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Students travel to D.C. to witness inauguration

Professor organizes bus to nation's capital

By KAITLYNN RIELY
Associate News Editor

WASHINGTON — Millions are converging on the nation's capital to watch Barack Obama take the presidential oath of office today, and hotels, spare bedrooms and couches are being filled throughout the metropolitan area.

But few people have a closer site to crash than Saint Mary's sophomore Colleen Lowry.

Transportation routes will be packed with crowds in the early hours this morning, as millions make their way to the Capitol and the National Mall to watch the swearing-in and the inauguration speech at noon. Lowry won't have to brave crowds on the roads, bridges and Metro, since

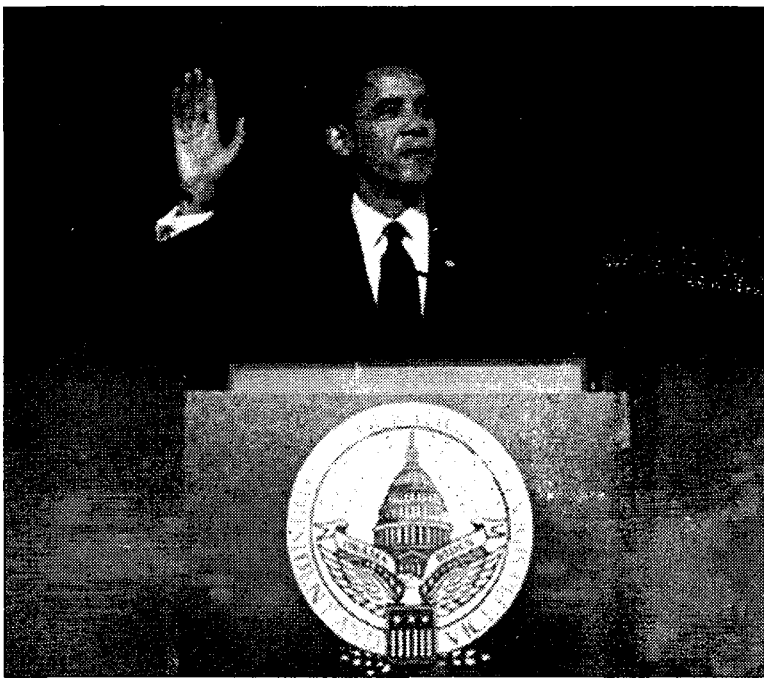
Monday night she stayed in Ohio Congressman Tim Ryan's office in the Loggworth House Congressional Building, mere seconds away from the Capitol, where Obama will be sworn in.

"We walk out the door and we are on Capitol Hill," Lowry said. On Sunday night, Lowry stayed with her brother in the suburbs, but she and her parents moved to Ryan's office Monday so they could avoid the traffic into the city.

"We have air mattresses and there are couches and stuff here," she said. "Eight of us are staying here, including the congressman."

Lowry left her home in Ohio Sunday morning and that night went to the Ohio Gala Ball at a hotel in the city. The

see BUS/page 4



President-elect Barack Obama acknowledges the crowd at dinner Monday night. He will be sworn in as the 44th president at noon today.

Program offers students historic opportunity

By AARON STEINER
Assistant News Editor

WASHINGTON — When they got to Washington just over a week ago, the students in Notre Dame's Washington Program knew they were arriving at an opportune time.

"It's definitely an exciting time to be here," sophomore Patrick McDonnell said, echoing the thoughts of most of his classmates in the program.

The inauguration and the hope many have for the nation's 44th president has taken Washington by storm, they said.

"Obama is everywhere you look. I went to the diner and

see PROGRAM/page 4

Campuses celebrate Martin Luther King's legacy

Jenkins reflects on activist during ND prayer service

By LIZ LEFEVRE
News Writer

Members of the Notre Dame family gathered yesterday to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. and his vision of community with a prayer service honoring his legacy in the rotunda of the Main Building.

The service opened with the singing of "We Shall Overcome" by members of the Notre Dame Celebration Choir and continued with Hugh Page, dean of first year studies, reading an excerpt of King's speech from the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala.,

see MLK/page 6



University President Father John Jenkins talks with Hugh Page, dean of first year studies, after a prayer service honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. Monday.

College remembers day with prayer service, candlelit march

By MANDI STIRONE
Assistant News Editor

Nearly 40 students, faculty and administrators participated in a candlelit march from the Saint Mary's Student Center to Haggard Parlor yesterday to commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The Martin Luther King Day Celebration Commemorative March and Interfaith Prayer Service started in the Student Center with talks and prayers given by Saint Mary's students and members of the community.

Lynn Coleman, assistant to the Mayor of South Bend, addressed participants about the significance of

see MARCH/page 6

ND grad working for Obama

Finlen transitioned from campaign to Presidential Inauguration Committee

By JENN METZ
News Editor

WASHINGTON — Sitting in his new Washington, D.C. apartment on the eve of Inauguration Day, Notre Dame alum Shawn Finlen relaxed with friends.

Working first on president-elect Barack Obama's campaign in the fall and the Presidential Inauguration Committee for the past two weeks, he has clocked hun-

dreds of busy hours, managing volunteers and organizing events.

"Day-to-day is grueling, working 16-hour days," he said. "It's amazing to be part of not just another political campaign — we thought of it as more of a movement."

Finlen, class of '08, majored in Political Science at Notre Dame, and joined the Obama team last September.

An Illinois native, Finlen

first met Obama in 2004 while working for a House of Representatives campaign and had the opportunity to meet him several more times over the past few months, including Monday, the National Day of Service.

Finlen worked at an event at a D.C. high school, making blankets for Walter Reed Army Medical Center and writing inspiring mes-

see OBAMA/page 4

Lectures, Mass planned to mark Moreau feast day

By EMMA DRISCOLL
News Writer

Today, on the second feast day of Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau, the University community will begin to celebrate Moreau and will continue to commemorate his ideals throughout the week with events entitled "Holy Cross: Faith in Our Future."

The Catholic Church beatified Moreau at a ceremony in

LeMans, France, last September, according to Observer archives.

Beatification is a step toward canonization, or proclamation as a saint by the Catholic Church, according to a press release.

It was at this ceremony that the Church declared Jan. 20 — the date of Moreau's death in 1873 — as his feast day, according to a press release.

John Cavadini, chair of the

see MOREAU/page 6

INSIDE COLUMN

Carpe Obama

Did you hear the news? There's a small event going on in Washington, D.C. today. It may or may not concern the politics of the free world. It might involve one of the greatest new political minds of our century. And it could, just maybe, pertain to Y-O-U, that single American citizen sitting in the dining hall.

Analise Lipari

Scene Editor

If you have been anywhere near a television, newspaper, radio, or even that one kid down the hall who's been reading passages from "The Audacity of Hope" to you since freshman year, you've probably heard the news: Today, my friends, is Inauguration Day. By the time you're reading this paper, Barack Hussein Obama will have officially been inaugurated as the 44th president of the United States of America.

Winning the presidency, we might gather from the length and expense of this past race, is no small feat. You need both your plans and your execution to work in tandem without missing a beat of the national pulse. You need to build lasting connections with politicians and ordinary citizens across this country, a massive task even in its geographic scope. You need to research, to investigate, to understand and to grapple. You practically need an army. Heck, if you manage to get the job, you will need an army.

On January 20, 2009, we've offered Barack Obama the chance to take that job.

In a time of economic collapse and international tension, our democratic process, however long and toiling that process may be, has chosen this man to take his seat in the Oval Office. Maybe it was a feeling of trust, or confidence, or belief in his beliefs and his vision. Or maybe it was all three. But no matter what led us to the polling booth, and no matter whose box we checked (or whose chad we punched), today, we're celebrating a beginning.

On a side note, I wonder if my kids will ask me about the day Obama became the President. (Note: In this scenario, I have extremely thoughtful and politically aware children.) If or when they do, I'm not sure what I'll say. I could tell them the details of the ceremony, or quote a memorable part of his inaugural speech.

But will I be able to express the feeling? The excitement and the anticipation, blended together with some sense of hope in this crazy world? We'll have to wait and see.

I hope you watched the Inauguration this morning. You may have class, work or something else that would normally be a legitimate use of your time. But I hope you set aside whatever commitments you may have had to watch at least part of what happened today.

Because you — yes, you — are witnessing something extraordinary. It's rare that we get the opportunity to grab hold of history with our own two hands. Don't let it pass you by.

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

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CORRECTIONS

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

QUESTION OF THE DAY: Do you have special plans for the inauguration?



Chris Massad

junior
Keenan

"Join the Secret Service."



Natalie Fang

freshman
Cavanaugh

"I'm missing class to watch it."



Robin Brown

sophomore
Lewis

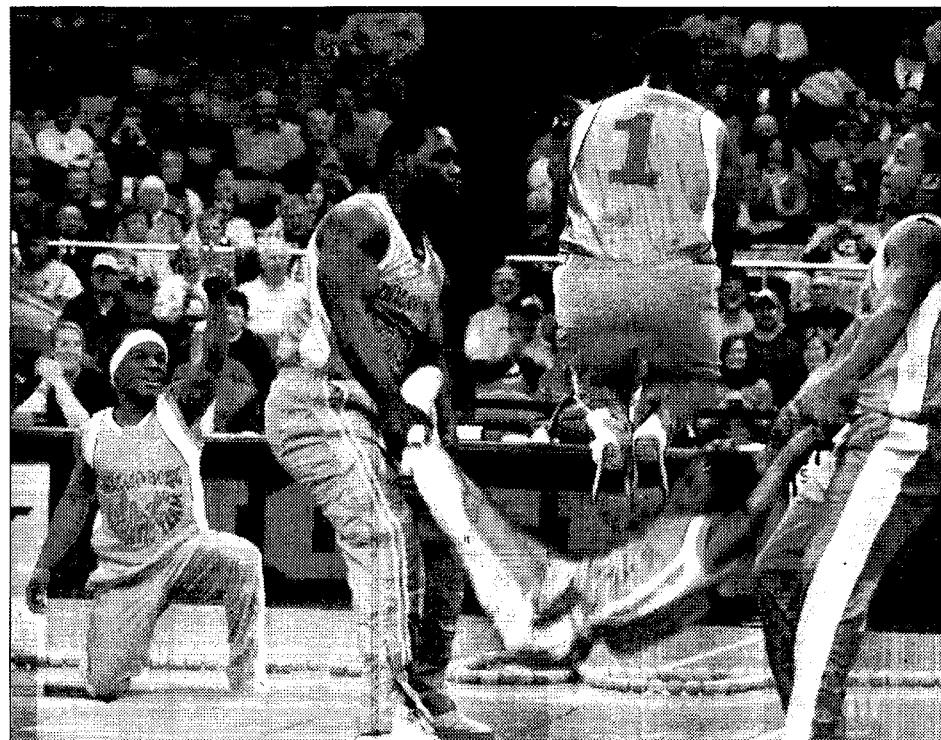
"Does watching history in the making count?"



Ying Liu

senior
Keenan

"Take my shirt off in celebration."



Members of the Chicago Boyz Acrobatic Team perform a human jump rope routine during halftime of the women's basketball game against St. John's Saturday.

OFFBEAT

Web site with "world's best job" crashes

SYDNEY — The chance to be the caretaker of a tiny tropical island in Australia has sparked so much interest around the world that a rush of applications crashed the web-site advertising the post.

The job, which offers a salary of \$105,000 to spend six months on the Great Barrier Reef island of Hamilton, has been inundated with hundreds of thousands of prospective candidates.

An official from the state of Queensland, which is offering the posi-

tion, said the job was created as an antidote to the global economic slump and was being advertised in 18 countries including the United States and China.

Busty Virgin Mary's spark outrage

SANTIAGO — A prominent fashion designer has sparked outrage in Chile by dressing up models like the Virgin Mary — in some cases with ample, near-naked breasts.

The Roman Catholic Church condemned Ricardo Oyarzun's plans for a show featuring the

models, and a conservative group tried unsuccessfully to block it in court.

Oyarzun said he had received telephone threats and had excrement smeared on his doorstep.

"There is no pornography here, there's no sex, there are no virgins menstruating or feeling each other up," Oyarzun said ahead of the catwalk show set to be held at a Santiago nightclub later on Thursday. "This is artistic expression."

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

Mass will be held in honor of Blessed Basil Moreau today at 5:15 p.m. in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. The service is open to the public.

Health and Recreation will be having a Dance Kick-Off today at 6:15 p.m. at RSRC AR 2. Registration can be done via RecRegister. The class is open to students, faculty, and staff.

Campus Ministry is holding a panel discussion titled "Men in Black: Inspirations and Reflections" today at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall. The panel will be made up of priests talking about their life and experiences in the priesthood.

Tim Robbins will be giving a lecture called "Theater as Community" at 7 p.m. Wednesday in Leighton Concert Hall in DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Tickets can be purchased online or through the ticket office for \$5.

Professor Mario Livio of Johns Hopkins University will be giving a lecture called "The Greatest Scientific Achievements of the Hubble Space Telescope" Wednesday at 4 p.m. in 118 Nieuwland Science Hall.

The Notre Dame Student Film Festival will be kick off Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Browning Cinema. Tickets for students are \$3 and can be purchased online or at the ticket office.

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		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
	25	8		10 -11		17 9		35 20		33 23		27 13

Atlanta 41 / 24 Boston 35 / 19 Chicago 18 / 14 Denver 64 / 36 Houston 62 / 36 Los Angeles 80 / 50 Minneapolis 26 / 15 New York 30 / 15 Philadelphia 31 / 17 Phoenix 82 / 52 Seattle 48 / 39 St. Louis 30 / 24 Tampa 57 / 35 Washington 31 / 18

CLC considers creation of a task force, host of other issues

Student body president Bob Reish offers suggestions on alcohol policy, sexual assault, how to clarify off campus rules

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Writer

The Campus Life Council (CLC) prepared for the new semester by discussing their ideas and the need for creating a new task force at their first meeting of the semester Monday.

Student body president Bob Reish proposed three key issues that the committee might consider this semester.

Reish first discussed the idea of implementing a Good Samaritan Policy protecting intoxicated students from getting in trouble if they are helping someone who is hurt or sick from drinking.

"A lot of other colleges are instituting this policy in the past couple of years. I think Saint Mary's did last [semester] which has something to consider," said Reish.

He also proposed an investigation and assessment of the University's sexual assault policy.

"Student government has received reactions to current practices, [and] a large percent of them have been negative," he

said. "People feeling like they can't explain their story and they don't feel like they are treated fairly."

CLC is aware that the Gender Issues committee of Student Government has already looked into the sexual assault policy and discussed whether it would be more effective to work with Student Government or to do something separately.

Reish also said he wanted CLC to look at the role of off-campus students and off-campus life.

Linda Cirillo, Lewis Hall's rector, specifically wants to look at how off-campus students express themselves to the University and how the University looks at off-campus students.

There is currently an off-campus senator on the Student Senate and there is an off-campus council, but Reish said the off-campus representation is not proportionate to the number of students living off-campus.

Additionally, Reish proposed creating a set of rules for off-campus life that would determine the consequences of having an off-campus party. DuLac states that

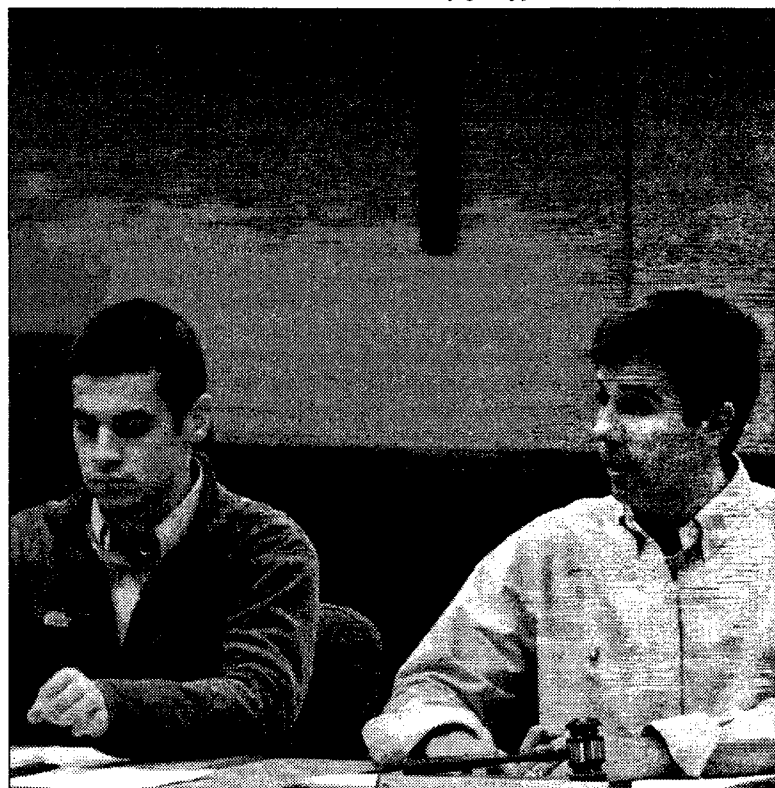
all DuLac rules apply to off-campus students, but Student Government has received complaints that there has not been precedence for punishment in certain situations, said Reish.

Student Body Vice President Grant Schmidt said the Good Samaritan Policy, the sexual assault policy and off-campus life are all issues that are "very subjective and you can't have hard concrete facts, [like] if you do x then you will get this dollar fine."

Schmidt suggested that instead of specific rules, CLC should look at informing students so they know what the possible consequences are for actions so that they aren't caught by surprise.

Student Union Board Manager Meg MacCaughy suggested creating a new task force that focuses on off-campus life, but no definitive decision was reached. Each task force will meet to discuss the relevance of the three suggested issues and report back at the next meeting.

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Student Body Vice President Grant Schmidt, left, and Student Body President Bob Reish, right, addressed the CLC on Monday.

Poorman approves dorm printers resolution

By SARAH MERVOSH
News Writer

Student body president Bob Reish announced that Fr. Mark Poorman, Vice President of Student Affairs, approved the Campus Life Council (CLC) resolutions to put printers in every dorm and to re-evaluate the Transfer Student Orientation process in the upcoming semester at the CLC meeting Monday.

"By the end of this summer, we will have printers in all the residence halls," Reish said. "That is a very big accomplishment for our council."

Currently, there are printers in 10 residence halls. The

printers were put in as a part of a pilot program, and these printers have been "well-received and used," according to the resolution.

"It wasn't necessarily a need but it was a significant convenience," said student body vice president Grant Schmidt, citing those who do not have easy access to LaFortune or DeBartolo Hall and the crowds that are present at those locations.

The resolution has been passed with the condition that additional printers will not lead to a significant increase in the paper being used.

"Such an increase ... would be counterproductive for the many efforts currently on cam-

pus to reduce environmental impact," Poorman said in a letter to Reish approving the resolution.

In order to make sure such an increase does not occur, the Office of Information Technologies will monitor the paper use, the letter said.

"If they see a huge increase in paper usage, that's going to play a factor in possible quotas. It goes along with our mission to stay green. If this becomes so much less sustainable, the university is going to take some action," Reish said.

Reish emphasized that this warning will only be put into action if students are wasteful.

The second resolution calls for the creation of a task force

that will review the orientation process for transfer students chaired by Brian Coughlin, the assistant vice president for student activities.

The transfer student orientation puts "a tremendous focus on academics. But there was a gap with the rest of the Notre Dame community and the transfers," said Meg MacCaughy, chair of the task force on new student introduction to Notre Dame. "We've been working to get a more cohesive Notre Dame community."

There is no involvement from student affairs in transfer orientation, which means no rector involvement and no organized ways to meet other stu-

dents, said Reish.

The committee will be composed of students, rectors and administrative staff and will meet to review the transfer orientation process. It is expected to bring its assessment and recommendations to Poorman for approval by the end of April.

Although this resolution will not be as visible as printers in every dorm, Reish said both resolutions show "how something can be brought to Student Government's attention [and] when worked through the correct channels, it shows the administrations listening to students and taking action."

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Harsh winter weather causes pipe to burst

By LIZ HARTER
St. Mary's Editor

Anyone working in or walking through the Main Building last Friday were in for an unpleasant surprise as a fire sprinkler water line pipe fell victim to the sub-zero temperatures outside.

The -45 degree wind chill took its toll on a pipe on the ground floor, which froze and subsequently burst around 5 p.m. Friday.

"Water gushed from the pipe causing damage to the ceiling and soaking the carpet," said University spokesman and assistant vice president for news and information Dennis Brown.

Brown said workers were able to cap the pipe and fix the fire sprinkler system by Friday night, but there is still a hole in the ceiling, which needs to be repaired.

The area around the break will be examined by the utilities department this week to try to figure out how the cold air is getting into the building, Brown said. The University does not have a cost estimate of how



PHOTOGRAPHER/The Observer
Frigid temperatures burst a pipe in the Main Building on Friday.

much damage was done, but Brown said it was minimal.

However, this is not the first time the cold weather took its toll on the pipes around campus. Water flooded the third floor of the Hesburgh Library to the basement after a pipe burst in Feb. 2007. That incident resulted in the library closing for six hours and damaged approximately 1,500 books on the second floor according to Observer archives.

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ND reflects on end of term

By AMANDA GRAY
News Writer

Most eyes in the nation will be on President-elect Barack Obama as he is sworn into office at noon today, but there are many who are using the inauguration as a chance to reflect on the presidency of the man who will be former President George W. Bush by 1 p.m.

Junior Edward Yap, president of the Notre Dame College Republicans is doing just that.

"President Bush served his country with honor and integrity," Yap said. "While his decisions were not always pleasing to all people, or myself, he made them with the best interest of the country at heart and with principle."

Josh Kaplan, the associate director of undergraduate studies in political science, is also looking back on Bush's presidency and said he saw potential in Bush that he didn't fulfill.

"Bush had a positive and far-reaching vision for the future of the Republican

party," he said, "but was unable to move the party very far in that direction."

However, that doesn't necessarily mean that Bush was unsuccessful in his presidency, according to Christina Wolbrecht, an associate professor of political science at the University.

"Success and failure are political judgment calls," she said. "It all depends on what you attribute to the President."

Yap, however, thinks there are many things that can be considered a success in the past eight years.

"President Bush's President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has poured \$18 billion into Africa in an effort to increase the number of Africans on anti-retroviral drugs from just 50,000 [people] at the end of the Clinton presidency to 1.3 million as of 2007," Yap said.

That doesn't mean that Bush's tenure was without fault, though, he said.

"I'm still torn as to whether the war [in Iraq] was justified according to my understanding of a just war," he said.

Kaplan said he thinks

Bush's form of politics can still be beneficial after he's gone.

"His vision of 'compassionate conservatism' was genuine and thoughtful," he said. "The party could still learn from it."

Wolbrecht said Bush's tenure in office will most likely be associated with "a shift of the place of the United States in the world," but it is still unclear what he will be remembered for.

"We don't know yet what he'll be remembered for," said Wolbrecht. "Depends on what you focus on."

Kaplan said he believes that the Iraqi War might have an impact on how Bush's presidency is remembered.

"If Iraq becomes a more stable country in the near future, his decisions will be judged more favorably," Kaplan said. "If not, history will judge him harshly for it, because he committed the United States to an open-ended involvement in Iraq with no end in sight."

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Bus

continued from page 1

Ohio State band played and the governor and the lieutenant governor were there as well as several congressmen.

This is not her first time witnessing the transition of power. Lowry and her parents came to the inaugurations in 2000 and 1996.

"I think this one is definitely a lot more exciting, because I was able to vote in this election, so I had a say in it," she said. "And I campaigned for Barack Obama."

Lowry plans to wake up early, before 7 a.m., to walk over to her ticketed section.

"I am really excited to see all the people that are supposed to be coming out for this, and to see how packed the mall will be," she said. "Just to see the millions of common Americans that will be there."

Notre Dame sophomore Jasmine Williams will not need a hotel room or couch during her time in Washington. Along with about 50 others from Notre Dame, many of them members of the Africana club, Williams left campus at about 4 p.m. to drive through the night to get to the inauguration.

"It's a huge opportunity to see history, something that's never happened before," she said. "It'll be cool to tell my grandkids these things."

Most members of the club do not have tickets to the inauguration, so they plan to line the parade route instead.

Notre Dame senior Mallory Laurel had a ticket to the inauguration but did not arrive in Washington in time to pick it up. On Monday, long lines formed outside the House and Senate office buildings with people waiting to pick up tickets for inauguration. Laurel left Notre Dame on a bus organized by engineering professor Leo McWilliams shortly after 5 p.m. Monday, expecting to arrive at 6:30 a.m. Tuesday. Laurel, who spoke to The Observer by phone, said she had not yet decided whether she would try to stand in the non-ticketed area of the National Mall to hear Obama's inauguration speech, or whether she would try to stake out a position along the parade route.

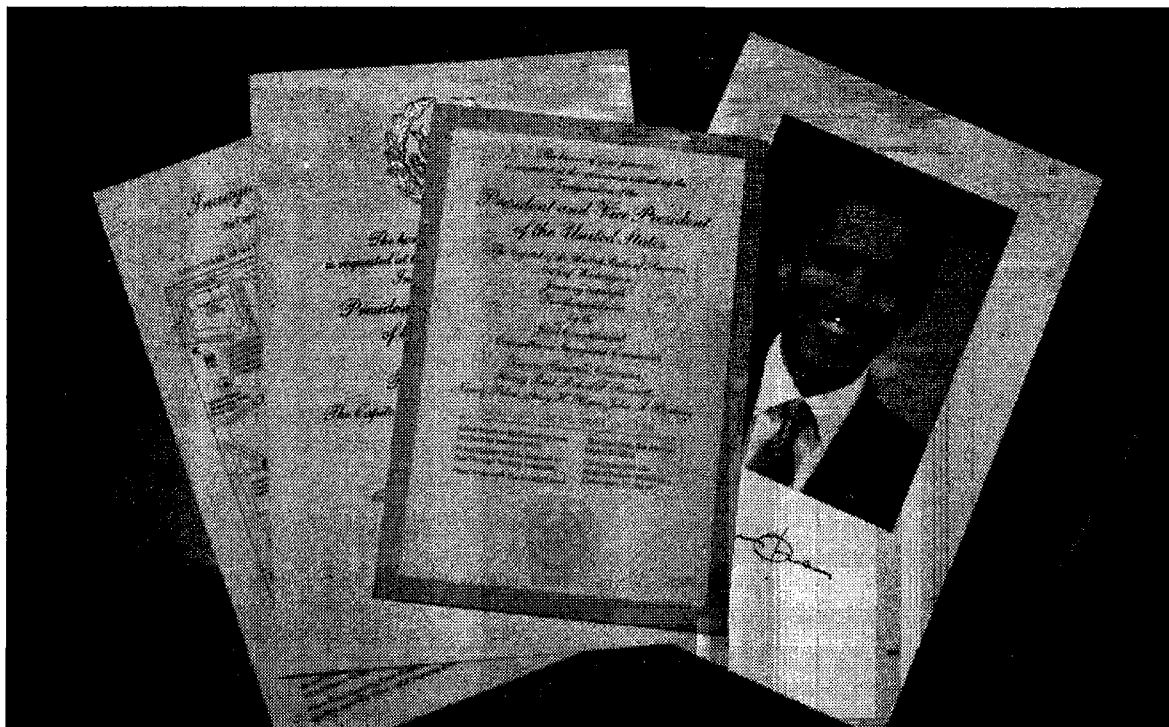
Laurel decided to make the trip — spending two consecutive nights on a bus — because she thinks the inauguration will be a once-in-a-lifetime event.

"It's going to be an experience. So many people are going who don't have tickets," she said. "The whole point is to show up and be there in community supporting the president-elect."

"Oddly enough, I'm looking forward to the crowd," she said.

About 50 people are on the same bus as Laurel coming from Notre Dame, most members of the Notre Dame chapter of the College Democrats, but also some who just got word of the bus trip and wanted to join, she said.

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AARON STEINER/The Observer

Top to bottom: The United States Capitol is illuminated Monday night. President-elect Barack Obama will be sworn into office at a ceremony on Capitol Hill Tuesday; Tickets to the presidential inauguration were issued by the House and Senate office building Monday. Those without tickets will be allowed to stand in the non-ticketed area of the National Mall or along the parade route.

Obama

continued from page 1

sages to send to the troops overseas.

Obama and his wife Michelle were among the 300 volunteers in attendance, comprised of members of volunteer organizations, members of the military, and teachers and students from the high school.

Finlen said the Obamas were very social with the other volunteers and stayed for about an hour. Vice president-elect Joe Biden participated as well, and brought doughnuts for the organizers.

After being stationed as a field organizer for two months in rural Missouri, Finlen has some interesting stories about Obama supporters and the campaign, including the strange sight of a

Obama/Biden billboard truck rambling down two-lane country roads a few days before the election.

"We were sitting in the office, about three days before the election and this truck pulls up in front of the office, and we're located about 45 minutes away from a major interstate, there are all these back-country roads. The truck is about 12 by 20 [feet] or something, just driving around Missouri," he said.

The driver, they found out,

was not just a very enthusiastic supporter not discouraged by the high gas prices at the end of the summer, but someone hired by the campaign, Finlen said.

A local politician "thought it was amazing," Finlen said and made him drive around for two more days, bringing his billboard that read "Vote Nov. 4" with pictures of Obama and Biden to about eight more towns in the area.

After seeing thousands of people flock to D.C. to witness the historic inauguration, Finlen said the Obama movement was successful

because it was able "to gain so much support, especially from the youth, and so many people who were feeling disenfranchised."

"I think his campaign really opened up our political system ... so many people came out to vote, we recruited mil-

lions of first-time voters," Finlen said.

After the inauguration — the realization of hundreds of campaign employees' and volunteers' months of hard work — Finlen plans to get a job in D.C. He's currently looking at jobs on Capitol Hill and seeing what the Obama administration has available.

"I'm definitely going to stay engaged in politics," he said.

Contact Jenn Metz at jmetz@nd.edu

"I think his campaign really opened up our political system ... so many people came out to vote, we recruited millions of first-time voters."

Shawn Finlen
ND alum
Class of 2008

Program

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Obama was on the front of the menu. Everywhere — you can't go anywhere and there's not Obama," junior Monika Perry said.

The atmosphere has even shifted in the past days, Perry said.

"When we got here it was fine, but now it's just out of control," Perry said. "You can tell everyday that you're on [the Metro], there's more people, they don't know where they're going."

The students in the program went to the "We Are One" concert on Sunday afternoon, and most will attend the inauguration ceremony Tuesday.

Through their jobs in the city they've taken in the pulse of Washington residents.

"I think a lot of the people in my office are pretty excited just because of the exposure it's getting," Steve Meehan, a junior, said.

"Just talking to people and

hearing what they have to say, and from what we know, this level of excitement has not been this high for a long time," Patrick Brown, a sophomore said.

By the same token, the influx of millions of visitors does test the patience of some residents.

"A lot of people seem pretty excited, but then you can tell the D.C. lifers — they're just annoyed at the people invading their city," Meehan said.

Regardless, everyone recognizes that Washington is the center of the action, bound to attract people

by the millions, Brown said. "This is the place to be right now, all the celebrities, all the notable dignitaries they all want to be here right now," Brown said.

Brown and McDonnell said the inauguration did play a role in their decision to come to Washington this semester.

"I thought, 'Spring '09 is going to be the inauguration, it's going to be a new administration, whoever wins,' and at that point we didn't even know who the nominees were, but I knew it was going to be an

exciting time no matter who won," Brown said.

McDonnell agreed. "I know I wanted to do this program at some point and ... it's an exciting time," he said.

Perry said that while she didn't even realize the inauguration would take place while she was in Washington, she fully recognizes now how historic the experience is.

"You know that your kids are going to ask you when they come back from 7th grade history or something," she said.

It's difficult not to get swept up into the events, Meehan said, and forget the importance of some events.

"There's just so much going on at once that you're not going to lose the historical sense," he said. "I think as time goes by, even this semester, we'll look back and realize how important this was."

Brown said he expects that even after the inauguration wraps up Washington will still be an exciting place.

"It's not going to go away because of the momentum he has, and what they're trying to do is inspiring a lot of action and counter-action from both sides, there's not a better time to be in D.C. that I can think of than during a new administration, a new leadership," Brown said.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Australian author sent to prison

BANGKOK — A few lines in a novel that sold just seven copies have earned an Australian writer three years in a Thai prison.

The conviction of Harry Nicolaides on Monday for insulting the monarchy is one of a recent flurry of such cases, underlining Thailand's sensitivity about how to safeguard the royal institution when 81-year-old King Bhumibol Adulyadej — the world's longest-serving head of state — passes from the scene.

Nicolaides, 41, was sentenced for insulting the king and Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn in his self-published 2005 book "Verisimilitude," which he has said sold seven copies.

Tension heightened in South Korea

SEOUL — South Korea's hard-line president tapped a hawkish security expert to head the ministry in charge of relations with Pyongyang on Monday, a move bound to ratchet up already heightened tensions with the communist regime.

Relations between the two Koreas, which fought a three-year war in the 1950s that ended in a shaky truce, have plummeted to their lowest point in a decade since President Lee Myung-bak took office a year ago. Pyongyang cut off ties and suspended key joint projects, and last weekend accused the South of plotting war.

On Monday, the North's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper reiterated the military's warning that it will respond to any South Korean aggression with "one strike" capable of annihilation.

"The Lee Myung-bak group should bear in mind that our guns and bayonets ... are aimed at their throats," the paper said in an editorial carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency, warning that its threats are not "empty talk."

NATIONAL NEWS

Crash investigation to take a year

NEW YORK — The probe into the crash-landing of a US Airways jetliner will take a year, and the lessons learned from the spectacular accident will last much longer, a senior investigator said Monday.

"I think this one is going to be studied for decades," said Robert Benzon, chief investigator on the case for the National Transportation Safety Board.

Benzon said the fact that all 155 people aboard the plane survived removes the guilt and finger-pointing that sometimes accompany aviation accidents. He said lessons learned from the successful ditching into the Hudson River could improve air safety.

35 car pile up kills 2, injures a dozen

MYERSVILLE, Md. — A pileup of 35 cars and five tractor-trailers on a snowy Maryland highway killed two people Monday and seriously injured at least a dozen, state police said.

Snow was at least partly to blame for the 12:30 p.m. crash on Interstate 70 near South Mountain in northwestern Maryland, said State Police spokeswoman Elena Russo. An inch-and-a-half of snow quickly fell around the same time as the pileup.

Twelve seriously injured people were taken to Washington County Hospital, Russo said.

Jessica Granek, 21, of Columbia, was driving west with three friends to go skiing at Whitetail as visibility was getting worse from the snow, which left a slushy mess on the

LOCAL NEWS

Boiler explosion injures 2 at IWU

MARION, Ind. — A boiler explosion at Indiana Wesleyan University injured two maintenance workers.

University officials say the explosion happened about 8:30 a.m. Monday in the basement of the Center School building on the campus in Marion.

University spokesman Alan Miller says employee Frederick Johnson is being treated at an Indianapolis hospital, but his burns are not considered life-threatening. The other worker, Michael Cooper, was treated at a local hospital and released.

IRAQ

New style of campaigning emerges

Iraqi candidates answer a range of questions focused on grass-roots issues

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Candidates in this month's provincial elections are answering questions from voters and debating issues ranging from Baghdad's housing shortage to the need to attract foreign investment.

This is the new style of campaigning in Iraq, where candidates feel safe enough to stump for votes and focus on grass-roots issues instead of the religious divisions and violence that overshadowed earlier elections held after Saddam Hussein's regime was toppled in 2003.

The shift was evident at a weekend forum that brought together 13 candidates in the Jan. 31 election for provincial councils, including a communist, Shiites, Sunnis and a journalist who formed a party named after an Iraqi television show called "Let's Talk."

As a waiter in traditional Arab clothing poured coffee at the gathering in a Baghdad country club, the moderator and people in the audience asked candidates how they would improve public services.

They got one minute for each answer. And nobody was fazed when the power went out briefly — a common occurrence in a country that still has severe electricity shortages.

Madiha al-Moussawi, a candidate from a secular party, promised to encourage foreign investment to help create jobs.

"Our goal is a better life for Baghdad and respect for women," said Ayad Younis of the main Sunni bloc, the Iraqi Accordance Front.

A new election rule allows Iraqis to vote for individuals instead of only political parties for the first time since Saddam's ouster. That has encouraged a number of first-time candidates to join the race, hoping to persuade voters to turn against politicians widely criticized for



AP
Women gather to hear Iraqi candidates debate. In this election, candidates have focused more on discussing daily life issues rather the heavy ones of religion and violence.

misrule.

The field is crowded. There are 14,431 candidates vying for a total of 444 seats on councils in all but four of Iraq's 18 provinces. The electoral commission says 75 percent of the parties and coalitions are new.

U.S. and Iraqi officials are pinning their hopes on the first nationwide balloting in three years, looking for it to unify ethnic and sectarian groups. The goal is to bolster local governments — a key step in rebuilding the war-ravaged country.

Previous elections in 2005 saw little public campaigning because of rampant violence and sectarian rivalries that threatened Iraq with

civil war. In those ballots, people chose parties, often with little idea who was running.

This time, hopefuls have been trumpeting their programs and handing out cards at campaign rallies and on walks through markets. One even organized a soccer game in which the players wore T-shirts with his picture on them.

Qassim Hilail Sabre, a 47-year-old aid worker with a charity that helps poor people and orphans, is among the first-timers.

"I decided to take part in the elections to improve the current situation, especially the public services," said Sabre, one of about 3,000

candidates for the 57-seat Baghdad provincial council.

"We believe that there is a dire need now to change Iraq's political map and its sectarian tendencies," Sabre added. "The people do not trust the current officials and even do not trust each other. Our goal is to play a role in changing all that."

Colorful posters and banners plaster overpasses, bridges and light poles as well as the miles of concrete blast barriers dissecting the Iraqi capital and other cities. With less than two weeks to voting day, workers were out putting up more posters this weekend on whatever space remained.

Salmonella outbreak causes recall

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Kellogg Co. said Monday federal authorities have confirmed that salmonella was found in a single package of its peanut butter crackers, as a Midwestern grocer recalled some of its products because of the scare.

Battle Creek, Mich.-based Kellogg recalled 16 products last week because of the possibility of salmonella contamination.

The company said Monday that contamination was confirmed by the Food and Drug Administration in a single package of Austin Quality Foods Toasty Crackers with Peanut Butter.

Food companies and retailers have

been recalling products with peanut butter in them because of suspicion of contamination amid a salmonella outbreak that has killed at least six people and sickened more than 470 others in 43 states. At least 90 people have been hospitalized.

Also Monday, Midwestern grocer and retailer Meijer Inc. said it was recalling two types of crackers and two varieties of ice cream because of the possibility of salmonella contamination: Meijer brand Cheese and Peanut Butter and Toasty Peanut Butter sandwich crackers, and Peanut Butter and Jelly and Peanut Butter Cup ice cream.

Golden Valley, Minn.-based General Mills said Monday afternoon that it

was recalling two flavors of snack bars: LARABAR Peanut Butter Cookie snack bars and JamFrakas Peanut Butter Blisscrisp snack bars. The company said the recall affected 15,000 cases and no illnesses have been reported. General Mills said the recall did not affect any other products it makes.

It was not immediately clear how many packages of Kellogg crackers had been tested, if more tests were being made on other products or if some had already been found not to have salmonella, Kellogg spokeswoman Kris Charles said. A spokesman for the FDA said the agency was not providing any new information Monday.

ND student reports sexual assault

Observer Staff Report

NDSP is investigating a sexual assault reported by a Notre Dame student on Jan. 17. The assault occurred in a residence hall on Friday, Jan. 16 and was

reported as committed by an acquaintance.

Information about sexual assault prevention and resources for survivors of sexual assault is available at <http://www.ndsp.nd.edu> and from the Office of

Student Affairs at <http://osa.nd.edu/health-safety/assault>.

To report a crime in progress, suspicious activity, fire, or medical emergency, call 9-1-1 from any campus phone or NDSP at 631-5555.

March

continued from page 1

marching. He reflected on how the concept of marching was something that the "new generation of people" had "only read about these marches." He also noted that yesterday's march happened on the eve of another monumental event, the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama.

"One day we will not have to come together to march to make things right," he said.

Others who spoke before

"We stand on the evening of a new era of hope. You are that new generation. I hope you see with different eyes than I saw. I hope you see clearer and farther and with more hope."

Carol Ann Mooney
College President

the march began included Jacquitta Martin, LaQuay Boone and Adriana Rodriguez. Kristle Hodges also led the group in singing "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Marchers lit their candles outside of the student center and walked in a large group singing "We Shall Overcome."

College President Carol Ann Mooney then presented a reflection to students. She told students she was going to give a bit more of a personal reflection than she usually would give, discussing the impending inauguration and the distrust that her generation felt in the gov-

ernment.

She said she had a "very vivid memory of the people's March on Washington."

"They had a dream of America," she said, "They had a dream of a day when they would be freer than ever before."

She added that she hopes the current generation will be free of the cynicism that plagued her own generation.

"We stand on the evening of a new era of hope," she said, referring to the inauguration. "You are that new generation. I hope you see with different eyes than I saw. I hope you see clearer and farther and with more hope."

Eight students and faculty performed a choral reading of King's Letter from a Birmingham Jail.

The event concluded with prayer, scripture and song led by Campus Ministry.

Contact Mandi Stirone at astiro01@saintmarys.edu

Russia, Ukraine make deal

Gas crisis ends after with Russian company ordering deliveries to resume

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia and Ukraine pledged to restore natural gas supplies to Europe after signing deals Monday to end a bitter dispute that led to a chilling two-week cutoff of shipments.

Europeans, who normally get about one-fifth of their gas from Russia via Ukrainian pipelines, anxiously awaited for the fuel to start flowing.

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart Yulia Tymoshenko on Monday signed the documents at Putin's government headquarters on the Moscow river. They resulted from an outline agreement they had clinched in late-night talks Sunday as heads of Russia's state-run natural gas monopoly Gazprom and the Ukraine's Naftogaz.

"As a result of intensive and lengthy talks we have reached agreement on all issues concerning natural gas supply to Ukraine and its transit to Europe," Putin said. He said Gazprom had been instructed to resume shipments bound for Europe that had been halted since Jan. 7 as Moscow and Kiev argued over 2009 gas prices and allegations that Ukraine was stealing gas destined for Europe.

Tymoshenko said the gas would be pumped toward Europe as soon as it enters the Ukrainian pipes.

Early Tuesday, Gazprom chief Alexei Miller ordered the resumption of deliveries

bound for Europe via Ukraine to begin at 10 a.m. (2 a.m. EST) Tuesday.

In a directive issued before dawn, Miller told company officials to ensure the neighboring countries' pipeline systems are synchronized to get the gas flowing at the designated time.

Officials said the restored gas shipments could take up to 36 hours to cross Ukraine, which is the size of France, and reach European customers.

EU officials were taking a wait and see attitude.

"We now need an indication of the precise time that gas deliveries will be resumed. Our monitors will verify when the gas actually starts to flow," the European Commission said.

Europe gets about 20 percent of its total natural gas needs from Russia via Ukrainian pipelines, and the cutoff hit hard at some countries, such as Bulgaria and Slovakia, that rely almost entirely on Russia for gas. In the Balkans and other eastern European nations, the crisis has shut factories and left millions of people to shiver in unheated homes.

The confrontation has deeply shaken Europeans' trust in both Russia and Ukraine as reliable energy suppliers — something each has repeatedly insisted it is, while blaming the other for the supply cutoff.

More than 15 nations have been forced to scramble for alternative sources of energy. The dispute was further com-

plicated by geopolitical struggles over Ukraine's future and over lucrative export routes for the energy riches of the former Soviet Union.

Before dawn Sunday, Tymoshenko and Putin negotiated a preliminary deal for Ukraine to get gas with a 20 percent discount from this year's average European price, which Russia says is \$450 per 1,000 cubic meters. That would double the price Ukraine paid in 2008.

However, natural gas prices for Europe are expected to fall sharply later this year, due to the reduction in oil prices. By midsummer, Ukraine could be paying as little as \$150 for 1,000 cubic meters, said Ronald Smith, a strategist at Moscow's Alfa Bank.

Russia, meanwhile, will not have to pay Ukraine higher transit prices to use its pipelines this year. Putin said in 2010, Ukraine will have to pay full price for Russian gas, and Russia will pay market prices for transit.

Tymoshenko said the deal would save Ukraine billions of dollars. But there was no celebration in the camp of her political rival, President Viktor Yushchenko.

Citing Monday's deal, Yushchenko's energy adviser Bohdan Sokolovsky said Ukraine will pay \$360 per 1,000 cubic meters in the first quarter of this year, and then a lower price. He said the average price for 2009 should be \$235-\$240 — still a significant increase from the \$179.50 it paid last year.

MLK

continued from page 1

from Nov. 17, 1957.

In the excerpt, King warned that civilization could be plunged into destruction if no one had the sense to increase love in our world.

Page acknowledged King's message of the transformational power of love to forge peace and freedom. According to King, Page noted, "Love is the matrix from which community is born."

A focus of the service was the connection between what King said in his powerful oratory and his actions, which followed through on his words.

"Martin Luther King had a spirituality that was grounded in fundamental truths with lived implications," he said.

University President Fr. John Jenkins echoed these sentiments in his own remarks.

"The reason why we remember King and are inspired by King is that his life was consistent with his words," Jenkins said. "He didn't just live great speeches, he lived the very words he called us to."

Jenkins also noted the significance of honoring King on the eve of President-elect Obama's inauguration.

He compared the two men's ability to deliver pow-

erful oratory and said that it is especially important during this historic week to remember the higher calling to which King inspired people.

Senior Alyssa Zamora, who delivered a reading from Psalms during the prayer service, agreed.

"I think it is very important to remember Martin Luther King and his vision, especially this year with the inauguration [Tuesday]. I think we are really seeing a fulfillment of King's vision."

Second-year graduate student Danny Aijan agreed that it is important to honor the historic value that King had for the entire demographic of the country.

"Today is a celebration of our entire community," Aijan said. "It is a testament to the progress of our country."

Jenkins concluded the ceremony by say-

ing the strength of King's messages came from the fact that King did not always tell people what they wanted to hear, but rather called people to something higher.

"The power of King's oratory was to call us to moral goodness and away from our own selfish interests," he said. "As we go forth we can remember King's power to connect what he said and did in his life. We can strive to better our lives to this higher calling."

"I think it is very important to remember Martin Luther King and his vision, especially this year with the inauguration [Tuesday]. I think we are really seeing a fulfillment of King's vision."

Alyssa Zamora
ND senior

Contact Liz Lefevbre at lefevbr@nd.edu

Moreau

continued from page 1

Notre Dame Theology department and director of the Institute for Church Life, said that beatification means that there is permission for a "public cult."

Last year, a Mass and the conference "A Great Cloud of Witness: Saints in the Catholic Tradition" celebrated the feast day, according to Observer archives.

This year, the celebration began with prayer vigil service in the Lady Chapel of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart last night.

"The idea was to try to keep some tradition going associated with his feast day each year," Cavadini said.

Today, Father David Tyson provincial superior of the Indiana Province of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, will preside at a Mass that will take place in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 5:15 p.m.

Along with the Mass, a panel discussion entitled "Men in Black: Holy Cross Stories" will take place at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall, according to a press release.

Different religious congregations have their own spirituality and approach, Cavadini said,

and Moreau's feast day allows for reflection on what would be a particularly Holy Cross approach.

Panelists will be "reflecting on their vocation to Holy Cross," he said.

During the event, audience members will be able to listen to the speakers' presentations and will have the opportunity to ask questions.

"People will get a sense that they are not just priests," Cavadini said. "They are priests in a particular congregation of Holy Cross and [people will get the sense of] what that means to them."

Cavadini will also deliver the inaugural Blessed Basil Moreau Lecture on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Jordan Auditorium of the Mendoza College of Business.

The lectureship is a way to "commemorate the feast day with an academic event," Cavadini said.

All of celebrations throughout the week are designed to provoke thought about Moreau and his values.

"The idea is not just to commemorate Basil Moreau and his ideals, but to develop them, to help our community think about how those ideals take root here now," Cavadini said.

Contact Emma Driscoll at edriscol@nd.edu

Please recycle The Observer.

MARKET RECAP

Stocks

Dow Jones	8,281.22	+68.73
Up:	Same:	Down:
2,499	112	1,276
Composite Volume: 2,601,747,646		
AMEX	1,383.19	+20.28
NASDAQ	1,529.33	+17.49
NYSE	5,387.50	+39.75
S&P 500	850.12	+6.38
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	8,107.50	-149.35
FTSE 100 (London)	4,108.47	-38.59

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
BK OF AMERICA CP (BAC)	-13.70	-1.14	7.18
CITIGROUP (C)	-8.62	-0.33	3.50
S&P DEP RECEIPTS (SPY)	+0.78	+0.66	85.06
FINANCIAL SEL SPDR (XLF)	-3.01	-0.30	9.68

Treasuries

10-YEAR NOTE	+4.68	+0.103	2.304
13-WEEK BILL	+15.00	+0.015	0.115
30-YEAR BOND	+1.05	+0.030	2.894
5-YEAR NOTE	+6.46	+0.088	1.451

Commodities

LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-0.21	36.30
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+32.60	839.90
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-0.48	83.33

Exchange Rates

YEN	90.4000
EURO	1.3086
CANADIAN DOLLAR	1.2566
BRITISH POUND	1.4455

IN BRIEF

Hedge fund manager missing

SARASOTA, Fla. — Federal investigators are still trying to figure out what happened to the operator of a massive hedge fund — and possibly millions of dollars managed by the missing man.

Seventy-five-year-old Arthur G. Nadel was reported missing by family members Wednesday. Police say he seemed "very distraught" in a note left for his family. His car was found Thursday in an airport parking lot.

It remains unclear exactly how much money had been invested or how much was missing, though one investor has said the fund was worth as much as \$350 million.

Sarasota Police have received at least seven complaints from investors. Some say they lost more than \$700,000.

Local authorities are working with the FBI and the Securities and Exchange Commission to find Nadel.

European stock markets plunge

LONDON — European stock markets fell Monday with banks in free fall as investors fretted over a second British government bailout of the sector in three months and some predicted that cash-strapped Royal Bank of Scotland Group PLC would end up fully nationalized.

Europe's early gains were erased as the investors were spooked by fears that the British government's latest move was a step toward full nationalization of one or more banks, and that other governments will have to step in to save their leading banks.

Germany's DAX closed down 50.14 points, or 1.2 percent, at 4,316.14, while France's CAC-40 fell 27.06 points, or 0.9 percent, at 2,989.69.

Most attention was on the FTSE 100 index of leading British shares, which was down 38.59 points, or 0.9 percent, at 4,108.47, even though the British government said it would be creating a program to insure bank loans in the hope that the banks will start lending again.

Any hopes that the government had that the announcement would ease the stock market pressures on the banks evaporated as they suffered another day of frenzied selling.

Russia, Ukraine restore gas supply

Europe to receive natural gas again after a two-week cutoff of shipments

Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia and Ukraine pledged to restore natural gas supplies to Europe after signing deals Monday to end a bitter dispute that led to a chilling two-week cutoff of shipments.

Europeans, who normally get about one-fifth of their gas from Russia via Ukrainian pipelines, anxiously awaited for the fuel to start flowing.

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Rescue plan for British banks unveiled

Associated Press

LONDON — Britain announced a second rescue plan for the country's ailing banks on Monday, hoping to thaw frozen lending by offering to insure banks against large-scale losses on bad assets they already hold.

Stock investors, however, were spooked by fears that the second bank rescue plan in three months was a step toward full nationalization of one or more banks. Fears focused on the Royal Bank of Scotland, which disclosed that it is likely to report a record full-year loss — its shares closed down 67 percent.

"There is a great deal of uncertainty. There seems to be some concern doing the rounds that the group will be totally nationalized sometime in the near future," said Keith Bowman, analyst at Hargreaves Lansdown stockbrokers.

RBS said its losses for the full year could be as much as 28 billion pounds (\$41.3 billion), which would be the biggest loss ever by a British corporation.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown said on Monday that the government has increased its stake in RBS to almost 70 percent, but declined to say whether he believed the bank will eventually be fully nationalized. The government took a stake under a first round of bailouts late last year.

Announcing the new rescue package, Brown said the government would offer to insure banks against default on toxic loans in exchange in return for a fee and legally binding commitments to make credit more available to British businesses and home buyers.

Brown's plan will also see 50 billion pounds (about \$74 billion) set-aside to

create a special fund for the Bank of England to buy high quality loans and other assets directly from banks. That plan is also aimed at bringing down borrowing costs.

Britain's Treasury said precise details of the asset purchase program would be finalized later this month.

Both Treasury chief Alistair Darling and Brown acknowledged that October's pledge of 37 billion pounds (about \$55 billion) to bail out Britain's banks hadn't done enough to encourage them to resume normal lending volume.

"Good businesses must have access to credit, jobs should not be lost needlessly," Brown told reporters at his Downing Street office. He said stimulating lending is vital to spark Britain's economy and to limit job losses as Britain tackles a recession prompted by the global downturn.

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Nothing to fear but fear itself

Last week I visited the National Archives in Washington, D.C., a building that houses the most treasured historical documents of the United States government, including the original copies of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. Seeing these documents for the first time, after 21 years of living in the nation conceived in the ideals of their revered authors and born from the words carefully preserved in ink upon their surfaces, was a deeply moving experience for me, one that I will not soon forget.

When we take a look back through our nation's history, however, it becomes evident that many Americans have forgotten the principles that are enshrined by these faded pages of parchment. Perhaps the most sacred among these principles is the preservation of individual liberty through limited government. What the Founders feared above all was a distant, powerful, centralized government, and they took great care to ensure that the institutions that replaced the British crown would not revert back to the tyranny exemplified by their predecessor. In fact, their first attempt at establishing a government through the Articles of Confederation, while upholding states' rights and individual liberty, eventually proved too weak to enable the fledgling nation to survive. By writing the Constitution that endures today, the Founders managed to balance the need for more robust institutions with their desire to secure the freedom of its people.

Yet since the days of the Founding, the federal government has been allowed, at times even encouraged, to grow exponen-

tially while interfering in aspects of our daily lives that the Founders never intended. At the best of times, the expansion of the government at the expense of liberty is so gradual, so craftily disguised, that its effects only become discernable with the clarity of hindsight. In times of crisis, however, mass hysteria and the desire for comfort enables the government, with the people's blessing, to take unprecedented measures that forever broaden its realm of authority.

Thomas Jefferson warned of this possible development, stating, "the true theory of our Constitution is surely the wisest and best . . . [for] when all government . . . shall be drawn to Washington as the centre of all power, it will render powerless the checks provided of one government on another, and will become as . . . oppressive as the government from which we separated." Indeed, we now have a government that more closely resembles the British monarchy, wielding its tremendous power from afar over the increasingly-weakened states and individuals, than the government of limited authority that the Founders envisioned.

As anyone who has studied American history can affirm, three of the most basic elements that the Founders wrote into the Constitution to oblige the limitation of government include the notions of the separation of powers, federalism, and checks and balances. Yet today, instead of separation of powers, we have activist judges rewriting legislation to suit their own political beliefs, and legislators trying to conduct warfare based on popular sentiment. Instead of federalism, we have the national government reaching beyond its enumerated powers and interfering in affairs that, according to the Tenth Amendment, should be left to the individual states. And instead of checks and balances, we have a newly-inaugurated president whose party holds overwhelming majorities in both Houses of Congress, making him more of a prime minister than the leader of an independent executive branch.

Furthermore, and perhaps most unsettling to defenders of liberty, our new president and the party he leads insist that all of the nation's problems can be solved as long as people put their faith in government. Universal healthcare, "tax cuts" meant to redistribute wealth, opposition to the privatization of social security, spending billions on a green-energy plan, and the like are all examples of how he plans to use the government to solve the nation's problems. And though his goals may seem worthy, his methods contradict the core principles of the Constitution. For all his talk of hope, he sure has very little in the American people.

At this moment, our nation is facing a crisis that, though dissimilar in magnitude to the Civil War or the Great Depression, nonetheless instills Americans with fear. This fear is a powerful tool that the federal government can capitalize on in its desire to become more expansive, more powerful, and more dangerous to liberty than the Founders could have ever imagined. A leader, especially one as charismatic as Obama, can make government intervention seem like the only method of dealing with crisis and assuaging the fear. Yet this fear, like Franklin Roosevelt once declared (ironically while presiding over one of the most egregious expansions of the federal government in American history), is the only thing we have to fear, for it cloaks the violation of liberty in terms that make it seem palatable, even necessary, to those who claim to defend it.

If we are to remain true to the principles of the Founding, it is imperative that we look beyond our immediate concerns and take great care to avoid falling prey to the temptation of relying on government, rather than the people, to ensure national prosperity.

Christie Pesavento is a junior and can be reached at cpesaven@nd.edu.

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

EDITORIAL CARTOON



TODAY'S STAFF

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What a grand thing, to be loved!
What a grander thing still, to love!"

Victor Hugo
French dramatist, novelist, & poet

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Sometimes the measure of
friendship isn't your ability to not
harm but your capacity to forgive
the things done to you and ask
forgiveness for your own mistakes."

Randy K. Milholland
webcomic pioneer

U-WIRE

Obama's inauguration is a proud moment for all

For a couple of weeks now, friends and other people whom I unfortunately know, have joked around with me, asking how much I was looking forward to the upcoming inauguration. I am not going to lie — I have kind of been in a funk. All of the hype about it has gotten to me, and the multiple Facebook invites to speech-watching events and prayer services have not helped either. Even the red, white and blue coffee sleeves at Starbucks have contributed to my depression.

Politically, conservatives and me alike may be frustrated by the results of the election and what we have to look forward to for the next four years. It would be inexcusable, though, to let petty politics get in the way of one of our country's greatest achievements. Jan. 20 will be a historic day and perhaps the most important day America will see during our lifetimes. We will see our country's first black president take office.

Just think about it! Think about how far our country has come in the last 100 years. The path toward ridding our country of the regrettable prejudice and bigotry that has haunted it for so long has caused years of pain and frustration to go unnoticed. While we still have a long way to go, the inauguration of President-elect Barack Obama will be perhaps the biggest step our country has taken.

Throughout his trip to Washington, D.C., Obama has taken lines from both Abraham Lincoln and Martin Luther King Jr., symbolizing both the importance and the value of his inauguration. While the U.S. would never be where it is today without the guidance of these spectacular men, Obama has done something even greater. He did not achieve the presidency alone but with the help and support of Americans. This is not just Obama's achievement and not just the achievement of one race — this is an achievement for the American people.

This all may sound way too annoyingly idealistic, but there is really no other way to describe what will happen in Washington tomorrow. People will take their minds off of the economy, the war and even their worries about the future. Guantanamo Bay inmates will be there Wednesday (hopefully), pro-lifers will still have the Freedom of Choice Act to worry about and conservative talk show hosts can complain about the estimated \$150 million price tag on Obama's inauguration gala for the rest of the week. Jan. 20 will be a sacred day, and we should all work to keep it that way.

Tomorrow, those who are caught up in the hope and change the Obama presidency will bring about and those who are unsure about the next four years should join together in wonder and amazement of what this country has just achieved. We have many changes to look forward to (or to dread), and there are still many problems yet to be revealed. Let's try to forget about those tomorrow and just soak in the day's historic importance.

Editorial Board

Vanderbilt

Vanderbilt
Hustler

This column first appeared in the Jan. 18 edition of the Vanderbilt Hustler, the daily paper of Vanderbilt.

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

Take time to remember King's legacy

I assume everyone realizes why Martin Luther King Jr. had a day dedicated to his memory, but I know for certain this weekend will spark more shouts of, "Sunday fun day!" than of the more appropriate, "Where the hell would we be without that guy?"

I'm a white kid, I'm not religious and I grew up in the 1990s, not the 1960s. I don't know much about Ken Kesey and "Furthur," the only Magic School Bus I know about was driven by a cartoon rendition of Kathy Griffin named Ms. Frizzle.

I know about Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan and Kosovo. All I know about Vietnam I learned from history class and Forrest Gump.

Overlooking a life lost 30 years ago is more convenient than somberly remembering the deeds of a national hero two generations removed. Convenience cannot lead to forgetfulness.

Where would the United States be today if King had not brazenly stuck his neck out for the good of his people?

It's a question no one can answer, but thankfully, no one has to. At some point this weekend, dedicate a fraction of your time to recognizing the triumphs of a movement led by the will and the virtue of one man.

King was a black man who campaigned for the civil rights, of all people, not just people of his race. Civil rights apply to everyone, regardless of skin color. King wanted all people to do the right thing, not just whites.

He favored civil disobedience over the take-by-force mentality of Malcolm X. King's words-over-weapons approach allowed him to gain the favor of white Americans — stamping his signature on the civil rights movement. His impassioned speeches and peaceful policies gained him the national attention necessary to create enough awareness to reinforce his cause.

Consciousness snowballed into an avalanche of furious discontent that overtook the nation. The nation's reaction ignited a glorious change in government and American society. Such change garnered by King's efforts (not to discredit the thousands of other faces of the 1960s civil rights movement) was something Americans could believe in.

Sound familiar? There shouldn't be a person on the UF campus who is able to conscientiously ignore the power of King's voice and the effects of his policies.

President-elect Barack Obama has become the face of American politics in the past two years. Would his rise have been possible without the work of King and the rest of the civil rights movement? If not for King's leadership back then, would we even be able to envision a black president now?

Fortunately, our generation doesn't have to consider these possibilities. Instead, we have been blessed with the opportunity to witness the fruits of King's labor.

Upon learning of threats made on his life in 1964, King responded, "If physical death is the price that I must pay to free my white brothers and sisters from a permanent death of the spirit, then nothing can be more redemptive."

King struggled for everyone, and his triumph is shared by all.

Editorial Board

University of
Florida

Independent
Florida
Alligator

This column first appeared in the Jan. 15 edition of the Independent Florida Alligator, the daily paper of the University of Florida.

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

Grey space is
boring.
Fix it!

E-mail a Letter to the Editor to
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EDITORIAL CARTOON



Pitt shines in 'Curious Case'

SHANE STEINBERG

Scene Writer

Writer Eric Roth's loose adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's wildly imaginative short story, "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button", is a grand epic that sees its star, Brad Pitt, give the hands-down best performance of his career.

Director David Fincher's keen directing not only captures but expands on the wonder of Fitzgerald's story. Yet the true success here is the life both Fincher and Pitt breathe into the film's title character, the backwards-aging Benjamin Button.

Told from a hospital room where Benjamin's old love interest, Daisy (Cate Blanchett), is dying, Benjamin's sweeping story begins with a tale about a once-famous clockmaker whose grand creation turns out to be a clock that is only capable of working backwards. He explains that his son was killed in WWI and that the clock is an expression of his desire that time may run backwards so that his boy would come back to him. This opening introduces the film's obsession with time running backward. Man's desire to cheat death and hold onto the love in his life is contrasted with the passing of all things.

Benjamin is born a decrepit baby who quickly grows into a failing man in his 80's with poor eyesight, arthritis, and a rasp, aged voice. His father (Jason Flemyng), shocked by the birth, abandons the child, and leaves him on a doorstep, where a maternal black woman, Queenie (Taraji P. Henson) takes him in and raises him as her own. He soon adapts to life growing up among the old, forgotten people who also inhabit the home, until one day, he meets a young girl, Daisy, who sees past his condition and all the way to the core of his youthfulness.

Although many obstacles separate the two star-crossed lovers, such as Benjamin's service in WWII, his affair with an English

spy's wife (Tilda Swinton), and Daisy's pursuit of a career in ballet, Benjamin and Daisy inevitably find each other in the middle of their respective lives. But just as time unites them, so it undoes them. Yet the love remains, even until the very end, when Daisy, old but still able, takes care of an infant-looking Benjamin, until his eyes simply close, and his journey has ended.

Benjamin, as portrayed in old age by the film's talented CGI team, and by Pitt throughout the rest of the film, is a beautifully poignant character who stands as a hymn to life's many angles, all of which are as much mysterious as they are grand.

Although it's a tad too long, at 166-minutes, "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" is a roaring crowd-pleaser. Fincher and Roth somehow manage to adapt this imaginative piece and expound on it by shooting it through romance-infused veins. Whereas Fitzgerald's story is driven by the premise of a child born under curious circumstances, the true success here is that the movie pushes his condition to the backseat and instead focuses on the curiosities that are life, death, and love.

Contact Shane Steinberg at ssteinb2@nd.edu.

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

Directed by: David Fincher

Starring: Brad Pitt, Cate Blanchett, Jason Flemyng, and Tilda Swinton



Until he left college two credits short of graduating, Pitt was a journalism major at the University of Missouri.

He is mentioned in the Shania Twain song, "That Don't Impress Me Much."

Ironically, he tore his Achilles tendon while in the role of Achilles in "Troy."

Was the first man to be twice named "Sexiest Man Alive" by "People Magazine," in 1994 and 2000.

Toyota Altis ads featuring the actor were banned in Malaysia after the country's deputy of information minister ruled that Pitt's handsome appearance would make Malaysian countrymen feel inferior.

Pitt fun facts

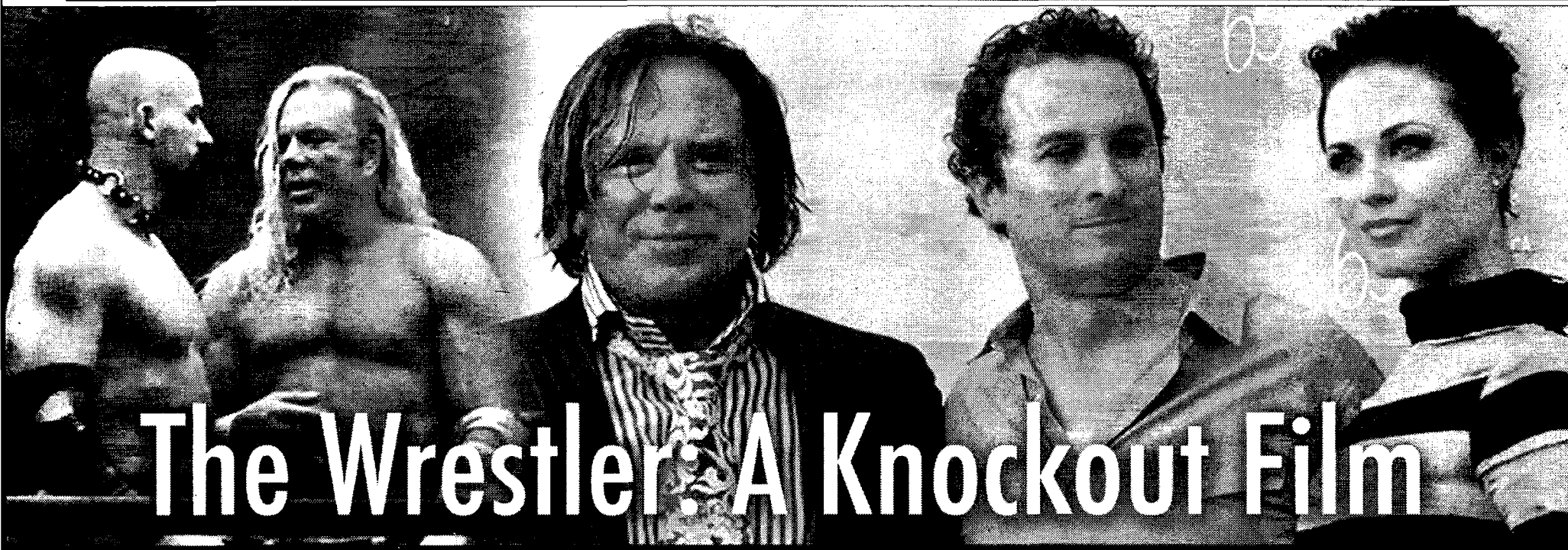
Brad's Smith character in "Mr. & Mrs. Smith" was an Art History major at Notre Dame.

Pitt is banned from entering China because of his role in "Seven Years in Tibet."

In the short scene in "Fight Club" when Brad Pitt and Edward Norton are drunkenly hitting golf balls, both actors are actually drunk and hitting balls at the catering truck.

The wig Brad Pitt uses in "Ocean's Eleven" was Mike Meyer's rehearsal wig for "Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery."

While on production in Rome Brad Pitt and George Clooney got caught in the rain while jogging and were not allowed back into the hotel because the doorman thought they were vagrants.



By SHANE STEINBERG
Scene Writer

Once in a blue moon, a film comes around that is so profound, so beautiful — yet also so tragic and so close to the heart — that, during the end credits, you sit motionless, entranced, gazing at the dark screen while the rest of the audience shuffles out of the theater.

"The Wrestler" is one such film.

Acclaimed director Darren Aronofsky's depicts the arresting story about an over-the-hill wrestler who is trying to mount a comeback both out and inside the ring — the only place he's ever truly been alive. The film operates in a weirdly poetic way, becoming a sort of beautiful requiem.

Mickey Rourke plays Randy "The Ram" Robinson, a wrestler who was once on top of the sport. At one time headlining events across the country's biggest stages, he now remembers those days as nothing more than a distant life.

The film begins with Randy panting in the corner of an elementary school classroom after having just fought a match in front of a handful of spectators in the school's gymnasium. Brilliantly placed right after an opening montage of his past successes, the film's first few scenes show just how far Randy has fallen from the top. But his struggle isn't one of an ex-star who had it all, lost it all, and now wants it back. Instead, it's the struggle of a human being with a dream. He's a man who once seemingly had it all, a man who had always lived in the ring. He's without the sort of love and compassion that transcends the cheers of fans and temporary fame. He's a man who, loved by society while he was on top, is cast aside once his fifteen minutes were up. Ultimately, he was left numb and unable to experience life outside of the ring.

It's the relationships that shape this film; those between Randy; his love interest, an outcast stripper (Marissa Tomei); his daughter (Evan Rachel Wood), who he abandoned to pursue a wrestling career; and his diehard fans who follow him into exile. Additionally, the stability that eludes Randy defines the film. Aronofsky's directing and the cast's performances, all of which are nomination-worthy, elevate Randy's story into something worthy of cheers and tears.

Mickey Rourke and the role of Randy were made for each other. An actor who was once a headlining star atop the film industry has since become a Hollywood reject who plays supporting roles in straight-to-video films. He was Randy "The Ram" in every sense, and "The Wrestler" is his comeback.

Make no mistake; this is the resurrection of a gifted actor. Rourke's performance is not only award-worthy, but so immaculate, that it is worthy of being placed alongside the great screen performances of all-time. Credit is also due to Aronofsky, who had the gumption to put his career on the line to give Rourke the chance to shine once again.

That isn't his only success though. Aronofsky is praise-worthy in his own right for

his brilliantly transparent directing. It is difficult to edit a writer or producer's vision, but a great deal more difficult for a director, much less one of Aronofsky's silk, to edit himself. Yet he resists his usual impulse for flair directing and camera trickery, and instead trusts his actors enough to let them anchor the film, which ultimately pays off. By leaving the film to unfold on its own, Aronofsky is put into the position of being a minimalist director at the helm of an equally minimalist, but immensely powerful film.

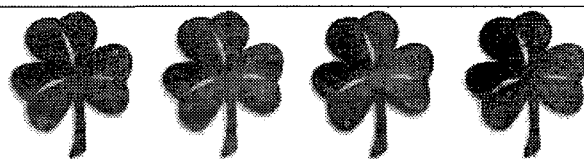
It could be said that "The Wrestler" is one of those rare films that will at once unnerve and sooth you, making you glow with delight for the film's underdog one second, only to cry the very next as the film treks down its inevitably tragic path. It could be called a life-affirming story that's so piercing and meaningful, it's nothing less than a beautifully meditated hymn to life. Or one could simply call it a masterpiece of the highest order, and be done with it. But no way of putting this film into words can ever do it justice.

"The Wrestler" can only be described by the feeling you get when the screen cuts to black and Bruce Springsteen's original song, "The Wrestler," begins to play in the background. It's an indelible feeling that what you've just witnessed is more than the triumphant comeback of a fine actor, more than the year's best picture, and a great deal more than a film.

Contact Shane Steinberg at ssteinb2@nd.edu

The Wrestler

Directed by: Darren Aronofsky
Starring : Mickey Rourke, Marissa Tomei,
Evan Rachel Wood



DECLAN DRUMM SULLIVAN
Scene Writer

One of the most respected Hollywood actors both on and off the screen, Tim Robbins is at times almost as well known for his roles in political campaigns as he is for his roles in film. Born in 1958, Robbins was raised in Greenwich Village while his father — a member of the mildly successful folk music group The Highwaymen — pursued a musical career. He went to film school at UCLA, and after he graduated in 1981, he formed the experimental theatre group, the Actors' Gang.

After taking several bit roles in films, Robbins came to prominence in 1988 with his supporting role in the classic baseball flick "Bull Durham" as Ebby Calvin "Nuke" LaLoosh, the rookie pitcher with a blazing fastball. He achieved critical acclaim for the 1994 film "Shawshank Redemption," in which he played framed-con Andy Dufresne, and 1995's "Dead Man Walking," which he directed.

He has played a variety of roles since, ranging from comedies with fellow Actors' Gang members — "High Fidelity" with John Cusack in 2000 and "Tenacious D and the Pick of Destiny" with Kyle Gass and Jack Black in 2006 — to his Academy Award-winning performance in 2003's "Mystic River." He remains active in Hollywood today with a role in the sequel to 2008's "Iron Man" as Howard Stark, Tony Stark's father.

Off-screen, he is known for his leftist political views, characterized by his frequent criticisms of former President George W. Bush and his support of Ralph Nader and John Edwards in the 2000 and 2008 elections, respectively. He is an excellent orator, and often gives speeches for causes and political ideologies that he supports. Despite his liberal beliefs, however, he still believes

in bipartisanship, maintaining friendships with prominent Republicans and Libertarians such as Clint Eastwood and the late Jack Valenti.

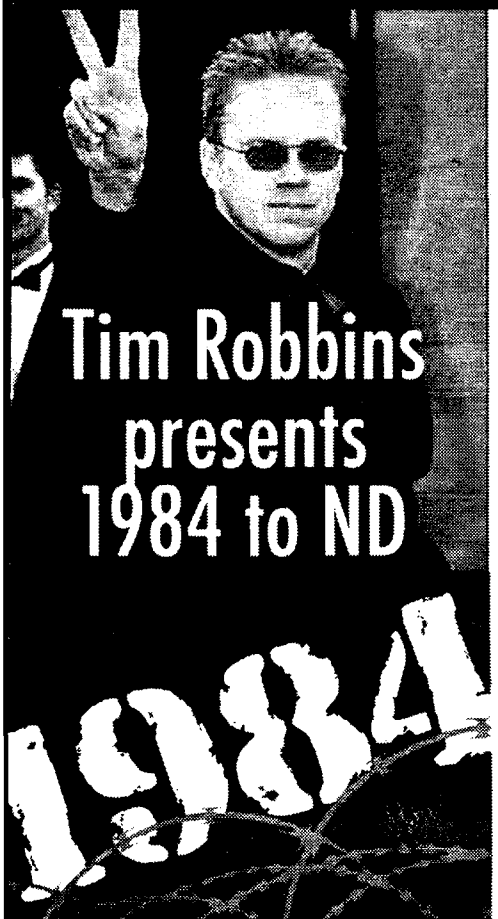
Although Robbins has found success with his film career, he still has a passion for acting. He is currently the Artistic Director of the Actors' Gang, the theatre group he formed more than twenty-five years ago. Robbins' work as a playwright has been produced in London, Paris, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and Edinburgh, Scotland. His latest play, "Embedded," has been in production in Paris, Chicago and Tampa Bay, Fla. He is currently working on "1984," a stage adaptation of the classic George Orwell novel that he directs.

Robbins and the Actors' Gang are bringing this production to Notre Dame this week. In what Robbins calls a "very visceral, real experience for the audience," "1984" is a biting commentary on the world today. Robbins is a heavy advocate for free speech, and says that his production does much to emphasize the importance of this right we so often take for granted.

"Freedom of speech is like a muscle — if you don't use it, it atrophies. So, if you're in a situation where you can say something about what you care about, to not say it is more harmful than to say it," he said.

The day before the start of this production, Robbins will be giving a lecture at the Leighton Concert Hall on his career, the "1984" production, and his views of the current state of democracy. For only five dollars, this is an excellent chance to listen to one of the most respected actors in Hollywood. The lecture is at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, and the play is on Thursday and Friday at 7 p.m. and Saturday at both 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Contact Declan Sullivan at dsullivan9@nd.edu.



NBA

Nowitzki's buzzer-beater ends Philly's streak

76ers' seven-game winning streak snapped; Ming scores 31 points, Alston adds 18 in Houston's win over Denver

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Dirk Nowitzki came through when it mattered.

Despite missing 13 of his first 14 shots and 16 of 23 overall, the seven-foot forward hit a turnaround 17-foot jumper over Reggie Evans at the buzzer to give the Dallas Mavericks a 95-93 victory against Philadelphia, snapping the 76ers' season-high seven-game winning streak.

"I'm a shooter," Nowitzki said. "I always think the next one is going in."

Nowitzki received the inbound pass with 4.3 seconds left and spun around the 6-foot-8 Evans to deliver the game-winning shot.

"It's easy to get it to him because he's seven feet," Kidd said of Nowitzki. "He's done it all year. He's an All-Star and an MVP and he enjoys these moments."

Nowitzki finished with 24 points, Jason Kidd had 22 points and 12 rebounds and Jason Terry added 20 for the Mavericks (24-17).

Philadelphia coach Tony DiLeo didn't second-guess his decision to put the smaller Evans on Nowitzki.

"Reggie had a good feel for him because he was guarding him for the last five minutes as we were making our comeback," DiLeo said. "Reggie is a physical guy who did push him out and contested the shot."

Lou Williams scored 25 points, while Andre Iguodala had 18 points and 12 rebounds for the 76ers (20-21), who are trying to climb

above .500 for the first time since Nov. 23 when they were 7-6.

Andre Miller added 12 points for Philadelphia, whose four-game home winning streak ended.

"I was proud of the way we came back," Iguodala said. "I think we need to continue to have that hunger."

The 76ers have reason to be optimistic with the expected return of forward Elton Brand, who worked out on the court before the game. DiLeo said Brand, who dislocated his right shoulder Dec. 17 and has missed 16 consecutive games, most likely will play Saturday against the New York Knicks.

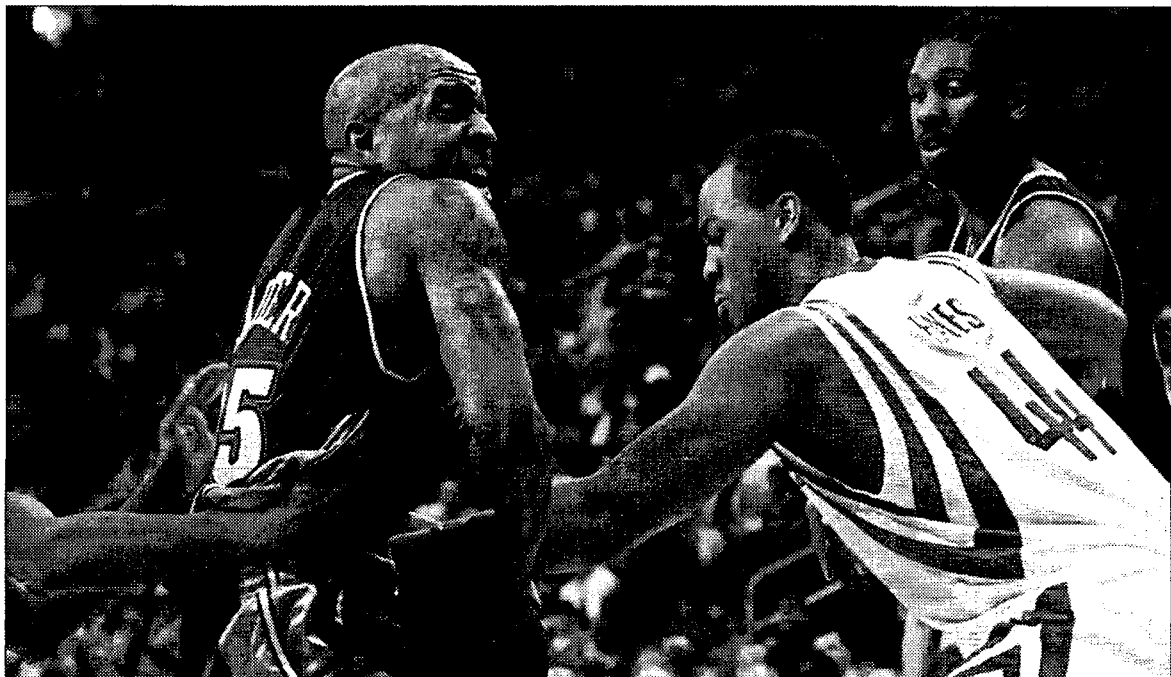
Dallas overcame an early deficit and was sparked by Kidd and Nowitzki. Kidd tied his season-high with six 3-pointers, while Nowitzki shook off a poor shooting performance from the field (7-of-23) by hitting all 10 of his free throws. Nowitzki is 44-for-45 from the free throw line over the last six games.

Kidd was 6-of-8 from 3-point territory.

"They're going to give me 3-point shots," Kidd said. "I haven't been making many, but I've been staying with it."

Dallas trailed 55-47 with 8:58 remaining in the third quarter, then went on a 19-4 run over six minutes. Kidd scored 11 points, including three 3-pointers, and Nowitzki had eight during the scoring spurt to give the Mavericks a 66-59 advantage.

By the end of the third quarter, the Mavericks led 74-63, with Kidd and Nowitzki combining for 25 of their 32



Denver's Anthony Carter drives to the basket as Houston's Chuck Hayes, right, defend him during the Rockets' 115-113 loss to the Nuggets Monday.

points.

With 2:14 remaining, Terry hit a 3-pointer from the baseline to give Dallas a 93-81 lead. It wouldn't last as the 76ers scored 12 straight points, tying the game at 93 with 8.5 seconds left after a driving layup by Iguodala.

"We really came back there at the end," DiLeo said. "They never gave up. That's the essence of our team."

Rockets 115, Nuggets 113

HOUSTON — The Denver Nuggets felt a bad call cost them a win against the Houston Rockets.

Yao Ming scored 31 points, Rafer Alston added 18 points and 11 assists and the Rockets beat the Nuggets 115-113 on Monday.

Denver's Kenyon Martin missed two foul shots with 2.6 seconds left, and Yao got the rebound to clinch the win. But the Nuggets felt they had the go-ahead basket wrongly taken away on their previous possession.

Yao missed with 18 seconds left, Martin rebounded and Denver coach George Karl called timeout. Linas Kleiza drove into the lane and passed to Nene for a dunk. But the basket didn't count because referee Bennett Salvatore called a charge on Kleiza for running into Chuck Hayes.

"I thought it was definitely a flop," Kleiza said. "I definitely didn't feel like I hit him. But, oh well. It's done. We've got to move on."

Aaron Brooks hit 1-of-2 from the line with 6.5 seconds to go

and Karl called one more timeout.

Chauncey Billups fed Martin cutting down the lane, and he was fouled. Martin came into the game making 58.3 percent of his free throws.

The Nuggets were too steamed about Salvatore's call on Kleiza to blame Martin for the loss.

"L.K. made a great play," Karl said. "It was a great play that won the game. We're just going to go home without a win."

J.R. Smith scored 24, Nene had 23 and Martin 22 for the Nuggets, who lost for just the third time in 12 games.

"We had great effort," Karl said. "My big guys battled Yao and got beat up a lot. He's a tough cat, gets away with a lot of holding, grabbing and dislodging. There are losses that are good losses. Tonight was a good loss. We did a lot of things well."

Von Wafer had 18 points and Luis Scola finished with 16 for the Rockets, who have won five of their last six games. Yao went 13-for-19 from the field — 5-for-8 in the fourth quarter.

"He was terrific," Houston coach Rick Adelman said. "He made some really positive plays."

Yao, who went 12-for-12 from the field in a win over Miami on Saturday, missed his first two shots on Monday. Alston sank his first five shots, including three 3-pointers, to carry the Rockets early.

Yao spun for a dunk 90 seconds into the third quarter,

then drew his fourth foul going for an offensive rebound on Houston's next possession. The Nuggets continued their accurate shooting, hitting five of their first eight after the break to build an 80-73 lead.

Denver finally started missing and the Rockets finished the third quarter with a 17-7 spurt to take a 90-87 lead to the fourth. The Nuggets scored 64 points in the first half, but mustered only 19 in the third quarter.

"Our defense in the second half was key," Yao said. "In the first half, they shot way too many layups. We did a better job in the second half."

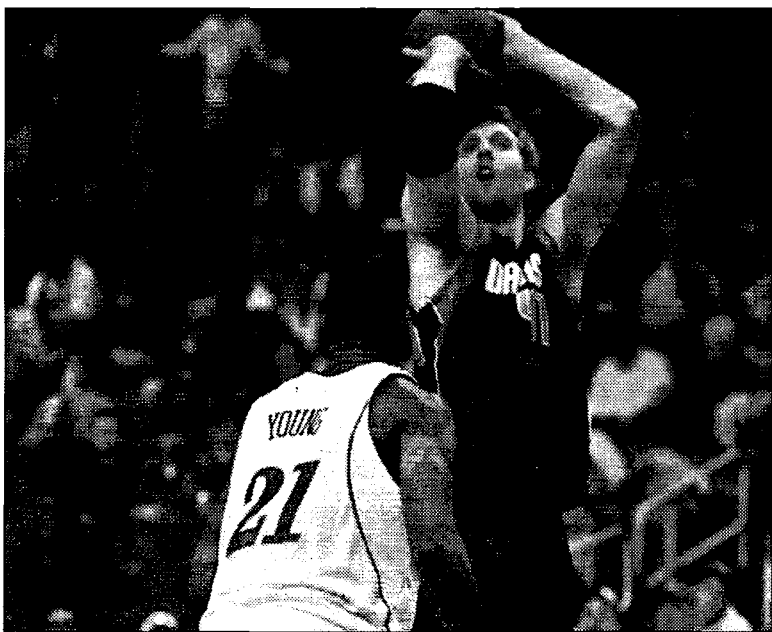
Smith started the final quarter with a pair of 3-pointers to put the Nuggets back in front. He hit four 3s and went 6-for-10 from the field in the fourth quarter.

"I tried to do what I do," Smith said. "Just keep shooting, just try to get my rhythm."

Billups broke a 103-all tie with Denver's eighth 3-pointer with 6:27 left. Yao argued a traveling call at the other end and got a technical foul and Billups' free throw put Denver up 107-103.

"It was one of those games where you kind of had to claw your way back into it," said Brent Barry, who scored 11 for Houston. "It's kind of like the person who is going to score last is going to win."

Yao's hook shot with 1:41 left gave the Rockets a 114-110 lead. Smith hit his fifth 3-pointer with 1:05 remaining to cut Houston's lead to one.



Dallas forward Dirk Nowitzki shoots over a Philadelphia defender during the Mavericks' 95-93 win over the 76ers Monday.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Fun fact: the Detroit Pistons are the only team in the NBA without a white person.

Leaves are falling all around, Its time I was on my way. Thanks to you, I'm much obliged For such a pleasant stay. But now its time for me to go, The autumn moon lights my way. For now I smell the rain, And with it pain, And its headed my way. Ah, sometimes I grow so tired, But I know I've got one thing I got to do, Ramble on, And nows the time, the time is now To sing my song.

Im goin round the world, I got to find my girl, on my way. Ive been this way ten years to the day, ramble on, Gotta find the queen of all my dreams. Got no time to for spreadin roots, The time has come to be gone. And tho our health we drank a thousand times, Its time to ramble on. Ramble on, And nows the time, the time is now To sing my song. Im goin round the world,

Igot to find my girl, on my way. Ive been this way ten years to the day, ramble on, Gotta find the queen of all my dreams. I aint tellin no lie. Mines a tale that cant be told, My freedom I hold dear; How years ago in days of old When magic filled the air, Twas in the darkest depths of mor-dor I met a girl so fair, But gollum, and the evil one crept up

AROUND THE NATION

Tuesday, January 20, 2009

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

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Men's Basketball AP Top 25

team	points	previous
1 Wake Forest	1793	2
2 Duke	1721	3
3 Connecticut	1590	4
4 Pittsburgh	1569	1
5 North Carolina	1510	5
6 Oklahoma	1498	6
7 Michigan State	1394	7
8 Syracuse	1146	8
9 Louisville	1090	20
10 Clemson	1043	10
11 Marquette	1003	14
12 Georgetown	919	13
13 UCLA	897	9
14 Texas	858	11
15 Xavier	848	15
16 Butler	726	17
17 Arizona State	671	16
18 Purdue	553	19
19 NOTRE DAME	469	12
20 Villanova	353	23
21 Minnesota	298	18
22 Memphis	208	NR
23 Gonzaga	201	NR
24 Florida	175	NR
25 Illinois	159	NR

Women's Basketball AP Top 25

team	points	previous
1 Connecticut	1125	1
2 North Carolina	1080	2
3 Oklahoma	1018	3
4 Duke	958	4
5 Baylor	948	5
6 Auburn	895	6
7 Louisville	867	7
8 California	780	11
9 Texas A&M	745	8
10 Tennessee	686	13
11 Stanford	673	9
12 Maryland	622	12
13 NOTRE DAME	601	10
14 Texas	553	16
15 Florida	445	19
16 Virginia	442	14
17 Vanderbilt	407	18
18 Kansas State	366	17
19 Ohio State	361	15
20 Marist	205	21
21 Rutgers	182	23
22 Florida State	143	NR
23 New Mexico	106	25
24 Oklahoma State	101	22
25 Pittsburgh	75	NR

MIAA Basketball Conference Standings

team	conference record
1 SAINT MARY'S	6-1
2 Hope	6-1
3 Adrian	4-3
4 Albion	4-3
5 Trine	4-4
6 Alma	3-4
7 Calvin	3-4
8 Olivet	2-5
9 Kalamazoo	0-7

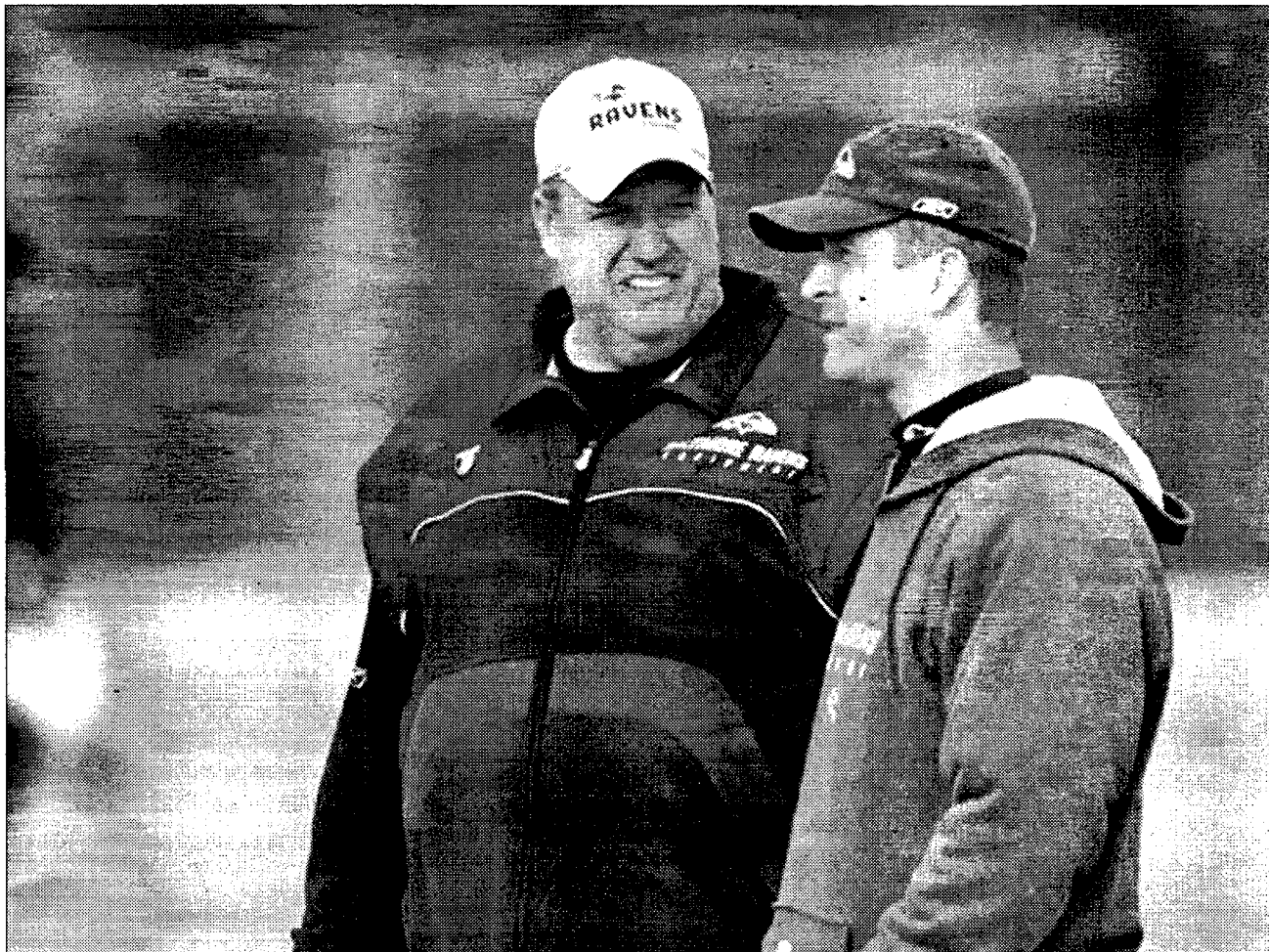
around the dial

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL

Ohio State at Illinois
7:00 p.m., ESPN

Tennessee at Vanderbilt
9:00 p.m., ESPN

NFL



Ravens defensive coordinator Rex Ryan talks with head coach Jim Harbaugh during Baltimore's practice on Jan. 14. Ryan has reached an agreement with the New York Jets to replace Eric Mangini as their next head coach.

Jets hire Rex Ryan as head coach

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Baltimore defensive coordinator Rex Ryan was hired as the coach of the New York Jets on Monday, a day after the Ravens lost in the AFC championship.

The 46-year-old Ryan replaces the fired Eric Mangini, taking over a team that started last season 8-3 but missed the playoffs with quarterback Brett Favre after losing four of its last five games.

The Jets announced the hiring, but released no other details. The contract is for four years, a person with knowledge of

the deal told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity earlier Monday because the deal had not been announced.

Ryan, the son of former NFL coach Buddy Ryan, will be formally introduced at a news conference Wednesday at the Jets' facility in Florham Park, N.J.

"It's been a dream of mine to become a head coach in the NFL," Ryan said in a statement. "Coming here to the New York Jets, where my father once coached and was part of the Super Bowl III staff, is fantastic. I look around at the facili-

ties and the people they have in place and see a first-class organization. I'm just proud to be part of it."

The deal was finalized Monday afternoon after Jets owner Woody Johnson and general manager Mike

Tannenbaum flew to Baltimore in the morning to iron out the details, team spokesman Bruce Speight said.

"We got the right man for the job," Johnson said in a statement.

The Ravens' defensive coordinator the last four seasons is the twin brother of Cleveland defensive coordinator Rob Ryan.

His Baltimore defense helped the Ravens to the AFC championship game and has been ranked in the top six in total yardage allowed the last four seasons, including second overall this season while leading the NFL with 34 takeaways.

"I think it's a gain for them and a loss for us, but it's well-deserved," Ravens linebacker Bart Scott said. "It was a long time coming."

This will be the first head coaching job for Ryan, who is said to be well liked among his players because of his straightforward, no-nonsense style.

IN BRIEF

Markakis, Orioles agree on 6-year, \$66 million deal

BALTIMORE — Right fielder Nick Markakis and the Baltimore Orioles reached a preliminary agreement Monday on a \$66 million, six-year contract, according to a person familiar with the deal.

The contract is pending a physical, the person said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the deal has not yet been signed.

The deal, the second-richest in team history, covers three years Markakis would have been eligible for arbitration and the first three after he would have been eligible for free agency. The agreement was first reported by The Sun.

Markakis hit a career-high .306 with 20 homers and 87 RBIs for the Orioles last season, his third in the majors. He played in 157 games, drew 99 walks and led all AL outfielders with 17 assists.

The only higher deal for the Orioles was the \$72 million, six-year contract shortstop Miguel Tejada signed before the 2003 season.

Giants appoint Sheridan defensive coordinator

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Less than two days after Steve Spagnuolo left to become coach of the St. Louis Rams, Tom Coughlin promoted linebackers coach Bill Sheridan to replace him as the New York Giants' defensive coordinator.

Coughlin interviewed Sheridan and secondary coach Peter Giunta for the coordinator's job Sunday. Giunta was the Rams' defensive coordinator when they won the 2000 Super Bowl.

Sheridan has spent four seasons with the Giants, with his biggest challenge coming in 2007 when he helped Mathias Kiwanuka make the move from defensive end to linebacker.

Before coming to the NFL, Sheridan spent two decades as a college assistant, coaching all the positions on defense in that span.

The Giants played an aggressive blitzing defense in Spagnuolo's two years as defensive coordinator, and Sheridan said that he will keep the system, although he will make some modifications.

McGahee released from hospital, returns home

OWINGS MILLS, Md. — Willis McGahee joined his teammates Monday at Baltimore's training complex after doctors told him he would make a full recovery from a fierce helmet-to-helmet hit in the AFC championship game that had him carted off the field.

The play occurred in the fourth quarter of Pittsburgh's 23-14 victory. McGahee had just caught a pass and taken two steps before being met by safety Ryan Clark, who drove his helmet into McGahee's facemask. McGahee's head snapped back, and he lost the ball as he dropped to the ground.

"I didn't even see him coming," McGahee said.

Clark also collapsed, though it was immediately apparent that his injury wasn't serious. Players from both teams gathered around McGahee, who lay motionless before being taken away.

NHL

Sharks recall 43-year-old Lemieux from AHL

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Nearly six years after Claude Lemieux retired, he's back to pester the NHL again.

The San Jose Sharks recalled the 43-year-old forward from their AHL affiliate on Monday, adding a four-time Stanley Cup winner to a team already tied for the overall league lead.

Lemieux probably will be in San Jose's lineup Tuesday night against Vancouver. He spent the past eight weeks riding the bus and playing against the next generation in Worcester, Mass., making sure his physical skills still matched his desire to complete a comeback that's been on his mind since shortly after he retired in 2003.

"The more I was told this was impossible, the more I wanted it," Lemieux said after his first practice with the Sharks. "I still feel that way. This is just the first step to life back in the NHL. ... I got into this with my eyes wide open, knowing that most folks out there would think that I'm out of my mind to attempt to do something like this."

Lemieux once was hockey's archetypal agitator, beloved by his teammates and despised by everybody else during parts of 20 seasons with five NHL clubs. He also was among the best playoff performers of his generation, with 80 postseason goals that are still ninth-most in league history.

Lemieux, who will wear No. 32 in teal, won titles with Montreal (1986), New Jersey (1995, 2000) and Colorado (1996), earning the Conn Smythe Trophy as the playoff MVP for the Devils in 1995.

Sharks coach Todd McLellan, who's over two years younger than Lemieux, is expected to have Lemieux in uniform against the Canucks in San Jose's final game before the All-Star break — nearly 24 years after his NHL debut in 1985.

"The excitement is probably about the same," Lemieux said, recalling that first game with the Canadiens. "The only difference is I know what to expect, and back then I didn't know what to expect. I've done this before, and it's going to help me through the process. I worked very hard to get to where I'm at today. It's what I wanted, a chance to live this dream again, and it's great to be here."

Lemieux's career petered out after 32 games and seven playoff appearances with the Dallas Stars in 2003. He lived in Phoenix after his retirement, dabbling in real estate investment, appearing on a reality show and briefly serving as president of the ECHL's Phoenix Roadrunners.

But a comeback already was on his mind when he played briefly in Switzerland in 2004 before the league's lockout season. After nearly starting a return in 2007, he got his wife's approval to try it last fall.

"With the lockout, I thought

I'd missed my opportunity, but I missed being out there," Lemieux said. "I missed the camaraderie and the chance to do something you love. To know that you've got to get up in the morning and be some place, and you've got a job to do ... it's just the best life. I'm very thankful that I can do this again."

Sharks general manager Doug Wilson is no stranger to reclamation projects after adding Jeremy Roenick and Sandis Ozolinsh to his club last season. He also provided a chance to Lemieux, who joined the Worcester Sharks in late November and signed a two-way contract in late December.

With Wilson monitoring every shift on television, Lemieux had three goals and eight assists in 23 games with Worcester, racking up 24 penalty minutes and a plus-2 rating.

"Historically, people that can come back and help you later in their careers usually have similar attributes," Wilson said. "A love for the game, a high level of intelligence, and ... being genetically gifted. He's gifted, and he's gone and put the work and time and energy in. He's not been given anything by us. If anything, we've given him a couple of (reasons) to say it's not been worth it."

Lemieux won't be the oldest player in the NHL, not with Detroit defenseman Chris Chelios turning 47 later this month. But his comeback is even more remarkable because of his lengthy absence from the game.

Montreal coach Guy Carbonneau played with Lemieux during parts of six seasons with the Canadiens in the 1980s.

"I'm very surprised, even shocked," Carbonneau said after the Canadiens' practice Monday. "Chris Chelios is 46 years old, but the fact that Claude stopped playing three or four years ago, it shows the kind of character he has. I'm happy for him. When I first heard about it, I didn't think it would be possible, but it just goes to show that nothing is impossible."

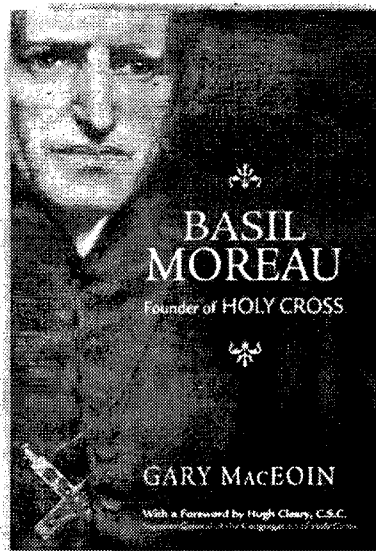
Although the Sharks led the overall NHL standings with 71 points entering Monday's games, their fourth line hasn't been impressive or productive since Roenick was sidelined last month with a shoulder injury. If Lemieux sticks and Roenick returns soon, the Sharks could match Roenick and Lemieux with enforcer Jody Shelley on a line that would be among the NHL's most entertaining, if no longer its most talented.

Lemieux replaces young forwards Brad Staubitz and Tom Cavanagh, who were sent back to Worcester so they can play through the All-Star break.

"Claude deserved it, he earned it, and I really can't stress it enough that the guys down in Worcester are happy for him," Wilson said. "They know he put in the work. He's happy to be here, it's that simple."

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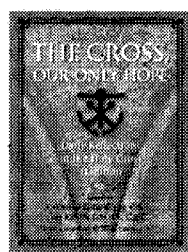
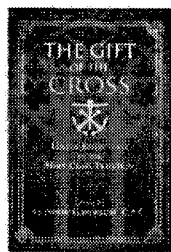
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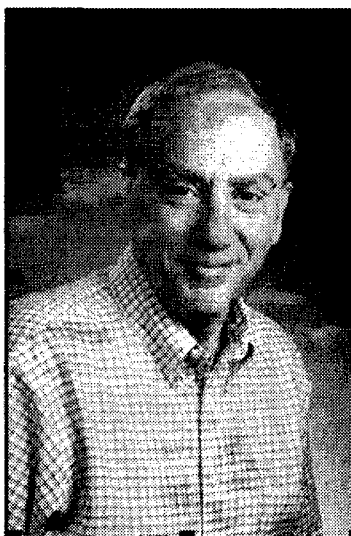
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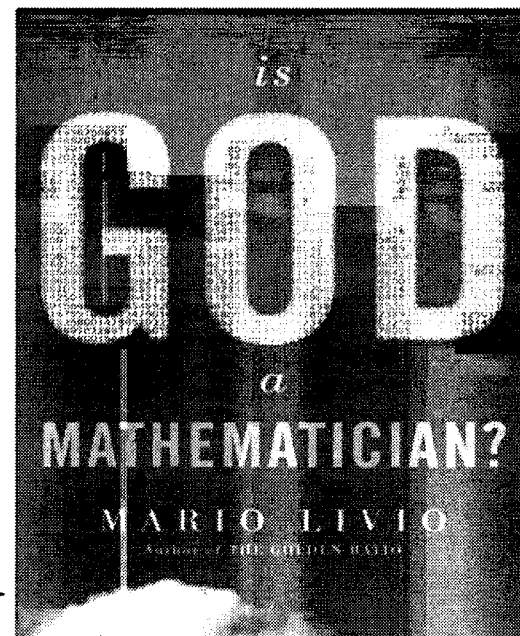
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Observersportsblog.21cr.info.

TENNIS

Pavel retires because of injury, gives Murray win

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Andy Murray's first win at Rod Laver Arena was a little low key.

The 21-year-old Scot, carrying the hopes of a British public looking for its first male Grand Slam champion since 1936, was leading Andrei Pavel 6-2, 3-1, 15-0 in the Australian Open when the Romanian retired with a back injury.

The fourth-seeded Murray, who lost last year's U.S. Open final to Roger Federer, didn't mind getting off the court as the midday temperatures topped 99 degrees on Tuesday, day two of the first major of the year.

"It's the first time I've ever won a match on here," he said. "You don't want to win a match like that. Andrei's been having trouble with his back for a year."

Murray was installed as the

favorite or joint favorite for the tournament by British bookmakers after beating Federer three times since losing the U.S. Open final — his best run at a major to date.

"I'm aiming to go one better here and I need all the support I can get," he said, noting the number of Scottish flags unfurled around the stadium. "It's nice. Hopefully they'll keep coming throughout the tournament."

Murray defended his Qatar Open title before coming to Melbourne but said it was still difficult getting used to the Australian summer.

The relentless sun had players seeking shelter in whatever shade they could find between points.

Murray, who worked hard in an offseason conditioning program that has added seven pounds of muscle to his lean frame, was sharp from the start, exerting pressure with virtually every shot.

Pavel managed to keep pace for the first four games before his feet betrayed him at the same time that his back was letting him down. He was twice called for foot-faults as Murray broke him for a 3-2 lead while running off the last five games of the first set.

Pavel had a quick massage on his lower back during the changeover, held serve, and lost 13 of the next 14 points.

Federer commenced his quest for a 14th major to equal Pete Sampras' record with a 6-1, 7-6 (4), 7-5 first-round win over 35th-ranked Andreas Seppi of Italy that finished after midnight.

It was a difficult opener, considering Seppi is only just outside the top 32 players who are seeded for the tournament.

Federer had mononucleosis this time last year and that dogged him for months.

"I wasn't fit, I had hardly played any matches, had any

practice," he said. "This year I had much more preparation and I feel I know where my game's at."

Second-seeded Serena Williams, the reigning U.S. Open champion and winner each odd year at Melbourne Park since 2003, faces Yuan Meng of China on Tuesday.

Sixth-seeded Venus Williams, who won her fifth Wimbledon title and finished off 2008 by winning the season-ending tour championship, goes against Angelique Kerber of Germany.

Fourth-seeded Elena Dementieva, unbeaten in 10 matches this year and winner of the Beijing Olympic gold medal, plays Kristina Barrois.

Rafael Nadal starts his second consecutive major as the top seed in a night match against Christophe Rochus of Belgium, about the same time No. 9 James Blake is due to play Canada's Frank Dancevic.

Blake and Andy Roddick are

leading the American charge.

Mardy Fish also advanced, but six other Americans made first-round exits: Robby Ginepri, John Isner, Robert Kendrick, Bobby Reynolds, Sam Querrey and Taylor Dent.

Dent, returning from three back operations for his first major since 2006, lost to fellow American Amer Delic in five sets.

Other men advancing were No. 8 Juan Martin del Potro and No. 10 David Nalbandian of Argentina, No. 11 David Ferrer, No. 15 Stanislas Wawrinka, 2005 champion Marat Safin, 2006 finalist Marcos Baghdatis and 16-year-old Australian Bernard Tomic.

Third-seeded Dinara Safina and No. 7 Vera Zvonareva of Russia, No. 11 Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark, No. 15 Alize Cornet of France, No. 16 Marion Bartoli and No. 19 Daniela Hantuchova were among the women advancing.



IMMIGRATION A Global Perspective

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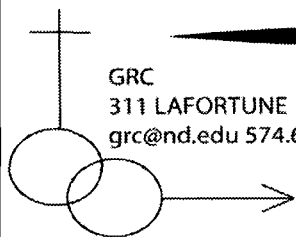
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NHL

Bruins squeak out shootout win

Associated Press

BOSTON — David Backes didn't swing and miss on his team's last chance.

Backes scored the tying goal with eighth-tenths of a second left in regulation and the St. Louis Blues went on to beat the Boston Bruins 5-4 in a shootout Monday.

With the clock winding down and the Blues close to yet another road loss, Backes saw the puck pop up in front of him. Positioned at the right post, he batted it out of the air and into the net as the siren sounded.

After a lengthy replay review, the goal counted. The puck was slightly above the cross bar when Backes hit it, the video showed.

"I tried not to watch the replay too many times. But no matter what I saw, I had a bias toward that one," Backes said. "I'm going to have my bias toward that one and say it was a good call."

Down 4-2, the Blues started their comeback with David Perron's power-play goal with 1:20 left.

T.J. Oshie and Brad Boyes scored in the shootout for the Blues, who have the worst record in the Western Conference and had lost nine of their previous 10 road games.

The Eastern Conference-leading Bruins trailed 2-1 before scoring three times in a span of 1:39 late in the third period.

"I guess the best way to describe it is everyone involved except for the people in charge don't happen to think it was a goal," said Boston coach Claude Julien, who later went on to say, "we got what we deserved."

Boston's P.J. Axelsson and Michael Ryder had power-play goals 19 seconds apart, then

Zdeno Chara scored off a face-off with 3:05 left for a 4-2 edge.

Blues reserve goaltender Chris Mason stopped Blake Wheeler and Axelsson in the shootout.

Wheeler also missed an empty net with about 20 seconds left in regulation before Backes scored.

"It was any hockey player's worst nightmare come true," Wheeler said of his shot from just outside the blue line. "It definitely hurts just to know how hard these guys fought all game to get back and pretty much get the win. To have it fall on my shoulders hurts pretty bad."

Mason kept the Bruins scoreless after replacing injured starter Manny Legace midway into the opening period until the late rally. Legace left with what the team called a lower body injury and wasn't on the bench for the remainder of the game.

"To our credit, it was a heck of a finish. We didn't give up," Mason said. "We could've easily packed it in there and game over. We got lucky there and found a way to do it."

St. Louis had taken a 2-1 edge when Jay McClement one-timed a shot inside the left post 6:51 into the second. There was a smattering of boos as the Blues controlled play midway into the period.

Neither team had a shot on goal until Boston made it 1-0 on Chuck Kobasew's goal 4:26 into the game.

The Blues tied it at 1 when Brad Winchester redirected Jeff Woywitka's shot from the point and the puck trickled between Tim Thomas' pads at 7:37. Thomas, on his knees, looked up to the ceiling in frustration after the puck slid behind him.

Lightning 4, Stars 2

TAMPA, Fla. — Vincent

Lecavalier scored twice and the Tampa Bay Lightning rallied for three goals in the third period to beat Dallas on Monday night, their first home win over the Stars in nearly 13 years.

Lecavalier gave the Lightning a 3-2 lead with 5:06 left in the third from the top of the right circle during a power play. Vinny Prospal had an empty-net goal at 19:11 to make it 4-2.

Steven Stamkos pulled Tampa Bay even at 2 from the low slot off a pass from Steve Downie at 11:46 of the third.

Tampa Bay's Mark Recchi assisted on Lecavalier's third-period goal, moving him past Dale Hawerchuk into 17th place on the NHL's career points list with 1,410.

Brad Richards and Loui Eriksson scored for the Stars, who had their eight-game winning streak at Tampa Bay snapped. It was Dallas' first loss at Tampa Bay since Feb. 19, 1996.

Lecavalier put the Lightning ahead 1-0 on a short-handed goal 1:33 into the first. The Tampa Bay captain has a goal in three straight games, and has 16 points (nine goals, seven assists) over his last 12 games.

The Stars entered as one of three teams — along with Detroit and Philadelphia — that hadn't allowed a short-handed goal this season.

Lecavalier has 21 goals. He has scored 20 or more in each of his last nine seasons.

Richards, playing against his former team for the first time, tied it at 1 with a power-play goal 20 seconds after Lecavalier's goal. Richards, the playoff MVP when Tampa Bay won the 2004 Stanley Cup, was traded to Dallas last February.

The Stars took a 2-1 lead on Eriksson's goal at 4:19 of the second. Richards picked up an assist on the play.

Tampa Bay right wing Martin St. Louis had two assists. He has 14 assists and 19 points in his last 12 games.

Dallas, with the NHL's worst road power play, converted one of six man-advantage situations through two periods. Tampa Bay had just one power-play chance during the stretch, coming with 3:01 left in the second.

Devils 3, Predators 1

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Brendan Shanahan's return to the New Jersey Devils was a big success.

Playing his first NHL game in more than eight months, Shanahan broke a scoreless tie in the second period and New Jersey beat the Nashville Predators on Monday night for its fourth straight victory.

David Clarkson and Zach Parise also scored for the Devils, who moved ahead of the New York Rangers into first place in the Atlantic Division.

New Jersey completed a 5-1 road trip, getting help in the finale from an old pro.

Shanahan, who turns 40 on Friday, scored at 1:38 of the second. He skated in from the left side along the goal line, deked Greg Zanon and fired a shot into the right side of the net, beating goalie Pekka Rinne during a 5-on-3 power play.

It was Shanahan's 651st goal, which ranks 11th on the NHL list. It also gave him 1,341 points, 24th on the career chart. Shanahan has played in 1,491 NHL games.

He has 23 goals in 42 games against the Predators, more than any other player.

Shanahan, who spent the past two seasons with the New York Rangers, made his season debut early in the first period after signing an \$800,000, one-year contract Wednesday. It was his first game since May 4, 2008, in the playoffs at Pittsburgh.

Shanahan was drafted by the Devils with the No. 2 pick in 1987. He left the team in 1991, signing a free-agent contract with the St. Louis Blues.

Draft

continued from page 20

Francisco.

Defender Elise Weber and Hanks will continue to play as teammates as Weber was taken the 21th overall pick by the St. Louis Athletica. The transfer from the University of Wisconsin started all 53 games during her two years with the Irish and helped Dew keep the Irish defense standing.

In addition to the four graduating seniors, the Irish lost another familiar face to the draft. Current volunteer assistant coach Amanda Cinalli was selected by St. Louis in the general draft for players no longer in college. Other recent graduates selected include defender Christie Shaner ('07), who was selected in the fourth round (25th overall) and midfielder Jen Buczkowski ('07), who went in the sixth round (39th overall) to Sky Blue FC (New Jersey).

Irish standout Kate (Sobrero) Markgraf ('98) is listed on the Chicago roster but will sit out the league's inaugural season as she is awaiting the birth of her second child. Another Notre Dame graduate, midfielder Shannon Boxx ('99), joins Bock in Los Angeles.

The WPS is the second attempt at women's professional soccer in the U.S. The Women's United Soccer Association (WUSA) was founded in 2000 but only survived three seasons before folding. With fresh stars like those coming off the Irish graduating class, many hold hopes the WPS will survive longer than its predecessor. Boasting internationally-famed players like Brazil's Marta (Los Angeles Sol) and America's own Abby Wambach (Washington Freedom), the WPS stands a fighting chance.

The first match kicks off Sunday, March 29, when Bock and the Los Angeles Sol play host to the Washington Freedom in Carson, Calif.

Contact Deirdre Krasula at dkrasula@nd.edu

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By Bill Lawrence



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'D' Up

continued from page 20

a team full of leaders but they have shown little poise, most notably on the road.

And if Notre Dame doesn't toughen up, things will only go downhill from here. A big, physical Connecticut squad comes to town Saturday before high-powered Marquette and its legion of talented guards invades the Joyce Center.

If the Irish surrendered 82 points to a team like Seton Hall and 93 to Syracuse — which is more renowned for its physicality than its scoring — how many points can Marquette put up? 100? 110?

Hopefully for the Irish, a return home and the desire to prolong their 45-game win streak will motivate them to flex whatever muscles they have.

Notre Dame's greatest strength clearly lies on the offensive end. At certain times, it seems like the Irish can put up points with anyone, but they can't rely on scoring bursts to

carry them through the brutal Big East season. They need to clamp down on defense to have any chance of competing with the league's elite teams, especially on the road. Offensive runs might allow them to take down good teams at home, when the crowd helps turn those runs into game-changing momentum.

But none of the postseason will be played at the Joyce Center. If the Irish hope to reach what most thought their potential to be, they will have to win on the road. Only with better defense will they have a chance to do that.

So beginning this weekend, Notre Dame must play shut-down defense at critical moments.

Otherwise, the Irish will have something else in common with the Mavericks of recent years — they won't get very far in the postseason.

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

Contact Fran Tolan at ftolan@nd.edu

Wills

continued from page 20

A large age gap made direct competition with Phelps rare for Wills, but the two still met on occasion.

"I raced right next to him a handful of times at local Maryland meets, which was pretty special," Wills said. "[The videos] should be cool to look back at in a few years."

For the Irish, Wills competes in the 200-meter butterfly and backstroke events, and both the two hundred- and four hundred-meter individual medleys.

"I have progressed from last year, and my in-season times have been better overall," Wills said. "But it's really only fair to compare end-of-the-season times in order to get a clear look at the progression."

Wills and the rest of the Irish will host the Shamrock Invitational next weekend. He said he is also looking forward to the Big East championships in Indianapolis in mid-February.

"The Big East is going to be a challenge, but it should be great," Wills said. "I don't

Contact Molly Sammon at msammon@nd.edu

Overview

continued from page 20

ence-opener to Georgetown, the Huskies haven't really faced any tough opponents. Up next, Connecticut plays Villanova before coming to South Bend to try and end Notre Dame's Joyce Center win streak. On paper, the Huskies should hand Notre Dame its first home loss in three years, but there are no guarantees in the Big East.

No. 4 Pittsburgh (17-1, 5-1)

Pittsburgh rebounded nicely from its close loss at Louisville Saturday with a dominating performance over Syracuse at home on Monday. The Panthers head to the road again for games against Villanova and West Virginia before returning home for an afternoon matchup with Notre Dame on Jan. 31. Pittsburgh boasts possibly the best front line in the conference, with Sam Young and DeJuan Blair leading the way.

No. 8 Syracuse (17-3, 5-2)

Syracuse has struggled on the road, barely beating South Florida and dropping games against Georgetown and Pittsburgh that weren't close. But the Syracuse's next big matchup is at home, against Louisville on Sunday. The Orange have five players averaging double figures in scoring.

Providence (12-6, 4-2)

Providence is so close to being a Tournament-bound team. The Friars had Marquette beaten at home before giving the game away. The Friars don't have a dominant player, but they do have seven players who are frequent contributors and each average more than 8.8 points per game

and pose a threat to beat anyone in the conference.

No. 14 Georgetown (12-4, 3-2)

The Hoyas came through their five-game Big East gauntlet with a winning record in conference play. In that stretch, they defeated Connecticut on the road, and Syracuse and Providence at home, while losing at home to Pittsburgh and losing in the Joyce Center. Georgetown has three winnable games on its schedule next before traveling to Marquette on Jan. 31.

No. 19 Notre Dame (12-5, 3-3)

Notre Dame is in the middle of a crucial five-game stretch that many felt would show just how good the Irish are this season. So far, they haven't lived up to expectations, dropping a game they should've won at Louisville while coming out flat defensively Saturday against Syracuse. The Irish are off until Saturday when they host Connecticut, and then Monday, they welcome a Marquette team that beat them twice last season.

Villanova (14-3, 2-2)

Villanova dropped a heartbreaker at home against Louisville. All the Wildcats had to do was make a layup and they would've won. Instead they're stuck in the middle of the pack, but Dante Cunningham has emerged as a more consistent threat for Villanova offensively, averaging seven more points per game (17.4) than he did a year ago.

West Virginia (13-4, 2-2)

Bob Huggins has had to rely on some young talent to replace Joe Alexander and the results have been about what you'd expect from a young team with talent — inconsis-

tency. The Mountaineers blew out Ohio State and Seton Hall, then lost to Connecticut while Marquette easily handled them. West Virginia should finish toward the middle of the pack, but it could knock off an upper-echelon team somewhere down the road.

Cincinnati (12-7, 2-4)

The Bearcats have a long way to go to replicate the success in basketball that they had in football. They lost their first three conference games but won the next two, against DePaul and Rutgers, before losing again on Monday to Providence.

St. John's (10-7, 1-4)

The Red Storm lone conference win came against the Irish. In their other four games, St. John's has lost by an average of 18.7 points per game. It does, however, have two winnable games coming up against Cincinnati and Rutgers.

South Florida (6-11, 1-4)

Dominique Jones is proving himself to be a quality guard, but past him, there's not much to talk about here. The Bulls kept it close with West Virginia and Syracuse, but still sit where they usually do — near the bottom of the standings. Good news for South Florida in its game tonight, however, as it plays DePaul, the only team it defeated so far in conference play.

Seton Hall (9-8, 0-5), Rutgers (9-9, 0-5) and DePaul (8-10, 0-5)

Which of these teams is the worst? Possibly DePaul, which has the most embarrassing loss of the three — a 22-point home loss to South Florida. Ouch.

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu

NCAA BASKETBALL

Pitt rebounds with big conference victory over Syracuse

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh went through more than half a season without losing, then faced the realistic possibility of losing twice in three days.

The Panthers didn't let it happen, making sure everything that went wrong in its first loss — the lack of rebounding, the poor down-the-stretch shooting — wasn't repeated.

Sam Young pulled out of a three-game slump by scoring 19 of his 22 points in the second half and No. 4 Pittsburgh surged shortly after halftime to defeat No. 8 Syracuse 78-60 on Monday night.

"The big thing in this league (the Big East) is not turning one (loss) into two," point guard Levance Fields said.

DeJuan Blair, also coming off a poor game during a 69-63 loss at Louisville on Saturday night that ended Pitt's two-week stay at No. 1, was strong inside with 20 points and 12 rebounds.

Blair's toughness keyed a rugged and at times intimidating defense. The Panthers outrebounded the Orange 40-28 and held them nearly 22 points below their scoring average.

Several Syracuse players were seen complaining to the officials that Pitt (17-1, 5-1) was being too physical, and the Orange (17-3, 5-2) drew two technical fouls less than three minutes apart during the first half.

Young, Pitt's leading scorer with an 18.7 average, made seven of 12 shots after going only 15-of-49 in his previous three games. Pitt missed 15 of its final 16 shots while losing a 10-point lead at now-No. 9 Louisville.

"But as soon as we got on the airplane, we forgot about it," Blair said. "Sometimes you're going to come up short."

As Syracuse knows. The Orange went 1-2 during a three-game stretch against ranked Georgetown, Notre Dame and Pitt, beating only the Irish.

"When you don't play well offensively, this is what's going to happen in this league," Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said. "But I told the players, we're 17-3 and 5-2, and that's better than we're supposed to be. It's frustrating when you lose, but you have to understand where you are."

Andy Rautins hit five 3-pointers while scoring 17, but Orange leading scorer Jonny Flynn made three of

14 shots while being held to 12 points, four below his average.

"It was him (Rautins) — and nobody else," Blair said.

Pitt began pulling away by scoring nine consecutive points, finished off by Young's layup off Jermaine Dixon's pass, to make it 42-35 with 15:21 remaining. The Panthers stretched the lead to 53-40 on Fields' drive, and Syracuse got no closer than seven after that.

Pittsburgh also went on a 9-0 run midway through the first half to take a 20-11 lead. The advantage would have been bigger if the Panthers made some free throws — they missed six of their first seven, including all four by Fields following the technicals. Fields had 15 points and six assists, and Pitt ended up 9-of-17 at the line.

"We were in the game, but we still were frustrated," Boeheim said. "We shouldn't have been frustrated."

The Orange answered with a 9-0 run of their own, finished off by Rautins' 3-pointer that gave them their first lead at 28-27.

Blair came back to make two free throws, drawing loud cheers from an announced crowd of 12,508 that looked to be even larg-

er, and Pitt trailed only once after that. For one of the few times since the Petersen Events Center opened in 2002, the ticket demand was so great that students were turned away.

Syracuse, blanketed by Pitt's defense, couldn't come up with another run in the second half that would have tightened the game. The Orange came in averaging 81.5 points, but shot 41.8 percent (23-of-55) to Pitt's 53.3 percent (32-of-60).

Pitt was especially effective against Flynn, who scored 28 points as Pitt rallied to win 82-77 win at

Syracuse last season after trailing by 11 with 3:49 remaining.

Pitt improved to 2-1 against ranked opponents, with its other win against Georgetown. Pitt has won its last three at home and six of eight overall from Syracuse, which five years ago became the first visiting team to win at the Petersen Center.

The crowd gave some of its biggest cheers to the three Steelers players spotted in the crowd — Ben Roethlisberger, Jeff Reed and Antonio Holmes, with Reed pointing proudly to his AFC championship T-shirt.

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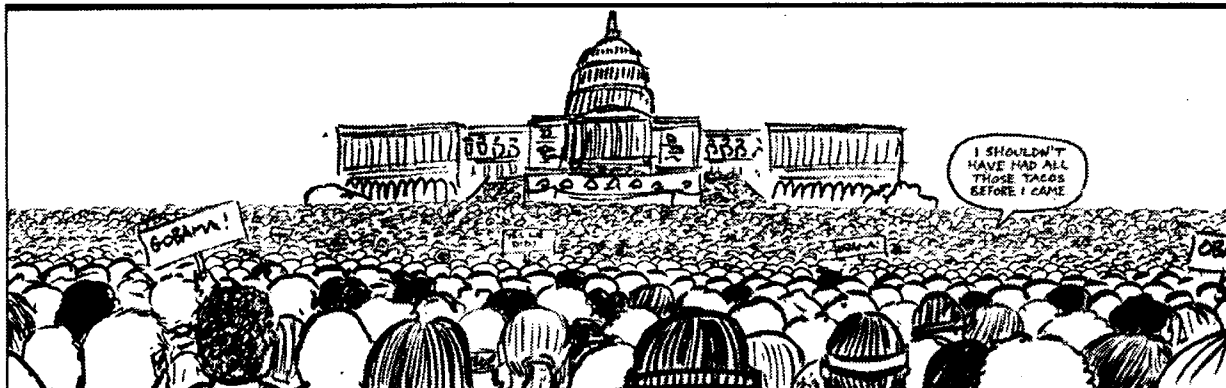
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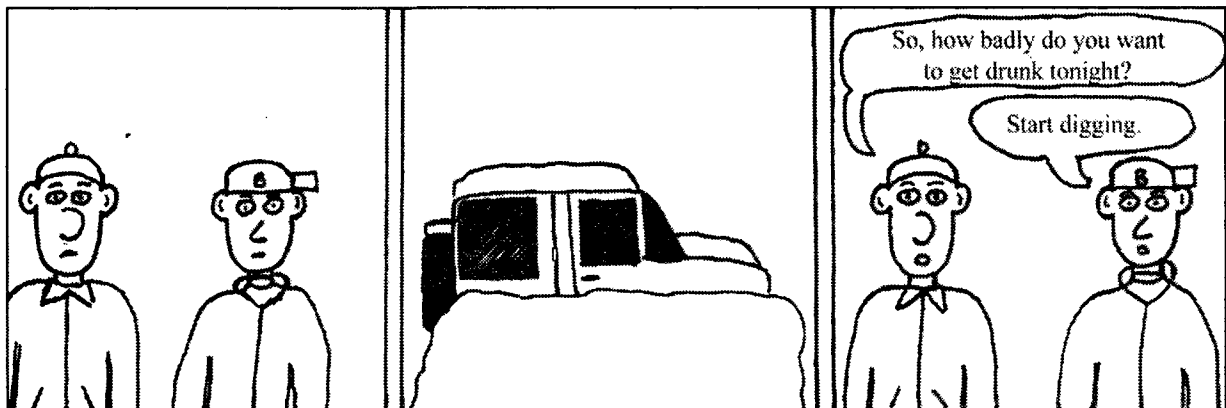
BLACK DOG

MICHAEL MIKUSKA



THE FORBIDDEN DOUGHNUT

PAT GARTLAND



JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

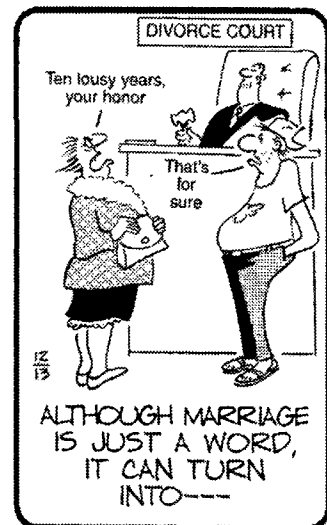
JUMBLE

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

NEARY
 SIZE
 CROITE
 EOPING

Answer here: A
 (Answers tomorrow)
 Yesterday's Jumbles: PURGE BERTH LACING DAINTY
 Answer: Known to fall at the end of a performance — THE CURTAIN

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

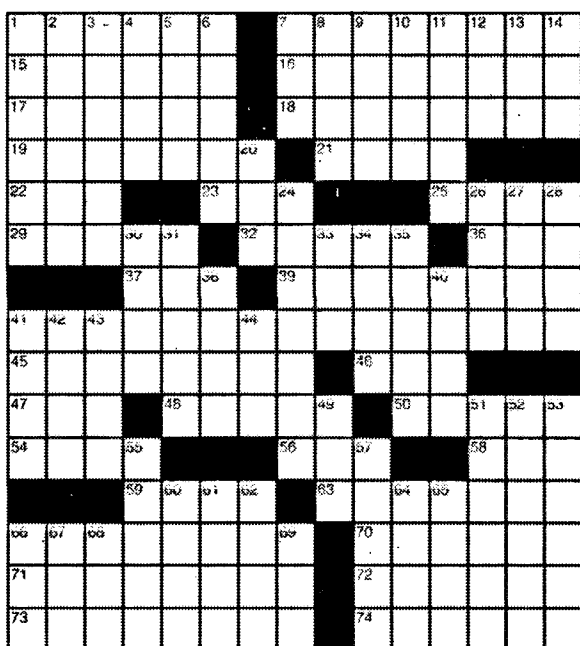


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across**
- Example of 41-Across
 - Example of 41-Across
 - Like "Survivor" groups
 - "That's fine"
 - Quimby of children's books
 - Most finicky
 - Not fighting
 - Squeezed (out)
 - Ballerina's digit
 - Suffix with racket or racket
 - Weakens, as support
 - Line up
 - Push (for)
 - Needle part
 - Mauna
 - Example of 41-Across
- Down**
- Theme of this puzzle
 - Example of 41-Across
 - 90° pipe joint
 - Result of getting worked up
 - Call the whole thing off
 - On the wagon
 - Eton students, e.g.
 - Symbol of sturdiness
 - City map abbr.
 - Tacks on
 - Works of Swift and Wilde
 - They're over the hill
 - Dancing locale
 - "Be delighted"
 - Low tie
 - Example of 41-Across



Puzzle by Tibor Derencsanyi

- Not work out
- Kirlian photography image
- Four-footed TV star
- Jar part
- Thank-yous along the Thames
- Black Russians may go on it
- Brothers
- Fix, as a shoe
- Buffalo hockey player
- Barbecue offering
- Bug juice?
- Like Radio City Music Hall, informally
- Hitch
- Pint-size
- "Mm-hmm"
- Chart topper
- "Do do"
- It may be tidy
- Cat

For answers, call 1-900-285-5656, \$1.20 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.
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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Trevor O'Brien, 25; Jodie Sweetin, 27; Shawn Wayans, 40; Dolly Parton, 63

Happy Birthday: Stick to your game plan this year and don't let emotional or personal issues sidetrack you. It's vital that you focus on what will keep you afloat and out of the economic debauchery. If you are smart and conservative and ready to take advantage of opportunities, you will end up in a very good position with lots to look forward to as the year progresses. Your numbers are 2, 9, 16, 21, 34, 37, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Money is heading your way from an unexpected and unusual source. Your help will be recognized and rewarded by someone from whom you have been trying to earn respect. Don't be aggressive, just proactive. 3 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be pulled between work and personal responsibilities. Organize your time well and no one, including you, will be disappointed in your performance. A tempting partnership will get you thinking about future possibilities. 3 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You need to expand your knowledge and skills by attending courses or spending time with someone who can show you what to do. Don't let a love problem cloud your vision or stand in the way of your advancement. 3 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't be fooled by an offer someone makes. If the venture will cost you, consider going it alone or backing out completely. Love is looking good and the possibility of mixing business with pleasure should turn into a rare event. 5 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be careful not to take on too much professionally or educationally. You will disappoint someone you love if you don't have time for him or her. A change will be as good as a rest so try new things or go to new places. 2 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Brace yourself and prepare to be practical, no matter what is thrown your way. You have to think before you act if you want to come out on top. Don't let your emotions get involved in your decisions. A mistake will be hard to rectify. 4 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't get angry or even share your feelings with someone who you know will oppose your decisions. Deception is apparent but, if you question the information being given, you will see the truth and can act accordingly. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone is likely to give you false information. Focus more on love and finding common ground with whoever you spend the most time with. If you are on the same page, you can fight whatever battles you face together. 3 stars

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't be too sure that things will pan out the way someone has suggested. Last minute changes may leave you in a bind. Turn on the charm and use past experience to alter the course of the changes being made. 3 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): A career change may be offered that gets you thinking. However, once you weigh the pros and cons, you may want to renegotiate before you proceed. A good friend or lover will point out some very interesting underlying clauses. 4 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't get overly emotional or let anyone back you into a corner or an argument. Stay calm and handle whatever comes your way with class, dignity and restraint. Get all the facts; emotional deception is apparent. 2 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): As long as you don't trust anyone with your money you will survive. Settlements, legalities and investments will all be subject to deception and poor management. Stay in the loop at all times if you want things to turn out in your favor. 5 stars

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative and drawn to the unusual. You are passionate, sensitive, open and romantic. You strive for mental stimulation.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvise.com for fun

THE OBSERVER

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MEN'S BASKETBALL

A look at the Big East

Irish sit in middle of Big East standings

By CHRIS HINE
Editor-in-Chief

The Big East season is three weeks old and so far, there haven't been many surprises — it's tough to win on the road, the teams who are perennial bottom-feeders find themselves in the cellar again and the regular-season champion is harder to predict than guessing what will happen on "Lost." Here's a look at the standings:

No. 10 Marquette (16-2, 5-0)

The Golden Eagles have benefited from playing a relatively easy portion of their Big East schedule, but they beat the teams they should beat, which is what you need to do to survive in the Big East. They passed their first test on Saturday, winning on the road against a tough Providence team.

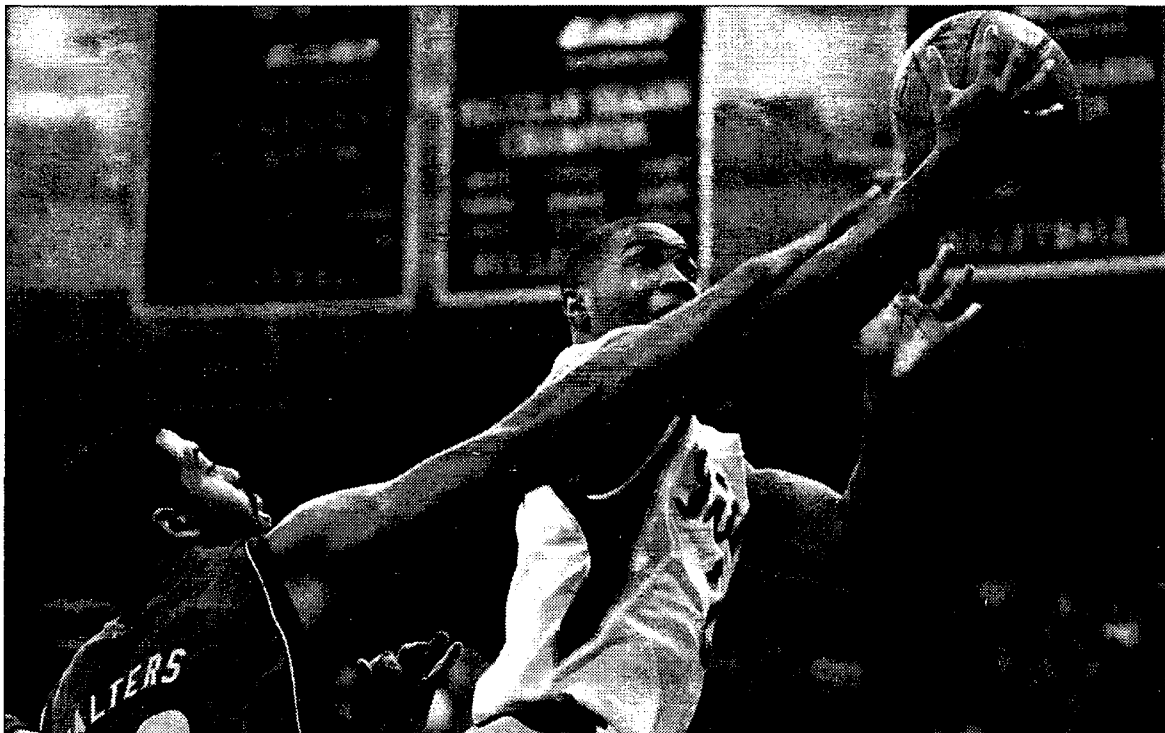
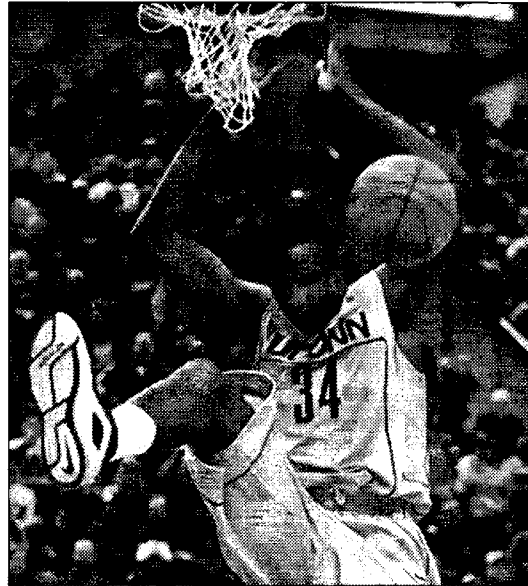
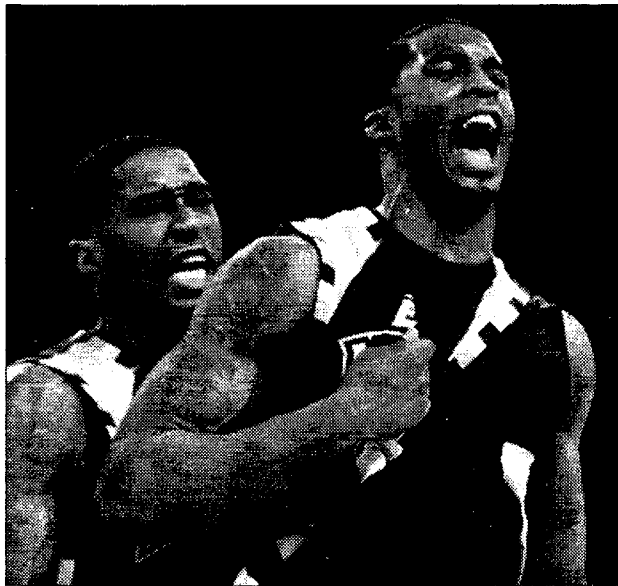
No. 12 Louisville (13-3, 4-0)

Louisville could easily be 1-3 right now. If Villanova could have made a layup in the final seconds, the Cardinals would've lost to the Wildcats. If Notre Dame hadn't forgotten how to score late in the game, they would've lost to the Irish. And they were behind Saturday against a Pittsburgh team that was ranked No. 1 in the country. But here they are, undefeated in conference play with a big road game against Syracuse on the horizon Sunday.

No. 3 Connecticut (16-1, 5-1)

After dropping their confer-

see OVERVIEW/page 18



Left, Marquette guards Jerel McNeal and Wesley Matthews celebrate a Golden Eagles win. Right, Connecticut center Hasheem Thabeet dunks. Bottom, Irish point guard Tory Jackson attempts a layup.

AP and IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

Team must greatly improve on defense

In the early part of this decade, the Dallas Mavericks were sometimes derisively referred to as the "Allas Mavericks." The nickname poked fun at the fact that the offensively-charged Mavs had no D.

Well, if Notre Dame doesn't step it up on the defensive end, Big East opponents might justifiably start calling the Irish "Notre Ame."

The team has repeatedly struggled to get stops, especially during crucial situations. The problem has never been more evident than during Saturday's 93-74 setback at Syracuse. The Orange owned the Irish inside on the way to a 54-24 edge in points in the paint.

Notre Dame fought back several times during the second half, cutting its deficit to five or six points. But the Irish also repeatedly lacked the toughness to get a key stop.

For a team with a typical rotation of four seniors and three juniors, Notre Dame looked surprisingly rattled on the defensive end during key moments against Syracuse and last Monday against Louisville. The Irish are supposed to be



Fran Tolan

Associate
Sports Editor

see 'D' UP/page 18

ND WOMEN'S SOCCER

Irish stars join new pro league

By DEIRDRE KRASULA
Sports Writer

With the economy hitting rock bottom and the job market presenting a slim amount of opportunities for graduating seniors, a few Irish players can rest easy — they'll have a job come April. Four graduating Irish players notched spots in the inaugural Women's Professional Soccer draft Friday.

Senior forward/midfielder Brittany Bock was the first Notre Dame player snatched up. She was selected by the Los Angeles Sol in the first round as the fifth overall pick. Bock was a two-time All-America and a semifinalist for the Hermann Trophy. Despite being plagued by a knee injury early on in the postseason, Bock ranks 12th in school history with

46 career goals and 121 points.

Hermann Trophy winner Kerri Hanks went directly after Bock to the St. Louis Athletica. Hanks is one of only four players to earn the Hermann twice in her collegiate career. Known for her aggressive style and perseverance, Hanks holds a combined 67 records for Notre Dame, the Big East and the NCAA. In addition, Hanks passed soccer icon Mia Hamm in career assists before this year's College Cup even started in Cary, N.C.

The backbone of the Irish defense and a large part of the reason Notre Dame made it all the way to the title game rested on senior defender Carrie Dew. Dew was selected as the 12th pick by the FC Gold Pride, a team based out of San

see DRAFT/page 17

MEN'S SWIMMING

North Baltimore's Wills shines for Irish

By MOLLY SAMMON
Sports Writer

Last summer, millions from all corners of the world diligently watched the 2008 Olympics in Beijing. For most, it was just a source of national pride, but for Notre Dame sophomore swimmer Connor Wills, it was also a chance to watch a few of his former teammates go for the gold.

Wills is a graduate and athletic product of the North Baltimore Aquatic Club, a very highly regarded swim academy that has produced seven recent Olympians. Among them is Michael Phelps, who won eight gold medals in Beijing and became the highest gold medal recipient in men's swimming history. Katie Hoff, who earned a silver medal and two bronzes for her individual medley and freestyle performances, also trained at North Baltimore.

"North Baltimore Aquatic

club was intense," said Wills, who began swimming at the age of five.

"He is quiet, talented, and smooth," coach Tim Welsh said of Wills. "The water likes him and he likes the water."

Wills developed most as an athlete outside of the arena of high school sports.

"High school swimming in Baltimore wasn't serious, not like it is in the Midwest," Wills said. "On the east coast it's all about club swimming, so North Baltimore Aquatic Club was basically my high school team."

When Wills was just 16 years old, he qualified for the Olympic trials at the junior nationals competition. He said he earned a spot mostly as a result of good coaching.

"It was completely unexpected," Wills said. "I dropped four seconds in a two-hundred meter event, which is pretty unusual."

see WILLS/page 18

FOOTBALL

ND hires Alford as new coach

Observer Staff Report

Irish head coach Charlie Weiss announced Monday that Notre Dame has hired Tony Alford as running backs coach.

Alford has coached running backs for 14 years, most recently at Louisville. He also spent time at Iowa State, Washington, Kent State and Mount Union.

Under Alford, Louisville averaged 164.5 yards rushing per game and scored 18 rushing touchdowns.

The new coach was a running back at Colorado State from 1987-90, and was named an honorable mention selection on USA Today's All-American team in 1989.

Alford replaces Mike Haywood, who accepted the head coaching job at Miami (Ohio) after spending four seasons with the Irish.