

# THE OBSERVER

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## ND professors analyze stimulus

Economists search for best solution as \$838 billion package passes in U.S. Senate

By ROBERT SINGER  
News Writer

The ruptured 2007 housing bubble that has thrown the economy into a tailspin and curbed job prospects in many industries has caused legislators to call for an economic stimulus package.

Economists across the country including those at Notre Dame continue to discuss the best way to find an answer to the problem.

The subprime mortgage crisis created an enormous sum of bad assets and dried up capital, leading to a situation so severe that many

economists support a stimulus bill along the lines of the \$838 billion package passed Tuesday by the U.S. Senate.

According to Economics Professor James Sullivan, one of the major reasons why legislators are calling for an economic stimulus — a massive increase in government spending — is that widespread uncertainty has caused a decrease in overall demand. Lacking confidence about their job security, people are less willing to make purchases or investments.

"People expect the economy not to recover soon and that has a self-fulfilling prophecy to it," he said. "If

you don't think the stock market will increase, you won't invest in the stock market."

While the economy probably won't suffer indefinitely without a stimulus, a bill could significantly shorten the downturn, according to Economics Professor Nelson Mark.

"In the long run, it's not necessary, but who knows if the long run is going to be 10 years or 20 years," he said. "So I think the question is if the government is capable of lessening the severity of the recession and if what it can do offsets the long-term costs of doing so, then

it should do it."

If people are unwilling to spend money, then the government can do it for them by cutting taxes, sending money to states, making investments or hiring workers for public works.

"The government can jumpstart things and encourage businesses to invest to get out of this sentiment of pessimism," Sullivan said.

Mark considered the possible effects of a stimulus bill.

"In the short run, the stimulus can only make things better, it can only increase GDP (Gross Domestic

see STIMULUS/page 4

## Jenkins: University is fiscally stable

By AARON STEINER  
Assistant News Editor

Despite the dismal state of and bleak outlook for the national economy, University President Fr. John Jenkins wrote to faculty and staff Tuesday to again emphasize that Notre Dame, while "not immune to economic pressures," is well-positioned to continue progress "toward our goal of becoming a preeminent research university."

The e-mail, dated Feb. 10, is the second such message Jenkins has sent regarding the economy and its potential effect on the University. The first e-mail was sent Dec. 1, 2008.

Jenkins said the University has been more fortunate than other colleges and institutions.

"Unlike some of our peers, at this point Notre Dame does not face the need to freeze salaries or hiring, halt construction or reduce our work force," he said.

"While our endowment and other revenue streams have experienced losses, we continue to be positioned, at this juncture, to pursue opportunities toward our goal of becoming a preeminent research university," Jenkins wrote.

Still, Jenkins said that the University may need to consid-

see LETTER/page 6

## Business Prof. Vecchio dies at 58

By AARON STEINER  
Assistant News Editor

Notre Dame management professor and former chair of the management department Robert P. Vecchio died Monday. He was 58.

Vecchio sustained serious injuries after falling from the rooftop of his home Saturday. He was treated at Memorial Hospital in South Bend.



Vecchio

Vecchio, a well-known professor, had been a member of the Mendoza College of Business faculty since 1976.

"Bob had an early and formative leadership role in the college," Carolyn Woo, dean of the Mendoza College of Business, said in a University press release.

"He provided the foundation for the management department to attain the reputation it enjoys today," she said. "Our hearts and our prayers are with the family to which he was so devoted."

Other representatives from the Mendoza College of Business were not available for comment Tuesday evening.

According to a report Sunday by the South Bend Tribune, Vecchio fell from a height of at least 10 feet Saturday morning at his Granger home.

Vecchio was last reported to be in critical condition Sunday night at Memorial Hospital, according

see VECCHIO/page 4

## Laptops 'equalize' education

Alum helps give computers to children around the world

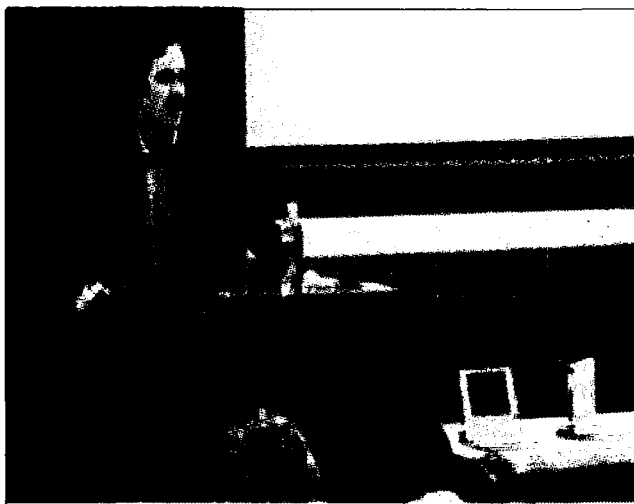
By MOLLY MADDEN  
News Writer

University of Notre Dame alumnus Charles Kane returned to campus last night to discuss his transition from working as a for-profit executive to pro-bono president and Chief Executive Officer of One Laptop Per Child (OLPC).

The Center for Social Concerns sponsored the talk in the Eck Center auditorium, which was titled "Technology and the Globalization of Education: The Story of One Laptop Per Child," and was well attended.

"This project is the first time in

see LAPTOP/page 6



Charles Kane presents his company's mission, to give every child a laptop, on Monday.

## Curtain rises again for PEMCo.

DiPiero and group to bring popular musical 'The Producers' to campus this weekend

By MADELINE BUCKLEY  
News Writer

"The Producers," the popular Mel Brooks musical well known for poking fun at the Nazis, homosexual stereotypes and show business itself, will debut at Notre Dame this weekend, show director Bill DiPiero said.

"The Producers" marks the annual spring musical put on by the Pasquerilla East Musical Company (PEMCo.), joining "Ragtime," "Footloose," "Grease" and "West Side Story" in the repertoire of PEMCo. productions.

DiPiero said he chose "The Producers" because he wanted to do a comedy with big production numbers.

"I just think 'The Producers' is the funniest musical that I've seen," he said.

"The timing is fortuitous as well because the licensing rights were just made available," DiPiero said.

"The rights were just released so there's not a history of it having been performed at the college level," he said. "I thought that would be an exciting challenge."

see PEMCO/page 6



PAT COVENEY/The Observer

Actors in the PEMCo. production of "The Producers" participate in a dress rehearsal. The show opens Thursday in Washington Hall.

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## COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

## Willerton elaborates on Activities Center

*Proposed building, which will cost about \$30 million, to be located on north end of campus*

By LIZ O'DONNELL  
News Writer

Members of the Council of Representatives (COR) discussed the future of the LaFortune Student Center and plans for the new Student Activities Center in their meeting Tuesday evening.

Ryan Willerton, the Facilities Director for Student Activities Office was on hand to discuss plans for LaFortune, and to discuss the current concept for the new Student Activities Center.

Willerton said there are four primary facilities available for student activities: the Stepan Center; the Creek House, a local retreat facility located off campus; LaFortune; and outdoor grounds available for sporting events.

He said that there are strategic plans to ensure these places operate as efficiently as possible.

The budget allotted to renovations in the building comes from a variety of sources, Willerton said.

A portion of the budget is allotted for building maintenance, he said.

The majority of the funding comes from six different projects, which include the end of the year shipping program, the summer linen mailing, and

the "Irish Express" bookstore outlets around campus during football weekends. Funding also comes from the on-campus cake service, exam kits and money generated from the video arcade.

When the funding is available, Willerton said that they consider the suggestion boxes that are located in LaFortune for ideas to better the building. He also said that they regularly collect feedback from student managers, as well as members of student government.

From there, if it is decided that there is enough money available to make large scale changes to LaFortune, Willerton said they will approach student government and ask them to create a panel to represent the student voice.

One specific area Willerton addressed was the renovations that are projected to take place to the video arcade that is located in the basement of the building.

"Since the video arcade is located in the part of LaFortune that is the old building, water comes into the arcade when it rains, often seeping into the basement," Willerton said. "We want to repair the leaks, install carpets, and do it right from the start."

Willerton also said that they are hoping to move forward with the project starting in 2010.

Student body president Bob Reish asked Willerton about the size of LaFortune in comparison to student centers on other campuses, sighting that LaFortune is relatively small given the size of the campus's population.

Willerton said LaFortune has a different focus than student centers on other college campuses.

"The mission of the student center is to be similar to a village well where people go to find the news of the day, meet up with their friends or grab a bite to eat," said Willerton. "We could always have more room, and it would be nice to expand, but we would never give up the central location that it has."

In addition to this, Willerton said the new Student Activities Center that will be built is to serve the purpose of complementing LaFortune, rather than detracting from it.

It is projected that the cost of the center will be approximately \$30 million. They are currently waiting for a benefactor to fund the project before it can begin.

The Student Activities Center will be a multipurpose facility that will host lectures,

concerts and dances. It will also have a large ballroom area where Residence Hall dances will take place. It will not be a hangout area the way that LaFortune is, but function rather like the Stepan Center does now, he said.

Along with these events, the Center will also have a meeting room that Willerton said will help lower the demand for meeting time at LaFortune.

The Center is planned to be constructed 100 yards east of the Stepan Center on the North side of campus. Once the Center is in place, the Stepan Center will be removed.

When COR members expressed concern at the location of the Center, Willerton explained that while the building will go up on the perimeter of campus, it is still a part of it.

"While you may not walk by this building everyday, it is still a part of campus," Willerton said. "The location provides easier access to off-campus students."

While the location for the project has been selected, there are only tentative floor plans available. Current plans call for the Center to be a one-floor building.

Contact Liz O'Donnell at [edonne1@nd.edu](mailto:edonne1@nd.edu)

## Two tickets to run for SMC top offices

Observer Staff Report

Saint Mary's Board of Governance elections commissioner Francesca Johnson announced there are two tickets running for student body president and vice president — Mallory Price and Katie Lewis, and Jenny Hoffman and Meg Griffin.

Price, the presidential candidate is a junior social work major from Tinley Park, Ill., who lives in Regina Hall. Her running mate, Lewis, is a junior social work major and resident advisor in LeMans Hall. She is from Homer Glen, Ill.

Presidential candidate Hoffman is a junior communications studies major who lives in Holy Cross Hall. She is from Indianapolis and currently serves as the student government secretary.

Griffin, a sophomore intended political science and math major, is from Bristol, Ind. She is the sophomore class president.

There will be a "Meet the Candidates" event today at 6 p.m. in the West Wing of the Noble Family Dining Hall.

Voting will take place Monday, Feb. 16 from midnight to 11:59 p.m. on PRISM.

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# SMC creates walk-in booth to discuss interpersonal issues

*Women's Health and Counseling Centers provide convenient place for conversation with counselors, nurses on Thursdays*

By ASHLEY CHARNLEY  
News Writer

Saint Mary's Women's Health and Counseling Centers are teaming up to provide students with an informal way of talking about their issues.

The Belle Booth is set up in the Student Center atrium from 12 p.m. to 1:15 on Thursdays for students to

come and talk about whatever they have on their minds, Gina Christiana, a counselor for the Women's Health Center, said.

"We will listen to whatever students bring to us. We are here to talk about interpersonal issues," Christiana said.

Kris Pendley, clinical director of counseling, came up with the idea as a way to increase publicity for the services offered in Women's Health and Counseling Centers on campus.

Inspiration for the booth came from Charles Schulz's character of Lucy and her "Psychiatry for a nickel" booth that Charlie Brown often approached in the classic cartoons.

"We wanted an image people

were familiar with," Christiana said.

This is the fourth week the booth has been in place and it seems to be attracting attention, Christiana said. She also said the counselors and nurses will continue to make themselves available in the atrium on Thursdays as long as students keep showing an interest.

"We wanted to get our faces out there and develop a friendly rapport with students," Christiana said.

Three nurses and three counselors rotate work together to run the booth. Each week there are two counselors and one nurse at the booth at all times. Students are encouraged to go and chat about whatever issues they have.

Christiana described the booth as a user-friendly resource for students where any questions they have can be answered.

Cathy DeCleene, director of the Women's Health Center, wanted a place with high student traffic for the booth. With the current Women's Health Center located in the basement of Holy Cross, not a lot of students make the walk over, she

*"We will listen to whatever students bring to us."*

**Gina Christiana**  
Women's Health Center  
Counselor



GRACE KENESEY/The Observer

Cyndie Horton-Cavanaugh, left, a nurse for Women's Health Center and Gina Christiana, a counselor for the Counseling Center wait for students to come to the booth. The booth was inspired by Lucy's "Psychiatry for a nickel" booth in Charles Schulz's cartoon series, Charlie Brown.

said.

It is easier for students to have the discussion times they want when help is offered in the Student Center, she said.

"It's a safe introductory environment. Students don't have to go all the way to Holy Cross if they want help," DeCleene

said.

Although appointments can't be made at the booth, students are able to make them with the counselors in their office in LeMans, Christiana said.

Both the Women's Health and Counseling Centers will be in the same booth, DeCleene

said.

"We just want to be a warm, friendly face on campus," Cyndie Horton-Cavanaugh, a nurse for Women's Health, said.

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## Stimulus

continued from page 1

Product), he said. "There are two questions about it, though."

Mark questioned whether a recovery would endure and whether it would be worth the increase in public debt.

"Will it have a lasting effect?" he said. "Will it shock us out of a recession and onto a growth path?"

Mark said "the second is the added debt the U.S. is taking on to finance the stimulus. 'What's that going to mean for the future structure of taxes? What's having all that debt out there going to do to interest rates?'"

Ideas differ on how best to implement the stimulus, since not all forms of government spending boost demand by the same speed or magnitude.

Sullivan pointed to a reduction in payroll taxes as an effective way to give money to people who would spend it quickly.

"One way to have an effective stimulus is to put money in the hands of people who need it," he said. "One way is a reduction in the payroll tax. The argument is that those people are more likely to spend it sooner."

Direct government spending on infrastructure or energy investment would be fail-safe ways to increase overall

demand, according to Sullivan, but tax breaks to individuals would allow them to make their own consumption choices.

"If the government spends it right away, then they spend it right away," he said. "Consumers might choose to hold onto it, so there's a little bit of a risk there. Ideally you'd like the consumers to spend it, because they could

spend it on what they want."

Economics Professor Martin Wolfson focused on aspects of the bill that call for more direct government spending.

"I think the best parts of the bill are the parts that directly put people to work," he said. "Infrastructure spending, investing in green technology, those parts of the bill that keep people from losing their jobs and keep people receiving needed public services."

Mark also mentioned an overlooked way to spur economic activity.

"Something they haven't talked about is maybe business tax credits," he said. "You direct that at small businesses and have them invest in capital."

Raising people's permanent income through productivity gains — rather than just spending money now to prolong future debt — should be central to the plan, according to Mark.

"I do think that this is a good opportunity for a lot of

the investment projects that the stimulus plan has," he said. "So you can use this as an excuse to do those kinds of projects. Upgrading the infrastructure will enhance productivity."

Whether the nation's response to the crisis represents a shift in the way the government manages the economy is an open question.

"I fear that people will use the current recession as an excuse to blame markets," Sullivan said. "And I don't think this provides evidence that markets don't work. It provides evidence that markets don't always work perfectly."

"This idea that markets unencumbered will always give the best result is putting a little too much faith in markets," Sullivan added.

Wolfson said there is a need for broader changes to economic policy.

"I think it represents potential for a fundamental shift in our policy. We've experienced over the last 25 to 30 years an environment of reliance upon the free market, free trade, deregulation, tax cuts for the relatively wealthy and I think all of this has basically run around," he said. "We need to dramatically change our approach to the economy."

Sullivan said the recession has primarily hurt low-skilled workers and that people who are college-educated have less to worry about.

"That doesn't mean that Notre Dame grads don't have to be worried," he said. "They will land on their feet regardless. It just means that it will take them longer to find the right job."

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## Vecchio

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to the Tribune report.

According to the press release, Vecchio taught popular courses and published highly regarded articles on a variety of issues in organizational behavior and corporate management, especially emphasizing leadership, motivation, workplace emotion and employee envy.

Vecchio taught the courses "Management Competencies" and "Leadership" and

Motivation" in the fall semester, according to records available online.

He was the author of several books, and was also the editor of the Journal of Management from 1995 to 2000.

Vecchio received a B.S. from DePaul University in 1972 and a Master's and a Ph.D from the University of Illinois in 1972 and 1976, respectively.

Arrangements are pending, according to the press release.

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Hospital shelling kills 16 patients

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — At least 16 patients being treated at a makeshift hospital in the northern Sri Lankan war zone were killed by shelling, the Red Cross said Tuesday, as the military accused rebel fighters of killing 19 other civilians fleeing the area.

The United Nations, meanwhile, said it was outraged by the "unnecessary" deaths of hundreds of people inside rebel territory and urged both sides to avoid fighting in civilian areas.

The government accuses the Tamil Tiger rebels of holding civilians hostage in the war zone to use as human shields against the military's offensive. The rebels deny the accusation.

International human rights groups say more than 200,000 civilians are believed trapped in the patch of territory still under rebel control.

### High death toll in Australian wildfires

HEALESVILLE — The high death toll from hundreds of wildfires across southeastern Australia has forced authorities to re-examine an accepted survival strategy when blazes threaten: Get out early or hunker down and fight.

Many people waited too long and perished as they tried to escape the weekend infernos.

"People need to understand that a late departure is the most deadly," fire chief Paul Rees said.

Recovery teams moving into burned out towns in Victoria state found charred bodies on roadsides and in wrecked cars — grim signs of futile attempts to flee the raging wildfires fed by 60 mph (100 kph) winds, record heat and drought. The number of deaths was expected to surpass 200, and a few fires were still burning, open spaces throughout the city.

## NATIONAL NEWS

### Salmonella possible at other plant

ATLANTA — Private lab tests show there may have been salmonella at a second plant operated by the peanut company at the center of a national outbreak, but the potentially tainted products were not sent to consumers, Texas health officials said Tuesday.

The Peanut Corp. of America plant in Plainview, Texas, had operated unlicensed and uninspected for nearly four years, heightening food safety concerns already swirling around the company. Although no recalls related to the plant were announced Tuesday, federal inspectors have begun looking for any signs of problems similar to those found at a company plant in Georgia identified as the source of the salmonella outbreak.

### Activists protest Kelloggs

NEW YORK — Snap, crackle ... pot? Bursting with indignation, legions of legalize-marijuana advocates are urging a boycott of Kellogg Co., including all of its popular munchies, for deciding to cut ties with Olympic hero Michael Phelps after he was photographed with a pot pipe.

The leader of one of the biggest groups, the Marijuana Policy Project, called Kellogg's action "hypocritical and disgusting," and said he'd never seen his membership so angry, with more than 2,300 of them signing an online petition.

## LOCAL NEWS

### Food banks pull peanut products

LAFAYETTE — Food banks across Indiana are clearing their shelves of peanut products recalled following a salmonella outbreak that's sickened hundreds of people nationwide and may have contributed to eight deaths.

The loss of so many different types of food that contain peanut products comes amid a surge in demand for food from those who've lost jobs or income because of the reeling economy.

Food Finders Food Bank Inc., the Lafayette area's largest food bank, has disposed of or quarantined 1,327 pounds of food with peanut products, executive director Katy Bunder said.

# Stocks fall after gov't reveals plan

Major stock indexes drop by more than 4 percent on Tuesday as investors unload stock

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Investors are frustrated with the government's latest bank bailout plan — and showed it by unloading stocks.

The major stock indexes fell more than 4 percent Tuesday, including the Dow Jones industrial average, which tumbled 382 points. Financial stocks led the market lower, a sign of how concerned Wall Street is about the government's ability to restore the health of the banking industry. Demand for safe havens like Treasuries and gold rose.

Traders and investors complained about what they saw as a lack of specifics from Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner on how the government will direct more than \$1 trillion in public and private support to the financial system.

The plan is aimed at restoring proper functioning to credit markets, which seized up over worries about bad debt after the September bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc. The latest plan calls for a government-private sector partnership to help remove banks' soured assets from their books. It would also boost an effort to unclog the credit markets that govern loans to consumers and businesses.

"The good news is they are going to spend a trillion dollars, the bad news is they don't know how," said James Cox, managing partner at Harris Financial Group.

"They built this up as being a panacea," he said. "There was so much hope pinned on them to do a good job. The expectations have been so high. It's hard to live up to."

But Peter Jankovskis, co-chief investment officer at OakBrook Investments, said the government was right to outline a broad plan rather than putting something together hastily that might otherwise fail.

"They are doing the right thing by taking their time



Bank of America specialists work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Tuesday.

and not rushing through with bad policy," Jankovskis said.

Treasury spokesman Isaac Baker defended the plan.

"We understood that some might be disappointed that we didn't announce a large bailout program, but our focus is on what will be the best comprehensive plan to protect taxpayer dollars, jump-start lending and bring forth a long-term financial recovery — not the hour-by-hour movement of the markets on any given day," he said.

Some investors questioned whether the plan, which followed previous efforts in the final months of 2008, would work. Some selling was to be expected, however, as stocks rose sharply last week ahead

of the announcement.

Geithner's speech "basically puts a spotlight on the fact that the government has no idea how to fix the problem," said Jeff Buetow, senior portfolio manager at Portfolio Management Consultants. "People bought on rumor and hope, and now they're selling on reality."

Investors focused on the financial rescue showed little reaction to the Senate's approval of its \$838 billion economic stimulus package. The bill must now be reconciled with an \$819 billion version passed by the House. Congressional leaders hope to have the bill on President Barack Obama's desk before a recess next week.

"The economy is in deep trouble. The stimulus plan is

not very stimulative. It's not addressing the real problem," Buetow said. "We have an insolvent financial system. The government is trying to find a comprehensive way to save it. They can't afford to just throw money at it. That's what they tried to do in the fall and that clearly did not work."

Stocks extended their slide after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke didn't elaborate on the plan in testimony at a House Financial Services Committee hearing. Bernanke said the programs designed to revive the credit markets are showing promise and that any fix to the worst financial crisis since the 1930s would take time to work.

## ISRAEL

# Parliamentary election too close to call

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni and hard-line rival Benjamin Netanyahu both claimed victory in Israel's parliamentary election Tuesday, which early returns suggested was too close to call.

With 67 percent of the votes counted, Livni's centrist Kadima Party had 29 seats in the 120-seat parliament while Netanyahu's hawkish Likud Party was right behind with 28, Israel's Channel 1 television said.

However, soldiers' votes on bases across the country weren't being tallied until Thursday evening, which could shift the results by a seat or two.

Regardless of who gets the most votes, Netanyahu's Likud Party appeared to have the upper hand in

forming a ruling coalition thanks to strong showing by other right-wing parties.

"With God's help, I will lead the next government," Netanyahu told a raucous crowd of cheering supporters chanting his nickname, Bibi, early Wednesday. "The national camp, led by the Likud, has won a clear advantage."

Soon after, Livni took the stage before a crowd of flag-waving supporters and flashed a V-for victory sign. "Today the people chose Kadima. ... We will form the next government led by Kadima," she declared.

Exit polls had earlier showed Livni with a slight lead, but strong gains by right-wing parties overall would make it difficult, and perhaps impossible, for her to form a government.

Even if Livni could overcome the formidable obstacles and become Israel's second female prime minister after Golda Meir, the early results suggested she would have to rely on the participation of right-wing parties opposed to her vision of giving up land in exchange for a peace deal with the Palestinians.

Despite the uncertainties, both sides claimed victory.

Applause, cheers and whistling erupted at Kadima headquarters in Tel Aviv as television stations began reporting their exit polls, with supporters jumping up and down and giving each other high-fives and hugs. At Likud headquarters, Netanyahu supporters expressed confidence their man would still become Israel's leader.



# Laptop

continued from page 1

history that we can educate on an equal level," Kane said.

Kane said the project involves the manufacturing and distribution of laptops to children in poor regions from around the globe. The computers are made at-cost and are priced around \$176. Nicholas Negroponte, a professor from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, started the project.

"Our mission is to provide the lowest cost computer to children because the computer is the greatest learning tool," Kane said.

Before joining the project, Kane held senior-management positions at a number of companies such as Global BPO Services and RSA Security Inc., but said he knew something was missing.

"You get so caught up in the money game that you lose sight of

what life is all about," Kane said. "That's why when I discovered what this project was about, it was a no-brainer of whether or not I would join."

Kane said the first goal was to design a computer that was not only cost-efficient, but to also have a design that would be sustainable in diverse weather conditions.

"These computers are going to kids in Sub-Saharan Africa, the jungle and other harsh environments," Kane said. "The design of the computer is rugged so that when the kids inevitably drop it in water, or sand blows up and around the laptop, the computer is not damaged."

Kane also described the additional elements that were taken into consideration when designing the laptop.

"Our computers are the only ones in the world that has a screen that switches to black and white when taken outside," Kane

said. "We designed it this way since many of the kids that we are providing these for attend classes outdoors."

The computer, which is also an e-Book, comes fully-loaded with 100 books, learning software, games, a built-in camera and, amazingly enough, access to the Internet.

"We go into villages that don't even have electricity and we provide these children with Internet access through broadband," Kane said.

Kane explained that generators are installed in the village and are then hooked up to a satellite that is also installed in the village. The satellite sends a signal to a satellite in space that then sends the

signal back to the computer, providing the laptop with the Internet. This creates a network of sorts and allows the computers to communicate with one another.

"With this technology and these computers, even in the most remote part of Africa, a kid can be connected to the Internet," Kane said. "It's the great equalizer."

The way that the children charge the laptops is almost as innovative as the project itself.

"The computers can either be charged with a crank that the children can connect to the computer, or with a salad spinner," Kane said.

Cranking or spinning for about two minutes gets the child around

20 minutes of battery life.

Kane also emphasized what a difference the laptops have made on the education system as a whole in these countries.

"Peru has dedicated 55 percent of its entire education budget to buying these laptops," he said. "One of the major results with the laptops is an increase in attendance. Attendance figures go up dramatically in the schools that have the computers."

Kane said that the basic mission of OLPC is to provide access to an education to all kids around the world.

"One of the criticisms we've received is 'Why a laptop?'," he said. "Why not food, why not water?" This laptop is a means to an education and education is the backbone of everything; education is the only way to break the vicious cycle."

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# Letter

continued from page 1

er additional action if the situation worsens.

"We are not immune to economic pressures and further dramatic declines could lead us to rethink our timelines on construction projects and prepare new strategies in regard to salaries, hiring and the work force," he said.

The e-mail came after the Board of Trustees approved the budget for the fiscal year 2010, which Jenkins wrote includes "modest but cautious growth" of 5.7 percent over the current budget.

Jenkins said the budget reflects increased funding for the following areas: undergrad-

uate and graduate studies; research and scholarly initiatives, including the equipment and library resources they require; and faculty and staff.

The message did note that the administration will continue to call for fiscal restraint within all areas of the University.

"Your divisional and departmental leaders have been asked to consider further means of conserving our resources," Jenkins said.

University Provost Tom Burish and Executive Vice President John Affleck-Graves will further explain the University's fiscal situation to faculty and staff in scheduled remarks and meetings, he also wrote.

Jenkins concluded the e-mail writing that he has been "impressed and heartened by

the willingness of the University family to be part of the solution" required to address economic concerns.

"Your extreme generosity in the recent United Way campaign and food drives reinforces for me how deeply committed you are to Notre Dame's mission of service," he said. "Your willingness to participate in wellness initiatives has helped turn back rising health care benefit costs. Your enthusiasm to adopt measures of energy efficiency promises further savings."

Jenkins also said he would continue to provide incremental updates to faculty and staff regarding economic and fiscal issues.

Contact Aaron Steiner at [asteiner@nd.edu](mailto:asteiner@nd.edu)

# PEMCo

continued from page 1

DiPiero said he estimates the group paid about \$4,000 for the rights, which includes the song numbers and script booklets.

Because some of the comedic material in "The Producers" is viewed as controversial, DiPiero said he had to meet with the Student Activities Office (SAO) and the regent of Pasquerilla East, who oversees the group, to get the show approved.

"We had to discuss aspects of it, but in the end, we decided that it was appropriate to put on stage, despite concerns," he said. "The Producers' is a little edgy in certain ways. The main song is 'Springtime for Hitler.'"

The group decided the comedic approach in the show dilutes the offensiveness of some of the material, DiPiero said.

People will realize the mood that the show is presented in, he said.

"The show does not take itself seriously," DiPiero said.

According to PEMCo's Web site, the group was started in 1997 by a Pasquerilla East resident because Notre Dame had not performed a musical on campus for over 10 years. Now, the group is the largest, student-run musical theater company on campus.

In the past, PEMCo. always has held a spring musical, and a spring revue, which is a compilation of song and dance numbers, DiPiero said. But this year, the group added a fall show, "Edges" which was shown in October.

PEMCo. is a University-sponsored group and has students

from Notre Dame and Saint Mary's from all dorms and majors.

"We're always looking for people to help out," he said. "There's tons of ways to get involved, whether it's lighting, sound technicians, etc."

DiPiero said about 34 students are in the cast, including the main roles and the ensemble parts. Including the orchestra however, about 65 students are involved.

"The Producers" cast has been rehearsing five days a week, usually from 7-11 p.m., since fall break, when the casting choices were announced, DiPiero said.

"It's a pretty heavy undertaking," he said.

Spending so much time together, the cast becomes pretty close, but DiPiero,

*"The show does not take itself seriously."*

**Bill DiPiero**  
director  
"The Producers"

along with the choreographer, Matt Townsend, hold improvisational exercises to help the cast members become comfortable with each other, DiPiero said.

DiPiero said Townsend's special warm-

up for the cast in a dance called "flirty girl fitness."

"We kind of get everyone and bring them closer physically and emotionally," he said.

DiPiero said he has had enough time to polish the show, and the cast and crew have put in a lot of work. He said the show will reflect the extra effort.

"We have a very sharp and professional show," he said. "I think people will be surprised at how clean and well done it is."

"The Producers" will be performed Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Washington Hall.

Contact Madeline Buckley at [mbuckley@nd.edu](mailto:mbuckley@nd.edu)

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## Upcoming Writing Workshop

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Stocks				
<b>Dow Jones</b>	<b>7,888.88</b>	-381.99		
Up:	Same:	Down:	Composite Volume:	
620	72	3,175	3,783,818,871	

AMEX	1,402.71	-54.55
NASDAQ	1,524.73	-66.83
NYSE	5,214.71	-265.17
S&P 500	827.16	-42.73
NIKKEI (Tokyo)	7,945.94	-23.09
FTSE 100 (London)	4,213.08	-94.53

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
BK OF AMERICA (BAC)	-19.30	-1.33	5.56
SPDR S&P 500 (SPY)	-4.58	-3.99	83.11
FINANCIAL SEL SPDR (XLF)	-10.20	-1.01	8.89
ULTRA FINANCIALS (UYG)	-18.65	-0.69	3.01

Treasuries			
10-YEAR NOTE	-5.95	-0.18	2.847
13-WEEK BILL	+10.91	+0.03	0.305
30-YEAR BOND	-4.75	-0.176	3.530
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.201	-0.201	1.791

Commodities			
LIGHT CRUDE (\$/bbl.)	-2.01		37.55
GOLD (\$/Troy oz.)	+21.40		914.20
PORK BELLIES (cents/lb.)	-1.03		80.98

Exchange Rates			
YEN			90.4700
EURO			1.2911
CANADIAN DOLLAR			1.2415
BRITISH POUND			1.1554

## IN BRIEF

### Salazar rejects Bush drilling plan

WASHINGTON — Interior Secretary Ken Salazar has rejected a Bush administration plan to open vast waters off the Pacific and Atlantic coasts to oil and gas drilling, promising "a new way forward" in offshore energy development including new wind projects.

Salazar at a news conference Tuesday criticized "the midnight timetable" for new oil and gas development on the country's Outer Continental Shelf proposed by the Bush administration four days before President Barack Obama took office Jan. 20.

The secretary said the previous administration's plan did not take into consideration the views of states and coastal communities, nor a need to better understand what energy resources are at stake, especially off the Atlantic coast where oil and gas estimates are more than three decades old.

### TV stations to end analog as planned

NEW YORK — More than a quarter of major U.S. TV stations intend to shut down their analog broadcasts on Feb. 17, sticking to the original date despite the wish of the Obama administration that they wait until June.

Congress last week gave TV stations until June 12 to shut down analog broadcasts, hoping to give viewers more time to prepare. Money has run out for the federal fund that subsidizes converter boxes, and there's a wait list for the coupons.

The delay sent TV stations scrambling to figure out when to shut down analog. Most had planned for years to do it on Feb. 17, and many had scheduled engineering work.

The Federal Communications Commission said Tuesday that 491 of the 1,796 full-power TV stations in the country had registered their intention to keep the Feb. 17 date. The FCC has reserved the right to deny individual stations an early shutdown. The SEC said Madoff agreed to the partial judgment without admitting or denying the allegations in its civil complaint filed on Dec. 11. However, the agreement says Madoff cannot contest the "facts" of the complaint for the purposes of determining his obligation to pay civil fines and restitution — which will be specified later.

# Senate approves economic stimulus bill

*Urgent compromise talks begin with Congressional leaders for final version*

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate sailed to approval of its \$838 billion economic stimulus bill Tuesday — but with only three Republicans signing on and no time to celebrate. The White House plunged into compromise talks with congressional leaders on a final version.

Within hours of the 61-37 Senate vote, White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel, Budget Director Peter Orszag and other top aides to President Barack Obama met in the Capitol with Democratic leaders as well as moderate senators from both parties whose support looms as crucial for any eventual agreement.

A top priority for Obama is to restore money to build and repair schools and to give cash-starved states more help with their budget problems. Almost \$60 billion for those two programs alone was cut at the insistence of GOP moderates last week in a bargain that was crucial to getting their votes.

The moderates — Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins of Maine and Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania — are demanding that the final bill resemble the Senate measure, which devotes about 42 percent of its \$838 billion in debt-financed costs to tax cuts, including Obama's signature \$500 tax credit for 95 percent of workers, with \$1,000 going to couples.

The \$820 billion House measure is about one-third tax cuts.

The GOP moderates also want the final bill to retain a \$70 billion Senate plan to "patch" the alternative minimum tax, or AMT, for one year. The provision would make sure 24 million families won't get socked with unexpected tax bills more than a year from now during the 2010 filing season.



Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin is followed by reporters as he returns to the Senate floor during deliberations on the economic stimulus bill at the Capitol in Washington on Friday.

The AMT was designed 40 years ago to make sure wealthy people pay at least some tax, but is updated for inflation each year to avoid tax increases averaging \$2,300 a year. Fixing the annual problems now allows lawmakers to avoid difficult battles down the road, but economists say the move won't do much to lift the economy.

Obama and his Democratic allies go into final negotiations on the economic rescue package with limited ability to make it more to their liking after the moderate Republicans — with support from Democrats such as Ben

Nelson of Nebraska — wrung savings totaling \$108 billion in spending from the measure.

The Senate moderates are essential if the final plan is going to pass and get to Obama's desk, so they're playing hardball.

"My support for the conference report on the stimulus package will require that the Senate compromise bill come back virtually intact," Specter warned in a statement.

House Democratic leaders promised to fight to restore the school construction money. Those funds could create more than 100,000 jobs, accord-

ing to Will Straw, an economist at the liberal Center for American Progress. He said the \$40 billion cut in aid to state governments would mean 183,000 fewer jobs would be created under the plan.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., said a provision that would award anyone buying a home a tax credit of up to \$15,000 would have to be scaled back sharply. It carries a \$39 billion cost and was sponsored by Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., who voted against the legislation despite the inclusion of the housing credit.

# GM to cut 10,000 more salaried jobs

Associated Press

NEW YORK — General Motors Corp. is planning to slash another 10,000 salaried jobs this year, saying the cuts are unavoidable with a government restructuring deadline looming and industrywide sales in one of the worst downturns in history.

The Detroit-based automaker said Tuesday it will reduce its total number of white-collar workers by 14 percent to 63,000. About 3,400, or 12 percent, of GM's 29,500 salaried U.S. jobs will be eliminated.

Most of the company's remaining salaried employees will have their wages cut.

In its plan to Congress submitted late last year, GM said it would have to reduce both salaried and hourly

positions so that the company could become viable long-term. The company plans to reduce its total U.S. work force from 96,537 people in 2008 to between 65,000 and 75,000 in 2012, but did not specify how many of the surviving jobs will be salaried or hourly.

GM Chief Executive Rick Wagoner, who was meeting with congressional leaders in Washington about global warming legislation, said Tuesday's announcement is "indicative of the kind of things we need to do to get this viability plan in shape and respond to these tough market conditions."

GM has dramatically downsized both its salaried and hourly work forces in recent years as the U.S. auto market has shrunk from an annual sales rate of around 16 mil-

lion vehicles to 13.2 million last year.

Since 2000, GM's salaried work force has shrunk by 33 percent from its 2000 high of 44,000 people. At the same time, the number of hourly workers has plunged by more than half — to about 63,700 people at the end of last year from 133,000 in 2000.

Most of the cuts announced Tuesday are expected to take place by May 1. GM said the cuts will vary by global regions depending on staffing levels and market conditions.

The company's statement said there would be no buyout or early retirement packages as GM had offered in the past, but laid-off employees will get severance pay, benefit contributions and other assistance.

# THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

page 8

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

## THE OBSERVER

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

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

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

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## Teach for amateurs

Now that TCE's are online, our semester is depressingly devoid of wasted time in the classroom. Lest your spirits sink and you resign yourself to the fate of taking notes, take hope instead — Teach for America Season has finally arrived. Freshmen: I know you have no idea what I'm talking about right now, but be patient — the enthusiastic speeches and e-mails from Notre Dame's enthusiastic Teachers-for-America-to-be will come in a few short years. Let us all be thankful for the student presentations that cut out five minutes of teaching time and save us from the disdain of the professor when we walk in mid-lecture holding a latte from Starbucks. Just like the gorgeous weather that arrived this past weekend and is destined to head south faster than the men's basketball team, we should appreciate TFA Season while we can.

Happily, this morning I was able to enjoy my coffee and a few more lines in the newspaper thanks to a wonderful student presentation. For anyone who was also late to class and wants to help fix our nation's education system, here is a list of reasons to Teach for America that I've cobbled together over the years:

### Teach for a Low Acceptance Rate:

Did you know that only half of children growing up in poverty will graduate from high school, and that those who do will read at an eighth grade level? A sobering fact, especially when you consider that, as Notre Dame students, we are part of the mere 56 percent of high school graduates who are able to attend college.

With regard to Teach for America's mission, however, the most important statistic is 14.8 percent. That's

the percentage of applicants that enrolled in the program in 2008. Never mind that the program regularly rejects qualified applicants that would help alleviate the inherent inequities in our education system; TFA prides itself on its aura of exclusivity. Its recruiters will push anyone and everyone they can find to apply, even if they foresee an obvious rejection. Take my case, for example.

Last year I received an e-mail from a TFA recruiter asking me to get coffee and learn about the program. A nice gesture, but at that point I was intent on selling my soul to a corporate overlord upon graduation. I politely declined. His response? "Great! Let's meet up next week. When are you free?" I again declined, only to receive another invitation to coffee. At this point I felt like Peter from Office Space during his meeting with "The Bobs." The TFA recruiter's desire for me to apply only increased as he became more aware that I was the exact wrong person for the job. A curious tactic, but one that undoubtedly helps produce that impressive 14.8 percent. For a better idea of TFA's priorities, here are a few more statistics:

\$6,389. That was the cost to recruit, interview, and hire each of the 2,892 TFA enrollees in 2007. That's a lot of coffee.

\$5,689. That was the cost to train each of those enrollees in 2007, a figure 11 percent less than the cost to recruit them. Five weeks is all the teacher training you need, evidently.

### Teach for a Backup Plan to Employment or Grad School:

All you need to know: full salary and benefits. Parents off your back. Real life: delayed for a few years. I know what questions are running through your head right now. No. 1: "Why does this guy hate kids?" No. 2: "Don't people that do TFA want to be teachers? This is their real life." While the answer to question one is too long to explain, the answer to

question No. 2 is the last, and most important, reason to Teach for America:

### Teach for a Line Item on Your Résumé:

As an aspiring corporate underling, I understand that every field needs its "proving ground" where entry level employees earn their stripes. Doctors have their residency, lawyers their time as a junior associate, and bankers their time as an analyst. For those of you who want policy jobs down the line, here's your chance. TFA doesn't want teachers. They want people who need a few years of teaching experience to be successful in the telling-teachers-how-to-teach field. It's no coincidence that BusinessWeek named them one of the best places to launch a career or that in their 2007 annual report they were proud to have "laid the groundwork for a more robust pipeline to political leadership going forward."

A two-year stint hurts our schools and hurts our students. It took me three years at Notre Dame to figure out how to correctly order stir fry at the dining hall. To think that I could become comfortable enough with developmental psychology and the teaching profession's best practices after just five weeks of training is akin to me thinking I could win the Father of the Year Award after a few heart-to-hearts with Flavor Flav.

Last round applications are due February 13th. Let's teach for actually trying to right "our nation's greatest injustice" instead of using our schools as a career launching pad.

*Brad Blomstrom is a senior majoring in finance and economics. No, he doesn't have any hot stock tips for you, but he does welcome your views on education policy and the 2009 San Diego Padres. He can be contacted at [bblomstr@nd.edu](mailto:bblomstr@nd.edu)*

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

## EDITORIAL CARTOON



## OBSERVER POLL

What are you doing for Valentine's Day?

Going out with my significant other  
Going out with friends  
Staying in  
Crying myself to sleep

Vote by Thursday at 5 p.m. at  
[www.ndsmcobserver.com](http://www.ndsmcobserver.com)

Submit a Letter  
to the Editor at  
[www.ndsmcobserver.com](http://www.ndsmcobserver.com)

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

*"Idealism is what precedes experience; cynicism is what follows."*

David T. Wolf  
author



## Madame Cassandra's hard-learned lessons

A large part of the sense that's been nailed into me over the years can be credited to Valentine's Day.

For instance, after many years of fatal errors, I finally got it through my thick skull that the round, dark chocolate in the box of five is not the truffle: it's the one with coconut. Said chocolate should never be saved for last, but rather be consumed first and swallowed whole, like a pill. Or better yet, given to Uncle Homer.

Then, Valentine's week, sophomore year of high school, there was planted in the mental soil made fertile by the sight of so many eye-gazing, ear-sucking couples, a very different kind of lesson. One of journalistic outrage.

Although I was never on the staff of the high school paper, at that point I was no stranger to newspaper writing in general. In fact, I fondly remembered my stint as the Middle School Voice's resident astrologer. But while Madame Cassandra's Mystic Predictions could display a uniqueness that the "real" horoscopes lacked (who knew that chocolate cupcakes lay in our future?), they just weren't all that, well, real.

No, I made my first foray into apparently real journalism when I teamed up with my friend Lucy, who was on the paper's staff and did write for real, to expose the evils of PDA.

**Katherine Khorey**

*Both Sides  
Now*

Of course, we were not writing purely in defense of public morals. True, Valentine's Day was coming along, and true, the Foreign Language hallway was ravaged with public displays of affection, and true, the unbound kissy-poo epidemic was taking a toll on the uninfected. Most significantly, on us.

Lucy and I were a pair of lonely single women living in an era when most of our friends seemed to have found the loves of their lives. It wasn't easy for us to witness so much love being shared, and I at least was eager to prove that, should the situation ever be reversed, I wouldn't be putting my unattached friends in the same position. Even if Johnny Angel himself offered to show me how lovely Heaven could be, we would most certainly not be flaunting our halos outside Señora Third-Period's classroom.

Nope, my commitment to public abstinence was established, and so, I believe, was Lucy's. And when our condemnation of public non-abstinence appeared in print, the whole school was going to know just how staunch we were.

So we thought.

With Lucy's help (oh fine, maybe with my helping Lucy), I'd had my first experience in writing, for the paper, a stinging piece on a passionate subject. But we were underclassmen, and space in the Valentine's week issue was at a premium. Fortunately or not, our effort remained unprinted.

And so, four and a half years later,

when I was given 900 semi-weekly printed words to use however I wanted, I'd thought at first, "Ooh, and in February, I can talk about PDA again! I can do the 'Top Ten Worst Places to Make Out,' or have a catchy advice phrase, like The Three C's (Keep it Classy? Clean? Clandestine? Closed?). Because PDA is just as annoying now as it was in high school, and I'll make such a difference when I write a rant about it that everyone has to read!"

Now Valentine's Day is imminent again, and...

I won't.

I've learned.

No one's required to read a piece just because it's in the paper. And not only that, but in this case, my same-sided target rantees would be unlikely to notice the Viewpoint page lying on the chair across from them.

And, too, it wasn't long after Lucy's and my attempt at kissy-poo inoculation that I learned what every kind of abstinence has in common: that it's just not easy to keep it up in the long run. Even a couple who started their relationship with a firm commitment to discretion would be sooner or later likely to slip up, and sneak a kiss in the DeBartolo lobby. And I'd be in no position to fault them.

So I've learned.

I relinquish my right to preach about PDA. But I can still ask that, as with alcohol, you please use your own best judgment.

Please just be aware. If you and your

sweetie truly feel the need to exchange a long, loving, physical goodbye in the dorm's front entrance at 11:52 on a weeknight, expect to be interrupted. If you're engaged in some prolonged snuggling by the Grotto, spare a thought for the hapless jogger who's stopping off to light a candle for Uncle Homer's impending quadruple bypass. Recognize that your bedroom may not be an ideal place for private romance if 20 of your guests' coats are still scattered on your floor. And, while no one's entitled to throw stones, be prepared for whispers of, "Hey, look. We're only two pews behind Mr. and Mrs. Like-to-Go-At-It-During-The-Psalm this week!"

We'll make our choices, and our commitments. We may not always keep to them. But we know the effects of what we do.

A world exists outside ourselves. And, whether displayed in excessive public coupleship or printed rants soured by grapes, said world doesn't take very kindly to self-absorption.

That's what I've learned from Valentine's Day.

That, and to eat the round dark chocolate first.

*Madame Cassandra is spending her junior year abroad at Trinity College, Dublin. You may contact her at kkhorey@nd.edu.*

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

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Shifting support

Last night, the results of the election for student body president and vice president came in. Although we were not able to garner enough votes to win the election or enter a run off with another ticket, we thank those of you who took time out of your day to vote for us. Even though we did not win the presidency and vice presidency, we will continue to look out and support the interests of the student body and alumni here at Notre Dame. For those of you who do not yet know, there will be a run off election between the Schmidt-Weber ticket and the Burdick-Sanchez ticket. Because of the similar concerns and platforms, we write this letter to endorse the latter campaign. Thank you to those of you who voted for us, but now we ask that you cast your ballot once more in favor of Laura Burdick and Derek Sanchez. We feel that as president and vice president, these two students will advocate on behalf of students and bring about the necessary improvements that actually matter and affect the student body. For that reason, we offer our endorsement to the Burdick-Sanchez ticket. Thank you again for voting.

**James McCaughan**  
junior  
Siegfried Hall  
Feb. 10

**Tom Gorski**  
sophomore  
Siegfried Hall  
Feb. 10

## Please save me from the mud

There's really no downside to warm weather. My body temperature rises a few degrees to a life-sustainable level, the snow melts, leaving a verdant green in place of mind-numbing white, the girls of Notre Dame and St. Mary's finally take off those damn sweatpants ... the list goes on forever, really.

Yup, no downside, that is until I trudged through the muddy, wet grass leading from the edge of library quad over the "hill" straight to the Jordan Hall of Science. Like many dozens of hyper-rushed students bolting to and fro class, who were taught that the shortest distance between two points was a straight line in second grade, I walk directly towards the building when I am looking right at it. This is to be distinguished from the anarchist quad-cutters. So many students do this in various locales around campus (Jordan to Rolf's, aforementioned library quad path next to Galvin, etc.) that the grass gets physically worn down to the dirt, creating a muddy mess for my

sweet Reebok kicks. It's almost comical; considering the ungodly amount of concrete poured in nonsensical patterns across the face of Our Lady's lawns, the most logical places to put walkways are not paved. Architects in the past (smarter than those employed by ND) have built buildings with no pre-planned walkways connecting them — then after a year of observing the patterns worn into the grass, they subsequently paved those slowly-trodden pathways which us smarty-pants humans collectively determined to be the most efficient. It seems silly that year after year the same grass paths are worn down to the dirt, while the Building Services and Maintenance, or whatever, still doesn't have a clue. So, please, save my shoes and sanity, Notre Dame, and pave those grass paths into dry concrete.

**Steve DeLaurentis**  
junior  
off-campus  
Feb. 10

## Get the facts straight

In his Feb. 9 Letter to the Editor "Ordain females," Patrick Bears states, "I have never heard a valid reason why women can't be priests. Ever." I hope to take him up on this challenge. Bears claims that the Church uses the word "tradition" as an "excuse to exclude a group of individuals from having authority." This claim is unfounded as there are plenty of women with positions of authority in the history of the Church (abbesses, theologians, and doctors of the Church come to mind). The entire Christian faith is dependent on Mary's "yes" to God's will; accordingly, we hold her in the highest esteem as "Queen of Heaven and Earth."

The late Pope John Paul II honored women when he spoke of a "feminine genius" and described woman as "God's masterpiece." Although the Church has not been without discriminatory and mis-

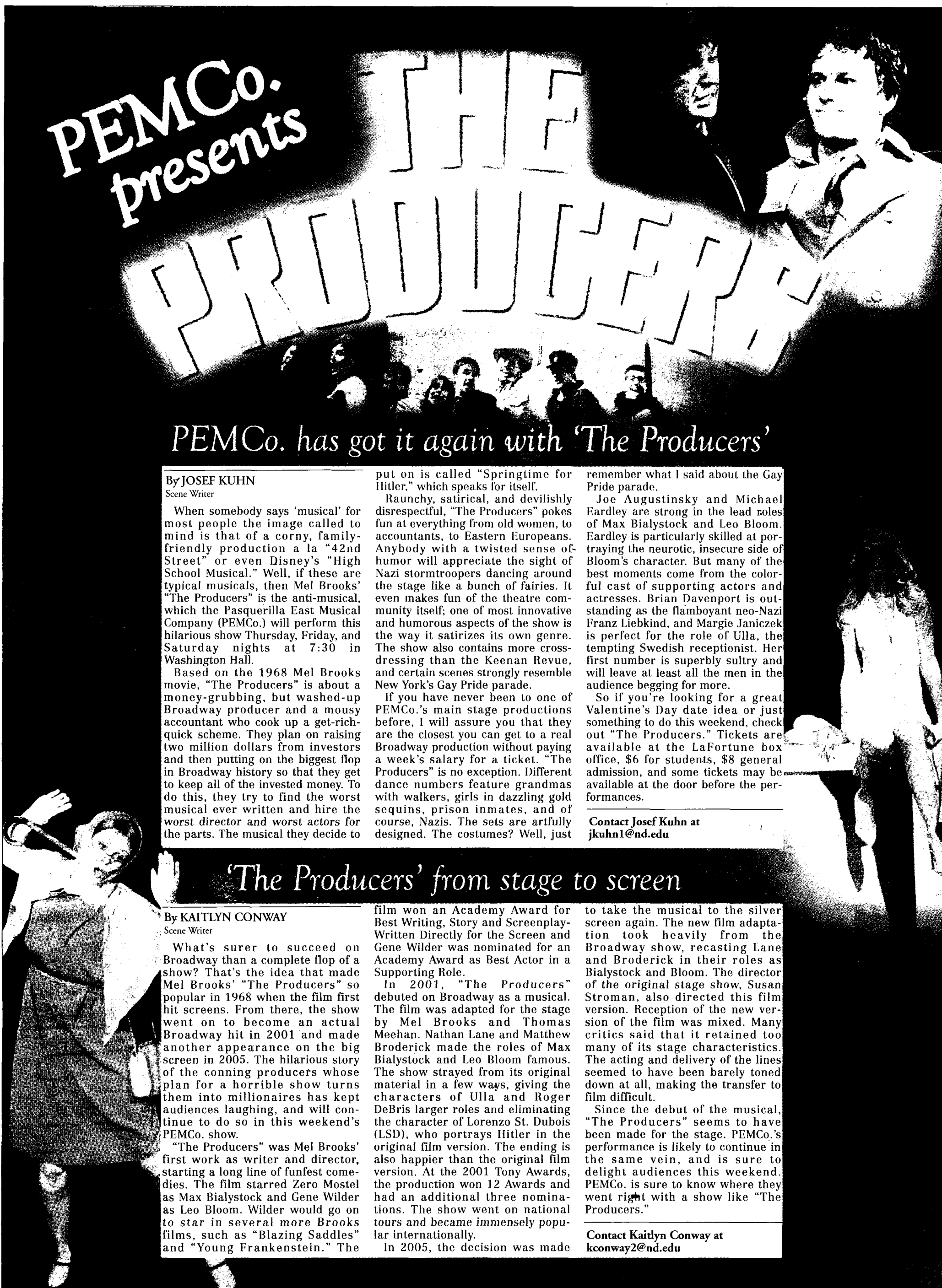
guided people, "blatant discrimination upon the grounds of sex" has never been a part of official Church teaching. The argument from tradition notes that Jesus did not choose any women for the priestly office; he chose 12 men to forgive sins, heal the sick, and consecrate the Eucharist. Since the Church cannot alter what Christ instituted, we may say that "the Church has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination upon women" (Ordinatio Sacerdotalis). Some claim that the cultural norms of the time forced Christ to suppress the roles of women. However, Scripture demonstrates that Christ had no reservations shattering all sorts of norms (e.g. interaction with prostitutes, tax collectors, and lepers). If Christ was willing to be crucified for his actions and teachings, something tells me he would not have been afraid to ordain

women if he so desired. So why did Christ choose men and not women for the ordained priesthood?

To answer this question we must look at the nature of the Sacraments. The Sacraments are where we encounter the eternal God in the temporal world. To be an efficacious sign of this union between Creator and creation, the Sacraments must truly communicate what they symbolize. For example, in baptism we are "drowned" in Christ's death and reemerge cleansed as sons of God and members of Christ. Water is the obvious choice to symbolize this drowning and cleansing in baptism. Similarly, the Eucharist is the Sacrament of the Bride (Church) and the Bridegroom (Christ). It is where Christ gives up his body to the Church so she can conceive new life in the Holy Spirit. The ordained priest acts "in persona Christi"

at the altar, re-presenting Christ's sacrifice for all humanity. The imagery, symbolism, and efficaciousness of the Eucharist are only fully maintained when a man performs the Sacrament. The Church maintains that all men and women are equal in dignity. However, "equality of dignity" does not imply "sameness of roles." God has given men and women unique abilities to bring about the kingdom of God. While some of these roles overlap, others are reserved to men and women (e.g. priesthood and motherhood, respectively). It is by embracing the differences between men and women that we will find union in Christ.

**Craig Borchard**  
fifth-year senior  
O'Hara Grace  
Feb. 9



PEMCo.  
presents

# THE PRODUCERS

PEMCo. has got it again with 'The Producers'

By JOSEF KUHN  
Scene Writer

When somebody says 'musical' for most people the image called to mind is that of a corny, family-friendly production a la "42nd Street" or even Disney's "High School Musical." Well, if these are typical musicals, then Mel Brooks' "The Producers" is the anti-musical, which the Pasquerilla East Musical Company (PEMCo.) will perform this hilarious show Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights at 7:30 in Washington Hall.

Based on the 1968 Mel Brooks movie, "The Producers" is about a money-grubbing, but washed-up Broadway producer and a mousy accountant who cook up a get-rich-quick scheme. They plan on raising two million dollars from investors and then putting on the biggest flop in Broadway history so that they get to keep all of the invested money. To do this, they try to find the worst musical ever written and hire the worst director and worst actors for the parts. The musical they decide to

put on is called "Springtime for Hitler," which speaks for itself.

Raunchy, satirical, and devilishly disrespectful, "The Producers" pokes fun at everything from old women, to accountants, to Eastern Europeans. Anybody with a twisted sense of humor will appreciate the sight of Nazi stormtroopers dancing around the stage like a bunch of fairies. It even makes fun of the theatre community itself; one of most innovative and humorous aspects of the show is the way it satirizes its own genre. The show also contains more cross-dressing than the Keenan Revue, and certain scenes strongly resemble New York's Gay Pride parade.

If you have never been to one of PEMCo.'s main stage productions before, I will assure you that they are the closest you can get to a real Broadway production without paying a week's salary for a ticket. "The Producers" is no exception. Different dance numbers feature grandmas with walkers, girls in dazzling gold sequins, prison inmates, and of course, Nazis. The sets are artfully designed. The costumes? Well, just

remember what I said about the Gay Pride parade.

Joe Augustinsky and Michael Eardley are strong in the lead roles of Max Bialystock and Leo Bloom. Eardley is particularly skilled at portraying the neurotic, insecure side of Bloom's character. But many of the best moments come from the colorful cast of supporting actors and actresses. Brian Davenport is outstanding as the flamboyant neo-Nazi Franz Liebkind, and Margie Janiczek is perfect for the role of Ulla, the tempting Swedish receptionist. Her first number is superbly sultry and will leave at least all the men in the audience begging for more.

So if you're looking for a great Valentine's Day date idea or just something to do this weekend, check out "The Producers." Tickets are available at the LaFortune box office, \$6 for students, \$8 general admission, and some tickets may be available at the door before the performances.

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## 'The Producers' from stage to screen

By KAITLYN CONWAY  
Scene Writer

What's surer to succeed on Broadway than a complete flop of a show? That's the idea that made Mel Brooks' "The Producers" so popular in 1968 when the film first hit screens. From there, the show went on to become an actual Broadway hit in 2001 and made another appearance on the big screen in 2005. The hilarious story of the conning producers whose plan for a horrible show turns them into millionaires has kept audiences laughing, and will continue to do so in this weekend's PEMCo. show.

"The Producers" was Mel Brooks' first work as writer and director, starting a long line of funfest comedies. The film starred Zero Mostel as Max Bialystock and Gene Wilder as Leo Bloom. Wilder would go on to star in several more Brooks films, such as "Blazing Saddles" and "Young Frankenstein." The

film won an Academy Award for Best Writing, Story and Screenplay-Written Directly for the Screen and Gene Wilder was nominated for an Academy Award as Best Actor in a Supporting Role.

In 2001, "The Producers" debuted on Broadway as a musical. The film was adapted for the stage by Mel Brooks and Thomas Meehan. Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick made the roles of Max Bialystock and Leo Bloom famous. The show strayed from its original material in a few ways, giving the characters of Ulla and Roger DeBris larger roles and eliminating the character of Lorenzo St. Dubois (LSD), who portrays Hitler in the original film version. The ending is also happier than the original film version. At the 2001 Tony Awards, the production won 12 Awards and had an additional three nominations. The show went on national tours and became immensely popular internationally.

In 2005, the decision was made

to take the musical to the silver screen again. The new film adaptation took heavily from the Broadway show, recasting Lane and Broderick in their roles as Bialystock and Bloom. The director of the original stage show, Susan Stroman, also directed this film version. Reception of the new version of the film was mixed. Many critics said that it retained too many of its stage characteristics. The acting and delivery of the lines seemed to have been barely toned down at all, making the transfer to film difficult.

Since the debut of the musical, "The Producers" seems to have been made for the stage. PEMCo.'s performance is likely to continue in the same vein, and is sure to delight audiences this weekend. PEMCo. is sure to know where they went right with a show like "The Producers."

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## Bialystock and Bloom: From the perspective of the actors

By PATRICK GRIFFIN  
Scene Writer

This weekend, the comedic musical dynasty that is "The Producers" hits the University of Notre Dame. Notre Dame's own PEMCo. has the exclusive rights to the musical, and is one of the first amateur clubs to put on the show since the rights were released. The two famous lead roles will be portrayed by Notre Dame students Joe Augustinsky (Max Bialystock) and Michael Eardley (Leo Bloom). Scene had the chance to sit down with both actors and ask them about their experiences.

**S: How do you identify with the character that you portray in "The Producers?"**

**J:** When I first got the role, I found it difficult identifying with the character (Max Bialystock), because we are different on many levels. If I had to describe him in one word, it would probably be "sleezeball," in every sense of the word. His main goal is making money, and he'll do anything to do so. I think deep down he's a good guy and wants to be liked by everyone. By the end, I feel that Max is surprised that he finds a good friend in Leo. I like to think that I would relate better to the end product. By the end of the show, he really finds out who he is.

**M:** Leo is a hysterical. He starts off as a mundane accountant who is tired of life and work. He has a secret passion to be a Broadway producer and to become famous. Unfortunately, he feels he is stuck in the rut of daily life. When he finds the opportunity to make a million dollars in Max's plan, he jumps on it and decides to break all rules that he grew up with. It's really a coming of age for Leo. He's still quirky but more he becomes a more normal human being. It's all about his development throughout the show.

**S: Which adaptations of The Producers have you seen?**

**M:** Well, there's the original 1968 Mel Brooks movie and the 2005 musical. The new movie is based on the Broadway musical which is based on the original movie. Our version is different. I think our version is much faster than the musical. Leo is less mousy than the Matthew Broderick version. I think our director, Bill, has brought a lot of originality to the roles.

**J:** I have also seen both movies. Both movies are great. They're the same story but each has a different style. I think one of the biggest challenges of the show is that people go with expectations of what it's supposed to look like. It's hard coming into a role originated by Zero Mostel. Nathan Lane took it in a different direction. I tried to inject my own self

into it. Zero Mostel was the old creepy man. Nathan Lane was more quirky. I watched both, but I stopped listening to the soundtrack. Instead, I worked on making the role my own, and I think I was successful just as Michael was successful in his role.

**S: How does it feel to try to fill the shoes of actors of the caliber of Matthew Broderick and Nathan Lane?**

**J:** Nathan Lane won a Tony for the role. I am just trying to add a fresh perspective. I hope the audience can go to the show without expecting a Nathan Lane performance, but something different. Not to say that that is worse.

**M:** Originally Gene Wilder played Leo. He was the quirky Willy Wonka type. Matthew Broderick really portrays the dweeby accountant side of Leo both vocally and in his movement. I tried to bring my own quirkiness. I think it's more exciting for the audience to find something they aren't expecting.

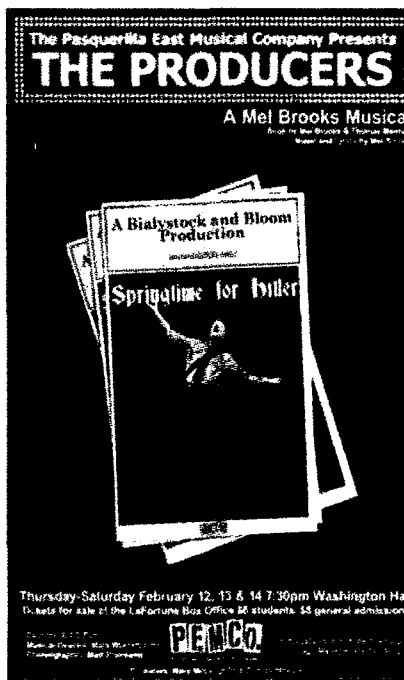
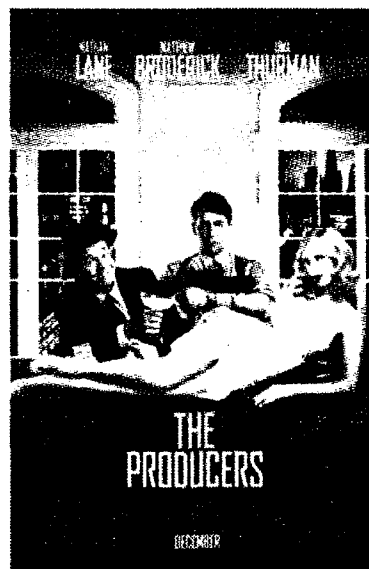
**S: Why will Notre Dame students enjoy PEMCo.'s rendition of "The Producers?"**

**M:** It's definitely a politically incorrect show on many levels, and that is appealing to college students. There are plenty of dirty jokes. There's also good music, but when you're watching, you can't believe what's going on. College students will really appreciate that. I also think that people are impressed seeing their peers and the quality they're able to bring especially with an entirely student run group. It's exciting considering all the expectations and I'm excited to share it with campus.

**J:** The great thing about it is that it's not a stereotypical musical. I've been advertising that it won't be what people expect. For those who like musicals, there are great dance numbers and songs. For those that don't like musicals it's written by Mel Brooks and it would be hard for a person not to find something by Mel Brooks that they like. There are all types of humor: slapstick, dirty jokes, puns; everyone can find something to laugh at and enjoy. I'm just amazed by the amount of time and dedication put in by the cast. It's the energy that everyone brings; there's not a weak link in show in my mind. Every scene is something to watch. There's a huge scope to find something to like in the musical. People won't be expecting it. People should be excited. I would like to thank the cast and production staff for all work they've put in. It's been a pleasure and an honor to work with them for about four months.

**M:** I second that.

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pgriffi3@nd.edu





## NBA

# James has foul feeling after Cleveland loss

*Johnson scores 22 points as Hawks lead from start to finish, bounce back from embarrassing defeat to Clippers*

Associated Press

NDIANAPOLIS — LeBron James did it all Tuesday night.

He scored 47 points, had seven rebounds, four assists and had the Pacers crowd ooohing and aahing all night. So, of course, he also made the decisive play — for the wrong team.

James was called for a foul with 0.2 seconds left on Danny Granger, who hit a free throw to give Indiana a 96-95 victory over the Cavaliers. James started walking toward the locker room before the final buzzer sounded.

It was a jarring loss for the Cavs, who dropped two straight for the first time this season.

James was brilliant, but ended up on the short end of a call he clearly disagreed with.

It appeared James would send the game into overtime when the Cavs opted for an alley-oop second inbound pass with 0.4 seconds left. James never got to the ball, but Granger was called for a foul and James made both free throws to tie the score at 95.

Then the Pacers tried the same play. This time Granger was on the receiving end,

James was chasing and the NBA's second-leading scorer was called for the foul. Granger made the first and intentionally missed the second as James walked toward the locker room in disgust.

Troy Murphy led the short-handed and nicked-up Pacers with 18 points. Granger, playing with a sore knee, finished with 16.

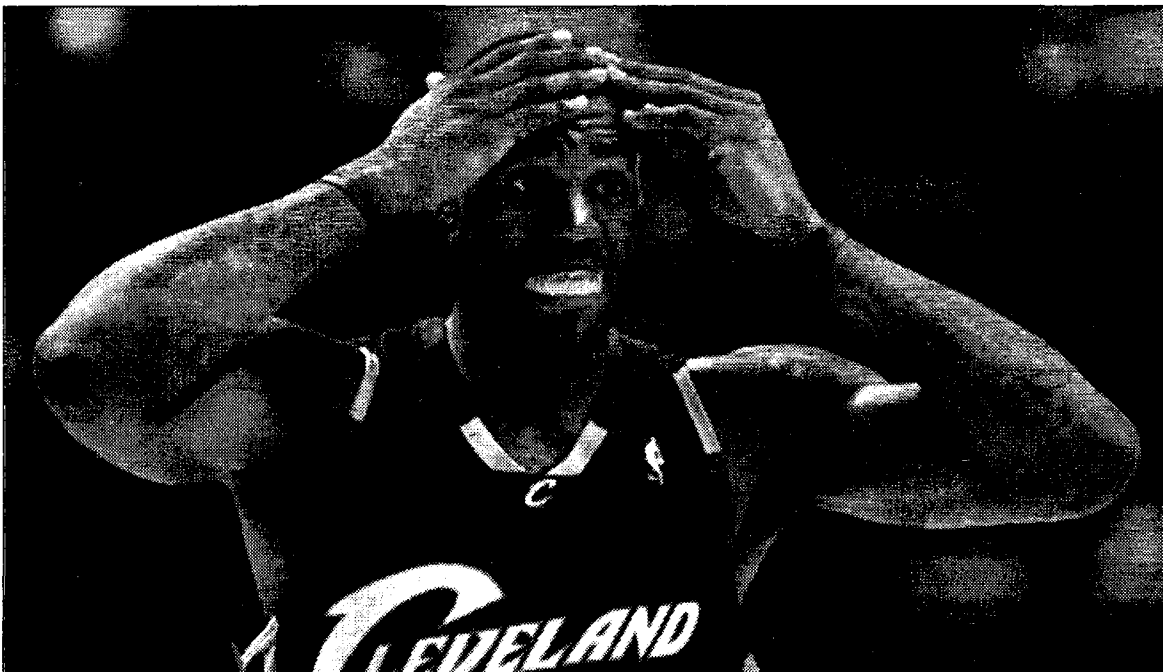
Indiana also was without three key players — Jeff Foster, Mike Dunleavy and Marquis Daniels.

But on a night James turned Consecro Fieldhouse into his own personal showcase, the Pacers ended their nine-game losing streak to the Cavs and won for only the second time in six games.

The wild finish was the culmination of a game in which neither team led by more than eight.

Indiana trailed 68-67 after three quarters, but opened the fourth with seven straight points to take control.

The Pacers never trailed again and the Cavs couldn't get even until James' nifty pass to the cutting Wally Szczerbiak for a lineup made it 93-93 with 20.8 seconds left.



Cleveland forward LeBron James reacts to a foul call during the Cavaliers 97-95 loss to the Pacers Tuesday. James had 47 points in the game.

Indiana tried to play for the final shot, and it appeared T.J. Ford had hit the winner with his 17-foot fadeaway with 0.8 seconds left.

## Hawks 111, Wizards 90

The Atlanta Hawks had something to prove after an embarrassing home loss.

They had no trouble making their point against hapless Washington.

Joe Johnson scored 22 points and the Hawks led from start to finish, erasing the memory of a dismal blowout by the Los Angeles Clippers with a rout of the undermanned Wizards on Tuesday night.

Atlanta raced to a 9-1 lead before most of the sparse crowd had even settled into its seats. The Hawks pushed the margin as high as 22 points in the second quarter against an injury-plagued team that has managed the modest feat of back-to-back wins only once this season.

"That was a total team effort," said Hawks coach Mike Woodson, in a much better mood than three nights earlier. "The starters did what they're supposed to do and the guys off the bench were very good."

The Wizards missed their first seven shots and never seriously challenged the Hawks, who clearly had something to prove after a 121-97 loss to Clippers over the weekend.

"That was definitely on our minds," forward Josh Smith said. "We wanted to bounce back tonight, and we did."

After Woodson called out of

his team for not showing up against the Clippers, Atlanta played with much more passion. Of course, it also helped to have point guard Mike Bibby back in the lineup.

Bibby, who didn't play against L.A. because of a sprained foot, scored 12 points and doled out six assists in 26 minutes.

"He makes the defense play us honest," Johnson said. "He can knock down the open shots. That makes a big difference."

The Wizards sure noticed Bibby's impact.

"His savvy at that position always helps," Washington coach Ed Tapscott said. "We have youth and inexperience on our side."

The Wizards were coming off a rare victory, Sunday's 119-117 triumph over the Indiana Pacers, but they didn't come close to making it two in a row.

"We played — well, I don't want to call it basketball," Washington's Antawn Jamison said. "We didn't play smart. Not talking, not communicating on the defensive end, not playing basketball the way it needs to be played."

The Hawks led 77-61 after three quarters and Woodson was able to rest his starters down the stretch.

Smith and Al Horford sat on the bench before the start of the final period, chuckling as they glanced up at a Valentine's Day skit on the video board.

Atlanta will go into the All-Star break with 30 wins for the first time since the 1996-97 season, when it was 31-15. The Hawks (30-21) have one more

game, at Detroit on Wednesday night, before the league's best players head to Phoenix this weekend.

Caron Butler scored 22 points, but the last-place Wizards were outmanned, as they are on most nights without Gilbert Arenas, Brendan Haywood and Etan Thomas.

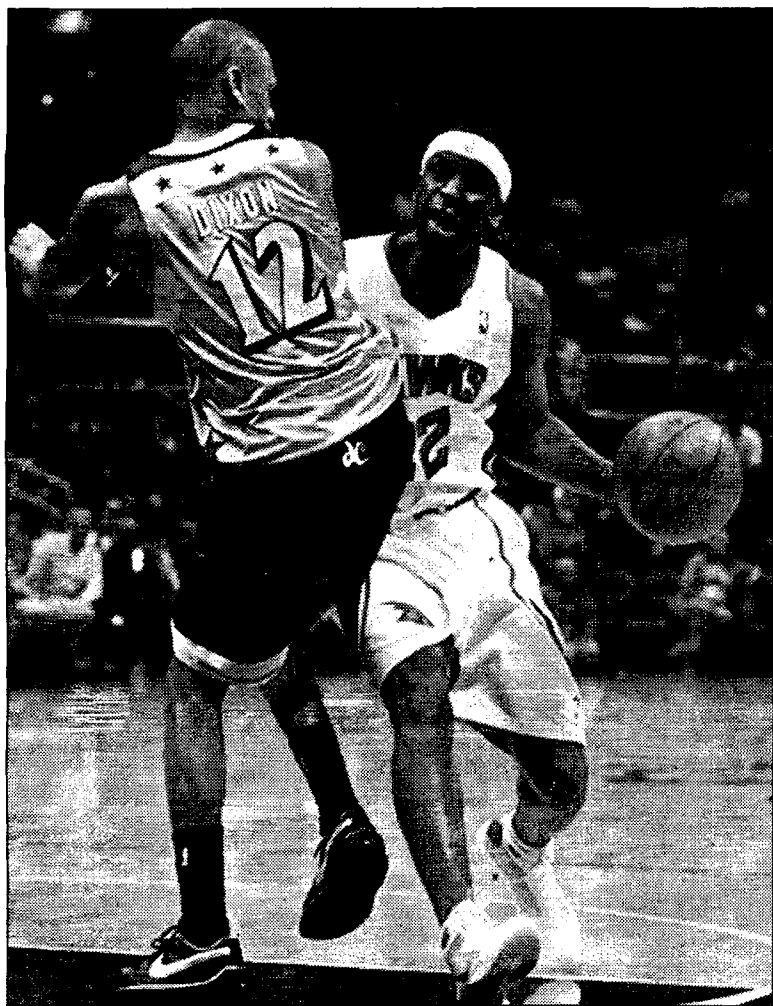
Washington turned it over 18 times, leading to 20 Atlanta points. The Hawks didn't shoot especially well, mixing in several airballs among their 46 percent performance from the field, but they turned it over only seven times and outrebounded the Wizards 49-42.

The Wizards spent most of the game settling for jump shots, which didn't exactly work out. They made just under 45 percent from the field — not nearly good enough considering they put up 24 fewer shots than the Hawks.

"If you miss shots and they're all jump shots, eventually you should drive the ball," Jamison said. "We just don't know how to be patient."

Zaza Pachulia grabbed 12 rebounds for the Hawks, including three on one especially persistent sequence under the boards. He missed his first three attempts before finally tapping it in while the Wizards stood around helplessly.

Eleven players scored for the Hawks. The only active player to miss out on the fun was Mario West, who got an attempt under the basket with the clock winding down but watched it rim out.



Wizards guard Juan Dixon, left, fouls Hawks guard Ronald Murray during Atlanta's 111-90 victory Tuesday.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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

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### PERSONAL

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY? Do not go it alone. We have many resources in place to assist you. If you or someone you love needs confidential support or assistance, please call Sr. Sue Dunn at 1-7819 or Ann Firth at 1-2685. For more information, visit ND's Assistance for Pregnant Students/Office of Student Affairs website at: osa.nd.edu/health-safety/assistance-for-pregnant-students.

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/>

Watch out for the mattress thief...

Kevin McFadden is a loose cannon

You can stand under my Kevin Ella ella ella, hey hey hey

Hey A-Rod's man boobs... EE YA LATA!

# AROUND THE NATION

Wednesday, February 11, 2009 COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES page 13

## USCHO/CBS College Sports Men's Hockey Rankings

	team	points	record
1	Boston U. (49)	999	21-5-1
2	NOTRE DAME (1)	912	21-5-3
3	Northeastern	897	19-6-2
4	Michigan	847	21-9-0
5	Vermont	791	16-6-4
6	Cornell	688	15-4-4
7	Miami (OH)	668	16-8-4
8	Denver	650	17-9-3
9	Princeton	622	17-6-0
10	Yale	507	17-5-1
11	North Dakota	405	16-11-3
12	New Hampshire	402	13-9-4
13	Wisconsin	389	16-11-3
14	Minnesota	360	12-9-5
15	Boston College	346	12-9-4
16	Ohio St.	335	18-9-3
17	Minn. Duluth	235	15-9-6
18	Colorado Col.	211	14-9-7
19	Dartmouth	89	12-8-3
20	Air Force	47	19-7-2

## USILA Preseason Men's Lacrosse Coaches' Poll

	team	points	previous
1	Syracuse (8)	198	3
2	Virginia (2)	192	2
3	Maryland	169	8
4	Cornell	162	7
5	Johns Hopkins	155	4
6	Duke	137	1
7	Georgetown	133	11
8	North Carolina	131	9
9	NOTRE DAME	97	5
10	Princeton	97	20
11	UMBC	91	6
12	Navy	83	14
13	Hofstra	77	16
14	Brown	65	13
15	Denver	50	17
16	Colgate	48	10
17	Loyola (Md.)	45	18
18	Albany (N.Y.)	42	NR
19	Ohio St.	30	12
20	Bucknell	29	NR

## IWLCA Preseason Women's Lacrosse Poll

	team	points	previous
1	Northwestern (19)	399	1
2	Syracuse (1)	365	4
3	Duke	362	3
4	Virginia	313	6
5	Penn	302	2
6	Maryland	285	5
7	Princeton	280	8
8	Georgetown	236	10
9	North Carolina	230	9
10	Boston U.	214	7
11	NOTRE DAME	195	12
12	Vanderbilt	146	11
13	Dartmouth	135	NR
14	New Hampshire	89	13
15	Johns Hopkins	86	20
16	Cornell	75	14
17	James Madison	75	NR
18	Stanford	63	18
19	Towson	62	15
20	Denver	62	19

## around the dial NCAA Men's Basketball

No. 22 Syracuse at No. 1 Connecticut  
7:00 p.m., ESPN

No. 3 North Carolina at No. 5 Duke  
9:00 p.m., ESPN

## MLB



Miguel Tejada in the dugout after flying out in the 9th inning of Los Angeles' 4-1 loss to Houston on July 2, 2008. Tejada, who was named in the Mitchell Report, is expected to plead guilty to charges of lying to Congress concerning steroids.

# Tejada charged in steroid case

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — All-Star shortstop Miguel Tejada has been charged with lying to Congress about an ex-teams-mate's use of steroids, the latest baseball player to get caught up in a web of cheating and juicing that has stained the sport.

Tejada is expected to plead guilty in court Wednesday. The charges against him were outlined in documents filed Tuesday in federal court in Washington.

The teammate is not identified in court documents, but he is referred to as having played with Tejada on the Oakland

Athletics. Tejada won the 2002 American League Most Valuable Player award while playing for the Athletics and is a five-time All-Star. He now plays for the Houston Astros.

The documents indicate that a plea agreement has been reached with Tejada. The court papers were filed a day after superstar Alex Rodriguez acknowledged past use of performance-enhancing drugs. The New York Yankees third baseman does not face charges.

The FBI also is investigating whether Roger Clemens, a seven-time Cy Young winner, lied to Congress last year when he denied using steroids or

human growth hormone. Clemens and Rodriguez top a list of big name, drug-tainted stars, including Barry Bonds, Mark McGwire and Jose Canseco, whose actions cast doubt on their on-field accomplishments.

Tejada faces as much as a year in jail if convicted on the misdemeanor charge of making misrepresentations to Congress. Under federal guidelines, he would probably receive a lighter sentence.

The charge came in a legal document called a "criminal information," which only can be filed with the defendant's consent and typically signals a plea deal.

A hearing is scheduled for 11 a.m. EST Wednesday in Washington, and Tejada and his lawyer plan to hold a news conference later in the day in Houston.

Messages left for his attorney, Mark Tuohey, were not immediately returned.

In the documents filed Tuesday, Tejada is charged with lying to investigators for the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform in 2005. Congressional staffers did not place Tejada under oath when they questioned him, but they advised him "of the importance of providing truthful answers," according to the court papers.

## IN BRIEF

### Jones officially released by Cowboys after suspensions

IRVING, Texas — Troubled cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones was released Monday by the Dallas Cowboys, making him a free agent.

The Cowboys said last month they planned to release Jones, and Monday was the first day teams could make waiver requests.

Jones was suspended for six games by the NFL after an alcohol-related scuffle in October with a team-provided bodyguard at a Dallas hotel.

The cornerback came to Dallas after being suspended for the entire 2007 season following multiple off-field incidents while with the Tennessee Titans. The Cowboys acquired him in a trade during the draft in April, and commissioner Roger Goodell cleared him to play at the end of the preseason.

### American motocross rider Lusk dies of head injury

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — Jeremy Lusk, an American freestyle motocross rider, died of head injuries Tuesday after crashing while trying to land a backflip in competition. He was 24.

Jorge Ramirez, chief of the intensive care unit at Calderon Hospital where Lusk was taken, said the motocross racer suffered severe brain damage and a possible spinal cord injury.

Lusk won a gold medal at the 2008 X Games. He was injured Saturday night when he failed to complete a full rotation while attempting a Hart Attack backflip and slammed headfirst into the dirt. Lusk crashed in almost identical fashion in the freestyle semifinals at the 2007 X Games but was not hurt.

### Guard Williams to replace Bosh in NBA All-Star game

INDIANAPOLIS — Mo Williams is finally an All-Star.

Twice snubbed, the Cleveland Cavaliers point guard was added to the roster Tuesday by NBA commissioner David Stern as a replacement for injured Toronto Raptors forward Chris Bosh.

Williams' teammates and Cleveland's owner Dan Gilbert were dismayed last week when Williams was twice left off the Eastern Conference roster but approved the move unanimously Tuesday.

"It has a beautiful ring to it," Williams said before playing at Indiana. "I'm excited for myself and my teammates and the coaches. It's a great thing, it's one thing people can't take away from you."

Williams wasn't voted in by the fans, nor was he chosen by Eastern Conference head coaches as a reserve. Then he was passed over by Stern in favor of Boston's Ray Allen, who is replacing injured Orlando guard Jameer Nelson on the roster.

## SOCCER

# Beckham, Galaxy breakup is a painful affair

*World's most famous footballer finds home in Italy with AC Milan; chooses football over fame and fortune*

Associated Press

PARIS — Loaned to AC Milan to resuscitate his football career, David Beckham is perhaps too busy to write a "Dear John" letter to his American fans, to explain that he wants out of the Los Angeles Galaxy and that they may have lost him to Italy for good.

If Beckham could put pen to paper, here's what he might say:

Dear the United States of America,

Dear LA Galaxy,

Dear TomKat,

Breaking up is never easy, especially when the wedding cost millions and there's no pre-nup. But, please, you have to let me go.

Truth is, I've found another love. She's Italian. With her, I feel young again, she's given me a new lease on my footballing life. Even Victoria — "Posh Spice" doesn't do her justice — is calling me "Goldenballs" again. I've rediscovered my magic touch.

Her name is AC Milan. They call her players the "Rossoneri," and I've been tickled pink ever since I pulled on her shirt. Like my times with Manchester United and Real Madrid, I'm back where I deserve to be: playing for one of the biggest football clubs in the world.

Yes, I know I said my move to Italy on loan would be a short-term thing, that this was just a trial separation and that I'd be back in March. But I didn't know then that being with AC Milan would be so much fun. (And the boutiques in Milan ... Wow!)

Perhaps you missed my goal for Milan against Genoa. Was it shown on TV there? Or did that other type of football — the American kind played with rugby balls and all that padding — hog the limelight again? That bugs me.

Anyhow, the goal was a gem, the kind that made me famous, a free kick curved over the wall from an almost impossible angle. The 'keeper flailed like a crash-test dummy. I can bend it again, baby!

And my Bologna goal, that was another beauty for the highlight reel, lifted right out of Stevie Gerrard's book at Liverpool. On the run, first touch, right foot, bam! I'm still learning Milan's language, but I know what "bellissimo" means. Put me in the right arena, and there's plenty of kick left in these 33-year-old legs.

I know it's hard on you. We had grand plans together. My face, fame and supposedly fading skills; your business acumen and big dreams. Together, we were going to put the "Major" back into League Soccer (or is that football?), plus make a bundle and some celebrity A-list friends in the process.

But, somehow, the whole experience has been so ... what's the word? ... underwhelming. Baseball, hoops, the wrong kind of football. Seems that there's just not enough room for us all. Fergie, Sir Alex, my old boss at Manchester United was spot on, it seems, with his comment

that "David Beckham himself can't change the whole country."

In MLS, I'm a big fish in a small sea. At Milan, I'm a big fish in an ocean, playing alongside other megastars at a club where players seem to go on and on like Duracell bunnies. Teammate Paolo Maldini turns 41 this year! Longevity. It's important to me. So is playing with the best.

I don't know if you read my recent interview with Italian paper Corriere della Sera, but I think and hope you'll get the message. Sometimes, you've got to be a little cruel to be kind.

"The Americans are doing everything they can to improve the level and reputation of their game. It's a young league and I think it needs another 10 years to become successful," I said. "I have to admit that, having played in Europe, sometimes it was frustrating playing in certain games. But every now and then, moving from one state to another, I also enjoyed myself."

Fact is, money isn't everything. I'm thinking of myself and my country here, too. Perhaps it's age, perhaps it's vanity, perhaps it's the passion for football I've carried since I was a kid. But I cannot bear the thought of saying goodbye to England's white, three-lined shirt.

I've played 107 times for England. Just one more game to equal the great Bobby Moore's record for an outfield player. Serving my country is something I know that you, my American friends, can understand. The World Cup is just around the corner. I'm already the only England player to have scored in three separate World Cups (1998, 2002 and 2006). I'd love to give it another crack in South Africa and silence those idiots who say I'm just a clotheshorse and refuse to recognize me as the gifted and dedicated footballer I am.

But for that, I've got to impress England coach Fabio Capello. Crikey, is he a hard nut to crack. I don't think he watches MLS. He suggested that I go to Milan. At least in Italy, I know he keeps an eye on me. It's kind of hard not to when I'm playing so well. I won him over before when he and I were both at Real Madrid, proving he was wrong to drop me from the squad. With Milan, I know I can do so again. Capello has included me in the England team that will play Spain in a friendly this week, so my Italian job does seem to be paying off.

My side is now talking to your side. I hope the lawyers can work out an amicable split. Of course, I will come back on March 9 and fulfill my MLS obligations if you insist. But we both know that my heart now lies elsewhere.

Yes, Victoria might miss Hollywood and pals Tom and Katie Cruise. It's true, she seemed to fit right in there. But Milan is hardly slumming it.

This isn't about fame or fortune. For once, it's just about football.

Respectfully, David.

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U.S. SOCCER

# Weary Donovan, US ready to face Mexico

United States and Mexico renew rivalry opening final round of World Cup qualifying for South Africa 2010

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Landon Donovan is caught between two continents.

As the U.S. meets Mexico tonight to open the final round of regional World Cup qualifying, Donovan is waiting to hear whether Major League Soccer's Los Angeles Galaxy will let him stay with Bayern Munich beyond the scheduled end of his loan on March 8.

"Let's talk about Mexico today," Donovan said twice on Tuesday night when asked pointed questions about his future.

Donovan arrived in Columbus on Monday night after entering in the 72nd minute of Bayern's 3-1 win over Borussia Dortmund on Sunday evening. No fan of

travel, he said his time with Bayern had prepared him for the showdown with Mexico, the first of 10 matches for the U.S. team in the final round.

"I've always been ready for this game. I'm excited for it," he said. "In the future I'll always be excited for it no matter where I am. So it doesn't really change anything, except that I traveled a little further to get here."

Six teams from North America, Central

America and the Caribbean are competing for three spots in the 2010 World Cup, and the fourth-place team advances to a playoff against the No. 5 team from South America.

Most regulars came in for the match. The exception was right back Steve Cherundolo, sidelined the past month by a



U.S. midfielder Landon Donovan answers questions at a press conference Tuesday. Donovan and the rest of the U.S. National team face Mexico tonight.

hip injury.

Donovan isn't the only Galaxy player in Europe these days — David Beckham is on loan to AC Milan through May to strengthen his chances of playing in England's World Cup qualifiers.

Beckham wants to stay with Milan, and Donovan previously said that he would like to remain in Europe after his loan is scheduled to end. Since the Bundesliga resumed, he has been a second-half sub in both of

Bayern's matches, replacing

Bastian Schweinsteiger and Luca Toni.

The Galaxy could extend Donovan's loan through the end of Bayern's season in May, rather than negotiate a permanent transfer. Playing for Bayern likely would strengthen his play.

He declined to speculate on his plans or those of the Galaxy.

*"Regardless of where I am, where I was or where I will be, this game's always the same."*

Landon Donovan  
US midfielder

"Regardless of where I am, where I was or where I will be, this game's always the same," he said.

Donovan answered questions from a media throng in

both English and Spanish. He said he learned to speak Spanish from players — many from Mexico, South America and Central America — who were teammates of his when he was younger.

As always, he remained confident of the American side's chances. He said the series with Mexico has changed dramatically from when he first played on U.S. teams against the Tricolores.

The two sides have met 54 times since 1934, with Mexico winning 29 and the U.S. 14. But since 1999 the U.S. has won nine of 13 meetings — including the two previous World Cup qualifiers at Crew Stadium, by 2-0 counts in 2001 and 2005. The 2001 match was known as "La Guerra Fria" because of the wintry conditions.

Mexico hasn't beaten the United States on U.S. soil since 1999.

"I would guess that the tone of it has changed, for sure, since we first played them a long time ago," Donovan said. "That's good. But it doesn't give us any advantage ... Yes, we're confident, but it doesn't matter what the media is saying. When they show up ... they're going to be good regardless of what's going on."

Over the years, Donovan has said that playing for his country is among the most important things to him in his soccer career.

"It's just fun," he said. "Anybody in any job, when there's a more exciting opportunity or atmosphere, or whatever, you're going to be more excited and more prepared for it. That's the way this is."

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## NCAA BASKETBALL

# Mizzou program turns the corner

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Hundreds stormed the court, a spontaneous eruption celebrating Missouri's coming out party.

Nearly three years to the day since Quin Snyder resigned and the program reached its low mark, the 'Tigers' wiped away all the institutional cobwebs with an improbable come-from-behind 62-60 victory over bitter border rival Kansas on Monday night. Kansas vs. Missouri is always a sell-out. This time the school got so much more. The Tigers (21-5, 8-2 Big 12) shook off an

atrocious first half in time to end a five-game losing streak in the series, and coach Mike Anderson finally beat the Jayhawks after an 0-5 career start. Barring total collapse, the school's five-year NCAA tournament drought also is about to end.

Anderson sensed the anticipation before the latest renewal, especially after the Tigers' road win at Texas knocked the Longhorns out of the Top 25 only five days earlier.

"Even though Kansas was here I feel like a lot of people came out to watch us play," Anderson said. "Our students have been lining up all day to get in here, and it was a team effort — players, coaching staff and our fans."

When the arena was half-filled earlier this season, Anderson knew the fan base was just waiting for a sign.

"It's one of the reasons I came here," he said. "It's a tough place to play and the fans have passion. We've got to give them a reason to come and a reason to stay when they come, and I think they went home happy tonight."

The fans' release has been building over the last 16 home games — the 15 games before the Kansas nailbiter were decided by an average of 28.5 points.

Missouri's relentless pressing attack has been a success pretty much everywhere in Anderson's third season, and with a team proven to be long on depth. It's a style designed to wear down opponents and to mount quick rallies, and one that allows the Tigers to overcome deficiencies such as a soft inside game.

Kansas (19-5, 8-1) led 30-16 at halftime and was up by 11 at 54-43 with 8:19 to play, but had only one more basket the rest of the way. The Jayhawks' whopping 48-28 rebounding advantage was negated by a season-high 27 turnovers, and Missouri was able to prevail despite a season-worst 35.6 percent shooting and ugly 2-for-14 numbers from 3-point range.

"We did a great job on the glass," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "But we did a pitiful, pitiful job handling any type of pressure."

Cole Aldrich had 15 rebounds and five blocked shots for Kansas, but Self said the 6-foot-11 center didn't get enough scoring chances while battling a collapsing zone. Aldrich was 3-for-8 and had eight points.

"I thought the zone did the best job on Cole," Self said. "But you know who played good defense? We played the best defense on Cole."

Missouri cracked the Top 25 for the first time in almost five seasons around Christmas-time, then quickly exited after a blowout loss to Illinois in St. Louis. This time, they're looking forward

to a much longer stay in the poll with a chance to make it 17 in a row at home on Saturday against Nebraska.

"Experience, leadership, mature freshmen," said DeMarre Carroll, who led Missouri with 22 points and seven rebounds. "Then you've got to give credit to our coach, he harps on us every day about defense."

"As a team, I think we came together in the second half."

As for Kansas, Self doesn't expect the setback to linger with his young players.

"Hopefully if we're in this position again, we'll close it out," the coach said. "If we can't handle losing a game, we're obviously not a very tough team or tough-minded at all."

*"Even though Kansas was here I feel like a lot of people came out to watch us play."*

**Mike Anderson**  
Missouri coach

## NFL

# Saints, Hornets might relocate

Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. — An executive with the group that oversees the Louisiana Superdome and New Orleans Arena warned lawmakers Tuesday the state must find \$27.5 million next year to fulfill contracts that keep the Saints and Hornets in New Orleans.

The state pays the two pro teams each year to retain the clubs, subsidies the team owners have said are needed to make operating in the relatively small New Orleans market worthwhile.

The money comes from the budget of the Louisiana Stadium and Exposition District or LSED, which operates the stadium and the arena where the NFL and NBA teams play.

Doug Thornton, senior vice president of SMG, the company that manages the Superdome and the Arena, said the LSED won't bring in nearly enough for the fiscal year starting July 1 to cover the payments.

The problem has recurred ever since a deal was negotiated with the Saints in 2001 and the Hornets came from Charlotte, N.C., in 2002. Previously, the state tapped surplus cash, refinanced Superdome debt and borrowed from an economic development fund to fill gaps in Saints and Hornets payments.

"We have revenues that are not sufficient to cover the debts," Thornton told members of the House Appropriations Committee.

Both deals were negotiated under then-Gov. Mike Foster. The state's 10-year deal with the Saints is the largest of

the two and runs through the 2010 season, guaranteeing the NFL team \$186.5 million in payments.

The state now owes the Saints some \$23.5 million annually — atop the NFL team's earnings from ticket sales, concessions, parking and other items.

The Hornets deal doesn't include flat payments, but involves payments based on performance and team income. The state needs an estimated \$7 million to pay the Hornets next year.

If the state didn't make the payments to the teams, the Saints and Hornets could leave New Orleans without a penalty.

But Thornton said the troubled economy would make it difficult for a team to move, and both the Saints and Hornets have expressed a commitment to New Orleans.

"We hope that an eventual solution will address both the short- and long-term challenges that face the Saints and the state," said Greg Bense, a spokesman for the Saints.

Hugh Weber, the Hornets team president, said: "We consider ourselves a partner of the state ... we're a revenue-producing business that provides jobs and opportunities for Louisiana. We are working with state officials to continue serving as an asset for the region."

Currently, the LSED has about \$3 million in revenue to cover the direct cash payments — or \$27.5 million less than what is needed to pay both teams, Thornton told lawmakers. He said options could include shuffling existing tax dollars or

raising new taxes to cover the shortfall.

That leaves Gov. Bobby Jindal, who opposes tax increases, to struggle with state lawmakers on ways to fill the gap in the fiscal year starting July 1. The state is facing a total budget shortfall forecast to top \$1.2 billion.

Jindal said Tuesday he intends for the teams to stay, but added, "It's too early for the state to know what we can and cannot afford for the next fiscal year."

State lawmakers questioned whether the state should continue pumping money into the team payments and asked Thornton for other ideas.

"I know it's important, but can we afford it?" said Rep. Tom McVea, R-Jackson. "We've just got to have some relief, and I think you know that."

Meanwhile, Jindal's administration is in negotiations with the Saints seeking a new contract to keep the team in Louisiana past 2010.

Thornton said the state hopes to re-negotiate with the Saints before April 1, the deadline for NFL teams to apply for the 2013 Super Bowl. A long-term deal between both is needed to be in the running to host future Super Bowls.

In a new deal, Thornton said, the state hopes to "rebalance the risk," moving away from direct cash subsidies. In exchange, he said the state could make improvements to the Superdome, like adding more suites, seats and concession areas to help the Saints earn more from ticket, food and drink sales.

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## NHL

# Sharks top Bruins in battle of league's finest

*Johnson scores shootout's only goal as Kings edge Islanders; Lehtonen stops 40 shots in Thrashers victory*

Associated Press

BOSTON — Joe Thornton was impressed with his former team Tuesday night, but it was his current club that stormed back and won the matchup between the two top teams in the NHL.

"They're a darn good team, probably one of the best we've played this year," the former Bruins captain said after capping a three-goal rally with his 13th goal of the season, helping the San Jose Sharks to a 5-2 win over Boston.

"If the power play was on a little bit more it would have been a different game," Thornton added. "They're a good team."

The Bruins, who went 0-for-4 on the power play, including a 46-second two-man advantage in the second period, had been 26-0-2 when leading after two. But Patrick Marleau, Milan Michalek and Joe Thornton scored in a 6:16 span of the third period.

"We play fast, we play big," Thornton said. "They came out really strong and we didn't have too many answers. I think the second half of the game, the ice kind of tilted."

The Bruins had lost wingers Petteri Nokelainen and Chuck Kobasew to injuries, shortening their bench. The Sharks took advantage.

Nokelainen was taken to a hospital and diagnosed with an eye injury.

"It's an eye injury and I don't think it's looking good right now," Bruins coach Claude Julien said.

The Eastern Conference-leading Bruins, on top of the NHL with 85 points, carried a 2-1 edge into the third period behind two first-period goals by Milan Lucic. The West-leading Sharks, who have 81 points, trailed after two periods for only the 12th time this season, but roared back.

"It's pretty rewarding to come back in a building like this and get a game like that in the third period," San Jose coach Todd McLellan said.

Marleau tied the game with his 27th goal at 3:32, and Michalek and Thornton struck 2:20 apart. Marleau assisted on the goal by Thornton, who played his second game in Boston since he was traded to the Sharks, on Nov. 30, 2005.

Thornton, booed when he had the puck, scored when Devin Setoguchi's pass from behind the net hit Thornton's left skate and beat Tim Thomas at 9:48. The goal stood up after a video review.

Marleau assisted on former Boston University star Mike Grier's empty-net goal with 28.6 seconds left, giving the Bruins their first three-goal loss of the season.

Ryane Clowe had three assists, and Rob Blake scored the other San Jose goal as the Sharks spoiled Thomas' 200th NHL game.

"They're the best team we've played so far this year and it would be nice to get another shot at them (in the Stanley Cup finals), hopefully with both teams being healthy," Julien said. "Hopefully we can work our way there, but that's a long ways off and there's a lot of things to be done before we can

even think about that."

It was the first time in 10 games the Bruins didn't earn a point but the loss was Boston's second straight, both at home.

"We were excited for this," Bruins center Marc Savard said of the only meeting with the Sharks. "After Christmas we all had it marked on our calendar. We wanted to be ready for this."

For two periods, they were.

"We played a 40-minute game, that's the bottom line," Savard said. "We didn't play the last 20 and they're too good of a team not to play (60) minutes of hockey and they took advantage of it."

Lucic, who had missed eight of 16 games with a pair of injuries, scored on two rebounds—one off Dennis Wideman's shot and the other off a bid by Petteri Nokelainen. The goals were his first since Jan. 1.

In between Lucic's two tallies, Blake let a power-play shot go from the right point that appeared to hit Blake Wheeler and Wideman before sneaking past Thomas. The goal was originally given to Joe Pavelski.

Nokelainen left in the first period after taking what looked like a high stick from Dan Boyle, causing a cut near the eye. No penalty was called after a lengthy discussion and the Bruins were told the four officials didn't see it. Julien was told that Nokelainen was hit by the puck.

In the second period, Boston's Chuck Kobasew was hit by Douglas Murray and came off the ice favoring his right leg. Late in the period, defenseman Mark Stuart left with what appeared to be a cut near the mouth. Kobasew and Stuart both returned for the third period, but Kobasew left again and Julien said his right wing had two injuries.

## Kings 4, Islanders 3 (SO)

Jack Johnson scored the only goal of the shootout in the final round as the Los Angeles Kings beat the New York Islanders on Tuesday night.

Johnson faked a forehand and got Yann Danis to move before he slipped in a backhand net to give the Kings their fourth straight win.

The Islanders got regulation goals from Doug Weight, Tim Jackman and Andy Hilbert.

Danis stopped 36 shots for the Islanders, who lost their third straight after a four-game winning streak.

Wayne Simmonds, Anze Kopitar and Alexander Frolov scored for the Kings. Jonathan Quick, who started his eight straight game, turned aside 22 shots.

Los Angeles opened the scoring just 2:08 into the game. Simmonds, in the left circle, took the puck from teammate Brad Richardson and ripped a quick wrist shot past Danis' short side.

The Islanders tied it at 4:53 when Mike Comrie fed Bill Guerin alone in the slot. Guerin waited for Quick to make a move, and then pushed a soft back-pass to Weight, who immediately beat Quick to the glove side.

Jackman put the Islanders up 2-1 at 4:20 of the second period with a goal from a nearly impos-



Bruins defenseman Zdeno Chara looks up at the replay as Sharks center Joe Pavelski celebrates his goal with his teammates during San Jose's 5-2 win in Boston Tuesday.

sible angle. Standing along the goal line to Quick's left, Jackman threw a wrist shot toward the net that hit the post and deflected in.

The lead lasted just 67 seconds, as Kopitar tied it by finishing a 2-on-1 with Patrick O'Sullivan.

Hilbert got a quick wrist shot off in the low slot and beat Quick to put the Islanders back on top at 9:50.

Frolov made it 3-3 at 6:41 of the third period when he banged in a rebound with 2 seconds left on a Los Angeles power play. Frolov leads the team with 22 goals.

The Islanders didn't register a shot in the period until Sean Bergenheim sent one on Quick with 7:16 left.

## Thrashers 3, Lightning 1

Kari Lehtonen said it was a save. Steven Stamkos had no doubt it was a goal. The referees' decision went with the goalie.

Lehtonen made 40 saves, including stopping Stamkos on a penalty shot, to lead the Atlanta Thrashers past the Tampa Bay Lightning 3-1 on Tuesday night.

Lehtonen made a lunging glove save along the goal-line on Stamkos with 8:09 to play in the third. The play was reviewed by replay and the ruling on the ice was upheld.

"I felt like the puck was in the pocket of the glove right near my wrist," Lehtonen said. "He made a nice move. I thought he was going the other way. Then it was just desperation. It was tough. It could have gone either way."

Stamkos, taken first overall in last year's draft, felt he had his seventh goal taken away, but the rookie understands why the call wasn't reversed.

"When you look at the replay, you have to be able to see the whole puck," Stamkos said. "You can't see the puck although you know it's in his glove and you know it's over the line. I saw the puck in his glove go over the line."

Colin Stuart, Slava Kozlov and

Ilya Kovalchuk had the Atlanta goals. The Thrashers won for just the second time in the last eight games.

"We kind of limited their options," Stuart said. "We tried to keep the shots outside and let Kari see them. I thought it was a good effort."

Gary Roberts scored for the Lightning, who have lost five of six. Rookie goalie Mike McKenna stopped 21 shots.

"Our goalie gave us a chance to win," Tampa Bay center Jeff Halpern said. "We, as a team, dropped the ball."

Tampa Bay interim coach Rick Tocchet said some of his players

were "disinterested" early on. The Lightning are 12th in the Eastern Conference.

"Just not interested," Tocchet said. "Maybe it's the coaching staff's fault. I don't know. We're pretty disappointed in some guys."

Kozlov, playing in his 1,100 NHL game, gave Atlanta a 2-1 lead at 2:02 of the second. The goal was the 340th of his career.

Kovalchuk scored an empty-net goal with 9.1 seconds remaining.

Roberts put the Lightning up 1-0 at 1:24 of the first on his 438th career goal.

## Alma

continued from page 20

The win also guaranteed that the Belles, who are a half-game behind rival Hope College for the lead in the MIAA, will finish no lower than second place in this year's conference standings, another first for the school. Saint Mary's had never finished higher than third place in the MIAA.

While this season has been filled with broken records and noteworthy performances, the Belles are still trying to win out and pray that Hope slips in one of its remaining four games. The best chance for the Dutch to lose will be this Wednesday,

as they face archrival Calvin.

For the Belles to be successful against Adrian, however, they will need another strong performance from their bench, which contributed 27 points in last weekend's game, and strong play in the paint. The Belles outscored Alma 26-12 in the paint and 14-4 on second-chance points on Saturday.

Tonight's game is also part of Women's Basketball Coach Association's "Pink Week." Since 2007, more than 1,200 schools have helped raise awareness about breast cancer.

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Contact Robert Graham at rgraham@nd.edu

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# Cardinals

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"That's not to say we're going to disregard the rest of their team, because I think that was the mistake we made at Pitt," she said.

When facing superior athleticism, McGraw said, you have to play smarter.

"We have to play better position, we have to be very disciplined," she said. "We've got to work on our close-outs and our approach to the perimeter."

For Notre Dame's offense to succeed, McGraw said, the freshmen have to match their level of contribution from earlier this season. She said she wants to do a better job of resting the starters and getting more production off the bench.

"Our bench was outscoring teams pretty regularly up

through our first maybe 15 games or so, and lately it's been the other way around," she said.

The team as a whole is healthy, but McGraw said freshman guard Natalie Novosel has played through painful tendonitis in her knee. Rest will heal it, McGraw said, but that's not something the team will have anytime soon, so the coaches try to get her rest when they can.

The Irish made four free throws in the final 23 seconds of the DePaul game to secure their lead, two from senior guard Lindsay Schrader, one from junior guard Melissa Lechlitner and one from soph-

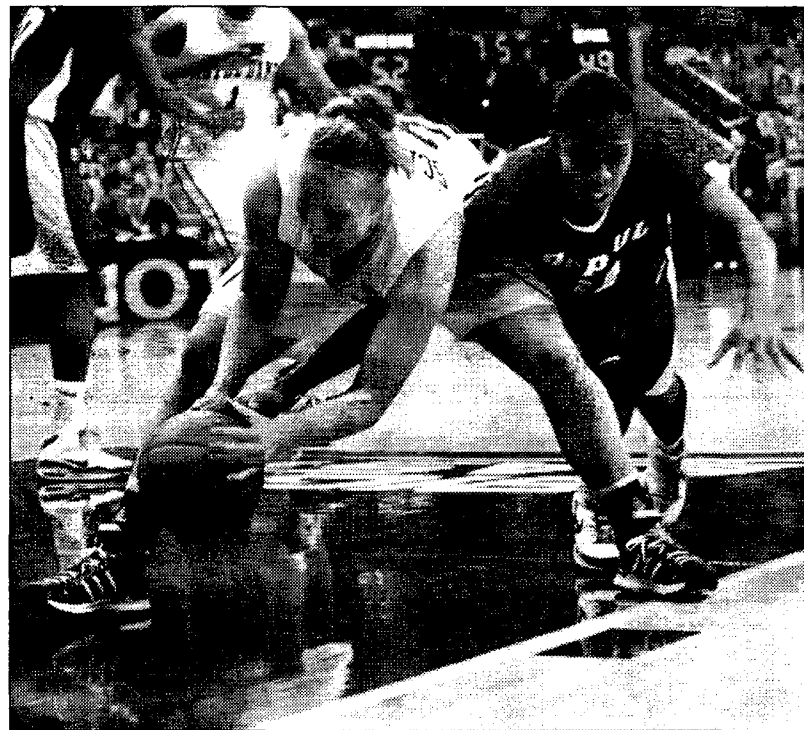
omore forward Becca Bruszewski. McGraw said the team shoots foul shots at the end of practice when the players are tired to simulate game conditions and that she trusts her starters to make the shots.

"That's where I think Lindsay Schrader, Lech and [junior guard] Ashley [Barlow] and I'd put [junior center] Erica Williamson in that category, those four have stepped up at the end of games and hit huge free throws for us all year long," she said. "No matter what their percentages during the rest of the game."

Contact Bill Brink at [wbrink@nd.edu](mailto:wbrink@nd.edu)

*"We have to play better position, we have to be very disciplined. We've got to work on our close-outs and our approach to the perimeter."*

**Muffet McGraw**  
Irish coach



Senior guard Lindsay Schrader wrestles for a loose ball during Notre Dame's 62-59 victory over DePaul Sunday.

# Opener

continued from page 20

Other returning players who earned all-conference honors are senior Linda Kohan, junior Christine Lux and sophomores Katie Fleury and Brianna Jorgensborg.

Kohan, who mainly plays third base, is an offensive force for the team. In 2008, she batted .302 and had an on-base percentage of .456.

Lux, a first baseman, is a power hitter who recorded 15 home runs in 2008.

Fleury, who plays second base and shortstop, is a solid defender and also hit .295 last season.

The team lost two seniors, Sarah Smith and Katie Laing,

Both provided offensive power — Smith led the team with a .370 batting average. She also earned first team all-NFCA regional honors.

However, they gain four newcomers in freshmen Alexa Maldonado, Dani Miller, Kasey O'Connor and Kristina Wright.

The 2009 campaign begins this weekend as the Irish travel to Tuscaloosa, Ala. to participate in the 'Bama Bash. The team will travel to warm-weather destinations to play in various invitationals through the rest of winter.

After a spring break trip to Fullerton, Cal., the Irish begin a six-game home stand on March 18.

This will be the team's first full season in the new Melissa Cook Stadium, which was completed in April of 2008.

Their first Big East contest will be against St. John's on March 22 at Melissa Cook Stadium. The Irish finished fourth in the Big East in 2008, but were voted third in this year's Big East preseason poll, which was released in January. They are currently behind DePaul and Louisville, respectively.

This year's Big East championships will be held in Louisville on May 7-9.

The Irish reached their 10th consecutive NCAA Tournament in 2008. The team lost in extra innings to Kent State at a regional in Ann Arbor, Mich.

NCAA regionals will be held May 14-15 at various campus locations.

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# Big East

continued from page 20

slew of other squads will compete for spots in the top-eight.

Here's a look at how the race looks — starting at the bottom, of course, because that's where Notre Dame finds itself now.

**Might as well be in the Mountain West:**

**Notre Dame (12-10, 3-7), South Florida (8-15, 3-8), St. John's (12-11, 3-8), Rutgers (10-14, 1-10), DePaul (8-16, 0-12)**

At the beginning of the season, nobody would have guessed the Irish would be in this category. But against every top-tier opponent, the team has looked like a mid-major: no confidence, bad decisions, lack of poise.

On the bright side, Notre Dame still gets to play three of its fellow bottom-dwellers. However, South Florida knocked off previously-unbeaten Marquette this weekend. (Don't look up at the 10th floor of the Hesburgh Library, because everyone with tickets to Sunday's ND-USF game is about to jump.)

**Even Stevens:**

**No. 22 Syracuse (18-6, 6-5), Cincinnati (16-8, 6-5), Providence (15-9, 7-5), West Virginia (16-8, 5-6), Seton Hall (13-9, 5-6), Georgetown (13-9, 4-7)**

Of these six teams, none actually has a .500 record. Still, I just saw the Seinfeld episode where everything always evens out for Jerry and thought "Even Stevens" would be a good name for the group.

Each of these teams covets a spot in the top eight and a subsequent bye on the Tuesday of the Big East tournament. But only three of the six will be seeded that high. The others will play on the first day against the dregs of the conference (plus Notre Dame, most likely).

Look for Georgetown to make a late push for a top-eight spot. They're not nearly as bad as they've been playing. (Sound familiar?) Plus, the Hoyas still get to face South Florida, St. John's and DePaul and will take on Marquette and Louisville at home.

Meanwhile, Cincinnati has been improving steadily as Syracuse and Providence come back to earth. Sweet-shooting Deonta Vaughn and the Bearcats could be good for an

upset or two at the conference tourney in New York.

**The Starting Five:**

**No. 1 Connecticut (22-1, 10-1), No. 5 Louisville (18-4, 9-1), No. 4 Pittsburgh (22-2, 9-2), No. 10 Marquette (20-4, 9-2), No. 13 Villanova (20-4, 8-3)**

At this point, the top four of this group look like they should each get a top-three seed in the Big Dance.

On Thursday, Notre Dame gets a chance at a legitimate big win against Louisville. But it won't be easy for forward Luke Harangody to rebound against the Cardinals' front-court of Earl Clark, Terrence Williams and Samardo Samuels, which is playing its best basketball of the year.


The Irish still have to play Villanova and at Connecticut — a game that looks increasingly daunting. In the days leading up to the Huskies game, it should be fun to hear all about Hasheem Thabeet's Big East player-of-the-year candidacy even though DeJuan Blair, Jerel McNeal, and even Harangody have been consistently outplaying him. The amount of attention Thabeet is getting is kind of like how the Super Bowl gets so much more publicity than the Kentucky Derby and Wrestlemania, both of which are greater sports spectacles.

Villanova convincingly beat Marquette Tuesday and put itself in good position for a top-four slot. The Wildcats are sitting especially pretty considering Marquette's daunting remaining schedule. The Golden Eagles still have to play Connecticut and Syracuse at home and Louisville and Pittsburgh on the road. Their schedule is similar to Notre Dame's, only the exact opposite. Look for the Golden Eagles to drop several more contests before they head to Madison Square Garden.

As the Irish look ahead to matchups against Louisville, South Florida and West Virginia, the next week will likely make or break Notre Dame's NCAA Tournament hopes. One thing is certain, though: the Irish better start winning. Because remember, you need a winning record even to get to the NIT.


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

Contact Fran Tolan at [ftolan@nd.edu](mailto:ftolan@nd.edu)



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CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- Across
- 1 Oodles

6 Wide as the ocean

10 Huffed and puffed

14 Seoul's land

15 Diva's song

16 Jacob's first wife

17 A magnet attracts it in a physics experiment

19 Between twice and never

20 Grand Coulee, e.g.

21 County seat NNW of Oklahoma City

22 Relieve

24 At a tilt

26 Praise

27 Tire filler

28 Divorces
- 32 Locale for a New York diva

35 What the number of birthday candles signifies

36 Olden times

37 Jinxes

38 Snooper's org.

39 Tomato-hitting-the-floor sound

40 Speed skater Heiden

41 Bamboozle

42 Sales pitches

43 Zilch

45 Carry the day

46 Crazy-sounding bird

47 Freighters' freights

51 One with a hook, line and sinker

54 Stuporous sleep

55 Doc's picture producer
- 56 Java neighbor

57 Star's marquee position

60 Genesis garden

61 Tall tale teller

62 Have a meal at home

63 Orange-flavored powdered drink

64 "Born Free" lioness

65 Medicinal amounts

Down

- 1 On the \_\_\_\_ (going to pot)

2 Deep pink

3 Enticing smell

4 TV room

5 Two-point plays in football

6 Legitimate

7 Parched

8 Envy or gluttony

9 Event before moving

10 Pre-transfusion procedure

11 Gave for a while

12 "To \_\_\_\_ his own"

13 Amusement park shout

18 Lifeless

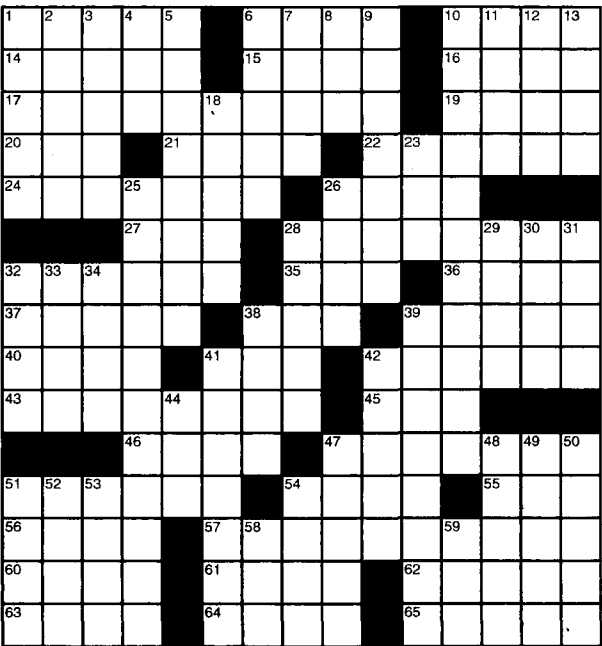
23 "Yes, madame"

25 Some verbal abuse

26 Women's links org.

28 Paragon of virtue

29 One and only



Puzzle by Lynn Lempel

- 30 \_\_\_\_ Mountains, Europe/Asia separator

31 Four-footed friends

32 Next

33 Medal winner for bravery

34 Escape route

38 Nickel or dime

39 Shot up, as inflation

41 Gleeeful laugh

42 Hindu teacher

44 Misery

47 King \_\_\_\_ (dangerous snake)

48 Skips

49 Old TV comic Kovacs

50 Leo and Libra

51 Help illegally

52 Zilch

53 "Galveston" crooner Campbell

54 Inspectors of fin. books

58 "Black gold"

59 Neighbor of a Vietnamese

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

BUBBLEBATH T WAS  
OPERASERIAL AINT  
ADVANCEMENT INDO  
TOYSTORY DACTYL  
SERS NOWHERE  
HOBART FOURIRON  
SCORN WITTY TOC  
ACHOD XERES MINA  
ALT PALMS CIDER  
GOLCONDA MOSEYS  
OCELOTS FORT  
ARGALI BAPTISMS  
TAGS PERIPETEIA  
ICES PLATEGLASS  
TYRA EIGHTEENTH

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Laura Dern, 42; George Stephanopoulos, 48; Greg Norman, 54; Roberta Flack, 72

**Happy Birthday:** Someone from your past may be the perfect fit now if you can find a way to reconnect. Uncertainty should be your teacher and your reason for looking back before you move forward. A serious attitude will help to reinforce your need to accomplish something now. Your numbers are 2, 5, 14, 27, 32, 34, 42.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Be careful not to give someone a chance to back you into a corner. A change in your work can be expected but don't worry -- whatever you lose, you will gain back through the new connections you make. 3 stars

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** You can get a lot done if you put your mind to it. Someone may be trying to pull a fast one on you. Don't get involved helping an organization you know little about. Deception is apparent. 5 stars

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Don't let your emotions influence your decisions. Do what will work best for you and bring you the highest returns. Uncertainty regarding a money deal or someone you are close to will leave you questioning your relationships with everyone. 2 stars

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Make some new rules at home to help you and your loved ones get along better. Plan to spend more quality time together. Serious talks will lead to change, making your life easier and more comfortable both emotionally and physically. 4 stars

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** You can talk your way up the ladder and into a good position by sharing your ideas. Don't fool yourself -- a partnership being offered may not mean a higher income. Put greater value on what you have to offer. 3 stars

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Get out and enjoy the company of friends. You need some down time to sort through all your options. A new beginning is in sight that will lead to bigger and better personal and professional things. 3 stars

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Someone may be keeping a secret from you that might alter the way you think about a job or a career change. Look within and ask yourself what it is you really want. Follow your heart. 3 stars

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You are up for change and it is going to lead to some negatives as well as positives. If you make the adjustment now, you will be far better positioned to take advantage of some good opportunities in the future. 4 stars

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Not everyone will be on the same page as you. Follow through on your own and, in the end, everyone will jump on board to help. You can develop a closer relationship with someone who can truly help you get ahead. 2 stars

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You can settle a matter and win if you don't let someone play on your emotions. An old lover may do more harm than good if you allow him or her to meddle in your current affairs. Keep your plans a secret for now. 5 stars

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** You have so many ideas so consider what is possible to accomplish and what isn't at this time. Don't be suckered into letting someone from your past back into your life. Emotional deception is apparent. 3 stars

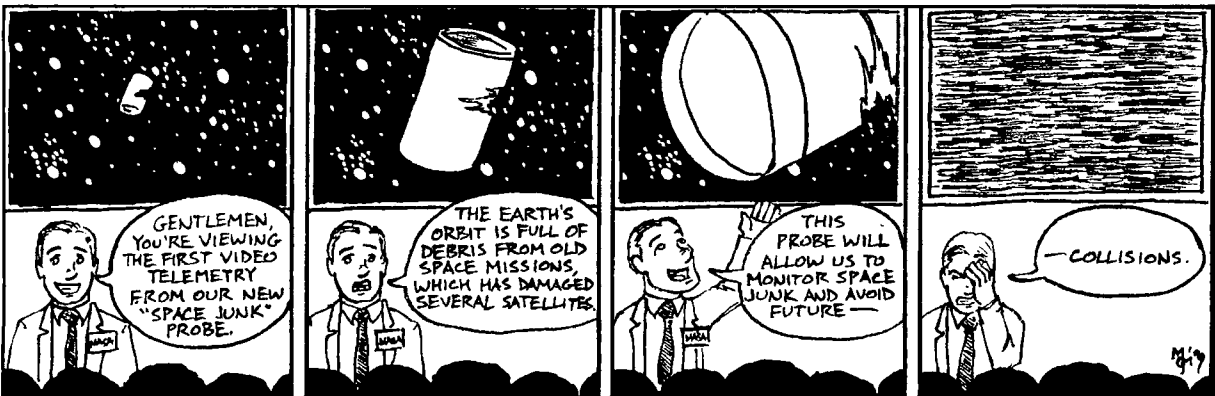
**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** You'll be torn between what you want and what you can have. Don't let your emotions lead you in the wrong direction. Focus on work, not personal relationships. Let things unfold naturally before you make a decision. 3 stars

**Birthday Baby:** You have the courage, strength and the practicality to see matters through to the end. You are a humanitarian, a powerful leader and an advocate of justice and fair play.

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

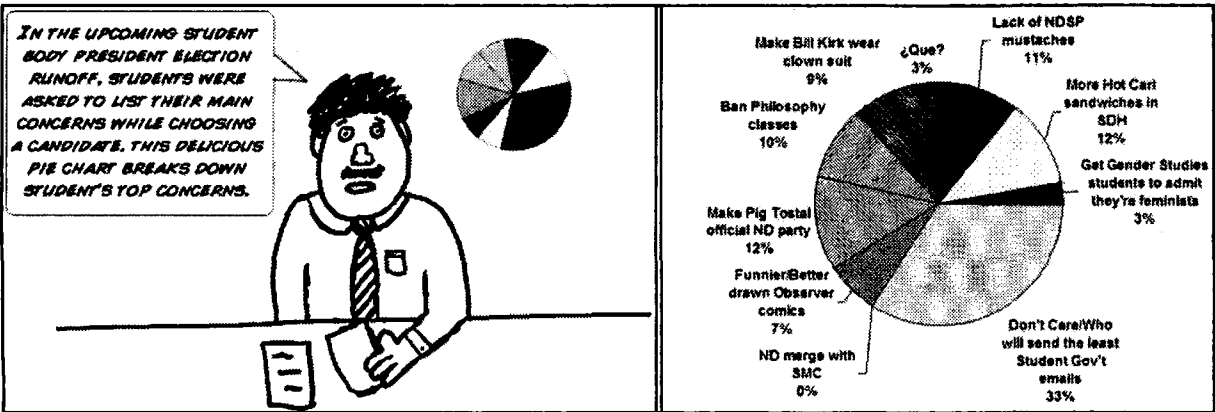
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TUNYT

GISMOE

MAJEST

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: PRINT, KNAVE, GRATIS, AGHAST  
Answer: What the couple went through buying the right house — THEIR SAVINGS

THE OBSERVER

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## MEN'S BASKETBALL ANALYSIS

# View from the bottom

*Team sits in 12th in the rugged Big East*

Notre Dame basically has a giant fork sticking out of its back, but at least the rest of the Big East race is shaking out to be a good one.

Marquette's consecutive losses to South Florida and Villanova make the Golden Eagles' Feb. 25 matchup

**Fran Tolan**

with Connecticut even more critical.

*Associate Sports Editor*

Louisville, meanwhile, has just one loss, putting the Cardinals in a virtual tie for first place with the Huskies. (More good news for Notre Dame: it gets to play Louisville this Thursday.)

As Marquette, Pittsburgh and Villanova battle it out for the final all-important top-four conference tournament seeds, a

see BIG EAST/page 18



Left, junior guard Tory Jackson handles the ball during Notre Dame's 69-61 home loss to Connecticut on Jan. 24. Right, Irish coach Mike Brey looks on during the loss to the Huskies.



IAN GAVLICK/The Observer

## SMC BASKETBALL

# Belles set to take on Adrian

By ROBERT GRAHAM  
Sports Writer

With a school-record 11 MIAA wins already under its belt, Saint Mary's will try to make it three straight as it hosts Adrian tonight at 7:30 p.m.

The Belles (13-8, 11-2) have been dominant of late and thrashed Alma 66-39 Saturday. The Belles had not given up less than 40 points in a game since 2002. Saint Mary's took it to the Scots in the second half, outscoring them 36-19 in the final 20 minutes.

Junior forward Anna Kamrath and senior forward Erin Newsom had solid outings once again in that contest, leading all scorers with 12 and 10 points, respectively.

see ALMA/page 17

## ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Louisville comes to town, looking to rebound from bad loss

By BILL BRINK  
Sports Editor

It doesn't bode well for the No. 5 team in the country to allow the worst team in the Big East to come back from a half-time deficit, score 54 points in the second half and snap a 19-game home win streak.

Such was Louisville's fate Saturday against West

Virginia. But Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said the loss may anger the team into better play.

"Probably the pessimist in me would say the team coming off the loss is going to be mad," McGraw said. "They've probably had a hard week of practice to fix what they felt they did wrong in the last game."

The now No. 10 Cardinals (21-3, 8-2 Big East) face the

No. 22 Irish at 7 p.m. in the Joyce Center. Notre Dame (17-5, 6-4) defeated No. 25 DePaul 62-59 Sunday afternoon at home. McGraw said she was most proud of the defense in the game — the Irish held DePaul scoreless from 3-point range in the second half.

"When you look at Big East stats, that's the biggest difference between us and our opponents," she said. "We're not

shooting well from the 3-point line; they were shooting very well."

Cardinals senior forward Angel McCoughtry will make sure to test that Irish defense. McCoughtry is second in the conference in scoring and dropped 27 against West Virginia. But it's not just McCoughtry. The whole team, McGraw said, concerns her.

"They're more athletic.

Faster, stronger, jump higher than we do, they're just a more athletic team than we are all around," McGraw said.

She said senior forward Candace Bingham, who averages 11.3 points per game, complements McCoughtry, but Notre Dame can't afford to devote all its energy to those two.

see CARDINALS/page 18

## ND SOFTBALL

# Experience an advantage

*Irish return five all-Big East players, 14 monogram-winners*

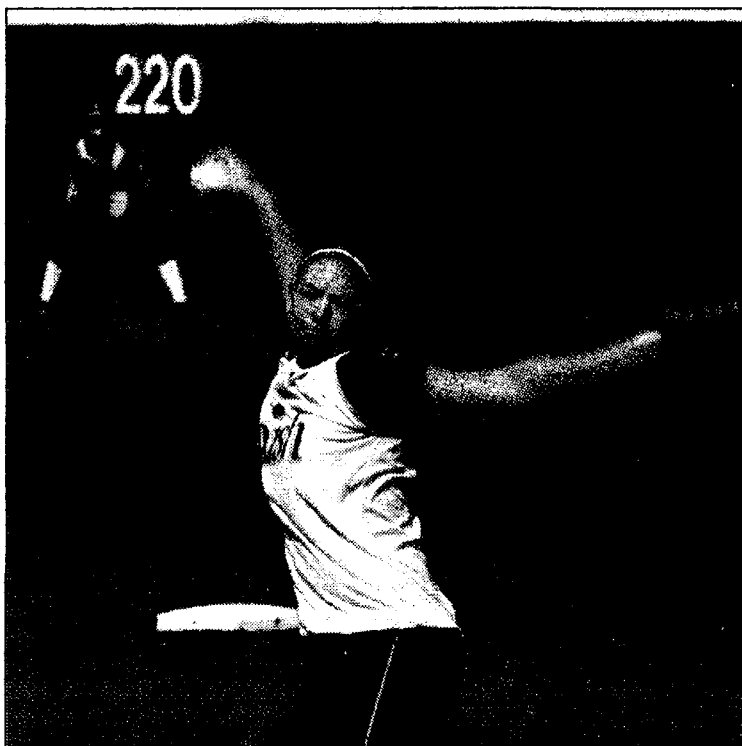
By LAURA MYERS  
Sports Writer

The Irish will have a wealth of experience on their side as they look to record their 21st consecutive winning season in 2009.

Notre Dame returns 14 monogram winners, including five all-Big East players. The squad only lost two seniors from the team that went 38-22-1 a year ago.

Leading the team is senior pitcher Brittany Bargar, who earned all-Big East honors as well as all-National Fastpitch Coaches Association Mid-East Region honors in 2008. Bargar ended the season with a 1.47 ERA in 291.1 innings pitched.

see OPENER/page 18



Senior Brittany Bargar delivers home during Notre Dame's 11-5 win over Wisconsin late April 16.

Observer File Photo

## ND WOMEN'S GOLF

# Notre Dame in 13th; last round Wednesday

By NATHANIEL LEE  
Sports Writer

No. 25 Notre Dame moved into 13th place in the 16-team Northrop Grumman Tournament in Palos Verde, Calif., where 10 top-25 teams and rough weather conditions have made life difficult for the Irish.

Sophomore So-Hyun Park led Notre Dame in Tuesday's second round, shooting a 5-over-par 76 to climb to 17th on the individual leader board. Park shot a 9-over 80 in Monday's opening round. She is now a 14-over 156 for the tournament.

Notre Dame gained one spot in the team standings, improving on Monday's 46-over 330 with a 37-over 321 Tuesday.

Freshman Becca Huffer

shot a 7-over 78 and now sits in 39th place individually.

Junior Annie Brophy shot a 12-over 82 for Notre Dame's third-best score. Senior captain Lisa Maunu and sophomore Katie Conway each shot 14-over 85s to round out the Irish scorers.

Heading into Wednesday's final round, the Irish are 15 strokes out of the top-10. Michigan State, ranked No. 20 nationally, held that No. 10 spot after two rounds.

No. 3 Arizona State posted the best team score for the second straight day with a 10-over 294. No. 2 USC and No. 1 UCLA rounded out the top-three, 13 and 20 shots back of the Sun Devils, respectively, at the Palos Verde Golf Club.

Contact Nathaniel Lee at nlee5@nd.edu