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Four student gov't tickets announced

Student body president and vice president candidates start campaigns, prepare for debate

By JENN METZ and
KAITLYNN RIELY
News Writers

Notre Dame's Judicial Council has approved four tickets to run for the position of student body president and vice president for the 2009-10 school year.

The candidates are: junior Grant Schmidt and sophomore Cynthia Weber; juniors Laura Burdick and Derek Sanchez; junior James McCaughan and sophomore Tom Gorski; and freshmen Luke Lennon and Charles Harig.

The candidates will meet Wednesday for a debate in LaFortune. The Notre Dame student body will vote to decide the winning candidates next Monday.

Grant Schmidt and Cynthia Weber

Schmidt, the current student body vice president, is hoping to continue what he deems a "successful" administration into the 2009-10 school year with a bid for student body president with Weber, the current sophomore class president, as his running mate.

Schmidt chose Weber

because she "had the experience, we got along really well, and we work well together."

Weber said she'd be "crazy not to want to run with him."

"It's a great opportunity to be given; it's a great opportunity to serve the student body," she said.

The pair have a long list of platforms they've presented under their campaign slogan, "Rounding the Bend."

"It means continuity," Weber said. "Turning the corner, building upon success of last year — [the current administration] really has just gotten started."

Schmidt and Weber listed

taxi reform, lower textbook prices, Eddy St. Commons and the Global Water Initiative as their top priorities.

The Schmidt and Weber platform seeks to make students' cab rides safer and more convenient, initiating, for example, a South Bend policy that all cab drivers must display some form of identification and a phone number to call in case of complaint.

The duo also hopes to implement a system of ticket booklets so students can purchase cab fares ahead of time

see TICKETS/page 3

Iraqis reflect on changes to country

By MOLLY MADDEN
News Writer

Three Iraqi students talked about their experiences living in a country that has played a large role in recent American foreign policy in a presentation Friday entitled "I'm From Iraq."

The talk was the conclusion of Holy Cross College's "Faith and Culture Dialogues," a three-day event that aimed to present new perspectives on Iraq.

The presentation featured Karam Salem and Omar Rasheed, students at Holy Cross, and Randa Al-Assadi, a student at Saint Mary's. During the introduction, the audience was told that the goal of the talk was to help Americans have a more personal relationship with Iraq and view the country as more than just a political issue.

"Iraq is an old civilization with a wonderful culture and a long history," Karam Salem said in his opening speech.

Salem is originally from Baghdad, but relocated to Syria in 2006 because his Catholic family feared violence. In Nov. 2007, he was chosen for the Iraqi Student Project, a venture that allows displaced Iraqi students to continue their college education either in Iraq or abroad.

"I was raised in a neighborhood that had Muslims and Christians," Salem said. "We lived in peace; there was no difference between people and we all grew up amidst different religions."

see IRAQ/page 4

Recycling program aids poor

Miraculous Metals raises funds for Catholic Worker

By LIZ O'DONNELL
News Writer

In the spirit of going green, a new recycling program has been implemented on campus to help both the environment and the less fortunate.

The Miraculous Metals recycling program combines environmentalism and social justice to provide assistance to South Bend residents who reside on the streets during the frigid winter months.

"Miraculous Metals has been doing very well so far, but we have a long way to go," said Lauren Restivo, a sophomore at Notre Dame, who is involved in the program. "Since the program is still getting off of the ground, we are still trying to get the word out about how to participate in the program and increase participation."

The program allows students at Notre Dame to raise money through the collection of aluminum cans for the Catholic Worker House, a shelter that takes in the homeless on freezing and sub-freezing nights during the winter.

A portion of the proceeds will also be donated to Our Lady of the Road, which is the Catholic Worker drop-in center that takes in the homeless during the daytime.

On campus, each dorm has a designated representative who is in charge of ensuring his or her dorm's donated aluminum cans are ready for pick-up. Once a week, paid guests from the Catholic Worker House will be at Notre Dame to collect the cans.

see METALS/page 4

SIBC to offer global internships

Group sends students around world to obtain experience

By MADELINE BUCKLEY
News Writer

The Student International Business Council (SIBC) will send about 25 students to countries all over the world, including Thailand, Ghana, the United Kingdom and Belize, to work on business and humanitarian projects this summer, SIBC president Matt Brownschidle said Sunday.

The SIBC internship program offers positions primarily to freshmen and sophomores every year, but Brownschidle said receiving an internship will be more competitive this year than in previous

see SIBC/page 4



Photo Courtesy of Matt Brownschidle

SIBC interns Christian Yang, left, and James Pappas, right, worked in Ghana last summer.

Fans celebrate Super Bowl XLIII

By CHRISTINE FAGAN
News Writer

As the 43rd Super Bowl began, North Dining Hall was filled with Pittsburgh fans wearing Steelers gear and Arizona fans wearing Cardinals gear.

But Steelers fans clearly outnumbered Cardinals fans.

"You don't deserve fans unless you win," freshman Sarah Dzurik said.

The Steelers did win, with a final score of 27-23 in the match-up that took place in Tampa, Fla.

But not everyone was happy with the results.

"I'm not rooting for the

Cardinals," freshman Matthew Steed said. "I'm rooting against the Steelers. I have been since the playoffs."

"We're not for the Cardinals," said two Cowboys fans, "we're just against [Steelers fans]."

Super Bowl parties began all around campus at about 6 p.m. Students rushed to The Huddle in LaFortune to grab last-minute snacks, quickly purchasing chips and salsa and liters of soda.

In dorm rooms, lounges, hall basements and off-campus apartments, fans and non-fans watched the Cardinals' Kurt Warner

see GAME/page 6



Pittsburgh fans cheer on the Steelers at the NFL Super Bowl XLIII football game Sunday in Tampa, Fla.

INSIDE COLUMN

Civil War
Re-enactment

When was the last time you saw somebody wearing a hoopskirt? For that matter, when was the last time you wore a hoopskirt?

For me, the answer to both questions is late last August.

In fact, I actually happen to own a hoopskirt, an 1800s corset, petticoats, two hoopskirt-equipped dresses and a bonnet which I consider rather fetching.

I'm a Civil War re-enactor.

Tess Civantos

No, I don't speak in 1800s dialect, and I don't run away in terror whenever a bus pulls up.

News Wire
Editor

But I do use a bucket, washboard and clothesline to do laundry when I'm at work. I do wear a snood (ten points if you know what a "snood" is).

I'm not the kind of re-enactor who travels around with a troop of re-enacting Union or Confederate soldiers (We all know what those girls are like).

I work at a museum — in the schoolhouse, actually. I love it. Anyone who's ever read or watched the "Little House on the Prairie" series, "Anne of Green Gables," or "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" has had secret fantasies about the one-room schoolhouse with rows of wood-top desks, boys on one side and girls on the other. The coal-burning potbelly stove in the middle filled with dry cornhusks the children bring. The old McGuffey's Reader textbooks with their ancient spelling lessons and quaint fables. The two outhouses out back, one for boys and one for girls. The slates and chalk at the narrow little desks, where the re-enacting children often crowd two to a seat — not because they need to, but because they like to sit with their friends.

When the students are all hunched over their slates working diligently on their spelling or sums, the stove is humming, and there are no tourists snapping photos of us, I could swear it really is 1862.

I'm not sure why I love re-enacting, although I certainly do. I plan to keep re-enacting my whole life. Considering I started when I was nine years old, the reasons I do it have certainly changed over time.

I think it used to just be an excuse to play dress-up. And honestly, that's probably still a big part of it. It might be the peace I feel at Naper Settlement Museum, where I work. No ringing phones, no blaring music or TV, just quiet afternoons spent knitting, reading aloud, and giving the kids as many recesses as they want.

But the truth is, I think the real reason I love it is because, for the four or five or six hours that I'm there, I'm living in 1862. Who hasn't wished they could time-travel? Because of my incredible job, I have the rare privilege of living in a different place and time whenever I want.

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

Contact Tess Civantos at tcivanto@nd.edu

CORRECTIONS

In the Jan. 30 Hockey Insider, the cover photo was incorrectly attributed. Wu Yue was the photographer. In the Question of the Day section of the Jan. 30 issue of

The Observer, The Observer incorrectly spelled Jonathan Bell's name. The Observer regrets these errors.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT WOULD BE YOUR IDEAL SUPER BOWL HALFTIME SHOW?



Aaron Quarles

junior
Siegfried

"Notre Dame
winning a
basketball
game."



Christie Marden

junior
Cavanaugh

"A 30-minute
'Real Men of
Genius'
commercial."



Kris Perez

senior
off-campus

"The Puppy
Bowl."



Matt Schueler

sophomore
Keough

"Radio Head
performing."



Lee Marsh

junior
Knott

"A Donny and
Marie reunion
concert."



WU YUE/The Observer

The Notre Dame men's hockey team celebrates a 3-2 win Saturday over Michigan in Ann Arbor. The Irish are ranked No. 1.

OFFBEAT

Apostrophes dropped from signs in English town

LONDON — On the streets of Birmingham, the queen's English is now the queens English.

England's second-largest city has decided to drop apostrophes from all its street signs, saying they're confusing and old-fashioned.

But some purists are downright possessive about the punctuation mark.

It seems that Birmingham officials have been taking a hammer to grammar for years, quietly dropping apostrophes from street signs since the 1950s. Through the decades, residents have fre-

quently launched spirited campaigns to restore the missing punctuation to signs denoting such places as "St. Pauls Square" or "Acocks Green."

This week, the council made it official, saying it was banning the punctuation mark from signs in a bid to end the dispute once and for all.

Sister beats up bride at wedding reception

HEBRON, Ind. — A woman who wasn't invited to her sister's wedding reception showed up anyway and attacked the bride, pulling out clumps of her hair, police

said. Annmarie Bricker, 23, of Valparaiso, was arrested on a misdemeanor charge of battery.

Jeremy Glotzbach told police he was hosting a reception for newlyweds Nicholas Landry and Lori Kappes at his home on Jan. 23 when Bricker, Kappes' sister, attacked Kappes on the front porch.

Bricker pulled out clumps of Kappes' hair, struck her head and took the bride to the ground during a struggle, according to the Porter County Sheriff's Department.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

IN BRIEF

A lecture by Elizabeth Resnick on "The Graphic Imperative: International Posters of Peace, Social Justice & the Environment" will take place today at 7:30 p.m. in the Annenberg Auditorium of the Snite Museum of Art. This lecture, co-sponsored by the Department of Art, Art History, and Design, is free and open to the public.

A debate entitled "Separation of Church and State" will be held Tuesday in room C-103 of the Hesburgh Center at 4 p.m. Mark Lilla, Professor of Humanities (Columbia) and author of The Stillborn God: Religion, Politics, and the Modern West, and Daniel Philpott, Associate Professor of Political Science (Notre Dame) will debate important issues of religion, politics and their intersection.

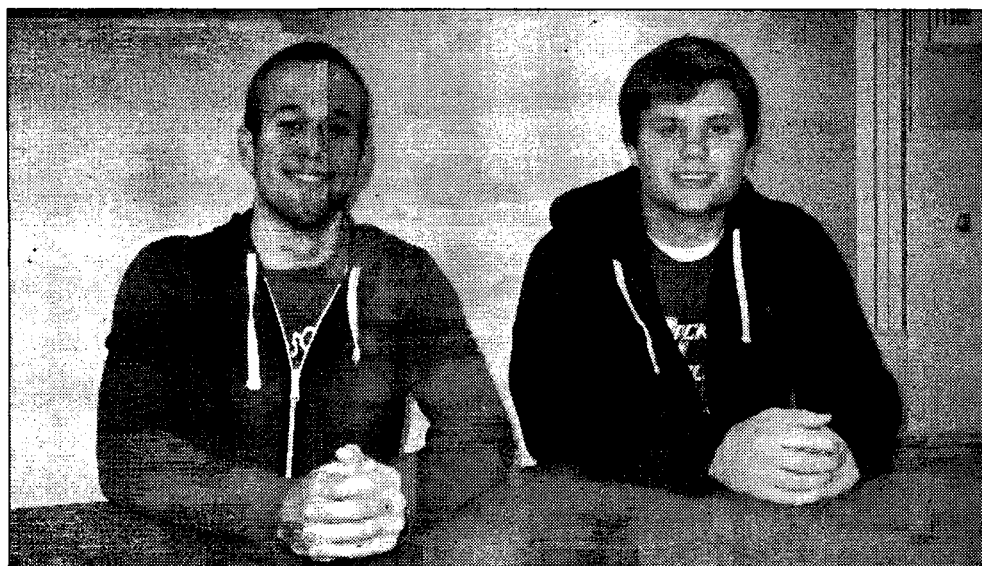
Keenan Hall's annual comedy show "The Keenan Revue" will take place Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7p.m. in the O'Laughlin Auditorium at Saint Mary's College.

L.A. Theatre Works presents "The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial" Saturday at 7 p.m. in the Decio Mainstage Theatre of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. The play is based on original transcripts of the famous 1925 Tennessee v. John Scopes "Monkey Trial," which challenged the newly passed Tennessee legislature's "Butler Act" banning the teaching of evolution in the state's public schools. Purchase tickets online, visit or call the Ticket Office at 574-631-2800.

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 27 LOW 13	HIGH 19 LOW 10	HIGH 30 LOW 23	HIGH 18 LOW 13	HIGH 22 LOW 9	HIGH 35 LOW 22

Atlanta 52 / 30 Boston 36 / 29 Chicago 28 / 17 Denver 36 / 16 Houston 62 / 39 Los Angeles 70 / 50 Minneapolis 18 / 11
New York 36 / 30 Philadelphia 37 / 30 Phoenix 70 / 44 Seattle 48 / 36 St. Louis 38 / 21 Tampa 70 / 63 Washington 40 / 30



Student Body president and vice president tickets for 2009-10 academic year, top left Grant Schmidt and Cynthia Weber, top right, Laura Burdick and Derek Sanchez, bottom left, James McCaughan and Tom Gorski and bottom right, Lennon and Charlie Harig.

Tickets

continued from page 1

to reduce the need to carry cash or worry about cab drivers changing the accepted flat rate of two or three dollars.

Schmidt and Weber told The Observer they are already working with the Hammes Notre Dame Bookstore, and eFollet and a University liaison to negotiate some sort of lowering of textbook prices.

One alternative source for buying course materials and "subverting the textbook monopoly," Weber said, is a Web site that would list the ISBN numbers of required reading — "the most essential way of finding your book online," she said.

This idea would require cooperation from Notre Dame professors; Schmidt said many professors have responded positively to the idea.

Student involvement in campus expansion, particularly at the currently under-construction Eddy St. Commons, is another of the main Schmidt-Weber initiatives.

"It would be a shame for a strip on Notre Dame-leased property to not have some sort of availability for students," Schmidt said.

Weber said she hopes the two can "push the limits of student government" by getting the whole undergraduate population involved in a cause: The Global Water Initiative.

"This would be a year-long initiative," she said, involving working with existing campus clubs and their fundraisers.

"We can sit here and talk about textbook prices ... but we're the University of Notre Dame, we're obviously service-oriented. [...] We're taking one specific initiative and getting the entire student body behind it."

Laura Burdick and Derek Sanchez

Burdick and Sanchez, current Athletic Council co-chairs,

said student government has a lot of potential. They want to maximize on that potential by doing more programming activities that "really affect students."

Burdick, a biology major from Terre Haute, Indiana, lives in Cavanaugh. Sanchez, a political science and Spanish major with a minor in Latino Studies, lived in Carroll for two years and now lives in Duncan.

They met freshman year when they sat together at football games, and got to know each other better on Hall President's Council, when each represented his respective dorm.

Burdick and Sanchez told The Observer they have several ambitious goals.

"We are students that want to work for the students," Burdick said. "Not necessarily for the administration, but for the students."

Their top priority is to create a loan forgiveness program for those who pursue a career in public service.

"We just realized that tuition is getting out of control here, and there's not much we can do about that," Sanchez said.

They want to help students pay for college, and promote public service, by establishing a program that forgives the loans of students who commit to a career in public service. They said they would look into the possibility of outside funding for the venture.

Burdick and Sanchez are also interested in developing the Athletic Council as a way to "liaison between coaches and the teams and the student body." They also want to expand the current "Gold Rush" program, by providing incentives for students to boost attendance at all Notre Dame sporting events.

The candidates want to negotiate with the Notre Dame administration and the Notre Dame Security Police (NDSP) to put into place a new disciplinary system for drinking violations, one in which a first

offense would lead to educational development, such as an alcohol assessment, rather than harsher consequences.

"On game days, rather than worry about being seen holding a beer, we want NDSP to worry about people that are out of control, starting fights, getting into fights, rather than worry about someone who can't grow a beard holding a beer," Sanchez said.

Burdick said she wants student government to come up with activities that can make a profit, to offset costs for students.

"It's not really fair for a student to pay for the concert that's coming in the spring if they don't like the band and don't want to go," Burdick said.

The Burdick-Sanchez ticket wants to start a "tailgate row," an area for all students where they can mingle before football games.

They said they are ready for the time pressures that come with being the leaders of student government.

"This whole process so far has been like a full-time job, and it's definitely doable," Burdick said. "If you have an idea and you want to get it done, you make the time to do it. So I think that we feel very strongly about what we want to get done, so we will do it."

James McCaughan and Tom Gorski

McCaughan and Gorski told The Observer that "the most pressing issue," for both students at Notre Dame and alumni of the University, is the police presence on and off campus.

"If we are elected, we will do everything we can to make sure students can be comfortable when they are in situations where in the past they have been afraid of very strict and aggressive disciplinary measures," McCaughan said.

Their top priority is to persuade the University and NDSP to scale back how strictly rules are enforced, especially at and

before football games.

McCaughan, a junior, and Gorski, a sophomore, are roommates in Siegfried. McCaughan is a history and economics major from Key Biscayne, Fla and Gorski is an IT Management major from Omaha, Neb.

Both were interviewed on TV last fall about the police presence in the tailgate area. Gorski said he was interviewed as someone beside him was being arrested.

McCaughan and Gorski also want the University to disregard evidence obtained by illegal searches and seizures. They want this to extend to cases in which police "are overly aggressive in shutting down an off-campus party."

The ticket plans to, should they win, move the student government office from the second floor of LaFortune to the first floor of the building to make it more accessible to students.

They also want to make a Facebook wall application so students can directly voice their concerns and complaints.

Establishing an interhall laser tag league is their No. 4 priority, followed by urging student government to officially support the DormBooks.com used textbook program, so students can save money.

McCaughan said he has not been a part of student government since fifth grade, but said their ticket still has the experience necessary to lead.

"I think we can bring in new perspectives to student government and we can identify very easily with the student government," he said.

Their unofficial slogan, they said, is "Men of the people, working for students."

Luke Lennon and Charlie Harig

The freshman duo of Luke Lennon and Charlie Harig told The Observer they would "love to be a part of the political system here."

"We can make some changes that are important to the

University ... maybe some changes that people don't even realize they need," Lennon, the candidate for student body president said.

The two Zahm roommates list affirmative action for beautiful women, coating bowls in the dining halls with a lubricant to prevent sticking and a value system for North and South Dining halls because of the difference in the quality of meals.

Their affirmative action idea "pretty much consists of checking out girls before they attend the University" and giving out scholarships accordingly, Lennon said.

Harig said girls can both gain scholarships after they are admitted, earning what he called "walk-on status," and lose their scholarships for various violations.

The pair said they feel no one on campus enjoys eating a salad out of four bowls stuck together, so they are proposing adding a position to dining hall staffs that entails keeping the bowls lubricated, which will create a more convenient dining experience and help in the cleaning process.

The Harig-Lennon ticket is relying on word of mouth to get their campaign energized.

"We talked to everyone who gave us signatures," Lennon said. "Just to be formal, we're going to have posters out there."

"I feel like everyone wants to vote for us, regardless of what we put up," Harig said.

The two didn't want to put a limit of how long they'd be in office if elected.

"Not just three years, not until we graduate," Harig said.

"We'd be willing to fail out of the same theology class many, many times — every semester," Lennon said.

"So for infinity," Harig said.

The first thing on the Zahm ticket's agenda if elected: a parade.

Contact Jenn Metz at jmetz@nd.edu and Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu

Metals

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While the on campus participation has been fairly strong, Restivo said that off-campus members of the Notre Dame community are urged to participate as well.

"The more off-campus residences we can get, the larger the program will be, and the more money we will raise for the Catholic Worker House," Restivo said.

Months of prior planning led to the official start of the Miraculous Metals program, which began Nov. 17. The program will run through the end of this semester and through next school year.

The program's planners have some other goals for Miraculous Metals.

"We hope to show people how easy it is to help out in the community and help the environment — all it takes is a few minutes to separate your aluminum recycling and put it in the designated receptacle," Restivo said.

"Also, we hope to encourage people to find new ways to help out in the community and help the environment."

Restivo also said that they hoped to eventually extend and invitation to all South Bend residents to participate.

"Once the program has been well-established though, we are looking to reach out to homes in South Bend and include them in the program as well," Restivo said.

There are a variety of ways in which students can get involved, such as taking time to recycle.

When recycling, students must take the time to separate their aluminum cans from the rest of their recycling.

Also, for students who reside on-campus, there will be dorm-wide e-mails coming soon with more information about participating in the program. In addition, fliers will be posted on dorm recycling receptacles indicating those specified for aluminum collection for the program.

Off-campus students can become more involved with the program by contacting Mike

Gotsch (mgotsch@nd.edu). Each off-campus residence that joins the program will be provided with a recycling receptacle for aluminum cans.

Restivo highlighted that the most important aspect at keeping the program alive will be the participation of the student body.

"This program is a great way to be involved in helping those less fortunate than us and the environment at the same time, and it is so simple," Restivo said.

Contact Liz O'Donnell at codonne1@nd.edu

SIBC

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years.

"I think this year, the internships are going to be more competitive because the market is more competitive," he said.

Generally, freshman and sophomores make up the majority of the applicants, but it is likely that more juniors will be in the applicant pool because the economy makes it much harder to obtain summer internships this year, Brownschidle said.

Tina Tovar, the vice president of internships for SIBC, said they hope to increase the applicant pool to include students who are not business majors.

"I've sent out e-mails to all of the departments, and I put up fliers in the career fair," Tovar said. "So a lot of people have been

hearing about it and aren't necessarily business students."

Tovar said the internships are varied, and students will do everything from teaching, to working in a law firm to working on projects involving marketing or finance.

Browschidle has spent the past two summers doing SIBC internships, first in Thailand and then in Belize.

"I worked in Bangkok with an international trading company," he said. "You have to be motivated and driven to find your own projects, so while I was there I worked in a variety of different divisions, like marketing and finance — anywhere I could lend a hand."

While most of the internships are located in different countries, there are several in Washington D.C., Tovar said. These internships are still internationally focused, she said.

Tovar spent a summer working for the Department of Commerce in Washington. She said her job primarily involved programming

for events, such as forums and panels.

"I had to come up with who's going to be at the panels, how the agendas will work and planning the event itself," she said.

When reviewing the applications, which are due Feb. 13, the SIBC board will look for students who show initiative, since the projects they will tackle require self-motivation, and they prefer students who have shown a dedication to SIBC and participated in the club's projects in the past, Brownschidle said. More than anything, participation in SIBC projects give students the skills they need to be successful in their internships, he said.

"I had done a bunch of SIBC projects," Brownschidle said. "That's where I picked up all the business skills I needed to get my internship."

The SIBC interns do not get paid, but SIBC covers all the costs of the trip, Brownschidle said. The club covers expenses such as housing, plane tickets and any

vaccines that might be necessary.

"Although you're not getting paid, the experience is more than worth it," he said.

Browschidle said SIBC is privately endowed, so the club does not get funds from the University. A donor started the endowment in 1989, and the interest from the endowment is used to pay for

club expenses and the student internships.

The international internships

are primarily a result of networking with Notre Dame and SIBC alumni who work for big companies or non-profit organizations and agree to take on an intern, Brownschidle said.

Browschidle said the internships give students international business experience that they would not generally be exposed to.

"You really have the opportunity to see countries you would very rarely see on your own," he said. "The experiences I had as a result of the internships is something I will remember for the rest of my life."

Contact Madeline Buckley at mbuckley@nd.edu

"I think this year the internships are going to be more competitive because the market is more competitive."

Matt Brownschidle
SIBC president

"Although you're not getting paid, the experience is more than worth it."

Matt Brownschidle
SIBC president

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Iraq

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Salem said his life before the war was simple and comfortable. He talked about how Americans have a misconceived notion about life in Iraq before the invasion.

"All that you know about Iraq is from the media but the media is not always correct," Salem said. "The only problem before 2003 was that we lived as a closed country and did not know about anything outside of Iraq."

Rasheed and Al-Assadi both agreed with Salem that life in Iraq during Saddam Hussein's rule was a time of tranquility.

"Before the war, there was no religious conflict," Rasheed said. "I'm a Muslim Sunni and until the war my best friend was a Christian."

Rasheed and his family stayed in Baghdad during the invasion, but prepared to leave the city at any moment.

"I remember those three weeks that were just full of bombing and soldiers in the streets," he said. "On April 9, 2003, we turned on the TV and did not believe the reports that American soldiers were really in Baghdad."

After April 9, everything changed. There was no gas, no electricity, and no safety for any of the city's inhabitants Rasheed said.

"The situation just kept getting worse each time the government changed," he said. "In 2006, the racism war began and the fear intensified. I got a fake ID that had a different religion and name because I felt threatened because of my Sunni religion."

Rasheed recalls that at the end of 2006, many people left Iraq for Syria or Jordan.

"All anyone wanted was a sense of safety," he said.

Randa Al-Assadi, who is also from Baghdad, remembered the horrible conditions that caused many to suffer.

"Everything became extremely dangerous," she said. "There were killings and kidnappings and I remember everyone just hoping that in a few months everything would be OK, but that didn't happen."

"When I remember that feeling I feel so bad, but I accept it because this is our life," she said.

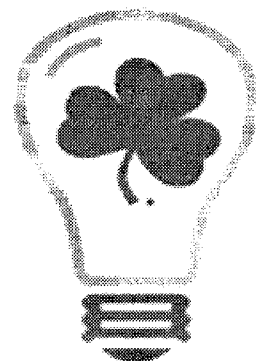
Al-Assadi said that she applied for the Iraqi Student Project because she had no other means of continuing her education. Despite her distance from her native country, Al-Assadi constantly thinks about her fellow Iraqis that remain there.

"I'm always wondering about my Iraqi brothers and sisters," she said. "We're struggling from the war; the people are struggling."

In spite of the conflict that is still waging in Iraq, all three students remain hopeful for the future of their country that they love so much.

"I think my country can heal," Al-Assadi said. "The situation is unstable right now so you can't see the good, but the peace will come and everything will be good like it was before the war. We were able to live together as brothers and sisters for millions of years and we will live that way again someday."

Contact Molly Madden at mmadden@hcc-nd.edu



ENERGY CHALLENGE

Notre Dame Science

College of Science Energy Challenge Launch

4 p.m., Monday, February 2
Jordan Hall of Science Galleria

Flip a Switch and Support a Student

The College of Science will challenge the dome on energy use. Come to the reception to learn how you can help.

Sponsored by the College of Science Committee on Sustainability

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

N. Korea warns of war with S. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea warned Sunday that South Korea's confrontational policies may trigger a war on the divided peninsula, a message coming two days after the communist country vowed to abandon all peace agreements with its southern neighbor.

Relations between the two Koreas have been strained since conservative President Lee Myung-bak took office nearly a year ago in Seoul, pledging to take a harder line on the North. Tension heightened Friday when the North said it was ditching a nonaggression pact and all other peace accords with South Korea.

The tension may lead to "an unavoidable military conflict and a war," North Korea's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper said in a commentary carried Sunday by the country's official Korean Central News Agency.

At least 89 killed in Kenyan oil blaze

MOLO, Kenya — An oil spill from a crashed truck erupted into flames Saturday in Kenya, killing at least 89 people who were trying to scoop up free fuel, officials said.

Patrick Nyongesa, the regional manager for the Kenya Red Cross, said 89 people died and more than 200 were injured after a crowd gathered around the crash in search of free fuel.

The crash was in Molo, several hours outside the capital, Nairobi.

Local newspapers have criticized the government for poor safety.

On Wednesday, a massive fire swept through a supermarket in downtown Nairobi, killing at least 25 people.

NATIONAL NEWS

Ill. governor delivers church message

CHICAGO — In his first Sunday since being thrust into the chief executive's office, Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn delivered a church service message of service and humility, calling on residents to work together despite challenges.

"We have to address each day with new eyes, no grudges," Quinn told the congregation of thousands at Salem Baptist Church. "We always have to learn every day."

Quinn did not specifically mention former Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who was booted from office Thursday and faces federal corruption charges. Blagojevich has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

Instead, Quinn talked vaguely of his plans for the state and mentioned some attributes he believes a governor should have.

Prisoners riot for second time in 2 months

PECOS, Texas — Law enforcement authorities in West Texas say they are trying to restore order at a privately run federal prison where a riot broke out, the second disturbance in as many months.

Texas Department of Public Safety spokeswoman Tela Mange (TEE'-lah maynj) said the riot at the Reeves County Detention Center in Pecos was continuing Sunday, a day after it started.

LOCAL NEWS

Bill would allow DNA sample at arrest

INDIANAPOLIS — Collecting DNA could become almost as common for police as collecting fingerprints under a bill making its way through the Indiana Senate.

Senate Bill 24 would allow police to collect DNA from anyone arrested on a felony charge, rather than just those who are convicted.

Supporters say adding that DNA to state and federal databases could help solve crimes and potentially prevent them.

Ousted governor intends to go to trial

Blagojevich relies on father-and-son duo of defense attorneys to evade prison

Associated Press

CHICAGO — Now that he's been ousted from the governor's office, Rod Blagojevich is pinning his hopes of staying out of prison on a father-and-son duo of defense attorneys, one of whom grabbed the limelight at R&B superstar R. Kelly's sex tape trial.

"These are two of the most flamboyant attorneys in town," DePaul University law professor Leonard Cavise says of the team of Sam Adam and his son, Samuel E. Adam.

Cavise predicts fireworks if Blagojevich goes to trial on federal corruption charges, including allegations that he tried to sell the Senate seat vacated by President Barack Obama.

Federal prosecutors are expected to obtain an indictment by April. Blagojevich was arrested by FBI agents in December and was booted from office Thursday when a state Senate impeachment trial ended with a 59-0 vote against him.

Some are already questioning the Adams' legal strategy — including their decision to let Blagojevich go on a whirlwind New York media tour before his impeachment trial ended, fielding questions about the criminal case from Barbara Walters, Diane Sawyer, Larry King and more.

Blagojevich also gave an impassioned closing argument to senators before they removed him from office, although he didn't testify under oath.

His unwillingness to stay quiet cost him the help of his former lead attorney, Edward M. Genson, who announced he was withdrawing from the case before the media blitz.

Lawyers say Blagojevich tipped his hand about a possible defense when he said in his Senate plea that he had no intent to commit any crime.



Former Ill. governor Rod Blagojevich plans to go to trial on federal corruption charges. The Illinois House voted Jan. 9 to impeach Blagojevich.

"There will be an instruction — the jury will be told that for them to find him guilty he has to have intended to commit fraud," says defense attorney John M. Beal.

The ousted governor also gave a peek at another defense strategy during his media interviews, saying secretly recorded conversations that were cited in the criminal complaint — including one of him calling the Senate seat a valuable thing not to be given away for free — were taken out of context.

"Blagojevich is likely to say, as he has been saying, his words were taken out of context and politics is a tough business that frequently requires tough talk and a lot of bluster to achieve your goals," says

defense attorney Michael Petro.

Blagojevich admitted to MSNBC's Rachel Maddow that Genson had hoped he would keep his mouth shut and not grant such interviews.

Most Chicago lawyers agree with Genson that the interviews were a mistake.

"It's potentially disastrous and makes him look like a clown," Cavise said.

But the elder Adam said Thursday that he saw no problem.

"When he goes to trial he's going to have to answer questions, and the only drawback would be if he said something in the media that would go to impeach his credibility at the trial and as far as I know he didn't," he said.

No one doubts that if the father-son legal duo — "the two Sams" — take the case to trial they'll arrive with a full supply of fireworks to keep the jury entertained.

The elder Adam is a serious legal scholar with an offbeat sense of humor and a flair for the dramatic — some say the eccentric. He once dug his thick fingers into the crop of pure white hair sported by a client, a judge accused of corruption, right after imploring jurors to "send this good man back to his wife of 50 years and 23 grandchildren." They looked startled, but later acquitted him.

People who know him best warn against taking the elder Adams for a lightweight.

Outbreak due to inspection problems

Associated Press

BLAKELY, Ga. — A Georgia health inspector who toured the peanut butter plant now at the center of a national salmonella outbreak noted only two minor violations in October. Less than three months later, federal inspectors found roaches, mold, a leaking roof and other sanitation problems.

Food safety experts say the lapse is a major concern and shows state inspectors are spread thin and might need more training on how to spot unsanitary conditions.

"It's surprising to me that that many major deficiencies were

observed at one time, and none of these were picked up previously," said Michael Doyle, head of the food safety center at the University of Georgia.

In October, state inspector Donna Adams noted only two violations in her report on the Peanut Corp. of America plant: tote containers with butter residue and "black buildup" and "mildew and possibly some static dust on ceiling of butter storage room."

No samples of the finished product were taken for salmonella testing during the October inspection, despite a push by the state to check for the bacteria after a salmonella

outbreak was traced to another Georgia peanut butter plant in 2007.

The October report showing only minor violations seems to conflict with conditions observed by at least one former employee, though others said they saw no problems.

Jonathan Prather, who said he worked in the plant's peanut butter room until he and most of the plant's other employees were recently laid off, said he sometimes saw old and soggy peanuts being used and other unsanitary conditions. When he raised concerns about the plant's cleanliness, Prather said he was ignored by managers.

GOP leader doubts stimulus bill will pass

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said Sunday the massive stimulus bill backed by President Barack Obama and congressional Democrats could go down to defeat if it's not stripped of unnecessary spending and focused more on housing issues and tax cut.

The Senate version of the bill, which topped out at nearly \$900 billion, is headed to the floor for debate. The House bill totaled about \$819 billion and earned no Republican votes, even though it easily passed the Democratic-controlled House. At some point lawmakers will need to compromise on the competing versions.

McConnell and other Republicans suggested that the bill needed an overhaul because it doesn't pump enough into the private sector through tax cuts and allows Democrats to go on a spending spree unlikely to jolt the economy. The Republican leader also complained that Democrats had not been as bipartisan in writing the bill as Obama had said he wanted.

"I think it may be time ... for the president to kind of get a hold of these Democrats in the Senate and the House, who have rather significant majorities, and shake them a little bit and say, 'Look, let's do this the right way,'" McConnell said. "I can't believe that the president isn't embarrassed about the products that have been produced so far."

For his part, Obama said he is confident Republicans will come around to support the final version of the legislation. He and Vice President Joe Biden will meet with congressional leaders at the White House on Monday afternoon.

The president repeated what his top aides and officials have been telling reporters in recent days, that the final package would be close to its objectives — to save or create 3 to 4 million jobs — and Republicans would be able to back it.

"I am confident that by the time we have the final package on the floor that we are going to see substantial support, and people are going to see this is a serious effort. It has no earmarks. We are going to be trimming out things that are not relevant to putting people back to work right now," Obama said.

However, he declined to predict how many Senate Republicans might switch parties. Biden, a former senior member of the Senate before his election, similarly declined to offer predictions last week in an interview despite his personal phone calls for former colleagues.

"Look, the important thing is getting the thing passed," Obama told NBC's Matt Lauer during a live pre-Super Bowl interview. "And I've done extraordinary outreach, I think, to Republicans because they have some good ideas and I want to make sure those ideas are incorporated."

Obama also said his administration would announce plans to spend the second \$350 billion of a bank bailout after Congress deals with the separate economic recovery plan.

Under Obama's plan, strained state budgets would receive a cash infusion, projects for roads and other infrastructure would be funded, and "green jobs" in the energy sector would be created. In its centerpiece tax cut, single workers would gain \$500 and couples \$1,000, even if they don't earn enough to owe federal income taxes.

Sen. Jon Kyl of Arizona, the No. 2 Republican in the Senate, said he was seeing an erosion of support for the bill and suggested that lawmakers should consider beginning anew.

"When I say start from scratch, what I mean is that the basic approach of this bill, we believe, is wrong," Kyl said.

Among the major changes Kyl said would be needed to gain Republican support in the Senate was the tax rebate for individuals and couples, which he criticized as going to too many people who didn't pay the tax to start with. He also criticized the bill for seeking to create nearly three dozen government programs and giving states far more money than they need.

Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., argued that \$1 out of every \$3 in the bill goes to tax cuts and defended it as aimed at helping working families. While he contended that Democrats were "very open" to Republican proposals, he cited only what he said were calls for more money in job-creating public works projects, typically a Democratic priority.

Sen. Jim DeMint, R-S.C., characterized the proposal as "a spending plan. It's not a stimulus plan. It's temporary, and it's wasteful."

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., the chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, said the bill was designed to help people who have been damaged in the economic meltdown as well as stimulate the economy.

"I never saw a tax cut fix a bridge. I never saw a tax cut give us more public transportation. The fact is, we need a mix," Frank said.

Game

continued from page 1

take on the Steelers' Ben Roethlisberger.

Steelers fans were quickly sent on an emotional roller coaster when their team's first touchdown was overturned by a coach's challenge. Fans had to settle for a field goal instead, and they were not too happy.

"I wish we started off with a bigger lead," senior Emily Toates said. "It would have made the rest of the game a little less unnerving."

The second quarter had Pittsburgh fans jumping up and down when linebacker James Harrison intercepted a pass at the zero yard line for a 100 yard return for a touchdown with only 18 seconds left on the clock.

"Give that man some oxygen!" students chanted.

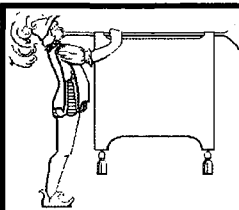
Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band performed the halftime show, but many students had to miss it to catch up on homework.

"I'm happy the Steelers are winning," senior Jeff Tisak said. "But it's sad that everyone had to grab homework at halftime."

When the second half began, however, students put aside their books for another round of excitement. The third quarter was nothing more than a slight confidence boost for the Steelers, but during the fourth quarter students were given a nail-biting finale.

"The Cardinals put up a good fight," Dzurik said. "But I think the Steelers deserved to win."

Contact Christine Fagan at cfagan2@nd.edu



Announcing the Year 2009 Annual Awards of the Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship

Thanks to a generous gift from the Albert Ravarino family, the Italian Studies Program is pleased to announce the year 2009 annual competition for travel in support of summer research and foreign study in Italy. Grants will be made in amounts not to exceed \$3,000, and will not normally cover all expenses. Notre Dame graduate and undergraduate students who are planning to pursue research or a formal program of summer study in Italy are invited to apply. Students must have completed at least one year of Italian language. The course work will normally be in Italian; will involve the study of Italian language, literature, and culture; and must be applicable to a student's degree program at the University of Notre Dame.

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

Students are invited to submit a letter which should include:

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

Application Deadline: Friday, March 6, 2009
Albert Ravarino Italian Studies Travel Scholarship
Program in Italian Studies
343 O'Shaughnessy Hall
University of Notre Dame



Coffee at the Como

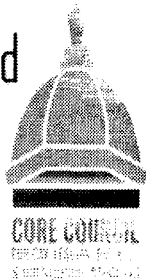
For Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Questioning Students at Notre Dame

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NASDAQ	1,476.42	-31.42
NYSE	5,195.79	-105.11
S&P 500	825.88	-19.26
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	7,994.05	0.00
FTSE 100 (London)	4,149.64	-40.47

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
SPDR S&P 500 (SPY)	-2.03	-1.72	82.83
FINANCIAL SEL SPDR (XLF)	-2.74	-0.26	9.24
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CITIGROUP INC (C)	-8.97	-0.35	3.55

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IN BRIEF

No answer at Davos global forum

DAVOS, Switzerland — Mired in indecision and uncertainty, the world's foremost gathering of the best and brightest in government and business failed to come up with any new plan to stem, much less reverse, the global financial meltdown.

The five-day World Economic Forum in this Swiss alpine resort wrapped up Sunday in the same atmosphere of doom and gloom that it began, with a realization that the depth of the crisis is still unknown and the solution remains elusive.

"Everybody's lost in Davos," said Kishore Mahbubani, dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore.

"No one seems to have a clear understanding of how big this crisis is and what we need to do to get out of it," he told AP. "My own view is that you really need to do a fundamental reexamination of the whole global system to see what went wrong, and nobody here is yet ready to ask these kinds of fundamental questions in Davos."

Housing bust hits NC farm town

WEST JEFFERSON, N.C. — When this Appalachian town's light-switch plant went dark, fortunes dimmed for Jeff and Amanda Ruegsegger, and hundreds of their neighbors.

No more Sunday lunches at the Mexican restaurant between morning and evening church: they now pack sandwiches. No more saving for retirement: they tapped Jeff's 401(k) to pay down a home-equity line of credit. The health insurance is gone, too, replaced by prayers that the Ruegsegger's and their two teenage children stay healthy.

"There's a feeling of worthlessness," said Jeff, a former tool-and-die maker. A severance package is helping, but the lack of jobs could force the family to move.

In small towns like West Jefferson across the country, factories and families had thrived on the back of the housing boom. Now, employers are fighting for survival and laid-off workers are conserving cash.

Banks sought foreign workers

AP investigation reveals visas sought by banks increased by one-third despite layoffs

Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Major U.S. banks sought government permission to bring thousands of foreign workers into the country for high-paying jobs even as the system was melting down last year and Americans were getting laid off, according to an Associated Press review of visa applications.

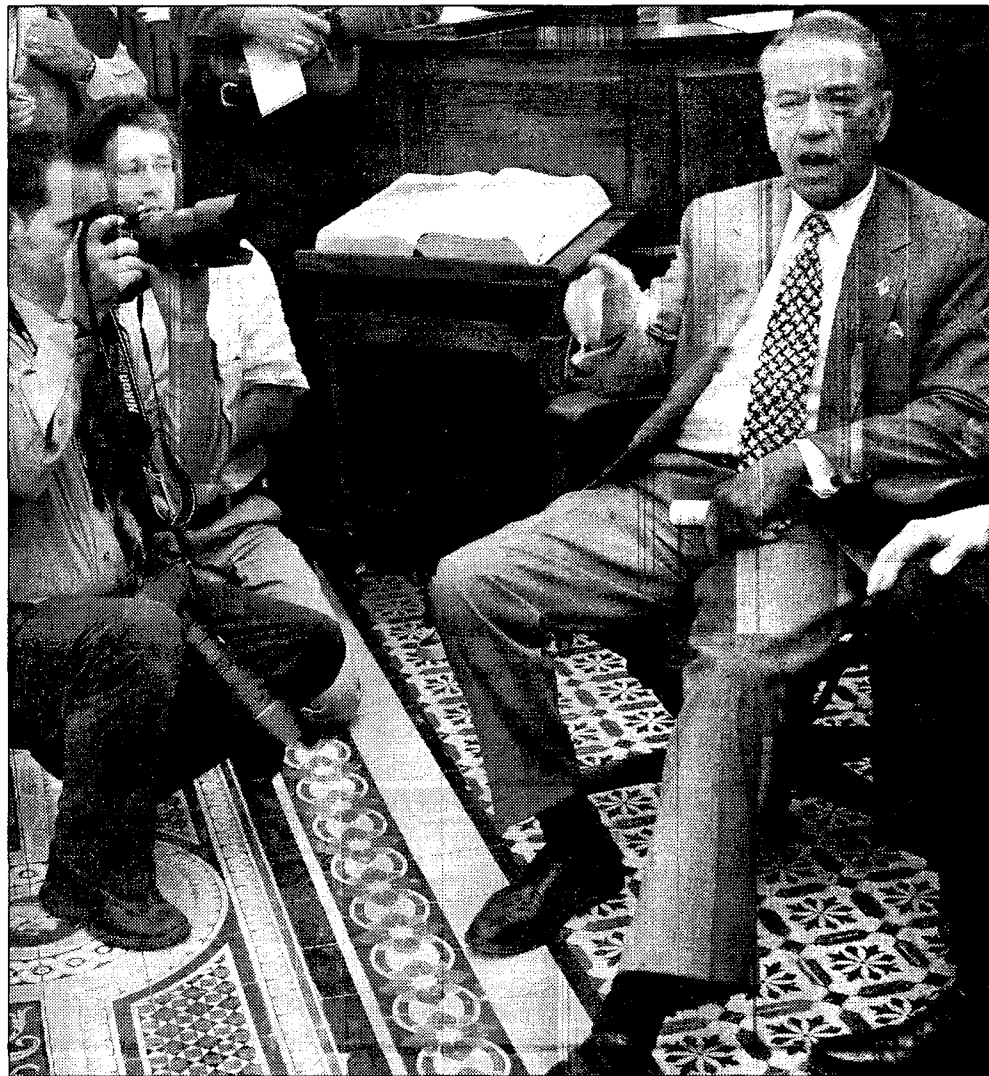
The dozen banks now receiving the biggest rescue packages, totaling more than \$150 billion, requested visas for more than 21,800 foreign workers over the past six years for positions that included senior vice presidents, corporate lawyers, junior investment analysts and human resources specialists. The average annual salary for those jobs was \$90,721, nearly twice the median income for all American households.

As the economic collapse worsened last year — with huge numbers of bank employees laid off — the numbers of visas sought by the dozen banks in AP's analysis increased by nearly one-third, from 3,258 in the 2007 budget year to 4,163 in fiscal 2008.

The AP reviewed visa applications the banks filed with the Labor Department under the H-1B visa program, which allows temporary employment of foreign workers in specialized-skill and advanced-degree positions. Such visas are most often associated with high-tech workers.

It is unclear how many foreign workers the banks actually hired; the government does not release those details. The actual number is likely a fraction of the 21,800 foreign workers the banks sought to hire because the government only grants 85,000 such visas each year among all U.S. employers.

During the last three months of 2008, the largest banks that received taxpayer loans announced more than 100,000 layoffs. The number of foreign workers included among those laid off is



Sen. Charles Grassley is pushing legislation to make employers recruit American workers first in response to banks seeking visas for foreign workers.

unknown.

Foreigners are attractive hires because companies have found ways to pay them less than American workers.

Companies are required to pay foreign workers a prevailing wage based on the job's description. But they can use the lower end of government wage scales even for highly skilled workers; hire younger foreigners with lower salary demands; and hire foreigners with higher levels of education or advanced degrees for jobs for which similarly educated American workers would be considered overqualified.

"The system provides you perfectly legal mechanisms to underpay the workers," said John Miano of Summit, N.J., a lawyer who has ana-

lyzed the wage data and started the Programmers Guild, an advocacy group that opposes the H-1B system.

David Huber of Chicago is a computer networking engineer who has testified to Congress about losing out on a 2002 job with the former Bank One Corp. He learned later the bank applied to hire dozens of foreign visa holders for work he said he was qualified to do.

"American citizenship is being undermined working in our own country," Huber said in an AP interview.

Beyond seeking approval for visas from the government, banks that accepted federal bailout money also enlisted uncoun- ted foreign workers, often in technology

jobs, through intermediary companies known as "body shops." Such businesses are the top recipients of the H-1B visas.

The use of visa workers by ailing banks angers Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, the senior Republican on the Senate Finance Committee.

"In this time of very, very high unemployment ... and considering the help these banks are getting from the taxpayers, they're playing the American taxpayer for a sucker," Grassley said in a telephone interview with AP.

Grassley, with Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., is pushing for legislation to make employers recruit American workers first, along with other changes to the visa program.

Americans spending less, saving more

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans are hunkering down and saving more. For a recession-battered economy, it couldn't be happening at a worse time.

Economists call it the "paradox of thrift." What's good for individuals — spending less, saving more — is bad for the economy when everyone does it.

On Friday, the government reported Americans' savings rate, as a percentage of after-tax incomes, rose to 2.9 percent in the last three months of 2008. That's up sharply from 1.2 percent in the third quarter and less than 1 percent a year ago.

Like a teeter-totter, when the savings rate rises, spending falls. The latter accounts for about 70 percent of economic activity. When consumers refuse to spend, companies cut back, layoffs rise, people pinch pennies even more and the recession deepens.

The downward spiral has hammered the retail and manufacturing industries. For years, stores enjoyed boom times as shoppers splurged on TVs, fancy kitchen decor and clothes. Suddenly, frugality is in style.

Grace Case, 38, of Syracuse, N.Y., is a self-described recovering creditaholic. For 13 years, she charged it all — cars, clothes, repairs, vacations. She'd make only the minimum

card payments to sustain her buying spree for her and her family, which includes her husband and two children.

But after being laid off 2½ years ago from her job as an accountant, she landed another accounting job that cut her salary from \$60,000 to \$40,000. It was impossible to meet minimum payments on her card balances.

Now, the Cases are on a strict budget. They take "staycations," grow their own vegetables, buy only used cars and pre-pay cell phones. Case hasn't used a credit card in two years. And she's saving more.

"It's really a liberating feeling," she said. "If you want something, you have to have the money for it."

THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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THE OBSERVER

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Austria and Germany hate nuclear energy. They hate it. What radiation did not reach them during the Chernobyl incident was supplemented by the radiation of bad PR that swept through eastern Western Europe. Austria's two existing power plants have never been put to use due to the overwhelming sentiment against their installment into the grid in a 1978 referendum, almost a full decade before Chernobyl. The opposition is deeply rooted.

And yet, thanks to the Russian giant natural gas supplier Gazprom, in the last few weeks nuclear power has been one of the main topics of discussion in every Austrian newspaper, blog, television news, university common space, coffee shop, etc.

The aftermath of the early January scare from Gazprom's holding hostage large amounts of natural gas flow not only to the Ukraine, but also to Europe is still resonating strongly. For two weeks, 90 percent of Gazprom's natural gas normally flowing to Austria was cut off, and many other European countries received none from the supplier.

Such a drastic cutoff reawakened, yet again, Austrians and other Europeans to their frailty in energy sustainability matters. The economy and lifestyles of this western, wealthy, unquestionably industrialized country with a standard of living that ranks in the top 15 in the world is completely reliant on a country with whose politics it disagrees. Sound familiar?

The cutoff, much like the high oil prices of last summer here in America, brought up again the

increasingly important topic of energy security. How can a "powerful" nation be brought to its knees by one closed pipeline? By the rising prices of one single commodity? That is not security, under any circumstances.

But with the much-needed concept of "Energy Security" comes other dangers. Secure, but at what price? Most Austrians hold the opposition of nuclear energy as one of their core beliefs. Removing myself momentarily from the argument for or against nuclear power, the Austrians themselves believe that it would spell certain dangers for their nation if they were to allow such plants to proceed. Their country holds it as derogatory to the environment, present and future, to proceed with nuclear energy.

When does Energy Security hamper environmental protection? Often the two are interlinked, can play off each other and promote one another simultaneously. Renewable energy development not only helps our energy security, but also has the potential to improve air quality, provide long-term health benefits, lessen carbon dioxide emissions and minimize invasive and environmentally detrimental mining techniques.

However, Energy Security often becomes a force that hampers environmental goals. Austrians who do not choose to build nuclear power plants have the option. Desperate needs for Energy Security force them into compromising their values. Plans for dams and hydro-power plants are popping up all over Europe in places once valued for their relatively untouched ecosystems.

We in America are all too familiar with such compromises. In the name of Energy Security, it's okay to move mountains, displace elk, irretrievably ruin oceanic ecosystems or deplete already strained soil. Granted, the last administration often tried to switch heaven for hell in the name of security.

ty, insisting it was a good idea, but the bipartisan rush to wean off of foreign oil and gas runs the risk of depleting the lasting health of our country and people, a resource that is nonrenewable.

We must approach the concept of Energy Security while keeping in mind what we may be sacrificing for it. Drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf would result in a cumulative 1.6 percent greater domestic crude oil production by the year 2030, hardly enough to justify the permanent damage to the ocean ecosystem that would ensue — not to mention the billions to fund the drilling. And yet, as far as legislation suggestions go, it has been at the top of the solution list as of late.

In a time when we are pressed for money, struggling for solutions to energy problems and slowly disengaging ourselves from foreign entanglements, it is important to remember the long-term effects of our actions. Unlike our politics, we cannot instantaneously — or often, ever — reverse the damage we inflict upon the environment. Energy Security can mean a cooperative relationship between environmental and energy problems, but hastily striving towards security cuts corners that our earth can't afford not to acknowledge. Slowly shifting our dependence and supplementing development of renewables with positive diplomatic relations is the only way to attain lasting Energy Security, whether in Austria, America or even the oil powers themselves.

Jackie Mirandola Mullen is a junior History and German major who is currently studying abroad in Innsbruck, Austria. She tried to save energy by hibernating her computer while writing this article, but it didn't work so well. She can be reached at jmirando@nd.edu

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We won't...

In response to Bob Kessler's Jan. 30 letter "We are..." I need to voice my discontent. While I have noticed that we are often times told that we are special and whatnot, by chanting "We are ND," I do not see how this can possibly be taken as arrogance. The Northwestern chant is arrogant, true, but through chanting who we are, who we represent, we are not in any way or form condescending those who have beaten us. I, for one, am saying who I am with pride, saying they have not beaten down the spirit that embodies the campus.

I believe that this cheer is much better than saying words such as "Suck it, (insert lesser school's title)," yet you do not mention anything towards this. You probably say that it is in the sport of athleticism, of college events, to try to irritate the other team so as to give us the upper hand. Yet I guarantee that hearing a student body insulting the entire University due to a simple sporting event creates more hatred than by chanting "We are ND" at the end of a game. At the USC game, the marching band and the fans were obviously jeered at, booed and were the victims of numerous insults, chants and gestures. Yet what was more irritating

was when the Trojan fans, at the end of the game, began chanting that their next opponents sucked, that they didn't stand a chance. May we remind them of the Oregon State game, thereby proving anything is possible.

Another way to be condescending to a college happened at our very stadium by Syracuse when they won. They stood in the center of the marching band, jeering at our family as we sang our Alma Mater. To me, that is the most disgusting display of arrogance in the face of an opponent. Our chant — and there are many who agree with me — is to unite the family once we have lost. It is to remind us that there are things that will happen, and we must take them in stride. No, we cannot win everything, we are guaranteed to lose other events, but it is to remind ourselves and the opposing team that we are a family. They may have won the game, but "We are ND!"

Matt Roe
freshman
Morrisey Manor
Feb. 1

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Ability may get you to the top, but it takes character to keep you there."

John Wooden
basketball coach

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

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"You get the best out of others when you give the best of yourself."

Harry Firestone
author

Tomorrow's citizens will pay for today's spending

Last November, voters elected Barack Obama as president, decisively repudiating the failed policies of the Bush administration and ushering in an era of change and reform. Or at least that's what they thought they were doing. Less than a month into Obama's presidency, it's becoming alarmingly clear that many of the most misguided policies of the Bush years are here to stay. Thousands of Americans, suffering the effects of a deepening recession, are hopeful that the new administration will adopt a new course and lead our nation out of the present economic crisis. President Obama, however, seems determined to follow in the footsteps of his predecessor.

Ben Linskey

*Guest
Columnist*

On Feb. 13 of last year, George W. Bush signed the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008, intended to ward off a looming recession; predictably, the bill accomplished little more than tacking \$152 billion onto the federal deficit. Less than a year later, faced with a worsening economic outlook, President Obama has somehow convinced himself and his political allies that the most prudent course of action is to imitate the Bush administration's policies on a grossly magnified scale, this time lobbing over \$800 billion at the problem. The most immediate difficulty with this "stimulus" plan is that it simply won't work. In the 1930s, Franklin Delano Roosevelt

oversaw the creation of thousands of new agencies and government jobs, but no amount of federal prodigality could lift the United States out of the Great Depression. In a recent analysis of Depression-era economic programs posted on the Cato Institute website, Regulation magazine editor Thomas Firey concluded that "the New Deal did little as an economic stimulus." There is no reason to believe that the Obama administration's "new New Deal" will be any more effective. It is high time we recognize the sheer futility of government attempts to manipulate the economy. The greatest danger in this latest stimulus program, though, lies not in its ineffectiveness, but in the costs it will impose on future generations.

The national debt presently stands at over \$10.5 trillion — over \$30,000 per U.S. citizen. The Bush and Obama stimulus bills, combined with the recent wave of bailouts for failing, inefficient corporations, bear a combined price tag well in excess of \$1 trillion. These numbers are almost too large to fully comprehend, but the federal debt is not an abstract tally; it is a series of enormous financial obligations to a variety of foreign governments and private citizens, all of whom collect interest on their investments each year. Last year alone, the federal government paid out a whopping \$412 billion to its creditors. The Congressional Budget Office recently calculated that the stimulus package heralded by the Obama admin-

istration will entail an additional \$347 billion in interest payments over the next decade.

Deficit spending imposes a steadily growing burden on taxpayers. The government can account for its debt in only two ways. It can raise taxes, preying on the productivity of U.S. citizens, or it can simply print more money, leading to the hidden, insidious phenomenon of inflation. The latter option is more prevalent, as the disastrous consequences of inflation are not immediately apparent. (Incidentally, proponents of social justice who support government spending programs would do well to remember that the costs of inflation are distributed unevenly and often do the most harm to the poor.) Politicians seize on the opportunity to impose long-term costs in return for the illusion of short-term benefits.

The ultimate, and most pernicious, consequences of reckless spending are seldom discussed. It is future generations, not current taxpayers, who will bear the brunt of the federal debt, and politicians in Washington have no qualms about burdening U.S. citizens not yet born with trillions of dollars of obligations in return for immediate political gain. The great tragedy of the recent wave of stimulus bills and federal bailouts is that those who will be most affected by these policies do not even get a vote. The men and women who will inherit the national debt didn't elect George Bush, Barack Obama or

any member of the U.S. Congress. The federal government's longstanding policy of burdening the unborn with debt is little more than outright theft, closer to mob rule than democracy.

Sadly, the very nature of government and electoral politics encourages politicians to exploit the powerless for the sake of enriching present majorities. The good news is that there is still time for our nation to escape from the endless spiral of spending, bailouts and debt. But to do so, Americans must reject the ineffective and immoral policies offered by Democrats and Republicans in Washington. Voters comprise the greatest — perhaps the only — check on such abuses of federal power. George W. Bush, Barack Obama and their colleagues in Congress have demonstrated that neither the left nor the right can be trusted to administer the powers of government responsibly. Future generations will hold us accountable for the policies we endorse today. It's time for Americans to reject unrestrained federal spending and acknowledge the failure of the major parties to produce responsible, moral governance.

Ben Linskey, a sophomore majoring in political science and philosophy, is co-president of the College Libertarians. He can be contacted at blinskey@nd.edu

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why is Notre Dame involved in the arms trade?

Last semester, we delivered a letter to Father John Jenkins and the representatives of the Career Center asking them to clarify our University's position on what companies we allow on our campus to recruit our students. More than a month later, Fr. Jenkins took the step to meet with us to discuss our concerns. In his office, he listened to us and asked us fair questions. Overall, while we may not have reached the same conclusions about who should or should not be endorsed by the University, Fr. Jenkins left us with an understanding that his administration would take the issue seriously.

At last week's Winter Career Expo, Raytheon again sought to recruit Notre Dame students. We are distressed to find that, as of yet, no action has been taken by either our University's administration or the Career Center to clarify explicitly and publicly the standards to which we hold participants in the career fairs. Despite the efforts of students in the past three consecutive years, the University has yet to publicly and decisively respond to the critique that Raytheon represents a clear and very serious disregard for the stated mission to our University.

The mission statement of the University of Notre Dame specifically calls our community to develop a "disciplined sensibility to the poverty, injustice and oppression that burden the lives of so many." Such a mission hopes to make our University a place where "learning becomes service to justice." These admirable goals are put into practice in many ways. For example, more than 80 percent of the student body will be involved in some sort of service or community work in their time at Notre Dame. Our commitment to justice is real at Notre Dame because it is rooted in our mission.

But when students begin to think about where they can take their interest for justice and service that they learned here at Notre Dame, they are too often presented with a contradictory picture. Organizations like Raytheon serve a narrow conviction that place national self-interest and violent military power above the calling — found in our own mission statement — of "human solidarity and concern for the common good." They inherently contradict what we as a university community have placed as our true mission.

Currently Raytheon is the world's fifth-largest weapons manufacturer. In 2008, Raytheon's value boasted to \$24.7

billion after an annual increase of almost \$5 billion. As MSNBC Business wrote recently: "Like other defense companies, Waltham, Massachusetts-based Raytheon's profits have been boosted in recent years by record defense spending." That is, as the United States and its allies drop more bombs on places like Iraq, Afghanistan and Gaza, Raytheon's profits climb steadily. For Raytheon, the more war and insecurity the better. As profits for Raytheon soar, the people who live where Raytheon's products finally land see only death, destruction and a broken future.

The arms trade is an undeniably profitable business for Raytheon. But in Aug. 2006, to protest Raytheon's involvement in providing the cluster bombs and missiles used in the campaign against the people of Lebanon, nine men from Derry, Northern Ireland occupied a Raytheon office and were detained for trespassing. On June 11, 2008 a jury released the entire group in a unanimous verdict. Eamonn McCann, one of the men detained, stated: "We believe that one day the world will look back on the arms trade as we look back today on the slave trade and wonder how it came about that such evil could abound in respectable society."

We call on the Career Center and the University Administration to examine more closely who we allow onto our campus to recruit our students. We ask that each company and organization, regardless of their national reputation or alumni connection, be judged for their respect and adherence to our University's mission statement. We call on the Administration and the Career Center to make an honest, public statement and clearly define the position of our University on the presence of Raytheon at our University.

Michael Angulo
senior
off campus
Kristi Hass
junior
abroad
Alicia Quiros
junior
off campus
Feb. 1

Right to Life discussion

To the students, faculty and staff of Notre Dame, St. Mary's and Holy Cross:

On Monday, Feb. 2, The Observer will feature a newspaper advertisement entitled, "We Know Better Now." This advertisement is published by the Human Life Alliance, a non-profit pro-life organization based in Minneapolis, Minnesota that seeks to promote the dignity of human life at all of its stages and to encourage the practice of the virtue of chastity in everyday life. The running of this insert may please some, offend others and, perhaps, go unnoticed or unintended to by others. Although Notre Dame Right to Life has not been involved officially in the project of featuring this advertisement in The Observer, we would like to encourage you to read, or at least glance through it.

Being that Notre Dame is a Catholic institution of intellectual exchange and growth, on behalf of Notre Dame Right to Life, I would like to take this opportunity to invite the students, faculty and staff of Notre Dame, St. Mary's and Holy Cross to partake in the ongoing dialogue regarding the issues addressed in the advertisement. To this point, Right to Life will be hosting a bi-partisan discussion on the issues addressed in the advertisement. This event will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 10 at 7:30 PM in the Coleman-Morse Student Center. (Mark your calendars — food will be served!)

Notre Dame Right to Life hopes that you will read the Human Life Alliance advertisement and that you will join us for this discussion!

Mary K. Daly
President, Notre Dame Right to Life
Jan. 30

THE DUDE ABIDES: A DEEPER LOOK AT "THE BIG LEBOWSKI"



With Oscar season right around the corner, one is reminded of all the great films that have garnered the prestigious Academy Award for Best Picture in the past. Epic works of film-

Mark Witte

*Assistant
Scene Editor*

making such as "The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King," older, classic favorites such as "The Sound of Music" or films that, in my opinion, really didn't deserve to win anything, like the abominable, box-office spectacle "Titanic."

But Oscar season also reminds us of why we love movies, especially those movies which never win awards, and really shouldn't. Yet some of those flicks are our personal favorites. I can think of one that sticks out most for me.

When I turned 14, a friend of mine gave me as a present the Coen brothers' cult hit, "The Big Lebowski." As a teenager somewhat sheltered from R-rated movies by overprotective parents, the fact that I was watching something prohibited had me grinning before the movie even started. And when it did, I laughed nearly the entire 117 minutes.

Yet at the time, my being humored was at best a product of the film's unique, bawdy plot, its eccentric characters, goofy ruses and its 200-plus f-bombs (though some claim the number to be closer to 398). In fact, it would be four years — during my freshman composition class — before I seriously cogitated on what made the film so entertaining.

The film's premise starts off simply. Jeff "The Dude" Lebowski (Jeff Bridges) is mistaken by a pair of thugs for the extremely wealthy and crippled philanthropist Jeffrey Lebowski (David Huddleston). These thugs knock the Dude around before proceeding to urinate on his favorite rug, a rug that according to the Dude's volatile bowling buddy Walter Sobchak (John Goodman), "really tied the room together."

The Dude then sets out to seek recompense for his damaged upholstery, getting himself stuck in a complicated web of ransom-seeking Nihilists, porn kings, playboy wives, raging feminists and inept private detectives along the way.

But the film is more than its farcical, bumbling plot portends it to

be.

My freshman year composition class focused on representations of gender, class and race in media. In order to demonstrate contemporary critiques of the subject, the instructor chose to screen "The Big Lebowski" as an example, and that's when I began to decipher what the Coen Brothers were really doing with their film.

"The Big Lebowski" provides masculine (and feminine) role models that no one would willingly want to associate with. Most of these representations are done through extremes.

The Dude's hardly potty-trained antagonists are completely bone-headed, mistaking the debt of a millionaire philanthropist's playboy wife to be associated with the unemployed, Welfare-dependent Dude.

The Nihilists, who later pretend to kidnap the philanthropist's wife and then extract ransom from the Dude, turn out to be spineless, cowardly bullies when confronted by Walter in a showdown outside the bowling alley.

Contrasting their representation is that of Walter himself, a character negatively amped and exuding in testosterone. A Vietnam veteran with an exceptionally short temper, Walter comically blunders around the Dude's situation throughout the film, constantly making matters worse for the Dude by attempting to fix them with violence and war tactics. At one point, while interrogating a teenager who stole and crashed the Dude's car, Walter becomes fed up with the boy's refusal to answer any questions and takes a crowbar to what he believes is the boy's brand new car. The car actually belongs to a neighbor, who comes out hooting and hollering and takes a baseball bat to the Dude's vehicle, bashing its windshield.

In between these extremes of cowardice and belligerence, but still in the negative realm of masculinity, fall the Dude and his buddy Donny's powerless representations.

The Dude, because of his passivism, laziness, alcoholism and even hazed stupidity, lacks the power to rationally communicate or combat injustice and oppression. His inability to solve his own problems, depicted through his constant manipulation by and abuse from other characters,

forces him to turn to Walter for help.

In the film's final showdown, the Nihilists set fire to the Dude's car, destroying it. The car then becomes a metaphor for the Dude's impotence. Throughout the story it is shot, crashed, stolen, used as a urinal, crashed again, assaulted with a bat and finally burned. Like the car, the Dude has no control over the events happening to or around him.

Donny is even more powerless, despite being the best bowler of the bunch. Every time he speaks, Walter immediately contradicts him or to yells at him to "Shut up!"

By providing extreme masculine representations associated with defeat and failure, "The Big Lebowski" encourages its viewers to come up with their own conception of masculinity somewhere between those extremes, and without the help of a traditionally represented hero.

If you look for a literal hero within the film, you will not find one, I hope. Instead, the film works to promote a different type of viewing, a viewing where individuals create and construct their own conception of gender rather than relying on what they see to form their masculine role models.

The film contains another character extreme, the story's out-of-place narrator, dressed in full cowboy garb, what the Old West would consider the height of manliness and masculinity — in other words, a perfect extreme — the narrator first introduces the Dude by posing a question: "Sometimes there's a man. I won't say a hero, 'cause, what's a hero?"

While the narrator may not know the answer to his question, neither may we, and that's something to think and laugh about.

For me, "The Big Lebowski" will always have a special place in my heart. Since first watching it eight years ago, I have shown it to numerous friends and family. And whether or not they've understood the film's gender critique, we've shared laughter at the Dude's expense nonetheless.

But hey, at least the guy is housebroken.

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

Contact Mark Witte at mwitte@nd.edu



BLAIR CHEMIDLIN | Observer Graphic

By LIZ HARTER

Scene Writer

When the four Bielski brothers escaped from the Nazis in Belarus in 1941, it's unlikely that any of them ever thought the subsequent four years of their lives would be made into a major motion picture 68 years later. But that's exactly what "Defiance" is — only problem is, it's just a bad major motion picture.

Looking at trailers for the movie, one would think they were going to see an action-adventure movie complete with Daniel Craig (a.k.a. the current James Bond) as Tuvia Bielski, blowing stuff up, shooting people, dodging bombs and bullets from the Nazis and grittily leading a group of exiled Jews in a foreign forest.

Apparently, the viewer is supposed to not remember that a blond-haired, blue-eyed actor is playing someone who's Jewish. The filmmakers tried to keep Craig's hair filled with dirt for most of "Defiance" — which makes sense, as the film is set in a forest — but it's clear that he remains a blond for unknown reasons. Plus, there's no covering up those electric blues.

If you can get past the fact that Craig is probably one of the most Aryan looking Jews in film history, you won't be disappointed. Viewers can watch Tuvia stoically face whatever is thrown his way with his brothers Zus (Liev Schreiber), Asael (Jamie Bell, "Billy Elliott") and Aaron (George MacKay, "Peter Pan").

The film follows the trials facing the Bielski brothers as they work to keep their camp of Jews hidden from the ensuing political turmoil. The camp needs protection, food, shelter and religion, and the Bielskis manage to provide it all, giving the Jews a sense of community and family.

While Craig does well with what the script gives him, Schreiber deserves the most praise for managing at least one laugh-free take during one of the film's more absurd scenes.

At one point, his girlfriend, Bella — who largely disappears after this scene, only to reappear at a later point — is discussing "protection" with him. She wants to know why the women don't

have guns, and Schreiber says the men will protect the women. In one of the many awkward displays of affection that abound in "Defiance," Bella then tells him she needs his protection while ungracefully moving his hand to her breast.

The viewer is seemingly supposed to assume that this gesture implies the two are in love or a relationship, or that he is her "forest husband." The "forest husband" concept pops up repeatedly throughout the film, as those living in the forest community substitute a "forest relationship" for what they left behind in the city.

While it is obvious within the first five minutes that Craig and Schreiber are the stars of the movie, Bell holds his own alongside the two with a secondary plot of finding love in the Bielski camp. He meets and marries Chaya Dziencielsky,

played by the largely unknown Mia Wasikowska.

Bell plays the levelheaded brother who keeps the hotheaded Craig and Schreiber in line. Other than getting married, and preventing the two main characters from killing each other, he isn't given much to do.

Don't feel bad for Bell, though. At least he has more of a role than MacKay, whose character goes mute after seeing the atrocity of his parents' murder by the Nazis. He has exactly one line in the entire film.

Granted, when your only previous acting experience peaked with playing one of the lost boys in "Peter Pan," audiences shouldn't expect too much. However, the actor does an admirable job of simultaneously looking horrified, miserable and cold.

While "Defiance" tries to do the Bielski history justice, any

film about the Holocaust will undoubtedly be compared to the titans that came before it, particularly "Schindler's List" and "The Pianist."

While it touches on the same subjects as those films, "Defiance" fails to pack the same emotional punch of those movies. It introduces too many minor characters that somehow prove to be important, no matter how small their roles.

The film also clocks in at an unnecessary 137 minutes. The humor is awkward, and the relationships aren't developed enough to be maintained throughout the running time.

Had the director, Edward Zwick ("Blood Diamond"), cut out half of the characters and an extraneous 30 minutes, "Defiance" would have been far more watchable.

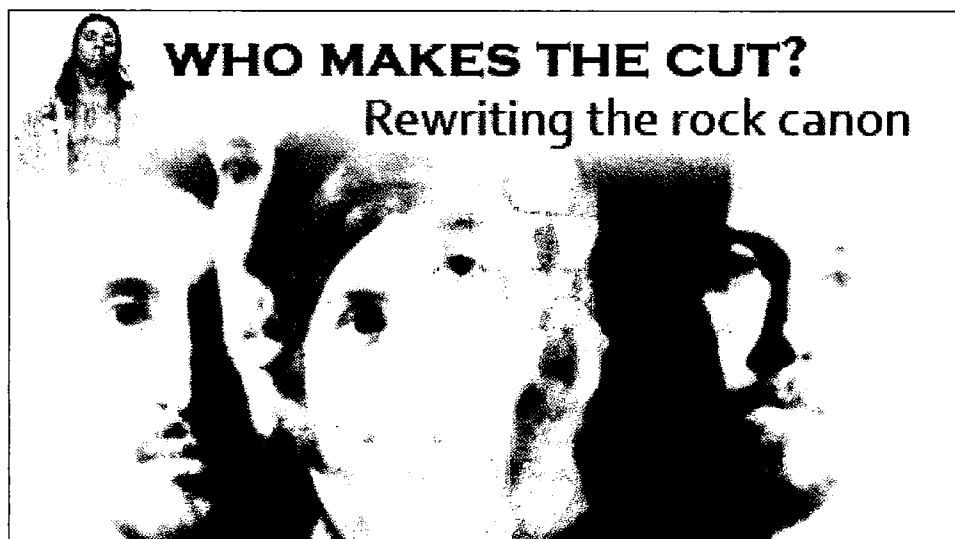
Contact Liz Harter at
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If you can get past the fact that Craig is one of the most Aryan looking Jews in film history, you won't be disappointed.

While "Defiance" tries to do the Bielski history justice, any film about the Holocaust will undoubtedly be compared to the titans that came before it, particularly "Schindler's List" and "The Pianist."

Defiance

Directed by: Edward Zwick
Starring : Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber and Jamie Bell



BLAIR CHEMIDLIN | Observer Graphic

WHO MAKES THE CUT?

Rewriting the rock canon

The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, The Who, Neil Young, Bob Dylan, The Clash, The Ramones, Bruce Springsteen.

Can the list go on and, more importantly, do we deserve to let it? Would adding Nirvana to that list be like blaspheming Mary, the M.O.G.? Does anyone really love rock and roll anymore? Why would they?

James DuBray

Scene Writer

It's been said there exists a rock and roll canon. There are a select few artists who only Noel Gallagher, moron that he is, would dare to cross. Sure, they've all had their missteps. Neil Young writes a terrible album about every five years. Dylan couldn't escape the 1980s. Mick Jagger refuses to put his Megalodon away, and Springsteen has tried to make the same record about seven too many times.

Yet, these artists have all blown the minds and broke the hearts of baby boomers. Not just the cats, too. From hedge fund managers to Neomarxists, everyone sings along to "Under My Thumb." Their kids have benefited from growing up to melodic acoustic numbers and avant-garde crashes. These storytellers have bashed exes, while also swooning at first sights.

Sure, tons of songs have been misinterpreted, bastardized and made cliché. "Born In The U.S.A." is played on the Fourth, while half of "Sgt. Pepper" is used in cell phone commercials. Despite these problems, traditions have grown as 25 year-olds and their mothers cry simultaneously when "In My Life" adorns first dances. Enough evidence — a canon exists, and it means something.

Now to the bloody point: Do the children of baby boomers have, or even deserve, a spot at the table? One thing is certain: there will never be another consensus top dog. For one, rock and roll exists on the idea of community: the feeling that there is something about both being young, and having a sense of alienation. Music provides an oasis, a place to exist outside of mainstream society.

The idea is still inside every young person. The fairytales drugged us (Thank you, Conor Oberst). There is no Prince Charming or glass slipper.

Yet, this sort of introspection seems rare in today's society. In a world based so much on corporate-driven definitions of success, rock and roll probably doesn't have a place. Drugs don't open the mind;

they get you a semester at home. Money and speed rule all. For our generation, the best job is the one that makes the most money. Forget about relationships, friends, or discovering something about yourself. Put on your tie, check today's calendar on your Blackberry, and network, network, network. Today's Woodstock would be full of people exchanging LinkedIn accounts.

Let's deviate from the negativity for a second. The 1980s gave some contributions to the list, although they were few and far between. Springsteen and Petty made some great albums, while Billy Joel established himself as a bigger joke than Neil Diamond. Yet, R.E.M. created something that would become alt-rock — whatever that means anymore. The '90s used a suicide and a surge of anger to produce grunge, a rock spin-off that today is even funnier than it is off-putting. Can you imagine how Cobain would feel at an Everlast show? Apologetic, I'm sure.

Flash to today, and the 1990s seem like more of a breeding ground than anything else. Radiohead belongs in the conversation for a couple reasons. One, they have followed in the tradition of the greats by never settling. When "OK Computer" was crowned king, Thom Yorke and the boys responded by kicking out the guitars. When politics suddenly became a popular song topic, Radiohead made "In Rainbows," one of their more apolitical records to date, and released it for, well, whatever you wanted to pay.

Just like the children of the '90s discovered "Exile" over a double Whiskey Coke, so will some of the children of the future find "Kid A" and "Yankee," and maybe even "The College Dropout." Yet, they probably will come at these records much more earnestly than their parents came to their own parents' vinyl.

Consensus may be out of the picture, but great musicians aren't. Radiohead, Wilco, Kanye West. That's what I think we've got so far. Contenders exist all over the board, including The Decemberists, My Morning Jacket, Lil Wayne and The White Stripes. Yet these artists have a long, long way to go.

Let's just hope that Jack Johnson and Coldplay eventually get the Neil Diamond treatment. That's how we'll know they "get it."

The views expressed in Scene and Heard are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

Contact James DuBray at
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Image courtesy of skullcull.wordpress.com

Thom Yorke, second from left, and the men of Radiohead have established themselves as rightful additions to the canon of rock and roll.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Nadal beats Federer for Australian Open title

Top-ranked player claims Men's Singles championship in five sets; Becomes first Spaniard to win title



Rafael Nadal shakes hands with Australian tennis legend Rod Laver during the awarding ceremony after defeating Roger Federer in the Men's singles final match at the Australian Open.

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Rafael Nadal held off Roger Federer in another five-set Grand Slam final, keeping Pete Sampras' record of 14 major titles intact for now.

Nadal became the first Spanish man to win the Australian Open, beating Federer 7-5, 3-6, 7-6 (3), 3-6, 6-2 in a momentum-swinging, 4-hour, 22-minute final that finished just after midnight on Sunday.

Federer, trying to equal Sampras' record, sobbed at the trophy presentation.

"Maybe I'll try later. God, it's killing me," Federer said, crying. He returned to congratulate Nadal within minutes, saying: "You deserved it. You played a fantastic final."

Top-ranked Nadal, who has won five of the seven Grand Slam finals they've contested, now has a major on hard courts to go with his titles on clay and grass.

He's the only man capable of a Grand Slam this season, 40 years after Australian great Rod Laver last won all four majors in one season.

"Roger, sorry for today. I really know how you feel right now," Nadal said. "Remember, you're a great

champion, you're one of the best in history. You're going to improve on the 14 of Sampras."

Nadal collected the trophy from Laver, on the court that was named in the great Australian's honor, and put his arm around Federer.

"To receive this trophy from Rod Laver is a dream for me," he said. "Rod, thanks very much. It was an amazing two weeks for me."

Nadal advanced to the final after holding off fellow Spanish left-hander Fernando Verdasco on Friday in 5 hours, 14 minutes — the longest match in the tournament's history.

Federer had a straight-sets win over Andy Roddick the previous night, but said the difference in preparation had no influence on the final.

He said the fact he'd missed the Sampras record at a tournament he's won three times didn't make the loss any worse or easier to take.

"Honestly, no," he said. "I mean, it's more like, in the first moment you're disappointed, you're shocked, you're sad, you know, then all of a sudden it overwhelms you."

"The problem is you can't

go in the locker room and just take it easy and take a cold shower. You're stuck out there. It's the worst feeling. ... it's rough."

Federer, so dominant when he won three of the four majors in 2006 and 2007, has now lost finals on three different surfaces to Nadal.

He hasn't given up hope of beating the 22-year-old Spaniard.

"For sure," he said. "I didn't spend 4 1/4 hours out there (not) believing it."

Nadal has four consecutive titles on clay at Roland Garros and beat Federer on grass in a five-set epic at Wimbledon last year.

He is 13-6 overall against Federer and ended the Swiss star's 237-week streak at No. 1 last year after claiming the Beijing Olympic gold medal.

Federer, who turned around that season with a U.S. Open title, saved two championship points from 15-40 in the eighth game of the fifth set but sent a forehand long on the third match point.

Nadal flopped onto his back, then got up and raced to shake hands.

The players put their arms around the other's shoulders at the net as they walked off

the court.

Although Federer actually won one more point — 174-173 — his serve let him down all too frequently. He connected on only 51 percent of his first serves, and it seemed as if all of his six double-faults came at critical times.

And as the pressure ratcheted up in the fifth set, it was Federer who wilted, not Nadal. Federer had six winners and 14 unforced errors in the set, while Nadal had just two unforced errors and dropped only three points in four service games.

Federer was only able to convert 6 of 19 breakpoint chances. Nadal converted 7 of 16.

Both players started tight, committing uncharacteristic errors. Knowing that weak shots would be punished, they were pushing the limits.

They exchanged service breaks in the first two games. Normally calm on court, Federer pumped his fist after breaking for a 4-2 lead only to double-fault when facing break point in the next game.

Nadal got the key break with Federer serving at 5-5. The crowd was stunned when the Swiss smacked a forehand wide on an easy short ball to make it 15-40, and Nadal followed with a forehand passing shot winner, then held for the set.

With Nadal seemingly get-

ting to everything and ripping winners, Federer was looking tentative and hesitating to charge the net.

But he started putting winners together and cutting his mistakes in the second set. After Nadal broke for a 4-3 lead, Federer broke the Spaniard's next two service games, taking a 5-3 lead after converting his fifth break point of the game. He then held to take the set.

Then the match intensified.

Amid a series of rallies lasting more than 20 shots, Nadal saved six break points in his last two service games in the third set, and Federer fended off a set point while serving at 5-6.

A lunging backhand volley winner gave Nadal a 6-3 lead in the tiebreaker, earning him chants of "Rafa!" and Federer double-faulted.

Federer saved five break points while serving at 2-2 in the fourth set, then broke Nadal in the next game for a 4-2 edge.

He closed with a service winner to even it at two sets apiece.

Nadal broke Federer for a 3-1 lead and the clock ticked past midnight in the next game, taking the tournament into a third week.

It was the first Australian Open men's final to go to five sets since Mats Wilander beat Pat Cash in 1988, the first at Melbourne Park.



Switzerland's Roger Federer reacts during the Men's singles final at the Australian Open. Federer failed to win his 14th Grand Slam title.

CLASSIFIEDS

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

NOTICES

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PERSONAL

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If you or someone you care about has been sexually assaulted, visit Support Services for Victims of Rape & Assault at: <http://osa.nd.edu/health-safety/assault/>

Expert prediction for Super Bowl XLIV:

New York Giants: 21
New England Patriots: 17

MVP: Justin Tuck

AROUND THE NATION

Monday, February 2, 2009

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 13

Men's Indoor Track and Field Rankings

team	points	previous
1 Oregon	132	19
2 Arizona St.	130	1
3 Arkansas	129	6
4 Florida	126	8
5 Florida St.	104	2
6 Texas A&M	102	10
7 Texas	82	3
8 LSU	79	4
9 Louisville	73	NR
10 BYU	71	NR
11 Kentucky	69	NR
12 Texas Tech	67	NR
13 UNI	65	9
14 Baylor	59	19
15 Nebraska	56	17
16 South Carolina	55	NR
17 Michigan	54	NR
18 Kansas St.	52	NR
19 Arizona	51	NR
20 Georgia	49	NR

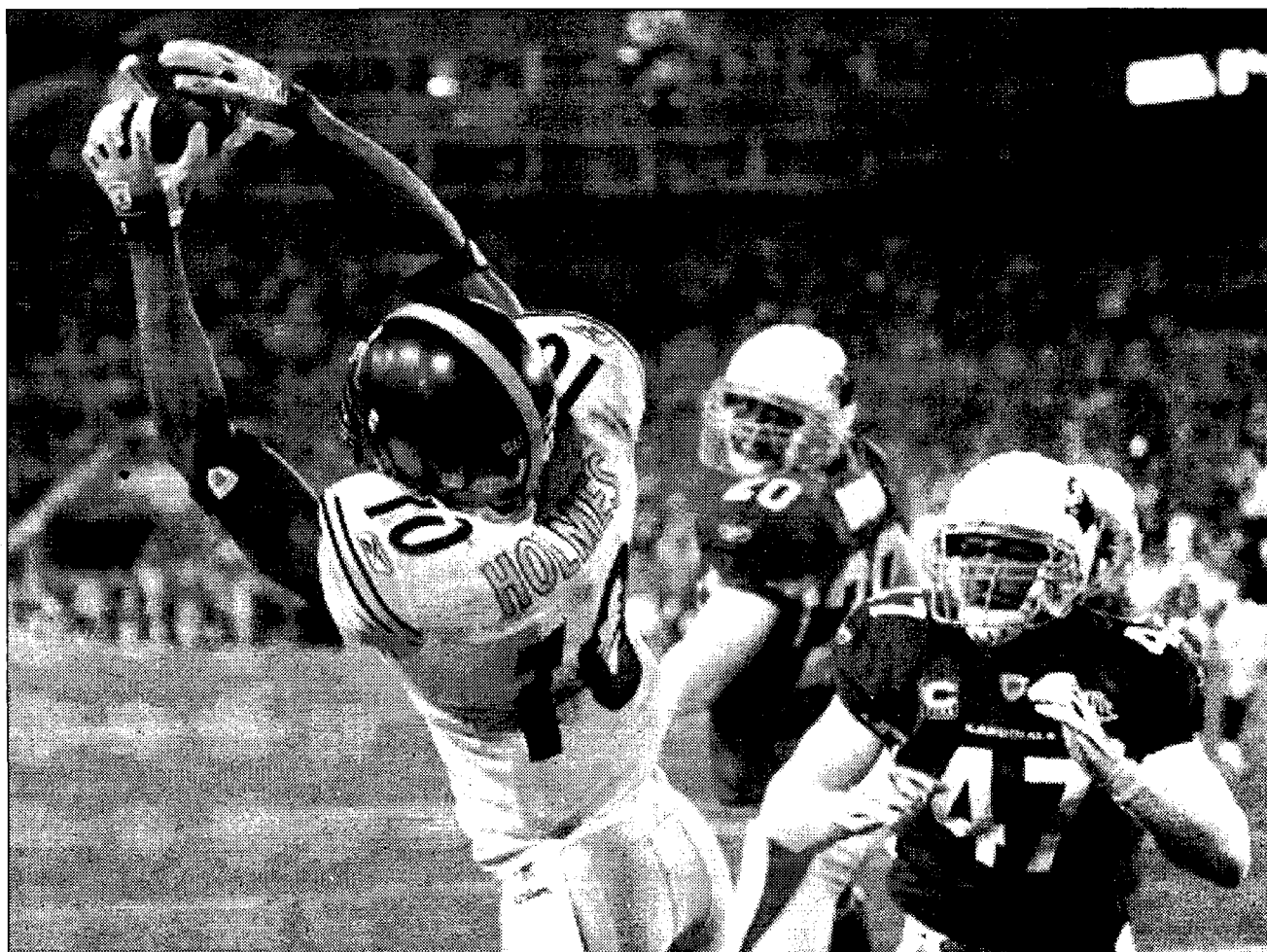
USCHO/CBS Men's Hockey Rankings

team	record	points
1 NOTRE DAME	19-3-3	987
2 Boston University	18-5-1	963
3 Northeastern	17-5-2	867
4 Cornell	14-2-3	831
5 Minnesota	12-5-5	791
6 Vermont	14-5-4	716
7 Denver	15-7-3	696
8 Michigan	18-8-0	692
9 Princeton	13-5-0	582
10 Miami (Ohio)	14-8-4	553
11 Boston College	11-8-3	450
12 North Dakota	15-10-3	432

NCAA Women's Basketball AP Poll

team	points	previous
1 Connecticut	1125	1
2 Oklahoma	1062	3
3 Duke	1002	4
4 Baylor	997	5
5 Auburn	959	6
6 Louisville	906	7
7 California	843	8
8 Maryland	773	12
9 Stanford	747	11
10 North Carolina	716	2
11 Texas A&M	697	9
12 Florida	595	15
13 Tennessee	593	10
14 Kansas St.	490	18
15 Ohio St.	466	19
16 Texas	448	14
17 NOTRE DAME	443	13
18 Florida St.	347	22
19 Virginia	307	16
20 Vanderbilt	246	17
21 Pittsburgh	168	25
22 Iowa St.	130	NR
23 Xavier	118	NR
24 South Dakota St.	97	NR
25 DePaul	86	NR

NCAA BASKETBALL



Pittsburgh wide receiver and Super Bowl MVP Santonio Holmes hauls in the game-winning touchdown pass in the corner of the endzone with 35 seconds remaining in the Steelers 27-23 win.

Steelers win sixth Super Bowl

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — The winning play of the Super Bowl was right out of a schoolyard.

Scamble right, scramble left, find someone open.

The perfect unscripted ending to a game of improbable swings.

Their Steel Curtain shredded, Ben Roethlisberger and Santonio Holmes improvised the 6-yard touchdown with 35 seconds left that gave the Pittsburgh Steelers a record-setting sixth Super Bowl victory, 27-23 over the Arizona Cardinals on Sunday

night.

"Great players step up in big-time games to make plays," said Holmes, the game's MVP. He said he told Roethlisberger that he "wanted to be the guy to make the plays for this team."

And he was.

This thriller certainly matched last year's upset of the New England Patriots by the New York Giants that ended with Plaxico Burress' TD catch — with 35 seconds left, too.

But this one was even wilder. With the last tension-packed seconds ticking away, a kneeling

Roethlisberger held coach Mike Tomlin's hand as Kurt Warner led one last, but futile, drive.

"These guys just don't blink," Tomlin said. "They deliver. It's never going to be pretty or perfect, if you will, but they have a great deal of resolve."

The Steelers (15-4), winning their second Super Bowl in four seasons, led 20-7 in the fourth quarter, only to see Warner and the Cardinals stage a remarkable rally to go in front 23-20 with 2:37 remaining.

Warner hit All-Pro receiver Larry Fitzgerald in stride for a 64-yard touchdown with 2:37 left.

Already owning a slew of postseason receiving marks this year, Fitzgerald sped down the middle of the field, watching himself outrun the Steelers on the huge video screen.

Fitzgerald could only watch from the sideline as Roethlisberger engineered a 78-yard drive to win it in what resembled Heinz Field South. With waves of twirling Terrible Towels turning Raymond James Stadium into a black-and-gold tableau — Steelers fans supporting their beloved team, the economy be damned — Pittsburgh's offense rescued the title.

IN BRIEF

Varitek, Red Sox reach preliminary agreement

BOSTON — The Boston Red Sox wrapped up their offseason bargain hunting Friday by reaching a preliminary agreement with catcher and captain Jason Varitek that pays him half as much in 2009 as he made last season.

Varitek heads into his 13th major league season, all with the Red Sox, with a guaranteed \$5 million for 2009 and a player option of \$3 million or a team option of \$5 million for 2010, two people familiar with the talks said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the agreement was not yet final.

That's quite a drop from the four-year, \$40 million deal that ended after last season and less than he would have made had he accepted the team's offer of arbitration in early December.

But it was in keeping with the Red Sox strategy of conservative contracts while the New York Yankees went on a spending spree that amounted to \$423.5 million in long-term deals for three free agents.

NFL greats Smith, Woodson make Hall of Fame

TAMPA — Bruce Smith, Rod Woodson and Derrick Thomas, all witnesses for the defense. All Pro Football Hall of Famers.

The three were elected on Saturday along with longtime Buffalo Bills owner Ralph Wilson, who at age 90 will be the oldest person ever inducted; former Minnesota guard Randall McDaniel; and the late Bob Hayes, a standout wide receiver for Dallas and the 1964 Olympic 100 meters gold medalist.

Inductions will be Aug. 8 in Canton, Ohio.

The only candidate among the seven finalists who didn't get in was former Falcons and Eagles defensive end Claude Humphrey.

Former commissioner Paul Tagliabue was denied entry for the third straight year, not even making it past the first round of cuts.

Ovechkin scores 3, Capitals top Senators, 7-4

WASHINGTON — Alex Ovechkin claims to dislike games that start early. His performance on the ice the past two contests tells a different story.

Ovechkin scored three goals for his seventh career hat trick and second of the season to lead the Washington Capitals to a 7-4 win over the Ottawa Senators on Sunday.

It was the second consecutive day the Capitals had a 12:30 p.m. start. On Saturday, Ovechkin said he felt "sleepy" early in the game, but woke up with two goals in the third period. He had no problems getting going Sunday, picking up his three goals in the first two periods.

Asked after the game if he liked the early game time, he had a simple answer: "No," Ovechkin said.

Saturday night, Ovechkin went to bed at about 8 p.m. and woke up at 6:30 a.m. to get to the arena for Sunday's game. Even though he's not a fan of the earlier routine, the early wake-up call clearly had him feeling fresh right from the start.

around the dial

NCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL
No. 2 Connecticut at No. 7 Louisville
7:00 p.m., ESPN

NHL
St. Louis at Detroit
7:00 p.m., VS.

ND WOMEN'S TENNIS

Notre Dame to play in indoor championship

By ALEX BARKER
Sports Writer

The Irish punched their ticket to the ITA National Indoor championships with a 4-1 victory over No. 14 Arkansas in the finals of the ITA qualifying tournament Sunday in Fayetteville, Ark.

The No. 1-ranked doubles squad of senior Kelcy Tefft and freshman Kristy Frilling led Notre Dame off with an 8-1 blowout victory over the No. 8 doubles squad from Arkansas. Shortly after, the doubles team of freshman Shannon Matthews and junior Colleen Rielley clinched the match's doubles point with an 8-5 victory over their opponents.

In singles play, after Notre Dame had dropped the first match to fall into a 1-1 tie, the Irish strung together three straight victories from sophomore Kristin Rafael, junior Cosmina Ciobanu and Matthews to seal the match and advance into the round of 16.

In Saturday's first round

matchup, No. 17 Notre Dame swept No. 44 Pepperdine 5-0 to advance to Sunday's final.

The Irish rolled through the doubles competition taking all three matches without dropping more than three games in either match. In doubles competition, Tefft and Frilling were strong once again improving to 16-1 on the year with an 8-2 victory over the squad from Pepperdine.

The singles matches offered more of the same from the Irish. Frilling got the Irish off to a good start downing her opponent 6-0, 6-1 to put the Irish up 2-0. After Ciobanu claimed another victory for the Irish, Rafael and junior Kali Krisik stepped up and notched wins to seal the 5-0 victory.

Notre Dame advances to the indoor championship tournament which will be held in Madison, Wis. Feb. 13-16. There, the Irish will compete against 15 other schools for the indoor national championship.

Contact Alex Barker at
abarker1@nd.edu

FENCING

Women top No. 1 Penn St.

By MICHAEL BLASCO
Sports Writer

Notre Dame's No. 1 men's fencing team (13-0) and No. 2 women's fencing team (12-2) combined for an 11-0 record at day one of the Northwestern Duals this weekend in Evanston, Ill. Both squads posted victories over top-ranked Penn State teams.

The men turned in wins over Johns Hopkins (23-4), Northwestern (20-7), Cleveland State (24-3), No. 10 North Carolina (21-6), and Penn State (14-13), who currently are tied with the Irish atop the USFCA poll.

On the women's side, the team went 6-0 with wins against John's Hopkins (25-2), Penn State (19-8), No. 8 Temple (19-8), Farleigh Dickinson (24-3), Lawrence (25-2) and Wayne State (23-4).

The teams' early success has established the young Notre Dame fencers as one of the toughest squads in the country, and Irish coach Janusz Bednarski has his eyes set on his third national

championship in seven years with the program.

The highlight of the first day of competition was the men's team's 14-3 bout against rival Penn State. Holding a narrow 13-12 lead late in the match, Bednarski made a late substitution, placing sophomore Jacob Osborne into the epee lineup. Osborne fell behind 4-3 in the 5-touch bout, but rattled off the next two points to clinch the match for the Irish.

"[Osborne] is a fencer who can win against anybody," Bednarski said. "At the same time, he can run the technical show and score sophisticated touches as he gets more stable and more mature in his bouts."

The Notre Dame women put on a clinic against Penn State, with a dominating 19-8 blowout against the first-ranked rival. Sophomores

epeeist Ewa Nelip, foilist Hayley Reese, and sabre Eileen Hassett each went undefeated at 3-0 in the match, with Reese's second victory against the 2007 National Champion, sophomore foilist Doris Willette.

"Reese is a young fencer who cannot stand to lose. Defeat is not an option when she is coming onto the strip."

Janusz Bednarski
Irish coach

"Reese is a young fencer who cannot stand to lose. Defeat is not an option when she is coming onto the strip," Bednarski said. "She is a very intelligent player who forces opponents to fence her way."

The Northwestern Duals concluded Sunday afternoon. The men squared off against Wayne State and No. 3 Ohio State in the afternoon, while the women took on Cleveland State and No. 3 Ohio State in the morning. Results were not available as of Sunday night.

Contact Michael Blasco at
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MEN'S TENNIS

Irish win one, lose one at ITA National Invite

By KATE GRABAREK
Sports Writer

No. 32 Notre Dame dropped its first match of two on the weekend to No. 12 Tulsa at the ITA National Indoors.

The Irish dropped the doubles points with two 8-4 losses at one and three doubles.

Tulsa's fourth-ranked doubles team of Arnau Bruges and Philip Stevens were able to take down the Irish's No. 37 ranked team of senior Brett Helgeson and sophomore Tyler Davis.

At three doubles freshman Niall Fitzgerald and sophomore Matt Johnson fell to Alberto Sottocorno and Ashley Watling by the same score.

"Casey Watt and Niall Fitzgerald are great shot makers," Irish coach Bobby Bayliss said. "Sam Keeton has the ability to flat out rip the ball from the back court. Each has skills that rank up there with some of the better players we have had here. The question with our guys is whether or not they can each adopt the practice and daily life habits."

At No. 2 doubles, freshman Casey Watt and sophomore Steven Havens were able to defeat Marko Ballok and Ross Cunningham in an 8-1 win.

Fitzgerald was able to earn a win at singles over Watling by a score of 6-1, 6-4. Keeton continued his unbeaten spring season improving to 4-0 with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Ballok which moved the overall match score to 2-1 in Notre Dame's favor.

The Irish could not hold on, losing at one, two and four singles to lose the match 4-2.

No. 112 sophomore Dan Stahl was not able to finish his match

against No. 91 Stephens which would have finished in a third set.

Notre Dame v. Texas Tech

In their consolation match, the Irish were able to take down the No. 20 team in the nation, Texas Tech.

Again at No. 3 doubles Fitzgerald and Johnson were able to come out on top in this match defeating David Gonzalez and Milos Kustudija by a score of 8-4.

Helgeson and Davis fell again in this match losing to the No. 7 team of Raony Carvahlo and Christian Rojmar 8-5.

Watt and Havens won at No. 2 doubles by a score of 9-7.

"Fitzgerald is brimming with talent," Bayliss said. "The No. 5-6 spots will likely come from a nucleus of Tyler Davis, Sam Keeton, David Anderson and Niall Fitzgerald, with Matt Johnson right there with them. Davis and Keeton are lefties, Anderson is very solid."

Keeton was able to defeat Gonzalez by a score of 7-6 (8), 7-5 in the first match finished. Keeton's record is now 5-0 on the young season.

Havens was able to defeat Sinisa Markovic by a score of 7-6 (4) 7-5.

Watt was able to win at No. 4 singles over Michael Breler by a score of 2-6, 7-5, 6-3 to clinch the match for the Irish.

Helgeson, Stahl, and Fitzgerald's matches went unfinished.

The Irish will now host the Duke Blue Devils and Toledo on Feb. 8 at the Eck Tennis Center. Duke will begin at noon and Toledo will begin at 6.

Contact Kate Grabarek at
kgrab01@saintmarys.edu

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SWIMMING

Phelps discusses pot photo

Associated Press

Olympic great Michael Phelps acknowledged "regrettable" behavior and "bad judgment" after a photo in a British newspaper Sunday showed him inhaling from a marijuana pipe.

In a statement to The Associated Press, the swimmer who won a record eight gold medals at the Beijing Games did not dispute the authenticity of the exclusive picture published Sunday by the tabloid News of the World.

"I engaged in behavior which was regrettable and demonstrated bad judgment," Phelps said in the statement released by one of his agents. "I'm 23 years old and despite the successes I've had in the pool, I acted in a youthful and inappropriate way, not in a manner people have come to expect from me. For this, I am sorry. I promise my fans and the public it will not happen again."

News of the World said the picture was taken during a November house party while Phelps was visiting the University of South Carolina. During that trip, he attended one of the school's football games and received a big ovation when he was introduced to the crowd.

While the newspaper did not specifically allege that Phelps was smoking pot, it did say the pipe is generally used for that purpose and anonymously quoted a partygoer who said the Olympic champion was "out of control from the moment he got there."

The U.S. Olympic Committee said it was "disappointed in the behavior recently exhibited by Michael Phelps," who was selected the group's sportsman of the

year. He also was honored as AP male athlete of the year, and his feat in Beijing — breaking Mark Spitz's 36-year-old record for most gold medals in an Olympics — was chosen as the top story of 2008.

"Michael is a role model, and he is well aware of the responsibilities and accountability that come with setting a positive example for others, particularly young people," the USOC said in a statement. "In this instance, regrettably, he failed to fulfill those responsibilities."

The party occurred nearly three months after the Olympics while Phelps was taking a long break from training, and this apparently would have no impact on the eight golds he won at Beijing. He has never tested positive for banned substances and even agreed to extra testing before the games.

Marijuana is viewed differently from performance-enhancing drugs, according to David Howman, executive director of the World Anti-Doping Agency. An athlete is subject to WADA sanctions only for a positive test that occurs during competition periods.

"We don't have any jurisdiction," Howman said. "It's not banned out of competition. It's only if you test positive in competition."

Phelps returned to the pool a couple of weeks ago to begin preparations for this summer's world championships in Rome. He plans to take part in his first post-Olympics meet in early March, a Grand Prix event in Austin, Texas.

Phelps was in Tampa, Fla., during Super Bowl week to make promotional appearances on

behalf of a sponsor. But he left the city before Sunday's game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and Arizona Cardinals, abandoning his original plan to be at Raymond James Stadium.

This isn't the first embarrassing episode for Phelps after an Olympic triumph. In 2004, a few months removed from winning six gold and two bronze medals in Athens, the swimmer was arrested on a drunken driving charge at age 19. He pleaded guilty and apologized for the mistake.

In his book "No Limits: The Will to Succeed," Phelps recounted how his first phone call was to his agent, and not his mother or coach Bob Bowman, because he knew they would yell at him.

Later, he called Bowman, who was supportive but told him, "Michael, just because you want to blow off some steam doesn't mean you can be an idiot."

Debbie Phelps, his mother, cried at the news.

"That hurt worse, maybe, than anything," Phelps wrote. "I had never seen my mother that upset."

Bowman did not immediately respond to phone and e-mail messages Sunday.

Last year, News of the World posted video on its Web site showing Max Mosley, the president of motor racing's governing body, engaging in sex acts with five prostitutes. The video was filmed by one of the women, and Mosley admitted to being a part of the scenario but sued for breach of privacy and was awarded \$120,000 in damages. Another news break involved Prince Harry in 2002, smoking marijuana and drinking before the legal age of 18.

ND TRACK AND FIELD

Irish impress in first two-day meets of year

By DOUG FARMER
Sports Writer

The Irish split up this past weekend, sending partial teams to the Findlay Open in Ohio and the Indiana Invitational in Bloomington. Notre Dame looked sharp in both of its first two-day meets of the year.

"The meets this weekend were primarily about getting the team acclimated to two-day competitions again," senior middle-distance runner Bill Buzaid said. "Big East championships are fast approaching, and we need to make sure that we are mentally and physically prepared to execute on back-to-back days."

In Ohio, freshman Maddie Buttinger finished second in the pentathlon with 3,694 points, while sophomore Justin Schneider won the men's heptathlon with 5,061 points.

"Day one was certainly a success for us," Buzaid said, with Notre Dame athletes qualifying for Saturday's finals throughout the spectrum of events.

On Saturday, the team's success was led by junior Jack Howard in the 600-meter dash, as he won with a time of 1:20.33. Junior Jim Notwell finished third in the event, less than half a second behind Howard at 1:20.76. Notre Dame's strong middle-distance group picked up another win when junior Blake Choplin crossed the finish line first in the 800 with a time of 1:51.10.

Hungary native Miklos Szebeny ran the 200 in 22.12 seconds, good enough for third place. In

the 400, junior Balazs Molnar finished second, freshman Jordan Rincon took third, and Buzaid earned fifth.

The Notre Dame field competitors were led by the Schipper brothers, freshman Kevin and junior Matt, who tied for second in the pole vault with heights of 5.27 meters, or over 17 feet.

The women's squad was just as successful as the men. In the 400, junior Joanna Schultz and freshman Natalie Geiger in a one-two finish with times of 54.77 seconds and 55.31 seconds, respectively. Sophomore Kelly Langhans earned first in the 600 with a time of 1:33.42, as freshman teammate Allison Schroeder finished fourth in 1:35.33.

The team continued to roll as time went on. Sophomore Natalie Johnson won the 800 in 2:12.22, and junior Lindsay Ferguson took second in the mile with 4:55.23.

Senior Mary Saxer and Anna Weber continued to dominate their individual events with another pair of wins. Saxer took the pole vault crown with a mark of 4.07 meters, and Weber placed first in the weight throw with a heave of 18.80 meters. In the shot put, junior Jaclyn Espinoza took third with a toss of 14.01 meters.

"I think the meet was a success," Buzaid said. "We showed resiliency in coming back and performing on two straight days."

With these positive results under their belts, the teams will reunite next weekend to host the Mayo Invitational.

Contact Doug Farmer at dfarmer1@nd.edu

SMC SWIMMING

Belles drop close match in final event

By ERIC PRISTER
Sports Writer

In their second to last meet of the season, the Belles fell to the Kalamazoo Hornets 155-145 in a match decided by the last event.

Coming into the 400-yard freestyle relay, the final competition, the Belles trailed the Hornets by five, a deficit that could have been overcome by a victory in the 400. Unfortunately for the Belles, they were edged in the event, and therefore dropped their third head-to-head MIAA meet this season.

Despite the loss, the Belles had a successful meet, recording 10 season-best times.

The team started off quickly, setting two of those times in the first two events of the night. Sophomore Maggie Williams and freshmen Audrey Dalrymple, Eva Cavadini and Barbara Beidler started off the night with a season-best time in the 400-medley relay.

Then, in the next event, senior Melissa Gerbeth posted her season-best time in the 1,000-freestyle event, which gave her first-place honors. Gerbeth was also victorious in the 500-freestyle competition, in which she swam 5:22.87, another season-best.

Dalrymple led the Belles with three first-place finishes, one in the 100-breaststroke, another in the 200-breaststroke and the last in the 200-individual medley, which was also a season-best time.

Williams was the only other Belle to achieve first-place honors with a victory in the 100-backstroke.

Many other Belles improved on their season-best time in the meet against the Hornets, a good sign as the Belles come closer to the MIAA Championships. Cavadini improved her 400-medley time, while Beidler recorded her best race of the year in the 50-freestyle.

Senior diver Leah Bocinsky improved her scores in both the 1-meter and 3-meter diving events. Another senior, Kate Orbon, cut two-tenths of a second off of her 100-freestyle time and sophomore Caroline Arness also topped her season-best time in the 100-butterfly.

The Belles will try to keep improving to make a strong showing to end the season, as they will take on conference opponent Olivet this weekend before competing in the MIAA Championships Feb. 18-20 at Notre Dame.

Contact Eric Prister at epriester@nd.edu

INFORMATION MEETING

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Pitt

continued from page 20

Offensively for the Irish, the biggest difference in the second half was 3-point shooting. In the first half, Notre Dame regained its old shooting form, looking nothing like the team that shot a combined 16-53 (30.1 percent) from behind the arc against Connecticut and Marquette. The Irish attempted 22 threes, making 11 – putting them on a pace to break the school record of 19 3-pointers set earlier this season against South Dakota.

Then Notre Dame stopped shooting from deep.

In the second half, the Irish attempted only five 3-pointers, four of which were taken in the final 2:30 after the game was out of reach. Part of the change was due to the Panthers guarding more closely against the trey, but the Irish also seemed to stop playing for the three. Forward Luke Zeller, who torched Pittsburgh for six 3-pointers in the first half, played only six minutes in the second half.

On the other end of the floor, the big difference was rebounding. Although Pittsburgh outrebounded Notre Dame 25-16 in the first half, the Irish contained the damage, giving up only nine second-chance points. The Panthers, however, turned the second half into an offensive rebounding clinic, grabbing 13 and scoring 20 second-chance points. Notre Dame had 11 second-chance points for the entire game.

Leading the way for Pittsburgh on the glass was sophomore DeJuan Blair. The Irish had no answer for the 6-foot-7, 265-pound. Forward, who grabbed a career high 22 rebounds to go along with 23 points.

"My team did a good job of getting me the ball," Blair said. "Twenty-two rebounds? I didn't know that. That's crazy. That's really something."

Harangody, who guarded Blair for most of the afternoon, said that Blair is the toughest player to go against in the Big East.

"He never stops working," Harangody said. "I love his game. Twenty-two rebounds is tough to do in one game. But

their whole team played well, and it showed."

Despite going up against another first-class big man, Harangody turned in another solid performance. He scored 27 points to go along with 11 rebounds and four assists.

Unlike previous games, Harangody got some scoring help from his teammates early in the game. Zeller scored a career-high 18 points, all coming on 3-point field goals in the first half. Forward Ryan Ayers rediscovered his shooting stroke, hitting two of four three-point field goals on his way to 10 points. Forward Zach Lillesland also notched double figures with 12 points.

Note:

◆ Despite its second half struggles, Notre Dame became the first team to crack the 80-point plateau this season against Pittsburgh.

"A silver lining," Brey said. "When we had 45 on the board [at halftime], I said to my staff, 'Let's get 90.' Even 90 wouldn't have got it done today."

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogast@nd.edu



JESS LEE/The Observer

Irish senior Kyle McAlarney goes up for a layup in Notre Dame's 71-64 loss to Marquette Jan. 26 at the Joyce Center.

Schrader

continued from page 20

off turnovers and had 16 second-chance points.

"We're just sick of losing, and we're sick of talking about losing," Schrader said. "We have to go out there and let our actions show."

Sophomore forward Becca Bruszewski finished with 15 points and seven rebounds, junior guard Ashley Barlow had a career-high eight steals and junior guard Melissa Lechlitner had seven assists and eight rebounds.

Freshman forward Kellie Watson had 10 points and hit three 3-pointers, two within 40 seconds of one another in the final minutes, and had five rebounds.

"[Watson] hit two daggers back to back that ended it," Bearcats coach J. Kelley Hall said.

Schrader set her previous career high of 14 rebounds on Nov. 18, 2005, against Michigan in her first collegiate game. She said the team needed rebounds because it enabled the offense to operate effectively.

"I think it was in everyone's mindset to rebound because when you get to rebound, you get to run," she said. "And that's our game, transition and running."

Bearcats junior guard Kahla Roudebush finished with 13 points and had six turnovers in the game. Senior guard Angel Morgan scored 10 points and had nine rebounds. Irish coach Muffet McGraw said she liked the defensive effort, both on Roudebush and the team as a whole.

"We held [Roudebush] to 13, she's a great player, she's one of the better players in the conference, so to be able to shut her down I thought was a very encouraging sign," McGraw said. "And the way they shot from the 3-point line, we had not done that in Big East play."

The Bearcats were 4-for-17 from beyond the arc.

Notre Dame led 52-33 with 12:01 remaining in the second half. The Bearcats went almost five minutes without a field goal until Morgan picked up a bucket and the foul. Senior for-

ward Jill Stephens's 3-pointer capped an 8-3 Bearcats run and pulled Cincinnati within 13 with 8:12 to play.

Junior guard Stephanie Stevens made a layup with 4:49 left, but was fouled after the shot and was awarded two free throws. She made them both, and the Bearcats cut the lead to single digits. But Watson hit two 3-point shots in 40 seconds, putting Notre Dame ahead by 15 and ending Cincinnati's hopes of a comeback.

Watson hadn't made a 3-pointer since Jan. 13 against Marquette and was 0-for-10 in her last three games, but once she hit her first on Saturday, the others started falling.

"The first one was always the toughest to get down, after you get the first one down you get in rhythm," she said. "It felt really good to finally start hit-

ting them again. I just wanted to be productive and help the team score some points."

Cincinnati went 4:38 without scoring late in the first half, when Stevens converted a 3-point play to make the score 23-19 Irish. By then, however, Schrader decided to bury the Bearcats.

In the final 2:49 of the first half, Schrader scored seven points and ignited a 13-2 Notre Dame run. She had a chance at two 3-point plays but missed the free throw both times. She had 13 points and 11 rebounds at the half, when the Irish led 36-26.

Note:

◆ Freshman guard Fraderica Miller did not dress for the game and had a walking boot on her right foot.

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"We're just sick of losing, and we're sick of talking about losing. We have to get out there and let our actions show."

Lindsey Schrader
Irish senior

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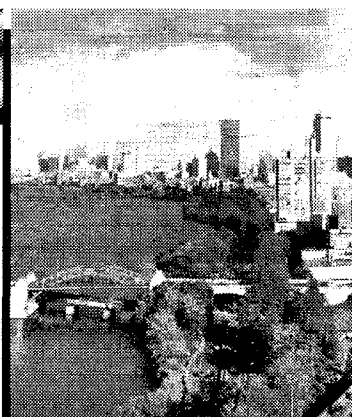
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Boston University Summer Term

BOSTON
UNIVERSITY

Cursed

continued from page 20

the Leprechaun Legion painted their chests, "New Streak Starts Tonight." It didn't. Instead, Notre Dame is stuck in a five-game losing streak.

The next night on Jan. 27 the women took the court against a mediocre Rutgers squad to right the ship. Wrong.

The Lady Irish dropped their second straight and ended their own 13-game home streak. The last time they lost at

home was exactly one year before against, who else, the Connecticut Huskies.

Friday night, the No. 1-ranked hockey team put its own 20-game winning streak on the line against No. 7/8 Michigan. The Irish held one of the most explosive offenses in the country to only two goals, but the curse struck again and yet another streak went up in smoke.

What happened?

There were some big hits Friday, but no glass was shattered. The Irish backcourt needed a ladder to guard 7-foot-3 Huskies center Hasheem Thabeet, but no one walked underneath it. I searched the entire campus and couldn't find any billy goats.

After some serious detective work, I think I may have gotten to the bottom of the unlucky Irish.

The night before the evil spirits moved in, a small group of men was spotted inside the Joyce Center performing what could only be described as voodoo magic. These self-proclaimed magicians blasted their eerie whistling music while defying

gravity. One of them even turned a bucket of water into confetti in mid air.

The curse was started by the Harlem Globetrotters.

The Globetrotters didn't post their game's results anywhere with public access, but rumor has it even the Washington Generals left the Joyce Center with an upset win — officially

ending the 25,000-plus game winning streak for Harlem.

The JACC needs an exorcism. University President John Jenkins made a phone call this weekend that he thought would help.

Jenkins got in contact with an old friend from the seminary, Father Lankester Merrin. You may remember him from his role in the 1973 horror thriller "The Exorcism."

Sadly, Merfin is a busy man. He said he would only come to cast out the evil of the JACC when Mike Brey's head starts spinning in circles. Unfortunately, mock turtlenecks are extremely restricting when it comes to head spins.

That leaves Jenkins and the athletic office with only one option, it's time to level the Joyce.

To be honest, it's well overdue. The Purcell Pavilion construction is already getting started. The hockey rink has to be the worst facility in the country, at any level. But that's a topic for a different day.

Maybe this curse isn't so bad after all.

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

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu.

That leaves Jenkins and the athletic office with only one option, it's time to level the Joyce.

Split

continued from page 20

unbeaten streak. Despite the loss, Notre Dame sophomore right wing Ryan Guentzel said the big-game atmosphere got the Irish players more than ready to go.

"It was crazy," he said. "Forty-five minutes before warm-ups the student section was absolutely packed. It got the players fired up, and it just shows how far this program has come."

The teams traded chances in the first period, the Irish had the advantage in shots on goal, but Michigan generated more quality scoring chances.

The Wolverines finally broke through late in the period though, when Notre Dame senior center Erik Condra appeared to be tripped from behind, but no penalty was called. Michigan forward David Wohlberg picked up the

loose puck and fed it to teammate Travis Turnbull. Turnbull beat his defenseman at the right circle and tucked a backhand shot under the post on Irish goalie Jordan Pearce's stick to give Michigan a 1-0 lead at 16:59 of the first period.

Notre Dame coach Jeff Jackson thought that play should have been stopped when Condra was pulled down.

"No question," Jackson said when asked if he thought a penalty should have been called. "I went back and watched it on tape. They called the same penalty on Ian Cole later in the game."

A goal immediately after an offensive zone faceoff from Wolverines forward Tim Miller 40 seconds into the second period doubled the Michigan lead to 2-0 and seemed to all but kill the once-raucous JACC crowd.

The Irish failed to take advantage of back-to-back Michigan penalties, and the score remained 2-0 with 10 minutes left in the second.

Soon after, though, Guentzel pushed the puck into the Wolverines net after a prolonged scramble in the crease, cutting the lead to 2-1 and re-energizing the Irish squad.

"I just closed my eyes and it went in," Guentzel joked.

After the goal, however, Michigan went into full lockdown defensively. In what could only be described as a textbook road third period, the Wolverines allowed only five Irish shots in the final stanza, none of them threatening.

"It wasn't really a shutdown effort," Michigan coach Red Berenson said.

"It was just one of those games where the puck took our bounces."

Irish defenseman Kyle Lawson thought the Wolverines coach was just being humble.

"I think he's being a little modest," Lawson said. "That's why he's so good at what he does. They came in here and executed their gameplan better than we did, I think."

Despite the loss, Jackson remained confident after the game.

"Sometimes losses are good for the soul," he said. "It's good to have a nice streak like that; it's been good for the program. But at the same time it's about us getting ready for the

end of the season and games like this help us do that."

The Irish got right back to work, starting a new streak Saturday, holding off a Michigan rally to walk out of Yost Arena with a win.

Notre Dame got on the board first after freshman right wing Billy Maday punched a Calle Ridderwall rebound past Wolverine netminder Bryan Hogan at 8:15 of the opening frame.

Junior right wing Ryan Thang made the lead 2-0 on a penalty shot goal at 4:03 in the second period. After being hauled down from behind by Michigan defenseman Steve Kampfner, Thang started the penalty shot moving wide to his backhand side, before switching to forehand and snapping a shot over Hogan's glove. The goal was Notre Dame's first on a penalty shot since Rob Globke's in 2001.

A goal from Ridderwall at 12:50 in the second gave the Irish a 3-0 lead going into the final period.

No lead, however, is safe at Yost Arena, and the Wolverines refused to go quietly. A pair of power-play goals, the first at 4:27 from Aaron Palushaj and the second from Robbie Czarnik at 8:45, made for a tense finale in Ann Arbor. But despite being outshot 14-3 in the final period, Pearce and the Irish defense held strong. Notre Dame's senior goalie finished with 36 saves on the night.

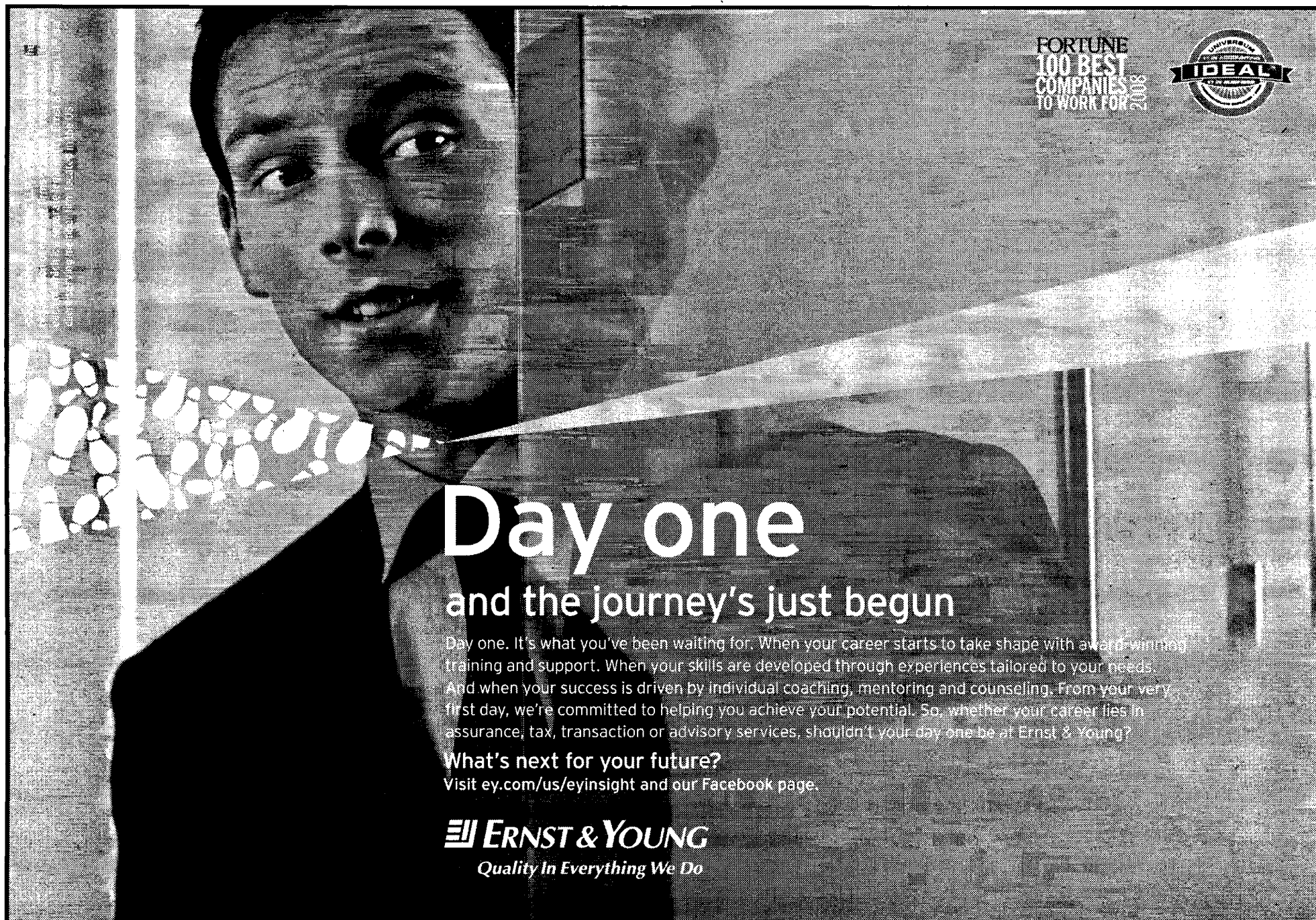
Despite the rink's intimidating reputation, Notre Dame has won two of its last three trips to Yost Arena, and could easily face Michigan again in the CCHA Championship in Detroit.

The Irish return to action next weekend with a trip to No. 14 Ohio State.

Contact Sam Werner at swerner@nd.edu

"Sometimes losses are good for the soul."

Jeff Jackson
Irish coach



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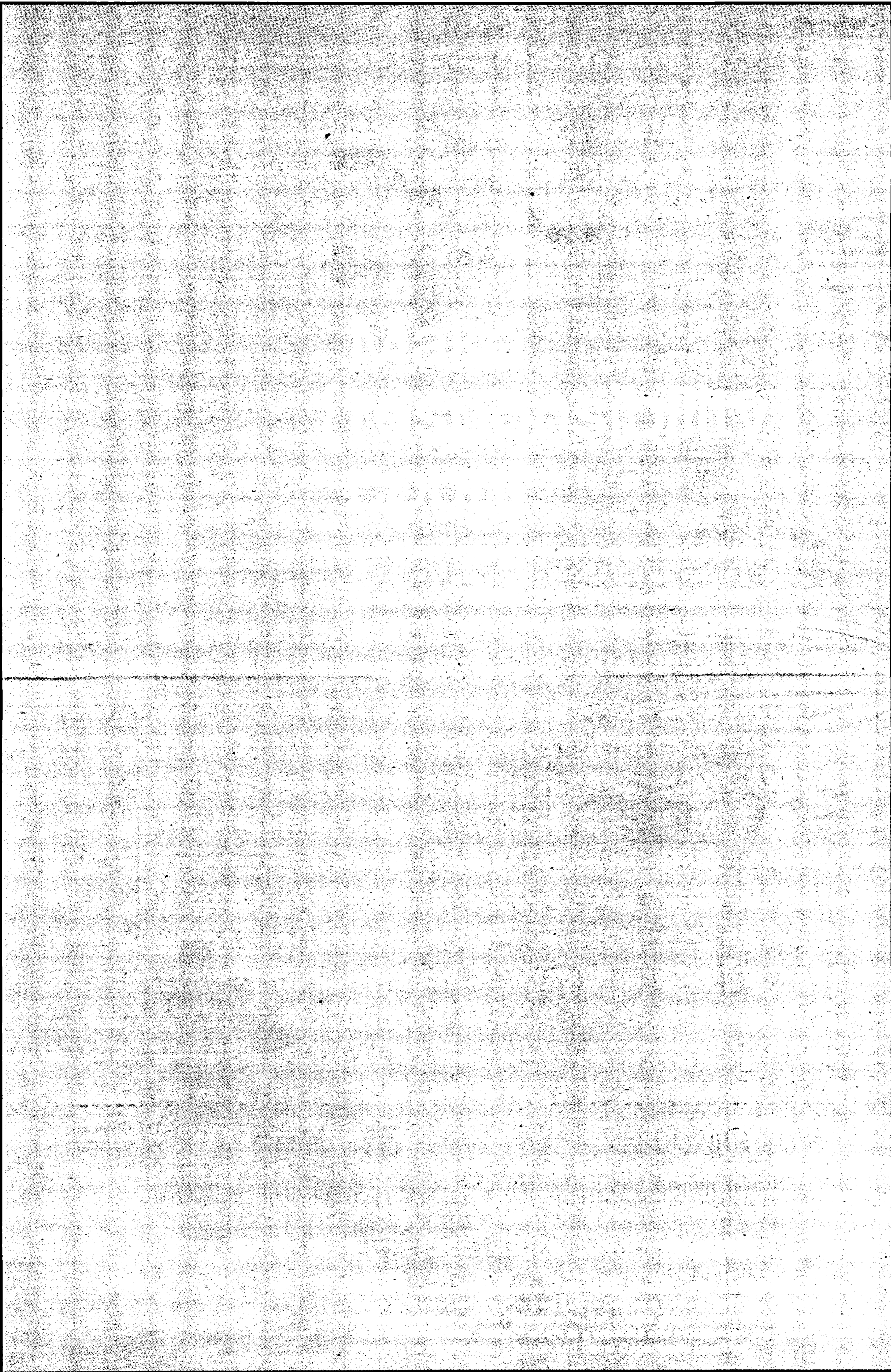
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MEN'S BASKETBALL

Pitt comes back to give Notre Dame its fifth straight loss

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

Fifty-six seconds into the second half Irish coach Mike Brey called a timeout to slowdown the Pittsburgh Panthers. It was too late.

The No. 3 Panthers had already erased the six-point Notre Dame halftime lead and they continued to roll, handing

the Irish their fifth consecutive loss with a 93-80 win in Pittsburgh Saturday.

For the first 20 minutes Saturday, Notre Dame rebounded, defended and shot its way to a 45-39 lead at intermission. But that didn't last long.

Receiving the ball to start the second half, the Irish turned it over on their first possession. Pittsburgh guard Levance Fields hit a three to cut Notre

Dame's lead in half. Then the Irish turned it over on their second possession. The Panthers' Sam Young, who stole the ball, went coast-to-coast finishing strong while getting fouled for a bucket. He hit the free throw to tie the game at 45.

After a timeout, the Panthers scored the next two baskets, with forward DeJuan Blair capping the 10-0 run on a thunder-

ous put-back slam of a Jermaine Dixon miss. Poof. Just like that, everything the Irish had worked for in the first half was suddenly rendered irrelevant.

Irish forward Luke Harangody ended the Pittsburgh run with an inside basket, but consecutive 3-pointers by Dixon and Fields put the Panthers up by eight with 15:40 remaining. Notre Dame would

get no closer the rest of the way.

"What hurt us is how we started the second half," Notre Dame coach Mike Brey told the AP. "You can't do that against a really good team in their building. It's hard to overcome."

The Panthers outscored the Irish 54-35 in the final 20 minutes of play.

see PITT/page 16

HOCKEY

Dances with Wolverines

Team splits weekend series with Michigan

By SAM WERNER
Sports Writer

In two close games that lived up to their billing, the Irish split their weekend series with Michigan, falling 2-1 Friday night in the Joyce Center, and winning 3-2 Saturday night in Ann Arbor.

The split allowed the No. 1 Irish (24-4-3, 14-3-3-3 CCHA) to maintain their hold on first place in the CCHA, two points ahead of Miami (OH) with two games in hand on the RedHawks.

Friday night, in front of a packed crowd sporting "White Out" T-shirts, the No. 7/8 Wolverines (19-9-0, 13-7-0-0 CCHA) brought an end to Notre Dame's school-record 20-game

see SPLIT/page 17



Irish junior Ryan Thang scored Notre Dame's first penalty shot goal in eight years Saturday during a 3-2 win at Yost Arena in Michigan. The Irish split the weekend series with No. 7 Michigan.

The haunted JACC is in need of an exorcism

Welcome to the Joyce Center — where streaks come to die.

As of two weeks ago, the home to Notre Dame's hockey and basketball teams had hosted only two Irish losses in the past nine months.

In the past nine days it has seen four. Last

Saturday, the men's basketball team put its 45-game home winning streak on the line against the Connecticut Huskies and the curse of the JACC was born. Two days later, the Irish welcomed Marquette and the front row of



Dan Murphy

Sports Editor

see CURSED/page 17

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish rebound against Cinci

Schrader leads the way as ND snaps two-game losing streak

By BILL BRINK
Sports Editor

To senior guard Lindsay Schrader, no rebound was too far away, no loose ball too much effort, and no shot too difficult.

Schrader had 19 points and a career-high 15 rebounds during No. 17 Notre Dame's 66-50 win over Cincinnati Saturday at the Joyce Center. Notre Dame's offensive rebounding and ability to force turnovers sealed the win, which snapped its two-game losing streak.

The Irish (16-4, 5-3 Big East) grabbed 20 offensive rebounds and forced Cincinnati (13-7, 3-4) to turn the ball over 26 times. They scored 26 points

see SCHRADER/page 16



Senior Lindsay Schrader had 19 points and 15 rebounds in Notre Dame's 66-50 win over Cincinnati on Saturday.

SMC BASKETBALL

Hope gets revenge in win over Saint Mary's

By ALEX WEST
Sports Writer

On Jan. 3, Saint Mary's pulled off an upset of then-No. 1 Hope College to take control of the MIAA. Saturday afternoon, the No. 3 Flying Dutch (16-1) got redemption and got back on top of the MIAA with an 84-59 victory over the Belles (11-8).

The Flying Dutch started out the game strong and never took their foot off the gas. Just six minutes into the contest, Miranda DeKuiper hit a 3-pointer that put Hope up 11 points. The Belles were able to cut the lead back to seven with 12:44 in the first half, but Hope pulled away to a 39-25 lead at halftime.

The Flying Dutch continued to dominate both sides of the ball in the second half. The Belles couldn't find an answer for

Carrie Snickers who scored a game-high 21 points and pulled down 10 rebounds. Jessica Centa was the leading scorer for the Belles with 12 points. Senior forward Erin Newsom added 10 points and five rebounds, both under her season average.

On the bright side for the Belles, they forced the Flying Dutch into 18 turnovers and held them under 39 percent shooting. But the Flying Dutch dominated the boards, out rebounding the Belles 57-45.

The Belles finished their four game road trip 3-1, but fell to second place in the MIAA standings with Saturday's loss. They will try to bounce back at home against Olivet on Wednesday. Tip off it set for 7:30 p.m. at the Angela Athletic Facility.

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