and Kansas State's Michael Beasley were unanimous selections to The Associated Press' All-America team Monday. For the first time, no senior was chosen.

Beasley and Kevin Love of UCLA made it two straight years there were two freshmen chosen. Sophomore D.J. Augustin of Texas and junior Chris Douglas-Roberts rounded out the selections, shutting out the seniors.

Until this group, Hansbrough, a junior and the Atlantic Coast Conference player of the year, and Beasley, the Big 12 player of the year and third

freshman to lead the country in rebounding, were named on all 72 ballots and received 360 points from the same national media panel that selects the weekly Top 25.

"To be one of just two players in the country to receive such an honor is very humbling," said Beasley, who led Kansas State to its first NCAA bid since 1996. "I have never been about individual accomplishments, but about helping my team win games. I wish we were still playing, but I am happy with the success we had this season."

Hansbrough, a second-team selection last season, compiled impressive numbers (23.0 points, 10.4

rebounds) and lived up to his "Psycho T" nickname while leading the Tar Heels to a school-record 36 wins and their 17th Final Four.

Douglas-Roberts, the third member of the All-America team playing in the Final Four, had 52 first-team votes and 309 points. The 6-7 swingman averaged 17.2 points and 4.1 rebounds and shot 44.9 percent from 3-point range for the Tigers, who lost just one game this season and earned the school's second No. 1 ranking.

"It's an honor. I've put a lot of work in, over the summers, during the season and staying after practice just trying to improve. I feel now that I'm finally getting the

recognition I deserve," said Douglas-Roberts, Memphis' first All-America since Penny Hardaway in 1993. "But I still say when people look at that All-American list, it's a motivation because I'm the one that people know the least about."

Notre Dame sophomore center Luke Harangody was sixth in the voting with 211 points, and he was joined on the second team by seniors Shan Foster of Vanderbilt, D.J. White of Indiana and Roy Hibbert of Georgetown, and college basketball's newest star, Davidson sophomore guard Stephen Curry, who led the Wildcats to the regional final by averaging 34.5 points in the NCAA tournament.

IN BRIEF

Indians' Martinez out with a hamstring injury

CLEVELAND—Indians All-Star catcher Victor Martinez left Cleveland's season opener on Monday in the second inning after injuring his left hamstring while running to second base.

Martinez had opened the Indians' seven-run inning with a single off Chicago White Sox starter Mark Buehrle. Later in the inning, he drove home Travis Hafner with a two-out base hit. When reliever Nick Masset's pitch got away from catcher A.J. Pierzynski, the slow-footed Martinez attempted to take second.

But he stumbled as he neared the bag and fell with an awkward slide.

Martinez also got hurt in the 2007 season opener against Seattle, straining his left quadriceps while running to first base.

However, the 29-year-old never went on the disabled list and batted .301 with a career-high 25 homers and 114 RBIs for the AL Central champions.

Lonard's lucky putt lands him an invite to the Masters

NEW ORLEANS—Peter Lonard figured the closest he would get to the Masters this year was in front of his television. Thanks to a 5-foot par putt on the final hole that he thought was only worth money, he was added to the field Monday by squeezing into the top 50 in the world ranking.

Lonard was at No. 72 and figured he had to win the Zurich Classic.

He was one shot behind Andres Romero and faced a 45-foot birdie putt on the 18th to force a playoff. Lonard ran it 5 feet by the hole, then made that to finish alone in second. Had he missed, Lonard would have tied for second with Tim Wilkinson and moved up only to No. 53.

The Masters now has 93 players expected to compete, with one more spot available to the winner in Houston if he is not already eligible. Among those still not eligible is Davis Love III, whose 70 consecutive majors is the longest streak among active players.

Olympic torch lighting in Beijing goes without protest

BEIJING—The elaborate ceremony to rekindle the Olympic torch went off without a hitch Monday in closely guarded Tiananmen Square — with hundreds of cheering women in brightly colored T-shirts, flower-toting children and confetti.

There were no protests in Beijing, although some are expected during the 85,000-mile world tour.

Demonstrations are expected as the torch goes to London, Paris and San Francisco. Even stops in Kazakhstan on Wednesday and Turkey on Thursday could be flash points for China's Muslim Uighur minority living abroad.

President Hu Jintao presided at the elaborate ceremony in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, where the flame — carried from Greece in a lantern aboard an Air China flight — reignited the Olympic torch.

around the dial

NCAA Women's Regional Championship
Texas A&M at Tennessee
7:00 p.m., ESPN

Rutgers at Connecticut
9:00 p.m., ESPN

NIT Basketball Tournament
Massachusetts vs. Florida
7:00 p.m., ESPN2

Mississippi vs. Ohio State
9:30 p.m., ESPN2

SMC TENNIS

Belles look to end dry spell at Olivet

Saint Mary's searching for first MIAA win

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

Saint Mary's (4-8 overall, 0-2 MIAA) continues conference play on the road Tuesday at 4 p.m. when it takes on Olivet (6-1 overall, 0-2 MIAA) at Michigan State.

Tuesday's match will be the third conference competition this season for both teams.

"I feel pretty good about playing Olivet," Belles coach Chuck Rubino said. "They are not picked as one of the top teams in the conference, like who we've been playing."

The Belles have played Albion and Calvin in their first two conference matches this season. Albion (10-1, 3-0 MIAA) is currently leading in the MIAA, and Calvin (8-2, 1-0 MIAA) is third. Saint Mary's fell 6-3 to both Albion and Calvin in the past two weeks.

"Unfortunately, the conference teams we have played so far have been two of the three toughest teams in the MIAA, so they have brought some pretty good competition," sophomore co-captain Camille Gebert said. "Tomorrow's match should be slightly easier than the teams we've been playing so far. Hopefully it will be a good match to bring us out of our slump."

The Belles are coming off a 0-2 weekend at the Jack Swartz Invitational at Wheaton College, Ill., where they lost to Olivet Nazarene and Wheaton College, both ranked teams. The Belles lost 6-3 to NAIA No. 16 Olivet Nazarene on Friday, and 8-1 to Wheaton, which is ranked No. 28 in Div. III, on Saturday.

"We had a lot of tough matches this weekend and I think we're going to put that experience into this match," Rubino said.

Rubino said one main problem in the weekend losses was his team's doubles play.

"I want to see improvement in our doubles," Rubino said. "Singles did well this past weekend, we want to continue to improve in singles, but I hope to sweep the doubles and if we can — the singles, too."

Saint Mary's heads into competition today having played better teams than Olivet. However, both teams have yet to win any conference matches, and will be going into play hungry for a win.

"I just don't want to go in there overconfident," Rubino said. "It's not like playing Albion or Calvin. Olivet isn't at that level, and we want to continue the play that we had this weekend."

Olivet team is similar to Saint Mary's in that both teams are comprised mostly of freshmen and sophomores. To Rubino, this means his Belles have a lot of untapped potential.

"We are starting to get to that level of playing up to

their potential," Rubino said. "We still have a way to go until we peak."

Rubino said his team is hungry for a long-awaited win.

"Unfortunately, we had to play two of the better teams right away, but we'll certainly get our chances in the conference meet in a couple of weeks," Rubino said.

Contact Meaghan Veselik at
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NCAA BASKETBALL

Stanford brothers to go pro

Twins Robin and Brook Lopez announce intention to enter NBA draft

Associated Press

The Lopez twins are going pro together.

Stanford sophomore Robin Lopez is joining his 7-foot brother Brook in entering the NBA draft.

The brothers made their announcement to The Associated Press on Monday through their mother, Deborah Ledford.

It was expected that Brook would declare himself eligible for the NBA, but Robin was not so certain. They were prep stars in Fresno, Calif., and came to Stanford together. Now they will depart as a tandem, too.

"This has been a very difficult decision for me because I really enjoyed my two years at Stanford," Robin Lopez said in a statement released to the AP. "I have always hoped I would have an opportunity to play in the NBA and I feel now is the right time to make that dream a reality."

Brook Lopez, a third-team All-American and a first-team Pac-10 selection, averaged 19.3 points and 8.2 rebounds to go with 56 blocks this season. He scored the game-winning basket with 1.3 seconds left in an 82-81 victory over Marquette in the second round of the NCAA tournament to put Stanford in the regional semifinals for the first time since 2001.

Both Brook and Robin will hire agents and thus forgo their remaining two years of college eligibility, their mom said.

"That's something we're still working on and finalizing," she said. "It's a definite decision. We'll be hiring agents."

He averaged 16.0 points and 7.1 rebounds in his two college seasons, blocking 101 shots and shooting 48 percent from the field in 53 games. Brook, who missed time earlier in the season because he was academically ineligible, scored in double figures in 41 games and scored a career-high 31 points at Washington this season.

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MLB

Royals win in extra innings on opening day

Indians defeat White Sox with help from seven-run second frame; Jim Thome hits two home runs

Associated Press

DETROIT — Money can't buy wins. Just ask the Detroit Tigers.

Tony Pena Jr. hit a two-out, tiebreaking single in the 11th inning and the frugal Kansas City Royals held on to beat the big-spending Tigers 5-4 in Monday's opener and give Trey Hillman a win in his major league debut as manager.

Detroit closer Todd Saito said a team's payroll is "totally" irrelevant on any given day.

"But the beauty of baseball is it's all about the long haul, not one game," Jones said. "Hopefully with the kind of talent we have, we'll find a way to grind out more wins than other people."

Hillman made the right moves and his players executed in the field to rally from a three-run deficit and hold off a late comeback.

"This is pretty cool for me," said Hillman, who was successful as a manager in Japan. "It's a great honor, it's humbling."

The Tigers will spend about \$138 million on their star-studded team, putting them in the pack with Boston and the New York Mets — behind only the Yankees.

Kansas City, meanwhile, will try to compete with a payroll of approximately \$58 million — ranking among the smallest.

"I don't think we'll win most of the time just because our payroll is big," Detroit manager Jim Leyland said. "We just left some guys on base and we left a couple pitches up."

The Tigers stranded 10 run-

ners, including Clete Thomas, who was on third base with only one out in the 11th.

Joakim Soria got out of the jam and earned the save by striking out Edgar Renteria and getting help from third baseman Alex Gordon, who snared Placido Polanco's grounder in the hole and threw him out.

"We had one of the best hitters in baseball up with a man on third and two outs the last inning," Leyland said. "I'll take that situation every time."

Miguel Cabrera hit a homer in his Detroit debut, helping the home team go ahead 3-0 through five innings, but Justin Verlander had a lackluster start to spoil the party.

"This is just Game 1 of many, you can't get too upset about it," Verlander said.

Leo Nunez (1-0) threw two hitless innings.

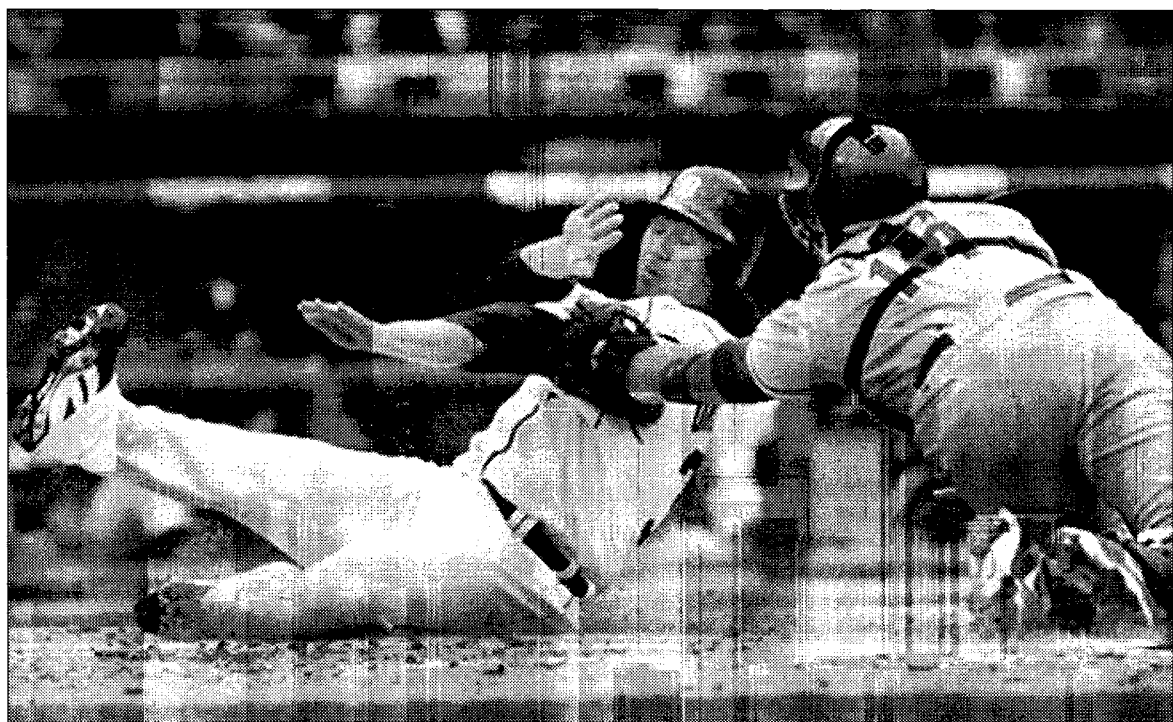
"He was probably the unsung star of the game," Leyland said.

Denny Bautista (0-1) was an out away from pitching two scoreless innings, but Pena's single to center brought John Buck home.

Trailing 3-0, Gordon hit a two-run home run in the sixth and the Royals scored two more while facing four pitchers in the seventh.

Leyland raved about the 24-year-old Gordon, who impressed him last year as a rookie.

"This guy is a big-time player waiting to happen," Leyland said. "He's got a tremendous swing. I think he'll be a star in this league before it's over with. That's why he was a No. 1 player."



Kansas City Royals catcher John Buck tags out Detroit Tigers outfielder Magglio Ordonez in the third inning of Kansas City's 6-5 win in 11 innings Monday in Detroit.

Carlos Guillen helped send the game into extra innings with a solo shot in the eighth.

Cleveland 10, Chicago 8

CLEVELAND — As the inning unfolded, C.C. Sabathia felt as if he was watching a favorite movie, one with a dialogue he knows by heart and predictable ending.

"Not to sound cocky," the reigning AL Cy Young Award winner said. "But I think everybody knew what was coming."

Say this for the Cleveland Indians, they can do drama.

The defending AL Central champions won in familiar fashion at Progressive Field — their ballpark previously known as Jacobs Field — as Casey Blake hit a three-run double in the eighth inning Monday for a 10-8 opening win over the Chicago White Sox.

Blake's shot off the wall against Octavio Dotel capped a 3-hour, 21-minute opener that featured five homers, controversial calls and unseasonably pleasant weather in a city finally thawed out from the snowiest March on record.

After blowing a 7-2 lead, the Indians loaded the bases in the eighth on two singles and a two-out walk before Blake's clutch hit.

"It was not that big of a surprise," said Sabathia, who made his fifth and potentially final opening day start for the Indians. "Nobody in this clubhouse was ever in doubt. We always have faith that somebody would come through and it was Casey — once again."

They may not play in the Jake anymore, but everything else seemed in place for the Indians, who won 23 times in their final at-bat last season.

With the score 7-7, Kelly

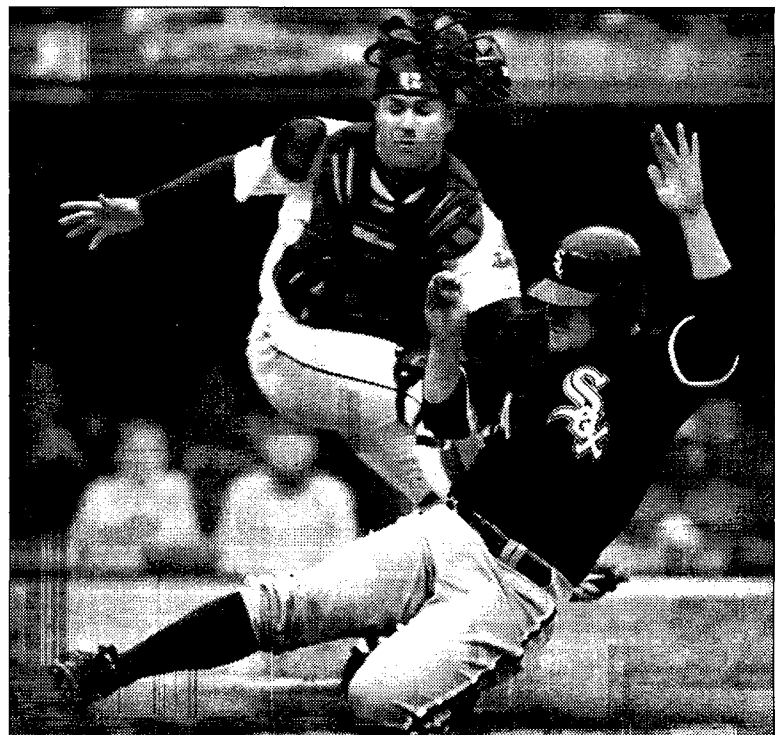
Shoppach and Jhonny Peralta opened the eighth with singles off Dotel (0-1), who bounced back and got two quick outs. Franklin Gutierrez, who hit a three-run homer in Cleveland's seven-run second off Mark Buehrle, walked to load the bases.

Blake fell behind 1-2 in the count before lifting a shot high off the 19-foot-high wall in left, barely missing a grand slam but starting a new chapter of memories for Indians fans, who have resisted the ballpark's new corporate moniker.

"I was begging for a homer," said Blake, who batted just .190 with runners in scoring position last year.

Chicago's Jim Thome hit a pair of two-run homers off Sabathia, who couldn't protect a 7-2 lead but wound up with a no-decision. The lefty struck out seven in 5 1-3 innings.

The White Sox threatened in the ninth as Jermaine Dye homered off Joe Borowski, last year's AL saves leader who once again had pulses racing before retiring Joe Crede on a foul pop to get the save for winner Rafael Betancourt.



Cleveland catcher Kelly Shoppach tags Chicago's Joe Crede in a controversial eighth inning play. The Indians won the game 10-8.



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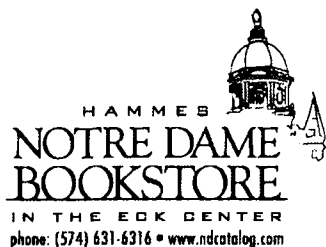
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BOOKSTORE BASKETBALL

Jordan's Nephews downs SensAsians

By MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writer

SensAsians tried for the third year in a row to make it to the second round, but its dreams were shot down by five tall guys who hardly gave the team a chance to score in the first half. Jordan's Nephews took down the hopeful SensAsians squad 21-5.

Jordan's Nephews, led by captain Tommy Mumford, were taking fancy shots and throwing full-court passes as they dominated the SensAsians, captained by Jean Nguyen. The girls showed little skill on the court, often throwing weak passes and shots that didn't make it into the net. What they did have were nicely-decorated red jerseys, complete with numbers and last names on the back, designed by Nguyen, along with a lively cheering section.

SensAsians was down 11-1 at halftime, with its only point coming from Melissa Harintho. Harintho scored three more in the second half, and Tatiane Hsu added a basket early on in the

second period.

As the second half started, Jordan's Nephews started to ease up on the SensAsians, letting the team take more shots, most of which ended up being airballs. The boys continued with their long passes and fancy shots they knew would never work on any other court. SensAsians started to gain some momentum, but was stopped short by the Jordan's Nephews ball-hawking defense. However, the men did ease up on their defense a little, standing in front of the basket with their arms

raised, which was defense enough due to the height advantage they had.

As the SensAsians kept taking shots that bounced off the rim, Jordan's Nephews continued to make them. But the winning team was courteous in the end and congratulated its opponent.

"We play as a group," SensAsians captain Nguyen said. "We have a little bit of a disadvantage with the height. It was fun, but hopefully one year we'll win a game."

Contact Meaghan Veselik at
mvesel01@saintmarys.edu

*"It was fun, but
hopefully one year
we'll win a game."*

Jenn Nguyen
SensAsians captain

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

Bookstore

continued from page 20

Although the lack of energy proved detrimental to team 490, the squad put up tough resistance as 535 tried to get the last two points in the second half.

Lipp said 535 will not significantly change its approach.

"[Our strategy] will probably not change. Our goal was to win one game and we did that."

Spiny Backed Arabian

Tortoises 21,

Team Bad Life Decisions 15

The Spiny Backed Arabian Tortoises earned a well-fought victory over Team Bad Life Decisions. Although the male Tortoises ended up winning, the girls from Decisions played them even the whole game.

In the hour and 10 minute game, the defense of Decisions made it difficult for the Tortoises. However, their offense couldn't handle the intense defense from the Tortoises, which proved to be the difference in the contest. Both teams threw up multiple airballs and displayed questionable passing, but the game intensified as the Tortoises couldn't make their final shot.

After several failed attempts, Tortoises guard Kyle Hanratty ended the marathon game with a corner shot from three-point range.

We're the Real Reason Brett Favre Is Crying 23, U Got A Bad Draw 1 1/2 21

In an epic struggle that lasted nearly an hour and forty-five minutes, We're the Real Reason Brett Favre Is Crying held off U Got A Bad Draw 1 1/2 in the biggest upset of the tournament so far.

Bad Draw, which was composed of club lacrosse players from Holy Cross, came out with a fiery display of confidence.

But this cockiness was short-lived as the all-female team, Brett Favre, stormed out to an 11-5 halftime lead.

"We simply need more electrolytes," Bad Draw team member Dave Bendel chanted as he ran over to his team's community Gatorade bottle.

Similar to the bottle of "Michael's stuff" from the movie "Space Jam," the Gatorade seemed to revitalize Bad Draw as it managed to fight back and tie the game at 17.

The final minutes of the game were grueling as the two teams traded baskets.

As team members from other games began to come over to cheer for the ladies of "Brett Favre," the girls capitalized on the crowd momentum and pulled off the narrow victory.

"We absolutely played our hearts out today. We kept it together at the end when we needed to," captain Emily Dore said. "It was truly amazing."

Bendel was quick to dismiss the loss.

"I blame it on the weather ... and the hot girls," he said.

On this day, the only thing sloppier than the rainy weather was the play of the two teams. Frequent turnovers, errant shots, constant complaints, and even a 15-minute scoreless period all contributed to the ridiculous length of this contest.

Carolynn's Chub Club 21, Scurrying Lemurs 12

A bone-chilling, earth-shattering block by Patrick Mulligan was all Carolynn's Chub Club, needed to down the Scurrying Lemurs Monday at Lyons courts.

"I saw her coming down the

court. It was just me and her," Mulligan said about the block. "As soon as I smelled weakness, I attacked."

Mulligan sent the ball flying out of bounds, but the damage had been done. The Scurrying Lemurs' confidence was shot and Carolynn's Chub Club, the dirtiest team name to sneak by the Bookstore censors in years, took over from there.

After facing an 11-2 deficit heading into halftime, the Scurrying Lemurs thought they had a good second half plan to get them back in the game.

"We need to get the ball to our secret weapon," captain Holly Hinz said to her team between halves.

What they failed to account for was Mulligan's game-breaking ability that ultimately sealed their fate.

"We tried to pull it together and make a comeback," Hinz said. "It just wasn't enough and we came up short."

LH00Q 21, Equestrians 3

The Notre Dame/Saint Mary's Equestrian Club usually just rides horses and travels to competitions, but Monday it took to the bookstore courts to take on LH00Q, a team named after a French painting making fun of the Mona Lisa.

The Equestrian girls came out in almost full gear, mostly in riding breeches, a few in riding boots, one in riding boot socks covered in flames, and one in a riding helmet. Their opponents were two guys, one in short shorts and sunglasses, the other in shorter shorts and a bandana around his curly mass of hair, and three girls, all in regular sweatpants and tee-shirts.

The game started off as a contest of which team could actually hit the rim first. Airballs were the trend for much of the first half, but the Equestrians squad was the first to draw iron. However, LH00Q scored the first point of the game, which was somewhat surprising since the team had a majority of the game's air balls up until that point.

Equestrians was unable to score many points in the first half, with its only point scored by helmet-clad Katrina Stuart. But it did keep its opponents fighting for the ball as they raced up and down the court. The most aggressive Equestrians players were Heather LaDue, Kelley Daniels, and Andrea Kochert, the team captain. The guys from the LH00Q team weren't too happy with having to fight for the ball with girls, but they still showed no restraint.

LH00Q led 11-1 at the half, and carried its momentum into the second half. The Equestrians scored its second point of the game, made by Stuart again, after LH00Q had scored three more times. LH00Q continued to score but the team's baskets were few and far between. Daniels scored the third basket for the Equestrians, bringing the score to 18-3. LH00Q pulled out the win after a 50-minute game of air balls and back and forth play.

"It was a really physical game, but both teams played hard until the last point," LH00Q captain Stephanie Brauer said.

"We played mean and strong, and it showed with our amazing three points. But we could out-horseback ride them any day," Equestrians captain Andrea Kochert said.

Contact Eugenia Alfonzo at ealfonzo@nd.edu, Alex Barker at abarker1@nd.edu and Meaghan Veselik at mvesel01@saintmarys.edu

Write Sports. Call 574-631-4542.

Broncos

continued from page 20

including an eight-run fourth inning — and cruised to an easy victory over a weaker Western Michigan team.

Facing the improved Broncos tomorrow will be an Irish team that has played well of late, winning eight of its last 11. But the team has also suffered several frustrating losses.

Notre Dame is batting .305 on the season, and the team sports a 4.52 ERA. The Irish also lead the Big East in fielding but have yet to see their offensive output translate into as many wins as they would like.

"It's frustrating to play well as we have and lose some tough games," Irish coach Dave Schrage said. "We have to step up and make some plays, hit with men in scoring position, do the little things to win."

The Irish were unable to do the little things over the weekend, dropping two games to the Bearcats by a total of three runs. Notre Dame lost 5-3 Saturday in the first game of a doubleheader and struggled to score off Cincinnati starter Dan Osterbrock.

Despite tying the game in the seventh, the Irish bullpen was unable to hold the Bearcats late, and Osterbrock

retired the last eight Notre Dame batters for the complete game win.

The Irish split the Saturday doubleheader with a narrow 4-3 victory in the nightcap, and picked up a strong performance from senior starter Wade Korpi. The Irish bullpen, led by closer Kyle Weiland, hung on the preserve the win.

In the closing game Sunday, the Irish fell just short in a ninth-inning comeback, falling 4-3. Despite giving up an early 4-0 lead, Notre Dame fought its way back with relievers Weiland and freshman Cole Johnson holding Cincinnati scoreless in the final seven innings. Sophomore David Mills attempted to score on a two-out single in the ninth, but was thrown out at the plate to end the game.

Schrage said the Irish focus on making plays in the non-conference and exhibition games this week in preparation for the Big East series this weekend.

"We really want to get back on track this week and build some momentum before another big series against Rutgers this weekend," Schrage said.

The first pitch against Western Michigan is scheduled for 5:05 p.m. at Eck Stadium.

Contact Michael Bryan at mbryan@nd.edu

Bonding

continued from page 20

"When the head coach come in your meeting, that's good," Brown said. "When the head coach is watching your individual drills, that's good. There are no negatives to that, none. It puts the players on alert, it makes sure the coaches are doing what you're supposed to do, which you should be doing anyway."

Weis has also become a frequent attendee — and has brought a little humor — to the defensive meetings.

"I sat in the defensive back meeting room [Friday]. It's funny because Corwin's coaching and I'm in the back of the room and he's making fun of his guys because they have a guest visitor in the classroom," Weis said. "It's actually been kind of fun to tell you the truth."

So far, the players have responded in different ways to the increased presence of Weis in their lives, but ultimately, the players know what Weis is trying to accomplish with the change, rising fifth-year senior Maurice Crum said.

"He's letting the guys know he's the coach but he wants to be more a part of the team. Some guys tighten up, and at the same time, guys get a better understanding of who Coach Weis is and what he means when he speaks," Crum said. "He's still the same coach Weis and he's still about business and about winning. With him being around more, it just lets you know he's willing to change and he wants to do whatever it takes to win."

Now that he's not involved

as heavily in the offense as he was before, Weis said coaching the whole team has become a little easier — and a little more fun.

"You just see more. When you don't have to zone in on one aspect, you can see more of a bigger picture," Weis said. "This has been kind of fun, to tell you the truth. It's not like I don't say anything to the offense ...

but I'm also getting an opportunity to say something to the defense."

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

MAC

continued from page 20

the few areas of concern for the Irish of late, an area that Gumpf has addressed with her squad.

"Our defense really does need to improve," Gumpf said. "What I believe the problem to be is that we are not keeping everything simple. Sometimes I feel like we are rushing things and we just need to slow down and watch the ball into the glove."

The Irish will first face a Ball State team they bested 3-0 at home last year. Gumpf is not taking the contest lightly, as she knows Ball State has strong pitching and good hitting characteris-

tic of the MAC.

"When we played them last year they had very good hitters," Gumpf said. "And this year they have added an outstanding transfer pitcher, junior Tiffany Garofano, so it is going to be very tough."

Gumpf said the key to beating the Cardinals is Notre Dame's pitching.

"To beat Ball State we are really going to have to locate our pitches and control their hitters," Gumpf said.

On the offensive side, Gumpf would like to see the team maintain its strong showings of the past couple weeks and keep focusing on the fundamentals.

"Offensively, we really need to keep it simple," Gumpf said. "I

want to see us do the little things that are necessary to score runs."

On Wednesday, the Irish will take the field against Toledo, another offensive-minded MAC team.

"Toledo is another great hitting team, and we just need to find a way to control their hitters," Gumpf said. "I believe Jody [Valdivia] will continue to do a great job."

Gumpf also wants to see the team be patient at the plate against the Rockets.

"I want us to wait for and swing at good pitches," Gumpf said.

Both games will be at 5 p.m. on Ivy Field.

Contact Jared Jedick at jjedick@nd.edu



UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

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Invites Nominations for the

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FOOTBALL

Changing priorities

Weis devotes more time to coaching 'D'

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

Coach Charlie Weis said he wanted to get to know his entire team a little better — not just the offense — and this spring, the defense is finding out exactly what that means.

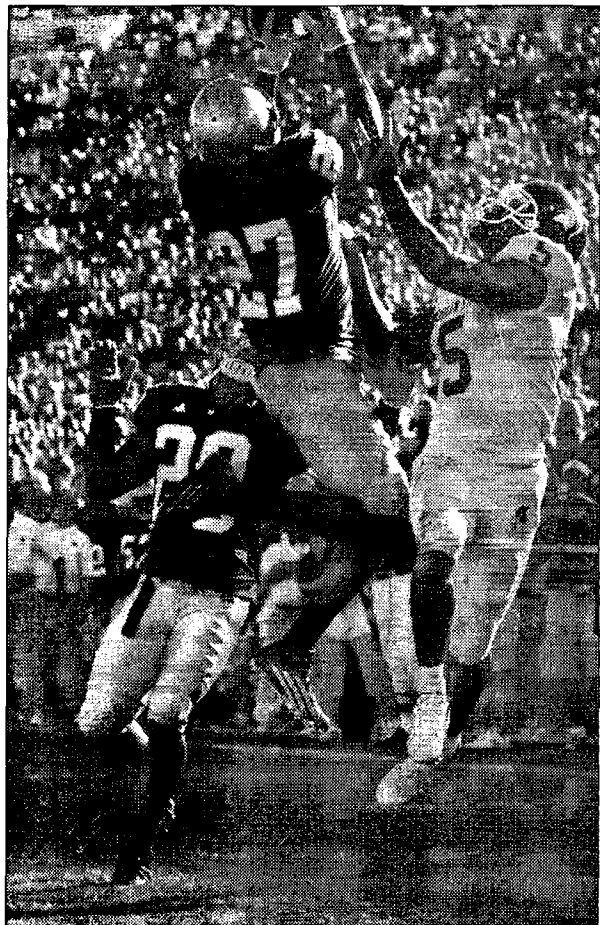
It means they see a lot more of their coach on the field in practice and off the field in the weight room and in meetings.

Weis said part of his reasoning behind giving play-calling duties to offensive coordinator Michael Haywood was to enhance his relationship with his players and become more involved in their individual development. And the defense has noticed a little more Weis in their day-to-day operations since the beginning of spring practice.

"He's definitely a more visible figure, in the off-season and practice," rising senior Kyle McCarthy said Monday after practice. "When you're on defense and you're not used to seeing coach Weis behind you, you're kind of tripping a bit, but it's been good. It's been putting the pressure on some guys but I think it's going to work well for us."

Weis said his increased visibility with the defense at practice has enabled him to interact with the players and coach more on that side of the ball.

"It gives me a chance to



At left, rising senior David Bruton intercepts a pass during Notre Dame's 31-14 loss to Michigan State on Sept. 22, 2007. At right, Charlie Weis looks on at practice Monday.



VANESSA GEMPIS and IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

coach a lot more players instead of having to just worry about the quarterback or the offense," Weis said after practice Friday. "I stopped practice more times [Friday] to give a coaching point and I'll probably give as many of them to the defense as I give to the offense. I'm not talking about scheme of the defense, but there's things that I notice."

Weis has left most of the schematic adjustments to defensive coordinator Corwin Brown and assistant head coach/defense Jon Tenuta, who was the defensive coordinator at Georgia Tech for the past six seasons.

"He's going to be the first one to evaluate the talent, put the guys in the right positions of how he sees it and go from there," Tenuta said Monday.

"He's been around for a long time. There's nothing I've done in my career — having faced him two times and being here — that he doesn't understand how we do it or why we do it."

Brown said having Weis help out more during practice could only improve the team in the long run.

see BONDING/page 18

BOOKSTORE BASKETBALL

ND ballers begin play in tourney

By EUGENIA ALFONZO,
ALEX BARKER and
MEAGHAN VESELIK
Sports Writers

The 2008 Bookstore Basketball tournament kicked off Monday. Despite bad weather, the first day featured excited players and at least one big upset.

Team 535 21, Team 490 10

Team 535 dominated team 490 and won with intricate passing, great teamwork and key steals and blocks. But the strategies of the two squads also proved to be a key in the well-played game.

"Our strategy to win the game was to just wing it," said senior Derek Lipp of team 535. "We have four seniors and a freshman on this team and it was especially fun for the seniors because this was our first win ever."

It was a different story for team 490, who dedicated the game to physics professor Christopher Kolda.

"Our gameplan consisted of going to the Rock two hours before our game and scrimmaged some random team," freshman Ben Linskey said. "Then we went to dinner afterwards, so we had absolutely no energy when it came time to play."

see BOOKSTORE/page 17

ND SOFTBALL

Irish prepare for pair of mid-week contests

By JARED JEDICK
Sports Writer

Notre Dame hopes to enjoy some sunny skies — and play some good softball — when it hosts Mid-American Conference opponents Ball State (20-16) and Toledo (6-10) Tuesday and Wednesday. The Irish will attempt to build on their momentum from a double-header split against No. 17 DePaul on Sunday.

Notre Dame (17-10) starting pitchers Brittney Bargar, a junior, and freshman Jody Valdivia have been outstanding for the Irish thus far. Their latest strong performance came in a 2-0 Valdivia shutout Sunday.

"Jody [Valdivia] really moved the ball around well against DePaul," coach Deanna Gumpf said. "With the misting and cold conditions, she was really impressive."

Valdivia was named the Big East pitcher of the week on

Monday after notching two shutouts in 10 and 2/3 innings of work. She limited IUPUI to three hits and a walk with seven strikeouts in the home opener Wednesday before handing DePaul its first regular season loss of the season.

"She did a great job this week with her two shutouts," Gumpf said. "She just gets better every time she goes out onto the mound."

This is the third time in seven weeks that an Irish pitcher nabbed Big East pitcher of the week honors. Bargar has earned the honor twice this season, and held DePaul to two runs on four hits Sunday.

"Brittney [Bargar] pitched a really great game, as well, in the first half of the double-header," Gumpf said. "But she had trouble getting enough support from her defense."

The defense has been one of

see MAC/page 18

BASEBALL

Squad looks for home win

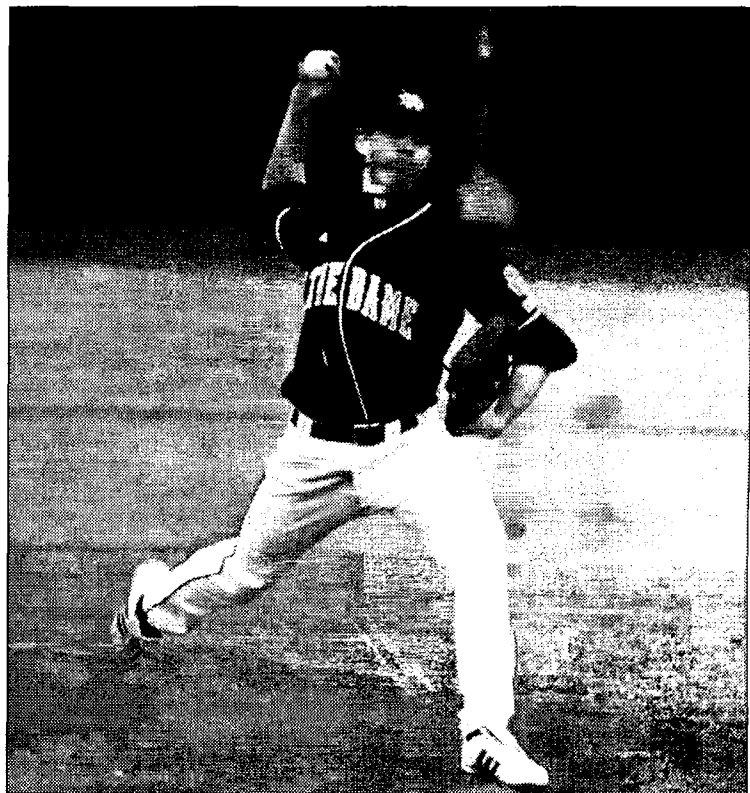
By MICHAEL BRYAN
Sports Writer

After dropping two of three in a tough series against Cincinnati this past weekend, the Irish will look to rebound in a non-conference game against Western Michigan today.

The Broncos (12-7-1) suffered a three-game sweep at the hands of Ohio in their first three MAC conference games.

Sophomore catcher Chris Lewis leads Western Michigan in most offensive categories. In 19 games this season, Lewis is batting .403 with four home runs and 19 RBI. The Broncos offense is batting over .300 combined this season, scoring almost seven runs per game.

The Irish will hope for a result similar to last year's game, a 17-9 Notre Dame win at home. Notre Dame pounded the Broncos for 22 hits —



VANESSA GEMPIS/The Observer

Junior pitcher Kyle Weiland pushes off the rubber during the ninth inning of Notre Dame's 4-3 win over Cincinnati Saturday.

see BRONCOS/page 18

THE ABSURDER

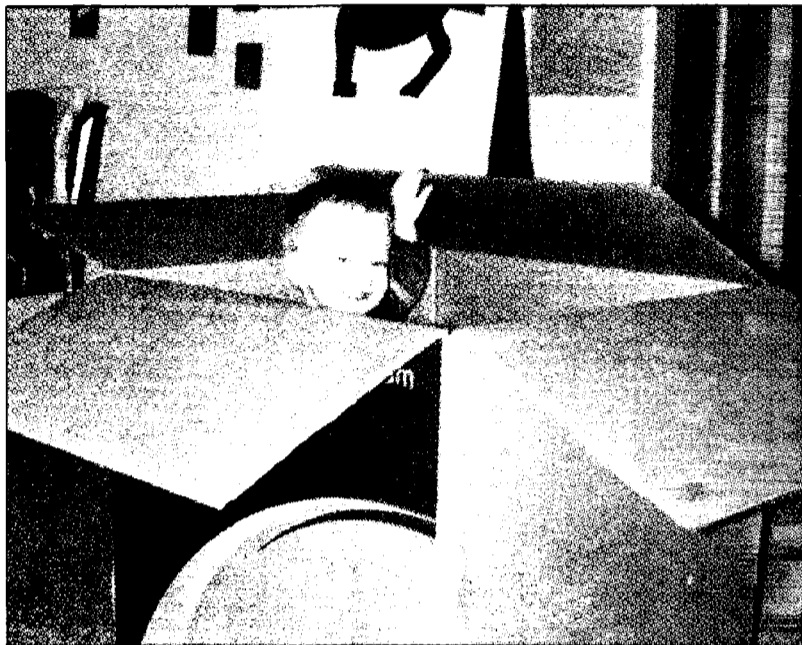
The Independent Newspaper Mocking Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

VOLUME 6 : ISSUE 66

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2008

NDSMCYOMAMA.COM

Vaginas present at ND since '72



Have you ever wondered where babies come from? That's right — boxes.

Exposé rocks campus; Bishop, alumni express outrage

By PHYLLIS McFILLY
Vaginal Correspondent

An Absurder investigative report that vaginas have been enrolled in the University since 1972 drew outrage from already-riled opponents of "The Vagina Monologues" this weekend.

Chief among critics was Bishop Tom Farcy, who argued that females — and all parts associated with them — should be kept private.

"As spiritual guardian of this community, I must denounce the presence of the v***** at a supposedly Catholic university," Farcy said in a prepared statement Friday. "The recent findings that the University of Our

Lady has welcomed v***** since autumn of 1972 is appalling. If God wanted us to honor and respect all parts of a woman, he wouldn't have made female sexuality embarrassing and offensive."

University President Father Jim Spankins said he is not yet ready to draw conclusions about reported presence of vaginas on campus. He said, however, that he plans to initiate campus-wide discussion about the spiritual and academic significance of the vaginas.

"We must join together in thought and prayer to determine the place of vaginas at an institution that is both Catholic and a university," he said.

Spankins said it is far too early to predict his eventual

edict, but he suspects it will incorporate the essential parts of each opposing view.

"While the presence of the vagina would seem an egregious violation of Church teaching, it might be acceptable in a strictly academic setting," Spankins said. "Or maybe not."

Vaginas were initially brought to the University during the tenure of University President Emeritus Father Fred Messburg, an outspoken proponent of vagina equality.

"I had started to notice that the longer I was at Notre Dame, the more brutish the men were becoming," Messburg said. "Without women, men degenerate into something less than

see VAGINAS/page 3

Thousands of fetal corpses found under South Quad

NDSP names no suspect, but encourages students to report 'all suspicious townies'

By IGNOMINY
Staff Cynic

SOUTH QUAD — In a shocking turn of events, the white crosses that adorn this quad periodically to commemorate aborted fetuses were shown to mark the graves of thousands of actual fetuses.

The fetuses were discovered Monday night by an NDSP sting operation, the first of its kind to be launched entirely on a fleet of Segway and Rascal scooters.

Alerted to the possibility that vandals would desecrate the demonstration — popularly known as Graveyard of the Innocents — the responding officers were shocked to find the executive board of the

Notre Dame Right to Life Club were moonlighting as gravediggers.

All students involved were immediately tased.

"Using our full force of six security — I mean police — officers, we were able to apprehend the suspects," said NDSP spokesman Jill Phonson.

Phonson was unable to say the last time a troupe of pro-life activists had buried fetuses on campus. He did not have access to information about the time, exact location, number of suspects, where the fetuses came from or where they would be taken.

The Absurder contacted Right to Life President Virginia

see FETUSES/page 3



NDSP believes that '[flipping] townies' hacked into the Notre Dame tunnel system to create the morbid scene. Thankfully, Notre Dame students had memorial crosses at the ready.

GOVERNOR CASEY/ The Absurder

HEADLINE INFLATION: A ONE-PART SERIES

Tuition or grades: which rise faster?

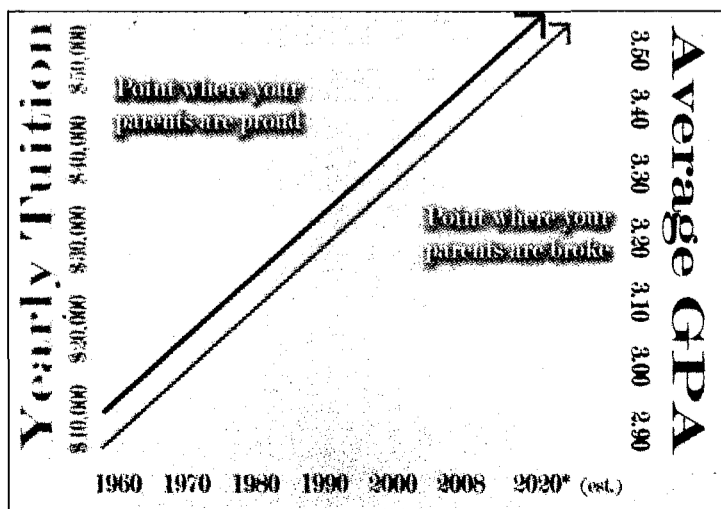
Students will get more points for more money

By MARVEY HERSFELD
Divinely Anointed

Citing competitive pressure from other leading universities and the popular notion of "you get what you pay for," University President Father Jim Spankins announced that the average GPA of a Notre Dame graduate will increase 4.8 percent for 2008-09 academic year.

"We need to remain competitive

see \$\$\$/page 5



University considers a deal with the Devil

Desperation drives Spankins to seek Satan

By RITA SKEETER
Wizard Authority

Absurder sources have learned that University President Father Jim Spankins is currently weighing accepting a deal with the Devil himself, who also goes by the Prince of Darkness, Lucifer, Satan and Mephistopheles.

Under the proposed agreement, Lucifer himself would see to it that the University of Notre

Dame football team, which had a miserable 3-9 record last season, would go 13-0 en route to winning the national NCAA Championship over Ohio State by no less than a 45 point margin of victory.

In return, Satan asks only that "The Vagina Monologues" become required First Year of Studies curriculum for all students.

"It's a pretty simple deal," the

see SATAN/page 5

LAST MINUTE COLUMN

I declare a Viewpoint war!!!

Hey fellow Domers! Inside Column here. Some of you may know me from my daily musings on life, but others of you may pass right over me on your way to Sports to read about Charlie Weis' rose-scented bowel movements or those other "sports" that we tolerate in between football seasons.



John Mark Karr
Still Creepy

If you're one of my fans, then I want to say thanks for being there for me through the years as I write about topics that only I care about, like spring weather, assorted lists, passing torches or 9/11. But if you do enjoy reading me everyday, then you'll notice that I don't get quite as much attention as a certain other section of this paper. I'm ready to make a confession: I hate Viewpoint and I'd like to take this opportunity to declare war. Viewpoint war.

I mean, why hasn't there been an Inside Column vs. Viewpoint war yet? Sure I don't talk about the state of Notre Dame's Catholic identity or the ineffectiveness of student government, but opinion is opinion and at least I don't ramble on about soap operas and "How I Met Your Mother" or whatever else Scene & Heard feels the need to talk about as she watches marathons of "America's Next Top Model" all day.

And it's not like Viewpoint is little Miss Perfect either. I was driving to my apartment in Clover Ridge and I totally caught Viewpoint walking back from Turtle Creek wearing the same Britney-worthy dress and red high heels from the night before. Rumor has it, she's been spending a few too many nights at Sports' apartment. For as much as she's against the "Vagina Monologues," her vagina sure has been doing a lot of talking lately. Maybe she's getting some pointers from those Saint Mary's girls she seems to love so much (Ah! Stereotype!).

Actually, I hear Viewpoint has been around the block with everyone except for Scene. Scene's too busy watching "The Wire" and talking about how excited he is for the new "Indiana Jones" movie.

All I know is that if Viewpoint wants to keep her credibility, she better stop flirting with Comics so much. I mean, seriously? All he does is sit on his futon playing "Halo," thinking of lame jokes about squirrels or ugly girls (because guys here really have room to talk).

So bring it Viewpoint. I hear Crossword and Horoscope talking behind your back everyday. And it turns out that Question of the Day and Offbeat were talking smack too before I scared them off in the bathroom so I could smoke cigarettes rolled with old copies of the Irish Rover and Scholastic. So let's start a war and try to give Notre Dame students a break from all this talk about vaginas. Retaliation is up to you.

The views expressed in the Inside Column are divine revelation so don't get so worked up about it.

CORRECTIONS

The Absurder regards itself as a professional publication. But, truthfully, we pretty much suck. Scholastic sucks more. That's what she said. Think we made a mistake? Suck it up.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHO IS NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL'S TOP RIVAL?



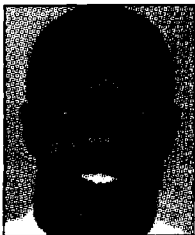
Boob Davies
ESPN2 white noise generator

"High expectations."



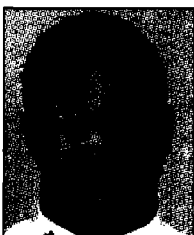
Lionel Losingham
amateur golfer

"When you say 'rival,' you have to encompass what is and what is not. When you realize what there is not, you find what is."



Ryans Myth
a new Talley

"Bike locks."



Yellow Mate
super fast ... or super stud?

"ID scanners."



Melvin Black
athletic director

"Stanford."



JAYSON BLAIR/The Absurder

Senior Khornellus Wigglesworth emulates his idol Pretrial McBlarney in an intense game of one-on-none basketball.

BEATOFF

Heath Ledger jokes finally deemed funny

GOING TO HELL, Kan. — Although the premature passing of the Oscar-nominated actor Heath Ledger in January was a tragic end to a young life, celebrity expert Classy B. has decided that jokes about the deceased heartthrob are now funny.

"Enough time has passed," says Classy. "His death has become open game, just like AIDS, 9/11 and poverty in Africa."

Classy believes that her favorite Ledger jokes are sensitive and thought-provoking.

"E! is reporting that production has begun on 'The Patriot 2.' Heath Ledger will once again play the role of the dead son," Classy jokes.

But her favorite joke goes, "What do Jake Gylennhal's cherry and a bottle of Paxil have in common? They both got popped by Heath Ledger."

SMC students shave heads for Britney, not cancer

FIRECROTCH, Calif. — Reports on Monday that Saint Mary's students had shaved their heads in support of cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy

proved to be false. Instead, the students reportedly shaved their heads in solidarity with Britney Spears, who has made great strides in recent months toward a comeback.

"We, like, love Britney! She's super cute and not fat, and her new CD is, like, Shakespeare," said sophomore Kimberly Johnson. "Why would we shave our heads for cancer? Cancer patients aren't famous."

Information compiled by someone who just wants to be famous. Really, that's all she asks out of life.

BOXERS OR BRIEFS?

Former New York governor Eliot Spitzer will be on the Saint Mary's campus today. He may or may not have \$5,500 to burn, but either way he'd like to get to know you better.

NDSP will put an underage drinker in the stocks and pelt him with tomatoes tonight at 7. The University community is invited to attend. Bring your own tomatoes.

Turtle Creek Apartments will showcase its units tonight in a session geared at underclassmen entitled "You, the Excise Police, and Turtle Creek: A Winning Combination." Beverages will be served.

University auditor Will Igetasmoochie faces a ResLife hearing Wednesday. He was yelling "COLLEGE!" while caught playing drinking games in the hall.

Finnigan's and Club Fever announced they will raise Thursday night cover charges to \$15 a person. The statement came as part of the South Bend Bar Association's "What the hell else are you going to do around here?" campaign. A bar spokesman said underage girls will still be allowed to cut you in line as long as they give the bouncers sexual favors.

The Irish Rover is seeking new writers. Applicants should exhibit poor grammar and a self-important attitude that lends itself to holier-than-thou "journalism."

Seriously, who goes to talks on Jamaican immigration from 1962-67?

If you have something to submit, you have no life.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
FUGLY WEATHER						
	HIGH 17 LOW 5	HIGH -12 LOW 50	HIGH 107 LOW 10	HIGH 22 LOW N/A	HIGH Pi LOW 0	HIGH 32 LOW 22

Hotlanta 46 / 33 Beantown 38 / 29 Chi-town 22 / 10 KC 34 / 20 Houston 68 / 42 City of Angels? 60 / 43 New York 39 / 31 Nick's mom 39 / 30 Phoenix 66 / 37 Seattle 44 / 26 St. Lunatics 29 / 17 Tampa 74 / 59 Do you really read the weather?

NATION & STUFF

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

COMPILED FROM THE ABSURDER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 3

Obama taps ND coach to lead Dept. of Defense

Illinois senator's approval rating among Big East basketball fans falls sharply; choice provides 'balance,' analysts say

Agence Ken Presse

Sen. Barack Obama has named Notre Dame basketball coach Mock Tee his expected nominee to become Secretary of Defense if the Illinois Democrat wins November's presidential election.

Obama cited Tee's visit to Kuwait last summer as "undeniable evidence" that Tee was "far more qualified than myself" to lead the nation's military.

But Republicans immediately attacked Obama's decision, citing Tee ineffectual defenses in his current role.

Tee responded harshly, arguing that a strong offense can compensate

"Did real good in Denver, eh Mike?" snickered one staffer for Sen. John McCain.

Top Obama advisers responded that Tee's strongest quality is his recruiting success.

"The U.S. military has long had a disproportionate number of minorities when compared to the population as a whole," said Rob Lowe Obama's new chief of staff. "When you look at Mock, you think of 18, 19, 20-year-old white kids."

Tee has said he believes there is one major issue causing the disparity of athletics between the races in the military.

Under his leadership, Tee said, the U.S. military will schedule minor conflicts with Andorra, Congo, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Bangladesh. He also scheduled a "war scrim-

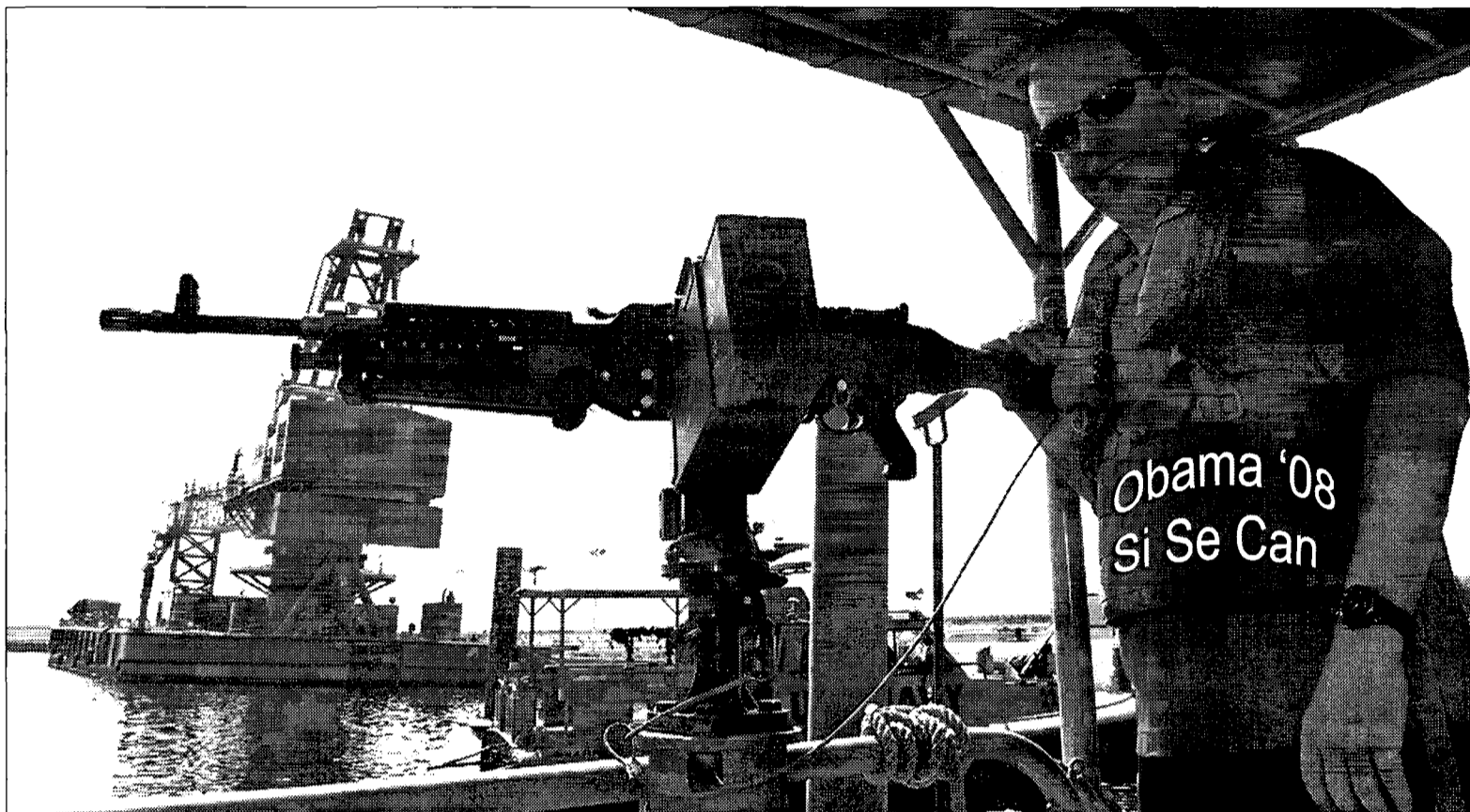


Photo courtesy of Donny Rumsfeld

Irish coach Mock Tee kills some Arab terrorists. That's what she said.

mage" with Guam,

"The point is, we're trying to get ready for what I like to call our 'tough conference slate,'" Tee said. "You know — Iraq, Iran, India, Pakistan and China."

Tee also counters Obama's image as a historic drug user; the senator has admitted to using

marijuana and cocaine during his high school and college years. On the other hand, Tee has a strong history of punishing pot smokers harshly.

Tee, however, may meet legal obstacles before his nomination. Federal investigators confirmed Monday that they are investigat-

ing Tee, who was once photographed waving a \$1 bill in front of his wife as 18-year-old "Pom Squad" exhibitionists performed during a Notre Dame football pep rally.

Police said a Wisconsin resident with the last name Crean forwarded the pictures of Tee to

the FBI's Chicago office earlier this week. When asked for contact information for the informant, investigators mistakenly released the address and phone number of Rainn Wilson, the actor who portrays fictional character Dwight Schrute on NBC's "The Office."

Vaginas

continued from page 1

human. That's why God put vaginas here, because he didn't want the world to be a zoo."

Meanwhile, the entire Notre Dame female population responded by running through LaFortune wearing only crotchless panties.

"We thought the administration realized accepting vaginas was part of becoming a co-ed institution," one student said.

Contact Phyllis McFilly at vaginarevolution@nd.edu

Fetuses

continued from page 1

Christianson at her Grotto office, where she was praying for the souls of "the tased, the tasers and the babies."

When asked why Right to Life had not revealed sooner that the "Graveyard" was not in fact a metaphorical demonstration, Christianson said campus apathy required drastic measures.

"They just weren't getting it," Christianson said. "But if planting the remains of thousands of babies beneath the

main campus thoroughfare doesn't convince this student body of the seriousness of protecting human life, I don't know what will."

Within student government, Council of Representatives was called to an emergency meeting to advise student body president Izzy Clowns about responses to the Graveyard revelations. The group was dismissed after failing to meet

quorum.

Though the burials typically take place after dark, some club members experience scheduling conflicts with their night theology classes.

"Fortunately for us, Notre Dame has been accommodating to any — and all — requests for funding, heavy machinery, exceptions to

name it," Christianson said. "In this case, they said our members can be excused from classes for what is, after all, an activity that supports our mission."

University spokesman Bennis Drown said he cannot comment on specifics of the case.

"The University supports in whole the traditionally Catholic mission — and tactics — of the Right to Life Club," Drown said. "Sometimes the ends justify the means. Look, [insert reporter name], haven't you ever heard of the Inquisition?"

Contact Ignominy at noshame@fetus.com

"If planting the remains of thousands of babies ... doesn't convince this student body of the seriousness of protecting human life, I don't know what will."

Virginia Christianson
self-righteous

Sexually Frustrated?

**Come and Enjoy Student Government's
Newest Initiative:
The Daily Bouncing Castle on South Quad**

Sponsored by Old College, Vocations@ND, South Food Market, Reckers, hunger, AllianceND, Asian-American Association, Ebony, Irish Students of America, Knights of Columbus, Children of Mary, Office of the President, LBGTQ, North Dining Hall, Waddicks, Hannah and Friends, Morrissey Manor, Zahm House, Carroll Hall, Bishop John D'Arcy, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Rice-A-Roni (The San Francisco Treat), PLS, GoDaddy.com, the Keough Institute for Irish Studies and Barack O'Bama (The Candidate for Change).

THE ABSURDER VIEWPOINT

page 4

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

THE ABSURDER

The Independent, Yearly Newspaper Mocking Notre Dame and Saint Mary's

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POLICIES

The Absurder claims nothing in this paper to be true. Anything you read in this special section is not subject to review of the Notre Dame administration. We hope it will remain that way.

Special thanks to:

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Questions regarding Absurder policies are inane. Shut the hell up and go home.

POST OFFICE INFORMATION

The Absurder (random numbers go here) is published on April Fool's Day each year. A subscription to The Absurder would be pointless. That is all.

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TODAY'S STAFF

News

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Sports

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Buster Olney

Out-of-position
Mohawk Warrior

Ron Reagan Jr.

Graphics
Ronald Talley

Viewpoint
Rev. Jeremiah
Wright

Motorola brings voice of truth

Thank God for Greg Motorola. If it weren't for his biweekly columns defending truth, justice and the conservative Catholic-American way, I would have long ago doused the pagan pages of this godless newspaper with holy water and watched them burn in the righteous fires of damnation, not to mention cancelled my subscription.

I recently had the privilege and pleasure of interviewing this freedom fighter. Fellow true Catholics and good people of America, sit back, enjoy and relax in the comfort of knowing we have one of ours dedicated to shedding light on the increasingly murky morals of Notre Dame. Blue state bleeding hearts, read with caution, as the sheer amount of hard truth contained in the following paragraphs may make your liberal eyes to go blind or cause your brains to sublimate inside your very skulls.

"I calls 'em like I sees 'em," Observer columnist Greg Motorola says. "I like to think of myself as the voice of reason, or maybe the voice of the people. Or even better, as the lightbringer carrying the torch of truth to the people, all over campus, regardless of whether or not I still attend that campus."

Whether that involves calling out liberals for being the fascists that they are, or calling out Barack Obama and his millions of supporters as a pop-culture fad, Motorola slings word counts the way a cowboy slings lead — hard, fast and straight to the heart. And unlike gunslingers, who can pack a mere six rounds into their sharpshooters, Motorola's lengthy columns prove he never lacks ammunition.

Ever since Motorola graduated nearly a decade ago in 1999, he has wanted to

fight the good fight through the pages of The Observer's Viewpoint section. "Absolutely not," he answered after being asked whether his advancing age has made him lose touch with his college audience. "Nothing about starting to write for my alma mater's student newspaper nearly a decade after the fact screams 'impending midlife crisis.' In fact, like the late and great Strom Thurmond, I firmly believe that I only continue to get better with age."

As far as his personal morals go, Motorola refuses to compromise. "I don't get a lot of what you might call 'play,'" Motorola said. "Or 'action,' or [rear end] or [posterior]. Fortunately, I have a lot of Photoshopped Ann Coulter porn which gets me through the long lonely nights."

"Hell, I said as much in my recent column, 'Challenging Male Promiscuity.' I've never been afraid to call people out, even if that means indicting myself."

Upon being asked whether he would ever consider defecting from The Observer to leave and write for The Rover, Notre Dame's fortnightly toilet paper substitute, Motorola giggled softly to himself and replied, "See, therein lies the beauty of it all. You know how the terrorists got sleeper cells working undercover? Same goes for me. I'm like a covert agent planted deep within The Observer's liberal left-wing agenda, behind enemy lines."

Just don't question his patriotism. Upon being asked about the ethnic origins of his last name, Motorola flew into a rage. "Absolutely not," he said after being asked whether or not he was an immigrant to the United States. "Of course, my great grandfather was, and he fought in three world wars. My father, who was born on the Fourth of July, fought in Korea, Vietnam and Iraq

Parts I and II and now I continue fighting the good fight on the pages of this newspaper."

"I bleed red, white, gold and blue."

As far as the coincidence that he happens to share his surname with the communications giant corporation by the same name, Motorola says, "Of course I do. I'm the great communicator."

And as far as The Vagina Monologues go, Motorola says, "Well, to be quite honest I don't know much about the former, but I know a thing or two about the latter. My column is a monologue in its own right — a defense against the left-wing liberal agenda threatening to destroy the fabric of this country."

"I defend those most persecuted in this country — middle to upper class white men."

Critics have leveled charges of being "crazy" at Motorola, but he remains steadfast in his conviction. "If 'crazy' means being the voice of reason and justice, then bind me up in a straitjacket and waterboard me until I scream 'Freedom!' like my hero, Mel Gibson, in 'Braveheart,'" he said. "I see myself as a combination of Jesus II, Christ and Prometheus. I'm a martyr and a torch-carrier. I'm not afraid to be nailed to a tree or have my liver pecked out by a crow for all of eternity if it means continuing to rain down the fire and brimstone of truth on these mindless liberal sheep."

The views and opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Absurder, although unless you hate freedom, love terrorism and detest the Almighty himself, you will agree 116% with all of the above printed material.

Contact Tayshaun Prince at notgoing-togetbyboston@nbaplayoffs.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hall of science must go

It has recently come to my attention that the wisdom of the papacy has been ignored. This problem goes far deeper than the comparatively superficial conflict of The Vagina Monologues.

And the solution starts here.

Notre Dame is a leading Catholic University, and as such it has no legitimate justification for a statue of Galileo above the entrance to the Jordan Hall of Science.

Galileo was the Eve Ensler of his day, penning the equally egregious (though mercifully devoid of vaginas) "Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems."

Galileo was a heretic, and we aren't required to see eye to eye with John Paul II's apology. The Catholic Church made it perfectly clear the first time around in its formal condemnation of Galileo, and should never have backpedaled in the face of prevailing, new-fangled opinion. Notre Dame need not follow such a cowardly example.

After saying seventy our-fathers and under the escort of a priest, I made my way inside the offending building, only to discover that

the floor itself depicts the blasphemous conception of our solar system that Galileo sought to sponsor, placing the sun at the center of the planetary orbits.

When, exactly, did Notre Dame stop teaching retrograde motion? Why were the alumni not consulted?

The solar system, however, was nothing compared to the shock I received upon laying eyes on another floor depiction. "Nothing in Biology Makes Sense Except in the Light of Evolution."

All the while the current focus remains steadfast on the equally blasphemous yet comparably tolerable "Vagina Monologues."

Catholics of Notre Dame, realign your perspective. Fight for what you know in your soul to be right. Join me tonight at midnight to raze Jordan where she stands, and put an end to this dark chapter in the history of our lady.

Ptolemy Barberini

alum

Class of 1943

Mar. 31

Redux

Saint Mary's is treated unfairly.

Fetuses do not have the rights they deserve.

Abortion is morally reprehensible.

The "Vagina Monologues" are offensive.

Homosexuality is different. Too different.

The comics are offensive.

Don't do that one cheer that offends people at basketball games.

The football coach should be fired.

The football coach shouldn't be fired.

Notre Dame isn't Catholic enough.

Everyone

Mar. 31

OBSERVER POLL

Do parietals prevent you from thinking about the opposite sex?

(A) Yes.

(B) Most of the time.

Vote by paper ballot in the University president's office.

Submit a Letter
to the Editor at
www.ndsmcyomama.com

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country."

Marion Barry
Former mayor of Washington, D.C.

The Absurder endorses student government. All of it.

Student government has done it again. Despite the student body's typically demanding expectations, no one was surprised when, mirroring last year's success, all student body concerns were addressed in the productive, issue-oriented approach that has come to characterize everything about student government at Notre Dame.

Absurd Staff Editorial

"We had a great year," said outgoing student body president Fiz Beige at the impromptu, student-organized recognition ceremony held last Friday. "For one, student government single handedly stopped the Common Council ordinance," she continued, referring to the proposed legislation cited as unconstitutional by lawyers and unenforceable by SBPD.

Katie McDomer, who helped to organize the surprise ceremony, summed up the general attitude of the more than 2,500 present, an attitude echoed here at The Absurder.

"I just couldn't sit down and let their tireless, unflagging commitment to student issues go uncelebrated," McDomer said. "I haven't even been paying attention to key student issues like resume-padding and meaningless political machinations," she continued, referring to student government's well-known policies designed to harness the prestige associated with illusory power.

Beige and student body vice president Paris Lawn had been forced to leave their class after

a mob assembled outside DeBartolo and began chanting their names. After stepping outside, students rushed to place them atop separate thrones, which were subsequently carried to South Quad for the ceremony.

This is exactly the sort of leadership advocated by The Absurder. The illustrious reign of Beige and Lawn, though over in principle, will never be over in spirit. Of course, it must also be noted that their accomplishments were bolstered greatly by the loyal service of senator Tim Dockwood, whose puppet rule master plan was a shining example of student government in its purest form — empty debate over internal procedures wholly unadulterated by confused attempts at action.

The future, too, looks bright.

Campaign posters for all successful tickets were a fitting tribute to the best student government values: Smiling, eye contact, bullet points, and postures that are both powerful and friendly.

Going above and beyond simple posters, the winners of the presidency/vice presidency — Rice and Smith — combined all the key ingredients of a good poster with the more wide-reaching platform of a Web site. Lofty, immeasurable goals like "bridging the gap" and "forging relationships" are the key to building on the monumental accomplishments of the last regime.

The Absurder knows that student government will continue its impressive and formidable legacy. Keep up the good work.

Satan

continued from page 666

Devil said in an interview in the basement of South Dining Hall. Wreathed in shadows, he appeared only as a pair of glowing red eyes set amidst a swirling coil of darkness somewhat similar to the smoke monster seen on ABC's popular television series "Lost." "Eve Ensler is my homegirl. Deal or no deal. Let's go, I have other things I could be doing, such as luring souls to the precipice of eternal damnation."

The Devil himself admitted that he "drove a hard bargain," but said that Spankings didn't have much choice in the matter.

"Did you seriously think last season was what, a fluke?" the Prince of Darkness continued. "A few bad bounces against the Irish? A few breaks going the wrong way? Come on, people. That was all me."

Satan also reiterated his relative position of power in the negotiations, intoning, "What? Do you think I won't do it again this season? 'Cause I will. You all laughed because I helped Appalachian State topple your rival in Michigan last year." While he wouldn't hint at the precise nature of his dastardly plans, the Devil did say, "You all have San Diego State first on the schedule this year. At home, nonetheless. Can you say, 'sequel?'"

"Obviously, there are pros and cons whenever you're considering a deal, especially with an entity such as Hades himself," Spankings said of his current musings. "When you push back from the bargaining table and shake on [the deal], you kinda want to make sure you still have all your fingers attached afterwards."

"What people don't realize is, heavy is the head that wears the crown," Spankings said, sighing and slumping in his chair. "Or the papal hat, which represents our strong Catholic morals here, or the mortarboard, which represents academic freedom. You see, I have a lot of hats I have to wear here as the president of the University, and one of them happens to be, well, a baseball

hat, but it reads NOTRE DAME FOOTBALL on it. Plus, and not to sound hopeless here, but we all hoped and prayed and went to the Grotto last year, and all it netted us was three wins and a trip to the toilet bowl."

"I mean, let's cut to the chase here: either we get better at football soon, or I'm out of this chair anyways. 'Vagina Monologues' or no."

"Besides," he said, "winning cures all evils, does it not? So if you follow my line of thinking, we'll start racking up the Ws next season and maybe the whole 'deal with the devil' thing will just sort itself out."

While he wouldn't set a hard deadline regarding the Devil's offer, Spankings did say that timing had a large part in determining when he would announce his decision.

"Obviously, you can't go public with a deal like this on say, Good Friday. That wouldn't be kosher," Spankings said. "After the rebirth of newly risen Lord, the Devil tends to be a little weaker, a little less confident. Who knows, maybe he'll sweeten the deal and toss in a guaranteed berth for our men's basketball team in the Elite Eight next season? For now, it's best to sit and wait. We still have time before the season starts."

"Absolutely not," the Devil raged after hearing of Spankings' plans to sit on his hands. "Who does this guy think he is? First off, I put Mike Brey in that position for a reason. The best defense against having a good offense, or a good defense, is hiring Brey. If he hadn't approached me and cut a deal first, he'd have fulfilled his destiny of selling used cars in Nebraska for all of eternity."

While the delay continues, the Devil said he has big plans for Notre Dame's spring training. "Expect to see a lot of ankle sprains," he said, "and more mysterious bone spurs in Jimmy Clausen's throwing shoulder. Tell Spankings to call me when he's ready to deal" he said before disappearing into the ground with an accompanying thunderclap. "He has my number."

Contact Rita Skeeter at dastardly@darkarts.com

Big East

continued from page 8

Browns, the New York Knicks and Bookstore Team No. 451.

"We feel this diverse group of teams makes us one of the most, if not the most, competitive conference in the country," Troge said. "We wanted to make sure we got to 24 teams because I think there's some way you can do a tournament with that many."

Troge said that while most of the new teams will not play football in the Big East, the Cleveland Browns will make "good competition for Louisville, West Virginia and Rutgers" in that sport.

The Cleveland Browns will also compete in basketball, something that excites backup quarterback Quinn Brady.

"I was on a pretty good intramural team in college," Brady said. "Maybe I'll be able to start for Browns basketball."

Troge said he's looking forward to the cross-town battles between Saint John's and the New York Knicks at Madison Square Garden.

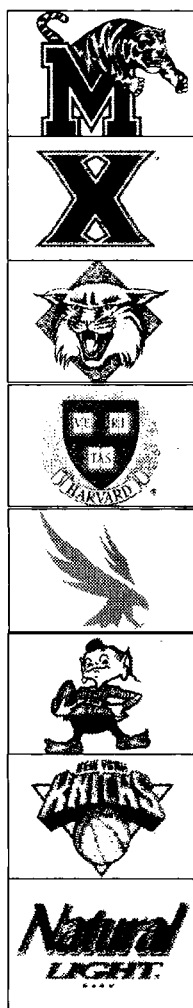
"Although we do not expect either of those teams to be competitive with the league at large, it will be nice to have a major event in New York," Troge said.

Troge also said he is excited to have Memphis, Xavier and Davidson in the fold because "they're really good."

"Memphis is in the final four," he said. "Plus Xavier and Davidson beat West Virginia and Georgetown. My policy is, if you can't beat them, have them join you."

Notre Dame coach Mock Tee said he can't wait to play

The Big East's new teams



Memphis

Xavier

Davidson

Harvard

North Florida

Cleveland Browns

New York Knicks

Bookstore Team 451

North Florida and Bookstore Team 451.

"They were going to be on our non-conference schedule anyway," Tee said. "It's nice to have them in our league."

Bookstore Team 451 captain Miles O'Hanahan said he hopes the cross-cam-

pus rivalry between his team and the Irish grows.

"We're hoping to have them over to pregame before we play," O'Hanahan said.

Contact John Thompson IV at morefetuses@nd.edu

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continued from page 1

with other leading institutions of higher education," Spankings said. "The bottom line is we can't charge more for a diploma without making it more attractive to the market. Our customers expect demonstrable increases in quality to account for superinflationary pricing."

Spankings said specific increases would vary by department. He expressed his concern that a 4.8 percent grade raise would not be possible for all departments, as increasing an average GPA higher than 3.8165 by 4.8 percent would put it over the currently allowed maximum of 4.0.

"We expect the greatest beneficiaries of the 4.8 percent average increase to be the College of Engineering and the College of Science," Spankings continued, citing the possibility of increases as high as 25 percent without hitting 4.0. Other departments expressed displeasure with this dissimilarity.

Business school dean Caroling Foo called the 4.0 maximum "absurd" and "anachronistic." The limitation of any increase to a 4.0 maximum is speculated to cause the lowest grade increase

across all departments for either the College of Business or the College of Arts and Letters.

"We need to take the lead on this issue, and bring collegiate grading policy into the 21st century," Foo said. "If only all the marketing majors were as stupid as the engineers, then everyone could get a 4.8 percent increase. It doesn't make sense to punish our college for the unmatched work ethic of its students, as evidenced by their high GPAs." Foo added that a marketing class was in the midst of developing a convincing Powerpoint presentation that she felt would sway Spankings' thinking.

Addressing concerns about the impact higher grades would have on distinguishing between the best and worst students, Spankings explained that greater weight would be given to previously less significant decimal places.

Spankings emphasized fundamental economics as the basis for the Board of Trustees' decision to up grade inflation. "You have a \$129,648 degree with a 3.4 GPA in 2008, and then in 2009 you expect a \$136,476 degree with a 3.4 GPA to be flying off the shelves? Please. Be reasonable. Make it a 3.56."

Contact Marvey Hersfeld at smarterthanyou@nd.edu

Just chuck The Absurder
in the trash.

SMC BASKETBALL



CREEPY DUDE WITH MUSTACHE/The Absurder

Saint Mary's basketball fans camp out in front of the Angela Athletic Center before a recent game against Calvin.

Hardcore fans camp out in 'Belle-topia'

By NEWBIE FRESHMAN
Couldn't get a hold of the coach

SAINT MARY'S, Ind. — In the midst of one of Saint Mary's best-ever seasons, the campus has caught basketball fever.

At 13-13 (8-8 MIAA), the Belles have as many wins as losses for just the third time in school history, and the crowds at the Angela Athletic Center have never been bigger.

But it isn't the crowds inside the arena that have attracted attention — it's the crowds outside.

A group of Saint Mary's students has taken to camping out the night before the game in order to get the best seats. They call themselves "Belle-topia."

"We just love Belles basketball!" sophomore Katie O'Katiehan said.

The campouts are organized by the Angela Angels, a group of rowdy students that has its own section at games.

At the all-female school, the campouts have a different atmos-

phere than those at other major basketball powers.

"When we're not breaking down the latest MIAA standings or discussing zone defense, we usually talk about boys and clothes," O'Katiehan said. "Sometimes we do each other's hair."

Saint Mary's coach Jenny Hanraid said the rowdy home crowds have given her team an advantage it hasn't had in previous years.

"Before, we didn't have many student fans," she said. "Unless you count the girls on the treadmills on the second level." The Belles have won three straight games at home. Hanraid said the team hopes to increase that total next year.

"We open with Rose-Hulman, and that will be a tough game," she said. "We're going to need all the help we can get from our crowd."

Contact Newbie Freshman at quoteless@nd.edu

"We just love Belles basketball!"

Katie O'Katiehan
SMC sophomore

FOOTBALL

ND releases 2009 schedule

By DeKENDRICK FOWLAH
Senior Kevin White Correspondent

Athletic Director Melvin Black on Monday announced Notre Dame's 2009 football schedule.

The schedule will be a historic slate, with Notre Dame becoming the first team to host an opponent twice in the same season. The Irish will play Stanford in Week 9 and then again in Week 12. The second game officially will be a neutral site game at Mishawaka's Penn High School, as part of the two neutral site games in Black's new 8-3-1 scheduling model, but all gate receipts and TV revenues will go to Notre Dame.

"Stanford is perhaps the greatest school in the country for combining academic and football excellence," Black said. "Why wouldn't we want to schedule them as many times as possible? Sure, we're upset that we will be unable to fulfill our three-game commitment with the Big East, but that's because we've replaced them with an even better regional com-

2009 Notre Dame Football

- Week 1: Idle
- Week 2: Idle
- Week 3: vs. Michigan (International Falls, Minn.)
- Week 4: vs. LSU
- Week 5: vs. Tulane (Pyongyang, North Korea)
- Week 6: vs. Louisiana Tech
- Week 7: vs. Louisiana Lafayette
- Week 8: vs. Louisiana Monroe
- Week 9: vs. Stanford
- Week 10: vs. Navy
- Week 11: vs. South Florida
- Week 12: vs. Stanford (Penn High School)
- Week 13: at Southern California
- Week 14: Idle

mitment."

That commitment Black mentioned is Notre Dame's new initiative:

"Why wouldn't we want to schedule [Stanford] as many times as possible?"

Melvin Black
Notre Dame athletic director

the Bayou Bungle. Notre Dame will play all five Division I football teams in Louisiana in consecutive weeks. The Irish will kick off the mini-slate in Baton Rouge against Louisiana State. They will then travel to Pyongyang, North Korea, to battle Tulane. Games

against Louisiana Tech, Louisiana Lafayette and Louisiana Monroe follow in South Bend.

"We're proud to have the opportunity to represent Notre Dame in many national — and international — games," Black said. "We believe this schedule represents a true return to the barnstorming days of Knute Rockne. We also feel that this schedule is well-balanced, well-rhythmed and well-planned."

Contact DeKendrick Fowlah at athletics@nd.edu

HOCKEY

Late-running season scares team

Players not used to having games in April, run in fear

By ADAM BANKS
District 5

A frightened and confused Notre Dame hockey team refused to step onto the ice for practice today after seeing that the calendar had changed to April.

The Irish, who are headed to play in the Frozen Four in less than two weeks, became disorientated when they entered the locker room and realized they had to play hockey after March. Several players broke down in tears, while others fled to protect themselves from the month.

"This just isn't right," said Irish captain Clark Van Builder, who had wrapped himself in tin foil to camouflage himself from April. "We've never had to do this before, and we're all scared. I heard that if you play hockey in April, your face grows a beard. Can you imagine that?"

Notre Dame head coach Jack Jefferson, furious upon learning that his team was still playing hockey in the crucial offseason training period, called the Irish "the biggest bunch of lazy, cake-eating pansies he had ever seen." Jefferson vowed the Irish will pay dearly for all the 6 a.m. workouts they will miss while

playing in the Frozen Four.

"They thought 6 a.m. was bad? Wait till they see what I have planned," Jefferson said in between clean and jerks of a dazed and badly beaten CCHA referee. "I bought a slave galley out on Lake Michigan. They're going to row until they learn teams win games with offseason work."

The Joyce Center rink was a chaotic scene the rest of the afternoon.

Seniors Steve Stankin and Rock Greehan attempted to blend into the fencing practice above the arena but were kicked out when they speared the team's best fencers with their hockey sticks.

"They were Eastern European," Stankin protested. "That's the only way you can slow them down."

Stankin, screaming that April was coming for him, had to be removed at saber-point. Greehan hacked his way out of the fencing gym and immediately put himself in the penalty box.

Junior right wing Connor Eriksson patrolled the outside of the Joyce Center in a motorized scooter, wearing only a jock strap and carrying a stick. The Notre Dame Security Police were called when Eriksson began to challenge passersby to joust.

NDSP followed Eriksson in a slow-speed chase to the library, where the deranged forward jumped out of his scooter and fell flat on his face. "The same thing happens to

him when he tries to skate, down he goes," Van Builder said. "It's sad, really. We all feel bad for him. Most days he has to skate with a traffic cone or else he falls down."

The body of freshman goalie Sherm Lips lay at center ice, the naive victim of a dozen Notre Dame players who believed a sacrifice to the hockey gods could protect them from April hockey. Led by junior center Islam Branson, the players built a fortress of pucks along the goal line and lured Lips into their trap with promises of more playing time and tips on how to survive puberty.

"Playing this late in any season goes against everything Notre Dame athletics stand for," athletic director Melvin Black said. "I applaud the efforts of Branson and company to try to keep national championships away. That Lips kid had it coming anyway."

There were a few Irish players, however, who weren't ready to give up.

Senior defenseman Stan CaNard and Ryan Farsi officially transferred today to the Irish women's club hockey team, where they will compete for the fifth and sixth spots on the women's blue line.

"Hey, at least they'll let me play there," CaNard said. "And I'm pretty sure no one can hurt me for once."

Contact Adam Banks at mightyducks@disney.com

Moving off campus?

Don't mind the occasional
gunshot ... or 10?

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You may lose your security deposit, you may be
forced to move, but you'll never be evicted.

Properties still available for the
2008-09 school year.

Wise

continued from page 8

requested that he be struck dead if he used the word "rebuilding," the Supreme Being said. "He used that word today. In accordance with heavenly policy, Mr. Wise was summarily smote."

Heaven press secretary Michael the Archangel said that Wise "had been living

kinda dangerously."

"The team sucked last year," Michael said. "And even though God doesn't care who wins football games, his mother does. And you do not want to see Mary



God

angry."

Michael also said that God considered using a giant finger to smite Wise, but that he decided on the lightning bolt "because it's way cooler."

The Notre Dame theology department was quickly convened to discuss the implications of the smiting.

"We felt that God acted unfairly, because Wise was clearly talking about a rebuilding season and not

the rebuilding of an actual building," associate professor Abicus O'Hoolihan said.

O'Hoolihan was later found in his office transformed into a pillar of salt. God was not available for further comment.

Former Notre Dame defensive coordinator Corduroy Braun was promoted to interim head coach. Linebacker Marty Krun said the team, while sad at the loss of coach Wise, expects

to continue spring practice as planned.

"We're just going to keep working hard," Krun said. "We're just trying to get better."

Linebackers coach Tom Thanuta was promoted to defensive coordinator in place of Braun.

"Thanuta no scared," he said. "Thatuta blitz!"

Contact Horseman No. 3 at pestilence@apocalypse.net

Sharpey

continued from page 8

"He was the No. 1 coming out of fall baseball," Crag said. "But when he got hurt, we had to pursue other options."

For the first few games of the season, with Tauson hurt, Crag decided to start base-stealing expert Demetri Smith.

"We were hoping to surprise Liberty, Iowa, and Albany by playing small ball," Crag, who usually prefers power hitters, said.

But the Irish mustered just two runs against the Flames, and Smith made six errors as Notre Dame allowed 14 and 12 runs against the Hawkeyes and Great Danes. Crag pulled him and inserted Sharpey.

Frustrated, Smith transferred to Cincinnati.

"I thought when he left, that it was my chance to show what I could do,"

Sharpey said.

For a time, it was. Sharpey started every game for the next few months and hit six home runs. But Crag said he wasn't satisfied.

"He took way too long to swing," Crag said. "He took too many looking strikeouts."

So starting tonight, Tauson will be the starter at first.

"He's finally healthy," Crag said. "He's not banged up anymore. We're very excited to see what he can do."

Note:

♦Crag said that outfielder Silver Trait, who saved Notre Dame's 11-10

win over Maine March 4 with several diving catches, will not play regularly until he learns to catch balls that are somewhere other than over his head.

"As you saw, he's great at going back," Crag said. "But we're not satisfied with his ability to come in or move to his right or left."

Contact Kosuke Fukudome at japaneseguy@cubs.com



HIGH SCHOOL BOYS MAKE ME HOT/The Absurder

Freshman first baseman Timmy Tauson addresses the media at the College Baseball Hall of Fame last spring.

NDN

continued from page 8

were like piranhas — fat, nerdy, non-athletic piranhas."

By nightfall, the tensions that had run through the crowd all day changed to fear as the members realized what the ramifications of their rally would be.

"I'm not sure how we can go back to the old ways," poster Senior You Never See Who Lives in the Single said. "Before, we posted anonymously from our computers and no one knew who we were. We were untouchables, there was no accountability anywhere. Now ... we've seen faces, talked to people. My God, we've seen souls. We can never go back. There's responsibility now. Not like it was."

The planned roast of football coach Charlie Weis over a fire pit had to be cancelled as dispirited and frightened posters headed back to their cubicles.

"Today was really a big success for us," Cappuccino said. "I was disappointed we had to cancel the roast, I was really looking forward to the months of leftovers we would have had. But if we get another three-win season, trust me, we will feast."

Contact NDSWEET1509150 at ndnation.com

Help Wanted

Position Open: Quarterback who can run the spread option

- No previous signal calling experience necessary
- Kinesiology course credit available

If interested, please contact Rich Rodriguez at dickrod@umich.edu



FOOTBALL

God strikes Wise dead

Coach says 'rebuilding,' is smote by Supreme Being as requested

By HORSEMAN NO. 3
Of The Apocalypse

In August, Notre Dame coach Chuck Wise told reporters that "God strike me dead" if he used the word "rebuilding."

Monday, God delivered on that request.

During a post-practice news conference, Wise updated the media on his plans for a new headquarters for Banana and Friends, his charity for developmentally disabled children.

"We aren't buying any new land," he said. "We're really just rebuilding the existing headquarters."

At that moment, the roof of the Guglielmo Athletic Center was ripped open and a lightning bolt from heaven smote Wise.

God later issued a statement explaining the smiting.

"Mr. Wise expressly

see WISE/page 7



Former Notre Dame football coach Chuck Wise stares into a blinding flash just before God smote him with a lightning bolt from heaven. Wise said the word 'rebuilding' right before the smiting.

THEODORE THE INTERN ANGEL/The Absurder

ND ATHLETICS

Big East to expand to 24 teams

'We didn't think 16 was enough schools,' commissioner says

By JOHN THOMPSON IV
Fetus

Just three years after expanding to 16 teams, the Big East is getting bigger again.

The league is raiding several different other conferences and will add eight new members next school year.

"We didn't think 16 was enough schools," conference commissioner Mikail Trogesse said. "We need a few more to have a competitive conference."

The new teams will be Memphis, Xavier, Davidson, Harvard, North Florida, the Cleveland

see BIG EAST/page 5

BASEBALL

Sharpey loses starting job to freshman — yet again

By KOSUKE FUKUDOME
Japanese Dude

For the second straight season, junior Eric Sharpey has been beaten out by a freshman.

Sharpey, who was passed over for the starting quarterback job in favor of all-

world recruit El Jimador Paulson last fall, will not be in the lineup at first base for tonight's game against Western Michigan at Frank Eck Stadium, coach Agro Crag said.

Instead, freshman Timmy Tauson will start for the Irish.

"I think Tauson gives us

the best chance to win," Crag said.

Tauson, who hit .432 and hit 103 home runs over four years at Westlake High School outside Los Angeles, was the No. 1 high school player in the country last year. The Eagles never lost a game with him in the lineup.

He was expected by many to turn pro after being drafted by the Tampa Bay Rays out of high school, but, in a highly publicized announcement at the College Baseball Hall of Fame, he decided to come to Notre Dame.

"I was really impressed by the combination of athletics

and academics," Tauson said.

Crag said that Tauson would have started "from the very beginning" if not for a bone spur in his throwing elbow that required surgery over Christmas break.

see SHARPEY/page 7

INTERNET CRAZIES

NDNation gathers in person, mongers hate

By NDSWEET23015
Uninformed Smartass

Members of the Notre Dame sports message board ndnation.com gathered outside the South Bend Tribune building for a rally Monday that onlookers mistook alternately for a large all-male orgy and pagan blood sacrifice.

The posters, many of whom had left their computers for the first time since Signing Day, were greeted by their leader, Kim Cappuccino, and treated to a long-winded, opinionated and often violent opening address. After the speech ended, the thousands of screaming men stripped naked and did an interpretative dance based on the 1966 Michigan State game.

"Normally we like to relive our college years vicariously through the message board," said poster Brady's Fluffer, who would only be identified by his online handle. "But

this really lets us get together and channel all our hate at once. It's way better than the time I wrote a haiku about Zbikowski's pass coverage. He sucks."

The revelers pounded Appletinis and Fuzzy Navels well into the afternoon until rally leaders cut back alcohol consumption when it was discovered that preparations for an Elephant Walk had almost been completed.

But then the day's festivities kicked into high gear.

The posters danced naked around a burning effigy of Kevin White, their bodies covered in blue and gold paint and their faces smeared with the blood of South Bend Tribune columnist Jeff Carroll. Several dancers became confused at the remarkable likeness of the effigy and received third-degree burns in an attempt to "teach him how to make a schedule."

As the sun set, the posters formed

a circle and dropped to their knees around a life-size statue of offensive lineman Sam Young made from a mixture of Spam and their own tears. An elaborate ceremony followed in which pale, out-of-shape posters fought each other to the death with sharpened keyboards.

"We fight so that we may live. We live so that we may watch. We watch so that we may ridicule others mercilessly from behind our computer screens while our wife goes grocery shopping with the kids," said poster I'm Bored at Work, Hate My Life and Am Filled With Irrational Anger.

Notre Dame anthropology professor Winfred Q. Brentley observed the rally with students from his Introduction to Cults and Groupthink class.

"The sheer intensity of their hate for any and all things is just mind-boggling," Brentley said. "They

see NDN/page 7



Photo courtesy of Stanford07

NDNation posters revel in their common hatred of athletic director Kevin White during a riot and effigy-burning Monday.